

# *Derby & District Organists'*

*Registered Charity No. 510567*

## *Association*



*The giant Wanamaker organ, Philadelphia.  
'An American Giant with French Connections'*

*Dr Laurence Rogers*

Last year, during a visit to what I now understand to be one of Philadelphia USA, my wife and I the largest organs in the world, whose wandered into the famous Macy's fame had previously escaped my department store and were astonished attention. Containing 28,500 pipes, this by the sight of the central atrium which giant is nearly three times larger than rose to the height of seven storeys. the Liverpool Cathedral organ which Even more astonishing was the sight of Derby Organists visited in May of this a pipe organ arrayed on the balconies year, and is 20 times larger than the [1]. This was my accidental introduction instrument I play at Melbourne!

### *Forthcoming Events 2010*

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January**

Members' CD/DVD Evening  
Heritage Centre, Belper

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

Danish Organ Music – presentation  
by David Butterworth, St Werburg,  
Spondon

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**

Visit to St John's, Bridge Street to  
hear and play the rebuilt Willis/  
Adkins/Johnson organ

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

Visit to Malvern (Nicholson Organs,  
the Priory) and Worcester Cathedral

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> June**

Annual Dinner – Alison House,  
Matlock

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July**

Visit to Swarkestone and Stanton-by-  
Bridge

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> September**

English organ music of the 18<sup>th</sup>  
century – presentation by Rodney  
Tomkins, St Peter's, Belper

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Chairman's Event – St, James,  
Riddings

**Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November**

AGM, Duffield Methodist Church

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There do not appear to be any  
recitals in December at the usual  
venues.

**Symphony Hall, Birmingham**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

Jonathan Scott – Saint-Saëns 'Organ'  
Symphony



The nucleus of the organ is a smaller instrument, originally built for the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair to a design of George Ashdown Audsley, a renowned organ architect in America. At that stage, the instrument had more than 10,000 pipes, (commensurate with the Liverpool organ of 1926) and its construction was on such a lavish scale that it bankrupted the builder. After the conclusion of the fair, the music-loving merchant John Wanamaker bought the instrument for his new Philadelphia emporium. Since known as the 'Wanamaker Organ', the re-installed instrument was first heard in the Store's seven-story atrium on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 1911.

Despite its immense size, the sound of the organ was judged inadequate to fill the huge court. Wanamaker's response was to establish a private pipe-organ factory in the Store attic, employing up to 40 full-time employees to enlarge the instrument. More than 8,000 pipes were added to the Organ between 1911 and 1917, and a further 10,000 pipes between 1924 to 1930, bringing the total number today to 28,500 pipes.

As you might imagine, photographing the instrument stacked vertically on several balconies was not a simple task. A particular challenge was the console, situated in the ladies lingerie department [2] on the second floor with no direct public access, but I managed to get a long shot of the six keyboards and multi-coloured tab stops from the opposite side of the atrium. [3]

I was reminded of this extraordinary visit when I spotted recently on the Internet a vintage photograph [4] of Marcel Dupré seated at the very same console in 1948. The commanding posture of the great French organist was impressive and the notion of a giant figure in the organ world at the console of a giant organ tempted me to delve a little further.



The more I read, the more appropriate the description of Dupré as a giant seemed to become: he was famed as a virtuoso recitalist, teacher, improviser, composer, arranger and author; he taught two generations of famous organist-composers including Jehan Alain, Marie-Claire Alain, Pierre Cochereau, Jeanne Demessieux, Jean Guillou, Jean Langlais, and Olivier Messiaen; as a recitalist, he performed more than 2,000 organ recitals throughout Australia, North America and Europe, which included a recital series of 10 concerts of the complete works of J.S. Bach completely from memory!

As a composer, Dupré produced an oeuvre of 65 opus numbers, mainly for organ but also for piano, orchestra, choir and chamber music. He prepared study editions of the organ works of Bach, Handel, Mozart, Liszt, Mendelssohn, Schumann, César Franck and Glazunov and wrote treatises on improvisation, counterpoint and harmony, organ building and acoustics. Truly, Marcel Dupré (1886-1971) must rank as one of the most influential musical figures of the twentieth century.

I also discovered that the Wanamaker Organ had a further French connection with an earlier giant in the organ world, Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911). In 1904 Guilmant [5] gave a celebrated series of 40 recitals on the original St.Louis Exposition Organ, then the largest organ in the world. Guilmant attracted an enormous following in America as a result of his tours there. Indeed,

his reputation as a true professional 'all-rounder' won him great popularity in the whole organ world, especially, of course, in France. He excelled as a concert organist, improviser, teacher, composer, editor, musicologist and publisher. His organ loft at La Trinité in Paris was invariably filled to overflowing with pupils and organ enthusiasts who would eagerly volunteer to turn pages or to assist with stop changes. His recital programmes were eclectic and helped to popularise organ music of all historical periods and all countries.

In the St. Louis series of recitals Guilmant covered the whole organ repertoire without repeating a single piece! He promoted the then forgotten repertoire of the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, collecting and editing many works by early composers to create performing editions which were readily accessible to a wide range of organists.

His own output of organ compositions was enormous, both for church service use and for concert repertoire. Being so prolific, it comes as no surprise that he wrote very quickly, and stories tell of him writing a piece before breakfast or creating whole compositions during train journeys. He was a leading figure in exploiting the symphonic organs of Cavallé-Coll and, later in life, installed in his own home a three manual, 28 stop organ built by Charles Mutin, the successor to Cavallé-Coll. In a curious further connection, Marcel Dupré later acquired this organ for his home.



Marcel Dupré aux claviers de l'orgue Wanamaker de Philadelphie, vers 1948  
Photo W.A. Hoeft studios Inc., Philadelphie





## Retiring Officers

It is with regret that we acknowledge the retirement of three long-serving officers of the Association from the committee: John Hunt, Ed Stow and Ron Sherwood. Each of these gentlemen has given many years of service to the Association, contributing not only their expertise as musicians but also their professional advice and help.

John Hunt was for many years the Membership Secretary and also the Association's link with the Charities Commission. John moved down to Southampton some time ago though still takes an active interest in the Association to which he contributed so much. John came to the Liverpool day in the company of his daughter and still hopes to attend some events when he is able.

Ron Sherwood's contribution has, perhaps, been more public than John's as Ron has often offered the vote of thanks after events. Ron has moved up to North Yorkshire and now lives near Richmond. I know that Ron was sorry to leave the fine Foster & Andrews in All Saints, Matlock, which he had played for many years. He once commented to me that he felt privileged to be able to play such a fine instrument regularly.

Last, but by no means least, Ed Stow, who is known to many members of the Association as an organ builder who has rebuilt many of the small instruments in churches throughout the county. Ed is something of an authority on the DDOA constitution and has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the Association. Ed's public appearances as accompanist, performer and presenter are well known to members who regularly attend events; his latest contribution was as one of the speakers and also as accompanist at the Mendelssohn event.

Our thanks go to each of the gentlemen for their contribution to the Association.

TW

Between them, Guilmant and Dupré each had an enormous influence during their lifetimes and left lasting legacies to the organ world.

Now, a few words about the Wanamaker organ itself; it boasts statistics which are truly American in magnitude:

PEDAL: 75 ranks, 44 stops, 2,540 pipes, wind pressure up to 25 inches  
 CHOIR: 24 ranks, 19 stops, 1,452 pipes, wind pressure 5 inches  
 GREAT: 58 ranks, 43 stops, 3,634 pipes, wind pressure 5 to 16 inches  
 SWELL: 71 ranks, 51 stops, 4,422 pipes, wind pressure 5 to 22 inches  
 SOLO: 51 ranks, 35 stops, 3,640 pipes, wind pressure 15 inches  
 ETHEREAL: 24 ranks, 21 stops, 1,670 pipes, wind pressure 25 inches  
 STRING: 88 ranks, 87 stops, 6,340 pipes, wind pressure 15 to 27 inches  
 STENTOR: 3 ranks, 9 stops, 243 pipes  
 ORCHESTRAL: 39 ranks, 40 stops, 2,811 pipes, wind pressure 15 to 20 inches  
 ECHO: 33 ranks, 22 stops, 2,013 pipes, wind pressure 5 inches

All the divisions are enclosed with the exception of the Pedal and Great. The Ethereal Division is housed on the seventh floor. Each division has two Tremulants whose pulsation frequency may be adjusted by levers on the console. There are 36 regulators to provide steady wind at the various pressures. The organ action is electro-pneumatic throughout, requiring seven blowers totalling 168 horsepower. The massive console has six keyboards and 729 colour-coded stop tablets. There are 168 piston buttons under

the keyboards and 42 foot controls.

The String Division is an Audsley concept, remaining intact from the original St.Louis organ. All the pipes are of metal and are housed in an enclosed chamber about the size of two squash courts.

We may wonder how so many pipes are deployed to create a tonal scheme. Predictably, the specification (see the link below) is too large to print here, but a few observations explain why so many pipes are needed:

- The Great has five diapasons at 8 feet and five 'chorus' diapasons at 8 feet.
- There is an 8 rank mixture on the Great and four mixtures on the Pedal including one of 12 ranks.
- The String division has 18 'Orchestral' violins (8 feet), 18 'Muted' violins (8 feet) and 12 Dulcianas (8 feet).
- A Vox humana chorus contains 8 stops.

During the lifetimes of John Wanamaker and his son, musicians were brought from all over the world to give after-business-hours concerts. At the present, concerts are held every Sunday and special music events with orchestra and other musicians are regularly sponsored by the Friends of the Wanamaker Organ. Further information and a full specification of the organ are available at [www.wanamakerorgan.com](http://www.wanamakerorgan.com). Also, there are numerous video clips on YouTube.com.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ewh2UsZ5zFk&NR=1&feature=fvwp>

Laurence Rogers



Alexandre Guilmant à son orgue Cavaillé-Coll de Meudon, racheté en 1925 par Marcel Dupré.

## AGM 2009 – St Werburg's, Spondon

Sixteen members were present at the AGM. In his Chairman's Report, Peter Williams offered the thought that it had been a stimulating year, starting with the annual dinner at The Grange, Littleover. The guest speaker, Rev. Julian Hollywell, had presented his thoughts on music and liturgy and two challenging questions: when did you last experience a sense of awe during a service, and when were you last moved by the liturgy rather than the music?

Rodney Tomkins' presentation on Europe's Oldest Organs at St John's Heritage Centre, Belper, had been thoroughly researched and presented a comprehensive and interesting picture of organs that were beyond the experience of most organists.

The Organ Day with Roger Fisher had been well supported with the seven players and many listeners finding the day useful and interesting.

A welcome change this year had been the large number of people taking advantage of the visit to the two cathedrals and St Georges Hall in Liverpool. Often, in the past, these events had been poorly attended, thus running at a loss. This year the coach was almost full, resulting in a small profit. The welcome received at St George's Hall and the Anglican Cathedral had been excellent: the slight delay at the Metropolitan Cathedral was understandable given the nature of the sub-organists injury and medication.

The chairman was at pains to remind members that events involving complex arrangements, such as the visit to three separate venues on one day were difficult to arrange and could be subject to changes in the schedule quite beyond our control. The secretary, Mrs Siann Hurt, was thanked for the painstaking organisation of the day. Thanks were also offered to Frank Richards (St George's Hall) and Ian Tracey, who had given a considerable part of his day to us.

The members' recital at St James', Riddings, had provided an interesting programme of music ranging from Couperin to Edmundson; thanks were offered to Stephen Johns for organising the programme, and to Andy Storer who had assisted in the early planning stages.

Members had been warmly welcomed in Repton School Chapel

for the Chairman's Event. The school Chaplain had also provided refreshments for us. Ron Sherwood, the retiring Vice Chairman had driven down from Yorkshire to take part in a final event.

In a year of anniversaries, the Mendelssohn event at Ilkeston had been extremely well prepared and presented; thanks were offered to Tom Corfield, Stephen Johns and Ed Stow.

The chairman moved on to offer congratulations on the development of the *Newsletter* (TW) and the Association website which is managed by David Shooter. A special mention was made of the work done by Stephen Johns and the team associated with the Children and the Organ Project which had had a very good year.

Special thanks were offered to Siann Hurt for her work as secretary. The Chairman stressed the need for a replacement for Siann, who had agreed to continue in post for one more year. Special mention was made of the tremendous contribution made to the Association over a period of many years by John Hunt, Ed Stow and Ron Sherwood, all of whom had stood down from the committee.

Siann Hurt delivered the Secretary's Report and informed the meeting that there were now 102 members – three new members had joined after the Roger Fisher Organ Day.

Chris Darral presented the Treasurer's Report and was pleased to report that the Association was in a sound financial position both for 2008 and for 2009 with a balance of £1,600 expected at the end of the year. The new-format *Newsletter* was costing more and postage had increased. It was agreed that further discussion was needed on the funding of the *Newsletter* and that more members should be encouraged to take it via e-mail. It was also agreed that fees for the coming year were to remain the same.

### Election of Officers:

Chairman	Peter Williams
Vice Chairman	Prof. James Muckle
Secretary	Siann Hurt
Treasurer	Chris Darral
Gift Aid Sec.	Gillian Chatto
Newsletter Ed.	Tony Westerman
Auditor	David Hall
Chaplain	Rev. John Bland
Committee	Terry Bennett
	Rodney Tomkins

cont:

Dennis Littleton  
David Coates  
Stephen Johns

The programme for 2010 was announced and can be seen on the front cover of the *Newsletter*.

A vote of thanks was offered to the officers of the Association for their work during the year.

The first committee meeting will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2010.

TW

## Subscriptions

**N.B. Subscription costs remain unchanged.**

Chris Darral has asked me to print a plea to members to send him information and subscriptions in a timely manner. During the Christmas period when we are all busy, it is very easy to forget that the DDOA subscription is due and *Organists' Review* has to be ordered for 2010. Please do try to send the completed subscription form to Chris, with cheque where appropriate, before the end of December.

### DDAO Secretary

Despite the efforts of the committee members to find someone to take over from Siann Hurt as secretary, we have, as yet, been unable to find anyone.

The person who fulfils this role does not necessarily have to be a member of the Association – it might just as easily be a husband or wife who takes part in the activities of the Association.

The committee has already agreed that the role should be reduced, with members of the committee taking greater responsibility for the organisation of events. Siann has offered to 'shadow' the new secretary for a year and to offer help when required. The distribution of the magazine is no longer a part of the job and Gillian Chatto has kindly agreed to take on the work as Gift Aid Secretary.

The job will require a familiarity with electronic mail and some talent for co-ordinating the construction of the programme of events.

If you know of someone who would be willing to help with the administration of the Association in this way, please speak to one of the committee members.

TW



## The Derbyshire Organists' Support Scheme

The RSCM, Derbyshire Area, working in partnership with the Bishop of Derby, have re-launched the ORGANISTS' SUPPORT SCHEME in response to an ever-increasing shortage of organists able to accompany church services with any degree of competence. Many have little or no training but do as best they can, often in difficult circumstances and sometimes with little encouragement and no opportunity to develop their skills. Without them worship would often be the poorer. There are also people (sometimes youngsters) who play the piano and would be willing to try the organ but have no obvious means of learning. I think this picture is all too familiar to members.

### How Will it Work?

Initially, we are working within the existing Anglican structures such as Deaneries or MMA. Deaneries of Wirksworth and Longford have invited us to help them. We hope others will follow but in any case, individuals, and the churches that they help, can apply. At the time of writing we have about 6/7 applicants who will start tuition in the new Year. The outline syllabus includes effective accompaniment of hymns, psalms, worship songs etc, methods of practice, basic organ technique etc. Tuition will be geared to the particular needs of individuals.

### Who Pays?

The Bishop and the RSCM are funding this initiative so it is FREE! We do, however, ask that participants be fully committed to the work and that the churches backing them offer real encouragement and support, such as making practice time possible.

### Do You Know Someone Who Would Like to Join?

The scheme is intended to help those *wishing to play the organ in a service*. Typically, that might be someone who is: a pianist who already plays for worship, or might want to start playing (in this case we would normally expect around Grade 4/5 ABRSM standard or above); someone who might have learnt a long time ago and feel the need to brush-up skills. The course is **not** a beginners' course in full scale organ tuition. However, it is quite possible that having taken part, pupils might decide to take studies further.

Stephen Johns



Progress at St John's, Bridge Street

The rather Picassoesque presentation of the new console at St John's (above) will not surprise anyone who has played the organ or who has tried to photograph it.

The gallery on which the organ sits is quite generous, though the console is situated very close to the front of it. Our Victorian forebears did not concern themselves with the possibility of vertigo; only a low rail suggests to the organist that leaning back too far might be a 'leap of faith' or at least a rather unfortunate experiment in free flight.

The new panelling and stops knobs have been made by Ed Stow and David Wells respectively and are based on research carried out at the Church of the Annunciation in Chesterfield on a Willis, circa 1870. Ed tells me that the Association visited the church some years ago, so it may be familiar to some members.

With regard to the stop knobs, one of David's interests is wood-turning; he has turned the new stop knobs to the exact specification of those in the Church of the Annunciation. The stops are in santos rosewood, an exotic hardwood which David feels is the closest in grain and colour to the Chesterfield examples that could be achieved.

The ivory facings have been recycled from old stock by Terry Bennett and have been sent for engraving to a firm in possession of

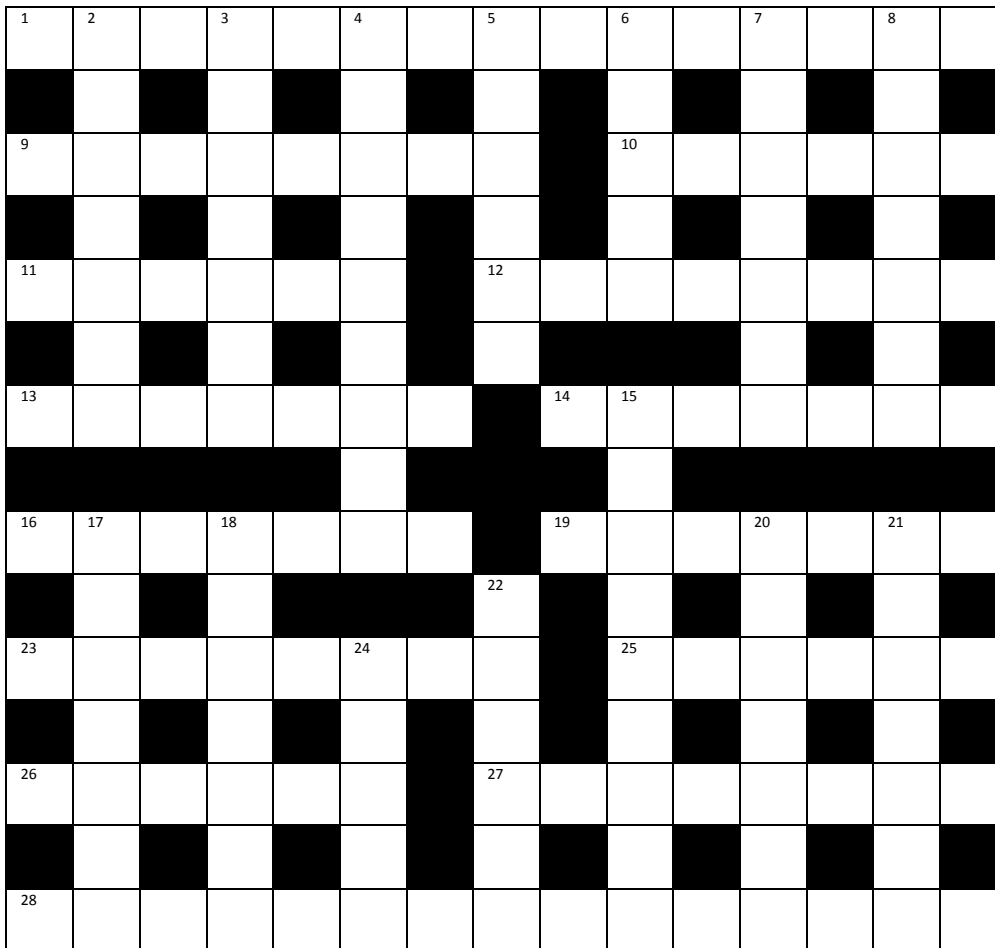


the original Willis fonts.

The length of draw and the centres of the stops have been carefully set out as Willis originally intended, determined from the centres of the stop traces at the trundles.

The photograph below shows the refurbished Open Wood chest (ex St Anne's). The chest was thoroughly cleaned and the old primary action removed; the bellows, now re-leathered in fine quality sheepskin, will give good service for decades. New electro-magnets will provide the primary action and should be quiet and positive in operation. Some work is yet to be done to the Open Wood pipes, one or two of which are heavily mitred. This rank has to be installed first as some of the other Pedal ranks will sit in front of it. TW





At the end of a year which has seen a plethora of composers' anniversaries, members may not be surprised to find allusions to a number of them in this crossword.  
ERS

#### ACROSS

- 1 Definitive final verdict on Spohr's oratorio? (3,4,8)
- 9 Pointless rehearsals for DIY men (8)
- 10 Bellini's heroine takes the name of an organ-builder (6)
- 11 Cover good French 10 over (6)
- 12 I depress to adjust, as the Chairman does (8)
- 13 Gland a medic found way back (7)
- 14 Roughly staple about 50 valves (7)
- 16 Fellow given the Spanish direction to places of worship (7)
- 19 This concert is, in the first place, easy to undertake (7)
- 23 Appalling rant Hammond issues in Lincolnshire (8)
- 25 Enclosure may make the accountant confess (6)
- 26 Wild about one? Not on high days and holidays! (6)
- 27 "50 unwell" I wrote of state of Little People (8)
- 28 Varied hymns can rattle a 4's organist (7,8)

#### DOWN

- 2 O Howard, stir in the Basil! (7)
- 3 Health hazard the Northern Church permit (7)
- 4 Apostle threw paint in *Saul* (5,4)
- 5 Patriarch – maybe 11 or Haydn (6)
- 6 Rossetti could be moving on without article (5)
- 7 See 17 down
- 8 The most tidy beast is French (7)
- 15 Golden deity is about acceptable to the ear (9)
- 17 7 down. Lithe RR rumbler becomes a centenarian (7,7)
- 18 Write *The Holy City* for your money (7)
- 20 24 boy's work is a fiasco, I exclaim! (7)
- 21 Awkwardly ignore the vessel – and suffer environmental damage (7)
- 22 Resemble my inclusive symbol (6)
- 24 Orchestra playing in fifth auditorium? (5)

This edition marks the end of my first year as Editor. After some initial difficulties, the *Newsletter* has settled down into a regular format which seems to meet with the approval of most members. My thanks to those who have submitted articles – in one or two cases, several – for which I am most grateful. I am always pleased to receive articles for publication as they reflect the diverse nature of the membership, many of them presenting knowledge and experience which might not otherwise cross our collective path in Derbyshire, so, please keep sending the articles.

The old saw, 'a picture is worth a thousand words', assumes a particular resonance for organists as we often deal with technical descriptions and present thoughts on instruments in unfamiliar buildings; the concept of space is notoriously difficult to present in words – see Laurence's splendid photograph on page 1 of this issue.

If you have digital photographs to send, please contact me first on [twes@fsmail.net](mailto:twes@fsmail.net) before sending; this e-mail address is the public one and has limited capacity. There is another address which is more suitable for photographs.

Articles for the January edition of the *Newsletter* should reach me by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, either via e-mail: [twes@fsmail.net](mailto:twes@fsmail.net) or by post: Tony Westerman, 44 Beeley Close, Allestree, Derby, DE22 2PX. The Secretary, Mrs Siann Hurt can be reached via: [mail@derbyorganists.co.uk](mailto:mail@derbyorganists.co.uk)