



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It doesn't seem that long ago since I received the chain of office – twice – once backwards and once the right way round!!



A modest number of members attended the AGM at Richmond Hill St. Andrew's URC where we were made most welcome.

Our numbers for our latest event were boosted by members of the Dorset Association of Organists who joined us for an organ crawl to Wimborne Minster and Witchampton and for which Charles has written a report further on in the Newsletter.

Our next event is a social in the style of an American Supper – just bring your own meat to be cooked on the BBQ at 6 Plassey Crescent on Saturday 14th June. We will begin cooking at 6:30pm - I will provide salad, potatoes etc. However, please let me know if you are coming as this will help with the catering. Garden games provided for those who feel like it.

Saturday 5th July 2025, 11.00am is the Eileen Bolt Memorial Recital given by Edward Byrne. This will be at St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen's Way, Bournemouth BH2 6JZ.

I often wonder, as many presidents before, how we can boost numbers at our events. Your Trustees spend many hours planning events only to find a few attend. Maybe the events don't interest you, or the timing doesn't suit. Maybe you would rather just read the newsletter – but remember no events lead to nothing to report, so no newsletters. I asked at the AGM for ideas for events – but everyone turned 'shy' and no ideas were forthcoming. Please email me with ideas and suggestions.

Until the next newsletter,

Brenda.

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WIMBORNE & WITCHAMPTON ORGAN CRAWL

Our annual organ crawl took place on May 13th in glorious sunshine; a marked contrast to the weather of last year's crawl. Our first destination was Wimborne Minster. We last visited it in 2017 but the organ underwent a major rebuild in 2021-22 by Mander with a completely new and better-balanced specification. Overall, it is an improvement on before – the Great organ definitely speaks better into the nave – though the removal of the pedal Krummhorn was surprising and in my view, wrong. But considering that Mander was up against a dead acoustic, together with the two low tower arches separating organ from nave, it is doubtful if anyone else could have done better.



After breaking for lunch we proceeded to St. John's church at Witchampton, whose organ we had not visited in my 43 years as an Association member. It is a Conacher instrument of two manuals and 14 speaking stops and is the right size for the building. But it is not in prime condition, perhaps unsurprising as this church has only one service per month.

Altogether a lovely day out for the 12 members (including four from the Dorset Association) who attended. Hopefully our remaining events this year will be well supported.

Charles Thomas

R.I.P.

BRIAN SCHOLLAR

Brian had been a long-time and very loyal supporter of the BAO, ever present at many events and invariably armed with his camera, not least of all during his ten year stint as Editor of *BAO News*. Brian provided us with a quality newsletter that wiped spots off some of the competition. Beautifully legible, appropriate graphics (sometimes in colour) and, because Royal Mail decided it was worth paying more to send A4 envelopes in the post, Brian change the size of *BAO News* down to A5 booklet format, as it remains today, making a considerable saving in our postage costs. Brian had also been one of our Trustees.

In church circles, Brian had spent many years as organist and choirmaster, encouraging singers of all ages and gaining much respect.

Our sympathies at this time to Pam and the family.

Timothy Rice

JOHN STEED

Many of you will be aware that our long time member John Steed has sadly passed away. His Burial will be private, however, there will be a Service of Thanksgiving on Friday 13th June at 2pm, at St Thomas's Church, Western Avenue, Ensbury Park, Bournemouth BH10 5BN, followed by tea in the hall. If you propose to attend, please can you let John's daughter, Alison, know for catering purposes by email: acforman@googlemail.com

The family have found that John was an avid collector of postcards of organs. The whole world is represented evidently and there are hundreds of them. If anyone is interested in taking them on then please contact Alison by email.

I only met John a few times at events, a good few years ago, so didn't get to know him. There follows a few words that have been received from our members.

Brenda

When I joined the Association in January 1982, John was the Hon. Secretary. The first event I attended was the A.G.M. at St. Luke's church hall, Winton. After the formalities, he introduced me to some of the members who were present. He was a total gentleman who made me feel really

welcome. He was a very good organist.

Charles Thomas

John was for some time organist at Epiphany church, but latterly he played at Holdenhurst, St John's. He also played at a Nursing Home, playing for Services with the vicar from Holdenhurst on weekdays which he enjoyed very much. Whilst I was President of BAO, both Treasurer and Secretary (Eileen Bolt) died and I was left to cover everything; John took over the newsletter the next year and I've always been grateful for that from him.

Bob Wetton

John Steed will be greatly missed as a very competent player and friend over many, many years. He officiated at many Bournemouth churches in his time and was a loyal supporter of our association. Happy memories! May he rest in peace, and rise in glory.

Danny Campbell

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

- 14 Jun 6.30pm.** American BBQ - 6 Plassey Crescent, Bournemouth
Contact: Brenda Price, Tel. 01202 581295
BYOM (Bring Your Own Meat!)
For catering purposes, please let Brenda know if you plan to attend! Bring your own drinks if you'd like other than tea/coffee.
- 21 Jun 3.00pm.** Organ and Choral Concert for Bursary Students at Winton Methodist Church. See page 8 for more details.
- 5 Jul 11.00am.** Eileen Bolt Memorial Recital - Edward Byrne
St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen's Way, Bournemouth BH2 6JZ
- 10 Sep 6.00pm.** Joint meeting with Dorset Association.
David Price at Lady St. Mary church, 18 Church Street, Wareham, BH20 4ND - ***Music for Remembrance.***
- 13 Sep Annual Outing.** We will be visiting St. John the Baptist Church at Glastonbury and Wells Cathedral - TBC.
- 25 Oct** Annual Dinner
- Nov** Quiz and social evening at Plassey Crescent.

OTHER EVENTS

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

JUNE

*** VENUE**

5	12.30pm	Recital - David Beeby (Christchurch Priory)	CP
7	11.00am	Recital - David Warwick	SS
12	12.30pm	Recital - Harry van Wijk (Holland)	CP
19	12.30pm	Recital - Miriam Reveley (Jesus College, Cambridge)	CP
22	6.30pm	Patronal Evensong, St. John's Boldre, massed choir	SJB
26	12.30pm	Recital - Simon Earl (Christchurch Priory)	CP

JULY

3	12.30pm	Recital - Tom Winpenny (Concert organist)	CP
18	7.00pm	Recital - Martin Penrose (New Forest)	SJB

AUGUST

2	11.00am	Recital - Anthony Pinel	SS
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SEPTEMBER

6	11.00am	Recital - Colin Davey	SS
6	4.00pm	Recital - Timothy Rice (St. John's, Boldre)	SJB

OCTOBER

4	11.00am	Recital - David Beeby	SS
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NOVEMBER

1	11.00am	Recital - Sam Hanson	SS
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* 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!

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2025

(and almost half way through the year!)

When I announce that subscriptions are overdue ... the conscientious of you pay again.

If you are one of the 6 outstanding members and have received a reminder email from me, then Cheques for £15 please, made payable to "Bournemouth Association of Organists" should be sent post haste to:

Brenda Price, 6 Plassey Crescent, Bournemouth. BH10 5JS

Or you can pay on-line:

Bournemouth Association of Organists

Sort code: 77 50 36

Account No: 19881868

Thank you!

Brenda Price - Hon. Treasurer

TROUBLE UP T'HILL



On the face of it, a harmless and indeed a versatile instrument. Three manuals, stops and accessories where you'd expect to find them, good range of stops, and probably more than one would ever reasonably hope for in a rural church setting ... up on a hill.

But towards the end of 2024, things went a little pear-shaped. A cipher has arrived on the Great manual ... and not just on one stop, it's on ALL of them!

Well, I hear you say, count your blessings that you've still got two manuals to play from - you'll have to get by with those for the time being. And yes, that's true - but as I've found to my cost (and only after learning the hard way did I eventually learn that the playover of a hymn on the Swell could no longer be followed by accompaniment from the start of verse 1 happening on the adjacent manual - it just wasn't going to happen), it's a very long journey when you want to have the immediate contrast of playing on the Swell, and then the Great (or vice-versa), as jumping instead between the Swell and Choir is twice as long as the journey needs to be.

And what about John Stanley? All those lovely voluntaries, jumping around every second bar to achieve Echo effects. I've certainly had to brush up on my landing skills from one manual to another.

After all that is said and done, we've got to face up to the big question: what are we going to do to put things right? Well, to be honest, at 35 years old, the electrics are what is affectionately known nowadays as "end of life". And it is electrics - all of it! - not a tracker, not a pallet, not a slider nor a chest, no pneumatics, not a blower - no, not even a pipe in sight. It's our electronic organ that's giving us gyp. So we're biting the bullet and going full out on a refurbishment - out with the old (electrics), in with the new - and hopefully, by the end of all this upheaval, we can have our organ back ... or rather, I should say organs! Willis from Hereford; Eisenbarth from Austria; Jacek Siedlar from Poland; Tomaš Močnik from Slovenia; and lastly, Brindley & Foster from Moseley.

So what's the "hill"? It's the hill leading up to St. John's, Boldre!

And when it's all been fixed, then yes - I'll certainly be pulling out all the stops.

In the meantime, just to remind me, I've got this covering up the Great:



TJR

THE NEXT GENERATION...

Many years ago, a legacy was donated to the BAO and this has primarily been used to encourage new organists with their tuition by offering bursaries. This fund has more or less been used up but we are happy to accept donations to continue offering Bursaries.

Currently we have three students all receiving tuition, which is in part funded by the bursary scheme; to my memory, we have never before had three bursaries in place at the same time.

That we have the students themselves, along with organists who are fully capable of passing on their knowledge and experience to the next generation, is such wonderful news! David Beeby has kindly arranged a concert on 21 June 2025 which will include the students - see below for details. Please do go along to support this event.

Ed.

ORGAN & CHORAL CONCERT

In aid of the

Bournemouth Association of Organists Bursary Fund

Saturday 21 June 2025, 3pm

**Winton Methodist Church,
Fitzharris Avenue, Winton. BH9 1DE**

Admission £5 on the door. Refreshments.

BOURNEMOUTH & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISTS

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TRUSTEES David Beeby, Daniel Campbell, Tim Drew, Clifford Frisby, Geoffrey Morgan, Charles Thomas.

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