

# NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

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## LOOKING AHEAD

**Wednesday 27 February, 7.30 : St John's Heritage Centre, Belper**  
**Rodney Tomkins : *Europe's Oldest Organs***

Members who have attended Rodney's past audio/visual presentations will need no encouragement to come along to this one, and bring interested friends and relations with them. The instruments featured will range in date from mediæval times to the early 17th century, some still surviving in playable condition, some only as casework, while others are known to us only through their depiction in works of art. Rodney's talk will be backed up by a full complement of slides and sound recordings.

Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

**Monday 7 April, 7.30 : St George, Ticknall**  
***O Taste and See* : Vaughan Williams, the Church and the Organ**

This major event in our 2008 programme, commemorating the 50th anniversary of Vaughan Williams' death, will soon be upon us, and members are urged to take every opportunity of advance publicity, for example in church magazines. While all our meetings are open to the public, this one in particular should be of interest to many outside our immediate circle. Handbills will be distributed with our next issue, and larger posters can be supplied (apply to the Editor).

The presentation itself will be given by Tom Corfield, with some input from your Editor on VW's hymnodic activities (following on from our English Hymnal event two years ago), supported by Derby Cathedral Voluntary Choir and Ticknall's excellent Walker organ.

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## THE ANNUAL DINNER

Some 35 were present at the Lion Hotel, Belper, on 19 January to enjoy a wholesome, if perhaps rather basic, meal and to hear Canon Nicholas Henshall speak on his somewhat *off-beat* experiences in church music (prior to his arrival in Derby, of course). As last year, the excessive temperature in the room obliged several well-clad members to remove layers during the proceedings - the more cynical amongst us speculated that it was all part of a deliberate plot to boost bar sales.

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## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

We are pleased to welcome two new members:

**Richard Arter**

**Jeremy Clegg,**

At the same time we are sorry to have to say goodbye to **Peter Hearne**, a member of long standing, who has found it necessary to discontinue on grounds of deteriorating health. We thank him for his support over many years. **Mrs Denise Hodson** has also decided not to renew her membership.

As his many customers will already know, **John Poyser's** business was taken over by Cousans Organs of Leicester at the beginning of the year. John's retirement brings an end to a long career, firstly with his grandfather's firm (J H Adkins), then with J W Walker, and finally (from 1975) on his own account. It also marks the end of the involvement of the Adkins family in organ-building, and so may be seen as the end of an era. We wish him all the best in his well-earned leisure.

**Alan Tudor** has recently broken up his Cavendish home organ and wonders whether anyone would be interested in making an offer for any of the reusable components - RCO pedalboard, 2-manual keyboard assembly, swell pedal assembly and bench, also loudspeakers and power supply units. Contact him ☎ 556672.

## MEMBERS' FEEDBACK

Amongst discussions at a recent meeting of your Committee, two subjects arose on which it was felt members might be invited to comment before any more is done:

● **THE ANNUAL DINNER.** There was a feeling that after four years at the Lion Hotel it was time for a change. Thoughts went back to the Centenary dinner held at the Market Place, Cromford, where the standard of the food was, for us, unprecedented (remember those sizzling steaks?). Any venue we use must have a private room if there is to be a speaker, or (like the Market Place) be prepared to close to the public for the night, or open specially for us - this will almost certainly mean a weeknight rather than a Saturday. January is a good time of year insofar as it is unsuitable for most other types of event, but the venue then must be reasonably risk-free in bad weather. The dinner will have to be held later in the year if we are to consider somewhere off the beaten track or in the potentially frozen north. Finally the price must be within our range. With all these interrelated factors to consider, members will not be surprised to know that the subject has been the cause of much vexed debate in past years (not uninfluenced by personal likes and dislikes!).

● **'ORGANIST' REVIEW.** Those who take *OR* cannot have failed to notice the change in style and presentation since the present editorial régime took over in August 2005. The opinion was expressed that the change was not for the better and that the IAO should be told so, but it was agreed that members should be consulted before any communication is sent.

Do you wish to comment on either of these matters? Send your thoughts to the Editor, either as a private communication for the Committee's consideration or, if preferred, as a Letter to the Editor to be printed in our next issue.

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## DECEMBER CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS

**ACROSS** 1. Samuel Sebastian 8. Screwing 9. Wesley 11. Elgar 12. Rebellion 13. S.O.S  
14. Reverends 17. Pavarotti 19. Mac 23. Enlighten 25. Aorta 26. Reggae 27. Snow Hill  
28. Thousand Tongues.

**DOWN** 1. Sister 2. Mirages 3. Edward 4. Senor 5. Steel men 6. Ill wind 7. Noying 10. Object  
15. Egoity 16. Langlais 18. Allegro 19. Martinu 20. Charles 21. Ferret 22. Taiwan 24. Nonet

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## OTHER CHURCH/ORGAN-RELATED EVENTS TO NOTE

Sun 2 Mar Carlo Curley : The Grange Banqueting Suite, Littleover (Allen Organ), 3.00.  
*(admission by ticket only, available from Chas Foulds & Son, Derby)*  
Sat 8 Mar Derby Bach Choir : *St Matthew Passion* (J S Bach) : Cathedral, 7.00  
Sat 8 Mar Nottingham Bach Choir : *Israel in Egypt* (Handel) : St Mary, Nottingham, 7.30  
Sat 15 Mar Carlo Curley : Hill Street Baptist, Swadlincote, 7.00 *(see note below)*  
Mon 24 Mar Carlo Curley + Paul Hale : Southwell Minster, 3.30

*There must be more than this - surely Carlo Curley doesn't have a monopoly! Details to the Editor.*

**SOUTH DERBYSHIRE ORGAN TRUST** This body was formed in July 2006 to promote the preservation of pipe organs in South Derbyshire. The Hill Street instrument is the first result of its endeavours, though hardly a *preservation* exercise in the strict sense of the term. It is based on a Lloyd organ formerly in Ebenezer Methodist, Newhall, to which material from the old Hill Street organ and elsewhere has been added, all with new electric action and accessories (by M C Thompson).

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## VACANCY

**All Saints, Bradbourne.** Organist required - morning services 1st and 3rd Sundays plus festivals. 1893 Keates 2-manual organ (renovated in 2000 by Edmund Stow). *Post vacant owing to organist's move away.* Contact the Revd Dr Stanley Monkhouse ☎ 01629 820049.

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**NEXT NEWSLETTER will be published mid March : deadline 8 March**