

The Cornopean

EXETER & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION



Organ of the month

The Father Willis organ at St Peter's Church, Tiverton (see next page)



Organ of the month

St Peter's Church, Tiverton

“After the Restoration this organ was set up in 1696 in spite of much Puritan opposition. Built by the famous firm of Christian and Bernard Schmidt, it was completely remade, (embodying many of the existing features) in 1867 by Henry Willis of London. The original case has survived. The carving is of the school of Grinling Gibbons. The organ was at first placed on the chancel screen. In 1820 it was moved to the West gallery and to its present position during the restoration of the church in 1857.”

The organ was restored by Noel Mander in 1967, when 2 Mixtures and a Nason Flute were added to the Choir Organ, in place of 8' stops.

*(Information from NPOR)
(photos by Piers Howell)*





EDOA Newsletter

October 2023



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Editor's letter

In recent weeks, we have received the sad news of the deaths of two long-standing members, David Lee and Michael "Pags" Pagliero. Peter Johnstone writes about David on page 8. The editor's own tribute to Pags is on page 12; the Memorial Service details are on page 8.

Two important events are coming up soon. On Saturday 28th October, the internationally-renowned organist Thomas Trotter will give a "Grand Orgue Recital" at Buckfast Abbey. This concert will feature a long-postponed performance of the composition "Defeating Lucifer" by Thomas Hewitt Jones. This was commissioned by EDOA to celebrate its centenary in 2020. See page 13 for a poster of 2023 Recitals at the Abbey, which includes details of how to obtain tickets, and book a pre-concert meal if required. Tickets are available from the website at www.buckfast.org.uk/events, or from the Abbey Visitor Welcome Centre.

The EDOA Annual Dinner will be held on Thursday 16th November, at The Swan's Nest Inn at Exminster, 7pm for 7.30pm. This is always a very popular event; early booking is recommended, and in any case, by 2nd November. Booking details on page 14.

Another exciting event will be the publication of the Devon Organ Book, which is in the final stages of design and production. This is a collection of original compositions for organ, by composers with a connection to Devon and the Association. Details to follow!

Piers Howell, Editor.

The EDOA Committee

Ian Carson (President), Paula Taylor (General Secretary), Peter Johnson (Treasurer), Peter Johnstone (Membership Secretary), Peter King, Tim Noon, Andrew Millington, Neil Page, Gerald Hird, Piers Howell (co-opted, Newsletter Editor)

Stop Press!

Thomas Trotter at Buckfast Abbey 28th October

Annual Dinner 16th November

Details may change! Follow bulletins closer to the time from our Secretary for more up-to-date information.

EDOA visit to Torrington, Renatus at Bideford and Nicholls Nymet 16th September

Great Torrington Parish Church Father Willis organ

(Text and photos by Gerald Hird)

The Parish church was darkly lit. I can't add to the exceptional quality of the Torrington parish organ, it would be unwise to try. But I know that all who played gained a great deal of pleasure.



Penny Cowman playing the Father Willis organ

[The organ was built by Father Willis in 1864 for Sherwell Congregational Chapel in Plymouth, and moved to Torrington by Lance Foy in 1990]

Built by HENRY WILLIS of LONDON	1864
Additions by TUCKER of PLYMOUTH	1881
Overhauled by HENRY WILLIS	1921
New action by HELE of PLYMOUTH	1951
Restored and rebuilt at GREAT TORRINGTON by LANCE FOY of TRURO	1990

Great Torrington, Methodist Church

I cannot comment on the merits of the Methodist Church Organ. The Methodist Church was alive with activity, kitchen and visitors. The fact remains, when we visit

Methodist churches, there is much more activity within the church itself. Something to ponder upon, perhaps? Maybe we should all give up our Saturday mornings, provided there is no wedding on and play or get our local folk to join in more? It might just encourage more young interest ??

[NPOR: 4-rank extension organ by John Compton in 1952, overhauled by Michael Farley in 1995]



Methodist church – Compton organ

Renatus works, Bideford

[Hosted by company staff Colin Peacock and Martin Watkins]

The Renatus visit was exceptional. The welcome, reception and friendly flow were well prepared and gave us a most informative 3 hours of information, debate and friendship. Well worth another visit in years to follow.

A very warm and friendly welcome with exceptional cake, biscuits and great tea!! (Thanks to the staff who turned up to assist).



directors take on future of organ building companies and what particular policies they use to recruit and educate. All the staff are



Hauptwerk organ

foresee a full and continuing workload. Apprentices are mentored whenever possible. The firm has a good name in the employment stakes !!

The quality of the workmanship is evident in the photos. One such console was of particular interest.

The American market uses Renatus and often is involved in design projects. Because of the expertise and success, Renatus enjoys much involvement at the design and planning stage.

The demonstration of the full Hauptwerk organ (Martin's skill) was a delight to see and hear. Eventually someone had the courage to sit on the bench and play (ME !!) and I "played" Hereford Cathedral !!. Needless to say, if you like these things, it was a delightful

This firm has been well established, has a minimal turnover of staff - (the last person to move on occurred left decades ago !!). Some young staff have also made their mark in the firm. I asked about the



Pedalboards in construction

experienced cabinet makers and have particular specialisms. Team work is inevitable but then folk work on their own projects to the end. The staff are extremely content with the ethos of the company, they are happy to be there. The camaraderie is strong.

Due to the nature of the specialised work they can easily diversify and use their skills in non organ building projects. The associations with leading companies are strong due to the quality they can produce here. Digital organs use their expertise in a host of ways. The current prognosis is that they



sound. Also the sound of the stops being pulled and returned added a sense of reality. And eventually more members were tempted to have a go.



Laser printer



Before inking



After inking

Meanwhile an intriguing demonstration of the laser printer was given. Colin set up the wonderful laser printer with the stops he had chosen to demonstrate, showing the comparative ease to compute and set up. One can make a labelled stop knob in about twenty minutes. However if you want a batch of various stops with individual stop names, one can do 20 in about the same time. This equipment not only is impeccably accurate and of high quality, it saves hundreds of hours compared to an engravers employment. Consequently saving time and lots of money. This saves money also for the buyer - less time for the work to be finished and therefore a massive benefit for the whole project. The members were actively involved in discussion and I believe it was very worthwhile, educational and, indeed awe inspiring.

(Ian Carson writes)

Renatus works, Bideford

At the Renatus factory in Bideford I had my first experience of a Hauptwerk digital organ, and I enjoyed playing into the acoustic of a virtual Hereford Cathedral with the sort of improvisatory Polyfilla that might fill a silence before a service.

Paul Goodman's house, Nicholls Nymet

If you wish to go to Nichols Nymet, you wouldn't start from Bideford. It reminded me of my friend Colin Andrews' description of an organ factory in North Carolina - 'you'd never find it if you didn't know it was there'. If there is an offence of shouting abuse at the lady on the satnav I plead guilty as charged.

Potholes on the back road to Nichols Nymet rivalled lunar craters, and since no-one ever comes that way, I drove straight past the concert venue, but fortunately the virtual lady turned me round and I arrived there in time for the cream tea. I belong to a group whose blokes walk all day to indulge their passion for cream teas, and my family expect them when they come to sample my wife Mary's scones, so the bar is set high.

Nichols Nymet House did not disappoint. Three scones laden with cream and strawberry jam - a calorie organo pleno! A hall at the side of Paul Goodman's house, which doubles as a dining room, has a huge organ console, assorted monitors, a battalion of loudspeakers and a pipe organ on the side.

Andrew Millington's recital, Nicholls Nymet

Andrew Millington gave a thoroughly entertaining Top of the Pipes recital which took the organ through its digital paces in familiar repertoire to the listeners. It was fun - although the strawberry jam sliding irrecoverably off my last scone with no knife to rescue it was a slowly unfolding episode of tragedy accompanied inappropriately by the Hornpipe from the Water Music with bursts from the real organ.

Then there was the awful moment when Andrew asked me publicly to agree THE Toccata and Fugue was probably not by Bach. He wasn't to know I had recently been looking into this, and had come to the conclusion that it was wise to bear in mind what the Russian organist Alexander Fiseisky once said to me - 'Bach never composed the same piece twice' - in other words it's not the only one of his pieces which is not like any other; also that if JSB didn't write it, you tell me someone else among his contemporaries who could have.

And what did I think of the Hauptwerk? - well it was a bit like listening to a recording of Hereford Cathedral organ, acoustic and all, fascinating, but strange to have an acoustic that did not match the room we were in. A great experience to be all but playing a cathedral organ, but would it help me practice? - I'm not so sure.

Why not go to the next recital and form your own first-hand opinion?

Editor's note:

Many thanks to Neil Page for organising this outing.

Neil writes as follows:

1. Thanks to Lance Foy for his insight into the instrument at St Michael's and its 'transplant' history.
2. Thanks to David Read, organist at St M's for a lovely demonstration piece by Denis Bedard.
3. Sorry that Michael Farley was 'hors de combat' and unable to be with us - wish him a speedy recovery.
4. Thanks to Colin Peacock for time of him and his staff, especially the 'cake-baker'.
5. It was a good turnout of 14 members (I think!) and the day went very quickly. Everyone had plenty of time on both instruments and enjoyed them greatly. It was a shame that very few got to find out about the pipes that play two pitches - so 12 notes from 6 pipes..... very clever, typical Compton.

The EDOA Website:

<http://www.exeterorganists.net>

Administrator Graham Willson. The website includes EDOA events, Find an Organist, Newsletters, Gallery, Links, Opportunities, Contact Us, Committee.

Graham is always looking for new content, including text and photos. The post of Deputy Webmaster is also currently vacant, and Graham would be delighted to hear from any potential volunteers.

David Lee



David Lee

Peter Johnstone writes:

David was born in 1937. During the war years he, his mother and his sister spent much time staying on a farm on Dartmoor, his father being away for the war.

The family had Exmouth connections and he became a member of Glenorchy Church (then Congregational but now United Reformed) in 1952. His mother was an organist and he took up the organ and shared the playing with her. After she died he continued living alone in the family home. He also enjoyed time at a cottage he owned in Lydford. He loved walking in the countryside. He qualified as a solicitor and worked for an Exmouth practice.

David was dedicated to serving Glenorchy Church – not only as a gifted organist, but in several other roles as well, making use of his legal knowledge. He also coordinated the churches in Exmouth for “Christian Aid” collections.

He contributed much to the musical life of Exmouth. He sang as a tenor in the Exmouth Choral Society and served on their committee. He arranged the Wednesday Lunchtime Classical Music Concerts at Glenorchy Church for about 20 years.

David was a member of the EDOA and travelled to many of the “organ crawls”. He was particularly fond of the Father Willis organ at Great Torrington and had hoped to go on our recent trip there. He also served on the EDOA Committee.

During his time there have been additions to the 1880 Bevington organ in Glenorchy Church. David’s funeral will take place in Glenorchy Church at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 13th October 2023.

Michael Pagliero

Memorial Service at Exeter Cathedral, Tuesday 24th October, 1pm

The following message was received from Henry Pagliero:

This is a follow up message to my previous email informing of the passing of my father on 17th September containing words he had written as a final farewell. I would like to thank you all for the messages you replied with to the email or, as some advised, had sent independently to my mother. I have collated all the individual messages I personally received and passed them on to the family. One question that did crop up many times was for details of the funeral for which I apologise the delay as these were being arranged at that time thus not set in stone. I am happy to advise we can now confirm the details as follows.

Monday 23rd October will be a private family only service followed by the cremation. Full details will be disclosed to all parties involved separately.

Tuesday 24th October shall be the memorial service open to all commencing at 13:00 in Exeter Cathedral. This will be followed by drinks and nibbles in the Nave where we can all share stories and honour the man whom we all held dear to our hearts.

We totally understand that not all of you can make it due to health or geographical reasons however we do hope to see many of you on the day. It would be helpful if you could RSVP your intent to attend to give us a rough idea of numbers so we can ensure adequate seating is laid out and nibbles provided. Kind regards, Henry Pagliero.

If you are going to the memorial Service PLEASE RSVP Henry Pagliero at pags101@gmail.com



Website: <https://exeter.anglican.org/resources/worship/pipeup-devon/>

Introduction:

PipeUp Devon is the Diocese of Exeter Young Organists' Training Scheme which aims to inspire, enable and improve the skills of young church organists in Devon.

The scheme embraces these objectives:

- To stimulate interest in playing the organ among young people in Devon and to provide subsidised tuition.
- To provide the churches of the Exeter diocesan area with a greater number of organists than is presently available.

PipeUp Devon was created in 2020, along the lines of a similar very successful scheme in Salisbury Diocese, by Andrew Millington (former Director of Music, Exeter Cathedral), Peter King (Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey) and Ian Currer (former Director of Music, Royal Hospital Chelsea). Initially, the scheme was supported by grants of £5,000 from the Ouseley Church Music Trust and £1,500 from the St Wilfrid's Trust, Exeter.

The scheme benefits from having a number of well-qualified and experienced organ tutors throughout Devon willing to provide tuition.

Number of students:

Seven students were receiving tuition at the end of last academic year. We started September 22 with 8 students and we currently have 11 students on the scheme. The age range is still 11-17, and we have seven students residing in Exeter and East Devon, with three in South Devon and one in North Devon.

Activities:

We held two very successful workshops in the Autumn term. The first was in Bideford Church in September, a repeat of the "Pulling out all the Stops!" talk from last year led by David Davies, who gave an informative and humorous talk and demonstration. In November, Dr David Baker led a fascinating workshop when Primary aged pupils were invited to help construct an organ (and then play it!), followed by a demonstration of a church pipe organ. Three groups of approx 15 students attended these workshops, two in Exmouth (All Saints Church) and one in Exeter (St Michael's, Mount Dinham).

Plans:

We aim to increase the number of students on the scheme by five students per annum over the next five years. Whilst our current students are mostly beginners, our eventual aim is to encourage students to play for services in their local churches.

Funds and fund raising:

At the end of this academic year, our projected balance is **£10,398.25**

Income:

We are extremely grateful to those Trusts and other bodies who have generously contributed to the PipeUp Devon fund. In the last year, we have raised a further £4,951 from local and national trusts, with some promises of ongoing funding. This includes £2,000 from the Eric Thompson Trust, £750 from the Ecclesiastical Music Trust and donations of £700.

Parental contributions to lesson fees this year total £ 2,738.50 This equates to approx 183 hours of tuition.

Expenditure:

This year, we have paid £7,537.50 in tutors' fees and £650.00 in costs for the October workshop..

Balance sheet In brief:

Starting balance: £ 10,896.25

Income:

Grants/Donations: £ 4,951.00

Parent contributions: £ 2,738.50

£ 7,689.50

Expenditure:

Tutor fees: £ 7,537.50

Workshops: £ 650.00

£ 8,187.50

Income over expenditure for this year: £ -498.00

Balance at 30 June 2023: £ 10,398.25

Financial Projection:

For each (more advanced) student who receives one hour of tuition per week, the amount required to support lessons is £900 per annum. Assuming we reach our target of 12 students for next academic year, and that 50% of them receive a 1 hour lesson per week and 50% receive a 30 minute lesson per week, the cost will be £8,100 for next year. We shall, therefore, need to continue to look for significant further financial support if we are to be able to meet our aim of increasing the number of students and sustain tuition over time.

Finally:

We are delighted that the scheme is continuing in such a positive way, and has attracted more students. We are very keen to build on this initial momentum and expand the scheme in the next months to more young people.

Mark Perry - Administrator. 5 August 2023



PipeUp workshop in November 22 - building an organ

The Trials and Tribulations of the Village Organist, Thorverton Church Michael "Pags" Pagliero



The concert

The 6th concert in this series took place on 24th September, sadly, without its creator, Michael "Pags" Pagliero.

Peter Johnson, Andrew Millington and the editor played pieces, which were interspersed with stories. The Thorverton Church people had been promoting this concert in the neighbouring parishes, and as a result, together with a good attendance from EDOA members, there was an audience of about 75. After the first half, there was a social break, with very welcome teas, cakes and biscuits laid on. In the second half, Andrew's performance of The Dam Busters March, Handel's water Music, and the evergreen JSB T&F in D minor (controversy about authorship referred to) all proved popular. Someone had requested THE Widor Toccata, which Andrew played as an encore, in a shortened version, as he said "his arms would drop off" otherwise with the mechanical action!

All the T&T concerts have raised money in aid of the Pipe Up charity. We were very heartened that this concert raised a total of £467, of which one half, £233, went to Pipe Up.

Programme:

Piers Howell

The Processional, Mohrentanz, by Susato
Sicilienne, by Maria Theresia von Paradis
The Swan, from The Carnival of the Animals,
by Camille Saint-Saëns
Nun Danket Alle Gott, by Sigfrid Karg-Elert

Peter Johnson

Choral Prelude – Wenn wir in höchsten
Nöten sein, by J. S. Bach
Prelude – Rhosymedre, by R Vaughan
Williams
Cantilena – from Sonata No 11, by J
Rheinberger
Peter also related: "Refused entry to the
wedding", "The weekend of the Brown
Envelope"

Andrew Millington

Toccata and Fugue in D minor, by J. S. Bach
Air and Bourree, from The Water Music, by G. F. Handel
The Dam Busters March, by Eric Coates
Encore-Widor Toccata



Andrew Millington at the Thorverton organ, 2023 AGM

Michael “Pags” Pagliero, and the background to the T&T concerts

[by the editor]

Michael Pagliero was a larger-than-life figure, both physically and in character. He would describe his job as a sawbones, but in reality he was a heart surgeon. When I first met Michael in the late 1990s, he was semi-retired and being called upon to fly to distant places to bring heart attack patients to the UK, without them dying on the way.

Michael was also a life-long organ enthusiast, not of the formal organ scholar type, but someone who could play songs at parties and improvise on popular tunes, such as Widcombe Fair.



Pags at Witheridge, February 2020, with Peter Johnson

4 years ago, Michael, we called him “Pags” after his name, from his Italian ancestors, devised a series of concerts called “The Trials and Tribulations of the Village Organist”. The format was that Pags would sit behind a keyboard at the top of a village church nave, and recount a series of anecdotes and jokes about village organists. After he had held forth for a while, he would call on one of his 2 sidekicks, Peter or me, to play something. Then he would do something like playing variations on Three Blind Mice, in the style

of Haydn, then Scarlatti, J S Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert and Debussy.

If Exeter Chiefs were playing, Pags would issue the instruction “No Chiefs results please”, so he could go home and watch the result.

About 3 months ago, Michael was taken seriously ill, and was unable to take part in the concert at Thorverton, which he had already arranged. We then received the sad news that Michael died on 17th September.



Pags at Witheridge, February 2020, with Piers Howell, Peter Johnson and John Harris



Buckfast Abbey Registered Charity No. 232497

Music at
Buckfast Abbey



2023

GRAND-ORGUE RECITALS

Saturday 24th June at 19:30

FRÉDÉRIC BLANC

Winner of several international competitions, celebrated French organist Frédéric Blanc makes his debut appearance at Buckfast Abbey. His programme includes music from the eighteenth century to the present day, including works by Charles Tournemire and Maurice Duruflé, and concludes with his own improvisation on submitted themes.

Saturday 22nd July at 19:30*

NATHAN LAUBE

A leading performer and pedagogue, Nathan Laube is Associate Professor of Organ at the Eastman School of Music, as well as International Consultant in Organ Studies at the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire in the UK. His extensive international recital career takes him continually to major concert venues and festivals around the world, and his appearance at Buckfast promises to be a musical tour-de-force.

Saturday 16th September at 19:30

ROBERT PECKSMITH

The inimitable European voice of the Abbey organ will be demonstrated in this inaugural solo concert given by the new Assistant Master of the Music. Works by J. S. Bach and Charles-Marie Widor form the musical core of the programme, with the latter composer's expansive *Symphonie Gothique* (dating from the very end of the nineteenth century) providing an ideal vehicle to celebrate the instrument's French tonal influences.

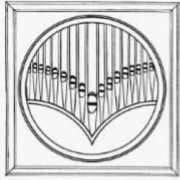
Saturday 28th October at 19:30*†

THOMAS TROTTER

Thomas Trotter is one of Britain's most widely admired musicians. He has had a special relationship with the City of Birmingham since he was appointed City Organist in 1983. His much-anticipated appearance at the Abbey coincides with the deferred centenary of the Exeter and District Organists' Association, and his programme includes a newly commissioned work, *Defeating Lucifer*, by Thomas Hewitt Jones, to celebrate the Association's long-standing role in the county's music.

Tickets £10 (†£15) available from www.buckfast.org.uk/events or from the Abbey Visitor Welcome Centre

*A two-course pre-concert meal is available in the Conference Centre dining room at 17:45 for £23.95.



EXETER AND DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

www.exeterorganists.net

ANNUAL DINNER BOOKING FORM 2023

THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER, 7:00 FOR 7:30 pm, THE SWAN'S NEST INN, STATION ROAD, EXMINSTER, EX6 8DZ

This year the EDOA Annual Dinner will take place at The Swan's Nest Inn, which lies just off the A379 at Exminster. The format for this event will be the same as in previous years although, with costs ever rising, we have opted to omit a starter course and restrict the meal to two courses, Dinner and Pudding at a ticket price of £28.00 per head. (The price includes main course and dessert then coffee or tea but excludes bar drinks). If you have allergies, please contact Swan's Nest direct on 01392 832371 for individual menu.

We look forward to welcoming our Guest Speakers, Amy Carson and Nicki Rose with a talk about their time as the first girl choristers at Salisbury Cathedral.

Please complete the booking form below and send it to:

PETER JOHNSON, 98 BEER ROAD, SEATON, DEVON, EX12 2PU

Peter's telephone number is 01297 599086 and e-mail address is peteraj@talktalk.net

Please note that the deadline for bookings is Thursday 2nd November 2023



.....
To Mr Peter Johnson, 98 Beer Road, Seaton, EX12 2PU

ANNUAL DINNER Thursday 16th November 2023, 7.00pm for 7.30pm

Please reserve places for the following:

Name(s)

.....

Address

.....

E-mail address and/or telephone number

.....

I enclose a cheque for £..... (made payable to "Exeter and District Organists' Association") @ £28.00 per person or I have paid by BACS: Account name "Exeter and District Organists' Association"; Sort Code 30-93-15; Account Number 00759215 (TSB, Exmouth branch)

My / Our food choices are as follows (please tick box as appropriate)

Name:.....

Name:.....

Main Course

Carvery (Meat)

Carvery (Quorn)

Nut Roast

Dessert

Selection from a choice of 11 desserts on the night

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