

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

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – August 2017

On line at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

Our Next Event . . .

Monday 18 September at 7.30pm
Composite Recital at St Giles', Wrexham

We thank member Chris Pilsbury for the opportunity to play the three manual instrument at St Giles'. The instrument sounds magnificent in a building which is Grade 1 listed and the church tower is one of the seven wonders of Wales. The seven wonders are commemorated in an anonymously written rhyme:

*Pistyll Rhaeadr and Wrexham steeple,
Snowdon's mountain without its people,
Overton yew trees, St Winefride wells,
Llangollen bridge and Gresford bells.*

The steeple is, in fact, a tower – but it wouldn't rhyme otherwise. The tower is visible from quite a distance – the postcode is LL13 8LS.

Every year Chris arranges two series of recitals and if you get chance there is a nice Schimmel piano. We are looking for volunteers to play for about 10 minutes each – please e-mail John Evans if you are interested (angiejohnevs@uwclub.net).

October's Event

On Monday 9 October we visit the Church of the Good Shepherd, Heswall. This is a new organ (1971) built by Rushworth and Dreaper, and whereas most of us have to manage with one or two pedal stops, this instrument boasts 9 on the pedal with 6 each on the Great and Swell.

The Chairman Writes

August is the month when many people can take a well-earned rest and recharge their batteries. So many choirs, clubs and church groups have a break for the summer, and yet the organist is expected to carry on regardless. When I started thinking about this a little more, my mind was drawn to realise that most churches get more visitors in the summer than at any other time, and yet they seem happy to offer less than their best, often with no choir to lead the singing. I hope that I'm going to be flooded with responses that this simply isn't true!

Last month, we had a joint event with our friends from the Liverpool Organists' Association. We were warmly welcomed to the Liverpool Secretary's home at

Poulton Hall and treated to some lovely refreshments, and a good time was had by all. Our performance in the quiz was not as good as last time, coming second to a very knowledgeable Liverpool team – well done LOA, and thank you for a splendid evening.

We frequently hear that the organ's popularity is diminishing, however I was looking at the number of recitals taking place within our area and wondered if there is any other instrument that can boast the same level of exposure and availability to the public, often at no cost. Congratulations and thanks to those who continue to promote organ concerts – I appreciate how much effort is involved. As I have mentioned on previous occasions, we must ensure anyone who attends is encouraged to come again by receiving a warm welcome and that the performer provides a programme which is also appealing to the non-organ enthusiast.

Later this month, when I give my first ever organ concert at Hamilton Street Methodist Church, I am going to try to follow my own suggestions by providing a programme which is appealing to the non-organ enthusiast. The concert will feature 'Dance Themed' items, such as 'The Blue Danube', 'Jamaican Rumba', 'Devil's Galop' and 'Waltz of the Flowers'. It will also make use of the church projector to show pictures and video to enhance the music. The concert will last about 45 minutes and will be followed by some lovely cakes and drinks, and it's FREE! Hopefully some of you will be able to come along on Sunday 20th August at 3.00pm and support me - it would be good to see you.

Sometimes we can take the organ for granted, so I thought I'd remind you that organs were banned in Soviet-controlled Europe because they were a symbol of the church and monarchy; they are the largest instrument played by one person; and the most complex machine created before the Industrial Revolution!

I hope you are all managing to make the most of the summer – it's the time when we get plenty of daylight to encourage us out and about. Don't forget, there are lots of organ concerts out there, many of them free, and you may even meet up with some of your friends and CNEWOCA members.

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 07939 645688 or by email angiejohnevs@uwclub.net

Encouraging the Youth

Member Gilmour Pemberton has written to me as follows:

"Rev Sam Erlandson, Vicar of Rhostyllen Parish Church, is also an organist (ARCO) who is concerned that many organists in the Wrexham area are 70 plus. He is trying to obtain funding for those with grade 5 piano and above for young people to take over in the future.

I believe this is a National problem. Can our Association offer any help or advice?"

We are all aware that this problem is not confined to the Wrexham area and perhaps as an Association we should be following this lead. Many of you will know Mark Swinton – I had worked with Mark's mum and when he started organ lessons with Roger Fisher I was asked if I could arrange for Mark to practice at St Francis' Church. That was arranged, but as the Church is normally locked, it was not straightforward, and due to the organ being up a flight of steps the Church insisted that he was accompanied by an adult. A few days ago a neighbour called round to tell me that she knew a young boy who is learning the piano and is also taking some organ lessons – did I know somewhere he could practice? I don't really know what churches are available in the Upton area of Chester but I do have my 3 manual Viscount in the living room, so I am making that available in this instance. I will report further as things develop, but this is food for thought, so if we hope that our churches will have organists in the future, we need to be doing something about it today. I have spoken to Rev Sam Erlandson and he has given me a lot more of the background information and progress so far. Some of the funding will be available in the Wrexham area only and as stated it is aimed at the younger generation who have reached a proficient standard at the piano. Any offers of help, suggestions, ideas please e-mail me at bob.jones25@btinternet.com.

What's On?

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 17 Aug Roger Fisher (Organist Emeritus)
24 Aug Benjamin Scott (Canterbury)
31 Aug John Wyatt (London)
7 Sep Simon Botschen (Wuppertal, Germany)
14 Sep Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
21 Sep Rachel Mahon (Chester Cathedral)

St Asaph Cathedral

Wednesday 6 September, 7.30pm

Meirion Wynn Jones

(Carmarthen)

Admission £6, including programme

Liverpool Cathedral

- Sat 19 Aug Ashley Wagner (Birmingham Cathedral)
Sat 26 Aug Benjamin Scott (Canterbury)
Mon 28 Aug Ian Wells (Holy Trinity Southport) – **please note this recital is in the Lady Chapel**
Sat 2 Sep Edward Taylor (Carlisle Cathedral)
Sat 9 Sep Hamish Dustagheer - (Valetta)
Sat 14 Oct Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral) - the organ's 91st anniversary recital - **please note this recital starts at 3.45pm**
All recitals (apart from 14 Oct) commence at 12.30pm - admission free

Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

Saturdays at 2pm

- 19 Aug Matthew Searles (Liverpool Met Cath)
26 Aug Simon Leach (Holy Name, Manchester)
Admission £5

St Giles', Wrexham

Mondays at 12.30pm

- 28 Aug Tim Jones (York)
4 Sep Graham Eccles (St Asaph Cathedral)
11 Sep Andrew Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)
18 Sep Iain Stinson (All Saints, Thornton Hough)
25 Sep Christopher Pilsbury (St Giles', Wrexham)
Lunches available - admission free retiring collection

St Chad's, Shrewsbury

- Fri 18 Aug Tom Corfield (Derby)
Tues 5 Sep Peter Dyke (Hereford Cathedral)
All recitals at 12.40pm
Admission free - retiring collection

St George's Hall, Liverpool

- Tues 5 Sep **Recital Cancelled**
Sun 24 Sep Ian Wells (Holy Trinity, Southport)
Admission £2.50

Christ Church, Birkenhead

Sat 9 Sep 12.00noon

Paul Broadhurst (Christ Church)
Part of the Heritage Open Days 2017
Admission Free

Music at Wesley

Tuesdays 12.45pm to 1.35pm

- 12 Sep Adam Davies - Piano
19 Sep Helen Southall (Saxophone)
Raewyn Bailey (Piano)
26 Sep Kell Wind Trio (Flute, Clarinet, Bassoon)
Admission Free - Retiring Collection

Christ Church URC,

Port Sunlight

Saturday 9 September, 7.30 pm

Ian Tracey

Admission £5

St Mary's, Shrewsbury

Thursdays at 1.00pm

- 17 Aug Sarah Boutwood (Packwood Haugh School, Shropshire)
24 Aug James Parsons (Birmingham Conservatoire)
31 Aug Anthony Pinel (St Chad's, Shrewsbury)
Admission Free - Retiring Collection

Hamilton Street Church,

Hoole, Chester

Sunday 20 August at 3.00pm

John Evans

"dance-themed programme"

followed by cakes and drinks

Admission Free

"Come and Sing"

Music for the Christmas Season

23 September at St David's RC Primary School, Mold CH7 1LH

This is a RSCM North Wales Area Event directed by Mervyn Cousins - a choral workshop exploring repertoire choices for Christmas with technical advice for both singers and choir trainers. Music copies will be available at the workshop and the cost is £7 per person. If you are interested please email me at bob.jones25@btinternet.com for an application form.

Organ Recitals Nationwide

<http://www.organrecitals.com>

DON'T FORGET

Chester Cathedral Organ Marathon

Saturday 16 September 2017

9.00am to 9.00pm

Philip Rushforth has written as follows:

I want to give you notice that we are again holding another ORGAN MARATHON here at the Cathedral in aid of the Grand Organ Appeal. Our last marathon was held in October 2014 and I know that you took part and supported the appeal. For that I am very grateful. If you would like to take part again – I am very much hoping you will - and obtain sponsorship for your time at the magnificent organ of Chester Cathedral, please SAVE THE DATE and spread the word to any likely participants!

Once again, Nigel Ogden will be our Celebrity Recitalist who will play roughly half way through the day. More information will be forthcoming in the next couple of months'.

Hamish Dustagheer

I must admit that it was the name that attracted my attention, so I did a little research.....

Hamish Dustagheer is *Maestro di Cappella* of St John's Co-Cathedral: the Conventual Church of the Knights of Malta. Prior to his appointment, he held similar posts at Quarr Abbey, Blackfriars, and Campion Hall, Oxford. Enjoying a reputation as one of England's foremost Catholic organists and improvisers, he performs regularly in the great churches and cathedrals across Europe.



Hamish Dustagheer studied at the Royal College of Music, London, graduating with first-class honours and the keyboard prize. He studied with Gordon Fergus-Thompson (concert pianist) and Sophie-Véronique Cauchefer-Choplin (*Organiste Titulaire Adjointe* of Saint-Sulpice, Paris). During his time at Royal College he achieved examination and competition success, as well as obtaining the Fellowship of the Royal Schools of Music. Hamish completed postgraduate studies with distinction from the University of Oxford, where he read for an MPhil in Music at New College. He specialised in performance, whilst also researching the influence of Solesmes on Catholic church music in early twentieth century England, under the supervision of Prof Robert Quinney and Dr Philip Kennedy.

In August 2016, at the age of 24, he was appointed by the Archbishop of Malta, Mgr Charles Scicluna, as *Maestro di Cappella* in the Archdiocese of Malta. In addition to his principal role at St John's Co-Cathedral, his duties include overseeing the musical activities at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Mdina, promoting liturgical music throughout the Archdiocese, and directing the music at all major state and religious occasions presided over by the Archbishop. Hamish is the recitalist at Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 9 September at 12.30pm.

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the September newsletter are required before 1 September. 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.