

The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 97

July 2020

1. NOTICES

From the President ...

I hope that you are all keeping well at this very difficult time.

We do not yet know when our meetings will be able to resume, but we sincerely hope that the meeting will go ahead, which our Canterbury member Alison Garratt has arranged on Saturday 26th September (4th Saturday) to see and hear the new 4 manual 89 stop Harrison organ at the Cathedral, which incorporates the remaining Father Willis pipes. David Flood the Director of Music hopes that the visit will happen. He was due to retire in July, but will stay on until the end of the year.

We hope to visit another church in Canterbury first. We will have to see how things go, so we will confirm either way in the next Newsletter in September.

We hope that The London Organ Competition can go ahead in late December, but we have to make a decision about this nearer the time.

Next year on Saturday May 22nd (4th Saturday) I have managed to arrange a visit to hear the new Ruffatti organs at Buckfast Abbey with David Davies the organist of the Abbey. It has been very difficult for David to arrange this visit, because of the new policy of not allowing to organ to be played when the Abbey is open.

The visit will be in the evening starting at 7.15pm after Vespers which is at 6.30pm, and we can remain there until 9.30pm.

I hope to arrange a short tour to include visiting two organs at Totnes (Father Willis and William Drake), and organs in Torquay, also hopefully a trip on the South Devon Steam Railway from Buckfastleigh to Totnes.

Sorry that the September and May meetings have to be on the fourth Saturdays, but these are the only dates that were convenient with the Cathedral and Abbey.

The Isle of Man Tour will be in September next year, which had to be cancelled this year.

We hope that things will get back to normal by next year.

With best wishes, *Eric Shepherd, President*

2020 Membership – URGENT reminder

The May Newsletter – page 2 – had a reminder for those who had not paid for 2020.

Our financial year is January to December with renewals due during the first week of January – technically 1st January, but that is a public holiday. The majority of members have now renewed. Because of COVID19, we cannot currently operate competitions, a tour, or regular visits.

However, Newsletters continue and we do intend to produce all three Journals for 2020. We have provided a quiz, and members have been doing video links for concerts and other activities. So, we have not shut up shop and stopped operating.

It is too early to know what effect on the reduction from **2m** to **1+** distancing will have, but distancing is not the only worry, it is ensuring that after any visit a full clean has to be carried out.

Currently 17 Young members and 33 standard rate members are overdue to renew. I have e-mailed or tried to contact many by telephone. I want to hear from you! Electronic banking is the easiest method of payment, your surname and postcode please as the reference. With a cheque, your postcode on the reverse please. The renewal form is not needed if you have not changed any of your contact information; if you have, advise me by putting your new contacts on the reverse of your cheque or by e-mail to me.

The Organ Club banking data - sort code: 20-31-52, account: 00655171

I have not yet removed unpaid members from the mailing lists in the light of COVID19, but that will have to have a limit. Again – look at the membership number on your envelope of the **Journal**, or **Newsletter** if you receive a posted copy. If it starts with '**19**', your renewal has not been received.

Please contact me if you have not yet renewed.

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)

ITEMS for sale to members:

Members are reminded that I still have 52 CDs (including a couple of DVDs) and 338 leaflets/books/specs available for members to purchase - very many are FREE, but obviously postal costs have to be added. This will be the final time for offering the books and leaflets.

Contact Mark Jameson for pdfs (two pdfs - CDs pdf and books/leaflet pdf). Payment to me please for printed lists - £4, to cover paper, envelope, postage & printing.

1. CDs - I have added some CDs to the pdf listing from my own collection - if sold, those monies will go to Club funds. Those specific CDs have or had my owner identification label on the reverse. CDs – as per list (including postage)
2. Books/leaflets - most are free but plus postage. There are some more valuable items, these remain with a price.

Payments: to Mark Jameson (contact details above).

Postage at cost - parcels via Royal Mail Parcel Force 48 hour service.

Payment in advance of delivery as normal, I will pack the most economic way.

Mark Jameson (Membership Secretary)

Obit: Jane Parker-Smith (20/5/1950 – 24/6/2020)

We have been notified of the death of Jane Parker-Smith, a formidable British organist once called 'the Martha Argerich of the organ'.

Jane died at the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital. She was just 70.

Jane studied in Paris with the legendary blind organist Jean Langlais and made her BBC Proms debut at 22.

She made numerous international tours and many recordings.

Mark Jameson recalls:

I knew Jane through the Organ Club and her visits to Reading Town Hall. I also knew her through her father who worked with Hants & Dorset bus company - in my early days at NBC, he and I were in contact on bus business.

The Newsletter Editor recalls:

In Feb 2003, after a stressful dash to the Royal Festival Hall due to a line closure on the Underground, my wife, Tessa, and I just made it with seconds to spare through the doors to hear Jane's recital. Not an auspicious start as we fought to get our breath back, but we settled down to enjoy the recital. In the interval, I said to Tessa that I was enjoying the recital, but something seemed wrong, couldn't say exactly what. We found out as soon as the 2nd half started – a RFH official strode out onto the stage to say that during Jane's performance in the 1st half, the Swell division had suddenly packed up! But this had now been repaired and all was now well, (ha ha!). The amazing thing was how Jane coped with this sudden unexpected emergency, instantly coping with changes of registration, on the fly, to adapt to the hobbled organ, so smoothly that we hardly suspected anything was wrong. Jane then started the 2nd half, but didn't get very far when the organ broke down again! This time, Jane gave up and came down to the front of the stage, and with great stage presence, commiserated with us, the audience. I remember her asking us, would we mind if she went off stage to have a cup of tea while the organ repairers had another go! That got a big clap and our sympathy. After a little while, the organ was pronounced fit again, and Jane returned to great applause to finish the recital with a brilliant and impassioned performance of the Passacaglia in D minor by Middleschulte, with the organ now on its best behaviour. I wonder if any other Organ Club member attended that recital?

There is a biography of Jane at <http://www.janeparkersmith.com/biography>

You can hear Jane play *Toccata en ré majeur* by Marcel Lanquetuit (1894 – 1985, who was *titulaire* at Rouen Cathedral), on the Goll organ (1998) at the St Martin Church, Memmingen (visited by Organ Club on 28/10/2012):
<https://slippedisc.com/2020/06/sudden-death-of-an-organ-star/>

The Organ Club Website

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

Organ Club Committee vacancies: volunteers required please

The Club runs on the goodwill of members - and we need two volunteers to take on tasks - both please used to working extensively via e-mail.

We seek a **General Secretary** - John Henderson, the previous holder, has now taken over as Hon. Treasurer, so the role of General Secretary needs to be filled.

It is vital that this post is filled - the person ideally needs to be within easy reach of London and to possess both electronic and letter communication skills. John Henderson is able to advise on the tasks involved.

As the public address of the Club is that of the Membership Secretary, the postholder is protected from unwanted correspondence.

We also seek an **Archivist**. This post holder does not need to be near London. The Archivist receives copies of all publications produced by the Club, former records from previous Secretaries, and other post holders.

Our current Archivist, Gary Rant, can advise what volume and space are required. Gary has carried this task since 2004 - and needs to hand the baton to someone younger.

Unlike other roles, apart from brief reports for committee meetings and the Annual Report which can be sent via e-mail, it is not a role that requires strict timetables.

An indication of the size of the archive can be seen by viewing the Archive section on the Club's website, and looking at item number 5 (<https://organclub.org/archive/>). Gary's postal address is there, and also on page 3 of each Journal.

If you feel you might be interested in taking up one of these positions following a return to a more normal situation (post Covid-19), or have any further questions, please get in touch with John Henderson, treasurer@organclub.org.

September 2020 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

2. CLUB MEETINGS

We are mercifully (and hopefully, safely) emerging from the 3-month Covid-19 lockdown, and at the time of writing, churches are able to open for worship from July 4th, albeit with appropriate social distancing (but with no singing). We are still waiting for clarification from the Government, and it is not yet clear when churches will be allowed to host visits from organisations like the Organ Club, or to hold concerts and recitals.

The Organ Club committee is planning to hold a Zoom meeting shortly, to decide, *inter alia*, how to proceed with the reinstatement of our Saturday visits. We will keep you informed when we can resume our visits, in future newsletters.

Saturday July 18th 2020: Gorleston/Lowestoft

This is **postponed** until July 2021.

Saturday September 26th 2020, Canterbury Cathedral

+ new organ. We very much hope that this visit will take place.

See President's note in §1 of this newsletter.

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**).

Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th December 2020:

The London Organ Competition 2020

Held at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2R 1DH.

Junior Section (age ≤ 16): Monday 28th December 2020

1st Prize £500, 2nd Prize £250.

Senior Section (17 – 19): Tuesday 29th December 2020

1st Prize £1000, 2nd Prize £500.

To apply and for full details, email **The Organ Club** at cegb36@gmail.com . Applications close on Monday November 2nd 2020.

Please apply as soon as possible – last year, we had to turn down several late applicants.

3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

Please note that recitals publicised in this section are subject to cancellations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and that members should check with the venue before setting out.

Note that the organrecitals.com web site – is still (hopefully temporarily) closed.

St Mary's Winkfield, Church Road, Winkfield, SL4 4SF

Aug 29th 19:30 Jonathan Holl

Jonathan will perform a recital on the recently renovated organ to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the instrument. This performance is sponsored by the Berkshire Organists Association, which supports the work of musicians who bring organ music year by year to churches and to the general public. The performance will include an eclectic variety of works by English, French and German composers, and will explore the capabilities of the instrument in its present form,

Admission will be free, but there will be a retiring collection, and we hope that you will be generous to support the Berkshire Organists Association and St Marys Church.

NB: I am informed that this recital is now CANCELLED.

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

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

Jul 4th 19:30 Rosemary Evans (St Alphege, Burnt Oak)

Sep 5th 19:30 Steve Bowey (St Mary's Church, Shaw-cum-Donnington, Berks)

The recital on Sep 5th has unfortunately been **postponed** until next year. Admission £10, including refreshments.

Reading Town Hall, Blagrove Street, Reading, RG11QH

Lunchtime Series 2019/20, Mondays at 13:00

The recital on July 20th has unfortunately been **cancelled**.

Bloomsbury Central Baptist Church, 235 Shaftesbury Avenue WC2H 8EP

Jul 25th 16:00 Daniel Bishop (Liverpool Cathedral)

St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA

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

Admission free – refreshments available

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

Organ: JW Walker 1963, restored 2006, 3 manuals, 46 stops.

International Organ Series 2020

Jul 25th 19:30 Katelyn Emerson (USA)

Oct 24th 19:30 Isabelle Demers (USA)

Admission free, retiring collection.

Angel Tube; buses: 4 19 30 38 73 205 341

Guildford Cathedral, Stag Hill, University Campus, Guildford GU2 7UP

Summer Organ Festival: celebrating the 150th anniversary of the birth of Louis Vierne.

The Summer Organ Festival (starting July 30th) has unfortunately been **cancelled**.

Welsh Church of Central London W1

Lunchtime Organ Recitals 2020, Wednesday 13:05 – 13:30

(Preceded by Bible fellowship in hall 12 noon + cuppa)

Retiring collection towards expenses and organ maintenance

July 15th 13:05 Jeremiah Stephenson (All Saints Margaret St W1)

Aug 19th 13:05 Anthony Gritten (Professor, Royal Academy of Music)

4. DIVERSE ENTERTAINMENTS DURING LOCKDOWN

Answers to the QUIZ devised by John Miley

There was a very high standard of answers to the quiz (included in the last, May, newsletter), which I devised with the help of John Varney and William Saunders, as a bit of light relief during the current Pandemic.

16 Ordinary Members and 4 Young Members sent in entries.

The winner of the Prize for Young Members was Michael Stephens-Jones. There were four winners of the prize for Ordinary Members, and I decided to split the prize between:

Jonathan Rennert, Ed McHale, Paul Joslin and Roland Johnson.

Congratulations to all who took part. Many members mentioned how much they enjoyed researching the answers and the overall results were very close.

We all hope that soon we may be able to return to normality and able to meet each other once again.

Here are the questions again, with the answers in **bold**.

1 What organist was born in Hull and was blind from birth - **Alfred Hollins**

2. To which notes are the strings of a violin tuned - **GDAE**

3. What personal tragedy inspired much of the musical output of Herbert Howells - **death of his son Michael aged 9 from spinal meningitis**

4. Who invented the piano - **Bartolomeo Christofori di Francesco**

5. What festival is closely identified with the musical careers of Elgar and Vaughan Williams - **The Three Choirs Festival**

6. Who is the patron saint of music - **St. Cecilia**

7. Who were Henry Purcell's choirmasters during his time as a chorister in the choir of the Chapel Royal –

Captain Henry Cooke, Pelham Humfrey and John Blow

8. What English composer wrote a set of organ works called "Changing Moods" - **Christopher Steel**

9. What is a “tierce de Picardie” –
A major third in the final chord of a work in a minor key
10. Who saved the mounting bills of Richard Wagner –
King Ludwig II of Bavaria, also Otto Wesendonk
11. What does “andante” mean - **At a walking pace**
12. Who was the founder of the RSCM - **Sir Sydney Nicholson**
13. In what year did J S Bach complete his “Mass in b minor” - **1749**
14. In what year was Peter Hurford Born - **1930**
15. In Britten’s cantata “St Nicholas”, what is the final hymn –
God moves in a mysterious way
16. Name the Bulgarian born composer, who wrote a suite called Diptych -
Dobrinka Tabakova
17. What English organist composed a choral concerto called “The Gods of Music” - **Dr. Arthur Wills**
18. What oratorio was premiered on February 24th (the day after Ash Wednesday) 1887 and was considered by the composer as being “rubbish” -
Stainer’s Crucifixion
19. Who founded the BBC Proms - **The Proms were founded by Robert Newman who appointed Sir Henry Wood as conductor. Wood was instrumental in bringing the Proms to the BBC**
20. What composer taught Benjamin Britten and later named a work after him - **Frank Bridge**
21. What composer lived in London at 25 Brook Street - **G F Handel**
22. In which city did C P E Bach die - **Hamburg**
23. What piece did Francis Jackson play at the end of Prince Edwards wedding - **Widor’s Toccata**

24. What Anglo / American organist is interred in the Hall of Righteousness Crypt No. 6691 at Forest Lawn Memorial Park, Glendale, California – **Edwin Lemare**
25. Handel and Bach were both born in 1685. What other composer was born that year - **Scarlatti**
26. What is the English meaning of the American term “measure” - **Bar**
27. Who wrote the sacred oratorio “The Martyrdom of St Polycarp” – **Ousley and also J A C Redford**
28. Who preceded Simon Preston as organist of Westminster Abbey - **Douglas Guest**
29. Which composer wrote the tune for the carol “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” - **Mendelssohn**
30. What cathedral organist was nicknamed “Doc H” by his choristers – **Sir William Harris**
31. Who was known as the London Bach - **Johann Christian Bach**
32. What English organist served as Choirmaster at York Minster and St Thomas Episcopal Church NYC - **Thomas Tertius Noble**
33. Who’s epitaph reads “Many waters cannot quench love” - **John Ireland**
34. What do the letters BWV stand for - **Bach-Werke-Verzeichnis**
35. Who composed the Fantasia on British Sea Songs - **Sir Henry Wood**
36. What music organisation was founded in 1864 by Richard Limpus – **Royal College of Organists**
37. How many piano Sonatas did Beethoven write - **32**
38. Who founded the Early Music Consort – **Christopher Hogwood and David Munro**
39. What organist, famous for his Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in E, wrote a jazz opera called “Man in Cage” - **Herbert Murrill**

40. For which occasion did Britten compose his War Requiem - **Consecration of Coventry Cathedral**
41. If “woof” is Bach, who is “woof, woof, woof” (Clue Orpheus) - **Offenbach**
42. The anthem “Zadok the Priest” was composed for which King - **George II**
43. Thine be the Glory” is from which Oratorio - **Judas Maccabaeus**
44. What is the English title of the choral prelude BWV608 - **In Sweet Jubilation, or Good Christian Men Rejoice**
45. What is the name of the courtier of Charles II who had a warrant to travel the country on his horse and kidnap boys for the Chapel Royal Choir - **Captain Cooke**
46. For whom did J S Bach compose his “Musical Offering” – **Frederick II of Prussia**
47. What is the title of G F Handel’s last Oratorio - **Jephtha**
48. Revd. Sir Frederick ___ Ousley Bart. What is the missing word - **Gore**

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