

BRADFORD ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

June 2023 – October 2023

Christine Walker R.I.P.

It is with sadness that I tell you that Christine died during September.

She had been a member of BOA for many years and was well known by those who go to the Wednesday recitals at the cathedral which she attended with her friend Pauline Lowes.

Christine was organist at Holy Trinity Low Moor for many years.

President's letter

Dear friends,

It is lovely to write to you in the back of such a wonderful festival of celebration of our musical traditions at the Coronation of King Charles and Queen Camilla, and the variety of wonderful musical events which took place on the back of this. It is so important to recognise our country's musical heritage and contribution to such important state and national occasions, and it was also brilliant to see the organ (played so wonderfully at the Abbey by Peter Holder and Matthew Jorysz) feature so prominently in the newly commissioned pieces. If you haven't had a listen to (or play through!) the Iain Farrington piece 'Voices of the World' (featuring snippets of music from around the commonwealth), I would highly recommend doing so!

As an association, we had an excellent meeting recently at GSG Pianos in Halifax, hosted so kindly by Graham Gribbin. As well as showcasing his wonderful new showroom, he demonstrated his new chamber organ alongside assistance from Sean Montgomery and myself and gave us an informative insight into his plans to sell Hauptwerk technology more widely, alongside outlining its wide variety of uses and flexibility. We're looking forward to our annual outing to Ashton Under Lyme in a few weeks' time, and I am assured Sheila has some excellent surprises planned!

On the council, we have been reviewing how our association might be better run, and how we might support one another in trying to reach as wide a variety of audiences and demographics as possible. We are always looking for members to get involved in every way they can. We have a really exciting series of events in the pipeline and if you would be willing to be more involved in the organisation and running of events, communicating with members and partners, or simply assisting in the logistics of the association, please do get in touch with myself or Sheila.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon and enjoy the wonderful weather. (At the time of writing, though it may be back to grey and drizzly by the time you read this....!).

With all best wishes,

Anthony

On reading Anthony's letter, you will realise that this newsletter was planned weeks ago.

I was unable to complete it as I went into hospital the week after the May meeting.

My apologies, **Sheila**

Reports

AGM

The AGM was held at St. John's, Cullingworth on 15th April.

Fourteen members attended the meeting.

Thank you to Robert for hosting the meeting and arranging for members to play the organ afterwards.

Hauptwerk by Graham Gribbin

It was good to see fourteen of our members at the meeting at GSG Pianos in Halifax on 20th May where we were joined by some members from the Halifax Association.

HAUPTWERK

On the 20th May I travelled over to Halifax from York to visit Graham Gribbin's piano showroom which he has created in the redundant church of St Andrew's, Holmfild – an impressive set-up. Unfortunately, Graham's new four manual Hauptwerk organ delivery had been delayed. He had intended to demonstrate it to the organist's association meeting that day but, in its absence, asked me if I could give a short overview on the Hauptwerk "system". Sheila has asked me to do a similar thing here.

To begin with, I must say that I am not an expert on the subject nor an electronic engineer or computer technician but neither I nor you need to be.

I was introduced to the HW system just over ten years ago and have the fine Hereford Cathedral Willis in my dining room(!) and a simple portable version for use in some of the small rural churches in which I play and accompany our SATB choir. HW is not a digital organ in the sense most organists would understand as this system uses full note by note, stop by stop recordings of the organ that you hear when you press a key. Therefore, the sound you hear is from a recording (of each pipe) taken near to the pipes themselves and *usually*, with the natural reverberation of the building (known as a "wet" recording).

I will not go into more detail here as there are lots of very good introductions to HW on "YouTube" such as "Beauty In Sound" (with Richard McVeigh) or the HW site itself.

To get started all you need is a minimum of one midi keyboard, a laptop or computer with enough memory (preferably 64-bit and 8 gigabytes of RAM) and a pair of headphones.

My home set-up, with Hereford installed, runs on a dedicated 16 GB computer, and plays through studio monitor speakers (or headphones) and is an old Norwich draw stop console.

My portable set-up uses two (cheap) midi keyboards (M-Audio), a second-hand HP EliteBook laptop and a pair of Samson powered PA speakers and runs the *free* HW download of St Anne's Church, Moseley (near Birmingham). I do not have a pedal board (as this would be too bulky) and this St Anne's download has an auto-bass facility. In summary, it is fantastic to have a home-practise organ with such realism and after starting with a basic set-up you can download (usually at a cost!) a German organ to play Bach or a French organ etc, etc. There are also many used electronic organ consoles available which will convert to HW.

Please see the YouTube videos for more information and there is a book "All About Hauptwerk" by Kenneth. A. Spencer or contact me on petermstott@yahoo.co.uk

Peter M. Stott

17th June Outing to Ashton

Fourteen members and friends travelled to Ashton by car on Saturday, 17th June, meeting at the Parish Church at 11 am. The organist met us and spoke about the J.W. Walker organ and the church. Members were able to play the instrument which is in a gallery at the west end of the church.

The church is a Grade1 Listed building and provided much of interest for the non-playing members of the group. We visited The Albion United Reformed Church next where we had a very good choice of food for our lunch at the church Garden Fete. After lunch the organist introduced the T. C. Lewis organ and members were invited to play. Again, there was much of interest for the non-playing members.

The day ended with a visit to Sixsmith's organ works. This was very interesting. We learnt how pipes are made from wood or metal and the difference this makes to the sound. The visit ended with refreshments and an impromptu question and answer session

Secretary's report

My apologies for not sending out newsletters recently. After hospital in May chemo treatment has given me an excuse for laziness! Now back in action.

I cancelled the annual lunch as several regular attendees were unable to book this year and I couldn't guarantee the minimum number for the event.

Our next meeting will be in November at St. James church, Charlestown at 2.15pm.

Come and learn a brand-new carol and find out more about early carols.

Directory

***Please amend Robert Smith's email address on the Syllabus card. No 'e' after jasmin
Correct address is robertandjasmin@btinternet.com***

Sheila