



# BAO NEWS

JUNE 2026



*Bournemouth & District Association of Organists*

Registered Charity No. 1098369

[www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth](http://www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth)

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope you have been enjoying the lovely weather, although it doesn't seem to suit all of us.

This is just a short newsletter to update you.

It seems ages since we held our AGM in February. The minutes of this are further on in the newsletter on page 2.

As you will see, sadly, we have come to the decision to close the BAO. Despite the trustees putting on events, which are not easy to arrange with churches closing and lack of organists, so few members then attend.

It seems that, in line with other organists' associations, members are having difficulty in getting to events due to problems with health and driving to events, especially at night.

It is better to stop now rather than carry on until only a few of us are left and no funds remaining. By closing now, we have funds that can be put to good use to help young organists.

I am asking for suggestions for the distribution of our funds which needs to be in accordance with our constitution. See page 4 for more information about this.

Due to past difficulties in arranging events, I have decided to hold our last event at my home, in the form of an afternoon tea in August. Details of this are on page 5.



## THIS EDITION

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*Brenda.*

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

*This is an important article and you are encouraged to take time to read it. Thank you.*

## **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BOURNEMOUTH AND DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISTS, HELD AT RICHMOND HILL ST. ANDREW'S URC ON 14TH FEBRUARY 2026.**

**PRESENT:** 25 members

1. **APOLOGIES:** Alan Aldis, Michael Clift, Julian Davies, Derek Dorey, Tim Drew, Steve Robson, Brian Sturtridge, Charles Thomas and Sean Tucker.
2. **IN MEMORIAM:** A minute's silence was held in memory of Simon Lindley, Brian Schollar, John Steed, Rayner Skeet, Marcus Ladell, Malcolm Warwick and Bob Wetton.
3. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:** The adoption of the minutes of the meeting held on 15th February 2025 was proposed by Brenda Price, seconded by John Radford and carried. (The minutes shown in BAO News incorrectly state that the last meeting was held at East Cliff URC, but the minute book correctly shows Richmond Hill St. Andrew's URC.)
4. **MATTERS ARISING:** None
5. **HON SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Margaret Clarke's report comprised a summary of the year's events which, while enjoyed by those who had supported them, was a source of great disappointment to those who had put time and effort into organising them. The highlight was the Bursary Holder's Concert which was well supported and financially profitable.
6. **HON TREASURER'S REPORT:** Brenda recorded thanks to Julian Davies for looking over the accounts. There was a small overall deficit for the year which left us with funds totalling £6,042 and there are 48 members, 41 of whom are entitled to vote. The adoption of the accounts was approved by Sue Rawlinson, seconded by Chris Greenwood and carried.
7. **CONSTITUTION:** The adoption of the following amendment to the Constitution which had previously been circulated to members received unanimous approval:

The Trustees of the Association shall consist of a President, Hon Secretary, Hon Treasurer and four other members.

*[This replaces the sentence in section 4 of the Constitution which reads, "The Trustees of the Association shall consist of a President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and six other members." Ed.]*

## **8. FUTURE OF BAO**

Brenda outlined why the future of the BAO needed to be discussed.

The association has for some time lacked support from members; most of the trustees have been in place for a number of years with no new members willing to take on the role.

Attendance for organ crawls, outings and lectures/workshops has seriously declined. There is a lack of churches with organs suitable to visit; not all members are able to drive distances and some are not wanting to attend despite the offers of lifts. The Treasurer had received several letters from members not able to attend meetings because they no longer have a car, or because of advancing years. At present there are no events planned for 2026 apart from the bursary concert in June.

A general discussion began with the main points being:

- We are an ageing association so, with no or few younger members, closure was inevitable - but not to continue with the association until only a few are left.
- There are 41 voting members in the association yet only 25 were at the AGM - and 9 had sent their apologies.
- It was asked if other associations had been approached to suggest a merger; yes this had been considered – it was thought that members not attending BAO events would not go even further afield. Other neighbouring association were also struggling with attendances and a merger would not make any difference to attendance at events.
- It was asked if the IAO had been approached – the IAO seem to have problems of its own.
- Churches could be approached to ask any non members to join the association (this has already been attempted previously).
- On closure, most members present agreed that the funds should be used to support students under the Bursary scheme; the constitution

also reads that, on closure, the funds should go to a charity with similar objectives.

- It was asked about the bursary fund and if it was ringfenced for the Bursary. The Bursary fund had actually been used up for the Bursary students throughout 2025.
- Closure of the association could only happen when all the members had been informed and an EGM be set up to vote – this was an overall agreement to the way forward with 3 abstaining, and one against the closure.
- Trustees would remain throughout the closure procedure.

Following the discussion, Timothy Rice made the following proposal:

- There was a general feeling at the meeting to close the BAO in the not too distant future, possibly within 2026;
- There should be a closing event in 2026, being an opportunity for all to attend together;
- There would be no further activities run by the association, except by supporting Bursary students towards the funding of tuition;
- Socials could continue to be arranged, not by the association but by any members, on an ad-hoc basis, if desired.

This proposal was seconded by: David Beeby

Voting: For: 21; Abstentions: 3; Against: 1

The meeting closed at 3:30pm

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## **DISTRIBUTION OF BAO FINANCES**

### **Winding up the Association.**

We need to decide on where to distribute our finances. It makes sense that funds go to somewhere where local young people can benefit. When deciding, it needs to be somewhere which holds objects that are close to those of the BAO and a place which is financially stable (the charity website has that information).

### **Winding up – as written in our Constitution:**

*19. If, upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Association there remains after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever,*

*the same shall not be paid to nor distributed among the members of the Association but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable institution having objects similar to the objects of the Association.*

## **Objects**

*2. The objects of the Association shall be to advance the education of the public in the study of the art of music with special reference to liturgical and organ music.*

Can you please email me your thoughts of suitable places for the distribution of finances, by email to: [brendajprice40@gmail.com](mailto:brendajprice40@gmail.com) or leave a message on my mobile: 07980 582094.

This will be put to the trustees and their decision will be final.

Here are a few suggestions for further investigation:

YOST <https://www.youngorganscholarstrust.co.uk>

Michael James Music Trust

*Brenda.*

# **BAO - THE FINALE**

**Our Final Event will be on**

**Saturday 22nd August 2026**

## **Afternoon Tea**

**3pm at**

**6 Plassey Crescent, Bournemouth BH10 5JS**

**£8.00 per head.**

**Any profit will go in the BAO funds.**

**Please let me know if you are coming -**

**email: [brendajprice40@gmail.com](mailto:brendajprice40@gmail.com)**

**or leave a message on my Mobile: 07980 582094**



# **BOLDRE REVITALISED**

Back in the summer of 2024, the Copeman Hart organ at St. John the Baptist, Boldre, suffered a failure on one of the circuit boards. After much discussion, investigation and consideration, the decision was made to give the organ, by then some 35 years old, a new lease of life.

The organ had already been converted to run Hauptwerk some years earlier, with the primary organ being the Willis organ of Hereford Cathedral.



At the time of writing, the work of giving the organ a thorough refurbishment is very near to completion and the return of the revitalised instrument to St. John's is imminent.

## **COMING UP AT ST. JOHN'S**

*(Provisional)*

### **PATRONAL CHORAL EVENSONG**

**Sunday 28 June, 6.30pm**

### **ORGAN RECITAL - Timothy Rice**

**Saturday 11 July, 4pm**

### **CHOIR & ORGAN CONCERT**

**with massed choir from the locality**

**Saturday 8 August, 6pm**

### **ORGAN RECITAL - Martin Penrose**

**Saturday 5 September, 4pm (Time TBC)**

## ADMISSION FREE

Visit [St. John's website](http://www.bsbb.org.uk) for up-to-date information:

[www.bsbb.org.uk](http://www.bsbb.org.uk) (or search "Boldre Church")

**St. John the Baptist, Church Lane, Boldre SO41 5PG**  
(1.3 miles off the A337 Lymington - Brockenhurst road)

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## COMING EVENTS - BAO

*All events are subject to alteration or cancellation; please check with the BAO website for the latest information: [www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth](http://www.iao.org.uk/bournemouth)*

**22 Aug 26** 3.00pm BAO - THE FINALE - see page 5.

## OTHER EVENTS

*The following is a list of forthcoming organ recitals and concerts in the area. Please do give all who have worked to put these programmes on, along with the performers, your greatest support.*

### JUN

|    |         |                                                 |    |
|----|---------|-------------------------------------------------|----|
| 6  | 11.00am | Recital - Samuel Bristow (Chelmsford Cathedral) | SS |
| 11 | 12.30pm | Recital - David Beeby (Christchurch Priory)     | CP |
| 18 | 12.30pm | Recital - Simon Earl (Christchurch Priory)      | CP |
| 25 | 12.30pm | Recital - Geoffrey Morgan (Christchurch Priory) | CP |

### JUL

|    |         |                                                        |     |
|----|---------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 2  | 12.30pm | Recital - Paul Griffiths (Dubai)                       | CP  |
| 4  | 11.00am | Recital - Williams Saunders (Colchester City Organist) | SS  |
| 11 | 12.30pm | Recital - David Halls (Salisbury Cathedral)            | SA  |
| 11 | 4.00pm  | Recital - Timothy Rice (St. John's, Boldre)            | SJB |

### AUG

|   |         |                                             |     |
|---|---------|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | 11.00am | Recital - David Halls (Salisbury Cathedral) | SS  |
| 8 | 6.00pm  | Choir & Organ Concert                       | SJB |

*contd...*

**SEP**

|   |          |                                             |     |
|---|----------|---------------------------------------------|-----|
| 5 | 11.00am  | Recital - James Gough (Southwark Cathedral) | SS  |
| 5 | (4.00pm) | Recital - Martin Penrose (Time TBC)         | SJB |

**OCT**

|   |         |                                            |    |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------------|----|
| 3 | 11.00am | Recital - Simon Lole (St. Mary's, Swanage) | SS |
|---|---------|--------------------------------------------|----|

**NOV**

|   |         |                                                    |    |
|---|---------|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| 7 | 11.00am | Recital - Jacob Costard (Clare College, Cambridge) | SS |
|---|---------|----------------------------------------------------|----|

**DEC**

|   |         |                                                     |    |
|---|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| 5 | 11.00am | Recital - Nigel Groome (St. Stephen's, Bournemouth) | SS |
|---|---------|-----------------------------------------------------|----|

**\* VENUES:****CP** Christchurch Priory, Quay Road, Christchurch BH23 1BU**SA** St. Aldhelm's Church, Branksome BH13 6BT**SS** St. Stephen's Church, St. Stephen's Way, Bournemouth BH2 6JZ**SJB** St. John the Baptist, Church Lane, Boldre, Lymington SO41 5PG***Admission FREE - Retiring collection!*****BOURNEMOUTH & DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF ORGANISTS**

Registered Charity No. 1098369

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