

PIPE ORGAN IRELAND

Newsletter February 2004

Pipe Organ Society of Ireland

This, our second Newsletter, is a short version to be sure you hear in time about the AGM and Galway Organ Afternoons.

Your Committee (Colin Nicholls, Professor Gerard Gillen, Gerard Murphy, Alistair McCartney, Steven Adams and Norbert Kelvin) were elected at the Society's first meeting in Dublin in early 2003. We now need to elect a committee more formally at the AGM so that the Society can legitimately transact its business.

The Society looks forward to being able to serve you, the members, in supporting you in whatever aspects of the pipe organ you are engaged in or concerned with. The Society is looking forward to putting on worthwhile interesting and informative pipe organ activities. The Society needs your inspiration and support and hopes that you will keep coming forward with ideas to make sure that the Society serves its members and the wider community.

Nominations for POSI office-bearers

If you or someone you know would like to be an office-bearer or serve on the committee, please email or fax your nomination giving the name of the nominee, your/their contact details, and evidence of the willingness of the person to being nominated.

Join POSI

You are invited to join the Society. Annual membership subscription is €25 or £18 Stirling. Please make cheques payable to ***Pipe Organ Society of Ireland*** – we are still too small to have rather expensive credit card facilities. Contact details are at the bottom of this page.

Galway Organ Afternoons Friday & Saturday 5 & 6 March 2004 (1.00pm-6.00pm)

(in conjunction with AGM –see below)

An invitation for you to hear and play some of Galway's interesting pipe organs, including the Galway Cathedral organ.

The public is invited, not just Society members. Please invite anyone you think might be interested to come to the whole day or participate in just one or two organ visits. A freewill donation of €10 per person will be requested to cover donations to the churches and other minor costs.

Details - Norbert Kelvin (see above)

Annual General Meeting

“Planning POSI's way forward!”

Election of Committee

**Galway Cathedral
Saturday 6 March 2004
(10.30am-12.30pm)**

To help catering, RSVP to above

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Organ Plus!

Colin Nicholls will perform the Poulenc Organ Concerto with the Cork Chamber Orchestra under Adrian Pecteu at Waterford Cathedral (Monday 7 March 2004, 7pm) and St Fin Barre's Cathedral (Thursday 11 March 2004 8pm). Waterford Cathedral organ is the 1815 Elliott recently restored by Kenneth Jones.

Cork International Organ Festival 2005

(Cork European Capital of Culture 2005) Subject to confirmation, we are proposing that the Festival be held Sunday 22 May 2004 (afternoon) to Saturday 28 May 2004 (morning). We have yet to decide whether to make it one week or just 3 days. Your opinions and comments are most welcome.

POSI Listserv

If you would like to be part of email discussion on matters relating to the organ, then you are welcome to request inclusion in the Society's Listserv (<http://lists.ucc.ie/lists/archives/pipeorgan.html>)

Cork Organ Day 15 November 2003

An intrepid group of 10-17 (it varied during the day) visited some of Cork's interesting organs – former Christ Church, (T C Lewis 1878 2m+p tracker, renovated by Kenneth Jones 1985), Ss Peter & Paul (Bryceson & Morten 1876 3m+p rebuilt 1920-1950? as tubular-pneumatic), St Patrick's (T W Magahy 1911 restored and electrified by Paul Neiland 2001, 3m+p), St Mary's Dominicans (unaltered Conacher 1895 3m+p tubular pneumatic), St Fin Barre's Cathedral (much altered Hill 1875 4m+p).

One or two members of the public who joined us played for us. A former organist of St Mary's was delighted to be able to have the opportunity to play that organ again after so many years away.

Three of the organs are in excellent playing condition, but alas two of the most magnificent of these in Ss Peter and Paul and St Mary's Dominicans are badly in need of overhaul.

Colin Nicholls gave a most beautiful demonstration of St Fin Barre's Cathedral organ. He also described the history of

this unusual organ located in a pit since 1890s but sounding remarkably clear because of how the sound travels up from the pit via the cathedral's live acoustic.

Heritage Council funds conservation of Ireland's heritage pipe organs

Last month I commented that the Heritage Council might take a more active part in repairing internal heritage fixtures like pipe organs in heritage buildings. Well I made a bad blue! I apologise for this incorrect statement. The Heritage Council has indeed been most helpful in providing partial funding for organ restorations, notable examples being Durrow's 1797 Samuel Green – 1842 William Telford, and the 1815 Elliott in Waterford Cathedral.

The apology is even more appropriate and thanks are due to the Heritage Council for recently granting funds to UCC for a project entitled 'Conserving the heritage pipe organs of Cork County' to be undertaken this year. This project will identify the 10-20 most endangered pipe organs in and around Cork City and assess what might be done to save those pipe organs.

Irish Pipe Organ Register - IPOR

Like the Europeans, British, Australians and others who maintain good databases of their pipe organs, so can we too in Ireland. Building on the good work on cataloguing pipe organs on the island of Ireland, UCC is setting up database which will be available on the POSI website currently under development.

CD recordings of 30 organs have been made for IPOR. Copies are available from Norbert Kelvin (contact details on first page).

POSI financial summary

Receipts: subscriptions, donations,	
contributions to meeting expenses	€764
Outgoings ¹	€240
Bank balance	€524

¹ Room hire and catering for inaugural meeting €120; electrician to replace organ blower switch at St Mary's Dominicans Cork €100; UCC stationery and mailing €20

If you are not already a Member of the Pipe Organ Society of Ireland, you are invited to join.

First Name Middle Initial(s)

Last Name

Address

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Email address (if applicable)

Telephone(s)

You are welcome to provide any other information about your interest in the pipe organ that you would like other members of the Society to know about.

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Annual Membership Dues:

Ireland and EU €25.00..... Northern Ireland/UK £GBP 18.00.....

Donation to the Society

Total Payment

Please make cheque payable to **Pipe Organ Society of Ireland**
(We apologise that we are not yet able to take credit card payments)

Please send this form with payment to:
Pipe Organ Society of Ireland
C/- Norbert Kelvin
Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
University College cork
Cork
IRELAND