

## Forthcoming events

### SHREWSBURY "ORGAN CRAWL"

SATURDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

STARTING AT 11.00AM FROM

St. Mary's Church [SY1 1ED](#)

also visiting nearby St Alkmund's  
and Shrewsbury URC – see [page 2](#)  
for full details.

Requested donation £5

### IMPROVISATION EVENING

MONDAY 10TH OCTOBER, 7.30PM

St. Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter

[B3 1QZ](#)

An informal evening led by BOA  
Council Members to share ideas  
and experiment with different  
approaches whatever your skill  
level & experience – see [page 3](#).

Admission FREE

## BOA newsletter

volume 7 no4e

# Autumn 2011

Welcome to the **electronic** version of our newsletter.  
*We hope you like it: please let us know!*

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- [Improvisation evening / LGF award](#)
- [Review of Beer & Skittles](#)

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## Concert Guide

### St. Philip's Cathedral:

Friday 16th September at 1.10pm:  
**John Pryer** (Birmingham Oratory)  
Saturday 22nd October at 7.30pm:  
**Cathedral Chorus - Come & Sing**  
[www.birminghamcathedral.com](http://www.birminghamcathedral.com)

### THSH Town Hall/Symphony Hall:

Alternate Mondays from 19<sup>th</sup> Sept at 1.00pm:  
[www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

### Holy Trinity, Wordsley:

*Sunday Afternoon Organ Music*  
October - 'Composer Anniversaries';  
November - 'Sounds French'  
**Paul Carr**: 1st Sunday of the month at 3.00pm  
[www.paulcarr.co.uk](http://www.paulcarr.co.uk)

### St. Paul, Birmingham: Thursday Live

1st Thursday of the month at 1.15pm:  
6th October - **Paul Carr**  
3rd November - **Henry Fairs**  
[www.saintpaulbrum.org](http://www.saintpaulbrum.org)

### Emmanuel, Wyde Green:

*"Olympic" - music from around the world*  
**Andrew Fletcher**: 1st Friday of the month at  
1.00pm from 7<sup>th</sup> Oct.ober  
[www.andrewfletcher.org.uk](http://www.andrewfletcher.org.uk)

### The Metropolitan Cathedral and Basilica of St Chad, Birmingham

Saturday 25th September 4.30pm:  
*Diocesan Mass for Musicians*  
[www.stchadscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk)  
Car-park entered from Shadwell Street behind  
the Cathedral.

### St Thomas, Market St, Stourbridge, [DY8 1AQ](#)

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> October 1.00pm: **Paul Carr**  
[www.stthomaschurchmusic.com](http://www.stthomaschurchmusic.com)

### Lodge Hill Crematorium, Weoley Park Road,

**Selly Oak, [B29 5AA](#)**: Sun 9th October 2.00pm  
*Joint organ recital by David Lane and Darren Hogg*  
on the 3-manual Viscount Prestige digital organ  
installed in the chapel in 2010. FREE admission –  
retiring collection in aid of St Mary's Hospice.

### Shirley Methodist Church, Stratford Road,

**[B90 3AL](#)**: Saturday, 29th October 2011, 7:30-9:30pm  
*Petite Messe Solennelle* - Rossini  
**Solihull Chandos Choir** conducted by **John Bayley**  
with **Darren Hogg** (Harmonium) and **Tom  
Henderson** (Piano)  
[www.solihullchandoschoir.org](http://www.solihullchandoschoir.org)

**Birmingham Organists' Association** affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

[www.BhamOrgan.org.uk](http://www.BhamOrgan.org.uk)

*President:* Paul Carr

*Secretary:* Paul Evans

*Treasurer:* Alan Taylor

*Assistant Secretary & Newsletter Compiler:* Nick Fanthom

[www.iao.org.uk](http://www.iao.org.uk)

07966 269860

07980 013368

01922 628810

07917 444077

# Shrewsbury Organ Crawl

James Luxton

The BOA's next "organ crawl" is to Shrewsbury on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September. Members are invited to come and play the organs at

- St Mary's, ([Binns, IV-53](#))
- St Alkmund's, ([Harrison/Tipple, II-11](#))
- Shrewsbury URC ([Norman & Beard, III-24](#))

The "crawl" starts at 11am, meeting at St Mary's Church. There will be a break for lunch: the event will end at 3.30pm. We suggest a donation of £5 for each participant, proceeds from which will be given to the three churches.

## GETTING THERE

### By train:

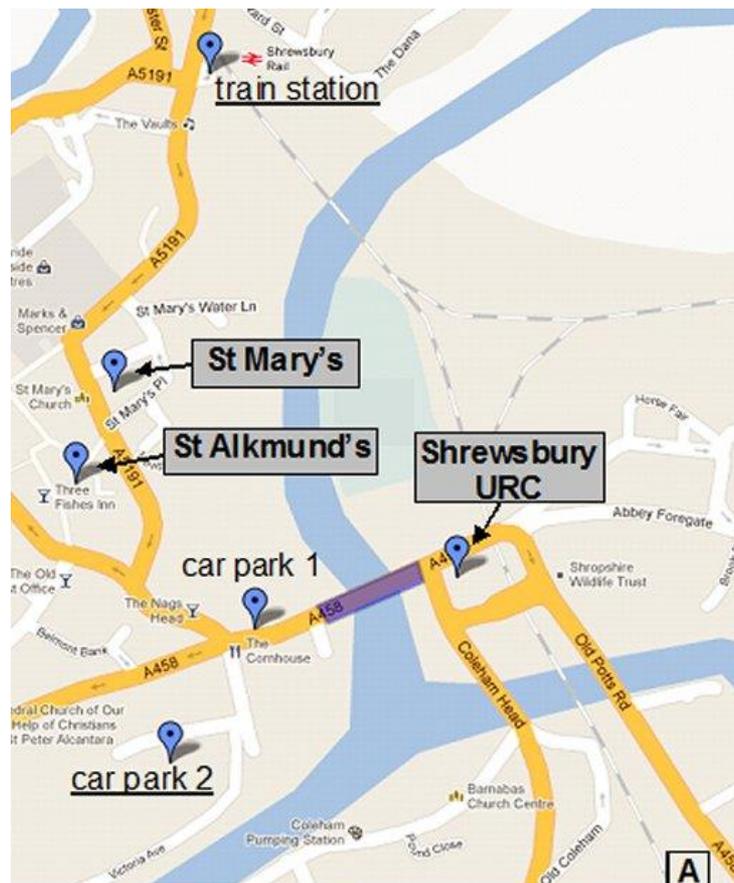
Two trains leave Birmingham New Street Station every hour, one provided by *London Midland* (1hr 10mins) and the other by *Arriva Trains Wales* (55mins). For more information regarding the times of those trains, please see [www.nationalrail.co.uk](http://www.nationalrail.co.uk) or call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 48 49 50.

### By car (presuming you are coming from Birmingham):

If you have a satnav, enter the postcode, SY1 1XL (this will take you to car park 2). Otherwise, follow the instructions below.

Get onto the M54 and head west. This eventually becomes the A5 – continue for another 7 miles. At the first roundabout, turn left; at the next, turn right, fourth exit; at the next, take the second exit; at the next, take the second exit.

You are now at **A** on the bottom-right of the map. Follow the road and the one-way system, bearing right at the fork, and turn left to go onto the English Bridge (shaded area on map). At the other end of the bridge there are two car parks – see next column for charges.



### Recommended parking:

Car park 1 (the closest): NCP WYLE COP, Wyle Cop, SY1 1XE (£2.90/2hrs; £4.40/4hrs; £5.90/24hrs)

Car park 2 (the cheapest): St Julian's Friars, SY1 1XL (£1.20/hr; £2.70/3hrs; £4.00/10hrs)

If you get lost, try phoning Paul Carr on 07966 269860 – reception permitting! We look forward to seeing you there.

## Improvisation Evening

Paul Carr



**MONDAY 10 OCTOBER, 7.30PM**

**St. Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter,  
St Paul's Square, Birmingham, [B3 1QZ](#)**

Whether it is 'doodling' before the service, accompanying a Gospel procession or creating a set of variations on a theme while waiting for a late bride, improvisation is one of the skills organists often need to use. It's a great way to explore an unknown instrument and great fun too!

Led by BOA Council members, this informal evening will be a chance to share ideas, experiment with different approaches and hopefully be enlightened in some way, whatever your level of skill and experience, in a non-judgemental environment. We warmly encourage you to attend – the more the merrier!

Access to the church will be through the north porch, which is the door around the left corner when standing looking up at the tower at the main doors at the front of the church.

**Parking** is available on the church yard, entered from opposite *The Rope Walk* pub for around ten cars. On-street parking in and around the square is free after 6.00pm. There is also an NCP car-park on Newhall Street with direct access to St Paul's Square.

**By train:** Birmingham Snow Hill Station or Jewellery Quarter Station (10 minutes' walk).

**By metro:** St Paul's, line 1 (5 minutes' walk).

**On foot:** Approximately 10 mins' walk from Colmore Row, crossing Great Charles Street at the traffic lights on Newhall Street or via the footbridge on Ludgate Hill. The most obvious guiding landmark is the BT tower.

**The door will be locked at 7.40pm; please phone  
07966 269860 if you arrive later than this.**

## Leonard Gibbons Fund competition final

Paul Evans

An audience of over 40 gathered at St Chad's Cathedral on the warm summer evening of Monday 27 June for the final of the 2011 Leonard Gibbons competition. It seemed that the hot day had had an effect on the organ for, although the tuning was fine, every adjustment of the organ bench produced some interesting squeaks and groans. Perhaps the award could be expanded to include a can of *WD40* in future?

President Paul Carr welcomed the audience, drawing attention to the second hand music stall (proceeds in aid of the fund), and fire precautions: "form a human chain and get the organ out" (David Saint). The adjudicators this year were Professor David Saint, well known to BOA members as Director of Music at St Chad's and Acting Principal of Birmingham Conservatoire, and Dr John Sherer, Organist and Director of Music at Fourth Presbyterian Church, Chicago, USA.

The format of the competition was the same as 2010 with the three finalists each performing a 20 minute programme including a work by Bach. The finalists, James Andrews, Paul Johnson and Thomas Keogh, included works by Alain, Bach, Brahms, de Grigny, Duruflé, and Mulet in their programmes.

The playing by all the candidates was of a very high standard and the audience was treated to an hour of very fine music making. There followed a pause while the adjudicators considered their decision and the audience were able to browse the second hand music, speculate on the result or simply catch up on news....

The winner was **Thomas Keogh** and we shall be welcoming him as a member of Council in due course.

In announcing the results, Dr Sherer commented on each of the pieces performed. I'm sure the comments will be useful to the candidates, but many of the points are equally applicable to all of us at whatever level we play. Probably everyone who was there will have taken away some new thoughts, but here are few of the comments to think about and apply to our own performance:

- *notes are only the beginning, use them to tell the story;*
- *enjoy the scenery along the way;*
- *think about orchestrating the piece in the way you play it;*
- *let the music dance (in relation to Bach particularly); and*
- *listen for the harmonic tension.*



*Thomas Keogh,  
LGF award winner*

## Social Event: beer & skittles

James Luxton



**BALLS MUST BE ROLLED  
NOT THROWN**

Following the success of the last skittles event (All Saints, West Bromwich, back in winter 2009), BOA members met at the *Walsall Arms*. This pub is a hidden gem in a secluded industrial street in Walsall, for it boasts its own function room complete with a skittles alley. It proved to be the perfect location for a "knees-up" on a summer's evening.



*James Luxton in action*

**Nick's Nachthorns** played **Paul's Prestants** and **NN** won by 7 points. Nick was delighted since it was **Paul's Principals** who thrashed **Nick's Nazards** last time at All Saints!

BOA members were grateful to Alan Taylor for organising the event and to the new management at the *Walsall Arms* for honouring the booking and allowing us to have the pub to ourselves, despite it being not open to the public at the time (strange, but true! - Ed).



*Team captain Nick Fanthom urging on his 'Nachthorns'*

As well as allowing us to bring our own beer, they put on a marvellous spread too. Thanks also go to one or two people who volunteered to get their own organs bruised (!) by standing in the pit whilst bowls came thundering down the aisle towards them!

A great time was had by all. Sad that I lost: if there is another time, I propose a rematch this time with my mean team of **Luxton's Larigots!**