



BAO NEWS

APRIL 2024



Bournemouth & District Association of Organists

Registered Charity No. 1098369

www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth

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FROM THE EDITOR

Spring-tide greetings to you all!

It is wonderful to have spring colours and a hint of warmth on its way too.

We have had a good start to the year, with the AGM in February and just last week an organ crawl to Dorset - more of which anon.



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It is also encouraging that as of March, all members except for six have already renewed their subscriptions to BAO - so if yours is still in the pending tray, do reach for your online banking or cheque book and let us have your payment - details as follows:

£15.00 paid online please to:
Bournemouth Association of Organists
Sort Code: 77-50-36
Account No.: 19881868

Otherwise to post a cheque (£15) to:
Brenda Price, 6 Plassey Crescent, Bournemouth. BH10 5JS

There is a goodly variety of events planned by the Trustees for 2024 (and I believe discussions are also in hand for 2025!) so get your diaries to hand and mark out the 2024 events which are listed on page 7, and updates will be sent out by email, but please also keep an eye on the association's website for up-to-date information - www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth

We look forward to seeing you as the year progresses.

Timothy Rice

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

The BAO's AGM was held on Saturday 17th February 2024 at East Cliff URC, Bournemouth.

The Minutes are as follows:

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISTS HELD AT EAST CLIFF URC ON 17TH FEBRUARY 2024

PRESENT: 23 members

APOLOGIES: Alan Aldis, Andrew Creamer, Julian Davies, Suzette Glover, Darrell Harvey, Audrey Wild and Jenny Wright.

IN MEMORIAM: A minute's silence was held in memory of Paul Fearnley and Joyce Rolls.

MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 18th February 2023 was proposed by Tim Drew, seconded by Clifford Frisby and carried.

HON SECRETARY'S REPORT: Margaret Clarke's report centred on the disappointment felt by the trustees at the lack of support throughout the year, in particular Young Organist's Day which not only had involved a great deal of organisation but also a great deal of expense.

HON TREASURER'S REPORT: Brenda Price reiterated the effect of lack of support as a contribution to the substantial deficit shown by the accounts. Membership is shrinking and an appeal was made for recruitment. Most subscriptions for 2024 have been received and an appeal was made for the balance.

Thanks were recorded to Julian Davies for inspecting the accounts.

The adoption of the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023 was proposed by Steve Robson, seconded by Linda Cartwright and carried.

PRESIDENT'S SUMMARY: Charles Thomas said that all he could do was to reiterate disappointment at the outcome of the year.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The re-election of Margaret Clarke as Secretary and Brenda Price as Treasurer was proposed by Steve Robson, seconded by Bob Wetton and carried.

ELECTION OF TRUSTEES: The re-election of David Beeby, Daniel Campbell, Tim Drew, Clifford Frisby, Charles Thomas and Sean Tucker was proposed

by Timothy Rice, seconded by Bob Wetton and carried.

The election of Geoffrey Morgan was proposed by John Radford, seconded by Andrew Roberts and carried.

PRESIDENT 2024: Despite an appeal to the meeting no nominations were forthcoming. For the time being the responsibility will revolve amongst the trustees but if any member has second thoughts please contact the secretary.

FUTURE PROGRAMME: It was agreed that the annual dinner should continue but in a more modest form and Tim Drew undertook to pursue this with the intention of it being held on 26th October, numbers to be notified by the end of August. It was ascertained that there would be sufficient support to justify the organising of both a Treasure Hunt and a Quiz.

OTHER BUSINESS: Thanks were recorded to Timothy Rice for his editorship of the Newsletter, to Steve Robson for his service as a trustee and to Charles Thomas for his tenure as President.

Following the AGM and a short break, we gathered in the church, part of our number forming a scratch choir, for a service of Evensong, for which we are most grateful to Sue Rawlinson for officiating and Geoffrey Morgan for providing a delectable dispersing of decibels from Rushworth & Dreaper's diapasons, dulcianas and other delights.

A DUO OF DOCUMENTED JOTTINGS FROM DORSET IN THE DRIZZLE

Our April event was an organ crawl held on the 10th in collaboration with the Dorset Organists' Association. Unfortunately the weather was against us with a steady rain nearly all day – frustrating, as the rest of the week was fine. But the weather did not detract from our enjoyment of three interesting old organs.

Our first port of call was Milton Abbey, a noble medieval church which comprises only chancel, tower and transepts but is beautifully situated. We were welcomed by Richard Marchant, who kindly plied us with tea, coffee and cakes (baked by himself) at our second church. The Gray and



Milton Abbey

Davison organ, mounted on a fine stone pulpitum, is not in prime condition but boasts a 32-foot Contra Reim, quite a luxury for a two-manual instrument. However, the magnificent acoustic makes it sound impressive; another example of the building being the most important stop on any organ.

Next it was to the nearby picture-postcard village of Milton Abbas, which abounds in thatched cottages. The small but quaint church of St. James the Great was built in the Georgian gothic style. It houses another Gray and Davison organ, built in 1889. It has only nine speaking stops, four on each manual and a pedal Bourdon (almost like a one-manual specification spread over two manuals) but is adequate for the building.



St. Peter and St. Paul, Blandford

Our final destination was to the church of St. Peter and St. Paul at Blandford, where Sarah Lock greeted us warmly. The church was rebuilt in the Classical style following the great fire of 1731. Its three-manual organ was built by G. P. England in 1794, altered by

Gray and Davison in 1839, enlarged by William Hill in both 1876 and 1896 and restored by Noel Mander in 1971. Situated on a west end gallery, it is easily the best organ of the three and was enjoyed by those of us who sampled it.

Altogether a pleasant day out for the 29 members of both associations who attended, despite the inclement weather. May this much-improved turnout be repeated for our future events.

Charles Thomas



Going through my archived back-issues of the BAO's newsletters, I find that it is 25 years ago that I, along with a number of other BAO members, visited Milton Abbey, with a very excited host in the form of Trevor Doar, a year or so after the 32ft reed extension had been installed. I seem to recall the organ was in reasonable shape, though my efforts to peer over the top to find the

32' reed pipework proved fruitless.

Whilst this month's visits to the Abbey, Milton Abbas and Blandford were all very worthwhile, with three very contrasting instruments, it also made me realise that, on the whole, we are very fortunate in visiting and being able to play other instruments, near and far, that are in good playable condition. The three instruments we visited in Dorset all require work to a lesser or greater degree - notes sticking, adjustments required to action, and possibly a bad case of shrinkage or twisting in soundboards - not to mention any tuning work.



There is a part we can play - by making sure we who are organists (in the broadest sense of the word) play as often as we can but, more than that, encourage others to play the organ too. I have been very pleasantly surprised and encouraged that at a church which once had a long-standing organist in position, a subsequent rota of four "players" per month has been whittled down to two players, one lady playing for two or three Sunday services. She never used to play the organ at all - but had definite piano-playing skills. Following some encouragement and pointers in the right direction, explaining what manuals, stops, pistons and Swell pedals are, she now puts a lot of thought and prep-work into what she does on the organ and, in this day and age, I find this very encouraging.

Thank you to those who arranged the Dorset outing - for the opportunity to visit, to play, and to be challenged and encouraged. I'm so glad I went!

Timothy Rice

EILEEN BOLT MEMORIAL RECITAL, 2023

Our 2022 Eileen Bolt recital had to be cancelled due to a rail strike but was able to take place last year. It was a case of better late than never but the attendance was very poor. However Joel, whilst not quite up there with the best of our Eileen Bolt recitalists, (e.g. Eleanor Carter and Jonathan Vaughn) nevertheless delivered a programme of interesting variety. It opened with J. S. Bach's Fantasia in G major BWV 572, a favourite with recitalists because of its three contrasting sections. Next came the Chaconne in E minor by Buxtehude, one of J. S. Bach's mentors. Its most important feature is the ostinato bass line which permeates the whole work. Then it was his first Percy Whitlock contribution, the haunting Folk Tune from the Five Short Pieces with its Delian-like harmonies. Three French pieces followed, beginning with Boellmann's ever-popular "Prière a Notre Dame", leading into Louis Vierne's Arabesque from his 1913 volume "24 pieces in free style". This trio was completed with a most effective performance of Messaien's "Le Banquet Celeste", one of his few stand-alone pieces. It is based on the theme of Holy Communion, played with short articulation, representing drops of Jesus Christ's blood.

Then it was back to Percy Whitlock with his Plymouth Suite, regarded by many as his masterpiece. Each of its five movements is dedicated to organists who had attended the 1937 I.A.O. Congress at Plymouth. As a Whitlock devotee, this suite provided a perfect conclusion to an enjoyable recital.

Charles Thomas

JOYCE ROLLS, 1939-2023

A long-serving and much-liked Association member, Joyce passed away late last year after losing a 10-year battle with dementia. Her gifts were many and varied. She was organist at Victoria Park Methodist Church from November 1977 until the first Covid lockdown began in March 2020 and at Bournemouth Crematorium from 1982 to 2000. In the latter position she became well used to some of the weird and not always very wonderful musical requests that came her way. Before returning to this area in late 1976 she had been organist in churches on the Isle of Wight and Chester and was an accomplished choir-trainer.

This artistic flair was also evident in her flower arrangements; she was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable gardener. Since joining the Organists' Association in 1980 she was ever-present at all of our events and social functions as well as those at Victoria Park Methodist Church; nothing was

too much trouble for her. To this end she was also a valued member of the local Townswomens' Guild.

Joyce was a dear lady, always taking a lively and active interest in others. Married for 33 years until her husband Allan's untimely and premature death in 1997, her children Geoffrey and Julie meant much to her and she was adored by her grand-children Freya, Teddy and Lily, whose progress she followed with great interest. She also had a keen interest in sport and current affairs. Sadly her latter years became clouded with worsening dementia and she spent her last 23 months in Westbourne Tower Care Home where she passed away on December 15th.

She will long be remembered for her kindly nature, vibrant personality, infinite wisdom and common sense, unflinching good humour and as a godly lady of great humility. She will be sadly missed. I think the most fitting epitaph for her is: WELL DONE, THOU GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT.

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

- 17 Jun** Schools Event at Christchurch Priory
- 10 Jul** Skittles with Dorset Association at Langton Arms, Tarrant Monkton
- 31 Jul** Treasure Hunt
- 14 Sep** Eileen Bolt Memorial Recital - Jeremy Wan (Guildford).
- Sep** Lecture recital by Andrew Millington on Sir Edward Elgar at St. Mary's, Wareham
- Oct** Annual Dinner
- Nov** Quiz



Gray & Davison's nameplate on the organ at Milton Abbas. Note the Organ number too!

OTHER EVENTS

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

MAY

* VENUE

3	7.00pm	Recital - Martin Penrose	SJB
4	11.00am	Recital - Michael Whytock (St. Mary of Eton, London)	SS
9	12.30pm	Recital - Geoffrey Morgan (Christchurch Priory)	CP
16	12.30pm	Recital - Matthew Kelley (King Edward VI, So'ton)	CP
23	12.30pm	Recital - Callum Alger (St Peter's, Wolverhampton)	CP
30	12.30pm	Recital - Cathy Lamb (Lichfield Cathedral School)	CP

JUNE

1	11.00am	Recital - Simon Earl (Christchurch Priory)	SS
6	12.30pm	Recital - David Beeby (Christchurch Priory)	CP
23	6.30pm	St. John's Boldre - Patronal Evensong	SJB

JULY

6	11.00am	Recital - Sean Tucker (St. Stephen's, Bournemouth)	SS
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SEPTEMBER

7	4.00pm	Church Concert - Choir, Organ	SJB
28	4.00pm	Recital - Timothy Rice (St. John's, Boldre)	SJB

* VENUES:

CP Christchurch Priory, Quay Road, Christchurch BH23 1BU

SJB St. John the Baptist, Church Lane, Boldre SO41 5PG

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

Admission FREE - Retiring collection at all the above venues!

STOP PRESS!

The I.A.O. Music Festival (formerly Congress), is being held at York from 25-29 July. Advice has gone out that unless attendee numbers improve, the Festival may have to be cancelled. Please consider attending the event if you can - the closing date for booking is 31 May.

BOURNEMOUTH & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISTS

Registered Charity No. 1098369

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