

The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 103

July 2021

1. NOTICES

We are very sorry to have to inform you that our visit to Gorleston & Lowestoft on Saturday July 17th 2021 has been postponed, owing to the Government's extension of Covid restrictions to July 19th. This was to have been our first visit since early last year, very disappointing, but we will reschedule to July next year, so you will not miss out on the event.

Our first live visit is now expected to be to Canterbury on Saturday September 25th 2021. This is an exciting opportunity to see, hear and play a large new organ by Harrison & Harrison Ltd, based on the Father Willis pipework. You can whet your appetite by viewing some interesting video clips of the restoration – just Google “YouTube New Organ Installed – Canterbury Cathedral”.

For the safety of all, we are asking that only members who have been doubly vaccinated (with the 2nd dose administered at least 3 weeks before the visit, i.e. on or before 4th September), should register to attend.

It will be necessary to pre-book for this event, as ‘Test & Trace’ is likely to continue even after other restrictions are lifted.

We also ask that members should pay for visits by bank transfer before the visit if possible. As an added precaution, the club is planning to acquire a portable bank card reader for those who wish to pay on the day, in order to avoid the handling of notes and coins, so please come armed with a bank debit or credit card. Details will be given in the September newsletter.

For your safety, we would like to operate these measures for subsequent visits, whilst the Covid pandemic is still with us.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at Canterbury - our President, Paul Hale, has a message for all members concerning this visit, below.

The last paragraph is important, as it asks you to email an expression of interest.

There are also some tempting visits coming up, ‘in the pipeline’, see section 2.

Members wishing to 'get off the blocks' before the Canterbury visit may be interested in the invitation to the Ushaw Organ Weekend (end of August) from James Parsons. A flyer for this event is shown later in this newsletter.

John Belling (Newsletter Editor)

Membership

Thank you all for your renewals - and particularly for electronic payments. Lockdown and the many bank closures have made payment in of cheques much more difficult.

Hopefully, the easing of lockdown will enable you to safely seek out new members. If you are able to gain a new member, you get a single £5 discount on your 2022 renewal. There is an on-line application form. A printed membership leaflet with application form is available for those without email. A bonus for those joining in the Autumn is a 15-month membership period (to December 2022).

Sales Items

Reminder: I still have a number of items from earlier bequests awaiting a new home. Some items are without price, an offer would be welcomed. All monies raised will be given to Organ Club funds. The only extra will be postage which cannot be avoided, most of the packing uses recycled materials.

At the time of writing there are 18 items of sheet music (all organ), 31 books and leaflets, and 32 CDs. As always, first come first served - but I really would like to clear the remaining box in my garage. Lists by PDF/Excel, or for members without e-mail, printed.

My contact details:

92 The Hawthorns, Charvil, Reading RG10 9TS
Telephone 01189 344212
e-mail - markmdjameson@btinternet.com

Mark Jameson (Membership Secretary)

Professor Dr John Morehen (3rd September 1941 – 25th March 2021)

(Extract from a communication from the President, Paul Hale – the full version will be published in the electronic version of this newsletter)

An insatiable and penetratingly analytical interest in the widest possible range of matters musical, coupled with a disciplined mind, a remarkable interest in and care for colleagues and friends, Professor John Morehen was

an academic musician of the highest distinction, a much-published editor, Emeritus Professor of Music at the University of Nottingham, a highly-skilled and regularly broadcast organist, an experienced conductor, a Masonic Grand Organist, a former Master of the Worshipful Company of Musicians, past President of the Incorporated Society of Musicians, a long-serving Justice of the Peace and a former Conductor of Nottingham Bach Choir.



These were not all sequential activities: John's life was crammed with parallel interests and activities, few of which diminished when he took retirement in 2002 from Nottingham University after lecturing there since 1973, becoming Professor of Music in 1989 and Head of the School of Humanities from 1998-2001.

A substantial influence was that enjoyed by several of his generation of young organists at Clifton, under the legendary Douglas Fox (1893-1978). Fox's time as Director of Music coincided (many would say 'created') an extraordinary period during which a whole series of pupils who became some of the UK's leading musicians were taught and inspired by Fox. Fox's remarkable life story (he lost his right arm in the

Great War, a disadvantage which he triumphantly overcame, having been encouraged by Sir Hugh Allen to continue playing) is told by his sister, in *Douglas Fox, A Chronicle* (1976). In it we learn that during Fox's twenty-seven years at Clifton, forty-one boys won music scholarships to Oxford (where Fox had been organ scholar at Keble), eleven to Cambridge (including David Willcocks), eight to the Royal College or Royal Academy, with a clutch of choral scholarships as well. Fox's own teaching was enriched by performances given at the College by some of the country's leading musicians and chamber orchestras.

John took his Masonic duties equally seriously, both in Nottinghamshire and at the United Grand Lodge of England in London, of which he was a Past Grand Organist. He was an Honorary Member of the Duke of Portland Lodge in the Province of Nottinghamshire, a Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden and a Past Junior Grand Deacon. On one occasion John was asked to play for a special ceremony on an elderly Hammond electronic organ in West Bridgford Masonic Hall, Nottingham. This did not fill him with joyful anticipation, and he commented "I have played the organs at Washington Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral, The Royal Albert Hall – no problem. I'm asked

to play for a masonic meeting at West Bridgford and I have to get there half an hour early just to work out how to turn the wretched thing on!".

John Morehen died suddenly of heart failure on 25th March. It is hard to imagine Nottinghamshire and its music without him. John was a central figure, demanding in his pursuit of high standards, generous in his appreciation of others, and an inspiration to generations of students. We are the richer for having known him, and very much the poorer for his untimely passing.

Paul Hale (Emeritus Cathedral Organist, Southwell & Organ Club President)

The Organ Club Website

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

Loan of music sets for choirs

Committee member Judith Howard has asked me to repeat this note, which first appeared in the January newsletter:

"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 ."

September 2021 Newsletter contributions

Please email notices by August 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



USHAW COLLEGE – ST CUTHBERT'S CHAPEL – KNOCK! – WELCOME!

WE'RE BACK – SIGN UP!

USHAW ORGAN WEEKEND

Friday 27 August to Bank Holiday Monday 30 August 2021

hosted at Ushaw College (5 miles from Durham Cathedral)

promoted by NEWCASTLE AND DISTRICT SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS (NDSO)



fronted by JAMES PARSONS (founder of Oundle for Organists)

NDSO WARMLY INVITES ORGANISTS AT ALL AGES AND STAGES, OBSERVERS –
AND ALL SEEKING A HOLIDAY WEEKEND OF MUSIC-MAKING AND CULTURAL DIVERSION
IN DURHAM'S SPECTACULAR HISTORIC SETTING AND NEWCASTLE'S ENERGISING CITYSCAPE



MARTIN BAKER

CHARLES WOOLER

ROSEMARY FIELD

DANIEL COOK

DURHAM CATHEDRAL – MEDIEVAL MASTERPIECE

ORGAN RECITALS

CHARLES WOOLER at St James' and St Basil's, Fenham, Newcastle

Friday 27 August at 7.30pm Vieme's Symphonie II

DANIEL COOK in HEXHAM ABBEY and ST MARYS RC CHURCH, HEXHAM (inaugural relocated Well-Kennedy organ)

Saturday 28 August from 5pm

MARTIN BAKER in DURHAM CATHEDRAL

Sunday 29 August at 6pm Widor's Symphonie V and Improvisations

- ORGANISTS – tuition from JAMES PARSONS, MARTIN BAKER AND ROSEMARY FIELD
- build skills and performance-confidence in non-competitive, supportive classes –
 - at Ushaw, in Durham Colleges and Churches, and at exciting instruments in Newcastle
 - play Participants' Concert at Ushaw
 - join NDSO President's Reception
 - Bank Holiday Brunch at Ushaw

○ discover Durham, and tour Ushaw's art treasures; stroll in tranquil parkland on the Ushaw estate



TIMON AT J'S AND B'S.

PHELPS ORGAN, HEXHAM ABBEY

JAMES PARSONS

ARTWORKS AT USHAW

NEWCASTLE RC CATHEDRAL

£190 covers full participation: tuition, recitals, brunch; (NDSO- and ORGAN CLUB members £165);

Observers/ Students pay just £99

participants should book own accommodation in the area –

ensuite rooms at Ushaw are recommended - £52.50 single or £69.95 double/ night B & B | contact harry@ushaw.org

RESERVE YOUR PLACE at Ushaw Organ Weekend 2021 –

please send a Deposit of £55 (cheques payable 'NDSO') together with name, 'phone number and email address – to

USHAW ORGAN WEEKEND, 16 HARDWICK ROAD, SEDGEFIELD TS21 2AL

or via online banking: Newcastle & District Society of Organists' sort - 40 37 37; no. 40615250 (give name as reference)

ENQUIRIES – contact@jamesparsons.org

2. CLUB MEETINGS

Saturday July 17th 2021: Gorleston/Lowestoft

(Originally scheduled for July 18th 2020).

As we reported in Section 1, this visit has had to be postponed, very disappointingly: we will reschedule to July next year, so you will not miss out on event.

Saturday September 25th 2021, Canterbury Cathedral

Our President, Paul Hale, writes:

It is a great thrill to be able to invite you all to be with us at Canterbury on Saturday 25th September. The occasion will be significant for at least three reasons: (1) it now looks like being our first meeting after this lengthy period of restrictions (2) it will be my first opportunity as President to greet you all, and (3) - best of all - it is a rare privilege to be invited into the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion to spend an evening with its large new Harrison & Harrison / Willis organ, and to be the guests of the newly appointed Director of Music, Dr David Newsholme.

David just happens to be my godson. His father Richard, now a retired GP, learned the organ at Solihull School at the same time as I did - just ahead of John Butt, David Briggs, Iain Simcock and Laurence Cummings (some innings!). David has generously invited us to observe the pre-Evensong cathedral choir rehearsal, attend Evensong, and then get locked into the cathedral, where he will tell us all about the organ and demonstrate it for us, before letting us loose to play. Earlier in the day, we will meet at St Paul's church (a short walk from the station) at around 10.30a.m., have coffee there, and then explore the organ, guided by the church's organist, David Rees-Williams. As many Members may know, the David Rees-Williams Trio has a stellar reputation, with many fine jazz recordings. David was a chorister at New College Oxford in my time as Organ Scholar, and specialises in improvising on many of the fine choral works which he learnt as a chorister. I have asked him whether he would improvise for us on the piano in the church and he has said he'd be delighted to do that. After St Paul's we will walk along the line of the City Walls to a delightful Italian restaurant called 'Chapter', in Burngate, a stone's throw from the cathedral. We have been able to book twenty seats here (for 12.30m); there is an adjacent Wetherspoons which can be used by those who can't fit into Chapter. We then walk round the corner to the cathedral, where we are booked on to a

guided tour specially for us, at 2pm. A light tea is arranged at the cathedral for 3.30pm, followed by choir rehearsal at 4.30, Evensong at 5.30, and then our organ evening, starting once Evensong is over and the cathedral is clear.

Your travel could be by car or train - I'd recommend the latter. The cathedral has to charge us for our evening event, for it could be raising far more money by hosting a concert that night. It has kindly thrown in, free of charge, entry to the cathedral and the guided tour, but we will need to offer David Newsholme a fee. Members will pay the restaurants for their lunches. There will therefore be a per capita charge of £40, to cover the cathedral's facility fee, David's fee, a donation to St Paul's and tea at the cathedral. We are saving around £18 by not being charged for entrance to the cathedral or the guided tour, so it's really excellent value for such a splendid event. Alison Garratt is our Canterbury Member who has worked with me in arranging this special day - many thanks to Alison for doing the leg work.

I'm hoping that many members will take this great opportunity and join me at Canterbury on September 25th. Please email John Henderson at treasurer@organclub.org as soon as possible, but no later than September 1st, to book your place - guests are most welcome. The treasurer will then be in touch to confirm bookings and payment arrangements.

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 October 16th 2021: Cirencester

Owing to the uncertainty regarding Covid restrictions at the current time, we are uncertain whether this event can proceed, or whether it may need to be rescheduled.

The intended itinerary is as follows, but may well be subject to change:
We start with a brief visit to Down Ampney [1/9 Walker] on the way to Central Cirencester - St John Baptist and its new 4m Harrison, also based on a body of Fr. Willis pipes.

This will be followed by a walk to Holy Trinity Watermoor 3/29 Bishop. To end the day, to Ampney Crucis, the organ restored in 2019 - 2/13 "ANON". The key church is St John's, and the sequences may change in the light of events. A coach is being sought to collect members from Swindon Station. An update on the situation will be published in the next (September) newsletter.

Saturday November 20th 2021: St Alphage, Burnt Oak, HA8 0DN

This is a special visit: our new President, Paul Hale, will describe some of his most interesting recent and current projects as an organ consultant, and Eleni Keventsidou will give a recital which was to have been given at the AGM, if not for the pandemic restrictions then in place. This will be a ‘meet the President’ opportunity for members!

Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th December 2021:

The London Organ Competition 2021

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

Saturday February 19th 2022: Master Class at Merton College

The Master Class will be given by Benjamin Nicholas on the fine new Dobson organ in Merton College Chapel, followed by Choral Evensong at New College, where the President was organ scholar, 1971-74.

Saturday March 19th 2022: AGM

at St Michael Cornhill, St Michael's Alley, London, EC3V 9DS

Details nearer the time, but please note the date!

Saturday April 23rd 2022: Visit to Derbyshire

We shall visit the following churches:



- Chesterfield Parish Church, (the crooked spire)
This is a major church with a superb organ and a very strong musical tradition.

- Dronfield Parish Church, again a major church and fine organ. I was once offered the post of Organist here, but unfortunately was not able to take it up.
- St. John the Baptist Church, Clowne, (a former mining village). I was baptised there and it is where my parents are buried.
- St. James Church, Barlborough, village near Clowne and under the same Rector.

Visit organised by John Varney

Saturday May 21st 2022: visit to Guildford, including Cathedral

We shall visit the Cathedral (11:00) - 2021 to 2022 is the 60th anniversary celebrations of the consecration of the Cathedral. On the day of our visit the celebrations reach a climax with a major concert in the evening given by the Cathedral Choir including special commissions, which is why we have to visit in the morning. Members may wish to return to the Cathedral for the Diamond Anniversary Concert.

After lunch, we visit Holy Trinity Church (14:00 – 15:30), top of the High Street - this church acted as the pro-cathedral when the Diocese of Guildford was established.

Finally, we visit St. Mary's Church, West Horsley, with its wonderful Frobenius organ, only one or two others in the country.

Details nearer the time.

Visit organised by John Varney

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.

Saturday October 15th 2022: Visit to Fotheringhay

Details nearer the time

December 2022: The London Organ Competition

Further details will be published nearer to the date.

Saturday March 18th 2023: AGM

Details nearer the time, but please note the date!

May 2023 Mini-tour – Devon, including Buckfast Abbey

This tour (which will also include a trip on a steam railway) is provisional at this time.

Saturday June 17th 2023: walking tour - “Lower” Windsor parish churches.

(Originally scheduled for June 20th 2020).

Further details will be published nearer to the date.

September 2023: Birmingham tour

Details nearer the time

3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

There is a good chance that recitals planned for June onwards will take place. Members should consult www.organrecitals.com for further information on potential recitals, **but they should check with the venue before setting out.**

St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA

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

Admission free – refreshments available

Reading Town Hall, Blagrave Street, Reading, RG1 1QH

Jul 5th 13:00 David Quinn (Bradfield College, Berkshire)

Tickets £5, via <https://whatsonreading.com/venues/concert-hall/whats-on/lunchtime-organ-recital-july-2021>

NB: London area members - remember using the TFL service from London Paddington your senior TFL pass allows you travel on the CROSSRAIL service [almost all stations] and takes around an hour - but it's **FREE!**

All Saints, Pembroke Road, Clifton, Bristol, BS8 2HY

Jul 10th 16:00 Norman Harper (London)

St George's, Hanover Square, London W1S 1FX

Aug 3rd 13:10 Edward Kemp-Luck

All Saints' Cheltenham, All Saints' Road, GL52 2HG

Jul 31st 19:30 Jonathan Hope (Gloucester Cathedral)

Sep 25th 19:30 Alexander Fishburn (All Saints' Cheltenham)

Oct 30th 19:30 Christopher Strange (Peterborough Cathedral)

Hereford Cathedral, 5 College Cloisters, Cathedral Close, HR1 2NG

Aug 30th 11:30 Jonathan and Tom Scott Organ and Piano

Victoria Hall Bagnall St, Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent ST1 3AD

Organ Festival series (duration ~ 75 mins)



Played on the Grand 4 Manual Conacher-Willis Organ.

Tickets: £10.50 (Concessions £9), including Coffee/Tea & Programme, available at the box office on the day.

Box office open 90 minutes before the performance (card payments at Box Office only) or book in advance: -

Box Office tel 0844 871 7615 (fees apply)

Online <https://www.atgtickets.com/stoke>

Six prom Festival Ticket - £60

(concession £50) for all 6 recitals

Aug 19th 12:00 Sebastian Heindl (Leipzig)

Aug 19th 15:00 Paul Carr (Birmingham)

Aug 20th 12:00 James Lancelot (Durham Cathedral)

Aug 20th 15:00 Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

Aug 21st 12:00 Daniel Moult (London)

Aug 21st 15:00 Martin Baker (Cambridge)

Queries to Michael Rhodes FRCO (Victoria Hall Organist & Organ Prom Director), email organ.proms@ntlworld.com or tel: 07967 806 409 .

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

Jul 31st 19:30 Katelyn Emerson (Concert Organist, Germany)

Aug 28th 19:30 Nathan Laube (USA)

Sep 25th 19:30 Isabelle Demers (USA & Canada)

Oct 30th 19:30 Mitchell Miller (USA)

Admission: free with collection; Angel Tube; buses 4 19 30 38 73 205 341

All Saints Church, All Saints Street, Hastings, TN34 3BP

1878 Father Willis Organ, restored 2021 by Past President Eric Shepherd

Jul 5th 19:30 Gordon Stewart (Concert Organist)
Grand Re-Opening Concert

Jul 12th 19:30 Matthew Jorysz (Westminster Abbey)

Jul 19th 19:30 Peter King (Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey)

Jul 26th 19:30 Iain Quinn (Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA)

Aug 2nd 19:30 Paul Ayres (Freelancer/Composer, London)

Aug 9th 19:30 Francesca Massey (Rochester Cathedral)

- Aug 16th 19:30 Simon Bell (Schola Cantorum, Tewkesbury Abbey)
Aug 23rd 19:30 Tom Bell (Concert Organist, Lancashire)
Aug 30th 19:30 Gordon Stewart (Concert Organist)

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

- Jul 3rd 19:30 Gillian Blythman (Thatcham, Berks)
Aug 7th 15:00 Rosemary Evans (St Alphage, Burnt Oak)
Sep 4th 19:30 Steve Bowey (St Mary, Shaw-cum-Donnington, Berks)
Oct 2nd 19:30 Tom Winpenny (St Albans Cathedral)
Admission £10, including refreshments.

Additionally, as part of an Organ Club meeting - see section 2 of this newsletter
Nov 20th 15:00 Eleni Keventsidou (International Recitalist)
Admission free – sponsored by The Organ Club

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

Glyn Lang Memorial Series

- Jul 21st 13:05 Jeremiah Stephenson (All Saints, Margaret Street)
Aug 18th 13:05 Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair)
Sep 15th 13:05 Michael Andrews (All Souls, Langham Place)
Admission free / retiring collection

King's Lynn Minster, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn, PE30 5DQ

- Jul 6th 12:30 James Mooney-Dutton (St James's Church, Bushey)
Jul 13th 12:30 Alessandro Bianchi (International Concert Organist)
Jul 20th 12:30 Iain Quinn (Florida State University, Tallahassee, USA)
Jul 27th 12:30 *To be advertised*
Aug 3rd 12:30 Julian Haggett (St Peter Mancroft, Norwich)
Aug 10th 12:30 Ben Horden (York)
Aug 17th 12:30 Rebekah Okpoti (St Laurence with St Paul, Longridge)
Aug 24th 12:30 David Baker (St Michael's, Mytholmroyd)
Aug 31st 12:30 Simon Kirk (St John's College School, Cambridge)
Sep 7th 12:30 David Shepherd (St Botolph's, Boston)
Admission free - retiring collection

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

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