

NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2007

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday 13 October : Visit to Organs in North-East Derbyshire

2.30 All Saints, Wingerworth

As described in the February *Newsletter*, this instrument has developed from a 1755 Snetzler built for St Paul, Sheffield Its present form, many rebuilds, enlargements and removals down the line from the original, is due to Henry Groves & Son (2006).

Gt: 8, 8, 4, 2²/₃, 2, IV (b&t), Tromba 8 (*pipework of flue stops almost wholly by Snetzler*)
Sw: 8, 8, 8, 4, 2, II, Trumpet 8
Ch: 8, 4, 4, 2²/₃, 2, 2, 1¹/₃, Tromba 8 (*flue stops extended from 2 ranks, Tromba from Gt.*)
Ped: 16, 16, 8, 8, 4, Trombone 16, Contra Fagotto 16
Unison, sub and super couplers.

4.00 SS Mary and Laurence, Bolsover

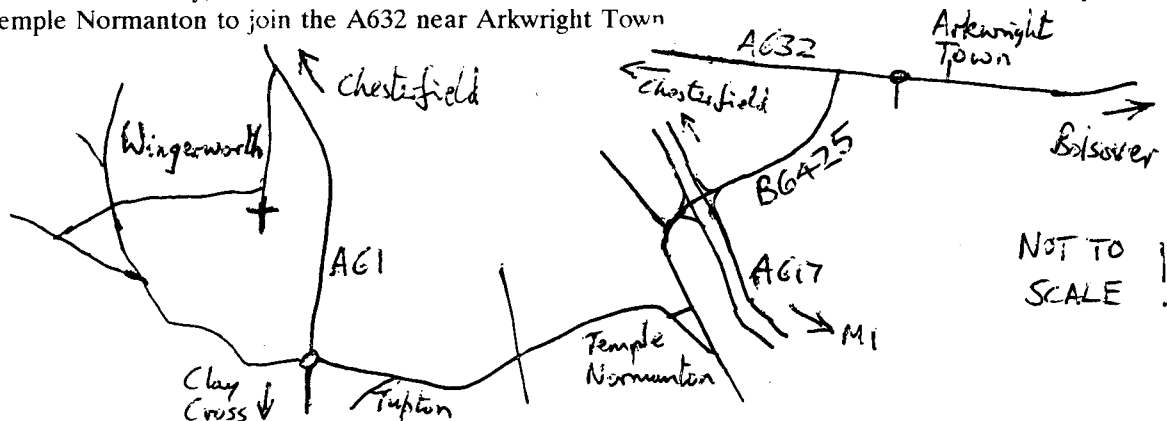
Based on a Lewis from St George, Glasgow, the organ was installed at Bolsover by Willis in 1962, under the influence of Dr W L Sumner.

Gt: 16, 8, 8, 8, 4, 2²/₃, 2, III, Tromba 8
Sw: 8, 8, 8, 8, 4, III, Contra Oboe 16, Trumpet 8, Krummhorn 4
Pos: 8, 8, 4, Cornet III, Tromba 8 (*from Gt.*)
Ped: 32, 16, 16, 16, 8, 8, 4, 4, IV, Trombone 16
Unison, sub and super couplers. General crescendo pedal.

Once again, this is a "self-propelled" trip - please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary (☎ 01773 606900) or any Officer if you need help with transport.

Wingerworth lies to the west of the A61 between Clay Cross and Chesterfield. Coming northwards on the A61, turn left at the second roundabout beyond Clay Cross.

From Wingerworth, Bolsover may be reached by continuing to Chesterfield and there taking the A632. Alternatively, to avoid Chesterfield, return to the A61 roundabout and continue via Tupton and Temple Normanton to join the A632 near Arkwright Town



Tuesday 20 November, 7.30 : Annual General Meeting

Formal notification of the AGM, to be held in the vestry of St John, Bridge Street, Derby, will be given in our next issue. In the meantime, members may like to start thinking about matters they wish to raise (particularly suggestions for future events), or approaching potential candidates they would like to propose for office.

LANGLAIS EVENT

The sun shone on the righteous as members made their way to Lichfield on September 15, firstly for a well-attended Evensong, followed by Philip Scriven's Langlais centenary presentation. Langlais' music featured in the service as well, the final section of his Festival Alleluia forming the Anthem - not, on Scriven's own admission, one of the composer's most profound pieces, more "a bit of fun" (though tricky with it). The rehearsal requirements of this presumably accounted for the non-appearance of the advertised canticle setting, Leighton (Magdalen College), its place being taken by solid old Ireland in F (almost *Ireland in F#* on the Lichfield organ!). The new Assistant Organist, naturally still feeling her way to an extent, coped with all this plus the 15th Evening psalmody marathon, though in the latter a little lightening of the pudding would have been welcome.

Sadly the congregation melted away leaving only our customary 25 or so, plus no more than half-a-dozen others, despite the advertising of the event in Lichfield and to neighbouring Associations, for Philip Scriven's presentation; numbers looked even thinner after several members took up the invitation to wander round the Cathedral during the proceedings. The presentation itself struck a happy balance between talk and music, the former consisting of snippets of biographical fact, anecdote and musical assessment, while the programme of music covered the range of the composer's output, from the atmospheric *Chant de Paix* to the exuberance of *Fête*.

Many of us may feel that we simply don't have the organ, the building, the liturgical context, or indeed the technique that much of this music requires, but we certainly came away better informed, which of course is the Association's constitutional aim.

Our thanks are due to Philip Scriven, to our Chairman and Vice-Chairman, who had the idea in the first place and promoted it through to its conclusion, and to the authorities of Lichfield Cathedral for allowing the event to happen.

One final thought - it's Messiaen's centenary next year!

ERS

OTHER CHURCH/ORGAN-RELATED EVENTS TO NOTE

- Sat 13 Oct James Lancelot : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00
Sat 13 Oct David Wells (annual Harvest concert) : St Andrew, Radbourne, 7.30
Wed 17 Oct Tom Corfield, Rodney Tomkins, Edmund Stow : St Mary, Cromford, 7.30 (*see note*)
Wed 17 Oct James Vivian : Southwell Minster, 7.30
Sun 4 Nov Sophie-Veronique Cauchefeur-Choplin : Albert Hall, Nottingham, 2.45
Sat 10 Nov Simon Lindley : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00

ST MARY, CROMFORD

Sir Richard Arkwright died in 1792, before either his intended grand residence, Willersley Castle, or its accompanying chapel was finished. The chapel became the Parish Church of Cromford many years later. Originally a plain "preaching box", it was enlarged and gothicised by H I Stevens in 1858/9; at this time the original organ, said to date from 1770, gave way to a new 1-manual by Hill, to which a tenor-C Swell was added by Lloyd (Nottingham) in 1861 - the earliest known work of that firm still surviving in the county. Various further additions and alterations were made over the years up to 1960, at which time Henry Willis & Sons increased the Pedal compass and balanced the Swell. The organ had received no attention other than occasional tuning since then, despite severe water damage in 1991 which left only the Great operational, until the recent full restoration by Edmund Stow, made possible by a very generous donation from Tom and Rosemary Corfield in memory of Rosemary's parents. The Great now has a full Hill (or Hill-style) chorus up to Mixture, complemented by a contrasting chorus to 2' on the Swell, all being very much enhanced by the superb "organ acoustics" of the building.

The inaugural Concert on 17 October features the three organists involved in the project as donor, adviser and builder.

IAO CONGRESS 2007

This year's Congress took place in Glasgow between 23 and 28 July. We were based at a hotel owned by the NHS - yes, really - the story is a long one involving Americans, Arabs, investment companies and the Scottish Executive. It is the only hospital I have ever seen accessed through a hotel reception. The situation of this enterprise was Clydebank, one of the less pretty areas of Glasgow which has seen better days.

The first event was a recital by Dame Gillian Weir on the 1901 Lewis organ (Gt 14, Sw 13, Ch 12, Ped 9) at Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum. The programme was a bit of a mixture including the Toccata in F, BWV 540, which was rushed and not allowed to breathe at all. The best part of the recital was the Adagio in E by Bridge.

Tuesday morning saw us at Paisley Abbey. This organ started life as a 2-manual 26-stop Cavaillé-Coll, but subsequent rebuilds have modified the French accent out of existence. We moved on to the Coats Memorial Church, a Baptist establishment but like none I've ever seen before - closer to Rome than many Catholic churches. The organ is an 1890 Hill: Gt 14, Sw 14, Ch 8, So 9, Ped 8. After lunch we went on to St Columba's church in Largs (Gt 10, Sw 9, Ped 5) where Dr John Kitchen (who has recorded the works of Krebs on Priory) gave a recital starting with Buxtehude and ending with Egil Hovlund (b 1924). After dinner Dr Relf Clark gave the RCO Lecture *Elgar and the Organ*. This was very entertaining despite the unpromising subject matter, delivered in a dry style by a man thoroughly in command of his subject matter.

Wednesday was spent in Glasgow, firstly at St Margaret's, Knightswood, situated on a junction with four other churches of various denominations. Dr Kitchen demonstrated the organ, a real gem by Willis (1866, Gt 10, Sw 4, Ped 1, removed to this church in 2002). Then on to Glasgow Cathedral where the Organist, John Turner, gave a recital on the 1879 Willis (Gt 14, Sw 13, Ch 13, So 11, Ped 16).

After lunch Kevin Bowyer gave a masterclass on Bach and Vierne at Glasgow University Chapel - Willis, 1928 (Gt 11, Sw 14, Ch 14, Ped 10). This was followed by the AGM, the items of most interest being:

- the outgoing President, Catherine Ennis, has been very ill and had to go home early. Congress's good wishes and thanks for her work during the last two years were sent to her.
- John Stormont has stepped down as General Secretary owing to his wife's ill-health. (John was the speaker at our 2004 Annual Dinner).
- The Capitation Fee remains unchanged.

The musical part of the day ended with a recital by Kevin Bowyer in which the highlights were *Toccata di Concerto* (Lemare), *A Church Service interrupted by a Thunderstorm* by David Clegg - if you ever see this as a recording or sheet music, it's worth getting hold of - and *Eirann Notes* by Paul Fisher, a series of seven atmospheric pieces inspired by Irish scenes.

Thursday took us to Edinburgh and the Reid Memorial Church (Rushworth & Dreaper 1933, Gt 9, Sw 11, So 8, Ped 9). The next port of call was Cannongate, Kirk with its 1998 Frobenius - Gt 8, Pos 8, Ped 4. This organ is both visually and tonally satisfying, its design sympathetic to its 18th-century surroundings. Here we heard the first performance of the latest IAO-commissioned work, *Little Suite* by Malcolm Archer - a pleasant collection of short pieces which should be playable by an organist of reasonable ability. Following this, Francesca Massey gave a sparkling recital of works by Buxtehude, Bach, Mendelssohn, Fricker and Bovet. Francesca has been appointed Assistant Organist of Peterborough Cathedral from September, and will be a talent to look out for in the future.

We moved on in a downpour, the only one of the week, to St Cuthbert's (Hope-Jones 1899, Gt 15, Sw 22, So 11, Ped 19), just off Princes Street. The church is about the same size as Derby Cathedral; the Great, Swell and Pedal all have nave and chancel divisions and the organ seems to take up nearly half the north wall. It manages to produce industrial levels of sound. The recital here was given by Simon Hogan, who I think will be another talent to watch out for; the programme here consisted of loud pieces, however, and we left with ears ringing.

Our final call was at the Usher Hall (1914 Norman & Beard, Gt 14, Sw 15, Ch 14, So 6, Ped 14). This organ has been brought back from the dead, restored by Harrison & Harrison in 2003. Here we were treated to a recital by Dr John Kitchen which included Liszt's *Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen* and a transcription of the *Entrance and March of the Peers* from *Iolanthe* (Sullivan). John Kitchen made a great contribution to the Congress, which helped to make it such a success.

After all of this, we only had one recital on Friday, at Dunblane Cathedral (Flentrop 1990, Hoofdwerk 12, Bovenwerk 13, Positief 9, Pedaal 7) from Francesca and Simon, which brought the musical part of the Congress to its conclusion.

On returning to Glasgow we visited the Auchentoshan distillery. I'm told the whisky was good, but giving me whisky is like giving a donkey strawberries.. There was one bottle on display which came in a wooden box with gold padlock, decanter and £4,000 price tag. Hurry, though, as they only have 84 left!

Congress ended with the Annual Dinner, held at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music; the speaker was Lord Gill, a judge who is also a part-time organist.

DAL

NEWS FROM FRANCE

In his latest communication, our correspondent reports on an instrument he has recently had the good fortune to play for two English weddings. He writes:

Créon is situated to the east of Bordeaux just off the main road towards Bergerac. It is a small Bastide town with a modest-sized church, Eglise de Notre Dame. In May 2007 an organ, newly installed on the West Gallery, was officially opened. Whilst the instrument faces east, the console is located in the south side casework. The stops controlling the Grand Orgue are positioned above the manuals, whilst those controlling the Récit are above the music desk. The organ was originally installed at Blanquefort in 1875 by Wenner, re-using some older material. In the recent restoration by Gérard Bancells, the opportunity was taken to increase the organ's scope by making two changes:

Grand Orgue: a Salicional 8' was replaced by the 3-rank Plein Jeu
Pédale: the Soubasse 16' was added

Grand Orgue (54 notes)

Bourdon	16 (à partir de C2)
Montre	8
Bourdon	8
Prestant	4
Doublette	2
Plein Jeu	III
Trompette	8
Clairon	4

Pédales de combinaison:

Orage
Accouplement
Tirasse
Trémolo
Expression Récit

Récit Expressif (54 notes)

Cor de Nuit	8
Violoncelle	8
Voix Céleste	8
Flûte Octaviante	4
Basson-Hautbois	8
Voix Humaine	8

Pédale (27 notes)

Soubasse	16
Flûte	8
Trompette	8

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NEXT NEWSLETTER will be published late October : deadline 20 October

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