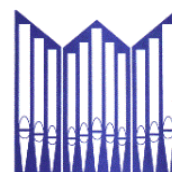


Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – April 2017

On line at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

This Month

Tuesday 25 April, 7.30pm

We are once again very grateful to Philip Rushforth for providing us with the opportunity to play on the Cathedral Organ. Philip will begin the evening by giving us an update on the Organ Appeal, and then he will talk a little about his work at the Cathedral. If you have any questions that you'd like Philip to answer, please could you send them to John Evans to collate.

AGM and Dinner

Tuesday 13th June, 7.00pm

We are making a return visit to Upton Golf Club for our AGM (usually lasts less than 30 minutes), followed by Dinner at around 7.30pm. The menu will depend upon the number who express an interest in attending, so please get in touch if you intend to come along. I am very pleased to inform you that our 'After Dinner' Speaker will be Chester Cathedral's Assistant Organist, Rachel Mahon. Rachel has already experienced and achieved great things and I'm sure will have many thoughts to share with us.

The Chairman Writes

May I begin by wishing you all a very Happy Easter, and I hope that you are able to benefit from all the excitement that it brings – "Hallelujah, He is Risen!"

We rarely talk about singing, however, so I thought I'd tell you a little about a singing event. On Saturday 1st April, I attended a "Come & Sing CRUCIFIXION" at The Church of the Good Shepherd, Heswall. The event was directed by Ian Tracey and accompanied by David Poulter at the organ. The afternoon began with Ian reminding us of the basics that are essential for good singing, before he expertly guided us through the various choruses. Following a very enjoyable tea, the Choir of around 80 choristers performed to a very appreciative audience. The members of my own church choir who came along really enjoyed the event and appreciated the opportunity to sing with a larger group, as well as being able to perform something we would struggle to have done at our own church.

We are all aware that there is a shortage of organists, and if we want our Association to

survive and grow, we must remember that we are also a Choirmasters' Association. There are lots of people out there who enjoy singing, and we are currently failing to capture their interest.

It was a lovely sunny evening for our visit to St Peter's, Ruthin. We were greeted by our member Fay Adamson, who had arranged a demonstration of the organ by herself and her 'A' Level student, Samantha. Fay performed some variations by Sweelinck and the first movement of Vierne's Second Symphony. Samantha gave us an excellent rendition of "Te Deum" by Jean Langlais. After the demonstration of this wonderful organ, we enjoyed some lovely refreshments and the opportunity to play the organ.

Some members say that we need to choose venues with an interesting organ that is well demonstrated and reasonably accessible. Ruthin fitted all those points, and yet the turnout was certainly less than anticipated – many of you missed out on a great opportunity.

As many of you know, I arrange a series of concerts each year at Hamilton Street Methodist Church; however, it seems to be coming increasingly difficult to attract audiences, and I understand many other venues are also struggling in a similar fashion.

Concert organisers need to do everything they can to keep ticket prices down, and one way this can be done is by giving more amateurs the opportunity to perform. This isn't as simple as it might seem; some amateur groups or choirs seem to think they can command similar fees to professionals. It's time more amateur performers remember why they are performing, which is hopefully for their enjoyment and to entertain others. After all, isn't being an amateur musician just like a hobby, which you generally fund yourself?

If live music is to survive in a way to remain affordable to all, then the amateur musician can have a large part to play and it will also increase their opportunities to perform to an audience.

May I encourage you to grasp every opportunity that comes your way - you may even enjoy yourself and encourage others at the same time.

We are getting much more daylight well

into the evenings now, so I hope we will meet up in the next couple of months at the events that have been organised. In the meantime, if you'd like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA, don't hesitate to contact me on 07939 645688 or by e-mail angiejohnevs@uwclub.net

Next Month

Tuesday 16 May, 7.30pm

Bethlehem Chapel, Rhosllanerchrugog

A chance to hear and play the newly restored three-manual Norman and Beard.

Organs For Sale

St Michael's Church, Caerwys

The two-manual pipe organ at St. Michael's Church was built in 1910 by a local organ-builder, John Bellamy. It is a decorative, tuneful and well-balanced instrument, still in working order, but has been replaced by a digital instrument. The church is undertaking some modernisation which means that the old organ has to find a new home or risk being destroyed.

We are therefore urgently seeking a new home for it, and can, of course, supply full technical details, reports on its condition and an estimate of what it would cost to move it. Further information can be obtained by telephoning 01352 721321 or emailing alicewakefield27@btinternet.com. The organ is also described in detail on the National Pipe Organ Register (NPOR – NPOR V2.16, 'search by address', Michael, Caerwys, Flintshire). You would be welcome to come to hear and play it.

Peter Collins House Organ

William Fox is reluctantly having to sell his much loved instrument.

Manual II: 8' 4' 22/3' 1' 8'

Manual I: 8' 8' 4' 2'

Pedal: 8' 8' 4' 2' 8' (by transmission from manual stops)

Tremulant: inter-manual coupler; mechanical action

Width 175cm, depth 132cm (200cm with pedalboard), height 235cm. Built in 2001.

The instrument fits within standard UK ceiling heights and would be equally suited to use in a house, school, college or church. Oak case, panels veneered to match. Offers invited. Please telephone 07974 757027 or e-mail petrus1901@gmail.com

What's On?

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 20 Apr** Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus)
27 Apr Marc Murray (Bury)
4 May Jennifer Bate (London)
14 May Jonathan Allsopp (Durham Cathedral)
18 May Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)
25 May Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)

St Asaph Cathedral

Wednesdays at 7.30pm

- 3 May** Richard Lea (Buckfast Abbey)

Admission £6 including programme

Liverpool Organ Day

Monday 1 May

Liverpool Cathedral

Richard Lea (Buckfast Abbey)

11.15am - admission £5

followed by

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Martin Baker (Westminster Cathedral)

at 3.00pm - admission £5

followed by

St George's Hall

Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

at 5.30pm - admission £5

St Giles', Wrexham

Mondays at 12.30pm

- 1 May** Chris Pilsbury (St Giles', Wrexham)
8 May Rachel Mahon (Chester Cathedral)
15 May Fay Adamson (Ruthin Parish Church)
22 May Charles Jones (Holy Trinity Llandudno)

Welsh Presbyterian Church

(Music at Wesley)

St John Street, Chester

Tuesdays at 12.45pm

- 25 Apr** Chatham's School of Music Brass Ensembles
2 May Brian Heald (Piano)
9 May Roger Fisher (Piano)

Admission free - retiring collection

St Chad's, Shrewsbury

Fri 21 Apr Nigel Pursey (Shrewsbury Abbey)

Tue 2 May Shean Bowers (Bath Abbey)

Fri 19 May John Hosking (St Asaph Cathedral)

All recitals at 12.40pm

Admission free - retiring collection

Organ Recitals Nationwide

details on www.organrecitals.com

Philip Rushforth writes:

From 15 July until 15 October there is an exhibition in the Cathedral of contemporary sculpture entitled ARK. Some of this exhibition will be focussed in the Nave

where, as you know, the audience sits for the recitals. I have been told by the Executive Director of the Cathedral and by Clergy that the audience for the recitals must sit in the Quire of the Cathedral and that the Nave will be closed during the time the recitals are on. Members of the public will be allowed to view the exhibition during the recital. I am assured that the public will be told to keep noise to a minimum. Despite my protestations in this matter I have been given no other choice. The recitals will be FREE TO ENTER, which will, of course, mean less money for the organ.

If the exhibition is popular, at least more people will be exposed to the music of the organ and might even choose to sit and listen. I would be very pleased to receive your thoughts on this matter and, if attending the recitals during that period, how you found the experience. Those attending will be asked to donate as they leave. If you wish to make a donation, cheques should be sent to me and made payable to Chester Cathedral Grand Organ Appeal Fund with an address in order to Gift Aid the payment.

Vacant Organ Benches

St Laurence, Frodsham (Cheshire) seeks an **Organist & Choirmaster** to take over from the previous Organist who left in March after 15 years of gifted and dedicated service. Duties are weekly Eucharist and Evensong plus occasional additional services on Feast days. A loyal and enthusiastic Choir practices weekly. The organ is a fine 3-manual Binns. We have an established musical tradition which is appreciated by a supportive congregation. Salary based on RSCM recommended bands, negotiable, plus fees. For more details, contact Rev Michael Mills at mikehills@me.com or 01928 733378.

St James', Christleton has a long history of Church music and is affiliated to the Royal School of Church Music. We require a **Director of Music** to play the organ and develop and grow our enthusiastic choir. A good knowledge of organ playing and experience of leading and conducting choirs is essential. The organ is a Holditch RCO 2-manual full pedal board instrument, installed in the Church in 1878 and rebuilt in 1988. Fees for a suitable candidate are those set out by the RSCM and there are additional fees for weddings and funerals. Contact The Rector, The Rectory, Christleton, Chester CH3 or telephone 01244 335663.

St Philip's, Kelsall, Cheshire - a village church which needs a leader who will direct and develop music for worship. There is a small choir, several accomplished instrumentalists, an organ and an electronic

keyboard - and a vision that worship should inspire the mission. As well as playing for services on Sundays and major festivals, you would encourage others in using their gifts in music and help the incumbent to select music for worship. You would be responsible for music administration. An ability to work with children (for which an enhanced DBS check will be required) is desirable. An occupational requirement has been established for the post holder to be a practising Christian in accordance with the Equality Act. Further information can be found at www.kelsallparishchurch.org.uk or by contacting the Revd Peter Mackriell, vicar@kelsallparishchurch.org.uk or by telephoning 01829 752639. Salary to be agreed at RSCM rates, with fees additional. Deadline 28 April 2017.

*Regarding the above there is a more detailed job description - if you want a copy please e-mail me - **Bob Jones***

Letters to the Editor

Robin Newby writes: The weekly organ recitals at Chester Cathedral this Thursday gone, has been considerably improved by a generous donation of one of its parishioners by way of a large Back Projection Screen, which has included (I guess) a high new fidelity camera and projector (HD) as one can almost virtually read the stop knobs and the music now being played. With new spot lighting and camera the display with PIP (Picture in Picture) one can watch the well lit pedals showing Philip's shiny shoes and heels and keyboards at the same time. The "operator" of the equipment knew there was to be an extended pedal movement in one of the Bach pieces so the full screen changed to show that fact. There was a welcome screen to Chester and a picture of Philip Rushforth, then the title of each piece of music which was to be played by Philip's performances (someone muted, *"there is no need for a printed programme any more"*).

Nigel James writes: I have a 56-page documentation of the Birmingham Town Hall Organ by the eminent Nicholas Thistlewaite which was written to mark the Noel Mander 1984 restoration of this great Town Hall instrument. I am willing to donate it to any CNEWOCA member who wishes to have it. I also have the A4-sized Inaugural Recital Souvenir programme for anyone interested.

Contact me at organist59@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the May newsletter are required before 10 May. Please write to Bob Jones at 3 Appleton Road, Chester CH2 1JH or (preferred) e-mail at bob.jones25@btinternet.com or telephone 01244 315089 or 07701 052304.