

The Organ Club Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 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)

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

Advertise in the Organ Club Journal! Giving a recital? Organising a concert? Advertise in the journal! Rates and specifications are available from Kevin Grose at (*journal@organclub.org*), or alternatively write to him at 330 East 33rd Street 14A, New York, NY 10016, USA.

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

Please direct requests for information about the Tour to the Treasurer, Colin J Brookes, 83 Castle Road, Hartshill, NUNEATON CV10 0SG (*colin@colinbrookes.co.uk* or 02476 398940).

Additional Tour information: On Friday 2 October, the coach will leave Dinan at 0900. It will then call at approximately 0945 at the port of Saint-Malo for ferries, then at Saint-Malo SNCF station for anyone who wishes to go by train or anyone who is catching the later flight from Dinard to spend the day in the town. This coach will continue to Rennes airport at which it should arrive at approximately 1100.

If anyone wishes to leave Dinan earlier than 0900, there are some trains from Dinan station and some buses.

For Saint-Malo to Dinard airport buses:

www.frenchairportguide.com/dnr/dinard-airport-buses.htm or

www.ryanair.com/en/flights-to-dinard/

THE ORGAN OF BERKELEY CASTLE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Club member Philip J. Wells has published a booklet on the history of the Berkeley Castle chamber organ, built in 1804 by William Gray of London. Philip believes that this is the first attempt to document the history of an instrument that remained within the Castle for nearly 120 years, before it became unfashionable, was moved, 'improved' and finally disposed of to

Liddiatt and Sons, the local organ builders. It is now in St Anne's Church, Cwmffrwd, Carmarthenshire. Proceeds from sales will directly support the work of the Friends of Berkeley Castle, part of the Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust. The A5 booklet is fully illustrated, and contains 40 pages. It is priced at £5.00, or £6.00 by post from Philip J. Wells, 80 Lantern Close, Berkeley, Gloucestershire. GL13 9DE.

CLUB MEETINGS

No SEPTEMBER meeting because of the 2015 Tour (see above).

SATURDAY 24 OCTOBER - CALDER VALLEY (WEST YORKSHIRE)

We will visit five churches in the Calder Valley, following on from our visit last year.

1245 St Thomas the Apostle, Church Lane/Back Lane, Heptonstall HX7 7LZ

Hill, Norman and Beard, 1964/5, 1970; Gt 6; Sw 5; Ped 3. A neo-classical instrument in tone cabinets with Holtkamp-style unenclosed pipework on a bridge across the nave.

1330 Heptonstall Methodist Church, Northgate HX7 7ND

Jardine 1914; Gt 4; Sw 5; Ped 1. The octagonal chapel is the oldest Methodist church continuously in use in the world.

Short lunch break in Heptonstall - please bring a packed lunch.

1430 St James, Church Lane, Hebden Bridge HX7 6DS

Wood, Wordsworth, 1966, 1989 incorporating the 1876 instrument by Forster & Andrews; Gt 12; Sw 12; Ped 11.

1530 Wainsgate Baptist Church, Wainsgate Lane, Old Town, near Hebden Bridge HX7 8SU

Wordsworth 1890; Gt 9; Sw 10; Ch 8; Ped 6.

1630 Christ Church, Wharf Street, Sowerby Bridge HX6 2LW

JJ Binns, 1897, for Bolton Brow Methodist Church, Sowerby Bridge installed here 1897; Gt 12; Sw 11; Ch 8; Ped 11.

Travel: Our coach will leave Leeds station at 1140 following arrival of the 0903 train from King's Cross (due at 1125). Coach departs Sowerby Bridge at 1730 for Leeds station. Return train leaves Leeds at 1905 due King's Cross at 2129.

Parking: There is parking at or near all venues, though payment may be required and/or the time available is limited.

Refreshments: Light refreshments will be available at the Methodist Church in Heptonstall, and afternoon tea at Sowerby Bridge.

Costs: £16 per head depending on numbers, less £5 for those either driving or car passengers..

Bookings: to Peter Stokes (01727 865417) **by Saturday 17 October.**

SATURDAY 21 NOVEMBER - SOUTH-EAST KENT

Last visited by the Club in 1978, we will begin our visit at the ancient parish church of St Leonard in the most attractive Cinque Port of Hythe before proceeding in the afternoon to the elegant Victorian/Edwardian resort of Folkestone to visit Holy Trinity Church completed in 1889 and the rather older parish church of St Mary & St Eanswythe, each containing a three-manual instrument of distinction. Travel will be arranged by coach from Folkestone West railway station (about 53 minutes from London St Pancras). Full details in the November Newsletter.

RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

Westminster Cathedral, London SW1P 1QW

Sep 6 at 1645 Paul Derrett (admission free)

This recital will include Langlais, and Five Pieces (Night Music - Scherzo-Chorale - Pastorale-Lament - Ave Maris Stella-Fugue - Urbs Beata) by Club President Peter Stokes.

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

Sep 26 at 1930 James O'Donnell (Westminster Abbey)

Admission free; retiring collection.

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

Sep 5 at 1930 Paul Ayres

Oct 3 at 1930 Martin Baker (Westminster Cathedral)

Admission £10 to include buffet and wine.

Notre Dame de France, London WC2H 7BX

Oct 15 at 1930 Loïc Mallié (Sainte-Trinité, Paris) (£10)

St Lawrence Jewry, London EC2V 5AA

Sep 15 at 1300 Graham Matthews (former Organist and Director of Music, Sheffield Cathedral)

80th Birthday Recital - music by Bach, Wesley, Pepusch and Arne.

St John's Hyde Park, Hyde Park Crescent, London W2 2QD

Advance notice:

Nov 21 at 1930 opening recital of rebuilt 1865 Hill organ, given by James O'Donnell (Westminster Abbey) - including newly commissioned concerto for organ and orchestra.

Tickets (free of charge, thanks to Heritage Lottery Fund support) can be booked via email to *betty.stjohnshydepark@gmail.com*

ALL OF BACH

<http://allofbach.com>

[I described this website in the September 2014 Newsletter. A year on, I can report that the project is alive and well.]

In September 2013, the Netherlands Bach Society started performing and recording all of J S Bach's works. The first video recordings were made available on the above site on 2 May 2014, followed by a new Bach recording every Friday.

Each piece of music by Bach has its own page, where site visitors can choose the recording, interviews, background information or audience reactions. Visitors can watch and listen to every single piece in its entirety, as well as the musicians talking about what the music does for them. Background information is provided and all the facts about the recording are compactly summarised. The public section of the site has space for reactions from visitors.

Why All of Bach?

To mark the centenary of the Netherlands Bach Society in the 2021-2022 season, the idea emerged to perform all of Bach's work. To stay close to Bach, the Society decided to perform his music in hand-picked locations: cantatas in a church, chamber music in living rooms, and so on.

Progress

The number of works performed and available on the website stands at 79, of which 43 are organ works. Those already featured include the mighty Fantasia & Fugue in g (St. Martin's, Groningen; Schnitger, 1692); the Toccata, Adagio & Fugue in C (St Jacob's, Leeuwarden; Christian Müller, 1727); and the Prelude & Fugue in G (Walloon Church, Amsterdam; Christian Müller, 1734).

The quality of recording - both audio and video - is impressive. The Society is to be congratulated on undertaking such an ambitious project.

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

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