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Nigel Ogden and Michael Baron, Stockport Town Hall, as part of the 40th Celebration

The Trust Celebrates 40 Years Thank You for Your Support

David Alldred

Over the weekend of the 21st - 23rd November 2008 the Trust celebrated it's 40th Anniversary.

A series of events was arranged to highlight this milestone in the history of the Trust, starting with a fantastic programme of music played on the Stockport Wurlitzer by Nigel Ogden and Michael Baron; Both organists excelled themselves in the choice of music and the highest standard of interpretation and musicianship. Nigel is well-known to all of us, but Michael Baron is a relative newcomer to the Theatre Organ. From the standard of musicianship displayed that evening, he has a great future in the Theatre Organ World ahead of him.

A full day's excursion followed on the Saturday with firstly, a visit to the Plaza, Stockport to hear various artists at the Compton, then a break for lunch (always an essential part of any L.T.O.T. weekend) and then to the Trust's Heritage Centre at Peel Green. Entertainment was provided by Joyce Alldred and Alan Crossland at the Wurlitzer; Alan also accompanied a silent movie. Those taking part in the excursion were then whisked away to the Derbyshire Dales to see and hear the magnificent installation at The Pipes in the Peak, but before the entertainment started we all enjoyed a Hot Pot Supper and had chance to meet and talk to David Thorpe, the owner of Pipes in the Peak and the person responsible for the complex in which the organ is installed.

The artist for the evening's entertainment was Christian Cartwright, who demonstrated the organ to the full and introduced a well balanced programme, enjoyed by all. The installation at Pipes in the Peak is rather unique as the console also turns as well as rising and also has a full working example of the Compton Cello.

The following day, Sunday 23rd, members gathered in Stockport Town Hall for the Annual General Meeting of the Trust at 11-00a.m. A cash buffet was available for those who had booked, to follow the A.G.M., after which the ballroom of Stockport Town Hall with its Wurlitzer Organ beckoned for the afternoon's presentation



Joyce Alldred - Peel Green



Alan Crossland - Peel Green.



*Christian Cartwright
Pipes in the Peak.*



Mary Ann Wootton with Peter Jebson
Stockport Town Hall - 40th Anniversary final concert

with Peter Jebson and the brilliant young teenager Mary Ann Wootton. Both presented a fantastic afternoon's entertainment with the audience shouting for more.

All in all a most enjoyable weekend to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Trust. We now look forward to working towards the next milestone, our 50th in 2018.

Pictures of the 40th events can be found on
www.ltot.org.uk

Notes on the A.G.M. 2008

After 3 years of preparation, discussion and amendments, the redefined rules as distributed to all members, was accepted at the Annual General Meeting.

The rules now contain clauses that take on board our increased activities at The Heritage Centre and tidy up anomalies that were in the original constitution from 40 years ago.

The Trust is now in a position that all queries which may arise in the future can be addressed by referring to the updated rules. A heated debate took place, with members having serious concerns as to the future of the Trust and the reported lack of teamwork in advancing the aims of the Trust.

Questions from the floor were asked; why so many placed in office over the last two years had resigned and more clarity on the problems encountered which were reported on at the 2007 A.G.M. In the main these questions were addressed, with the body of the meeting seeking assurance that the Trustees work together in harmony for the benefit of the Trust as a whole.

Officers and Trustees Appointed

Don Hyde	Chairman/Trustee
Michael Dawson	Secretary/Trustee
Colin Smith	Treasurer/Trustee
David Alldred	Trustee
Eric Halsall	Trustee
Walter Baker	Trustee
Vic. Matthews	Trustee
Peter Ratcliffe	Trustee
Bill McNally	Trustee

A full report of the 2008 Annual General Meeting will be included in the next issue of Vox.

Newsletter - Colour Copy

Following the recent questionnaire, the majority of members requested to receive their copy of the Newsletter by post and this will be done. However, all those who have registered their e-mail address will by now have now received this issue in colour for them to print out in colour.

To all of those on e-mail who would prefer to receive their copy in colour and not have a black and white posted, please e-mail editor@ltot.org.uk

Those who have not registered their e-mail address as being able to receive L.T.O.T. material in this way, please let the above know on the above e-mail address. (Ed)

Officials Resign

At the last meeting of Trustees a letter was received from Trust Secretary **Michael Dawson** tendering his resignation as Secretary and Trustee, stating that poor leadership and a reluctance of certain Trustees to move the Trust forward brought about his decision.

Mike has done a tremendous amount of work over the years on behalf of the Trust, for which the membership must thank him.

A letter of resignation has also been received from **David Alldred** resigning as a Trustee. David was secretary of the Trust from 1982-2006 David has been associated with the Trust from its inception and his work for the Trust over those years is well documented, especially for the L.T.O.T. Weekends from 1987 onwards.

Shortly before going to press the resignation of **Peter Ratcliffe** as a Trustee was received. Peter was secretary, concert secretary of the Trust for some time and undertook the production of L.P's at the Free Trade Hall, in Manchester . Peter was one of the first to join the Trust.

News From the Sales Stall

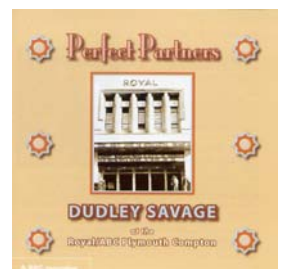
Alan Crossland



Two new CDs are now available, the first one is entitled "GALA NIGHT" and is by Nigel Ogden on the Stockport Town Hall Wurlitzer, this CD is £10.

The other is a double CD entitled "PERFECT PARTNERS" by the late Dudley Savage, and consists of recordings at the Royal (ABC) Cinema Plymouth, where Dudley

was resident organist for many years. Members may remember his live radio broadcasts on a Sunday morning in a programme called "As Prescribed" where requests were played live in those days. This double CD costs £13. Available at our Sales stalls at Stockport and Peel Green, or through our web site.



Don't miss the next presentation at Stockport Town Hall
Sunday February 15th 2009 at 2-30p.m.

Heritage Centre Administration and Improvements.

Walter Baker

Since the AGM last November there have been some changes made in the way that the Trust operates, so I think it worthwhile to take a few minutes to explain how my role has changed.

Prior to the AGM I was Vice Chairman of the Trust, a position which now no longer exists following the adoption of the new constitution. Having put my nomination forward, I was duly elected by the members present at the meeting to become a Trustee.

As you will probably remember from the information which was sent to everyone before the AGM, it is intended that each Trustee be allocated a specific area of responsibility, and at the first meeting of the Trustees I was elected to take on the responsibilities for the Heritage Centre at Peel Green. (This does not however include the general upkeep of the Wurlitzer organ which still falls under the control of the Head of the Technical Team).

In order to give our former committee members and volunteers the opportunity to still be involved with the administration of the Centre, I have set up a small team under the leadership of Roger Fisher, who is still Manager of the Heritage Centre. The team will comprise Alan Crossland, Peter Taylor, Marion Read and Eric Halsall.

The team will be known as "The Heritage Centre Management Group". There will be regular meetings, which I shall chair, to discuss and organize the various activities which take place within the Centre, and also any issues regarding the general maintenance and upkeep of the premises. Roger Fisher will continue to arrange all the private hire bookings etc.

There are a number of topics that the management group needs to address, one of which is "How do we improve"?

This is an area where you can ALL help by giving us your ideas, comments and suggestions saying how you think we can achieve this and also what you would like to see happen in the future. Your thoughts should not be limited to the Wednesday lunchtime concerts but to all aspects of the Heritage Centre in general. Although I cannot guarantee that your ideas will be adopted, I can assure you that they will be discussed and considered by the management group.

Here is my email address and telephone number for you to contact me, or if you prefer, we can talk at the Heritage Centre on Wednesdays at the lunchtime concerts.

Email address: - walter.baker@ltot.org.uk

Telephone Number: - 01204 - 653575

I thank you in advance and look forward to receiving your comments.

Membership And Items from the sales stall Make ideal gifts

Log onto www.ltot.org.uk for details of sales and to download a membership application form

The Davenport Compton

Agreement in Principal

Following discussions with The Theatre Royal Onward Trust at Hyde, Cheshire, there has been an agreement reached in principal to install the ex. Davenport Compton into the theatre once all the legalities and final purchase has been brought into place.

Members of the Trust have inspected the theatre for the best possible place for the chamber, without in any way altering this heritage building.

The most suitable place for the chambers is in more than adequate space under the stage.

Details and pictures of the theatre can be found on www.theatreroyalhyde.org

Ask Eric

Eric Halsall- Head of Technical Team

The only question I have been asked (by two different people) since the last Newsletter is "What are those levers bobbing up and down in the middle of the top stop-rail? I think it is something to do with the volume."



Stop Tab Horseshoe—Stockport Town Hall

They are correct, they are volume indicators and these 3 levers are mechanically connected to the left hand 3 large black swell pedals above the pedal board. The left hand lever is marked "MAIN", the second "SOLO" and the third "PIANO". If you look at the organ chambers on the balcony, the Main chamber is on the left and the Solo chamber is on the right. During concerts you will probably have noticed that not all of the shutters open and this is deliberate to prevent the organ being excessively loud.

You will also see the Wurlitzer piano at the right hand end of the balcony and this has 4 stages of volume controlled by the third swell pedal and the silver button on this pedal operates the piano sustain. The organist can play the piano almost as well from the console as sitting at the piano itself.

So that the organist can control the volume of one or both pipe chambers and the piano as well with a single foot pedal, Wurlitzer came up with the clever idea of coupling the main and solo shutters to the piano pedal by two silver tumbler switches in the centre above the back-rail tabs. These switches are on a label marked "SW COUPLER" and you have to make sure that the MAIN and SOLO swell pedals are kept closed when using the piano pedal in this mode as they are still operative and could override the piano pedal if left open.

The fourth swell pedal is the crescendo pedal which progressively adds selected stops to the Great manual and Pedals without moving the stop-tabs themselves. Originally they were programmed by a setter board in the back of the console which resembled an old fashioned telephone operator's switchboard. Now it is programmed through the computer. There was never a lever indicator for this pedal so we added a column of red LED's labelled "CESCENDO" above the back-rail stops when the organ was in the Free Trade Hall.

Since some items on the console seem to intrigue our members I will mention some which might come in this category which you can look for when you are next in Stockport Town Hall.

Starting at the top, hidden at the back of the music desk is a telephone socket which the key-holder uses to plug in a telephone headset to keep in contact with the tuner up in the chambers who also has a telephone. (We installed our own telephone system at Stockport which connects the chambers, blower room, lift room and console.)

Above the top row of stop-tabs are labels naming the manual they work on and near one for each manual is a black button with "C" engraved in it. These will cancel all the stops that are "on" on that manual.

At the top left hand side of the back-rail are 6 black stop-keys labelled 1 to 6. These are special extra tabs we provided that can be programmed by the computer at the organist's request to play any combination of pipes, tuned percussions or effects that exist in the organ, on any particular manual or pedals. These are particularly useful for mutation stops, mixtures, upper and lower pitch extensions etc. and mean that no existing stops have to be re-assigned. All the normal stops will continue to do what they say.

In the left hand key cheek of the Great (next to the bottom) manual is a push button that we put in at the Free Trade Hall to operate the Chinese Gong which we had added to the organ there.

At the left hand end of the keyslip underneath the Accompaniment (bottom) manual is a SET button for setting pistons to the organist's requirements and at the right hand end is a general CANCEL button for cancelling all the stops that are "on".

Underneath both sides of the console is a swing-out tray. Originally there was only one at the left-hand side which had 6 push buttons to operate the Klaxon, Fire Gong, Boat Siren, Horses Hoofs, Bird Whistle and Door Bell. Now this has been modified to take an additional 11 push buttons to operate the lift and load or save 4 different sets of combination files into the computer.

The right hand tray is new and has 2 switches and 14 push buttons. One switch starts and stops the blower, computer, power supplies etc. and the other is the range switch used in allocating appropriate stops to pistons. There are 4 buttons to play back 4 different pre-recorded tunes, plus one to record what is currently being played and another one to stop the recording or the tune being played. There are also buttons to load or save a further 4 sets of different combination files.

At the right hand side of the swell pedals are two chrome piano type pedals, one is for Snare Drum Roll and the other is double touch and plays Bass Drum Roll on first touch and Cymbal Crash on second. This organ has never had any toe pistons.

If you have a questions about organs, particularly theatre organs, please get in touch with me by e-mail at eric.halsall@ltot.org.uk or by post at 16 Woodland Crescent, Prestwich, Manchester, M25 9WQ.

Forthcoming L.T.O.T. Attractions



**Stockport Town Hall
Wurlitzer**
**Sunday 15th February
2009**
2-30p.m. £5.00
Iain Flitcroft



**Stockport Town Hall
Wurlitzer**
**Sunday 27th April
2009**
2-30p.m. £5.00
Donald McKenzie

Monday Monthly Lunchtime Wurlitzer Showcases at Stockport Town Hall 12.00 noon - £1.50

February 2nd	John Barnett
March 2nd	Byron Jones
April 6th	Nicholas Martin
May 11th	Elizabeth Harrison

Weekly Presentations at the Theatre Organ Heritage Centre

Wednesday Lunchtime
1-00p.m. - 2-30p.m. £3.00

February 4th.	Elizabeth Harrison
February 11th.	Howard Beaumont
February 18th.	Peter Jebson
February 25th.	John Barnett
March 4th.	Stephen Austin
March 11th.	Ian Gough
March 18th.	Byron Jones
March 25th.	Joyce Alldred
April 1st	David Redfern
April 8th.	Peter Jebson
April 15th	Elizabeth Harrison
April 22nd.	Stephen Austin
April 29th.	Matthew Bason

Membership

Membership numbers have continued to fall slightly in the last few months, so we would be pleased if you could spread the word about the work the Trust is doing. If you know of anyone who might be interested in joining, please feel free to take a membership form (or two) from the Heritage Centre, Stockport Town Hall, or download from www.ltot.org.uk. The Trust would like to welcome the following new members: Mr. Nicholas Taylor, Stockport. Mr. & Mrs. Mairs, Moore, Nr. Warrington.