



THE Edington Organ Project

Appeal Patrons
LADY BARBARA CALCUTT
SIMON PRESTON CBE

NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 3: NOVEMBER 2012

theBigGive.org.uk

Christmas Challenge

our next great fundraising event

<http://new.thebiggive.org.uk/projects/view/16447>

The Challenge is to make a donation to the Project **online** between 10am on Thursday December 6th and 5pm on Saturday December 8th. Your donation made during this time can then be **doubled** using sponsorship which the Big Give itself has raised, and our own Pledge Fund. Gift Aid is added if applicable.

So if you donate £5 during the Challenge, it can be doubled to £10 through their matching funds, and have a further £2 added in Gift Aid. Your £5 becomes £12. £10 becomes £24 and so on. How great is that!

Our target, which we have to reach in order to access the full funds available to us, is to raise **£3000** in online donations during the Challenge. This will enable us to realise the doubled amount of **£6000**, plus Gift Aid.

Donations can be of any size, but have to be made using a credit or debit card, through the

site, and **ONLY** during the three days of the Challenge.

Remember: 10am to 5pm on Thursday December 6th to Saturday 8th.

Donations are matched on a first come, first served basis and Challenge funding can be exhausted quite quickly, so speed (and sometimes perseverance) is of the essence. We're only one of hundreds of charities in the scheme.

**DON'T DONATE UNTIL THURSDAY
6TH DECEMBER AT 10AM!**

If you live in or near Edington and don't have access to a computer, don't worry - the one in the Parish Hall will be available, and expert help provided if you need it, from 10am to 12 noon each day. All you need is your credit or debit card.

A big 'thank you' is due to our Pledgers.

The current position

We are inching ever closer to our target of £437,041 thanks to your continuing generosity and another award from a charitable trust.

We were delighted that the Williams Church Music Trust awarded the Organ Project £7500 - but unfortunately we were unsuccessful with the Garfield Weston Foundation.

So the current funds in the Project stand at a magnificent **£398,771**. This represents cash in the bank, funds which have been promised, and associated Gift Aid. There are other sources of funds which we are very likely to receive, but we don't want to count our chickens. In any event, we have a fundraising plan which is designed to complete the target inside the

remaining two years of the Appeal, and The Big Give Christmas Challenge is the next Big Thing.

Those of you who were at the Festival in the Summer will have heard Ashley talk about it, and heard his exhortations to you all to let us have your email addresses. If there is anyone out there who could still let us have an email address but hasn't yet - now's the time!

Please email the Project Administrator Sue Lowery at: organproject@edingtonfestival.org

This will enable us to send you updates about the Challenge, but also allow us to send you information in the future without incurring huge postage costs.

See over for more fundraising events in the pipeline for 2013

Fundraising events in the diary

Edington Parish Hall Saturday November 24th

BOOK FAIR
from noon to 4pm

Hard back books and some paperbacks, prints and collectibles, all in good condition. Everything starts at £1 - just right for presents or just to cheer yourself up!

Free entry: tea/coffee and mince pies available for a small donation. Why not call in on your way back from Stir-up Saturday at Dairy House Farm?

Salisbury Plain Easter 2013

SPONSORED BIKE RIDE

Supporter David Foster writes:

"Subject to agreement with the MOD, we are hoping to organise a sponsored bike ride from Edington to Imber over Easter 2013, with a choice of routes to suit different abilities (and levels of fitness!) As well as raising money for the new organ, the event will offer a rare opportunity to ride across the Imber ranges to St Giles Church."

Next London Event : Southwark Cathedral in early May 2013



Plans are being laid for a recital by Southwark Cathedral's Director of Music Peter Wright on the Cathedral's fantastic organ.

Details will follow as soon as everything is confirmed.

The Southwark Cathedral organ has also benefited from work by Harrison & Harrison. The original Lewis & Co organ completed in 1897 was rebuilt in 1952 by Henry Willis & Sons, who rather changed the original sound concept. Harrison & Harrison were commissioned in 1986 to restore it to its original specifications.

By the way.....

The 'old' Edington organ is offered for sale, and is currently still awaiting a new owner. It is listed on the Institute of British Organ Building website, www.ibo.org.co.uk as item number 364, available late 2013. If anyone knows a possible destination, please register interest through the IBO site.

There will be a chance to buy copies of Ashley Grote's excellent CD of Vierne Organ Concertos at the Concert of Carols and Readings for Advent at the Priory Church on Friday December 7th. Proceeds to the Organ Project.

Interview with Ben Nicholas



As well as being the new Artistic Director of the Edington Music Festival, Ben Nicholas now also leads the Edington Organ Project, working with the fundraising sub-group.

So what's it like coming into a campaign which is within sight of achieving its target?

"I'm in a very lucky position really," he says. "Ashley and the others have already done a lot of the hard work. Ashley gave me a really good hand over, but it's also quite tough coming in at a late stage and picking up all the history, getting to know the contacts and so on.

I think the challenge we'll have is to keep the momentum going over the rest of the Appeal, so that we have a great lead up to the opening celebrations for the new organ at the 2014 Festival. What form those celebrations will take is the subject of some lively conversation, but obviously the new organ will take a prominent role, continuing outside the Festival too.

We'll be able to start performing music in the Festival that we haven't been able to do before, pieces where the organ is more important than 'just' as accompaniment. I'm sure there will be organ recitals too, and we're mulling over ideas for a new commission featuring the organ with all three choirs. Whatever we finally decide, the new organ will be front and centre of the Festival and be

able to play a much bigger role for the Parish and the community for the rest of the year – we just have to keep up everyone's enthusiasm for achieving it!"

Ben is primarily an organist, and, as he says, that's a really important part of his musical life, along with the part the organ plays in choral music. To be a successful musician on any instrument requires 100% dedication, so is fundraising for the new Edington organ a distraction? Or indeed are his other roles a distraction from the Organ Project?

"No not at all, from either point of view. Fundraising is, and always has been, absolutely essential to allowing music to take place at all. I've been involved in other huge fundraising campaigns, for instance to set up the Choral Scholarships at Tewkesbury Abbey and the Choral Foundation at Merton College Oxford – and to raise funds for Merton's own new organ, which will be installed at the end of 2013, just in time to allow full public focus to be shifted to Edington! Mind you, all my fundraising experience has been learned 'on the hoof', just like most peoples', but I've been incredibly lucky to have been able to

learn from and work with some incredible people."

How does he view the fundraising events planned so far for the next year?

"Well obviously Peter Wright's organ recital at Southwark Cathedral is very close to my heart, and I'm really delighted that both he and the Cathedral management are so keen to help us.

But I think The Big Give Christmas Challenge presents us with an enormous opportunity - well, two opportunities really. It gives us the chance to raise a significant sum of money - £6000 – for the Organ Project, first. But it also gives us a great opportunity to bring the Festival and the Organ project to the attention of many new people. It allows for some social media networking – through Facebook and Twitter for instance - which will mean that everyone who is involved with the Festival can make good use of ALL their contacts. Let's hope we get results, not just for the Organ Project but for future Festivals too."