

St. Mary's Church, Yelverton.

Heritage Lecture Series - 'My Life with Organs', a lecture by Richard Bower.  
13th September, 2017.

A Review by an Audience Member.

When I first saw the headlined publicity poster for this particular event, I thought it was going to be a talk by a retired surgeon. The small print soon put me right!

Having been associated with church organ music from an early age, this lecture was of particular interest to me. I therefore looked forward to it and was pleased to feel that our small village, and its church organ, was to play host to a distinguished musician in the person of Richard Bower.

The tone was set when Richard described his early years as an organ scholar at the Royal College of Music and his subsequent career in organ building and repair. He cleverly combined a vivid chronological collection of organ-related anecdotes with an enticing programme of musical pieces.

Richard explained that he had once worked for the company named E. & W. Storr of New Costessey, near Norwich, who had, in 1955, constructed the very organ that he was now playing at Yelverton. He said that it had lasted well over the intervening years. I had never heard that particular organ played with such virtuosity. The selected music certainly tested the organ's range and, to my ear, it was not found wanting.

It was a wonderful evening and was enthusiastically entered into by the audience. Hopefully, future organ recital evenings can be arranged as an opportunity for a yet wider group of residents to discover the Storr organ at Yelverton, and the wealth of pleasure that its music can bring.

Brian Bugg.