

Derby & District Organists' Association

Registered Charity No. 510567

Newsletter



Favourite Borrowings - A Repertoire Evening

On a somewhat cool and rather wet evening some twentythree members, together with friends from the local congregation, met for an informal evening of music making in Melbourne Parish Church. The programme was introduced by Laurence Rogers who explained that the inspiration for the event stemmed from an article in a recent *Newsletter* by James Muckle on the keyboard works of Telemann. The article commended the idea of borrowing this repertoire for the organ. Members were invited to suggest and play further examples of pieces not originally intended for organ, but which might be

welcomed as additions to the organ repertoire.

As well as the main organ (Bevington 1858/Nicholson 1979) the single manual chamber organ (James Davis c.1810) and a harpsichord by John Rooks (1978) were used for performance. Some performers chose to use more than one instrument, exhibiting considerable athletic dexterity in moving between instruments during various movements! Seven members introduced and presented pieces which included works by composers such as Telemann, Handel, R Schumann, Mozart, also little known items by people such as Steenwicks (Dutch, never heard of

DDOA Events 2017

20th November (Monday) 7.15 pm
AGM followed at 8.00 pm by 'The English Church Anthem through the Ages'.
A talk by Hugh Morris and Revd Chris Moorsom. (See page 6)

Concerts & Recitals

Saturday 4th November 3.30 pm
St Giles Church, Sandiacre NG10 5EE
Recital by David Butterworth to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Nigel Church organ. Entry £6.50 including drinks and reception at 3.00 pm.

Saturday 11th November, 7:30pm
St Osmund's, London Road, Derby
Derby Choral Union - Fauré's *Requiem*,
Ola Gjeilo *Sunrise Mass*

Saturday 11th November, 7.30 pm
St Mary's Church, Bridge Gate, Derby
Derwent Singers with Derby Concert Band

Saturday 18th November, 7.30pm
Derby Cathedral
Derby Bach Choir - Rutter's *Gloria*,
Bruckner, Schütz, Parry, & Monteverdi

Saturday 9th December, 7.30pm
St John's, Bridge Street, Derby
Derby Bach Choir- Voices & Brass

Saturday 16th December, 7.30 pm
St Luke's Church, Parliament Street, Derby
DE22 3RL
Derwent Singers with Derby Concert Band
Christmas Concert

Saturday 16th December, 7.30pm
Derby Cathedral
Derby Choral Union - Handel's *Messiah*

Saturday 16th December, 7.30pm
Christ Church, Belper DE56 1BJ
Monday 18th December, 7.30pm
St John's, Bridge Street, Derby
Sitwell Singers - Christmas music & readings

Photo: Left to right: Geoff Howell, Hugh Morris, Denis Littleton, Laurence Rogers, John Rooks, Andrew Storer, James Muckle.
(Photo by David Shooter)

Programme

Fantasia No.2	G.P.Telemann
Noel: 'Joseph est bien marie'	C. Balbastre
'Heiligh, Saligh Bethlehem'	G. Steenwicks
Gigue in G K.574	W.A.Mozart
Pastorale	D. Zipoli
Fantasia & Fugue	G.F.Handel
Magnificat Fugue 21	J. Pachelbel
Voluntary	J. Nares
Chanson	R. Gliere
Sonata K.85	D. Scarlatti
Gymnopedie No.2	E. Satie
'Little fugue'	
from <i>Scenes from Childhood</i>	R. Schumann
Sonata in D 1 st movement	C.P.E.Bach
Wedding Day at Troidhaugen	E. Grieg

The players

Geoff Howell, Denis Littleton, Hugh Morris,
James Muckle, Laurence Rogers, John Rooks,
Andrew Storer.



John Rooks at his personal favourite harpsichord.

him before), Balbastre, Satie and Grieg. (See the full programme above.) All the performances were most creditably performed, especially taking into consideration that there had been no chance to practise on the instruments before the event!

The three instruments involved gave an excellent account of themselves, and the Association is most grateful to John Rooks for the loan of his harpsichord and to Edmund Stow who some years ago restored the chamber organ. Thanks also to the Vicar and PCC of Melbourne for the use of their facilities.

All in all, a most pleasant and interesting event, which we hope will encourage members to seek out more of these little known gems for liturgical use.

Terry Bennett



Hugh Morris plays a Voluntary by James Nares.

Like most organists, I am always on the lookout for interesting new pieces to add to my repertoire and this event certainly secured that. Indeed, the pieces suggested by John Rooks have both reminded me of dormant volumes on my music shelves and enlightened me of valuable sources not bearing the label 'organ'; for example the 'keyboard' works of Handel and Pachelbel. The variety of suggestions by participating members was very encouraging. As expected, the Baroque era provided many examples for the programme, partly prompted by the availability of a chamber organ and harpsichord, but not exclusively so, when we moved to hear the main organ. Perhaps another event could explore more modern repertoire and indeed transcriptions? A valuable aspect of the programme was the personal filtering process implicit in bringing 'favourite' pieces, not of one member, but of several. For example, although Scarlatti wrote 555 keyboard sonatas, it was good to hear which one James Muckle had chosen to play, and to do so in three different styles on the three instruments.

Another aspect of the event which I liked was the format of bringing together contributions of a group of members sharing ideas and enthusiasm. I think we might consider how to strengthen this aspect of our Association activities. As Newsletter Editor, I am always grateful to receive members' contributions commending a composer, a piece, a place, an event, and so on, as a

means of sharing our individual enthusiasm for anything connected with organs, its music and people. James has set a brilliant example with his articles which I have referenced here. They really do deserve revisiting. All back numbers of the Newsletter are available from our website.

I offer special thanks to all playing volunteers who gave thought to my original request for ideas. This includes thanks to Margaret Eades who could not be present, but whose suggestions were played by Andy Storer. Also, please have a look at page 5 to see Geoff Howell's notes about Mozart's Gigue in G which he performed at the meeting.

We live in a time when it is now so easy to acquire copies of music. The standard collections of publishers are all available to peruse online, and many of the items are available for free download from the [IMSLP](https://imslp.org/) public domain library. You only have to Google the name of a composer or piece. In conclusion, I hope that the event has inspired members to try something new.

Laurence Rogers

Reference

DDOA Newsletter articles by Dr James Muckle:

29 March 2012	Scarlatti
38 Sept. 2013	Stanley
45 Nov. 2014	Pachelbel
56 Sept. 2016	Telemann

An archive of all DDOA Newsletters may be found on our website www.derbyorganists.co.uk

Recent Events

Visit to Newark and Halam

The Association's September visit, arranged by Denis Littleton, involved a visit to Newark Parish Church and to the home of David Butterworth to hear and play two very different instruments. The group of ten members was greeted at Newark by the Director of Music, Stephen Bullamore, who had chosen an interesting and varied programme for his lunchtime recital, offering the group the opportunity to hear the organ played with style and accuracy in the building's generous acoustic.

The organ, a 58-stop four-manual and pedal instrument originally built by George Pike England in 1804, has weathered the changes and additions of a number of builders: Forster & Andrews, Henry Willis I, William Hill & Son, and finally Hill, Norman & Beard, who built the comfortable, moveable console.

Sited in the South Choir Aisle, the organ speaks well to every part of the building, assisted by a wide, open crossing and stone floors. The console is currently sited in the South Transept at the edge of the crossing, allowing the player to hear exactly what is happening with little noticeable delay on the action. As an instrument for accompanying it is ideal: dynamics are easily controlled with the very effective Swell shutters; the console is well equipped with pistons, and subtle changes of tone are possible thanks to the predominantly Edwardian tonal structure. In 1978 HNB revoiced the Choir on classical lines to add some sparkle to the ensemble (there is a Choir to Great coupler). Full organ sounds very grand in that flattering acoustic.

The Solo Tuba, used to good effect by the chairman in Walter Webber's *Tuba Tune on Lobe den Herrn*, was revoiced in 1978 to make it brighter, though it still retains the characteristic rounded sound of a HNB tuba. (If anyone has information on Walter Webber, the chairman would be grateful to hear from you.)

A pleasant drive through Southwell to the home of David Butterworth brought us to a very different organ. Originally built for Wellingborough school as a practice instrument, the two manual and



Simon Bullamore at Newark

pedal Grant, Degens & Bradbeer is a work-in-progress for David, who purchased the organ, transported it, and has rebuilt it in a large, purpose-built room in his house after the school decided it had no further use for it.

This is not a small instrument. The case is shallow, wide and tall and is an imposing presence in the room, and thanks to the shallow case all pipes are able to speak clearly into the spacious and elegant setting. The tracker action is light and well-balanced, though requires some familiarity to offer clear, well-articulated performances, as David showed us after an introductory talk; although the Pedal action is a little noisy at present it is on David's 'list'. Those readers who are familiar with GDB organs might be surprised how subtle this instrument is, as music from a wide range of periods and



Halam Court organ by Grant, Degens & Bradbeer, 1969.



Denis Littleton at the console

styles can be managed on the fourteen stops.

After members had played, David offered a further selection of pieces and a visit to his workshop where he is constructing a voicing machine. David demonstrated how voicing is done, a process which members found very interesting.

This was a very successful day and our thanks go to Denis for organising it (and for the fruitcake), to Stephen Bullamore for his excellent recital and his unobtrusive console first aid, and finally to David Butterworth for allowing us into his home, the excellent refreshments and the chance to play the organ and see his workshop.

Tony Westerman and John Maxwell-Jones



David Butterworth demonstrates pipe voicing.

OrganFest 2017: Some Personal Reflections - Jim Heading

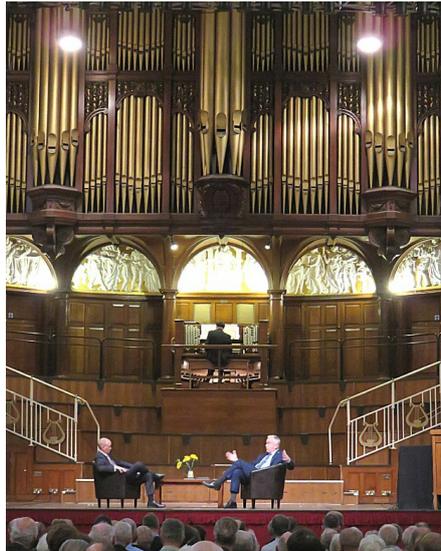
First, a bit of personal background. As with many of my generation I learnt to play the piano as a boy, but ceased playing when drafted to do my duty to Queen and Country (aka National Service). My time as a cathedral chorister had already cemented in me a love of choral and liturgical music, and an appreciation of both the sound and the complexity of the organ. On retirement I resolved to take up the piano again, as a route into learning to play the organ. Ten years later I remain an amateur in every sense of the word, rather low grade and unable to play the pedals to any great degree. Yet I find myself playing every week for services at a church in my local town (I could easily be playing at a second church if I could handle it), and am constantly sought after to play for funerals, the occasional wedding and other services. My other passion is ringing church bells, of which more later.

So, to OrganFest at Hull City Hall.

I persuaded my wife to come to the Friday session (she emphatically is NOT a fan of the organ) and she enjoyed the lighter side of it (the *Desert Island Discs* feature with Huw Edwards), as did I. However, the recital afterwards was far too intense for her, and I also found a full programme of 19/20th century French music very tedious.

Saturday, I went alone. I greatly enjoyed Darius Battiwalla's recital – a good varied programme and a very relaxed playing style - which included works by the Hull-born composer Alfred Hollins. (I was able to see clearly the recitalist's pedalling technique, and gained, simply by observation, some better insight into coping with this.)

The Young Organists' Forum in the afternoon was cut short to catch up on time, and I thought this to be rather less than inspiring; I am sure it would have done little to whet the appetite of young would-be organists, had there been any such in the audience. But I enjoyed Kevin Bowyer's recital very much and thought it was an excellent finale, enabling us to hear some of the novelty stops and other effects on the fine instrument in the City Hall.



So, what impressions did I come away with? First, on surveying the audience, the almost universal 'silver' sheen at head level (this attribute also applied to most of the organisers and performers). Second, the somewhat 'stuffy' ambience of the event (there was little to lift the spirits and fire up great enthusiasm). Third, I was struck by the fact that the organisers and performers were almost entirely male – not at all in line with current thinking on gender representation.

Some random musings during and after OrganFest.

I have touched on the scarcity of organists for the day-to-day needs of parish churches, and I am disheartened, yet not now entirely surprised by the fact that there seem to be few younger organists available. I mentioned, too, that I ring church bells, and we have a similar problem. In fact I know that other activities as diverse as brass bands and canoeing have the same difficulties. I think the CATO initiative of the DDOA is highly to be commended, but I suspect there needs to be a wider recognition of the need for intense and coordinated work of this kind. The national and local bodies representing bell ringers have at last embarked on a programme attempting to halt the decline in younger people taking up the activity, and to improve vastly the standard of teaching new recruits, and this seems to be having some effect. I know that the national

body representing canoeing took similar steps a few years ago with great success.

The common thread across the specific activities I have mentioned could be that it is only feasible to do them by arranging with others to meet at a suitable place and (with the exception of organ-players, whose lives can be solitary and maybe lonely) to participate for their collective benefit and pleasure. Worse, for organ players and bell ringers, most facilities involve entering a church, and this seems to be 'uncool' in the extreme in the minds of many younger people. Bell ringers do not have to be active members of a church (indeed, most are not); they use valuable equipment belonging to the church, and in return they voluntarily perform a church duty by ringing for services. I imagine an organist could have a similar arrangement, but clearly his or her duty would involve remaining for the duration of the service.

I know that all the activities I have mentioned are minority ones; I am not concerned with numbers *per se* but more that the skills should be passed down the generations. I am not aware of what the national bodies representing organists are doing, if anything, to transfer the skill to the young, but I am quite sure there has to be an intensive effort to provide a high grade programme of teaching them from the point they register an interest, with a welcoming and comfortable ambience to encourage them to work towards a high level of competence.

Jim Heading

Footnote from the Editor

I am sure members will recognise the issues that Jim raises here. Organists' associations up and down the country continue to seek remedies for the lack of young recruitment. 'Stuffy' meetings and esoteric recital programmes clearly do a dis-service to the cause. But there are success stories too, for example, St Wulfram's, Grantham; do write in to tell us of others.

Vacancy Notice

Vacancy at All Saints, Aston

All Saints Aston is a beautiful medieval church with a strong musical tradition. Our SATB choir sings for Sunday services. Our organ (installed 2002) is in good order. We have good relationships with our church school, and scope to develop links with them musically.

An organist is needed for around 25 weddings /20 funerals annually.

We are looking for someone to play for Sunday services and pastoral offices from early 2018. We would like a flexible musician who will enjoy playing for All Age Worship as well as Common Worship Holy Communion services.

It may be possible to split the organist/choir director aspects of the role.

Our church is situated just off the A57, close to J.31 of M1 /J.3 of M18.

Remuneration offered in line with the applicant's experience and skills.

For an informal conversation, ring the Rector, Revd. Frances Eccleston 0114 287 3780 or email a CV to f.m.eccleston@gmail.com

Forthcoming DDOA Meeting

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 20th November 7.15 pm at St John's Methodist Church, Allestree DE22 2QL.

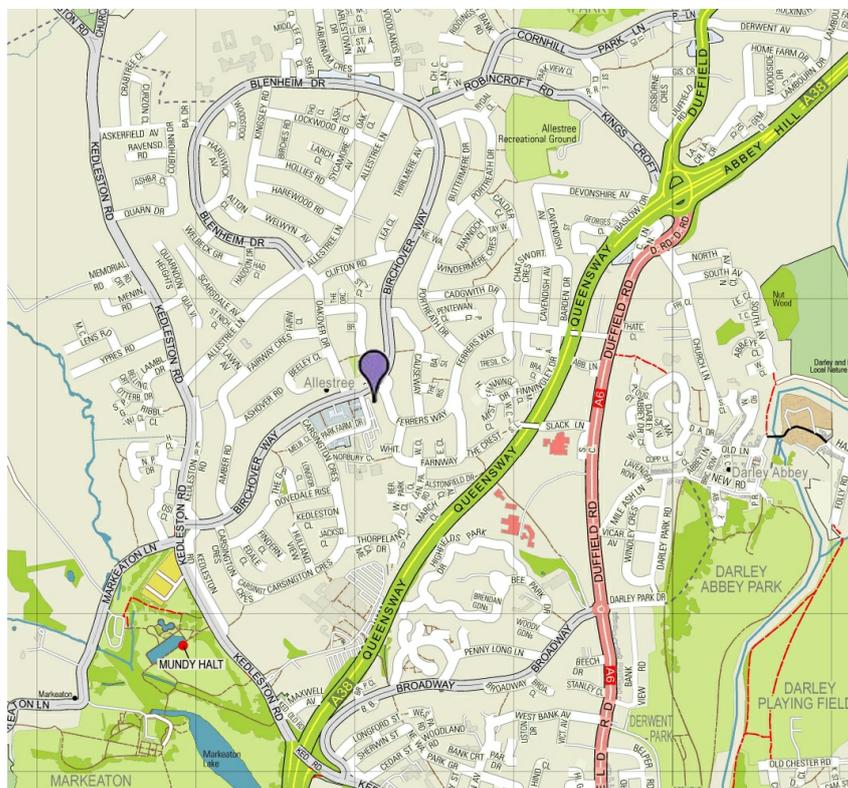
Please note the starting time for the AGM. An illustrated talk follows immediately at 8.00pm.

The Annual General Meeting of the DDOA will take place on Mon 20 November in the lounge and coffee bar at St John's Methodist Church, Birchover Way, Park Farm, Allestree, Derby DE22 2QL. The church has its own large car park and is well situated between Park Farm Drive and Ferrers Way (on the right as you approach from Kedleston Road). The meeting will start with the 'business' part of reports and elections at 7.15. A talk will follow after a short coffee break:

20th November 8.00 pm at St John's Methodist Church, Birchover Way, Allestree

'The English Church Anthem through the Ages'

An illustrated talk by **Hugh Morris**, Director of Music, Derby Cathedral and **Revd Chris Moorsom**, Precentor, Derby Cathedral.



PLEASE DO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ATTEND WHAT PROMISES TO BE A VERY INTERESTING EVENING.

Please note the change of venue from previous years and that it is NOT St John's, Bridge Street! Why the change of venue? Your committee has found in recent years that the parking around Spondon Parish Church has become more difficult and that, although the room is excellent, the access is dark and restricted. We are very pleased that St John's Allestree is available for us.

Items of news or articles for the January/February edition of the *Newsletter* should reach the Editor by **Monday 18th December**, either via e-mail: DDOAnews@gmail.com or by post: Dr Laurence Rogers, 24 St.David's Crescent, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4SS. The Secretary, Andy Storer, 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.