

Tayside Organists' Society

Summer Garden Party

at the President's home

Sunday 28th June 2026

Review by Bryan Weir

Normally, the Society takes a break from events over the summer months but this year, at the suggestion of our new President, Alison Malcom, we tried something different. Members and families and friends were invited to a Garden Party at the lovely country home of President Alison Malcolm in Auchterhouse, outside Dundee.

The weather was kind with sunny spells, no rain but a brisk breeze. We had the opportunity to sit in the garden in the sun, chatting and becoming friends with Alison's three dogs who were very pleased to see everyone. After a short time, we were entertained by Scottish songs from the choir at Alison's church, Bendochy and Coupar Angus Abbey. This was followed by some organ playing by Tania Mann, an organ pupil of Alison, on the Willis pipe organ installed in Alison's house, then by Alison herself. These were very varied short programmes and greatly enjoyed. It is very unusual to sit outside and enjoy the live sound of a real pipe organ. The choir then entertained us again, including a monologue on how unadvisable it is to wear brown boots to a funeral. All in all, thoroughly entertaining.

We then moved inside to partake of some lovely sandwiches and cakes plus tea and coffee. This again gave us the chance to mingle and socialise which was very enjoyable.

We all agreed this was a very entertaining and enjoyable event and one which, I am sure, we would like to be repeated.

Our sincere thanks to Alison, her choir and other helpers (plus her dogs) for all the effort they put in to make this such a memorable event. A great way to spend a summer's SUNDAY afternoon.