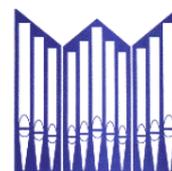


Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – April 2020

Online at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, **we have postponed all of our planned events for now**. Once things become clearer, we shall publish our plans on the website and in a newsletter.

Contact list

We have set up an email list which we shall use to keep members up to date with the Association, particularly during the current situation. We would encourage all members who use the Internet to join this list. To subscribe to this list please visit the website. Your personal data will be handled according to our [Data Privacy Policy](#) and not shared with any third party. Data collected by this form will only be used to send you emails about CNEWOCA and its activities. The list service is provided by *Mailchimp*.

Next newsletter

At present we do not know when the next newsletter will be published. However, you are invited to send contributions to newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk or by post to the General Secretary, Katriona Moulton.

Future meetings

We are not able to give any dates for future meetings, this includes the Annual General Meeting. The committee will try to set dates as soon as practical. We have given details below of some of the expected future meetings we hope to have once things return to normal.

Music from Chester Cathedral

The **Thursday Organ Recitals** at Chester Cathedral are presently “paused” because of the Coronavirus pandemic. In order to continue this important programme of organ music (one of the longest continuous recital series in the world), the Cathedral will release a short programme of organ music recorded by the cathedral organists, Philip Rushforth, Andrew Wyatt and Alex Palotal, on *YouTube* each Thursday at 1:10pm. Do join them at this virtual recital!

The link to the Chester Cathedral Choir and Organ YouTube channel is

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfTBv9K29kok_zzLCT7xSiQ.

(You'll also find some cathedral services on the channel too.)

St Chad's Farndon Chester

The Association's General Secretary, Katriona Moulton, has kindly offered to host this meeting. We look forward to our visit when things are back to “normal”.



A church was present on the site at the time of the survey for the Domesday Book; the present church dates from the 14th century – it was damaged during the civil war and, apart from the tower, rebuilt in 1658 by William

Barnston. It was restored in the 19th Century. The church website, www.stchadschurchfarndon.org.uk has an interesting history of the building.

The organ at St Chad's was installed by Jardine Organs in 1947(?) and is still maintained by them. The disposition of the organ is: *Swell*: Cornopean 8, Mixture II, Gemshorn 4, Viola da Gamba 8, Open Diapason 8, Voix Celeste 8, Lieblich Gedackt 8, Tremulant; *Great*: Trumpet 8, Fifteenth 2, Principal 4, Clarabella 8, Dulciana 8, Open Diapason 8; *Pedal*: Bourdon 16, Flute 8; *Couplers*: Sw Oct, Sw Sub, Sw to Grt, Sw to Ped, Grt to Ped.

The address of the church is Church Lane, Farndon Chester CH3 6QD

St Mary's, Coleshill St., Flint

We have postponed our visit to the Church of the Immaculate Conception, known as St Mary's, Coleshill Street in Flint, CH6 5BQ

The organ was built around 1900 by Peter Conacher and was installed in St Mary's in 1989 by Arthur Jones (ex Walkers). It was restored by Neiland & Creane of Wexford, Ireland in 2017 (www.neilandcreane.com).



Our chairman Tony Warren, will introduce the organ to us and there will be an opportunity for members to play the instrument for themselves.

Ystym, Colwyn Hall

At the kind invitation of Dr Malcom Clarke, we have been invited to visit Ystym, Colwyn Hall, Near Welshpool, SY22 6BN.

There are three instruments to see hear and play: The fine Peter Collins organ in Dr Clarke's home, an 18th century instrument in the local church and another organ in the stable block.



We are very fortunate to have been invited to visit. Advanced registration for the meeting will be required once we can give you a date. We hope friends will be willing to share transport to Colwyn Hall.

Pietro Yon (1886 – 1943)

Jim Treloar writes:

Those who attend recitals in this area, particularly at Liverpool Anglican Cathedral, will be familiar with an attractive, short piece entitled Toccata for the Flutes by Pietro Yon as it seems to be a favourite of Ian Tracey and I have heard it frequently there and indeed in Chester as well.

I have been puzzled for a long time as I was sure that he must have written other works which we rarely, if ever, hear but I'd never investigated further. However, recently I found in a list of CDs on a well-known online shop a new box set of four CDs called the "Complete Organ Works of Pietro Yon" so there's a lot of material out there which I'd never heard and the set was a "must".

Yon was born in a small town in Turin, Italy and studied in Milan and Turin and moved to Rome in 1904. Later he followed his brother to New York where he became a well-known recitalist, then after returning to Italy for a while he eventually returned to New York where he was appointed to

the prestigious post of Director of Music at St Patrick's Cathedral, and became an American citizen. Much more information about his career is given in the booklet accompanying the CDs.

Listening to the CDs it is obvious he wrote a variety of forms all of which I found very approachable. I discovered that the Toccata is one of a set of 12 divertimenti, all quite short, the Toccata being the shortest. There are a number of Sonatas, some movements of which have quite complicated pedal parts as, apparently, as a player he had an impressive pedal technique. The most substantial work is the Concerto Gregoriano, in 4 movements lasting about 30 minutes.

The four CDs are played by Elisa Teglia on four different instruments including the large organ in the Duomo of Como which Yon himself inaugurated in 1932. Details of all the organs are included in the booklet. I can thoroughly recommend the set as, like me, you will probably hear much unfamiliar but interesting music which seems to have been overlooked.

BIOS Meeting Report

On a cold and windy Saturday morning, having got up at, for me an unearthly early hour, I met up with Chris Pilsbury for a train trip to Birmingham University (The Barber Institute) for a BIOS Conference Day.

This annual event consists of a series of six or seven lectures covering a wide variety of organ related topics and this year cost £30 plus your rail tickets, with a very acceptable buffet lunch being included, together with pre and post event tea/coffee etc.

Following on from Dr James Berrow's talk on the Gothic Revival was Martin Renshaw discussing the problems and perils of organ restoration in the present day – climate change included. John Norman (Hill Norman and Beard) took us into lunch with an amusing look at twenty-five of the organ cases with which he has been involved.

After lunch, Dr Alan Thurlow read a paper that should have been delivered by Dr Matteo Malagoli who was unable to attend because of the lockdown in Northern Italy due to the Corona virus. The paper dealt with the only British

organ builder who worked solely in Italy – William George Trice (1848-1920) and the major influence he had there.

Derrick Carrington then introduced us to the little-known world of the Iberian Organ, showing us just how little is currently known of these instruments and the histories. A fascinating talk then followed from Dr David Ponsford entitled "Editing de Grigny: a new edition". This dealt with the problems arising from the research into the three extant copies from the first print and from the copies made by Bach and his cousin, J.G. Walther. Many examples of errors were illustrated and, in case you are wondering, it was not all dry and "academic" but extremely followable and interesting. A lot to be learnt.

Dr David Shuker (At the Sign of the Pipe, Kent) finished the day with a very informative talk on the organists of the Valentine family who came to prominence in and around Leicester from the middle of the 17th century to the middle of the 18th century. Included were two sisters, Anna and Sarah who both held important organist posts in and around Leicester for many years, together with another lady, Martha Greatorex.

A long, but very pleasurable and informative, day which I would strongly recommend to you for your future consideration.

The British Institute of Organ Studies is a vital part of maintaining our organs' preservation, their part in our history and our music. Membership details are on the BIOS website, <https://bios.org.uk/>. Current annual cost of membership is £37, £32 concessionary and £12 student.

David Bird

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