



York & District Organists' Association

The PipeLine

The YDOA Newsletter: April

Patron: Dr Francis Jackson CBE (Organist Emeritus, York Minster)

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www.ydoa.co.uk

The York & District Organists' Association is affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists (IAO) and serves all who are interested in the organ and its music.

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1. Words of Wisdom

Alan Spedding 1938 - 2014

A message from the Editor:

Welcome to the April Edition of 'The PipeLine'. It is with deep sadness that I announce the death of the brilliant organist and gentleman Dr Alan Spedding on 05 March 2014. This Edition of 'The PipeLine' is dedicated in memory of Alan and this month's article is a tribute to him from John Scott Whiteley (Organist Emeritus of York Minster). He was a wonderful man and will be greatly missed by so many people. Our thoughts are with his wife and family.

**** DIARY DATES** Upcoming Association Events 2014**

April	Saturday 26 th (14:00)	Organ Plus - Composite Recital for Organ + ??
May	Saturday 31 st (TBC)	Spring Outing - Ripon Area
June	Saturday 28 th (11:00)	Across the Pennines to Ashton-Under-Lyne
July	Monday 28 th - Friday 1 st	IAO Congress - Durham
August	Saturday 30 th (11:00)	Summer Outing - Howden Area
September	Saturday 27 th (14:00)	Lecture Recital on the Wesleys (Dr Simon Lindley)
October	Saturday 25 th (14:00)	Annual Recital and AGM

Please keep an eye on our website at www.ydoa.co.uk and your future newsletters for any changes or additional information about these events.

More detail on the next event can be found on page 5 of this edition.

Note: Some of these events are to be confirmed. Whilst the association and its officers will do their best to keep to these sometimes the best laid plans can be frustrated by factors outside their control! Any changes will be notified in the Pipeline, on the association website and by email.

2. Looking Back



Our March meeting was the YDOA's Annual Dinner. Maximillian Elliott, Editor, writes:

- Our March meeting took place in the Monkbar Hotel and saw the convocation of York's great, good and the rest. The annual dinner is always a convivial evening and this year was no exception.
- We were extremely lucky to acquire the services of John Scott Whiteley as our guest speaker. His speech captivated the room and the subject matter drew extensively on his own experiences as an organ recitalist. 'Tales from organ recitals' is not yet available commercially, but, is set to be a best-seller!
- Once again, we were honoured by the presence of our patron, Francis Jackson, for the evening's festivities. Next year, the YDOA celebrates its 70th Anniversary (Platinum) and we will be holding our 69th Annual Dinner. Dr Jackson has attended almost all of these evenings and could, no doubt, recount many wonderful anecdotes. In order to mark this milestone, the YDOA will be launching several commemorative initiatives, the first of which was announced in our president's speech.

'7 PIECES FOR 7 DECADES'

- At this year's dinner, Nigel Holdsworth (YDOA President), officially launched the 70th Anniversary Organ Album. In conjunction with Banks Music Publications, the YDOA is in the process of publishing an album of organ pieces by living York composers. '7 pieces for 7 decades' will contain works by Francis Jackson, Philip Moore, John Scott Whiteley, Robert Sharpe, Peter Moger and Andrew Carter. The seventh commission will be awarded to the winner of a composition competition at The University of York. By subscribing to this project, members will get their names printed at the front of the album and receive a free copy. More details of this project will follow in the coming months and the official unveiling of the organ album will take place at next year's Annual Dinner.

3. Next Event



Archie Sargent

Lewis Organ

St Columba's
URC

OUR NEXT EVENT: Saturday 26th April - Organ Plus - Composite Recital for Organ + ??.

- We shall arrive at **St Columba's United Reformed Church, York** at **14:00**.
- Between the years 1952-1962, Archie Sargent, the well-known York musician was organist of St Columba's Presbyterian Church. He frequently directed performances of Handel's Messiah and local 'Three Choirs Festivals' in the church. Archie's wife Janet and son Brian (still alive) were also competent musicians and would often perform duets with their respective instruments. In the spirit of this tradition, the YDOA is hosting a composite recital for organ and other instruments in Archie's church.
- The building is equipped with a very fine T C Lewis organ and a piano also resides next to the console. YDOA members are encouraged to bring along musical friends and play duets or ensemble pieces involving a combination of these instruments with others.
- The event should be finished by **16:00**.
- Please could members forward the full details, of any pieces that they are proposing to play, to Nigel Holdsworth a week before the event. Practice time is also available in the morning.

Directions

- **St Columba's United Reformed Church** is situated at the end of Priory Street (off Micklegate) in the city centre of York.
- Parking is available at Nunnery Lane car park – long stay £2 per hour. The on-street parking for Micklegate, Priory St and Toft Green is limited to 2 hours only before 3pm. The Park & Ride from Askham Bar (A64) stops in Blossom St which is quite near Priory Street.

4. Upcoming Recitals & Concerts

Locally

Planned events in York & North Yorkshire include:

YORK CITY CENTRE

All Saints' Church, Pavement (14:30): Bank Holidays - 21 April Phillip Sangwine, - **05 May** Thomas Hawkes, - **26 May** Tom Dewey, - **25 August** Phillip Sangwine.

FURTHER AFIELD

Here is a selection of recitals taking place in Yorkshire:

YORKSHIRE

Boston Spa (Parish Church) (18:00): - 31 May John Scott Whiteley.

Leeds (Town Hall) (13:05): Mondays - 07 April David Hardie.

Leeds (Minster) (12:30): Fridays - 04 April Christopher Newton, - **11 April** Christopher Newton, - **18 April** Christopher Newton, - **25 April** Simon Lindley, - **11 June** Annual Organ Gala, - **11 July** Laurence Caldecote.

Leeds (Cathedral) (13:10): - 28 April Thomas Moore, - **12 May** Aaron Shilson and Elizabeth Cockshott, - **19 May** David Saint, - **02 June** Julie Tanner, - **09 June** Thomas Leech, - **16 June** Paul Bowen, - **23 June** Philip Meaden, - **30 June** Daniel Justin.

Leeds (Mill Hill Chapel) (13:00): - 22 April Anthony Norcliffe, - **13 May** Simon Lindley, - **20 May** Anthony Norcliffe, - **27 May** Alexander Woodrow, - **03 June** Anthony Norcliffe, - **10 June** David Baker, - **17 June** Aaron Shilson, - **24 June** Jeffrey Makinson, - **01 July** Anthony Norcliffe, - **08 July** David Pipe, - **15 July** Anthony Norcliffe, - **22 July** Elin Rees, - **29 July** Anthony Norcliffe, - **05 August** Anthony Norcliffe, - **12 August** Anthony Norcliffe, - **11 November** Anthony Norcliffe, - **16 December** Anthony Norcliffe.

Leeds (St Martin's Potternewton) (11:00): - 05 April Christopher Newton, **03 May** Tim Knight, - **07 June** Phillip Sangwine.

Skipton (Parish Church) (11:00): Bank Holidays - 21 April Mark Williams, - **05 May** Leonard Sanderman, - **26 May** Michael Webb, - **25 August** Robert Marsh.

5. Upcoming Music Sale

Banks Music Publications

The Granary, Wath Court, Hovingham, York YO62 4NN

Tel: 01653 628545 Fax: 01653 627214

Website: www.banksmusicpublications.co.uk

Email: info@banksmusicpublications.co.uk

GRAND SPRING SALE ***Choral and Organ Music***

Come and peruse all the sale stock, there will be something here for everyone, whether you are an organist or belong to a mixed, female or male voice choir.

*****Copies from only 50p*****

Book yourself in for a 30-minute slot

on one of our 2 open days:

**Friday 25 April 10am – 4pm &
Saturday 26 April 10am – 2pm**

Entry by booking is important as due to the layout of our offices, we can only manage 5 people at any one time.

Call or email to book your place.

Rosemary and David look forward to seeing you!

Directions

We are situated at the rear of Wath Court on the B1257 road between Hovingham and Slingsby, North Yorkshire.

From the North:

From A1 / A168 / A19. From Thirsk follow A170 (signposted Scarborough), climb Sutton Bank, travel for approx 6 miles, one mile before Helmsley take right turn (B1257), travel for approx 7 miles to Hovingham, through village, then travel for approx ½ mile and Wath Court is on the left.

From the South:

From A1 / A64. From Malton follow B1257 through Swinton, until Slingsby. Further two miles, and Wath Court is on right.

For SATNAV: YO62 4NN

Tel: 01653 628545

Email: info@banksmusicpublications.co.uk



6. Gallery



The photos in this month's gallery come from March's Event.

Top Row Left: Some top drawer humour at the top table. **Top Row Right:** The Editor shares a moment with FJ.

Middle Row: YDOA Member, Malcolm Smart, gets FJ's autobiography signed by the author.

Bottom Row Left: Something has tiddled tiddles! **Bottom Row Right:** Stephanie Holdsworth and FJ examine technology.

Thanks to Philip Paul and Stephanie Holdsworth for these photographs.

7. Articles



John Scott Whiteley (Organist Emeritus of York Minster) writes:

I first met Alan Spedding at a recital he played in York Minster in 1976. During the 1980s he became a regular visitor to Saturday Evensongs at York, and in 1997 I was privileged to be elected to the Council of Royal College of Organists at the same time as Alan. Our friendship was thereby sealed, and my perceiving him at that time as a charming and avuncular figure, which I know is how his choir regarded him at Beverley, is something I never lost.

Alan was a supportive, dedicated and inspiring musician. Beneath the fun and banter lay a true gentleman, whose own speaking was always erudite, thoughtful and altruistic. His fund of stories from the cathedral music profession made him a brilliant raconteur. Yet the gracious wisdom and charm of Alan's public persona were only part of the story. Almost every time I saw him we would share anecdotes about the professors we had both known at the Royal College of Music. The mere mention of a name would immediately lead Alan into an amusing tale. He had an acerbic wit, and I well recall his visits to York during the 1980s, when he would enquire how we were getting on at the second most beautiful Minster in Yorkshire.

In 1998 we shared platforms during the inaugural recitals to celebrate the completion of the new Lammemuir organ in the chapel of Hull University. After this, we would often talk about the recitals we were giving. Alan recently played in the series at Beverley, in which he presented a performance of César Franck's *Choral III*. I told him that it had been, not in the French tradition, but in the Germani school of playing Franck. As such it was one of the most eloquent accounts I had heard, and it reflected Alan's character perfectly. When I told him I was about to play Reger's *Introduction & Passacaglia* at Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, in characteristic fashion he came back with a story. "You know what Reger said about that piece, don't you?" he asked. I certainly could not recall, and looked at him quizzically. "Oh," said Alan, "well, he said that it was not at all difficult and that the average parish church organist could sight right it." "Well, I'm obviously beneath the standard of the average parish organist then", I said. "So is everyone else!" Alan chuckled.

After 42 years at Beverley Minster, Alan took late retirement in 2008. It was not too long after that that I took early retirement from York Minster. Alan and his wife Ann then became great supporters of events at The Coffee House in Everingham. I think it is true to say that they were the only ones to have attended absolutely every recital presented there. His support and interest were overwhelming.

Alan was the first President of the re-formed Hull Organists' Association, known as the Hull and East Riding Organ Group (HEROG). This association was the brainchild of the zealous and entrepreneurial animators John and Janet Pemberton, but Alan provided a tireless, gentle encouragement, and without him the society would not have achieved nearly the degree of success that it enjoys. Alan's cachet somehow made HEROG into a dignified institution right from the start, and it was an honour for me to succeed him in 2013. The last time I saw Alan was when he was interviewed by his former colleague, Colin Wright, at a local Desert Island Discs presentation. Afterwards, he agreed that these musical selections are personally most revealing. Certainly, what came across then was not only Alan, the inspirer of choral societies, and a primary driving force behind the music of both Beverley and Hull, but also a man of openness, humility and generosity.

Alan was not a disciple, he was one around whom disciples gathered. His personal magnetism attracted a loyal following, not only at Beverley but amidst the echelons of the worlds of cathedral and organ music throughout the country. He will be greatly missed.

8. Organ of the Month

'The Organ of the Month' consists of a series of articles looking at different local instruments and this month features the organ located in:

Albion Street Chapel

Former Organ

Builder: John Hunton

Year: 1838

2 manuals and pedals



Forster and Andrews Organ

The organ in Albion Street Chapel was opened on Christmas Day 1838. It was built by the lesser-known organ builder, John Hunton (York). Mr Shaw presided at the organ for the service. Before the installation of this instrument, there had been a 'singing master' and a number of singers who were accompanied by 'fiddle strings'.

"For power and sweetness [the instrument] cannot be surpassed, and reflects the greatest credit upon the builder, who although a self-taught artist has attained to great eminence in his profession, and we trust that he will long live to enjoy the benefits resulting therefrom".

When the chapel closed in 1856, the organ was sold.

Specification

Great	Open Diapason 8'
	Stop Diapason 8'
	Clarabella 8'
	Harmonica 8'
	Principal 4' (i)
	Principal 4' (ii)
	Fifteenth 2'
	Sesquialtera
Swell	Open Diapason 8'
	Stop Diapason 8'
	Dulciana 8'
	Principal 4'
	Oboe 8'
1, 1/2 Octaves of 'German' pedals	
Couplers	Swell to Great (Described as "a modern improvement")



Albion Street Chapel
Furthest building to the left.

9. The Trivia Section

The Caption Competition



Remember this?

The captions received were from:

“In the beginning God created woman!” (Nigel Perry)

“Oh My God! Do they ordain MEN?” (Edmund Cooke)

The new Caption Competition image is:

What is going on here?

Captions to

tubamagna@hotmail.co.uk

by the 20th April, please!



Some Jokes:

Little bats, flying high,
dropping messages from the sky,
the priest looked up and wiped his eye,
praising God that cows don't fly.

10. The People Section

Vacancies

No vacancies have been received.

If you know of any other vacancies in the area, please contact Maximillian Elliott on *tu-bamagna@hotmail.co.uk* for inclusion in the next edition.

11. The Next Edition

The next edition of your PipeLine newsletter will be the May Edition (published on the 1st of May).

Any articles you would like to contribute to the next edition, in addition to any photographs for the 'Gallery' section (perhaps of events past and present), or any candidates for the 'Organ of the Month', would be most warmly welcomed for publication. Please pass on to Maximillian Elliott at tubamagna@hotmail.co.uk by the 20th of April and NO LATER.

Note

This publication was produced by Maximillian Elliott on behalf of the York & District Organists' Association. (All third party information is printed in good faith and the editor cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies).

12. List of YDOA Presidents

Founded in 1945

1945-6	Sir Edward Bairstow (York Minster)
1946-7	Reginald Rose (St Olave's)
1947-8	Archie Sargent (Monkgate Methodist)
1948-9	Dr Francis Jackson CBE (York Minster)
1949-50	H. Reginald Mason (Centenary Methodist)

1950s

1950-1	Frederick Waive (St Peter's School)
1951-2	Reginald Rose (St Olave's)
1952-3	E Stanley Walton (Heworth)
1953-4	Sir Benjamin Dawson JP
1954-5	Benjamin Summerton (Tadcaster)
1955-6	W A Bean (Thorne Methodist)
1956-7	G J Stacey (St George's, Garrison Church)
1957-8	J S McEllesan (St Michael-le-Belfrey)
1958-9	Walter Hartley (Selby Abbey)
1959-60	Sir Benjamin Dawson JP

1960s

1960-1	Bernard J Porter (Holy Trinity, Micklegate)
1961-2	Ronald Perrin (Assistant, York Minster)
1962-3	W Addamson (All Saints', Pavement)
1963-4	Alec C Cooper (Escrick)
1964-5	Mrs Bowmer (Appleton Roebuck)
1965-6	George L Baggley (St John's College)
1966-7	Tom Ward (St Olave's)
1967-8	Alec Brodie (Haxby)
1968-9	Michael Minns (Driffeld Parish Church)
1969-70	Jim A Norfar (Carlton Husthwaite)

1970s

1970-1	Lloyd D Smith (All Saints', Pavement)
1971-2	Colin McGarritty (Harrogate)
1972-3	Michael Phipps (Castleford)
1973-4	Jack Judson (Harrogate)
1974-5	Alfred Alcock (Acomb Methodist)
1975-6	A Austin Winterbottom
1976-7	Peter Whitehead
1977-8	Mrs Ruth Smith (Southlands Methodist)
1978-9	Mrs Maureen Murfit (Pateley Bridge)
1979-80	The Revd Geoffrey Hunter (Heslington)

1980s

1980-1	Robert Hall (All Saints', Pavement)
1981-2	Michael Latham (Organ-builder)
1982-3	Richard Crosby (Acomb Methodist)
1983-4	Peter Maw (Driffeld)
1984-5	Eric Grewer (Central Methodist)
1985-7	David Templeman (Acomb Methodist)
1987-8	Lloyd D Smith (All Saints', Pavement)
1988-9	Geoffrey Coffin (Organ-builder)
1989-91	George Pilling (Thirsk)

1990s

1991-3	Douglas Heath (Tadcaster Parish Church)
1993-4	Nicholas Page (Central Methodist)
1994-5	David Simpson (St Columba's, URC)
1995-6	Alan Aspinal (Wetherby)
1996-7	Peter Whitehead
1997-8	Maureen Swindells
1998-9	Jean Pilling
1999-2000	Edmund Cooke (Ripon)

2000s

2000-1	Alfred Boddison (Easingwold)
2001-2	Cynthia Wood
2002-3	Edmund Cooke (Ripon)
2003-4	David Simpson
2004-5	Philip Paul (Central Methodist)
2005-7	Phillip Sangwine (All Saints', Pavement)
2007-9	Andrew Roberts (Ripon)
2009-11	Adrian Crawford (Holy Trinity, Micklegate)

2010s

2011-13	Dr Raymond Sturdy (Old Malton Priory)
2013-present	Nigel Holdsworth (St Columba's, URC)