

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St Mary, Ponsbourne on
Saturday 7th February 2015 at 5.00pm.

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

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Beaumont, Michaela Cottee, Mark Harris, David Kynnersley, Keith Mitchell, David Patrick, 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 Ted Sharp.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

President's Report

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to our AGM here at St Mary's Ponsbourne and we thank the rector, the Revd Canon Pauline Higham, for allowing us to use this church, which forms part of a united benefice with Little Berkhamsted, Bayford & Brickendon, and Essendon & Woodhill, four parishes with five churches. We are especially grateful to our member Paul Minchinton, the Director of Music, for all his hard work to enable us to be here; and our thanks also for the welcoming tea. You may have read Paul's informative article in the last newsletter about the Willis organ in Bayford. Following this AGM, as is our custom, there will be an organ recital and we are looking forward to hearing the Walker organ of 1858 in its sensitive restoration by Mander Organs. The inaugural recital took place only last April, and again you can read about it in our splendid Newsletter (June 2014). We are delighted that today it is Robert Evans who will play to us. Robert is one of our original members from 1963, joining as a teenager.

Last year the AGM took place at St Nicholas' Harpenden and our guest recitalist was Peter Hopkins. For arranging everything we were grateful to Eric Pask, our founder member. The EDOA hosted four further events during the year, of which the first and last formed parts one and two of "The English Choral Tradition", by Peter Smith. They were eight months apart, in March and November, and coincidentally each was on Thursday 13th. The venue was Ware Parish Church and it was encouraging to see that Peter was supported by several of his congregation as well as the EDOA. We are extremely grateful to Peter for his presentations, which were informative, engaging and entertaining – and left us wanting more. We hope too that Peter Stokes's session in May at Barnet Parish Church was also not a "one off". He gave a brilliant demonstration of improvisation in a variety of accessible styles, leaving us all eager to improve our own efforts. To both Peters we offer our thanks and say "Encore!" The sharing by members of any particular and appropriate skills, including with the wider non-membership, has proved worthwhile and rewarding in the past and we hope will continue to be something which we can offer in our planning of events. We are also good at "At Homes", as was amply shown once again when members were welcomed in September to the home of Ted and Ruth Sharp to enjoy organ and piano playing and enticing refreshments. They have our warm thanks.

In addition to these, EDOA members were encouraged to support some London events, all on Saturdays. First was the London Organ Day at St George's Hanover Square, entitled "Brave New World of American Organ Music" and candidly reviewed in March by Morwenna Brett. Later in the year, at the same venue, the London Organ Forum featured Reger, Karg-Elert and Widor in "Organ

Music in Time of War". Lastly, just one week ago, the annual "Organists on Line" event at Bloomsbury Baptist Church lived up to its reputation for excellent presentations and organ performances – and its generous buffet.

Within our membership, our thoughts and prayers are still very much with Joyce Beaumont who has been so ill and has had set-backs in her recovery. We send our best wishes to Joyce's daughter and family. Another of our distinguished members of long standing and a former president is Anne Marsden Thomas, whom we congratulate on being awarded an MBE "For Services to Organ Music".

The committee meets four times a year on a Sunday evening, at present in Barnet, and I would like to pay tribute to their planning and hard work. This year one member has to stand down and so our particular thanks go to Peter Stokes for all he has contributed over the past four years (during which time, incidentally, he was made President of the Organ Club); thus we have one clear vacancy. Morwenna Brett, Rosemary Knight and Peter Smith have each completed two years, but are entitled to stand again, but we shall come to all that later in the proceedings. Meanwhile, I should like to conclude by emphasising my deep gratitude and thanks to Michael Hennin as our tireless Secretary, to Robin Coxon as our inestimable Treasurer and to Rosemary Knight as our indefatigable Editor and Web Co-ordinator.

Secretary's Report

Michael Hennin reported that eight events had been held over the past year, five hosted by EDOA. He encouraged members to put forward ideas for events and suggestions for new venues. Those with internet access were encouraged to join the members' list.

Treasurer's Report

After an introduction from Robin Coxon the statement of the Association's accounts was adopted being proposed by Paul Minchinton and seconded by Roger Carter. All were in favour.

Election of Officers

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

Election of Committee

Peter Stokes retired after his second term and was thanked for his work. Ted Sharp continues his first term. Robert Evans continues his second term. Morwenna Brett, Rosemary Knight and Peter Smith were elected to serve a second term being proposed by Paul Minchinton and seconded by Roger Carter. All were in favour. One committee vacancy exists.

Election of Independent Examiner

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

Programme of Events

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2015. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

Roger Carter mentioned the circulating flyer of future RSCM events.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.43pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Mary Ponsbourne.