



# The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



## COMMITTEE REPORTS TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**20 April 2022**

### **Chairman's Report**

We are now in the third year impinged on by the pandemic but, along with other similar groups, it is hoped that the final removal of statutory restrictions and gradual acceptance of the virus as an ongoing (but lessening) threat will begin to open the doors of opportunity again. That is not to say that the wheels have ceased to turn altogether: our Remembrance concert in November presented a nicely varied programme to an appreciative audience, while earlier in the year the virtual recitals by Warren Symes, excellently presented in Craig McGarrigle's videos, kept the organ in the public eye - indeed, outside the immediate confines of OSOS, the latter team are currently featuring other notable Essex organs on YouTube - which supplements one of the Society's aims in seeking to raise public awareness of the fine instruments in our locality and the varied repertoire on offer, which can only benefit our cause. The fact that the lockdown has inhibited access to the SHSB organ is an encouragement to look beyond our customary boundaries and investigate an increase in outreach work (preliminary discussion has already commenced with an Essex school in which a pipe organ plays a substantial part in the music activity, which suggests some kind of link might be possible, to mutual advantage). In thanking my colleagues for all they are doing to maintain our Society's secure and successful existence, I'd like to draw attention to the fact that, with next year being the organ's centenary, we have every incentive to plan a programme which will keep OSOS firmly on the map!

**Gerald Usher**

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **Income**

Over the year from April 2021 to March 2022, donations and membership received amounted to £826.44. Total fundraising has now exceeded £65k since fundraising began in 2014.

Ticket sales for the first concert post-pandemic provided an income of £193.12.

### **Expenses**

The general maintenance of the organ including regular tuning came to a total cost of £766.84. Additionally, we supported the School in the purchase of sheet music at a cost of £119.57.

### **Summary**

2021 – 2022 has resulted in a small profit of £76.66 and the cash on account remains healthy. It continues to be important that we retain appropriate funds in the account to be able to support any future emergency maintenance.

The accounts remained strong through the pandemic, and we are in a good place to be able to cover all our expenses this year. However, the pandemic has had a delayed effect and indicates a general deceleration in the Society's fund raising. Our annual membership fee has declined year on year since its creation and shows no sign of improving. This would be a good time to reflect on the success of membership, donations and events and how the Society wishes to operate in the future.

**Jon Roberts**

**OLD SOUTHENDIAN ORGAN SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET**

<b>Income</b>	<b>21-22</b>	<b>20-21</b>	<b>19-20</b>	<b>18-19</b>	<b>17-18</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Membership	80.00	90.00	110.00	150.00	210.00	1150.00
Donations	746.44	1480.49	6693.35	1521.82	39289.26	60139.70
Events	193.12	173.52	1656.60	2060.60	425.00	5225.68
HMRC	-	95.15	-	137.85	-	233.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1019.56</u>	<u>1839.16</u>	<u>8459.95</u>	<u>3870.27</u>	<u>39924.26</u>	<u>66748.38</u>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Maintenance	766.84	2663.00	-	4611.00	38190.47	48234.22
Trips/Music	119.57	-	100.00	-	-	319.57
Marketing	56.49	578.52	374.88	332.38	305.49	1741.75
Equipment Hire	-	-	-	284.72	-	284.72
Venue Hire	-	-	229.00	172.50	130.00	801.50
Gifts & Donations	-	-	73.37	102.58	-	175.95
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>942.90</u>	<u>3241.52</u>	<u>777.25</u>	<u>5503.18</u>	<u>38625.96</u>	<u>51557.71</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<u><u>76.66</u></u>	<u><u>-1402.36</u></u>	<u><u>7682.70</u></u>	<u><u>-1632.91</u></u>	<u><u>1298.30</u></u>	<u><u>15190.67</u></u>
Float	150.00					
Cash in account	15040.67					

## **School Liaison Officer's Report**

Due to rising levels of COVID-19 infections rates in the school population this academic year, there was significant disruption to the weekly schedule of whole school assemblies. Consequently, the school organ was not played as frequently as it had been prior to the onset of the global pandemic. However, I did continue to teach the School Organist on a fortnightly basis and, when it was deemed safe for whole school assemblies to resume, the organ was once again heard on a weekly basis.

### **School Organist**

The School Organist, Harsh M (Year 13), was recently commended by Dr Bevan during the end of Spring term assembly for his commitment and dedication to learning the organ. Harsh is an A-Level music student, who relished the challenge to learn the organ. Indeed, for the composition component of his A-Level exam, Harsh wrote a fugue for the organ. Harsh is innately musical and contributes to many of the musical ensembles in the school. At the recent Spring Concert, it was a pleasure to see Harsh conducting the Girls' Choir. Harsh has received numerous offers to read music at University and has applied to the Royal Northern College of Music. I'm confident that Harsh will continue to learn the organ whilst at University and I look forward to him returning to perform for OSOS in the near future. Besides Harsh, there are a number of other boys in the school who are keen to learn the organ. One boy, Ethan N (Year 8), is a Grade 8 pianist, and he recently won the House Music Competition. With such talent in the school, it is clear that the organ will be in safe and competent hands for many years to come.

### **Organ Tuning**

As the member of staff responsible for the organ, I continue to facilitate visits for tuning and maintenance by the Organ Builder, Sheppard & Cross Pipe Organ Services. The organ was last tuned prior to the Service of Remembrance in November and is due to be tuned again after the Easter holidays.

**Warren Symes**