

The Organ Club Newsletter

MAY 2015

NOTICES

The Newsletter: 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)

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! Please email contributions by 1st September to Kevin Grose (*journal@organclub.org*), or alternatively write to him at 330 East 33rd Street 14A, New York, NY 10016, USA. Photos (sent as jpg files) to accompany the contributions are welcome.

2015 Renewals & Distribution of Newsletter

If you have still to renew your membership for 2015, please contact me as soon as possible by email, phone or letter. My full address is in the Journal and on the renewal forms.

Mark Jameson (membership@organclub.org) (01189 344212 or 07802 715634)

2015 Tour - Channel Islands and Brittany (24 Sept to 2 Oct)

Organ Club members are invited to take part in a very rare opportunity to visit organs in Jersey, Guernsey and Brittany.

The Channel Islands with their wonderful scenery, are in some ways a refuge from many of the more unsettling aspects of our age. A rich and varied history has produced an interesting architectural culture which is reflected in the organs. Our visits will start in the late afternoon of Thursday 24 September. We will stay in St Helier, looking at organs there and travelling around the island. We will spend one day in Guernsey, which has also some interesting churches and organs.

On Monday 28 September the party will travel by ferry to St-Malo (64km). We will stay in the historic town of Dinan and travel to see the most interesting instruments in this area. These will include instruments by Cavaillé-Coll but will also give us an opportunity to become acquainted with instruments by many other French builders. Jean Langlais was a Breton and he advised on the organ at the cathedral of Dol-de-Bretagne. Our visits will include organs in St-

Malo and the 1851 London Exhibition organ by Ducroquet in Vitré. The last day will be spent in Rennes including a visit to the two organs in the Cathedral.

The total cost of the tour will be around £580 per person in a shared room and £790 for single occupancy, with a limited number of single rooms at a slightly lower price. For an itinerary and booking form, please contact the Treasurer, Colin J Brookes, 83 Castle Road, Hartshill, NUNEATON CV10 0SG (colin@colinjbrookes.co.uk or 02476 398940). Colin needs to receive firm bookings before 30 June 2015.

Peter Stokes

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

There are still opportunities for OCSO members to gain first-hand experience of the administration of this premier competition. Help with out-of-pocket expense is provided and it may be possible to assist with accommodation if necessary. For information about the Festival: www.organfestival.com.

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

Schnitger and Schnitzels (24-27 August 2015)

There are still vacancies for participating students and observers at this year's Club-sponsored study visit to Hamburg, with John Miley, James Parsons and William Saunders, featuring masterclasses by Arvid Gast and Joachim Vogelsanger. For full details, please contact Past President, John Miley, preferably by email (jmiley@iee.org).

CLUB MEETINGS

SATURDAY 23 MAY - LEICESTER, MELTON MOWBRAY AND PETER COLLINS' WORKSHOP

Peter Collins has invited us to visit his workshop near Melton Mowbray (which has not yet been visited by the Club) so the opportunity has been taken to visit fine organs and churches in Melton and in Leicester.

1100 St Mary's, Burton Street, Melton Mowbray LE13 1AE

A fine Parish Church in a delightful English Town. Walker - Gt 19, Sw 13, Ch 20, Ped 17

1345 Visit to Peter Collins' workshop

42 Pate Road, Melton Mowbray LE13 0RG

1515 St James the Greater, London Road, Leicester LE2 1NE

A church whose design was influenced by the great cathedral of Torcello in the Venetian lagoon. Taylor/Walker/Nicholson - Gt 12, Sw 14, Ch 11, P 17

1630 St Peter's, 21 Hinckley Road, Leicester LE3 0TA

Porritt/Taylor/Young 4-manual. Gt 11, Sw 13, Ch 8, Solo 7 Ped 7

Travel (revised): Kings Cross dep 0830 arr Peterborough 0915; Peterborough 0952 arr Melton Mowbray 1029. St Mary's is a 5-minute walk from the station. Coach from Melton Mowbray via Peter Collins' workshop to Leicester. PLEASE NOTE that the coach will no longer pick up from Leicester station in the morning.

Return: train from Leicester dep 1718 arr Peterborough 1813; Peterborough 1833 arr Kings Cross 1930. Members travelling by car can park in Leicester city and near the church at Melton as well as at the Collins workshop.

Food: Lunch can be obtained in Melton town centre. Tea and coffee may be available at the churches for a donation.

Costs: £5 meeting charge and £9 charge for use of the coach.

Bookings: to John Miley (01780 470015) (jmiley@iee.org) by Sat 16 May.

SATURDAY 20 JUNE - OXFORD COLLEGES

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to visit four of the largest college organs in Oxford, all with mechanical action, but electric stop and piston actions. Two of the organs are new, so we have not visited these before. The organ in New College has recently been restored; we last visited here in 1993. We have not visited Christ Church since 1987. The former organ at Merton was last visited in 1987, and the old organ at Keble was last visited in 1939!

1100 Merton College, Merton Street OX1 4JD

New organ by Dobson Pipe Organs of Lake City, Iowa, USA. 3-manuals 44 speaking stops in spectacular case. Gt 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ 2 1.3/5 IV 8 Sw 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 IV 16 8 8 8 4 Ch(enc) 8 8 8 4 4 2 II III 8 8 Ped 16 16 16 8 8 4 16 8. Benjamin Nicholas (Director of Music) will demonstrate the organ, and there will be plenty of time to play.

1300 Lunch break. Approx 7-minute walk to New College

1400 New College, Holywell Street OX1 3BN

Organ built by Grant, Degens & Bradbeer 1969, restored, with minor tonal alterations, by Goetze & Gwynn 2014-15. 3-manuals 48 speaking stops. Gt 16 8 8 4 4 3.1/5 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ 2 IV-VI 8 8 V Sw 8 8 8 4 4 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ 2 1.3/5 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ 1 8/9 V 16 8 8 (chamade) Pos 8 8 4 4 II 2 2 III 16 8 Ped 16 16 8 8 4 2 IV 32 16 8 4. Demonstration by either Robert Quinney (Director of Music) or Timothy Wakerell (Assistant Director of Music), after which there will be time to play. Approx 10-minute walk to Keble College.

1545 Keble College, Parks Road OX1 3PG

Organ built by Kenneth Tickell and Company 2011 in Hill style behind old Hill pipe frontage. This replaced a large electronic, which had replaced a rebuilt Hill organ. 4-manuals 43 speaking stops. Gt 16 8 8 8 4 4 2 II IV 8 Sw 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 III-IV 16 8 8 4 Solo/Ch 8 8 4 4 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ 2 1.3/5 16 8 8 Bombarde 8 V Ped 16 16 16 10 $\frac{2}{3}$ 8 8 4 III 16. Approx 18-minute walk to Christ Church.

1800 Christ Church Cathedral and College, St Aldate's OX1 1DP

Organ built by Reiger Orgelbau of Austria in 1979 to the design of the then Organist Simon Preston, using the case from the Father Smith organ. 4 manuals 43 speaking stops. Gt 16 8 8 4 4 2 VI IV V 8 4 Sw 8 8 8 4 4 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ 2 1.3/5 V 16 8 Ch 8 8 4 4 2 II 1 $\frac{1}{3}$ IV 8 Bombarde 16 8 4 Ped 16 16 8 8 4 V 16 8 4. Choral Evensong starts at 1805, but please get to the Cathedral in good time. After Evensong Clive Driskell-Smith, the Sub-Organist, will demonstrate the organ, after which there will be a short time to play.

Tea: There is no tea arranged, but there are plenty of places to buy tea.

Walking: The distances between the colleges are not great, but the longest walk will be from Keble to Christ Church. Merton Street, which is a lovely cobbled street, runs parallel with the High Street (The High).

Parking is very difficult in the centre of Oxford. It is best to park at a Park & Ride. These are a fair way out of the centre, so allow enough time to park, queue for a ticket, and the bus. Allow about 20 minutes for the bus ride. The best one when coming from London on M40 is Thornhill Park and Ride; others are Pear Tree, Redbridge, Seacourt, and Water Eaton. The cost of parking is £ 2.00 and £ 2.70 for the return ticket on the bus.

Train: The 0921 from Paddington gets to Oxford at 1018. Oxford station is one mile from Merton College and 0.7 miles from Christ Church Cathedral.

Bookings: to Eric Shepherd (0208 958 2461) (eric@shepherd0001.fsnet.co.uk) by Sat 14 June.

SATURDAY 18 JULY - OLD ENGLISH ORGAN DAY IN ESSEX

The 1821 Hugh Russell (III 23) organ in Thaxted Church, recently restored by Goetze and Gwynne, is the oldest English organ with almost all its original parts remaining. We will start our visit with a short recital by David Patrick, our expert on early English music. In the afternoon we will visit the nearby villages of Little and Great Bardfield, both of which have historic organs. Travel will be arranged by coach from Bishop Stortford (about 40 minutes from London Liverpool Street). Full details in the July Newsletter.

RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

Reading Town Hall, Reading RG1 1QH

May 9 at 1930 William McVicker. 150th Anniversary concert; free preconcert talk 1815 Admission £13.50, concessions £11.50.

St Michael, Cornhill, London EC3V 9DS

Stellar Recitals celebrating Cornhill 101 - Mondays in June at 1300: Jane Parker-Smith (1 June), Jos van der Kooy (8 June), Stephen Farr (15 June), David Arahamian Liddle (22 June) and Kevin Bowyer (29 June).

Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Ipswich IP9 2RX

May 9 East of Eng. Organ Day, featuring Olivier Latty (www.ipswichregent.com)