

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St Andrew's, Enfield on
Saturday 27th February 2016 at 5.00pm.

Present were Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary), Robin Coxon (Hon. Treasurer) and 13 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Hilary Bailey, Joyce Beaumont, Jack Beeson, Tony Bralant, Roger Carter, Anne Coffey, Michael Coffey, Lilian Gibbens, Anne Marsden Thomas, Keith Mitchell, and Colin Wharton.

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 here at St Andrew's, Enfield. For the use of this church we thank the Revd Steve Griffiths and the churchwardens; and we also thank the ever helpful caretaker Vincent Stokes and, for the welcoming tea, Kitty and Robert Malleon. St Andrew's Enfield! - this is the birthplace of the EDOA, back in 1963 when our founder-member Eric Pask was Organist and Choirmaster here. Eric was the first chairman while the first president was his predecessor Alfred Flower, in whose memory (he died in 1971) the chancel organ was built, sponsored by the EDOA. There is some archive material relating to Alfred Flower on display this afternoon, thanks to Robert Evans. St Andrew's has hosted several previous AGMs, including, quite rightly, in our silver jubilee year, 1988. Since then we have assembled here in 2004 (recitalist Anne Marsden Thomas) and in 2009, when the then Director of Music, Linden Innes-Hopkins was the guest recitalist – and we are delighted that she has agreed to perform today. We thank Linden most warmly, and we are looking forward keenly to hearing her on the now rebuilt organ.

We were saddened by the death of two members, both devoted servants of church music. George William (Bill) Reeve was involved in the Association's early days, having been a pupil of Alfred Flower; and Peter Tongue joined 40 years ago and later served as secretary until 1990. It is also not inappropriate to mention the passing – since we share the loss felt by all the organ world – of Peter Collins, Sir David Willcocks and, most shockingly, John Scott.

Within our EDOA 'family', we have continued to remember Joyce Beaumont, and it is pleasing to report good progress and that she is now playing for parts of services. We have also held in our thoughts Carol Jarman and were delighted to see her at our members' recital. I also mention our distinguished member David Aprahamian Liddle, who has just lately had emergency stomach surgery and is making a steady but slow recovery. We wish them all well from this meeting.

For last year's AGM we met at St Mary's, Ponsbourne, and our thanks go to Paul Minchinton for everything he did towards the success of that occasion and to Robert Evans for his first-rate and entertaining recital. This marked the beginning of an active and rewarding year. Just after Easter, Robin Walker led a most informative workshop on phrasing and articulation in the North German Baroque. This was at St George's, Hanover Square, where the EDOA has always felt welcome, including for more than one AGM. Three members played, but we all learnt so much, as reminded by Morwenna's Newsletter review. In May we had a traditional organ visit to two remarkable, but very different instruments in west London, St Michael's, Bedford Park, and thence after lunch and a short bus ride (freedom passes at the ready!) to St John's, Holland Road. Our thanks go respectively to Jonathan Dods and Paul Joslin for hosting us and to Peter Smith for all he did to make it possible.

During the summer, much attention was focussed on St Luke's, Enfield and Tarquin Wiggins' major renovation of its organ. I thank the organist, John Wright, and the Revd Dowler for being so accommodating, inviting us to visit and play. At the WOOFYT demonstrations (Wooden One-octave Organ For Young Technologists), it was encouraging to see so much interest and support from local people of all ages. The culmination was our Members' Recital in September, with six participants and an appreciative audience. Our next event, in October, was a talk on French Classical organ music by Peter Stokes at St Saviour's, St Albans – and what better instrument than the Peter Collins I.O.F. organ! Once again, we had a member with a particular skill and insight sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm, something we are rightly proud of. Peter is warmly thanked; and characteristically he has offered a second session.

Another sort of event that we value highly is the occasional 'At Home' and last month a baker's dozen of us were welcomed by Ruth Lewis in Barnet. Ruth's idea was for any of us to share a favourite or unusual piece of music, live on the piano or (as was mostly the case) as a recording, and it proved extremely successful. Ruth had promised a "hot supper", but we were treated to a veritable feast, adding to the pleasures of a lovely evening. Thank you, Ruth, for hosting us with such generosity.

As always, members were encouraged to attend other events too – and how fortunate that London and St Albans are both (for most of us) close at hand. The London Organ Day in March was at the Central Hall, Westminster, and last month the now equally well-established Organists Online at Bloomsbury Baptist. And no one here needs reminding that it was a St Albans Festival year, with all the delights on offer there; and Martin Baker's spectacular recital at Haileybury last Saturday was just one of many I.O.F. events deserving our attention throughout the year.

Every quarter our Newsletter appears with listings of a host of events, concerts and recitals – and of course so much of interest besides – and for all this I pay tribute to the tireless and accommodating Editor, Rosemary Knight, who also maintains our website. Thank you Rosemary for all you do! As she wrote in December: "The Newsletter is only as good as what you put into it" - but I think there have been some excellent articles during the past year and I thank all who have contributed. Which brings me to your indefatigable committee, whom I thank heartily on your behalf, and not least Robert Evans who has to retire. 'Retire' is not a word one associates with Robert and we know that, amongst much else, he will continue to keep an eye on the return of the Boulogne ferry so that our hopes of a day trip there might at last be fulfilled! Morwenna Brett, Rosemary Knight and Peter Smith continue their second term and Ted Sharp completes his first and is willing to serve a second.

Finally, my grateful thanks as ever to our Treasurer, Robin Coxon, and our Secretary, Michael Hennin. They do so much, sometimes behind the scenes for the good of the EDOA, and they too deserve our deep gratitude.

Secretary's Report

Michael Hennin reported that eleven events had been held over the past year, seven 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 Ruth Lewis and seconded by Peter Stokes. It was unanimously agreed that the annual subscription should remain at £15, being proposed by Robin Coxon and seconded by Susan Dingle. All were in favour.

Election of Officers

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

Election of Committee

Robert Evans retired after his second term and was thanked for his work. Morwenna Brett, Rosemary Knight and Peter Smith continue their second term. Ted Sharp was elected to serve a second term being proposed by Paul Minchinton and seconded by Ruth Lewis. Susan Dingle was elected to serve on the committee; she was proposed by Morwenna Brett and seconded by Rosemary Knight. 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 2016. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

Morwenna Brett was invited to speak about her role with the Royal College of Organists. The Association congratulates her on being made Editor of StopPress, the RCO blog, and Content Editor for the iRCO virtual campus.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.45pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Andrew's, Enfield.