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2011 Jacobean style

By David Newble

Friday, January 14, 2011



The five musicians at Wolverton Manor.



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MUSIC

THE new year was ushered in at Wolverton Manor with a concert given by a talented group of musicians, who have developed a special style in 16th and 17th century music and also read poetry and prose to enhance the understanding of their performance.

They were Tamsin Lewis, the founder of the group, with Chris Goodman, Eleanor Cramer, Alison Kinder and Michael Palmer.

They played and explained their pieces, which transported the New Year's Eve audience into the Jacobean court, aided by the acoustics of Wolverton's main hall.

They followed the liturgical calendar from Advent to Candlemas, with music by Googe, Breton, Orlando Gibbons, Weelkes Aubrey and Eccard as well as prose and poetry from Herrick, Shakespeare and John Evelyn.

At the end of the concert, those present were taught a Jacobean dance, appropriately named Wolverton Hall, and the evening ended with mince pies.

On New Year's Day, John Lawlor carried out the traditional Jacobean practice of wassailing the apple trees in the orchard.

The ceremony involved drinking the good health of the trees and villagers would gather round apple trees with shotguns and pans and make a tremendous racket to raise the sleeping tree spirit to scare off demons.


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