Chester & North East Wales
Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Newsletter - January 2023

Dear Member,
This letter is coming out late because, until recently, there was very little to include. Now it has stretched to 4 sides, so I am sending it out electronically. Not only is this cheaper, but the quality of the pictures will be better.

The staff at Church Organ World gave us a very warm welcome on 21st January. We were given teas/coffees and a lovely buffet lunch. Robin Newby's photographs show the relaxed atmosphere in which we could browse sheet music and try out any of the organs in the showroom. Some took the opportunity to visit Holy Trinity, Shaw to play the Makin Thirlmere 2-30 and reported a great organ in a beautiful, if very cold, church.





The only disappointment of the day was John and Angie being unable to join us as John had injured himself by coming off his bicycle. We wish John a speedy recovery.

OUR NEXT MEETING

We have been unable to finalise arrangements for our proposed visit in February. We do, however, have a download of the film "Organ stops – saving the king of instruments" which there wasn't time to view following our AGM last July. You may have seen it when it was broadcast on BBC4 on Christmas Eve, so we need to check whether enough members are interested before booking a venue. Please let the General Secretary know a.s.a.p. if you are interested: 01829 270425 or newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk.
An email will be sent out once a date and venue have been agreed, and details will be posted on the website. If you do not have access to email or website, please ring the General Secretary as above.

MARCH

On **Saturday, 11th March** we will visit **Blackburn Cathedral (BB1 5AA) at 10.30am** and then **St Silas, Blackburn (BB2 6PS)**. Lunch may be purchased at the cathedral at 12.30pm before moving to St Silas.

The committee is concerned that members get adequate access to the consoles on each organ so this visit will be strictly for **members only**. Attendees will be issued with a name badge on arrival. If you know of non-members eager to attend, there is still time for them take out membership: a form may be downloaded from the website.
Please contact the General Secretary if you need a lift to this event.

SAVE THE DATE

Our AGM this year will be at All Saints, Gresford, 2.00pm on Saturday, 10th June.

If you have items for the Newsletter, please send them to: newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk

Our webmaster writes:

CNEWOCA Member Only Forum

A new resource for our members. A place to ask questions, exchange views or just get to know each other better. This is open to all members, just follow the link from the website and register. Once you have done so the Admin will approve your application and you can access the forum, read posts make posts, start new topics and more.
Please make use of these facilities, as we try to add value to your membership.

[Ed: For everyone's peace of mind, initially every post will be moderated before appearing publicly.]

WHAT'S ON

Chester Cathedral recitals – Thursdays 1.10pm:
2 Feb Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)
9 Feb Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
16 Feb Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
23 Feb Graham Eccles (St Asaph)

MUSIC @ WESLEY LUNCHTIME CONCERTS
Tuesdays at 12.45pm - no need to book.
Retiring Collection.
31 January: CHETHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC INSTRUMENTALISTS
7 February: JUSTINE GORMLEY (Piano)
14 February: The Hefin Flute and Harp Duo
21 February: Bethan Harper (clarinet) and Tim Stuart (piano)
28 February: Cristo Harijan (piano)
Sunday 5 Feb: St John's Festival Orchestra Concert 7.30pm. Tickets on the door £12 (under 18s £6)
Saturday 18 Feb: Alex Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)

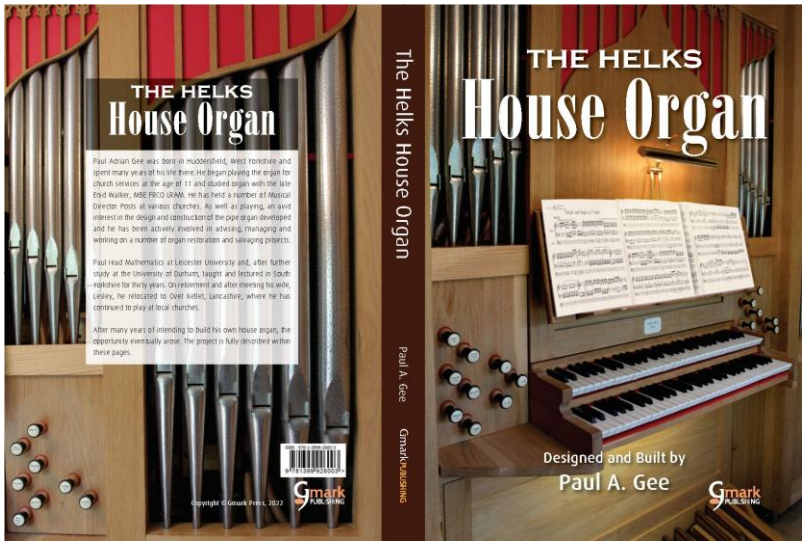
Saturday 28 January, St Mary-without-the-walls, Chester CH4 7HL
Join Sonoro with Chester Bach Singers in a tremendous day of choral singing. Come and sing favourite classics by by J.S.Bach, Brahms, Elgar, Franck, Lotti & Mozart and explore newly composed partner pieces by Rebecca Dale, Michael Higgins,Cecilia McDowall, Oliver Tarney, Gareth Treseder & Errollyn Wallen
Workshop 10.30am – 4.45pm tickets £25 (under 25s £12)
Concert 5.30pm tickets £10 (under 25s £5)
Box Office: 0333 666 3366 / www.chesterbachsingers.org.uk

Please let us know of any events happening in your area – Chester can't be the only place things are happening!

ARE YOU RECEIVING ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS OKAY?
I was advised to send the newsletter out as a PDF because Word documents are less secure as email attachments. Two members reported not being able to open the PDF as it had changed to a windat file. We still do not know how this happened and it would be helpful to know whether anyone else experienced this problem.

The following advertisement may be of interest to those of you who feel that the best way to get through February is to curl up with good book. The reverse of this second sheet allows space for another of Robin Newby's photographs.

The Helks House Organ
(A Technical Overview)
By Paul A. Gee
Published December 2022



Paul Gee writes:
Please forgive this direct approach but I would be most grateful if you would inform the members of your Organists' Association of the availability of my recently published book, titled as above.

I have spent some 12 years building a two manual and pedal mechanical action pipe organ at home which was featured in the December 2015 Edition of Organists' Review shortly after its completion. The instrument was designed and built to fit within a downstairs bedroom and has approximately 800 pipes, mostly new and custom-made.

Briefly, the book describes the design and construction of my house organ in minute detail. It is printed in full colour and contains many scale diagrams and photographs to illustrate the text. Anyone with an interest in pipe organs will be fascinated by the contents.

The book format is A4 with 300 pages; it has a soft back with sewn binding.
The cover price is £40 + p & p (£5 throughout the UK)
Published by Gmark Publishing, Over Kellet, Lancashire
For further information and/or to purchase a copy of the book, please email:
pgee@gmark.co.uk

Members are most welcome to visit and play the organ either individually or as a group. If you wish to take up this invitation, please contact me at the email address above to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Noel Rawsthorne and Ian Tracey playing at Shaw



Robin Newby says:
"The Ian and Noel pictures were taken at the Shaw Organ Works on the 5th October 2013. Noel on that day improvised 'another' new Aria which his sister recorded on her 'phone. It was the last time Noel Rawsthorne ever came to Shaw to Duo with Ian Tracey."

After all this time, Robin cannot remember the rest of the programme in detail, but does remember that Ian and Noel included some of the other organs in their recital.