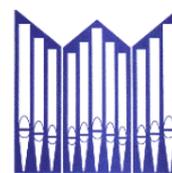


Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – May/June 2018

On line at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

You may notice that ...

this newsletter covers two months. I am short of material and as the June event, which is the AGM, is early in the month and as I have other commitments, I am going to struggle to put together a formal newsletter for June.

Next Month

11th June is our AGM, which will be held at the Stanley Palace, Lower Watergate Street, Chester at 7.30pm.

The Chairman Writes

It seems to be both a very exciting and busy time - we have enjoyed all the Easter music and our April event was a visit to Chester Cathedral. Many thanks to Philip Rushforth for hosting our visit to the Cathedral; we are very fortunate to be given the opportunity of playing the Cathedral Organ, and I was surprised that the event wasn't as well attended as I would have expected. Thanks to Bob Owens for arranging the very much appreciated refreshments at the Cathedral.

Our May event celebrates the Association's 20th birthday. Your Committee have worked hard to mark the occasion in a special way, and I think we have achieved it! About forty people will be gathering at Handbridge United Reformed Church in Chester to hear John Hosking give the first performance of six pieces composed especially for the occasion. The six pieces have been composed by Nigel Ogden, Ian Tracey, John Hosking, Tim Jones, Bob Jones and myself, and I am very pleased that we have managed to get them published by Banks. A copy of the book will be available, 'free of charge' for all members. The event will also include a buffet and the chance for members to share fellowship. A special thank-you to Mike Edwards and Ethan Henshaw for arranging the venue, refreshments and ensuring that the organ is in good order.

As our May event is rather a significant one, the Committee decided that we wouldn't have a formal dinner with our AGM this year. Our AGM will be held on Monday 11th June, 7.30pm, at Stanley Palace, Watergate Street, Chester. I hope you will still attend this year's AGM as there will be a buffet to follow the meeting and about half an hour of musical entertainment. We will need to know numbers for this event so that the

buffet can be planned for accordingly. It is likely that the cost of the buffet will be around £5 and guests are welcome to attend - I'm sure the buffet and entertainment will make it well worth attending.

I would like to thank all the Officers and Committee members for their help, support and enthusiasm, and I am very pleased that all the Association's Officers are standing for re-election. There are vacancies on the Committee, and should you wish to make a nomination for any of the positions, please do so, in writing or by email, to our Secretary, Angie Evans (11 Lindfields, Chester CH4 8QD, e-mail angiejohnevs@uwclub.net). I urge you to consider being a little more pro-active in making the Association a greater success. There are so many ways you can do this, not least by encouraging someone to come along to our events or perhaps by writing an article for the Newsletter. If you have ideas for recruiting more members or for events that would attract them, please let your Committee or me know.

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.

The Black Church, Romania

Over Easter, our member Peter Cooke was asked to play for a christening - at the Black Church, Braşov, Romania.

The Black Church has a six-ton bell, the biggest in Romania, an impressive 4,000 pipe organ built in 1839 by Carl August Buchholz (1796-1884) which is played during weekly concerts, as well as a rich collection of "Transylvanian" rugs donated from the 15th to 17th centuries by Transylvanian Saxon merchants.

The originally-Roman Catholic structure was known as the Church of Saint Mary, replacing an older building used for the same purpose. Construction on it began during the late 14th century, employing Bulgarian workers and craftsmen who proceeded to establish the Braşov Bulgarian colony in Şcheii Braşovului. According to popular legend, a German child was disturbing the Bulgarian builders or told them that one of the walls was leaning. An annoyed Bulgarian pushed the child off the church tower and then immured his corpse in the church to conceal his crime.

Its altar originally featured a single column, but its role in supporting the entire central structure — on the model of German cathedrals built by Hans Stettheimer (a view expressed by researchers such as Ernst Kühlbrandt and Antal Hekler) - is under dispute. The naves took longer to complete, and construction was interrupted for various intervals in 1423, Pope Martin V issued an indulgence for people involved in construction, as a means to reactivate the site; in 1474, a document issued by Sixtus IV acknowledged that work was still lagging. Several octagonal pillars, redesigned at least once during the building process, were probably completed around 1444. The most intense work took place before and after 1450, and involved completing the exceptionally large number of portals, including the northern "Golden Gate" and its adjacent altar of the Holy Sacrifice. The eastern portal, commissioned by the Hungarian King Matthias Corvinus, was completed in 1476.



The Black Church in summer

Completed during the 15th century (soon after 1476), the church belongs to the final stages of Gothic architecture. The result was a three-nave basilica, all the same height, as was preferred during the 15th and 16th centuries in the German lands, from where most of the architects and masons originated. The Catholic services were replaced with Lutheran ones during the Protestant Reformation, coinciding with the influence exercised by Johannes Honter. A statue in memory of Honter was later erected by Harro Magnussen on one side of the building. The structure was partially destroyed during a great fire set by invading Habsburg forces on the April 21, 1689 (during the Great Turkish War).

continued overleaf...

What's On?

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 17 May** Andrew Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)
24 May Rachel Mahon (Chester Cathedral)
31 May Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus)
7 Jun Rachel Mahon (Chester Cathedral)
14 Jun Andrew J Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)
21 Jun Liam Cartwright (All Saints, High Wycombe)
28 Jun Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
12 Jul Christopher Herrick - Concert Organist

Liverpool Cathedral

11.15am

- Mon 28 May** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
Admission £5

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

3.00pm

- Mon 28 May** Matthew Searles (Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral)
Admission £5

St George's Hall, Liverpool

12.45pm to 1.30pm

- Tues 19 Jun** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)
Admission £2.50

St Chad's, Shrewsbury

12.40pm to 1.20pm

- Fri 18 May** Peter King (Organist Emeritus, Bath Abbey)
Tue 5 Jun Simon Hogan (Southwell Minster)
Fri 15 Jun Wyatt Smith (University of Washington)
Admission Free - Retiring Collection

Saturday Lunchtime at Wesley

12.45pm to 1.35pm

- Sat 19 May** Michael Reynolds (St Mary's, Handbridge, Chester)
Sat 23 Jun Brian Heald (Wesley Methodist Church) [see separate article](#)
Sat 7 Jul Jeremy Heald (Piano)
Admission Free - Retiring Collection

St John the Baptist

1.00pm - 1.45pm

- Wed 23 May** Martin Patzlaff (Kultur Institut Rossignol, Westerwald, Germany)
Admission Free- Retiring Collection

Holy Trinity Llandudno

Grand re-opening recital

Tuesday 10 July at 1.00pm

After complete refurbishment by Henry Willis

Paul Carr - Birmingham

Admission Free

Hamilton Street Methodist

Church, Hoole, Chester

Sunday 24 June at 3.00pm

“Concert and Cake”

Admission Free

St Giles', Wrexham

Mondays 12.30pm to 1.15pm

- 14 May** Fay Adamson (St Peter's, Ruthin)
21 May Charles Jones (Holy Trinity, Llandudno)
28 May Glyn Môn Hughes (St Saviours, Oxton)
4 June Colin Porter with Robert Bird (Piano)
11 Jun Rachel Mahon (Chester Cathedral)
18 Jun Bob Jones (St Francis Chester)
25 Jun Graham Eccles (St Asaph)
Admission Free - Retiring Collection

Ellesmere College

3.30pm to 5.15pm

- Sat 23 Jun** Jonathan Scott (Manchester)
Admission Free- Retiring Collection

Organ Recitals Nationwide

details on www.organrecitals.com

.....[from previous page](#)

Afterwards, it became known as the *Black Church*.

Following the fire of 1689, Biserica Neagră was repaired with the help of masons coming from Danzig, as local craftsmen had not mastered the craft of completing the enormous vaults; these were to be completed in Baroque style.

Much of the outside structure was built in friable grit, which caused outer sculptures and masonry elements to deteriorate with time. The oldest features surviving include several sculptures, arches, simpler masonry patterns such as trilobes, as well as numerous portals, while the crowning is imitation Gothic dating from the 18th century.

The oldest sculpture appears to be the almost completely deteriorated bust of John the Baptist, located in the choir section, reflects the Bohemian Gothic art as seen in the works of Johann and Peter Parler. A more flamboyant Gothic style was used in the outside sculptures — those probably depicting Biserica Neagră's supposed founder, Thomas, and the Catholic patron saint of Transylvania, Nicholas. Other pieces in that style include the Nativity, Salvator Mundi, an archangel, as well as depictions of saints believed to be the Four Evangelists (probably completed in various stages between 1430 and 1450). Newer medieval sculptures, created after 1450 and showing some Renaissance influences, feature the northward bas-relief depicting Jesus Christ in the Second Temple of Jerusalem, as well as various figures on the same facade. The statue of Mary and Jesus features the coat of arms of Braşov beneath and stands towards the old mayory building, as she is the patron of the city.

Biserica Neagră also features a cast iron tabernacle in Gothic style, a baptismal font (completed in 1472 and donated by a merchant named Johannes Rewdel), two large chalices (both dated around 1504) and several brocade chasubles (created between in the late 15th and mid-16th centuries).

The cathedral is a major symbol of Braşov, and a museum is open to visitors. A Lutheran service is held each Sunday for the small German community in the city.

Kulturinstitut Rossignol, Westerwald, Germany

You will see in "What's On" that Martin Patzlaff is giving a recital at St John's on 23 May. I thought I would try to find out a little about him but that has proved difficult. He is from the Kulturinstitut Rossignol, Westerwald, Germany and I did find a website - but in German. However, there is also a link to "translate this page" and hey presto we have it in English - or sort of

Rossignol is not far from Frankfurt and the Kulturinstitut covers various subjects - there are musical concerts and courses, natural science (astronomy, ornithology, botany), the collaboration of music and art, music and language, science and medicine and much more.

There are advanced training courses for organists with two types being offered - one for part time organists of all denominations and another for advanced and full time organists.

Further details are provided confirming that Martin Patzlaff is "the man". It appears that the courses are one to one with 120€ being the price for the part time organists course and 150€ for advanced and full time organists. There is another course which seems to have been lost in translation being "organ science and organ building not theoretically, but directly at the institute organ, so also to touch..". I assume that means that it is not theoretical in that you are not in a classroom but actually at the institute organ and that "also to touch" means that it will be played. My knowledge of German is virtually non-existent but I did study Spanish at night school and you do not play the organ in Spain - you "touch" it - if I remember correctly it is "Tocar el organo" - with Tocar being the verb "to touch".

The Westerwald (literally 'Western Forest') is a low mountain range on the right bank of the river Rhine so sounds a nice place to go.

Saturday Lunchtime at Wesley

Just a note to tell you that prior to the 23 June 12.45pm organ recital at the Wesley Methodist Church, Chester, Brian Heald will be giving a talk about the history of the Church and the organ - this is part of the Chester Heritage week. **The talk starts at 12.15.**

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the July newsletter are required by the middle of June. 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.