

The Edington Organ Project

Appeal Patrons
LADY BARBARA CALCUTT
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Newsletter

Number 2: Summer 2012

Appeal Makes Great Strides

In the nine months since the Edington Organ Project was launched at the 2011 Festival, we have, thanks to you, made great strides toward our fundraising target, and the whole project is now taking shape. The total donated at the end of March stood at £243,000.

Successful application

Funds are coming in by other methods besides individual donations. The Good News is that in March we made a successful application to Arts Council England for **£50,000**. The application was based on a programme of arts and education activities which the new organ would underpin. Much more about this in a future newsletter, but the opportunities offered by the new organ are really exciting, and the combination of these with the on-going excellence of the Music Festival obviously found favour with the assessors. The award is contingent on our receiving just £10,000 from another Charitable Trust, or Trusts, and another application, to the Garfield Weston Foundation, has been lodged for £15,000. We will probably not know the outcome of this one till September or October. Other applications to local Trusts are also being made.

And the contract is signed

News of the ACE award meant there was sufficient funding security for the PCC to agree to the signing of the contract with Harrison and Harrison. So on March 18th, after the Mothers' Day service, representatives from EMFA, the PCC and Harrison and Harrison assembled, and the deed was done.

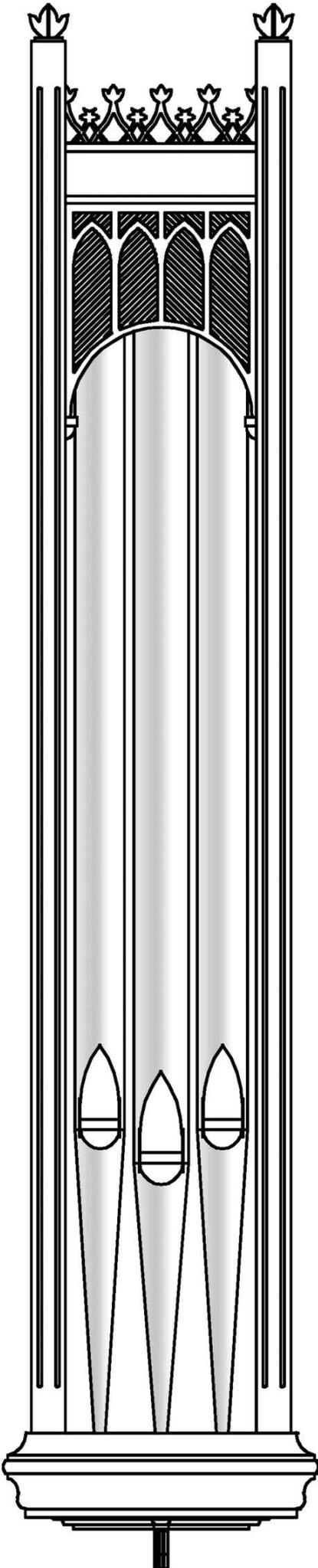
The new organ in Edington Priory becomes a reality.

Mark Venning of Harrison & Harrison, Organ Builders, left, with Robin Wilson, Chairman of the PCC, and Clare Brown, Church Warden. (Clare's crutch has now been consigned to history!)

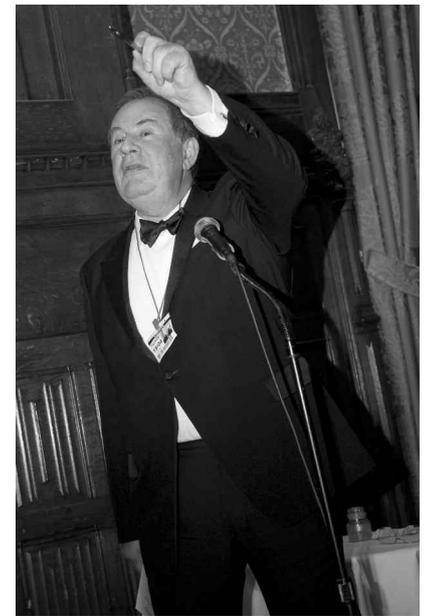
Then the Bad News

The signing turns out to have been in the nick of time, because shortly afterwards, the Chancellor dropped a bombshell in the Budget in the form of a VAT levy on all approved alterations to Listed Buildings, previously exempt. This is likely to affect adversely a number of very important building projects, besides ours. While the Organ Project work scheduled up to the end of March 2013 will come under the one year's grace afforded by the Treasury, the second half of the project will now almost certainly be liable for VAT.

This means that it will be necessary to raise an additional £36,000 unless the ferocious lobbying being done by a good few high profile figures from the worlds of heritage and the churches, as well as ourselves, persuades the Chancellor to change his mind. At this point, it doesn't seem very likely, but we continue to hope.



We take the campaign to London



Clockwise from top left: The Festival Singers; Ashley Grote, auctioneer's lovely assistant with the star lot of the night, a week in a luxury villa in Portugal; James Bowman in full voice; the company, and the raffle prizes.

In April we held a Musical Supper and Auction in the Strangers' Dining Room at the House of Commons. 87 friends from Wiltshire and the London area gathered for a champagne reception, a lovely dinner, superb singing, (sung grace, two musical interludes, a closing number and an encore) from the Festival Singers - and a Raffle and Auction. The Festival Singers, Auctioneer James Bowman and our photographer Simon Tottman continued the Festival tradition and gave their services free in return for their supper.



Between the generosity of the friends and contacts who donated raffle prizes and auction lots, and the exhortations of our Auctioneer, the event raised £3536 for the Project. It was a great evening, in spite of the monsoon conditions existing outside - including a lightening strike on an electricity sub-station in Wandsworth which put the entire south-east commuter network out of action. Inside, a very good time was had by all.



James Bowman Ashley Grote, Lady Calcutt, Patron, Dr Andrew Murrison MP, our host, and Professor John Harper. Look how near the top the totalisor has reached!

Introducing..... The 2(.)00 Club!

Not a Club as such, but it's a way of adding more than £10,000 to our funds, and it's virtually painless.

By committing to a Standing Order of only **£2 per month**, 200 people can add £9600 to the Organ Project over the next two years - and we can then reclaim a further 20%, or up to £1920, from HMRC through GiftAid.

Plea for email addresses

By the time this package drops into your letterbox, the postage rate will have taken off into the stratosphere. Standard 2nd class postage is now 50p per 100gms. The Festival have kindly allowed us to piggyback on their annual mailing, but even using a franking service, the cost is astronomical.

Please, if you have an email address, may we use it? It will enable us to keep you posted much more regularly, at minimal cost to the Project. The Royal Mail may be an august British Institution,

but we'd rather see your donations going towards the new organ than underwriting their privatisation plans!

The 2(.)00 Club Standing Order form includes space for an email address, or email Sue Lowery at **organproject@edingtonfestival.org** with your full name.

As with all other data we hold, it will never be passed to an external party without your consent. The fact that you have given us your email address is your consent for us to hold it as part of our Database.