

June 2003

00042

00042

FROM THE EDITOR . . .

You should receive this shortly before our next meeting see page 2 for full details.

Subscriptions 2003

These remain at £10 (£5 for those at school or college). So far I have received 64 subscriptions of an expected 80. if you have not yet sent me your sub you will find a reminder slip with this newsletter - *please don't delay, pay today!!*

Oundle Courses

13 - 20 July in Oundle **International Summer School**

22 - 26 July in Oxford **Prospective Organ Scholars Summer School**.

Saturday 4 October **get ahead! inspiration day for young organists age 10 - 16** at St Giles Cripplegate and St Lawrence Jewry with Catherine Ennis and James Parsons.

Further information from OIF, The Creed Chapel, Ashton, Oundle, Northants PE8 5LD Tel/fax 01832 272026 www.oundlefestival.org.uk

Sarum College Courses

23 - 26 July **Improvisation for ALL** with Martin Baker, Daniel Moulton and Andrew Smith

12 - 16 August **Summer Course for Young Organists** age c. 11 - 24 years with Daniel Moulton, Iain Quinn, David Saint and Gordon Stewart.

Further information from Sarum College, 19 The Close, Salisbury SP1 2EE Tel 01722 424800 www.sarum.ac.uk

News from neighbouring associations . .

Chelmsford: June sees the AGM, July a visit to

churches in the Thaxted area, and (hoping for good weather) in August a Social Evening with supper and drinks in the garden.

City of London & Eastern visit the new William Drake organ in the RC church in Station Road, Chingford, on 23 June.

Revd Patrick Henderson has written about the organ under construction at Holy Innocents, 134 Tottenham Lane, Hornsey. The console and pipework were purchased from a church in Canada and are being installed in a west-end gallery by the church's organist Gilbert Reines and a team of helpers.

EDO A members will be welcome at 6 pm on Sunday 13 July for the service of dedication which will be followed by a recital.

| | |
|-------|---|
| Great | 16 8 8 8 4 4 2 III IV-V 8 |
| Swell | 16 8 8 8 8 8 4 4 2 ² / ₃ 2 1 ³ / ₅ 1 ¹ / ₃ III IV 16 8 8 |
| Choir | 8 8 4 2 1 II 16 8 8 |
| Pedal | 32 16 16 16 8 8 8 4 2 V 16 16 8 |

Mervyn Hogg has written about the **St Giles Organ Project** (you may have seen the Appeal Brochure or the advert for the Organ Marathon on p.166 of the current *Organists' Review*), the appeal is for £300000 to restore the existing instrument and provide two new small organs (one at the east end, and one in a specially sound-proofed room under the tower). A major fundraising event is the 120 hour Organ Marathon starting at 6 pm on 16th June. Highlights include Kevin Bowyer playing the complete Widor and Vierne Symphonies (June 17), and the complete organ works of Messiaen (June 20), Anne Marsden Thomas 06.00 - 08.00 daily and many other recitals by teachers and pupils of the school, the final day (Sat 21st) is a fun day and includes requests. For further information ring 020 7638

8285 or visit www.stgilesorgan.com Mervyn will be playing for 2 hours and hopes that fellow EDOA members may wish to sponsor him or the appeal in general. To contact him ring 01895 638069 or e-mail mervyn.hogg@blueyonder.co.uk

EDOA Future Events

Monday 9 June, 7.30 A visit to the Cathedral Organs showroom in Welwyn Garden City, the UK outlet of Eminent Organs. Some may remember the visit we had to Allen's showroom in March 1997, this is not as large, but there will be several instruments to play. I was most impressed with their organs when I visited early last year, and have been delighted with my purchase which I've had since October. Do come to the showroom and see and hear. The address is 4 Mundells Court, Welwyn Garden City. For any further information contact Robin Coxon 01707 324011.

Directions: From the South take A1(M) north-bound leaving at J4 after the Hatfield tunnel - at the roundabout after crossing over the motorway take the 1st exit (A6129 Stanborough), at the next roundabout 2nd exit (A6129 WGC) - keep on this over the next two roundabouts, signs will say Business and Industrial Area. At the next roundabout the road becomes A1000 and is Broadwater Road. After the traffic lights (straight over) at the intersection with B195 the name changes to Bessemer Road, there is one more roundabout before you enter the Mundells one-way system. As you approach the system, the right hand lane is marked *other routes* - take this lane and keep to the right as you start on the one-way system - at the next roundabout take the 3rd exit (Town Centre, Hertford) and almost immediately there are two adjacent entrances on the left the second of which is Mundells Court. Turn right along the front of the buildings which face onto the road, 4 is at the right hand end of these.

If on the one-way system you reach a turning off to B1000 Tewin you've gone too far! Complete the one-way circuit and try again!

From the North leave A1(M) at J6 head for WGC and A1000.

July We will not be organising an EDOA event, but hope you may visit the St Albans International Organ Festival 9 - 19 July. If you would like full details ring 01727 844765 for a brochure or visit www.organfestival.com The competition finals are on Friday July 18 improvisation at 10.00 and interpretation at 19.00.

Saturday 13 September An afternoon visit to the Handel House Museum in Brook Street, London and St George's, Hanover Square. We shall meet at the Museum (entry charge approx. £4.50) at 2 p.m. and have time to look round the interesting exhibits in this house where Handel lived for many years. (There is often live music as well.)

Following time for a drink at one of the many local coffee shops, we shall move on to St George's, where Handel often worshipped. Simon Williams will demonstrate the very versatile chamber organ which is housed there, but was originally built for the Museum. There will be time afterwards for members to play both this instrument and the Church's main organ. Please ring Roger Carter 01582 720095 **by 3rd September** if you would like to join the visit, or for any further information.

Saturday 25 October, 7.30 p.m. Our annual Recital by Members at St Saviour's, St Albans. For any further information contact Jeremy Ewen 01707 646259

November date tbc At Home, Speaker - Eric Pask. For any further information contact Paul Minchinton 01707 323742

Vacant Posts

St Nicholas, Church Green, Harpenden
Assistant Organist (competent player, able to take occasional rehearsals) required. Large choir of boys and adults, and repertoire; cathedral visits, recitals, etc. 40-stop Binns/HNB; £700 + fees. Please write or 'phone Eric Pask (c/o Church or 01582 712789)

St John's Church, South Hatfield require an Organist. Sung Eucharist Sunday at 10 a.m.. Two organs: one a Makin electronic, the other pipe. Enquiries to Revd J Crocker (01707 262689)

Why were Esther and Marcus in Salisbury?

The answer is that they had joined 13 other aspiring students for the Annual five-day Easter Course for Organists at Sarum College. This course has many exclusive facilities that make it very worthwhile - the organs, the location, the accommodation, the tutors, and the ambiance to name just five of them.

The organs used range from the Cathedral Father Willis/Harrison, through a Conacher and a William Hill, to the two small tracker-action practice instruments in the College.

The College is located in the peace and tranquility of the Cathedral Close, the accommodation is comfortable, with excellent, super-abundant food.

Students of all ages and abilities are accepted: this year there were 8 in the A (for Advanced) group, including one from Spain and one from Queensland, Australia. There were 7 in the B group, including Esther and me.

The Tutors were Robert Fielding, (Course Director), Daniel Moulton, Andrew Smith and Gordon Stewart. They were always able to give a convincing answer, and often a demonstration, to answer any question about fingering, footing, performance style, registration etc.

Most mornings and afternoons there were two tutor sessions for each group, separated by a refreshment break, a total of 14 in all. The students offered what they thought was a suitable piece for the organ concerned, and the Tutor chose those that were to play. The ensuing Master Class was unfailingly helpful and interesting. What could one want more than to be part of such a dedicated group, all helping each other with a common purpose?

Daniel Moulton devoted one session to a very thorough account of his researches into *Performance Nerves and how to cope with them*. Several students also volunteered their experiences and thus we gained details of various systems, some of which work for some people, and some for others.

Gordon Stewart gave a Lecture/Recital to explain the construction, figuration and rhythms used by J S Bach in his famous Passacaglia in C minor. He used only an 8 ft stop on the College Chapel

organ, so it was possible to hear clearly and to comprehend every demonstration of each point of this marvellously lucid presentation.

There were also extra delights in the Cathedral - Evensong every evening, a rehearsal for Compline, which the Course then sang at dusk in the Cathedral (with authentic Voluntaries played by Andrew Smith on their Snetzler Chamber organ) and a recital by Robert Fielding to show the glories of the Father Willis pipework.

A half-day excursion was made on Wednesday to Wells, (where Ray Willis was the local facilitator) to visit St Cuthbert's Church, the Cathedral Music School (for a Master Class with Rupert Gough on the new Peter Collins instrument there) and finally the Cathedral for Evensong. After this Rupert demonstrated the organ very thoroughly, and there was an opportunity for a few Students who were in the right place at the right time to play briefly.

It was good to get away from the normal domestic routine to this Centre of Excellence, and to be free to concentrate solely on music, worship and organs for five whole days. Everyone left refreshed, encouraged, full of new ideas, and determined to develop a better rapport with their listeners.

Marcus Knight

Thanks to Marcus, a long time member of the Chelmsford Association and for several years a subscriber to this newsletter, for this report.

Hymn Workshop

The afternoon arranged by the Teachers' Forum on hymn playing and hymn preludes was led by Simon Williams at Trinity-at-Bowes Methodist Church on Saturday 5 April.

The opening hymn *O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness* tune *Was lebet*, was played by Kathy Westwood and verses 1 & 2 were sung by all present. The singing was accompanied with a bright registration and a clear tune. This was followed by *Laudate Dominum*.

Mark Harris played the *Old 100th* from A Marsden Thomas' *Organist's Hymnbook*. We were then entertained with Simon giving a demonstration of how a good organist walks - with his knees together and playing with the in-

side edge of the feet. Kojo Hagan played the hymn *May the mind of Christ my Saviour*, tune *St Leonard's*, and experienced, for the first time, people singing while he played.

Simon talked about the length of playovers, and how, in general, the last note of the playover and the gap must be the same lengths as at the end of the verses.

Esther Dunstone played us a soothing and calm performance of Prelude on *Werde Munter* by Percy Whitlock. The tune is a Lutheran chorale, by J Schop, of about 1640. Margaret Carr then played a Prelude on *Stuttgart* by C H Trevor, Maureen Haydon played an early work of J S Bach - Prelude on *Nun ruhen alle Walder*, only the first line of the chorale is played in the piece.

The final piece of the afternoon was Prelude on *Rhosymedre* by Vaughan Williams, played by Rosemary Knight. This is based on the communion hymn *Author of life divine*, one can imagine this played by a string orchestra with a pizzicato double bass playing the pedal line. The manual parts waft around above the precise and musical pedal line.

We are most grateful for Simon's expertise in leading the workshop, and thank Joyce Beaumont for making all the arrangements with Trinity-at-Bowes.

Susan Dingle

St Saviour's, St Albans, 26 April

It is not often that the EDOA has the chance to visit a church containing two pipe organs, but this was the case for our visit to St Saviour's, one fine Saturday at the end of April. Even better (for those with previous memories of the place) was the pleasant surprise of seeing the inside again - but this time resplendent in its re-decorated state.

The eight or so members who gathered at the church were given a warm welcome from the organist, Christopher Muhley, who with characteristic skill and enthusiasm demonstrated the range of sounds available from the two instruments (one at a time . . .). Later on those of us who wished to do so had the opportunity to try both instruments for themselves.

From the nave, the most obvious sign of musical activity is the 1989 Peter Collins 2-manual instrument belonging to the IOF (International Organ Festival). This, based on Andreas Silbermann's ideas, sits at the crossing (nowadays also adjacent to the choir stalls and the nave altar). From directly in front of the case the voicing can seem a little fierce, but the effect is helpfully mellowed from a listening position down the nave. The draw-stops jut out from the casework in a vertical column on either side of the keyboards; Chris described to us the challenges he faced at each service in organising registration changes for even a simple hymn, let alone anything more complicated. (Presumably the original Silbermann design assumed that the organist would have one or more assistants - and a vast west-end gallery to house them in).

The other (the original) instrument, housed on the north side of the chancel, is a 3-manual organ originally by Nicholson in 1898, but given a degree of treatment by several others, most recently Saxon Aldred. If one looks at the stop-list and compares it with the space available, there appears to be plenty of room for the comprehensive specification, but in fact the pipework is shoe-horned into a restricted area so as to make room for a vestry to the east side, from which a passageway underneath the pipework leads into the north transept.

About the only advantage of this arrangement is that Chris can move unobtrusively from one instrument to the other if the need arises. However, this looks to be small compensation for the lack of any registration aids (or even a mirror) on either organ - truly a triumph of musicianship over ergonomics (or the lack thereof!).

Not having played the Peter Collins, I cannot comment on how it felt from the console, but the other console is typically comfortable in the relationship of the keyboards to the stops. The key action, however is rather heavy, even to someone accustomed to tracker action. Again, registration changes require dexterity and forward planning if they are not to interrupt the flow of the music.

Once everyone that wished to had played the instruments (or inspected their innards, as the case

may be) we said thank you and farewell to Christopher Muhley, and most of us were tempted by the thought of tea, which was kindly provided by Rosemary Knight at her home a few streets away. Good cakes, good company, and the cup that cheers:- a very good way to round off the afternoon.

Our thanks to Christopher Muhley, Jeremy Ewen and Rosemary Knight for their several contributions to the event.

Paul Minchinton

Other Events

Royal Festival Hall

Recitals at 7.30 £10 (£8 concessions)
free pre-concert discussion/talk at 6.15
Bookings 020 7960 4242 / www.rfh.org.uk
www.sbc.org.uk

Tuesday 14 October James O'Donnell

St Paul's Cathedral

Sundays 5 - 5.30 Staff and guest organists
February to December with occasional exceptions
including Franck recitals by John Scott on
14, 21, 28 September, 5, 12 October
Celebrity Recitals first Thursdays 6.30
5 June John Scott

3 July Gerre & Judith Hancock

7 August Huw Williams

4 September Johannes Unger

2 October Louis Robilliard

Information 020 7236 6883

Southwark Cathedral

Mondays 1.10 - 1.50 (except Bank Holidays,
Holy Week and the week before Christmas).
Peter Wright, Stephen Disley and guests
Information 020 7407 3708

Westminster Abbey

Sundays 5.45 - 6.20 Abbey Organists and guests
Information 020 7654 4854

Mixtures Tuesdays 7 p.m.

10 June Organ (Clive Driskill-Smith) and Percussion

8 July Organ (James O'Donnell) and Orchestra

Westminster Cathedral

Sundays 4.45 pm Cathedral Organists and guests
Information 020 7798 9057

All Souls, Langham Place W1

Second Monday of month 7.30 - 8.45

Information 020 7580 3522

Jun 9 Malcolm Riley

Jul 14 Sophie-Véronique Choplin

Aug 11 Jérôme Faucheur

Sep 8 Richard Pilliner

St Michael's Church, Cornhill, EC3.

Mondays 1.00-1.50 (except August and Bank Holidays)

June

9 Daniel Hyde 23 Clive Driskill-Smith

30 David Briggs

July

7 Alessandro Bianchi 14 Christopher Nickol

21 Duncan Ferguson 28 Paul Derrett

Jonathan Rennert or guests Information 020 7626 8841

St Martin in the Fields, Trafalgar Square

First Monday of each month at 1.05 pm Info 020 7766 1111

St Lawrence Jewry, Gresham Street EC2.

Tuesdays 1.00 - 1.45 (except August and
Tuesdays following Easter and Christmas)

Catherine Ennis or guests

Information 020 7600 9478

St Magnus the Martyr, Lower Thames Street

Second Tuesday of the month 1.05 - 1.45

Susan Heath-Downey or guests Information 020 7626 4481

Wesley's Chapel, City Road

Second Tuesday of the month 1.05pm

except July & August Information 020 7253 2262

St Matthew's Westminster, Great Peter Street SW1

Second Wednesday of the month 1.05 - 1.40

Jun 11 Catherine Ennis Jul 9 Joanna Paul

Sep 10 Jennifer Chou Oct 8 Andrew Sampson

Nov 12 Stephen Disley

Information 020 7582 6634

The Temple Church, Fleet Street EC4

Wednesdays in term time 1.15 - 1.45

June

11 Robert Quinney 18 Mark Williams

July 2 1.00 - 1.55 Naji Hakim

October

8 Ian le Grice 15 Clive Driskill-Smith

Information 020 7353 3470 www.templechurch.com

St Peter's, Eaton Square, SW1

First Wednesday of the month 1.10 pm

Andrew Smith or guests Information 020 7823 1205

St John's, Smith Square

Thursdays at 1 pm

Jun 12 Jurgen Benko Oct 23 Wm Whitehead + Tpt

July 17 **7.30 p.m.** David King

Information 020 7222 1061 www.sjss.org.uk

St Margaret, Lothbury, EC2.

Thursdays (except August) 1.10 - 2.00

Richard Townend or European celebrities

Information 020 7606 8330, 020 7589 1206

St James', Clerkenwell Green, EC1.

Third Thursday of each month 1.10 - 1.55

Gerard Brooks or guests

Information 020 7251 1190 (11 am - 3 pm)