

## DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER

### RECENT LDOA VISIT

#### Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2013, President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral

Warmly welcomed by our President Martyn Rawles, our visit to Lichfield Cathedral commenced with attendance at the choir rehearsal prior to Evensong, where the Lichfield Cathedral Choristers, initially the boy choristers and then joined by the Lay Vicars Choral, were put through their paces by Joint Director of Music Ben Lamb, accompanied on the organ by Martyn Rawles. Ben's attention to detail was very evident, as was the high standard demanded. Martyn invited members up to the organ loft during the rehearsal, and a number of members availed themselves of the opportunity to see Martyn in action!



Lichfield Cathedral's Hill organ

Martyn had thoughtfully provided us with helpful notes on the music for Choral Evensong, commencing with the Organ Prelude, the sombre but beautiful *Te lucis ante terminum* by Marçel Dupré. The Introit was *For Ordinary Time* (Lichfield Antiphons), commissioned from Richard Lloyd, who was at one time a chorister at Lichfield Cathedral. The Canticles were *Evening Service in E Flat* by Michael Wise, and appropriately enough for this centenary year of Benjamin Britten's birth, his *Te Deum laudamus* was the choice for the Anthem. The concluding voluntary was César Franck's *Choral No 2*, with the main theme stated in the pedals at the outset of the work giving little indication as to the dramatic passages to follow, interspersed with a brief plaintive passage on the *Vox Humana*, then a thrilling build up to Full Organ before subsiding to end with the final shimmering few bars once again on the *Vox Humana*. A stunning performance by Martyn, listened to throughout in rapt attention by all our members attending Evensong, if not necessarily by members of the public intent on getting home for tea!

In his initial welcome, Martyn referred to the history of the Cathedral organ, but as most members attending had been on previous visits, didn't dwell on it. However, for the benefit of recent new members who are perhaps not familiar with the history, the following summary may be of interest.

Earlier organs in the Cathedral by Robert Dallam (1639), Thomas Schwarbrick (1740) and Samuel Green (1790) were placed on a stone quire screen, which was taken down when the Cathedral was restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott. This Samuel Green organ was removed and reinstalled in St John the Baptist, Armitage, by George Holdich, where it is still in use today. In 1861, Holdich built a three manual organ for Lichfield Cathedral, easily his largest instrument; it had a remarkable Pedal Organ of ten stops, which the Cathedral Organist Samuel Spofforth vowed never to use! This organ was placed at floor level, in the aisle of the north transept, a position described as 'in a side street'; the console was in the north quire aisle.

The organ was re-built in the same position by Hill & Son in 1884. It attained its present form in 1908, when the same firm re-built it in a new chamber high above the quire; the two cases, in the quire and transept, are by J Oldrid Scott. A small quantity of Holdich pipework was retained, including much of the Pedal Organ.

In 1974, a new console and electro-pneumatic actions were installed by Hill, Norman & Beard. Substantial changes were made to the mixtures and Choir Organ, but other changes were few. In 2000, work by Harrison & Harrison was completed to mark the 1300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first church dedicated to St Chad. Plans for the work were drawn up in consultation with Cathedral Organist Andrew Lumsden and his Assistant Robert Sharpe, involving the Hill scheme of 1908 being re-instated, with certain carefully selected additions. New electro-pneumatic actions were provided, and the console re-designed. A new nave division of 13 stops was placed in the north triforium to better support congregational singing in the nave. The organ now has an impressive 82 speaking stops, and 5038 pipes.

Martyn rejoined us after the Franck voluntary, and invited members to sample the magnificent Hill organ, whilst others availed themselves of the drinks and nibbles in the South Transept, and the opportunity to chat to Martyn and to Cathy Lamb, who we were very pleased was able to join us.

Mike Rudd lost no time in taking up Martyn's invitation to play, closely followed by Alan Taylor, Pat Neville, Chris Booth, John Carvel, Jonathan Woodward, Colin Brookes, Paul Geoghegan and yours truly.



Alan Taylor at the console of Lichfield Cathedral



Paul Geoghegan at the organ of Lichfield Cathedral

I think most of us found judging the registration selection at the console as perceived by listeners in the Cathedral a challenge, and I never cease to be amazed how well the Cathedral organists are able to overcome this difficulty, particularly in the use of the nave division.



John Carvell at the console of Lichfield Cathedral

Our sincere gratitude to Martyn Rawles for the invitation to President's Evening at Lichfield Cathedral and for the privilege of playing the Hill organ, as well as provision of most welcome drinks and nibbles.

TS

### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013, Annual Dinner

Our joint Annual Dinner with the Birmingham Organists' Association was held at The School House, Weeford, commendably well supported by both Associations, with over 50 members and guests attending.

With appetites suitably satisfied, LDOA Chairman David Gumbley gave a short speech of welcome, including a brief history of The School House, which was indeed at one time a school house, and of Weeford church, containing a Holdich organ much favoured by David. Paul Carr, President of the Birmingham Organists' Association, then had the pleasure of welcoming our honoured guests, Organist Emeritus of Hereford Cathedral Dr Roy Massey MBE, accompanied by his wife Ruth.



Roy Massey on good form at our Annual Dinner  
(Photo courtesy of Alan Taylor)

Roy Massey has had a couple of stints as President of the Birmingham Association, and remembers meeting an exceptionally talented 14 year in Norfolk, who turned out to be Paul Carr, and who he later taught for about two years when at Hereford Cathedral. Roy went on to regale us with many humorous anecdotes from his long career, many involving luminaries from the Midlands organ world. He recalled his first appointment when in his teens to St Alban-the-Martyr, a church in the slums of Birmingham, with its back-to-back houses, before moving to St Augustine's Church in the rather 'posher' district of Edgbaston! His career progressed via the Royal School of Church Music, Croyden Parish Church, Birmingham Cathedral, and King Edward's School to Hereford Cathedral, where he remained for 27 years until his retirement in 2001, being also 9 times conductor-in-chief of the Three Choirs Festival. In 1997 he was appointed an MBE, and was President of the RCO from 2003-2005.

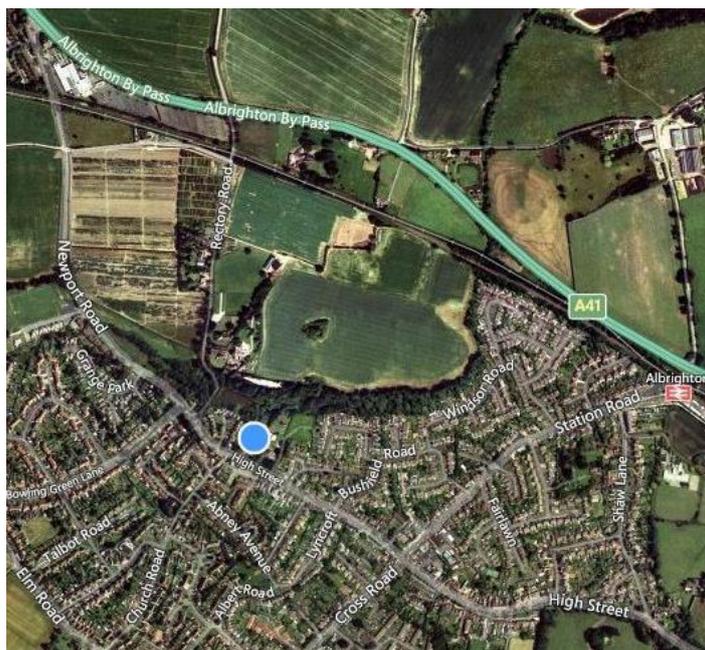
Our thanks to Alan Taylor and Pam Strong for their organisation of a splendid convivial evening, which went all too quickly, leaving rather limited time to socialise with our colleagues from the Birmingham Association; but then there's always next year!

### FORTHCOMING LDOA VISITS/EVENTS

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014, St Mary's, Albrighton and St Mary & St Chad, Brewood

Visit commencing at 2pm to St Mary Magdalene, High St, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3EQ. Two manual organ

originally by Jardine, and recently the subject of a £129,000 rebuild by Trevor Tipple, with the addition of a 3<sup>rd</sup> manual. The locator map for the church is shown below, followed by detailed directions given by the church's website.



Locator map for St Mary Magdalen, Albrighton (Blue dot)

From J3 of M54

Take the A41 towards Wolverhampton. You will come into a 40 MPH zone and then go through a set of traffic lights. Get in the right hand lane. On your left will be a petrol station and then a caravan dealer. On the right is RAF Cosford. Turn right, once past these traffic lights, towards Albrighton. There is a garden centre at this junction. You will enter a 30 MPH zone and then a Fire Station on your right. The Shrewsbury Arms on your right hand side. The church is set back from the road, opposite the Shrewsbury Arms.

From Wolverhampton, (8 miles)

Take the A41, towards Whitchurch. Eventually, you will come to a set of traffic lights that forks in the road. You need the right hand fork, staying on the A41. Stay on this road until you see a sign for Albrighton on you left. Take this road and you will come through the village of Albrighton. St. Mary's Church is set back from the road on your right hand side, opposite the Shrewsbury Arms (on your left hand side)

From Albrighton we then move on to visit the church of St Mary & St Chad, Church Road, Brewood, Stafford, ST19 9BT. Two manual organ built by J J Binns in 1910, rebuilt by W J Bird & Son in 1951, and substantially restored by Alan Goulding, Pipe Organ Services in 2011/12. The locator map of St Mary & St Chad, Brewood, is shown below, and it's approximately 8.7 miles from Albrighton, about 15-20 minutes by car. The church has a tall spire so hopefully it will be easily found.



Locator map for St Mary the Virgin & St Chad, Brewood (Note - the church is on the opposite side of Church Rd to that indicated by the blue dot)

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2014, St Paul's Church in the Jewellery Quarter - an evening with Thomas Trotter**

Alan Taylor, on behalf of Birmingham Organists' Association, has kindly invited LDOA members to join them at an event they have arranged, based at St Paul's in Birmingham's Jewellery Quarter. Those of you who have attended Paul Carr's monthly 'Thursday Live' recitals will know the location of this church, but for the benefit of others, the postcode is B3 1QZ. We are obliged to John Stormont for the following details of the event:

We have a unique opportunity to meet informally with Thomas Trotter, who has found time within his busy international recital schedule to join us to discuss his role as Birmingham's City Organist. Our other guest will be Betty Milne, who was Manager of Birmingham Town Hall from 1979 to 1993.

We shall be exploring Thomas's background, his student days at Kings College, Cambridge, and his early impressions of Birmingham. We shall delve into recital programmes from both Thomas and previous City Organists, Betty having particular memories of George Thalben-Ball. We shall hear from Thomas about his international career, how he plans his recital programmes, and many other aspects of his role as City Organist. Members will have the opportunity to ask questions, but these should be submitted in advance to [webmaster@BhamOrgan.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@BhamOrgan.org.uk).

This will be an informal evening, not a recital, although we believe Thomas will end his session by playing something from his repertoire. There will be no charge to members, although the evening will conclude with drinks and nibbles for which donations would be welcome.

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014, St John's Shenstone, then St Giles, Whittington, including the 2014 AGM**

Visit commencing at 12 noon at St John's, Shenstone (2 manual organ by Holdich, dating from 1853), then on to St

Giles, Whittington (2 manual organ by HN&B, recently rewired by Peter Spencer, and 15<sup>th</sup> added) for 2.30 pm for visit, commencing with the 2014 AGM

### **Saturday 10th May 2014**

Visit commencing at 4 pm to St Editha's Church, Tamworth, to play the 3 manual 32 stop Harrison & Harrison organ installed in 1927, which has recently had the first phase of a three phase restoration project completed by the original builders.

### **Wednesday 9th July 2014**

Visit commencing at 7.30 pm to The Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross, to play the organ originally built by Samuel Green in 1779 for Bangor Cathedral, and installed in Hoar Cross in 1886. Having been unplayable for over 40 years, it has been rebuilt by Bishop & Son in 2013, and Martyn Rawles gave a recital to a packed church in August 2013. It has 3 manuals and 21 stops.

### **Saturday 27th September 2014**

Visit commencing at 2.30 pm to Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall, to play the 3 manual 36 stop Nicholson & Lord organ. Having recently been rebuilt by Mike Thompson, Thomas Trotter gave a well-attended recital here on 5th October 2013 in aid of the organ fund.

### **November 2014**

Visit date and venue t.b.a.

## **NEWS FROM THE LDOA COMMITTEE**

### **2014 Subscriptions**

Please note that subscriptions for 2014 are due on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. Despite the increase to £4 per member in the capitation fee we are charged by the IAO, as agreed at the AGM, our subscription fees for 2014 will remain unchanged at:

Individual membership - £11, Joint membership - £16.50, students in full time education – free.

For those members who have not completed a bank standing order instruction, our Treasurer Mike Rudd would greatly appreciate your co-operation in paying promptly, and cheques, payable to 'Lichfield & District Organists' Association', should be mailed to:

Mr Mike Rudd, 8 Court Drive, Shenstone, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS11 0JG

### **Margaret Pinder**

Due to her church commitments, Margaret has tendered her resignation from the Committee, and we will therefore be looking to appoint a replacement.

### **LDOA Website**

Our website [www.iao.org.uk/lichfield](http://www.iao.org.uk/lichfield) has been updated with the 2014 events so far arranged.

### **Next Committee Meeting**

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for 7 pm Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014, at Weeford Church.

### **Season's Greetings**

The LDOA Committee would like to thank you for your support in 2013, and extend our good wishes for A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you at what promises to be another interesting and enjoyable programme of visits in 2014, most of which are now confirmed.

## **LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL NEWS/EVENTS**

### **Organ Recitals 2013 - Evenings**

Following memorable recitals by Cathy Lamb, Andrew Lumsden and Ian Tracey, the Autumn 2013 Evening Organ Recital Series at Lichfield Cathedral culminates at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December with a recital by Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral). LDOA members have been out in force for these recitals, and your continued support for this final 2013 recital at the Cathedral would be greatly appreciated.

### **Christmas at Lichfield Cathedral**

Full details of Christmas events, concerts and tours can be found in the flyer 'A Christmas at Lichfield Cathedral', a copy of which can be downloaded from the Cathedral's website: [www.lichfield-cathedral.org](http://www.lichfield-cathedral.org).

## **YOUNG PERSONS' CATHEDRAL ORGAN DAY**

As announced in the last newsletter, this event to take place at Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Work has started on the flyer for the event, and the organising group will meet shortly to finalise the detailed programme.

## **IAO MATTERS**

### **Lyme Regis Organ School**

The Winter Course will take place from 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February 2014. The lead tutor is Philip Scriven. More details from Dr Richard Godfrey; [rgodfrey78@hotmail.com](mailto:rgodfrey78@hotmail.com)

### **London Organ Day 2014**

The 2014 London Organ day will take place at St George's, Hannover Square, on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014, The theme is 'American Music for Organ', and the event will feature the new organ by Richards, Fowkes & Co, Tennessee, and the Goetze & Gwynn organ built for the Handel House Museum. Organists Anne Elise Smoot playing the Richards, Fowkes & Co organ, and Kimberly Marshall playing the Goetze & Gwynn organ.

The event can be booked and paid online via <http://book.londonorganday.co.uk>

### Sheffield Organ Day

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Sheffield

### Great North Organ Day

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014 in Newcastle

### IAO 2014 Congress

The next IAO Congress will take place in Durham, from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July to Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2014.

Recitals have been planned for Durham Cathedral (Father Willis organ), St George's Gateshead (Father Willis), St Mary's RC Cathedral Newcastle-upon-Tyne (Kenneth Tickell), and others. Master classes at Hexham Abbey (Lawrence Phelps) with Dame Gillian Weir, and Francesca Massey at Elvet Methodist Church (Harrison & Harrison). Visits include the Bowes Museum. The event includes the AGM and the Annual Dinner.

The event can be booked and paid online via [www.iao.org.uk](http://www.iao.org.uk)

### Midlands Organ Day

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014, based at St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, with a recital by Thomas Trotter at Birmingham Town Hall.

### RECENT LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS REVIEWS

#### Andrew Fletcher Recital at Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013

Today saw the opening recital of the 2013/2014 series, the theme of which is 'Fletcher's Favourites', with Andrew's favourite music typically having a 'strong rhythm, gorgeous chords and a beautiful melody'.

Having been forewarned that in his practice session this morning the Willis organ had been having 'events', with stops randomly flying out, Andrew opened brightly with *Fantasia in C* by J S Bach, then a beautiful chorale by Buxtehude, *Nun bitten wir*. This was followed by another piece with a beautiful tune, S Wesley's *An Old English Melody*, which Andrew first heard when played by his old choirmaster.

A transcription for organ of *Prelude to Act 3 of Lohengrin* by Wagner, described by Andrew as 'making a dirty great row', was followed with the 2<sup>nd</sup> (slow) movement of the second of Hindemith's three sonatas, played on two flutes, with a quiet 16' pedal stop, and then the last movement of *Concerto X* by Handel, with its tremendous rhythmic drive.

William Wolstenhome was a blind organist and his *Allegretto* was originally a viola piece, before being transcribed for organ to form this well-known gentle melody.

The barnstorming finale of today's recital was provided by John Bull's lively dance *Rondo in G*, with its driving repetitive rhythm culminating in a big full organ finish. TS

#### Thomas Trotter Recital at Central Hall Methodist Church, Walsall, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013

The organ of Central Hall was installed in 1927 by the local firm of Nicholson & Lord. In 2000, the worn out pneumatic action was replaced by electric action, along with toe pistons and some tonal changes. After 85 years of continuous use, it needed a complete rebuild and it was decided to restore it as near as possible to its original specification. The contract was awarded to Mike Thompson, and work started in 2011, being eventually completed in August 2012 at a cost of some £97,000, including nearly £50,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, with the remainder having to be found from concerts, special activities and personal donations. As can be seen from the picture below, the three manual organ of 2100 pipes is imposingly sited at the front of the hall, with the detached console just visible on the LH side.



The Nicholson & Lord organ of Walsall's Central Hall Methodist Church

With the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Walsall in the audience for this well-attended recital, Thomas Trotter commented that having played in Walsall several times, this evening's recital was the best attended!

J S Bach's *Prelude & Fugue in G BWV 541* was followed by three of Schumann's *Six Studies in Canonic Form*, Op 56, Nos. 3, 4 and 5. Next followed *Concerto in D Op 1 No. 6* by J C Bach who having travelled rather further afield than his distinguished father, was at one time Music Master to Queen Charlotte, wife of King George III. Percy Whitlock's *Folk Tune*, *Scherzo* and finally *Paeon*, employing the *Choir Tromba*, took us to the interval.

Thomas Trotter's own arrangement of Eric Coates' *Knightsbridge March*, the 'In Town Tonight' theme, opened the second half with a flourish. Thomas having not played the next piece for 20 years and playing it tomorrow at his Anniversary Concert at Symphony Hall, tonight provided an opportunity for a 'dummy run' of Reubke's *Sonata on the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm*, but as it's rather a lengthy piece, tonight playing just the first and last sections.

Next followed two works by the Victorian organist and composer W T Best, with firstly his own composition *Variations on God Save the Queen*, then an arrangement by him of Weber's *Jubel Overture*, which also has strains of the same tune, known in Germany as 'Heil Dir im Siegerkranz', and which I was surprised to learn was the German national anthem until 1922.

Having not included any French works in the recital, an encore of Widor's Toccata duly followed, played from memory as he thought he might just about remember it, 'having played it a few thousand times before'!

A splendid recital, played by Thomas immaculately as always, with Mike Thompson having clearly done an excellent job on the rebuild.

NB. We will have our chance to sample this fine organ when we visit here in September 2014.

### **Thomas Trotter 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

On the basis that you can't have too much of a good thing, after last night's recital at Walsall, this afternoon saw the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recital celebrating Thomas Trotter's 30 years tenure as Birmingham City Organist, attended by the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Birmingham. Thomas Trotter is the latest in a line of eminent Birmingham City Organists stretching back to 1842 and James Stimpson, followed by C W Perkins, G D Cunningham and for 34 years Thomas's immediate predecessor Sir George Thalben-Ball.

A glance at today's programme showed that not only did last night's recital serve as a 'dummy run' for Reubke's Sonata on the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm, but also for three other works played at Walsall! Indeed J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in G Major BWV 541 and Nos. 3, 4 and 5 of Schumann's Six Studies in Canonic Form, Op 56, were the opening two works last night and also for this afternoon's recital.

Then a work definitely not played last night, as today saw its world première! The Wild Reeds is a work personally commissioned by Thomas Trotter from Judith Weir, and is a ten minute partita made up of an original theme followed by six variations. The work has a naive, folksy feel to it and Thomas observed that Judith Weir 'never writes more notes than necessary, although not in the order you might expect!' Judith Weir was in the audience and was invited on stage by Thomas to receive the audience's congratulations on her composition.

When Thomas was first appointed as City Organist, the Town Hall organ was being rebuilt, so it was not until October 1984 that he was able to play the Town Hall organ in concert, and a work he played at that first recital was the choice to take us in a blaze of glory to today's interval - Wagner's Overture to Die Meistersinger, arranged for organ by Lemare.

Knightsbridge March by Eric Coates provided a majestic opening to the second half. Thomas commented that his predecessor George Thalben-Ball was extremely kind to him when he was first appointed as City Organist, and hence the inclusion of Edwardia, a beautifully nostalgic little miniature by Thalben-Ball from the Hovingham Sketches.

The choice for the finale to today's programme was one of the masterpieces of romantic organ music - Reubke's Sonata on the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm, played also at Walsall, but this time all three sections. Reubke tragically died of TB when only 24 years old, and one can only speculate what gems

may have followed this dramatic work, culminating in a driving rhythmic fugue, had he lived longer.

After a well-deserved ovation, Thomas surprised us with an encore, a piece he had been working on in the summer, entitled Molly on the Shore, based on two Irish jigs, and aptly described by Thomas as 'Birmingham Town Hall's answer to River Dance'!

In Graeme Kay's profile of Thomas Trotter in the programme notes, it was interesting to see a comment from Thomas about 'maintaining a strict regime of several hours practice each day'. So it seems that despite his vast experience and immense talent, the immaculate performance he consistently achieves clearly still requires a lot of dedicated practice!  
TS

### **Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Symphony Hall, Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

The theme for today's recital was 'By Royal Appointment', with all the works having a royal connection, commencing with William Walton's Coronation March; Crown Imperial.

This was followed by Sweelinck's Ballo del Granduca, comprising a bright dance tune and four variations.

Four Early English pieces for manuals only followed: What Care You (John Bull), The Queen's Command (Orlando Gibbons), Upon La Mi Re (Anon) and the stomping Battle Coranto (John Bull). Then followed three works which featured in Thomas's Walsall recital: Concerto in D Op 1 No. 6 by J C Bach, W T Best's Introduction, Variations and Fugue on God Save the Queen, and finally a piece composed in 1818 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of his patron the King of Saxony, Weber's Jubel Overture, arranged by W T Best.

Surprising us again with an encore, Thomas explained that he'd been requested to give a recital the following night in the Egyptian Room in the Mansion House in London on a new Mander organ. This organ is a gift to The Queen in celebration of her Diamond Jubilee from the Lord Mayor and Corporation of the City of London, and is destined by the end of 2013 to replace the Snetzler organ in the Lady Chapel in Westminster Abbey. In view of its final destiny, rather surprisingly it has an unusual bird song pedal, which produces birdsong effects whilst causing little wooden birds to circle above the organ! To demonstrate this feature, Thomas included Little Bird by Greig in his Mansion House recital, and hence the choice of this little piece for his encore today.  
TS

### **Andrew Lumsden Recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Andrew Lumsden has been Organist & Director of Music at Winchester Cathedral since 2002, but it was his tenure as Organist & Master of the Choristers at Lichfield Cathedral from 1992 to 2002 that ensured a good attendance, including commendable support from LDOA members, for his welcome return to perform at Lichfield Cathedral.

Andrew opened with a flourish with Gigout's justifiably popular Grand Choer Dialogué (Six pieces d'orgue). This was followed by 'Variations on Mein junges leben hat ein

end' by Sweelinck, comprising six delightful variations on the secular song.



Andrew Lumsden

J S Bach's striking Prelude & Fugue in B Minor BWV 544 was followed by Durufle's Prélude et Fugue sur le nom d'Alain, with the delicious prelude leading to the distinctive plaintive opening theme of the fugue. Having been the instigator of the last major work on the Hill organ during his tenure at Lichfield, his masterly use of the Nave Organ was very much in evidence for the climax of this work.

After the interval, the Allegro Vivace opening movement of Symphony No 5 by Widor provided the opportunity for Andrew to show off the Hill organ, with some quite sumptuous registrations. Stunning!

A beautifully managed crescendo then diminuendo of Reger's Benedictus (Zwölf Stücke für Orgel Op 59) was followed by Excerpts from Petite Suite by Debussy, originally conceived as a piano duet before these final three movements - Cortege, Menuet and Ballet - were arranged for organ solo.

Vierne's lyrical Clair de Lune (Pièces de Fantaisie, Suite II, Op. 53) was then the 'calm before the storm' of Eric Coates March: The Dambusters, providing a final opportunity to deploy the combined forces of both the main organ and the nave organ for the climax to tonight's recital.

A splendidly varied programme and a consummate performance by an organist who clearly is totally at home on the organ for which he oversaw the Harrison & Harrison 2000 work. The addition of the nave division was a major part of this work, and Andrew's use of this in conjunction with the main organ was particularly effective. TS

#### **Peter Morris Recital at Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

The theme for this 2013/4 series of an A-Z of composers for the organ continued today with 'B', and commencing unsurprisingly with a work by J S Bach, the lively Valet will ich dir geben, based on the hymn 'All Glory Lord & Honour'.

The gentle Chaconne in E Minor by Buxtehude was followed by Voluntary No 1 by Boyce, Peter using the Posuane on the Great for the trumpet tune. The delicate opening runs of Marco Enrico Bossi's Scherzo are in total contrast to the bold passages and dramatic full organ climax to follow. Terrific piece!

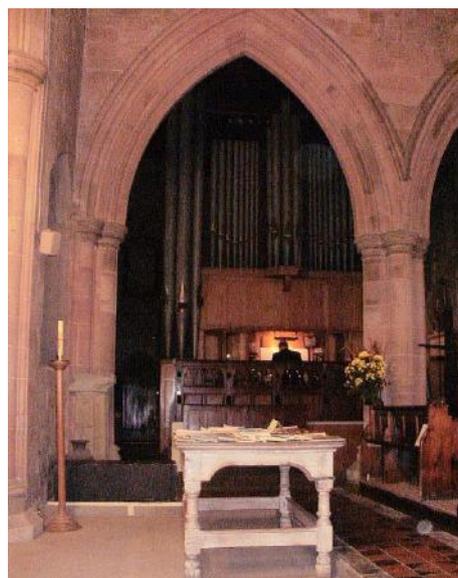
Most cinema organists over the years combined various pieces to create their own versions of a 'Storm at Sea', and a certain George Baker, in the 1790's organist of St Mary's Stafford, and subsequently posts in Derby and Rugeley, seems to have composed such a piece for a few friends, being prevailed upon later to publish it. It seems that the inhabitants of Stafford did not entirely appreciate the piece, in as much as there is an entry in the Corporation Books that 'it is ordered that Mr George Baker be in future prohibited from playing the piece called The Storm.' In the event the work describes the passage of a ship in a storm, and whilst playing Peter Morris somehow managed to read out the notes in the score describing the ship's progress, to the point where it regrettably sank!

Judith Bingham's The Dawn of Redeeming Grace, an organ solo arrangement from 2003 of the carol Silent Night, was followed by the American composer Seth Bingham's Baroques Suite Overture & Sarabande. Barber's Adagio for Strings, arranged for organ, then provided an opportunity to show the beautiful string stops of the Town Hall organ. The unusual choice for the final piece was Salamanca by Bovet, with the LH playing a drum beat whilst the RH plays a flute/fife, building to a frenzied climax.

Peter is to be congratulated on unearthing, and then learning, some unusual pieces from the depths of the 'B' box! TS

#### **Philip Scriven Recital at St Editha's Church, Tamworth, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

The three manual Harrison & Harrison organ is from the 'romantic' period of English organ building, and was installed in 1927. No significant changes have been made since then, and indeed it still retains its tubular pneumatic action. Phase 1 of a 3 phase restoration programme has been completed, and tonight's well attended-recital by Philip Scriven, now Organist in Residence at Cranleigh School but previously Lichfield Cathedral, was in aid of the organ restoration fund.



Phil Scriven at the organ of St Editha's, Tamworth

Following introductions by Rev Alan Barrett and Maurice Price, and with St Editha's long-serving organist Ken Edwards assisting, Philip Scriven opened his programme

of requests with Toccata in G Major by Dubois, a work Gillian Weir featured in her BBC TV 'King of Instruments' series. Buxtehude's Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne BUX 137 was followed by J S Bach's Prelude & Fugue in A Minor BWV 543, a piece Philip described as a warhorse, which he first heard as a chorister assisting the organist at Westminster Abbey. Continuing with his programme of requests, beautifully registered Sheep May Safely Graze was followed by Mozart's 'big chunky' Fantasie in F Minor K 608.

Derek Bourgeois was apparently an ex-pupil and former Director of Music at Cranleigh School, where Philip is now, and his Serenade, written for his own wedding, is a delightful lollipop, but with an awkward time signature. All four movements of Boëllmann's Suite Gothique were followed by Elgar's ever-popular Imperial March. During his time at Lichfield, it was well-known that Philip's favourite composers for organ were J S Bach and Vierne, so having opened with the former, it was no great surprise when the latter was the choice to close the recital with firstly the gentle Berceuse, then the piece Philip had for his own wedding, the Final from Vierne's Symphony No 1, providing some 'fireworks' to finish.



Philip Scriven, dressed to impress, taking his bow at St Editha's, Tamworth

After an enthusiastic well-deserved ovation, there was just time for an encore dedicated to Maurice Price's wife Edith - Sousa's barnstorming march Liberty Bell.

Catching up with Philip over drinks after his recital, his new career is clearly going well, and a new CD entitled Piping Blues, comprising jazz and blues inspired works for organ recorded at Lichfield Cathedral, had just been released. In true Carlo Curley style, he just happened to have some for sale tonight! Incidentally, a CD of The Planets, also recorded by Philip at Lichfield Cathedral, is due out shortly.

Chatting to Maurice Price, who spear-headed the application to the Lottery Fund to help fund work to address the most urgent repairs to the organ, it is hoped that the organ will be awarded a Historic Organ Grade 1 Certificate, which will then hopefully assist with application for funds to address the other progressively problematic issues.

Incidentally, members will have the opportunity to try this impressively sounding instrument themselves when we visit St Editha's in May 2014. TS

**William McVicker Recital at Holy Angels, Hoar Cross, Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October, 2013**

The organ of The Church of the Holy Angels, Hoar Cross, had been unplayable for over 40 years, but thanks to the generosity of a local family, it has now been restored to working order by organ builders Bishop & Son. The October newsletter reviewed the inaugural recital to celebrate its rebirth performed by Martyn Rawles in August 2013.

Today's recital was billed as being an 'Organ Extravaganza' performed by William McVicker & Friends, and as Mr McVicker was the adviser for the Hoar Cross organ project, he ought to know the organ well. William McVicker is the Organ Curator at London's Royal Festival Hall, at Reading Town Hall, Director of Music at St Barnabas Dulwich and Professor of Organology at the RAM. He opened the concert with the same work as Martyn Rawles – Toccata & Fugue in D Minor BWV 565 by J S Bach, before handing over to his 'friends' to continue the concert. These 'friends' comprised his talented daughters Zoe, who gave poetry readings, and Lottie, playing the cello. They were joined by three organists employed currently or historically by Bishop & Sons, namely Stephen Hogger, David Tibbetts-Chaplin and Peter Bumstead.

Stephen Hogger played works by composers celebrating centenaries this year. Firstly, Incidental Music from the radio play 'They Walk Alone', celebrating Benjamin Britten's Centenary, and then March in G celebrating Henry Smart's bi-centenary. David Tibbetts-Chaplin played Liturgical Improvisation No 2 by George Oldroyd, and the well-known March from the Occasional Oratorio by Handel. Peter Bumstead played two 18<sup>th</sup> century Voluntaries, by William Jones of Nayland and John Beckwith of Norwich.

William McVicker performed Toccata from Symphony No 5 by Widor to close the concert, after which there was an opportunity to chat to him about the challenges of the restoration of this organ. It was very evident from the inaugural recital that the placement of the organ causes a problem projecting sound down the nave. Mr McVicker clearly recognises this problem, in that in the past attempts had been made to add volume, but these had failed as the organ had become so congested as to make it impossible to tune and maintain it, and hence rendering it unplayable for over 40 years. He therefore had little choice but to strip out what had been added, and return it to tracker action, so that at least it could be maintained. For services, the size of the congregation means that the organ projects adequately down the nave, and for most recitals, as indeed it was for today's, the audience would be seated as far as possible in the chancel, rather than in the nave.

A splendid afternoon's entertainment, and we look forward to our visit to Hoar Cross planned for July 2014 to try this organ for ourselves. TS

**Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2013**

Thomas opened the recital with Praeludium in A Minor by Buxtehude, comprising an introduction, two fugues on the same theme, and fireworks to finish. Hindemith enriched

the organ repertoire with three sonatas, and following Andrew Fletcher's playing of the slow movement of the 2nd Sonata earlier this month, the 3rd was the choice for today's recital. Liszt's Ave Maria von Arcadelt is Liszt's imaginative arrangement, suggesting the chiming of bells, of Ave Maria, originally composed by Jacques Arcadelt, the composer of madrigals and sacred music. This was followed by Percy Whitlock's tuneful Five Short Pieces, comprising Allegretto, Folk Tune, Andante Tranquillo, Scherzo and Paeon, with the Tuba Mirabilis being used on this occasion for the latter, rather than the Trumpet.

Thomas turned to Saint-Saëns for his finale, with first the beautifully descriptive 'The Swan' from Carnival of the Animals, followed by Fantaisie in E Flat, Saint-Saëns first organ work, written when he was just 22. The elegant first movement hops around three manuals with contrasting tone colours, whilst the second movement demonstrates the power and majesty of the full organ in a vigorous march, with sensational flourishes for both hands and feet.

TS

### **Andrew Fletcher Recital at Emmanuel Church, Wylde Green, Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013**

Continuing the 'Fletcher's Favourites' theme of this series, for the Introduction & Allegro by John Stanley, Andrew produced a nice contrast in passages of the lively Allegro by alternating the main and apse organs. Handel's beautiful, graceful, Larghetto in B Minor was followed by J S Bach's Toccata & Fugue in D Minor (Dorian). Then back to Handel for Largo in E, transcribed for organ, and played with great sensitivity on the apse organ.

Paeon by the British composer and pianist Kenneth Leighton was described by Andrew Fletcher as being 'a new language', but some 50 years on, its discords are now rather more common. Having played the 2nd movement of Hindemith's Sonata No 2 in October, today's offering was the 2<sup>nd</sup> movement of Sonata No 3, played using the Clarinet on the Choir.

The finale, and for me the highlight, of today's recital was provided by undeniably one of Widor's greatest, most inspired and demanding compositions, the first movement of Symphony No 6. Terrific climax!

TS

### **Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Today's recital was billed as 'Traveller's Fare', with all the pieces having a travel theme. Charles Hubert Hastings Parry was addicted to speed, and one of his passions was ocean sailing on his yacht 'The Wanderer', the latter providing the name for his Toccata & Fugue. The dark opening bars give way to a demi-semiquaver virtuosic movement, followed by the Fugue, which builds to a chordal climax and then a grandiose conclusion.

J S Bach's Trio Sonata No 3 in D Minor BWV 527 in fact has no connection with the theme of today's recital, but its inclusion, explained Thomas, was for two reasons; he wants to keep all 6 Trio Sonatas 'up to scratch', and he concurs with the opinion that no organ recital is complete without a work by JSB! Played as immaculately as ever.

After this digression, back to the 'Traveller's Fare' theme with Siegfried's Rhine Journey from Wagner's opera Götterdämmerung, arranged for organ by Lemare, portraying Siegfried's journey to the Rhine, and his progress down the river.

In January 2013, Thomas Trotter played at the Orgelpark, an organ museum in Amsterdam, where in a square shaped redundant church there is an organ on each side gallery. A fairground organ called 'The Busy Drone' also resides there, with a tune played originally by means of a perforated roll. Ad Wammes has re-written this tricky little piece to make it playable by human fingers and feet, naming it 'A Ride on a High Speed Train'. Thomas played this at his visit to the Orgelpark, and was interested to compare his version with that of 'The Busy Drone'. To my taste, rather monotonous and not exactly tuneful!

Providing a jolly reminder that Christmas was only 44 days away, Leroy Anderson's Sleigh Ride was followed by a further Wagner composition, The Ride of the Valkyries. From Act III of the opera Die Walküre, and again transcribed for organ by Lemare, it provided a thrilling climax to today's recital.

TS

### **Ian Tracey Recital at Lichfield Cathedral, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

Introducing tonight's recitalist, Ian Tracey of Liverpool Cathedral, Revd Canon Wealands Bell quipped that 'an evening's recital was a fair swap for giving them a Dean', referring of course to the recent move of Pete Wilcox from Lichfield Cathedral to Liverpool Cathedral!



Ian Tracey

Minuee (Concierto VI Par Dos Organos) by Antonio Soler, whilst nominally a minuet, it is often referred to as the 'Emperor's Fanfare', a more suitable title for this barnstorming opening piece, with Ian Tracey making full use of both the main organ and the Nave division for his own arrangement of this piece.

Having heard Ian Tracey play the unpublished transcription by Walter Henry Goss-Custard of Chaconne in D by J S Bach BWV 1004 on a number of occasions, it provided the opportunity for him to explore a vast range of colours of the Hill organ, managing the many stop changes with ease, many by hand rather than thumb pistons. Sonata in C by Giovanni Battista Pescetti followed, arranged by Ian Tracey's predecessor at Liverpool Cathedral Noel Rawsthorne, a work of three movements with the last movement, Presto, being played as a dialogue between the main and the Nave organs.

Cesar Franck's Fantaisie en La was followed by the work also chosen by Peter Morris for his October Walsall Town Hall recital – Marco Enrico Bossi's Scherzo in G Minor. The delicate opening runs reappear throughout the piece but are eventually overwhelmed by the stormy climax.

After the interval, having heard Hindemith's Sonata No 2 and No 3 played in recitals over the last few weeks, completing Hindemith's trio of sonatas tonight it was the turn of No 1, a substantial work in two movements. Two works by Percy Whitlock followed. The tuneful Adagio is the second movement from his symphony for orchestra and organ, whilst the delightful Scherzetto is from his Sonata.

Ian Tracey is something of a champion of Flor Peeters works, and his Lied Symphony (Op 66) was the choice for the finale of tonight's recital. Inspired by the vast and varied natural landscapes of North America, the five movements portray The Ocean, The Desert, The Flowers, The Mountains, and culminating in the dazzling toccata depicting The Sun.

Ian Tracey was never going to be allowed to escape without an encore, and he duly obliged with a piece used by him on many occasions as an encore, Garth Edmundson's Toccata on 'Vom Himmel hock', a stunning cascading toccata, which regrettably is no longer in print, and for which it seems to be impossible to find the score.

A masterful performance, with Ian Tracey seemingly totally at home with registration selection/changes on the Hill organ, including skilful use of the Nave division, despite no doubt limited preparation time. Greatly appreciated by all, including excellent support from some 11 LDOA members and guests. TS

### **Peter Morris Recital at Walsall Town Hall, Thursday 21st November 2013**

Continuing this series 'A-Z of Composers' theme, today it was the turn of composers with names beginning with 'C'. Charpentier's Te Deum became well-known via the early days of Eurovision, and was Peter's choice to open today's recital. Chorale Preludes on Rockingham, Windsor and Martyrdom followed, composed by the one-time Organist of Glasgow Cathedral J Gordon Cameron.

Couperin was the next composer from the 'C' box, with five movements from his Messe Pour Les Couvents – Dialogue, Duo sur les Tierces, Offertoire sur les grands jeux, Recit de Cornet and Dialogue sur les grands jeux. Then, having opened with one very familiar trumpet tune, an even more well-known one followed in the form of Jeremiah Clarke's Prince of Denmark's March

Peter Morris was a chorister at Manchester Cathedral, and Norman Cocker was the organist there a few years prior to Peter's time. Cocker's Tuba Tune thus provided a most appropriate vehicle to show off the fine Tuba stop on the Walsall Town Hall organ. James Hamilton Siree Clarke (1840-1912), better known as Hamilton Clarke, was an organist, pianist and theatre conductor, and having acquired a score some 15 years ago of his composition Pastorale, Peter thought it was about time it had its first public airing. A nice melodic pastorale, well-suited to service work.

The final piece of today's recital, 'Songs of Praise' by the television music composer Herbert Chappell, was commissioned by the BBC in 1980 as the signature tune for their programme of the same name. Used by the BBC until the late 1980's, it proved to be a very nice voluntary on which to end, and deserving of a more frequent airing. TS

### **Thomas Trotter Recital at Birmingham Town Hall, Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

In a programme well represented by contemporary composers, Dan Locklair's liturgical suite Rubrics provided the opening work. The work comprises a fast exuberant movement, then reflective, then a jazzy trumpet dance, a lyrical aria and finally a riotous rhythmically driven finale.

Advent Sunday this weekend prompted the choice of the next work, J S Bach's Three Preludes on Nun komm der Heiden Heiland. As this hymn is not well-known in the UK, unlike in Germany, Thomas played a 4 part harmonisation of the hymn, before continuing with the three very different treatments of the same hymn. Having already had a taste of the Whitechapel Bells stop in the opening work, S S Wesley's Holsworthy Church Bells provided the opportunity for a proper airing, not for the first time at Birmingham Town Hall, and no doubt not the last!

Then two more contemporary works, with Thomas advising us, reassuringly, that they were both short works! Firstly the Dutch keyboard-player and composer Ad Wammes Vallée des Dances (3<sup>rd</sup> movement), not surprisingly an almost electronic sound. This was followed by the savage energy of Belize-born composer Errolryn Wallen's 'Tiger', with Thomas commenting that it comprised 'gestures rather than pretty themes'.

Every New Year's Eve, Thomas plays at the Chapel of Mannheim Castle, and he arranged the final piece for this occasion. Ponchielli's Dance of the Hours comes from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Act of the opera La Gioconda, but it will be forever associated with Walt Disney's film Fantasia, providing a full organ climax to today's varied programme. TS

## **FORTHCOMING LOCAL ORGAN RECITALS**

### **LDOA Members' Recitals/Events**

#### **Mervin Jones - Darlaston Town Hall**

Concert of popular theatre organ music on 2nd Thursday of every month, with Mervin Jones at the 3 manual Binns Organ, 1.30 to 3.30 pm.

#### **Peter Morris - Walsall Town Hall**

The Walsall Town Hall 2013/14 recital series commenced on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013, and continues generally on the third Thursday of the month, excluding December, with the next recital being on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

Peter is also giving a lunchtime recital on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2014, 1:05 – 1:50 pm, at Bradford Cathedral.

#### **Pat Neville - Trinity Methodist Church, Shenstone**

A further free lunchtime Festive Season organ recital will be given on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December by Shenstone resident

organist Pat Neville at 12.45 pm to 1.30 pm. Bring your sandwiches – drinks will be available. Come and go as you please.

#### Martyn Rawles

In addition to the recital listed for Lichfield Cathedral, Martyn Rawles is giving the following organ recitals:

- Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2014, 1:10pm – 2:00 pm, St Alphege, Solihull
- Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2014, 12:00 – 1:00 at Victoria Hall, Hanley

#### Sue Heath-Downey

Following her recital in December 2013, Sue joined our Association, and will be making a return visit to The Chapel of St John's without Barrs, Lichfield, for a Christmas recital at 11.00 – 11.45 am on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013. Sue is of course Director of Music at St Paul's Deptford, London.

The recital is in aid of St Giles Hospice, for which there will be a retiring collection. Please come along, if you are able, and support Sue for this worthy cause. See flyer attached to the Newsletter.

#### **Recitals In Local Area (to 28/02/2014)**

##### **December 2013**

Sun 1 December 2013 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Tues 3 December 2013 • 7:30 to 9:30 • Lichfield Cathedral  
Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

Thurs 5 December 2013 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Thurs 5 December 2013 • 1:00 • West Brom Town Hall  
Damon Willetts

Frid 6 December 2013 • 12:40 to 1:20 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Nicholas King (St John's, Boxmoor)

Frid 6 December 2013 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green  
Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Sat 7 December 2013 • 11:00 to 11:45 • St John's Hospital Chapel, Lichfield  
Sue Heath-Downey (St Paul's, Deptford)

Mon 9 December 2013 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter with Cambrian Brass

Wed 11 December 2013 • 7:30 • St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick  
Mark Swinton (St Mary's Collegiate Church, Warwick)

Sun 15 December 2013 • 6:55 to 7:35 • St Chad's, Shrewsbury  
Daniel Phillips (King's College School, Wimbledon)

Wed 18 December 2013 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull  
Claudia Grinnell (Peterhouse College, Cambridge)

##### **January 2014**

Thurs 2 January 2014 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 3 January 2014 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green  
Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Sun 5 January 2014 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Thurs 9 January 2014 • 1:00 • West Brom Town Hall  
Richard Hall

Thurs 16 January 2014 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Walsall Town Hall  
Peter Morris (Walsall Town Hall)

Mon 20 January 2014 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist)

Wed 22 January 2014 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull  
Martyn Rawles (Lichfield Cathedral)

Thurs 23 January 2014 • 7:30 to 9:30 • Ellesmere College (The Great Hall)  
Shaun Turnbull (Blackburn Cathedral)

Thurs 30 January 2014 • 7:30 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
Stephen Farr with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

##### **February 2014**

Sat 1 February 2014 • 3:00 • Symphony Hall, Birmingham  
Stephen Farr with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra

Sun 2 February 2014 • 3:00 to 3:45 • Holy Trinity, Wordsley  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Mon 3 February 2014 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall  
Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist), with Birmingham Conservatoire Choir conducted by Paul Spicer

Thurs 6 February 2014 • 1:00 • West Brom Town Hall  
Jean Martyn

Thurs 6 February 2014 • 1:15 to 1:45 • St Paul's, Birmingham  
Paul Carr (St Paul's, Birmingham)

Frid 7 February 2014 • 1:00 to 1:45 • Emmanuel, Wylde Green  
Andrew Fletcher (Birmingham University)

Mon 17 February 2014 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Birmingham Town Hall

Thomas Trotter (Birmingham City Organist),

Thurs 20 February 2014 • 1:00 to 2:00 • Walsall Town Hall

Peter Morris (Walsall Town Hall)

Wed 26 February 2014 • 1:10 to 2:00 • St Alphege, Solihull

John Pryer (Alexandra Palace)

### **Royal Festival Hall Organ Recitals**

Whilst not a local venue, members may be interested to know that, following the long-awaited £2.3m refurbishment of the magnificent Harrison & Harrison organ at the Royal Festival Hall, London, a series of recitals has been planned for 2014. The Organ Gala Launch Concert takes place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2014, featuring John Scott, Jane-Parker Smith, Isabelle Demers and David Goode, and this will be the first time the whole organ has been heard in public since 2005. Further recitals are planned through to June 2014, with celebrity organists including John Scott, Thomas Trotter, James O'Donnell, Olivier Latory with Shin-Young Lee, Cameron Carpenter and Stephen Disley. Tickets are now on sale for these recitals.

For a complete listing of organ recitals in the UK and further details go to [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com)

For details of recital organ specifications go to the National Pipe Organ Register at [www.npor.org.uk](http://www.npor.org.uk)

### **VACANCY**

The organist at St Giles Willenhall has decided to retire after many years, and we have been requested to assist with advertising the vacancy to our members. Details as follows:

Church: St Giles Willenhall (WV13 2ER)

Churchmanship - central catholic

Organ: 1890, 3 manual Hill in good condition

Small choir

Sunday services: 11.15 am sung Parish Eucharist

Occasional evening service (3 or 4 times per year)

Good number of occasional offices

Choir practice to suit organist

RSCM rates

Initial enquiries by email or phone to:

The Rev'd Andrew Welsby CMP

St Giles Vicarage

Walsall Street

Willenhall WV13 2ER

Tel: 01902 605722

E-mail: [andrew.welsby@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andrew.welsby@hotmail.co.uk)

### **LICHFIELD & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION CONTACTS**

President: Martyn Rawles, FRCO

Chairman: David Gumbley, 0121 308 4845, e-mail [Davidgumbley@msn.com](mailto:Davidgumbley@msn.com)

Secretary: Pam Strong, 01543 433368, e-mail [Pamstrong5@aol.com](mailto:Pamstrong5@aol.com)

Treasurer: Mike Rudd, 01543 480411, e-mail [mike.rudd@fotas.co.uk](mailto:mike.rudd@fotas.co.uk)

Newsletter Editor: Trevor Smedley, 01543 319329, e-mail [trevorsmedley@ntlworld.com](mailto:trevorsmedley@ntlworld.com)

**Editorial Note - next Newsletter is planned for February 2014, with deadline for submission of items for inclusion of 24/01/14, to Trevor Smedley by e-mail as above, or by mail to 8 The Parchments, Lichfield, Staffordshire, WS13 7NA**