

T H E  R G A N  
C L U B

*President: Eric Shepherd*

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2004

**January Newsletter contributions:** please send by December 24<sup>th</sup> to: Tim Roe, Trinity Flat, Kensington Gore, SW7 2QU Tel 020 7581 3493 Newsletter@organclub.org

**Journal contributions:** please send to Alec Dingwall, 7 Oak Lane, Isleworth, TW7 6HH Tel 020 8400 1927 Journal@organclub.org

**Royal Albert Hall and St Columba's, London Saturday 20 November 2004**

**09:00 Royal Albert Hall**

Please note timings, which are half an hour earlier than previously indicated in the October mailing. For those who were unable to attend the opening concerts at the Royal Albert Hall, this will be an ideal opportunity to hear about the restoration work as well as listening to two notable organists playing the organ. The event is being organised by the RAH authorities under the title 'Organ Restoration Workshop'. There will be light refreshments from **09:00**, included in the ticket price, and these will be followed at **10:00** by an introduction by the Curator of the organ, Dr John Birch. John Mander, whose firm restored the instrument, and Ian Bell will then talk about the restoration. To conclude the programme, there will be a recital by Martin Baker (Organist of Westminster Cathedral) and Clive Driskill-Smith (Sub-Organist of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford). The workshop is expected to end at about 12:30. Those who came to the opening concerts will no doubt want a further opportunity to hear this magnificent instrument.

This is a public event, not a private Club visit, and tickets costing £12 are being issued by the Royal Albert Hall Box Office starting on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2004. To apply, either telephone the Box Office on 020 7589 8212 or book online at [www.royalalberthall.com](http://www.royalalberthall.com). Numbers are restricted (no doubt because of fire insurance regulations), so book early.

**From 12:30 Holy Trinity Church, Prince Consort Road**

You are welcome to consume your lunch in the Vestry at the invitation of Tim Roe, who is the organist and our Newsletter editor. Please use the side entrance as the main doors will be locked. Tea and coffee will be available. A small donation is requested.

**14:00 St Columba's Church (Church of Scotland), Pont Street, London SW1**

Our President Eric Shepherd has organised a visit by the Club to hear the Walker organ of 1955. This fine instrument was designed by Douglas Hawkrigge the organist at the time, '... on English cathedral lines and devoid of the present day trend towards the Baroque'. A Cornet was added to the Great by Walker's in about 1990 in memory of Duncan Johnston who was organist for many years. The organ has been completely rebuilt by Principal Pipe Organs of York in 2003-4, who made new slide soundboards to replace the Roosevelt soundboards which were becoming

unreliable. The console has been rebuilt and the action is entirely new. The organ is unaltered tonally. There are 3 manuals and 70 speaking stops:

Great 16 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 4 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 2 III V 16 8 4  
Swell 8 8 8 8 4 4 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 2 2 IV 8 16 8 4  
Choir 16 8 8 8 8 8 8 4 4 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 2 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> II 16 8 8 8 V 16 8 4  
Pedal 32 16 16 16 16 16 16 8 8 8 4 4 III 16 16 16 8 8 4

There is a 1-manual tracker organ in the London Scottish Regiment Chapel by Hofbauer of Germany: 8 4 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 2 II with Pedal coupler. There is also a 2-manual 20-stop Hunter pneumatic organ in the Hall which is in poor condition.

There will be a meetings charge of £1 payable for this, but there will be no tea as there are numerous facilities nearby in Brompton Road. The afternoon is expected to end around 15:30.

**Travel**

London Underground to Knightsbridge (Piccadilly line) or South Kensington (Piccadilly, District/Circle lines). From Knightsbridge station, take the exit for the south side of Knightsbridge and walk across the junction with Brompton High Street to Knightsbridge. Buses 9, 10 and 52 run to the Royal Albert Hall, the bus stop being located just beyond the Hall. From South Kensington station, take the Museums exit (preferably the subway if it is open by that time) and walk up Exhibition Road, turning left into Prince Consort Road and right into Albert Court.

To get to St. Columba's from the Royal Albert Hall, walk down Exhibition Road (towards South Kensington station), turn left at the traffic lights into Cromwell Gardens, go past the Victoria and Albert Museum front entrance and the Oratory, then cross over Brompton Road and turn into Beauchamp Place, which becomes Pont Street. The church is on the right soon after the junction with Walton Street. For those who do not wish to walk, there are always plenty of taxis along Kensington Road, which can be economical if several share the cost. Alternatively, take a bus 9, 10 or 52 from opposite the Royal Albert Hall to Knightsbridge Underground station and, starting from Sloane Street, walk down Basil Street and Walton Street to the junction with Beauchamp Place/Pont Street.

**Bookings** for the morning event direct to the Royal Albert Hall (see above); there is no need to book for the afternoon.

**Greenwich and Deptford Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2004**

*Hunting for a Drake by the light of a Starr*

**12:30 St Alfege, Greenwich**

An organ with a long history, last heard by Club members in its previous home, the lower Chapel of Eton College. Originally by Lewis, much changed by Hunter, worked on by Harrisons and finally moved here by David Wells in 2000.

Ch: 8 8 8 8 8 4 8 8 8 8 Pos: 8 4 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 2 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> III Gt: 16 8 8 8 8 8 4 4 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 2 IV 8  
Sw: 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 V 16 8 4 Ped: 32 16 16 16 16 8 8 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> 4 4 III 16 16 8 8

**14:00 Our Lady of the Assumption RC Church, Deptford**

One of only a small handful of untouched organs in London by its builders, Bishop Starr & Richardson. In poor health, but well worth hearing whilst we are in the district.

Ch: 8 8 8 4 Sw: 16 8 8 8 4 2 II 8 [Yes, no Great organ] Ped: 16

## 15:00 St Paul, Deptford

After a disastrous fire here a few years ago, it was decided not to restore the old organ, but to purchase a new instrument. This organ, installed in time to coincide with the complete restoration of the church (Thomas Archer 1713 – 1730, which Pevsner judged ‘one of the most moving 18<sup>th</sup> c. churches in London’), is by William Drake. Designed as an 18<sup>th</sup> c. style instrument, it is uncompromising and will be a challenge to players. But the sound – ah, it’s simply beautiful.

Ch: 8 8 4 2 II 8 Gt: 8 8 4 2<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> 2 1<sup>3</sup>/<sub>5</sub> II-III V 8 4 Sw: 8 8 4 2 II 8 Ped: 16 8 16 8

### Travel

Greenwich is very accessible by public transport, but parking (I believe, as a non-driver myself) is very difficult, both here and at Deptford. There are plenty of trains from London Bridge (starting from Charing Cross or Cannon Street) taking some 8 minutes to Greenwich station (a suitable train seems to be the 12:00 from London Bridge). For those visiting Greenwich for the first time, come out of the station, turn left, and a walk of a few hundred metres will bring you to our first venue. Alternatively, the Docklands Light Railway brings you into the very centre of Greenwich (Cutty Sark station): well worth using this fascinating railway system if you have yet to do so!

Deptford is about 1½ km. from Greenwich, for which we walk (unfortunately through a very unattractive part of London). Full directions will be given on the day.

It has not been possible to arrange tea, so it is not necessary to inform me in advance of your intention to be with us for what is sure to be an interesting organic afternoon

*David Willey*

---

## All Souls’ Church, Langham Place, London W1 Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> January

---

*We will convene at 15:00. The next newsletter will confirm if we are to meet at ‘another large romantic organ, within walking distance’, with a likely entry time of 13:00.*

Although the Club last visited All Souls’ just five years ago, we return for a meeting of a different type. Our member Gerard Brooks, the Associate Director of Music at All Souls’, will give an illustrated lecture entitled **The English Organ and the interpretation of French Music.**

Having specialized for some years in French organs and music, and having made many acclaimed CDs on French organs, few are more eminently able than Mr Brooks to demonstrate how French repertoire may best be rendered on English-style organs. The event promises to be a stimulating and an informative one, and I am sure there will be a good turn-out for it. Visitors too will be most welcome; the charge for the day will be £3 per person.

The lecture-demonstration will end at 16:30, after which the organ will be available for members to play until 17:30. There are many tea-houses and restaurants nearby to suit all tastes.

Built by Alfred Hunter in 1913, the organ was rebuilt after war damage by Henry Willis in 1951 and enlarged when again rebuilt by Harrison & Harrison in 1976, as part of a major reconstruction of the church. It has two consoles, four manual divisions and 75 speaking stops. A new piston system with 256 memories and a sequencer was recently installed on the movable chancel console. The synoptic specification is as follows:

Great	16	16	8	8	8	4	4	2 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	2	IV-V	IV	16	8	4					
Swell	8	8	8	8	4	4	2	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	III	16	8	16	8	4					
Positive	8	4	4	2	2	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	II	III	V	16	8	4	8						
Solo	16	8	8	8	8	4	2 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	2	1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	1	8	8	8	8					
Pedal	32	16	16	16	16	10 <sup>2</sup> / <sub>3</sub>	8	8	4	4	2	IV	32	16	16	16	8	4	4

The nearest Underground station is Oxford Circus, and the church stands conspicuously at the top of Regent Street, next to Broadcasting House. There is no congestion charge on Saturdays, but parking is on meters until 6.30 p.m.

*Colin Goulden*

---

## Ireland Tour 2005

---

Next year’s tour will be to the Republic of Ireland, starting on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May and ending on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June. The itinerary and arrangements are still being formulated but, provisionally, it is intended that we shall spend the first 3 days in Dublin. We plan to visit the 2 Church of Ireland cathedrals as well as the Roman Catholic pro-cathedral, Trinity College and the National Concert Hall plus others. Moving on, we will visit Maynooth University, the church in Tullamore, cathedrals at Mullingar and Kilkenny and stay in Waterford for the next two nights. We shall visit both cathedrals in Waterford and the twin churches in Wexford. For the remaining nights we shall be based in Cork, visiting not only St Fin Barre’s Cathedral, and St, Mary’s Catholic Cathedral, but also Cobh Cathedral and others in Cork itself. Scenic journeys round the countryside will include Killarney, Bantry and Kinsale, and will also take in a number of other attractive organs. We shall hear instruments originally built in mid-Victorian times as well as more modern examples, and builders will range from the one-time leading Irish firm of Telford, the locally well-known firm of T W Magahy (later taken over by Conacher), to Hill, Walker, Willis, Harrison & Harrison, Kenneth Jones, Flentrop, and Frobenius.

Those who were on the 1987 Irish tour should note that on this tour we are visiting a number of areas and churches which we did not visit last time. In fact we will only be visiting eight organs that we saw then, and two of those have been rebuilt since.

There will be a group flight from Heathrow to Dublin at 11:05 with a return flight from Cork to Heathrow leaving at 17:00 using Aer Lingus. The coach will meet the group flight, will be with us for all the travelling days and transport us to Cork airport at the end of the tour. Accommodation will be on a dinner (but for up to 3 nights you will be able to make your own arrangements), bed and breakfast basis in twin rooms at good quality hotels. In case you wish to book accommodation for extra nights before and/or after the tour, the contact details for the hotels will be given in the formal announcement in January. Costs are expected to be around £700 for sharing a twin room, the single supplement around £275 (all rooms are priced as a room not per person) and the group flight around £120. Much depends on the exchange rate to the Euro, of course.

A further announcement with the final arrangements will be issued in January with a booking form. I hope you will come on this very interesting and scenically attractive tour.

*Eric Shepherd*