

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St Mary's, Ware on
Saturday 18th February 2017 at 5.00pm.

Present were Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary), Robin Coxon (Hon. Treasurer) and 16 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Beaumont, Eric Pask, David Patrick, Martin Penny, Peter Stokes and Barbara Tucker.

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 the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ware for our AGM, and on your behalf I thank the Rev'd Ysmena Pentelow and the church wardens. Our thanks also, of course, to Peter Smith for making it possible for us to be here. This is, I believe, our first time for an AGM here, but the EDOA has visited previously, notably in 2014 when Peter gave two superb presentations on the English Choral Tradition. Additionally, several of us enjoyed Peter Holder's recent inaugural recital on the rebuilt organ. We are all looking forward to Peter Smith himself giving today's recital: thank you Peter for that in addition to all else for today, not least the welcoming tea and cake!

We are sorry that Eric Pask, our founder member, is unable to be here and we send our greetings. Joyce Beaumont sends her apologies and best wishes. It is good to note her marked improvement in health, as it is also with David Aprahamian Liddle (whose article on the harmonium and his own obsession with Franck's 63 pieces was such a compelling read in the last Newsletter). At the younger end of our membership, it is good to report that during the year Ashley Wagner won the Essex Organists' Competition and was a finalist in the prestigious Northern Ireland International Organ Competition for under 21s.

The AGM last year was at St Andrew's, Enfield and it was very good to have as our recitalist once again Linden Innes-Hopkins. We congratulate her on her appointment to St Mary's, Welwyn. Much hard work goes towards the successful organisation of our AGMs, with the recital and meal, and for last year's I particularly thank Michael Hennin and Philip Shrimpton.

We made further visits to St Andrew's, Enfield on a Saturday in mid-July and again in mid-September. The first gave members a welcome opportunity to get to know the re-built organ. It had been hoped that it might also provide some outreach to the local community, but this proved disappointing. Far more successful, in September, was our members' recital with its appreciative audience. Six of us performed, but I might add that only one was not a committee member!

Much valued over the years have been the organ workshops by Roger Carter and in May we were again privileged to have one, this time at St Mary's, Welwyn. There were seven takers (a healthy number) and all benefited immensely from Roger's advice and guidance on registration and organ management, manual and pedal technique and much else, through a range of hymns, service music, anthems and repertoire (not least Bach's Prelude in D). One of the beneficiaries was Ted Sharp, who kindly arranged the last EDOA event of the year, a visit to the interesting organs of St Mary's, Eaton Bray and St Mary's, Woburn. Those attending were joined by members from our neighbouring association in Bedfordshire. Our thanks to Ted for a satisfying and rewarding outing.

As always, year by year, we were encouraged to attend two well-established and well-supported London events. The London Organ Day in March was at Southwark Cathedral and featured 'German Masters', most notably Max Reger in the centenary year of his untimely demise. The full account in the June Newsletter was by Richard Brasier, my colleague from the Essex Organists' Association. There will be further links with Richard and the EOA in the coming year. Finally, just a few Saturdays ago, was the Organists Online Organ Day at Bloomsbury Baptist Church. Of the many features to enjoy, I mention but two. Simon Williams explained the RCO's new Certificate of Accredited Membership, with illustrations from early-stage students, and Dame Gillian Weir gave a characteristically lively master-class, with Ashley as one of the participants.

I pay warm tribute to the committee members for their tireless work for the EDOA. Meetings are four times a year on Sunday evenings, but much else goes on between whiles. This year we lose Morwenna Brett (who's already moved to Kent), Rosemary Knight and Peter Smith, all on completing their second term, and we are also sorry to say goodbye to Ted Sharp, who is moving away. We wish Ted and Ruth well for their move to Dorset. We actually have five vacancies to fill, so I give the usual heart-felt plea to any of you to consider offering your services if you possibly can. Susan Dingle continues to serve and Rosemary will be co-opted, continuing as she does to edit the Newsletter and look after our website. There have been several excellent articles in the newsletter during this past year, for which we are all (and not least, Rosemary herself) very grateful. Rosemary cannot be thanked enough, along with two others, both unfailingly efficient and helpful. I refer of course to Michael Hennin as our indefatigable secretary and to Robin Coxon as our amazing treasurer. Lastly, I invite you to join me in wishing Robin a Happy 75th Birthday for next week and congratulating him and Mary on their Golden Wedding this coming summer.

Secretary's Report

Michael Hennin reported that seven 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 Susan Dingle and seconded by Paul Minchinton. All were in favour.

Election of Officers

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

Election of Committee

Morwenna Brett, Rosemary Knight and Peter Smith retired after their second term and were thanked for their work. Ted Sharp resigned from the committee as he is moving away. Susan Dingle continues her first term. Roger Carter was elected to serve on the committee; he was proposed by Jack Beeson and seconded by Susan Dingle. Robert Evans was elected to serve on the committee; he was proposed by Susan Dingle and seconded by Paul Minchinton. All were in favour. Three committee vacancies exist.

Election of Independent Examiner

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

Programme of Events

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2017. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.35pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Mary's, Ware.