

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

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

## Newsletter – November 2018

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

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

### This month

We visit Christ Church, Llanfairfechan for a talk on organ building and renovations by Eric Newbound, followed by an open console on the fine 3-manual Hill. The meeting is on Saturday 17 November and commences at 2.30pm.

### Next month

Monday 19 December at 7.30pm - for more information see "The Chairman Writes".

### The Chairman Writes

As you will be aware, our October event at St Margaret's (The Marble Church), Bodelwyddan, was rearranged, as the Church was needed for a wedding. The revised date clashed with a lunchtime recital by our member Charles Jones at Wesley Methodist Church, Chester and also with Ian Tracey's Anniversary Recital at Liverpool Cathedral; however, we still had a reasonable turnout and received a very warm welcome from John Lidden-Few, their Director of Music. John proceeded to give us a wonderful demonstration of the new Allen organ's diverse sounds, from traditional pipe organ and theatre organ to piano and various other effects, such as thunder, waves, bird song, etc. He played two of the pieces from our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary book, by Ian Tracey and Nigel Ogden, and finished off with a rousing performance of the French Toccata by Gaston Bélier. It was a great day for a drive along the A55 on a sunny day with the leaves beginning to change colour. It was a wonderful church to explore, and if you didn't get there on this occasion, the church is open each day, attracting a vast quantity of visitors - often arriving by the coachload! I was also fortunate to get to the top of the tower and witness the stunning views on what was the clearest of days. A big "Thank You" to John Lidden-Few for giving up his time to provide us with a very enjoyable afternoon.

We meet up at events as we share a common interest; however, most of us aren't or haven't been professional organists or choir directors. I admit to knowing very little about most members, and I thought that it might be interesting if any of you have or have had interesting or unusual jobs about which you might like to share a few lines. I spend a lot of time on music-related

activities, but it is my job as a civil engineer that pays the bills! I work for Cheshire West Council as the link between Developers, Planning and Highways on new developments from housing, shops, schools, clubs and even churches. I meet a very wide variety of people, all of whom usually have their own opinions and timescales, and I love the challenge of trying to keep everyone happy! Whilst I was thinking about my profession and music, I realised that you now need to have a degree or even a masters degree to become an Incorporated or Chartered Civil Engineer, which obviously restricts entry to professional institutes for many people, but fortunately it seems that you can go and take your ARCO or FRCO without having any other qualifications - I'm sure you'll let me know if I'm wrong. I started playing the organ relatively late and never did any of the Grades; however, when I was in my thirties, I decided to do a Licentiate exam and was still able to do so without having taken any of the Grades first. I look forward to hearing about your stories. Priorities seem to be changing - it seems increasingly difficult for Churches and voluntary organisations to attract people with commitment to take on duties on a regularly basis. We can see this when we look at the small number of churches who have a regular organist. Although this is the case, most churches still manage to find someone to play each Sunday, usually on a rota basis, and there are still people learning to play the organ. What is that stops you folk who regularly play the organ at different churches each week taking on 'the organist's job' at a single church? Could this also be the reason why finding a church with a choir is now a pleasant surprise? I look forward to a few responses from you, particularly those of you who travel round different churches playing the organ - where do you consider your spiritual home to be?

When did you see your first Christmas decorations? Or perhaps you've managed to avoid them so far! I remember seeing my first Christmas decorations back in August, but as I'm writing this article, Christmas is less than two months away and our Christmas event is even closer, being on Monday 19th December. This year's event is being held at Stanley Palace, Chester and will be an evening of entertainment by

members and no doubt some carols for us all to sing, followed by a buffet.

I hope you will come along and support our November and Christmas events, and also some of the events that have been organised for the months ahead. If you'd like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA in the meantime, don't hesitate to contact me on (T) 01244 674878, (M) 07939 645688 or (E) [angiejohnevans@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevans@uwclub.net).

### Friday 23 November

At the Marble Church, Bodelwyddan on Friday 23rd November, 7.30pm, Olivia Hunt (soprano) and John Hosking will release their new CD, "Musick to Heare". This is Olivia's debut solo recording and includes works by Purcell, Dowland, Merula, Byrd, Quilter, Vaughan-Williams and others. Admission is £5 towards church funds and CDs will be on sale afterwards at £10 each. The recording engineers and performers will



be on hand to chat to the audience. Olivia Hunt began singing as a Chorister of Chester Cathedral, culminating her time there as Head Chorister. One of the many highlights of her singing career to date was becoming a finalist at BBC Radio 2's 2009 Young Chorister of the Year competition, singing at St Paul's Cathedral to a capacity audience. Olivia graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University with a First Class honours degree in Biomedical Science. She continues to sing as a soloist, is a part of various chamber groups, and is a founding member of The Octavo Consort. In 2013 she made her solo debut in the North Wales International Music Festival, returning in 2015 to sing the soprano solos in the Mozart *Requiem* and 2016 to sing a variety of works on the Festival's opening night. She appears as the soloist in John Hosking's *Requiem* on the Regent CD "All Angels Cry Aloud" with the Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge. See further details under "What's On".

## What's On?

### Chester Cathedral

**Thursdays at 1.10pm**

- 15 Nov** John Hosking (St Asaph)  
**22 Nov** Andrew Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)  
**29 Nov** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**6 Dec** Graham Eccles (St Asaph)  
**13 Dec** Andrew J Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)  
**20 Dec** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**27 Dec** Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus)

**Admission £5.45 Concessions £4.50**

### Hamilton Street Methodist Church, Hoole, Chester

**Friday, 7.30pm**

- 16 Nov** Nigel Ogden "The Organist Entertains"

**Admission £10**

### St Chad's, Shrewsbury

**12.40pm to 1.20pm**

- 16 Nov** Richard Walker (St Chad's Shrewsbury)

**Admission Free - Retiring Collection**

### Ty Pawb

Gallery 2, Market Street, Wrexham

**Thursdays, 1.00pm to 2.00pm**

- 15 Nov** Jago Parkin (Piano)  
**22 Nov** Liriam Paeke (Flute)

**Admission Free - Donations welcome**

### Chapel Bethlehem

Hall Street, Rhos

**Sunday, 3.00pm**

- 18 Nov** Ilid Anne Jones

The programme will include popular pieces, classical and hymn tunes composed by Dr Caradoc Roberts with a collection in aid of the Shooting Star Appeal

### St George's Hall, Liverpool

**Tuesdays, 12.45pm to 1.30pm**

- 20 Nov** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)  
**18 Dec** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

**Admission £2.50**

### Music at Wesley

**Tuesdays, 12.45pm to 1.30pm**

- 20 Nov** Alison Loram (Violin), Christopher Symons (Piano)  
**27 Nov** Kell Wind Trio (Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon)  
**4 Dec** Brian Heald (Piano)  
**11 Dec** Chetham's School of Music Instrumentalists  
**18 Dec** Hefin Flute and Harp Duo - Charlotte Thomas and Bethan Griffiths

### Saturday Organ Recitals

**12.45pm to 1.35pm**

- 24 Nov** Martin Ashcroft (Trinity United Reformed Church, Wigan)  
**22 Dec** Music for Christmas - Claire Heald (Contralto) with Brian Heald (Organ)

**Admission Free - Retiring Collection**

### Organ Recitals Nationwide

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

### Ilid Anne Jones

The Chapel Bethlehem welcomes Ilid Anne Jones on 18 November at 3.00pm.

Ilid was born and raised at Talyarn in the Nantlle Valley and started her musical career as accompanist to the local mixed choir whilst only 12 years old. She gained a B.Mus (Honours) at University of Wales, Bangor, and an M.Phil scholarship degree on the life and work of operatic singer Leila Megane and the Bel Canto style of singing. Ilid is a national winner on piano and organ, and is a piano and organ tutor, performance tutor, accompanist, music adjudicator and organist; she is a regular contributor to musical programmes on both radio and television.



Ilid was the official organist at the National Eisteddfod of Wales in 2005; she is also one of the Gorsedd of Bard's regular organists. She has experience of male voice choirs since 1979, as accompanist, organist and Musical Director; she had been MD for Hogia'r Ddwyllan Choir since 1998 but Ilid is now the MD of Llewyrch Ladies Choir.

### Lancaster Town Hall

This instrument is undergoing a major overhaul and it is possible to play it for free for an hour at lunchtime (so you don't disturb the office workers).

The advertising literature states that organists wishing to play the instrument may do so, free of charge, on a daily basis (Monday to Friday) between the hours of

12.30pm and 1.30pm. Telephone Sue Little on 01524 582583 (Town Hall Reception) to make a booking. Early booking is advisable to avoid disappointment.

Organists wishing to make a donation for use of the organ can do so by sending a cheque made payable to "Ashton Hall Organ Restoration Project" to:

Chairman of the Organ Restoration Project, AHORP Appeals Office, 10 Whernside Road, Scale Hall, Lancaster LA1 2TA (UK). Thank you!



However - once the work is complete you can have a go at anytime!

The Lancashire Post Reports:

"Organ enthusiasts will soon be able to play a priceless instrument without making a peep - so they do not disturb nearby office workers. Musicians are only able to practice on the historic organ in Ashton Hall, Lancaster, at lunchtime, as the 130 decibel (db) notes from its 6,000 pipes can be heard in neighbouring buildings. But organists will soon be able to play all day thanks to new digital technology and the efforts of fundraisers. All the notes on the Edwardian concert organ will be digitally recorded. When players press the organ keys the recorded notes will be fed back through headphones - meaning only they can hear the instrument's rich sounds. The 99-year-old organ will still be able to be played as normal at lunchtimes and at concerts. Because it's surrounded by offices and it makes 130db of noise, there are problems with playing it at certain hours. But, with digital recording, people will be able to go in and practice or teach through headphones. Grants collected by the group will also allow the organ's oak woodwork to be restored and its pipes to be cleaned."

Subs are now **OverDue**

That is, if anyone - like me - hasn't paid.....  
 RJ

### Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the December newsletter are required by the end of November. Please write to Bob Jones at 3 Appleton Road, Chester CH2 1JH or (preferred) email [bob.jones25@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.jones25@btinternet.com) or telephone 01244 315089 or 07701 052304.