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

Newsletter January 2026

Happy New Year – 2026 already!

This newsletter provides you with information about our future meetings and details of organ concerts and recitals in our area.

Our next meeting is on Monday 19th January from 6:30pm when we are to visit the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall to see, hear and play the organ there. Members have already received an invitation to this event and the due date to reply has now passed.

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter, so if you are able, please consider writing a short article for us. We can cope with most formats of material (including handwritten material). Please send your contributions to the Publications Officer.

Iain Stinson

Arrangements for our visit to the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

This will take place on Monday 19th January 2026, and we are delighted to confirm the proposed schedule for the evening:

6.30pm onwards – Arrival at the stage door for registration
7.00pm – 7.20pm – Introduction to and demonstration of the organ by Ian Tracey
7.20pm – 8.45pm – Open Console
8.45pm – 9.15pm – Light refreshments in the Green Room
Please register before 7:00pm and note that the building must be clear by 9.30pm.

We were required to provide the Philharmonic Hall with a list of attendees by 9th January, and John Evans emailed our members (twice) asking them to let him know if they were coming to the Philharmonic Hall. Around 15 members have indicated they would like to come along. This is great. However, it does mean that the Open Console time of 85 minutes needs to be shared between the attendees (about 5½ minutes per player if everyone wants to play). Please keep this in mind when choosing what to try on the organ – not the occasion for the whole of a Rheinberger sonata!

There is on-site parking available, as well as street parking nearby; both are chargeable (see https://www.liverpoolphil.com/plan-your-visit/).

If you require any further information, please contact John Evans directly.



MR. D R. CAMERON

Mr D Roy Cameron, president of Chester and District Organists' and Choirmasters' Association, together with the vice-presidents, entertained guests to a musical and social evening in St. John-street Methodist Church, Chester, on Saturday evening.

The programme included solos by Mr. Colin Jones (organ), Mr. Geoffrey Lloyd ('cello), Mr. Russell Taylor (trumpet) and a soprano solo by Betty Ennion.

Later the president showed films of his holiday in the Border Counties of Scotland.

Mr. Cameron has played the organ since he was 16. He was assistant organist at Neston Parish Church and then became organist until he retired at the age of 53. Since then he has played at various churches in the county.

Request from Perth Western Australia!

We recently received this request:

"My name is Hilary Rumley (nee Cameron) and my father was Roy Cameron, a very active member of Chester and District Organists' and Choirmasters Association from (I think) the 1930s until maybe the 1980s before he moved here (and also continued playing the organ!).

I'm wondering if (and hoping that) your 'archives' might yield some details of events and activities that my father participated in or may have organised when he was president. If you can forward me any e-copies of material relevant to Roy still in your Association's possession, I would be very grateful."

The Association (in its current revival only has records of events going back to 2014. There were newsletters before that date but we don't have any copies of these. If any current member remembers Roy Cameron and has any information about his activities in the "organ or choir worlds", please let our General Secretary know so we can pass on appropriate information to Hilary.

Roy was organist at Neston Parish Church and president of the Association according to the undated newspaper clipping.

Future meetings

2026
Monday 19th January 6:30pm
Liverpool Philharmonic Hall



The organ in the Philharmonic Hall was built in 1939 by Rushworth and Dreaper, who carried out further work in 1983. David Wells (Liverpool) worked on the instrument in 2004 and in 2022 Henry Willis & Sons carried out a major restoration of the instrument.

The specification of the organ may be found on the Liverpool Phil website. The organ has 66 speaking stops over four manuals and pedals.
This is a very special opportunity for members of the association to visit this fine instrument.

Saturday 14th February 2:00pm
West Kirby Methodist Church



The organ in West Kirby Methodist Church was built by Henry Willis III (1936) and has 25 speaking stop and a full set of couplers. Details of the specification are on the NPOR (N18328)

Saturday 14th March at 2:00pm
Christ Church, Port Sunlight



The organ in Christ Church Port Sunlight was built by Henry Willis II in 1904 and is thought to be the only unaltered Willis II organ.
A major programme of restoration was undertaken by Henry Willis & Sons in 2006. The work carried out included complete re-leathering of all 24 reservoirs, re-leathering of

	 	all Willis-lever key actions and piston combination actions. The instrument was cleaned and overhauled and the pipework and console were cleaned and restored. The organ has four manuals and 41 speaking stops. It uses Willis II's floating pneumatic lever action. The organ sounds magnificent in the large church. Details may be found on the NPOR (N04405) and on the Willis website.
Monday 13th April 7:30pm Christ Church, Willaston		The organ in Christ Church is a two manual and pedal instrument. It was built by Nicholson (Worcester) in 1925/6 and rebuilt in 1999 by David Wells (Liverpool). Details may be found on the NPOR (N01136). The church has recently been reordered and the acoustic improved and the organ sounds better than ever.
May		***Details to be agreed.***
Saturday 13th June, 2pm All Saints' Gresford Annual Meeting and organ visit.		The organ in All Saints' is a fine three manual Wm Hill & Son instrument built in 1871, and rebuilt in 1912 by Hill and in 1995 by Roy Billingsley. Details on the NPOR N11754.

Saturday 25th July 2pm. Christchurch Chester		We are going to visit the Brindley & Foster two manual organ in Christchurch, Chester. The specification is given on the NPOR, N04295. The special Brindley & Foster registration aids (noted in the NPOR entry) are still working on this instrument.

CNEWOCA Committee Members

Chairman: Tony Warren
ndtl3@yahoo.co.uk

Vice-Chairman: John Evans
angiejohnevans@gmail.com

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

Membership Secretary: Angela Evans
angiejohnevans@gmail.com
11 Lindfields, Chester CH4 8QD

Treasurer: Raymond Moulton
treasurer@cnewoca.org.uk

Member: Nigel James
organo3112@gmail.com

Independent examiner: David Bird

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

From Liverpool Cathedral…

Join us for six extraordinary recitals celebrating 100 years of Liverpool Cathedral's Willis Organ.

Six extraordinary recitals celebrating 100 years of Liverpool Cathedral's Willis Organ



In 2026, we celebrate the centenary of Liverpool Cathedral's magnificent Willis Organ - a landmark of British craftsmanship and one of the finest instruments of its kind. To mark 100 years since its dedication, we are presenting a special Organ Centenary Series: six world-class recitals across the year performed by some of the most accomplished organists on the international stage.

From rising stars to global icons, this series showcases the organ's extraordinary range and power, with programmes spanning Bach, Wagner, Vierne, Liszt, Ravel and more.

Save with a Full Series Ticket

Experience all six recitals for **£75** with our discounted *Organ Centenary Series Ticket* - the best way to enjoy the full anniversary celebration. This ticket gains you entry to all 6 recitals.

The 2026 Centenary Recital Line-Up

Saturday 7 February 2026 – Jan Liebermann (Frankfurt, Germany)

Programme includes: Wagner *Meistersinger* Overture, Bach *Wachet Auf*, Vierne *Pièces de Fantasie*, Mendelssohn *St Paul* Overture, and Bach's monumental Chaconne.

A rising star in the organ world, Jan Liebermann has performed with the Berlin Philharmonic and is acclaimed for his memorised performances of the Bach Trio Sonatas.

Saturday 18 April 2026 – Jean-Baptiste Dupont (Bordeaux Cathedral, France)

Programme includes: Jongen *Sonata Eroica*, Franck *Choral No. 2*, Reger, Ravel, Stravinsky, and an improvised finale.

Dupont has given nearly 600 recitals worldwide and is celebrated for his improvisation and electrifying interpretation.

Saturday 6 June 2026 – Nathan Laube (Rochester, U.S.A.)

Programme includes: Cook *Fanfare*, Willan *Introduction, Passacaglia & Fugue*, Rachmaninoff Preludes, Whitlock *Fantasie Choral*, Liszt *Les Préludes*.

One of the world's foremost organ virtuosos, Laube performs and teaches internationally, known for his breathtaking artistry and technical mastery.

Saturday 26 September 2026 – James Orford (St Paul's Cathedral, London)

Programme includes: Walton *Spitfire Prelude*, Vaughan Williams *Romanza*, Bach *Passacaglia*, Barraine *Prélude et Fugue*, Vierne *Symphony No. 3*.

A prize-winning British organist, Orford is celebrated for his transcriptions, recordings and rapidly growing international reputation.

100th Anniversary Evensong & Recital

Saturday 17 October 2026 – Professor Ian Tracey

Join us for a historic recital marking exactly 100 years since the Cathedral Organ's dedication in 1926. The performance follows Choral Evensong — continuing a tradition that has taken place every year without interruption.

Professor Tracey, Cathedral Organist since 1980, is one of Britain's most distinguished organists with a career recognised nationally and internationally.

Saturday 7 November 2026 – Isabelle Demers (Quebec, Canada)

Programme includes: Brahms *Handel Variations*, Bach *O Lamm Gottes*, Wagner *Liebestod*, Reger *Fantasy & Fugue on B.A.C.H.*

Described as possessing “bracing virtuosity,” Demers has captivated audiences worldwide and is one of North America’s most exciting performers.

Book the Full Series

Enjoy all six recitals for **£75** rather than £15 each and celebrate a century of music on one of the world’s finest organs.

You can purchase a full series ticket for £75. HERE

See also https://www.organrecitals.uk/venue/liverpool-cathedral.

Details of the Willis Organ in Liverpool Cathedral may be found on the NPOR E00301.
(This does not include the details of the Echo organ.)

Live music!

Chester Cathedral organ recitals

The recitals take place on Thursdays at 1:10pm. The suggested donation is £5.

15th January	Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)
22nd January	David Holroyd (St Peter’s Formby)
29th January	Graham Eccles (St Asaph)
5th February	Richard Lea (Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral)
12th February	Daniel Mathieson (Chester Cathedral)
19th February	Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
26th February	Daniel Clark (Berlin)

Details of other recitals from https://chestercathedral.com/visit/organ-recitals
Details of Chester Cathedral Grand Organ NPOR: E01969

Sponsor a Recitalist

If you would like to sponsor a recitalist, please get in touch with Philip Rushforth at philip.rushforth@chestercathedral.com (01244 500974)

Music at Wesley

Wesley Church Centre, St John Street, Chester

Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts
12.45pm – 1.35 pm
Retiring collection

13th January	Chetham's School of Music Instrumentalists
20th January	Gema Lu Cai (piano)
27th January	Catherine Strachan (cello), David Hammond (piano)
3rd February	Chetham's School of Music Pianists
10th February	Callum McLachlan (piano)
17th February	Juna String Quartet
24th February	Hwan Hee Kim (piano)
3rd March	Ben Holland (violin), John Gough (piano)

Sunday February 1st 7:30pm: St John's Festival Orchestra Concert *(Tickets £12)*

Saturday Organ Recitals 12.45pm – 1.35 pm
Retiring Collection

24th January 2026	Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)
21st February	John Hosking (Blackburn Cathedral)
21st March	Brian Heald (Wesley Chester)

Advance notice: July 2026 marks the centenary of the opening of Wesley, Chester's Binns organ. The opening recital was on 10th July 1926). Philip Rushforth has very kindly agreed to give a one-hour Organ Recital at Wesley at 2pm on Saturday July 11th 2026 to celebrate this anniversary and will conclude it by playing the whole of Widor's 5th Symphony. It will be a free concert with a retiring collection and tea and cake afterwards for the audience.
Details of the Binns organ in the Wesley Centre are at the NPOR D04853.

Liverpool St George's Hall

Usually Tuesdays from 12:45pm – 1:30pm. Tickets (at the door) £10.75
Professor Ian Tracey, Organist to the City of Liverpool.
10th March, 14th April, 12th May, 2nd June, 5th September, 20th October, 17th November, 8th December.
Please note the 10th March recital may start at 12:30pm.
Details of the Willis Organ in St George's Hall may be found on the NPOR N01921

Music at Blackburn Cathedral

Wednesday Concerts

14th January	Graham Eccles
21st January	Mark Brafield
28th January	Kumi Choi
4th February	Andreana Chan
11th February	Sebastian Johansson
25th February	Charles Spanner
4th March	Joshua Simoes

***The concerts begin at 12:15pm and are free to attend*.** Suggested donation £5. Unless stated, all Wednesday concerts feature the iconic Wood/Walker organ.

Saturday 14th March 7:30pm: David Briggs Live Improvisation Concert - The Phantom of the Opera (Tickets available soon)
World-renowned organist David Briggs improvises a live accompaniment to the 1925 silent film The Phantom of the Opera.

Bank Holiday Monday 6th April 11:00am: Dr Colin Walsh, Organist Emeritus at Lincoln Cathedral (Tickets £10).

Details of the JW Walker / David Wood organ may be found on the NPOR**: E00533**

Bangor Cathedral

Check the website https://bangorcathedral.churchinwales.org.uk

Details of the Bangor Cathedral organ may be found on the NPOR: R01575

St Asaph Cathedral

Check the website https://stasaphcathedral.wales/en
Details of the cathedral organ may be found at
https://stasaphcathedral.wales/en/music/the-organ

organrecitals.uk lists recitals across the country. You can search for recitals in particular area and register your own recitals, and it's free.