

Forthcoming events

ANNUAL SERVICE

THURSDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 7.30PM

St Mary's, St Mary's Row,
Moseley, [B13 8HW](#), click [here](#) for
details. Choral Evensong directed
by BOA President-Elect, Mick
Perrier.

HENRY SMART BICENTENARY

MONDAY 21ST OCTOBER, 7.30PM

St Anne's, Park Hill, Moseley,
[B13 8DU](#), click [here](#) for details.
An opportunity to hear about (and
listen to organ music by) this
rather neglected organist-
composer, born 26th Oct 1813.

ASSOCIATION DINNER

WEDNESDAY 27TH NOV, 7.30 FOR 8PM

The School House, Church Hill,
Weeford, Staffs, [WS14 0PW](#), click
[here](#) for details.

A joint meeting with members of
the Lichfield & District OA, guest
speaker: **Dr Roy Massey, MBE.**

BOA newsletter

volume 9 no3

Autumn 2013

Welcome to the **electronic** version of our newsletter.

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Birmingham Organists' Association

affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

www.BhamOrgan.org.uk

www.iao.org.uk

President: Paul Carr

07966 269860

Secretary: Paul Evans

07980 013368

Treasurer: Alan Taylor

07415 855082

Concert Guide

St Chad's Cathedral:

Thur 26 Sep, 7.30pm: **Adrian Partington**
Mon 07 Oct, 7.30pm: **Prof David Saint**
www.stchadscathedral.org.uk

Birmingham Cathedral:

Friday lunchtimes at 1.10pm, including:
27 Sep: **Tim Harper**
04 Oct: **Christopher Allsop**
25 Oct: **Jonathan Stamp**
15 Nov: **Conservatoire Organ Dept**
www.birminghamcathedral.com

THSH Town Hall/Symphony Hall:

Alternate Mondays at 1.00pm
Thomas Trotter
14 Oct (SH); 28 Oct, 11 & 25 Nov (TH)
www.thsh.co.uk

Holy Trinity, Wordsley: 3.00pm

Sunday Afternoon Organ Music
Paul Carr 06 Oct, 03 Nov, 01 Dec
www.paulcarr.co.uk

St Paul, Birmingham: Thursday Live

First Thursday of the month at 1.15pm
Zsolt Gárdonyi 03 Oct, (details [here](#))
Paul Carr 07 Nov, 05 Dec
www.saintpaulbrum.org

Emmanuel, Wylde Green:

Fridays, 1.00pm – Fletcher's Favourites
04 Oct, 01 Nov, 06 Dec
Andrew Fletcher
www.andrewfletcher.org.uk

Walsall Town Hall

Leicester Street, [WS1 1PT](#)
Thursdays 1.00pm, (big screen video)
19 Sep, 17 Oct, 21 Nov: **Peter Morris**
www.whatsonwalsall.co.uk

Bournville Quaker Meeting House

Linden Road [B30 1JT](#)
Fridays at 1pm, including
20 Sep: **Andrew Fletcher**
13 Dec: **Keith Hearnshaw**

Annual Service St Mary's, Moseley



Thursday
19 September
7.30pm,
St Mary's Row
Moseley
[B13 8HW](#)

BOA President-Elect **Mick Perrier** (above) is Director of Music at St Mary's, and he has provided the following details....

Introit: Abendlied (Rheinberger)

Responses: Mick Perrier

Setting: Stainer in B flat (no.3)

Anthem: Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré)

In addition to the choral music, this will be an opportunity to hear the noted improvisational skills of organist **John Pryer**. Refreshments will be available after the service, with members free to try the 1879 3-manual Henry Jones organ, revised by Nicholson's in 1966 and later regaining its integrity somewhat in the hands of Trevor Tipple and Chris Kearl. It is due a major overhaul in the next few years.

As usual, the offertory will be divided between the host church and the IAO Benevolent Fund.

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Henry Smart bicentenary: St Anne's, Moseley

Monday
21 October
7.30pm,
Park Hill
Moseley
[B13 8DU](#)



After W T Best, Henry Smart was the no.2 organist in Britain, becoming Organist at the highly-fashionable St Pancras Church in 1864, although failing eyesight would later curtail his playing career.

Today, apart from the occasional voluntary such as his Postludes in C and D (which will be played at this event), Smart is particularly renowned for his hymn-tunes, a few of which are still sung today.

For our celebration, BOA Council Member Michael Jones will present a historical picture of Smart's life & career, and several members will feature some of his solo works. There will also be the chance for us all to join in singing a couple of verses each of some of the hymns with Smart's lovely tunes that were once widely sung but have now largely disappeared from view due to changing (not always for the better?) tastes.

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Association Dinner with Lichfield & District OA

The School House, Weeford

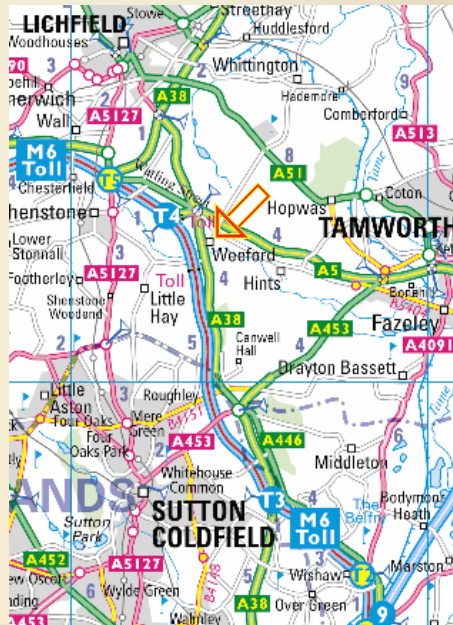


Wednesday
27 November
7.30 for 8pm
Church Hill,
Weeford,
Staffs.
[WS14 0PW](http://www.schoolhouse.co.uk)

<http://www.schoolhouse.co.uk>

This is a joint meeting with the Lichfield & District Organists' Association, many of whose members are known to our members. The venue is easily found as it is close to the junction of the A38 and the A5, off the Watling Street, between Sutton Coldfield & Lichfield.

The guest after-dinner speaker is **Dr Roy Massey, MBE**, Organist-Emeritus of Hereford Cathedral, and well-known to both associations' members.



LDOA

A range of options (chosen on the night) for a three-course meal is available at the bargain price of **£20**, but numbers will be limited to a total of 40 (from both associations). Please note that the private room is upstairs, and there is no lift. More details, including map & booking form, are attached (or [click](#) for download), so book early to avoid disappointment!

BOA subscription changes and two new services for members



As announced in January and later confirmed at the AGM, subscriptions are to increase from 1st January 2014 – the first increase for over 15 years – in part due to the increase in the IAO's capitation fee. For most members, this will mean completing a new Standing Order form (attached, or [click](#) for download) or using on-line banking to make the necessary modifications to your existing Order. This should please be done **now** – the money will not be collected until January.

We are also asking if members will kindly notify us via this form (or via email) of their mobile phone numbers. At no extra cost to members, we are now able to send **SMS** (text) messages directly to your phone to remind you about BOA events, including any last-minute updates. This costs the association a fraction of the charge for letter post.

What's more, we now have a **Twitter** feed, so you can check out all the latest news from us & our members [@BhamOrgan!](#)

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“Come & Play” at Holy Trinity, Wordsley

John Stormont

The fourth in this series of “Come & Play” events in support of the Leonard Gibbons Fund found BOA members at this attractive church on a pleasant spring evening. We were warmly welcomed by the church’s Musician in Residence and BOA President, Paul Carr, who distributed an information sheet on this sizeable 3-manual Bevington/Nicholson & Lord/Banfield/Connacher/Nelson/Sheffield/Tipple organ. One might be tempted to think that with such a mixed pedigree, the tonal results might be unsatisfactory. This is far from the case, as the organ is a most satisfactory and tonally well balanced instrument.

Paul opened the proceedings with a sparkling performance of Bach’s *Prelude in G*, demonstrating the organ’s ability to produce an authentic rendering of the music of this period. He then continued with a comprehensive demonstration of the organ’s individual stops and choruses. Particularly worthy of mention is the Great Open Diapason, at first listening perhaps a little on the small side, but with an excellent harmonic structure on which to build. This ended with a *ppp* to *fff* demonstration. Congratulations to Paul who had organised the church’s PA system so that all his comments were crystal clear.

Members were then invited to play the organ, and a wide range of music was heard to great effect on this comprehensive instrument. Soft drinks and biscuits were provided that allowed members to chat, the good social



A view inside the organ chamber showing the hooded Tromba

atmosphere and exchange of information being an important aspect of these events. Having assisted Tom Sheffield back in 1982 with some of the restoration work, it was a real pleasure to re-acquaint myself with this fine organ.

Other commitments meant that I had to leave before the event finished but, on departing, I heard the exciting tones of Bonnet’s *Variations de Concert* being played by BOA student member (and cathedral organ scholar) Jonathan Stamp.

I’m sure a most enjoyable event for all who attended, and our grateful thanks must go to Paul and Hannah Carr who made us most welcome, and to the church authorities for their cooperation in agreeing to our visit.

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“Come & Play” at Carrs Lane Church Centre

Michael Jones

About ten members assembled on a very warm Monday evening in July at Carrs Lane to play the 1970 Hill, Norman and Beard organ. Two of us (Ron Close and myself) actually remember hearing the former HN&B organ in the old building – I heard a fine recital by Richard Lloyd in 1968 – but only thirteen ranks made it into the new organ, which H John Norman designed in the classic *Werkprinzip* style fashionable at the time.

It is still in excellent playing order and the young resident organist, Tim Batty, made us warmly welcome (an electric fan was provided upstairs!) and then played Bach's *Prelude in B Minor*, Vierne's *Arabesque* (from 24 Pièces Libres) in which the choir Rohr Flute and great Stopped Diapason were well contrasted, Couperin's *Dialogue sur la Cornet et Tierce*, and William Mathias' *Recessional* in which the full organ was used to grand effect.

Our President Paul Carr then played an interesting and original hymn-tune Prelude on *Be Thou My Vision* by Zsolt Gárdonyi – the composer is himself due to play at St Paul's in the Jewellery Quarter on October 3rd (click [here](#) for details).

Next, John Stormont played Flor Peeters' *Aria*, and then Michael Jones played a Voluntary in F by William Russell (who died 200 years ago in 1813) plus a couple of Chorale Preludes by the late George Miles (born 100 years ago in 1913).



Console of the 1970 Hill, Norman & Beard at Carrs Lane

We then welcomed one of our new members, Chris Cipkin (from Yorkshire) who played a Chorale Prelude in G by Johann Ludwig Krebs (born 300 years ago) revealing the debt owed to his teacher J S Bach, Francis Westbrook's arrangement of an *Albumleaf* by Richard Wagner (another 200th anniversary), and ending with a *bravura* performance of W T Best's transcription of Meyebeer's Coronation March from *Les Huguenots*. Such a tour-de-force of an arrangement reveals how brilliant Best must have been to achieve his no.1 status in Victorian Britain!

Despite the heat the organ sounded well, and we raised almost £50 towards the Leonard Gibbons Fund.

Quiz Night at The Old Swan Inn, Netherton

Mick Perrier

If you go to Netherton, where the Black Country asserts its personality over Birmingham, you will find one of the decreasing number of public houses that has escaped the mania for “redevelopment” and is pretty well as it has been for the past century. This is the “Old Swan” managed by the very personable Tim Newey, who happens also to be organist of the local parish church.

On June 10th its hallowed walls echoed not to the thump of clogs or of the juke box but to the sound of organ music fiendishly assembled by our Treasurer, Alan Taylor, on his excellent portable music system.

Yes, it was the BOA Quiz night, in which our DJ teased, frustrated, humiliated and challenged us to identify excerpts of well-known organ pieces played by renowned organists in notable venues. But could you guess a piece from its final two bars? Or from the countersubject of a fugue? Or identify the organist by the style of his (or her) playing? Or the building from an iconic performance?

Norman Cocker’s *Tuba Tune* was **not** played by Francis Jackson from York Minster but by Jonathan Bielby from Huddersfield Town Hall, the Whitlock *Fanfare* by BOA past president Andrew Fletcher from St. George’s Edgbaston, the Widor *Toccata* by Gunther Kauzinger on the Klais in Limburg Cathedral.



The Old Swan Inn, Netherton

The *Final* from Guillemant’s 4th Symphony, was it from Notre Dame or St Sernin? No, it was St. Ouen, Rouen. And so it went on....

The (sadly) small party had a hugely entertaining evening for which Alan Taylor is to be congratulated. Even our landlord, Tim Newey, joined us, so fascinated was he by the occasion.

Look out for another one when next it happens – you’ll be in for a treat!

Two organ recitals to choose from on Saturday 19 October

7.00pm Four Oaks Methodist, [B74 2UU](#): **Nigel Ogden**

7.30pm St Andrews, Netherton, [DY2 0HU](#): **Paul Carr**