

of the party to play the organ. Douglas McBay chose to play an improvisation, as well as C.S. Lang's "Tuba Tune" (a request from Jane Stirling, after Douglas mentioned that the organ "had a good tuba"). Next it was the turn of Bill Hutcheson, myself (my party-piece being Frank Bridge's "Adagio"), then a young fellow from the Lanarkshire Society of organists, Derek Burns, who also gave us an improvisation.

The final venue, St Cuthbert's, was practically next door. This has a well-equipped John Compton organ, with divided pipe chambers and a tab-stop console. Bill Hutcheson played a short programme as follows: Folk Tune - Percy Whitlock, Chorale Prelude on Menville - Frank Tolmie, Festival Toccata - Percy Fletcher, ending with an Improvisation in Ab, to show off the big reeds! Derek played C.S. Lang's "Tuba Tune" from memory, and I followed with the first movement from "Indian Summer - Fantasie" by Eric Ball, a transcription from the brass band score. Regretfully, my account of the afternoon stops there, because having a gig on trombone on the Saturday evening, I had to get the train back to Glasgow. I do have it on 'good authority' that strawberries and cream along with scones and cakes were served on the lawn in the warm sunshine, at Rod Paton's house at Scotby, before the party set off north again for Glasgow, arriving just before 7.30pm

Altogether it was a most satisfying day, set off by warm sunny weather, good company, and access to three lovely pipe organs, each of which was unique in its own way.

Inverness Organists' Society

At the AGM on 7th June Donald Maclagan was elected President of the IOS with Gordon Tocher as Vice-President. Other committee members remain as before.

Readers are encouraged to pass this Newsletter on to any interested non-members and they are in turn encouraged to join any affiliated society.

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SFO News

July 2006



Issue 7

Review SFO Annual Conference 2006

Editor with Bridget Black

Eight years seems to come round very quickly and it is easy to enjoy other Societies' arrangements without remembering how much work is involved in organising one of these events.

Towards the end of the 2004/5 session we started to think about the Conference and how we could entertain our fellow organists and encourage them to come to the far north and evidently we did quite a good job of it. Altogether we had 4 committee meetings to organise the day (+ Friday evening.) The first Conference we held here, we decided that we would have to provide something on the Friday as it is a long way to come for one day, and each time we have managed something different. Of course, the best laid plans go wrong and the first arrangements made all had to be changed as we clashed with the Highland Chamber Orchestra concert rehearsal and the harpist who had accepted the invitation to play on Friday evening, had to call off. However in the end we had a most successful Conference.

On the evening of Friday 12th May around 40 delegates gathered in the St Andrew's Hall, Inverness for a delicious hot buffet meal that gave us all the opportunity to meet up with friends, many of whom we had not met since this time last year in Glasgow. Ian Livingstone, President of the Inverness Society who were hosting the event welcomed everyone and handed proceedings over to Philip Lyon, retiring SFO President. Following supper we thoroughly enjoyed a clarsach and voice recital by Katie Mackenzie, a second year student at RSAMD, who showed what a remarkable range of style and texture is possible on the small celtic harp. (Recently returned from performing at the New York Tartan Week, Katie won the Song with Self Accompaniment competition at the Pan celtic Festival in Donegal, Ireland.)

On Saturday morning, with our numbers boosted to about 50, the AGM took place. Among the other business of the day Stewart Alston was elected President and Ailsa Simpson was elected Vice-President.

Delegates then adjourned to St Andrew's Episcopal Cathedral to hear an organ recital by Edward Barbieri, Cathedral Organist and this was followed by another excellent buffet meal. After lunch we were addressed by John Stormont, Honorary General Secretary of the IAO, to which the SFO is affiliated. He had telephoned when he received the invitation to speak to ask, rather shamefacedly, what a clarsach was! No shame in that really as he lives in Birmingham, and he was absolutely charmed by Katie's performance. Delegates found this an enlightening insight into the relevance of the IAO. There followed a concert by *Musick Fyne* and *Coronach* of renaissance Scottish choral music, including the anonymous *Scottish Mass 'Conditor'* interspersed with plainchant and music for organ, and 16th/17th century music for voices and instruments.

A very happy day ended with tea and huge quantities of cake and the installation of the new President who warmly invited everyone to meet up again on 12th May 2007 in Motherwell.

Golden Jubilee

In 1957 the Scottish Society of Organists was founded and this was later to develop into the SFO as we know it today. To mark this anniversary it is planned to publish a commemorative magazine, or similar. Ideas and or contributions would be warmly welcomed by the Publications Committee, contact the Editor.

Plea for help

During the course of this year's Inverness conference a number of people recalled that at the last Inverness conference Russell Grant had a video available. Does anyone still have a copy of this? Would you be willing to lend it so that more copies could be made? Please contact the Editor.

Unusual Organ Clock

Continuing our occasional series of snippets about unusual organs, I have come across a very unusual organ clock. It is American and plays seven Union songs on twenty-three reeds and twenty-three pipes. The clock movement was made in Germany by Jacob Bauerle in the mid-1800's. The organ is marked Bruder

and is probably by either Andreas or Xaver Bruder, but this is not certain. The tunes played are: William Tell, Tenting Tonight, The Hunter's Chorus, Tramp-Tramp-Tramp The Boys are Coming, The March (from Faust), Moishe Gunao, Battle Cry of Freedom and When This Cruel War is Over. All of these tunes were played by the Union troops during the Civil War. It is thought the organ clock was made for some high-ranking American Union military official.

Images of unusual pipes

If you are interested in bizarre organ pipes then go to the following link on the internet!

http://physics.kenyon.edu/EarlyApparatus/Rudolf_Koenig_Apparatus/Organ_Pipes_Non-Linear/Organ_Pipes_Non-Linear.html

GSO Outing To Canonbie And Carlisle, June 2006

John Power, with assistance from Rod Paton (GSO) and Moira Kerr (LSO)

Saturday morning, the 3rd of June 2006 looked promising right from the start, as two dozen organ enthusiasts boarded the coach at George Square. The party comprised mostly GSO members, with a few guests from the Lanarkshire Society. A prompt start at 9.30am, coupled with reasonably free-flowing traffic on the south-bound M74, meant that we reached Canonbie, Dumfries-shire at about 11.15.

This gave us plenty of time to savour the visual and aural delights of a 2-manual and pedal pipe organ built by Dr Lang, a local G.P. His labour of love lasted from 1958 until the opening of the organ in 1972. Douglas McBay, a champion of this rare piece of craftsmanship, played a short recital of three contrasting pieces; Noel in G by Daquin, Chorale on Casswell by Peter Hurford and Grand Choeur in C by Cesar Franck. These served to show off the instrument's most versatile tonal palate. Further musical contributions were made by Alan Rodger (Buxtehude), Bill Hutcheson (J.S. Bach), myself (more J.S. Bach) and finally, Allan Cowan, one of the Lanarkshire gentlemen.

After lunch at the Tullie House Restaurant in Carlisle, our next port of call was Carlisle Cathedral, with its fine 4-manual organ which started life as a Father Willis, with later alterations by J.W. Walker, followed by Harrison & Harrison until more recent work by David Wells. The Cathedral organist, Jeremy Suter gave a short talk on his chosen repertoire, which began with Choral Song by S.S. Wesley. At the end of Jeremy's enlightening demonstration, he invited members