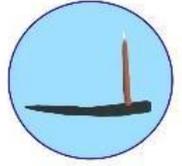


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Miners' ChapelWorld

Saving St Just Miners' Chapel

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PRESS RELEASE

'HANDS-ON' MUSICAL THREE DAYS FOR WEST CORNWALL

Two of the country's top organ and choral teachers, Professor David Baker and Mr Caius Lee of the Halifax Organ Academy and Royal College of Organists came to West Cornwall recently. They delivered an action packed scientific, musical and historical introduction to lucky children from five local Primary Schools to the "King of Instruments", the pipe organ, and to singing techniques in St Just Miners' Chapel and Sennen Church.

The children spent a riveting hour per class seeing and hearing for themselves the physics of how the wind gets through the instrument via bellows and into the pipes to create a myriad of exciting sounds. They all got the chance to blow the pipes, listen to the different timbres carefully, sketch the pipes and complete a brilliant quiz. A behind the scenes tour of the organ when in full flow went down a storm, with Year 5 pupils commenting 'it is magnificent!' and calling it 'mesmerising'. High quality cameras linked to big screens, supplied by Penzance firm Three S Films, revealed hands and feet in action.

One young boy wrote on his feedback form

'It was really fun ... I could learn about a cool instrument'

Asked how the workshop could be improved, one child commented

'You can't - it's already AMAZING and it's at its MAX!'

The pipe organ can sound the lowest and the highest audible notes; be loud, soft, dynamic and expressive. There is no other instrument like it. By the end of the three days, 113 young people understood its 2,000-year history, its repertoire, its construction, what makes it work, how it sounds, and how it's played.

St. Just and District Trust CIO

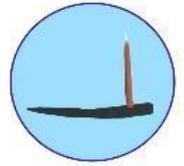
Supporting the culture and heritage of our local communities

Charity No 1168852

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Hey You!

The human diaphragm is our very own set of bellows. Caius Lee brought this simple fact alive through singing exercises, starting with louder and louder 'hey you's echoing through church and chapel, hands pressing on their diaphragm to feel its action. From this to fast and fun two-part harmony, expertly designed to give these young people experience of voice projection using every atom of space to carry the sound. Their feedback asked for more!

One teacher said

'It was all amazing, raises aspirations for the kids and their own playing! Nothing else around like this'

As part of the three-day extravaganza...

For film and organ buffs there was a magical evening in the St Just Chapel Hall. Our distinguished visitors took turns to improvise on the organ accompanying silent films. The next day we were treated to a fabulous organ recital in Sennen Church by 18-year old Caius Lee. The audience on both occasions was most generous with their appreciation and their donations.

As if our organ and choral tutors weren't busy enough, demand was high from young and not-so-young beginners for fresh and innovative organ tutorials on two evenings, and for tutorials for more advanced players.

One wrote

They gave a sense of direction regarding the encouragement of other people to explore the vast world of organ music

What another enjoyed most was

The hands-on experience and hearing others play

This group of organists, essential to the local scene, have come away inspired.

"We are delighted to be part of the musical future of St Just Miners' Chapel," said Professor David Baker, Director of Halifax Organ Academy in Yorkshire. "All the organisation on the ground and two wonderful days of creativity took place in a building purpose-built for music that would have closed last August, but for the efforts of the same volunteers who are working so hard to keep it open.

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"There is great scope for developing these workshops through the work we have done in St Just and Sennen. Having experienced the enthusiastic response of so many children and teachers, individuals and the community, we are happy to see how we may do more."



Inside the Organ: Investigating the instrument – and learning!

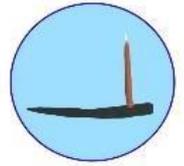


Singing the Heritage: Organ and Choristers

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Fun learning at the St Just Workshops



Making Music the old way: Hand pumping the Bellows on Sennen Church Organ

St. Just and District Trust CIO

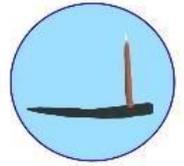
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A study in concentration: Professor Baker demonstrates full organ

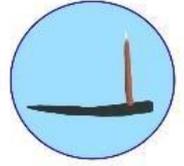


Hands, Feet, Coordination: All eyes on Caius

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Participating primary schools

St Mary's Catholic, Newlyn, Trythall, St Levan and Sennen Schools.

Organ tutors

Professor David Baker was one of the youngest ever to gain the Fellowship of the Royal College of Organists at the age of 17 and a first class honours degree from Cambridge University aged 20. He has remained active as musician and musicologist, with his book *The Organ* (Osprey/Shire) a bestseller in its field. He has undertaken recital tours to Germany, Italy and Scandinavia and performed the entire organ works of J S Bach in 26 recitals and still performs as organ soloist and accompanist throughout the UK. David also now focuses on teaching the organ and in 2011 founded the Halifax Organ Academy, which aims to offer high quality tuition and support to organists of all ages and backgrounds in the north of England. He is a tutor for the Royal College of Organists' Academy.

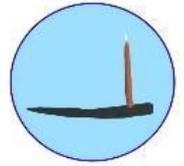
Caius Lee is Assistant Organist for the Diocese of Leeds and Organ Scholar Elect at St Catharine's College, Cambridge. Caius is a highly talented young man who, while not coming from a musical family, was recruited from an outreach programme to sing at Bradford Cathedral. He has made rapid progress as organ scholar, music director and conductor. He is also choral assistant for the UK's first state school choir in one of Leeds most deprived areas.



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Volunteering Opportunities

Graveyard clearance, staffing events, staffing the Chapel so that the doors stay open every day, helping in the kitchen. There are many jobs to do.

Please email us stjustminerschapel@gmail.com or send the *response slip* to:

St Just Miners' Chapel Appeal, c/o The Count House, Bosorne, St Just TR19 7NR

✂.....

I would like to help by

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Email:

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