

FROM THE EDITOR. As this edition of *Newsletter Editor* goes to press, further Covid-19 restrictions have been announced and the Prime Minister has told us to expect restrictions for a number of months. In these difficult times, we hope that members will find the Association's initiatives helpful - ranging from these monthly *Newsletter Extra* publications, the Association's online Zoom meetings - most recently our President, John Wilson's presentation on *Around the UK in 40 Organs* held last week - and of course, the expanded quarterly *Newsletter*, now running to 20 pages.

On the subject of the *Newsletter*, members will find the latest edition, Issue 4/2020, published at the same time as this *Newsletter Extra*. You will see that it includes exciting news about the plans for NDOA's centenary in 2021, and a fascinating interview with the IAO's General Secretary, Alan Taylor who has been closely involved with our planning for the Midlands Organ Day, now to be held on 25th September 2021. Alan's predecessor addressed the inaugural meeting of our Association in 1921. You will also find much more of interest, including news of Northampton's newest organ-builder, Soundcraft; news of the 2020 St Matthew's Day commission, *The Little Organ Mass of the Angels* which will feature in Justin Miller's Ron Gates Memorial Recital at St Matthew's on 4th October, and an article by Roger Palmer on the organs of St Michael and All Angels, Northampton. It is really pleasing to that we are able to bring a range of articles to members in the *Newsletter*, and I am really grateful to all the contributors for their work - also including Justin Miller, Lee Dunleavy, Helen Murphy and Paul Bland in this issue. I do hope you will enjoy it - and perhaps be inspired to write something yourself?

In the same way that our programme this year already had to adapt to Covid-19 restrictions, our planned Reluctant Organists' Day later this month with Tony Edwards has had to be postponed, and Tony has kindly agreed to allow us to include it in the 2021 programme. Sadly, it will also not now be possible for us to hold our AGM on 7th November in person at Castle Ashby as we had planned, and the meeting will now be held virtually by Zoom call. Helen will circulate details of the meeting in the usual way in the coming weeks.

Richard Tapp

NDOA CENTENARY 2021. Plans for our centenary celebrations are well-advanced - in spite of the pandemic!



Do see fuller details on p.3 of the current edition of the *Newsletter* for all the events and projects we have in hand, but just as a taste we are well advanced in producing a CD of a number of organs from Northampton and district, played by our members, and a book of specially-commissioned organ compositions, together with a short history of the Association. If you're reading this and you're not already a member, we'd love to have you on board to enjoy our centenary year with us - you'll find all the information you need at <http://www.northamptonorganists.org.uk/join/>.

COVENTRY CALLING... Lots of interesting news from our good friends at Coventry, where members enjoyed an excellent visit last year kindly hosted by the now-DoM Rachel Mahon. Choral services are now being broadcast with the choir on their new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/CoventryCathedralMusic>. Rachel has also been nominated for the prestigious Paul de Hueck and Norman Walford award from Ontario Arts Foundation in the classical keyboard category, which it is believed has not previously been won by an organist.

IAO NEWS. You can find lots of information about the IAO and all the work it does in the *Newsletter* interview with Alan Taylor, but you might also like to look at the IAO's new and very attractive website at <https://iao.org.uk/> where you can find much more about the IAO, its history and development, and the benefits it offers to members of affiliated associations such as NDOA, including discounts on IAO events and publications, discounted music from Church Organ World, a quarterly newsletter, and access to the IAO Benevolent Fund in the event of the financial hardship of a member.





NDOA NOTES AND NEWS. As over the last few months, we are pleased to include a few more items which members may find of interest. As ever in the present situation, local and national instructions may change. You should not attend an event if you have symptoms, and we strongly recommend that you check details, pre-booking and access requirements with the venue.

- **St Matthew's, Northampton.** Justin Miller, our member and DoM at St Matthew's Northampton, is scheduled to give the Ron Gates Memorial Recital following Evensong on Sunday 4th October. The programme will include the new *Little Organ Mass of the Angels*. Further details are in the new edition of the *Newsletter*. The Recital (and other services from St Matthew's) are livestreamed at <http://www.stmatthewsnorthampton.org.uk/> and on the church's Facebook page.
- **Organrecitals.com**, the website which lists organ recitals across the UK, has now reopened and is publishing details of both physical and online recitals. At the time of going to press, the closest recitals to our area are at St Paul's Bedford on Saturday 10th October by Stephen King from Brentwood Cathedral, and St Alban's Cathedral on Sunday 11th October by Marko Sever from Westminster Cathedral. Our own member Callum Alger is scheduled to perform at Southwark Cathedral on Monday 12th October.
- **St John the Baptist Cirencester** is livestreaming a recital on the first Wednesday of every month, this month's on Wednesday 7th October at 1.10pm with Jonathan Hope at <https://www.facebook.com/SJBCirenMusic/>.
- **RSCM Hymns and Songs Festival Webinar - 19th October.** RSCM has announced more details of its webinar on hymns and liturgy in an online seminar held jointly with Hymns Ancient and Modern - see www.rscm.org.uk for information.
- **Peterborough Cathedral's Music Department** has welcomed a number of new members. **Chris Strange**, most recently Assisting Organist at York Minster, joins as Cathedral Organist, and **Imogen Morgan** joins as Organ Scholar having completed her degree at Durham. You can find an online recital by Imogen recorded at Durham in mid-September at <https://www.facebook.com/durhamcathedral/videos/255782425588691>. Imogen's recital includes the Bach Prelude and Fugue in C BWV 547 and Howells' Rhapsody No. 3 in C# minor. For more Howells do see Lee Dunleavy's excellent piece in the new edition of the *Newsletter*.
- **St Mary's Wellingborough.** Staying with Lee, we must mention that under his leadership, St Mary's Wellingborough continues to post its excellent Sunday music schedule on the Concerts at St Mary's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/concertsatstmarys>.
- **BIS Organists' Association.** If you have seen any of the Beauty in Sound recitals and Virtual Church sessions mentioned in *NE* over the past few months, you may be interested to see that a virtual Beauty in Sound Organists' Association is being formed - for more details see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S5AIQyARnBo>
- **Dr Francis Jackson.** Dr Jackson celebrates his 103rd birthday on 2nd October and NDOA extends its sincere congratulations to him. You may be interested to hear his inspirational 1993 Radio 4 *Seeds of Faith* interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wOINEFReiK4&t=105s> and to look again at the tribute prepared for his 100th birthday at <https://recordedchurchmusic.org/jackson-francis>.
- **St Rumbold, Stoke Doyle.** Our correspondent James Reed has written to tell us more about the delightful organ at St Rumbold, Stoke Doyle, which the Association visited a couple of years ago. James kindly notes that the instrument was built by Nigel Church & Co for All Saints', Bearsden, Glasgow. It was purchased in 1997 by Oundle International Festival and relocated by Bowers to Stoke Doyle in 2001. More details are at <http://www.nvcop.org.uk/projects/stoke-doyle/>. We hope to hear more about the Northamptonshire Villages Church Organ Project during our rescheduled visit to Harrington next year.
- **Composer of the Week** from Monday 5th to Friday 9th October focuses on Beethoven through the years 1816-1821 when he was 'moving towards yet another extraordinary and revolutionary flowering of his creativity' while at the same time distracted by five years' of litigation over the care of his nephew, Karl. Also available to listen again, all through the programme site at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006tnxf>.

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