

# Ballagarey Methodist Chapel, St Mark's



## Diapason and Flute extended over two manuals and pedals

The organ was built by the John Compton Organ Company in 1935, for a church in the south of England. When offered for sale at a nominal sum in 2006, the instrument was dismantled and transported to the Island by the enterprising members of the church, later to be overhauled and installed in the St. Mark's chapel by Peter Jones. It has 2 sets of pipes (Flute and Diapason) all enclosed in a swell-box, and is an example of an 'extension' organ, a method of organ-building which became possible with the advent of electric mechanisms.

The extension principal makes it possible to use the same set of pipes at a number of pitches, creating the illusion of several stops, and in this

way a physically small organ can be given the variety of a much larger instrument. The action is electro-pneumatic throughout.

Comptons were best known to the general





public as cinema organ builders, but the company also supplied organs for many churches, in addition to concert halls and cathedrals. In their heyday, they were a large concern, and built organs to a high standard, using many ideas and components which they had pioneered. The Ballagarey organ is one of a number of 'Miniatura' organs made by this company. The 2 sets of pipes are voiced boldly, available in a wide variety of pitches, and are almost all enclosed within the very

effective swell-box, thus making the instrument capable of anything from a whisper to a roar. The bottom notes of the pedal stop are, unusually, metal and appear in the 2 displays on each end of the very attractive oak case. All the pipes over the console are dummies. This is the first pipe organ at Ballagarey Chapel, and replaces earlier reed-organs and electronics. The instrument, with its roll-top console, fits particularly well in the space available.