

The Organ Club Newsletter

JANUARY 2014

NOTICES

March Newsletter contributions: please email notices by 16th February to Brian Caswell (newsletter@organclub.org), or alternatively write to him at 42 Wymondley Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9PR.

Journal contributions: please email contributions by 1st May to Kevin Grose (journal@organclub.org), or alternatively write to him at 330 East 33rd Street 14A, New York, NY 10016, USA.

2014 Tour

Unfortunately, there were not enough applicants for the Australia tour to make it viable and reluctantly this has had to be cancelled. The very high cost of hotels in Australia in addition to the air fares was a significant factor.

To replace the tour, the Committee has decided upon a tour to Southern Lancashire, including Merseyside and Greater Manchester. This is planned for half-term, between the afternoon of Sunday 26 October and the morning of Saturday 1 November. There are many exciting organs in this area, in halls as well as in churches, chapels and cathedrals. Accommodation will be in an economical hotel in one of the urban centres. We do hope that as many of you as possible, from all parts of the world, will join us in this exciting venture in an area too rarely visited by the Club.

A fuller announcement will be made in the next Newsletter but those who wish to express interest and receive information in due course should contact the President-Elect, psjtstokes@gmail.com or 07900 220 816.

2014 Membership

Please find enclosed a redesigned membership renewal form for completion by all who receive this Newsletter to confirm email/phone etc, and payment as appropriate. If there are any queries, please contact Mark Jameson, membership@organclub.org or 01189 344212. The UK rate for 2014 is unchanged, however revision is proposed for 2015, so there is an option to pay now in full at the current rate for up to 3 years (to 2016) if you wish.

It is vital that we have your up-to-date contact information. Resending Journals and Newsletters is very costly, so please keep Mark informed of any changes. If you pay by standing order or electronically, please email the form back to Mark at the above email address.

Provisional Programme 2014

January - St Patrick, Soho Square and Notre Dame

February - Master Class at St Saviour, St. Albans

March - AGM at St Michael, Cornhill, including recital by Jonathan Rennett

April 26th (please note date) Brighton, including Chapel Royal, St Martin, St Luke and St Mary

May - North Ealing, including St Barnabas, and St Peter Mount Park Road

June - Barnes and Mortlake

July - Coventry, including the Cathedral

August - Farnham, including St Andrews and the URC

September - Bristol, including St Mary Redcliffe and the Cathedral

About how an organ works

I have been asked several times for a session on this and hope to arrange something soon. However may I now suggest the following excellent book by our member Prof David Baker, who recently organised the fine Halifax visit?: *The Organ*, Shire Publications, revised edition 2009. *Peter Stokes*

CLUB MEETINGS

SATURDAY 18 JANUARY - Soho Square and Leicester Square

We visit this small very cosmopolitan area of London which has an Italianate style RC Church, an English-designed church in the Flemish Gothic style with an English organ for the French Protestant Church, and a French-designed church built for the French Catholics, converted from a former Panorama, with an organ which was originally French, but enlarged and revoiced in the English style, many of the French pipes being destroyed in the post-war rebuild, before being reconstructed in the French style. This church is now on the edge of Chinatown!

1030 St Patrick's R C Church, Soho Square W1D 4NR

2 manual organ with 12 speaking stops by Robert & William Gray 1793, reconstructed by Goetze & Gwynn 2012. The Great has a GG compass, the Swell finishes at Tenor F, there is an 11 note pedalboard. Our member, David Patrick, after consultation with Martin Goetze, has chosen a short programme of interesting pieces selected for this historic organ.

Gt 8 8 4 2.2/3 2 III 8; Sw 8 8 8 8; Ped 16

1200-1315 Lunch: plenty of eating places in the area.

1315 French Protestant Church, Soho Square W1D 3QD

Organ by Hill & Son 1893. 2 manuals, 13 speaking stops, demonstrated by Church organist, Ourania Gassiou (Organist of the Athens Concert Hall)

Gt 8 8 8 4 4 2.2/3 2; Sw 8 8 8 4 8; Ped 16

1500-1700 Eglise Notre Dame de France (French R C Church), 5 Leicester Place, Leicester Square WC2H 7BX

Organ by August Gern 1868, Walker 1938 & 1955. Reconstructed with new tonal scheme in French style 1987 by B C Shepherd & Son. Reeds voiced in French style by Keith Bance. Console refitted and rewired with new solid state switching, extra pistons, memories, stepper, programmable crescendo pedal, additional mutations, pedal divide, new electric swell shutter motor 2010-11 B C Shepherd & Sons. 3 manuals 67 speaking stops.

Grand-Orgue (manual 1) 16 8 8 8 8 8 4 4 2.2/3 2 1.3/5 III-IV 16 8 4

Positif Expressive (manual 2) 16 8 8 8 4 4 2.2/3 2.2/7 2 1.3/5 1.1/3 1.1/7 1 8

Recit Expressive (manual 3) 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 III 16 8 8 8 4

Bombarde (floating) 16 8 4 8

Pedale 32 16 16 16 16 10.2/3 8 8 8 6.2/5 5.1/3 4.4/7 4 4 II 32 16 16 8 4

Organiste Titulaire, Duncan Middleton will demonstrate the organ, including the unique pedal divide with octave couplers and unison off. There will be plenty of time to play the organ; we can stay until around 5pm. Duncan will be playing for Mass at 1800, if members wish to stay.

Tea: It has not been possible to arrange tea, but there are plenty of places in Leicester Square to have refreshments.

Transport: The nearest station to Soho Square is Tottenham Court Road. Access to Soho Square is difficult at the moment, due to work on Crossrail. Allow enough time to find the best way into the square, as some entrances are blocked. The nearest station to Leicester Place is Leicester Square.

Parking: Parking is very difficult and very expensive.

Meeting charge: £5.00.

Bookings: To Eric Shepherd, eric@shepherd0001.fsnet.co.uk or 020 8958 2461, BY TUESDAY 14TH JANUARY AT THE LATEST!

SATURDAY 15 FEBRUARY - St Albans

We visit two excellent organs, built by Peter Collins, working with Peter Hurford, on the second of which a master-class will be given. This day also provides an opportunity to visit the attractive area of St Albans, Verulamium Park, St Michael's Village with its medieval church, and the well-known and historic Fishpool Street, which connects to the town centre.

1115 St Michael's Church, St Michael's Street, St.Albans AL3 4SL

Collins. 1981 Gt 8; Sw 7; Ped 4

1230: Lunch There are numerous restaurants and cafes in St Albans town centre on the 20-minute walk from St Michael's to St Saviour's.

1400 St Saviour's Church, Sandpit Lane, St Albans AL1 4DF

Collins 1989 Gt 11; Pos 9; Ped 6. The International Organ Festival Organ in the style of André Silbermann.

Master-class and short demonstration (at 1545) by David Titterington, Head of Organ Studies at the Royal Academy of Music.

Travel: There are two railway stations in St Albans: **St Albans City** – frequent trains from St Pancras International. Suggested train leaves St Pancras 0948 arr 1013. It is suggested that you take the 35-minute walk through the town centre and on through Verulamium Park. Go out of the station over the bridge and up Victoria Street into the town. Walk to the south of the Cathedral and diagonally down the Abbey Orchard. Cross the bridge by the Fighting Cocks Inn and turn right between the lakes and the river. Carry straight on to leave the park at St Michael's Street and turn left where you will see the church. Alternatively, there is a taxi rank at the station, and there is also one bus an hour – Bus 300 (direction Hemel Hempstead) to St Michael's Street from the station forecourt 1052 arr 1106.

St Albans Abbey – One or two trains an hour from Watford Junction. Suggested train 1031 arr 1047. St Michael's Church is at the other end of the park; walking takes about 15 mins. Cross the road at the crossing and walk past the Leisure Centre and the running track. Fork left and follow the hedge to the church in trees at the end.

Parking: There is a P & D car park next to St Michael's Church.

Meeting charge: £5-00.

Bookings: to John Miley (*jmiley@iee.org*) 01780 470015 BY SUNDAY 9TH FEBRUARY AT THE LATEST!

SATURDAY 15 MARCH - AGM at St Michael, Cornhill,

Full details will appear in the March Newsletter.

RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

St John's Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HA

Jan 23 at 1305 Martin Baker (Admission £10)

Feb 20 at 1305 Adrian Gunning (Admission £10)

St Andrew's Church, Surbiton KT6 4AB

Jan 18 at 1930 David Aprahamian Liddle (Admission £10)

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, London WC2H 8EP

Jan 25 from 1300 Annual Bloomsbury Organ Day, including at 1800 recital by Jane Parker-Smith

http://bloomsbury.org.uk/music/page/organ_concerts/