

The Organ Club Newsletter

Number 99

November 2020

1. NOTICES

President Elect

Owing to a change in circumstances, William Saunders has declined to accept the Presidency of the Organ Club which was to be conferred at the next AGM.

We are very delighted to announce that Paul Hale has accepted the position of President Elect, and will become the President at the next AGM.

Paul will be well known to most members – he has vast and distinguished experience as an Organ Consultant and Advisor, as a Concert Organist, a teacher, Choral Conductor, and as a contributor to the Organists' Review journal.

We look forward to having Paul “on board”, not just as a club member (for over 40 years), but as our President.

Membership Matters

It does not seem possible we are reaching the end of 2020, and that COVID-19 has totally wrecked the careful planning of most groups.

On a positive note – The Organ Club January event was combined, as requested, with the Bloomsbury day. Despite Storm Dennis the February Masterclass at St Michael's Cornhill did take place – albeit with lower numbers than expected due to transport difficulties. The Club has managed to produce Newsletters regularly, including a quiz organised by John Miley & John Varney. Despite external difficulties all three Journals have been completed (2020/3 expected in November).

Going forward we plan all three Journals in 2021, likewise our 6 Newsletters. The Club has all the usual overheads to pay (including 3 postal rate increases during 2020).

At the committee meeting held by Zoom on 16 October, it was agreed that the membership rates for 2021 will remain the same as for 2020. The renewal notice will be issued with the JANUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER, as an attachment for all those have their Newsletter electronically or as an enclosure where a postal Newsletter is issued.

The UK ordinary rate at £30 (Overseas £40). 23 ordinary rate members have already paid for 2021. **The mailing address label on Journal 2020/3 will show your current membership number.** If it starts with “20” then renewal is due in January 2021.

Membership Renewals

If you are able to pay electronically, that would be very much appreciated. More than half have used that method in 2020 – your surname and post code are needed for identification. Details will be in the January Newsletter. Please do make sure that we have your correct e-mail, address and telephone contacts. If there is no change to your information, I will not need a form back.

Cheque payments are accepted, but there may be delays in processing as few of the banks have restored pre-COVID19 banking days or hours.

May I remind members that renewal date is 1st working day of January. Special arrangements for 2021

YOUNG MEMBERS – all those on the YOUNG MEMBER rate.

I am delighted to advise that a Member is sponsoring your 2021 membership – this applies to all existing **YOUNG** members both in the UK and overseas, and to the **two** members whose parent is a joint member.

The **four** young members who have already paid for 2021 will have their membership extended to 2022. This gift only applies to the young members who renewed in 2020 as we have been unable to arrange several special events for Young members.

Bequest Items for sale (coordinated by Mark Jameson)

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

The list is now very much reduced, but I still have books, leaflets and CDs available. Please contact me for an up-to-date list, either by email or by post. Funds raised go to help with younger members activity.

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)

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.

Sixteen organists have registered to play!

Organ Club members are welcome to attend.

There is no admission charge, but donations are welcome - £10 is suggested.

Peter Sefton-Williams (Chairman of the Appeal Fund)

The Organ Club Website

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

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

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.

January 2021 Newsletter contributions

Please email notices by December 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

Sad News

It is with sadness that I report the death of two Organ Club members.

Caroline Pearce died on September 15th in her home city, Adelaide. We first met Caroline on the Organ Club tour of Memmingen and became good friends. Caroline was only the second Australian woman to be ordained priest and the first to return as a pioneer. She was also involved with the Guide movement. She leaves behind her loving husband, Bill, a member of the Organ Club for over 10 years, and four daughters, Rachel, Joanna, Alison, and Kazzia, and four grandsons.

Oenone Cox died on October 21st. We met Oenone and husband Laurence at the Paris tour in 2009 and on numerous other tours in the UK and abroad. Oenone was a fine organist and pianist as well as a vibrant painter. She played many times on organ club visits and was a talented improviser. She leaves behind her beloved husband Laurence, her sister Manya, her nieces and many friends.

-John (newsletter editor) and Tessa Belling

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 visits for the remainder of 2020.

It is with regret that the London Organ Club Competition in December has been postponed, again due to the Covid-19 situation.

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

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

Postponed. This event will now take place at St Clement Danes on Wednesday 29th and Thursday 30th December 2021.

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 May 22nd 2021 (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).

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.

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 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!)

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

Nov 10th 13:10 Simon Williams (St George's, Hanover Square)

Admission free, retiring collection

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

Nov 17th 13:10 Paul Joslin (Welsh Church of Central London)

Anon - Ein feste Burg

Henry Heron - Trumpet Voluntary

W.A.Mozart - Fugue un G minor

Arcangelo Corelli - Pastorale

J.G.Walther - Wachet auf!

Johannes Brahms - Es ist ein' Ros

Johann Pachelbel - Vom Himmel hoch

Friedrich Zachau - Vom Himmel hoch

Friedrich Zachau - In dulci jubilo

J.S.Bach - In dulci jubilo

Admission free, retiring collection

St Andrew's Church, Church Street, Rugby, Warwickshire CV21 3PT

Dec 1st 13:00 Philip Bricher (Holy Trinity, Northampton)

Admission free, retiring collection

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

Jan 25th 2021 13:05 Gerard Brooks (Central Hall, Westminster)

Saint-Saëns arr Guilmant: Marche Héroïque

Saint-Saëns: Benediction Nuptiale

Saint-Saens: Improvisation no 7

Humperdinck arr Creser: Overture Hansel & Gretel

Sweelinck: Est-ce Mars

Deodat de Severac: Prelude (Suite in E minor)

Demessieux: Te Deu

Admission free

Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, London SE1 9DA.

Feb 1st 2021 13:15 Norman Harper (London)

Admission free, retiring collection.

Portsmouth Cathedral, High Street, Old Portsmouth, PO1 2HA

Mar 4th 2021 13:10 Norman Harper (London)

Admission free, retiring collection.

4. Royal Mail Christmas 2020 Collectors Sheet

(catalogue code AT120)

The government might be cancelling Christmas this year, who knows, but the Royal Mail are doing their bit to cheer us up by issuing a delightful collectible featuring the Christmas 2020 stained-glass Nativity scenes on 20 special stamps alongside labels capturing enhanced sections of the windows and quotes about the art of stained-glass windows.

The stamps are set against the strikingly illuminated stained-glass windows of St Mary's Church, "Norfolk" (the actual village is not disclosed in the Royal Mail publicity), and are shown on the next page.

The individual stamps show stained glass from the following churches:

Second Class	St Andrew's Church, East Lexham, Norfolk.
First Class	St Andrew's Church, Coln Rogers, Gloucestershire.
£1.45	Church of St James, Hollowell, Northamptonshire.
£1.70	All Saints' Church, Otley, West Yorkshire.
£2.50	St Columba's Church, Topcliffe, North Yorkshire.
£2.55	Christ Church, Coalville, Leicestershire.

Christmas 2020



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