



NEWSLETTER



☆ DECEMBER 2007 ☆

It is customary at this point to wish everyone a happy Christmas and beneficial New Year, which of course we once again do with all sincerity. As a corollary, however, may we urge members to consider what they can do to further the Association's interests in 2008? Perhaps the two most obvious forms of support are attendance at, and participation in, as many of our events as possible, and the introduction of new members.

LOOKING AHEAD

The 2008 Programme Card lists our planned events for the new year. The first two are:

Saturday 19 January, 7.00 for 7.30 : Annual Dinner : Lion Hotel, Belper

We have again opted for the Lion Hotel following satisfactory experience there for the past three years' Annual Dinners. An almost totally different menu is on offer this time, however, which we trust will avoid any perception of *déjà vu* (or whatever the gastronomical equivalent may be). Again there should be plenty of room for as many members and guests as may wish to attend. The speaker will be the Revd Canon Nicholas Henshall, Precentor of Derby Cathedral.

MENU *Items marked (v) are suitable for vegetarians*

- (v) A White Onion and Tarragon Soup *with homemade bread*
 - B Smoked Salmon Salad *with lemon dressing and bread and butter*
 - (v) C Wedge of Fresh Pineapple *garnished with fresh fruit & raspberry coulis*
 - D Farmhouse Paté *with warm toast*
 - E Oven-Baked Chicken *wrapped in smoked bacon with a red wine sauce*
 - F Rich Daubie of Beef *with Bourguignonne sauce*
 - G Poached Fillet of Salmon *with crushed new potatoes chive beurre blanc*
 - (v) H Goat's Cheese and Red Onion Tartlet *with rocket salad and pesto dressing*
 - J Individual Rich Chocolate Torte *with vanilla cream*
 - K Lemon Posset *with homemade shortbread*
 - L Fresh Fruit Salad *in a brandysnap basket*
- Coffee and Mints

Please complete the reply slip below, including menu choices, and let the Secretary have it not later than 12 January, together with remittance. **NB There will be no further reminder of this event.**

Wednesday 27 February, 7.30 : Europe's Oldest Organs

This presentation by Rodney Tomkins, illustrated with slides and sound recordings, will be held in St John's Heritage Centre, Belper. More details in our next issue

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Barely more than a dozen members exercised their democratic right by attending the meeting on 21 November in the vestry of St John's Church. As it turned out, the occasion proved to be somewhat more eventful than usual.

The retiring Chairman recalled a generally successful year's activities, with most events at least tolerably well attended by our own members, though the lack of wider support for the Langlais event at Lichfield, despite assiduous publicity, was disappointing. He signed off by expressing his gratitude to those who had helped him during his three-year stint, and mentioning the *Children and the Organ* project, which it is hoped will come to fruition under the aegis of his successor. The Secretary reported a membership of just 100 [*but see MEMBERSHIP NEWS below*] - still no more students despite the zero subscription. The Treasurer presented the 2006 accounts for approval (duly given) and predicted a somewhat reduced (mainly on account of the Langlais event) but still healthy balance at the end of the current year. As advised in advance, he proposed a £1 increase in the basic subscription for 2008, the cost of *Organists' Review* remaining unchanged. Following a proposal from the floor and ensuing discussion, however, a larger increase was overwhelmingly agreed [*see FROM THE TREASURER below*]. The possibility of distributing the Newsletter by email to those who have a suitable connection was raised, as a way of cutting the Association's expenses [*see under EDITOR'S ADMIN below*].

The following Officers and Committee were elected without contest:

Chairman:	Peter Williams	Vice-Chairman:	Ron Sherwood
Secretary:	Siann Hurt	Treasurer:	Chris Darrall
Covenants Secretary:	John Hunt	Newsletter Editor:	Edmund Stow
Chaplain:	Revd John Bland	Auditor:	David Hall
Committee:	Terry Bennett (past Chairman <i>ex officio</i>) Denis Littleton, Andrew Storer, Rodney Tomkins		

After the new Chairman had outlined the programme for 2007, David Shooter gave an impressive presentation of the Association's new website www.derbyorganists.co.uk, which he has kindly devised.

EDITOR'S ADMIN

Planned *Newsletter* publication dates and deadlines for 2008 are as follows:

Issue	Publication	Deadline
(No January issue)		
February	Early February	26 January
March/April	Mid March	8 March
May	Late April	19 April
June	Early June	24 May
July	Early July	28 June
August/September	Mid August	6 August
October	Late September	16 September
November	Late October	18 October
December	Early December	29 November

At the AGM it was pointed out that if members who have them would inform us of their email addresses, many *Newletters* could be transmitted electronically, thereby saving the Association a substantial amount in printing and postage costs. The Secretary promises that addresses will not be divulged to outside parties - contact her ☎ 01773 606900 or [REDACTED] if you are interested.

Once again we thank all those who assist in the distribution of *Newletters*, helping to save the Association a significant amount each year.

FROM THE TREASURER

Following the decision of the AGM, the subscription rates for 2008 are to be:

Normal Rate:	£30.80	(incl. <i>Organists' Review</i>)	£10	(without <i>Organists' Review</i>)
Senior Citizens:	£28.80	(incl. <i>Organists' Review</i>)	£8	(without <i>Organists' Review</i>)
Students:	£17.20	(incl. <i>Organists' Review</i>)	Free	(without <i>Organists' Review</i>)

If you pay by Standing Order, please remember to increase it if necessary.

The Treasurer would be grateful to receive payment as soon as possible, and certainly before 31 March, so that we can claim the maximum tax refund for any Gift-Aided subscriptions.

” ” ” ” ”

SUBSCRIPTIONS - WHY THE INCREASE?

Our basic subscription rate has remained unchanged for the last 11 years at £7 (£5 for Senior Citizens). Only the additional amount paid by those who take *Organists' Review* has increased, to keep pace with the cost of the magazine.

Leaving aside the cost of *OR*, about half of our members pay the reduced rate, giving an average subscription income per member of £6, i.e. with 100 members a total of £600. From this £6, £3 is paid to the IAO as an affiliation fee; the production and distribution of the *Newsletter* together cost an average of £2 per member, leaving just £1 per member (£100 in total) to fund the Association's activities. Fortunately, a major slice of income (currently about £350 pa) comes from HM Revenue & Customs in the form of tax refund for members who have Gift-Aided their payments.

Some years ago the Association accrued a cash reserve that was larger than was justified under normal circumstances; over the years it has been our deliberate policy to reduce this to a more appropriate level by not increasing the basic subscription rate. The point has now been reached where it will not be prudent to reduce the reserves much further.. Following discussions at the AGM, a proposal was put from the floor that the basic subscription be increased to £10, with a reduced rate of £8, and this was overwhelmingly carried.

With the reduction in the basic rate of Income Tax from April 2008, the amount that we can reclaim will drop from 28.2p to 25p for every £1 of Gift-Aided income we receive, a fall of 11.% (about £40). If you have made a Gift Aid declaration, you can help by paying your subscription before 31 March, so that we can claim that tax back at the old rate. If you have not made a Gift Aid declaration, a form is included with this *Newsletter*. If you pay Income Tax, please consider signing the form so that we can claim back the tax that you have paid (at no cost to yourself).

CJD

THE WARRINGTON PARR HALL CAVAILLE-COLL ORGAN

As members may well be aware, the future of the Cavallé-Coll organ in the Parr Hall, Warrington, is in serious doubt. The December Newsletter of the C-C Organ Supporters' Group gives the regrettable information that Warrington Borough Council has decided to cease its funding for recitals. There will be no future recitals! Doubts have also been raised by the Council as to whether it will continue to provide funds for the maintenance of the organ. If this funding does cease then clearly it will not be long before the instrument becomes unplayable. The Council has for some time been open to offers for the removal of the organ by interested parties who would offer it a good home. There have been some enquiries, but so far apparently no firm developments. The Supporters' Group feel that they can do no more than operate a "watching brief".

All we can hope is that since the future at Warrington is bleak, a new worthy home might be found. It would be tragic if this unique example in Britain of Cavallé-Coll's work were to be lost.

John Bland

Editor's note: It is interesting, though scarcely encouraging, to note that our own Local Authorities are not the only ones currently under accusation of cultural philistinism. Members of long standing will remember visiting Parr Hall in 1979. The difficulties, physical and financial, of relocating such large organs are naturally daunting, but not insurmountable. Parr Hall is already the organ's third home.

OTHER CHURCH/ORGAN-RELATED EVENTS TO NOTE

- Sat 22 Dec Derby Choral Union : *The Christmas Story (Messiah pt.1 + carols)* : Cathedral, 7.30
 Sat 12 Jan Collegium Regale (Choral Scholars of King's College, Cambridge) :
 St Michael, Sutton-on-the-Hill, 7.30 (☎ 01283 733193 or 732247 to book)
 Sat 9 Feb Derby Choral Union : Choral Workshop : St Alkmund, Duffield
 (for details and booking contact Gillian Chatto ☎ 01773 853635)
 Sat 8 Mar Derby Bach Choir : *St Matthew Passion* (J S Bach) : Cathedral, 7.00
 Sat 8 Mar Nottingham Bach Choir : *Israel in Egypt* (Handel) : St Mary, Nottingham, 7.30

The Editor looks forward to receiving notification of events eligible for inclusion in this column .

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We were sorry to hear, only the day after the AGM, of the death of our long-standing member **Denis Fisher**, formerly of Long Eaton but latterly living at Oadby, Leics. Ill-health and his distant location had prevented him from taking an active part in our proceedings in recent years, but he was keen to keep in touch through reading the *Newsletter*.

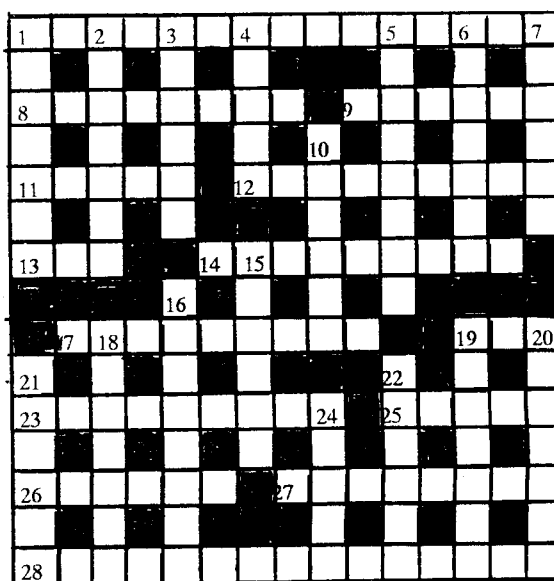
Our numbers have now fallen below the magic 100 achieved during our centenary year (2004). We don't have to give the IAO their £100 back, but it would be good to get above the threshold again. The continuing lack of students, despite free membership, is of particular concern, and we appeal again to the teachers amongst us. The Secretary will be happy to supply information and application forms.

EDITOR'S CROSSWORD

Solvers will notice the usual smattering of references to matters which have been topical during 2007

ACROSS

1. Would Satan blame Susie? Perhaps, for this 9 (6,9)
8. Fixing the team, held by evil force (8)
9. See 20Dn. 11. See 3Dn.
12. About to call for charge - it's revolting! (9)
13. Discover emergency at the Esso sign (1,1,1)
14. The clergy turn briefly as the Queen finishes (9)
17. Late of 3 having amplification against a rubbish
19. Rainwear for a backward eccentric (3) note (9)
23. Window between spaces to give understanding (9)
25. First alternative to thanks - coming from the heart (5)
26. Become eager about a note of Caribbean rock (6)
27. Howells in pointless wander from B'ham station (4,4)
28. Aspiration of 20,9 -as ghost unused to an upset (8,7)



DOWN

1. Topless mistress disturbed religious ladies (7)
2. Illusions of road rage, going south (7)
- 3, 11Ac. rage dawdler aroused in sesquicentenary (6,5)
4. I leave old man in Spain (5) 5. Redeploy elements of industrial workforce (5,3)
6. Sick turn -proverbially due to defective blower? (7) 7. Vexing, in agony without a fix (6)
10. Aim to arrange job with City model (6) 15. Make yeti go for the essential self (6)
16. Sing la-la about Jean (8) 18. Quick, legal or otherwise (7)
19. Did Bohuslav make Frank acceptable? (7)
- 20, 9Ac. Cook Welsh celery as currently celebrated (7,6) 21. Puffer returns, carrying animal (6)
22. I want a break off China (6) 24. Performance for 9 - but not out of this world! (5)

NEXT NEWSLETTER will be published early February - deadline 26 January