

BRADFORD ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

A Musical Fellowship

Founded 1910

Reg. Charity no. 700225

Newsletter November 2017

Obituary for David Kirk

It was very sad that David Kirk was our President for only a few months. I know that many of you didn't know David very well. I found him to be a charming man, a true gentleman, and I was looking forward to working with him for the two years of his presidency. The members of the council will miss David's quiet, reflective attention to everyone's opinions. It was a pleasure to work with him.

David was a talented organist who was capable of sitting at the console and playing pieces from memory, but also leading the congregation in worship. His funeral was at the U. R. C. church, Saltaire and the service was taken by Rev. Jenny Savage, vicar of St. Stephen's church, Steeton. Edward Scott was the organist. David was a regular player at both these churches.

Apart from the organ his other great enthusiasm was for his car, a Rolls Royce. Over coffee he could be seen having serious discussions with our former president, Tony Edwards, who also shared his passion for Rolls Royce and Bentley cars.

We can all give thanks that we knew David, a kind and considerate man, who had a gift for making us feel better for meeting him. R.I.P. David.

Sheila Scott

Vice-President's Letter

Dear Friends and Organ Lovers,

Well, that's the endearing way that our President last addressed us, a subtle sign of the lovely man that he was.

For those of you that have not yet picked up the news (those receiving e-mails from the Association should have received word some time ago), our President, David Kirk, died at home and his funeral was at Saltaire URC on the 23rd August.

I understand as we go to press that there will be an obituary elsewhere in this Newsletter, but there are a couple of things to mention. I met David and Christine for the first time some years ago when they first came on a June outing to the Nottinghamshire region. David wasn't particularly well at that time as he'd not long since had surgery on his back, but I instantly had an affinity for this gentle and genuine man. I think that only a few outside of our Council knew that the cause of the problem was cancer, and knew also of David's 18 month period of chemotherapy, which understandably left him depleted and unable attend meetings. But he'd always maintained an interest in the Association and I'd always kept him up to date when he was President Elect.

One of the sad things in life, which has happened to me several times now, is that circumstances beyond our control may prevent us from getting on with forging good relationships. Whilst David was going through treatment we talked about going out to visit organs and attending organ recitals when he was through it. After the chemotherapy, he started feeling better and got to some meetings and Cathedral organ recitals and we started to gather some ideas of what we wanted to do together. But no sooner were we about to do something than he had more back trouble and problems with his treatment, resulting in his being admitted to hospital.

He seemed to recover and on the last telephone conversation that we had he sounded more chirpy than I'd heard him for a long time, and I sighed relief that all seemed to be getting better. But then he was almost unexpectedly taken from us, passing away peacefully with Christine and family around.

The moral for us all here is to make more urgent headway to make good relationships and get on and do things together, whether it be involved in music or any other interest you might have discovered in each other. And learning more about each other is always something that I had wanted to encourage as an Association, believing that good relationships would make a stronger and more friendly Association.

There is nothing in our constitution about what the Association should do in the unfortunate event of the death of a President, so what Council has agreed is that Val Mitchell will assume her position as President (she's currently President Elect) a year early, in April 2018. I will maintain my title of Vice-President but will be acting President. I did try to make the point that as a man I can't do two jobs together but, seriously, there is a great strength and security in our

system of having a trio of officers centred on the President. I've always believed that the President is the one who should be developing ideas and inventing new things, but that these are done by bouncing these ideas off a Vice President and President Elect (with valuable input also from the Secretary). Anyway, it's not an ideal situation, and none of us wanted it, so we have to make the best of it that we can.

To more pleasant things, I hope you liked the pictures from Cambridge. I'm not sure if larger images are available yet on the website, which is undergoing change after retirement of our webmaster, but the page of photos should be enlargeable on the e-mailed version. But if you would like any larger pictures (or prints) of any from Cambridge (and there are over a hundred), please let me know.

As I mentioned in the accompanying report, Henry had twice clearly made us an invitation to return. Now I know that a few people were sorry that they were not able to go on the June outing and, in view of Henry's invitation, I think it is worthwhile investigating another trip whilst he is still there (which may only be until next June). What I suggest we do is that if you have any interest at all in going to Cambridge, would you please get in touch with me (j.d.chapman@virginmedia.com or 01274 541758). We then should look at all the dates that these people would prefer to go and then approach Henry and Anthony to see if they any of them would coincide with dates that would suit them. Hopefully, if so, we shall take another trip.

I don't see an easy option but to stay overnight for one night – and the hotel that we used has been well-recommended by those that went last time. Car transport is probably best but if, for any reason, you'd prefer to go by train or coach, then I'm sure we could work around that. So please get in touch soon and we can get the ball rolling.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

John.

Meetings reports

September – Members' recital

These recitals are always interesting as any member can offer to play and often we hear someone who has never before ventured to perform at a recital. This year we heard John Chapman, John Hammond, Kenneth Taylor, Edward Scott, John Bird, Christopher Rathbone and Jolyon Felton

You will notice a strange name, a non-member, on the list.

1969 saw the Scott family move to Skipton when Edward took up his position as Organist and Choirmaster at the Parish Church. The curate was Rev. John Bird who was also an organist.

John's last appointment was as Vicar of Doncaster Parish Church. He is retired now, but still lives in the area.

When John saw a notice about our recital at St. Lawrence's Church at Pudsey he sent me an email asking if non-members could come to the recital. As I had arranged a mini-trip to visit the organ prior to the event I invited him to join it.

John told me that he learned to play the organ at Pudsey when he was a choirboy at the church. I asked him if he would like to play at the recital – hence the non-member!

It was a varied programme ranging from Bach to Francis Jackson. I am sure there was something for everyone to enjoy.

Sheila Scott

October meeting at Skelton Windmill.

On Saturday 21st October, at the kind invitation of Philip Wilby, several members visited the home of this well-known composer. A home with a difference! --- in fact, a windmill located near Boroughbridge. We were warmly welcomed by Philip and his wife with tea and delicious cakes aplenty.

The main purpose of the visit, though, was to inspect the Hauptwerk organ. The organ, housed in a small studio adjacent to the windmill, utilises a computer-based system which replicates the sound of different organs. For instance, at the touch of a button or two, we were transported to Hereford Cathedral and then St. Bartholomew's, Armley. Several of us took advantage of this 'transformation' and were soon addicted! But the tea and cakes lured us back to the windmill and the energetic were invited to ascend the several floors with a final precarious stairway!

It was indeed a really enjoyable afternoon in a most relaxed atmosphere, made possible in no small way by our very kind and welcoming hosts, Philip and Wendy.

Nigel J. Duce