



BAO NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2023

IAO
THE INCORPORATED
ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISTS

Bournemouth & District Association of Organists

Registered Charity No. 1098369

www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth

bournemouthorganists@gmail.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello again. Another summer is drawing to a close and what a topsy-turvy one it has been, a blazing June which promised so much giving way to a blustery, wet July and early August. But I made the best of it, with some musical events and two pleasant holidays in late June and early July. The latter included two wonderful concerts at Llandaff Cathedral. Firstly, a superb recital by Gordon Stewart which was a master class in organ-playing despite his advancing years, and then a magnificent choral concert by the 36-strong Pontarddulais Welsh Male Voice Choir, ably supported by Llandaff Director of Music Stephen Moore on the powerful Nicholson organ. A sublime experience in sound.

Since the last newsletter in March four events have taken place. April 22nd took us to Boldre parish church, where the Hauptwerk organ was demonstrated in both of its guises, followed by Choral Evensong. A most enjoyable and well-attended event. Conversely, the Open Event at Wimborne Minster on May 20th attracted less attention than one might have hoped for; despite trustee Steve Robson's sterling and painstaking efforts in arranging it, little enthusiasm was engendered. Very disappointing. However, the organ crawls in both June and July were better attended. More on all of these events anon.

We'll, that will do for now; you will read plenty more from me elsewhere in this newsletter. Doubtless most of you will have returned from your summer holidays and ready for some autumnal hard work in preparation for Harvest Festival and then the festive season. Hopefully the improved attendances at most of our 2023 events will be maintained at our three remaining ones for this year.

Charles Thomas

THIS EDITION

From the President	1
Past Events	2-4
Coming Events	5
Welcome!	6
Situations Vacant	6
Annual Dinner	7
Contacts	8

Apologies if colour printing is below standard in this issue - technical problems! Ed.

2 FOR THE PRICE OF 1

Our April event took place on the 22nd and was an unqualified success. It was a demonstration of the Hauptwerk organ at the beautiful old church of St. John The Baptist at Boldre, in the heart of the New Forest. On our previous visit in May 2016,



the existing three-manual Copeman-Hart organ, acquired in 1989, had been modified to allow the Hauptwerk computer software to be installed. It is a “virtual” pipe organ, created by recording every pipe in the organ (in this case, that of Hereford Cathedral), for at least 10 seconds each, together with a recording of all of the echo. Thus a highly realistic sound of the original organ is effected, though much depends on the quality of the amplifier and loudspeakers, which make or break any pipeless organ. This time an additional Hauptwerk system had recently been installed, which was recorded from the baroque-voiced organ in the church of Our Lady In Adergas at Velesovo, Slovenia. Whilst my overall preference is for Romantic instruments, this one, of its type, is excellent. It is perfectly suited to the works of J. S. Bach and Buxtehude. Timothy Rice, their Director of Music, superbly demonstrated the organ in both of its guises. Then it was over to us to sample.

After refreshments had been served, ably provided by the good folk of Boldre church, Choral Evensong followed. The service was admirably led by Christopher Knox and the robed choir was in great form. The Magnificat was by Richard Shephard and the Nunc Dimittis by Timothy Rice. Then came the anthem “O Taste And See”, a commission by Ralph Vaughan Williams for the coronation service of Queen Elizabeth 2nd.

It all added up to a most successful afternoon, much enjoyed by the 28 members and friends who attended. May this much-improved turnout be maintained for our future events.

Charles Thomas

[These two instruments, along with the Brindley & Foster organ of St. Anne's, Moseley, are in regular use throughout each month of the year at St. John's. TJR.]

AVON VALLEY VISIT

Our June event was held on the 21st, in collaboration with the Dorset Organists' Association. We visited three interesting old churches/organs in the Avon valley and were blessed with glorious sunshine throughout.

Our first stop was at the delightful, unspoilt church at Ellingham, where we were welcomed by their organist, Barbara Strong. She gave us a brief history of the church before demonstrating the organ. However, this two-manual Harrison and Harrison instrument was in less good shape than in our previous visit in 2013. The Swell organ, even with the box fully open, was too quiet in relation to the Great and a couple of the latter's stops seemed less refined this time.



St. Mary and All Saints, Ellingham



St. Mary, Breamore

Next

it was the remarkable Saxon church at Breamore, where an arch still has its Saxon inscription. The organ, mounted on a west end gallery, is easily the best of the three. Built by Norman Bros. and Beard and restored firstly by Hill, Norman and Beard in 1927 and then J. W. Walker in 2013, it speaks freely into the building and was much enjoyed by those who sampled it.

Our final destination was Damerham parish church, whose one-manual organ was built by James Corps of Norwich in 1850 and restored by J. W. Walker in 1990. It retains its GG long compass with 59 notes and for a single-manual instrument, sounded impressive.

Altogether a lovely day out for the 21 members of both associations who attended. Many thanks to John Radford for arranging it. *Charles Thomas*

CRAWLING AROUND THE PURBECKS

For our July event we reprised our July 1996 visit to the Purbeck Hills, in collaboration with the Dorset Organists' Association. Given the dire forecast, the weather turned out to be less bad than we had feared with only a couple of sharp, blustery showers and reasonable sunshine.

Our first port of call was the parish church of St. Mary's, Swanage. Neither Simon Lole nor Bill Brown were available to welcome us so their priest, the Rev. Ian Bird, did the honours while Professor Nigel Webb of the Dorset Association delivered a short history of the organ. It was built in 1899 by W. G. Vowles as a two-manual instrument but enlarged to its present three-manual size some years later. It was modified in 1958 and 1965 by Harrison and Harrison, then rebuilt firstly in 1987 by Kenneth James and Son and secondly by Andrew Cooper 30 years after that. Some of us felt that some of the prominent stops were too loud in relation to the quieter ones but overall it is a good instrument.

Next it was to St. George's church at Langton Matravers, whose organist is Richard Earl, the father of Simon. By his own admission, Simon has left him well behind but he gave an admirable demonstration of the very good two-manual Binns organ before leaving it to our own devices and desires.



Our final destination was St. James's church, Kingston, one of my favourite Dorset churches that is rightly called "the cathedral of the Purbecks". It is the last example of architect G. E. Street's genius. Its tower is a landmark for miles and their long-serving organist, Roderick Railey, kindly arranged a climb to its parapet from which there are extensive panoramic

views. He also plied us with refreshments. The fine three-manual organ, built by the London firm of Maley, Young and Oldknow, incorporates some Cavallé-Coll pipework. It was demonstrated by Roderick, after which it was over to us.

The whole event ran smoothly and was much appreciated by the 18 members of both associations who attended. Our grateful thanks to Paul Fearnley who arranged it.

Charles Thomas

COMING EVENTS - BAO

All events are subject to alteration or cancellation; please check with the BAO website for the latest information: www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth

Sat 23 Sep, 3pm Eileen Bolt Recital - Richmond Hill St Andrew's URC, St Stephen's Rd, Bournemouth BH2 6JJ Recitalist: Joel Colyer. Retiring collection.

Sat 28 Oct, 7pm for 7.30pm. Annual Dinner - The Bridge House, 2 Ringwood Road, Longham, Ferndown. BH22 9AN. Booking form included with **BAO News** or from the BAO website. **Orders in by 9 October please!**

Sat 18 Nov, 6.30pm Skittles Challenge! Bournemouth Organists vs Dorset Organists! Venue: The Coach and Horses, 73 Poole Road, Wimborne. BH21 1QB. £10 per head including refreshments.

Sat 17 Feb 2024 AGM – venue to be confirmed.

OTHER EVENTS

In case of cancellation: Please check with the venue before travelling.

SEPTEMBER			* VENUE
2	11.00am	Recital - Sam Hanson (St Peter's, Hammersmith)	SS
14	12.30pm	Recital - David Davies (Buckfast Abbey)	CP
21	12.30pm	Recital - Francesca Massey	CP
28	12.30pm	Recital - James Orford	CP
OCTOBER			
5	12.30pm	Recital - David Beeby (Christchurch Priory)	CP
7	11.00am	Recital - David Beeby (Christchurch Priory)	SS
12	12.30pm	Recital - Andrew Kirk (Bristol)	CP
19	12.30pm	Recital - Angela Sones (Lichfield)	CP
26	12.30pm	Recital - Jeremiah Stephenson (AS, Margaret Street)	CP
NOVEMBER			
2	12.30pm	Recital - Simon Earl (Christchurch Priory)	CP
4	11.00am	Recital - Danny Campbell (St Stephen's, B'mouth)	SS
9	12.30pm	Recital - Paul Carr (Birmingham)	CP
16	12.30pm	Recital - Geoffrey Morgan (Christchurch Priory)	CP

* VENUES:

CP Christchurch Priory, Quay Road, Christchurch BH23 1BU

SS St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen's Way, Bournemouth BH2 6JZ

Admission FREE - Retiring collection at both the above venues!

WELCOME!

Membership of the BAO is open to anyone with an interest in the organ and its music: players - from beginners to more experienced players, and non-players - who simply get great pleasure from listening.

We are very pleased to welcome Darrell Harvey - Darrell is organist at the Winton group of churches – St Luke's, St John's and St Alban's.

SITUATIONS VACANT

Director of Music Required

St Katharine's Church, Church Road, Southbourne. BH6 4AS

Please apply by: Mon 25th September, 2023 17:00

Up to £5,000 p.a. with 5 Sundays off p.a.

This position will be formalised by contract covering an Agreement for Services Provided.

Contact

Mr Robert Hammond

Email: rjhammond1@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 01202 960099

Address: Attn: Mr R Hammond, c/o St. Katharine's Parish Office, 15 Church Road, Southbourne, Bournemouth. BH6 4AS

Musical Requirements

To play for: Sunday Eucharist - 10.30am and Major Festivals

Take a choir practice: Thursday 19:30 – 20:30, Sunday 10:00 – 10:20 (final pre-service in separate room).

Further details

St Katharine's Church in the Southbourne district of Bournemouth, is of Anglo-catholic tradition. It houses a three manual Rushworth and Dreaper pipe organ, two grand pianos, and has a small, enthusiastic four part adult choir. The organ is in need of some restoration work, or possibly replacement with digital as funds arise.

There is a practice room for the choir, with a digital piano, in our adjacent church centre.

We have close ties with the local St Katharine's Church of England school, which holds its end of term services at St Katharine's church. The music teacher also produces the music for our daughter church of St Nicholas, and some members of the parish congregations are on the governing body. This may also therefore, have the potential for a link with children in the choir.

As part of the Bournemouth Deanery, Southbourne parishes are currently involved in some parochial re-organisation, which could inspire closer links with neighbouring choirs.

ANNUAL DINNER 2023

Saturday 28 October 2023, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

New Venue

Unfortunately, our usual venue for the annual dinner is due to be demolished and replaced with 59 Apartments, therefore we have chosen the Bridge House in Longham (plenty of parking).

[Many of you travelling in the Boscombe area may also have noted that our previous venue, Liston Hotel, has also been demolished! Ed.]

Some of you have said that if the dinner was a little less formal and less 'just for organists' that their 'other halves' would be more willing to accompany them and boost our numbers. Therefore this year, we are not having a speaker, but a few chosen volunteers who will speak on amusing reminiscences of their time being an organist. The dress code includes another option and seating will be where you choose as there will be no 'top table'.

Booking Forms are included with this edition of *BAO News* for those who receive it by post; alternatively, they are available from the BAO website on the [Links & Downloads](#) page.

Closing Date for bookings and payment is the 9th October!

View from the Tower, Kingston Church



BOURNEMOUTH & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISTS

Registered Charity No. 1098369

PRESIDENT Charles Thomas

VICE PRESIDENTS Geoffrey Morgan, Alan Aldis

HON. SECRETARY Margaret Clarke, 25 Kensington Park, Milford on Sea, Lymington. SO41 0WD
Tel. 01590 642689 Email: m.clarke25mc@gmail.com

HON. TREASURER Brenda Price, 6 Plassey Crescent, Bournemouth BH10 5JS
Tel. 01202 581295 Email: brenda@rossmore.plus.com

TRUSTEES David Beeby, Daniel Campbell, Tim Drew, Paul Fearnley, Clifford Frisby,
Steve Robson, Sean Tucker.

NEWSLETTER Timothy Rice, Tel. 01425 615147 Email: bournemouthorganists@gmail.com

www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth

Email: bournemouthorganists@gmail.com