

## **Robert Behrman writes about Martin Outram's Viola Day: 19th February 2017**

I have only just this moment returned from participating in Martin Outram's Viola Day at Benslow, but I feel inspired by the experience to put pen to paper immediately. There were just seven of us participants, plus Martin and, of course, the essential Julian Rolton, our accompanist. We were a very diverse group, with ages ranging from youth (two music students amongst the group) to old fogeys like myself! And our instrumental technique was equally varied. But I think that we all gained greatly from the day.

In spite of the almost inevitable nerves that we all have in standing to play in front in a masterclass, Martin was able to get us to relax and bring out the best in us. No matter what our level of instrumental expertise (or lack of it in my case!), he was able to offer useful assistance.

The day also included some sessions of instrumental playing for the whole group and, as an added bonus, an amazing solo performance that Martin gave us after lunch. And the lunch itself lived up to the normal Benslow very high standard.

All in all, a really useful day and also a highly enjoyable one.

Robert Behrman