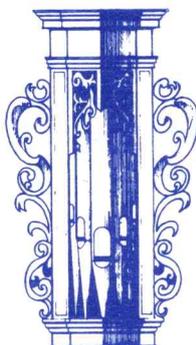


# ROGER PULHAM

CHARSFIELD

WOODBIDGE

SUFFOLK IP13 7PU



# ORGAN BUILDER

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28 March 2013

Mrs. D. Main

Thamaniya

Shop Road

Clopton

Woodbridge

Suffolk

Dear Mrs. Main,

## Organ repairs, St. Mary The Virgin, Clopton

Thank you for inviting me to attend the meeting at the church on 27<sup>th</sup> March to discuss organ repairs. I looked over the instrument and examined its interior to diagnose the reason for the sticking notes on the top keyboard. The fault is either the keys rubbing against each other or rusty guide wires obstructing the free movement of the valves (pallets) inside the wind chest (soundboard).

I offer to repair this fault for £500 plus VAT at the prevailing rate. The work would involve removing some of the pipework at the front of the organ to gain access to the removable panel on the front of the wind chest as there is no access gangway down the middle of the organ. To gain access to the rear of the keyboards the large wooden pipes at the back of the organ would be removed to allow me to crawl in. It is a very confined space. If guide wires need replacing I will provide and fix new phosphor bronze wires. If keys are rubbing together I will adjust the guide pins under the keyboard and gently scrape the chafing surfaces.

I expect the work to take place over two days with a short period when components are made in my workshop. I would agree the timetable so the organ is not out of commission during any services. I would need space in the chancel to lay out the pipework once dismantled.

I would take the opportunity closely to inspect the interior of the organ and report on my findings although at first glance it seems a well-made instrument, possibly made by the firm of Hill. I will put back pipework, re-tune, vacuum accumulated dust and debris and level the keys.

If I discover any woodworm, or "wear and tear" due to age which could be rectified I will let you know, but I do not at the stage contemplate a major overhaul.

I attach my initial report and photos.

Yours sincerely,

Roger Pulham

Principal: C. ROGER PULHAM, D.ARCH., A.R.I.B.A., F.R.S.A.

ARCHITECT & ORGAN DESIGNER

Workshops: CLOPTON COMMERCIAL PARK, CLOPTON, WOODBRIDGE, SUFFOLK

**St. Mary the Virgin, Clopton, Woodbridge, Suffolk**

**Report on organ**

Inspected 27 March 2013

**Stop list and description**

Location: North East choir aisle / vestry

Maker: no name plate. Drawstops, lettering, pipe mouths, manufacturing details identical to the work of Hill.

Casework: Pitch pine, longest Open Diapason pipes (zinc, French mouths) in twin side towers, centre flat: Open Diapason pipes from bottom A#, plain metal French mouths. Terraced stop jambs.

**Stop List**

**Great (lower keyboard) C – g 56 notes**

Open Diapason 8ft (mostly in case front)

Gedact 8ft (Wood bass octave, spotted metal from C13 to top. Arched mouths, Maple / Beech wood stopper handles)

Principal 4ft. (on rear slide, plain metal)

Fifteenth 2ft. (on third slide from front, in place of either Dulciana or flute. Plain metal, probably inserted 1950)

Coupler: Swell to great

**Swell (upper keyboard) C – g 56 notes** (pipework inaccessible, not inspected)

Gedact 8ft )

Viola da Gamba 8ft )

Flute 4ft ) not inspected due to sticking notes

Oboe 8ft )

**Additional stop**

Voix Celeste 8ft (added to rear of soundboard on additional slide. Stop knob (with matching lettering) over bass end of keys, stop movement transposed to treble end behind music desk.

Swell shutters (horizontal) moved by lever pedal at treble end of pedal board.

**Pedals C – f 30 notes**

Flat and parallel

Bourdon 16ft (wood at rear of organ)

Coupler: Great to Pedals

Action tracker / mechanical

It is believed the organ was repaired in 1950; evidence shows well made new trackers to swell organ, and new felts and leather buttons which may have been installed then. Rear panels are hard board possibly made at the same time. Records refer to Stidolph carrying out tuning.

Blower: "Discuss", wind valve: guillotine, bellows: double rise.

Wind chests (soundboards) chromatic except for bass octave, alternate notes at treble end.

Spayed backfalls (mahogany French polished).

Known faults at time of inspection:

Lower keyboard: one note occasionally sticks

Upper keyboard: Bottom C, D, D#, F, G#, middle F, treble D, D#, top C, D# all sticking down.

Pedals: no faults

Wind leaks: none discernible

Drawstop action: all working

Blower: working

Not examined: the whole of the pipe work to the top keyboard (inaccessible without dismantling other parts of the instrument).

The absence of a tuning platform between the Great soundboard and the Swell soundboard makes it almost impossible to tune the Oboe pipes. One of the swell shutters has been removed and the lower access panel to the swell box front has been removed to allow a minimum of access. This is impossible to rectify without major reconstruction.

Roger Pulham 28 March 2013

St. Mary The Virgin, Clopton. Photos of organ 27 March 2013

