

# Bournemouth & District Association of Organists



September 2007

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of Organists

Our President writes:

“Look out for an event with a big difference! The organ masterclass with John Wellingham on 6<sup>th</sup> October is one not to be missed. In trying to be a better instrumentalist it is tempting to work on being able to play more notes per minute. The biggest difference that you can make, however, is in the detail. John is an expert at this, backed with a wealth of knowledge about early keyboard styles and techniques. Please check the [Stanley] repertoire list at <http://www.corpuschristichoir.com/bryanston> and call 01202 434156 to 'book' a piece: I'll update the list as requests arrive.

We're hoping to have a harpsichord too, and will be playing some instrumental pieces to demonstrate context. Come and join the fun.”



Good News!

Congratulations to our distinguished member, Jennifer Bate who was awarded an honorary DMus from her Alma Mater - The University of Bristol in July.

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## ASSOCIATION EVENTS IN AUTUMN 2007

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**Sept 8<sup>th</sup>** – The annual Eileen Bolt recital, 3.00 at Richmond Hill St Andrew's URC to hear James Aiken, a talented pupil of Chris Sparkhall. (see flier enclosed in the June Newsletter)

**Oct 6<sup>th</sup>** - 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 13<sup>th</sup>** - 10.30 – 6.00, IAO Regional Organ Day at Wells. See orange booking form included in our June Newsletter which must arrive not later than 1<sup>st</sup> September, so hurry if you want to go. Dorset Association of Organists is running a coach which we are invited to join - See green enclosure.

**Nov 17<sup>th</sup>** - 2.00 – 5.00, A master class on extemporisation at St John's Boscombe. **Note - £5 charge per participant.** Our tutor, Rosemary Field, writes, "Paper-free composition! The improviser's task is just that; the class will address how to structure, control and deliver instant music."

The session will be divided into three levels of experience and those who have never tried to improvise are encouraged to play in Topic 1.

Topic 1. Getting started - melodic invention and rhythmic organisation.

Topic 2. Keeping Going - developing harmonic and organisational skills in those who already know how to add a few bars to the end of a hymn etc.

Session 3. A real piece of music - this will be devoted to creating music in various genres.

Preparation: just bring playing shoes and a notebook.

Rosemary advises 2 or 3 people per topic. Everyone needs to be present for all of it but volunteers ready to try things out need to be identified in advance. If you would like to participate, please contact Paul Fearnley (01202 707128; paul@pdfearnley.demon.co.uk) not later than the end of October.

Rosemary has held appointments at Birmingham and Portsmouth Cathedrals and at St Stephen's Westminster. She was awarded the Tournemire Medal for Improvisation at St. Albans Festival 1986 and others. She is a recitalist, broadcaster, composer, founder and director of several

choirs and brings 25 years experience at all levels in piano, organ, theory/harmony and choral skills.

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** - the Annual Dinner, 7.00 for 7.30 at the Liston Hotel, Wolsancroft Road, Bournemouth. Menu etc. to follow in October.

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#### RECITAL AND DINNER WITH THE DORSET ASSOCIATION

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The Dorset Association of Organists kindly extended an invitation for us to join them on 17<sup>th</sup> July at St Mary's, Swanage for a composite recital followed by dinner on the Wessex Belle as it travelled through the Dorset countryside from Swanage to Norden and back on the Swanage Railway.

Three recitalists played to us, each one choosing mainly French music. Undoubtedly the highlight came in the last piece played by Sam Hanson



which was a spirited rendering of Fête by Jean Langlais with virtuosic fortissimo pedal work in its closing bars.

The organisation worked very smoothly and an excellent meal on the train was enjoyed by about 50 of us, including 6 members from Bournemouth. We are grateful to Our Dorset Association friends for including us.

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#### RECITAL AT RICHMOND HILL ST ANDREW'S URC

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On 18<sup>th</sup> August in the second of his series of Saturday afternoon recitals Danny Campbell played a generous and wide ranging programme to an audience of around 60 with a good sprinkling of our members present. We hear of depressing audiences at recitals these days but on this occasion I feel we represented ourselves quite well.

There is good parking at the church, at any rate for those who arrive reasonably early, so this must be one of the most accessible town centre

venues. We do therefore urge members to support the Eileen Bolt recital to be played there on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

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#### **OUR BURSARY SCHEME**

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One of our charitable objectives is to encourage young organists, so it is good to be able to report that after a lull of a year or two we now have 2 applications for financial assistance towards tuition costs.

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#### **NEWS FROM NEIGHBOURING ASSOCIATIONS**

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##### **Dorset Association of Organists**

Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Sep Organ playing class on the subject of "Performance" led by Anne Marsden Thomas at Dorchester URC, South St, Dorchester. 13.45 – 16.45 incl. tea break. Cost £8.00 payable on the day. Open to players or observers. Players should prepare a piece, part of a piece, hymn tune or an accompaniment for manuals only or with pedals, not to exceed 5 min duration. Members wishing to play must inform the Hon Sec, Nigel Webb on 01929 553375 with details of their choice.

##### **Winchester & District Association of Organists**

**6-8<sup>th</sup> 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 6-8<sup>th</sup> September. There will be a rolling programme of events on the Saturday, with various demonstrations and activities.

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

Master Class with Sarah Baldock. An opportunity to brush up on style and technique with one of the foremost organ teachers in the country. Sarah Baldock, Assistant Director of 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. 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 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 - it is very rewarding and you realise quickly when playing that nobody is judging you.

### **Wiltshire and Bath Organists Association**

In our last issue I published an extract from the WBOA's June Newsletter in which their membership was warned that the Association could be about to fold for lack of officers.

Their most recent Newsletter brings much better news saying they now have a Secretary and, I believe, a volunteer is willing to stand as Vice Chairman so the crisis is passing.

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#### **FORTHCOMING RECITALS**

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#### **At Christchurch Priory – Autumn lunchtime series**

Thursdays at 12.30 – admission free, retiring collection. Light lunches, refreshments and drinks are available in Priory House before and after the recitals.

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| Geoffrey Morgan (Christchurch Priory)       | 20 <sup>th</sup> September |
| Keith Hearnshaw (Concert Organist)          | 27 <sup>th</sup> September |
| Shean Bowers (St Saviour's, Oxton)          | 4 <sup>th</sup> October    |
| Paul Derrett (Hull)                         | 11 <sup>th</sup> October   |
| Andrew Post (Christchurch Priory)           | 18 <sup>th</sup> October   |
| Geoffrey Morgan (Christchurch Priory)       | 25 <sup>th</sup> October   |
| Oliver King (Wellington College)            | 1 <sup>st</sup> November   |
| Andrew Post (Christchurch Priory)           | 8 <sup>th</sup> November   |
| Lawrence Caldecote (Nuneaton Parish Church) | 15 <sup>th</sup> November  |
| David Davies (Guildford Cathedral)          | 22 <sup>nd</sup> November  |

#### **At Salisbury Cathedral on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.**

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

10<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.salisburycathedral.org.uk)> to obtain programme details or any last minute changes.

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

6<sup>th</sup> Sep – Malcolm Archer (St Paul's Cathedral)

7<sup>th</sup> Sep – William Brown (St Mary the Virgin, Swanage)

Admission on 6<sup>th</sup> Sep - £6, remainder £3.

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

Admission by programme £5

8<sup>th</sup> Sep – James Aiken – the Eileen Bolt recital

22<sup>nd</sup> Sep – Ian Harrison

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**BOURNEMOUTH ASSOCIATION'S ORIGINS AND HISTORY**

**BWS**

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Your Committee is aware that we have almost no documented history of the Association and would like someone to write one. In the meantime we seek whatever information we can glean. Unfortunately, our archive was seriously attenuated when Eileen Bolt died because her papers have not yet come to light, though there is a glimmer of hope if rumours centred on St Andrew's URC bear fruit. In the meantime we have to rely on the memories of our oldest members and anything we can glean from local newspapers.

By contrast, Winchester and District Association of Organists (WDAO) is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and is fortunate to have a rich, well preserved archive. So Brenda Price and I were pleased to be invited to one of their meetings recently when Vice President, Rowland Wateridge, gave a well researched talk on their history. It was a most interesting evening though our primary interest remained to find anything we could about *Bournemouth's* early days.

Rowland believes Hampshire Organists' Association was founded in the 1920s with Southampton as its centre of gravity but with branches in Bournemouth and Portsmouth. Winchester Association predated this, having been founded in 1907, and remained aloof. This is evidenced by their resolution in Jan 1922 *not* to affiliate to the newly emerging Hants Association. This makes it seem a little strange that a year book of the Hants Organist's Association dated 1955, and brought to the meeting by a former member of the Hants Association, contained details of its council as composed of representatives of the Isle of Wight, Southampton, and "*Winchester and County*". Might there have been a little rivalry?

At some point (probably by 1947 in the case of Bournemouth) Bournemouth, Portsmouth, and the Isle of Wight became independent associations in their own right and the remnants of the Hampshire Association became known as the Southampton Association. Southampton retained and continued to use the 'Hampshire' president's badge of office.

Whilst Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight and Bournemouth continued to flourish independently, Southampton went through the doldrums in the 1970s and disbanded. Some of their members chose to transfer to WDAO, and still remain members. When they formally wound up, the last Southampton President, Jeremy Blandford, sent the Hampshire Association President's badge to WDAO, and they continue to use it – to the bafflement of people who don't know the history! Jeremy Blandford's letter accompanying the gift remains in the WDAO archive.

Our longest serving member, Gerald Roper, remembers being enrolled to the Hampshire Association in 1943. Even earlier than that, in 1938, 15 year old Eric Collier responded to an advert in the Echo for the Organists' Association annual scholarship. He was interviewed at St Michael's church by a panel of Association members chaired by Ernest Suttall.

A further memory, from an elderly WDAO member, Bernard Gibson, is of having the distinction of having been President of both the Bournemouth Association and WDAO. His name appears on our President's chain of office in 1965, his main appointment in Bournemouth having been at St Ambrose where he says he had a fine choir. He remembers that Winchester Cathedral's organists, particularly Alwyn Surplice and Martin Neary, usually attended the Bournemouth Association's annual dinner in his time. Bernard also remembers Eileen Bolt extremely well.

The first name to appear on our chain of office is FE Fisher in 1947. Cyril Knight was next in 1948.



### **ORGANIST VACANCY**

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE church at 45A Christchurch Road, Bournemouth will shortly have a vacancy for a regular organist at their magnificent three manual Compton pipe organ.

Duties: Sunday Service 11am to 12 noon; plus a Wednesday evening meeting from 7.30 to 8.30pm (except 1st Wednesday at 12noon). Also a rehearsal with their soloist during the week.

There is a remuneration for this post and a deputy organist is already in place. For more information please contact Mrs Anne Smart on 01202 707966 or email <[apsmart@aol.com](mailto:apsmart@aol.com)>

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## SEAN'S BRIGHTON TRIP

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Members will recall that arrangements for our planned outing to Brighton hung fire and just couldn't be organised in time to book a coach and inform everyone. Wanting to save some enjoyment from all the preparatory hard work, Sean and David Beeby decided the organs were too good to miss so they went together and took some pictures to show what we all might have enjoyed.

St Bartholemew's (right) is reputed to have the highest nave in Britain.



Hove Parish Church (left) is magnificent. Far above the player's head are horizontal trumpets.



In Michael Maine's organ barn (bottom of page): there's a Steinway to the left, then a Compton console which controls what has so far been installed of the Fr. Willis from St Patrick's, Hove. In the middle you can see the tops of the 32' Trombone from Brighton Dome, and there's a Hill house organ on the



right!

As Sean said, "We just couldn't believe it."

"The venues were booked, so we went and had a fabulous day out."