

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St Nicholas, Harpenden on
Saturday 8th February 2014 at 4.30pm.

Present were Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary), Robin Coxon (Hon. Treasurer) and 15 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Beaumont, Jack Beeson, Michaela Cottee, Robert Evans, Lilian Gibbens, Linden Innes-Hopkins, Rosemary Knight, David Kynnersley, Ruth Lewis, Anne Marsden Thomas, Keith Mitchell, David Patrick, Peter Smith, Colin Wharton and Simon Williams.

Minutes of the last AGM were circulated, having been previously available via the website. They were approved and signed by Terence Atkins, being proposed by Michael Hennin and seconded by Morwenna Brett.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

President's Report

A warm welcome to you all for our AGM and my thanks to Canon Dennis Stamps for allowing us to use St Nicholas, Harpenden. Our custom is to invite a guest recitalist and we are delighted to have Peter Hopkins, the Director of Music at this church. We are particularly grateful to Eric Pask, one Peter's predecessors, for arranging this and also for helping in many other ways to enable us to be here. The EDOA owes its very existence to Eric and, as I'm sure none of us need reminding, we have just completed our golden jubilee. [1963! The Profumo Affair, the Great Train Robbery, the Kennedy Assassination..., but for us what matters is the start of the EDOA!]

Last year's AGM took place at St George's, Hanover Square, with my predecessor Simon Williams as guest organist. Earlier in the afternoon we were privileged to observe a masterclass by James Parsons, courtesy of the Organ Club. It proved an excellent start not only to our own day of celebration, but to the EDOA's whole anniversary year. Many of us were back in town on the following Saturday for the London Organ Day, which saw capacity numbers at the Royal Festival Hall. We will all have our special memories of that wonderful day, one of the most enduring being the live demonstration of pipe voicing by Harrison & Harrison's head voicer.

Other events which EDOA members were encouraged to support included the RCO London Organ Forum in November at the Temple Church, entitled "Parry and Stanford – Different Worlds, Different Aspirations". Also most worthwhile, with recitals and presentations, is the Organists Online at Bloomsbury Baptist Church every January. More locally (at least for many of us, and how lucky we are!) we could enjoy the host of music-making at the St Albans International Organ Festival, and how satisfying that the over all winner was a 'local', Simon Thomas Jacobs from Waltham Abbey.

I make no apology for having already made specific reference in the last Newsletter to the events in 2013 hosted by the EDOA, since they reflected so well so much of what we strive for as an Association. In April we enjoyed an “at home” with our good friend David Arahamian Liddle. It is always a privilege to visit Methuen Park and hear the two organs, and this time David was joined by the young organist Richard Moore. One highlight was hearing some of David’s *Mnemonic Suite* (based on the eight Gregorian tones) ahead of its first performances later in the year. A warm Saturday in July saw us gather at St James’s, Enfield Highway, where Eric Pask delighted us with an informative talk on the early history of the EDOA. Eight members then gave a composite recital, encouragingly supported by some of the church congregation, and the delightful occasion was rounded off with a convivial meal. Lastly, in October, a dozen of us enjoyed listening to each other play the two pipe organs in Haberdashers’ Aske’s Boys’ school. This was hosted by Roger Carter, who also offered a guided playing session to the great benefit not only of the four grateful performers but (unsurprisingly) of all of us there.

We were saddened by the deaths of two long-standing members and the EDOA was well represented at their respective funerals. Alan Beaumont assisted his wife Joyce at Trinity-at-Bowes for 40 years. Joyce is one of our longest-serving members and it was good that she was able to play in the members’ recital in July. The passing of Chris Garratt marked another loss of a faithful member and devoted servant of the organ.

This report would not be complete without paying grateful tribute to the EDOA’s hard-working committee. We shall hear more shortly when we hold the elections, but I would like to thank for her contribution Lilian Gibbens, who completes her second term and perforce retires. Three people deserve particular mention for all they do for the EDOA, namely Michael Hennin as Secretary (and I would be lost without him!), Robin Coxon as our seemingly everlasting Treasurer, and Rosemary Knight who continues to both edit our splendid Newsletter and maintain our much valued website.

The EDOA is in good heart as we look forward to our next fifty years!

Secretary’s Report

I’m sure you’ll agree, as Terence reported, we had a good range of events last year, four of those being hosted by EDOA. But we do welcome your suggestions for events, whether it be visits to new or interesting instruments, more workshops, illustrated talks; please let me know. We are always on the lookout for new venues, or if you think it’s time to re-visit somewhere, again, let me know.

As an Association we don’t work in isolation. Back in March of last year Terence and I met in London with Alan Thurlow, then President of the IAO, (the Incorporated Association of Organists,) together with representatives of four other Associations. This was the last of Alan’s round trip of the British Isles visiting over 80 Associations learning about the successes each has had, and passing these ideas around. This exchange of ideas has been of great value to us all. In the past we’ve had joint ventures with our own neighbouring associations, that is, the City of London and Eastern Society of Organists and the Essex Organists Association. The intention is to explore the possibility of more occasional joint events.

Finally, Email: nearly three-quarters of you now subscribe to the members' email list, which is good. Not only is it a great way for you to advertise your own events, but also it gives me the opportunity to update you about EDOA events between newsletters – tonight is a case in point. So two things, assuming you have internet connection: if you don't subscribe, please do so, and if you change your email address, please let me know.

Treasurer's Report

After an introduction from Robin Coxon the statement of the Association's accounts was adopted being proposed by Robin Coxon and seconded by Morwenna Brett. After twenty-one years at £10 the Treasurer suggested subscriptions be increased to £14; Ted Sharp proposed an increase to £15, seconded by Michael Coffey. All were in favour. Student subscriptions would remain at £5.

Election of Officers

Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Secretary) and Robin Coxon (Treasurer) stood for re-election being proposed by Roger Carter and seconded by Peter Stokes. All were in favour.

Election of Committee

Lilian Gibbens retired after her second term and was thanked for her work. Robert Evans retired after his first term and was elected to serve a second term being proposed by Susan Dingle and seconded by Peter Stokes. Morwenna Brett, Rosemary Knight and Peter Smith continue their first term. Peter Stokes continues his second term. Ted Sharp was elected to serve on the committee; he was proposed by Anne Coffey and seconded by Roger Carter. All were in favour.

Election of Independent Examiner

Dorothy Ayre was re-elected Honorary Auditor and thanked for her work, being proposed by Robin Coxon and seconded by Michael Coffey. All were in favour.

Programme of Events

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2014. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

Roger Carter mentioned the St Albans area music convention scheduled for Saturday 18 October.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.18pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Nicholas, Harpenden.