

Bournemouth & District Association of Organists



April 2007

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of Organists

At last I am able to bring our Spring edition to you with news of events this year. It has proved unusually difficult to coordinate venues and hosts in a timely manner but we hope you will be more than satisfied with the resulting programme. Where details still remain to be finalised please at least reserve the dates in your diaries.

We revised our constitution at the AGM so you will find the latest version along with this newsletter. Read on to find news of members, a report on the AGM, an updated list of deputies and forthcoming recitals.

Our President writes: "I wonder how many of you studied piano from an early age? If you were lucky enough to have a good teacher, the subject of 'touch' would have been put in front of you at the very first lesson. Then, every single week and in every piece, study and scale, that concept would be applied in order to make the desired artistic effect. Perhaps you ended up at Music College? I remember the pianists being taken right back to basics on 'touch', one friend working day and night on the Chopin Etudes until he had achieved that magical touch that brings even the most basic piano to life. Maybe you occasionally listened to Record Review, - sorry, 'CD Review'? Every time that I've tuned in to a piano review, the

subject of 'touch' comes up again, frequently as one of the most important aspects of an interpretation.

As a flautist, I was again made aware of 'touch', key contact, etc. James Galway, in a big masterclass at the Royal College of Music, talked at length about the 'touch' required make certain pieces sound just right. So, here's a question: - when did you last hear organists discussing, at length, the subject of 'touch'?

John Wellingham has agreed to stage a masterclass (at Bryanston) called "Taking Account of the Words", - or "How to make your organ play more expressive". This will be of huge interest to those playing small-scale music on humble tracker instruments: you can make this repertoire come alive with some careful attention to detail. Of course the technique even makes playing on a non-tracker sound better too: there is something for everyone here. John teaches organ scholars at Oxford and Cambridge and travels around Europe giving recitals. His enthusiasm for the subject is amazing, his knowledge seemingly endless.

Later in the year we hope to visit Lulworth, - armed with the techniques learned at Bryanston. John Wellingham will guide us through what is special about this instrument and hopes to bring one of the specialists who restored the organ so superbly. This, in particular, should be of great interest to anyone in music education.

As our future rests with the young generation, I'm staging a series of 'Music Cafés' through the year. The hope is to attract youngsters to St John's, Boscombe, where they can try out a superb organ. If you have any likely candidates, please point them in our direction. It's free, easy and fun, but we need details in advance.

With best wishes for an educational year.

Sean

SOME SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE STILL OUTSTANDING!

Subs for 2007 became due on 1st January. (Full Members £12.00, Students £2.00)

If you have not yet paid, please send your cheque ASAP to the Hon Treasurer, 22 Mayfield Close, Ferndown, BH22 9HS.

Remember, it costs the membership printing and postage charges to send you this Newsletter.



NEWS OF MEMBERS

Because of growing health problems, Derek **Baldwin** has had to retire from his post as Director of Music at St Luke's Sway. He will remain as a Reader and part of the leadership team, so will be unable to deputise at other churches on Sundays. But he is available on weekdays for weddings and funerals over a reasonably wide area (phone 01590 682235).

Gerald Roper celebrated his 83rd birthday recently and I happened to phone him on that very day. He seemed delighted to have someone to talk to and expanded on his long 60 year career as an organist, which was unfortunately curtailed in 2004 when he hurt his left arm in a fall. He has had one knee operated on successfully but is prevented from having the other done due to ulcers.

His first appointment was during the war in 1944 at St Thomas, Ensbury Park before moving back to Talbot Village where had been a choir boy. He served there on the organ stool for 11 years. Seeking a larger organ he spent a brief spell at Alma Road Methodist before being head hunted to St Augustin's where he remained for 12 years. Then followed his happy 33½ years on the wonderfully satisfying organ at St Osmund's, Parkstone.

He counts numerous famous organists among his acquaintances including Percy Whitlock, W G Alcock and Simon Preston to name just three. He will be very well known to all the clergy of the town having been a full time organist at Bournemouth Crematorium until retiring at 65 after which he continued deputising until frailty forced him off the stool.

Gerald was enrolled as a member of our Association in 1943 when it was still a branch of the Hampshire Association. He served as President on 2 occasions and is now a life Vice President.

He welcomes a chat over old times with members and can be contacted on 01202 749193. He says it takes him some time to reach the phone so let it ring until he answers.

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The Annual IAO Congress will take place in Glasgow this year from 23rd – 28th July with concerts, recitals, workshops, masterclasses, lectures etc. For details see <<http://www.iao.org.uk/events/>>. Charles Thomas has been Bournemouth's sole representative for several years. If anyone is thinking of going why not contact him and see if he would like company?

*

The West of England & S.E. Wales Region ORGAN DAY takes place at Wells on Sat 13th October 2007 from 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

More details of this interesting event in our next issue.

ASSOCIATION EVENTS IN 2007

Sat March 31st – 2nd Music Café, 10.00 – 12.00 noon at St John's Boscombe.

Sat April 21st – at Bryanston School Chapel, 2.00 – 5.00, a masterclass by John Wellingham entitled "Taking Account of the Words", - or "How to make your organ play more expressive". *To contribute to the costs of this event a charge of £5 will be made.* John is acknowledged as an expert around Europe, and gives recitals on superb tracker instruments across the continent. He currently teaches organ scholars in Oxford and Cambridge throughout the year. The repertoire will be John Stanley (for manuals) then some pedal solos from Lubeck, Bruhns, Bohm, Buxtehude, etc. It will be an exciting eye-opener for many reluctant organists who play on simple instruments, to show that even the simplest music can sound outstanding. John does everything with gusto and tends to do stunts like having three people playing at once to demonstrate how good a simple piece can sound when all three parts have good articulation. A day to remember.

Sat May 12th – 3rd Music Café at St John's, 10.00 – 12.00.

Sat May 19th – An organ crawl in the Purbecks. 11.00 at Lady St Mary, Wareham meeting the Associate Organist, John Reynolds, to hear and play the 3 manual organ. Free time to sight-see and find refreshment until 2.00 at Kingston, St James Church to meet the organist Roderick Raley and enjoy the organ which is largely in original condition. *(Parking at Wareham is tricky. Use either the 2hr max parking behind Somerfield, or Church Lane long stay.)*

Sat June 2nd – 4th Music Café at St John's, 10.00 – 12.00.

Wed June 6th – at Bournemouth School, 7.00 – 8.30, to see, hear and play a Gamelan. *(According to Wikipedia a **gamelan** is a kind of musical ensemble of Indonesian origin typically featuring a variety of instruments such as metallophones, xylophones, drums, and gongs. A Gamelan as a set of instruments is a distinct entity, built and tuned to stay together — instruments from different Gamelans are not interchangeable.)* Debussy and others heard it at the 1899 World Exhibition in Paris. These composers started to integrate elements of Indonesian music into their works and, in turn, influenced all their pupils. Once you know what you're looking for, you can hear moments of it in Vierne, Dupre, Durufle, Britten and many of our favourite composers. The evening will be a magical trip into a whole new world.

Sat June 30th – 5th Music Café at St John's, 10.00 – 12.00.

July TBA – A day trip to Brighton to play 2 large church organs and a rare opportunity to join with Sussex Organists' Association at the Dome.

Sat Sept 8th – The annual Eileen Bolt recital, 3.00 at The Richmond Hill URC to hear James Aiken, a talented pupil of Chris Sparkhall.

Oct TBA at Lulworth Castle chapel. John Wellingham will speak about the organ and demonstrate its best points. We can use our new skills learned at Bryanston to get the best out of this unique time-piece.

Nov 10th – A master class on extemporisation.

Dec 1 or 8, the Annual Dinner, Details TBA

THE AGM ON 10TH FEB 2007 AT 2.30 AT ST JOHN'S BOSCOMBE



Twenty one members gathered for this year's AGM and saw Paul Fearnley hand over the President's badge of office to Sean O'Connell. Sean outlined his hopes for our programme this year. After a brief interval for tea Evensong followed, conducted by Canon Pam Schollar, accompanied by a choir largely composed of Sean's choir from Corpus Christi Church augmented by BAO members. Geoffrey Morgan's playing reminded us again what many of us aspire to but don't quite achieve as accompanists.

Below we see Sean practising the choir in the brief period between tea and the start of the service.



Music included: Psalm 150 (Stanford); O thou the central orb (Wood); Magnificat & Nunc Dimittis in Bb (Stanford). Geoffrey's ebullient outgoing voluntary was "Allegro Marziale" by Harold Greenhill.

St Stephen's May Festival, 5th - 7th June 2007

A leaflet accompanies this edition. No-one needs reminding of the high standard of music or interesting programme at these annual events. Perhaps, though, we all need reminding to enter it prominently in our diaries – NOW, especially the Saturday afternoon lecture which we sponsor as an Association and the evening recital to be given by our own Geoffrey Morgan.

FORTHCOMING RECITALS

At Christchurch Priory - summer series - Wednesday evenings at 7.30 p.m. Admission at the door £6. (Doors open at 7.00 p.m.)

13th June, Ashley Grote (Westminster Abbey)

27th June, Geoffrey Morgan (Christchurch Priory)

11th July, Andrew Post and Cathy Lamb (Christchurch Priory)

25th July, William Whitehead (St Mary's, Bourne Street, London)

8th August, Clive Driskill-Smith (Christchurch Cathedral, Oxford)

22nd August, Roger Sayer (Rochester Cathedral)

At Salisbury Cathedral

25th April, The Alcock Recital David Halls, *Dir of Music, Salisbury*

23rd May, Daniel Cook, *Assistant Director of Music, Salisbury Cathedral*

20th June, The Jenkinson Recital Timothy Ravalde, *Organ Scholar, Salisbury Cathedral*

15th August, Maxine Thevenot, *International Recitalist, USA*

12th September, Steven Grahl, *Organist & Director of Music, St Marylebone Parish Church*

10th October, The Emery Recital Peter Wright, *Organist & Director of Music, Southwark Cathedral, President of the Royal College of Organists.*

Admission is £8.00 per recital (concessions for children), tickets available at the door on the night. A season ticket for the entire series, price £50.00. All recitals held on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. It is always worth looking at the cathedral website <www.salisburycathedral.org.uk> to obtain programme details or any last minute changes.

At Winchester Cathedral on Tuesdays at 7.45pm

1st May, Sarah Baldock, Winchester Cathedral

8th May, Jeremy Filsell, Windsor

15th May, Andrew Lumsden. Dir. of Music, Winchester Cathedral

29th May, Philip White-Jones, Asst Organist, Winchester Cathedral

5th June, John Butt, Glasgow University

Tickets £8 incl programme & post-concert drinks reception with the performer, avail. at the door from 7.15. Enquiries 01962 857219

JENNIFER BATE CHARITY CONCERT

Andrew Roberts writes: BAO members might like to know of a charity concert Jennifer will be giving, assisted by Prunella Scales, in Southwark Cathedral on 26 April. Music includes works by Bach, Buxtehude, Mendelssohn, Elgar, Frank, Langlais and Widor. There are 12 readings, some humorous, about music and musicians.

We are hoping to arrange a coach to take a number of people from Sway/Brockenhurst to and from the concert (probably using Solent Motors of. New Milton), for whom the £15 concert tickets would be discounted to £12.50 and good seats reserved in a block. Depending on whether the coach is filled and how large a coach can be filled, the coach cost would be of the order of £12 - £15. The coach would leave Sway at about 3:30 pm (to arrive about one hour before the concert so that people can grab a bite before the concert) and leave Southwark no later than 10:00 pm.

If any members would like to reserve places on the coach, would they please contact the Secretary of the Brockenhurst Music Society, Sue Young, on 01590 683805 or by e-mail: sue@hyaa.co.uk.

Paul Fearnley and Stella say they are going.

VACANCIES FOR ORGANISTS

St. Peter's Parkstone is still seeking an Organist and Director of music. You can find more information about the church and this very fine organ at [<http://www.nigel.lloyd.dsl.pipex.com>](http://www.nigel.lloyd.dsl.pipex.com) RSCM rates paid, Assistant Organist in post. For more information please contact Canon Nigel Lloyd. 01202 748860, nigel.lloyd@dsl.pipex.com

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St. Mark's, Talbot Village, Bournemouth urgently require an organist/choirmaster. Numerous weddings. Salary negotiable based on RSCM rates. Apply to the Rev. Christopher Rutledge, tel. (01202) 513646.

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HISTORIC METHODIST PIPE ORGANS

Graham Jones has written to enquire: "I am trying to discover the historic pipe organs of the Methodist Church. I would be grateful to hear from any of your members of Methodist pipe organs that they consider historic, of high quality, or otherwise noteworthy. Please contact: Graham Jones Tel. 01704 876 134. Email: g.mjones@btinternet.com Website: <http://uk.geocities.com/g.mjones@btinternet.com>"

ORGANISTS VOLUNTEERING TO DEPUTISE

Name,	Surname,	Mobile,	Tel Number,	Availability.
Alan	Aldis	07919903240	01202 551962,	not Sundays
Derek	Baldwin		01590 682235,	not Sundays
David	Beeby	07789434178	01202 512266,	available Sundays
Eric	Collier		01202 573670,	only available 1st & 2nd Sundays
Paul	Crosby	07703641589	01202 433941,	not Sundays
Julian	Davies		01202 875479,	available any time
Michael	Dawney		01202 468268,	not Sunday am
Graham	Exon		01202 524333,	not Sundays
George	Horrell		01202 309089,	not Sundays
Geoffrey	Morgan		01425 277243,	not Sundays
Sean	O'Connell		01202 434156,	not Sunday morning
David	Portsmouth		01202 551360,	available any time
John	Radford		01725 517650,	not Sundays
Joyce	Rolls		01202 514208,	not Sundays and only within 10 mile radius of Bournemouth
Rayner	Skeet		01202 421734,	available any time
David	Smith		01202 482814,	not Sunday am
John	Steed		01202 514339,	available any time
Bob	Wetton		01202 516833,	available any time

ANNIVERSARIES – A PLEA

We congratulate Winchester & District Association of Organists who will celebrate their 100th anniversary in November this year. We, on the other hand, are uncertain of just when and in what circumstances we were formed, although Gerald's memories on page 3 may provide a clue.

We are keen to document our formation and subsequent development but lack copies of early newsletters and committee minutes. It may be possible to search the Echo archives we but need someone motivated to undertake this interesting task. Also we urgently seek early documentation relating to the Association. If any long standing members have a hoard of historic material lurking in their loft we beg you to seek it out and let us have sight of it.

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 next edition is planned to be finalised during May so the deadline is Fri 4th May – ed.