



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



Chairman's Report April 2024

The 2023 AGM mentioned the great success shared by our first three events of the seven which had been planned to mark the centenary year of our Memorial Organ. It is indeed pleasing to report that the ensuing four performances - by John Dixon, Richard McVeigh, Francesca Massey and Cantare - not only matched them but brought new dimensions in the scope of the music presented, displaying the versatility of the rebuilt instrument to the full and exploiting the remarkable palette of sounds of which it is now capable, before appreciative audiences. As is revealed in the Treasurer's report, the series was also financially successful, a notable achievement in these cash-strapped times when many arts events struggle to retain viability.

Reference was made last year to a pair of setbacks which had brought challenges to implementation of the very ambitious 2023 programme: the first of these was the unreliability of certain components in the organ mechanism which had not been renewed in the 2017 rebuild and were now beginning to show signs of wear and tear; the other was an unexpected dilution in the number of officers on our committee. Both of these were addressed and overcome within a couple of months, enabling the remainder of the year's events to proceed uninhibited. We were able to secure the services of organ-building partnership Nigel Wood and Andrew Stevens, who began implementing remedial work in the autumn, are now engaged in a year-long renovation of the worn mechanisms and will also look after future tuning and voicing. It is extremely fortunate that the instrument is now in their care. Also, our committee has been enhanced by the welcome return of Brian Fletcher, who has known and played this organ for more than thirty years and brings much valuable educational expertise to our ranks.

Our programme of concerts will resume later this year, working around the busy summer term of school examinations, and we look forward to sharing more news on our plans shortly. As always, my thanks to OSOS colleagues for steering the society through such a splendidly fulfilling centenary.

Gerald Usher



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



Treasurer's Report April 2024

Income

Over the year from April 2023 to March 2024 donations and membership received amounted to £2,244.40. OSOS was also successful in a bid to the Bass Fund for £13,000.00. Total fundraising has now exceeded £88k since fundraising began in 2014.

Ticket sales, including additional donations and sales of SHSB artworks across the centenary concerts, provided an income of £2,666.46.

Expenses

The general maintenance of the organ including regular tuning came to a total cost of £4,225.00 including some delayed expenses from 2022-2023. Additional tuning and maintenance to guarantee the quality and performance of the organ was an important investment for the centenary year.

In addition to urgent maintenance and tuning, the society embarked on the next stage of improvements to the organ to replace and upgrade areas of the instrument which were not part of the major rebuild. Some of the maintenance costs for 2023-2024 relate to inspections by two different organ builders to quote for the upcoming work.

After marketing and concert costs of £2,026.25 we made an overall profit of £640.21 across all concerts in the last financial year.

Summary

2023-2024 has resulted in a respectable profit of £11,599.03 and the cash on account remains healthy, but we should be mindful of the one-time grant from the Bass Fund. It continues to be important that we retain appropriate funds in the account to be able to support any future emergency maintenance.

Jonathan Roberts

**OLD SOUTHENDIAN ORGAN SOCIETY
BALANCE SHEET**

Income	23-24	22-23	21-22	20-21	19-20	TOTAL
Membership	70.00	80.00	80.00	90.00	110.00	1300.00
Donations	15174.40	2479.05	746.44	1480.49	6693.35	77793.15
Events	2666.46	967.76	193.12	173.52	1656.60	8859.90
HMRC	171.45	-	-	95.15	-	404.45
Total Income	<u>18082.31</u>	<u>3526.81</u>	<u>1019.56</u>	<u>1839.16</u>	<u>8459.95</u>	<u>88357.50</u>
Expenses						
Maintenance	4225.00	122.50	766.84	2663.00	-	52581.72
Trips/Music	-	-	119.57	-	100.00	319.57
Marketing	232.03	320.87	-	578.52	374.88	2238.16
Crew/Equipment	-	450.00	-	-	-	734.72
Concert Costs	2026.25	810.24	-	-	229.00	3637.99
Gifts & Donations	-	-	56.49	-	73.37	232.44
Total Expenses	<u>6483.28</u>	<u>1703.61</u>	<u>942.90</u>	<u>3241.52</u>	<u>777.25</u>	<u>59744.60</u>
NET INCOME	<u><u>11599.03</u></u>	<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>28612.90</u></u>
Cash Float	157.00					
Cash in account	28455.90					



The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



Publicity and Communications Report April 2024

After a busy year of centenary celebrations, I'm pleased to report on new levels of publicity and awareness of the organ at Southend High School for Boys, and the wider work of the Society.

Across the calendar year, the Society organised no fewer than seven concerts. The setting for the first was during the school day by Interstellar organist Roger Sayer, which featured alongside an assembly for the students and workshop for senior musicians. Our public performances through the year brought together those associated directly with the school, with top organist and musician Adrian Lucas (OSOS President and former pupil, Tuscany 1972-1979) and celebrated US composer and organist John Dixon (Tuscany, 1968-1975) each offering their own recitals, and many past and present pupils and staff participating in April's showcase featuring big band, choral, and organ music. Later in the series, we also heard superstars of the organ world Francesca Massey and Richard McVeigh, and finally award-winning Southend choir Cantare who closed the year with a concert for Christmas. All of the programmes for the year may be found on our website on our "Previous Events" page.

The series featured three special souvenir programmes for select concerts, including articles on the history of the organ, the school song, educational pieces on how the organ works, reflections from school organists, and memories from several members and friends on their experience of the organ going back decades. These were well received, and go some way to increasing the educational value of the events as well as underlining the significance of the centenary.

We are particularly grateful for the permission of the performers to film the concerts, and we note that many of our members and the wider public have found great enjoyment in hearing the organ and other music via our website's "Videos" page, on YouTube and through Facebook. We look forward to promoting recordings made last year throughout 2024 via our social media and mailing lists to increase the impact of the centenary concerts further.

So many special efforts were made for the series, with long distance travel by performers and audience, premières and compositions, extra rehearsals for ensembles, the contributions of many additional soloists and accompanists, and much more. Thank you to everyone who made the centenary a success.

We are grateful to all who continue to support the Society financially, and note that alongside ticket purchases, we have been able to boost our events income as an increasing number of concert-goers have added donations to their advance bookings voluntarily. Our card payment system for convenient on-the-door transactions was especially useful during the last year, and also we noted a number of concert-goers enthusiastically collecting loyalty card stamps for the series.

Finally, we must also express our thanks to the school for its continued support with premises arrangements. Without their support during maintenance of the organ and for events, our work would simply not be possible. We look forward to sharing more of our plans for the year ahead in due course.

Joseph Zammit