

The Cornopean

January 2025

EXETER & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION





EDOA Newsletter

January 2025



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Front page: Masterclass, see Editor's Letter

[all photos in this newsletter are by the editor, unless otherwise stated]

Forthcoming events

Saturday 8th February 2025, lunchtime, Quiz at The Bridge Inn, Topsham, EX3 0QQ.

At 12 noon, compiled by Tony Yates, music by Andrew Millington. Please let Paula know if you are coming, and whether you will bring your own food as before, or would like the Bridge Inn to supply a hot pasty and soup at cost (for this, please ring 01392-873862 at least a week ahead to order, mentioning "organists' quiz").

Saturday 15th March 2025, organ visit in East Devon, including Honiton, Axminster and Musbury, also possible – Seaton, Wurlitzer at Beer, further details TBA.

Saturday 12th April 2025, AGM at Broadclyst Church; organ available for members to play 10.00-11.30am, short organ recital by President-Elect Nigel Guthrie 11.30, AGM 12 noon, followed by lunch at the Red Lion at 1pm.

The EDOA Committee

Andrew Millington (President), Nigel Guthrie (Vice-President),
Paula Taylor (Secretary), Peter Johnson (Treasurer),
Peter Johnstone (Membership Secretary, corresponding member only),
Tim Noon, Neil Page, Gerald Hird, Penelope Cowman,
Graham Willson (Webmaster, corresponding member only),
Piers Howell (Newsletter Editor)

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.

Stop Press!

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

Editor's letter

The Cornopean, technical problem

Whilst The Cornopean was revealed by the recent questionnaire to be a popular feature of the EDOA, a technical problem was encountered with the October 2024 edition. It transpired that several members did not receive their emailed copy, for reasons that are not immediately obvious. For some time, the newsletters have sent as email attachments with no problem, but it appears that file size may have been a reason why the internet has started to refuse sending them, even though the file size is well below the warning level for emails. Proving a negative is difficult, but the fact that I did not receive my own copy by email was a warning; checking confirmed that other members had not received theirs. A reduced-size Cornopean was sent out in November, which hopefully everyone received.

The Cornopean has been sent out at regular 3-month intervals, January, April, July and October, for at least the last 2 years. If any member has missed any of these, please let me or Paula know, and we will get copies sent out.

As an experiment, I will be asking Paula to email members to say the newsletter is about to be sent, then sending it separately. Then, hopefully, members will get the first email, and can let us know if the file does not arrive.

Masterclass 12th October 2024

Many members attended this masterclass; more details are given on page 4. The front cover of The Cornopean has a remarkable photo of two organists, one a former Organ Scholar at Downing College, Cambridge, and the other elected for Organ Scholarship at the same college. When Oriel Chapman takes up her post in 2026, this will be 55 years after Andrew Millington took his.

Annual Dinner 6th November 2024

Once again, members and their guests enjoyed this annual event; more details on page 6.

Crediton Parish Church 18th January 2025

A report on this event will be included in the next newsletter.

You are the Conductor! at St Paul's Church, Newton Abbot Saturday 1st March

I mention here, an event being put on by EDOA member Clive Sawers. See the poster on page 9.

Home organs, and Harrison & Harrison

Following my comments in the last newsletter, the Hauptwerk sample set for St Mary Redcliffe has now been released, to much acclaim. My big decision, now, is Harrison & Harrison or Cavallé-Coll? Or both? I know at least one EDOA member, for whom H&H can do no wrong, they are the most wonderful organs ever built, etc; and yet another member who believes they are the worst organs in the world. No names ... ! I suppose it's good that people care, one way or the other.

Piers Howell, Editor.

piershowell@msn.com

A Devon Organ Book

From our treasurer, Peter Johnson:

Based on the popularity of our initial print run we commissioned a further 50 copies to be printed and several have been sold already. We can continue to offer these books at a selling price of £12.50 (Postage and envelope, if appropriate, is currently £2.80). Copies of "A Devon Organ Book" are excellent value and can be obtained by contacting me either by telephone or by e-mail: 01297-599086, peteraj@talktalk.net ... Perhaps an idea for a present for a friend or relative?

MASTERCLASS



David Davies, with player Ezra Jefferies

On 12th October 2024, a Master Class for Young Players was given by David Davies, Director of Music at Sidmouth Parish Church. The venue was St Peter's Church, Budleigh Salterton, with its substantial 3-manual organ by Michael Farley. A good-sized audience gathered to hear four young organists.

As an attender at many masterclasses over the years, I have noticed that a common problem is finding sufficient candidates, with a suitable level of achievement, who will benefit from the advice of the eminent organist conducting the proceedings. I have seen players with only a basic level of competence, who either don't know the piece, or need assistance with the notes, which is not the object of the masterclass.

This was most definitely not the case with these young organists, who in each case performed pieces that had evidently had much preparation, and in each case they will go on to great things in the organ world. They all had a level of competence that many seasoned older organists will envy. As well as playing all the right notes in the right order, they also had the confidence in handling a large instrument that is necessary for future success.

The first player was Ezra Jefferies (13) from East Devon, who has lessons with Richard Godfrey at Lyme Regis. In conversation with him afterwards, I learned that he already has Grade 6 in both piano and organ, with distinction for piano.

Next was Isaac Whiter (14), a former Exeter Cathedral chorister now at Wellington School, and a pupil of Tim Noon.

Third was Thomas Coldrick (17), another former Exeter Cathedral chorister. He is learning organ with Stephen Tanner at Budleigh. He sings in the Budleigh church choir, and plays services at Kenn church. He is very interested in organ building, as well as playing, and is also at Wellington School.

Finally, Oriel Chapman (17), who is Organ Scholar at Colyton church, ARCO (prize winner) and recently



David Davies with the 4 young organists



elected to the Organ Scholarship at Downing College, Cambridge for 2026. Oriël attends Colyton GS, and is a pupil of Richard Godfrey. Oriël gave a polished performance of Bach's G minor Fantasia.

Isaac and Thomas are students in PipeUp Devon. Ezra and Oriël are PipeUp students in the Salisbury diocese, as they have lessons at Lyme Regis. Richard Godfrey is the main

driver of the Salisbury scheme, on which the Devon scheme is modelled.

Congratulations are due, not only to all the players, but to David Davies for his excellent conduct of the masterclass, and for his helpful advice to the players.

All in all, this event gave me much confidence for the future of organ-playing, and for the unique English Choral Tradition which is reliant on organists of quality. The support and promotion of young organists should be one of the main objects of any Organists' Association, and I hope that EDOA will be able to put on a similar event before too much time passes.

EDOA QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

These responses to the 2024 EDOA questionnaire have been collated by EDOA Secretary, Paula:

30% of email members replied, and 50% "snail-mail" members; a total of 40 replies.

Of these, 10 were female, 30 male, with average membership of 15 years.

The average number of events attended was 2.64 events in a year.

Overall scores:

The highest score was 4.63 out of 5 for The Cornopean newsletter [*phew! – editor*]

Local trips 3.81, Cathedral visits 3.46, educational events 3.45, AGM 3.38, website 3.18,

annual dinner 2.97, day trips 2.95, social events 2.75.

The lowest score was 2.16 out of 5 for residential trips.

Time of day/week preferences:

Daytime events 14, evening 3, weekends 10, majority had no preference or didn't vote.

Other members' comments:

Difficulty of driving at night, especially in winter, mentioned by many members.

[Paula's comment:

These statistics seem to be at odds with our highest attendances at the Annual Dinner! Averaging 50 attendees including guests in recent years.]

[Editor's comment:

My enduring memories of EDOA events since the early 1990s have been of the residential/multi-day trips, when we have visited a wide range of wonderful organs in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Brittany. I accept that time and cost may be problematical for some members.]

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner of the Association was held on 6th November 2024, at The Devon Hotel, Exeter. This was a new venue for EDOA, and we were able to gather in a spacious room with all facilities nearby.



President, Andrew Millington



Speaker, the Very Rev. Jonathan Greener

The speaker was the Dean of Exeter, the Very Rev. Jonathan Greener, and he was introduced by our President Andrew Millington.

As has been the case for some time, this popular event was well-attended by members and their guests.



Thanks are due to the staff of the hotel, for making everyone comfortable, and for their prompt service, and to the EDOA organisers Treasurer Peter Johnson and Secretary Paula Taylor.

During the dinner, a special presentation was made to Keith Wadlan, to mark his 35 years of service as treasurer of the Association. President Andrew Millington presented Keith with a copy of A Devon Organ Book.



Andrew and Keith
Photo submitted by Keith

8, Trinfild Avenue,
Exmouth
EX8 3JU

Andrew Millington,
President.
Exeter and District Organists' Association.

January 2025

Dear Andrew,

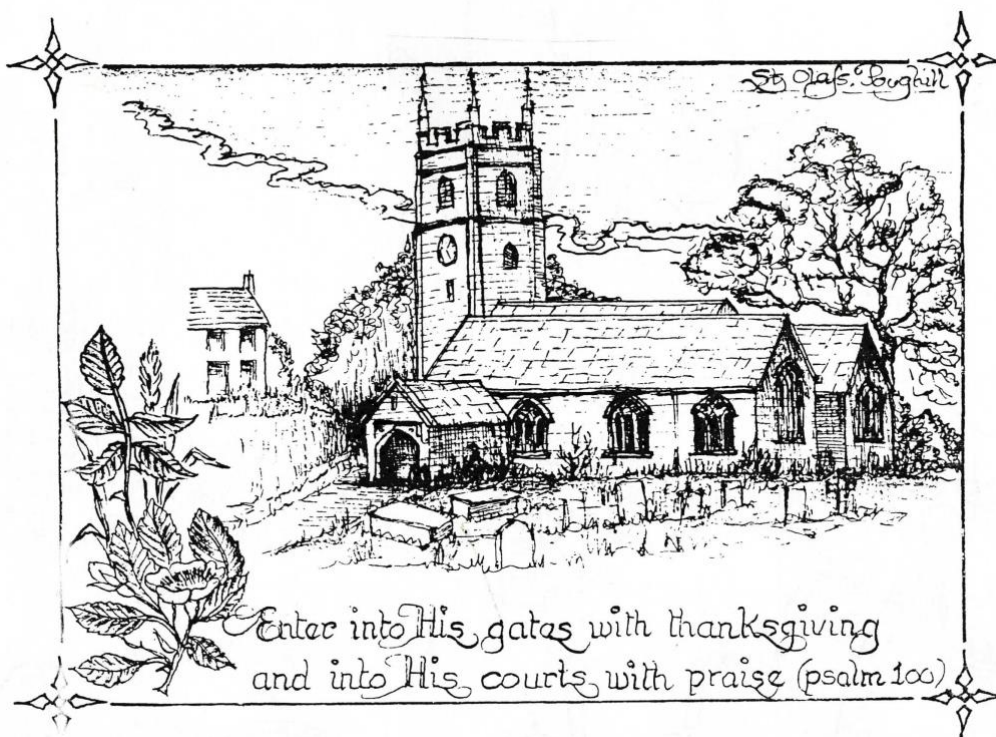
This is just a few lines to pass on to you and the EDOA Committee my grateful thanks for your presentation to me at last November's Annual Dinner, a copy of the very acceptable Devon Organ Book, to mark my 35 years of service as Treasurer of the EDOA.

From my point of view, it's been a great privilege to serve as Treasurer for that length of time and I can cast my mind back over those years and fondly remember all the Presidents (including you of course) and Committee Members with whom I've had the pleasure of working.

I will close by wishing the Exeter and District Organists Association continued success in its service to all organists, of whatever standard, in this area.

With kindest regards,

Keith Wadlan



CREDITON EVENT 16TH FEBRUARY 2025

EDOA members may be interested in the following event, organised by Jon Rawles,
Director of Music at Holy Cross Church, Crediton:

COME-AND-SING CHORAL EVENSONG

at Holy Cross, Crediton (EX17 2AH)

Sunday 16 February 2025

2:30pm – Arrival & Welcome

5pm – Refreshments

6pm – Choral Evensong

led by Hugh Morris (Head of the RSCM)
accompanied by Jon Rawles (Director of Music at Holy Cross, Crediton)

This event is free – but places must be booked via:
creditondirectorofmusic@gmail.com

Music to include:

A Hymn for St Cecilia – Howells

Preces & Responses – Radcliffe

Evening Service – Wood in Cm

Hail, gladdening light - Wood



You are the Conductor!

The forgotten art essential for hymn playing

Presented by Clive Sawers,
Organist St Paul's Church,
Devon Square, Newton Abbot, TQ12 2HN

Saturday 1 March 2025, 10am-12:30pm

Website: www.thecompletehymn.co.uk

Limited free parking at the church

1. Introduction and the principles of leading your congregation to remove all doubt when to start singing

Break for tea and coffee

2. Ways of playing particular hymns where we look at several hymn tunes in common use today including some worship songs
3. Your problem hymns - a session to look at those hymn tunes that are proving troublesome; and also to look at any new hymn tunes that delegates might like to bring.

ORGAN FOR SALE

Viscount Cadet 31, 8 years old, 2 manuals, pedalboard and bench, located in Exminster.
Little used, in immaculate condition, this organ was the pride and joy of Jock Smith, EDOA member and Past-President, who died last year.
Enquiries to Eileen Smith, telephone 01392-833106, please mention Paula Taylor when ringing.



THE TRIALS & TRIBULATIONS OF THE VILLAGE ORGANIST

By the editor

To follow on from the recollections of our fondly-remembered EDOA member, Michael “Pags” Pagliero, the editor recalls his own recent version of Trials and Tribulations:

As a teenager, I played the organ in unheated churches in Lincolnshire, so I don't mind the cold too much. In fact, one could say that playing in a cold church helps to sharpen the senses, and maybe guard against nodding off during a service ...

Carol service number 1

Last month, however, the word “tribulations” achieved a new meaning for me. Having been asked to play for a carol service in a neighbouring village, high on top of a hill, and noted for its “healthy” (i.e. cold) climate, I had already made a preparatory visit, so knew something of what to expect.

The car park next to the church was full, so I had to park some distance away, and find my way to the church by torch. The church itself was dark, so had to use the torch again to find the light switches. The harmonium (yes, there are still some in use in churches) lurked in the dark, but I had arrived forewarned with my own portable console light. The seat, jammed close up, had to be moved backwards to the point of nearly tipping over a 1 foot drop. Interestingly, the 5-octave keyboard ranged from F to F, with the only harmonium I have ever come across with notes going down to 32' F. Unfortunately, there was a 16' stop jammed on, which consumed so much wind, and sounded so muddy, that everything had to be played an octave higher. Even then, peddling away, like a swan does under the surface, was fraught; in the 3rd verse of Once in Royal, I wondered if leg cramp would set in before the end. To add injury to insult, a black sharp broke off at the top of the keyboard, next to a much-repeated D, leaving a jagged edge to scratch with every press. My hands and fingers took about a week to recover ...

On top of all that, ***IT WAS COLD!*** – I could see my own breath during the whole service.

Did anyone sing? Not a lot ...

Upon enquiry, I was told “the harmonium was last used for a wedding 3 years ago, there is normally an instrument group, who weren't available for the carol service”! One wonders how the wedding went, musically speaking. I did manage to revive with a couple of glasses of hot punch afterwards, though.

Carol service number 2

2 days later, my fingers still in emergency measures, there was our own village carol service. Everything was going fine (Wachet Auf etc), until 10 minutes before the start of the service, the swell box closed and refused to stay open. A closed swell box is about as much use in a congregational carol service as a chocolate teapot. After trying various hymn books (too large), I settled upon a Book of Common Prayer (dusty!) to jam open the swell pedal at the last minute. The book fell out again between carols 6 and 7, necessitating a quick descent from the bench to re-fix it.

Later that evening, without any particular expectation (2 days before the Midnight Mass), I emailed our friendly organ-builder to explain the problem. I was astonished to receive a message next morning, followed by his arrival in person, to fix the problem. It transpires that the movement from the pedal to the swell box shutters is transmitted by something rather like a bicycle brake cable, which had been operating reliably for at least 50 years, until I broke it. What would we organists do without our wonderful, quietly efficient, organ-builders?

ORGAN ADVISOR SEEKS WORK!

The following letter appeared in Organists' Review, March 1989:

Organ Advisor Seeks Work!

Your readers might be interested in the following gem of an organ which I recently discovered.

The Grand Organ in the Church of St Christina the Astonishing

GREAT		SWELL		PEDAL	
Vile One	16	Lieblich Gateaux	8	Double Orquits	32
Open Dialogue	8	Shallitshut?	8	Boredom	16
Rarefruit	8	Box of Angelica	8	Ansaphone	8
Squint	5 1/3	Wallto Wallflute	4	Contraceptive	16
Chimney Stack	4	Tears	1 3/5	Bonnyancleide	8
Hazard	2 2/3	Soufflet	1		
Super Octopus	2	Piccolinitetto	1 1/2"		
Fiftieth	3/4"	Squeakyaltar	II		
Plein View	IV	Orchestral Buffoon	16		
Crumpet	8	Ohblow!	8		
Carry-on	4	Tuba Smarties	8		
		Cornetto	4		
		Trembling Aunt	-		

This fine instrument was built in 1899 by 'Father' Christmas. The reeds are worthy of special note, as the Tuba Smarties is quite colourful, and that cross between a Krummhorn and a Trumpet, the Crumpet, is well-rounded; but it is unfortunate that there is *just one Cornetto*. The pipes of the Central heating Department (situated beneath the console) function in winter as a 128' Acoustic Double Contra Subbass.

Concern for the reliability of the Swell Shallitshut? led recently to a large-scale open diapectomy. At this time several sections of the Roughwerk were removed, notably the Negative Division – which added absolutely nothing to the ensemble – and the Long Division, which most players found rather cumbersome. The neurotic action was however retained as it seemed to complement the fierce temperament.

The present organist, Miss Clarabella Flute, now enjoys the convenience which many of her contemporaries have appreciated for some time, namely the ability to change her combinations without leaving her bench.

Rev Bro Aaron Kiely, Liverpool.

