

T H E  R G A N
C L U B

President: Eric Shepherd

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2005

January Newsletter contributions: please send by December 27th 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

Saturday 19th November Epsom, Ewell, Woodmansterne

The Derby on Epsom Downs is well known as one of the big days in the British sporting calendar. Epsom itself has been, and still is, a major network industrial area: a suburban town supplying the City with many of its employees. It has a huge area of open countryside, is close to many of the capital's trunk roads, and is within striking distance of other major towns in Surrey. All in all a good place to live, with a lively local arts scene based around a theatre, and an Arts College which is well respected within the design community.

Epsom & Ewell are a linked Borough Council, with Ewell being the cinderella of the pair. Woodmansterne is a largely forgotten bywater; try finding the village! Road signs are a commodity in short supply.

Travel We start the day with the coach meeting London trains which arrive at approx. 10:15. The Horsham train leaves Victoria at 09:30, arr. 10:09. The Guildford train leaves Waterloo at 09:39 arr. 10:16 This is a leafy suburb. Be wary of leaves on the line.

There is a small car park at the station, and others around, but some with only a short time limit. The other option is to park at the first church, and the coach will drop you back there later in the day (though this car park is not owned by the church).

10:45 St Martin-le-Tour, Epsom

The parish church in Church Street, on the B284. Be very careful: the church is opposite the King's Head public house, and requires a very sharp turn into the front of the church. This is a church of cathedral proportions, which is sure to keep us interested for the full time of our visit.

The organ was built by Norman & Beard in 1908, rebuilt by the local firm Corbett & Bielby in 1965, and rebuilt in 1998 by Principal Pipe Organs of York. It is a large 3-manual.

Gt 16 8 8 8 4 4 4 2²/₃ 2 III 8 8 4 Sw 8 8 8 8 4 II III 16 8 8
Ch 8 8 4 4 2²/₃ 2 1³/₅ 8 4 Ped 32 16 16 16 8 8 8 4 16 16 8

12:00 Christ Church, Epsom Common

Just out of the town on the Oxshott Road B280, to hear what has recently been achieved by the Shepherd Brothers during their overhaul/rebuild of this instrument. (Hill & Son 1876, rebuilt Percy Beard of Epsom 1937, new console John Coulson of Bristol 1995. Rebuilt B.C. Shepherd & Sons 1997-8).

Gt 16 8 8 8 8 4 2²/₃ 2 III 8 Sw 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 1¹/₅ III 16 8 8 4
Ped 32 16 16 8 8 16

The church is in a lovely setting, and some may like to have their lunch there, but the coach will take us down into Epsom itself for us to find suitable nourishment at approx 13:15, and then pick us up at 14:15 to travel to Ewell.

14:30 St Mary's Parish Church, Ewell

This church, while being not far from the madding crowd, has a tranquil setting, and is easy to find just off the A24 at the aptly named 'Organ Roundabout'. One could imagine the setting some hundred years ago, with the museum opposite and what must have been a wonderful large house in a parkland setting. Ewell is small but well worth a jaunt along the byroads.

We shall hear the wonderful Father Willis organ of 1889, which was installed in 1975 (having come from St. Augustine's Highbury) to replace the 3-manual Father Willis destroyed by fire in 1973. It is a large and comprehensive instrument.

Gt 16 8 8 8 4 4 2²/₃ 2 III 16 8 4
Sw 16 8 8 8 8 4 2 III 16 8 8 8 4 Ch 8 8 8 8 4 2 8 8 Ped 16 16 16 8 8 16

We take a short coach ride across the downs to...

16:00 St. Peter's Church, Woodmansterne

A bywater, and really more should be known about this pretty place. Some may know the famous slide collection by the same name. (Are they still a going concern?)

Thanks are due to the organist Richard Shipman, who with a group of enthusiasts raised a tremendous amount of money so the church could acquire a new Nicholson organ. Simon Preston gave the opening recital in 2002. This is not a large 2-manual, but gives a good account of itself. Visually unusual nowadays, in that it has a spotted metal front with a large faceted front pipe.

Gt 16 8 8 4 4 2²/₃ 2 1³/₅ IV 8 Sw 8 8 8 4 4 2 III 8 Ped 16 16 8 4 16

A modest **Tea** will be available.

Do come on what will be a most interesting day. It will be our first visit to Christ Church Epsom and Woodmansterne. We have not visited St Martin's Epsom since the mid 1960s, and Ewell since the mid 1970s.

Please let Keith Bance: 0208 866 4158 or Eric Shepherd: 0208 958 9919 eric@shepherd0001.fsnet.co.uk know if you will be needing the coach. Car parking is possible at Christ Church Epsom and Woodmansterne, but it is easier to leave cars at Epsom and use the coach.

Keith S. Bance

Streatham area Saturday 10th December

A very interesting half-day of good organs and churches, all within walking distance of one another.

12:30 St Peter's, Leigham Court Road

A vintage 4-manual William Hill

Gt 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 2²/₃ 2 III 8 4 Sw 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 2²/₃ 2 II 16 8 8 4
Ch 8 8 8 4 4 2 8 8 Ped 32 16 16 16 8 8 8 16

14:15 St Margaret the Queen, Barcombe Avenue, Streatham Hill SW2

A good Harrison & Harrison 3-manual with tubular pneumatic action

Gt 16 8 8 8 8 4 2²/₃ 2 III 8 Sw 8 8 8 8 4 III 16 8 8 4
Ch 16 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 8 Ped 32 16 16 16 8 8 8 16

16:15 St Leonard, Streatham High Road

The previous Walker organ was completely destroyed in the fire of 1975. The present 2-manual was built by Walker in 1979. Tracker action. Dame Gillian Weir gave the inaugural recital, and the organ has attracted recitalists including John Scott and Jane Parker-Smith.

Gt 8 8 4 2 2²/₃ 1³/₅ III 8 Sw 8 8 8 4 2 III 16 8 Ped 16 8 8 4 2 16

Tea: it may be possible to arrange something at the second church. Numbers for attendance are not required.

Travel: unless you know the area well, do not travel by car. The first church is about 15 mins walk from Streatham Hill station (Southern Region). There is a bus from the station (417) which takes you near the church. I have been informed that we cross the A23. Those travelling from London Bridge or Victoria, please check timetables. All other directions will be given at the first church.

George Gray

Sweden 2006

The next Organ Club tour, organised by our Past-President Colin Menzies, will be to Sweden, a country which has a distinctive organ-building tradition which is not well-known outside its borders. Organs of all periods from the 1720s to the present will be included, with a slight emphasis on the romantic organs of the late-19th and early-20th centuries.

The tour will begin in Gothenburg on the afternoon of Tuesday 22nd August. The party will travel on Saturday 26th August by train to Stockholm where the tour will end on the morning of Saturday 2nd September. We hope that participants will wish to come on the whole tour but it may be possible for a few to come to either Gothenburg or Stockholm as self-contained mini-packages.

For full details of travel, costs, and an outline itinerary, please contact the Treasurer by e-mail: RichardBlanch@aol.com or leave your name & address on the answering machine at 01707 322166, or write to him at 1 Chedburgh, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire AL7 2PU. Members who asked for those details at the London visit in September or at Lichfield in October should have received them by now.

St Alphege, Burnt Oak January 20th

14:00 We convene at this church which is close to Burnt Oak tube station, in Edgware. We are delighted that our distinguished member **ROGER FISHER** (formerly organist of Chester Cathedral) will give a masterclass. Four young Organ Club members will take part. This will be followed by tea.

At 5 pm Roger will give a recital. This will be a very special event, so please support it.

Advance notice: AGM March 2006

Please note that as our chosen venue is not available on the 3rd Saturday the 2006 AGM will be on Saturday 25th March.

Subscriptions for 2006

Once again our splendid Treasurer, Richard Blanch, has so managed the Club's finances that there is no need to change subscriptions rates, so they remain at: Senior £19, Ordinary £26, Student £10.

RECITALS A listing of concerts by, or promoted by, our members.

St. Mary's Parish Church, Ewell, Surrey

Saturday 26th November at 7.30

Julie Ainscough (Director of Music)

Notre Dame de France, Leicester Place WC2

2nd Wednesday of month, at 19:45 Admission £10

Nov 9 Anne Marsden-Thomas

Dec 14 Anne Page

Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans

Tuesdays at 12.30

Nov 1 Michael Mizgailo-Cayton, St John's Wood

Nov 8 Peter Moore, Cheddington

Nov 15 Andrew Earis, St Sepulchre, Holborn

Nov 22 Bridget Marshall, Holy Sepulchre,
Northampton

Nov 29 James Davy, St Albans Abbey

Dec 6 Simon Pusey, St Mary's, Hemel Hempstead

Dec 13 Martin Penny, All Saints, Hertford

Dec 20 & 27 No recitals

Great Malvern Priory

Dec 3 12:00 Roy Massey

St Michael's Cornhill

Mondays at One

November: Jonathan Rennert, Jonathan Bunney,
Duncan Ferguson, Anthony Gritton

Dec 5: Robert Smith Dec 12: Andrew Earis

Victoria Hall Hanley at 12:00

Nov 5 Ian Tracey

Dec 10 Alex Mason

Alexandra Palace at 19:30

Dec 13 Donald Mackenzie

Holy Trinity, Prince Consort Road

Friday 18th November at 7.30

Purcell Quartet, with tenors Charles Daniels and
Julian Podger, Robert Woolley (chamber organ &
harpsichord) £12 / £10 (incl. buffet supper: £16)

To kick-start the Organ Fund!

htsk.co.uk