

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2008

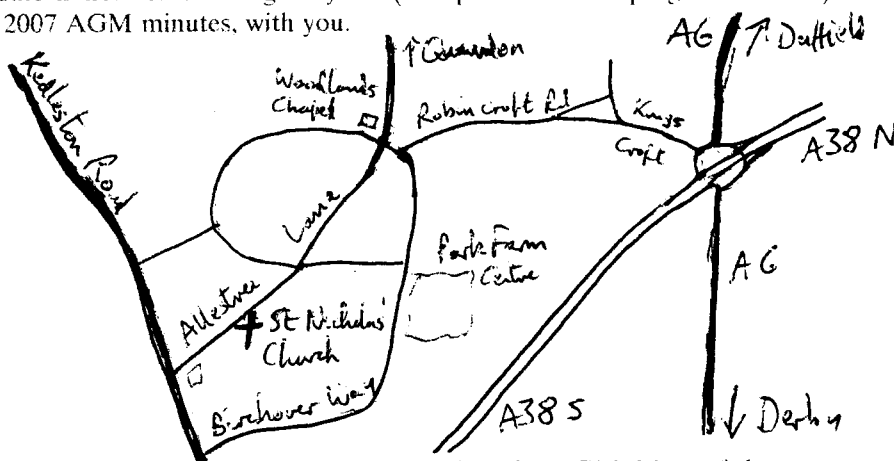
THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 18 November : Choir Vestry, St Nicholas, Allestree, 7.30

Formal notice of the 2008 AGM, including details of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, was given in our last issue; again we remind members that this date is not the one originally set (and printed in the programme card). Please bring this *Newsletter*, including attached 2007 AGM minutes, with you.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of 2007 AGM
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Secretary's Report
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Children and the Organ Project
8. Amendments to Constitution
9. Election of Officers and Committee
10. Programme for 2009
11. Any other business



The current term of office of all Officers and Committee members comes to an end at the AGM. Most of them are willing to stand for re-election (if nominated), but a new Newsletter Editor will have to be elected; members may wish to take the opportunity to discuss the future style, format and content of the *Newsletter*, and also the arrangements for its distribution.

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The 2009 Programme will be outlined at the AGM; we can, however, give notice now that our first event of the new year will be the **Annual Dinner**, which will take place on **Saturday 17 January**, 7.00 for 7.30, at the Grange Banqueting Suite, Littleover. The Speaker is to be the Revd Julian Hollywell, Vicar of Spondon. Our next issue will supply full details and booking form.

OTHER CHURCH/ORGAN-RELATED EVENTS TO NOTE

Sat	8 Nov	Derby Choral Union : <i>Magnificat</i> (Bach), <i>Requiem</i> (Durufé) : Cathedral, 7.30
Sat	22 Nov	Nigel Ogden : Victoria Hall, Hanley, 12.00
Sat	22 Nov	Derby Bach Choir : <i>B minor Mass</i> (Bach) : Cathedral, 7.30
Sat	22 Nov	James Bowman + Minster Choir : St Cecilia Concert : Southwell Minster, 7.30
Sat	29 Nov	Nottingham Bach Choir : <i>Requiem</i> (Verdi) : St Mary, Nottingham, 7.30
Sun	7 Dec	David Redfern : The Organ Loft, Belper, 2.30 (<i>booking essential</i> ☎ 01773 822670/828544)
Sat	13 Dec	Cathedral Choirs : <i>Messiah</i> (Handel) : Cathedral, 7.45

SOCIAL EVENING

Just over 20 members and friends gathered at Spondon Parish Room on October 14 for an entertaining evening, in a venue which proved ideal for the purpose.

Our past Chairman, Terry Bennett, had undertaken to lay on the quiz part of the proceedings, enlisting the help of friends who do this sort of thing. The questions had been compiled by Pat Nash, covering a range of areas of knowledge - history, geography etc. - plus a round on Church Music composers, supposedly in recognition of the clientèle's specialism. Actually the latter questions, all relating to people's names rather than their works, caused as much puzzlement as anything else - did you know that "Boris" Ord's real name was Bernhard? In Pat's unavoidable absence the quiz was skilfully compéred by his Cathedral Choir colleague, Geoff Alvis.

All this was followed by a kind of scaled-down re-enactment of the feeding of the five thousand

Our thanks are due to our Secretary and Terry and Brenda Bennett, who between them made the arrangements for the evening and marshalled the refreshments, and to Pat and Geoff for the preparation and presentation of the quiz.

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ORGANS ON WHEELS

It was with great relief that I woke up to a lovely sunny day on Saturday 13 September - the day of the 2008 Ride and Stride event. Just in case anyone hasn't heard of this, it is an annual sponsored event whereby one tries to visit as many churches as possible, either on foot or on a bicycle, in an attempt to raise funds partly for the Churches and Chapels Preservation Trust, and partly for the church of one's choice - in my case, St Peter's, Belper. However, merely to visit a church seemed like a missed opportunity to me, but to visit a church **and** play the organ seemed a far more worthwhile venture. Hence I made a few phone calls in advance to ensure this would be possible.

So with the prospect of a number of quite notable organs ahead of me, I pedalled enthusiastically up, then down, to St Peter's in Belper for my 10 o'clock start. I'd hoped to find an eager group there, but alas numbers seemed quite depleted all day, and only myself and one gentleman on foot, supporting St Luke's, Heage, assembled there to set off.

The day got off to a good start with the Bach Fantasia in G BWV572 played on the wonderful 3-manual Holt organ at St Peter's - what better way to start the ride! From here I had only a short ride down to Christ Church, which again, sadly, was empty. However, I felt less nervous playing to an empty church and enthusiastically set about the Bach D minor Prelude and Fugue BWV554 (from the 8 Short Preludes and Fugues). A totally different feel to this organ, a 2-manual Brindley & Foster, but quite a pleasing sound, I thought.

Next came a seemingly endless climb out of Belper over to Farnah Green, then on to St John the Evangelist Church at Hazelwood. Could the large number of cars parked outside belong to a band of enthusiastic walkers using this as their starting point? Unfortunately not; an unexpected Saturday morning Baptism/Blessing was taking place. Even our own Graham Craft, who was playing for it, had been completely unaware of it just a couple of days before. I felt quite disappointed at not being able to play here, but with some churches only open for a short period during the day I didn't want to wait for half an hour, and I certainly didn't want to pedal back up the hill to Hazelwood later in the day.

So Hazelwood will have to wait for another day. My route from there to Turnditch took me past the tiny Baptist Chapel at Windley - not on my planned list, but I felt compelled to play another Bach Prelude & Fugue (in G minor, BWV558) to make up for the one I'd missed at Hazelwood. Yet another hill took me up and over to All Saints' Church at Turnditch. This was a very nice 2-manual organ, which had recently had quite a bit of work done on it. The Great actually dates mostly from 1863. I don't think I found the optimum registration for the Buxtehude Toccata in F, and therefore tried out something else as well - *Ich ruf' zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ*, BWV639, which I was pleased with.

Rather than following the busier main road from here to Duffield, I retraced my route back through Windley before forking right up some more hills to take me to the top of Cumberhills Road, from which I enjoyed a long descent down into Duffield. By this time I really was feeling quite hungry; however, I knew the Duffield Baptist Church had a couple of organists visiting during the day, so I was eager to get there around lunchtime to ensure my slot. My route took me past the Trinity Methodist Church first, and finding an organ with quite a grand sound, a 2-manual Forster & Andrews, I played Bach's "Little" Prelude & Fugue in E minor BWV533, which came over quite well (again to an empty church).

It was around 1pm when I reached the Baptist Church in Duffield. Their Flower Festival was in full swing with some lovely displays around the church. Again there were very few people around doing the Ride & Stride event, and not a huge number on the signature list before my name either. The 2-manual Nicholson & Lord organ here has quite a delicate sound and I found that the Buxtehude *Erbarm' dich mein* and Bach's *Ich ruf' zu dir* sounded quite nice.

I finally stopped for lunch after the next ascent up Duffield Bank, and before the wickedly steep climb towards Holbrook. I found the Holbrook Moor Methodist Church first on entering Holbrook, and was quite surprised at the rather large 2-manual instrument of the 1850's which I discovered dominating one side of the front of the church. I was a bit baffled by the pedals here, and could have done with longer to establish how they played independently of the manuals. Other churches and their organs were waiting, however, so I did my best with BWV558 before going on to find St Michael's. Again this church was empty apart from the man signing Ride & Stride sheets. I felt ready for another rendition of BWV572, and was not disappointed by the sound here. Again it would have been nice to stay for longer and enjoy and explore the 2-manual J H Adkins organ a bit more, but time was getting on, and I had yet more hills to climb to reach St Luke's in Heage before it closed.

The lady in Heage seemed pleased to see someone at last when I arrived, as there had been very few visitors all day. Although I'd played this organ before, I felt I could finally relax and play for a little longer as all time pressure had disappeared. Not the nicest organ of the day, I know, but I was still happy to play BWV533 again, followed by *Nun komm', der Heiden Heiland* BWV599. Finally it was all downhill from here back home.

I didn't cover a huge distance - only 25 (quite hilly) miles - but it was a very enjoyable day. I visited 10 churches and played 9 organs, 6 of which I'd never played before. I think for future years there may be two options for fellow organists. Either they could seize the opportunity to visit new organs while raising funds for a worthy cause, or the Association might consider co-ordinating our collective skills and offering musical entertainment in some of the churches visited by other participants. Indeed, if we publicised our intentions, it might encourage a few more people to come and visit. Either way, the potential for a most enjoyable day of organ playing is huge, and shouldn't be missed.

Gillian Chatto