



BAO NEWS

JANUARY 2025



Bournemouth & District Association of Organists

Registered Charity No. 1098369

www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth

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FROM THE EDITOR

A very happy new year to you all!

2024 proved to be a somewhat awkward and unfortunate year, both from an events perspective as well as sad news of the passing of a number of organists - details of which elsewhere in this edition.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Eileen Bolt Memorial Recital, an annual event and the purpose of which is to present an opportunity and be of encouragement to young organists, had to be cancelled, with our intended recitalist, Jeremy Wan, giving late notice that he was unable to fulfil the booking.

Other events did take place and these are referred to in the coming pages.

So we must move in to 2025 with a degree of hopeful enthusiasm. Our first gathering will be the AGM on Saturday 15th February. This will be held at 2.30pm at Richmond Hill St. Andrew's URC, Bournemouth. We very much look forward to meeting up with people then.

Membership subscriptions to BAO are now due - 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 post a cheque (£15) to:
Brenda Price, 6 Plassey Crescent, Bournemouth. BH10 5JS

Lastly, an apology for no pretty pictures of pipes and organs appearing in this edition - *there simply isn't enough room!*



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Timothy Rice

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2025, 2.30PM
RICHMOND HILL ST. ANDREW'S
UNITED REFORMED CHURCH
8 St Stephen's Road, Bournemouth BH2 6JJ
(Limited parking is available - please car-share.)

The business of the meeting will be followed by light refreshments - please do join us, and stay for a chat afterwards.

Nominations for President-Elect 2026 are invited. Please let Margaret Clarke know of any nominations prior to the meeting - of course, check with the nominee(s) first that they are prepared to stand!

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. In Memoriam
3. Minutes of AGM held on 17th February 2024
4. Matters Arising
5. Hon. Secretary's Report
6. Hon. Treasurer's Report
7. Election of Officers: Hon. Secretary; Hon. Treasurer
8. Election of Trustees
9. President 2025; 2026
10. Any other business
11. President's Address

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE
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.



2024 EVENTS ROUND-UP

In July, a team from the BAO came face to face against competition from the Dorset Association for an evening of skittles and most enjoyable refreshments at Colehill Sports & Social Club. Some enthusiastic bowling, good food and beverages available from the bar made for a good time together. BAO Organists won but only just - we were neck and neck before our final player just tipped the balance; we also had the highest scoring Lady and highest scoring Fellow in our team. *TR.*

September saw a Lecture Recital by Andrew Millington on Sir Edward Elgar at St. Mary's, Wareham. Andrew gave an informative illustrated talk on the organ music of Elgar based around a complete performance of the Second Organ Sonata (originally composed as the Severn Suite for Brass Band). He also included the first movement of the First Sonata along with several of the Vesper Voluntaries Opus 14 (warmly recommended for organs with limited resources) and several transcriptions. *JR.*

This year's annual dinner was attended by 16, who made their way to The Bear Cross who accommodated us on one long table and the conversation flowed, along with the non alcoholic drinks - the food was excellent and the service was good. *BP.*

To finish off the year's events, a number of us met up chez-Brenda for a Quiz Evening. The three teams were very close and obtaining a result was only achieved after 2 tie breakers. An assortment of good food was brought to enjoy over some convivial chat.

NEW MEMBERS

We are very pleased to welcome Ellen Goodman and Michael Clift to our membership, as well as one of our bursary students, Aaron Harding.



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

15 Feb Annual General Meeting - 2.30pm,

26 Apr International Organ Day at Christchurch Priory

May Organ Crawl in the Poole area.

Jun BBQ at Plassey Crescent – bring your own meat.

Sep All day visit to High Wycombe – Allen Organs and 2 other churches

Oct Annual Dinner – Cobhams Sports and Social Club, Merley

Nov Quiz and social evening

Details for this year's Eileen Bolt Memorial Recital are TBA.

OTHER EVENTS

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

			* VENUE
JAN			
30	12.30pm	Recital - Aaron Shilson (Llandaff Cathedral)	CP
FEB			
6	12.30pm	Recital - George Inscoe (Croydon Minster)	CP
13	12.30pm	Recital - David Bednall (Clifton Cathedral)	CP
20	12.30pm	Recital - Andrew Kirk (Bristol)	CP
27	12.30pm	Recital - David Poulter	CP
MAR			
6	12.30pm	Recital - Simon Earl (Christchurch Priory)	CP
8	4.00pm	Voices of The Forest - Chamber concert £15	SJB
13	12.30pm	Recital - Geoffrey Morgan (Christchurch Priory)	CP
20	12.30pm	Recital - Paul Hale (Southwell Minster, Org. Emeritus)	CP
27	12.30pm	Recital - David Davies (Sidmouth Parish Church)	CP
MAY			
15	12.30pm	Recital - Piers Maxim (Malvern Priory)	CP
22	12.30pm	Recital - Geoffrey Morgan (Christchurch Priory)	CP
JUN			
12	12.30pm	Recital - Harry van Wijk (Germany)	CP
19	12.30pm	Recital - Miriam Reveley (Jesus College, Cambridge)	CP
26	12.30pm	Recital - Simon Earl (Christchurch Priory)	CP
JUL			
3	12.30pm	Recital - Tom Winpenny (Concert organist)	CP

SEP

10 6.00pm Talk - "Music for Remembrance", by Dr. David Price
Venue: Lady St. Mary church, Wareham

* **VENUES:**

CP Christchurch Priory, Quay Road, Christchurch BH23 1BU

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

Admission FREE at Christchurch Priory recitals; ticket admission or Retiring Collection at some other events.

BAO BURSARIES

The trustees are pleased to report that we have recently been able to award bursaries to two young organists both of whom are making good progress. As the bequest from which these bursaries were originally funded has been exhausted long since, it has been suggested that a fund is set up to provide future income and to which donations can be made. Further information is available from the Secretary (details on back page).

R.I.P.

We are sorry to report on a number of organists who are no longer with us.

John Stopher died on the 26 May 2024, For 67 years he had been organist at Barton Methodist Church prior to retiring in 2023. Others will know John as having spent 25 years as a much respected Guard on the Swanage Railway.

In June, **Derek Baldwin** passed away. Locally, he had been organist at St. John's, Boscombe before retiring to Sussex for a few years, until moving to Sway where he became organist at St. Luke's parish church.

It was also around this time that **Andrew Parrish**, organist at the two Anglican churches in Brockenhurst, died.

In November, the long-time former organist at St. Mary's, Swanage, **Bill Brown**, passed away

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

VOLUNTEER ORGANISTS - from John Radford:

I endorse your comments on page 5 of April's BAO News regarding the encouragement of "reluctant" or volunteer organists. This week I visited a village church in Wiltshire as DOA as they have some collapsing pipes. The churchwarden told me that the organ is hardly ever used - it's a charming 1 manual + pedal Forster & Andrews with a chorus up to 2'. She told me they rely



on Spotify although they have someone who will play the hymns on an electric keyboard, but who isn't interested in the organ. This is such a shame as the organ is a real gem and needs to be played on a regular basis.

VISIT TO CHELTENHAM - from Steve Robson:

I managed to get to the RCO / Gloucester Organist Society training day and found the whole day worthwhile and informative.

I used National Coaches and for £19.00 secured a return coach ticket.

St Gregory the Great RC Church is very close to the town centre and is a wonderful building. The organ was a 1986 Dutch Organ built by S F Blank and was perfect for the acoustic of the building.

The day started with a masterclass where 5 willing volunteers played parts from Clerambault's First and second organ suite. Dr. David Pontsford was encouraging and offered tips to improve registrations, performance, and how to play the decorations to fit the music. He has also recently published a book, "*French Organ Music in the Reign of Louis XIV*", which gives much more detail and background about the period. Of course, some CDs illustrated some of the music we heard.

David McConkey then gave a talk on French organ music and chant.

After a short tea break we then joined a Vesper service where singers were made up from the audience. Sung in Latin it rounded off the event in style.

IAO MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024 - from Charles Thomas:

The biennial IAO Music Festival took place in York. Three very full days, one morning and one evening were enjoyed to the full by the 77 delegates who attended, a big improvement on the 41 who came to the previous Festival.

The proceedings began with Choral Vespers in the York Oratory; perfectly sung by the choir but these vespers do not move me to quite the same extent as do choral evensongs. Next came a superb recital by Robert Sharpe, York Minster's Director of Music, on the recently rebuilt Minster organ, which sounds magnificent. His varied programme comprised music by J. S. Bach, Amy Beach, Paul Spicer, Cheryl Frances-Hoad, Herbert Howells, Kerensa Briggs (the daughter of David), Sir Edward Bairstow, Widor and concluded spectacularly with Lanquetuit's fiery Toccata in D.

The next morning began with the AGM, followed by the semi-finals of the RCO/IAO Young Organist of the Year competition in two groupings. Sandwiched between them was an interesting talk by Professor Jonathan Wainwright of York University on the musical and cultural circles of Jacobean England, both in cathedrals and churches and in the context of domestic music-making.

Saturday took us firstly to Beverley Minster. It houses a splendid four-manual Hill organ, restored by Wood, which was given the full works by organist Robert

Poyser in his vibrant performance of my favourite Vierne symphony, the No. 3 in F# minor. A masterly improvisation followed which exploited the organ's tonal resources to the full. Then it was to Bridlington Priory, another noble Perpendicular church. A similarly-sized four-manual organ was built by Charles Annessens of Belgium in 1889 but much altered and restored by Abbott and Smith, John Compton, Laycock and Bannister and finally Nicholson in 2006. Paul Carr gave a wonderful recital of music by J. S. Bach, Felton, a transcription of "Waltz of the Flowers" and finally a barnstorming performance of Guilman's No.1 Sonata in D minor. The evening concert at St. Denys's, York was given by Ex Corde, an acapella choir which specialises in pre-Reformation music. Six of their members sang motets from the York Mystery Plays, movements from the York Masses (c.1450) and music by Fayrfax and Taverner. Splendid as the earlier organ recitals were, these singers provided a soothing contrast which brought the day's proceedings to a peaceful conclusion.

Sunday offered us a choice between a visit to York's renowned railway museum and the services at the Minster. Their choir was on its summer holiday but the substitute choir from St. Philip's Cathedral, Atlanta, Georgia proved a highly capable deputy. And their organist, Caroline Robinson, was awesome. Her accompaniments to both the choir items and the congregational hymns were expressive and flawless throughout and she finished with an exhilarating performance of the Final from Widor's 6th Symphony. And likewise for Choral Evensong that afternoon. Her accompaniment for "Jackson in G" was especially sensitive and effective and she concluded with an exuberant performance of the Scherzo from Bairstow's organ sonata.

The RCO/IAO Young Organists' final followed that evening. The standard of playing was remarkably high for such young people. Timothy Stewart triumphed, his programme including polished performances of works by J. S. Bach, Bairstow and Messaien.

Other Festival delights were a sumptuous dinner at the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, and a highly entertaining speech from Robert Sharpe. He also hosted an interesting talk about the 2021 rebuild of the Minster organ.

BOURNEMOUTH & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISTS

Registered Charity No. 1098369

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