

Derby & District Organists' Association

Registered Charity No. 510567

Newsletter

Derby & District Organists' Association
with Pottery and Holbrook C of E Primary Schools



ORGAN FANTASTIC
An evening of informative fun
for all the family

**TUESDAY JULY 9th 6.30 – 7.45 pm at
CHRIST CHURCH, BELPER**

A New Venture for the Association

This month brings a landmark event in the recent history of the Association. 'Organ Fantastic' is aimed at a wide audience of children and parents as well as regular organ-lovers. A team of DDOA members will present a short concert of popular organ music and it would be great to have the support of the broader membership to give strength to the image of our Association as one with a lively membership. So please mark this date in your diary and come along and support this event.

Part of the event will showcase the work of our *Children and the*

Organ Project (CATO). Since its foundation five years ago, CATO workshops have inspired several hundred children from primary schools. A central feature of the workshops has been to offer hands-on experience to children working in small groups of five or six: They learn about the multi-tasking role of playing the organ; they try out their own pedalling technique on a specially-built pedal board; they play simple tunes on Ed Stow's mini organ and see exactly how it works on the inside; they try out their own ideas for designing and decorating an organ casework; and finally they sit on the organ stool and feel what it is

DDOA Events 2013

9th July

Family Recital at Christ Church, Belper:
Follow-up to CATO visits.

14th September

Annual full day outing to Oxford, including Keble College, New College and Exeter College. (See page 6.)

12th October

Daytime visit to Ashbourne, including St Oswald's PC

13th November

Chairman's Event and AGM

Concerts & Recitals

Derby Cathedral Summer Recital Series Wednesdays at 7.45pm

July 3	Peter Gould / Tom Corfield / Christopher Johns / Sachin Gunga / Ben Bloor
July 10	David Pipe
July 17	Andrew Kirk
July 24	John Kitchen
July 31	Ben Bloor
August 7	Gough Duo
August 14	Tom Corfield
August 21	Peter Gould

Saturday 6th July 7.30pm

Derby Grammar School. Summer
Concert: 'From Bach to Britten'
Derby Bach Choir.

Tickets £10 from Foulds or at door.

Albert Hall, Nottingham

Sundays at 2.45pm Free admission

4th August Christian Haigh (Tonbridge)

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To many of us who have been familiar with organs for much of our lives, it is wonderful to re-live our own early excitement with the organ, its works and sounds,



J.S.Bach
G.F.Handel
C.Armstrong Gibbs
A.Guilmant
S.Karg-Elert
J.Stanley
D.Bourgeois
G.Mushef

Short pieces played by pupils of the Pottery School,
Belper and Holbrook C of E Primary School

Pieces included in the 'concert' part of the programme

through the universally enthusiastic responses of the children that we meet in the workshops. For them the experience is truly different from anything else they have done, and young children have an uninhibited ability to express their amazement at what we show them.

We can now offer teachers and pupils classroom resources for follow-up activities when they return to school. The school package comprises computer

presentations, worksheets, teachers' notes and sample CD tracks. There will be an opportunity to hear and see these at the 'fantastic' event.

Please note the starting time of 6.30pm for the event. It is not just a concert or lecture, but promises to be a mix of presentation, playing, informal chat and general participation. Do come and support this event.

Laurence Rogers

Recent Events

Improvisation – David Cowen

It was one of those May evenings where the temperature outside the cathedral was just a little higher than it was inside! However that did not mar our enjoyment of the illustrated talk by David Cowen on Monday 20th May. Fourteen of us were treated to the 'rules' of organ improvisation and shown how to do it from the very basics right up to the modern French style, all within 80 minutes! David was helped along by various members of the association who were reluctant guinea pigs, though I think that they secretly enjoyed the experience! David started with a simple ostinato for the left hand with a free range on the right hand though a three-note ostinato within a four-beat bar was rather testing in itself! This was followed by a Musette with drone rhythms and eventually on to using chorale tunes for decorating in a prescribed chorale prelude manner. The culmination of the musical evening was the introduction of Messiaen's modes, which I particularly found interesting. Having done this, David finished the playing with his own improvisation.

Using the cathedral organ with its console moved round to the nave allowed everyone a seated view of the organ and David wasted no time in conjuring up some very exotic sounds which included a sort-of harmonium effect. It was all delivered with a sense of encouragement and achievement to the players and with great humour. I was particularly amused to hear him tell of a pupil of Nadia Boulanger who having heard a pupil play a

long improvisation, running out of ideas towards the end, say 'It was good but why didn't you finish when you had ended the piece?'

I thought to myself that the same could be said for several sermons that I have heard!

A most worth-while evening for all tastes and abilities and, I hope, one that can be repeated again before too long.

Peter Gould



Improvisors Gillian Chatto, Tony Westerman, Denis Littleton, David Cowen, Stephen Johns and John Blackwall

Annual Dinner

June 10th found us looking down at the Derwent from the dining room of the Willersley Castle Hotel, Cromford, for the Association's Annual Dinner, where we were pleased to welcome Alan Thurlow, our guest speaker and his wife, Tina.

Alan is the current President of the IAO, just coming to the end of his fourth year in post, he is due to be succeeded by James Lancelot from Durham, so the dinner was his penultimate official engagement.

Alan treated us to what was probably one of the funniest speeches of recent years, remembering an earlier visit to Derbyshire twenty years ago with a group of organ advisors organised by Rodney Tomkins. Alan recalled his boyhood years in the church pews, including the answer to his question about what the memorial tablets on the chancel wall were for, getting the answer from his mother that they were in memory of "those who had died in the services".

In time he joined the choir and took up the organ. University found him at Cambridge studying composition with Robin Orr who suggested a useful strategy for starting a composition: "take the last bar of an existing piece, write it down backwards and take it from there"! Alan went on to become assistant organist at Durham to Conrad Eden, who had been there so long he suggested that he should be "dusted before being spoken to".

On a more serious note Alan referred to the changing role of the



Alan Thurlow, President of the Incorporated Association of Organists, with Stephen Johns

organ, with church closures, organs becoming redundant, the closure of organists associations, and so on. But there are also green shoots here and there with the revival of some of the closed associations. He emphasised that the IAO exists because of the local associations, not the other way round; "union is strength". Alan would like to see associations working more closely together, and praised our Children and the Organ initiative.

He concluded with a story of a choirboy doodle found on a choir music copy, where during a tedious sermon involving a list of Biblical names and 'who was begotten by whom', the boy had drawn the occupant of a house shouting down to a caller below that "he should go away, as they were begetting".

All in all, a good evening was had by all. Our thanks are to Stephen Johns for the organisation of the event.

Denis Littleton

Visit of the Organ Club to South Derbyshire

The Organ Club has members from all over Great Britain and organises monthly meetings at a variety of locations throughout the country with the purpose of seeing, hearing and playing organs. Selected organs are often situated in architecturally remarkable places and this dimension is frequently a source of added pleasure and admiration. Membership is not restricted to players, indeed the majority of members find fulfilment from just listening to the music and soaking up the atmosphere.

In June the club visited four organs in South Derbyshire; Chellaston, Melbourne, Repton School and Repton Parish Church. Starting from the East Midlands Parkway Station, a coach conveyed the group of 45 members around the lanes bordering the River Trent. At Chellaston Organist, David Henshaw, demonstrated the organ built by George Sixsmith of Ashton-under-Lyne in 1985, an instrument built entirely on the extension principle with all 18 stops derived from just three ranks. Members then took turns to play through an efficient rota system organised by the *Playing Secretary*. Playing volunteers sign up at the beginning of the day, then the playing time available at each venue is divided by the number of players equitably, in this case about a dozen.

On arrival at Melbourne, the organ was already being played as members filed into the Parish Church. For many of us, entering a church with soft organ music in the air creates a wonderfully inviting atmosphere, and on this occasion, the effect was not lost on the visitors. After a welcome from the Rector, the Reverend Dr Mark Powell, Laurence Rogers briefly described how the original 1860 Bevington instrument had two major rebuilds in the 20th Century. The second rebuild by Nicholsons of Worcester in 1981 corrected many of the poorly conceived changes of the 1956 rebuild by Kingsgate Davidson. Laurence then demonstrated the tonal range of the organ with seven variations on *Veni creator spiritus* by Flor Peeters. Despite its modest size, the versatility of the Melbourne organ is one of its



Alan Thurlow (right) circulating amongst guests



Members of the Organ Club gather at the Parish Church of St Peter, Chellaston

strong points and this drew many favourable comments from players and listeners.

After a light lunch in the Melbourne Hall Tea Rooms the group moved on to Repton School Chapel to hear the three manual Harrison & Harrison organ there, which, perched in the western gallery, was frighteningly loud, a feature apparently necessary to lead the hearty singing of over 600 pupils! The School Organist, Alex Hodgkinson welcomed the party and introduced a 13-year-old pupil, Kyoko Canaway, who gave accomplished performances of pieces by Walther, Mendelssohn and Peeters. Alex followed these with his own virtuoso performance of the First Movement of Elgar's *Sonata in G, Op.28*, a truly majestic piece, ideally suited to the tone colours of the instrument.

Finally the group crossed the road to Repton Parish Church where the spectacular organ case and the Classical French voicing made a great impact on members. Organist, Terry Bennett, welcomed people and explained the origins and development of the Peter Collins two-manual mechanical action organ. Having left all his music at home, Terry delegated Laurence to demonstrate the instrument!

All in all, South Derbyshire delighted club members with beautiful music, architecture and scenery. If you enjoy travelling further afield, I strongly recommend membership of the Organ Club. Full information is available at www.organclub.co.uk.

Laurence Rogers

Letters to the Editor

Sadly there have been no further responses to the article on Christmas carols published in the March Newsletter, so I shall assume that silence indicates the consent of members' views on the issues raised. However, I have received a bumper crop of other contributions for this month's Newsletter and am very grateful to authors for them. Please keep them coming!

Editor

Members' News

From Margaret Eades

I have now retired from my position of Organist and Choir Director at St Philip's Church, Chaddesden, where I have been for the last sixteen years and have been succeeded by Mark Wilde.

I will continue to play the organ for the Vigil Mass at the English Martyrs' Church, Alvaston on Saturday evenings, but would be free to do the occasional deputising at other churches, both Sundays or for weekday weddings or funerals, if required.

Incidentally, the English Martyrs' Church has acquired a new, (second-hand) Church & Co 1973 single manual, 5 stop, (8' Dulciana, 8' Diapason, 4' Flute, 2' Fifteenth, 3 rank Mixture and single, 16' Bourdon pedal stop, tracker action). You may remember that this instrument used to be situated in Breaston Parish Church, where it was removed by Henry Groves and reinstalled at the English Martyrs' last month. The location

it now occupies in the church is on the ground floor in the south aisle, replacing a two manual Johnson pipe organ placed in the west gallery in the 1950s.

I understand that the members of the society visited this instrument when it was at Breaston a few years ago, and the Parish priest, Fr. Mark Brentnall and I would be very pleased to show and demonstrate this instrument again, if perhaps you might like to consider it in one of the Association's "organ crawl" meetings sometime in the future. Although small and limited by having only one manual, its position appears to set it off to maximum advantage as far as sound is concerned and the congregation seems pleased with its capability for accompanying hymns etc, although, for me it's a bit limiting when it comes to choosing voluntaries!

We congratulate Margaret for her loyal service at St Philip's and wish her success in her new role at English Martyrs. Our secretary has noted her interesting offer for a future visit. - Editor

Tony Westerman

We also send long-service congratulations to Tony Westerman who has recently retired after 17 years as Organist of St Luke's, Derby. We wish him a happy retirement and look forward to hearing his playing at future DDOA and other local events. - Editor

Derby Diocesan Organ Pilgrimage 2013/2014

Peter Gould continues in his pilgrimage to play all the organs in the Derby Diocese. During June he played at many more churches in the Chesterfield Archdeaconry: Crich, South Wingfield, Shirland, Morton, Stonebroom, Tibshelf, Blackwell, Alfreton, South Normanton, Pinxton, Swanwick, Pentrich, Somercotes, Riddings, Ironville, Killamarsh, Renishaw, Staveley, Barrow Hill, Inkersall, Sutton, Calow, Brimington, Ridgeway, Eckington, Whitwell, Steetley, Elmlton, Creswell, Clowne, Barlborough, Bolsover, Whaley Thorns, Shirebrook, Pleasley Langwith, Scarcliffe

So far Peter has played in 80 churches with another 203 to go. Through donations he has now raised £1,500 for musical charities. For September and October, Buxton Chesterfield and Glossop are scheduled. Details: <http://www.derbycathedral.org>.

The National Trust in a Musical Mood - John Bland

I expect many members of the Association who are also members of the National Trust are like me, taking advantage of the recently enlightened attitude of the Trust to the musical instruments in its care. For years it was "don't touch" – though I twisted a few arms over the years and did a bit of playing here and there – but now the public is actively encouraged to "have a go"! Recently I was in Exeter and visited Killerton House, former home of the Acland family. In the music room there stands a small organ which in 1842 was one of the new Lady Lydia Acland's wedding presents! Its label indicates that it was built by William Gray in 1807, and rebuilt by Henry Dyer and Son in 1901.



Killerton House, Devon.



Chamber organ in the Music Room

Great: Open Diapason 8, Stop Diapason 8, Dulciana 8, Principal 4, Flute 4, Fifteenth 2

Swell: Violin Diapason 8, Lieblich Gedact 8, Octave Gamba 4, Oboe 8

Pedal: Bourdon 16

The full specification is at N12976 on the National Pipe Organ Register.

I played it a few years ago and discovered then that Lady Acland was a pupil of S.S.Wesley when he was at Exeter Cathedral. He composed a suite of pieces for chamber organ with the Killerton organ in mind. However Lydia found them too difficult to play, so SSW promptly composed another easier-to-play suite. So it was an

appropriate pleasure to play the (easier) suite when I visited recently. The staff seemed unanimously delighted to hear the organ and were very appreciative, as were the significant number of the public who stayed to listen.

The pedal board is non-standard, flat and parallel, and is interesting in that the sharps and flats are each made of a single unjointed piece of wood carved at the business end with a gentle curve leading up to the top surface.

If members are down in that area, this is a not-to-be missed visit.

John Bland

Casavant in Kansas - Tony Westerman

Whilst trawling the websites of the major American and Canadian organ builders to see what major projects are in hand, I came across these two clips, both Casavant organs and both in Kansas city. The organs are mechanical action and are in buildings that enjoy a pleasantly resonant acoustic. Even given the limitations inherent in You Tube clips, these instruments sound fabulous and are worth listening to.

Tony Westerman



Left: Temple Organ, Kansas City

Dr Jan Kraybill giving a tour of stops on the Casavant Temple Organ, Kansas
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QYqM0rowjMY>

Right: Helzberg Hall, Kansas City
Kansas City Symphony tests the new Casavant organ in Helzberg Hall

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mU_GOaawmM4



Forthcoming DDOA Meetings

'ORGAN FANTASTIC'

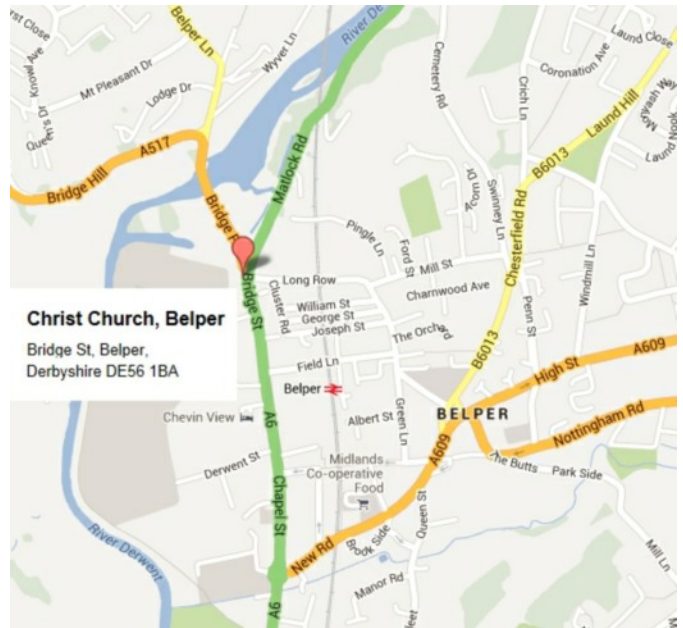
An evening of informative fun for all the family

Christ Church, Belper

Tuesday 9th July 6.30 - 7.45pm

This 'outreach' event is for all members, their families and friends. (See the lead article on page 1). Here is an opportunity to invite your children and younger members of your extended family or congregation, or perhaps friends for whom organ music is perceived of as rather 'stuffy'. The programme (see page 2) has been designed to appeal to and entertain a wide audience. If all members of the Association were to bring along one guest, we would fill the church! Please do your best.

Refreshments provided.



Annual Outing 14th September 2013

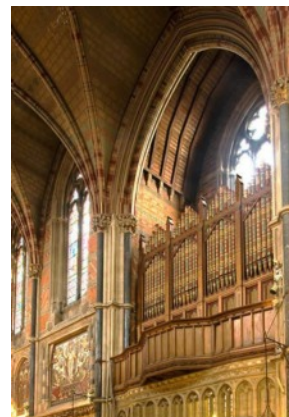
Visit to Organs in Oxford

We are off to Oxford on Saturday September 14th to visit three spectacular organs: the much celebrated new 4-manual instrument in Keble College Chapel, the very 'French Romantic' one at Exeter and the well established Grant Degens and Bradbeer at New College – one of the earliest of its kind. We hope our 'local boy' Ben Bloor will be able to play to us at New College where he is Organ Scholar.

The timings for the day are on the Application Slip. In Oxford we shall journey on foot; none of the distances are more than about 10/15 mins walk. As usual members will have a chance to play these splendid instruments. In order to help pay for the coach (a major cost to the Association) **we are again welcoming any guests who might like to come 'just for the ride' and spend the day in Oxford.** Please could I urge members to try and bring one extra person. It really does make a huge difference and it takes very little effort on our part. It does not matter if you yourself are unable to come – just spread the word! Those who came to Leeds last year said they had a lovely day and they did actually stay with us to visit some of the churches. Oxford is a lovely place to wander round on an Autumn day and, of course, any guests are more than welcome to visit the organs too if they wish.

Please fill in the Application slip and return it as soon as possible.

Stephen Johns



Items of news or articles for the September/October edition of the *Newsletter* should reach the Editor by **Monday 19th August**, either via e-mail: DDOAnews@gmail.com or by post: Dr Laurence Rogers, 24 St.David's Crescent, Coalville, Leicestershire LE67 4SS. The Secretary, Stephen Johns, 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.