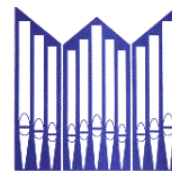


Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – December 2018

On line at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

This month

This is our Christmas meeting at the Stanley Palace commencing 7.30pm on Monday 17 December. Thanks to Mike and Ethan who have organised the venue and will be organising a light buffet. John is arranging a short Christmas-related quiz and I am apparently playing some Christmas favourites on the piano with carol sheets being provided - there may be other items time permitting. RJ

Next month

On 14 Jan in the evening we are at Poulton Hall for a joint social/quiz meeting with the Liverpool Organists' Association.

The Chairman Writes

The season of goodwill will soon be upon us, but first, let's look back at last month's event. Many thanks to Tony Warren for arranging our visit to Llanfairfechan. On a beautiful sunny afternoon, we had a really good turnout for the visit to Christ Church. The Hill organ sounded magnificent, and after a talk and demonstration by Eric Newbound, organ builder and organist at the church, members revelled in the opportunity to have a play themselves.

We are all so fortunate in many ways, so I thought I would share the following words with you, based around the Twelve Days of Christmas:

On the first day of Christmas my true love sent to me; 4 bars of chocolate, a large turkey, 3 Christmas puddings, and a huge iced Christmas cake!

On the second day of Christmas I saw a picture of a family, starving, their tired legs worn out after many miles of walking in search of food. Yet still their bowls are empty.

On the third day of Christmas my true love sent to me a new television, and an iPod.

On the fourth day of Christmas I turned on my television and saw a picture of a polluted river.

On the fifth day of Christmas my true love sent to me a chain made of gold, and a ring of silver.

On the sixth day of Christmas I walked past a queue outside the Job Centre. So

many people wanting to work, to earn some money, when no jobs are available.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me a card wishing "good health, and cheer for the New Year."

On the eighth day of Christmas I walked past a young girl on the streets, wrapped in a sleeping bag, and huddled inside a brown cardboard box.

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love sent to me a song he had written, expressing his love for me.

On the tenth day of Christmas two young children walked by me in the street; no shoes on their feet, their clothes tattered and torn. Who was giving them the love they needed?

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love sent to me a picture of the baby Jesus in the stable with Mary and Joseph looking adoringly at him.

On the twelfth day of Christmas I sat down and cried. I cried for all who went without this year. No love, no warmth, no home, no family, no food.

Why am I celebrating Christmas? And then I remembered the cross, and an empty tomb. I remembered a baby coming, as Light into a world of cold uncaring darkness. A child of hope and peace, a child of salvation. The Son of God, born for me, born for all! A child to become the man who could change all things and all people!

May I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy and healthy Christmas. I hope to see many of you at our December event, but if you can't make it, there is plenty to look forward to after Christmas, when we begin 2019, starting on Monday 14 January when we are having a joint meeting with the Liverpool Organists' Association. We were made to feel very welcome and really enjoyed the hospitality at Poulton Hall the last time we visited, so I hope you will join us for a social and quiz evening.

If you'd like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA before we next meet, don't hesitate to contact me on 07939 645688 or by email angiejohnevans@uwclub.net

Study tour to the Netherlands

David Thornton, who is Director of Music at Clitheroe Parish Church and a member of Preston & District Organists' Association, has written as follows:

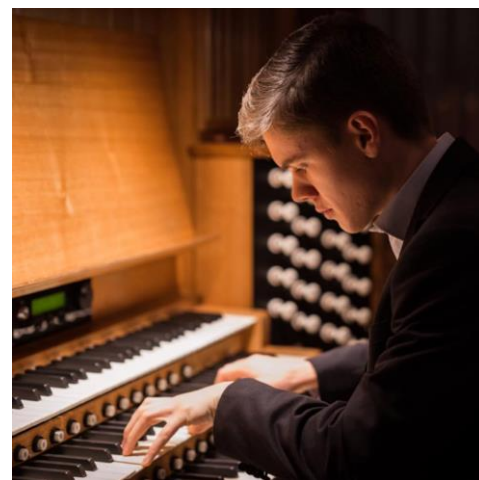
"I am hoping that you might include the following item in your December Organists' Association newsletter to your membership.

"Organ Study Tour to the Netherlands – Alkmaar and Haarlem, September 2019

For many years I have been involved with taking small groups of organists to play instruments in France and latterly Germany. Provisional dates for next year's trip are Sunday 8th to Saturday 14th September. We will be visiting the area around Alkmaar and Haarlem, with playing time already arranged for the F. C. Schnitger organ at the Laurenkerk Alkmaar and the C. Müller organ at the Bavokerk Haarlem. We will also be visiting several other historic organs around the region. We usually book 2 hours playing time on each organ. I intend to take 8 players and at present have a few places available. If you are interested please contact me, David Thornton at thornton643@btinternet.com for further details. The trip will be run on a 'cost only, not for profit' basis."

Sam Giddy

Sam, who is coming all the way from Sydney, Australia, is our recitalist at Chester Cathedral on 10 January. Sam was known to me and, after a little research, I came across the following article which is now four years old, putting Sam as 19 years of age:



The Yass Music Club (see further article) has seen and supported many talented local musicians in the 50 years of its existence, but possibly no one as naturally gifted as 15-year-old scholarship holder Samuel Giddy.

(continued overleaf)

What's On?

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

- 13 Dec Andrew J Wyatt (*Chester Cathedral*)
 20 Dec Philip Rushforth (*Chester Cathedral*)
 27 Dec Roger Fisher (*Organist Emeritus*)
 3 Jan John Hosking (*Holy Trinity, Southport*)
 10 Jan Sam Giddy (*Sydney, Australia*)
 17 Jan Graham Eccles (*St Asaph*)
 24 Jan Andrew J Wyatt (*Chester Cathedral*)

Admission £5.45 Concessions £4.50

St George's Hall, Liverpool

Tuesdays, 12.45pm to 1.30pm

- 18 Dec Ian Tracey (*Liverpool Cathedral*)
 15 Jan Ian Tracey (*Liverpool Cathedral*)

Admission: £2.50 (December)
 £5.50 (January)

Music at Wesley

Tuesdays 12.45pm to 1.30pm

- 18 Dec Charlotte Thomas and Bethan Griffiths
 (Hefin Flute and Harp Duo)
 8 Jan Elias Ackerley (Piano)
 15 Jan Chetham's School of Music Pianists
 22 Jan John Bush & Brian Heald (Trumpet & Piano)

Saturday Organ Recitals

12.45pm to 1.35pm

- 22 Dec Music for Christmas - Claire Heald
 (Contralto) with Brian Heald (Organ)
 Admission Free - Retiring Collection

 Chester St. Cecilia Singers
 present

Christmas is Coming!

Programme includes Spanish carols as well as Christmas favourites with audience participation.

 Wesley Methodist Church
 St John St. Chester CH11DA
 Friday 14th December 7.30pm

Tickets: £8, under 18's £5

Available at the door or from Marianne Barber 01244 326144

 The Wesley Church Centre 

Organ Recitals Nationwide

details on www.organrecitals.com

(from previous page)

Last month, Samuel won both the junior (15 years and under) and intermediate (18 years and under) sections of the Sydney Organ Competition to enhance his reputation as one of the country's best young organists.

"Yeah it's the third year in a row he's won the junior section and also in the last three years he's won the intermediate section twice and come second, so he's had some very good results," Samuel's father, Rod Giddy, explained.

Yass Music Club committee member and mentor, Ros Whiteley, is in awe of his prodigious talent, which stretches also to the piano and cello.

"He's just amazing, what he's achieving at the moment is really huge because he's just so young for what he's doing and he's winning things that are designed, or the standards are set, for people who are three years older than he is," she told the Tribune. "I went to a performance of his in Canberra at the Wesley Centre and his teacher's final comment was - 'I wish I could have played that well when I was as old as him'."

That teacher is Philip Swanton, Sydney Conservatorium of Music's Head of Organ Studies. Under Mr Swanton's tutelage and the guidance of local piano teacher Arnan Wiesel, Samuel has also received distinctions for the Licentiate Diploma in Music (LMusA) for organ and Associate in Music (AMusA) as a pianist.

He was also asked to attend the Sydney Conservatorium Organ Music Academy for a week studying improvisation with Sietze de Vries of the Netherlands.

His exploits on the keys are just as impressive, with Samuel taking first place in the Open Bach section of the Australian National Piano Eisteddfod earlier this year. Rod, who's daughters Lauren, Ruth and Sarah are also established musicians in their own right, said the family's achievements are purely the product of hard work and not genetics. "It doesn't come from us," he admitted. "They've all just worked really hard at their music and they enjoy it. They've also been fortunate to have really good teachers and the opportunity."

And he thanks the Yass Music Club for helping to create that opportunity. "If any young musicians out there are interested, [the scholarship scheme] is certainly an encouragement and a worthwhile assistance."

Secretary of the Yass Music Club, Brian Millett, said it can be "like pulling teeth" trying to get talented musicians to apply for these scholarships but hopes the example of Samuel Giddy will inspire others.

Sam's recital tour of the UK is:

January 2019

Thu 10 th	1.10pm	Chester Cathedral
Fri 11 th	7.30pm	Oakham Parish Church
Sat 12 th	12.00noon	St James', Bushey
Sun 13 th	3.00pm	Guildford Cathedral
Mon 14 th	1.30pm	Holbrook School, Ipswich
Wed 16 th	1.10pm	Blackburn Cathedral
Sat 19 th	5.00pm	St George's Hanover Square, London

A History of the Yass Music Club
 The Yass Music Club was established in 1953 by a group of enthusiasts of good music to provide concerts for the people of the Yass community (280k south-west of

Sydney) and Dr R.A.G. Holmes AM was Musical Director from the club's inception until his death in June 2007.

The Music Club was affiliated with the Federated Music Clubs of Australia and its first Musicale was presented on Friday 16 October 1953 featuring Ronald Neill (tenor), Geza Bachmann (violin) and Dorothy White (piano) playing to a reported audience of 300.

The Yass Tribune Courier praised the concert programme as "well balanced" and was optimistic about the Club's future and noted that the artists themselves "got a good impression of the town and its people".

In association with the FMCA, the Music Club introduced the award of Scholarships to assist aspiring young musicians, and these awards continue to this day, with the Scholarships being re-named as 'The RAG Holmes Music Scholarships' in honour of the vision of Dr Holmes. The Scholarships are now funded through the Rotary Club of Yass as a conduit from the Glenlothian Educational Trust Fund.

A fundamental aspect of the Yass Music Club has always been the dedicated voluntary service of its officers and a quite remarkable feature of the life of all Music Clubs throughout NSW has been the length of service given by Musical Directors and other office bearers in their task of bringing beautiful music to their local communities.

The Club's first grand piano was a Feurich Grand, which was later replaced with a Marshall and Rose Grand, which served the Club well until 2009, when it was able - with a very generous grant from the Thyne Reid Foundation - to purchase a magnificent Steinway 'D' Concert Grand, and this has been a unique asset which has since attracted many performers to play in Yass.

A much-loved Chester Choir?

I was looking for something else when I came across an article from the Chester Standard headed "City Choir to begin new season" with, in addition, "Fans of classical music are being invited to watch a much-loved Chester Choir kick off its upcoming season".

This relates to CNEWOCA "putting on a performance" at St Oswald's Malpas on Monday 19 September 2011, when it was simply our first meeting of the year - history of the Church, demonstration of the organ by Stewart Smith, with us then being let loose!!

Newsletter Contributions

Contributions for the January newsletter are required by the end of December. 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.