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The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 106

January 2022

1. NOTICES

We apologise for the late issue of this newsletter, but this was due to some administrative issues, now resolved.

Unfortunately, the Bloomsbury Organ Day (January 29th) has unavoidably been cancelled. The next visit will be to **Oxford** on February 19th, details given in section 2 below.

The committee wishes for all members a Happy New Year, with a speedy return to what we all remember as 'normality'! Some exciting club visits will no doubt contribute to our memories in this regard.

John Belling (Newsletter Editor)

Francis Jackson (1917 - 2022)



As many of you will be aware, Francis Jackson sadly died on January 10th, aged 104. Francis Alan Jackson was born in Malton, North Yorkshire. After active service in WW2, he was appointed Organist and Director of Music at York Minster, a post he held for 36 years. After his retirement in 1982, he was appointed Organist Emeritus at York Minster. Francis was the longest serving Honorary Life Member of the Organ Club, having been given that accolade in 1989. Francis gave many recitals and concerts all over the world and was a prolific composer of

both sacred and secular music, including many works for organ, much of which is available on CD. Many members will have heard Francis in action, and perhaps have known him personally. A few will fondly remember him as a teacher. I take organ lessons at Pinner Parish Church, and in 1975, Francis gave the inaugural recital there on the newly installed Nicholson organ.

Photo: Francis Jackson at his house organ, courtesy Paul Hale

Our President, Paul Hale, has contributed the following reminiscences:

The very first letter I wrote as a schoolboy to a cathedral organist was to Francis Jackson at York. This was back in 1965 when I had been given an EP disc on the Ryemuse label of Dr Jackson playing the York organ. Among the repertoire were a Fanfare by Francis, and his opus 1 Impromptu. I wrote to him saying how much I enjoyed the record and asking who published the Fanfare and the Impromptu. He replied in his elegant flowing hand – a hand which never seemed to change – thanking me and advising me that the Fanfare was, he hoped, soon to be published by OUP, whom he also hoped would bring back into print his Impromptu. He added that the Fanfare had been written for the Enthronement of Archbishop Coggan. In due course both his aspirations came to pass, the Fanfare newly entitled The Archbishop’s Fanfare, and since then widely played.

I have his reply still – my first ‘letter to me’ from anyone outside the family. With his letter, Francis sent me a primitive but readable photocopy of his manuscript of the Archbishop’s Fanfare, so I was probably the first person other than its composer to perform it in public. The copy of his Fanfare ms is a treasured possession, from which I played it every year for the Gospel Fanfare at the first Mass of Easter – first at St Alban’s Birmingham, then at Rochester Cathedral and then, for 27 years, at Southwell Minster – latterly from a copy, to preserve the original.

A few years ago, when asked to give a recital at York Minster, I decided to play the Healey Willan Introduction, Passacaglia & Fugue – a substantial and colourful work many of my generation (and the next) were inspired to learn through our admiration of his definitive EMI ‘Great Cathedral Organ’ Series recording on the Minster organ. Before travelling to York, I listened avidly to Francis’s recording, hoping to be able to emulate his registrations as closely as possible – knowing that he was to be in the audience. After the recital, and with some diffidence, I approached him and asked whether he thought I’d managed to find the colours he used: “Well, Paul, I’m sure it was jolly good, but I don’t really know, because I was asleep at the time!”.

2022 Membership

Its Renewal time! Our standard rate of £30 is unchanged since 2015, and as given in November 2021 Newsletter, the renewal form is included as a page in this Newsletter. In trying to keep overheads down, and “be green” it is not a document on its own.

If you are able to renew electronically, that would be most helpful, but we do still accept cheques. Processing is slower, as we have lost all local banks, the nearest now means a train journey to reach any bank.

THE ORGAN CLUB

Dear Member

YOUR 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Please use this form – or a photocopy – to renew your membership.

UK ADULT	£30	UK YOUNG §	£12	2 nd or more, member – as JOINT Member/s 50%	£
OUTSIDE UK Postal area ADULT	£40	OUTSIDE UK Postal area YOUNG	£22	DONATIONS: £:	TOTAL: £

§ At 1/1/22: All to 18 years, up to 30 years if still in full time unwaged education or in an apprenticeship [not just music]

Our Adult UK membership rate of is unchanged since 2015. This covers the cost of producing and posting the Journal & Newsletter, insurances, and other overheads. If you gained the Club a new member during 2021, **please identify who.** A single discount of £5 can reduce your payment.

Please complete the box below and e-mail or post to me:

Your Surname <small>PRINT PLEASE</small>		Title	
First Name			
E-mail: <small>PRINT PLEASE</small>			
Telephone/s:			
Name of Joint member/s at the same address			
Your postal address including post code:			

GDPR rules: I provide the mailing lists for both printed & e-mail Newsletters, and for the Journal. If a printed Newsletter or Journal is damaged/missing contact me. All membership matters should be directed to the Membership Secretary. Contacting other officers only delays response, and breaches confidentiality.

ELECTRONIC BANKING [Preferred]:	
Reference:	Your Surname & Postcode
Amount:	<i>the sum you are paying</i>
Account name:	The Organ Club
Account sort code: 20-31-52	Account number: 00655171
INTERNATIONAL: SWIFT: BUKBGB22 IBAN: GB27 BUKB 2031 5200 6551 71	
CHEQUES: please put your postcode on the back and send to: THE ORGAN CLUB c/o Mark Jameson, 92 The Hawthorns, CHARVIL, Reading RG10 9TS	

PAYPAL: Overseas members without access to ESTG payments. Payment has to be as a friend, not business – contact Mark Jameson. Those who have paid previously this way know the account information.

My contacts: e-mail: markmdjameson@btinternet.com Phone: 07802 715634

Thank you for renewing – I endeavour to acknowledge as many renewals as possible

Mark Jameson, Hon Membership Secretary

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

Lunchtime series: MONDAYS at 1pm

Mar 7th 13:00 Organ Students from The Royal Academy of Music

May 9th 13:00 Graham Barber

Jul 4th 13:00 Eton College Student

Admission: tickets £5 online, £6 card only at the door.

Ring 01189 960 6060 to book, or online at READING ARTS, or quick link:

<https://whatsonreading.com/venues/concert-hall/whats-on/lunchtime-organ-recital-january-2022>

Evening recital celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the Berkshire Organists' Association on Thursday April 28th 2022:

18:30 Daniel Moulton talks about the English Organ DVD and his work with Fugue State Films

19:30 Music by J S Bach, Samuel Wesley, Elgar, Widor, Liszt and Franck

Tickets: £12.50 adults, £6 U18s

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!**

St Nicolas Church, West Mills, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 5HG

Feb 10th 13:10 Gillian Blythman (Thatcham)

Mar 10th 13:10 Chris Totney (Director of Church & Community Music, Fulbourn, Cambridge)

Admission free (retiring collection)

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

Feb 1st 13:10 William Mason (St Mary's, Putney)

Feb 15th 13:10 Philip Berg (The Queen's Chapel of The Savoy)

Mar 1st 13:10 Andrew Benson-Wilson (Basingstoke)

Admission free (retiring collection)

Grosvenor Chapel, South Audley Street, Mayfair, London W1K 2PA

Jan 25th 13:10 Jozef Gaszka (Grosvenor Chapel, Mayfair)

Feb 8th 13:10 Michael Overbury (Newark)

Feb 22nd 13:10 Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)

Admission free (retiring collection)

In these very uncertain times, we are especially grateful to our members who added a donation to their renewal. We are starting the early planning needs for 2026 – the Club's 100th Anniversary – this will involve a lot of work!

2021 has proved a very difficult year for many, including our volunteers who help with aspects of running our Club.

ALL changes to membership information – e-mails/telephone number/address must be sent to me not to any other officer.

My contact details are shown on page 3 of each Journal; my e-mail for ALL correspondence is markmdjameson@btinternet.com; landline is **01189 344212** and text messages (NOT e-mail) can be sent to my mobile 07802 715634.

Mark Jameson (Membership Secretary)

Organ composer anniversaries 2022

I have noted the following century and ½ century anniversaries for 2022:

Ralph Vaughan Williams	1872	-	1958
César Franck	1822	-	1890
William Herschel	1738	-	1822
Louis Claude Daquin	1694	-	1772
Johann Kuhnau	1660	-	1722
Heinrich Schütz	1585	-	1672
Jakob Hassler	1569	-	1622
Thomas Tomkins	1572	-	1656

One could also add the following, (¼C and ¾C anniversaries):

Walter Galpin Alcock	1861	-	1947
Percy Buck	1871	-	1947
Johannes Brahms	1833	-	1897
Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy	1809	-	1847

March 2022 Newsletter contributions

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

2. CLUB MEETINGS

Saturday January 29th 2022: Bloomsbury Organ Day

We very much regret to announce that this event has been unavoidably cancelled. Owing to the short notice, we are unable to provide a substitute event

Saturday February 19th 2022: A day out in Oxford: Master Class at Merton College, and visit to Pembroke College and Wadham College

This promises to be a splendid day out, where members will be able to play three magnificent Oxford college organs! Central to the visit will be a Master Class, given by Benjamin Nicholas on the fine new Dobson organ in Merton College Chapel. Members will be able to play this organ, as well as the organs at Pembroke College and Wadham College, so don't miss this unique opportunity and book a place ASAP- see 'Bookings' below.

10:00 MASTERCLASS players only – meet at **Merton College** for rehearsal

11:00 Other members (i.e. not masterclass players) meet at **Pembroke College Chapel** – please note: they allow only 25 people in, so it's first-come, first-served: please book straight away (see 'Bookings' below). We will be welcomed by the Organ Scholar, Alastair Stone, and members will have the opportunity to play the splendid Létourneau organ.

Members who are too late to get in to Pembroke College (or as an alternative) may usefully spend time in Oxford centre, perhaps perusing Blackwell's Bookshop, with its renowned music section, or walking along to Magdalen Bridge and then enjoying the beauties of the Botanical Garden – a hidden Oxford treasure. Alternatively, you may enjoy some time in the wonderful Ashmolean Museum – its collection of vintage string instruments including by Stradivarius is a 'must'.

12:30 Lunch – own arrangements, pub, sandwich bar, coffee shop or restaurant.

3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA

Tuesdays at 12:30 Ian Shaw (St Mary Abchurch)
Admission free – refreshments available

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

Glyn Lang Memorial Series

Feb 16th 13:05 Simon Williams (St George's, Hanover Square)
Mar 16th 13:05 Bethany Reeves (Christ Church, East Sheen)
Apr 20th 13:05 Edward Kemp-Luck (London)
May 18th 13:05 Hugh Crook (St Mary's Mortlake)
Jun 15th 13:05 Tom Daggett (St Paul's Cathedral)
Jul 20th 13:05 Oliver MacFarlane (Guildford)
Aug 17th 13:05 Richard Hobson (Grosvenor Chapel)

Admission free / retiring collection

Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate, Westminster, SW1H 9NH

Feb 20th 15:00 Katherine Dienes-Williams (Guildford Cathedral)
Mar 27th 15:00 Andrew Furniss (Central Hall, Westminster)
Admission free (retiring collection)

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

Jan 24th 13:00 Jonathan Rennert (St Michael Cornhill)
(lunchtime recital no 463)
Reger Dankpsalm
Darke Chorale-Fantasia on a Theme By Tallis
Elgar Organ Sonata 2 (1933)
Franck Choral 2 in b
Thalben-Ball Poema & Toccata Beorma
Jan 31st 13:00 Marilyn Harper (Christ's Chapel, Dulwich)
McDowall Celebration
Bononcini Overture
Sweelinck Fantasia Crommatica
Buxtehude Ein Feste Burg & Klaglied
Froberger Toccata 6 da Sonarsi
Bach Prelude & Fugue in e, BWV 548
Turner Toccata Festiva

Admission free (retiring collection)

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.

Further details will be published nearer to the date.

September 2023: Birmingham tour

This is just to give you a flavour of the wide scope of this very exciting tour. We hope to visit at least the following churches etc.

- St. Philip’s Cathedral*
- St. Martin’s in the Bull Ring
- St. Chad’s RC Cathedral
- St. Alban’s Conybere Street*
- Birmingham Town Hall
- Symphony Hall
- Birmingham Conservatory (with Master Class led by Daniel Moulton)

and outside city:

- St. Michael Boldmere, Sutton Coldfield
- Emmanuel, Wylde Green, Sutton Coldfield
- Solihull School Chapel
- St Alphege, Solihull
- St Margaret’s Olton

* Dr. Roy Massey MBE, our Vice President, is a former Organist here

Other possibilities further afield:

- Lichfield Cathedral
- Coventry Cathedral
- St. Mary’s Collegiate Church, Warwick

Further details nearer the time.

14:00 All members - assemble at **Merton College** for masterclass with Benjamin Nicholas.

We have seven young members who have agreed to take part in the Masterclass and have agreed to play the following pieces:

- Finale from Symphony VI - Widor
- Prelude and Fugue in A minor (BWV 543) - Bach
- Prelude and Fugue in C major (BWV 545) - Bach
- Introduction and Passacaglia in C minor - Reger
- Carillon de Longpont - Vierne
- Tuba Tune - Lang
- Prelude (BWV736) *Valet will ich dir geben* - Bach

c.16:15 Following the masterclass, members are invited to try the organ, then walk to Wadham College.

17:00 **Wadham College Chapel**: members may play the Father Willis organ.

18:00 Wadham visit ends.

For those wishing to attend a Choral Evensong, this service takes place at Christ Church Cathedral at 18:00, in New College Chapel at 17:45, and in Magdalen College Chapel at 18:00. As it is a Half Term weekend, members are recommended to check the music lists on-line in advance, to avoid disappointment.

Visit fee: £10. Our treasurer, John Henderson, will collect the fee at **Merton College** - he will have a credit/debit card reader, but will also accept cash.

Bookings: Please send an email by 31st January to Mark Jameson at markmdjameson@btinternet.com, (or use Mark’s contact details given in the section “2022 membership” above) stating the names and email addresses of members wishing to attend, and, if wishing to play, please indicate which organs (Pembroke, Merton, Wadham). Please bear in mind the limit of 25 members allowed at Pembroke College - places will be allocated on a 'first come first served basis', as noted in the text above.

Travel: Rail – Oxford Station. Car – Redbridge Park & Ride area, then bus 300 to stop G2 just south of Pembroke College – senior bus passes are valid on Oxford P&R services.

Saturday March 19th 2022: AGM at St Michael Cornhill, St Michael's Alley, London, EC3V 9DS

Members will receive the AGM documentation at the beginning of March.

At the 2022 AGM, we have vacancies for a General Secretary, an Archivist, and three elected committee members. If you would be interested in standing for any of these positions, please contact John Henderson, treasurer@organclub.org.

To stand for election for any of the above, confirmation of willingness to stand in writing must be delivered to the Treasurer, along with the support of two other club members. This can be in electronic or hard copy format, to treasurer@organclub.org or 5 Rosehart Mews, London, W11 3JN.

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 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

Saturday July 16th 2022: Gorleston/Lowestoft

(Originally scheduled for July 18th 2020).

Please refer to the 2021 May newsletter for churches which we intend to visit.

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.

Wednesday December 28th & Thursday 29th 2022:

The London Organ Competition

Further details will be published nearer to the date.