

Extract from

**A brief report dated 16 June 2014 on the Organ in the Church of St John the Evangelist, Moggerhanger**

By [Michael Young Organ Builder](#)

The first organ given to the church by Colonel Thornton of St John's House Moggerhanger. was built by Henry Bevington and Sons of London and installed in the church when it was opened in 1860. This instrument was removed in 1889 and a new organ installed, built by W. E. Richardson of London and Manchester. In 1891 £75 was still required to complete the organ. This work was never carried out, so 4 ranks of pipes are still missing, also an extra coupler or tremulant.

The [National Pipe Organ Register](#) (NPOR) lists that a Piccolo is missing from the swell. This is actually marked out as a ill rank mixture on the rack-board. Also the Vox Angelica listed is incorrect, as there are only 2 spare slides on the swell soundboard.

Although very dirty, the general construction and condition of the organ is very good, with the usual exception of wear in the keys, actions and leatherwork, that should be expected after many years of use and which would be dealt within any overhaul.

Most of the pipe-work appears to be in a good condition and should require only basic cleaning and minor repairs. The metal pipe-work is slide tuned and whilst the slides have rusted they still move relatively freely. The state of the stoppers in the wooden pipes is very mixed some being loose and others very stiff, making tuning them awkward.

On the day of my visit there were only minor runnings (wind leaking between adjacent notes) on both soundboards and no ciphers (note sounding continuously).

At some point in the past the organ has been overhauled. Most of the original wooden trackers have been replaced with aluminum wires.

The leatherwork in the organ is starting to show some signs of deterioration. The strapping on the ribs of the main bellows is starting to split and there are some small holes in the corner gussets. It is probable that the bellows will continue to be air tight for some time yet, maybe 5 to 10 years, and could be patched as a temporary repair. It is very likely that this is the leather from when the organ was originally constructed. Usually we would expect to replace leather every 50 to 100 years, depending on the location of the instrument and conditions in the church.

At some point in the next few years, work is going to have to be carried out to keep the organ in a good playing condition. The bellow will need re-leathering and that would also be a good time to clean the pipe work. Apart from dusting down the rest of the instrument, it does not appear that much else needs doing at the moment, apart from some minor adjustments to the actions.