



HLF OH-12-12352
St Mary & St Giles Stony Stratford
Willis Pipe Organ Restoration and Reach-out project

Quarterly evaluation report for Q5 Apr - Jun 2015

Project overview

Date/ Project element	Apr- Jun 2015	Jul- Sep 2015	Oct- Dec 2015	Jan- Mar 2016	Apr- Jun 2016	Jul- Sep 2016	Oct- Dec 2016	Jan- Mar 2017
1. Restore organ & trial								
2. Research & record organ history								
3. Produce learning resources incl DVD								
4. Train volunteer guides								
5. Community Music Programme + organ								
6. Education Programme								
PLUS Fundraising for non-heritage items								

Below we report against each of the active strands of the project and against the project budget.

A three-month supplier delay and a new requirement from the DOA/PCC for a five month ‘play in’ period before any concerts are held using the organ, have required some extensions to our original schedule (impact shown in blue above). We requested from HLF, and have kindly been given, a five-month extension in order to be able to ensure the quality of the heritage and deliver all the community outcomes. This will allow us to include celebration of Milton Keynes’ 50th anniversary in January 2017- and the 50th anniversary of the organ coming to SMSG - within our programme.

Element 1. Restore organ

Work carried out in this quarter:

- New buildings frames extended.
- Swell Box extended to allow space for the Wald Horn rank.
- Choir box extended to allow space for the new Choir Soundboard.
- New 3 stop Choir soundboard fitted.
- New Wald Horn chest fitted.
- Restored actions to Swell, Great and Choir fitted.
- All trackers restored to main actions.

- All bellows fitted.
- All wind trunks to and from bellows on Swell, Great and Choir repaired, extended and fitted.
- New front pipe actions made for new casework.
- Bourdon Soundboard fitted and staying up of pipework almost completed.

Element 2. Research & record organ history

Research work during this period involved almost completing the documenting of data from old Parish newsletters, only a small batch remains. There were no visits to the archives during this period. Started to think about how to communicate the information discovered to a wide audience via print, display and website. At the June Pipe Organ Open Day there was a history exhibition showing some of the photos and information from the organ archive compiled.

Element 3. Produce learning resources including DVD

A plan for learning resources to be developed for use by visiting schools, youth groups and other groups was approved by the project team in April. Informal discussions have been held with a retired museums adviser regarding content and presentation of banners. Work on the DVD is on hold pending the delayed work on the organ.

Project management issues this quarter

Publicity The Music for All @ SMSG website was commissioned and developed and went live at the end of June www.musicforallsmg.org. A number of related web addresses have been set up and the use of Eventbrite for ticketing has been trialled, to enable us to promote ticketed events more widely than just in Stony Stratford/Milton Keynes. A media contact list has been developed and a number of email lists identified that can be used for publicising events more widely. A leaflet for potential Hirers of the venue has been developed and the need for guidance on conversations around charges for hire has been identified.

Volunteers Plans were put in place for a Thank You Tea Party to be held in early July, to appreciate how much has been achieved so far and outline plans for the future of the project. Two volunteers have stepped up into new roles as part of the new Festival team. One new volunteer has joined who 'loves baking' - refreshment services are an integral part of the heritage attraction!

Project management The Project Team met twice this quarter in April and June.

Risk register The risk register has been updated to show the impact of the new schedule.

Quarterly account Project spending was to budget in this quarter.

Lessons learnt Key lessons learnt this quarter are:

- The need for tight supplier management throughout the contract so that issues are understood sooner and impacts can be discussed at appropriate times
- The need to communicate change quickly and widely in a way that maintains volunteer morale and enthusiasm
- The need for close liaison with the PCC to ensure mutual understanding and shared resolution of project challenges
- Although timings have had to change, work done on Festival planning is not lost - it gives a very good boost to the tasks ahead

- Consider the timings of cream teas and concert during Stony Live so as not to clash with other events or the requirement for one major event for Church Restoration Fund
- Notable now the organ restoration has become the inspiration for other MfA events, such as TT @ TT which will shortly have completed its first full cycle of 12 events.
- The re-installation work has astounded the Parish Family in terms of the extent and complexity of the work - being able to see inside has, literally, been a real eye-opener and helped people to understand why it has been/continues to be such a major project.

Report on additional project: Fundraising for non-heritage items

Fundraising this quarter from all sources brought in a total of £2,184 from all sources, including events.

Events Programme (without organ) this quarter

Strand 1: SMSG Programme

Third Thursday at Twelve Thirty has become fully established as a regular drop-in event, bringing in newcomers not only in performers but also in audience. This quarter featured Hilary O'Donoghue and her singing students, with the Andante Quartet; SMSG Church Band plus SMSG School Orchestra; and a Primary Pupils' Performance - Queen Eleanor School Choir and SMSG School Handbell Team, including a flute duet - with all performers aged 7-11 years from local schools.

The organ builders have always been keen to explain their work and as they are beginning to install the organ we presented a *non-musical Pipe Organ Open Coffee morning* so that folk could inspect the organ and talk to the builders.

Vivant performed their unique melodeon and violin music again with donations in favour of the Disabled Access Project.

This quarter sees the busy *Stony Live!* week when scores of musical events take place in the local pubs and in the open air. This year, SMSG Hand Bells & SMSG Band entertained the community, with funds raised going to the Church Restoration fund. The first Sunday of Stony Live! week is always busy and once again we served homemade Cream Teas to the visitors of Stony Stratford. Our servers were kept very busy until a welcome lull around 4pm because at 4:30pm *The Millbrook Ensemble* from Oxford performed chamber music by Franck, Mozart and Mendelssohn.

Strand 2: SMSG Welcomes Other Promoters

We welcomed three promoters this quarter - all for the first time:

Northampton Male Voice Choir presented their Summer Concert and told us about their recent awards. We were treated to some vignettes from special guest soloists James Jarvis (violincello) and Helen Rouse (piano).

Polymnia are a highly acclaimed local choir directed by John Byron and accompanied by Anna Le Hair.

The U3A - University of the Third Age - treated an audience to a variety of songs performed by the choir and soloists.

Strand 3: Heritage Weekend Willis Pipe Organ Festival 2015

The Festival Organising Group (FOG) met monthly and finalised the programme for the Festival, and two existing volunteers have joined the group to work on direct mail and media releases. As a result of the delays in Element 1, the 2015 Festival programme will now be transposed to 9-11

September 2016. Plans have been put in place for 2015 for a full Open Day event on 12 September and the Stony Stratford Heritage Stroll on 13 September. We will pilot direct mail, media releases, and Event Brite ticketing for these events.

Strand 5: Outreach

SMSG Church Band performed a Tea Dance in SMSG School Hall and 45 dancers enjoyed the afternoon from Fox Trot to Jive; and three members of SMSG Church Band performed in a garden for Stony Stratford Open Gardens weekend 26th - 27th June - there were about 400 visitors to the garden.

A series of fun singing sessions was started in Fegans Court sheltered housing community.

Two members of Music for All @SMSG attended the AGM of the Stony Stratford Business Association and following this both SMSG Church and Music for All @ SMSG are now members of the Business Association. This will allow us wider publicity, for example through Love Stony Facebook.

Events - case studies

In April the Third Thursday concert performers were pupils of a local singing teacher Hilary O'Donoghue and a quarter from a choir called Andante (including the project manager Jane Wolfson). <http://www.musicforallsmg.org/third-thursday-concert-16th-april-2015-3/>

The May Third Thursday concert was given by pupils of St Mary & St Giles Junior CE school and the Church band, with both groups combining for some pieces to give the young players a taste of what it is like performing with more experienced musicians. It proved to be a very memorable event for all the players and this format will definitely be repeated because of the learning and enjoyment it provided. <http://www.musicforallsmg.org/third-thursday-concert-21st-may-2015/>

On 20th June we held a pipe organ open morning for people to see the work in progress on the organ. Two of the organ builders were present to help explain how the organ works and some people were lucky enough to be allowed to stand inside the organ. The event was very popular with several people saying they had never imagined how complicated and interesting the inside of real pipe organ could be. <http://www.musicforallsmg.org/pipe-organ-open-morning/>

Events - data

Events results	Apr-Jun 2015	Total in HLF project
Events raising £ for organ fund	8	35
Other events under Music for all @ SMSG	3	28
Total Music for all @ SMSG events	11	63
Performers involved	222	1381
(of which were school age - since October 2014)	61	201
Audience attendance	349	4610
(of which were school age)	13	300
Helper attendance at events	47	209
Total people engaged	697	6279
Footfall (info for businesses): monthly average	232	
New email mailing list addresses	17	86
Total net funds raised for non-heritage organ items £	£2,184	£21,479
Net funds raised for other groups £	0	1978
Volunteers recruited in addition to pre-existing 40	1	62
Social media: Twitter followers/Tweets sent to date		1,010 and 180

The quarter in pictures



April

The Andante Quartet at the Third Thursday concert



May

MSG Junior School Orchestra with the Church band



June

8 year old child walking with Steve (organ builder) on the Great soundboard and learning about the slider action.