

Spring
2010

BOA



Birmingham Organists' Association

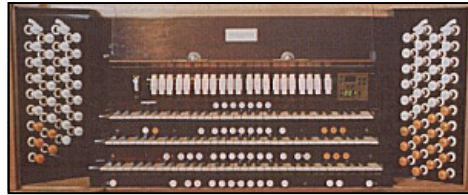
Newsletter

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2010 'Organ Crawl' around Sutton Coldfield Saturday 8th May, from 11.00am

This year's 'crawl' is in the north of the city.

We shall start at Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green at 11.00am, which houses the incredible Willis III West End



instrument together with the recent Willis (2000) two manual Apse organ (East), all playable from one console. (Plenty of chance for antiphonal effects here!) The church is at the junction of Birmingham Road (A5127) and Little Green Lanes, B72 1YG. There is a small car park. The nearest railway station is Chester Road.

Lunch will be from 12.30 pm.
Some suggested venues are:

The Yenton ('Sizzling Pub') is nearby at the crossroads of Sutton Road (A5127) and Chester Road (A452);

The Boldmere ('Harvester') is on Boldmere Road B73 5UP;

Two Jays Restaurant which can be found on the 1st floor of Cooke's Furniture Stores in Erdington.

From 2.00pm we move to Chester Road Baptist Church at the junction of Chester road (A452) and Boldmere Road (B4142) and we continue to St. Michael's Church, Boldmere B73 5RX (two manual Harrison & Harrison), from 3.00pm until 4.00pm. St. Michael's church is at the junction of Church Road and Boldmere Road (B4142).

Contact on the day: Nick Fanthom 07917 444077

Do join us if you can, at all or any of the locations.

Future date for your diary:

**LEONARD GIBBONS FUND SPONSORED STUDENT COMPETITION
7.30 PM ON WEDNESDAY 23RD JUNE 2010**

**AT
ST. CHAD'S CATHEDRAL**

Up to four undergraduate organ students from Birmingham Conservatoire will play before a panel of two judges: James Parsons and Professor David Saint. The winner will play a final piece to conclude the evening. Admission **free** to BOA members.



REVIEW OF PAST EVENTS

HISTORIC ORGAN RECORDINGS

January 25th 2010

An excellent number of members together with guests from other Associations enjoyed another evening hosted by Michael Jones of *Historic and Unusual Organ Recordings* in the comfortable surroundings of the Music Suite at King Edward VI Five Ways School. Many of the recordings were originally made by the enthusiast *par excellence* Malcolm MacDonald, who was present at the evening and who was able to offer further comments on the organs and music.

We heard recordings of an extraordinary number of organs which either do not exist any longer (like the Conacher at St. Peter, Harborne), and various organs which have been modified since their recording. As an aural historical presentation Michael's presentation was extremely interesting, and we look forward perhaps to another session along similar lines in the future.

The Association is grateful to the authorities of KE VI Five Ways School and its Music Department for providing the comfortable venue for this meeting.

David Griffiths

LGF-SPONSORED CONSERVATOIRE STUDENT EVENT

February 22nd 2010

Many of you will be aware that one of the awards made from the Leonard Gibbons Fund each year is to sponsor a Birmingham Conservatoire organ student. As part of this arrangement, the recipient agrees to become a member of BOA Council for the year, and also to arrange one of our calendared events.

Last year's student was Joe Waggott. Unfortunately, on the date we had publicised for the event, Joe – along with most of the other organ students from the Conservatoire – was away on a Conservatoire-arranged tour of organs in Holland! Nevertheless, Joe arranged a delightful evening's entertainment for us in the church of St Francis, Bournville, by involving his brother Dominic (violin), and other students Jonathan Madden (cello), Sarah Langdon (recorder), Steven Swindells (piano), Jordan Terry (organ), and Diego Vasatto (violin). The music included pieces by Albinoni, Bach, Elgar, Gershwin, Haydn, Massenet and Telemann, so there really was something for everyone.

Many of these young musicians already have considerable experience of performing to a professional standard, including Steven (a broadcast on Radio WM) and Sarah (awarded the ATCL diploma at age 16), and this was apparent from their contributions during the evening. Many thanks to all concerned!

Alan Taylor

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & RECITAL

20th March 2010

The year the AGM was held at St. Alphege, Solihull, a venue the Association has not visited for many years. After a few minutes of initial panic when I arrived early to set up only to find the hall apparently overrun with ballet classes we found that not only was there a spacious kitchen next to the meeting room but it had the luxury of a dishwasher making clearing up after coffee and lunch much easier. Following a short silence in memory of James Pinder, a long standing member of the association who died last year, the AGM followed its usual course of business. Alan Taylor, our treasurer, reported that we had made a small surplus of £137 for the year and awards from the Leonard Gibbons Fund amounted to £965. The continuing low interest rates have resulted in a significant fall in income to the fund. Paul Carr's President's Address is printed elsewhere in this newsletter. At the end of the meeting a presentation was made to Andrew Fletcher who has been elected an Honorary Life Member of the Association in recognition of his contribution to the musical life of the West Midlands in his many roles as a performer, teacher, and choir-trainer, in addition to his work on the Association Council and the Birmingham Branch of the RSCM.



Andrew Fletcher receiving his Life Membership certificate from President Paul Carr, with Alan Taylor (Treasurer) & Paul Evans (Secretary)

The meeting was followed by lunch after which we moved to the church for a recital by the Organist, Nigel Stark. Nigel played a varied programme of music putting the organ through its paces including Mouret, Buxtehude, Du Mage, Saint-Saens and Hollins. The event was enhanced by the provision of large screens in the church giving a good view of the console (gone are the days when organists could lurk behind curtains, screens etc.). The day finished at about 3 00pm. Now we need to start thinking about the venue for next year!

Paul Evans

And more from the AGM...

EXTRACTS FROM PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

After thanking the BOA Council and the Officers of Council for their hard work during the past year, BOA President Paul Carr went on to say:

"With the rapid rise of the digital age we, your Council, have been giving some thought to our BOA communication."

Paul then spoke about the current methods of communication used by the Association; the Newsletter, the website and the emails sent to remind members of imminent events, before continuing:

"We do, of course live in an increasingly digital world. More and more of the mundane tasks in life, such as paying the gas bill, renewing the car tax, even paying the milkman – if you still have one – can be done online. For those who spend a considerable amount of time at or near a computer, this does make life easier; for others the advantage is less obvious."

"As an Association we would like every one to feel comfortable, and while there are those who have said they would like more of the BOA's activities to be online, we also appreciate that there are probably as many who would not!"

He then went on to talk about developments, firstly reiterating what Treasurer Alan Taylor had already spoken about – the introduction of Standing Order Mandates to enable the BOA subscription to be automatically paid without having to process cheques. Secondly he referred to the development of the Newsletter:

“The last two Newsletters have also been made available online as a pdf document. Your Council would like feedback. Producing Newsletters as pdfs is much cheaper than printing, better for the environment and can much more easily include many quality photographs than is possible with a printed version. However, I know that I like to receive something that takes me away from the computer. With email being used for most communication these days, I get quite excited when I get an actual letter – and occasionally they’re even handwritten!

We’d like you to have the choice: those people who are happy to receive an email with link to a pdf file, in colour and with good quality photos, will soon be able to do that, while those who would rather it dropped through the letterbox still can continue to take that option, but this will usually be in mono, rather than colour and may not include all of the photographs available on the pdf version.”

Paul concluded the communications section of his address by speaking about the very recently developed BOA presence on Facebook, the social networking site.

“Online social networking could be seen as the latest fad – but Facebook has been constantly growing since 2006 and currently has over 40 million active users. It has its critics, as most popular phenomena do, but as a communication tool it offers great opportunities, especially as it is far more flexible than either a website or email, providing for different layers of access, including public, controlled and confidential networking.

Facebook provides various facilities for organizations and individuals to “network” with others by easing the burden of maintaining lists of names associated with each level of access, and thus enhancing the possibilities of regular communication at an appropriate level for all. We already have our established mechanisms, mentioned earlier, and Facebook does not replace any of these, but enhances them by providing an easy method of networking to a wider predominantly, but certainly not exclusively, younger audience. Websites need to be maintained by a skilled webmaster, and this is a time-consuming job, as I’m sure Alan will tell you, whereas virtually anyone can quickly learn to “post” information to a Facebook page.”

He encouraged members interested in these developments to visit the BOA website where a Facebook button links directly to the BOA Facebook page.

Paul’s final thought on the developments described referred to the inevitable feeling of resistance to change:

“I’ll leave you with this thought: Without some progress we’d all be paying someone to pump the bellows whilst we undertake our candle-lit organ practice.

As we enter the 86th year in this Association’s history I welcome new and returning Council members and hope that they will join me in seeking new ways to promote the organ, and the Association, both on and off-line!”

**TWO MUSICAL EVENTS AT ST. MARY'S, HOBS MOAT, SOLIHULL
(B92 8PN)**

Saturday 5th June at 7.30pm.: ORGAN RECITAL by recitalist members of the Coventry & Warwickshire Organists' Association.

Tickets £5 include light refreshments.

Saturday 19th June at 7.30pm: 'Henry VIII' will be playing and talking about Tudor instruments and also demonstrating some Tudor dances.

Tickets £8 include light refreshments.

Concert Guide

St. Philip's Cathedral: Music for Lunch

Fridays at 1.10pm: www.birminghamcathedral.com

7th May: Nardus Williams (Soprano)

14th May: *Samuel Rathbone (Organ Scholar Westminster Abbey)*

21st May: *Andrew Wyatt (organ)*

28th May: *Robert Webb (Baritone) & Helen Johnson (Piano)*

4th June: *Schola Philippi with Sachin Gunga (Organ)*

Programme to include Duruflé's Requiem

11th June: *Frank Stubb (Trumpet) & Darren Hogg (Organ)*

Town Hall Symphony Hall

Mondays at 1.00pm: www.thsh.co.uk

10th May: (SH) *Thomas Trotter*

17th & 24th May: (TH) *Thomas Trotter*

7th June: (SH) *Thomas Trotter with Roger Owens (Piano)*

14th June: (TH) *Thomas Trotter, Summer Request Concert*

Holy Trinity, Wordsley: Sunday Afternoon Organ Music

Paul Carr: 1st Sunday in the month at 3.00pm: www.paulcarr.co.uk

2nd May: USA Away!

6th June: Sonata (inc. Bairstow's Sonata in E Flat)

St. Paul, Birmingham: Thursday Live

1st Thursday in the month at 1.15pm: www.saintpaulbrum.org

6th May: *Paul Carr*

3rd June: *Paul Carr*

Emmanuel, Wylde Green: Sound the Trumpet

Andrew Fletcher: 1st Friday in the month at 1.00pm:

www.andrewfletcher.org.uk

7th May; 4th June - Requests recital

All Saints, West Bromwich

1st Saturday of the month at 11.00 am.

1st May: *Aled Liddington*

5th June: *Aled Liddington*

*Nick Fanthom ACertCM : Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals, Occasional Services
0121 552 8774 or 07917 444077 e-mail: Nick@nazard.com*

BIRMINGHAM ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION
www.bhamorgan.org.uk

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists
www.iao.org.uk



President: Paul Carr

Secretary: Paul Evans

Treasurer: Alan Taylor

Assistant Secretary & Newsletter Compiler: Nick Fanthom

07966 269860

07980 013368

01922 628810

07917 444077