The Chairman Writes

September seems to be the time when many activities start up again. If you managed to get away during the summer, I hope you had a good time and have renewed enthusiasm for the months ahead. Angie and I have just returned from a lovely cruise visiting Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden. There were many magnificent Churches in Russia but no organs! In this country we worry about lead being taken of church roofs, however, gold seems quite safe on the roofs and steeples in Russia; is it respect or a fear of the consequences?

Our Association held two events during September, the first one was mentioned in the September Newsletter and then at the end of September, we visited St Peter’s Waverton. We were welcomed at Waverton by the organist Richard Morgan-Jones, who gave a brief outline of the history of the impressive Willis organ which was installed here by Sixsmiths in 1987, when they made some changes to the instrument without altering its Willis pedigree. Since the console is on wheels, Richard had placed it in the centre of the sanctuary, which he said gave the organist a better idea of the sound than in its normal position underneath the south case. Unusually the choir stalls were also on wheels and these had been positioned in the Lady Chapel to the north which gave plenty of room for the console. Richard demonstrated the instrument by playing a Buxtehude Chorale Prelude, George Thalben Ball’s Elegy and Rutter’s Toccata in 7 which gave us an overall impression of what it was capable of. Thanks must go to Enid Whittle. Enid McCarthy and Jim Treloar assisted Bob Owens with the stewarding. Thanks to all. I hope to see you soon but in the meantime, if you’d like to discuss anything to do with CNEWOCA, don’t hesitate to contact me on 01244-674878, 07939-645688 or by emailing angiejohnevans@uwclub.net

This Month

Saturday 25 October at 2.30pm
St. Mary, Dodleston, CH4 9NT

Chris Pilsbury will tell us about the two manual organ (origin unknown but possibly an ex Barrel Organ), refurbished by Wirral organ Builder John Lifton, and will then demonstrate its tone colours. The ever popular Open Console will follow.

Directions – From Wrexham take the A483 and then the left after the roundabout (signed Kinnerton ?). Follow this road into Dodleston and turn right into Church Croft.

From North Wales and Cheshire, join the A55 leaving onto the A483 in the Wrexham direction. At the next roundabout take the 3rd exit (turning back towards Chester) then the first left and follow the above route.

From the Wirral and Chester area, leave Chester on Grosvenor Road and take the 3rd exit at the Overleigh roundabout (Lache Lane). Follow this road through to Balderton, then turn left after the level crossing. In Dodleston village turn left after the Red Lion into Church Croft.

Next Month

Saturday 29 November at 2.30pm
Holy Spirit, Ewloe, CH5 3BF

In addition to the usual format, the meeting will include also a short presentation by John Evans’ singing teacher Enid Whittle. See “The Chairman Writes” for a few more details and suggestions.

British Summer Time
BST ends at 2.00am on 26 October.

Put all your non self-adjusting time pieces BACK ONE HOUR before retiring to bed on Saturday 25 October unless you want to arrive at church an hour too early!!

Membership Secretary Writes

Membership Badge Inserts are prepared as subscriptions are received. If you have not received your Badge Insert for the 2014/15 Season, perhaps you have overlooked renewing your membership, in which case a red reminder slip is attached to the front of this Newsletter. Should you have posted your Subscription within the last week your Badge Insert will be included with the November Newsletter. If there is no reminder slip, then all is well and I thank you for your prompt payment and continued support.

Christmas Carols and Social
Monday 15 December at 7.30pm
Church Hall at Church of Our Lady of the Rosary, Buckley

This is being organised, in this popular venue, by Tony Warren. At least 15-20 advanced bookings are required to make the event viable. The caterers have quoted £8.50 per head for a very good buffet. To reserve places Email Tony on ndt13@yahoo.co.uk or telephone him on 01244 532341. Payment will be required on or before the night for all places booked.

Red Choir Robes Available

St. Andrew’s Church Choir, Tarvin, has a set of Red Choir Robes available in exchange for a donation to its Choir Fund. Available as a set or individually. For details contact Michael Reynolds on Email michaelreynoldsmusic@gmail.com or on 07786 323946.
What’s On?

Chester Cathedral
Thursdays at 1.10pm.
23 Oct Benjamn Chewter
30 Oct Roger Fisher
6 Nov Benjamn Chewter
13 Nov Philip Rushforth
20 Nov Paul Derrett – Hull
27 Nov Geoffrey Woollatt

Sunday 2 November at 6.30pm
Requiem – Maurice Durufle
Sung by the Cathedral Choir
Directed by Philip Rushforth with organ accompaniment by Benjamin Chewter

Bangor Cathedral
Tuesdays at 1.10pm – Retiring Collection
21 Oct Simon Leach –
(Church of the Holy Name, Manchester)
11 Nov Roger Briscoe
(Former Director of Music, St George’s Church, Stockport)

Wesley Church Centre
St. John Street, Chester
Tuesdays at 12.45pm to 1.30pm
28 Oct Anna Roza Mari (Flute) with Russell Lomas (Piano)
4 Nov Helen Southall (Sax) with Raewyn Bailey (Piano)
11 Nov Chethams S of M Instrumentalists
18 Nov Chester Com Music Fest Winners
25 Nov Adam Davies - Piano

LAO visit St. Saviour’s Oxton
Tuesday 28 October at 7.30pm
Glyn Môn Hughes
Will give a short talk about the organ before demonstrating it. This will be followed for the ever popular “free for all” CNEWOCA Members welcome.

St. Andrew’s Church, Tarvin
Friday 21 November at 7.30pm
John Evans
(Hamilton St. Methodist Church)
Retiring Collection
Refreshments available

Organ Recitals Nationwide
details on www.organrecitals.com

Liturgical Confusion?
LOA Secretary Sciard Lancelin-Green writes - As a friend recently retired, having been the producer of Songs of Praise for many years, I was amused to hear the following while singing at Truro Cathedral for the patronal festival, (which involved much censing of the black Madonna, and Hymns at every service with references to Mary). Songs of Praise had been there for several days, and recorded four services (to make the journey worthwhile no doubt) Three were done in the usual SOP style with interludes for folk/pop singers or other groups, and for the other the Cathedral were allowed to do their own service ‘for real’. After this had been shown the Cathedral office received several letters asking if it was a Roman Catholic Cathedral!

A New Thomas Trotter DVD
Jim Treloar writes: We seem to be going through a period of extremely interesting DVDs being issued featuring organs and organists. Many will know of the many Priory DVDs including the excellent one of Chester Cathedral featuring Philip Rushforth. Then there are marvellous ones made by Fugue Films, including the award winning set on Cavaillé-Coll with more to come from them on Widor and Franck and they tell us that there are yet more planned for the future. The latest one, “A Shropshire Idyll”, which members may find worth obtaining is by Thomas Trotter at St Laurence’s Church, Ludlow, a wonderful organ originally by Snetzler, and described by the resident Shaun Ward, who may be slightly biased, as the finest Parish Church organ in the country. The DVD is on the Regent label, already well known for their excellent organ CDs. The programme features English music from all periods from the 16th century to a contemporary piece by Michael Nyman which was written for the opening of the Klais organ in Birmingham Symphony Hall. The major work featured is the Elgar Sonata, impeccably performed as with everything he plays, but what is particularly noticeable is that it is played without a score, surely a remarkable achievement which many talented players might be unwilling to attempt. I have a DVD of the Sonata played by James Lancelot at Durham and even he does not do that. In fact all of the pieces on the new DVD are played without a score, although if one is very sharp eyed it is apparent that not all of the Nyman work is played in this way. The programme finishes with a sparkling performance of Crown Imperial by William Walton. Extras on the disc include Thomas Trotter talking about the music and Shaun Ward giving us a tour of the organ including its history. The box also includes a CD of the music played. This is the second DVD issued by Regent and featuring Thomas Trotter, the first being recorded at Birmingham Town Hall about three years ago and about which I wrote at the time, well worth getting if you have not already bought it.

Another CD from Truro
Regent REGCD 586 features the fine original Father Willis organ in Truro Cathedral, restored but unaltered, played by the versatile Assistant Organist Luke Bond. The main works are Widor Symphony No6, 1st movement, Mendelssohn Prelude & Fugue in c minor and Guilmant Sonata No.1 in D minor. These are packed around with popular “lollipops” by Whitlock, Walton, Macmillan, Grainger, etc. Timothy Storey, writing in Cathedral Voice, enthuses over the playing of Luke, the excellent sound of the organ and the first-class recording. He concludes his article - “I recommend this with great enthusiasm.”

Membership List
Delete – David W.O Evans
Add – Brian R. Moate, 9, Pond View Close, Heswall, CH60 1YH, Email brian.moate@btinternet.com Telephone 0151 346 8462, organist Hoylake Presbyterian, West Kirby Methodist and Heswall Methodist
Clare Newbould, 87, St. Peter’s Park, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6YO. Email clare.newbould@btinternet.com Telephone 01352 840046, organist & choir director Holy Ascension, Upton-by-Chester

John Hosking Suite
The Adagio from his “Hommage à Paris” Suite is available now as a separate copy. It can be ordered from the following link http://chichestermusicpress.co.uk/adagio/

Newsletter Contributions
The P.O requires contributions for the November Newsletter, covering events from the last week in November to mid-December, before 31 October but much earlier in the month would be helpful. Flyers (96 required) for inclusion in the November mailing are required also by 31 October...

News
A couple for their wedding employed a French organist. If you want a smile just google “French organist crucifies Jerusalem”. Alex McMillan comments “perhaps we are not as bad as we think”

What’s On?

Neston Parish Church
Friday 24 October at 7.30pm
Resurrection Choir of St Petersburg
Admission £10.00

Parr Hall, Warrington
Wednesday 22 October at 7.30
Benjamn Chewter & Michael Wynne
Admission £5 - concessions £4.50

St George’s Church, Adam Davies
Chester Com Musi Fest Winners

Paul Derrett
Philip Rushforth
Benjamin Chewter
Roger Fisher
Benjamin Chewter

Shropshire Idyll

Robert J. Trotter

Alex McMillan