Chester & North-East Wales
Organists' & Choirmasters' Association
Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists
www.cnewoca.org.uk

Newsletter – July 2023

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Association was held on June 10th at the All Saints School Room, Gresford. The chairman, Tony Warren, gave a report highlighting some of the meetings held in the last twelve months. We had visited several venues including St John's Chester, Blackburn Cathedral, St Silas Blackburn, St. Asaph Cathedral and Church Organ World in Shaw, Oldham. Tony thanked James Treloar for his outstanding service to the Association; James has decided to step back. We are very grateful to all those who hosted meetings and to the committee for keeping the Association going. The attendance at some of the meetings was a little disappointing. Our Treasurer gave a report on the financial position of the Association, and this appeared to be healthy. The following were elected / appointed to the Association's committee:

Chairman: Tony Warren (re-elected)
Vice-Chairman: John Evans (re-elected)
General Secretary: Katriona Moulton (re-elected)
Membership Secretary: Mike Edwards(re-elected)
Treasurer: Raymond Moulton (re-elected)
Member: Nigel James (elected)
Independent examiner: David Bird (re-appointed)
Publications Office: Iain Stinson (elected)

After the meeting we moved to the church where the organist, Mark Thompson, demonstrated the fine Hill Organ for us. Some members were then able to try the instrument for themselves. (https://www.npor.org.uk/survey/N11754)

Next meeting



Our next meeting, the final meeting of the 2022/23 programme, is on **Monday 31st July** starting at 7:30pm. We are to visit St Mary's Church Tilston (near Malpas). Simon Bate, the organist there, will tell us about the organ and demonstrate the instrument before members can try it for themselves.

There has been a church on the site since 1301 though the present building dates mostly from 1877. The Wikipedia entry for the church is interesting. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St_Mary's_Church,_Tilston There is a nice set of photographs of the church at https://tinyurl.com/3djsn9ub

The organ is not listed on the NPOR. The Parish Profile for St Mary's (from 2019) says that:

The church organ is approaching 100 years old and is a mix of wooden and metal pipes. Some parts are now understood to be even older having come from other organs. Unfortunately, the organ suffered from the hot summer of 2018 and at the time of writing, we are planning the repair / reinstatement of this wonderful instrument. This is the current focus for fundraising. We have one regular organist and two others who can cover when the regular organist is not available.

We understand this work has now been completed and we shall learn about this during our visit.

The address of the church is **St Mary's Church, Church Road, Tilston, Malpas, Cheshire. SY14 7HB**

Annual renewal and the programme for the 2023/24 season

We hope that all existing members (and some new friends) will renew their membership for the 2023/24 season. The committee is working to finalise the programme and details will be published on the website as soon as they are agreed.

All existing members will be sent a renewal form by post around mid-August. This can be completed on paper and posted back to the membership secretary. The membership fee may be paid either by cheque, included with the renewal form, or by a bank transfer to the Association's bank account. Instructions to make a payment by bank transfer will be included in the renewal pack (and on the website). You will also be able to complete an online renewal form and submit it from the website: you can then make your fee payment either by bank transfer or by sending a cheque.

Newsletters and other communications

As you are no doubt aware postage costs have increased dramatically, with a second-class UK postage stamp presently costing 75p. In order to keep costs to a minimum, the committee has agreed that most newsletters will now be *normally* sent electronically.

An email message will be sent to each member containing a link to the newsletter. Members who receive the email will need to click on the link to open the newsletter. The newsletter will be password protected. When the PDF file opens members will be prompted to enter in a (simple) password to see the contents of the newsletter. The password to be used will be included in the email message along with the link. (The password protection is being used so that for a short time after publication, only members, with the password, will be able to read the newsletter).

Members who have indicated that they do not wish to receive email from the Association will be sent a paper copy of the newsletter. It is hoped that most members will choose to receive the newsletters via the link emailed to them. If a member wishes to receive posted, paper copies of the newsletter, we hope that they will recognise that this is costing the association around £1.10 per issue (depending on the number of pages). Members who need some help in opening the emailed newsletters are invited to contact any member of the committee.

We shall continue to post the August/September newsletter, membership renewal, May newsletter and AGM papers to all members.

This use of our membership data is covered by our Data Protection Policy which all members agree when they join or renew their membership of the Association.

IAO AGM Blackburn Cathedral Saturday 17th June at Blackburn Cathedral

Robin Newby writes:

I attended IAO AGM on Saturday and thought you may be interested in a brief report on the meeting.

It was noted some local associations have ceased to operate. When Shrewsbury Association closed, it had a large financial surplus which was returned to the IAO Treasurer.

There has been a change in the way that association members numbers are now to be counted so that those who are members of two (or more) local associations are only counted once. Notwithstanding this, the IAO has over 4000 members.

"The IAO Charity remains in a healthy financial position". "The Directors are working on a recovery plan" to minimize the loss on the Organist Review caused by "falling numbers and rising production costs.

The *OrganFest 2023* could not take places due issues with the hosting location. The next IAO festival is expected to be held in 2024" and is likely to be in York (Robert Sharpe, now as President of the IAO, said to me we would all be welcomed to York in 2024).

Robert Sharpe played an organ recital on the Blackburn organ. The pieces included:

- Light in darkness by Kerensa Briggs (b1991) *Daughter of David* Briggs.
- Berceuse á la mémoire de Louis Vierne by Pierre Cochereau (1844-1937) The page turner had to hold a key lower (drone I called it) down on the full swell and turn the page as Robert's hands and and feet were very busy.
- Adoration by Florence Price (1887-1953) Robert told us that unfortunately two notes were not playable , he had to work hard to find an alternative.
- The final item was Féte by Jean Langlais (1907-1991).

The excellent recital was acknowledged with a standing ovation.

After the recital, I asked Robert Sharpe to clarify something for me. Dr. Francis Jackson was a lead adviser on the building of the Walker Organ for Blackburn. Apparently, he refused to allow Blackburn to have the 32' pedal reed stop named the same as the York Minister 32 reed (which was call a *Sacbut*). Robert pointed out to me that the stop on the Blackburn Organ is called the *Serpent* with an engraved Serpent on the stop knob. However after the York Minister organ was rebuilt by Harrison & Harrison, the *Sacbut* name has been changed to *Double Trombone*, though we expect that *Sacbut* will remain in the minds of Organists for many years to come. I do hope so.



We all departed Blackburn in a jolly mood after tea and biscuits was served in the Cathedral and Garden: the rain stayed away.

Chester Cathedral Organ Recitals - Thursdays

July 20th 1:10pm	Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)
July 27th 6:45pm	John Hosking (Blackburn Cathedral)
August 3rd 6:45pm	John Hosking (Blackburn Cathedral)
August 10th 6:45pm	Friedhelm Flamme (Germany)
August 17th 6:45pm	Andrew Wyatt (Truro Cathedral)
August 24th 6:45pm	Graham Eccles (St Asaph)
August 31st 6:45pm	David Henning (USA)

CHESTER CATHEDRAL

During the run of *Making Tracks 3*, join us for a special series of summer organ recitals at 6.45pm on Thursdays from 27 July until 31 August. Organ recitals will last approximately one hour.

Tickets: All funds directly support the maintenance of the Cathedral organ.
Adults - £5.50. Concessions - £4.50, Ten Adult tickets - £40. Ten Concessionary tickets - £35.
Tickets may be purchased from the Cathedral Welcome Desk, or book online at chestercathedral.com
More details at https://chestercathedral.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/LEAFLET-Organ-Recitals-July-2023.pdf

St Asaph Cathedral Organ Recitals

Wednesday 16 August (change of date) Ian Higginson (Gloucestershire)
Wednesday 5 September Jon Barton (Shrewsbury Cathedral)
All recitals commence at 7:30pm

CADEIRLAN LLANELWY ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL

Liverpool St George's Hall

Ian Tracey (Liverpool City Organist & Liverpool Cathedral)
Tuesday 18th July, Tuesday 12 September, Tuesday 17 October, Tuesday 7 November & Tuesday 5 December.
Recitals take place from 12.45pm-1.30pm. Tickets are sold at a cost of £5 per person on the door.

Music at Wesley

Tuesday July 18th 12:45pm Amy Wakefield (Piano)

This was published on Facebook and we thought you might enjoy reading it…



Oh, the Practicing Musician

Tenderly, Ernest, my husband, is calling, Asking how long will I be?
"Dinner is ready, so why are you stalling?
Come home for dinner with me.

Come home, come home,
you must be hungry! Come home___"
Softly and tenderly, Ernest is calling
"Time now for dinner, come home!"

"Why do you practice when dinner is waiting, Waiting for you and for me?
Pasta is boiling and cheese I am grating, Grating for you and for me.

Come home, come home,
You must be starving! Come home___"
Softly and tenderly, Ernest is calling,
"You're late for dinner, come home!"

O for the wonderful food he has promised, promised for you and for me!
"Though it is singed! -- we can scrape off the burned parts, Come home for dinner with me!

Come home, come home:
You must be famished! Come home_____!"
Softly and tenderly, Ernest is calling,
"Dinner is finished... come home."

Author unknown.

Contributions for the next newsletter will be most welcome.
Please send them to Iain Stinson (iain@stinson.org.uk)