



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



Chairman's Report April 2023

The restrictions imposed by the pandemic lasted into 2022 and it only proved feasible to hold one public event in that calendar year, the annual concert for Remembrance. This fell, appropriately, on Friday 11th November and - as is our custom - included an impressive variety of music in addition to items specifically reflecting the occasion, with a guest appearance of the vocal ensemble Voces Novae. Although it was the first performance for a considerable time there was certainly no paucity of activity as we had concurrently been planning a comprehensive programme of events to take place throughout 2023, the year in which the SHSB organ would reach its 100th anniversary and presenting a line-up including four or five professional organists along with concerts featuring groups from the school and other local ensembles.

The year got off to an early and spectacular start with a visit in January by Roger Sayer for an assembly recital to the whole school plus a workshop session with senior music students. This was followed closely by the return, during February, of OSOS president Adrian Lucas who wowed an afternoon audience with one of his eclectic and highly entertaining programmes. Both of these events demonstrated just about every sound and style the organ is capable of and emphasised the hugely enhanced resources of the rebuilt instrument, now three times its original size. The third concert of the series, A Southendian Showcase, was given entirely by senior musicians and alumni from the school, with choral and band items of great distinction conducted by Rachel and Peter Worth before a large and enthusiastic audience.

With the exam season about to commence, there is now a three month intermission before our Centenary programme resumes in late July, with performances by John Dixon, Richard McVeigh, Francesca Massey and Cantare to look forward to. The planning and presentation of seven major events in one year would be an outstanding achievement for the Society in any circumstances but is all the more so in the face of two unexpected setbacks inhibiting progress - which are nevertheless being progressively surmounted. Firstly, certain unrestored parts of the organ's mechanism have been demanding attention and, although the faults are at present intermittent, they will require professional work in the near future. On the organisational side, our committee of trustees has been operating at below full strength for some time and it is hoped that, tonight, some nominations will be forthcoming which will help spread the load in what is unquestionably the busiest year since OSOS was inaugurated nine years ago (and they don't need to be organists!)

In conclusion, my sincere and unreserved thanks to Warren Symes, Joe Zammit and Jon Roberts for their herculean work in preparing and delivering an appropriately exciting year for our much-loved centenarian.

Gerald Usher



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



Treasurer's Report April 2023

Income

Over the year from April 2023 to March 2023 donations and membership received amounted to £2559.05. Total fundraising has now exceeded £70k since fundraising began in 2014.

Ticket sales across two concerts provided an income of £967.76.

Expenses

The general maintenance of the organ including regular tuning came to a total cost of £122.50 although I anticipate that SHSB is delayed in forwarding some tuning and maintenance expenses. However, the funds and the operating profit of the society will cover this should invoices appear.

After marketing and concert costs of £631.11 we made an overall profit across both concerts in the last financial year. In addition, a small amount of these expenses is for marketing materials for the rest of the Centenary celebration year. Our free ticket offers for students and all under 18s supported 17 young people attending the concert in February 2023 and we look forward to welcoming many more throughout this year.

As part of the centenary year the society invested £500 employing Roger Sayer to present an organ demonstration, recital, and Q&A at the school for both a whole school assembly and smaller selected group of music students.

Summary

2022-2023 has resulted in a respectable profit of £1823.20 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 and a successful concert programme in 2023.

Concert income has yet to recover to pre-pandemic levels, but donations are healthy.

Jonathan Roberts

**OLD SOUTHENDIAN ORGAN SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET**

Income	22-23	21-22	20-21	19-20	18-19	TOTAL
Membership	80.00	80.00	90.00	110.00	150.00	1230.00
Donations	2479.05	746.44	1480.49	6693.35	1521.82	62618.75
Events	967.76	193.12	173.52	1656.60	2060.60	6193.44
HMRC	-	-	95.15	-	137.85	233.00
Total Income	<u>3526.81</u>	<u>1019.56</u>	<u>1839.16</u>	<u>8459.95</u>	<u>3870.27</u>	<u>70275.19</u>
Expenses						
Maintenance	122.50	766.84	2663.00	-	4611.00	48356.72
Trips/Music	-	119.57	-	100.00	-	319.57
Marketing	320.87	-	578.52	374.88	332.38	2006.13
Crew/Equipment	450.00	-	-	-	284.72	734.72
Concert Costs	810.24	-	-	229.00	172.50	1611.74
Gifts & Donations	-	56.49	-	73.37	102.58	232.44
Total Expenses	<u>1703.61</u>	<u>942.90</u>	<u>3241.52</u>	<u>777.25</u>	<u>5503.18</u>	<u>53261.32</u>
NET INCOME	<u><u>1823.20</u></u>	<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>17013.87</u></u>
Float	190.00					
Cash in account	16823.87					



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



Publicity and Communications Report April 2023

The last year has seen our methods of communication and options for engagement with the membership broaden through a number of changes.

The content on our website, Facebook and YouTube continue to be updated, and we aim to keep both the OSOS and OSA communities updated via our mailing lists and social media groups. We continue to sell tickets online, with a helpful and increasing tendency for advance bookings to be made for our concerts, and have introduced card payment for convenient on-the-door transactions. Our secure online system for donations and Direct Debits with CAF remains a valuable source of income with minimal administrative overhead.

We have adjusted our approach to membership subscriptions, and hope this provides both a more sustainable model for administration and new incentivised opportunities for people to contribute financially to the Society as Friends or Patrons.

Significant preparations have been made for the centenary's celebrations, with advertising of concert dates beginning back at the November 2022 concert. We are also grateful to the school for its continued support with premises arrangements for all of our events, and for its promotion of the Society's concerts, not least during special assemblies highlighting the centenary of the organ, and the visit to the school by Roger Sayer in February.

Additional branding has been developed as part of publicity materials for the centenary, and it is hoped our programme of concerts will bring many more people to hear the organ. We are very grateful to our President, Adrian Lucas, for starting the calendar year with an open invitation to support the Society and get involved by attending the concerts or becoming a Friend or Patron. We are trialling numerous approaches to build a larger regular following at our concerts, including through the offer of "Early Bird" concert ticket discounts and loyalty cards which award free concert tickets for those who buy tickets for three concerts during the year. We are also pleased to be offering free entry for Under 18s and school students this year. Early indications are positive as we monitor the success of these initiatives, and as we note a very successful concert with Adrian at the console in February, and a well-attended and much-appreciated Showcase concert in collaboration with the school's musicians just after the year end in April.

We also look to engage more with all those connected to the school in this centenary year, inviting anyone to send in their memories of the organ. We are hopeful we will soon be able to share more from videos made at recent concerts, and remain keen to meet the enthusiastic requests for some of our members who live abroad or some distance away from Southend to stay in touch with as much of the Society's activities as possible in this way.

Joseph Zammit