

RETURN TO OUNDLE

(Keith Diggle was at Laxton School from 1952 to 1955. Instrumental in founding the English Sinfonia orchestra, he became the first director of Merseyside Arts Association. He is now an international arts marketing consultant and marketing director of Rhinegold Publishing Ltd publishers of Classical Music and Music Teacher magazines.)

On my office wall I have a framed poster advertising a 'Social' at the Drill Hall, Oundle on 17 June 1955. For the sum of one shilling it says that one may enjoy 'Games, Dancing and CONCERT'. I was the prime mover behind this example of what now looks like an almost Victorian type of entertainment. The use of very large type for the word CONCERT shows how I ranked this element of the evening's fun. The Games and Dancing were put in as a concession to the girls on the committee of the Oundle Church Youth Fellowship in whose name the jollities were perpetrated. As I remember, it was a good night and made a profit – and the CONCERT was the best bit.

That was when I was a Laxton schoolboy here in Oundle. Now, after many years spent doing more or less the same kind of thing (a festival here, an orchestral tour there, a poetry reading circus *anywhere* and so on) I am back to live in Oundle. Amongst all the other charms of this beautiful town I find that there is now the Oundle International Organ Week which is also a most impressive music festival. This, as well as an excellent subscription concert season plus the never-ending delights of the Stahl Theatre and all the other locally generated activities, puts any Oundle resident in an enviable position and probably delights me more than most. Personally and nostalgically, I regret that the Drill Hall has not been pressed into service but then Snooker is taking over the world and who are we to stop it?

My wife and I are delighted to be able to assist the Oundle International Organ Week by sponsoring a CONCERT and wish all participants and audiences a splendid time.

Keith Diggle




THE FESTIVAL CLUB

Throughout the Week there are two points at which you may take refreshment – food and drink:

The **Festival Club** is the central hive of activity for the students and you are invited to join them there whenever you choose.

The **Stahl Theatre** is a small, modern, comfortable and welcoming venue, ideal for several of our concerts.

Opening times for both of these are listed below.

Festival Club

Sunday 12 July Open for afternoon tea before and after recital in Chapel, from 4.00pm until 6.30pm.

For the remainder of the Week, the Club will be open each day from 9.45am until 4.45pm for student refreshments. Tea, coffee, etc. will be served to the public during this time, as requested. The Bar will be open each day 12 noon to 2.00pm.

The Festival Club will be open in the evenings as follows:

Monday 13 July	Pre-concert from 6.45pm and interval – refreshments and bar
Tuesday 14 July	Pre-recital refreshments from 9.00pm and bar
Wednesday 15 July	Pre-recital refreshments from 9.00pm and bar
Thursday 16 July	Pre-recital refreshments from 9.00pm and bar
Friday 17 July	Pre-concert from 6.45pm and interval – refreshments and bar
Saturday 18 July	Festival Club open all day , Morning coffee, snacks, lunches, afternoon teas, etc. on sale before and between concerts, demonstrations, etc.

The Festival Club Bar will close each day at 11.00pm.

Sunday 19 July Festival Club open from 12.30pm. Bar and snacks until 2.30pm.

You are welcome to come to the **RECEPTION** after the Platform Concert, tickets on sale at the door – £2 per head.

Stahl Theatre

Sunday 12 July	Pre-concert from 6.45pm and interval – refreshments and bar
Wednesday 15 July	Pre-concert from 6.45pm and interval – refreshments and bar
Thursday 16 July	After each concert, audience invited to take further refreshments at the Festival Club, Milton Road
Saturday 18 July	Afternoon tea will be served before the Demonstration, from 3.30pm. After the Demonstration, the audience will be invited to visit the Festival Club, where both snacks and liquid refreshment will be on sale.

Oundle Horticultural Society's Annual Show takes place in the **Great Hall** on Saturday 18 July (2.30 - 6.00pm) and Sunday 19 July (2.00 - 5.00pm). Over 500 exhibits of flowers, fruit, vegetables, floral decorations, art and handicraft: visitors welcome. Teas available.