

Bournemouth & District Association of Organists



Autumn 2006

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Paul Fearnley writes: In my previous president's letter I sounded a cautionary note about the declining attendance at organists' association events and their drop in membership. I also said that I believe that we should not be concerned at spending money on quality events and looking to attract more people. After six months in the job I now feel cautiously optimistic. Careful planning and promotion appears to be paying off. I have been very pleased with the support for all the events so far. 43 people had a spectacular day in Eton and Windsor, and the Pavilion concert attracted 450. This gave us a good opportunity to plug the association which in turn generated several customers for the Eton trip. We were also very proud sponsors of St. Stephen's 125th anniversary festival. This goes from strength to strength. It would be difficult to chose a highlight, but Ian Harrison's direction of Britten's St. Nicolas was very moving.

On a recent visit to my home county of Yorkshire I arrived in Bridlington just in time to catch a recital by Martin Setchell from Christchurch New Zealand on the magnificent vast Nicholson rebuild of the priory's Anneessens organ. Martin told me that

he regularly gets an audience of 700 for his concerts on the Town Hall Reiger. He made the remark that Organists' Associations in this country appear to concentrate on the FRCO end of the market, and we need to be far more evangelical. Couldn't agree more. Two days later I arrived in Whitby to find I had missed a recital the day before by Francis Jackson (still going) in the Abbey. Can't win them all.

Details of future events are elsewhere in the newsletter. Please do try to support these. If you feel we are not giving you what you want please tell me. I would also welcome any further ideas on how we can reach out to what I believe is an untapped market of people who might actually enjoy organ music.

Finally a plea to let us have your e-mail addresses if we have not got them. It makes life much easier for the Trustees, and enables you to be kept up to date regularly with what is going on.

MEETINGS IN RETROSPECT

WED 26TH APRIL 7.30 Jennifer Bate presented a fascinating glimpse into the life of Felix Mendelssohn at St. Peter's church Parkstone. Starting with an unpublished organ piece by the 11 year old and finishing with part of the 6th Organ sonata we were led through his life and his influences. J.S. Bach obviously had to play his part as Mendelssohn did a renowned marketing job on his fairly neglected music. This was represented by an exceptional performance of the great A minor fugue.

Further illustrations were provided by informative slides and examples of his chamber music by the Rector in an untypical role as DJ.

This well-attended and successful event ended with a question and answer session.

Those who missed Jennifer on this occasion have a further opportunity to hear her as she has kindly agreed to be our guest at the annual dinner on 25th November.



FRI 26TH MAY, 7.30 Donald McKenzie at Bournemouth Pavilion. Donald, the organist of the Odeon Cinema Leicester Square, provided something completely different. The magnificent Compton organ was shown off to great effect with delightful music not normally heard after Evensong. Two silent films were shown with organ accompaniments. How to synchronise the music with

gun shots and train crashes is a skill not usually called for in the organ loft. Local musical interest was provided by a performance of Percy Whitlock's Spade and Bucket Polka. He also demonstrated what a fine pianist he is.

Having thought that we would need an attendance of at least 50 to make this worthwhile, we were all a bit stunned to find that we had a gate of 450.

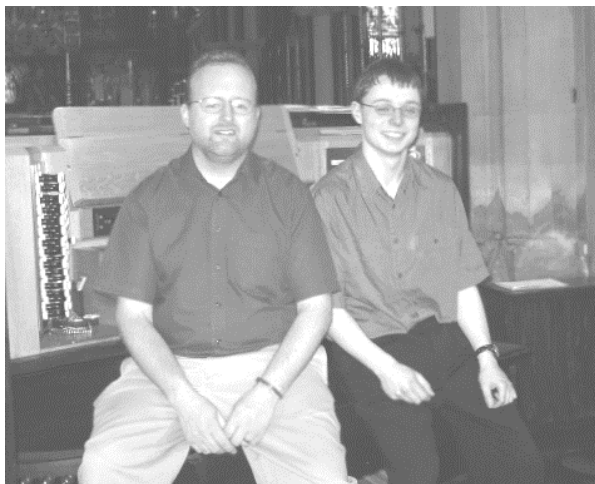
We are indebted to Christian Knighton for making this event possible and for providing an informative introduction to the organ.



Sat 10th June David and Sam Play Brilliantly During The World Cup.

Whilst 22 players grappled with each other in the World Cup, 22 BAO members had the pleasure at St Peter's, of meeting Maurice Duruflé in a match of two halves - his life and complete works.

David Beeby presented an erudite and impressively researched survey of Duruflé's times and musical language. He was careful to refer us to the Parisian sound-world of the interwar years. We listened to examples ranging from plainsong to Stravinsky. David's enthusiasm for his subject was contagious and we were happily carried along for ninety minutes.



After tea, audience numbers increased for the second half when we were bowled over by the sensitivity and facility of our two BAO organists - David Beeby and Sam Hanson. Yes, they both know St Peter's organ well, but the complexities of the attractive Fugue on the bells of Soissons Cathedral and the impossible difficulties

(for me, anyway) of the Toccata from the Suite were presented without fuss and with complete conviction. They gave us the complete works, not forgetting the recently published Meditation of 1964. Our two performers must be congratulated and thanked for giving us such an instructive and uplifting afternoon. Let's have more like this please. When is the next World Cup?*Our thanks to Peter Lattimer for that review*

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome **Keith Russell** from Branksome Park who joined as a result of the 'Silent Movies' event at the Pavilion. Also **Stephan Betteridge** who lives at Hazelbury Bryan and is organist at Hazelbury Bryan Church.

COMING ASSOCIATION EVENTS

WED 23RD August 7.30 St Andrew's URC Richmond Hill. Demonstration of the newly restored organ by Lance Foy. Lance has just finished restoring this large organ with a few tonal alterations. He will talk about the restoration work and demonstrate the organ. Danny Campbell the organist tells us that he is delighted with the result. As those who remember Lance's demonstration 10 years ago at St. George's Methodist Church Boscombe will know, he is a very entertaining speaker and no mean organist. No admission charge. Tea will be provided.

The previous specification of the organ can be found on the National Pipe Organ Register on the internet, reference A00299



Sat 2nd Sep 7.30 Eileen Bolt young organist recital at St. Stephen's Bournemouth, back at its original home. This year we are pleased to welcome Karl Dorman. Karl started his musical education as a chorister at Rugby Parish Church under the direction of Arnold Pugh. He began the Organ at the age of thirteen and soon became Organ Scholar at the Collegiate Church of St Mary Warwick.

After being awarded the Eric Thompson Scholarship he moved to London to study at the Royal Academy of Music. Whilst there he was awarded the LRAM diploma and won the United Music Publishers organ prize. Karl combines study with being associate conductor of Sine Nomine, a choir based in Warwickshire.

For a short period he worked as a deputy organist at Guildford Cathedral. He is finishing his studies at the Birmingham Conservatoire and is Director of Music at St. Mary's Merton Park. Karl has performed in such venues as Westminster Cathedral and Christchurch Priory.

Amongst the works he plans to play is the Bach C mi Passacaglia.



Sunday 8th October Lunchtime party 12.00 to 2.30 at 102 Canford Cliffs Road, Poole.

Paul and Stella invite you all with partners and family to a lunchtime party. They will provide a finger buffet with wine, beer and soft drinks. £3 each, let them know if you able to come at least 1 week in advance.

Saturday 28th October 2.00 to 5.00 at St. Aldhelm's church, St. Aldhelm's Rd. Branksome. (opposite Branksome railway station). **Masterclass on Registration by Anne Marsden Thomas.**

Anne is the director of the St. Giles International Organ school and one of the finest teachers of the organ. You may remember a very successful masterclass she gave for the Association several years ago at St. Peter's, Parkstone.

We need about ten people of **all** abilities to bring along a prepared piece. Anne has a very charming and encouraging manner and this should be an enjoyable and instructive experience for both players and observers.

We do encourage you to consider taking part in this. Anne has requested that we give her a list of pieces to be played, so could you please provide Paul Fearnley with details by 7th October.

The organ at St. Aldhelm's is a very good two manual Gray and Davidson, bashed about by Osmonds and restored by Lance Foy 10 years ago. Details on the National Pipe Organ register on the internet reference E00139.

Tea will be served at 4.00. Admission £6.



Saturday 25th November 7pm for 7.30pm Annual Dinner at the Liston Hotel, Boscombe. Guest Speaker Jennifer Bate. Please see the enclosed dinner order form and return it in good time.

A notice in the latest Organist's Review mentions that Michael Peterson has died. He was organist at St Peter's, Bournemouth from 1953-1966 having previously been assistant organist at Wells Cathedral. He moved to Tewkesbury Abbey in 1966 and retired in 1986. The BAO met him when the Association visited Tewkesbury in John Radford's Presidential Year (2002).

NEW MUSIC

Member, Michael Dawney has published a group of eight preludes on hymn tunes. They are: Eventide, Repton, Crimond, Austria, St Clement, Rockingham, Maccabeus and Angel Voices. They are all dedicated to local musicians and BAO members: John Collins, Graham Stockwell, Peter Dobbing, Gerald Roper and Peter Webb.

The album, "Eight Preludes on Well Known Hymns for Organ by Michael Dawney can be obtained from Fagus-music.com Beech Cottage, Drumoak, Banchory, AB31 5AL. Tel: 01330 811363. <g.atkinson@fagus-music.com>

CHRISTCHURCH PRIORY RECITALS

Geoffrey Morgan writes: We are getting low audiences at the Priory this year. ... if this trend continues, sadly, we shall not be able to afford an evening series at all in 2007. We are currently running at about 50-65 in audience numbers. I do not recognise many of the faces. They are mostly not BAO members! I do not know why we get such limited support from local organists. I have distributed many leaflets.

We always get very good numbers at the lunchtime recitals - perhaps because they are free? The organ will be out of action for much of next term, whilst we are having modifications made to the instrument. Accordingly, many of the Thursday lunchtime recitals during that period will have to be "non-organ".

Jonathan Rennert's organ recital at the Priory at 7.30 on 6th Sep will include works by Reger, Rheinberger, J. S. Bach, Swinnerton-Heap, Elgar, Reginald Porter-Brown, Karl Jenkins, Hollins, and Healey Willan

OUR DAY AT WINDSOR AND ETON

TIM RICE

Our outing in July to Eton and Windsor was a lovely day with, if you managed it, six instruments to see, if not hear.

We began at Eton College, with the



two-manual organ at the School, built by the Dutch firm of Johannes Mittenreiter. The school hall was very reminiscent of my old school hall - tall, square, pictures of past headmasters, boards listing head boys, etc. but the difference was the stepped stage at the front of the hall and, at the top level, what appeared to be a rather "quaint" organ. Was this the right sort of instrument to fit in a school hall? Well yes - there was certainly no problem in it being able to provide sufficient sound for the room it was in. The organ started life in 1773 at the English Church (St. Mary) in Rotterdam. In under twenty years, the organ was having a troubled existence, the church building having become a P.O.W

barracks. It was restored and reinstated in 1817 but when the church was closed and demolished in 1914, the organ was purchased by H E Luxmore and given to Eton; there it became a large 4-manual instrument thanks to Willis. In

1973, with Peter Hurford as Consultant, the Dutch firm of Flentrop restored it back to its original 2-manual condition, with the additions of Willis being removed.

Following some fine demonstrations of period organ music, we moved on to the Lower Chapel.

Here we were presented with a 3-manual French romantic instrument by Kenneth Tickell. There was plenty of scope for colour from over 40 stops, and our President gave us an appropriate piece in the Toccata by Theodore Dubois, and our host played the Finale from Vierne's 1st Symphony - great stuff!

At the College Chapel itself was the Hill organ which dated back to the 1800's. In its life the organ had seen many changes by Hill and other builders, so much so that when the organ was more recently restored nearer to its original specification, they incorporated some of the reeds from Eton Parish Church

because its own reeds had become so damaged through all the previous rebuilds. Of note were the 32' Diapason and Trombone stops on the pedal, part of the thrilling sound from four manuals and nearly sixty stops.

Whilst at Eton, there was a small chamber organ in one of the chapels - but casting an eye to one side of the casework and discovering, "Oh look



- someone's taken the blower away", it became quite apparent that we weren't going to get very far there.

Following an afternoon of "free-time" when we could wander at leisure (this is



where I managed my fifth instrument of the day in the Parish Church at Windsor, where the Surrey association were already exercising their fingers and feet on the three-manual Hunter/Rushworth offering), we then re-assembled at St. George's Chapel, Windsor, for Evensong - a good way to end the day, although some may have questioned the idea of having quite such a bias on Kenneth Leighton for settings, anthem and voluntary. Following a recital after the service by Timothy Byram-Wigfield and the opportunity to nip upstairs for a quick peek at the console, it was all-aboard again for Hampshire and Dorset.

Many thanks to our President, Paul, for all his efforts in making the day possible.

ST STEPHEN'S MUSIC DAY

The Music Day at St Stephens is planned this year for Saturday 18th Nov. This is an all day event. The purpose is to enjoy ourselves making music (however you want to) and to raise money for the organ refurbishment. Please mark the date in your diaries, Outlook, pda or however you can remember. More details later. Contact keith@rossmore.plus.com

FROM OUR NEIGHBOURING ASSOCIATIONS

SDOA forthcoming programme, to which our members are invited is:

23rd Sep - **Organ Crawl in North Dorset**, meeting at 11.00 at Buckland Newton (a relatively new 2-manual and pedal organ of 17 stops built by Michael Farley) and visit Beer Hackett and Bradford Abbas after lunch.

21st Oct at 2.30pm at St John the Baptist Church, Bere Regis. **Harmony and Disharmony in the Gallery** by Alan Dodge.

A talk with musical illustrations, which we will be invited to sing, about village church musicians and music making in the eighteenth century. Dr Alan Dodge, who has retired from the University of Bath, is the organist of Freshford Church and a well-known expert on this period of church music. This will be a joint meeting with the Wessex Area of the Royal School of Church Music.

18th Nov 7.00 for 7.30pm Annual Dinner at Kemp's Country Hotel East Stoke.

For further info contact SDOA Hon Sec, Prof Nigel Webb, Tel: 01929 553375, e-mail: nigel.r.webb@btopenworld.com

ORGANIST VACANCIES

It is good to record that **Burley Church** has been able to make an appointment. The new organist is Andrew Elliott who comes from Sway.

Less fortunate is **St Alban's** where they are still seeking an organist for the 10am and 6.30pm Services on Sundays plus occasional mid-week celebrations. Would you be willing to consider a "job share" of several organists each willing to play for one Sunday per month. Interested? Please contact Fr Robin Nash by email, vicar@saintalban.org.uk or on telephone number 01202 534193.

St John's Parkstone are also looking for an organist for occasional or possible longer term engagement. For more details please contact the Vicar, Graham Loughlin (g.loughlin@homecall.co.uk OR 01202-741276)

Can I appeal to members who have events coming up to tell me the details in good time so that I can ensure everyone knows what is going on. The Winter 2006 edition will be finalised during October so the deadline is Fri 29th Sep 06 – ed.