

Bournemouth & District Association of Organists



June 2007

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of Organists

As I type this edition of your Newsletter I have (metaphorically) my tail between my legs. It is undeniably late and I can only apologise for giving such short notice of the **cancellation** of our annual outing which was to have taken place on 14th July. I just hope the Royal Mail doesn't further delay you hearing about it by their threatened strikes.

Sean had been organising the outing but with mixed rates of response at his planned venues. Together they so delayed finalising the programme that there just wasn't time to set up the transport and circulate details to everyone.

The rest of the programme should go ahead alright.

Read on also to find news of members, of other Associations, and a list of forthcoming recitals.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Almost all of us have paid. There are just 4 left who would gladden the heart of our patient treasurer by sending their cheque ASAP to "The Hon Treasurer, 22 Mayfield Close, Ferndown, BH22 9HS". Full members £12.00, Students £2.00.

NEWS OF MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new member Stephen Robson from Dibden Purlieu. Since publication of our list of deputies Michael Dawney has written to say he is available at any time.

ASSOCIATION EVENTS FOR 2007

July 14th – The hoped for day trip to Brighton, Hove and Lancing College will **not now take place**.

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

Oct 6th - 2.00 – 5.00 at Bryanston School chapel, the re-scheduled masterclass by John Wellingham. Suggested repertoire list, (all John Stanley): Opus 5, Voluntary 4, Adagio; Opus 5, Voluntary 10, Adagio; Opus 6, Voluntary 5, Adagio & Andante Largo; Opus 7, Voluntary 6, Andante & Vivace; Opus 7, Voluntary 9, both movements. **Note - £5 charge per person.**

Oct 13th - 10.30 – 6.00, IAO Regional Organ Day at Wells. (See flier)

Nov 10th – A master class on extemporisation at St John's Boscombe. Tutor tba.

Dec 8th - the Annual Dinner, 7.00 for 7.30 at the Liston Hotel, Wollsanecroft Road, Bournemouth.



You will be pleased to hear that our President elect is already planning a full programme for 2008.



I would like to draw the attention of disappointed members who had been hoping to come to our outing that *Dorset Association of Organists* have invited us to one of theirs. It is a composite recital at St Mary Swanage followed by dinner on the move in the Swanage Railway dining train. Tue July 17th at 5.45. Our members are welcome.

The yellow fliers enclosed with this newsletter tell it all, but do respond quickly if you wish to go because closing date for applications is Monday 9th July.

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.)

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 on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.

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

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

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

Admission is £8.00. It is always worth looking at the cathedral website <www.salisburycathedral.org.uk> to obtain programme details or any last minute changes.

At St Mary the Virgin, Swanage, Thursdays at 8.00pm

19th July – William Brown (St Mary the Virgin, Swanage)

26th July – Steve Barker (St Stephen, Canterbury)

2nd Aug – David Bruce-Payne (Weymouth)

9th Aug – Duncan Honeybourne (Weymouth)

16th Aug – Lionel Pike (ex Royal Holloway University of London)

23rd Aug – Steve Martin (Exeter)

30th Aug – Peter Latimer (Sturminster Newton)

6th Sep – Malcolm Archer (St Paul's Cathedral)

7th Sep – William Brown (St Mary the Virgin, Swanage)

Admission on 6th Sep - £6, remainder £3.

At Richmond Hill St Andrew's URC, Saturdays at 3.00pm

Admission by programme £5

7th July – David Beeby

18th Aug – Daniel Campbell

8th Sep – James Aiken – the Eileen Bolt recital

22nd Sep – Ian Harrison

OUR VISIT TO PURBECK ORGANS

Saturday 19th May was a blustery but pleasantly sunny day when we visited Lady St Mary in Wareham and St James, Kingston. Our dozen or so members received a warm welcome in both churches where the resident organists gave a description of the organs and their history as well as demonstrating some of their best points. After this we treated ourselves to the usual mixed display of fireworks and gentle contemplative music from members.



Both the organs are originally by Maley, Young and Oldknow. That at Kingston is virtually as first installed in 1880 and was restored by Derry Thompson in 1993, whereas the Lady St Mary organ has been rebuilt more than once, most recently by Bishop and White in 1990. It is now a powerful and versatile instrument with the usual modern registration aids in a well placed, comfortable detached console.

When we had finished enjoying this organ there was generous time before arrival at St James to take ourselves to any of the excellent pubs that abound in

the area.

The organ at Kingston provides a considerable contrast for, while it sounds wonderful, it is a handful to play. A tracker organ with detached console would always provide both tuner and player with some heavy work and this is no exception. The tracker mechanism, along with the blower, reservoir and trunking are all placed in a deep cellar beneath the console. The trackers pass under the console and transept floor to re-emerge in the organ chamber. The tuner has to remove most of the spotted metal open

diapason front pipes to gain access to the very shallow, cramped organ chamber to tune the organ.



Sean O'Connell at St James, Kingston



A glimpse in the cellar under the organ

A precipitous descent via a trap door beside the console gives way to a surprisingly large, clean and airy cellar where the mechanisms can be accessed.

Some of us returned on the following Saturday to hear Rupert Gough (Royal Holloway College, London) give a brilliant recital on the organ. I doubt if anyone listening would have realised how hard the organ is to play,

particularly at speed. Maybe the presence of a stop puller hovering around the console and a cipher induced, we were told, by a manual coupler might have aroused some suspicions.

THE GAMELAN EVENING

Unfortunately I had to miss this unusual opportunity to partake in a different sort of music making. Fortunately Sean has written about it.

He said, “The Gamelan class, last week, was a small success: there were seven of us, i.e. the committee! Anyway, it was an eye-opener.



The group learned, first hand, what Gamelan is all about. Instantly they were guided into playing melodic loops and gradually improving, then moving on to learning an intro. The sound was quite hypnotic, and we were living in a totally different world of tuning.

The most exciting thing about the whole experience was that we were hearing exactly the sounds that had grabbed Debussy at the Paris Great Exhibition. The influence can be heard in small moments of the various Parisian organ composers and improvisers. Having heard and played this music we can all, now, detect when it shows up in compositions.”



NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURING ASSOCIATIONS

Dorset Association of Organists

Tue July 17th at 5.45, Composite recital at St Mary Swanage followed by dinner on the Swanage Railway. Details on the enclosed yellow leaflets; our members are welcome.

Sat 15th Sep Organ playing class led by Anne Marsden Thomas at Dorchester URC, South St, Dorchester. Full details later.

Winchester & District Association of Organists

6-8th Sep at Abbey URC, Romsey. WDOA launches an initiative to bring the World of the Organ to the Man on the Street. They plan to achieve this by running an exhibition on organs at the Abbey URC in Romsey during 6-8th September. There will be a rolling programme of events on the Saturday, with various demonstrations and activities. Do support this initiative by taking time to drop in and have a look.

Sat 22nd Sep at Winchester College Chapel at 11am, *Members £7, student members £5, Non-Members £10, £7 non-member and students*

Master Class with Sarah Baldock. An opportunity to brush up your style and technique with one of the foremost organ teachers in the country. Sarah Baldock, Assistant Director of the Music at Winchester Cathedral, Organ Performance Tutor at Southampton University, RCO Examiner, prizewinner and finalist at various international competitions will lead a master class at Winchester College Chapel. Sarah's observant, erudite, warm and lively approach should offer many insights and encourage a friendly and supportive atmosphere. Players of all standards will gain a lot from the morning and all are welcome to attend.

While observers are welcome, you are very warmly encouraged to play at the master class and there is space in the application form (apply to Brian Schollar for a copy) to indicate a piece you would like to play. There is no need to feel apprehensive - playing at a master class is very rewarding and you realise quickly when playing that nobody is judging you.

Wiltshire and Bath Organists Association

You will find this disappointing reading. Vice President, Robin Jackson, writes in their June newsletter:

“Once again I need to turn your attention to the serious matter of the Association’s future.

*... the Hon Secretary position has now been vacant for 18 months. Despite my appeals, no volunteer has come forward to take over this key position, which is crucial to the day to day running of the Association, Members of Council are sharing the secretarial duties between them to keep the Association ticking over, and we are able to cover taking minutes at meetings and production of the newsletter. This leaves the important job of correspondence, liaising with our neighbouring associations, and being a receiver of information. Without **assistance in this area we cannot go forward.***

There are just two Officers on the Council, myself as Vice-President, and Richard Beattie as Hon. Treasurer. This year, possibly for the first time, there is no President.

Our membership is declining (now down to 60 full members as opposed to 75 two years ago)

The future of this Association is very much in your hands. There is now a very real possibility that it will have to be wound up after the AGM in November this year.

So when it is time for the AGM, there are two contrasting courses of action. Either a brand new Vice President (and prospective President-elect) and/or Hon Secretary (Correspondence and liaison) offer themselves and are elected to take the Association forward, or we are obliged to begin the winding up process.”

I can't think of anything BAO members can do in the circumstances, particularly as we live at a distance, but if you want to contact Robin to offer any kind of help he can be found at 10 The Cleve, Corsham SN13 9JG; 01249 713809.



"WELL, I SUPPOSE THIS RULES OUT THE 'HALLELUJAH CHORUS'..."

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 in late August for distribution early in September, so the deadline is Mon 20th August – ed.

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