

# Columns

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THE FRIENDS OF CHRIST CHURCH SPITALFIELDS  
REGISTERED CHARITY NO 276056

*The newsletter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields who are leading the restoration of Nicholas Hawksmoor's church, one of the most important Baroque churches in Europe.*

*Please support us by subscribing or making a donation: use the form with this issue, or telephone the Friends' office, 020 7247 4270, or visit our website: [www.christchurchspitalfields.org](http://www.christchurchspitalfields.org)*

## One more stop to go

The Friends are delighted to report that the organ is sounding and looking beautiful.

Christ Church was full for the opening recital and the organ led the enthusiastic singing of hymns at the preceding dedication service. The wonderful recital given by Friends' Patron John Scott allowed us to hear the remarkable range of sound from this magnificent instrument. Our memories of the concert have become even more precious as a little over a month later all were shocked to hear of John Scott's untimely death in New York following a successful European tour.

The Friends are now able to act upon an unexpected and extraordinary discovery made shortly before the completion of the restoration. A member of the British Institute of Organ Studies came across a footnote in Sir John Hawkins' *General History of the Science and Practice of Music* (1776) referring to a 'Quintadena stop' on the organ at Spitalfields.

No contemporary description of the 1735 Bridge organ has ever been traced: the earliest list of stops being recorded in 1804 by a member of the Leffler family. It noted the presence of a 'Flute to C Faut' on the Choir Organ (the lowest keyboard). None of the pipes survived, and the design and musical character of this register remained something of a mystery. The only physical evidence offered by the Bridge soundboard was that it was an 8' rank, beginning at tenor c, and that it stood next to the Choir reeds. In the absence of any further clues, the builders and consultants agreed to provide an open metal flute of a type that was known from French organs of the period.

The discovery of the Hawkins' reference helps to solve the mystery. The Quintadena is a rank commonly found on Renaissance and Baroque organs in the Netherlands and in Germany, but it was very rare in England. One was proposed for the organ in St Paul's Cathedral in 1694 but it is not certain that it was ever inserted. Hawkins may therefore have been correct in claiming that the example at Spitalfields was 'the only one of its kind in England'. The pipes of the Quintadena are made of metal and are fully stopped (i.e. closed at the top). They are narrow-scaled, and this, in combination with the low cut-up of the mouths, gives rise to the characteristic 'quint' effect when the pipes speak. The Quintadena tone is sufficiently different from the three existing stopped diapasons in the organ to contribute another tone quality to the instrument's musical resources. This is an important find and further evidence of the unique and special qualities of the instrument.



S R B HUMPHREYS

*The restored organ*

The Friends, on the advice of their consultants, have decided that it would be in keeping with the whole approach to the restoration to commission William Drake Ltd to make and install a new Quintadena stop in the Choir Organ. This will mean that the specification is as near as we can make it to the Bridge organ of 1735.

We have already been able to hear with our own ears that the tone of the organ which was pronounced in the contemporary Vestry minutes 'by the most competent judges... to be unexcelled, combining sweetness with great dignity, breadth and power' is indeed true. The re-introduction of the Quintadena rank of pipes will complete the restoration of Richard Bridge's tonal scheme.

The cost of this new rank of pipes is £15,000. The Friends have already received some generous pledges of support towards this finishing item and are seeking the remaining funds.

**Please consider helping the Friends. We remain extremely grateful to all our Supporters that this monumental project is almost complete.**

## John Scott

The Friends were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of John Scott in August this year.

Born in Wakefield in 1956, John Scott became a cathedral chorister. An Organ Scholar at St John's College, Cambridge, he went on to win many prizes in international organ competitions. He became Organist and Director of Music at St Paul's Cathedral from 1990 – 2004 and then took up the same post at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue, New York.

John was the supreme organist, performing on five continents, publishing a number of choral compositions and arrangements and his recordings were prolific worldwide. He was hugely influential, both in his organ playing and also in his role as director of the renowned choir of men and boys at Saint Thomas Church.

As a Patron of the Friends, he greatly enjoyed playing the restored Richard Bridge organ at Christ Church and we are so glad that he was able to grace our Opening Recital with his formidable presence.

The Friends extend their condolences to his wife and family and to those in the organ world who knew him.

**John Scott, born June 18 1956, died August 12 2015**

## Travel Bursary for organ builders

**Success of opening recital has established annual travel bursary**

The restoration of the 1735 Richard Bridge organ supported a wide variety of skilled craftsmanship. In recognition of this, the Friends have established a Travel Bursary for organ builders to encourage excellence and research in organ building.

Generous support of the recent Gala Opening Recital enabled the Friends to establish an annual scholarship of £2,500. This will allow a period of workshop training or academic research related to any practical aspect of organ building. Candidates may be based in the UK and wish to travel abroad, or be from abroad and wish to travel to the UK.

See the Friends' website for further details and to download an application form. The deadline for applications for the first award is 31 March 2016.

## Columns at 40

The first edition of the Friends' newsletter to Supporters appeared in Autumn 1994. Written mainly by then Campaign Director Roland Jeffery and edited by David Souden, its lead story described the work then underway to survey the tower and spire. Subsequent issues occasionally included the 'Personal Columns' – memoirs from local residents – and, increasingly, reports and progress photographs of both the small and very large works of restoration and announcements of their successful funding. The complete archive of all forty issues is on the Friends' website.



## Forthcoming events at Christ Church

### British Institute of Organ Studies Conference

Saturday 21 November 10:30 AM–4 PM

The British Institute of Organ Studies (BIOS) will be holding a conference at Christ Church Spitalfields on Saturday 21 November. Supporters of the Friends are invited to join them at a special price of £30 for the day. The day will include talks about the organ's restoration, about Richard Bridge the organ builder and Peter Prelleur, the first organist at Christ Church as well as demonstrations and a short recital. Speakers and players include Nicholas Thistlethwaite and William McVicker, consultants to the restoration; Joost de Boer and Geert Noppers, William Drake Ltd organ builders; and Dominic Gwynn, John Collins and David Frostick.

For a full list of the day's activities please visit the Friends' website. Bookings can be made by contacting Richard Hobson, Events Secretary, British Institute of Organ Studies, by either email – [hbsrnh@aol.com](mailto:hbsrnh@aol.com) – or post – 52 Dickinson Square, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth, WD3 3EY. Please send a cheque for £30 payable to 'BIOS'.

### John Wellingham: 85th Birthday Recital

Saturday 21 November at 6 PM

**Concert of music by Purcell, Handel, Corelli and others revealing the wonderful colours of the Bridge organ given by organist and esteemed teacher John Wellingham.**

Forty years ago Wellingham and Drake established the John Loosemore Centre for Organ and Early Music, the first Early Music Centre in Britain; there organ builder and organ teacher could work together to foster understanding of this complicated instrument. John Wellingham is in great demand as a teacher at home and abroad enthusing organ scholars to the special demands of mechanical action organs.

Admission free, retiring collection towards the restoration of the Quintadena stop.

## Richard Bridge organ book

To coincide with the completion of the restoration of the Richard Bridge organ, the Friends have published a paperback book written by Dr Nicholas Thistlethwaite with a foreword by Professor Kerry Downes.

The book tells the story of the organ from its beginnings in 1735, its later alterations, its near-dereliction to its subsequent triumphant restoration in 2015. Sixty-four pages long and sumptuously illustrated with colour photographs throughout, it would make an ideal Christmas present. Copies, price £15, can be obtained through the Friends' website or by using the enclosed Christmas card order form.



## Thank you

The Friends are grateful for the generosity of the many individuals and organisations who support the restoration and Organ appeals. We are particularly grateful to TechHub who have generously provided the Friends with office space, keeping our office overheads low.

We have run two major projects, the restorations of the church and the organ with a small part-time staff and a number of volunteers. This help has been crucial to our success.

Thank you to our volunteers who help both in the office and at special events. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed so generously at the Opening Recital, those who prefer to remain anonymous and those who give by standing order, thereby saving on administrative costs.

**We would also like to thank the following for their recent donations:**



S R B HUMPHREYS

*Detail of restored and re-painted trophy of musical instruments on one of the organ's serpentine panels*

### Gifts of £30 and over

Gene Adams\*\*  
 George Allan\*\*  
 Rodney Archer\*\*  
 Primrose Arnander\*\*  
 Mr R W Ayriss  
 Verona Baker  
 John Bamford\*\*  
 John Bowles\*\*  
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### Gifts of £200 and over

Nicholas & Diana Baring\*\*  
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 Julian Cazalet\*\*  
 Peter J M Davies\*\* *In memory  
 of my father John Moullin Davies*  
 Mr R E George  
 Jeanne Golay-Evans\*\*  
 The Peguera Trust\*\*  
 Mrs M Summerson\*

### Gift of £500

Andrew Green\*

### Gift of £1,000

The Leathersellers' Company  
 Charitable Fund\*

\* *partly or fully for the Richard Bridge  
 Organ Appeal*

\*\* *partly or fully for the Organ Travel  
 Bursary*

## How to support the Friends

To become an acknowledged Supporter of the Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields please make a minimum annual donation of £30 (£35 for overseas). You can contribute towards the restoration of Christ Church or the Richard Bridge organ. Supporters receive the Friends' newsletter *Columns* and advance notice of tours, lectures and other special events that the Friends organise.

You can give money in several ways:

- with a **credit or debit card** or **PayPal** through our web site.
- by **payroll giving** through Give As You Earn

Or, by completing the appropriate parts of this page:

- by **standing order** helping us plan ahead and keep down administrative costs
- by bank or CAF **cheque**.

### Standing Order

#### Your bank and account details:

To ..... Bank  
of .....  
.....  
.....  
..... Bank address  
Sort code --  
Account no

Please pay to C. Hoare & Co of 37 Fleet Street, London EC4P 4DQ, sort code 15-99-00 for the credit of The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields account no. 69175420 the sum of:

£ ..... each  month  quarter  year

Starting on dd/mm/yy (no earlier than one month from today, please) until further notice. This donation is in addition to\*/replaces\* previous Standing Orders, if any, in favour of the Charity. The Friends will process Standing Orders and forward them to your bank.

*\*delete as applicable*

Please complete the sections below:

#### I enclose my cheque for:

- £30  £50  £100  £250  £1,000  
 other £ ...

Please make cheques payable to:  
The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields

#### Please complete the sections below:

*giftaid it*

I am a UK taxpayer and would like The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields to treat all donations that I make as Gift Aid donations. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. The Friends will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given since April 2008.

This declaration applies to  past  present  future donations : please tick as appropriate.

Signature .....

Date .....

#### Please allocate my donation towards the restoration of:

- Christ Church Spitalfields  
 The Richard Bridge Organ

Name .....

Address .....

.....

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Postcode .....

Telephone .....

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The Friends would like to acknowledge gifts of £30 or more in *Columns*, but if you wish to remain anonymous please tick the box below:

- Please do not print my name in *Columns*

Data Protection Act 1988: the information you provide will only be used by The Friends of Christ Church Spitalfields and will not be passed to any other organisations.

**Thank you. Please return the completed page to:**  
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