

Organ builders create tiny replica as part of Durham Cathedral's Lego fundraising project

Nov 19, 2014 19:00 | By Will Metcalfe

Harrison and Harrison Organ Builders turned their hands to a different material to remodel their creation in miniature



Jordan Gutteridge, Dr Christopher Batchelor and Andrew Fiddes with The Chorister School Pupils

A team of County Durham organ builders have crafted their latest creation from plastic.

Harrison and Harrison Organ Builders are best known for their organs in Durham University, Westminster Abbey and King's College Cambridge but on Wednesday they returned to the cathedral to build a new organ - from Lego.

The firm is the latest company to take part in the project creating [Durham's Lego Cathedral](#) - which aims to help raise £350,000 towards the public appeal for this current phase of Open Treasure.

Dr Christopher Batchelor, from Harrison and Harrison, said: "We are very pleased to be involved in this important and prestigious project, and are delighted to be able to support the Cathedral as it moves forwards with its Open Treasure project.

"Our rebuilding of the Willis Organ was a milestone in the history of the firm, and we are proud to have looked after this highly-regarded instrument for over a century."



Jordan Gutteridge (Apprentice, Harrison & Harrison), Dr Christopher Batchelor (Managing Director, Harrison & Harrison), Andrew Fiddes (Apprentice, Harrison & Harrison) The Chorister School Pupils (from left to right) - Sophie Bisson, George Bolam, Alexia Ward, Annabel Farley

The team from Harrisons will be joined by a group of Durham Cathedral Chorist who sing every day with the beautiful organ, built originally by Henry Willis in 1680 and rebuilt by Harrisons in 1905 and 1978.

The Open Treasure programme aims to transform some of the Cathedral's most historic spaces, creating an exhibition route that will include the Monks' Dormitory and finish in the Great Kitchen, where the treasures of St Cuthbert will be displayed alongside other Cathedral treasures and visiting exhibitions.

Gaye Kirby, head of development at Durham Cathedral, said: "It is wonderful that Harrison's have chosen to recreate their magnificent organ in miniature in our Cathedral and we are very grateful to them for their generous donation and support of the Open Treasure appeal."

Last week a group of Durham Light Infantry Veterans who saw action in the D-Day Landings in Normandy took part in the project recreating the DLI Chapel from 1000 bricks.

The DLI Association donated £50 towards the project.

Major Paul Wharton MM, DLI trustee and chairman of the DLI Association, said: "When we heard about the Open Treasure Appeal, we very quickly decided that that would be something apt for us to support due to our connections with the cathedral."