

Honorary Secretary's Report to the NDOA AGM 2018

Throughout the year the eleven recitals at St. Nicolas Church were much enjoyed.

Recitalists in 2017 were:

09-Mar	Christine Wells (St. Mary the Virgin, Hambleden)
13-Apr	John Mountford
08-Jun	Alistair Davis
13-Jul	Rosemary Evans (St. John the Evangelist, Newbury)
10-Aug	Jane van Tilborg (St. John the Baptist, Snape, Suffolk)
14-Sep	Stephen Holmes (St. Michael and All Angels', Lambourn)
12-Oct	Roy Woodhams (Rector of Cranleigh, Surrey)
09-Nov	Jonathan Holl (Windsor)
14-Dec	James Paget (St. Mary Magdelene-in-Paddington)

Two members of the Association attended a hymn-playing day course at Portsmouth Cathedral in February. They both enjoyed this and took a great deal from the day. Subsequently, they wrote up a report which offers advice on hymn playing is now published on the website.

Visits were also made by Association members to 'organ days' in London. Reports back indicated that the Wurlitzer day and RCO International Organ Day were well attended and enjoyed.

Ann Turner kindly hosted the Association Tea Party in July and in October, the Association held a playing visit to West and East Woodhay. This was enjoyed by all members who attended, and also Tony Foster-Waite, who was present with his wife and gave interesting insight into the building of the West Woodhay organ.

Much of the Association's focus in 2017 was to make further progress on the project encouraging new organists. The project was in fact launched in 2017 and was undoubtedly a success. No fewer than nineteen participants were accepted on to the scheme, all of whom received lessons from the Association teachers. These were Steve Bowey, Christopher Burrows, Rosemary Evans, Clive Grant and Gillian Blythman.

The scheme was bookended by an opening session in October, and a closing session in January. Both these events were well attended not only by the participants and their families, but by Association members whose help in administering the scheme is much appreciated.

Andrew Cox

25 February 2018