



2009 AGM at The National Motorcycle Museum, Birmingham



LEFT—Here we have Roger Taylor accepting Richard Dean's certificate, on his behalf as he was unable to attend the 2009 AGM meeting.



picture shows one of the latest ISOB members, Daniel Spencer receiving his Certificate from our President following his acceptance into the Society.

LEFT—The

President's Address : April 2009

THE FIRST PART ANYWAY : The President welcomed those present to the 62nd Annual General Meeting of our Society, and thanked all attending, especially members from north of the boarder and other long distance travellers, several of whom must have had an early start to their day. In 1949, the Society AGM took place at the Hotel Russell in London, on February 23rd and the speakers were Aubrey Thompson-Allen and Henry Willis, their subjects being 'The Pitman Chest' & 'The Standardisation of Console Measurements'. New Pitman Chests are still available from Organ Supply in the USA, but several major restorations in this country have seen their demise in favour of slider chests. After the lecture by Henry Willis, open discussion on console dimensions took place, and to quote "it was agreed that the council should appoint a committee to make recommendations for complete standardisation, for approval and acceptance at a general meeting, and then approval by the Royal College of Organists".

A sort of G20 summit perhaps?

EDITOR'S NOTE : As you will be aware the above seems somewhat "out of date" as the 2010 Annual General Meeting has since been held at The Motor Cycle Museum in Birmingham on the 6th March 2010. This "out of phase" has been caused by your Editor giving his Wife 100% attention since her illness and coupled with the fact that this newsletter is for Organ Builders and I have been and still am, DESPARATELY short of items for publication. Yes I can fill this newsletter with fan technology and my families life history BUT until you Organ Builders out there start communicating and sending in material for publication this newsletter will only limp along.

Anyway that's my grouse over and done with!

On brighter note the Society's Website nears completion and although several Organ Builders are NOT on the World Wide Web (nor will they ever be) this step is for our future. During a recent conversation with an Organ Builder who made it quire clear that he never used a computer—nor was he ever going to it amused me greatly when he referred to a Computer as a "Maggot Galloper" quite a quant expression and one which still makes me smile when I think about it.

I'm sure that when our Web Site is fully operational and every Organ Builder uses this facility the newsletter will eventually die out BUT in the meantime I will do my best to keep producing copy and now on a more regular basis.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>ISOB AGM in Bir-</i>	1
<i>Plymouth Autumn</i>	2
<i>Plymouth Cont..</i>	3
<i>Plymouth Cont..</i>	4
<i>In Memory of Arthur</i>	5
<i>Plymouth Itinerary</i>	6

“PLYMOUTH 2009 –HERE
IS AN ACCOUNT BY ROGER
TAYLOR FISOB”

TOGETHER WITH PHOTOS
BY THE EDITOR”

*Autumn Conference 2009 Where were you?
conference so how and where do we go to in order to follow that?)*

(A great



THERE WERE A WHOLE HOST OF DELEGATES THERE (THEY ALL SEEM HAPPY ENOUGH BUT IT WAS COLD!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!)

CLOTTED CREAM & ORGANS

This years ISOB autumn meeting was arranged by Maurice Eglinton and held in Plymouth. This is the furthest that we have ventured into the West country, the last West country visit was held in Clevedon, Somerset in the early 1980s.

We stayed at the Holiday Inn which is situated most conveniently on Plymouth Hoe. Members arrived from as far a field as Wales and Scotland with two members even driving all the way from Scotland, a round trip of almost 1000 miles.

Dinner on the Friday evening was served in the hotel restaurant on the top floor giving a panoramic view of the city and Plymouth Sound by night. The views were equally impressive in daylight at breakfast. Following dinner, as usual, members and their wives gathered in the hotel bar and put the world of organ building to rights !

Saturday morning we travelled by coach for the 30 minute drive to Buckfast Abbey which is situated on the edge of Dartmoor. Buckfast Abbey was founded by a community of Benedictine monks over 1000 years ago and stood for 500 years before being closed by Henry VIII. The monks returned in 1882 and rebuilt the Abbey but only finished the project in 1938.

In 1922 a small organ was presented to the Abbey and installed by Hele of Plymouth, over the years it was enlarged as the Abbey church took shape. Finally, in 1974, a major renewal was undertaken by Messrs J Walker. Mr Ralph Downes, former organist of Brompton Oratory and also designer of the organ in the Festival Hall supervised the whole works which took 5 years to complete.

The instrument is now a large 4 manual with the usual stop key type Walker console. When we arrived at the Abbey Father Sebastian, who has been the organist for many years, was practising which appears is his daily routine. We were very fortunate to have Richard Line FRCO joining us for the day. Richard ably demonstrated the instrument and gave a short recital. Whilst this was taking place wives took the opportunity to view the extensive grounds and visit the various shops run by the Abbey.



Plymouth Continued from Page 2

We then drove back into Plymouth to visit Emmanuel Church, regarded as the ‘society church’ of the city. This Church was built in 1870 and the first organ was a 2 manual installed by Speechly of London. Over the years various alterations were made and a third manual was added. In 2001 Hele & Co carried out a major rebuild which included the addition of several new stops, mainly to the pedal department and the Chancel division. The total number of stops is now 39 speaking stops, tremulant and 11 couplers. A new Solid State multi-system has been installed together with a piston capture system and sequencer.

Richard Line, who was organist at this Church when the rebuild was carried out, again ably demonstrated all the tonal characteristics and finished off by playing ‘Incantation dour un jour saint’ by Jean Langlais. Our new member, Andrew Scott then took over the organ stool and played a selection of pieces including part of the Gothic Suite and some Elgar. Maurice kindly opened up the organ chamber so that members could look inside .

Following this we travelled on to St Peter’s, Wyndham Square, this is a very high Anglican church, which at first visitors could not determine if it was Anglican or Catholic. Entering this building was a real ‘wow’ factor. The Church has undergone a startling transformation into a building with a visionary modernistic interior designed by the Harris McMillan partnership. The organ, a 3 manual Compton of 7 ranks was originally installed in the Church in 1958 when the Church had just been rebuilt following war damage.

Michael Farley has completely rebuilt the instrument and the organ has now been remounted in an elevated stainless steel clad cylinder above the West end gallery. A futuristic looking console of unique design, incorporating an arched steel frame, was built by Renatus of Bideford. Also interesting were the unusual aluminium drawstop heads. During the rebuild Michael installed a new Great Stopped Diapason, an independent Swell Celeste, Fifteenth and Mixture, together with a new Tuba ex Marlborough College. Richard Line again demonstrated the organ in a very professional manner.

We were then treated to an excellent lunch provided by Church members. After lunch there was a short Council meeting during which members and wives were able to explore this fascinating Church in more detail.

Our last visit of the day was to St Andrew’s, the City Parish Church. This Church was again damaged during the war and rebuilt in the 1950s. In 1956 Rushworth and Dreaper supplied a new large 4 manual instrument which is sited in the North and South transepts. The Swell and Great are in the North and the Choir and Solo in the South. Originally the detached console was also sited in the South transept. In recent years Dene Organs of Taunton fitted a new solid state action and relocated the console on to a moveable platform which has several plug in points around the Church. Also at this time a couple of extra stops were added.

I was particularly interested to visit this Church again as I first went there in 1958 keyholding with Ralph Woods the Rushworths Bristol Manager. Older members may remember Ralph who worked for Rushworths in Liverpool, Bristol and London before joining Walkers.



LEFT—BUCKFAST ABBEY.

RIGHT— EMMANUEL CHURCH, PLYMOUTH.

FURTHER PHOTOS ARE AVAILABLE FOC TO MEMBERS—FROM THE EDITOR.





The Autumn Conference 2010 in Ironbridge—we are all looking forward to the Event and meeting up with old and new friends

You should receive this Third Issue around April/May Time and our AGM will have taken place slightly earlier this year due to Easter on Saturday the 6th March 2010 at the National Motor Cycle Museum, Birmingham. Please note that a FREE Buffet Lunch was provided for those attending. At this meeting we hope to confirm the arrangements for the 2010 Autumn Conference in Ironbridge.

Plymouth Continued from Page 3

Unfortunately he passed away whilst working for Walkers aged about 56 yrs. ‘Mr Woods’ as he was to me was a fastidious tuner and I can well remember it was fourths and fifths up and down on Diapasons, Dulcianas, Strings and Reeds – how things have changed !

We were fortunate in having the current organist John Bowden to demonstrate the organ and open up the chambers for us to look around inside.

We then moved to one of the Lady Chapels for the usual short General Meeting when various issues were discussed.

AND NOW TO CLOTTED CREAM –’ wife Mavis then served a sumptuous Devon Cream tea in the hospitality area at the back of the Church. Waistlines were forgotten as the scones quickly disappeared. Perhaps it was then part of the plan that we then walked backed to the hotel !

The formal Saturday dinner (suits and ties) was again served in the roof top restaurant where an excellent meal was served together with wine courtesy of the ISOB. After the meal various people were thanked for their input and presentations were made.

Many thanks should be given to Richard Line for giving up his whole day to demonstrate all the instruments so well. It was also very nice to have him as our guest at our Saturday formal dinner.

Last and by no means least thanks must go to Mavis and Maurice for inviting us to Plymouth and for organising such an excellent weekend.

Roger Taylor

On page 5 we have reproduced the Itinerary from the Event.



Here Maurice & Mavis receive tokens of appreciation from our President for their hard work in organising the Plymouth Event

ITINERARY

Friday 2nd October 2009

1900 Dinner in Elliott's Restaurant, Holiday Inn,
Armada Way, Plymouth. PL1 2HJ.

Saturday 3rd October 2009

0900 Depart Holiday Inn by Coach
0930 Arrive Buckfast Abbey
1100 Depart Buckfast Abbey
1130 Arrive Emmanuel Church, Plymouth
1230 Depart Emmanuel Church
1300 Lunch in St. Peter's Church + General Meeting
1500 Depart St. Peter's Church
1515 Arrive St. Andrew's Church + Cream Tea

1700 Depart St. Andrew's Church
1710 Walk back to Holiday Inn
1900 Conference Dinner, Holiday Inn

Sunday 4th October 2009

Depart after Breakfast

Note from The Editor : I have all the Organ specifications + handouts + Photographs should anyone require copies.

I would also ask any member attending who took photographs to send these in to me for publication and for sharing with other members, especially those that did not attend but would like more information on the visit.

We will also be uploading photographs from the and earlier Events to our new Website for you to access.

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The I.S.O.B. was founded in 1947 :

- *To advance the science and practice of Organ Building.*
- *To provide a central organization for Organ Builders.*
- *To provide for the better defenition and protection of the professions by a system of examinations and the issue of Certificates and Distinctions.*

We hold regular meetings throughout the UK and sometimes venture abroad when the need and support dictates.

We're on the Web—at least we now have the site and we intend to bring it up to date for you in the very near future.

Profile — : Arthur Chapman (Deceased) Hon. Member I.S.O.B..

In Memory of 102 Years

Arthur grew up in the Ruddington area of Nottingham with three sisters and a brother and at the age of 16 he worked for Beeby's steam ploughing contractors and after that there was a brief spell in the Grenadier Guards at the age of 18, followed by a job with Basford Rural District Council mending roads. During the second world war Arthur served with the Pioneer Corps, laying smokescreens over Derby to hamper the German Bombers from finding the Rolls Royce factories. He transferred to the Royal Navy, working on Mine Sweepers in the Thames estuary. After the War Arthur went on to British Gypsum as a Bricklayers Mate, working with Bricklayer George Castledine and in 1946 both of them vowed to give up smoking!! There followed a few years with the Railways as a plate layer and then Arthur finished his career at Ramsome and Marles, the ball bearing factory in Bunny, Notts, from where he retired at the age of 64. Here are a few photos showing Arthur enjoying the company of ISOB members at various events.



LEFT—The picture left to right shows Maurice Eglinton, Arthur Chapman, David Chapman and Mavis Eglinton and was taken on our Autumn Conference in Amsterdam about 3 years ago.

RIGHT—The picture shows David Chapman studying the Menu with Arthur Chapman listening intently to the choices available. I think this one was taken at the Nottinghamshire Autumn Event

