

# *Derby & District Organists'* *Registered Charity No. 510567* *Association*



## *St. John's Organ Reborn* *Association Visit to St. John's, Derby*

For organists who have lived through a rebuilding project, the moment when you are first able to play and hear the completed instrument after months of deprivation is accompanied by a strange mix of expectation, trepidation and joy. Afterwards, there is the sense of relief and pride that the efforts of so many people have been fulfilled. In the April meeting at St. John's we were able to share some of these emotions with organ builder Ed Stow, organist Andy Storer and their team of committed helpers. News of the project has been regularly reported in the Newsletter during the past twelve months, so

the opportunity to hear and play the instrument was full of promise.

Ed presented a potted history of the organ, originally built as a two-manual and pedals by Henry Willis in 1875 but much altered in succeeding generations. The story of these alterations is perhaps a classic one of changing fashions and cyclical reversals of tastes in organ design. Far reaching 'improvements' were implemented by Adkins in 1914, including the addition of a third manual, an enclosed Choir organ. In a later rebuild by Johnson of Derby in 1975, much of Adkins' work was eliminated, including the removal of the choir organ.

## *DDOA Events 2010*

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

Annual Dinner – Alison House, Intake Lane, Cromford, Matlock

### **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

Visit to Swarkestone and Stanton-by-Bridge 7.30pm

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September**

18<sup>th</sup> Century English Organ Music  
Rodney Tomkins and Stephen Johns.  
St. Peter's Belper 7.30pm

### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Chairman's Event – St. James, Riddings. 7.30pm

### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

AGM, Duffield Methodist Church

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## *Concerts & Recitals*

### **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Re-opening Celebrity Recital by Philip Scriven (Lichfield Cathedral). 7.30pm.  
St. John's Bridge Street, Derby.  
£10 inc. Cheese & Wine Reception.

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> June**

Handel and Vivaldi Organ Concertos, soloist: James Muckle. Kingswood Methodist Church, Wollaton, Nottm. 7.30pm

### **Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

Lunchtime Organ Recital by Andrew Storer. St Helen's, Etwell  
1.30pm Admission Free. Retiring Collection for overseas charities.

### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June**

'An Evening with Dr Wesley'. Derby Cathedral Voluntary Choir with Melbourne Parish Church Choir. Derby Cathedral.  
7.00pm £10 (£8) incl. refreshments

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

Recital by Peter Williams.  
7.30 pm. St. John's, Derby. £5.

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> September**

Organ recital by Dr Tom Corfield  
7.30pm Hazelwood Parish Church. .

### **Derby Cathedral:**

### **Wednesdays 7.45pm**

Simon Lindley (7 July)

See page 4 for more details.

In the most recent restoration undertaken by Edmund Stow, the organ has been completely dismantled, maybe for the first time in its life. The core of the revised specification has restored 13 ranks to their former status in the original Willis specification, so it is now possible to hear the instrument as first conceived by Willis. However, all the new pipework introduced in the 1975 rebuild, together with some ranks from local redundant organs has been organised to give three valuable mixtures and a handsome 8 stop pedal division with minimal use of extensions. Andy Storer is particularly pleased with these tonal achievements, now offering a fine ensemble with good depth.

Andy Storer played a short recital of chorale preludes by Walther, Karg-Elert and Dupré

which successfully illustrated the versatility of the instrument for different periods of music. These pieces gave us an opportunity to hear an amazing variety of solo effects achieved by using stops on their own or in combinations or an octave higher or an octave lower. Andy's imaginative choices of registration were an able demonstration of how much variety can be achieved with this two manual instrument, given a little spirit of adventure. I felt my ears gradually becoming hungry to hear more of the full organ choruses which Andy used only sparingly in his demonstration recital. However, Chairman Peter Williams, (photo) in initiating members' renderings, gave us the flamboyant full-blooded Fantaisie and Fugue in B<sup>b</sup> by Alexandre Boëly.

Ed had prepared for the audience a very helpful fact sheet about the organ, detailing much of its complex history and specifications. Copies of this are downloadable from the DDOA website:

[www.derbyorganists.co.uk](http://www.derbyorganists.co.uk). I suspect there are many stories that could be told about problems which had to be solved during the project, but clearly the result is a magnificent personal achievement for Ed Stow in this his 'magnum opus'.

The organ was re-dedicated by the Bishop of Repton at a special service of Choral Evensong on 23<sup>rd</sup> May. Members should look out for the first recital series, beginning with a celebrity recital by Philip Scriven of Lichfield Cathedral on 5<sup>th</sup> June.

*Laurence Rogers*

## *Annual Outing – Worcester and Malvern*

Splendid summer weather accompanied 32 members and friends to Nicholson's Organ Builders, Malvern. We were warmly greeted by director Guy Russell who, with tremendous gusto, gave us a comprehensive tour of the works. Clearly, here was a man who loved his job and took great pride in the quality of the firm's work. His explanations bubbled with enthusiasm and entertaining anecdotes. We all learned something of the diverse skills which contribute to the art of organ building and were left in no doubt about the quality of craftsmanship which has earned Nicholsons an international reputation.



(See the May 2009 *Newsletter* for a comprehensive article describing Tony Westerman's visit to Nicholsons' works last year.)

After lunch we gathered at Worcester Cathedral where we were equally warmly welcomed by the Assistant Organist, Christopher Allsop. He gave us a fascinating account of the background to the building of the new four-manual organ by Kenneth Tickell. Housed in two beautiful matching cases high in the triforium, the clear voice of the organ was impressive.

With great enthusiasm Christopher demonstrated the variety of stops which made the instrument so versatile, spanning the demands of choral accompaniment and organ concert repertoire. He illustrated this with a mini recital of French, German and English pieces, concluding with a Rhapsody by Howells. As one expects of Howells, this contained huge contrasts, all of which were impressively achieved, thanks to the amazing dynamic range of the Swell box and the palette of tonal colours.

Several members took advantage of a generous 70 minutes allowed for playing the instrument. We were grateful for assistance with registration from Christopher and the Sub-Assistant, George Castle.



Our visit concluded with Evensong sung by the Cathedral choir with girls' and men's voices. This offered a beautiful complement to the earlier session of recital music, demonstrating how effective was the instrument for choral accompaniment.

Overall, it was a splendid day and our thanks go to Siann Hurt for her superb organisation.  
*Laurence Rogers*

## *DDOA - Your Association*

### **Subscriptions – Have you paid?**

The Treasurer reports that, for some members, the payment of the subscription for 2010 is still outstanding. It is normally due on 1<sup>st</sup> January for the calendar year. Please check that your payment has been processed. If you still need to pay, please send a cheque to the Treasurer, Chris Darrall, 2 Gorse Close, Belper, DE56 2TT.

### **Future subscriptions**

The Committee has given further thought to the level of members' subscription and is aware that, whilst subscription fees have not been increased for two successive years, the range and quality of activities of the Association has continued to grow in a healthy manner, adding value to membership: As well as organising a programme of monthly events for members, we have outreach activities such as the *Children and the Organ* project and collaboration with the RSCM for the *Organists' Support Scheme* which have made many friends. We also have a splendid website, packed with interesting information, and a high quality newsletter, both much admired by other organists' associations.

Inevitably, with the perennial rise in costs such as in printing and postage, the Committee has to consider raising membership fees from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011. The idea of adding £2 has been floated, bringing the annual membership subscription to £12 with a concessionary rate of £10 for senior citizens. No decision will be made until the next AGM in November, following due consultation and discussion with members. So, in the meantime, please share your views on the subject with members of the Committee.

### **2010 Programme**

The Committee has received warm comments about the variety and interest of events in this year's programme. Of course there are still more to come and we can look forward to these. For the concluding event, the Chairman's Evening in October, we are

promised some surprises, so this is one not to be missed. Also in October, the DDOA will be hosting the Midland Organ Day, sponsored by the Incorporated Association of Organists.

Never resting on its laurels, the Committee has already begun to draft ideas for the 2011 programme. Please tell the Committee what events we have had previously which you would welcome again, or if there are ideas you have experienced or heard of elsewhere that we should consider, please have your say. The most convenient method of contacting committee members is via e-mail:

[mail@derbyorganists.co.uk](mailto:mail@derbyorganists.co.uk).

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## *Your newsletter*

I am indebted to Tony Westerman for his generous help and advice in preparing this newsletter, my first as Editor. As a reader, I have been an admirer of the new style format which Tony has evolved, and I am very glad that he continues to assist with its production. The newsletter is now a bi-monthly publication in order to conserve costs whilst maintaining quality.

For this issue, thanks are also due to Dennis Felton who has contributed an interesting account of his birthday visit to the Liverpool Cathedral organ.

I invite all members to suggest ideas for articles for the *Newsletter*. If you have made an interesting visit to an organ, or attended an interesting event, or encountered an interesting personality in the organ world, please consider writing something. Normally feature articles should not be longer than 1000 words, but if you have just a germ of an idea or an issue which could be of interest to members, I am happy to develop it for you. Photographs are also always welcome as they help to enliven presentation.

In a similar vein, I am always happy to receive any small items of local news about people, events, celebrations, anniversaries, and so on; anything which will be of interest to organists. Send it to [DDOAnews@gmail.com](mailto:DDOAnews@gmail.com).  
*Laurence Rogers*

## *Members' Notes*

### **S.S.Wesley Anniversary**

2010 marks the bicentenary of the birth of Samuel Sebastian Wesley and to mark this anniversary a concert is being organised in Derby Cathedral on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June at 7.00pm (please note the starting time). Entitled 'An Evening with Dr Wesley' it features actor Keith Briars as Wesley, with music provided by the Cathedral Voluntary Choir and the choir of Melbourne Parish Church. Tickets are £10 (concessions £8) and this includes refreshments.

*Tom Corfield*

### **Sheet Music at Foulds Music Shop, Irongate, Derby**

Foulds are in the process of re-stocking their selection of organ music and would welcome help. They are keen to stock material that is of use to local organists but they find it quite tricky to work out what that might be. They do not have an organist on the staff. Selected volumes of the Vierne Symphonies and Bach Barenreiter edition are all very well but they sit on shelves for months if not years.

As part of my work with the RSCM 'Organists' Support Scheme' I said I would be happy to try and recommend the sort of materials that our tutors thought useful for the rather specialist group it serves. However, **any** suggestions from DDOA members would be most welcome to the staff at the shop, so if you have any thoughts please contact Paul Marshall [01332 344842] or go in and have a chat. I personally value Foulds greatly and would like to think we can support their efforts to provide a service to local organists.

*Stephen Johns*

### **Outreach to young people**

In a recent lecture, Dr. Alan Thurlow, President of the IAO, has highlighted the need to devise new ways of introducing young people to the organ. Our own *Children and the Organ* project is pioneering activities for primary school children. If you discover interesting outreach initiatives in other regions, please let us know.

[DDOAnews@gmail.com](mailto:DDOAnews@gmail.com).

*Editor*

## Events

### Derby Cathedral:

#### Summer organ Recitals

#### Wednesdays 7.45pm

Admission £5 (£10: 18th August)

Simon Lindley (7 July)

Stephen Disley (14 July)

Francis Jackson (21 July)

Daniel Hyde (28 July)

Peter Gould (4 August)

Tom Corfield (11 August)

David Sanger (18 August) £10

Ben Bloor (25 August)

### Albert Hall, Nottingham

#### Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2.45pm

David Butterworth (Nottingham)

#### Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2.45pm

David Gammie (Wimbledon)

### Southwell Minster

#### Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 7.30pm

Philip White-Jones (Southwell)

#### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 7.30pm

Douglas Cleveland (Seattle, USA)

### Lichfield Cathedral

#### Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm

Philip Scriven - organ

### Leeds Parish Church

#### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 7.30pm

'Battle of the Organs'

Ian Tracey, Daniel Bishop, David Holder, Simon Lindley

### Visit to Stanton-by-Bridge and Swarkestone

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm

This evening visit gives an opportunity to view and play recently renovated one-manual organs, dating from 1873, in two small villages in the southern fringe of Derbyshire.

Directions from Derby: The A6 and A50 offer the fastest route first to Stanton-by-Bridge (7.30pm) on the A514 and later to Swarkestone (8.30pm). Cross the River Trent along the ancient causeway to Stanton and turn right into Ingleby Road. Look for St. Michael's Church on the left after about ½ mile.

St. James Church, Swarkestone is near the river bank at the end of Church Lane, a turning off the A514 near the petrol station.

Refreshments will be served at Swarkestone.

### The DDOA Annual Dinner is on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June.

Please send your booking to the Secretary, Mrs. Siann Hurt, not later than 9<sup>th</sup> June.

More details and map on page 6.

### ANNUAL DINNER - MENU

#### Starters

Platter of melon with pink grapefruit and stem ginger compote (v)

Carrot and orange soup (v)

Prawn cocktail with brown bread and butter

Poached pear and Stilton salad with a herb dressing

#### Main Course

Roast leg of English lamb with redcurrant gravy

Lemon, mint and pea risotto (v)

Pan fried duck breast with black cherry sauce

Fillet of sea bass on a bed of stir fried vegetables

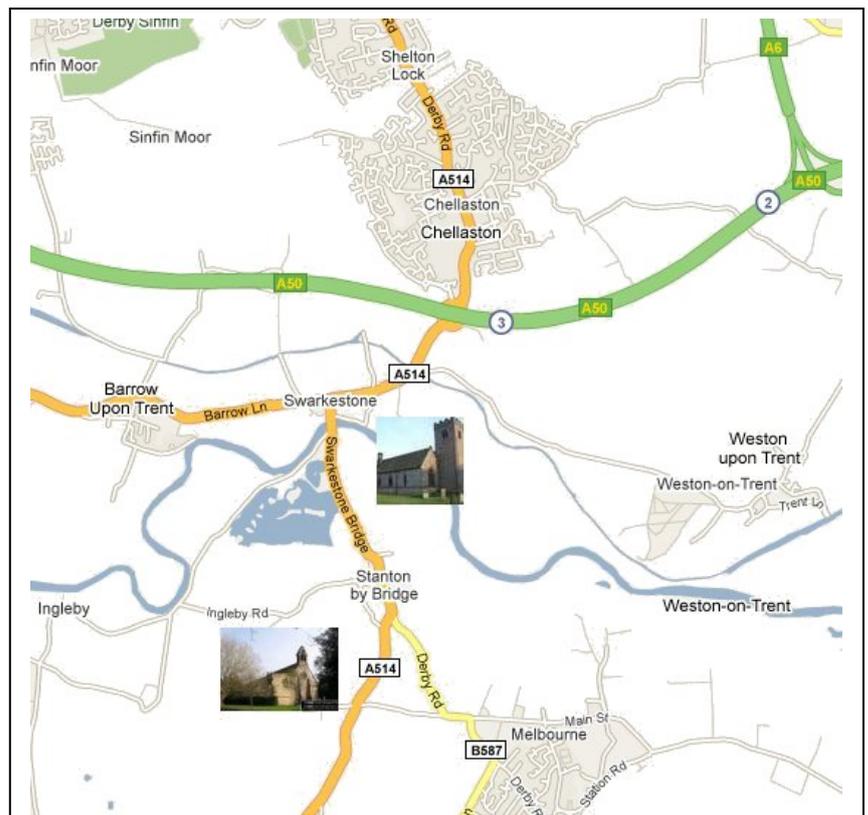
#### Desserts

Lime and basil cheesecake (v)

Chocolate and coffee mousse (v)

English and French cheese served with biscuits and grapes

Brandy snap basket filled with dairy ice cream and fruit coulis (v)





### *Liverpool Cathedral Organ Experience – A Birthday Treat* Dennis Felton

This year I celebrated my sixtieth birthday, perhaps nothing special about that you may think, except that I was presented with the *Liverpool Organ Experience*, one of the Cathedral's fund raising projects for the restoration of the great Willis organ. I was very lucky in that my wife and family got together and paid for this as my birthday present (some £500).

Along with eight family members, I duly turned up at the cathedral one Saturday morning in March. I was feeling rather daunted at the prospect of being let loose on this five manual creation and hoped I would not feel intimidated by playing in the presence of Professor Tracey himself! In the event, I need not have worried.

"Good morning professor." I said. "Oh, call me Ian." he replied and so it went on; he warmly greeted all my family including my three year old granddaughter.

According to the original literature, the experience was supposed to be for an hour, split into a tour of the organ, a demonstration by Ian, and playing. However, it turned out the experience was for two hours and very flexible.

So, we had a forty minute tour of the organ, starting in the blowing chamber, underground on the south side of the cathedral. This was fascinating – it was like the engine room of an ocean going liner. Ian explained about and demonstrated the three stage blowers, humidifiers etc.

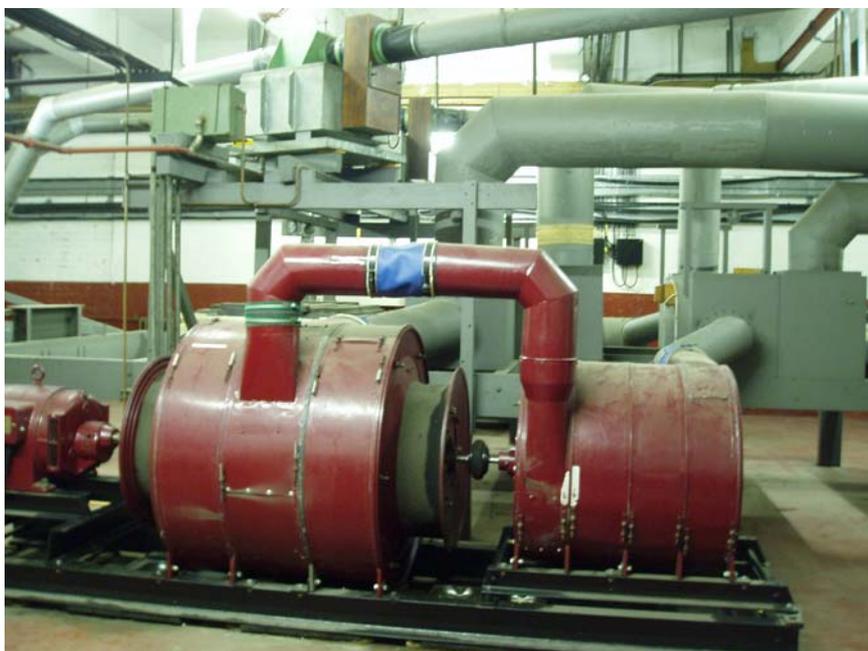
interspersed with many anecdotes – some gently technical, but many peppered with humour.

We then ascended (and ascended!) into the south case itself and were shown the 32 foot Double Open Bass, the Tuba Magna and various sections of the great. I must admit to feeling 'vertically challenged' at this stage and was relieved to get back on terra firma. A tour round the recital console on floor level then followed, an exact replica of the console situated high up on the north side of the choir. In itself, this console cost £65,000. I took this opportunity to change into my 'organmaster' shoes, so that, at least, I could look the part!



Prof. Tracey gives some advice on registration.

Then it was my turn – HELP!! There I was, sat in front of some 188 speaking stops and couplers, with pistons galore. I started with Widor – no, not the Toccata - but the Adagio from the same symphony. Why this? Well I can now say I have played Widor at Liverpool cathedral, but more truthfully, I thought a slow piece with a simple pedal part might just settle me down! Thankfully Ian was at hand to help with the registration, some beautiful strings on the swell and a triangular flute on the pedal. (What luxury. I usually have to couple through to the Great 4 foot flute.) All started well, I even managed the swell pedal (when, at last, I found it!).



Alas, I had the first of many 'senior moments' – well I am allowed them now – I am sixty! Towards the end of this piece I opened up the Swell again – wow! - This sounds good – what a Swell box!! It was only when the next pedal entry arrived that I realised something was seriously wrong – In came a 16 foot reed and numerous other surprises – My foot was on the general crescendo pedal – Get out of this one Dennis! I very slowly backed off the accelerator and luckily was able to return to the original registration. I thought it all sounded quite musical until I later played the recording!

My 'repertoire' was chosen, to some extent, with 'thank-yous' in

mind for my family who had contributed towards this event – their favourite pieces. So we had Bach's little F major (8 short); Wacht Auf; Ich ruf 'zu dir (a gentle lullaby for my 3 month old granddaughter); Mendelssohn 2 – Allegro maestoso (my eldest daughter's wedding march). Ian did not even raise an eyebrow when I played 'Little Donkey' for my other three year old granddaughter. I finished with BWV565 – with more 'senior moments'. I found the main problem in louder and faster pieces was keeping going; due to a time delay and the famous echo, I found myself getting slower and slower.

Ian returned to the console and said "But you haven't tried the Tuba Magna or the Trompette Militaire. You must try these". So I managed a couple of improvised fanfares! What a thrilling way to finish!

Also included in the deal was a signed copy of the Priory DVD and CD of Ian demonstrating the organ, and a copy of the latest booklet on the organ. You were also allowed to record the event (subject to certain conditions) and to take photographs.

A highly recommended experience and worth every penny!!

*Dennis Felton*

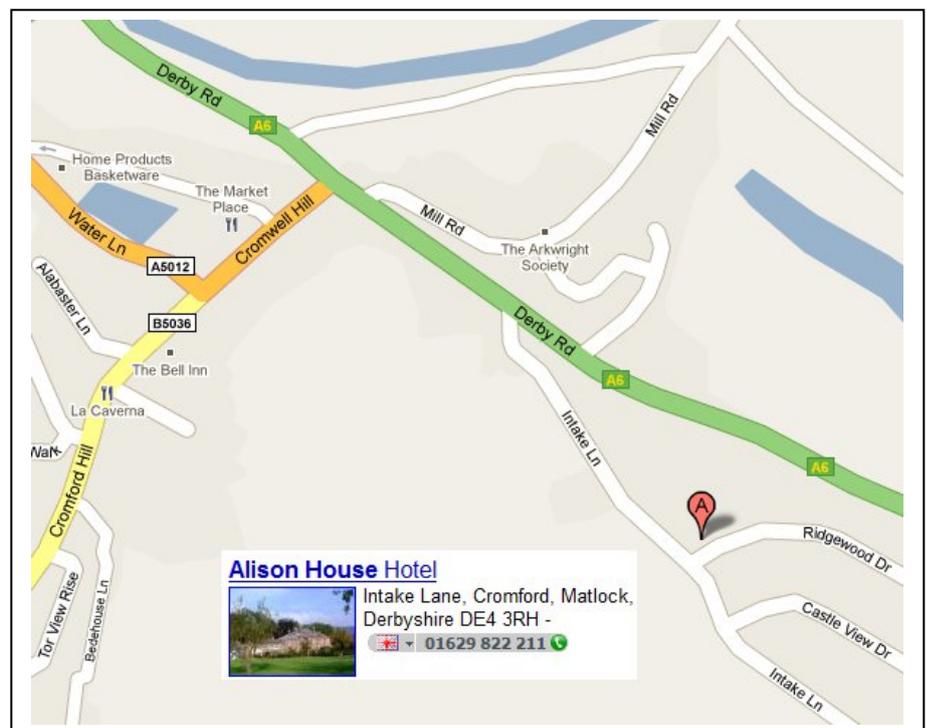
## Annual Dinner 16<sup>th</sup> June

*Alison House, Intake Lane,  
Cromford  
7.00 for 7.30pm  
£18.95 per head*

The menu is shown on page 4. Please indicate your choices on the booking slip accompanying this newsletter.

Booking slips with a cheque (payable to the Derby and District Organists' Association) must be sent to the Secretary, Mrs. Siann Hurt, Somercotes House, Somercotes, Alfreton DE55 4HB (01773 606900)

**AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
BUT  
NO LATER THAN 9<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**



### E-MAIL

The *Newsletter* is now published bi-monthly, however, if you have an email address you can receive DDOA News every month. When the *Newsletter* is due, it will be sent as a pdf file to your email address. On the alternate months you will receive the DDOA News Alert which lists the events calendar for the month. If you wish to take advantage of this email service, please forward your email address to [DDOAnews@gmail.com](mailto:DDOAnews@gmail.com).

Items of news or articles for the August/September edition of the *Newsletter* should reach the Editor by **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July**, either via e-mail: [DDOAnews@gmail.com](mailto:DDOAnews@gmail.com) or by post: Dr. Laurence Rogers, 24 St. David's Crescent, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4SS. The Secretary, Mrs Siann Hurt may be reached via [mail@derbyorganists.co.uk](mailto:mail@derbyorganists.co.uk) Please visit the DDOA Website [www.derbyorganists.co.uk](http://www.derbyorganists.co.uk) for information about Association activities, past editions of the newsletter, photo gallery and many special features of local interest.