

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

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists



CNEWOCA

Newsletter – October 2019

On line at www.cnewoca.org.uk

Facebook - www.facebook.com/groups/CNEWOCA

This month

Monday 14th October 2019, 7:30pm

We are going to visit Christ Church Birkenhead to hear and play the fine three manual Father Willis organ. The organ was originally built in 1860 as a two manual instrument installed in the West Gallery. In 1881 Henry Willis moved the organ to the south side of the chancel and in 1888 added the Choir organ. Sometime between 1888 and 1925 a Vox Humana stop was added (not by Willis). The organ was cleaned and



overhauled in 1926 and 1948 by Willis and in 1977 by Rushworth and Dreaper. The organ has been awarded a BIOS Historic Organ certificate (Grade 1).

Paul Broadhurst, the organist at Christ Church has kindly agreed to tell us all about the instrument and to demonstrate the fine sounds of the organ. There will be an opportunity for members to play the organ themselves.

The address of the church is Christ Church, Bessborough Road, Oxton, Birkenhead, Wirral. CH43 5RW. There is on-street parking near the church.

Please tell Katriona, that you intend to attend if you haven't informed her already.

From the chairman...

We have started our new season with a wonderful evening, listening to and playing a Hauptwerk system organ. I would like to thank Iain for his hospitality and for organising the talk and demonstration on

Monday 26th September; it was a very enjoyable evening.

On Monday 14th October we are to visit Christ Church in Birkenhead to hear and play the three manual Father Willis Organ.

Please remember to email Katriona at the earliest opportunity to inform us about which meetings you will be attending.

If you have any questions, please send me an email: ndtl3@yahoo.co.uk

Regards Tony

Membership subscriptions are now due. Please send them as soon as possible to the Membership Secretary.

Next month

On **Saturday 23rd November** we shall attend the recital at the Wesley Methodist Church, Chester, at 12:45pm which is being given by Paul Carr (Birmingham Cathedral). After the recital members will be able to examine and play the organ themselves. The organ is a three manual and pedal instrument built in 1926 by J.J. Binns (Leeds) and renovated in 2000 by David Wella (Liverpool). The organ has a BIOS Historic Organ Certificate (Grade II).



Details may be found on the NPOR at <https://tinyurl.com/y2dtzm89>

There will also be an opportunity to visit the Welsh Presbyterian Church, also in St John Street, and examine and play the



organ there. Two fine organs at one meeting – a treat not to be missed!

“The Organ Manual”

Anna Hallett writes:

“Some time ago, you might recall I wrote to you about a project I was doing on 'Inspiring Young Organists - does more need to be done?'. Since I published that, I have continued my research and today launched 'The Organ Manual' website, which will hopefully one day become the go to site for all organ related information.

<https://theorganmanual.com/>

I have no advertising budget, it is completely self-funded, so I would be most grateful if you would help spread the word to your members of its existence. It doesn't promote anything except the organ and the many, many organisations there are out there to help organists of all levels.”

The English Organ multi DVD project

Fugue State Films crowdfunded project on The English Organ is near completion. The centrepiece of the new release will be a three-part documentary tracing the history and development of the organ and its music in England and its empire during the period from c1600 to the present, showing the vibrant culture of the organ and its music,

and how this mirrors and represents the wider historical trends of the period. The DVDs will also include full filmed performances of three hours of music from Purcell to the present day, played on a range of suitable organs by Daniel Moulton.



The project includes organs from the UK, Germany, Australia, USA and New Zealand. More details from <https://fuguestatefilms.co.uk/product/the-english-organ/>

Encyclopaedia of organ stops

The encyclopaedia of organ stops was originally compiled by Edward L Stauff and was one of the frequently referenced websites for those trying to understand organ specifications. The site disappeared for some time but now has been restored and may be found at organstops.com.

Take some time to look at this web site – it has lots of interesting information and background to what's behind the name of an organ stop. There are some sound samples to hear too. Here's an extract.

Sylvestrina (unknown)

Irwin lists this stop with the following description:

A String stop of 8' or 4' on the manuals, formed from conical open metal pipes of slender scale and soft intonation. The timbre is that of a dull String, but there are many luminous and silvery effects possible with these two pitches that other String stops cannot duplicate. Some of the Erzähler's tone is present, and also a considerable amount of the octave harmonic, making this stop one of many beautiful combinational soft stops among the Strings and diminutive Foundation ranks. It is brighter than the Dulciana, but less bright than the Aeoline or Salicional. It creates a quiet and dulcet céleste, suitable for accompaniments which beats slowly.

Sumner also lists it with this description:

A stop first made in Germany at the beginning of the nineteenth century. Mr. Henry Willis III used a quiet, Gemshorn-like stop of flute-string tone of this name in his Choir or Swell organs.

Maclean says that the name probably derives from the Latin word *silvestris*, meaning *wooded, wild or rural*. According to legend, Willis copied his stop from Skinner's Erzähler.

Newsletter contributions

You are invited to send your contributions or details of concerts and recitals for listing for the November Newsletter by October 25th. Please send them by email or post to the General Secretary, Katriona Moulton.

CNEWOCA Officers

Chairman: Tony Warren
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What's on?

Organ Recitals Nationwide

details on www.organrecitals.com

Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm

3 Oct Simon Russell - Nantwich Parish Church
10 Oct Andrew J Wyatt - Chester Cathedral
17 Oct Alexander Palotai - Chester Cathedral
24 Oct Philip Rushforth - Chester Cathedral
7 Nov Peter Morris - Wolverhampton
14 Nov Brian Heald - Chester
21 Nov John Hosking - Runcorn
28 Nov Philip Rushforth - Chester cathedral
Admission £5.45, Concessions £4.50

St George's Hall, Liverpool

Tue 15 Oct - 12.45 to 1.30pm

Tue 19 Nov 12:45 - 1:30pm

Tue 17 Dec 12:45 - 1:30pm

Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral
Admission £5.50

Liverpool Cathedral

Fri 4 Oct 12:45-1:15pm - Lady Chapel
Paul Broadhurst - Birkenhead

Free. Retiring collection

19 Oct Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral
Admission £5

Bangor Cathedral

Tuesdays 1.10pm

8 Oct Anthony Pinel - St Chad's Shrewsbury
Free - Retiring Collection

Shrewsbury, The Buttermarket

2:30 - 5:00pm

Sun 20 Oct Robert Wolfe - Thursford

Sun 17 Nov Stephen Austin -

Poulton-Le-Fylde

Admission £7

St Chad's, Shrewsbury

12.40pm

Tue 5 Nov Simon Russell - Nantwich

Fri 15 Nov Anthony Pinel - Shrewsbury

Free. Retiring Collection

St Giles Wrexham

Mondays at 12.30

7 Oct Andrew Love - Christ Church Chester

14 Oct Philip Rushforth - Chester Cathedral

21 Oct Bob Owens - St Mary's Weaverham

28 Oct Colin Porter - Mossley Hill Parish Church

Free. Retiring Collection

Christ Church, Higher Bebington

Fri 15 November

Opening recital on the refurbished organ

Ian Tracey - Liverpool Cathedral
Admission £15 / Students £6

Music at Wesley

Wesley Church Centre,
St. John Street, Chester

Saturdays 12:45 - 1:35pm

5 Oct Music with a biblical theme
Brian Heald (organ), Claire Heald (contralto)

19 Oct Charles Jones - Llandudno

23 Nov Paul Carr - Birmingham

21 Dec Music for Christmas
Brian Heald (organ), Claire Heald (contralto)

Free. Retiring Collection

Music at Wesley

Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts
12:45 - 1:35pm

8 Oct Chester Competitive Music Festival
Winners

15 Oct Jessica Zhu (piano)

22 Oct Chester Competitive Music Festival
Winners

29 Oct Alison Loram (Violin),
Yuki Kagajo (Piano)

5 Nov Chetham's School of Music Pianists

12 Nov Jill Crossland (Piano)

19 Nov Martin Bickerton (Guitar)

Free. Retiring Collection

Even more music at Wesley

Piano recital by the distinguished pianist Margaret Fingerhut 'Far from the Home I Love' will take place on **Thursday October 17th** at 7.30pm. "