



# EAST SURREY ORGANISTS' ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

**SATURDAY 7 NOVEMBER – TADWORTH  
TALK ON ORGAN PIPE VOICING by KEITH BANCE**

### From the Meetings Secretary

This month Richard Shipman has arranged a demonstration and talk on organ pipe voicing by Keith Bance, one of the UK's foremost reed voicers at 2.30pm in The Meeting Room, The Church of the Good Shepherd, Station Approach Road, Tadworth, KT20 5AE.

*(light refreshments will be available during an interval)*

Keith's presentation will feature both flue and reed voicing together with other aspects of general organ building, and will include an open discussion on the 'art of organ building'. Keith started his career in organ building in 1959 as an apprentice with J W Walker at Ruislip. He subsequently worked for Hill, Norman and Beard, and Rushworth and Dreaper, before establishing his own business in 1974. He has worked on many illustrious instruments in the UK and to name but a few: Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, St Bride's Fleet Street, Central Hall Westminster, and the revoicing of the reeds in French style in the church of Notre Dame de France, Leicester Square. Keith has helped to produce various CDs and these will be available to purchase during the afternoon.

The Meeting Room of the Church of the Good Shepherd is not visible from the road but is situated between the Church and the Church Hall. From Station Approach Road go up the steps in front of the Church Hall and follow the path on the left. While from The Avenue walk behind the west wall of the Church and the Room is the new building on your right. There is level access from The Avenue and suitable facilities for wheelchair users are in the Meeting Room.

### Travel

**By car** – from the A217 take the B2220 towards Tadworth and at the traffic lights turn right into Station Approach Road where the Church is 200m on the left. Park either in The Avenue (immediately before the Church) or in front of the Church Hall. From Epsom Downs take the B290 and the Church is 1¼ miles on the right.

**Train** – Tadworth is on the Tattenham Corner line with half hourly services from London Bridge, East Croydon and Purley. Turn left from Tadworth station and the Church is 200m ahead, past Barclays bank and the shops.

**Bus** - two regular bus services pass the Church, the 420 and the 460

PETER WRIGHT'S RECITAL – 3 OCTOBER 2009 by Melvin Hughes

Our Patron's recital at St Mark, Reigate on the Willis/Mander organ had been keenly anticipated and the evening did not in any way disappoint. This was a most varied and enterprising programme, comprising a well-judged balance of pieces that were well known, relative rarities and new items (to me at any rate).

It was good to hear the full set of Vaughan Williams' *Three Preludes on Welsh Hymn Tunes*, including the evergreen and very popular 'Rhosymedre'. Both this and the setting of 'Hyfrydol' have a suggestion of Bach about them and it was entirely appropriate that the *Chorale Prelude on 'Liebster Jesu'* (BWV 731) and the *Prelude and Fugue in A* (BWV 536) should follow. Peter used a curious solo effect for the former: the Choir Clarinet and Flute 4' in combination. I believe there is a debate as to when the latter was written – it may be an early piece – anyway, it was well worth hearing this relative rarity in this poised and fluid performance.

Judging by the silence at the end of S S Wesley's exquisite *Larghetto in F sharp minor*, this is a piece that has slipped out of all our repertoires, although it was popular in organ examination syllabuses at one time. Wesley was noted for his improvisations and this gentle piece, having set out the tune on a reed, follows with a graceful variation featuring flutes. The Franck *Pièce Héroïque* closed the first half of the recital and received a suitably splendid performance although somehow the heroic nature of the last few pages did not entirely come through in the St Mark's acoustic.

After a break for refreshment (kindly laid on by the St Mark's ladies) three pieces followed from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century French organ repertoire. Vierne wrote the four volumes of *Pieces de Fantaisie* during 1926-27, while taking a break from composing full-scale symphonies. They are symphonically conceived and are technically challenging. This performance of the *Hymne au soleil* proceeded with clarity whilst not neglecting the inherent lyricism.

The *'Deux danses à Agni Yavishtha'* by Jehan Alain portray the Hindu God of Fire. The dances contrast rhythm and timbre, the first, portraying the youthful Agni, has some brisk rhythmic passages, the second is a gentle dance portraying flames of fire, the fire going out with the final chord. A curiosity followed. Germaine Tailleferre, the only female and least known member of 'Les Six', wrote little, if anything, for the organ. The placid *'Nocturne'*, dating from 1977 is a transcription of a composition for wind ensemble.

The highlight of the evening was the last piece, Lionel Rogg's *'Partita Sopra "Nun freut euch"*'. Dating from 1975, this suite in seven movements reflects the forms and constructions of Baroque partitas. In a distinct dissonant musical language and very appealing on a first hearing, these were clearly technically very demanding indeed and they received an outstanding performance.

The penultimate movement was a Passacaglia, with a chordal, rather than single note theme. Not for the first time in my life I concluded that every organ recital should include a passacaglia! I went online that evening and purchased a copy – almost certainly before Peter reached his home!

We value very much the support that Peter gives to the Association as our Patron and are grateful for the readiness with which he responded to the invitation to give this recital. After necessary defrayment of expenses, a donation of £175 has been sent to the IAO Benevolent Fund.

## **FORTHCOMING ESOA EVENTS**

**December 5<sup>th</sup>** Visit two churches in Bromley: the Parish church and St. Mark's

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>** **AGM** at St. Katharine's, Merstham  
2.30 pm illustrated talk on the music of Kenneth Leighton by Adam Binks. Business Meeting after tea interval.

**February 13<sup>th</sup>** Visit three churches in the Hampton area

Details of further plans for the coming year will be revealed at the AGM.

## **OTHER EVENTS OF POSSIBLE INTEREST TO MEMBERS**

### **IN CROYDON**

At St. Michael's West Croydon at 7.30 pm on Thursdays in November:  
(£12, concessions £7)

5<sup>th</sup> Thierry Escaich (St. Etienne du Mont)

12<sup>th</sup> D'Arcy Trinkwon: complete Franck Organ Works I (Six Pieces)

19<sup>th</sup> D'Arcy Trinkwon: complete Franck Organ Works II (Trois Pieces, Trois chorals)

26<sup>th</sup> Olivier Latry (Notre-Dame de Paris)

D'Arcy Trinkwon is also giving a lunchtime concert on the Fairfield Hall organ on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> November at 1.05 pm (£5)

He is a talented player, and the fine Harrison organ is rarely given an airing. This concert deserves support.

### **IN LONDON**

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm in Westminster Abbey there is a celebration of the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Henry Purcell. ([www.westminster-abbey.org](http://www.westminster-abbey.org))

This will be broadcast on Radio 3 at 6.30 pm on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November (St. Cecilia's Day)

On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November at St. Giles, Cripplegate, the RCO & London Organ Forum ([www.rco.org.uk](http://www.rco.org.uk)) is presenting a study day on the keyboard music of Mendelssohn. This concludes with a concert of piano and organ music at 5 pm (£10).

## **ORGAN NEWS**

The organ of St. Michael Cornhill, venue of a long-running Monday lunchtime series of recitals, will only be used for services until Christmas, after which the instrument will be removed to Nicholson's works at Malvern for major restoration.

It is hoped that it will be re-installed during the summer of 2010, and that a series of special recitals can take place that autumn.

## **ROYAL MAIL**

In the event of a complete postal stoppage, the December newsletter will be distributed by e-mail to all those members who have given us their e-mail addresses. If you have an e-mail address and have not notified the Secretary, or if your address has changed since the publication of the Directory, please send to [esoa@btinternet.com](mailto:esoa@btinternet.com)

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ANY CONTRIBUTIONS, COMMENTS OR NEWS WILL BE WELCOME