

The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 100

January 2021

St. Alphage

Montrose Avenue, Burnt Oak, Edgware, Middlesex. HA8 0DN

ORGAN RECITALS 2021

Organ built 2002 by B.C. Shepherd & Sons incorporating Father Willis pipes from 1857



SATURDAYS at 7.30pm Admission £10

5th June **ROSEMARY EVANS** (St. Alphage, Burnt Oak)

3rd July **GILLIAN BLYTHMAN** (Thatcham, Berkshire)

4th September **STEVE BOWEY** (St. Mary, Shaw-cum-Donnington, Berkshire)

2nd October **TOM WINPENNY** (Assistant Master of Music, St. Alban's Cathedral)

SATURDAY 20th MARCH at 3.00pm **ELENI KEVENTSIDOU**

(International Recitalist, Organ & Piano teacher Rugby School & Kent College, Canterbury)

Music to include Variations & Fugue on an Original Theme by Max Reger

Admission Free Sponsored by The Organ Club

Tel: 020-8958-2461

1. NOTICES

Welcome to 2021!

As if 2020 was bad enough, the measures just announced by the Prime Minister this evening indicate that we haven't bottomed out yet, and there's worse to come.

This means that there will no Organ Club live events in the near future, and the AGM which we hope to hold at St Alphage Church on 20th March, may have to be via Zoom.

You may have noted that this is the 100th edition of the newsletter, so open that last bottle of Christmas champagne, and raise a toast to the next 100 editions!

To relieve the general gloom, John Miley and John Varney have devised a second quiz for your amusement (the first appeared in the 2020 May newsletter) – see section 4.

Membership Renewals

I am pleased to confirm that renewals for 2021 are unchanged since 2019.

The renewal form will be sent electronically and by post to those who have opted for postal versions, to those due to renew.

Your current membership number which confirms your last payment was displayed on the label of OCJ2020/3, as advised in the November Newsletter.

YOUNG MEMBERS – A senior member has very generously sponsored the membership fees for every YOUNG member in 2021, so no fees are due.

Your membership payment covers six Newsletters, three Journals, and overheads (such as fees for the website and insurance). It also allows you to vote at the AGM (this is likely to be by Zoom in 2021).

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

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

Bequest Items for sale (coordinated by Mark Jameson)

I am now down to 65 books/leaflets and around 26 CDs! Costs are well discounted on commercial sellers, but post does have to be added. PDF or printed lists available.

Thanks to the generosity of members in 2020, £630 was raised.

My contact details:

92 The Hawthorns, Charvil, Reading RG10 9TS

Telephone 01189 344212 or 07802 715634 (or text, but NOT e-mail)

e-mail - markmdjameson@btinternet.com

Mark Jameson (Membership Secretary)

The Organ Club Website

The 2020 Club Archive downloads are now available on the website - see www.organclub.org

Organ composer anniversaries 2021

I have noted the following century and ½ century anniversaries for 2021:

Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck	1562 - 1621
Michael Praetorius	1571 - 1621 (double anniversary!)
Charles-Camille Saint-Saëns	1835 - 1921
Marcel Dupré	1886 - 1971

One could also add the following, (though not C or ½C anniversaries)

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	1756 - 1791
Antonio Vivaldi	1678 - 1741

51. In which country is Satolas Airport
52. What disaster took place in April 1912
53. Who was Soviet Foreign Minister for 30 years in the 20th century
54. Which year in the 20th century had two General Elections
55. Who opened the Royal Albert Hall
56. What Cabinet post did Margaret Thatcher hold before she became Prime Minister
57. How many were in the group where Georgina wanted to be known as George
58. Which is the biggest animal in the world
59. Yangtze, Congo and Mekong are all types of what
60. What is the capital of Iceland
61. What novelist created the character Georg Smiley
62. What planet is closest to the sun
63. Who gets murdered in Fratricide
64. What long running television soap opera began in December 1960
65. How many valves does the human heart have
66. What is the largest country in the world
67. Which former President of the USA was impeached in 1973
68. Sark is a part of which island group
69. In children's TV during the 1950s, who were Bill and Ben
70. In the Bible, who were the parents of Cain and Abel
71. What did "Forty Niners" search for
72. In the Church liturgical year, what is the 4th Sunday of Lent
73. What was the third line to be built on the London Underground
74. What was the language of the Romans
75. What is "Induction Charging"
76. Where is the lowest point on Earth
77. What is the tallest building in Britain
78. Which famous conductor appeared on the "Morcombe and Wise" show
79. What is the estimated population of the world
80. What day of the week will Christmas fall in the year 2030

26. In which sitcom did Richard Devere marry Audrey
27. The song "You'll never walk alone" comes from which of Rogers and Hammerstein's Musicals
28. In which country did Gaddafi seize power in the 1960s
29. Who wrote the melody of the well know Christmas Carol "Away in a Manger"
30. Who was Tony Blair's first Deputy Prime Minister
31. On what date is St. Cecelia, Patron Saint of music, celebrated
32. Which composer lived at 25 Brook Street in London
33. Which modern day musician also lived there in 1969
34. What type of natural phenomenon is K2
35. Who was the first conductor of "The Really Big Chorus" which performed Handel's "Messiah" in the Royal Albert Hall
36. The song "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas", was originally sung by which American vocalist
37. In which year did the Duke and Duchess of Edinburgh celebrate their Golden Wedding
38. Sir George Thalben-Ball was an organist and composer at which church in London
39. What were the first names of Andrew Lloyd Webber's first two wives
40. The Short Symphony "The Arrival of the Queen of Sheba" comes from which of Handel's Oratorios.
41. Complete the phrase "O perfect Love"
42. Who wrote the Passiontide Cantata "Olivet to Calvary"
43. Who is the present Master of the Queen's Music
44. What is the Queen's full name
45. Who is the 4th in line of succession to the throne
46. Baghdad is on which river
47. Which of Henry VIII's wives was mother to the boy King Edward VI
48. What was the year of the three popes
49. Where in the UK is the National Motor Museum
50. Who was the first husband of Wallis, Duchess of Windsor, who later married Edward VIII

Special Book Offer: *The Organs of York Minster 1236 - 2021*

A reminder from the last newsletter!

A new book by Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite, President of BIOS, marks the restoration of the Minster's organ. The book documents the earliest reference to "a pair of organs" in 1236 and describes other instruments right through to the present day.

It will be published in Spring 2021 at a retail price of £30. It can be pre-ordered now with a £5 saving by emailing HLFGlass@yorkminster.org. Early subscribers can also have their name inscribed in the book.

Farnborough Abbey Organ Appeal

I have received this email from resident organist at St Michael's Abbey, Farnborough, which I cannot do better but reproduce in full:

Dear friends,

My last email to you brought the sad news of the cancellation of our 2020 concert series due to the dreadful Covid crisis which has restricted everyone in so many ways this year. This time I write with good news. The Abbey community has managed to secure funds for a much-needed restoration of the instrument.

Let me explain this. More than twenty years have elapsed since the splendid work on the organ by Klais in 1998. This Klais work took place within the context of a restoration of the whole Abbey Church, a project which saw English Heritage and National Lottery collaborating on a scheme exceeding £1,000,000. Already at that time we foresaw that within decades other works would become necessary on the organ which, built in the 1880s, is understandably sensitive and fragile. The proposed restoration will begin in the next weeks and will be carried out by organ experts at Henry Willis.

We are about £15,000 short of the target.

Some of you who greatly appreciate the Abbey and its Cavaillé-Coll have asked to be notified if there are ways you can help further the cause of this exquisite instrument.

*The link below is the easiest way to donate, **and every little helps**. We are profoundly grateful to those who have already donated to this project and have brought us so near to our target. Making good use of the closure of the Abbey Church to the public during 'lockdown', we hope to have the work completed by June of this coming year.*

*Very best wishes,
Neil Wright*

Donations can be made:

- By cheque payable to 'St Michael's Abbey', 280 Farnborough Rd, Farnborough, Hants GU14 7NQ
- To the Abbey PayPal account: info@theabbeyshop.com
- By JustGiving site: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/Farnboroughabbeyorgan>
- For bank transfer or other queries please contact Fr Abbot at abbas@farnboroughabbey.org

The following links are reminders of how important this instrument is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tNv26Av9Ouw>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmRbE1lfz5s>

Loan of music sets for choirs

This note is from committee member Judith Howard.

"As we are currently without a choir, we are able to loan out sets of music to other choirs who may need copies - all standard traditional repertoire, from Tallis to Rutter. Over 200 anthems plus Anglican service settings (Evensong and Communion) plus lots of carols and carol books.

Alternatively, if any church with a choir has room for the equivalent of 2 office cupboards and is interested in having the whole collection on long-term loan, we would consider this.

We also have available a quantity of adult-sized robes, red cassocks and white surplices - second-hand, so in varying condition!

I can forward music list on an Excel spreadsheet to anyone interested.

Email address: howardjudith@btinternet.com . "

Sad News

It was a shock to learn of the death of former Organ Club member Catherine Ennis on Christmas Eve. Many members will have attended her fine recitals at St Lawrence Jewry, made all the more enjoyable by her introductions to the pieces beforehand.

There will be a full appreciation of Catherine, which we hope to publish in the next Organ Club Journal.

Last year, 2020, we also lost Jane Parker-Smith, Jean Guillou, and Jennifer Bate: in all a thoroughly bad year.

The Organ Club Welcome 2021 Quiz

1. What is the meaning of the musical term "Arioso"
2. Which Victorian engineer designed the London Sewage System
3. Who composed for the music for the masque "Acis and Galatea"
4. Who was Ernest Newman
5. Sir Joseph Porter KCB is a character in Gilbert and Sullivan's "HMS Pinafore". Who was the Victorian politician on whom the character was based
6. Who composed the "Holberg Suite"
7. Who was J S Bach's third daughter
8. Whose piano concerto was played during the film "Brief Encounter"
9. What river flows through the city of Galway
10. How old was Mendelssohn when he composed the "Overture to a Midsummer Night's Dream"
11. What chemical is used on the top of a match
12. What is a Basset horn
13. What is a cep
14. How many string quartets did Beethoven compose
15. Which Cleric is John McDonnell
16. Who founded the Tonic Sol-fa Association
17. Complete the phrase: "Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven"
18. On whose music did Walton base "The Wise Virgins"
19. What is U235
20. "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring" comes from which of J.S. Bach's Cantatas
21. Which part of his body did Einstein leave to Princeton University
22. Who composed the Oratorio "The Seasons"
23. Which composer had the name Villiers
24. What was the very first opera from the collaboration of Gilbert and Sullivan
25. Who composed an opera based on the story of Julius Caesar

3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

Given the fact that we are now in lockdown and confined to our homes except for essential purposes, no recitals can take place until the lockdown ends, and this is very unlikely to happen before March at the earliest. I am therefore not listing any recitals for January and February.

I wonder if Ted Heath would have regarded organ recitals as essential if this had happened during his premiership. He was an organist after all!

I suggest that members consult www.organrecitals.com for further information on potential recitals, **but that members should check with the venue before setting out.**

St Bartholomew's Church, Ann St, Brighton BN1 4GP

May 11th 13:00 Alan Ireland (Hove)

To check nearer the time: 0797 102 4889

St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA

Tuesdays at 12:30 Ian Shaw (St Mary Abchurch)

Admission free – refreshments available

(NB: I'm sure these will resume as soon as legally allowed)

The Temple Church, off Fleet Street, London EC4Y 7BB

Jun 3rd 19:30 Roger Sayer (Temple Church)

Welsh Church of Central London, 30 Eastcastle Street, London W1W 8DJ.

Jun 16th 13:05 Adrian Gunning (St John the Evangelist, Islington)

Admission free, retiring collection

4. DIVERSE ENTERTAINMENTS DURING LOCKDOWN

QUIZ devised by John Miley and John Varney

John Miley and John Varney have devised another quiz, a 'Welcome 2021' 80 question quiz, for Organ club members which they hope you might enjoy during the current situation. Two prizes are offered

£200 for Ordinary members of the Club and £200 for OCSO members.

The closing date for the answers will be Saturday March 20th 2021, (the putative first day of Spring).

Just send a note with question number and answer by email to:

cegb36@gmail.com or by post to:

7 Pridmore Close, Woodnewton PE8 5EY.

If there is a tie in either category, a tiebreak question will be sent.

Further to the visit to Wembley Parish Church in November 2017

Committee member Leslie Bevis-Smith writes:

"Members who attended the visit to Wembley Parish Church in November 2017 may note that Bishop & Son have now been instructed to complete the works carried out about 10 years ago, especially relevant now as when taking the Swell out of the Ingram organ for reworking, found proof that the organ was installed exactly 100 years ago, in the shape of newspapers stuffed behind that chest dated February 1921!

We had planned to add a 1½ ft stop to the choir organ (8,8,4,2,8), but when taking the organ out found that a hitherto inaccessible stained-glass window was in bad condition, requiring specialist repairs to both stonework and glass which effectively used up the sum allowed for this addition, although the console was prepared.

The TC clarinet will be transferred to a new unit chest and the new full compass stop planted in its place so that the flue chorus is entirely on its slider chest (separated only from the Gt by a passage board).

Leslie recalls an experience in Surrey many years ago when a flute was taken off a slider chest and placed on a unit chest and extended upwards to include a 2⅔, and on returning a few years ago found that the unit chest stops were by then speaking out of phase with the slider chest ranks which really destroyed the chorus!"

March 2021 Newsletter contributions

Please email notices by February 16th at the latest to John Belling, Organ Club newsletter editor, at newsletter@organclub.org, or write to him at:

42 Cunningham Park, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 4QJ

2. CLUB MEETINGS

Owing to the National Lockdown recently announced, it is unlikely that visits will be possible much before Easter. We all hope that the vaccine programme will be rolled out as planned, so that the most vulnerable amongst us will be vaccinated by then. but it will still take a further 21 days to become effective, and that is the first of two doses. Once churches can receive larger gatherings, I am sure they will be very busy catching up with postponed events.

Saturday March 20th 2021: AGM at St Alphage, Burnt Oak

Provisionally the AGM has been booked for Saturday afternoon March 20th at St Alphage, Montrose Avenue, Burnt Oak, Edgware, HA8 0DN, as it was to be last year. The timings would be the same as last year, the AGM at 14:00 and the recital at 15:00, given by Eleni Keventsidou. The programme will include works by Durufle, Bach, Stanford and Reger. Paul Hale will take over as President on that day. Obviously at this stage we do not know if it can go ahead, but we will have to decide nearer the time if this will be possible.

Saturday May 15th 2021 Mini-tour - Buckfast Abbey

Plans have already been made for a visit to Buckfast Abbey to hear the new Ruffatti organs on Saturday evening 15th May (the only time that is available). We will arrange a short tour to Totnes, Ashburton, Torquay, and hopefully a trip on the South Devon Railway. Please contact Eric Shepherd to indicate if you would like to come to this, in order to get an idea of how many would be interested to go before making more plans for visits and accommodation. Obviously, it depends on how things go with Coronavirus.

Eric Shepherd, Tel: 020 8958 2461, email: bcshepherdandsons@gmail.com
5 Glentworth Court, Stonegrove, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7UE.

In the Pipeline

The following visits are planned; full details will be given nearer to the time. Please note them in your diary! (though please bear in mind that these could be **subject to change**, particularly in view of the Covid-19 pandemic).

Saturday 19th June 2021: walking tour - "Lower" Windsor parish churches.

(Originally scheduled for June 20th 2020).

We will visit about 5 churches (including All Saints, last OC visit in 1931 when organ was new, and Holy Trinity Garrison church), not normally on the tourist trail!

Saturday July 17th 2021: Gorleston/Lowestoft

(Originally scheduled for July 18th 2020).

Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th December 2021:

The London Organ Competition 2021

(St. Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2R 1DH)

Isle of Man Tour (Originally scheduled for September 2020)

We are now looking to hold this tour in September **2022**, with the expectation of avoiding Covid related problems – dates to be decided, but will be a week between September 5th and 17th.

A week exploring organs, with some Victorian transport

The Isle of Man has much of interest. We will focus on seeing some of the organs in the some of the many churches and chapels on the island, but will also have the opportunity to experience Victorian rail travel and in the process see some splendid scenery in this essentially rural country.

The island is a Crown Protectorate with its own parliament, legal system and currency. As an independent state of fewer than 90,000 residents that recognises the Queen as 'Lord of Mann', it has never been a member of the EU.

Further details will be published nearer to the date.