

A meeting of the IAO Council, took place online on **13 January 2024** when the matters summarised below, of interest to local associations, were discussed.

The IAO Council would be grateful if you could arrange for "IAO Matters" to be a standing item on the agenda of meetings of the Council (or equivalent) of your local association. If you have any questions or feedback, or require additional information, please email the General Secretary via secretary@iao.org.uk .

- Tickets for **London Organ Day 2024** on Saturday 2 March, which will showcase the new (2021) four-manual organ by Skrabl of Slovenia at Our Lady of Victories, Kensington, are now available via the webpage <https://iao.org.uk/london-organ-day> . IAO members are entitled to a discount of £4.
- Ticket arrangements for the **IAO Organ Festival** in York (25 – 29 July) will be slightly different from recent years. Season tickets (for all events) will include the Festival Dinner, which will be held in the prestigious location of Merchant Adventurer's Hall, the mediaeval Guildhall in the heart of historic York. Season and Day tickets will be available in advance, but single event tickets will only be available on the day at the venue, when both cash and card payments will be accepted. An exclusive offer for IAO members of bargain-priced accommodation at Bootham School was included in the recently distributed IAO e-NewsSheet. A booking form for the festival will be included in the March edition of *Organists' Review* and online booking will be available from early February.
- Our **Finance Director**, Paul Evans, has indicated that he wishes to step down from that role at this year's AGM in the summer, following news of a health condition. We shall therefore need to appoint a suitably experienced person to this important position. If you know of any of your members who might be interested in taking on this vital role, please email secretary@iao.org.uk for more details. The essential features of the job are:
 - Maintaining the accounting records (using *Xero* accounting software)
 - Payment of invoices and banking of cheques (shared with the Treasurer – see below)
 - Preparing annual accounts and liaising with the IAO's accountants regarding independent examination
 - Submission of statutory returns to Companies House and the Charity Commission
 - Preparing financial reports and forecasts for trustees of the charity and directors of IAO Trading Ltd.The Finance Director is assisted by the Treasurer, Clive Roberts, who wishes to remain in that post.
- We were sorry to receive news that two of our affiliated associations, Torbay and Wiltshire & Bath, have indicated they are closing. We hope neighbouring associations in the South-West region will be able to welcome many of their members.
- A **grant** of £300 was approved for the Exeter & District association in connection with its creation and publication of a 'Devon Organ Book'.

We have been made aware that a small number of subscribers to ***Organists' Review*** magazine are continuing to experience difficulty with updating card details, for which we apologise. While we seek to resolve this software issue, the *OR* telephone hotline 0330 088 2735 is the best option if you or any of your members are affected by this.

The next summary will be distributed following a Council meeting on 23 March 2024.

The IAO welcomes feedback from affiliated associations on any of the above points. Please reply via your **Regional Coordinator** or directly to the General Secretary via secretary@iao.org.uk .