

The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 98

September 2020

1. NOTICES

Organ Club AGM – Saturday 26th September 2020 at 15:00, via Zoom

The Organ Club committee has decided that, due to COVID-19, we will be holding our 2020 AGM online via Zoom video conferencing, similar to the way many other organisations have managed their AGM requirements.

The meeting will be held on Saturday 26th September 2020 at 15:00, and all members will be able to join by computer or by telephone. The relevant details to join the meeting are included below.

The agenda of the meeting will be the same as was indicated on the paperwork sent out in March.

If anyone has any questions about the meeting, please direct them to the Acting General Secretary, John Henderson (treasurer@organclub.org, 5 Rosehart Mews, W11 3JN).

Please note that, due to practicalities, no votes or discussions will be able to take place at this online AGM. It will take the form of a presentation of the reports, and members will be encouraged to send their comments or questions to the Acting General Secretary following the meeting. This approach has been similarly adopted by other organisations when holding their AGMs this year.

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83917381325?pwd=M2EyTHRxbVNEUTNDVTd3Z281MG1xdz09>

Meeting ID: 839 1738 1325

Passcode: 146572

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Dial by your location:

+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

+44 203 051 2874 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom

+44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom

+44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 839 1738 1325

Passcode: 146572

Organ marathon event on Saturday 21st November 2020 – organists required!

This will take place at the Church of Our Lady of the Assumption & St Gregory, Warwick Street, London W1. The organ at the church was installed in 1790 and has been rebuilt regularly since then. The last major rebuilding was by Mander in 1960.

As a result of the Covid-19 virus and the lockdown the church's income has dropped significantly. We have therefore decided to launch an appeal for £50,000 to help maintain the high standards of music in the church.

Our first fund-raising event will be a 12-hour organ marathon on Saturday 21st November 2020. This event will last for 9am to 9pm and will include two sung Masses, one at 12.00 noon and one at 6pm.

We are looking for volunteers to play the organ during this time frame.

We will charge an entry fee to people coming to listen to the music and we will also ask people to sponsor individual players. Because the event will be designed to raise money for the choir and organ, we cannot pay fees to the organists, though we would be ready to cover travel costs. We aim to have around 15 organists playing during the day, each one for about 45 minutes. Some of the organists may be willing to play during more than one session. Organists are encouraged to create their own programmes of music. These will be co-ordinated by Keith Brown, the Director of Music.

Members interested in volunteering – please contact Nicolas Ollivant (who is an Organ Club member) at ollivant@gmail.com.

Peter Sefton-Williams (Chairman of the Appeal Fund)

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

Oct 24th 19:30 Isabelle Demers (USA)

Admission free, retiring collection.

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

Leeds Town Hall, The Headrow, Leeds, LS1 3AD.

Oct 5th 13:00 Nicholas Edwards (OCSO member)

There can be a socially distanced audience (it is a very large hall) and in addition the event will be streamed online. Nicholas was a prize-winner in the 2016 London Organ Competition, and his programme is planned to be as follows:

Bach	Prelude and Fugue in C, BWV 545
Vierne	Lied, Scherzetto, Carillon (from <i>24 Pièces en Style Libre</i>)
Saint-Saëns	Improvisation No. 4 (from 7 Improvisations)
Ad Wammes	Vallée des danses No.5
Ad Wammes	Triptych
Walton	Crown Imperial (arr. Murrill)

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

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

3. RECITALS PLAYED OR PROMOTED BY CLUB MEMBERS

We are beginning to see a glimmer of hope for the restarting of public performances with very limited audiences, for example, the Wigmore Hall.

Public organ recitals are, though, few and far between.

I note that www.organrecitals.com is up and running again after its temporary closure during the epidemic. We are proposing to arrange for a separate page on this site, listing members' recitals, and will let you know when this happens.

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.

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

Sep 12th 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 works by Walton, Bach, Beethoven and Guilmant

Admission will be free, but there will be a retiring collection. Refreshments will be available.

IMPORTANT NOTE - Those wishing to attend should notify Jonathan by email or telephone at least 3 days before the recital: jwholl@btinternet.com or 01344 886700. The church needs to know this information in order to prepare adequate seating and refreshments in accordance with current guidelines.

St Mary Abchurch, Abchurch Lane, EC4N 7BA

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

Admission free – refreshments available

(NB: these recitals have been running for the last few weeks!)

Bequest Items for sale (coordinated by Mark Jameson)

I am now down to 82 books/leaflets, 2 DVDs and around 50 CDs! Costs are well discounted on commercial sellers, but post does have to be added. PDF lists available.

Please contact the Membership Secretary on markmdjameson@btinternet.com for an up-to-date list.

Funds raised go to help with younger members activity.

So far this year, just over £500 has been raised and I thank those members who have purchased items.

Glorious Pipes – Videos especially for Organ Club members

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, we are aware that we have been unable to hold as many meetings as we normally would have. We hope to resume our monthly meetings as soon as it is safe to do so, but in the mean time, we have begun to commission a series of recorded organ demonstrations, beginning with Wayne Marshall at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral in Valetta, Malta.

The second demonstration is now available, and is given by our President Elect, William Saunders, at St Edmundsbury Cathedral.

You will be able to find all of the uploaded organ demonstrations on the club website: organclub.org/organ-demonstrations/, or you can find them on [our YouTube page](#).

The Organ Club Website

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

November 2020 Newsletter contributions

Please email notices by October 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

It is still unclear when churches will be allowed to host visits from organisations like the Organ Club, or to hold concerts and recitals. There will be no Saturday visits for the remainder of 2020, except that we intend to go ahead with the London Organ Club Competition in December, see below for details.

Saturday September 26th 2020, Canterbury Cathedral

This unfortunately has been **postponed**.

Monday 28th & Tuesday 29th December 2020: The London Organ Competition 2020

To be held at St. Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2R 1DH.

For the fifth year and in association with the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition, we are promoting the London Organ Competition at St Clement Danes Church. We hope that the competition will be able to take place, this obviously being dependent on the state of the coronavirus.

Applications are invited from young organ students up to the age of 19. There will be an opportunity for competitors to practice on the organ during the morning of each day. Please apply by Monday November 2nd to cegb36@gmail.com. Full details of the competition and the competition poster are on the Club's website.

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.

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**).

Saturday May 22nd (4th Saturday) Mini-tour

Organs at Buckfast Abbey, Totnes & Torquay, to include a trip on the South Devon Steam Railway.

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).

September 2021: Isle of Man Tour

(Originally scheduled for September 2020)

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.