

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2008

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 28 July : Organs in Cromford

7.30 Methodist Church, Water Lane

Nicholson & Lord, 1906 (Tipton Street Methodist, Sedgley, W Midlands); Edmund Stow, 2008.

Great: Open Diapason 8, Clarabell (*sic*) 8, Principal 4, Harmonic Flute 4, Fifteenth 2
(the Principal replaces an original Dulciana; the Fifteenth is an addition)

Swell: Viol d'Amour 8, Lieblich Gedact 8, Gemshorn 4, Oboe 8, Octave Coupler. **Pedal:** Bourdon 16
Original tracker action to manuals; new mechanical action to Pedal.

Although functionally complete since May, the organ is still awaiting the side casework which is needed in its new free-standing location; members will therefore get a good view of the internals, including the new pedal action.

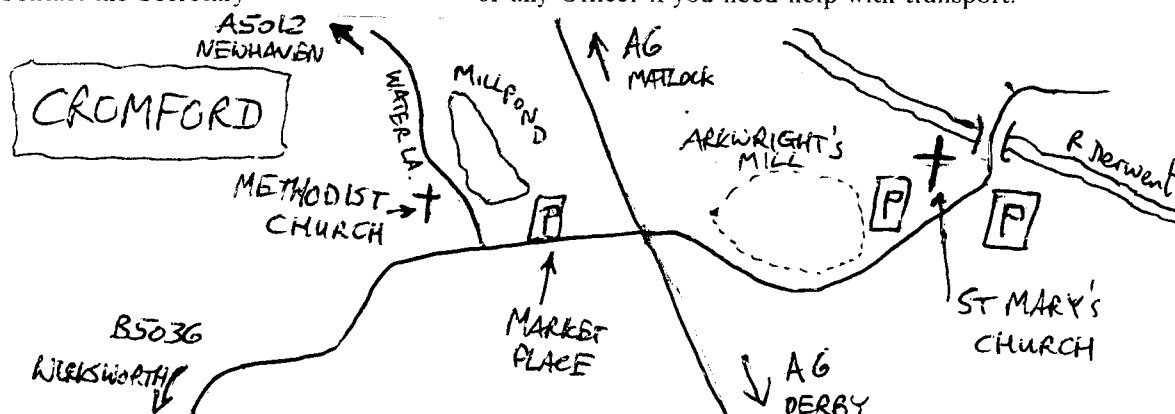
8.30 Parish Church of St Mary

This organ has been altered and added to at various times in its history, by several builders, the principal contributors being Hill (1859, Great) and Lloyd (1861, Swell, Pedal). The 2007 scheme by Edmund Stow, funded by a generous donation in memory of Ron and Celia Styles, saw the full restoration of the workings of the organ together with tonal changes: the Hill Great chorus has been completed and the Lloyd Swell brightened up by the rearrangement of existing ranks.

Great: Open Diapason 8, Stop Diapason 8, Principal 4, Flute 4, Twelfth 3, Fifteenth 2, Mixture II

Swell (TC): Clarabella 8, Keraulophon 8, Principal 4, Fifteenth 2, Oboe 8. **Pedal:** Grand Bourdon 16

A limited amount of parking is available on the Methodist church forecourt. Failing this, members may park on the Market Place just round the corner. For St Mary's, members may use the adjacent Arkwright's Mill car park or the field opposite the church. Refreshments will be available at St Mary's. Contact the Secretary or any Officer if you need help with transport.



Tuesday 9 September : Chairman's Event : St Wystan, Repton, 7.30

Our Chairman, Peter Williams, writes:

Bach and his Rhythm Stick : Some thoughts on rhythmic performance in Bach's organ music

The impetus for this Bach recital came from John Hobbs' contribution to the *Newsletter* in July 2007, where he outlined some of the interesting anomalies between the notation and the performance of Bach's keyboard *Partitas*. The programme will contain pieces demonstrating some of the rhythmic problems that can vex a performer, and will show some of the solutions I have come to after 50 years of cogitation. There will be programme notes for those who wish to delve deeper - otherwise just come along and listen to some wonderful music. As for the title - more will be revealed on the day!

ORGANS IN LEEK

A small party, numbering 10 at most, braved the dismal weather of 21 June to support this event. After the problems Denis Littleton had encountered in fixing up our schedule, it was a relief that, once again, everything worked out as planned, with plenty of time for lunch and looking around.

Your reviewer was only present in St Edward's for the last few minutes of our allotted time, but quickly came to the conclusion that the place was something of an organ-builder's nightmare - absorbent sandstone walls, cluttered interior, organ relegated to a corner chamber speaking mainly down the side aisle. The 19th century instrument was certainly a product of Jardines' good period, though electrified by them in 1951 (not such a good time), and recently very thoroughly renovated by Principal Pipe Organs (York) - at great expense. The quality of the original was still evident - spotted metal pipework, generous construction (even a massive slider-chest for the pedal stops), and the layout now somewhat improved - but nothing that anyone does will alter the fact that a really top-class result is simply not possible in such circumstances.

At St Luke's the 2-manual Jardine organ dating from the 1880's had been partially pneumatised by them in 1907 but was otherwise unaltered. Despite its position in the customary chancel chamber it spoke out relatively well into the now somewhat truncated nave, and sounded good. It had also clearly been well looked after, though the organist's long catalogue of maintenance events did seem to reveal a piecemeal approach which would surely work out more expensive in the long term - just the sort of history that smarmy salesmen like to quote when promoting "maintenance-free" substitutes.

The organ in Waterfall Church clearly was Forster & Andrews' 1867 rebuild of a barrel organ, the Jardine label referring only to a renovation at some later unspecified date: Open Diapason, Stop Diapason (Treble and Bass), Dulciana, Principal, Twelfth, Fifteenth - all (except the Dulciana) let out to the full in a way the next generation might have thought intolerably coarse, but necessary given the instrument's position in a tunnel off the chancel. And what a sound, despite the obvious discrepancies in tuning and regulation! If only we had more organs voiced with such forthrightness and vitality

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OTHER CHURCH/ORGAN-RELATED EVENTS TO NOTE

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| Sun | 13 July | Ahreum Han : Albert Hall, Nottingham, 2.45 |
| Wed | 16 July | 5 Organists : Cathedral, 7.45 |
| Wed | 23 July | Cathy Lamb : Cathedral, 7.45 |
| Wed | 30 July | Martin Neary : Cathedral, 7.45 |
| Sat | 2 Aug | Francis Jackson : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00 |
| Sun | 3 Aug | Alan Spedding : Albert Hall, Nottingham, 2.45 |
| Wed | 6 Aug | Timothy Noon : Cathedral, 7.45 |
| Wed | 13 Aug | Midas Touch Organ Duo (Roger Sayer and Charles Andrews) : Cathedral, 7.45 |
| Sat | 16 Aug | Tom Corfield : St John, Derby, 7.30 (180th anniversary of church dedication) |
| Wed | 20 Aug | Gareth Green : Cathedral, 7.45 |
| Fri | 22 Aug | The Bishop's Consort : <i>Requiem</i> (Fauré) etc. : St James the Greater, Leicester, 7.30 |
| Sat | 30 Aug | Michael Rhodes : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00 |
| Sun | 31 Aug | Sarah Baldock : Albert Hall, Nottingham, 2.45 |
| Sat | 6 Sep | Come and Sing <i>Nelson Mass</i> (Haydn), cond. Peter Williams : Melbourne Leisure Centre. <i>Information from Melbourne Arts Festival Booking Office ☎ 07962 430450</i> |

ADVANCE NOTICE

This year's **IAO Midlands Organ Day** is to take place in Lichfield on Saturday 11 October. Presenters include Paul Spicer, David Saint, Philip Scriven and Mark Venning (MD of Harrison & Harrison). Our Secretary can provide booking forms (contact details above).

VACANCY

Musters Road Methodist, West Bridgford, Nottingham. Organist required for at least one Sunday 10.30 service per month, plus weddings and funerals - exact commitment negotiable. 1960's