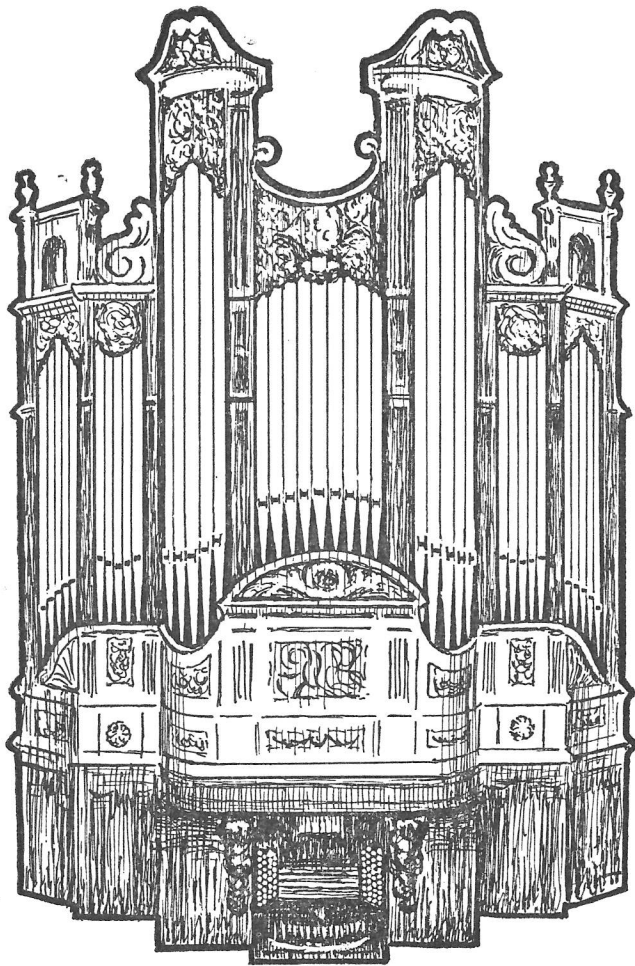


The Berkshire Organist



Number
31

1978



THE BERKSHIRE ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

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A WORD OF EXPLANATION

Our magazine this year nearly wasn't! The AGM had doubts about continuing it, partly on grounds of ever-increasing expense - bearing in mind that our Secretary's excellent Newsletters during the course of the year are a regular and up-to-date source of information on current activities - and partly because our worthy Editor, Mr Davis, who works so hard for this Association in so many unobtrusive ways, was feeling a little discouraged by a lack of contributions from the membership to help him make it interesting.

Only at a recent meeting of the Council was the matter finally debated and decided. Those in favour of continuing The Berkshire Organist thought that it helped to keep absent members informed by reporting in perhaps greater detail than the Newsletters are intended to, and by being a record of the events which they had missed; and that it is a link with other Associations and friends. Some found it an advantage to have all the bits and pieces, including the invaluable list of members' names and addresses, together in one handy booklet rather than on loose sheets which tend to get mislaid. One bright spark, in an unguarded moment, said he didn't want to see it die after an unbroken run of 30 years, especially as he has been in it since the beginning in 1948. That did it. He, poor simpleton, having stuck his neck out, then got landed with the job of being its next editor! And, since this only happened in November, he begs you to forgive the faults and omissions of this issue; some of last year's programmes and comments thereon are missing, simply because he was unable to be there and has not managed to collect the necessary information in time. If you can forgive him, please help him with the next issue by sending in a lot of interesting material to use in it.

He piously hopes that somehow he can keep within sight of the standard set for the first 26 years by Albert Rivers, and for the following four by Leslie Davis. A perusal of back numbers, which are a most interesting record of activities, personalities, talks, programmes, local organ specifications, critiques, with occasional humour, will reveal how well they and their committees did the job. All back numbers are available on loan, but they are rather precious, and must be taken care of - and conscientiously returned! It was once suggested that there should be included a 'Letters to the Editor' section, but a whole year's wait for heated replies would hardly encourage a lively correspondence. Far better to send in strong opinions on burning topics in such a way that they can be set down for posterity in the form of a short article.

Anyhow, let us hope that the 1979 issue will be better than this one - with your help!

ENCOURAGING COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

I suppose there are times with many people when they are lost for words and ideas - even Presidents. And there are many times when we wish people were lost for words.

I have been asked - almost ordered - to write a few words to preface this 1978 magazine and am groping for a starting point, having already sent two messages in our 1977 Newsletters. This new(ish) idea of sending information by Newsletter at, say, quarterly intervals, has many advantages - but do they outweigh the disadvantages? (a) of not having an annual clearcut programme, at least setting out dates of events (b) of expecting the President to write far too much in the course of a year (c) ????

Now the old brain begins to function along appropriate lines, I realise that the obvious starting-point is the exciting fact that, nearly in limbo after 1977, we do, after all, have yet another magazine. This is entirely due to Gordon Spriggs' strong feeling that, after thirty years as such a useful publication, it should not be allowed to perish. Although extremely busy in so many spheres, in the absence of any other volunteer, he felt strongly impelled to undertake the editing of the 1978 issue in hope and faith that we will all support him in one way or another. 'The Berkshire Organist' has reached many high peaks under dedicated editorship in its history, most recently guided by Leslie Davis. For many reasons he felt unable to carry on, but one main reason was not unconnected with the shortage of articles from members. There must be many who could give us interesting items (quite short ones would be most acceptable) about their local Churches and organs, their general experiences, their hobbies (I realise we cannot all compete with Albert Barkus in making a violin!), their musical children and grandchildren, their holidays - - I am sure all kinds of ideas are in your minds just waiting to be set down on paper for the benefit and interest of others.

Essentially, of course, 'The Berkshire Organist' has provided a history of the Association and its doings in annual instalments - without it we should be much the poorer. So congratulations Gordon, and very many thanks. After all, and with great effort (!) I have started to support you.

Donovan L. Jones

BENEVOLENT FUND

The total amount collected during 1977 was £29.06. This is an increase of £9.15 over the previous year. I am very grateful to those who gave so generously last year, and hope that we shall show an increase again at the end of this year.

D.M.Guy
Honorary Benevolent Steward

SOME OF THE 1977 PROGRAMMES

- 22 Jan. Hymn: Christ is our corner stone (Harewood - S.S.Wesley)
Anthem: I am Thine, O save me S.S.Wesley
Organ: Larghetto in F sharp minor S.S.Wesley
Anthem: Wash me throughly S.S.Wesley
Bass Solo: Say to them of a fearful heart (The Wilderness -
S.S.Wesley)
Hymn: O Thou Who camest (Charles Wesley's Ordination hymn,
set to his grandson's tune Hereford)
Anthem: The Lord hath been mindful S.S.Wesley
Duet for Organ: Fuga alla Capella Samuel Wesley
Anthem: Blessed be the God and Father S.S.Wesley
Organ: Air for Holsworthy Church Bells S.S.Wesley
Hymn: The Church's one foundation (Aurelia - S.S.Wesley)
Voluntary: Choral Song S.S.Wesley
- 24 Feb. Fantasia and Fugue in G minor J.S.Bach
Improvisation-Caprice Joseph Jongen
Sonata No.1 in F Mendelssohn
Toccatà Op.12 Fernando Germani
Suite Op.5 M.Durufle
- 17 Sept. Presidential Service
Chorale-Improvisation: From Heaven above, behold I come. Karg-Elert
Intermezzo from Sonata No.8 Rheinberger
Chorale Preludes (a) Vater Unser in Himmelreich
(b) Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier J.S.Bach
Introit O Taste and See Vaughan Williams
Hymn: The Lord is King, Lift up thy voice "Church Triumphant"
Anthem: Praise the Lord, O my soul William Child
Psalm 46 God is our refuge and strength Luther
Anthem: Our Blest Redeemer F.W.Wadeley
Hymn: O Thou who camest from above "Hereford"
Anthem: Lift the strain of high thanksgiving J.R.Watkinson
Hymn: Glorious things of Thee are spoken "Abbot's Leigh"
Vesper: God be in my head John Rutter
Chorale Prelude on the 'Old 104th' C.H.H.Parry
- 12 Oct. Overture to 'Samson' Handel
Three Pieces Frank Bridge
Prelude and Fugue in D (BWV 532) J.S.Bach
Two Chorale Preludes J.S.Bach
Ach bleib bei uns, Herr Jesu Christ
Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland
Sonata Eroica Joseph Jongen
Toccatà Georgi Mushel
Clair de Lune Louis Verne
Fiat Lux T.Dubois
Scherzo from Symphony IV, and Allegro from Symphony VI C.M.Widor

8 Dec. Town Hall Lunchtime Concert - Albert Barkus
Prelude and Fugue in G major J.S.Bach
Fantasia in F (K.594) Mozart
Choral No.1 in E major Cesar Franck
Humoresque Pietro Yon
Fidelis Percy Whitlock
Finale from Sonata No.1 in D minor Guilmant

YESTERDAY AND TODAY

To me it does not seem so many years ago that cathedral organists dwelt in a sphere quite remote from their humbler brethren, securely ensconced within the piped towers of the organ-loft, very often behind a cleverly camouflaged doorway. Occasionally they descended to add to the terror of the examination room. In a modified setting similar unsociable characteristics prevailed among parish organists. I can recall my own respected choirmaster refusing my request to try the organ, and another who, suddenly appearing on the scene, promptly ordered me off the bench while I was being briefed by a priest and churchwardens as deputy for a Guild Service; despite this kick in the teeth I turned up and played the service. I must remind younger readers that this occurred fifty years ago. At about this time three village organists in the family circle journeyed 200 miles each week by bicycle or motor-bike exposed to all weathers; they eventually hit up a score of well over a century at the same churches. With such tenacity posts were jealously guarded and a deputy was regarded with suspicion. Looking back the whole act might appear to have been overplayed, yet, perhaps not so during a time of job shortages and depressed economy; one just got on with the job and responded 'Laus Dei'. This in turn entailed long periods of service and as was so often quoted 'waiting for dead men's shoes'. Vacancies were rare and snapped up by the more mature before a student could put pen to paper, and surprisingly enough, many village churches could boast a D.Mus. at the organ. How incredible this all seems today when piano players are being urged to assume that derogatory sounding title 'The Reluctant Organist'. I can just picture something by Giles - a bewildered individual being roughly manhandled into church by a gang of stalwart choirmen watched by the vicar and a highly amused group of choir-boys. However, joking apart, I know only too well that 'R.O's' are making a worthy contribution towards the maintenance of religious services up and down the country, so I will quickly pass to a view of the present day when the pendulum has swung towards a more friendly and easy-going society when we are rightly enjoined to love our neighbours and welcome the stranger within the gate - so be it, we pray, for the ultimate good of all mankind. Among our particular tribe, the cathedral organists have stepped down among the multitudes, attending meetings at local level, giving lectures and recitals, sharing their knowledge and exchanging common problems. We are now more welcome in the cathedral loft than ever before, and in turn I hope we are becoming more generous towards those non-performing people who show an interest in our work and are now able to join with us at

our meetings. I feel sure this happy state would not have been reached without the untiring efforts of progressive Organists' Associations like our own and The Royal School of Church Music. Furthermore, it is only in recent years that an ordinary parish choir has been permitted to spread its wings and stand-in at a cathedral. All done well, these excursions beget a wealth of good fellowship from chapters, organists and not least vergers of these wondrous places of worship, where in the past even angels may have feared to tread. Long may it continue.

Leslie Davis

At least four different Reading church choirs have had the privilege of singing Evensong in cathedral churches (including St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey), and Leslie Davis writes the foregoing after taking his own choir from Christchurch, Reading, to sing in St. George's Chapel, Windsor - a very great privilege indeed, and an occasion to which those of us who know their capabilities can be sure they did justice. The William Smith responses were sung, the appointed sections of Psalm CXIX, Canticles to Stanford in C, and O Thou The Central Orb. Mr Davis himself accompanied on the organ, concluding with the Finale from Guilmant's Sonata No. 1 in D minor, while choirmen kept time in the usual manner.

The next article contains an account of a similar visit by the choir of All Saints, Reading, to the great Abbey Church of Tewkesbury (where there are in all FOURTEEN organ keyboards!) under the direction of our indefatigable member Roy Nash, assisted by Raymond Isaacson.

SINGING AWAY!....ALL SAINTS' READING

In recent years it has been the custom to arrange a Parish Outing in the Spring, visiting some place of interest and concluding with Evensong sung by the Choir at a Church in the vicinity who would care to have us. We have always been received with much hospitality and the occasions have proved worthwhile and enjoyable. In the past we have sung in Churches at West Wycombe, Aldbourne, Great Bedwyn, Dorchester Abbey and this year Pamber Priory. It is a sad fact of present times that Sung Evensong has declined and almost ceases to exist in many places. The Office is a splendid Act of Worship and I find some satisfaction in using our resources to help keep it alive and in sharing with others:

It was a glorious May morning when three coaches of parishioners and choristers left Downshire Square after the Parish Communion. The first stop was at Padworth for a picnic lunch in the garden of the

Revd. and Mrs. Skipwith, a retired and assistant priest at All Saints. It was not long before I noticed a decrease in the number of men and boys! As there was an inn nearby I guessed where the former could be found, the latter had gone to find the lake, a venture to be viewed with not a little concern! However, once more complete, we arrived at the Vine, senior members visiting the Stately Home, juniors taken on an organised Nature Trail. The choir coach left first for a short practice at the Priory. This is a most interesting and ancient Church situated in the country and well worth a visit - if you can find it. First obstacle was the organ key which despite specific instructions, I failed to locate. Long after I had given up a diligent choirman had more success. The instrument was a reed organ and not too helpful, but the acoustics made up for any misgivings and were very kind to the voices, which is always satisfying.

Our next venture was to sing Evensong at Tewkesbury Abbey on a Saturday early in September. This resulted from a suggestion by our Vicar some time previously, having noticed that visiting choirs sometimes sing on this day. I had also met Mr. Peterson, the organist, some few years ago when the Association made a very enjoyable visit to the Abbey. In these times when Educational Policies are working against Choir Schools, it is particularly refreshing that Tewkesbury have recently opened one. I am sure we wish them every success.

On these occasions I prefer unobtrusively to direct the choir. Singing in strange buildings can have problems, so our good friend and member Raymond Isaacson came to play for us. We planned a short time for re-acquaintance with the comprehensive organ console, originally designed to connect the Milton, Apse and Grove organs, sing some of the music and of course allow for the boys' tea! Unfortunately the signposts in Cheltenham are not very explicit and we lost almost 30 mins going round in circles and arriving back at Cheltenham. Valuable time was lost and our good intentions curtailed, but we kept cool heads and survived. The music was Wood in E flat - Mag. and Nunc, the Anthem: Praise to God in the Highest, S.S.Campbell. It was a most thrilling experience to hear the echoes of the choir and organ ringing round the Norman columns.

Our last fixture was a third visit by invitation to sing the Morning Eucharist at Guildford, the Cathedral choir being on half term. We travelled by private car leaving Reading at 8 a.m. and miraculously the whole choir was ready to rehearse at 9 a.m! Guildford insist on a conductor because of time-lag, and our member David Reynolds from Newbury kindly came to play for us. The Service was Harris in F - first introduced to me by Phil Edwards, the late Organist of St.Luke's, whose untimely passing was a sad loss to Church music in Reading. The motet during the Communion was Bruckner's Locus Iste. The long Nave of the Cathedral was very well populated and it was good to see such a

attendance on an ordinary Sunday with a 'Stand-in Choir'. Such itineraries naturally cause much work, thought and anxiety - events have proved that it is essential to be well organised and prepared. However, it gives the choir something to work for and look forward to, and has a beneficial effect on their weekly efforts.

Roy Nash

As one more indication of the robust health of church music in Reading, the choir of Earley St. Peter and their joint organists and choirmasters - Leslie Pratt, Gary Turner, and Stephen Goodwin - were given well-deserved prominence in last September's Oxford Diocesan Magazine, following an editorial on Music and Worship.

The editorial emphasised that 'organists, choirs, and choirmasters know a great deal better than do congregations and some clergy' that the music of worship demands a lot of hard work. This has certainly been put in at St. Peter's, where the present vicar, the Revd. W.D.S. Lark, gives them every encouragement.

In 1974 they planned a long-term development of the church's musical activities as a whole (including rebuilding the organ), with the result that they now have a complement of 26 boys (which permits each boy to take one Sunday off in five) and no shortage of male altos, tenors, or basses - mostly ex-boys. Voice tests are held twice a year, schools being circulated beforehand, and interested parents interviewed and advised exactly what will be required of them and their boys. Preference is given to those who are learning an instrument and hence can read music; at present there is one 'cellist, four violinists, one clarinetist, a classical guitar player, two organists, pianists - and even a trombone player! These give an occasional concert after evensong. The more selective the tests, the greater seems the attraction of joining; during the past $3\frac{1}{2}$ years 55 boys have been turned down!!

There are also, of course, recreational facilities, swimming, table tennis, football, and horse-riding, properly supervised by skilled helpers and coaches. The boys write and produce their own quarterly magazine 'Earley Byrds,' the sale of which pays for items they need. The Parents' Committee makes and repairs choir robes, and organises outings, both to hear and to sing evensong away. In addition to the Tuesday and Friday practices, there is often an extra practice (enthusiastically attended, too) on a Saturday morning, and on Wednesday evenings the boys study for the Associated Board theory examinations. All this is over and above school work, and makes the boys feel that the choir is worth belonging to, and better than lounging around or watching television. When their voices break they are encouraged to infiltrate upwards so that they can claim with pride that they belong to a MEN'S choir.

None of those in charge of the choir is a professional, but their success at St. Peter's proves, contrary to today's muddled thinking, the value to young people of the old-fashioned concepts of Standards, Achievements, and Discipline. Lack of 'identifiable norms' nowadays causes unsettlement in young people; choir membership provides a structure for them that is missing in many areas of life. It inculcates a love of listening to and participating in good music which will remain with them for the rest of their lives, and it lays a firm foundation for devoted service to our wonderful Christian heritage and the church of the future.

What a marvellous job of missionary work here in darkest England you chaps are doing who slog away through fair weather and foul with your Boys' Choirs! What a crown of glory you will get along with your "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

NEWBURY REPORTS

Branch Activities in Jubilee Year

Organised branch activities in 1977 have been fewer than usual because of involvement in other Jubilee Events in an individual capacity. However both before and after the celebrations gained momentum we were able to hold successful events which included a Cheese and Wine Party, Film Evening, Solemn Evensong at East Hagbourne, Boat Trip to Kintbury and Evensong at the Parish Church and a Trip to Southampton.

Much of the success of the social events was due to the splendid efforts of members' wives in preparing the refreshments. The Mitchum's contacts at Hagbourne made that trip possible. It was a glorious summer Saturday afternoon and tea amongst the tombstones was most welcome after a hard afternoon of inspecting the organ and practising for Evensong. Less members were available to crew the boats this year due to a crop of Jubilee Weddings. Unlike cruising on the Thames, a trip on the Kennet and Avon Canal involves much do-it-yourself. After a deserved "pub. lunch" Don Bates Davies demonstrated the organ. Following tea on the Vicarage lawn a simple service of Evensong was conducted by the Vicar. Perhaps the most popular trip was the one organised by organ builder committee member Tony Foster Waite. At Fareham, Gosport and Southampton we saw examples of his work and many were most impressed with what can be done when cash and space are limited.

The worst event (or should I say non-event) was the Reading v. Newbury Quiz. Even now I am not sure exactly what went amiss with our organisation - although the chairman, David Woods, was away on a course and Norman Hutt was recovering from "frozen shoulder", we cannot really

offer that as an excuse for letting Reading, and in particular Ron Pepworth, down so badly.

Some Members' individual efforts in Jubilee Year (with apologies for omissions!)

On an individual basis we have kept the flag flying, as it were, in many ways. At a TWC pageant Mrs. Mitchum donned a historical costume, a male one at that, and posed for several hours in a panorama depicting successive monarchs from Queen Elizabeth I to Queen Elizabeth II. Mr. David Reynolds, a former Newbury Branch Chairman, master-minded a performance of the Passion music from the "Messiah" by a 200 strong choir and orchestra. Another member, Miss E. Collins, staged a spring concert which featured Mrs. Mitchum and Les Newman's daughter, Valerie, playing piano duets. The two Leslies, Earyes and Newman, revived a concert party formed 25 years ago. And of course there have been countless Jubilee Concerts and Services.

Flying the Flag Nationally

Doubtless you have read the report of the IAO Congress at Madeley in the "Organists' Review". It was the first Congress that Les Newman and I had attended and proved to be an experience never to be forgotten. Donald Wright's report of the Congress is understandably factual; if I may claim your attention I would like to say why I found it so very, very good. Chiefly it was because of the fellowship. Fellowship is not a very trendy term today but I can think of none other to summarise my feelings. Les and I arrived in the Midlands a bit like fish out of water. We stop at a pub, would you believe, and enjoyed our first pint of the beer which locals who had emigrated 'down south' boasted about. From our corner seat we eyed these strange people. No, not the inhabitants of Stoke on Trent, but a trio talking about mixtures and diapasons and the like. Were they too destined for Madeley we wondered?

Thank goodness for the adequate instructions provided by the organisers. We found the place, but not the way in. After a tour of the campus and many dead-ends we decided to park the car and seek it on foot. By the end of the week we were accustomed to the "on foot" bit. I agree with Mr. Wright that the campus was open, grassy and tree-lined. It was also designed for maximum walking. The car park was about equidistant from the hall and the refectory. (This did not stop an elderly chap - and on occasions me - taking the car to breakfast!)

Do you enjoy coach travel? I suppose the amount we did compensated in some way for the walking. Of the three "Potteries" coaches which twice a day transported the 153 Congress visitors to the various venues, Les and I quickly found a favourite. Strange though it may seem it tended to be the last one which always seemed to arrive at the destination first. We soon found which fellow passengers to avoid if we wanted a respite from organ chatter - after three or four

days even the enthusiast's enthusiasm for the same argument starts to wane.

It is hard to pin-point just one highlight from such a week of intense organ mania. What stands out in my mind even more than Mr. Massey's recital at Hanley Town Hall or the way the then President John Jordan took choir practice - no disrespect to Mr. Jordan, but can you imagine Billy Bunter taking the baton? - is the amount of effort put into the IAO at national level. You probably have swiftly passed over Dr. Jackson's appeal. I confess I would have done if I had not seen for myself the amount of work which people like Trevor Tildsley or Philip Brereton do on our behalf. Trevor has the watering can but he needs the seeds to make what we stand for grow. Poor attendance and apathy at Branch level seems far removed from the zest at the head, both on the artistic and administrative side. I sincerely hope that Berkshire will number amongst the top twenty Associations for the "Review" honours list.

George Hook is alive and well and living in Bournemouth

I am sure that many will remember George, the former Secretary and Treasurer of the Newbury Branch. I had not seen him since Norman Hutt took over. Les and I bumped into him again at Madeley. He still eats heartily and smokes his pipe - he's still slightly deaf!

What does 1978 hold in store?

Every January we ask what the new year will hold in store. I mentioned apathy briefly above. Newbury branch has been somewhat quiet of late. In the Newbury area there are several organ jobs vacant. In fact, looking down the list of members I note that few hold regular posts, although many do free-lance work. If the clergy regularly exchange pulpits why shouldn't organists exchange organ-stools? Whether there will be an increase of this in 1978 remains to be seen. Something that I hope might happen in 1978 is that members might declare it as the year for putting the Organists' Association first. Not wait to be emotionally 'blackmailed' into attending events. Dropping other things in favour of the Branch instead of vice versa. It is still not too late to make "supporting the Berkshire Organists' Association to the full" our New Year Resolution.

Greetings to you all,

Robert F. Willis - Vice Chairman, Newbury Branch.

P.S. I am very pleased to be able to write again in the "Berkshire Organist" and thank Mr. Gordon Spriggs and his associates that it is still being published.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1977

The Council of the Association met on four occasions during the year. At the beginning of the year concern was expressed about the financial position, which resulted in certain recommendations being made to the A.G.M. As a consequence the annual subscription was raised to £3.50 (£1.75 for Student Members), although the Council had proposed an increase of £1 to £3. As our Treasurer points out in his report, we would hope to maintain this level for the foreseeable future. An economy was made in the method of distributing the "Organists' Review" and it is now sent out quarterly with the News Letter at a considerable saving in postage costs. As all events now appear in the News Letter, the annual syllabus card was discontinued.

Mr. J.C.Lawes expressed his wish not to present himself for re-election as President. Mr. Donovan Jones was elected as President for 1977.

During the year a small ad-hoc committee was appointed to look at ways of making our syllabus more interesting and varied. As a first result there is to be a Choirs Festival in October 1978 and the possibility of organising a Young Organists' Competition is being investigated.

The Half-day Conference was a great success, with an entertaining talk and brilliant recital by Richard Seal of Salisbury Cathedral who, incidentally, has been invited to conduct the Choirs Festival. The Annual Dinner was voted one of the best in recent years with a lively and humorous speech by Lionel Dakers, the Director of the Royal School of Church Music.

Attendances at most of our meetings have been very disappointing. The Annual Outing was so poorly patronised that the coach had to be cancelled. This is only the second occasion such a thing has happened in the writer's memory!! The 'Quiz' against Newbury (or, rather, which should have been against Newbury!) received indifferent support except by the teams. May I be forgiven for driving this home once again after several mentions in the News Letter, but if the Association is to survive in an active and worth-while manner, members must support those who are putting in a tremendous amount of work (voluntarily!) in arranging events.

One memorable event which was well attended was the Cheese and Wine Party on March 26th when presentations were made to Mr. A.H.Lusty and Mr. L.Pratt in recognition of their outstanding service to the Association as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

On May 30th the Town Hall Sub-committee made a presentation to Miss E.G. Goodship as a token of thanks for all the work she does as Secretary of that committee.

The thanks of the Association are due to the ladies who so efficiently look after our inner needs at meetings.

As for membership numbers, we lost a few and gained a few during the year. We were, however, depleted at the beginning of the year by the formation of a separate Association by the Windsor Branch. We wish them every success. Close contact has been maintained with all the surrounding Associations and a number of their members have attended several of our meetings.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL 1977

President - Donovan L. Jones.

Vice-presidents - Dr. H.C.Barnard, MA, DLitt, FTCL.
Mr. L.F.B.Davis.
Miss E.G.Goodship, ATCL.
Mr. J.C.Lawes.
Mr. A.H.Lusty, HonFTCL, LTCL, ARCO.
Mr. R.Nash.
Mr. R.Pepworth.
Mr. L.Pratt, LTCL.
Mr. A.E.Rivers.

Honorary Secretary - Mr. R.Pepworth.
Honorary Treasurer - Dr. J.G.Davis, OBE.
Honorary Programme
Secretary - Mr. D.M.Guy.
Honorary Benevolent
Steward - Mr. D.M.Guy.
Honorary Auditor - Mr. F.C.Holmes

MEETINGS IN 1977

January 22nd - 'An hour with the Wesleys' presented by Roy Nash and the Choir of All Saints', Reading with Raymond Isaacson at the organ.

February 19th - Annual General Meeting.

February 24th - Recital at Reading Town Hall by Jane Parker-Smith.

March 26th - Cheese and Wine Party at All Saints' Hall, Reading when presentations were made to Mr. A.H.Lusty and Mr. L.Pratt.

April 30th - Half-day Conference at Trinity United Reformed Church, Reading. Speaker and recitalist - Richard Seal, Organist and Master of the Choristers, Salisbury Cathedral.

May 14th - Recital at All Saints', Reading by Adrian Boynton.

May 21st - Visit to Windsor.

June 26th - Annual Outing to Bredon and Worcester.

July 9th - Visit to Basingstoke.

September 17th - Presidential Service and Reception at Trinity United Reformed Church, Reading.

October 12th - Recital at Reading Town Hall by Geoffrey Tristram.

November 7th - Annual Dinner at the Grosvenor Hotel, Caversham. Guest of Honour - Lionel Dakers, Director of the Royal School of Church Music.

December 3rd - 'Quiz' at St. George's Hall, Reading arranged by Ron Pepworth.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE - No.1 ACCOUNT - 1977

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Subscriptions	315.75	Hire of Hall - All Saints	7.00
Donations	11.00	Organists' Review	87.61
Sale of records	29.80	Berkshire Organist covers	12.00
Cheese & Wine party	16.75	Cheese & Wine party	30.18
Benevolent Fund	29.06	Secretarial expenses	37.88
Half-Day Conference	18.30	Mr D.Guy - expenses	7.90
Teas	1.92	Fee - Richard Seal recital	34.00
Annual Dinner	207.00	Benevolent Fund	18.41
Subscriptions for 1978	19.25	Hire of Hall - Trinity UR	10.00
		Printing & Stationery	14.22
		Presentations (per Mr Davis)	14.54
		Expenses - Mr Lionel Dakers	3.50
		Annual Dinner	217.35
		No.2 Account	88.40
			<hr/>
		Excess	582.99
		Income over Expenditure	65.84
			<hr/>
Total Income	<u>£648.83</u>		<u>£648.83</u>

Allowance for loan to	
No.2 Account	88.40
Excess Income over Exptre	<u>£154.24</u>

BALANCE SHEET - No.1 ACCOUNT - 1977

General Account at 1.1.77	54.78	Balance at Bank 31.12.77	94.72
Excess Income over		Secretary's cash float	20.00
Expenditure	129.09	No.2 Account loan	88.40
Subscriptions for 1978	19.25		
	<u>£203.12</u>		<u>£203.12</u>

CELEBRITY RECITAL - JANE PARKER-SMITH - 31 MARCH 1977

Sale of programmes	24.60	Hire of Town Hall	27.00
Sale of tickets -		Printing - tickets	11.88
per Secretary £2 postages	83.75	- programmes	35.50
Taken at door	78.80	Fee - per Ibbs & Tillett	80.00
Per Pickfords	70.25	Advertising £9 Poster £7	16.00
less their commn	<u>5.68</u>	Gratuities £3 Bouquet £5	8.00
	64.57	Refreshments - Mrs M.Crane	5.00
		Organ Tuning & attendance	<u>7.00</u>
		Excess	190.38
		income over expenditure	<u>61.34</u>
	<u>£251.72</u>		<u>£251.72</u>

CELEBRITY RECITAL - GEOFFREY TRISTRAM - 12 NOVEMBER 1977

Sale of tickets and programmes	125.78	Hon.Treasurer & Town Hall (gratuities)	10.00
"	92.80	Fee - Mr Tristram	50.00
Less £20 change	<u>20.00</u>		
	72.80		
Town Hall refund	10.00	Mr H.Hartley - Programmes	18.40
		Mr M.B.Rivers - Poster	4.00
		Town Hall deposit £18.50 + £10	28.50
		balance	18.50
		Reading Newspapers 2 @ 19.80	39.60
		Able Printers	28.35
		Refreshments - Mrs M.Crane	<u>5.00</u>
		Excess	202.35
		income over expenditure	<u>6.23</u>
	<u>£208.58</u>		<u>£208.58</u>

BALANCE SHEET - No.2 ACCOUNT - 1977

Balance at Bank 5.7.77	34.93	Balance at Bank 12.12.77	£226.01
Excess Income over Expenditure	44.58	Less Cheques outstanding	
		19.80 19.80 18.50	58.10
		Less paid from No.1 Account	<u>88.40</u>
	<u>£79.51</u>		<u>£79.51</u>

REPORT OF HON. TREASURER FOR 1977

After being appointed Honorary Treasurer at the AGM in February 1977, I took over the General Account (No.1 Account) soon afterwards from Mr Leslie Pratt, the retiring Treasurer. As the accounts for the Jane Parker-Smith recital had not been finalised, Mr Pratt kindly continued to look after our No.2 Account until he was able to prepare a complete Balance Sheet for this recital.

The most important feature in 1977 as far as our finances were concerned was the decision to increase the subscription from £2 to £3.50 per annum, an increase of 75%. This has resulted in a great improvement in our financial position as far as our General or No.1 Account is concerned.

Subscriptions for 1977 have been paid by 103 members, including nine who paid in advance (£2) and three students (£1.75). Twenty-three members have not paid, of whom six have resigned or gone away without telling us their new address. Our total membership for 1977 was 130, of whom seven have recently resigned.

The details of our finances for the General or No.1 Account are given in the statement for Income and Expenditure, and the overall position is summarised in the Balance Sheet.

Our No.2 Account is concerned only with the Town Hall Celebrity Recitals. We had two very successful events at which the recitalists were Jane-Parker-Smith and Geoffrey Tristram. The bank balance of our No.2 Account was £34.93 in September 1977, and £226.01 on 31st December. However, allowance must be made for a loan of £88.40 from our No.1 Account, so that the true balance becomes £137.61. The financial details are given in the statements for Income and Expenditure for the two recitals. Some accounts had not been received in respect of the Tristram recital by the end of the year.

Our general financial position can therefore be regarded as satisfactory at the moment, but we must bear in mind that inflation is still continuing and all our expenses are likely to increase steadily, even if more slowly than before. It would greatly assist the Treasurer if members WOULD PAY THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS PROMPTLY. Our Council hopes that it will be possible to maintain the subscription at its present level for the immediate future.

J. G. DAVIS
Hon. Treasurer