

## Church Organ Review Sub-Committee Update 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Members:

Nigel Howard (Chairman)

Martin Jackson

Alan Leach

Goetze & Gwynn have been selected as the preferred restorer primarily because they can start work as early as July of this year, but also because their estimate was slightly less expensive than Harrison & Harrison's.

The figures for the total cost have been calculated on the basis of an assumed index for inflation, and a new estimate has been provided by Goetze & Gwynn. The contract has been drawn up and now includes a detailed specification about exactly which options have been agreed by the HLF, CCC and us. The new specification has been included with the contract.

The HLF have given us the go-ahead to sign the contract with Goetze & Gwynn and this was done on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2008. The first payment has been received from the HLF and has just been banked - this will enable us to pay the first instalment. The organ will be taken away for restoration during July 2008 and be returned probably by March 2009.

The organ blower box has been assessed and has been found to contain asbestos. This will be removed and disposed of by us after the organ is dismantled for restoration. G&G will be providing a new organ blower and box.

Further requests for funding assistance have been made over the last few months. St. John's College, Oxford confirmed that they will be making a small donation in the next few weeks. The Council for the Care of Churches (CCC) has offered us a grant of £5,000 towards our restoration. Two more applications are in the pipeline which we are hopeful will provide a small amount of further assistance. A major push at the forthcoming Alan Shaw concert should help to cover the remaining project funding deficit.

On the publicity side, we should start thinking about setting up or rearranging the project poster board in the porch or inside the church. This will need to be displayed along with a HLF Logo to increase the visibility of the organ restoration project. A web site for the organ restoration project has recently been set up and this will be updated regularly during the restoration process.

Our project team still plan to make one visit up to the restorers during the project, in order to check up first hand on progress and to obtain a few photos on how the work is progressing.

Nigel Howard