

The Organ Club Newsletter

JANUARY 2017

NOTICES

The Newsletter: All members are being sent the paper edition of this issue so that the appropriate membership renewal form can be included. On your form, please state whether you wish to receive either the paper or the digital edition of the Newsletter. Let us know if you wish to change your preference during the year. There are no plans to abandon the paper edition, although members should be aware of the increasing burden of postal costs on Club funds. We continue to welcome your comments and suggestions.

Brian Caswell (newsletter@organclub.org)

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.

2017 Membership - good news – rates unchanged!

I am pleased to advise that membership rates for the 2017 calendar year are unchanged despite some of our outgoings having increased sharply. All those due to renew are being sent herewith a renewal notice with payment instructions. Your existing membership number appears on the label of the renewal envelope. The renewal date for all memberships is 1st January; to remain a Club member renewals have to be completed by 31st March 2017.

Some members have already paid for 2017 (and a few for 2018); you will not be getting a form, but if you have changed your address, telephone or email address since December 2015 please let me know.

One change in 2017. Our Junior rate of £10 has been unchanged since 2005. To maintain this we now feel that the Newsletter sent to Juniors will be by email only. If this causes a problem, please tell me.

It is essential that all correspondence relating to MEMBERSHIP is sent to me. If it goes elsewhere, it delays processing. My contact details are *membership@organclub.org* or 01189 344212. *Mark Jameson*

Consultancy survey - please help!

The President-Elect has been invited by the Committee to carry out a consultancy exercise on the organisation and operation of the Club, and he would like to hear your views. So please complete the enclosed survey form and return it to David by 31 January 2017. He will be presenting his report and recommendations to the AGM on 18 March.

THE 90th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the Organ Club is convened for Saturday 18 March 2017 at 1100 in **St Botolph's Church, Aldgate High Street, London EC3N 1AB**. Members are invited to spend the day with us. It will be centred on the magnificent Rhenatus Harris organ which has been restored by Dominic Gwynn.

The programme will be:

1030 church open with coffee available

1100 talk by Dominic Gwynn

1130 demonstration of the organ, using 18th-century organ voluntary styles and sonorities, by the President, Dr Peter St John Stokes

1200 masterclass on music in the English style contemporary with the organ by the President-Elect, Professor David Baker

1245 lunch (members find their own in the neighbourhood)

1400 an account of the consultancy exercise on The Organ Club by the President-Elect

1445 the Annual General Meeting

1530 concert by the President and the Past-President

1630 tea

The AGM meeting is free. Members who wish to have tea are invited to make a minimum contribution of £5.

Travel: the church is in Aldgate High St, London EC3N 1AB and the nearest LT station is Aldgate East: District and Hammersmith and City lines. **NB: Do not confuse with St Botolph's Aldersgate!**

Bookings: Please advise John Oldham of your intention to attend: (01489 564 798 or oldham@warsash64.freemove.co.uk).

THE ORGAN CLUB TOUR OF A LIFETIME! - GRONINGEN

Sun 28 May to Sunday 4 June 2017 (visits from Monday to Saturday)

In the 20th century it was realised that economic conditions and political history had allowed this part of the northern Netherlands to become a unique museum of historical organs. Since then, scholarship and sensitive restoration has brought this museum, spread among village and town churches, to life and many players have spread the message of these wonderful organs through stylistically exciting performance and improvisation. Foremost among these is Sietze de Vries, whom we are privileged to have arranging the visits and leading the tour. The organs include those at Groningen (Martinikerk, Aa-kerk), Leeuwarden, Kampen, Uithuizen, Leens, Zeerijp and Kantens. Builders include the Scnitger family, Müller and Hinsz.

Martinikerk Rondo by Fugue State Films gives a mouth-watering introduction to this subject with much music-making by Seitze.

Because of the exceptional nature of this tour, the Committee has agreed to subsidise places for up to four younger members. Application should be made to the President.

It is not possible yet to give a price for the tour but I will try to keep it around that of previous years. Accommodation with breakfast and coach travel where necessary will be covered, but not travel to the main destination.

Very convenient flights go daily from London (Southend) to Groningen. Southend airport has a station (trains from Liverpool St and Stratford) less than 100m away from the terminal. Road travel is possible using ferries or Eurotunnel. There are also ferries to the Netherlands from Newcastle, Hull and Harwich with onward train journeys by Nederlandse Spoorwegen.

To be sure of receiving more information and booking forms when they become available, please contact the President (07900 220 816 or pstjstokes@gmail.com).

Organ publications and CDs for sale

I am delighted to report 28 sales of items from Colin Langman's & John Smith's collections. Just over £2100 has been raised so far – this is wonderful – and thanks to those who have supported the sale.

However, I still have around 1800 items including 600 postcards taking space in my garage (all secure/dry), and I do need to clear. Each of the lists is now on PDF documents. Please contact me for a copy.

Mark Jameson (membership@organclub.org)(07802 715634)

CLUB MEETINGS

SATURDAY 21 JANUARY - WEST LONDON

1030 St James' Church, Sussex Gardens, Paddington W2 3UD

This impressive church houses one of the largest parish church organs in London. The organ was built by Hill in 1882 as a three manual, and was enlarged to four manuals by Hele in 1908.

It was rebuilt in its present form by Walker in 1972. There are 4 manuals and 62 speaking stops. It has been maintained by B C Shepherd & Sons for 31 years. Major work is being contemplated in the future.

Previous organists have included Harold Darke, George Thalben-Ball and Douglas Hawkrigde. Last Club visit 1971.

1200 Lunch: There are a number of places for lunch near Paddington Station.

1330 St John's Church, Hyde Park Crescent W2 2QD

Fine resonant building with very good Hill organ, 1865/1880, major restoration with new tracker action by Nicholson 2015. 3/31 speaking stops. Last Club visit 1991.

After the visit, make your way to Exhibition Road. You can walk through Hyde Park over the Serpentine; use the Underground; or get the bus.

1600 Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Hyde Park Mormon Chapel), Princes Gate, Exhibition Road SW7 2PA

Hill Norman & Beard 1961, built in the neo-classical style. Some tonal work was done by Mander in the 1970s. Restoration by Hill, Norman & Beard 1994. Cleaning and overhaul B C Shepherd & Sons 2012. 3 manual 43 speaking stops. Last Club visit 1961.

Light refreshments will be available; Mormons do not drink tea or coffee.

Travel: Nearest station for St James' Church, Sussex Gardens, is Paddington. Nearest station for Hyde Park Chapel is South Kensington.

Bookings: to Eric Shepherd (020 89 582461 or eric@shepherd0001.fsnet.co.uk) **by Tuesday 17 January.**

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY - MANCHESTER

Darius Battiwalla Masterclass at Stand Church & visit to St Ann's

1100 All Saints, Stand, Church Lane, Whitefield M45 7NE

The magnificent Stand Church, to the north of central Manchester, is the venue for the exciting opportunity of OCSO members to enjoy a class with Darius Battiwalla, who is a renowned recitalist and conductor, and who also teaches at the Royal Northern College of Music. Members will have the opportunity to play this fine organ (III/41), which was radically rebuilt in 1997 by Nicholson of Worcester and voiced by Denis Thurlow.

1545 St Ann's Church, St Ann Street M2 7LF

In the afternoon we will have the opportunity to visit the large central church of St Ann which we had hoped to visit on the Liverpool tour but lacked the time. The fine organ (IV/54), much used for recitals, was most recently overhauled by George Sixsmith & Son Ltd in 1996.

Travel: There are many ways to travel to Manchester; frequent trains from London Euston. Travel from central Manchester to Stand is by tram, Line G of the Metro (direction Bury).

Refreshments: Tea and coffee will be available at All Saints.

Bookings: to David Baker (01422 884655 or d.baker152@btinternet.com) **by Tuesday 14 February. Applications to take part in the Masterclass (especially from OCSO members!) should also be sent to David Baker.**

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

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