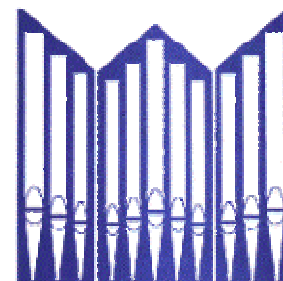


# Chester & North-East Wales Organists' & Choirmasters' Association

Affiliated to the Incorporated Association of Organists

On Line at [www.cnewoca.org.uk](http://www.cnewoca.org.uk)

## Newsletter – JANUARY 2012



### The Chairman Writes

Our Christmas event seems but a distant memory now as another Christmas has flown by and we will be well into the New Year by the time you read this article.

As we begin 2012, please look to actively promote CNEWOCA, the organ and music in our churches, in a manner that will both encourage others to listen and also to play the organs in our churches or sing in the choirs. In the words of Mark Twain: "Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbour. Catch the trade winds in your sails, explore, dream and discover."

We are very fortunate to have an Organists' & Choirmasters' Association in our area and I hope that you will do your best to take up the opportunities that being a member of CNEWOCA offers. As well as the music associated with our organisation, we shouldn't under-estimate the value of the fellowship we are able to share. Can I encourage you all to try and invite someone to come along to one of our monthly meetings, or even just give me the name and address/email address of someone you think might like to receive a copy of our monthly Newsletter – it costs us nothing to send a copy of our Newsletter by email but could be a great way of introducing CNEWOCA to prospective new members.

I recently parted company with my collection of LP's (which hadn't been played for years anyway) which reminded me how much recordings have improved. Not only do we have high quality digital sound recording but the new DVD's also give us superb picture quality. Some of you will know that I am a fan of Carol Williams, not just because of her playing and her willingness to play a wide variety of styles but because of the way she is bringing the organ to a new audience with things such as her "Tour Bus" series of DVD's. I usually leave recommending recording to Jim; however I recently purchased Thomas Trotter's DVD "The Town Hall Tradition". This is truly a remarkable product to promote the organ, as well as the superb sound and picture quality; you cannot fail to be impressed by both the visual as well as audio prowess of

the performer, not to mention the fine quality of the Birmingham Town Hall organ. There is so much more to be impressed with about this DVD that I'll just recommend it as the first thing to buy in 2012, if you've not done so already.

It's now a year since Chester Cathedral started charging for its lunchtime recitals. I know many of us have continued to support Philip and the music at the Cathedral as best we can and that we are grateful for his input and support of our Association. Our events in 2012 begin with a visit to Chester Cathedral to hear both Philip Rushforth and Roger Fisher play for us before some of our members have the opportunity to have a play themselves.

May I wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you at some of the events that have been organised for the months ahead. In the meantime, if you'd like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA, don't hesitate to contact me on 01244-674878 or by email [angiejohnevans@uwclub.net](mailto:angiejohnevans@uwclub.net)

John

### The Vice-Chairman Writes

The Association must offer sincere thanks to our Chairman John Evans and his wife Angela for arranging a splendid end to our meetings in 2011 with their Christmas event at Hamilton Street Methodist Church in Chester. We were each given a printed programme with the words of the carols which had been chosen for us to sing as well as details of the extra items, two organ solos by John and three songs by Angela. After the music we were treated to a splendid buffet which I know was enjoyed by all, as was the music programme. I was a bit concerned as the weather that evening was wet and miserable but a quick count indicated that everyone who had booked for the event was there. We are lucky having John as our current Chairman as when he organises an event we know it will be a very satisfying evening and this was no exception. I would add my own good wishes to everyone for 2012 as we now look forward to our programme for the coming year. Jim

### New Year Resolutions for 2012

**Attend Events More Often  
CONTRIBUTE  
REGULARLY  
to the Newsletter !!**

Contributions for the February edition are required by 1 February but much earlier would be helpful. Preparation of Newsletters starts three months ahead of publication, therefore, it's never too early to send the PO articles and the details of events you organise. The latter are required by 1<sup>st</sup> of the month preceding the month of the event. Flyers can be included in the mailings but 106 are required by 1<sup>st</sup> month

### This Month

**Monday 30 January at 7.30pm  
Chester Cathedral**

Hear the Chester Cathedral organ played by Philip Rushforth and Roger Fisher followed by members who have never played this organ at previous events. There are still a few vacancies – contact Bob Owens on 01928 724088 asap before he goes away!

Enter via the Visitors' Entrance, adjacent to the West Door in St. Werburgh Street. Car parking available in Abbey Square or, for Blue Badge holders, in St. Werburgh Street. Retiring collection. Gift Aid Envelopes available.

Thanks to Bob Owens and Philip Rushforth for arranging this event.

### Next Month

**Monday 27 February at 7.30pm**

After twelve years, we revisit Holy Trinity Church, Blacon, with its 3 manual Whiteley organ refurbished in 1989 by George Sixsmith & Son and now in the care of Keith Edwards. Dennis Jones is helping out temporarily but a resident Organist & Choirmaster is required asap.

### Getting the Message Home

How's this for an American Church noticeboard – "Honk if you love Jesus – text or 'phone while driving if you want to meet him".

## What's On ?

### Chester Cathedral

Thursdays at 1.10pm.

**26 Jan** John Hosking – St Asaph Cath.  
**2 Feb** Philip Rushforth  
**9 Feb** Peter Litman – St. Peter, Ruthin  
**16 Feb** Roger Fisher  
**23 Feb** Benjamin Chewter

### The Old Chapel, Trelogan

Saturday January 21st at 3.p.m

**Roger Fisher**

Plays organ music by J.S. Bach, with some romantic items in the second half  
**A donation of £8.00 is suggested**  
Limited accomodation  
Tel 01745 561072 to reserve a place

### Ellesmere College

Thursday 23 February at 7.00pm

Schulze Organ Appeal Concert featuring

**Philip Rushforth**

Admission Free

### Wesley Church Centre

St. John Street, Chester

Sunday 5 February at 7.30pm

**St. John's Festival Orchestra**

Overture "Fingal's Cave" Mendelssohn  
Symphony No 82 "The Bear", Haydn

Joined by **Brian Heald** for

Piano Concerto in A Minor, Schumann

Admission **£9.00** (under 18s £7.00)

### Hamilton St. Meth. Church

Hoole, Chester

Friday 27 January at 7.30pm

**Victor Michael**

and his Orchestra

Admission **£10.00** (incl. refreshments)

### For Your Diary

**St. Werburgh's Church, Chester**

Monday 7 May at 7.30pm

**Anthony Hammond**

Director of Music, Cirencester Parish Church  
onetime Organ Scholar, Chester Cathedral

Admission **£5.00**

### TUESDAYS-at-ONE

Lunchtime recitals commence on 15 May  
and run weekly through to 18 September  
(See enclosed leaflet)

Followed on 25 September at 7.30pm by  
An Evening Recital featuring

**John Hosking**

Assistant Organist, St. Asaph Cathedral

Admission **£5.00**

### Organ Recitals Nationwide

details on [www.organrecitals.com](http://www.organrecitals.com)

### St. Saviour's Church, Oxton

Sunday 12 February at 7.30pm

Concert by Yorkshire Chamber Choir

**Ecclesia**

Admission Free, Refreshments

**Retiring Collection**

Further details form Glyn Môn Hughes on  
07979 815419

Glyn writes, *Ecclesia* is a new and exciting semi-professional chamber choir who specialise in performing sacred music. Predominantly comprising friends who met through membership of Leeds Parish Church Choir and St. Peter's Singers, the choir is beginning to establish itself on Yorkshire's cultural map. Some recent performances have included the Vespers (Op. 37) by Rachmaninov, a concert of Madrigals & Part-songs, and Duruflé's Requiem was the highlight of a French-themed Autumn Concert.

### Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Alan McGuinness and Jean, who were married in St. Asaph Cathedral on Saturday 17 December. Five organists played at the Service !!

### Law Looses Out to Lord

Tree Surgeon Pastor Paul Knights built the Mount Olive Ministries Church in 2000 without planning permission, although he had temporary planning permission for a mobile home on the site. Four years after this temporary permission lapsed, the local Council had failed to issue an Enforcement Notice, therefore, Pastor Knight won automatic planning permission, despite an objection from the Council. "Praise the Lord" says the Pastor.

### Lyme Regis Organ School

The Lyme Regis Organ School is holding its second Winter Workshop from 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2012. (The PO has a flyer)

This residential event is aimed at organists of any age and level of attainment. Its theme will be *the Glories of French Organ Music* and the lead tutor will be Philip Scriven. There will be group workshops, individual teaching, demonstration and a full length organ recital. The cost, not including accommodation, will be £160, or £120 for those under eighteen. There is a wide range of accommodation available in the delightful coastal town of Lyme Regis. For further information and a leaflet, please contact:

**Desmond Chaffey**: tel 01305 250528,  
email [desmond.chaffey@btinternet.com](mailto:desmond.chaffey@btinternet.com)

### True or False ?

A report in the Daily Telegraph of 26 September stated that an America survey claimed that ninety per cent of Surgeons listen to music whilst operating. The majority questioned said that they did so to

create a "harmonious and calm atmosphere" but a third of them said it kept them from getting bored. How about a few suggestions of suitable music!

### The Patter of Little Feet

Those who attend the Thursday recitals in Chester Cathedral know fairly regular attender Gethin Davies-Jones and Anna. Having been an organist in Denmark for a number of years, Gethin returned to this country last year with Anna, but being unable to settle here, soon found a post in Norway. where they now reside. On 4 December Anna gave birth to their son, Andreas. Congratulations to them both. Andreas will be a Norwegian with Danish and Welsh parents - that will take him some explaining when he's older!!

### The Wrong Colour, Perhaps

St. Mary's Church, Prestwich, has been ordered by the local Council to remove a blue noticeboard because its contemporary design is not in keeping with the 16<sup>th</sup> Century church building. Or was the order politically motivated because of the colour?

### Gritters and Crews Blessed

Did information from on high motivate two Priests in Lincolnshire to go to the Gritting Depot and Bless the vehicles and the crews who will drive them? Perhaps an eleventh commandment could have been introduced, "Thou shalt spread the grit far and wide across the carriageways but not on passing vehicles"

### Membership List

Members have received a new Membership List updated as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2012. This is for the use of members only, to enable contact to be made with each other but must not be used for any other purpose or divulged to non-members.

### Mad Political Correctness ?

When using a traffic-light controlled pedestrian crossing we are advised to "Cross only with Green Man". Now Lincolnshire C.C. have replaced the notice with "Cross only with Green Person"