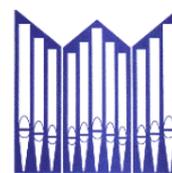


# Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

## Newsletter – October 2018

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

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

### This month

At 1.30pm on Saturday 20th October we visit the Marble Church, Bodelwyddan, which has recently taken delivery of an Allen Digital Organ.

### Next 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 17th November and commences at 2.30pm. For our December event, see the Chairman's report below.

### The Chairman Writes

September is the time of year when many activities start up again and it's the start of a new year for some. It's also the time when the evenings become dark and we can be less inclined to venture out if the weather's bad! If you managed to get away during the summer, I hope you had a good time and have renewed enthusiasm for the months ahead.

Our September event was held at the beautiful church of St Werburgh's, adjacent to Grosvenor Park in Chester. We were welcomed by James Andrews, who gave us a fascinating and very educational talk and demonstration on improvisation. James took us through various aspects of improvisation, including choosing a style, planning a structure, harmonising a tune, hymn extensions, modulations and inventive registrations. The evening was truly an education, and James' knowledge was clearly evident throughout, not least when he improvised a fugue for us. A big "Thank You" to James for giving us his time and sharing the skill that he has developed over many years (even though he is still very young!). There was still time left afterwards, for those who wanted to, to have a play on the magnificent 3-manual Binns organ, made to sound even more magnificent by the generous acoustic of the church.

Following the publication of our 20<sup>th</sup> Birthday Book 'Celebration Suite', it would be good to know if members are performing any of the pieces, or if you know of any being used in concerts; I look forward to hearing from you.

From time to time, we need to remind ourselves that we are also a Choirmasters' Association, and it would be good to dedicate some of our Newsletter space to singing. As many of you know, I try to maintain a small church choir who sing an introit and an anthem every Sunday. This is increasingly difficult, and I seem to be regularly rearranging music, particularly as the number of men who sing with us decreases. I'm sure I'm not the only one in a similar position, however, if there are members out there who are having success attracting new choir members, perhaps you could share how you are achieving it. In addition, if you have any simple, lively anthems, I'd be grateful if you could let me know.

We're now in October and we've agreed a date and venue for our December event. I'm sure many of you have already been thinking about Christmas music, so if you'd like to perform something at our Christmas event on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December at Stanley Palace, Chester, please let me know.

I hope to see you soon, however, if you'd like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA, don't hesitate to contact me on 01244-674878, 07939-645688 or by email [angiejohnevans@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevans@uwclub.net)

### Rachel Laurin Canadian Composer

Jim Treloar writes: "Those of us who attended Rachel Mahon's final recital at Chester Cathedral recently will have heard her finishing the recital with Toccata by Rachel Laurin, the final movement of her Symphony for Organ. "Our" Rachel first played this piece at one of her earlier recitals together with Aria, the penultimate movement. I was very impressed with this work at the time and I had asked Rachel if she could play it again sometime, so I was very pleased when this turned out to be her farewell at Chester. She had also played it as a voluntary at a service earlier in the year. I decided to find out more about Rachel Laurin, not being a composer particularly well known in this country, although better known in both Canada and the United States. Firstly, I managed to obtain a CD of some of her organ works played by Isabelle Demers, another talented Canadian organist, which fortunately includes the whole of the 4-

movement symphony, together with two more amazing virtuosic works, Etude Heroique and an Introduction and Passacaglia on a theme of Raymond Daveluy.

Daveluy (1926-2016) was himself a significant Canadian composer, organist and teacher. Rachel is a talented organist and has held posts at St Joseph's Oratory, Montreal and Notre Dame Cathedral, Ottawa but more recently concentrates on composition, lectures and master classes. As a talented improviser she had taught this skill in many venues including the home of improvisation, France. She has composed more than a hundred works for various instruments and ensembles and I've recently obtained another CD which includes works for organ and harp and for organ and French horn, together with some solo pieces, Rachel herself playing the organ on an instrument by Casavant Freres in Ottawa.



Recently I managed to send her a message saying how much I enjoyed her music and I was very touched that she sent me a reply of appreciation and saying that she is pleased that both Rachel Mahon and Isabelle have been performing her music. In my view her music deserves to be heard much more that it is - although modern in concept, it is very approachable. I note that Thomas Trotter is to play the Etude Heroique at the conclusion of his Birmingham Town Hall concert on November 26<sup>th</sup> which will bring it to the attention of even more listeners."

## What's On?

### Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 18 Oct** Graham Eccles (St Asaph)  
**25 Oct** Erin Cox (Oundle Recital Award Winner)  
**1 Nov** Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus)  
**8 Nov** Graham Eccles (St Asaph)  
**15 Nov** John Hosking (St Asaph)  
**22 Nov** Andrew Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)  
**29 Nov** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**Admission £5.45, Concessions £4.50**

### Liverpool Cathedral

3.45pm to 5.00pm

- Sat 20 Oct** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)  
**The Organ's 92nd Anniversary Recital**  
**Admission £5**

### St Chad's, Shrewsbury

12.40pm to 1.20pm

- Fri 19 Oct** Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)  
**Tue 6 Nov** Allan Walker (Malvern College)  
**Fri 16 Nov** Richard Walker (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)  
**Admission Free - Retiring Collection**

### St Peter's, Ruthin

Wednesdays at 1.00pm

- 24 Oct** Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus, Chester Cathedral)

### St Giles Wrexham

Mondays at 12.30pm

- 22 Oct** Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)  
**29 Oct** Colin Porter (Mossley Hill)  
**Admission Free - Retiring Collection**

### Ellesmere College

- 20 Oct** Scott Phillips (Ellesmere College)  
Both instruments will feature  
commencing at 3.30pm (finish 5.15pm)  
**Admission by donation - £6 requested**

### Music at Wesley

Tuesdays 12.45pm to 1.30pm

- 23 Oct** Chester Competitive Music Festival Winners  
**30 Oct** Lionel Clarke (Cello), Brian Heald (Piano)  
**6 Nov** Chetham's School of Music Pianists  
**13 Nov** William Bracken (Piano)  
**20 Nov** Alison Loram (Violin), Christopher Symons (Piano)  
**27 Nov** Kell Wind Trio (Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon)

### Saturday Organ Recitals

12.45pm to 1.35pm

- 20 Oct** Charles Jones (Holy Trinity, Llandudno)  
**24 Nov** Martin Ashcroft (Trinity United Reformed Church, Wigan)

**Admission Free - Retiring Collection**

### Ty Pawb

Gallery 2, Market Street, Wrexham  
Thursdays 1.00pm – 2.00pm

- 18 Oct** Achille Jones (Classical Guitar)  
**25 Oct** HH Classical Duo (Harpsichord/Vocal)  
**1 Nov** Elan Catrin Paerry (Classical Vocal)  
**8 Nov** Robert Parry (Piano)  
**15 Nov** Jago Parkin (Piano)  
**22 Nov** Liriam Paeke (Flute)  
**Admission Free - Donations welcome**

### Hamilton Street Methodist Church, Hoole, Chester

7.30pm

- Mon 5 Nov** The Resurrection Choir of St Petersburg, Russia  
**Fri 16 Nov** Nigel Ogden - formerly "The Organist Entertains"  
**Admission £10**  
**Phone 07939 645688 for further information**

### Bangor Cathedral

1.10pm – 2.00pm

- Tues 13 Nov** John Hosking (St Asaph)  
**Admission Free - Retiring Collection**

### St George's Hall, Liverpool

12.45pm to 1.30pm

- Tue 20 Nov** Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)  
**Admission £2.50**

### Organ Recitals Nationwide

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

### Twin, or Almost Twin, Organs in Winsford??

The, now non-existent firm of Steele and Keay (partnership dissolved in 1908) has two almost identical instruments in Winsford. The instrument at Trinity Methodist Church has a Grade 1 Historic Organ Certificate awarded in 2011. The instrument was installed in the Church in 1907, came from the Primitive Methodist Church nearby and according to the NPOR "*The organ has a clear, restrained, sound and appears to be in its original condition*". Just over a mile away there is St Andrew's Methodist Church where an instrument from the Primitive Methodist Chapel was installed at the opening of the Church in the mid-1970's. The instrument was moved by Leonard Reeves Burslem and in 1986 Ainscough of Preston added finger board couplers, Swell to Pedal 4' and Swell Octave. Again quoting the NPOR, "*It is virtually a twin to the organ in Trinity Methodist Church, Winsford, however the Trinity organ is untouched*".

This suggests that the Primitive Methodist Chapel in Winsford had a Steele and Keay organ installed which was then moved to Trinity Street on 1907 to be replaced by another instrument from the same builder which was then relocated in 1970. Doesn't really make sense but stranger things have

happened - if anyone can shed any light on the history of the two instruments I would be pleased to hear - but better still we could do with going for an afternoon visit next year and visiting the two locations. Does anyone have any contacts there?????

The Trinity Street instrument has 2 pedal stops with 8 on the great and 9 on the swell. The St Andrews instrument has 2 pedal, 7 on the Great and 9 on the Swell. *RJ*

### Hillbark Hotel

Last month Jim Treloar told us about an unusual instrument in The Crieff Hydro Hotel Perthshire. Brian Moate has written to tell me of another in the Hillbark Hotel, Frankby.

The building is Grade II listed and "*one of the most notable Victorian essays in half-timbered design anywhere in the country*". It is constructed in timber framing on a stone base, and has stone and brick chimney stacks and a slate roof. There are multiple gables and the half-timber exterior framing is highly decorated. Internally there is a great hall with an organ gallery and an open roof. The house is now used as a hotel, and it is licensed for weddings, and offers facilities for conferences.



There are historical tours of the building:

"Come and be 'At Home' with us at the stunning Grade II listed Hillbark Hotel & Spa in Royden Park and learn about the fascinating history of one of Wirral's finest architectural treasures.

10.30am: Morning Tea & Coffee with homemade pastries

11.00am: Historical tour of the building and grounds

12:15pm: Freshly prepared lunch

2.00pm: Depart

£20 per person

\*Includes exclusive goody bag

\*All tours include some stairs due to the nature of the building."

Perhaps worth a visit if we can get to see the organ which is on NPOR and is a small two manual Forster and Andrews.

### Subs are Due

For those of you who have not paid could you do so ASAP - please.

### Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the November newsletter are required by the end of October. 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.