

## Forthcoming events

### LGF FUNDRAISING EVENT

MONDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY, 7.30PM

Holy Family Church, Small Heath,  
[B10 0HT](#), click [here](#) for details.

Demonstration by resident organist Ronald Shillingford followed by "hands-on" for members. Donations requested for Leonard Gibbons Fund.

### ORGAN WORKSHOP VISIT

THURSDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> JUNE, 5.00PM

Kenneth Tickell Ltd, [NN4 8JD](#), click [here](#) for details.

An early evening visit to see some of the work of this well respected builder based in Northampton.

No charge for BOA members, but you need to organise transport.

## BOA newsletter

volume 8 no2e

Spring 2012

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

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## Concert Guide

### St Chad's Cathedral:

Mondays at 7.30pm:

28 May: [David Saint](#)

11 Jun: [Martin Baker](#)

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

### St Philip's Cathedral:

Friday lunchtimes at 1.10pm, including:

01 Jun: [Tim Harper](#)

08 Jun: [Jonathan Stamp](#)

[www.birminghamcathedral.com](http://www.birminghamcathedral.com)

### THSH Town Hall/Symphony Hall:

Alternate Mondays at 1.00pm featuring [Thomas Trotter](#) and guests and also...

Wed 13 Jun at 2pm:

**21st anniversary concert**

[www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

### Holy Trinity, Wordsley: 3.00pm

*Sunday Afternoon Organ Music*

[Paul Carr](#)

03 Jun – Diamond Jubilee

01 Jul – Preview of Paul's St Paul's Cathedral recital

05 Aug – The Best of Baroque

[www.paulcarr.co.uk](http://www.paulcarr.co.uk)

### St Paul, Birmingham: Thursday Live

First Thursday of the month at 1.15pm

07 Jun: [Jon Payne](#)

[www.saintpaulbrum.org](http://www.saintpaulbrum.org)

### Emmanuel, Wylde Green:

*"Olympic" - music from around the world*

01 Jun, 1.00pm – Requests Recital

[Andrew Fletcher](#)

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

### Bournville Quaker Meeting House

Linden Road [B30 1JT](#):

Fridays at 1pm, including

01 Jun: [Colin Druce](#)

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

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

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

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## LGF fundraising Holy Family RC Church, Small Heath



Monday  
21 May  
7.30pm

Coventry Rd  
Small Heath  
Birmingham  
[B10 0HT](#)

This is the first of a series of fundraising events in aid of the Leonard Gibbons award. The evening will take the form of an introduction and demonstration of the organ by the church's organist and BOA member **Ronald Shillingford**, followed by an opportunity for members to play.

There is no admission charge for BOA members, but we invite you to make donations in aid of the Leonard Gibbons Fund.

Members are advised to use the nearby ASDA car park.

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## Summer Social Event: barbeque and quiz



Wednesday  
4 July  
7.30pm  
@ home of  
Assistant  
Secretary  
Nick Fanthom

An evening barbeque and quiz at the home of the Assistant Secretary - in the garden if dry! – with an American “flavor”.

Of necessity to help with catering, this will be a ticket-only event (£4.50 per person), so please use the attached booking form and return it by **29th June**, please, to the address on the form.

Bring your appetite – and  
brains for the quiz!



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## Organ Workshop visit: Kenneth Tickell & Co Ltd, Northampton

**Thursday 21 June, 5.00pm**

We have the opportunity to visit Kenneth Tickell's workshop in Northampton, <http://www.tickell-organs.co.uk>.

Kenneth Tickell has recently built several major instruments including Worcester Cathedral (Quire Organ); Lincoln's Inn Chapel, Holborn, London; Cheltenham Ladies' College and Keble College Chapel, Oxford.

The exciting new 46-stop instrument for Newcastle RC Cathedral is near completion in the workshop and should be about finished at the time we visit.

The workshop is situated on Rothersthorpe Avenue Industrial Estate [NN4 8JD](#), (variously called Rothersthorpe Avenue Trading Estate, and Rothersthorpe Road Industry, depending which signs you see). It is a modern building with grey

profiled panelling & red paintwork, and is situated on the corner of Rothersthorpe Ave and Rothersthorpe Crescent. There is a small tree on the corner.

*The new Tickell organ in Cheltenham Ladies' College*



### Directions to Kenneth Tickell & Co Ltd

The easiest direction to approach from is M1 J15A. From the motorway junction 15A continue along the dual carriageway to the next roundabout. Turn right (3rd exit) into Danes Camp Way. Carry straight on at the next roundabout, and then take the first turn on the left into Rothersthorpe Road. Go down the hill to the roundabout, and carry straight on ie third exit, leaving the *Double Four* pub (*now closed, not sure if sign is still up or not*) on your left. Turn left at the new roundabout into Rothersthorpe Avenue. The workshop is a short way down the hill on the right hand side.

*From Coventry via A45:* It is normally easier to come via the M1, but if travelling on the A45, join the M1 at J16 and travel down to J15A, then follow directions as above.

### South Wales organ crawl: Saturday 22 September



All-day visit to organs in Llandaff, Cardiff and Usk. In order to assess transport and dinner requirements, please return the attached 'Expression of Interest' form, or email the required details to [webmaster@BhamOrgan.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@BhamOrgan.org.uk) as soon as possible and by 31<sup>st</sup> August at the latest.

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## CD/DVDs and beer @ The Old Swan, Netherton Alan Taylor

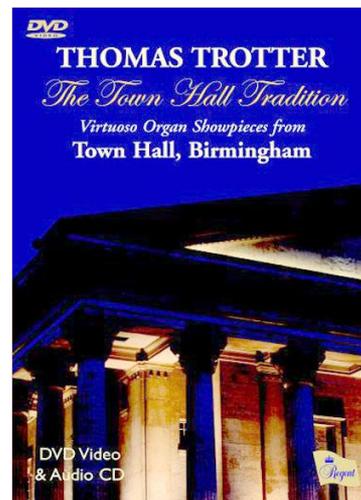


It was unfortunate that this event took place on one of the coldest nights of the winter – which probably accounted for the lower than average turn-out of members – but a very warm welcome awaited us from organ-enthusiast and “Gaffa” of the Old Swan Inn, Tim Newey.

Some initial difficulty with the DVD-playing technology provided a suitable pause for us all to charge our glasses from the ground-floor bar before ascending again to Tim’s private function room equipped with sound system, screen and projector. One particularly interesting audio recording, made by Michael Jones from a radio broadcast, was of a rarely-heard piece by Léon Boëllmann (appropriately, as we are celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth this year), the *Fantaisie dialoguée*, opus 35, for organ and orchestra: rather a shame that this does not feature in concert programmes these days.

After another visit to the bar for drinks, Tim’s generous hospitality was evident as large platters of sandwiches arrived, and with the later stages of the evening focussing on examples of DVDs, this truly became a feast for all three senses of hearing, sight and taste!

We spent some time with Thomas Trotter’s recently-released video recording *The Town Hall Tradition*, made even more



interesting as a result of snippets of “inside information” via John Stormont, who had been present as page-turner during the recordings. From the inevitable tweeness of Ketèlbey’s *Bells Across the Meadows* (complete with bells, situated atop the swell box, played from the Solo keyboard via electrically operated hammers) to the breath-taking seven-and-a-half-minute virtuosity of Thalben-Ball’s

*Variations on a theme of Paganini for Pedals*, it was a real pleasure to see the City Organist and the city’s magnificent Town Hall organ showcased in this way.

However, not to be too parochial, we also spent a significant part of the evening enjoying a DVD from about as far away from Birmingham as you can get: Thomas Heywood playing the “Grand Concert Organ” in Melbourne Town Hall (the largest musical instrument in the southern hemisphere), a recent rebuild and enlargement of the original 1929 Hill, Norman & Beard instrument that now boasts 149 ranks. You can get a preview via *You Tube*: click on the icon.



Only after more than 2½ hours did we reluctantly drain our glasses, pack away the recordings, and leave the Old Swan in peace!

## AGM & recital @ Wylde Green URC

Paul Carr

The Association's AGM was this year held at Wylde Green URC's Highbridge Hall. As has become customary, members gathered from 11.00am and chatted over tea and coffee before formalities began at 11.30am. Reports were heard from the Secretary, Treasurer and the IAO. Eddie Guard was duly thanked for his years of service on the BOA Council as he comes to the end of his second three-year term. Mick Perrier was elected to Council in Eddie's place.

Following the election of the President, Secretary, Assistant Secretary and Treasurer the President's speech spoke of enabling people, especially young people, to discover the richness of organ music and the pleasure gained from both performing and listening to it. The many projects in Birmingham, including those undertaken at Town Hall Symphony Hall such as this [animation](#) were celebrated and the importance of financial support offered through the Leonard Gibbons Fund highlighted. The year 2014 has a number of significant anniversaries: The Royal College of Organists is 150; the BIOS organ archive is 40; it is the 100th anniversary of the IAO (give or take a year) and it is the 90th anniversary of Birmingham Organists Association, so it is particularly appropriate that the IAO Midlands Organ Day in 2014 is planned to be based in Birmingham. With the installation of the new organ at the University due in 2014 this will be an exciting time to be an organist in Birmingham. The President's speech ended with this rather uplifting and entertaining view of organists written by the mother of a budding organist and published in the [Spectator](#) (do please click to read it!) on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Following an excellent buffet lunch provided by *Jenny's Kitchen*, supplemented with tasty desserts, members moved through to the church where a sizeable audience had already gathered for Martyn Rawles' recital.



*Martyn Rawles*

Howells' *Saraband for the Morning of Easter* opened the programme and, as Martyn commented to the audience in his introduction, deserves to be heard more often. This was followed by Lemare's arrangement of Edward German's *Morris Dance*, providing a pallet-cleanser before both the Wylde Green organ and Martyn were thoroughly put through their paces in Kenneth Leighton's massive work: *Prelude, Scherzo and Passacaglia*.

Martyn gave a detailed explanation to some of the compositional devices Leighton employed in this challenging music. The simplicity of Alcock's *Voluntary* provided contrast, and the hauntingly beautiful *Choral* from Widor's *Symphonie Romane* with its exploration of the gentle and colourful sounds of the organ could have quite easily induced an afternoon nap, especially after the buffet lunch. *Prelude and Fugue in D* by Ambrose Porter, a former organist of Lichfield Cathedral, was a superbly noisy finale to the recital and played with real flair and panache by his current successor. The enjoyment of the audience was signified by both the lengthy applause and the favourable comments made as people left.

Our thanks must be recorded to Martyn for taking the time out of his busy Cathedral schedule to come and play for us, before heading back to Lichfield to play Choral Evensong.

## Gabrieli 400 – well not quite!

Nick Fanthom

Due to the most unbelievable set of circumstances to beset anything the Association has undertaken in my memory (35 years!), the LGF sponsored student's event very nearly didn't happen at all. Not only were members of the original choir unavailable, but the organ at St Alban's Conybere Street also failed! Undaunted, Tom Keogh continued with a rapidly reconvened choir in a totally different venue - St Peter's, Harborne.



Tom Keogh

The programme had to be changed accordingly and was entitled *O Sing Joyfully!*. A programme of British choral music from the 16th to 20th centuries, which was performed with style & panache by **Melisma**, directed by Tom Keogh and James Andrews (who conducted Bairstow's *The Lamentations of Jeremiah*, for which Tom provided the organ accompaniment). And all this despite the best attempts of the bell-ringers who continued unabated with their weekly practice! The choral items were interspersed with organ solos by Tom, who showed us just how flexible is the instrument at St Peter's.

Our thanks particularly to Tom Keogh, James Andrews, Matt Spillett, David Friel (DoM at St Peter's) and all who ensured that *an* event still took place for members' enjoyment, irrespective of the odds stacked against it.

A few well-earned pints were sunk in *The Bell* afterwards!

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## Liverpool Organ Day

Alan Taylor



May Day Bank Holiday in Liverpool is a real treat for organists! Recitals may be heard on two of the three largest organs in the country (in the Anglican cathedral and St George's Hall), both by the firm of Henry Willis, together with the more modern instrument in the metropolitan cathedral. This year, as usual, the recitalists were the locally-based outstanding talents of Daniel Bishop, Richard Lea and Professor Ian Tracey.

A car-load of intrepid BOA members (NF, PG, JS, AT – shouldn't be too difficult for you to work out) recently braved a windy North-West to enjoy not only three fine recital programmes but also lunch at a hostelry conveniently adjacent to the cathedrals (appropriately "The Pilgrim") where the music dept from the Anglican cathedral gathers after the Bank Holiday morning recitals. In fact, the pub erupted with spontaneous applause as Daniel arrived for well-earned refreshment!

We left "The Pilgrim" (exceedingly well refreshed) just in time for the afternoon recital at "The Met", later walking down to St George's Hall where – we couldn't believe it – there was **no**



Daniel Bishop

refreshment available. Still, to compensate, there was the famous ear-splitting Father Willis *Tuba Mirabilis* – never was a stop more appropriately named!

For those of you who have not yet ventured to Liverpool to hear Dan Bishop playing "at home" (or even if you have), do come to his recital on the four-manual at Broadway URC, Walsall: Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 7.30pm.

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