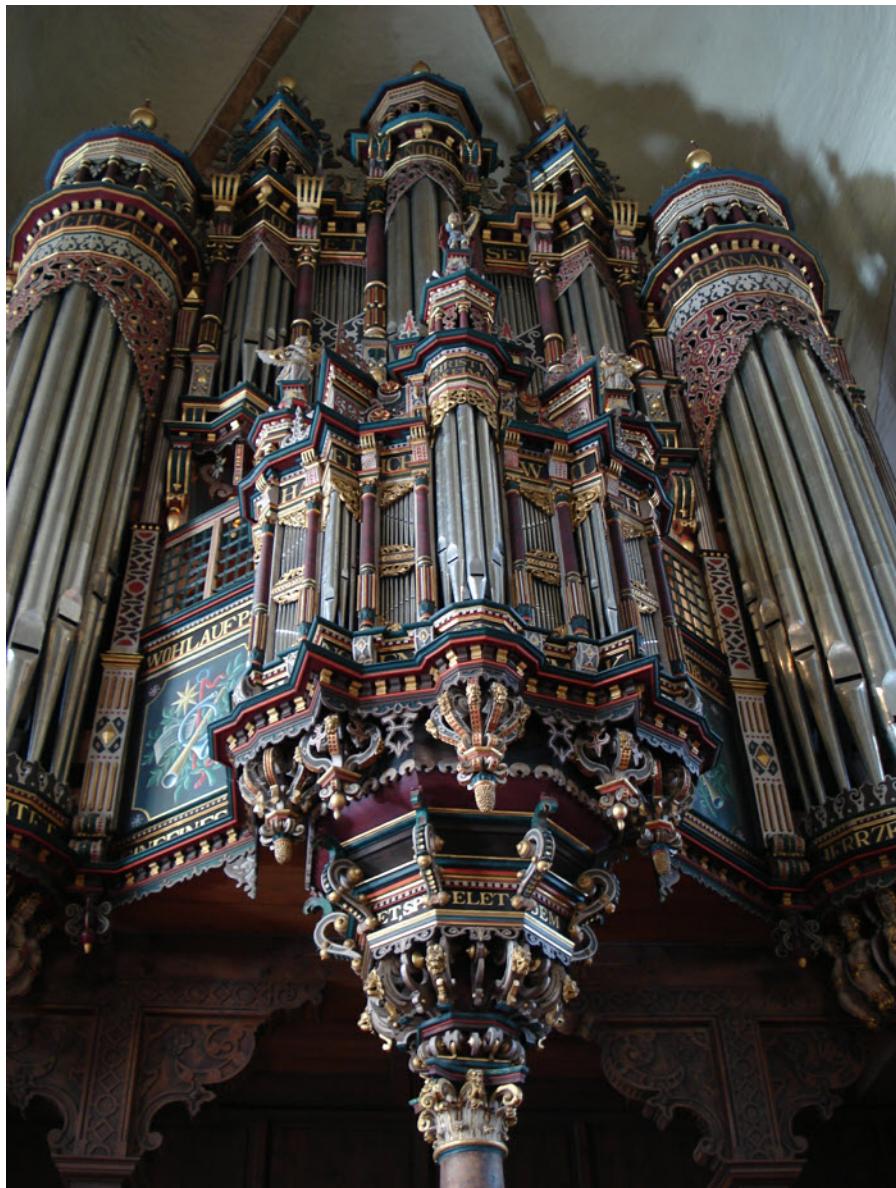


Derby & District Organists' Association

Registered Charity No. 510567



Bremen's ancient and modern masterpiece gains a link with Derbyshire. Full story on page 5.

New for 2011:

A Fresh start for 2011

Your Association has a new chairman, new committee and a new programme for 2011. Each are introduced in this issue.

The officers have key roles in determining the affairs of the Association and the leading personalities are briefly introduced on page 3.

We also honour retiring officers, Peter Williams and Siann Hurt, and honorary life members, who have given outstanding service.

Our new Chairman, in his welcoming message, urges us all to contribute to activities, do what we can to recruit new members and especially try to reach out to young people.

DDOA Events 2011

- 24th January** DVDs and recordings of organs and their music.
- 23rd February** Talk by Peter Collins, Organ builder.
- 26th March** Visit to St John's, Carrington, Nottingham
- 18th May** Lecture recital by Simon Lindley.
- 14th June** Annual dinner.
- 18th July** Visit to local organs.
- 24th September** Outing to Oakham churches and Peterborough Cathedral.
- 24th October** Composers' workshop with Paul Fisher
- November** Chairman's Event and AGM

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Send to a friend

Do you pass on your Newsletter or forward the pdf version to a friend?



This would be a useful way of broadening interest in our activities and introducing new members to our Association.

A Message from the Association's New Chairman, Professor James Muckle

Peter Williams has been our Chairman for the past three years and has now stood down. It is my privilege to pay tribute to him and to the work he has done for the Association. In the first place we were lucky to have such a skilful performer, capable of stunning virtuosity, always tempered by what our forebears in earlier centuries would have called 'good taste' - what a pity so many people these days no longer even believe in that concept! In the second, Peter has guided the Association with a sure firm hand, unfailingly encouraging individual members in their enterprises and resolving difficulties when they arose. We thank him for all this, and particularly for being a willing - not a workhorse, but a thoroughbred, leading the race from the front, while somehow contriving never to leave the hindmost too far behind. The Association owes a lot to him.

And now you are lumbered with me. Peter will be a hard act to follow. But I thank you for the honour of occupying the post of Chairman. While I cannot wow you with wonderful performances of Reubke or JSB, I do hope I can maintain some of the momentum which previous chairmen have established with the help of other hard-working officers. We are riding high after the most successful Midlands Organ Day, which has attracted nothing but



praise from the IAO and those who attended. We are beginning to be noticed nationally for our Children and the Organ Project, which is showing signs of significant development. Our Newsletter and website are both of outstanding quality. There is absolutely no shortage of experts and enthusiasts willing to address us, play to us, coach us and stimulate our activities. We have a range of local organs of quality, some of which members have helped to refurbish under expert guidance. Our appetite for visiting churches both prominent and obscure to play their organs will never be satisfied. There is a lot to look forward to.

Please, now, everybody: lend us your ears, but not just your ears -

your enthusiasm, ideas, initiatives and optimism. Write for our newsletter, come to our meetings as regularly as you can, send in ideas to the Committee, recruit new, particularly young, members, and don't let the organ fade into the mists of musical and liturgical history! We are all not just organists, but musicians: choir members and leaders, 'gifted listeners' as one philosopher of music called us. And we play other instruments too, perhaps not exactly 'cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick'^t. We treasure the organ in particular, while promoting the whole world of first-rate music.

James Muckle

^t Daniel 3:5, if you had forgotten.

Retirement of Siann Hurt

Our longstanding Honorary Secretary has retired

Despite several previous attempts by committee members to delay Siann's retirement, she has finally pulled it off. At the 2010 AGM in November Peter Williams paid tribute to her magnificent service to the Association and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Siann has been a member of the committee since 1993 and Honorary Secretary since 2002. During that time her diligence in performing administrative, pastoral and domestic roles for the Association has created a daunting act for her successor to follow. Until recently she undertook the mailing of the Newsletter, even during a couple of years when she was living in Dunfermline. (She

wonders how many members noticed the Edinburgh postmark on the envelopes!) She has maintained the membership list, she has organised the bookings of speakers, buses, outings, venues, refreshments..... the list could go on. All of this has been in addition to the normal secretarial duties of writing minutes and keeping the committee well informed. Her knowledge of the Association, its business, people and history, has proved invaluable to the committee on numerous occasions.

It is sometimes said that the fate of competent people is always to be in demand. In this sense Siann has been a model; not a day passes without some aspect of Association business impinging on Siann's life. She will surely miss this as much as we will miss her unstinting care and attention.

So now, a more peaceful life for Siann and husband Chris? Perhaps? 2010 saw Siann complete twenty years as the main organist at St. Mark's, Openwoodgate, Belper; together with Brownies and the Hurt One Name Study, she is still much in demand.





Chairman - Prof. James Muckle

James taught Russian, German and French in schools and then became a teacher-trainer. In retirement he set up a small academic publishing business, concentrating on Russian studies.

He started learning organ in his late teens when National Service gave the opportunity to take lessons in Berlin with a Lutheran church organist. He has played regularly for church services in several cities, has directed light operas and contributed generally to school music. He plays continuo with several local ensembles and currently shares the directorship of the St Mary's Clifton Singers.



Vice-Chairman - Denis Littleton

Denis was inspired to take up organ playing after watching Graham Matthews at an evening course at Sheffield Cathedral. He then had lessons with Malcolm Cousins at St Peters, Mansfield and later became organist at St James Codnor, a post he held for 8 years. Always brimming over with ideas, he has been a stalwart on the DDOA committee for many years, and twice has been Chairman.

Denis has been a regular traveller on organ-playing tours to France and Germany, and has attended most of the IAO congresses. Currently, he is on the IAO Advisory Committee.



Secretary - Stephen Johns

Stephen has spent most of his life in education, having taught music in various establishments, including Belper High School, as it used to be named. He relates that Siann, his predecessor as Secretary, was one of his pupils there and that he actually wrote a song for her in a school show at one stage. Later he joined the staff of Homerton College Cambridge followed by a spell at Derby Moor School. Since 1991 he has been Organist at St Helen's Etwall and St Wilfrid's Egginton. He is a member of the RSCM Derbyshire Committee where he runs the Organists' Support Scheme.



John and Gill Hunt

John was Treasurer to the Association for over 20 years before retiring in 1996 when he and Gill moved to Southampton to live near their son. Both John and Gill joined the Association in 1975, soon after settling in Derby. Within a year, John was voted on to the committee and became Treasurer shortly after that.

Although no longer living in Derby, John and Gill still enjoy being in touch with our activities through the *Newsletter*.

Honorary Life Members



Edmund Stow

Ed served on the committee continuously from 1973 until last year. During that period he held post of Chairman and Newsletter Editor at various times, and for many years managed the newsletter production and distribution. He has organised numerous meetings for the Association and his intimate knowledge of local organs and organ building in general has always been invaluable. He has been an enthusiastic contributor to the Children and the Organ workshops.



Rodney Tomkins

When he retired in 2010, Rodney was the elder statesman on the committee, having served since 1973. He held the office of Chairman twice, masterminded the newsletter for 28 years and, with a variety of initiatives, has made an enormous contribution to the life of the Association.

He has led a distinguished career as a musician and teacher, and his published research into and knowledge of the local organ scene are widely admired.

DDOA - Your Association

New Committee and officers

At the AGM held on 23rd November, the following officers were elected:

Chairman	James Muckle
Vice-Chairman	Denis Littleton
Secretary	Stephen Johns
Treasurer	Chris Darrall
Gift Aid Secretary	Gillian Chatto
Newsletter Editor	Laurence Rogers
Website Manager	David Shooter
Auditor	D. Hall
Chaplain	Revd. John Bland
Committee:	Terry Bennett Peter Gould David Wells Peter Williams

Subscriptions

New subscription rates for 2011 were agreed at the AGM:

Standard rate:	£14
Senior rate:	£12
Students:	Free
Organists' Review	£22.80

DDOA list of deputising organists

There is a growing trend for churches to ask the Association if there is anyone free to deputise, quite often at short notice. Although I have a complete list of members' contact details I am not legally permitted to give these out without the *express written permission* of the member. I think it is quite appropriate for the Association to try and help out in these circumstances, so I ask that anyone who is willing to have contact details made available to churches should send me a letter or email clearly stating that they are willing to be on a deputising list. I can be contacted either by email (mail@derbyorganists.co.uk) or post: 24 Oaklands Ave, Littleover, Derby DE23 2QG

Stephen Johns (Hon. Secretary)

Children and the Organ

Members will be pleased to know we have found a new opening for our work. On February 26th Laurence, James and I are leading a workshop at St Mary's Ilkeston for pupils aged 11 –18 mainly from the Ilkeston Music Centre. We are limiting numbers to 12 per session so that pupils can have a really fruitful time trying the organ and doing related activities.

I am very grateful to Gillian Chatto for getting this particular door opened and to Alison Madin from the Music Partnership who has been most positive in her support. The church has also been very helpful (John Sears, the organist, is one of our members). Full details of the day will be posted on the website in January. If you know of any youngsters who could benefit from the workshop, please draw their attention to this event.

Stephen Johns

A French Dedication - Denis Littleton

I was recently trying to reduce the amount of paper I have lying around in various nooks and crannies at home and came across the programme for the dedication service of the Aubertin organ at St-Louis-en-l'Ile in Paris, and was reminded of how differently they do things in France. At the time I was staying with a friend who was a member of the Amis de l'orgue de St Louis and was happy to be taken along to the service.

After the entry of the priests, in silence, the Curé welcomed the capacity congregation. A reading followed, Colossians 3, 12-17, then Psalm 97 sung by a cantor with the congregation joining in the refrain "Sing unto the Lord a new song". A minor bishop of Paris led prayers which ended with a prayer for the organ to support the worship of the people and glorify God. Following this, the bishop censed the organ and a dialogue between the bishop at the east end and the organ, at the west end followed. The organ replied with a short(ish) improvisation between each of the bishop's exhortations:

"Awake organ, sacred instrument, intone the praise of God, our Creator and Saviour"

"Organ, sacred instrument, praise Jesus, our Lord, dead and resurrected for us"

"Organ, sacred instrument, sing to the Holy Spirit who fills our lives with the breath of God"

"Organ, sacred instrument, raise our chants and supplications to Mary, Mother of Jesus"

"Organ, sacred instrument, take the comfort of faith to those in pain"

"Organ, sacred instrument, support the prayers of Christians"

"Organ, sacred instrument, proclaim the glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit"

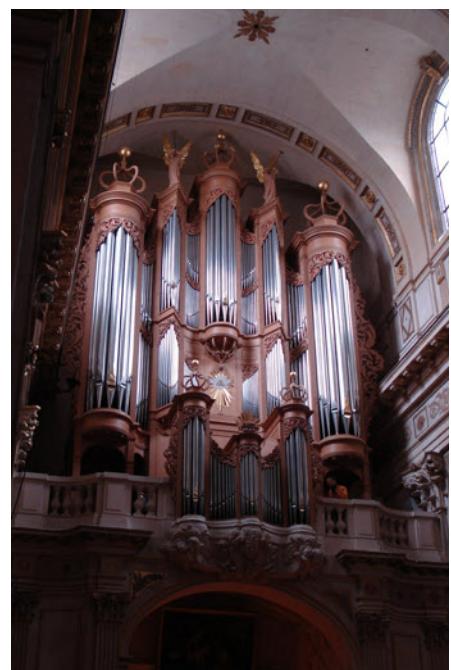
There was a great opportunity here for a good improviser to really show off, but unfortunately none of the players distinguished themselves as masters of the art.

Then followed Psalm 150, with cantor, a Bach choral prelude played by the *titulaire* of the choir organ, the Magnificat – in Latin, the Lord's Prayer and final benediction. Finally, we were treated to a new composition written for the occasion, "Hommage à St Louis", a piece in 3 sections: 'The coronation of Louis IX', 'Testing times' and

'Glory of St. Louis'. I think the middle section summed it up!

Somehow, I can't imagine this sort of service in England, but if anyone is having an organ dedicated in the near future, you might like to suggest it to the Vicar or Bishop.

Denis Littleton



St-Louis-en-l'Ile, Paris
Organ by Aubertin, Suisse

A piece of Derby organ history in Switzerland - David Wells

On a recent visit to Switzerland, I was fortunate enough to be able to examine and play a bureau organ by John Snetzler, built in 1763, which, until 1945, was in Radbourne Hall near Derby. In 1982, it was restored by Noel Mander before being taken to Switzerland, where it was used in concerts until 1988, when it was placed in the Museum zu Allerheiligen in Schaffhausen (Snetzler's birthplace). It is not, at present, on public display but, having written to the museum to enquire about it, I was invited by the curator to inspect the organ in their temperature- and humidity-controlled storage facility.

Despite having been stored, out of use for a number of years, the organ is still in good playing condition and retains its original meantone temperament. The stops are (stopped) Diapason, Flute, Fifteenth and Sesquialtra/Cornet, and the organ has the bright but gentle sound typical of Snetzler's chamber organs. I was fascinated by the compact design of the mechanism and by the way in which the pipes were neatly fitted into quite a small space.



The museum authorities were interested in my enquiry, as they were uncertain about the date of acquisition of the organ and had no information about its background. I hope that my visit might have aroused some interest in the organ, as it seems a shame that such a delightful instrument should remain unplayed.

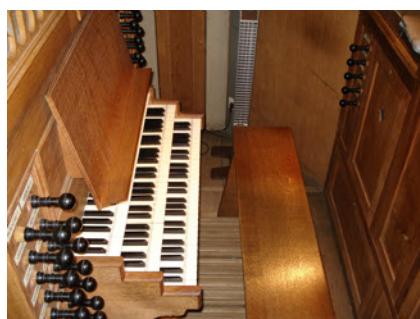


A more detailed account of the organ will, in due course, appear in a booklet which I hope to publish about 'The Organs of Radbourne', which is now nearing completion.

David Wells

An Organ Student from Bremen with an interesting story

The magnificent organ pictured on our front cover is one of the instruments used for practice by Sachiko Kawakatsu, an organ student at the Bremen Hochschule, Germany. Sachiko visited England last September and, amongst various visits to organs and organ events, attended Rodney Tomkins and Stephen Johns' 18th Century English Organ presentation at St.Peter's Belper. (See photo below.) Sachiko is a music graduate from the University of Kobe, Japan, where her organ professor is Masaaki Suzuki, the famous Bach specialist. In Bremen her organ professor is Harald Vogel, the Buxtehude specialist. The Hochschule is one of Germany's premier music academies specialising in 'Altmusik' and it takes students from all over the world. Sachiko describes the focus of her course as pre-Baroque. In addition to performance classes, there are seminars in counterpoint, improvisation and church music.



Students of organ have three organs in the city available for practice, of which the Martinikirche instrument pictured here is one. Like most city centre churches, Martinikirche was badly damaged by fire in 1944. Before this catastrophic event, the church authorities, aware of the impending danger to their historic organ, had arranged for it to be dismantled and stored in an organ factory in the suburbs. The case, dating from 1619, was stored separately in a barn, somewhere in the country, and this ensured its survival from the war. Sadly, this was not the fate of the pipework

and organ works which perished when the organ factory was bombed. So the Martinikirche emerged from the war without a roof or organ but with its historic organ case in safe storage.

By 1962 the organ case was restored with a brand new three-manual mechanical organ by Jürgen Ahrend inside. (Notice the unusual location of the stops for the Rückpositif.) I have had the pleasure of playing this wonderful instrument which speaks so clearly and sparkles in a thrilling acoustic.

Laurence Rogers



Forthcoming DDOA Meetings

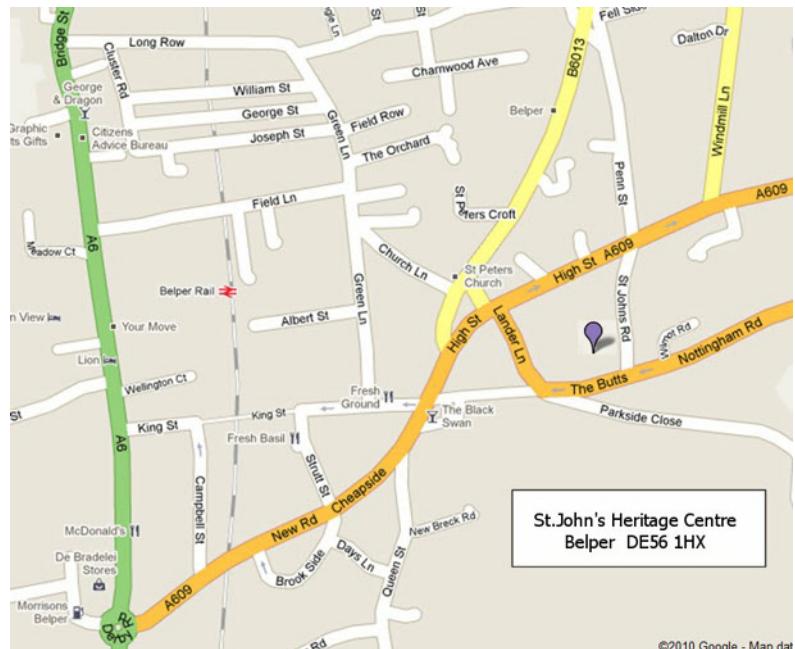
An evening of music on DVDs and CDs

**Saturday 24th January 7.30 pm at
St.John's Heritage Centre, Belper**

Denis Littleton and Peter Williams will present a selection of videos and music featuring some famous organs and organists. Their final selection is still to be confirmed, but it is likely to include names such as, Daniel Moult, Ian Tracey, Stephen Cleobury and Marie Claire Alain. Organs to be featured will include King's College Cambridge, Liverpool Cathedral and several historic English organs.

Our audio visual expert David Shooter will once again provide technology ensuring that we can enjoy splendid picture quality and high fidelity sound.

The location of this event at St.John's Heritage Centre, Belper, has a good reputation for its warmth and comfort on cold January evenings. Access to the car park is from St.John's Road.



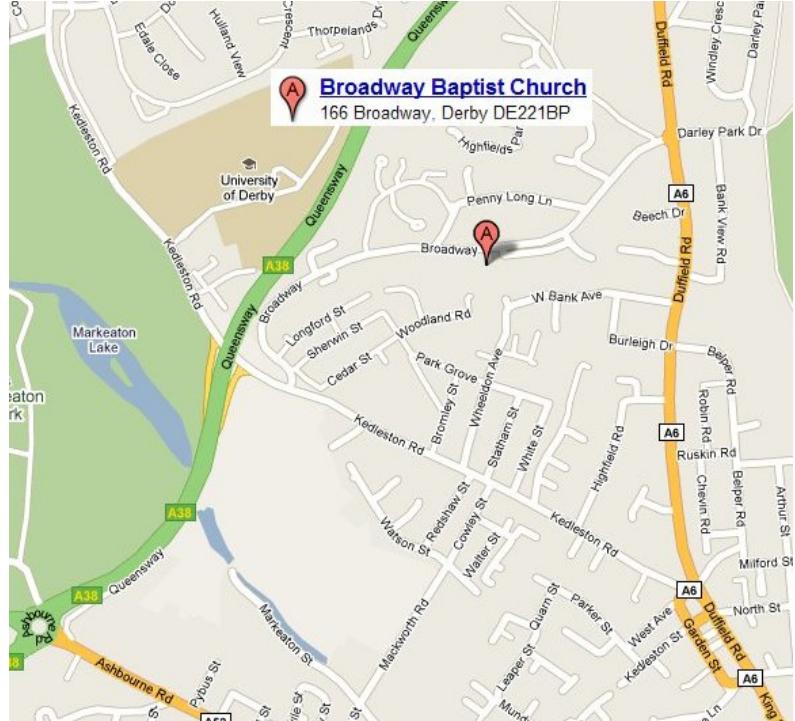
"All in the life of an organ builder" Talk by Peter Collins

**Wednesday 23rd February 7.30 pm at
Broadway Baptist Church, Derby**

Peter Collins has been building organs for well over 40 years. During that time he has earned an international reputation for his work, indeed, he has built instruments in five continents. Next September, Association members will have an opportunity to visit and play his splendid three-manual instrument at Oakham School.

Peter has written many articles and is also well known for his engaging talks and lectures to a wide variety of people, ranging from professional bodies to university students. He is a past president of the Federation of Master Organbuilders, a past member of the organ committee to the Council for the Care of Churches, and is presently a board member of the Institute of British Organbuilders, the industry's professional body.

His talk to us promises to be engaging and entertaining.



Your newsletter

I am very grateful to all who have contributed articles, reports and news for the *Newsletter* during the past year. I hope that even more members will contribute items in 2011. It would be good to reflect more about Derbyshire personalities and their activities in the organ world. I have attempted to increase the focus on people in this issue, but news of members depends upon members sending news, so please send your contribution, no matter how small. I can write the prose if you send me the information.

Editor

Items of news or articles for the March/April edition of the *Newsletter* should reach the Editor by **Monday 14th February**, either via e-mail: DDOAnews@gmail.com or by post: Dr.Laurence Rogers, 24 St.David's Crescent, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4SS. The Secretary, Stephen Johns, may be reached via mail@derbyorganists.co.uk. Please visit the DDOA Website www.derbyorganists.co.uk for information about Association activities, past editions of the newsletter, photo gallery and many special features of local interest.