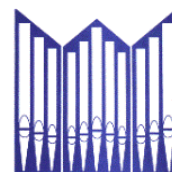


Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – February 2020

Online at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

From the Chairman

On Saturday 25th January we met at Christ Church in Chester, for a Masterclass with Graham Eccles. It was a wonderful afternoon and an opportunity to hear and play the Brindley and Foster two manual Organ. I would like to thank Graham, all who attended, and John Evans for making the arrangements.

I look forward to seeing you at our February meeting in Rock Ferry, the information for which is detailed below

Regards,

Tony

This month:

St Peter's Rock Ferry

We are to visit **St Peter's Rock Ferry** on **Monday 24th February starting at 7:30pm**. The organ, by Nicholson & Lord (Walsall), was transferred to St Peter's in the 1950s to replace the Willis organ which was damaged by WW2 bombing. The specification of the three manual and pedal organ may be found at <https://www.npor.org.uk/NPORView.html?RI=N04407>

in classical/church style and David Nichols will entertain us in the theatre/cinema style. The organ will then be available for members to try out in *their* style! This should be a very enjoyable evening. The post code for the church is **CH42 1PY**.

Next month:

St Chads Farndon Chester

We are to visit **St Chads Farndon** on **Monday March 30th starting at 7:30pm** to see and play the organ in the church. The Association's General Secretary, Katriona Moulton, has kindly offered to host this meeting and we hope many members will come along. Further details will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter and on the website.



Masterclass with Graham Eccles

On Saturday 25th January Christ Church Chester was delighted to welcome Graham Eccles and members of CNEWOCA for an organ masterclass. Out of an audience of around 15 people, four organists played, bringing music which ranged from J.S. Bach to a very skilful arrangement of 'The Lost Chord' made by one of the players themselves.

This was all a delight to listen to, and the wide variety of styles allowed Graham to advise on the use of the range of stops and combinations (not to mention the rare Bringadus 'orchestral crescendo' mechanism) available on the Christ Church organ. He also gave some useful hints and tips on how to avoid some of the common

pitfalls in practising and playing, for example:

- Before starting to play a piece take a moment to make sure your fingers and feet are ready and over the right notes;
- If a passage keeps going wrong and you don't know why, use your phone to film yourself playing it and then watch carefully to see what's actually going on before, during and after the problem occurs;
- Having identified and fixed a problem play the passage three times correctly to fix it in your mind and in your muscle memory, and
- Don't allow anxiety about a forthcoming registration change to make you speed up on the approach.

It was amazing how much we took away with us from one short afternoon – not just in terms of some very valuable teaching, but also from the chance to talk to one another and share experiences during the refreshment break. The two of us from Christ Church felt that our organ playing had been revitalised as a result – so thank you, Graham, and thank you CNEWOCA for a very inspiring event.

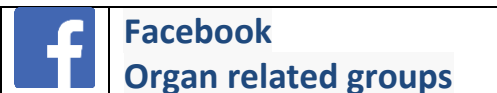
Tonya Chirgwin

Organist, Christ Church Chester



Two organists will demonstrate the instrument for us. Chris Whitfield will play





There are several Facebook groups which discuss organs and organ related matter, but the three most active ones are the

- Pipeline Community of Organists
- UK Organist and Choirmasters Group
- Facebook Organists Association

I look at all three from time to time, but *the Pipeline* is the one I favour, and is the most active. This was started about four years ago by David L Wood, whom I know personally as he is the Music Director at daughter's church in Sawbridgeworth. It has several thousand members now, and is quite international, even has some well-known professional organists as members. Almost anything organ related is posted, videos (members and professional), descants/last verse arrangements, what people are playing 'next Sunday', hymn tune discussions, organ specifications etc.

The *UK Group* often posts known vacancies, who is moving where, requests for 'subbing' and help and it also includes some of the types of posts listed above.

Facebook Organists Association I think is the oldest established organ group and is international, there's a fair bit of American stuff, but again a good mixture of 'post types'

I'd suggest members who 'do Facebook' might look at all of them and make up their own minds. You do have to apply to join *the 'Pipeline'*, I think the others are open to all.

The Facebook links are

- **Pipeline Community of Organists**
www.facebook.com/groups/1755415534719714
- **UK Organist and Choirmasters Group**
www.facebook.com/groups/366699296699587
- **Facebook Organists Association**
www.facebook.com/groups/organists

Brian Moate

CNEWOCA Officers

Chairman: Tony Warren
ndtl3@yahoo.co.uk

General Secretary: Katriona Moulton
katriona.moulton@outlook.com
3 Quarry Hill, Farndon, Chester. CH3 6NR

Treasurer: David Bird
d.bird43@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary: Mike Edwards
rails@talktalk.net

5 Bradford Street, Chester, CH4 7DE

Newsletter contributions
newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk

Newsletter contributions

You are invited to send your contributions or details of concerts and recitals for listing for the *March Newsletter* by February 27th. Please send them by to newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk or post to the General Secretary, Katriona Moulton.

What's on?

Organ Recitals Nationwide Details at www.organrecitals.com

St George's Hall, Liverpool

Ian Tracey
Liverpool Cathedral /
Liverpool City Organist
Tuesdays, 12:45 – 1:30pm
Tue February 4th
Tue March 3rd
Tue April 21st
Admission £5.50

Liverpool Cathedral

Bank Holiday Monday
April 13th 11:15am
Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral
Admission £5

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm
February
6th Benjamin Newlove
(St Michael's Cornhill)
13th Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
20th Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
27th Daniel Clark (Berlin, Germany)
March
5th Andrew Wyatt (Chester Cathedral)
12th Richard Lea (Liverpool Metropolitan)
19th Anthony Pinel (St Chads Shrewsbury)
26th Alexander Palotai (Chester Cathedral)
Admission £5.45, Concessions £4.50

Woodley Methodist Church

[SK8 1NF]
Friday 27th March 7:30pm
Nigel Odgen (Concert Organist)
In aid of Willow Wood Hospice
Admission £9

Shrewsbury Abbey

Sat 1st Feb Noon Catherine Ennis
(St Lawrence Jewry)
Sat 7th March 12:40pm Thomas Trotter
(Birmingham City Organist)
Sat 4th April 12:40pm James McVinnie
(London)
Free. Retiring Collection.

Shrewsbury, The Buttermarket

Sun 16th Feb 2:30pm Len Rawle
(Chorley Wood)
Sun 15th Mar 2:30pm David Ivory
(Bury St Edmunds)
Admission £7

St Chad's Shrewsbury

Fri 21st Feb 12:40pm Richard Walker
(St Chad's Shrewsbury)
Fri 20th Mar 12:40pm Carleton Etherington
(Tewksbury Abbey)
Free. Retiring Collection.

Blackburn Cathedral

Wednesdays 1:00pm – 1:40pm
February
5th Gordon Stewart
(Kirklees Borough Organist)
12th David Goodenough
(Fettes College, Edinburgh)
19th Tom Bell (Lancs)
March
4th Richard Tanner (Rugby School)
11th John Hosking (Runcorn)
18th John Robinson (Blackburn)
25th Karen Au (Blackburn)
Admission free; suggested donation £4.

Chester Music Society

Chester Cathedral
Saturday 23rd March 7:30pm
Bach: The Passion according to St John
Admission £7, £14, £20

Music at Wesley

Wesley Church Centre, St. John Street, Chester
Saturday Organ Recitals 12:45pm
Mar 21st John Hosking (Runcorn)
Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts 12:45pm
February
4th Chetham's School of Music
Instrumentalists
11th Matthew Lau (Piano)
18th Duncan Anderson (Viola) &
Leanne Cody (Piano)
25th Kell Wind Trio
March
3rd Nina Savicevic (Piano)
10th Deborah Catterall (Soprano) &
Hugh Cherry (Lute)
Admission free. Retiring Collection.

IAO London Organ Day

February 29th 9:30am
Union Chapel Islington &
St John's Duncan Terrace
Details at
iao.org.uk/newsevents/london-organ-day/