

ULSTER SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

President: James Little



USOC BULLETIN January 2006

AGM News

Following a successful AGM earlier this month the following posts were nominated.

The President (James Little)

Philip Stopford (Vice President and Secretary)

Michael Tregenna (Vice President)

Philip Walden (Treasurer)

Committee Members : Ian Mills, Tanja Teirney, Alasdair MacLaughlin, David McElderry, Dick Walker, Michael Callender, Barbara Callender, Ivan Millen, Gareth Johnston, Stephen Timpany

'Improving your singing and playing' with Barry Rose

Saturday 25th February 2006, 3pm at the University of Ulster, Jordanstown Campus

This 'celebrity' event will focus on promoting the Society and singing and hearing Barry Rose in action. We hope to attract as many new members as possible and talk a little about what the Society hopes to achieve in the future, broadening its aspect to more and more people. There will be an opportunity to sing some favourite hymns with a leading choir, and hear Barry Rose play the wonderful organ. Please do encourage organists, musicians and singers to enjoy this occasion with us and make it a special day for us all. Music teachers and worship leaders are also most welcome. Parking is available.

Day Trip to DUBLIN

Saturday 11th March 2006, leaving St Anne's Cathedral at 9am.

Your coach will leave St Anne's Cathedral at 9am, having parked your own vehicle in the Talbot Street Car Park of the Cathedral (free of charge and secure). You will visit three venues in Dublin, culminating in Evensong at Christ Church Cathedral. Dinner will be provided on the return journey in Drogheda. (Lunch is not provided).
Estimated return time, 10pm.

Cost including coach and dinner will be £50 per head, and the booking form and cheque (*made payable to USOC*) should be sent to the *Treasurer* immediately and certainly no later than 25th February 2006.

USOC Treasurer, Philip Walden, 20 Hazeldene Avenue, Bangor, BT20 4RA

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Committee News

There are several people that need to be thanked for their service to USOC. The first two are William Adair and Rodney Bambrick who have served in various posts, if not all of them, for the second half of the 20th Century, making us new folk seem very inexperienced! Also thanks to former President, Michael Tregenna and former Secretary Alasdair MacLaughlin for there tireless work in promoting and organising this flourishing society. We hope to continue this great work.

The On Organ Fund

A connection would like to be maintained with the On Organ Fund. A £25 donation has be made by the Society, and members could add to this, if they so wish, via the website (www.onorganfund.org.uk).

Renaissance Singers

The present Director of the Renaissance Singers – Brian Hunter – is retiring in a few months time and the Choir wishes to appoint a successor. The Choir has thirty voices and over the past 30 years has established a track record of success on the concert platform, television and radio and in competition. In recent years performances have included recitals and services in Belfast Cathedral and concerts with the Ulster Orchestra and the Studio Symphony Orchestra. The Choir rehearses each Monday night in Grosvenor Grammar School.

If you are interested in leading this chamber choir, please send your CV indicating your choral experience to Dick Mackenzie CB, Chairman, Renaissance Singers, 6 Casaeldona Rise, Belfast, BT6 9RA or by email to d.mackenzie3@ntlworld.com

RSCM Festival – Saturday 25th March, afternoon rehearsal, 5pm Service.

A Festival Service has been organised, to take place in Belfast Cathedral on Saturday 25th March 2006. As with Festivals of years ago, this is an opportunity for all church choirs to come and sing together, and raise the roof. This is the relaunch of the RSCM in Ireland, and the exact same event will be taking place at the same time at Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. A Festival Booklet had been produced, and is available for purchase at £3.50 each. All copyright has been passed, and the booklets can be kept and used after the event in your own churches. Leading Choirs who will be taking part are; Belfast Cathedral and Cathedral Youth Choirs, Armagh Cathedral Choir, Derry Cathedral Choir, Downpatrick Cathedral Choir and St George's Parish Church Choir. What a wonderful line up – lets get as many other choirs to join us!

A pre-festival event will take place at St Anne's Cathedral on **Monday 20th February at 7pm**, where music leaders (and choir members) can purchase their booklets and work with Philip Stopford on some of the music – get ahead and be ready for the big day! RSCM affiliate members will each receive a free booklet shortly in the post.

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Treasurer

Subscriptions for 2006 are due by the 31st January 2006, and it is always appreciated when these arrive on time, securing the position of the Society. If you were able to set up a Standing Order, this would be most helpful to both you and us!

Secretary

I have taken over the position of Secretary, and hope to do as good a job as possible. Any items of interest or news, or church posts you wish to advertise, should be sent to me at music@belfastcathedral.org or Director of Music, Belfast Cathedral, Donegall Street, Belfast, BT1 2HB. Thank you, and please do give me time to settle in!

(detach and post)

DUBLIN BOOKING FORM

Name (s) _____

Contact Address _____

Telephone _____

I wish to place my booking for _____ places on the trip to Dublin on Saturday 11th March 2006.

I include a cheque for _____ made payable to USOC (£50 per head)

I understand that I must be at St Anne's Cathedral by 9am on Saturday 11th March.

Signed _____

Send to : USOC Treasurer, Philip Walden, 20 Hazeldene Avenue, Bangor, BT20 4RA