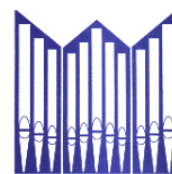


# Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

## Newsletter – February 2017

On line at [www.cnewoca.org.uk](http://www.cnewoca.org.uk)

Facebook - [www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA](http://www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA)

### This Month

Saturday 18 February 2.00 pm  
Ellesmere College

The college is situated midway between Chester and Shrewsbury. I think that most of us are on the Internet and if you go to the College website you can enter your postcode and get directions plus a map - for those travelling from Chester it suggests that you head towards Wrexham, keep going on the A483 then leave that road at Ruabon and take the left turn heading for Ellesmere.

#### The Chapel Organ - Hill, Norman and Beard 1968

Following the devastating fire of 1966 which gutted the Chapel, the new organ was designed by Rex Lumley, the then Director of Music, Dr. Herbert Sumsion, CBE and Herbert Norman, FRSA, FISOB. The organ encompasses every technical advance of its time. Electro-magnetic actions, simulated bar-type wind chests, solid state relays, integral wind regulators and sheathed wire louvre-control action. The organ works on a 2-h.p. blower situated behind the gallery.

The specification required that all unenclosed pipes should be in view as much as possible. Extensive use of polished tin, copper, spotted metal and dark coated zinc provide tonal variety, vitality and brilliance in an exciting display.

Designed with being used as a teaching instrument in mind, the organ delivers a clear tone on the Great section, provides a Swell Organ of traditional English form and a uniquely Classical Positive division.

#### The Schulze Organ - Edmund Schulze 1864

We have a lot to be thankful for when it comes to the Schulze organ. Without Prince Albert's invitation to the Schulze family to exhibit at the Great Exhibition, there would, in all likelihood, have been no examples of Schulzes' work in the UK. Of the surviving examples, four remain, whilst one is silent. Of the working examples the Ellesmere Schulze is the most original and complete. The organ started out life in St Mary's Parish Church, Tyne Dock on Friday, 24th

June, 1864. Alderman Williamson who had commissioned the organ, and who had agreed the contract price of £600 was so



pleased with the finished instrument that he paid a bonus of £400!

By 1905 very few pipes could be induced to speak due to the damp conditions in which the organ found itself. By 1979, a falling congregation coupled with the perilous state of the fabric of St Mary's meant the organ was in danger of being lost. The Diocesan Secretary of Durham, whose son was at Ellesmere at the time, put forward the idea that the organ would look magnificent on a gallery in "Big School". The Director of Music and Headmaster agreed and the Tyne Dock Schulze Organ Trust was born.

A closing recital was given in St Mary's on 28th September 1979, dismantling began on 1st October and on 9th May 1981 the reopening recital was held at Ellesmere College. In 2011 fresh impetus was injected into the Schulze Trust with a view of raising the necessary funds to keep this remarkable survivor in voice for generations to come.

### The Chairman Writes

January seems to have flown and many New Year resolutions, like Christmas, may well have faded away. We all go through phases in our lives when we need a bit of encouragement and I hope CNEWOCA can give you that with your music and through the time that we spend in fellowship together at our monthly meetings.

Our January event saw us venturing outside the usual church visits to the Henry Willis Organ Works in Liverpool. What a fascinating visit it proved to be as we were expertly guided around the works by David Wyld, Managing Director. David explained and demonstrated the method for making metal pipes, he showed us the voicing room as well as describing how the new casework had been made that was about to be shipped to Stichting Cathedral, Leiden, Holland. It was a very interesting visit, clearly demonstrated by member's keenness to stay well beyond our programmed time.

This month, there is an opportunity for you to be part of another special and historic event as we visit Ellesmere College, the home to two of the finest organs in the country. The Chapel contains a grand Hill, Norman & Beard which was made famous by Brian Runnet's recording of the Hindemith Organ Sonatas. In 1980 a second organ was acquired by the college, the mighty 1864 Schulze organ which was rescued from St Mary's Parish Church, Tyne Dock. Now housed on a gallery in the magnificent "Big School", the organ is famous for its deep velvety sound and is a true Rolls Royce amongst organs.

As I looked through our membership list, I realised how little I know about some of you, particularly those who don't attend our monthly events. We this in mind, I wondered if we have any 'secret composers' amongst our members, or perhaps you have an interesting hobby or job that would be interesting for members to hear about. If that's you, I'd love to hear from you.

Did you know that our Association will be 20 years old next year? Your Committee met recently and are hoping to arrange a special event (or two) to celebrate the milestone, probably in May 2018. We have also been investigating a day out (by train) to visit some organs in London (including the Festival Hall); and there may also be a similar visit to Birmingham.

Going back to New Year Resolutions, I made one or two decisions about the way I would try and organise my life in 2017, in some way based around those words of Mark Twain: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So, throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails, explore, dream and discover." You don't have to wait for a specific time to make decisions, life is the performance, not a rehearsal.

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 email [angiejohnevs@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevs@uwclub.net)

## What's On?

### Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 16 Feb George de Voil (London)
- 23 Feb David Hardie (Birmingham)
- 2 Mar Rachel Mahon (Chester)
- 9 Mar Andrew Wyatt (Chester)
- 16 Mar Greg Abrahams (Bishops Cleave)
- 23 Mar Philip Rushforth (Chester)
- 30 Mar Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus)

### St Georges Hall Liverpool

Tuesday 28 February 12.45 pm

Sunday 12 March 2.30 pm

Tuesday 14 March 12.45 pm

Ian Tracey

Admission £2.50

### Welsh Presbyterian Church

(Music at Wesley)

St John Street, Chester

Tuesdays at 12.45pm

- 14 Feb Alison Loram (Violin),  
Christopher Symons (Piano)
- 21 Feb Leben String Quartet
- 28 Feb Rahel Johnson (Flute), Jemima  
Palfreyman (Piano)
- 7 Mar Aeris Piano Trio
- 14 Mar Jessica Zhu Piano
- 21 Mar Chetham's School of Music  
Pianists
- 28 Mar Lionel Clarke (Cello), Brain Heald  
(Piano)

Admission free - retiring collection

### St Chad's Shrewsbury

Tuesday 7 March at 12.40 pm

Richard Walker - St Chad's

Friday 17 March at 12.40 pm

Shaun Turnbull - Blackburn Cathedral

Admission free - retiring collection

### St Mary's Warrington

Saturday 11 March at 1.00 pm

Michael Wynne - St Mary's

Admission free - retiring collection

### Organ Recitals Nationwide

details on [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com)

Next Month

Monday 27 March 7.30pm

St Peters Ruthin

A chance to hear and play another four manual which has quite a bit history. It has moved about a bit in its time and when it came to Henry Willis looking at a restoration it was more of a rescue. The instrument was originally Earnest Wadsworth and Brother, a well known

Manchester firm, and many parts and pipes from the original have been lost so this should be another very interesting visit if only to hear some of the work carried out by Henry Willis whose factory we visited just a few weeks ago.

### Johann Gottfried Walther

18 Sep 1684 - 23 March 1748

I was looking through some music, for something new to play, when I came across a short Chorale Prelude by the above. I did a little research and discovered that not only was he a contemporary of Bach but also his cousin. He entered the lower school of Erfurt in 1691 and studied organ with Johann Bernhard Bach (who was a second cousin of Johann Sebastian) and Johann Andreas Kretschmar. Johann Gottfried Walther's theoretical works include the *Musicalisches Lexicon oder Musicalische Bibliothec* and the *Praecepta der musicalischen Composition*. The *Musicalisches Lexicon* (Leipzig, 1732), an enormous dictionary of music and musicians, was the first dictionary in the



German language to contain both musical terms and biographical information about composers and performers up to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. In all, the *Musicalisches Lexicon* defines more than 3,000 musical terms; Walther evidently drew on more than 250 separate sources in compiling it, including theoretical treatises of the early Baroque and Renaissance. The single most important source for the work was the writings of Johann Mattheson, who is referenced more than 200 times.

He is also quoted as have said that "... musical composition is a mathematical science through which an agreeable and correct harmony of the notes is brought to paper in order that it might later be sung or played, thereby appropriately moving the listeners to Godly devotion as well as to please and delight both mind and soul.... It is so called because the composer must not only understand language as does the poet in order not to violate the metre of the text but because he also writes poetry, namely a melody..."

As an organ composer, Walther became famous for his organ transcriptions of orchestral concertos by contemporary Italian and German masters. He made 14 transcriptions of concertos by Albinoni, Gentili, Taglietti, Giuseppe Torelli, Vivaldi and Telemann. These works were the models for Bach to write his famous transcriptions of concertos by Vivaldi and others. On the other hand, Walther as a city organist of Weimar wrote exactly 132 organ preludes based on Lutheran chorale

melodies. Some free keyboard music also belongs to his legacy.

### Vacant Organ Benches

St Laurence, Frodsham (Cheshire) seeks an Organist & Choirmaster to take over from the current Organist, who is leaving 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 [mikehills@me.com](mailto:mikehills@me.com) 01928733378

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St James Christleton

St. James, 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, experience of leading and conducting choirs is essential. The organ is a Holditch RCO 2-manual full pedal board instrument. It was installed in the Church in 1878 and rebuilt in 1988. Fees for a suitable candidate are those set out by the RSCM and additionally there are additional fees for weddings and funerals. Contact: the Rector, The Rectory, Christleton, Chester CH3  
Tel 01244 335663.

Closing date 31 March 2017

### ORGANIST WANTED

St Peter's Church, Hargrave Nr Chester  
CH3 7RN

9.45 am Sunday morning Eucharist only

Contact: Revd C Deakin 01829 781378

[revdeakin@gmail.com](mailto:revdeakin@gmail.com)

### Music at Wesley

Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts

A reminder that until further notice the concerts will take place in the Presbyterian Church on the opposite side of the road - this is due to the worship area reordering project. The Café will remain open as normal.

Newsletter Contributions

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