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

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

www.cnewoca.org.uk

Newsletter – August 2023

Welcome to the August 2023 edition of the Chester and North East Wales Organists and Choirmasters Association. This edition includes details of the meeting programme for the next few months and some short articles of general organic interest. We welcome your contributions to the newsletter – please send them to newsletter@cnewoca.org.uk.

Forthcoming meetings

Monday 18th September 7:00-9:00pm

Bethesda Welsh Presbyterian Chapel, Mold

Saturday 30th September 12:00-4:00pm

Church of the Ascension, Salford

Saturday 21st October 1:30-4:30pm

Castle Square Presbyterian and Seilo Welsh Presbyterian churches, Caernarfon

Saturday 11th November (details to be confirmed)

Liverpool Hope University

There is no meeting in December.

Details of meetings for 2024 are being finalised and details will be printed in future newsletters. Some of the possible venues include St Nicholas Burton, St Michael Shotwick, St Mary & St Helen Neston, All Saints Hoole, and the Hidden Chapel Conwy.

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 available only to members for a short time after publication, and then made available through the web site.

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.

Membership renewal

Membership of the Chester and North East Wales Organists and Choirmasters Association (CNEWCOA) runs from September until the following August. Existing members of the Association should receive their renewal invitation from the Membership Secretary in the next few days. Please renew your membership as soon as you can so that you don't miss out on anything.

Anyone who would like to join the Association should please contact the Membership Secretary.

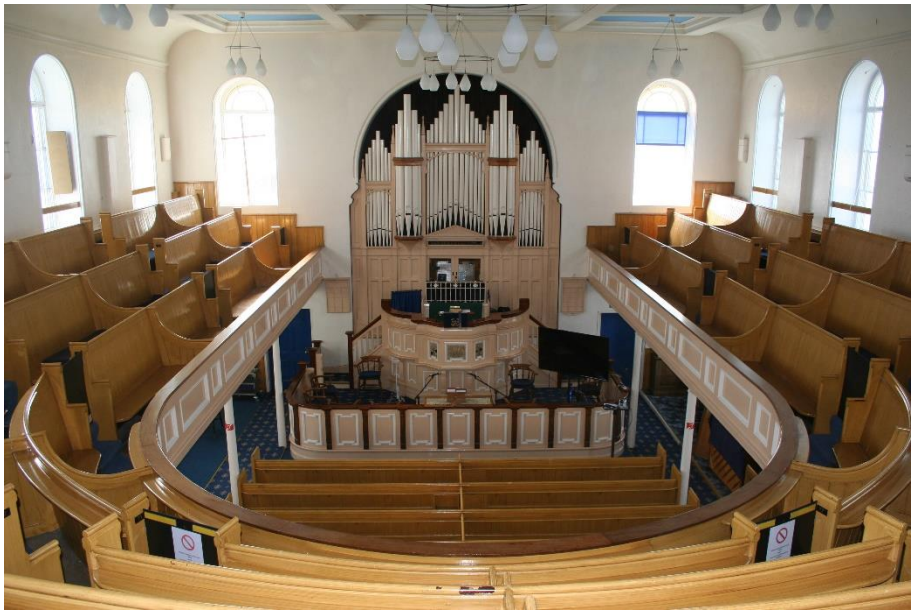
Membership secretary: Mr M Edwards, 5 Bradford Street, Handbridge, Chester. CH4 7DE. ☎01244 676504 rails@talktalk.net

Further details of the forthcoming meetings

Monday 18th September 7:00pm – 9:00pm

Visit to Bethesda Welsh Presbyterian Chapel, New Street, Mold, CH7 1NZ

We will have opportunity to play the fine organ in the chapel. The organ was built by Wadsworth & Bro. (Manchester) between 1889-1902 (from the name used by the company). Its specification is



Swell: Lieblich Bourdon 16, Open Diapason 8, Lieblich Gedact 8, Viol di Gamba 8, Voix Celestes 8, Gemshorn 4, Oboe 8, Cornopean 8, Tremulant.

Couplers: Swell Octave, Swell to Pedal, Great to Pedal, Swell to Great, Swell to Great Octave.

Great: Open Diapason 8, Dulciana 8, Principal 4, Flageolet 2, Tromba 8.

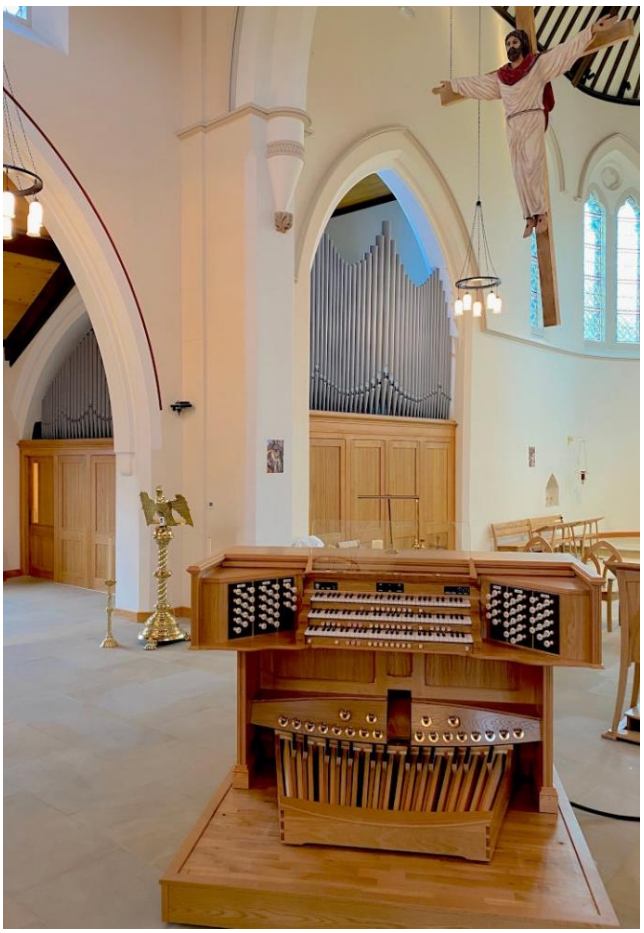
Pedal: Open Diapason 16, Bass Flute 8.

Note: There are two or three more stops on the Great & Pedals which can't be seen from the photograph of the stop jamb. The chapel is a Grade II* listed building.



Saturday 30th September Noon – 4:00pm

Visit to the Church of The Church of The Ascension, Ascension Road, Salford. M7 1AG.



A new organ based on Nicholson pipework from Sutton Coldfield URC has been built for the church by Henry Grove (Nottingham), with Paul Hale as the consultant. The new organ has three manuals and pedals and details may be found at https://henrygroves.co.uk/our-portfolio/new-organs/lower-broughton-ascension/. It looks to be a most useful liturgical and concert instrument.

To celebrate this new organ, organists' associations from around the northwest have been invited to come along on Saturday 30th of September to hear and play the instrument. The other associations joining this "organ day" are Liverpool, Rochdale/Oldham/Tameside, Bolton and Manchester. A light lunch will be provided for those attending.

We have been asked to "car share" if possible as parking is limited, and we need to park with consideration for the residents.

Anthony Williams is organising the event and his number is 07484 761945 should need any assistance.

You may be interested in the background to the arrival of this new organ. This is from a letter sent to us by Anthony Williams, the organist at the church.

"In February of 2017, The Church of The Ascension in Salford suffered a devastating arson attack which was widely broadcast on local and national news; our future was looking very bleak! The church was destroyed: the brand-new roof had collapsed, and gas mains exploded causing even more damage; parts of the church had to be demolished for safety reasons. Thankfully, our prayers were heard and answered in the most profound way.

Jumping forward less than five years, and after extensive fund-raising, heritage grants and insurance money, we were able to rebuild the Ascension; like a phoenix, we have risen from those bleak ashes… installation of a £250k pipe organ. It boasts 52 speaking stops over 3 manuals and pedals…. The builder is the Nottingham based firm Henry Groves & Sons. I believe that it will be the first Groves organ in Manchester and in-deed the North West.""

You can listen to Jonathan Scott playing Nessun Dorma (Puccini) on the organ at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQ_zs3ppZsw

Unusual organ stops – The Keraulophon(e)

The Keraulophon was popular, though not common, during the second half of the 19th century though by the beginning of the 19th century it was becoming obsolete. It was a quiet stop and it most often described as "reedy" or "horny".

According to Hopkins & Rimbault, the earliest source to mention it, it was invented by Gray & Davison and first used in 1843 in the organ of St. Paul's, Knightsbridge, London, England though other sources date the invention of this stop-name from around 1920 by Gray, noting that this type of stop had long been known by other builders. The Keraulophon was an early attempt at string tone, but whereas most string stops (Gamba, Salicional etc) have a slot near the top the Keraulophon had a round hole.

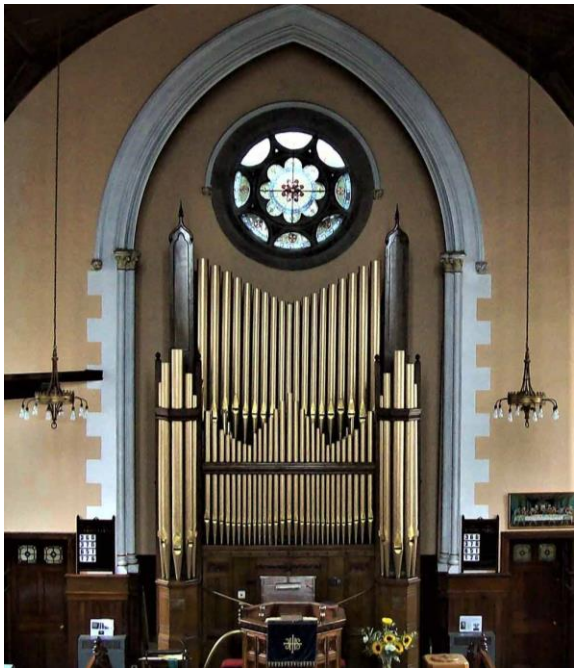
http://www.organstops.org/k/Keraulophone.html

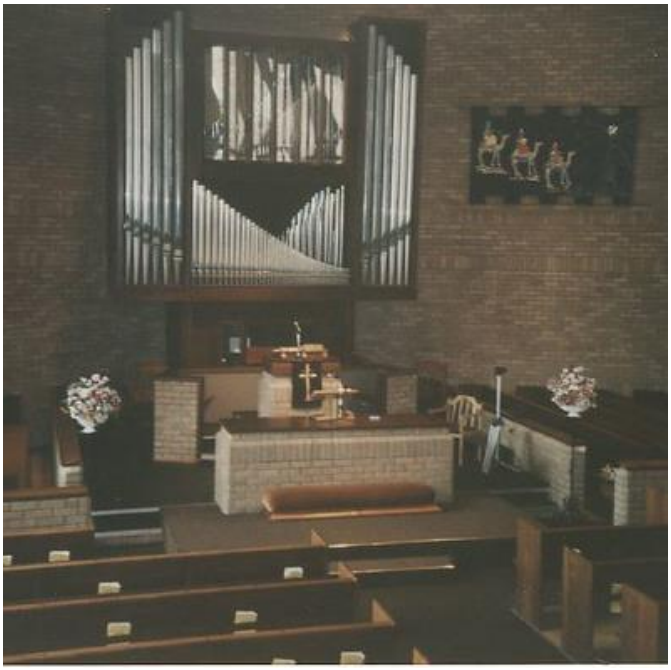
Saturday 21st October 1:30pm – 4:30pm

Visit to Castle Square (English) Presbyterian and Seilo Welsh Presbyterian churches, Caernarfon

The organ in the Presbyterian Church in Castle Square was built in 1886 by William Rushworth (Liverpool) and rebuilt in 1907 by Gray & Davidson. Details about the organ (IIP/15) can be found on the NPOR at https://www.npor.org.uk/survey/N01830. The organ in Seilo Chapel has a 1976 IIP/15 organ built by George Sixsmith to a design by Noel Rawsthorne and details can be found at https://www.npor.org.uk/survey/K01564. It has a BIOS Historic Organ Certificate. Two very different instruments for us to visit.

The visit will start at Castle Square (English) Presbyterian Church at 1:30pm. We'll have tea/coffee and cake on the go too, and then we can move across to Seilo Welsh Presbyterian Church by 3:30pm. It's only a five-minute walk. We are most grateful to our member, Alun Jones, for organising this visit.





I think you should be able to work out which organ is which!

Why not visit Caernarfon Castle in the morning of 21st = make a day out of your trip?

Saturday 11th November (provisional)

Visit to Liverpool Hope University

There are three organs to see, including a Dutch chamber organ restored by Dominic Gwynn in 2013-4. Details of this most interesting instrument may be found at https://www.goetzegwynn.co.uk/organ/liverpool-hope-university-restoration-ca1780-dutch-chamber-organ/. In the chapel there is a IIP J.W. Walker Positif organ from the 1960s: this was recently refurbished by David Wells Organ Builders (Liverpool).

We are very grateful to Dr Rebekah Okpoti from the Music Department for organising our visit. Further details of this event will be published in our September newsletter.





First Ormskirk Organ Day – Saturday 9th September

This will an afternoon Masterclass on the organ, from 2:00pm until 5:00pm, given by Dr. John Kitchen, FRCO, MBE and followed by an evening recital, commencing at 7:00pm, by the renowned Tom Bell.

The organ is a IIIP/62 1950 Rushworth & Dreaper organ https://www.npor.org.uk/survey/D02755.



The Masterclass is provided under the auspices of the Royal College of Organists and sponsored by the Liverpool Organists' Association. Participants may be of any level of playing and should bring along their own music. Tuition will be under the direction of Dr John Kitchen.

Tom Bell is an international recitalist, teacher and has made many recordings. He undertook his primary education at Ormskirk CE Primary School and then attended Ormskirk Grammar School (now Ormskirk School) for two years before moving to Kent. Tom is Director RCO North of England. North Wales and Isle of Man, Artistic Director of the London Organ Day, a patron of the Society of Women Organists and is a member of the Association of Independent Organ Advisers. He was taught by Kevin Bowyer, Jacques van Oortmerssen and Ann Elise Smoot. There is an interesting interview with Tom at https://www.societyofwomenorganists.co.uk/post/spotlight-on-tom-bell-teacher-innovator-and-patron-of-swo



The recital cost is £10 and a fee is charged for the master class. More details and booking links https://ormskirkparishchurchorgan.org/

Organ Recitals UK

If you want to attend an organ recital, you may the website https://www.organrecitals.uk/ helpful. It is operated by Roger Wilcox and is the "successor" website from one operated for over 18 years by Stephen Smith. It is easy to use – you can search for a recital by date, venue, and organist. For example, I found details of this recital in Liverpool:



St George's Hall, Liverpool
Liverpool, L1 1JJ
Tuesday, 12 September, 2023
12:45 - 13:30
Event Venue Map NPOR

Admission £5.00
Recitals of Popular Classics for organ, given in a relaxed setting with verbal programme notes from the City Organist

and this one in Chester



Wesley Methodist Church, Chester
Cheshire, CH1 1DA
Saturday, 16 September, 2023
12:45 - 13:30
Event Venue Map NPOR

Free, retiring collection
Lunchtime Organ Recital series on Wesley's fully restored James J Binns organ
Alex Lanigan-Palotai
(Chester Cathedral)

The web site depends on venues, organiser and organists putting the details of their recitals on the website through a fairly straightforward web form. Give it a try if you are hosting or playing a recital. (It's free!)

I've always wanted to be an organist. But that's just a pipe dream.

Cathedral organists are the ones who don't actually play the organ; their assistants do the playing. I suppose you could say that by definition a cathedral organist is one who used to be good enough to be an assistant."

Organ Recitals at Chester Cathedral

(Tickets £5.50, concessions £4.50)

Thursday 24th August, 6:45pm Graham Eccles (St Asaph)

Thursday 31st Augustt, 6:45pm Graham Eccles (St Asaph)

Organ recitals will resume their usual time of 1.10pm from 7th September

Thursday 7th September, 1:10pm Christopher Herrick (London)

Thursday 14th September, 1:10pm Kai Krakenburg (Germany)

Thursday 21st September, 1:10pm Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)

Thursday 28th September, 1:10pm Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)

Details of the October recitals were not available at the time of publication.

Further details at https://chestercathedral.com/worship-music/organ-recitals/

Music @ Wesley: Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester

Saturday organ recitals

(Retiring collection)

Saturday 16th September, 12:45-1:35pm Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)

Saturday 21st October, 12:45-1:35pm: Geoffery Woollatt (Manchester Cathedral)

Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts

All concerts start at 1:45pm and last about 50 minutes. Retiring collection.

Tuesday 5th September: Rose Mclachlan (Piano)

Tuesday 12th September: Heather Buckmaster (Soprano), Tim Kennedy (Piano)

Tuesday 19th September: Brian Heald (Piano)

Tuesday 26th September: Chetham's School of Music Instrumentalists



St Mary's Mold. Saturday 23rd September, 7:30pm

50th Anniversary Recital of the St Mary's Mold organ.

Ian Tracey (Liverpool Cathedral)

Organ 1973 Rushworth & Dreaper IIP 18
(https://www.npor.org.uk/survey/N08865)

Tickets £10 and £12 from https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/ or at the door.

Liverpool St George's Hall

Prof Ian Tracey plays the 1855 Father Willis organ. Tuesdays at 12:45pm-1:30pm Tickets £5 at the door.

Tuesday 12th September
Tuesday 17th October
Tuesday 7th November
Tuesday 5th December

Liverpool Cathedral

October 21st 3:00pm- 5:00pm 97th Anniversary Organ Recital and Festival Evensong.
Evensong is at 3:00pm and the recital begins at 4:00pm. Tickets £10 at the door for the recital.

How many organists does it take to play Widor's Toccata?
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G3iMguRdddk

CNEWOCA Committee Members

Chairman: Tony Warren
✉ *ndtl3@yahoo.co.uk*

Vice-Chairman: John Evans
✉ *angiejohnevans@uwclub.net*

General Secretary: Katriona Moulton
✉ *secretary@cnewoca.org.uk*

Membership Secretary: Mike Edwards
☎*01244 676504* ✉ *rails@talktalk.net*
5 Bradford Street, Handbridge, Chester. CH4 7DE.

Treasurer: Raymond Moulton
✉ *treasurer@cnewoca.org.uk*

Member: Nigel James
✉ *organo3112@gmail.com*

Independent examiner: David Bird

Publications Office: Iain Stinson
✉ iain@stinson.org.uk. 6 St Stephen's Close, Heswall, Wirral. CH60 3TA

Listen (again)

I've heard some interesting programmes on the radio recently featuring The King of Instruments. I would highlight:

1. How to Saint-Saëns Organ Symphony with Anna Lapwood and the London Mozart Players (28 minute)
2. Prom 15: Late Night: Moon and Stars (Anna Lapwood)
3. Loud organs His Glory: Simon Townley tells the story of the great Victorian organ builder 'Father' Henry Willis.

You can listen to these (again) using the BBC Sounds App. You can add this to your phone or tablet using your app store and download the app. You can use BBC Sounds from your laptop or desktop computer using your web browser: go to https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds. You need to register for a free BBC account to use BCC Sounds.

It is sadness that we note the death of Rachel Laurin (1961-2023). She was a prolific composer for the organ. Many of us came to know here works from concerts and recitals given by Rachel Mahon (Coventry Cathedral, previously Assistant at Chester).

You may wish to watch Rachel Laurin performing the beautiful and moving Méditation from her Suite Brève, Op. 6. No. 1.



https://youtu.be/hbVaP8wFj9k

