

Forthcoming events

SOCIAL EVENING

MONDAY 23RD JANUARY, 7.30PM

The Walsall Arms, Bank Street, Walsall, [WS1 2EP](#).

[Click](#) for details.

GARNIER ORGAN

MONDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, (TO BE CONFIRMED) Elgar Concert Hall,

Birmingham University,

[B15 2TT](#). [Click](#) for details.

AGM & ANNUAL RECITAL

SATURDAY 1ST APRIL, 11.00AM

Holy Trinity, Wordsley,

[DY8 5RU](#). [Click](#) for details.

PROGRAMME FOR 2017/8

Plans for 2017/8 are currently being finalised, but include a summer outing to play organs in the city of York on **Saturday 3 June**, so put that date in your diary now!

BOA newsletter

volume 12 no 4

Winter 2016



**Happy Christmas to all BOA members
and best wishes for 2017**



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Birmingham Organists' Association

affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

www.BhamOrgan.org.uk

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Secretary: Paul Evans

Assistant Sec: Nick Fanthom

Treasurer: Alan Taylor

www.iao.org.uk

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Event Guide

THSH Town Hall, [B3 3DQ](#)

Mondays 1pm **Thomas Trotter**

16 Jan, 27 Feb (SH)

30 Jan, 13 Feb (TH)

www.thsh.co.uk

Holy Trinity, Wordsley, [DY8 5RU](#)

Sunday Afternoon Organ Music

3.00pm

Paul Carr 8 Jan, 5 Feb, 5 Mar

www.paulcarr.co.uk

St Chad's Cathedral, [B4 6EU](#)

Thursday Live

1st Thursday of the month, 1.15pm

5 Jan **Nigel Morris**

2 Feb **Henry Fairs**

2 Mar **Paul Carr**

www.paulcarr.co.uk

Emmanuel, Wylde Green

[B72 1YG](#), **Andrew Fletcher**

Fridays 1pm,

6 & 27 Jan, 3 Mar

www.andrewfletcher.org.uk

Social evening: beer & skittles

AGM & annual recital

Monday 23
January
7.30pm
The Walsall Arms,
Bank Street,
Walsall,
[WS1 2EP](#).



A return visit to this recently refurbished traditional Black Country pub with a good selection of real ales and a full length skittles alley. A sandwich buffet will be provided.

On our last visit, in 2011, the victorious team was *Nick (Fanthom)'s Nazards*, so this is a long-awaited return match for *Paul (Evans)'s Principals* to get their revenge!

There is free on-street car parking outside the pub and 51/X51 buses from Birmingham city centre stop a short walk away.

Saturday

1 April
11.00am
Holy Trinity,
Wordsley

11.00am	Arrive & coffee
11.30am	AGM
12.30pm	Buffet lunch
1.30pm	Annual Recital

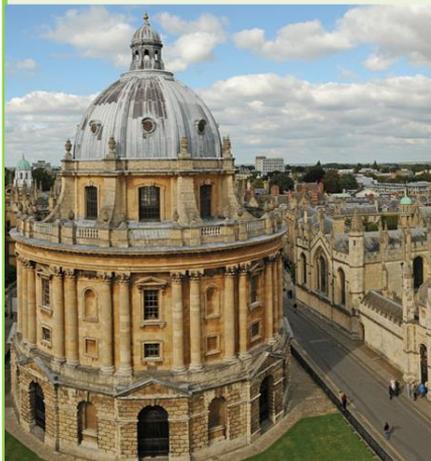
[DY8 5RU](#).

This event will follow the usual pattern adopted in recent years as shown above. We are delighted to have the IAO President and recently retired Director of Music of Bath Abbey, **Dr PETER KING**, as this year's recitalist. Details & booking arrangements will be sent to members in the new year.

Visit to the Elgar Concert Hall's Garnier organ

We have been trying to arrange a visit for members to hear & play the new organ by Marc Garnier in the Bramall Music Building of Birmingham University. At present we have an unconfirmed provisional date/time of the afternoon of **Monday 27 February**. Look out for more details later!

IAO Music Festival (formerly Congress) 2017



Following an outstandingly successful IAO Festival in the city of Bath earlier this year, with over 150 people attending, the IAO's major annual event next year is to be based in the historic city and university of **Oxford**.

July 23th – 27th 2016

<http://festival.iao.org.uk>

Full details and booking arrangements are available via the above link to pages on the IAO's website. Details and a booking form may also be found in *Organists' Review*.

The cost – which includes admission to all venues in Oxford and coach transport to Blenheim Palace & Eton College, – is exceptional value at **£179** until 15th March. Delegates are being invited to arrange their own accommodation, but details are given of the hotel being used by the Festival Committee. If you choose to use this hotel, **early booking** is recommended, because room rates increase as percentage occupancy rises.



Money matters and a special offer!

It's that time of year again when annual subscriptions become due. BOA subscription rates remain the same as last year, with the usual £4 reduction for those retired or unwaged; but this year we are adding an additional category: **FULL membership**. Those who take out FULL membership are entitled to a year's subscription to the IAO's quarterly magazine *Organists' Review* (OR) at much reduced cost. This is a pilot scheme being run by the IAO.

FULL	Ordinary	Student
£34 / £30	£14 / £10	£3 †

† Student membership is free for the first year

• Supplement for a **printed** copy of our e-newsletter remains at £2.50
Thus BOA members can get **four** quarterly copies of OR for £20, a saving of nearly £4 even from the discounted rate previously offered to members of a local association (normal price to the public is £25.80). If you are paying your BOA subscription by Standing Order, we can collect the additional amount by Direct Debit. A separate notice is attached to this e-newsletter (or downloadable from [HERE](#)) giving more details of the procedure, and this is also required if you choose to pay by cheque for FULL membership.

If you have any questions about your subscription, please contact the Treasurer by email via membership@BhamOrgan.org.uk or telephone 0741 585 5082.

OrganFest 2016

(The complete version of this article by David Saint and Alan Taylor is to be published in a future *Organists' Review*.)

The third *OrganFest* took place in Edinburgh at the end of October. The opening concert, an organ recital by Ulrich Böhme, organist of Bach's church, St Thomas's, Leipzig attracted an audience of well over 100 at St Giles' Cathedral.

Saturday morning found us at St Stephen's, Stockbridge, in Edinburgh's New Town. John Kitchen, MBE, Edinburgh City Organist (among other roles) introduced the instrument and proceeded to give a truly stunning performance which was interesting, fun and relevant – the programme, for instance, beginning with an *Andante in B flat* by Albert Lister Peace who gave this organ's inaugural recital in 1880 to an audience of two thousand.

After this, we all moved to St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral. The organ here was installed by Matthew Copley and opened in 2008. It is an impressive sight, with the pedal 32' *Contra Violone* prominent in the façade. The cathedral's Director of Music, Simon Nieminski, told us something of the organ's provenance and the underlying concept before giving a brief but varied demonstration.

Before we went into the cathedral itself, Michael Harris, Andrew Macintosh and David Saint talked about their respective organisations (Edinburgh Society of Organists, RCO, IAO) as a preamble to the BIOS lecture, given by Alan Thurlow, BIOS Chair.



*Professor
Ulrich Böhme*



*Dr John
Kitchen*

Entitled *BIOS: the Amenity Society for Organs*, we learnt of the birth and development of the organisation and examples of the very important work of preservation it carries out.

From St Mary's we made our way to the Reid Hall at the University. Once again, John Kitchen was our host and performer-in-chief along with the Kellie Consort, directed by Tom Wilkinson of St Andrew's University. The programme contained music for organ & strings with continuo, strings & continuo only and organ solo. It featured the beautiful and uncompromising Ahrend instrument, built in 1978 to a design by Peter Williams and Gurter Leonhartt.

After a break for tea, we reassembled for Solemn Evensong at Old Saint Paul's (OSP) Scottish Episcopal Church. This service had been arranged especially for those of us attending *OrganFest* and the order of service explained that, as they do at OSP on most Sundays, evensong was to conclude with the Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, placing it clearly in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. John Kitchen, who had already played such a prominent role at St Stephen's and the Reid Hall, is Director of Music here and, together with his assistant Calum Robertson and the OSP choir, provided us with a feast of music including Stanford in A canticles, Widor's beautiful setting of *Tantum ergo* and an anthem composed by John himself.

OrganFest concluded with a visit to the Sunday morning service of Eucharist at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, where Duncan Ferguson is Organist and Master of the Music. The music included Mozart's *Orgelsolomesse* and Victoria's motet *O quam gloriosum*.

It was a splendid weekend of music and camaraderie for organists and other lovers of organ & choral music, for which particular thanks are due to Richard Hobson of BIOS and the Edinburgh Society of Organists, in addition to all those who took part as performers or speakers.

Annual Service Paul Geoghegan

A disappointingly small group of members attended our Annual Service at St. Alphege where Joe Cooper directed the Girls' and Men's Choirs for Choral Evensong, accompanied by Joshua Xerri playing the organ. We were treated to the Smith Responses, canticles were Howells *Collegium Regale*, anthem was Howells *Hymn to St Cecilia*, and Saint-Saens *Improvisation No.7*.

Under the direction of Joe Cooper the choirs sang very well, giving an impressive blend and excellent control of dynamics, the results of much hard work and careful direction. It is unfortunate that the layout of the church means that the organ is in a chamber to the west of the Choir, and between the choir stalls and the Nave. Achieving a good balance can therefore become an issue. Josh did his very best to achieve the ideal balance, but the need for the choir to hear something of the organ during the quieter passages caused some difficulty. Josh showed the versatility of the organ during the final voluntary, bringing the occasion to a rousing conclusion.

The provision of tea/coffee and very tasty cakes after the service allowed us all to socialise and brought the proceedings to a very pleasant close.



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Joint Dinner Alan Taylor

Our President Mick Perrier had this year negotiated a particularly good deal with his club's caterers, so we assembled again at Moseley Golf Club and on 30th November enjoyed a splendid four-course dinner. We were joined by members of the Worcestershire association and by the president-elect of the York association, Max Elliott.



David Saint

Sadly, the invited after-dinner speaker Paul Hale had to withdraw because of illness. We were therefore pleased to be able to welcome as speaker one of our own members, vice-president of the IAO and director of music at St Chad's Cathedral David Saint, who stepped in at short notice. We wish Paul a speedy recovery from surgery.

David reminisced about his years as a student in Hull, working in Birmingham at St Chad's & the Conservatoire, and spoke about his new role at the IAO. He made an appeal for more members to take up a subscription to the IAO's magazine *Organists' Review*.



Last month, a small number of BOA members were able to accept an invitation from **Nicholson & Co** to visit their workshop in Malvern, where we were made most welcome by directors Andrew Caskie and Guy Russell (left, voicing a *Gambe*).

This was a particularly interesting time for a visit, as we were able to see their continuing work on the vast (90-stop) new instrument for Auckland Cathedral, New Zealand.

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