

The Organ Club Newsletter

MAY 2014

NOTICES

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

Write for the Organ Club Journal! Kevin Grose, our Journal Editor, would be pleased to receive contributions to the OCJ from members. The OCJ provides continuing coverage of Club events but also can highlight interesting activities of its members. Contributions can be short or long; ideally, not more than 1000 words. Photos (sent as jpg files) to accompany the contributions are welcome. Please email contributions by 1st September to Kevin (journal@organclub.org), or alternatively write to him at 330 East 33rd Street 14A, New York, NY 10016, USA.

2014 Tour - South Lancashire and Merseyside

You are invited to join a tour which is being organised to visit Southern Lancashire, Merseyside and Manchester. This is a fairly compact area with an absolutely splendid collection of fine buildings and organs. The particular economic conditions here have left a rich legacy of Victorian organs, many of which have remained in near original condition.

The visits will begin in the afternoon of Sunday 26 October and end in the afternoon of the following Saturday (1 November). There is unlikely to be a complete day off as there is so much to see. In fact it will be suggested that we make at least one subsequent Saturday visit to cover organs in central Manchester which are readily accessible by train.

We are intending to stay for bed and breakfast in the Premier Inn in the Albert Dock, Liverpool, which is an imaginatively restored area on the edge of the town centre, with restaurants, cafés and galleries including Tate Liverpool (www.albertdock.com). Visits planned include the three cathedrals in the area, Liverpool Anglican (Willis/Wells V 152), Liverpool Metropolitan (Walker IV 88), and Manchester (H&H IV 89). The town hall organs are particularly interesting and we are planning to visit St George's Hall in Liverpool (IV 121), Rochdale Town Hall (Binns IV 53) and the famous Cavaillé-Coll in Warrington (III 49). We are planning an architectural tour of Rochdale Town Hall and there will also be a visit to Port Sunlight, with its Willis II organ (IV 41) and the Lady Lever Gallery. The Theatre Organ Heritage Centre and Museum at

Eccles will also be visited along with many parish churches of historical, architectural and musical importance, and we will enjoy a celebratory dinner.

The total cost of the tour will be around £590 per person in a shared room and £830 for single occupancy. For those wishing to take the tour but use their own accommodation, the price will be around £200. There is car parking available near the hotel.

If you wish to receive an outline itinerary please contact The Treasurer, Colin J Brookes, 83 Castle Road, Hartshill, NUNEATON CV10 0SG (colin@colinbrookes.co.uk or 02476 398 940).

Thanks to all those who have expressed their initial interest in the tour: you will nevertheless need to book through the Treasurer. *Peter Stokes*

2014 Membership

At 18 April, 30 members had not renewed. Each has had either a letter or a personally-addressed email sent out in the last week of March. So, if you have a RED CROSS on your NEWSLETTER you will also find the final reminder form - and this will be your last mailing. Renewals can be for up to 3 years at the rate applicable to your age as at 1 January for the year being paid. My contact details are on the form, the Website and in the Journal. *Mark Jameson*

CLUB MEETINGS

SATURDAY 17 MAY - Ealing

1000-1150 St Barnabas, Pitshanger Lane W5 1QG

3m 1877 Hill installed in 2011 by Nicholson's. Gt15, Sw15, Ch 8, Ped 7. Demonstration by Paul Jeanes, Director of Music, followed by a short talk by Paul Joslin, Project Advisor, and members' playing time. Refreshments will be available. Our member, Hugh Mather, also plays here.

The second church is less than five minutes walk away to the west.

1200-1245 Pitshanger Methodist W5 1QP

2m Compton that Rushworth rewired in 1995. Gt8, Sw6, Ped 5. The Organist is Sydney Wooldridge; I hope he will be able to give us a brief demonstration before members play.

1245-1400 Lunch break - there are a number of cafes and a pub in Pitshanger Lane. Then either a walk or E2/E9 bus to:

1400-1615 St Peter's, Mount Park Road W5 2RU

1924/1985 Walker 3m Gt10, Sw13, Ch 7, Ped 7. Our member, Mark James, is Director of Music here and will demonstrate the organ for us.

1630-1800 Haven Green Baptist, Castlebar Road W5 2UP

3m Bryceston/Walker/ John & Eric Shepherd Gt 9, Sw 11, Ch 7, Ped 9.

After tea, Organist Christopher Wickenden will demonstrate this instrument before members play.

Travel: Ealing Broadway Station. The Great Western line should be operating normally, however TFL shows that the DISTRICT line is closed east of Earls Court and south to Wimbledon. Exit the station, turn right, cross road to Haven Green, go to bus stop "E" for bus E2 or E9 to Pitshanger Lane.

Costs: £5 day-charge plus tea (cost TBA).

Parking: It's easier at the Pitshanger end and there is limited parking around St Peter's. Ealing is a very busy commuter/shopping area, yellow lines, traffic wardens! Please use public transport if you are able.

Bookings: to Richard Blanch (*richardblanch@aol.com*), 01707 322166, BY MONDAY 12 MAY AT THE LATEST! Please state if you'd like tea.

SATURDAY 21 JUNE - East Sheen and Barnes

Our long-standing member Giles Dimock (who lives in the area) has arranged a day in his home patch: most of the organs have not previously been visited by the Club.

1000 All Saints, East Sheen Avenue SW14 8AX

Apologies for the early start but the church is not available later in the day. In many ways a typical suburban church of the late 1920s, at the very end of the fashion for Gothic revival, this building is now home to its third organ, installed two years ago by F.H. Browne of Canterbury using the redundant organ (Lewis, but subsequently enlarged by Hill) from St Andrew, Croydon - a considerable improvement on its two predecessors. Gt 9; Sw14; Ch 7; Ped 11.

1145 St Mary, Church Road, Barnes SW13 9HL

Appears externally as the mediaeval parish church of the old village of Barnes but internally it is entirely a bold new church following a disastrous fire in 1978. The new tracker-action organ by Peter Collins (one of his finest) was opened in 1985 by our member Sheila Laurence who subsequently died of cancer, tragically young. The organ was given a quarter-century overhaul last year and is in the care of our members, the Shepherd brothers. Gt 9; Sw 7; Ped 4.

1430 St Michael & All Angels, Elm Bank Gardens SW13 0NX

A spacious and rather fine 1891 church designed by a retired architect of commercial buildings in the City, who was a local resident and also a churchwarden. The 1895 organ by Bishop & Son was rebuilt in 1976 by Percy Daniel with tonal changes and a new detached console. Gt 9; Sw 10; Ped 6.

1545 Barnes Methodist Church, Station Road SW13 0NH

Built in 1906 but the construction budget was exceeded and there was initially no money for an organ. In 1925, the present Bevington organ was installed, having come from a large private house in Sussex. It has not been altered and gives us the chance to hear a reasonably large turn-of-the-century organ by this long-lived firm. Gt 7; Sw 10; Ch 7; Ped 5.

Travel: (i) By bus: From Hammersmith station concourse, follow “buses” signs to street-level bus-stop (accessible from a passage beside a McDonald’s). Take the 33 to Fulwell. Alight at the King’s Road stop, beside the Adrian Hall garden centre (approx 20 min journey). Turn right out of the bus, then turn left up Gilpin Avenue, and right at the top into Park Avenue; All Saints is immediately visible on the left. **(ii)By train:** Nearest station Mortlake, a 20-min journey from Waterloo and there are usually 4 trains an hour . The church is a 15-min walk from the station.

The notes will include details of travel between the churches, by bus or on foot.

Parking: Street-parking may be possible, but all churches are in fairly narrow residential streets, often with more demand for parking than there are places.

Catering: Own lunch arrangements (several cafés, restaurants and pubs in Barnes near St Mary’s). A Methodist tea will be available at the last church only for those who have ordered in advance.

Toilets: There are toilets/washrooms at all the churches.

Costs: £5 day-charge. The tea will be £4.

Bookings: Preferably by email to Giles Dimock (gilesdimock@blueyonder.co.uk), 020 8878 3663, BY MONDAY 16 JUNE AT THE LATEST! Please state whether or not you wish to have tea.

WEDNESDAY 2 JULY - Royal Festival Hall (evening visit)

We have been invited to visit the restored Harrison & Harrison 4 manual 103 stop organ at 1900 on 2nd July. The curator, Dr William McVicker, will introduce the organ to us, describe its history and reconstruction; and demonstrate it for us. There will be an opportunity for members to play.

Travel: The Royal Festival Hall, Southbank Centre, Belvedere Road, London SE1 8XX, is situated close to Waterloo mainline and underground stations. It can also be easily reached by walking across Hungerford Bridge from Embankment or Charing Cross stations. There are adjacent car parks.

Cost: Meeting charge £3.

Bookings: to David Wakefield (david.wakefield3@ntlworld.com), 020 8874 9400 BY MONDAY 23 JUNE PLEASE, stating whether you wish to play. Players, please prepare a short piece lasting no more than 3 minutes.

SATURDAY 19 JULY- North Warwickshire and Tamworth

We are unable to visit Coventry Cathedral as proposed because of graduation ceremonies, so instead we shall leave the smog of London and enjoy the smog of North Warwickshire and Tamworth. We shall visit **Polesworth**, St Editha (3m rebuild Taylor by Roger Fifield 2010 - Roger intends to be present); **Merevale**, Church of our Lady (Snetzler 1777); and **Tamworth** St Editha (delightful 3m Harrison). Full details in the July Newsletter.