

The Cornopean

January 2026

EXETER & DISTRICT ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION



Taunton School Chapel north side. Organ then in north transept



EDOA Newsletter

January 2026

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Forthcoming events

Saturday 7th February : The Bridge Inn EX3 0QQ at 12 Noon, EDOA Quiz compiled by Tony Yates.

If there is sufficient interest, the staff at the Bridge Inn (01392-873862) can supply a hot pasty and soup at cost, BUT YOU WILL NEED to book it a week or more ahead, so that they can add it in with their normal weekly supply in time. Please mention that it is for the Organist's Quiz on the 7th. Otherwise please arrange a bring and share as before. Please let Paula know if you are coming and what food you have ordered!

Saturday 14th March: Visit to Torquay churches

10.00am St. Marychurch's Anglican Parish Church

11.00-11.15am St Marychurch RC Church

1.00pm Lunch at Clementines Bistro

2.30pm All Saints Babbacombe. Further details to be advised.

Saturday 11th April: AGM at Broadclyst Church EX5 3EL

10.30am members to play

11.30am recital by Andrew Millington

12 noon AGM, followed by 1.00pm lunch at the Red Lion

The EDOA Committee

*Nigel Guthrie (President), Andrew Millington (Past President),
Paula Taylor (Secretary), Peter Johnson (Treasurer), Tony Yates (Vice-President),
Penelope Cowman (Minute Secretary), Marco Bresolin, Michael Farley, Gerald Hird,
Peter Johnstone (Membership Secretary, corresponding member only),
(Webmaster, corresponding member only – see below)*

The EDOA Website:

<http://www.exeterorganists.net>

Webmaster: Geoffrey Boulton will be succeeding Graham Willson. The website includes EDOA events, Find an Organist, Newsletters, Gallery, Links, Opportunities, Contact Us, Committee. Geoffrey will welcome any new content, including text and photos.

Stop Press!

Details may change! Follow bulletins closer to the time from our Secretary for more up-to-date information.

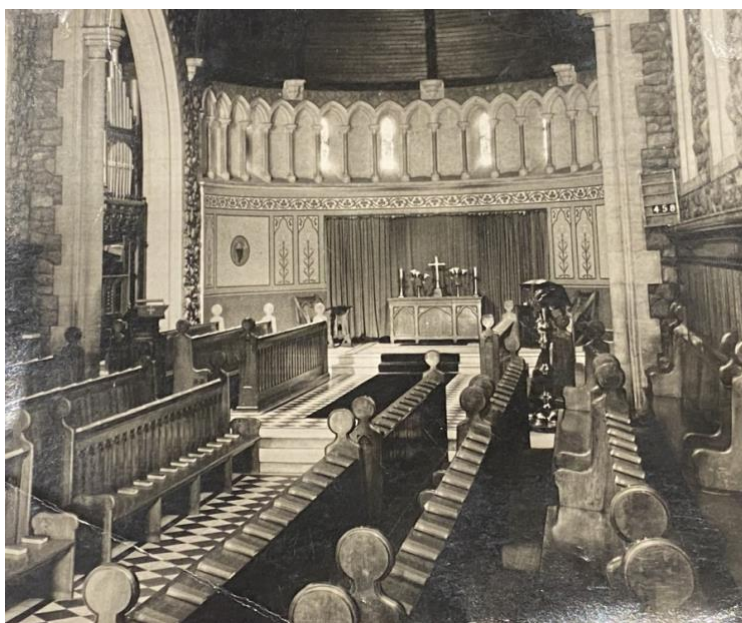
THE CORNOPEAN EDITOR

By Iain Morison

As the new editor of The Cornopean I thought I should introduce myself.

I am very much an amateur organist who plays at Musbury where we have a vintage Henry Bevington organ dating from about 1870 and restored by Michael Farley some while ago. It only has twelve stops but is of good quality with no borrowing or extensions having good mechanical action.

I started learning the organ whilst a pupil at Taunton School where we had a good 3 manual instrument of about 35 stops. It was built in the 1930's by G E O Osmond of Taunton and was considered to be one of the best in the area with a particularly fine Swell. Alas, it was replaced about 20 years ago by a toaster much to my disgust!



The eastern end of the chapel. Note the organ at top left and the collegiate style seating – one house to a block.

Peter Lea-Cox, who some of you may know, was at Taunton at the same time and a good friend who also started learning the organ and was to study music professionally at The Royal Academy. He is a fantastic improviser in the style of J S Bach. He had a post in London where he directed all of J S Bach's known Cantatas and has given many recitals in the UK and abroad. He now lives near Shute and is much involved with SWOS.

I am passionately interested in organ building and I much admire the work of Harrison and Harrison. I know not everybody agrees with me but I think their craftsmanship and finish is of the best! Does anyone build a better looking or functioning console?

I have just been to St John the Baptist Parish Church in Cirencester which houses an amazing 4 manual Harrison of cathedral proportions, dating from 2009. I will be giving my impressions of the instrument in the next edition of the Cornopean. I gather EDOA may be visiting it next year and their fine organist, Thomas Hawkes says we will be most welcome.

I am relying on members to submit anything they think will give interest including account of visits and anything else they think readers may enjoy.

The Cornopean really does need contributions from members.

Please contact me if you can help by telephone or by email : 07918621081, iainmorison @outlook.com

EDOA VISIT TO EXMOUTH 4TH OCTOBER 2025

By Piers Howell

On a sunny Saturday, EDOA members and partners made their way to the seaside, on a tour of Exmouth organs organised by Paula Taylor and Penny Cowman.

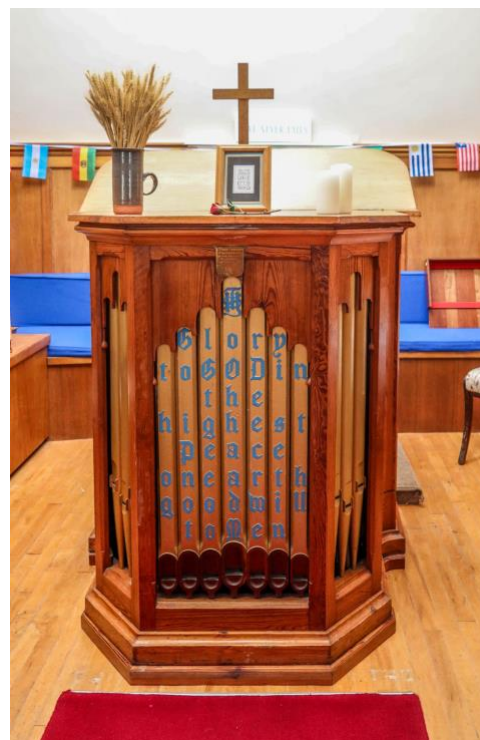


Point in View Chapel, Exmouth

charge, who recounted the history of the chapel, originally built as a safe refuge for local women. At the time, Exmouth was a busy sea port, with marauding seamen on shore leave, and the siting of the community at the top of the hill was considered to be a safe distance from the port. The group of almshouses were eventually converted to the present-day tiny chapel, which is in

regular use, with a

What a surprise treat awaited us at the first venue at 10am! A surprise, anyway, for those of us who had not been to the Point in View Chapel before, at the high point of Exmouth, looking down over the town towards the sea. The chapel was built over 200 years ago, in a somewhat eccentric architectural style, and is associated with the nearby A la Ronde house. We were welcomed by the priest-in-



The tiny organ, incorporated into the pulpit

congregation that is sometimes unable to fit into the chapel. The practice of taking services outside during lockdown has continued during the summer. For weddings, brides process through the field; inside the chapel, the bridal procession would only be a few feet from the entrance to the pulpit/organ, time for only a bar or two of the Bridal March ...

In 1878, the Minister, Rev. T. P. Guernett, without the knowledge of the trustees, built a small organ, which, in possibly "unique" (a much misused word) fashion, was incorporated into the pulpit. As he was also an organist, he could play the organ, then lower the lid, and preach, without moving from his seat. When it was complete, he notified the trustees what he had done, who complained that there was no space for an organ; but by then it was a *fait accompli*.



Roof lights of the chapel; triangles are the architectural theme of the building



Marius Rudnick, playing the Point in View Chapel organ

In 1985, Michael Farley restored the organ to working condition, and changed the pitch to make it usable with other instruments. The simple spec includes Open Diapason (TC), Stop'd Diapason, Gamba (TF) and principal 4 (TC), which all speak clearly into the chapel.

Forewarned by Paula, the organists arrived with manuals-only music, and duly put the organ through its paces. President Rev. Nigel Guthrie played (but didn't preach). I have played Handel's Hornpipe from the Water Music many times before, but never on a Stop'd Diapason alone, which in this chapel sounded absolutely fine.



Inspired by the Beatles song?



St John the Evangelist, Withycombe Village Road

We then moved on to the church of St. John the Evangelist, Withycombe Village Road, for "something completely different". In 1865, a 2-manual organ was built by Walkers in the north transept, who moved it to the north chancel in 1902, and added a 3rd manual.



Penny Cowman, playing at St John Evangelist

We then drove down to park at All Saints' Church, to avoid parking problems in the town centre. A brief walk took us to the Queen Vic pub in The Strand, for a convivial lunch. The cheerful social side of EDOA is something that has kept us going over the years, as the group photo shows. The conversation was necessary, as the pre-ordered main courses took some time to arrive, whilst we waited for the (un-named) sole member to finish his starter course. He, of course, had no idea that he was the only person to have ordered a starter ...



The convivial lunch, main courses arrived!

After lunch, we were received at Glenorchy URC, by Peter Johnstone, organist at the church and EDOA membership secretary. This church features a busy musical life, with a regular series of concerts, on the organ and on other instruments, organised by Peter.

The organ is a substantial 2-manual instrument, which started life as a Bevington organ in 1883. Various tonal alterations have been carried out over the years, by Maurice Eglington in 1967, and by Michael Farley in 1999, 2001 and most recently in 2012. The sound certainly fills the space, topped by a Trompette



Glenorchy URC organ

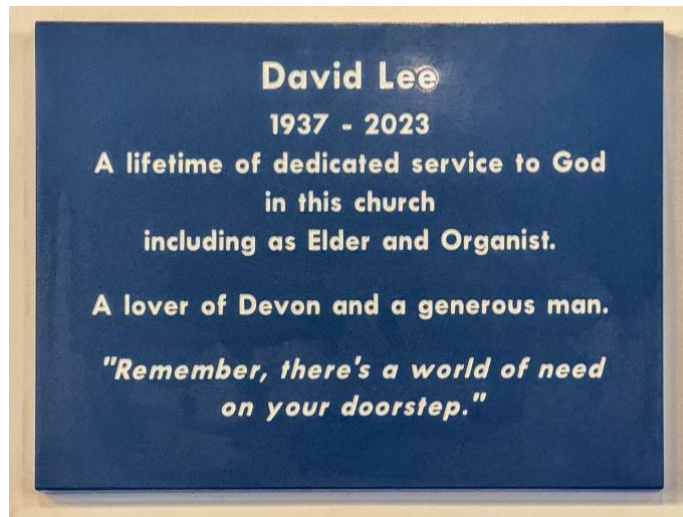


EDOA President Nigel Guthrie speaking, with Peter Johnstone, organist at Glenorchy URC



Nigel playing at Glenorchy URC

which Michael installed in 2001. This stop has an ingenious feature which enables it to be used as a solo stop on either manual, whilst using the whole of the rest of the organ to accompany. This was demonstrated by Andrew Millington, who played *Basse et Dessus de Trompette* by Clérambault.



Memorial plaque to David Lee, organist at Glenorchy URC and past-President of EDOA

We then walked the short distance to All Saints' Church, where Keith Wadlan, former EDOA treasurer, has been organist since either 1962 or 1963; Keith didn't seem sure. Keith, in his modest manner, had to be pressed to admit that he has held this post for 62 (or 63) years! The organ is a fine 3-manual instrument, made by Browne in 1898, in a sympathetic acoustic. It's not difficult to see why this would be an attractive post for many organists.



All Saints' Church, Exmouth

NPOR shows that the specification has remained unaltered since 1898, apart from the addition of a 32" Acoustic Bass and some couplers in 1989.

According to Michael Farley, the Choir Organ flutes had a "chiff" added to them in the 1960s, in the fashion at that time. Hopefully, that can be reversed at some stage, as whilst being appropriate in some instruments, *in my opinion* (he added hastily) they don't fit the style and era of this organ.



The organ at All Saints' Church, Exmouth

After playing, we were treated to tea and cake by Keith's wife, Sandra. With Michael and Keith, we all recalled some EDOA trips from the past, and had a jolly good laugh.

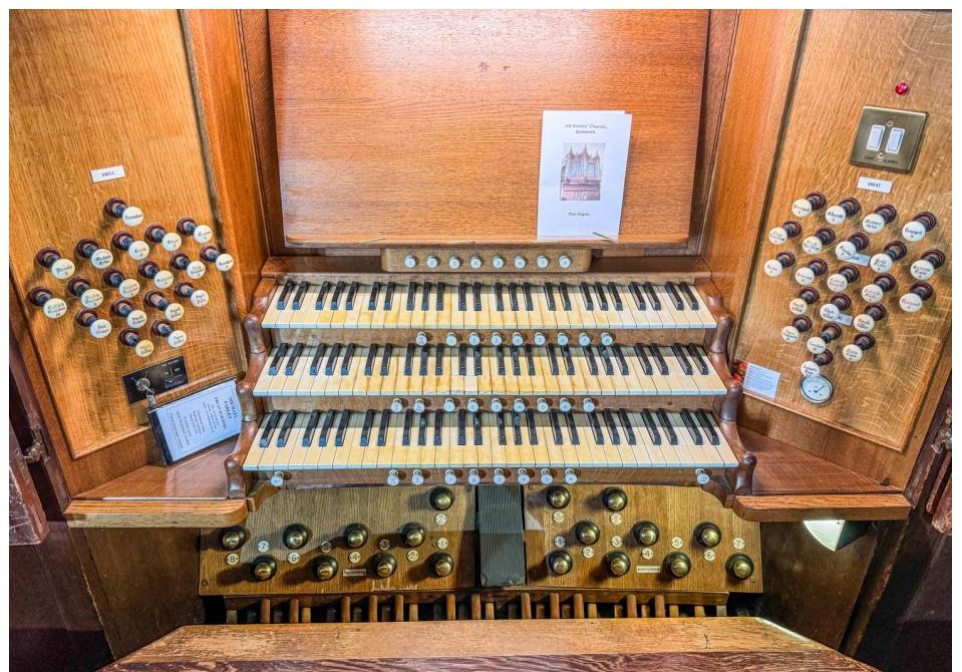
I recounted a trip to Guildford and Charterhouse School in 1990, where I was particularly looking forward to playing the chapel organ, a 3-manual Harrison & Harrison instrument very similar to the one at Holy Cross Crediton. Whilst we were having lunch, Keith sneaked out and had a jolly good blast on the H&H, at which point it stopped working. By the time the rest of us arrived, it was silent, and we comforted ourselves by singing All my hope on God is founded, *unaccompanied*. It has been easy to blame the blameless

Keith ever since! Sadly, the latest news is that the H&H organ is not wanted any more. However, Nicholson's website gives details on a new III/53 organ with "tonal inspiration from the French Romantic school". Later that day, we attended Choral Evensong at Guildford Cathedral, where Andrew M. was Director of Music at that time; after which were able to play the organ.

We also recounted EDOA trips to Liverpool and London, with farcical happenings that will have to be related at another time; also the EDOA member who drank a pint of beer in 8 seconds – and I have the video to prove it, Martin ...

It seems that one cannot go on an EDOA outing, without recalling our past doings ... Many thanks to all concerned for organising this enjoyable day out, and continuing the tradition.

Piers Howell.



The console at All Saints' Church Exmouth, with unusual horizontal disposition of stop-knobs.

ANNUAL DINNER

By Andrew Millington

The annual dinner is the most popular event of the EDOA in terms of numbers. Almost 50 folk sat down to a splendid meal at the Devon Hotel on the outskirts of Exeter. This is our second year at this venue, and I expect we shall be there again next year as it suits our requirements very well.



Tim Parsons

Our President, Preb. Nigel Guthrie guided us through the evening, and our guest speaker was Timothy Parsons, Organist of Wells Cathedral. He was joined by his charming wife Cressida, a former chorister of Exeter Cathedral, where they met.

Tim boasts an impressive CV, including a Cambridge education as Organ Scholar of Selwyn College, and appointments at Exeter and St Edmundsbury prior to his prestigious post at Wells.



Tim Parsons and Tim Noon



Nigel Guthrie



I can claim a small influence on his introduction to cathedral music. As a small boy, he came to audition for a choristership at Guildford Cathedral. I was just clearing my desk and about to set off for Exeter, but I was delighted to offer him a chorister place at Guildford, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Tim's entertaining speech included a few amusing tales about his experiences as a church musician, and he commended our Association for its work in promoting the organ and organ playing. Naturally, he is very excited about the pending and extensive organ rebuild at Wells, and we can all look forward to its eventual completion. I'm sure that an EDOA visit will be on the cards!

As the photos indicate, the dinner was a most friendly and convivial evening; grateful thanks must go to Peter Johnson (treasurer) and Paula Taylor (secretary) for their efficient organisation. We look forward to next year's gathering.

Andrew Millington

