

The Organ Club Newsletter

MARCH 2015

The Newsletter

From the membership renewal forms received so far, we have prepared a database of email addresses for Newsletter distribution to those members who opted in their renewals to receive the digital edition.

From now on, you should receive *either* the paper *or* the digital edition in accordance with your choice. Please let us know if you wish to change your preference.

We continue to welcome your comments and suggestions.

Brian Caswell (newsletter@organclub.org)

NOTICES

May Newsletter contributions: please email notices by 16th April 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 May to Kevin (*journal@organclub.org*), or alternatively write to him at 330 East 33rd Street 14A, New York, NY 10016, USA.

Monthly Meeting Visit Notes and Reviews

Members preparing Visit Notes should email them to Colin Brookes, our Treasurer, for printing (*colin@colinbrookes.net*), and also to Kevin Grose (details above) for inclusion in the Journal. Reviews and photos of meetings should also be sent to Kevin. Please provide a list of the photos with details of people and places shown.

2015 Renewals & Distribution of Newsletter

Sent with the last Newsletter was a membership renewal form for completion and return to me. Each form included an option to tick whether you want to receive your Newsletter by e-mail or post. The pink form went to those not being asked for any payments, simply to check if the contact details are still correct. The purple form went to UK members for renewals and data updates whilst the yellow form went to our overseas members for the same purpose.

If you have not yet renewed, please attend to this as a matter of urgency. If you send a cheque, please ensure that it comes to me. My address is clearly shown at the foot of each form.

The current rates are as follows: the £STG rate for membership is now £30; concession rates for seniors (aged 60 as at 1st January 2015) £25; and for juniors/students (up to 18, in full time education, up to 25 at 1/1/2015) £10. Those outside the UK mainland have a £10 postal surcharge; the yellow form carried AUD, USD & Euro CASH rates as at the end of November - these have now been updated to 13/2/15 and replace the earlier rate given - perils of currency fluctuations. If sending non-UK £STG cheques, bank charges are very expensive so please ensure the sum shown provides for the correct sterling sum when cashed; on-line electronic payments also incur charges. If the sum received is less than the £STG charge, I cannot complete the renewal.

If you have lost your form, print a copy from the Club website, or contact me. We do not want to lose members, so please ensure that you renew by 31st March.

Finally, a big thank-you to all the members who have renewed promptly and the many who have also added donations to their renewals.

Mark Jameson (membership@organclub.org) (01189 344212)

St Albans International Organ Festival (8-18 July 2015)

OCSO members have the opportunity to gain first-hand experience of this premier competition. You may contribute as a page-turner, which usually involves accompanying one competitor and offering help in many ways. There is also the possibility of your acting during the Festival as an intern with the administration. This could involve work in the office, in the booking-office and being a generally helpful presence through all aspects of the Festival, which include the concerts and the other cultural and social activities which run alongside the competitions. Help with out-of-pocket expense is provided and it may be possible to assist with accommodation if necessary.

Do seriously consider this and then please contact John Miley (*jmiley@iee.org*)

For information about the Festival: *www.organfestival.com*

Schnitger and Schnitzels (24-27 August 2015)

Following the runaway success of the 2013 Club-sponsored study visit to Hamburg, we invite organists of all ages and standards for inspiration and relaxation in Hamburg, Lübeck and Lüneburg. Come and enjoy hearing and playing these very historic organs.

Host: John Miley; **Lead-tutors:** James Parsons (Club Vice-President and RCO Head of Student Development), William Saunders (Director of Music, Royal Hospital School, and international recitalist); and featuring masterclasses by: Prof Arvid Gast and Joachim Vogelsanger.

The Cost: £180 for participating STUDENTS (max 20) (£120 for OCSO members); £120 for Club members wishing console-time; £100 for Observers. The cost will cover tutors and all masterclasses, privileged access to the organs and venues, and admission to concerts.

What's left for you to find? You will need to book your own flights (very reasonable rates from Lufthansa and Easyjet), and your own accommodation (do consider Hamburg Youth Hostel, which proved excellent in 2013). You will also be responsible for the cost of your own travel, within the group, to Lüneburg and Lübeck and on local Hamburg trains (rail fares are very cheap).

For full details: please contact Past President, John Miley, preferably by email (jmiley@iee.org).

CLUB MEETINGS

SATURDAY 28 MARCH - AGM AT HOLY TRINITY SW1X 9BZ

Full documentation for the meeting is contained in the accompanying Annual Report booklet. If you are attending the AGM, please remember to bring the booklet with you.

Nominations are invited for Officer posts and six Committee posts; they should be sent to the President (pstjstokes@gmail.com or 40 Camlet Way, St Albans AL3 4TL) by 21 March (nominations received as at 16 February are shown on page 16 of the Annual Report).

SATURDAY 18 APRIL - WEST LONDON (New, Old and Very Old!)

1100 St Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park, Bath Road W4 1TT

St Martin III/25 - A new and exciting organ to an original and ingenious specification by the renowned Swiss builders.

1400 St Mary Acton, The Mount, Acton High Street, Acton, W3 9NW

Walker 1876 and 1894 III/29 - A fine Victorian parish church organ in near original condition, which is maintained by B C Shepherd and Sons.

1630–1800 St George, Lancaster Road, Southall UB1 1NP

Jordan 1723 II no P/13 - This is a most important and fascinating early 18th century English organ. The sound is vigorous but also of exceptional beauty. The organ was moved from St George, Botolph Lane, in the City on the church's demolition and restored in 2009. Bring your Greene or Stanley!

Travel: Turnham Green station (District Line) is about 200 metres from the first church. The visit is planned around bus travel after this and full directions will be given with the visit notes. For the return, there are frequent buses together with trains from Southall station (about 15 minutes walk from the last church) to Paddington.

Food: many places to eat and adequate time between the visits.

Costs: £5 meeting charge.

Bookings: to Peter Stokes (pstjstokes@gmail.com) (01727 865417) by **Monday 13 April**.

SATURDAY 23 MAY - MELTON MOWBRAY

We visit Peter Collins' workshop, and churches in Melton Mowbray and Leicester. Our coach will meet the 0915 train from St Pancras, arriving Leicester 1024. Return train leaves Leicester 1753, arriving St Pancras 1900. Full details in the May Newsletter.

SATURDAY 20 JUNE - OXFORD COLLEGES AND CATHEDRAL

Full details in the May Newsletter.

RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

All Saints, Maidstone ME15 6YE

Mar 21 at 1700 Margaret Phillips (£10)

Victoria Hall, Hanley

Mar 7 at 1200 Simon Gledhill

Apr 18 at 1200 Jonathan Scott

St John the Evangelist, Duncan Terrace, Islington, N1 8AL

Apr 25 at 1930 Virgile Monin (Paris)

Admission free; retiring collection.

St Alphage, Montrose Avenue, Burnt Oak, Edgware HA8 0DN

Mar 7 at 1930 Catherine Ennis (President, RCO)

Admission £10 to include buffet and wine.

Notre Dame de France

Mar 19 at 1930 Duncan Middleton (Notre Dame de France) (£10)

*** Visit the Club's website: www.organclub.org

*** Follow the Club on Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheOrganClub