

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES

REPORTER

Vol. XXIX, No. 3

JULY 2005

P.431/413



THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES

Registered charity no. 283936

Chairman Professor Peter Williams
Secretary José Hopkins
Treasurer Richard Hird

The annual subscription to BIOS is £25 (£18 concessionary). Full details of membership and subscriptions can be obtained from

Membership Administration Peter Harrison

BIOS REPORTER

Editor John Hughes

Reporter **October 2005**. The cut-off date for receiving copy for the October 2005 issue is 30 September 2005. Material submitted for the *Reporter* should be sent to the Editor as typewritten copy or on computer 3.5" disk or by e-mail attachment - most filetypes (RTF is preferred) and image formats can be read.

The *Reporter Website* can be viewed from a link on the *BIOS Website*, at <www.bios.org.uk>. The site was revised on 1 March 2005.

Opinions expressed in the *BIOS Reporter* are those of the respective contributors; they are not necessarily those of BIOS. The *Reporter* is printed by E.L. Jones a'i Fab, Cardigan; the type setting and distribution are by John Hughes.

The cover illustration is 'Chamber Organ (Maker unknown) belonging to Captain Lane'. No 1642 in the Andrew Freeman Collection, British Organ Archive.

EDITORIAL

The preservation of historic organs ought to be a simple affair, requiring no great feats of imagination or administration to ensure that important material is not destroyed; in particular, ecclesiastical exemption in planning matters, involving dedicated experts, is the obvious vehicle to deliver the necessary safeguards to protect valuable instruments and artefacts, in conjunction with the many organ-builders who recognise their responsibilities towards historically valuable organs.

Yet the old errors and mistakes recur with same inevitability as gales from the Atlantic blow over the editor's home. Eighteenth-century pipes and their context are obvious contenders for careful preservation; however, in recent weeks, Postill pipes have been picked up from a churchyard, where they had been thrown out; two ranks survived, but the other losses are impossible to ascertain. The dumping of the pipes was no illegal act, for a faculty had been granted to scrap the organ, despite the knowledge that the instrument contained valuable, historic material. Whatever the solution adopted to deal with the existing instrument, merely scrapping it was an abuse of the faculty system. The inevitable electronic replacement is ashamed to reveal itself, for its loudspeakers lurk behind the remaining pipe façade, although the scheme has not been carried through to its logical conclusion by providing electronic clergy substitutes.

A HOCS certificate is designed to draw attention to various important qualities in an organ. A redundant, but certificated, Edwardian instrument was inspected recently by a prospective purchaser, who, sensibly, brought along an adviser, an organist of some repute. The adviser tried the organ, then pronounced it defective. It had only twenty-nine speaking stops, whereas, it was declared, thirty-three was the minimum for a three-manual instrument. Four stops would have to be added, and that would make the total cost of moving the organ prohibitive. It would be fascinating, even instructive, to learn where such arithmetical minima are manifested. Of course, there was no comment offered on the century of sterling service rendered to the church and community music by this allegedly deficient instrument; to add further insult, the organ's HOCS certificate was queried on the grounds that it was not a 'wonderful organ'. The grotesque opinions offered did not gratify the organ's owners, who are well aware of its qualities, but, when such opinions pretend to be professional advice, valuable organs remain in some danger.

Where instruments remain in use, albeit in churches with small congregations, it is galling to observe that adequate organs continue to be mauled. Chance visits to churches in one county have revealed three Conacher organs and one by Thomas Jones, all well-built, mechanical-action, musical instruments, but with unnecessary electric pedal-units added, an 8' Flute here, an 8' Flute and Choral Bass 4' there.

The failings in the faculty system can be dealt with, but only through the same channel as the misconceptions of some advisers. Education is the antidote to the ignorance which leads to wrong decisions; the need to assert the values of BIOS has never been more pressing, as the straitened circumstances of churches affect the future of organs.



FROM THE SECRETARY

JOSÉ HOPKINS

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ST GEORGE'S GERMAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
ALIE STREET, WHITECHAPEL, LONDON EC
SATURDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2005**

Notice is hereby given that the 2005 Annual General Meeting of The British Institute of Organ Studies will take place on Saturday, 26 November 2005 at the German Lutheran Church, Alie Street, Whitechapel at 14.00 hours. All members whose subscriptions have been duly paid are entitled to attend (free of charge) and vote at the meeting.

The following elections of officers and ordinary members of the Council (to serve for terms of two years) will be made:

Chairman
Secretary
Meetings Officer
Publications Officer

One ordinary member of Council

Barrie Clark retires and is ineligible for re-election, having served for two terms of two years. Clause 7.4 of the Constitution states: 'Any two fully paid-up members of the Society shall be at liberty to nominate a member to serve on the Council'. Clause 7.5 states: 'the name of each member nominated under Clause 7.4 shall be given to the Secretary not less than seven days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting, accompanied by the candidate's consent to serve, if elected'. Nomination forms for officers and ordinary members of Council are obtainable from the Secretary (address on p. 19).

HISTORIC ORGAN CERTIFICATE SCHEME

BIOS Council has approved the introduction of a new Certificate of Recognition for organs which contain important archaeological material which should be safeguarded, but which otherwise do not themselves merit the award of a full Historic Organ Certificate. The first of these was awarded in the recent submissions ratified by Council (Church of Christ the Saviour, Ealing Broadway).

HISTORIC ORGAN SOUND ARCHIVE PROJECT

Another first for BIOS was the event which took place in Cawston, Norfolk in June. The organ in St Agnes's (Great organ rebuilt by G.P. England from an earlier organ of the Restoration period) had been recorded as part of the first batch of recordings now

available on NPOR, and the close relationship between the church and the school commended itself as a suitable choice for the first of twenty educational events in East Anglia which are a condition of the HLF grant.

In the afternoon, thirty Year 5 children plus teachers and onlookers were introduced to the mysteries of the organ, using an educational tool developed by the Oundle International Festival (and also hearing the organ). In the evening an audience of over fifty people in the church had a practical demonstration of the WOOFYT (Wooden One-octave Organ for Young Technologists), with audience participation, a verbal history of the organ from Richard Bower (organ-builder), and a practical demonstration of the organ's capabilities by Anne Page, finishing with a piece for violin and organ (Anne Page and Jeremy Sampson). We feel that a standard has been set for the remaining programme of events, which are still to be arranged.

Five more organs have been recorded at Thaxted (the Lincoln organ); Great and Little Bardfield; Ingrave; and West Thurrock.

THE NATIONAL PIPE ORGAN REGISTER

Following the retirement of Dr Mike Sayers from the University of Cambridge at the end of 2004, the accommodation for the NPOR office is no longer available as from the end of September 2005. We are grateful to Dr Sayers, Paul Houghton and various members of the team for their unstinting work over the years, and a fuller appreciation will appear in a later issue. We are fortunate, however, that space has been made available at the University of Central England Library, Perry Barr, Birmingham, for an interim office until the new home of the NPOR in the British Organ Library at Curzon Street is available. Contact details for the new location are given on p.20.

An advertisement is being prepared for the post of Database Manager under funds available for the development of the new Library. Any interested BIOS members should contact Dr David Baker (address on p. 19) in the first instance, who will direct enquirers to the appropriate source.

DONALD WRIGHT

RICHARD

HIRD

[The following is the text of a tribute to Dr Donald Wright presented at the memorial service in Hexham Abbey on 21 May 2005. An obituary notice will appear in *JOURNAL* 29],

Margaret [Wright] has asked me to say a few words about Donald's contribution to the organ world — in particular to The British Institute of Organ Studies and in his task as adviser to the Diocese of Durham. Let us not forget that Donald had other organ advisory roles, with the Newcastle Diocese and nationally on the Organ Advisory Group of the Society of St Gregory advising the Roman Catholic Church, primarily concerned with the provision of new instruments — of which more anon.

I cannot guarantee that I have all my facts straight, for I've only known aspects of Donald's incredibly busy and purposeful life since I moved to Durham thirty years

ago. We both joined BIOS in its early days, probably for different reasons. Donald's approach was always robust, 'promoting' that which he thought best. He didn't mind if he trod on a few toes spreading the message. Typical of the time was an article in the Society's *Journal* in 1978, 'Organ Advisory Work in the Anglican Communion: Some developments in recent years in the North East', in which he decries, amongst other things, the depressing lack of knowledge and understanding of the organ as a musical instrument on the part of many organists, clergy, and PCCs. Donald organised a BIOS residential conference in Newcastle in 1979, and it was three years later that he was persuaded to move into the spotlight and take over the reins from the founding chairman, Michael Gillingham. After his election in October 1983, the *Reporter* published a short biography for the information of the membership. Two interesting, somewhat contrasted, sentences stand out: '... in 1961, Harrison & Harrison rebuilt the organ [in the University Church of St. Thomas] in consultation with Dr. Wright, and this was one of the first large "post Festival Hall" organs in the North of England. ... as organs adviser ... He has been responsible for encouraging the preservation of organs of historic interest in the North East, and also, the replacement of second-rate instruments with new, mechanical action organs.' Note, however, there was no specific mention of the [Hexham] Abbey organ of 1974, of which there were mixed views at the time even in BIOS. Donald's other magnum opus, his guiding of the Frobenius organ in Oundle School Chapel, dates from 1984.

Donald still remains the longest serving Chairman of BIOS, eight years, until 1991. During his time there were annual residential conferences in areas as diverse as Dorset, Bristol, Durham (that DW and I organised), Birmingham, Reading, East Germany, Glasgow, and Dublin. Donald's forte and undoubted aim was to achieve a more efficiently run organisation, better known and able to extend the scope of its activities. The duo of Chairman and Secretary (Nicholas Thistlethwaite, who to his great regret cannot be here today) found, and inveigled into office, people they could trust, an effective team, to help deliver; one of Donald's oft-repeated maxims was 'to get a job done, ask a busy person'. In leaving office, Donald admitted being fortunate to have had such hard-working colleagues. He certainly had relished the opportunity of taking a full and active part in the business of the society, but there remained much to be done. Further progress, however, needed refreshment at the top, indeed a change of style; his words, whatever can he have meant?

Travel provided Donald and me with quite a bit of time together, putting various worlds to rights. I learnt about his fishing exploits, and the thermostatically controlled wine store cooler he had made in his garage loft. On the return rail journeys, Donald's normal routine was to agree a form of wording to fill in the gaps he had left in the pre-prepared minutes of the meeting we'd attended, and then get out the wine bottle and glasses and a picnic from his battered briefcase — 'Help yourself, m'boy'. As Chairman and Treasurer, on one memorable occasion we arrived half-way through a Council meeting in London after the train, a 125 in those days, hit a herd of stray cows on the line just north of York. Then there was the time in his car on a circuitous route (via various organs) to a conference, after we'd stopped at a service area. Returning to the motorway, Donald pulled straight out on the slip road in front of a police car; the

blue flashing light went on and Donald muttered something muted, ‘Oh dear’. The exchange with the policeman however was extremely polite, he wasn’t concentrating etc., and he got away with a reprimand. Several old timers in BIOS also remember Donald’s antics at a lunchtime stop in the wilds of East Germany (as it then still was), waving his hands around and shouting, trying to organise a coach-load of organ fanatics into a quiet, compact group to take a conference photograph. He had to back off so far down the road to fit us all in that he had to sprint to get back into the frame as the timer blinked away. He promised and did provide us all with a copy, which I must have somewhere.

Enough of trivia. Donald seems to have commenced duties as Durham Diocese’s Organs Adviser in 1964. What a different situation seems to have prevailed to that today! Thanks to people like Donald, prepared to fight for a better system and more enlightened outcomes, today’s advisers, even the church hierarchy and actual clients, are arguably better prepared. Whether the climate we work in has improved overall is a moot point. Donald was working blind however, and, very logically, one of his first initiatives in 1965 seems to have been to undertake a postal survey as a means of trying to find out about the organs and introducing his expert services as adviser. There were successes — a dozen or more new, mostly small organs, not necessarily appreciated, and many organs safeguarded, even restored to greater or lesser degree. A damper was put on inappropriate rebuilding of organs for the sake of more stops or unnecessary pistons (lessons learnt from the St Thomas’s approach, perhaps). Donald’s pioneering thoughts on the role of an organs adviser, spelt out in his *Journal* article, could scarcely be expressed better today.


To cut a long story short, at Donald’s suggestion, Bishop David Jenkins invited me to join Donald as adviser and on the Diocesan Advisory Committee in 1989, and we shared the visiting and the work, until Donald finally relinquished his diocesan position in 1991, continuing with some consultancy commissions. It was gratifying for instance to see the splendid and amazing old organ at Rock, nr. Alnwick, that Donald ‘discovered’ finally restored to pristine state whilst he could just about appreciate it.

That attitudes, approaches and activities have shifted in the organ world, hopefully for the better, is partly the result of Donald’s immense contribution as an organ consultant and advisor particularly in the North East, and when Chairman of BIOS and since. Life and work is surely a learning process for everybody.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

PETER HARRISON

A membership recruitment initiative at the recent Archives Conference of the American based Organ Historical Society, coupled to increased direct contact there by me, has begun to produce results and I am pleased to welcome :

Dr Any Raquel Carvalho: 

This means our membership now totals 697 but this total includes thirty-four members who normally pay annually by cheque, but have failed to do so this year. I remind

members that our constitution states that members who have not paid the subscription by 1 August will cease to be members. I will shortly be writing to those members, but if you are in that group, please help to reduce this extra task and cost by paying immediately.

I am very sorry to report the death in April of Dr Donald E. Wright, for many years a Council member, and, from 1983 to 1991, Chairman of BIOS. Mr Norman A. Taylor of Caterham, a member since 1989, died in January; a memorial recital will be given on the newly refurbished organ at Caterham Valley U.R.C. on 26 November 2005 at 7.30 p.m. Finally, I report the death of Mr J. A. Skinner of Chatteris who had been a member since 1979.

The BIOS e-mail list, initiated by my predecessor and which had to be suspended last year for technical reasons concerning ‘spam filter systems’, is to be re-launched this summer. BIOS is keen to avoid excessive amounts of material being sent to the e-mail boxes of members, so the operating guidelines will be as before with only material having a close relationship to the aims of BIOS being circulated. Copies of the list guidelines are available on request to *BIOS-Membership@phmusic.co.uk* and this same e-mail address should be used to submit material proposed for distribution.

To observe the latest etiquette for avoiding ‘junk-mail’, all BIOS members with e-mail addresses will receive an e-mailed invitation to opt in to the new list, but will not become members of it until they reply. I would like to encourage all members to open up this extra channel of communication, even if only on a trial basis, as opting out if it does not prove useful is very easy.

HISTORIC ORGAN CERTIFICATE SCHEME

PAULJOSLIN

The instruments in the following buildings and churches were awarded a certificate under the Historic Organs Certificate Scheme by Council at its meeting on 29 January 2005

Building	Organ-builder	Status
Our Lady and All Saints, Annesley	F. Rothwell	II*
Christ Church, Brunswick Road, Gloucester	J. Nicholson, 1866/1900	II
St Anne’s, Chasetown, Burntwood, Staffs	J.W. Walker, 1864	II
St Munn’s, Kilmun, Dunoon	Norman & Beard, 1909	II*
St Andrew’s, Nether Wallop, Hants.	J.W. Walker, 1879/80	II*
St John the Evangelist’s, Carlton, Barnsley	J.J. Binns, 1898	II*
St Mary the Virgin’s, Wellingborough	Wm. Hill & Son, 1914	I

The following certificates were awarded by Council at its meeting on 4 June 2005.

Wesley Bible Institute, Cole Street, Netherton	J.W. Walker, 1867 (incorporating eighteenth-century casework and pipes)	II
St Lawrence’s, Hilmarton, Wilts.	W. Sweetland 1875	II*
St George’s, Southall	A. Jordan, 1723	II*
St Mark’s, Noel Park, London	Hele & Co., 1894	II*

St John the Evangelist's, Great Wenham, Suffolk	Thomas C. Lewis c. 1868	II*
St Mary the Virgin's, Gestingthorpe, Essex	J.J. Binns 1909	II

The following organ was awarded a *Certificate of Recognition*:
 Christ the Saviour's, Ealing Broadway East and west cases c. 1906
 by G.F. Bodley

PUBLICATIONS

Journal 29 (2005)

The editor is Relf Clark, to whom enquiries should be addressed.

Journal 30 (2006)

The editor is William McVicker, to whom enquiries should be addressed.

Journals 1-28

Copies of *Journals* 1-28 are available, at reduced rates for BIOS members, from Positif Press, 130 Southfield Road, Oxford OX4 1PA, tel.: 01865 243 220.

Index

Copies of the Index to volumes 1-15 of the *Journal* may be obtained from Positif Press. Michael Popkin has completed the index to volumes 16-25, which is now in the course of publication.

BIOS WEBSITE ADDRESS

Richard Hird advises that, although his web pages have been moved to a new address, the BIOS *Website* remains at its present address (given on p.2). BIOS pages can be read from the BIOS *Website* address, although users may prefer to mark the new addresses of some pages.

ORGAN CALENDAR

Andrew Hayden has produced a 2006 calendar containing thirteen colour photographs of British organs; the A3, spiral-bound calendar, costing £13.50 (UK price), can be obtained from Andrew Hayden (address on p.20).

NATIONAL PIPE ORGAN REGISTER (NPOR)

MICHAEL SAYERS

The NPOR is moving to become part of the new British Organ Library, which is a joint venture between the Royal College of Organists, the British Institute of Organ Studies and the University of Central England; it will be in the RCO headquarters in Birmingham.

In order to prepare for the move of the NPOR office to Birmingham in September 2005, we have stopped accepting new corrections or additions to the contents of the NPOR database in Cambridge. Our efforts will be concentrated on completing work in progress, on completing the NPOR part of the HOSA project and on preparing the material, computers, software and documentation for the move.

Information regarding additions or corrections should be sent to the NPOR Manager in Birmingham (address on p.20). Because of the move and the need to recruit new staff in Birmingham it is unlikely that any communications will be acted upon before November 2005.

The present address of the web service is <http://npor.emma.cam.ac.uk> but, after September, it will have an address in the uce.ac.uk domain. The web address <http://www.bios.org.uk/npor.html> will be revised to keep track of these moves and this is the address which should be 'bookmarked'. The present server, <http://lehuray2.csi.cam.ac.uk>, will be removed on 31 August 2005. Until then, the present web service and the present format of presentation will be available but development will be suspended. The new web site will have the look and feel of that currently running on <http://npor.emma.cam.ac.uk>

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sir,

We recently bought a second-hand English organ for our church in Zoetermeer, The Netherlands. Now we are looking for more background information on this organ.

In the NPOR, it is filed as number N16325 (Maley, Young and Oldknow, 1880). This organ appears to have been removed from its church in about 1982, then shipped to Holland. In Holland, it was then sold twice, the second time to us, and we intend to have it restored and placed in our church. Unfortunately, we do not have a great deal of background information on this organ. The congregation which bought the organ in 1982 was only about twenty persons, but the man who shipped the organ to Holland does not remember its name or any contacts.

In the NPOR listing, I find the following: 'Source ref: CD.44.63 Harvey collection 1936, *Musical Opinion* December 1880. Updated 1941 by FDa 1880 incorporates A01136 (deleted)'. Would it be possible to get a copy of the above documents? If so, where can I apply? In 1982, it was said by the people who then owned the organ that some 78 r.p.m. recordings, possibly dated before 1940 are available. Who could point me to more information on this? How can I find the organist who played the organ before 1982? In Holland, the local government keeps records of all addresses and owners of builders, but how is this arranged in the UK? I hope your readers can help us; we will be glad to make a donation to the NPOR in return.

Marco van der Kolk Zoetermeer,
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Sir,

Nearly as surprising as the remarkable organ interest in Peterhead in the early nineteenth century (David Welch's paper, *BIOSRep* XXIX, 2, 20) is the effort made at that time to promote the town as a fashionable spa and seaside resort. The Freemasons' Lodge was converted by James Arbuthnot into 'a pump room, coffee room and long room for the accommodation of the company, who have likewise the use of two

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES

and

DAC ORGAN ADVISERS

JOINT RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE 2005

Monday 22 August - Thursday 25 August

The programme may be subject to some alterations in detail.

MONDAY 22 AUGUST

14.00— 15.00

Registration. Delegates are advised to book into the Halls of Residence, Cardiff University, Senghenydd Road, Cardiff, before proceeding to Eglwys Dewi Sant where refreshments will be served.

EGLWYS DEWI SANT

Organ by Henry Willis, 1887; restored Hindmarsh, 1981.

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------|---|
| 15.00 | Peter Hindmarsh | Twenty-five years on, a perspective on an organ restoration |
| 16.00 | Peter Williams | How do we come to have the organ and what difference has it made? |
| 17.00 | | Own arrangements for dinner in Cardiff |

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CARDIFF

Organ by Henry Willis, 1894; restored Wells, 2004/5

20.00 Thomas Trotter Grand Opening Concert of the restored organ

This supplement and Booking Form may be removed from the Reporter without disturbing the pagination

TUESDAY 23 AUGUST

09.00 Buses from Halls of Residence to
CONWAY ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Organ by Harrison & Harrison, 1922 (HOCS)

09.30 Richard Hird An introduction to the history of the organ

10.30 Refreshments

11.00 William McVicker Pitch and the organ; an introduction and discussion

12.30 Short programme of organ music

12.45 Buses to central Cardiff

13.00 Lunch in St John's

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CARDIFF

13.15—14.15 Registration for DAC organ advisers not attending
from Monday

14.30 Short demonstration of the organ with discussion
of the restoration work with David Wells, Nicholas
Thistlethwaite, David Frostick and David Knight;
Huw Tregelles Williams (chairman and organist)

15.45 Tea

16.15 Own arrangements for dinner in Cardiff

ST JOHN'S CHURCH, CARDIFF

20.00 Relf Clark Ivor Atkins, his father (Frederick Pike Atkins), and
the St John's connection: with musical examples

WEDNESDAY 24 AUGUST

09.00 Buses from Halls of Residence to
ST SAVIOUR'S CHURCH, ROATH

Organ by Wadsworth

09.15 An introduction to the organ,
its significance and future

10.30 Bus to

ST GERMAN'S CHURCH, ROATH

Organ by Hill, 1884, rebuilt c. 1960

10.45 Short programme of organ music

11.00 Tea/coffee break

11.30 David Knight The work of the Council for the Care of Churches
in relation to organs; and discussion

12.30 Alan Thurlow Retrospective after ten years as Chairman of the
CCC Organs Committee

13.00 Katherine Venning Present concerns of the IBO

13.30		Lunch
14.30	Göran Grahn	Post-1960 new organs and organ restorations; how to understand them, how to treat them
15.00		Bus to

ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH, PENARTH

Organ by Hill, 1895; restored Harrison & Harrison

15.30	Robert Court	Short demonstration of the organ
	Mark Venning	The recent restoration of the organ
16.00		Refreshments
16.30	Nicholas Thistlethwaite	The importance of Hill in Wales
16.50	John Hughes	'Praise the Lord! We are a musical nation.'
17.30		Bus back to Halls of Residence
19.00		Reception
19.30		Conference Dinner at the Thistle Hotel, Cardiff Speaker: Huw Tregelles Williams

THURSDAY 25 AUGUST

EGLWYS DEWI SANT

07.30		Holy Communion
09.15		Business meeting for DAC organ advisers

THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF WALES, CATHAYS PARK, CARDIFF

The Wynnstay organ by Snetzler, 1774; Green, 1789; Gray & Davison, 1864.

Restored by Goetze & Gwynn, 1996

10.00	Oliver Fairclough	A short programme of organ music an introduction to the history and background of the Wynnstay organ.
10.30	Dominic Gwynn	The restoration of the Wynnstay organ
11.15		Refreshments
11.45	Martin Renshaw	Did Snetzler lose?
12.15	Alan Thurlow	Final discussions, a look to the future chairman
12.45		Close of Conference

BOOKING FORM

**JOINT ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL CONFERENCE
BIOS and DAC ORGAN ADVISERS
22—25 AUGUST 2005**

Name.....

Address.....

..... Post Code.....

tel.:.....(daytime) tel.:..... (evening)

Please tick below

I wish to reserve a place for the whole conference
Monday to Thursday @ £205.00

For DOAs: I wish to reserve a place for the
conference from Tuesday afternoon to the end,
to include accommodation and final meal @ £155.00

DAY RATES

I wish to reserve a place for Monday @ £15 **n**

I wish to reserve a place for Tuesday @ £25

I wish to reserve a place for Wednesday
(including dinner) @ £50

I wish to reserve place for Thursday @ £15

Cheques, including those from BIOS members, should be made payable to:
Diocesan Organ Advisers Conference. Please return this form, or a photocopy, to:

BIOS/DAC CONFERENCE

.....

.....
.....

excellent organs'. (James Arbuthnot, jun., *An Historical Account of Peterhead*, Aberdeen, 1815). A notice in the *Aberdeen Journal*, 16 July 1806, says:

Exercise, Social Intercourse, and Amusement, are found particularly useful at a watering place; but as the common sources of these are not suited to the solemnity of a Sunday, a wish has been expressed by many that some innocent Recreation, conducive to cheerfulness and health, and not repugnant to the exercise of our religious duties, might be established here. Therefore Mr. Arbuthnot proposes to set on foot the performance of SACRED MUSIC, VOCAL and INSTRUMENTAL, in the ORGAN ROOM, on SUNDAY Afternoons ... Mr. Morison, Organist of St. Peter's Chapel, will attend for the performance of Psalms, Hymns, and Anthems ... It is proposed that each person attending shall pay Sixpence: the money, after paying for necessary expences, to go to the fund for the aid of poor Stranger Bathers.

Jim Inglis,


Sir,

With reference to David Welch's two articles on pre-1820 organs in N.E. Scotland (*BIOSRep* XXVIII,3,14 and XXIX,2,16): the photograph of St Paul's Qualified Chapel, Aberdeen, taken c. 1845 raises a query about the style of the organ case, compared to the date of its installation here c. 1722. The design of the case is close to several built in the period c. 1665-90 by Smith, Harris and Dallam, and probably others, in which broken pediments, some triangular and some with convex tops were used. Sometimes these were simply moulded curves and not specifically pediments. Columns occasionally framed the arched flats, and, if of two tiers, only the lower flats were embellished like this. St Lawrence Jewry's unusually had an order of columns the height of both levels of flats. Some designs used smaller central towers, but many looked rather like the Aberdeen example with taller central towers. For 1722 this Aberdeen case would have been an old fashioned design. Is it possible that it was second-hand when it arrived, or was the maker just very out of touch with current fashion? This may well be the case here, but the engagement of a London builder and two staff at considerable expense could provide a reason for this anomaly. Is it possible that Bristow brought the case with him? Presumably not as his contract would have made reference to this.

The spelling of Bristow/Bristowe varies between the two articles. Is the latter the result of further research?

Barrie Clark,


David Welch has replied to Barrie Clark's letter:

Sir,

I am grateful for Barrie Clark's opinion on the case design and his suggestion that the case was perhaps second-hand when installed c. 1722. The 1726 indenture is very

detailed but has no mention of a case or its materials being transported, so I feel sure it did not then come from London. Also, the 1724 list referred to in my second article shows there was a separate subscription fund for timber for the organ, suggesting the case was built in Aberdeen.

A possible source of the organ or its pipes is the organ present in 1708 in King's College Chapel. This was either removed or destroyed when the university leaders who favoured Episcopalian worship were replaced *c.* 1717.

The spelling discrepancy reflects usage: the scribe wrote 'Bristow' throughout the indenture but the organ-builder signed as 'Bristowe'. Also, Jim Inglis had 'James Bristowe' working at Glamis Castle in the 1730s.

THE LATE-SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY ORGAN AT ST MARTIN'S, WORLE

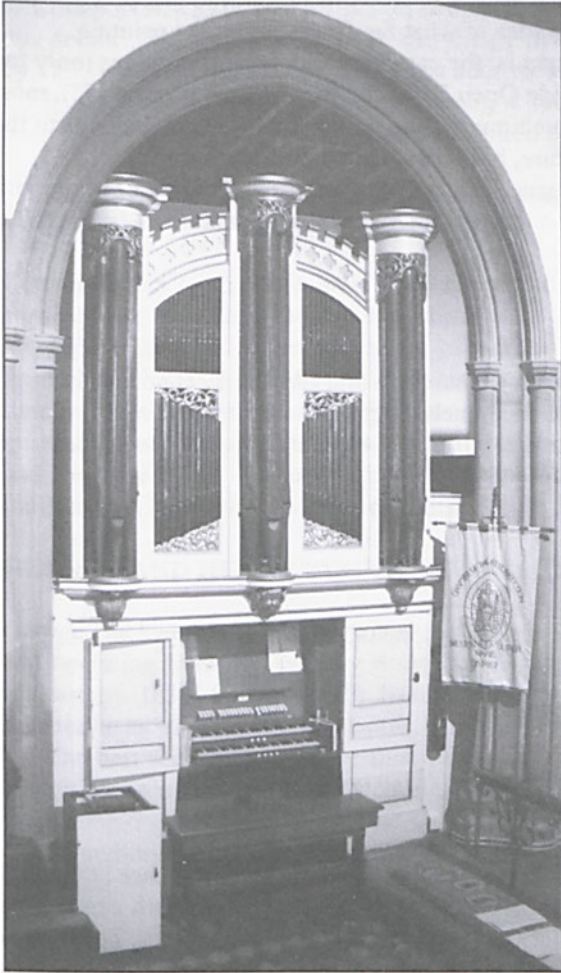
DOMINIC GWYNN

The stories that are attached to historic organs form a study in themselves. The organ at Worle, near Weston-Super-Mare, is known as the 'Prayer Book Organ' because it is supposed to have been made in 1662. It is also supposed to have been made in Frankfurt am Main, which you would have thought might have spoiled the epithet.

However, if we trace the history of the organ, rather than the folklore, the following, very incomplete, story emerges. I wonder whether other researchers can help me to carry the story of this organ further. It seems to me to be an unusual survival, parts of an organ of the second rank. Unfortunately for my researches, it seems not to have started its life in Somerset, but apparently was imported in the 1860s from Blackburn Unitarian Chapel (and, presumably, originally from another Lancashire church). I have not examined the Worle church records for the nineteenth century, though the author of the church guide book has. I can say that there is no trace of an organ in the churchwardens accounts before 1770.

The case is almost exactly 12' tall, 7' 6" wide and 4' deep, with F of the Open Diapason the longest front pipe. It looks like a provincial derivative of a standard design by Renuart Harris from the first half of his career, say 1670s (Holy Sepulchre, Holborn, 1676) to 1690s (St Andrew Undershaft, 1695). The rounded shoulders of the flats are characteristic of this style, often treated more architecturally, and with an oval field of pipes below. The Worle organ is rendered less impressive than others, partly by the alterations, and partly by the weak accent provided by the centre tower, which has three pipes instead of five like the side towers.

The front pipes are more reminiscent of Harris than the builders associated with Bernard Smith. One characteristic of Harris's organs is the variety in the shape of the front pipe upper lips. In the side towers, the two largest pipes have ogee-shaped, and the others round, upper lips, in contrast to the long bay leaf of those in the centre tower and the flats. The pipes with makers' marks are marked in a style similar to the Harris school of builders. However, the wooden pipes are like those associated with Smith. The differences between the different makers' wooden pipes is not great, but the



Photograph: Dominic Gwynn The organ was turned around to

face into the chancel, the tower

cap mouldings were cut to fit the case under the arch, and the centre tower was shortened, with the cornice moulding and the frieze above the pipe shade removed. Perhaps the pierced frieze and the crenellations above the flats were added at this time too. The organ was evidently restored as found, with additions: the key compass was extended, a pedalboard, and a couple of stops added, the Great Dulciana and the Flute.

In 1957, the Thompson guidebook tells us that the organ was rebuilt by Percy Daniel of Clevedon, presumably replacing all the mechanism, including the swell box, wind chests, and the console. Much of the pipework was replaced too, though it is impossible now to say what that pipework was. The stoplists in 1931 and 2003 can be seen on the NPOR. In 1971 the organ was redecorated. The front pipes were stripped of their original gilding (and no doubt added varnish and paint), and the front was

stopper handles are often distinctive; these have the pillow-shaped knobs of those found in Smith's organs. Unfortunately, the wooden pipes have been painted, presumably in 1957, and the pipe marks have been obliterated.

The mix of Smith-style and Harris-style pipes and the slightly down-market version of a Harris case, make the following scenario likely. A provincial destination from a London workshop, design and manufacture by an assortment of builders trained in the workshops of Smith and Harris, perhaps in the years immediately after their workshops had ceased to function in London in around 1708. There is no need to invent a provenance in Frankfurt — this is definitely an English organ.

The organ is shown in the 1869 plan of the church as it would be restored in 1870 (by John Norton, the architect of the restoration). In Somerset Record Office there is an 1876 estimate for work by Vowles, which is quoted in the church guide book.

painted white with gold paint to the ornaments. It is difficult not to weep. The treble side of the case in the vestry gives an idea of what the finish before the painting.

What survives of the original organ is: the casework (altered), front pipes (only the tower pipes now speaking), five inside Open Diapason pipes (three marked 'T'), most of the wooden Stop Diapason, and a chimney flute on the Swell, which belongs to the open pipes in marking and manufacture, but poses a number of questions.

If anyone is interested in this organ, I will be pleased to send a copy of my report, preferably as an electronic copy on disc so that the photographs can be included

SOURCES

Jenny and Stanley Thompson, *St Martin's Church, Worle* (Worle, 1991).

Church records at Somerset Record Office, including:

churchwardens accounts (D/P/wor/4/1/1 1697-1744, etc.),

vestry minutes (D/P/wor/9/1/3 1826-1891, etc.),

1876 estimate for repairs to organ (D/P/wor/6/3/4)

www.churchplansonline.org

Worle, St Martin, plan by John Norton 1869

NPOR, entry 1931, revised 2003

BOA, Andrew Freeman notebooks and photograph, 1931

RESEARCH NOTES

PAUL TINDALL

THE ORGAN AT LITTLEPORT

St George's, Littleport, in the Isle of Ely, contains a copy of the Smith case at Great St Mary's, Cambridge.¹ The incumbent of Littleport in the early nineteenth century, the Revd Edward Bowyer Sparke, certainly showed a lively interest in organs: he seems to have been the owner of a copy of Sutton's *A Short Account of Organs built in England*, inscribed 'E.B. Sparke' in a bold Victorian hand.² He was the son of the infamous nepotist, Bowyer Edward Sparke, Bishop of Ely 1812-36. The younger Sparke was Rector of Feltwell (across the fen over the Norfolk border) 1831-79 and Canon of Ely as well as Vicar of Littleport. He erected an organ in the latter church 'at his own expense' in 1838.³ It may have been a barrel organ by Hill.⁴ In 1857, the architect, Samuel Sanders Teulon (a relation of the Teulons who worked for Hill & Son), added a new second nave and aisle to the church, again at Sparke's expense.⁵ Like it or not, his architecture generally has drama, but the addition is sedate by his standards. In 1863, the 'new organ' was opened by 'the builder Mr Holdich of London',⁶ and Sparke resigned the living in 1865.

The origins of the present organ are uncertain. A correspondent, P. Pain of Dersingham, writing to Andrew Freeman,⁷ said that it had been built by Booth 'for an old doctor who lived at the house known as Chestnut House, Milton', and was moved

to Littleport in 1891 after his death, Milton church having refused the gift. Who was this doctor? There is none listed in the village in *Kelly* shortly before this date, though by 1896 Chestnut Villa had become the address of Edmunds' Nurseries.

It is hard to imagine the case enclosing a house organ, and it might already have been in the church. Perhaps Sparke was inspired by Sutton's enthusiasm:⁸

The Cafes which were built by Schmidt, in the latter part of the feventeenth century, are far better than any thing which has been built fince.

Certain details of the case have been simplified from the original model: the tower cornices are rounded, rather than segmented, and the pipe shade design is less involved. Although apparently made of oak, as is the original, these details and a general mechanical smoothness of execution point to it having been made at some time in the nineteenth century. The date 1772 sometimes attached to it comes from a misreading of William Ludlam's letter to the *Spectator* in that year.⁹ The organ itself was 'enlarged and improved' by Miller in 1894:¹⁰ it is better to pass over the indignities it has suffered in recent times.

GEORGE AND HENRY BUCKWELL

George Buckwell was a minor London organ-builder, born between 1767 and 1771" and operating from 30 Hackney Road from *c.* 1820. He died in 1850;¹² he was joined, at least by 1834, by his son(?) Henry, bom between 1807 and 1811.¹³ Henry was referred to as 'the late Henry Buckwell' in 1867.¹⁴

The best surviving organ by Buckwell is in Guilden Morden church, Cambs., from where it was moved from St Michael's, Cambridge in the 1960s. This church has an interesting organ history.

Humphrey Argent repaired an organ in 1800,¹⁵ and, in 1833, appeared the following:

a new organ in place of the old one, which has probably been in the church upward of 200 years, as it appears from the parish books that it was lent to [sic] the University in 1681. A new instrument of a superior kind has been built by Messrs. Buckwall [sic] of London, at an expense of more than 250 pounds.¹⁶

Sperling says:¹⁷ 'A large organ by Buckwell 1830', and later, under 'Halesowen':¹⁸

Lincoln 1838 said to have been built by a person named Mott for S. Michaels Cambridge, and only erected here by Lincoln.

This must be the organ replaced by Buckwell: Mott is unknown to fame. On 11 November 1849, a fire broke out at St Michael's, and Joseph Romilly, a Fellow of Trinity College, records the aftermath:¹⁹

She [a relation] was much dissatisfied with the huge unsightly church-darkening organ of St Michael's which has just been put up at Trinity and was played today for the first time.

This would hardly have been in the Chapel, where there was already a large organ: perhaps St Michael's congregation and the organ moved temporarily to the Hall of Trinity College.

The Buckwells may well have had local connections: a Henry John Buckwell MA and his wife were Master and Mistress of St Paul's School in Russell Street, Cambridge in 1900.²⁰ There was another Buckwell organ at St Clement's, Cambridge, later at Witchford:²¹

The Organ which has been in the Church since September 28th, 1871, and which was found insufficient for the present needs of the congregation, has been replaced by a very excellent instrument, which was originally built by the late Mr. Buckwell, of Cambridge, [sic] who had much reputation as an organ builder about 100 years ago. Some time later, the organ was enlarged and improved by Messrs. Miller & Son, also of Cambridge, whose firm have now been engaged in the removal and rebuilding of it in Witchford Church. Some thirty years ago, it was the property of the Rev. Mr. Ward, who was vicar of St. Clement's Church in Cambridge, and he placed it in that Church.

The case of the organ at Guilden Morden is now only a pipe-rack, but a handsome Buckwell case survives in the classical church of St John Baptist's, Hoxton, which was near Buckwell's workshop in the Hackney Road. On 27 October 1826, a 'Committee for furnishing the said Church with an Organ' was set up,²² and, on 1 November, a letter (which does not survive) was 'read from Messrs. Clementi, in answer to the application made to them respecting an Organ'.

This organ was, at first, on hire, as further Vestry Minutes show:²³

4 September 1827

... to learn of Messrs. Clementi & Co. at what price they will sell the Organ at present in St John's also whether Messrs. Clementi & Co. would allow the cost price of the present Organ when they should have an order for a more expensive one.

10 September 1827

... price of the Organ now in St John's is £120. Resolved that the Organ be purchased. Gratuity of 10 guineas to be given to Mr Severn for having played the Organ from the Opening of the Church.

On 30 September 1829, Mr Severn was granted thirty guineas for his services, and, on 2 August 1830, 'Mr dementi's Bill for Repairing and Tuning' was £3 13s 6d. According to Sperling this organ was removed to St Philip's, Bethnal Green, when Buckwell replaced it.

25 November 1833

We have hitherto conducted the musical part of the service by the means of a small and imperfect Organ which is at present nearly useless.

26 November 1833

Copy of Specification sent to different Organ Builders.

The Organ now in the church to be the property of the Builder of the new one.

Case to be of Wainscott.

One Row and a Half of keys and an Octave and a half of German Pedals with Twelve Pedal Pipes to be Double Diapason to D and Unisons below.

A Coupling stop to Unite the Swell and Great Organ

A Coupling stop to Pedals

Four Composition Pedals

Great Organ Long Octaves from Double G to F in Alt including the Double G#

Open Diapason Through Double Diapason to Gamut G

Stop'd Diapason

Principal

Fifteenth

Sesquialtra three ranks

Mixture two ranks

Flute to F

Trumpet

Venetian Swell to F

Open Diapason

Stop'd Diapason

Principal

Trumpet

Hautboy

27 November 1833

Mr Sawyer is requested to write to the following organ builders: Mr Bishop, Mr Buckwell, Messrs. Elliot & Hill, Mr Gray, Mr Russell. Resolved that this Meeting do not consider themselves bound to accept the lowest tender.

3 December 1833

[The prices quoted, plus the old organ, were : Bishop 320 Guineas, G. & H. Buckwell £229 or £209 in a deal case, Elliot & Hill £380, Gray 270 Guineas, Russell £235].

Resolved that Messrs. G. & H. Buckwell be requested to furnish a drawing of a front of an organ, with circular towers, and to reconsider his difference in price between a wainscot and a deal case.

9 December 1833

Resolved that Messrs. G. & H. Buckwell's proposal be accepted for the sum of £231 plus the old organ.

As so often, things did not progress as quickly as the Parish hoped, and on 6 October 1834 a letter from Henry Buckwell was copied into the minutes. He sympathized with their disappointment 'my health having been precarious for some time past, we hope that having put into the organ a twelfth stop beyond our agreement ...'[etc] However, the organ was quickly finished, and, on 1 December, it was recorded that two sermons were preached at the opening on 19 October. Mr C. Severn was still the organist. George Mather, organist of St Bride's, Fleet Street, certified that the organ was 'complete in every respect', and on 11 December 1834 it was

Resolved that £10 be paid to Messrs. Buckwell for a Cremona stop be paid £231 [the contract price] and £10 for the twelfth stop which has been added to the New Organ.

GEORGE PARSONS

My speculations regarding the Parsons family (*BIOSRep* XXVI, 3, 21-3) can now be supported with evidence from George's will.²³ This was proved on 1 January 1841, and indicated that Stephen was indeed George's son, and Samuel his nephew. It reads, in part:

1 George Parsons of Duke Street Bloomsbury Organ Builder give unto my son Stephen Parsons the lease of the house in which I now reside and numbered 25 in Duke Street and I give unto my Nephew Samuel Parsons fifteen pounds to buy Mourning. [He leaves No. 26 Duke Street to his daughter Harriet Suckling] the said Executors to allow my Son if he should so desire and the better to enable him to carry on the Organ building business to retain to his own use the workshop belonging to the house No. 26 Duke Street [provided that he pay] the said daughter the yearly rent of fifteen pounds by quarterly instalments.

This sounds like a recipe for family strife! The trade card inscribed 'S. Parsons, Maker, Nephew to George Parsons, No. 26, January 1st 1830', places Samuel in Duke Street as early as this. It would seem, therefore, that Stephen and Samuel were working together after George's death, although Stephen is not heard of after the 1841 Census.

NOTES

1. *BIOSRep* XXV W, 3, 22.
2. Author's collection.
3. *Cambridge Chronicle* [CC], 22 December 1838.
4. BOA, Hill Estimate Book, 1838.
5. CC, 18 April 1857.
6. CC, 7 November 1863. It appears in Holdich's 1871 list at 'rebuilt'.
7. *Musical Opinion* 709 (October 1936), letter from Andrew Freeman.
8. Sutton, Sir John, *A Short Account of Organs built in England* (1847), 95—6.
9. *BIOSRep* XXVII, 3, 22 and Freeman, A., 'A Contemporary Criticism of Eighteenth-Century Organs', *Musical Opinion* 707 (August 1936), 947-8.
10. CC, 28 December 1894.
11. 1841 Census, HO 107/709/3/10.
12. PRO Wills 11/2123/191. George was still living at 30 Hackney Road in 1841 when the will was made: Henry is not mentioned.
13. 1841 Census (Grasse street), HO 107/686. Grasse Street is in the Rose Street / Hanway Street / Stephen Street workshop area near Tottenham Court Road. Does this indicate that Henry Buckwell was working for someone other than George in 1841? There is a directory entry for George and Henry in 1833, but for George only again from 1838.
14. *Musical Standard* 137, 16 March 1867, letter from Daniel Masked.
15. *A Description of Some of the Parish Churches of Cambridge* (Nichols, Son & Bentley, c.1810).
16. *Christian Remembrancer*, XV (1833), 58.
17. Spurling Notebooks, II.
18. Spurling Notebooks, III.
19. Bury, M.E. and Pickles, J.D. (eds), 'Romilly's Cambridge Diary 1848-64', *Cambridge Rec. Soc. 14* (Cambridge 2000), 50. Diary entry for 2 December 1849.
20. *Kelly's Directory* 1900.
21. *Witchford Parish Church Website* 2004; quotation from the vicar in 1896.
22. *Vestry Minutes*, LMA P 91/JNE/03.

THE BRITISH INSTITUTE OF ORGAN STUDIES

Registered charity no. 283936

COUNCIL 2004 - 2005

Chairman	Professor Peter Williams [REDACTED]
Secretary	Mrs José Hopkins (2003) [REDACTED]
Treasurer	Richard Hird (2004) [REDACTED]
Archivist	Vacant
Information Services	Dr David Baker (2004) [REDACTED]
Meetings	Dr David Knight (2003) [REDACTED]
Publications	Dr Relf Clark (2003) [REDACTED]
Publicity	Dr David Hemsley (2004) [REDACTED]
Council	Dr Jim Berrow (2004) Derrick Carrington (2004) Barrie Clark (2003) John Hughes (2004) Melvin Hughes (2004) John Norman (2004) *Dr Michael Sayers

Co-opted: co-options take place annually. The election dates of Council members are shown in parentheses. All members of Council are trustees of the charity.

BIOS administers

THE BRITISH ORGAN ARCHIVE (BOA)

*Birmingham City Archives (top floor), Central Library,
Chamberlain Square, Birmingham B3 3HQ.*

Open Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10.00-17.00, Thursdays 10.00-20.00, Fridays and Saturdays 10.00-17.00; closed on Sundays and Mondays. Members wishing to use the BOA should contact:

**Project Development
Manager**

Andrew Hayden,
[REDACTED]

THE HISTORIC ORGANS CERTIFICATE SCHEME (HOCS)

Coordinator

Paul Joslin,
[REDACTED]

THE NATIONAL PIPE ORGAN REGISTER (NPOR) www.bios.org.uk/npor.html

The NPOR Database Manager,
British Organ Library, Library Services,
[REDACTED]

BIOS REDUNDANT ORGANS SCHEME SUPERVISOR

Dr Richard Godfrey,
[REDACTED]

For other enquiries, please contact BIOS Secretary.

BIOS arranges

regular day and residential meetings; details are to be found in the BIOS *Reporter* and on the BIOS *Website*.

**North American
Representative**

Dr Christopher Anderson (2002),
[REDACTED]

AIMS OF BIOS

To promote objective, scholarly research into the history of the organ and its music in all its aspects, and, in particular, into the organ and its music in Britain.

To conserve the sources and materials for the history of the organ in Britain, and to make them accessible to scholars.

To work for the preservation, and where necessary the faithful restoration, of historic organs in Britain.

To encourage an exchange of scholarship with similar bodies and individuals abroad, and to promote, in Britain, a greater appreciation of historical overseas schools of organ-building.