



**OLDHAM, ROCHDALE & TAMESIDE  
ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION**

## **The Brereton Memorial Fund (incorporating the Agnes Rolph Bequest)**

Welcome to the Brereton Memorial Fund Newsletter - an annual publication to keep you informed about the work of the fund to which you have very kindly donated

### **ANNUAL BRERETON FUND RECITAL Saturday 9th October 12noon Rochdale Town Hall “Battle of the Organs”**

Keith Hearnshaw & Alexander Binns.  
Tickets available on the door £7.50/£6.

A hot lunch is available after this year's recital (£3.50 per person) - no need to book ahead, tickets available at the door for recital and lunch. These details are correct at time of going to press – we suggest that you check details before travelling any great distance by contacting Barrie Brailsford, 2 Hibson Avenue, Rochdale, Lancashire OL12 7RU Tel: 01706 343163

#### **IAO CONGRESS RECITAL**

The 2010 IAO Congress Brereton Fund recital was given in July this year by Simon Preston at Tonbridge School. A retiring collection was taken which raised a record £875.13 of which over £500 was gift-aided, meaning that the collection will be boosted when we reclaim the tax on those donations. Such generous donations will make sure that we can continue to award a good number of bursaries even in these financially uncertain times. Many many thanks to all who donated at the recital.

#### **BURSARIES AWARDED**

16 applications for funding were received this year and bursaries were made to a number of choirs and individuals, some of whom are mentioned below.

St. Oswald's Church, Durham was granted a bursary towards the initial costs of setting up a new children's choir. Director of Music, Martin Clarke says "This bursary enabled us to buy a number of excellent collections of repertoire for our new Children's Choir and has also contributed towards funding two student helpers for the choir. The choir is in its first year and is steadily growing in numbers"

We also gave St. Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral Choir, Armagh a small donation towards the cost of taking the whole choir on a special trip to Carlisle to sing there at the Cathedral Church of the Holy and Undivided Trinity for a week in August.

Peter Ladd (aged 15) received help towards the cost of organ lessons in preparation for his RCO (cert) practical exam. He took the exam this summer and passed with flying colours. Congratulations to Peter, and good luck to him for the written paper in January!

We helped two promising young organists from Northampton: Chon Meng Lam (aged 16) - to attend the RCO organ scholar experience course in July and Callum Alger (aged 14) - a bursary towards the cost of taking organ lessons for one year.

Nick Miller and James Luxton both received bursaries to attend the IAO annual summer Congress this year. James writes "After spending the past few years working hard for one goal - my B.Mus degree - I felt tired and just wanted to put my feet up. However, thanks to Daniel Hyde's friendly pointers and the superb playing of the week's recitalists and colleagues in the masterclass, I'm encouraged to work on and achieve the next goals. This opportunity arrived at the perfect moment! I also benefitted from meeting various delegates who had a lot of stories and expertise to share with me. Satisfyingly, I was able to meet Harold Britton who studied with Marcel Dupré and was able to have some niggling questions on the interpretation of a particular piece answered!"

### **Brereton Memorial Fund 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Next year sees the 10th Anniversary of the foundation of the Brereton Memorial Fund. To mark this special year the Trustees of the fund have decided to update our publicity material and website to include more information about the people and projects we have helped to support over the last 10 years.

If you or someone you know has received a bursary from the Fund and we haven't already been in touch with you, please do get in touch with us – we'd love to know what you're up to now.

### **A date for your diary!**

We are very pleased that Gillian Weir has agreed to donate her services in support of the Brereton Fund to help commemorate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. Gillian will give a special 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Brereton Fund recital at Rochdale Town in November 2011.

Personally, I am delighted that Gillian will be helping the fund in this way in memory of my parents, Philip and Gwen, whom she got to know well in the early 1980s, when she was President of the IAO, and they were Congress Organisers. I remember a lot of lengthy late-night phone calls between Gillian and my parents, and a combination of hard work and inspired programming lead to some memorable and fun IAO Congress weeks. We look forward to seeing Gillian in Rochdale again on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> November at 12pm for some appropriate "organ fireworks". All proceeds from the recital will go to the Fund which will enable us to continue to support young organists and choirs, so please put the date in your forward planner and bring along as many friends as you can!

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**Please note the APPLICATION DEADLINE for the Brereton Memorial Fund is 28 February each year. The trustees regret that we cannot consider applications at other times of the year.**

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More information about our aims, funding criteria and applications forms can be found on our website: [www.breretonfund.org.uk](http://www.breretonfund.org.uk)

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PS – this newsletter is shorter than usual, in an attempt to save paper – but there will be more information and photos coming soon to our new website.