



ULSTER SOCIETY OF ORGANISTS AND CHOIRMASTERS

President: Philip Stopford

NEWSLETTER ~ June 2008

14th JUNE ~ PORTADOWN TRIP

10:30

Drumcree
Parish
Church



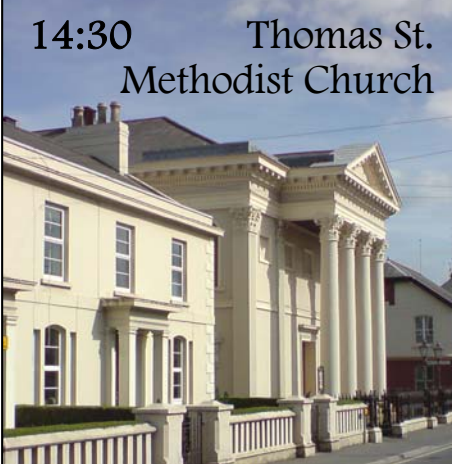
First Portadown 11:45
Presbyterian
Church



13:00 Lunch at J. D. Tipler Restaurant

14:30

Thomas St.
Methodist Church



15:45
St Mark's
Parish
Church



JUNE, Saturday 14th

Portadown is home to quite a few historically significant organs, and reliable sources indicate that our last visit was in the 1950s.

- 10:30 Drumcree Parish - 2/17 Abbot & Smith (1907). The church is 0.65 miles along the Drumcree Road, which is on the right 1.25 miles up the A4 Portadown-Dungannon road, after it has left the A3 just after Portadown rail station. If you know the area, then the Garvaghy Road is also a possibility. It is marked **D** on the enclosed map which is worth a thousand words. *The Sat Nav co-ordinates are 54°26'24.6"N & 6°27'33.5"W.*
- 11:45 First Portadown Presbyterian - 2/23 Conacher (1909), substantially rebuilt 2003 Wells Kennedy. On the north side of Bridge Street just east of the Barn, and marked **F** on the map. *Sat Nav 54°24'34.5"N & 6°26'14.0"W.*
- 13:00 Lunch at the J. D. Tipler Restaurant, 58 Killycomain Road. Head east on out Bridge Street from the church for exactly 1 mile. At the lights turn right (past the Seagoe Hotel) and continue on this road for 0.4 miles, and at the T go right. The restaurant is on the left after 100 yards and is marked **L** on the map. *Sat Nav 54°25'42.4"N & 6°24'58.3"W.*
- 14:30 Thomas St. Methodist - 2 manual, 18 stop Robson (c.1800), rebuilt 1860 Conacher, 1985 Wells Kennedy. Head back into town, by retracing your steps, keep on the main road past First Portadown for a further 0.35 miles and turn left up Thomas Street about 100 yards before St Mark's, which you honestly can't miss. Church marked **T**. Parking may be tricky. There are a few spaces at this church, and a few at St Mark's hall as well. Other possibilities are marked on the map. *Sat Nav 54°25'15.8"N & 6°26'34.5"W.*
- 15:45 St. Mark's Parish - 3 manual, 52 stop Walker (1948), rebuilt 1982 Rushworth & Dreaper. *Sat Nav 54°25'19.2"N & 6°26'43.8"W.* Church marked **M**.

SEPTEMBER, Saturday 20th

"COME & SING" ALL DAY CHORAL WORKSHOP conducted by John Rutter

10:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.



Central Hall, Campbell College, Belmont Road, Belfast

Please bring a packed lunch. Tea & coffee will be on sale.

THIS EVENT IS NOW FULLY BOOKED

OCTOBER, Saturday 18th 3:00 p.m. St. John's Malone, Belfast
Donald Davison will show us what the internet can provide in terms of free resources for church organists, from organ and choral viewpoints.

NOVEMBER, Saturday 15th

An event to celebrate the centenary of Olivier Messiaen's birth, in association with Belfast City Council. *Full details will be confirmed in due course.*

SUNDAY 15TH JUNE **3:30 P.M.** **FOC**

BANGOR ABBEY, NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BANGOR, BT20 4BW



The **PRIORY SINGERS** will make their final appearance (under the direction of **Harry Grindle**) when they will sing Evensong in Bangor Abbey, accompanied by **Phillip Elliott** (organ). Bishop Edward Darling will be the preacher and the music will be largely by composers associated with the Abbey.

TUESDAY 17TH JUNE **7:30 P.M.** **FOC**

ST. PETER'S CHURCH, ANTRIM ROAD, BELFAST

Summer Serenade

Award winning choir, **GROSVENOR**, directed by Edward J. Craig with guest artist **Andrew Douglas** (flute) and **Stephen Hamill** (organ)
Admission is free, but there will be an opportunity to donate to Tearfund's effort for the people in the devastated country of Burma.

1ST, 10TH, 24TH JULY **1:15 P.M.** **FOC**

ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL, LONDONDERRY



Tuesday 1st July Recital by the choir of Christ's College, Cambridge
Thursday 10th July Organ Recital by Ian Mills (St. Columb's), with Mark Chambers (counter tenor)
Thursday 24th July Organ Recital by Travis Baker, an Australian now resident in England. For more info visit www.travis-baker.co.uk

Please check the cathedral website for more details: www.stcolumbscathedral.org

SUNDAY 20TH JULY **7:30 P.M.** **£10 (£8)**

ST. COLUMB'S CATHEDRAL, LONDONDERRY



David Briggs Silent Movie Improvisation Concert
Please check the cathedral website for more details:
www.stcolumbscathedral.org

MONDAY 18TH - SUNDAY 24TH AUGUST

CHARLES WOOD SUMMER SCHOOL

The annual course in Armagh for choral directors, singers and organists.

FRIDAY 20TH - SUNDAY 29TH JUNE

PIPEWORKS ORGAN FESTIVAL, DUBLIN



"Celebrating the King of Instruments"

Pipeworks presents a diverse and exciting programme for its thirteenth festival. This year's programme includes performances by organ virtuosi from the UK, France, Germany, the USA and Sweden; sees sixteen young, aspiring organists from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Norway, Russia, South Korea, the UK and the USA compete to win the Dublin International Organ Competition; features beautifully programmed concerts performed by the RTE National Symphony Orchestra and the National Chamber Choir; and presents a silent film with live organ accompaniment.

2008 sees the festival expanding to include recital trips to Dundalk and the beautiful cathedral city of Kilkenny with associated recitals in Galway and Wexford. Performances by the Silesian University choir from Gliwice, Poland and the National Chamber Choir acknowledge the great choral traditions of Eastern Europe.

The festival also presents Ireland's major celebration of the centenary of Olivier Messiaen's birth, performing all of his organ works as well as some of his choral and orchestral music. In short, a wonderful array of concerts, recitals, and masterclasses in the country's finest churches, cathedrals and concert halls.

DUBLIN INTERNATIONAL ORGAN COMPETITION 2008

Quarter Finals	Spectators FOC	Mon. 23 & Tues. 24 June Starting at 9:15 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Semi Finals	Spectators FOC	Thurs. 26 June Starting at 9:15 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Finals	Spectators €15 (€10)	Sat. 28 June Starting at 7:30 p.m.

Attracting the finest young organists from around the globe, the competition is at the heart of every Pipeworks festival and features sixteen carefully selected players from Canada, Denmark, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Russia, South Korea, UK, USA and Ireland. Quarter-finals and semi-finals will see them whittled down to just three finalists for the concluding round.

2008 Jury: Thomas Trotter (UK) Chair, Margareta Hürholz (Germany),
Hans Fagius (Sweden), David Higgs (USA), Daniel Roth (France)

Further information about the festival and concert booking details available from:
www.pipeworksfestival.com

By post: Pipeworks, St Catherine's Church, Thomas Street, Dublin 8
By phone: 00 353 8 5786 8860

Here are some of the events taking place during the Pipeworks Festival - please check all details with Pipeworks before attending - contact details opposite.

FRIDAY 20 JUNE 6:30 p.m.	€15 (€10)	Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin National Chamber Choir, directed by Catherine Simonpietri with David Briggs
FRIDAY 20 JUNE 9:00 p.m.	FOC	Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin David Briggs: "Hunchback of Notre Dame" improvisation
SATURDAY 21 JUNE 8:00 p.m.	€20 (€15)	St Canice's Cathedral, Kilkenny David Higgs plays the Bevington organ
SUNDAY 22 JUNE 8:00 p.m.	€12 (€8)	St Michael's Church, Dun Laoghaire Margareta Hürholz plays the Rieger organ.
MONDAY 23 JUNE 8:00 p.m.	€22 (€15)	St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin Carlo Curley plays the Willis organ
TUESDAY 24 JUNE 6:00 p.m.	€15 (€10)	St Audoen's Church, High Street, Dublin Choir of the Silesian Univ. of Technology, Gliwice, Poland
WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 7:00 p.m.	€15 (€10)	St Patrick's Cathedral, Dundalk Daniel Roth plays the Father Willis organ
THURSDAY 26 JUNE 6:30 p.m.	€14 (€12)	National Gallery of Ireland, Dublin National Chamber Choir, directed by Kaspar Putnins.
FRIDAY 27 JUNE 8:00 p.m.	€10 / €16 / €22 / €28 / €33	National Concert Hall, Dublin The RTE National Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Jean Thorel, with Thomas Trotter, St Patrick's Cathedral choir and the Palestrina Choir of St Mary's Pro-Cathedral.
SATURDAY 28 JUNE 11:00 a.m.	€15 (€10)	St Audoen's Church, High Street, Dublin Hans Fagius plays the 1861 Walker organ
SUNDAY 29 JUNE 5:00 p.m.	€15 (€10)	St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin New Dublin Voices, the Mornington Singers and Galway's Cois Cladaigh join Resurgam (dir. Mark Duley).
<i>To mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Olivier Messiaen, Pipeworks presents his entire corpus of works, played by David Leigh and Tristan Russcher.</i>		
MONDAY 23 JUNE 1:15 p.m.	€10 (€8)	St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin "La Nativité"
TUESDAY 24 JUNE 1:15 p.m.	€10 (€8)	St Teresa's Church, Clarendon Street, Dublin "Messe de la Pentecôte"
TUESDAY 24 JUNE 9:00 p.m.	€15 (€10)	St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin "Méditations sur le Mystère de la Sainte Trinité"
WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE 1.15 pm	€10 (€8)	St Patrick's Cathedral, Dundalk "L'Ascension"
THURSDAY 26 JUNE 1:15 p.m.	€10 (€8)	St Teresa's Church, Clarendon Street, Dublin "Livre d'Orgue"
THURSDAY 26 JUNE 9:00 p.m.	€15 (€10)	St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin "Livre du Saint-Sacrement"
FRIDAY 27 JUNE 1:15 p.m.	€15 (€10)	St Mary's Pro-Cathedral, Dublin "Les Corps Glorieux"

MAY BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND 2008

Twenty eight bleary-eyed Ulster organists met at Aldergrove early on the morning of Saturday 3rd May for check-in for Manchester, our first port-of-call on the three day trip to Manchester, Chester, Liverpool and environs. After a speedy check-in (unlike the hundreds in the Easyjet queue), we were given a booklet about our forthcoming tour. This sumptuous 32 page booklet had been meticulously prepared by Stephen Hamill, and contained photographs, specifications, programmes, maps, service music and all information necessary for our visit.

Our first visit was to St. Anne's church, Manchester, where the veteran organist, Ronald Frost, gave a short demonstration of the instrument, which included C. S. Lang's Tuba Tune. Afterwards some members availed of the opportunity to play the instrument, while others partook of morning coffee, although none of us could understand why the adjacent toilet was closed 'for health and safety reasons!'

**Roger & Gillian Fisher outside their home,
The Old Chapel
in Trelogan.**



**William Mathias's
grave at St. Asaph Cathedral**

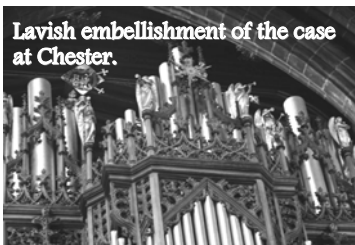
We then travelled to Preston for a visit to two very different instruments – a virtually untouched 1865 Father Willis and a 1989 David Wells. Although the Willis organ is in need of substantial work, his tonal genius shone through the heavy action, unsteady wind and archaic console. I was particularly impressed with the brightness and clarity of the ensemble – this instrument certainly dispels the myth of any pre-conceptions of Victorian organs as being dull and uninspiring. Lyndon Hills demonstrated both organs, and his polished rendition of a Brahms Intermezzo on the grand piano was an added bonus. Sadly, both of these beautiful churches, with their fine organs, have no regular choir to lead the worship.

The highlight of Saturday was undoubtedly the Walker organ in Blackburn Cathedral. In the absence of the assistant organist, the technical features of the instrument were explained by Canon Andrew Hindley, while Stephen Hamill gave an impromptu recital which included several improvisations and Bach's Prelude in G major. Music in Blackburn cathedral is obviously very strong – the organ is well maintained, there are 170 singers in five voluntary choirs involved



**Elaborate script ... and
pictures too, at Blackburn.**

in worship on a regular basis, and the clergy and community are proud of their rich tradition. In an age when the future of traditional church music is in decline in many establishments, the Blackburn approach to music in worship is innovative and could serve as a model for others to follow.



Lavish embellishment of the case at Chester.

We then travelled to our hotel in Chester and dined together in Chez Jules restaurant. On Sunday morning most of the party attended Sung Eucharist in the cathedral, sung by the girls and lay clerks of the cathedral choir. This was an impressive service and concluded with Alain's Litanies. We then headed to St. Asaph and lunch, followed by a short organ recital by the cathedral Director of Music, Alan Maginess, on the 1998 four manual Wood instrument. We then proceeded to the home of Roger Fisher in Trelogan, a short distance from St. Asaph. Roger demonstrated his own three manual house organ, while his wife served a delicious afternoon tea. Roger's recital included Mendelssohn's first Organ Sonata in F minor.

Monday 5th May was Liverpool Organ Day – we made our way to the Anglican cathedral for the 11.15 a.m. Bank Holiday Organ Recital, which was given by Daniel Bishop on the five manual mobile nave console. After the recital there was time to explore this vast building – the Lady Chapel was a particular gem, complete with its own two manual Willis instrument. After lunch we proceeded to Liverpool Metropolitan cathedral, where we were given a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Lutyens crypt by Terry Duffy, former Director of Music at the cathedral. The crypt, which was the only part of Lutyens' plans which materialised, was constructed on an enormous scale. Had his full design been executed, the Metropolitan cathedral would have dwarfed the Anglican one! Tim Noon, the Director of Music, gave our second recital of the day. Unfortunately we had to leave slightly early to travel to Manchester Airport, but I understand that in our absence Tim's encore consisted of extracts from Riverdance!



Liverpool Anglican's Willis III - still growing ...

In loving memory of
ELEANOR WRIGHT
(1946-2005)
who loved and served this place,
The Central Organ was
given by her family in 2007.



One of the many wonders of the crypt at Liverpool Metropolitan.

Thanks must go to James for his thorough organisation of every aspect of the tour – here's to next year! (wherever that may be!)

Words: Stephen Timpany

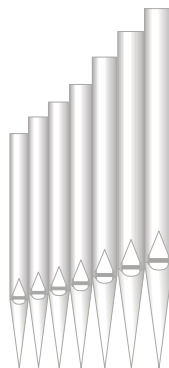
Photographs: Alistair McCartney, John McDonald

All of these pictures, and many more, can be seen at www.usoc.org.uk

I. M. A. Nobody's melodies were made by cycling the letters, as shown thus:

Actual note:	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>B^b</u>
Equivalent letters:	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
	Y	Z						

Most notes therefore only have three possible equivalents except A & B which have four. The absolute pitch of the note has no significance, as the Alain example clearly shows that A & I can be represented by the same note.



Jill Greer wins this month's prize, donated by Alistair McCartney, who runs POPCo, the Pipe Organ Preservation Company, and when he can find the spare time, he maintains the USOC presence on the worldwide web. If you haven't already been there, do click on to www.usoc.org.uk



B A C H | A L A I N || S T A N F O R D

D U R U F L É | D U B O I S | W I D O R

V I E R N E | C O U P E R I N | M E N D E L S S O H N

P A L E S T R I N A | E L G A R | T A L L I S

We have decided that this was the last competition, as there just doesn't seem to be the interest. Thanks from the Secretariat to those who did make the effort to send in entries for all the competitions, and also to those members who donated prizes.

**BOMBARDE 32!****AVAILABLE NOW**

David Briggs plays the Widor Toccata on the Organ of St. Sernin, Toulouse.

This DVD evolved rather unexpectedly during the final moments of the BBC Music Magazine recording session of Widor's 5th and Vierne's 3rd organ symphonies. Two days of sheer exhilaration, inspired by the great Cavaille-Coll in the haunting atmosphere of Europe's largest Norman basilica, let us try to capture the moment on film.

**2 NEW CDs****AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER****Chestnut Music CD 004:**

Vierne Symphony No.3, Widor Symphony No.5, Improvisations.
Recorded last October at St. Sernin, Toulouse

Chestnut Music CD 005:

Improvisations 4 - Recorded at St. Sulpice, Paris (Cavaille-Coll), St. Sernin, Toulouse (Cavaille-Coll), Himmerod Abbey, Germany (Klais), Holy Trinity Catholic, NYC (Letourneau), Ascension Memorial Church, Ipswich, MA (C B Fisk), and First Presbyterian Church, Danville, KY (Taylor and Boody)

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. SECRETARIES**SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER:**

Items for this to be with the Secretariat by Friday 22nd August please.

We do our very best to ensure that all information we print is accurate but errors do occasionally slip through and for our mistakes we apologise.

However, over the past few months we have received incorrect details about events (wrong start time, wrong email address etc.....) which we have simply "cut & pasted" in good faith - so please don't shoot the messenger!

If you are sending us information for Newsletters, please make absolutely sure that all the details are correct, as we will assume that they are.

FLIERS:

We are happy to enclose fliers for events of interest along with the monthly newsletters. There is a nominal charge of £10 for this service, which should be included with the fliers - please send to us by the 20th of the month for the next issue - address on the back page.

Size of flier: A6, A5 or ½ A4 as we use A5 envelopes.

Circulation: we print 200 newsletters at present.

The event will also be advertised in the usual way in the newsletter.



If you are intending to travel to England, Scotland or Wales over the summer months and think you might have some spare time when you're there - take a look at these websites for comprehensive listings of recitals:

www.organrecitals.com

www.rco.org.uk

NOTICE TO COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The next committee meeting will be held in St. Anne's Cathedral Meeting Rooms,
at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday 2nd September 2008.

New Committee Member:

Our Webmaster, Alistair McCartney, was co-opted on to the Committee in May.

MESSAGE FROM THE HON. TREASURER

Thank you to all members who have already paid their subscriptions, by whatever means, for 2008. However, I would be delighted to receive subscriptions from those members who have still to pay.

Members paying their subscriptions this year have again shown generous support for the Arthur Beggs Fund by making a supplementary donation. This Fund is now in a very healthy state and attracting interest payments such that we need to take care to avoid tax liability. Therefore I am asking that members refrain from making further donations for the time being, while steps are taken to promote the intended use of the Fund's resources. However, those members who have enhanced standing orders may leave them, as more expense would be involved amending them.

The current annual subscriptions are:

Northern Ireland & Republic of Ireland	£20	Mainland Great Britain	£10
International Overseas Member	£7	Full-time Student	£10

Please contact the Treasurer if you have any queries in this regard.

CONTACT

HONORARY SECRETARIES:

Stephen & Carolyn Hamill

07714 ...

... 023964

usoc@phoenix-organs.co.uk

HONORARY TREASURER:

Philip Walden

philip<dot>walden<at>btinternet<dot>com

