

FROM THE PRESIDENT

*What is this life if, full of care,
We've too much time to stand and stare?
At least in lockdown, in my chair,
I've learned to sit, and zoom, and share.*

JFW ('Lockdown') with apologies to W H Davies ('Leisure')

Which is why I thought it would be good to have a 'virtual' event for members of the NDOA to replace the planned visit to Thorpe Underwood House and Harrington Parish church on Saturday 18th July. I developed a photo presentation showing 56 organs in 6 continents, from my own collection. It was a personal travelogue, but I believe was of some interest to organists. It was therefore disappointing that only 3 members of the Association, apart from the Officers, joined the event. This suggests that we need to re-think future Association events and a questionnaire will be coming seeking the views of members.

On a more positive note, no doubt many members have been using their computers to enrich their musical and organ-playing and choral lives – see the many links in this and [previous issues](#) of the *Newsletter Extra*, found for us by our editor, Richard Tapp. There are also organ events on radio, especially Radio 3 (the Composer of the Week at 12 noon recently was [J S Bach](#), with emphasis on his organ music). Not much for organists on TV, though there is a passing glimpse of a Mighty Wurlitzer rising from the depths for those who watch the trailers on the Talking Pictures channel.

I hope all members of the Association are staying safe and well, and that like the BeeGees, we can all be glad that, *'Whether you're a brother or whether you're a mother, Feel the city breakin' and everybody shakin', Life goin' nowhere, somebody help me, We're stayin' alive, stayin' alive...'*

John Wilson



NDOA 100 years! NDOA will celebrate its centenary in 2021 and we are planning an exciting year - obviously taking account of whatever restrictions may be in place at the time. Do you have memories of the Association, its members, officers and programmes of past years? Photographs of past events? What are the highlights we should remember? Do let the Editor have your favourite recollections and we hope that it will be possible to compile them into a short history of the Association during the course of 2021.

EXTRA, EXTRA? We hope that you have enjoyed reading *Newsletter Extra*, which has been published monthly over the last six months to try to provide news, entertainment and sources of information during the pandemic. As churches now begin to reopen following the lockdown and many members and friends will be getting back to their consoles, we would love to know whether you would like *Newsletter Extra* to continue to appear monthly for the moment, or whether you feel it has run its course. Views to the Editor, please.

YOUR WORDS IN PRINT? The normal pattern of quarterly *Newsletters* will, of course, continue, with the deadline for contributions for the next issue being 1st September. You could tell us about the organ that you play, about your first console, about another organ you know, your favourite composer, or another topic you feel would interest members. The Editor will be most grateful for articles and contributions, as ever.



NDOA NOTES AND NEWS. Here are some items of news which may be of interest to members, together some suggestions for online viewing, reading or listening to keep you occupied as we move into the holiday period:

- **Stanley Vann Scholarship - Callum Alger.** Sincere congratulations to our member Callum Alger, currently Organ Scholar of Westminster Cathedral, who has been awarded this year's Stanley Vann Scholarship Award by the IAO. A sub-committee of the IAO, chaired by Dr James Lancelot, is responsible for considering applications and recommending who should receive this annual award. The fund was set up in memory of Dr Vann, long-serving Master of the Music at Peterborough Cathedral, to honour his role in the creation of choral music and training of singers.
- **The Laurence Lloyd Singers.** Many members will remember Northampton's well-known Laurence Lloyd Singers, which became the Northampton Chamber Choir - indeed some will have been closely involved. Stephen Meakins, its' founder conductor, has kindly drawn attention to the fascinating [Moyra's Laurence Lloyd Singers](#) talk which details the history of the Singers, with archive photos and music (and thanks to Justin).
- **Virtual Oundle Festival.** Did you miss the real Oundle Festival this year? Don't despair - you can still see all the virtual recitals [online](#). Performers include Guy Whatley, who should have been at Oundle this year, live in concert on the Holbrook organ at Redeemer Presbyterian Church, Austin, Texas, with *A Fancie for my Ladye Nevell* by William Byrd.
- **Organ Festival Canada** should have taken place in early July, but instead four video performances can be found [online](#), including **Denis Bedard's** new composition, *Fantasia alla Marcia*, commissioned to celebrate his 70th birthday and which can be had from the [RSCM Shop](#), and also seen online [played by the composer](#).
- **American Guild of Organists' Organfest.** The AGO was also not able to hold its planned convention this year, but instead has made available five individual video presentations at AGO Organfest's [website](#). Each video includes the premiere of a new organ work, an interview with the composer (including David Briggs and June Nixon), and a performance by a renowned recitalist. The site also showcases AGO's [Rising Stars](#), and a series of [PipeTalks](#) on subjects as diverse as *Transcribing the Nine* by Thomas Heywood, a presentation on the music of Flor Peeters, and *Lessons from Leipzig, a Journey with Bach*. Lots to explore here.
- **How to Play the Pipe Organ.** Hopefully most of our readers will have some idea, but Jonathan Scott, whose excellent recitals we have touched on in previous months, has produced a new [e-book](#) on the subject, together with a YouTube [introduction](#). It is very well done and interesting to watch for beginners - and perhaps for the rest of us who know that we will always have something to learn!
- **Scott Bros. Duo.** Tom and Jonathan Scott have also put up a piano and organ recital from [Rochdale Parish Church](#) and Jonathan's new organ recital on the T.C. Lewis organ at [Chesterfield Parish Church](#). Great stuff!
- **Hauptwerk v. recordings?** Which do you prefer? Indeed can you tell the difference? Richard McVeigh has a fascinating exposition at [Hauptwerk](#).
- **St Bavo Haarlem.** Richard McVeigh has also posted a fascinating Beauty in Sound demo of the Hauptwerk set of the Christian Müller instrument at St Bavo [Haarlem](#) - played by Mozart at the age of 10 in 1766, as well as by Handel. David Mason's Regent Organs site also has a really interesting [blog](#) about the organ.
- **Frazer Gartshore** is a Scottish organist, now based in Germany, who has a number of excellent videos on his [channel](#) - well worth a look.
- **Mander Organs.** As *NE* went to press, the sad news came that Mander Organs ceased trading on 27th July as a result of cashflow difficulties, and is in the hands of insolvency practitioners. NDOA's sympathies are with the team there and with John Mander who created an employee ownership trust to hold the business on his retirement in 2018.
- **Music and Prayer.** Just a little out of our area, but included as a beacon for things to come - All Saints' Loughborough has a (physical!) service of Compline each Sunday in August, preceded by 30 minutes of music by professional musicians including Chris Ouvry-Johns and Paul Hale. Details and Covid-19 info at [poster](#).
- **Links, Rechts...** Finally, just to mention that all the links in this edition have been checked, but if your browser doesn't like them, you can download a working copy of *NE* from the website's Newsletter page.

Newsletter Extra is published by the Northampton and District Organists Association, registered charity no. 274679. We hope you found it interesting. Please send any new ideas to editor@northamptonorganists.org.uk.

Find us at <http://northamptonorganists.org.uk/> and on [Facebook](#)