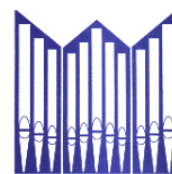


# Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

## Newsletter – October 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

Our next meeting is on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October and will be at the Church of the Good Shepherd in Heswall at 7.30pm, where we shall have the opportunity to play the fine two manual and pedal Rushworth and Dreaper organ. The evening will begin with a short talk about the instrument including a demonstration; the instrument will then be available for members to try. The church is on Telegraph Road in Heswall near the bus station; the postcode is CH60 0AJ. There is a Wirral Council car park behind the church.



The Good Shepherd organ was generously donated by William Gibson who, along with his brother, was a great supporter of the Parish of Heswall. The organ was built in 1970 by Rushworth and Dreaper (Liverpool) with Roger Fisher, then Organist and Director of Music at Chester Cathedral, as consultant. It was built following the neo-classical fashion of the time. Its tone is a



milder singing brilliance rather than the predominantly louder unison pitch found in many instruments built in the earlier part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In 1996 the organ was cleaned and overhauled by the builder. The

instrument is located in a shallow chamber on the north side of the chancel with the console attached.

### Next Month

David Bird has arranged this meeting and has written to me as follows:

*"Could members please note in their diaries Saturday 4th November 2017 when we are to have the pleasure of an afternoon with Dr. Alan Thurlow at Christ Church, Chester from 1.00pm to 4.00pm.*

*Dr. Thurlow is the Chairman of the British Institute of Organ Studies and will be talking about the development and work of that body, and also about early English organ music. I am sure there will be time for a question and answer session and I think the afternoon should prove most interesting and rewarding. Tea and biscuits will be provided during the interval and as Dr Thurlow is travelling from Chichester it would be greatly appreciated if we could have a maximum turnout for this event.*

*Further information/reminders will be communicated in due course."*

### The Chairman Writes

This is the time of year when many changes take place. Not only is September the time of year when many recreational activities such as choirs restart following a summer break, but it's also the start of a new year for many people, particularly those in Education or the Methodist Church. This offers us the chance to either make a fresh start or recommence an activity, hopefully recharged and with renewed vigour.

I haven't had a summer break, as my church choir continue to sing throughout the year, however, I have taken the opportunity that was presented to me during the summer to begin leading a non-church choir. I am really looking forward to this new challenge as the choir concerned have struggled with leadership for a while and their numbers have diminished as a result. Any ideas on how to attract new members to a non-church choir would be appreciated.

Our September event saw us visiting the magnificent church of St Giles, Wrexham, possibly the largest parish church in Wales. We received a warm welcome from their organist Chris Pilsbury, who told us about the Church's history including the various

organs it has housed over the years. Chris proceeded to give us a masterful demonstration of its current Foster & Andrews instrument, clearly demonstrating its splendid and versatile pallet of colours. There then followed a composite recital by three of our members, Nigel James, Gilmour Pemberton and Charles Jones, for the remainder of the hour, before we were treated to some lovely cakes and scones and the opportunity to play the organ and grand piano for ourselves.

This month we visit the Church of the Good Shepherd in Heswall. Earlier this year I attended the church for a most informative and enjoyable 'Come & Sing' Crucifixion. The performance was directed by our good friend Ian Tracey, with David Poulter providing a splendid accompaniment on the organ that we will be getting to hear/play.

We all need something to look forward to, or perhaps you dream of being able to play or sing a particular piece of music? If you do, perhaps you would like to share what it is you are looking forward to, or what the piece of music is, along with why you would like to be able to play it?

I look forward to seeing you at 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 [angiejohnevens@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevens@uwclub.net) or 07939 645688.

### Concerts at Trelogan

Roger Fisher has written to me with the good news that the concerts for friends, which have taken a back seat while Gill was ill, are being revived. Due to circumstances beyond control the original planned date has had to be revised and unfortunately the event clashes with the visit of the Chairman of BIOS. Seating is limited, so Roger and Gill will appreciate a 'phone call (01745 561072) to ensure that seating is available but he does add that if too many people want to come, he can repeat the concert during the following couple of months or so.

The concert is at Trelogan on Saturday November 4th at 3.00pm. It will consist of a duet recital (Graham Eccles piano & organ and Roger). The programme consists of "...piano duets by Fauré & Schubert and the Piano Concerto in B flat (K450) by Mozart - Graham will be the orchestra, on the organ.

"There is no admission charge, but preparing the instruments will be costly, so we suggest donations of £10.00."

"Now Gill is in much better health, we're delighted to be able to invite you and look forward to welcoming you in November."

It is unfortunate that the two events clash and I have discussed this with Roger who confirmed that if sufficient are interested it would be possible to repeat the concert.

## What's On?

### Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 5 Oct Martin Patziuff (Germany)
- 12 Oct Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
- 19 Oct John Sharples (St Nicholas Charlswood)
- 26 Oct Andrew J Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)
- 2 Nov Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus Chester Cathedral)

### Liverpool Cathedral

Saturday 14 October at 3.45pm

Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)  
- the organ's 91st anniversary recital -  
Admission free

### St Giles', Wrexham

Mondays at 12.30pm

- 9 Oct David Bird (Chester)
  - 16 Oct Tim Stuart (St Mary's, Mold)
  - 23 Oct Martin J Brown (Bangor Cathedral)
  - 30 Oct Colin Porter (Mossley Hill)
- Lunches available - admission free  
retiring collection

### St Chad's, Shrewsbury

- Fri 20 Oct Paul Carr (Birmingham)
  - Tues 7 Nov Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
- All recitals at 12.40pm  
Admission free - retiring collection

### St George's Hall, Liverpool

- Sun 8 Oct Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)
  - Tue 10 Oct Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)
  - Tue 7 Nov Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)
- Admission £2.50

### Music at Wesley

Tuesdays 12.45pm to 1.35pm

- 10 Oct Chester Music Festival Winners
  - 17 Oct Brian Heald - piano
  - 24 Oct Chester Music Festival Winners
  - 31 Oct Luke Jones - piano
- Note: Brian has arranged a series of Saturday Lunchtime (12.45 to 1.35) organ recitals:
- 28 Oct Charles Jones - Holy Trinity Llandudno
- Admission Free - Retiring Collection

### St Werburgh's, Chester

Friday 6 October, 7.30pm

Paul Carr - Birmingham  
Admission Free/Retiring Collection

### Bangor Cathedral

Tuesday 10 October, 1.10pm

Simon Leach - Holy Name Manchester  
Admission Free/Retiring Collection

### Ellesmere College

Saturday 4 November, 3.30pm to 5.15pm

Two organs / two organists

Samuel Bristow and William Peart

Birmingham Conservatoire

Admission Free/Retiring Collection

### Organ Recitals Nationwide

<http://www.organrecitals.com>

## I Doubt .....

.....whether any of our members remember the silent movies, but if you want to know what is was like for those who attended the cinema before the advent of talkies, why not pop along to Chester Cathedral on Saturday 28 October at 7.30pm (according to organrecitals.com till about 8.45pm but according to Donald's website it is 21:30) - admission details not known but tickets are £10. The film is Harold Lloyd's "*Safety Last!*" and dates back to 1923. The accompaniment is by Donald Mackenzie who presides over the 5 manual Compton Cinema Organ at the Odeon, Leicester Square. He was born in Ayrshire (Scotland)



in 1970 and began his professional career in 1988 when he was the organist of the Glasgow Garden Festival. In July 1992 he began his long association with the world-famous Odeon Leicester Square Compton Organ by playing it for film events. In October 1993 he was engaged to play the organ for 5 weeks before each performance of the Disney film, 'Aladdin'. Since then he has appeared regularly at film premières, special events and organ concerts. He has broadcast from the Odeon on BBC Radios 2, 3, 4 and the World Service. He has been featured on a number of television programmes and Donald has played for numerous Royal Film Performances, including several in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen.

When he is not playing for concerts, Donald specialises in the art of improvised accompaniments to silent films - his first public appearance accompanying films was aged 14, for a special evening screening in Paisley Town Hall. He has now more than thirty feature films 'under his fingers' including many of the major classics of the silent screen, as well as many different types of short silent films. These have been acclaimed by the critics and the audience absolutely love the experience of Donald's accompaniment to a film. His stylish accompaniments have led to numerous engagements (with many repeats) through-

out the UK at venues such as The Victoria Hall, Hanley; The Usher Hall, Edinburgh; The Alexandra Palace, London; The Music Hall, Aberdeen; The Caird Hall, Dundee; Chester, Derby and Leicester Cathedrals; Saarlouis Evangelical Church; Wolverhampton Civic Hall; St Anne's Cathedral and Clonard Monastery, Belfast; The Troxy, Stepney; and also in Europe and the USA. His overseas concert appearances have included the Bielsko Biala Bach Festival (Poland), the Wanamaker Store and Girard College (Philadelphia, USA), the Nederland's Orgel Federation (Holland) and several times in Germany playing the Moller organ in the music hall of the world-famous organ building firm of August Lankhuff. At this venue he has also played for silent film evenings as part of the Hohenloher Cultural Summer Festival. In 2008 he was honoured to become a Patron of the Lancaster Town Hall Organ Restoration Project. He was the Chair of Jury for the First Silent Film Competition held at The Babylon Cinema, Berlin in 2015. *Safety Last!* is a 1923 American silent romantic comedy film starring Harold Lloyd. It includes one of the most famous images from the silent film era: Lloyd clutching the hands of a large clock as he dangles from the outside of a skyscraper above moving traffic. The film was highly successful and critically hailed, and it cemented Lloyd's status as a major figure in early motion pictures. It is still popular at revivals, and it is viewed today as one of the great film comedies. Lloyd performed some of the climbing stunts himself, despite having lost a thumb and forefinger four years earlier in a film accident.

## The true meaning of Brexit

**Brexit** - the procession of the bride after the wedding.

**Soft Brexit** - only the Choir division is working.

**Hard Brexit** - having to play the Widor Toccata.

**Quick Brexit** - the Widor Toccata played by Wayne Marshall.

## 2017 - 2018 Subs

These were due on 1 September - I was under pressure to get the August newsletter out "early" in the month and I overlooked the issue of subscription forms. As the October meeting is early in the month I am not sending individual reminders, as the last newsletter was issued only a couple of weeks ago - could you please renew your subs if you have not already done so - individual reminders will be issued next month.

## Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the November newsletter are required by the second week in October as the November meeting is early in the month. Please write to Bob Jones at 3 Appleton Road, Chester CH2 1JH or (preferred) e-mail [bob.jones25@btinternet.com](mailto:bob.jones25@btinternet.com) or telephone 01244 315089 or 07701 052304.