Chester & North East Wales
Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Newsletter – July 2026

Dear Member,



Our AGM, held on 13th June at All Saints, Gresford was attended by just six members. The committee remains mostly unchanged, but Iain Stinson decided not to stand for re-election.

Iain has done a fantastic job as Publications Officer since 2021, updating the website and producing newsletters – both to a very high standard. We are very grateful to Iain for the hours of work he has put into this role.

In the absence of a Publications Officer, I will do my best as General Secretary to keep you informed about the Association and its events but I do not have the computing skills to produce anything close to what you have come to expect.

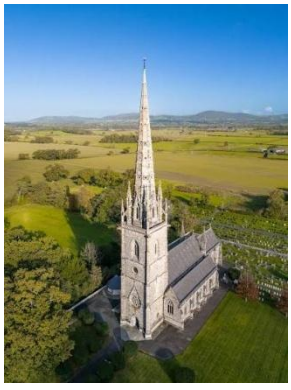
I am sending this letter to everyone for whom I have an email address; if you expressed a preference for a paper copy that will arrive shortly by post. The letter is being sent as a Word document and a PDF in the hope that one, at least, will open for you. It would help me greatly if you could acknowledge receipt by emailing the word "Yes" to secretary@cnewoca.org.uk so that I know that the letter has reached you.

<u>Future Meetings</u>



Our next meeting is on Saturday, 25th July at 2.00pm. We will be visiting Christ Church, Gloucester Street, Chester CH1 3JD to hear and play the Brindley & Foster two manual organ. Its specification may be found at NPOR N04295

There is no meeting in August.



On 5th September we meet at St Margaret, Bodelwyddan LL18 5UR at 1.30pm to hear and play the historic Laycock organ moved in 2000 from the redundant Cowling Hill Baptist Church near Skipton. We will then move on to St Mary, Rhuddlan LL18 2YA where we will enjoy a cup of tea and play the newly cleaned and overhauled Blackett & Howden (1915). Both churches have a toilet, but we are advised to dress warmly for St Margaret's.



On 10th October we plan to visit St John the Baptist, Alford CH3 6JE and possibly the neighbouring church of St Mary, Bruera. There is some uncertainty about road closures.

November's meeting is still not finalised.

Other News

On 18th July member Nigel James hosted an Organfest at St John the Evangelist, Great Sutton. Eight members of the Association each played a short programme ending with a hymn for the audience to sing. We enjoyed music in a wide variety of styles as well as unlimited refreshments while helping to raise funds for the organ.

A lady has contacted me via the website wondering whether any members might be interested in buying 78rpm recordings, some of which are of church music. If you might be interested let me know at secretary@cnewoca.org or by ringing 01829 270425 and I will try to get more details.

Recitals/Concerts



Chester Cathedral – Thursdays 1.10pm
30 July David Holroyd (St Peter's, Formby)
6 August Daniel Mathieson (Chester Cathedral)
13 August Alexander Lanigan-Palotai (Chester Cathedral)
20 August Philip Rushforth (Chester Cathedral)
27 August – 7.00pm Battle of the Organs featuring Philip Rushforth, Alexander Lanigan-Palotai, Daniel Mathieson and Graham Eccles

St John The Evangelist Parish Church, Ashton Hayes CH3 8AB
Saturday 22nd August 7:30pm
Kelsborrow Choir raising funds for the church
Tickets: £10 including refreshments

Kelsborrow Choir 70th Anniversary Gala Concert

Guest Artist: Jonathan Scott (International Concert Organist)
Venue: St John the Baptist's Church, Chester, CH1 1QX
Date: Saturday 12 September 2026
Time: 7.30pm
Tickets are available:

- via the Choir's Ticket Tailor webpage
- via Jonathan Scott's concert webpage
- by contacting John Evans on 07939 645688 or angiejohnevans@gmail.com for paper tickets

Your 2026-2027 Committee

Chairman	Tony Warren (ndtl3@yahoo.co.uk)
Vice-Chair	John Evans (angiejohnevans@gmail.com)
General Secretary	Katriona Moulton (secretary@cnewoca.org)
Membership Secretary	Angela Evans (angiejohnevans@gmail.com)
Treasurer	Raymond Moulton (treasurer@cnewoca.org)
Committee Member	Nigel James (organo3112@gmail.com)

My thanks to Raymond Moulton for adding the pictures.