

Birmingham Organists' Association

affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



<https://BhamOrgan.org.uk>



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BOA newsletter volume 16 no 2, Autumn 2020

Welcome again to the new-style BOA newsletter, which we hope may be in a format more suitable for reading online using mobile devices.

As the consequences of the pandemic limits even more of our daily activities, let us hope that next year will bring good news in terms of decreasing infection rates and viable vaccines. Meanwhile, here is our latest news...

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A message from our President

Nigel Morris

Dear Members

As this turbulent and unusual year draws to a close, your Council recently convened to plan and look forward to when it becomes possible for us to meet again in person. However, sadly, the feasibility of this still appears to be some way off.

Due to the unprecedented situation brought about by the pandemic, it has only been possible to hold two events during 2020, as reported in the last newsletter. Membership subscriptions will soon become due, so it seemed prudent to review the situation for 2021. The consensus was, with your agreement and understanding, to collect the fee as normal because we do have certain fixed costs, such as the IAO affiliation fee that includes insurance cover. However, this year (unless we hear from you to the contrary) a contribution will be made to our [Leonard Gibbons Fund](#) from each members' subscription. If this is not acceptable to you, please feel free to contact me via nigel@morris23.plus.com , or phone 01782 399503.

We hope that you will continue to support the BOA and we wish you all the very best during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Nigel

Tentative plans to restart activities

At this point in the year, your Council would normally have in mind a draft programme for 2021/2. Sadly, plans remain tentative because of the pandemic; but even though firm dates remain unknown in most cases, what follows gives you a brief look at our current thinking.

The IAO's **London Organ Day**, normally held on the first Saturday of March, will be an online, streamed event in 2021. Any BOA member with an internet-enabled device, such as a desktop computer or smartphone, will be able to enjoy it *free of charge!* More details will be available later.

The IAO's **Midlands Organ Day** in Northampton, planned for last year, is now expected to take place as a 'live' event on Saturday 25th September 2021. BOA members will be entitled to a discount on the standard prices for admission. For details, see <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/midlands-organ-day/>.

We have been offered an opportunity, by Anne Marsden Thomas, to participate in a FREE online presentation about **organ teaching**. This would feature an introduction about teaching methods, a short video about a recently published New Oxford Organ Method, and then an open discussion with members about any topic connected with organ teaching. A date for this has yet to be fixed.

We are looking into the possibility of creating an online event to replace the presentation, postponed from last month, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the birth of **Louis Vierne**. Details later.

In addition, we hope it will be possible to rearrange other BOA meetings cancelled during 2020, hopefully as 'live' events, depending on the public health situation.

A new organ teacher in the area

Many members will recognise the name **Callum Alger**, a former student member of BOA, who achieved national recognition by winning the IAO/RCO organ competition held in Peterborough and Cambridge during 2018.

Callum has now moved back to the Birmingham area after a spell in London as Organ Scholar of Westminster Cathedral.

He is now offering organ lessons on the newly restored organ of St Peter's Wolverhampton. So if you know of anyone seeking lessons, the above panel – supplied by Callum – gives the essential details.

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Notices

Free online organ recitals

Are you frustrated that you cannot attend 'live' organ recitals during lockdown? There are alternatives if you have an internet-enabled device such as a desktop computer or smartphone.



Paul Carr's regular series of *Sunday Afternoon Organ Music* on the first Sunday in every month is continuing online. This month it featured music by Bach, Ireland, Parry, Saint-Saens and Ian Higginson. For details, visit

<https://www.facebook.com/SundayAfternoonOrganMusic/>

You may also be interested in the following online performances from last month...

- from Merton College, Oxford (Benjamin Nicholas):
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rkp8QKwf_n0
- from Holy Name, Manchester (Jonathan Scott)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdVK3qm8nM4>

and after Tuesday 3rd November...

- from Cheltenham College (Alexander Ffinch)
<https://youtu.be/OHU3bQ8B1UU>

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Death of Peter Carder

Peter taught music for thirty years and had been a church organist for sixty years. He was Concert Organist of Darlaston Town Hall for eleven years.

BOA member Sylvia Fox has notified us of the following details provided by Peter's family...

Sadly, we are writing to pass on news that our father, Mr Peter Carder, passed away on Saturday 19th September at home in West Wales, aged 79. We wanted to pass on the news as Kings Norton was a huge part of Dad's life and career. Dad was organist and choirmaster at Kings Norton for seventeen years from 1976 to 1993 where, by his own admission in his life book that we have, he "did the best work of his life".

This is a sad time, but in music he gave the greatest gift to not only us but many pupils, choir members and congregation over the years, most recently at his local church where he played the organ and ran informal choral groups until the advent of Covid earlier this year.