

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

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – February 2019

On line at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

Our next Event

Saturday 23rd March in Llandudno - 1.30pm at Holy Trinity Church, and 3.00pm at St John's Methodist Church.

Noel Rawsthorne

(1929 to 1919)

Noel Rawsthorne passed away peacefully in the early hours of Monday 28th January, aged 89 years.

He was Organist of Liverpool Cathedral for 25 years from 1955 to 1980, thereafter being succeeded by his pupil and Assistant, Ian Tracey, the current post-holder, and being given the honorific title of Organist Emeritus. After study at the Royal Manchester College of Music (now The Royal Northern College of Music), he won scholarships to study with both Germani and Dupré. From 1980 to 1984 he was City Organist and Artistic Director at St George's Hall, Liverpool, and travelled widely as a recitalist in the UK, Europe and the USSR. In recognition of his many achievements, he was awarded a D.Mus from the University of Liverpool in 1994.

Chrissie & Chris Rawsthorne, and Liz, his wife, have requested a very private cremation, followed by a great service of thanksgiving and celebration at the Cathedral on Sunday 3rd March at 3.00pm, to which all are invited.



Noel's ashes will then be interred under the north side of the organ, alongside those of Goss-Custard, his teacher and predecessor, during Evensong on Saturday 19th October, preceding the 93rd Anniversary Recital.

The above was sent to me by Quentin Bellamy and I have included the photo of Noel in his garden, as he was also a keen grower of fuchsias. RJ

The Chairman Writes

Life can, at times, seem more uncertain than others - perhaps we have family and friends who need our help and support, or perhaps it's ourselves who need that caring and kind word of encouragement or reassurance. One of the nice things I have found about CNEWOCA is that we are encouraged to 'have a go' and that members don't criticise the efforts of someone who is doing their best. After all, the Association is there for the benefit of its members, which is YOU!

Following the invitation to have a combined meeting at Poulton Hall in January, the turnout from CNEWOCA didn't reach expectations, particularly bearing in mind the very warm welcome, including refreshments we received on our last visit.

This is a short article from me, as Bob has lots of items from others; however, I feel the need to remind you that too few members are playing an active role in the Association. So, as our AGM draws closer, please consider what you can do to help and in what direction you might like the Association to head in the future. I'm sure we are all aware that if you keep doing the same things without 'moving on', the Association will stagnate and die. We have lots of talent within our Association, so I'm asking you to share your ideas and get involved; after all, it is YOUR Association.

Finally, our Association needs more outreach (like many Churches) if it is to survive. If you have ideas for recruiting more members or for events that would attract them, please let me know. 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 at angiejohnevans@uwclub.net.

The Gothic Organ at Rysum

In the flatlands of Ostfriesland, a north-western province of Germany near the North Sea, is a string of small medieval towns that comprise a district called Krummhörn. Some of these villages are quite modern, with grid-based streets and inns that cater mostly to European tourists looking for some fresh air. Other towns consist primarily of homes and look like something out of a children's book, with winding brick roads

that make sets of rings around the town centre. The village of Rysum (*pronounced "Ree-suhm"*) falls into the latter category, and most remarkably, in the heart of this picturesque town sits a church which is home to one of the world's oldest organs. This single-manual instrument is the last survivor of the style of gothic organ that was found throughout parish churches in the



northern Dutch- and German-speaking world. The builder was "Meister Harmannus", and his "fee" for building the organ is quite interesting - the details come from Eggerik Beninga's historical record *Cronica der Fessen*, in which he notes that "the pastor and church authorities at Rysum, through a letter from Olde Imell, overseer of Osterhusen and Grymersum, have asked that he allow them to transport their fat cattle over the Ems [River] to Groningen because of the organ that they commissioned there." This entry was dated to 1457, and so the organ was probably built a few years earlier. Today, the instrument boasts seven independent stops, but the organ Harmannus built was a Blockwerk - a giant mixture with the possibility of playing either the full organ, or only the 8' Praestant in the façade. The organ builder Joachim Kayser was paid for seven register knobs around 1680, which may have been when the organ was separated into individual stops (though it could have been earlier). Regardless, the original mechanism to activate the 8' Praestant still functions as it did in 1457, with a large lever just above the music stand. Through the years there were minor modifications, but on the whole, the organ stayed largely intact, and in 1959, Jürgen Ahrend and Gerhard Brunzema restored the Rysum Organ to its 1513 condition, resulting in this stop list: Praestant 8', Gedackt 8', Octave 4', Octave 2', Mixtur III-IV*, Sesquialtera II*, Trompete 8'.

What's On?

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 14 Feb** Geoffrey Wollatt (Manchester Cathedral)
21 Feb John Hosking (St Asaph)
28 Feb Daniel Clark (Berlin)
7 Mar Andrew J Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)
14 Mar Alexander Berry (Bradford Cathedral)
21 Mar Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
Admission £5.45 Concessions £4.50

Ellesmere College

Saturday 9 March, 3.30pm to 5.15pm

John Hosking (St Asaph)

Greta Hall and Chapel

Admission Free - Retiring Collection
(£6 suggested)

Liverpool Cathedral Lady Chapel

Friday 15 March, 12.45pm

Ian Tracey

Admission Free - Retiring Collection

St George's Hall, Liverpool

Tuesday 19 March, 12.45pm to 1.30pm

Ian Tracey

Admission £5.50

Music at Wesley

Tuesdays 12.45pm to 1.30pm

- 19 Feb** Duncan Anderson (Viola),
Leanne Cody (Piano)
26 Feb Urszula Krukowska-Byzdra (Cello),
Brian Heald (Piano)
5 Mar Matthew Lau (Piano)
12 Mar Latchen Kinghorn-Perry (Clarinet),
Ellis Howarth (Piano)
19 Mar Paul Sellars (Horn), Alison Loram
(Violin), Chris Symons (Piano)

Saturday Organ Recitals

12.45pm to 1.35pm

- 16 Feb** John Hosking - *please note the correct date*
(there was an error in the last newsletter)
16 Mar Brian Heald
Admission Free - Retiring Collection

St Chad's, Shrewsbury

Fridays at 12.40pm

- 15 Feb** Shaun Turnbull (Blackburn Cathedral)
8 Mar Martin J Brown (Bangor Cathedral)
Admission Free - Retiring Collection

Ty Pawb, Wrexham

Thursdays, 1.00pm to 2.00pm

- 14 Feb** Rachael Marsh and Daniel Bradford
(Vocal and Piano)
21 Feb Belle Journee (Vocal and Guitar)
28 Feb Henry Soper (Piano)
7 Mar Peter Leslie (Guitar)
14 Mar Robert Parry (Piano Vocal)

Hamilton St Methodist Church

Sunday Afternoon Charity Concerts at 3pm

- 17 Feb** The Hawarden Singers
17 Mar St Martin's Academy School, with
John and Angie Evans
Admission Free - suggested donation £5

Organ Recitals Nationwide

details on www.organrecitals.com

Daniel Clark

On 28th February we welcome Daniel Clark to Chester Cathedral. I found the following on a German website advertising the Dresden Organ Cycle - I allowed the computer to translate:

"Born in the UK in 1973, organist Daniel Clark has studied with David Higgs as a music scholarship at the University of Cambridge with Peter Hurford and Nicolas Kynaston and at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York. He currently works as a second Marien organist in the Berlin Marienkirche and as a representative organist in the Berlin Cathedral. Since 2006 he also accompanies the monthly Anglican services in the Frauenkirche Dresden. In addition to these services, he maintains a busy concert activity with engagements in Bamberg Cathedral, the Cathedral of Magdeburg, Berlin Cathedral, Berlin Concert Hall, and St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in London.

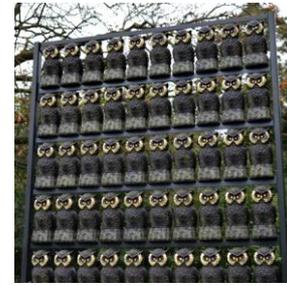
"The Dresden Organ Cycle was founded in 2006 as a joint concert series of Dresden's inner city churches - the Frauenkirche, the cathedral and the Kreuzkirche. Every week on Wednesday, the organists of the respective places of worship and renowned guests present the variety of sounds of their instruments and the rich treasure of organ literature. The annual highlight is the summer International Dresden Organ Festival, during which organists from all over the world make musical bridges from their homeland to Germany. With the reopening of the Dresden Palace of Culture and its owl organ (*see following article*) at the end of 2017, the circle of downtown organs expanded. At the now four concert venues, the audience is impressively impressed by what the great French composer and organist César Franck meant when he exclaimed: "*Mon orgue, c'est un orchestre!*" Of the altogether 44 concerts of the Dresdner Organ Cycle 2018, 13 are in the Frauenkirche instead."

The Owl Organ

As a follow-on from the previous article, this is from the website *nervoussquirrel.com*: "Earlier this year I was invited to the Worldtronics festival at the Haus der Kulturen der Welt. The aim of the annual festival is to gather a load of people who are into music/art involving electronics, then have a big party. Everyone there was awesome - I had a great time and heard lots of fantastic noisy music, and some fantastic quiet music.

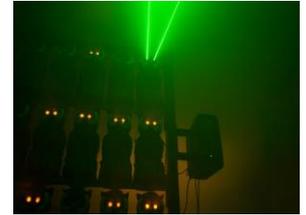
"The Owl Organ was packed into a crate and shipped from London, then set up for the public to play during the festival. It is a musical instrument consisting of 4 octaves of chromatically-tuned owls, which hoot in tune while a keyboard is played. The eyes of the owls light up when the corresponding key is pressed. The instrument is

polyphonic, i.e. you can play as many simultaneous notes as you like.



"The keyboard has 49 notes but there are 50 owls - owl number 50 has laser eyes - but I am sure you knew that anyway!!!!!"

The owner of the site and creator of the Owl Organ is Dave Cranmer whose bio, from the site, is:



"My name is Dave, and I really like making things. I particularly enjoy making electro-mechanical machines and sculptures, also electronic projects. In 2014 I moved out of my studio in an East London cemetery, and set up a fantastic new workshop with more space than ever before.

"My background is always a little tricky to describe - a mixture of engineering, art, product design, special effects and a lot of one-off projects..."

"For many years I worked in lots of workshops - I've done plenty of machining, metalwork, welding, carpentry, electronics, robotics, fibreglass, pneumatics, programming, graphic design, CAD/CNC, stepper motors, servos, PCB design, lasers etc. Have a poke around this website for example projects."

St Peter's Little Budworth

The following has been received:

We are searching for an organist to play at Sunday morning services (11.00am) and one evening service per month at 6.30pm (1st Sunday). There is no regular choir, but a Festival choir sings at special services, and leadership of this choir would be encouraged. The organ, built by Hill & Sons, London in approx. 1875, was completely refurbished in 2018. It is small with 2 manuals, 7 stops and is very sweet sounding. The church has an excellent acoustic, having a large barrel roof. The salary for this position will be in line with the Royal School of Church Musicians guidelines. For more information and/or to apply, please contact Dr John Scott (treasurer) on 01829 760604 or email johngvscott@tiscali.co.uk

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the March newsletter are required by end of February. Please write to Bob Jones at 3 Appleton Road, Chester CH2 1JH or (preferred) e-mail bob.jones25@btinternet.com or phone 01244 315089 or 07701 052304.