

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St Francis, Welwyn Garden City
Saturday 17th February 2018 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, Robert Evans, Lilian Gibbens, Jonathan Marten, Keith Mitchell, John Norman, David Patrick, Ted Sharp and Peter Stokes.

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 Ruth Lewis.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

President's Report

Welcome to you all for our AGM at St Francis, Welwyn Garden City. On your behalf I thank the Revd. Jenny Fennell and the church wardens for the use of this lovely church, with its fine musical tradition sustained by Richard Harrison and Robin Coxon. My warm thanks also go to Robin for all he has done in preparation for today's event. I am told that the treble line here numbers a remarkable 29, with one of the newest probationers being the elder son of the vicar, Revd. Jenny, whose own father, incidentally, recently retired as Linden Innes-Hopkins' predecessor at neighbouring St Mary's, Welwyn. The EDOA was last here for its AGM in 2006 with the customary recital being given by Cathy Lamb, but this year we are delighted to welcome back Andrew Parnell. Andrew served as president of the association for twelve years and was guest recitalist on a number of occasions, though the last time was back in 2007, in Barnet. We are very much looking forward to hearing Andrew play and thank him for being with us.

The start of today has been tinged with sadness, with the funeral of Ruth Sharp which some of us attended. I know that all of us here will wish our condolences to be conveyed from this meeting to Ted and their three sons. We recall with affection the generous hospitality of Ruth and Ted to their home in Tewin for several EDOA 'at homes' and for all else they gave to the association, including in Ted's case serving on the committee more than once.

For last year's AGM we were welcomed to St Mary the Virgin, Ware, and I heartily thank Peter Smith for not only ensuring that everything proceeded smoothly throughout, but also for his splendid recital. No one worked harder than he did that day. We hear that Peter is doing wonderful things with the choir at Ware, but of course it was the organ that drew us

back on two further occasions later in the year, again with Peter hosting. In July a small group went first to try the 'unspoilt' Hill organ in Christ Church, before moving on (avoiding where possible the Ware Carnival) to hear about and try out the newly rebuilt organ by the Village Workshop that Peter is privileged to play. Our Members' Recital duly took place in mid-September and very enjoyable it was too; but, as Tony Bralant observed, it was disappointing that only 11 attended, including the five performers and three family members.

Numbers were also disappointing on the Saturday morning in May when Simon Williams gave an informative insight into the new RCO Certificate of Accredited Membership. Christ Church, Cockfosters proved an ideal venue with its clear views of the console, and I thank Susan Dingle for all she did to make this event possible.

For the celebration of 500 years of the Reformation, members were offered two events in October. At St Andrew's, Enfield we were treated to a brilliant and lively PowerPoint presentation by Philip Norman, and we were left hoping that he will be able to return for a future talk. Later on, some of us journeyed to St Laurence, Upminster to hear Richard Brasier speak, with live organ music played by Tom Bell. This event was held in conjunction with the EOA and CLESO. This was our second venture with the Essex Organists' Association, the first (in July) being an improvisation workshop with Giampola di Rosa which frustratingly did not live up to expectations.

As usual, the membership was encouraged to support the wealth of other events throughout the year which we organ enthusiasts are privileged to choose from right on our doorstep, such as the London Organ Day at the Dutch Church, the St Albans IOF, the RCO Organ Forum at the RAM (featuring Messiaen) and the ever-popular Organists Online Day at Bloomsbury Baptist last month. In addition, as can be seen from our informative Newsletter, there are regular invitations from our neighbours, such as CLESO and Beds & Herts.

Now some membership matters. I am pleased to convey the greetings of Joyce Beaumont. David Aprahamian Liddle is in our thoughts as he faces a hip operation. Our thoughts are also with David Kinnersley who is unwell; he is the husband of Michaela Cottee. We are sorry to lose a recent former committee member, Dr Colin Wharton, who has moved to Sussex for family reasons. Early last year we congratulated Anne Marsden Thomas (EDOA President before Andrew Parnell) on her award of the RCO Medal. Other membership successes include Ashley Wagner gaining "Highly Commended" in the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition; and both he and Damon Ying have just been chosen to be the organists at the Royal Albert Hall for the Hertfordshire Schools' Gala Concert next month.

In a moment we shall have our elections as a matter of course and I should like to pay tribute to our devoted committee. It meets only four times a year, but much hard work goes on behind the scenes. Roger Carter and Robert Evans are continuing their first term, but Susan Dingle is retiring and not seeking re-election; our thanks to Susan for serving. There are three vacancies to fill and any newcomers are welcome! Rosemary Knight is continuing as a co-opted member and I thank her warmly on behalf of the whole membership for her excellent work in editing the Newsletter and in maintaining our website. Lastly, but by no means least, we also have every reason to be deeply grateful to Michael Hennin as Secretary and Robin Coxon as Treasurer and we heartily thank them for all that they continue to do for the EDOA.

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 Peter Smith and seconded by Roger Carter. It was unanimously agreed that the annual subscription should remain at £15, being proposed by Robin Coxon and seconded by Ruth Lewis. All were in favour.

Election of Officers

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

Election of Committee

Susan Dingle retired after her first term and was thanked for her work. Roger Carter and Robert Evans continue their first term. Rosemary Knight was elected to serve on the committee; she was proposed by Susan Dingle and seconded by Peter Smith. Peter Smith was elected to serve on the committee; he was proposed by Robin Coxon and seconded by Roger Carter. All were in favour. Two 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 Ruth Lewis. All were in favour.

Programme of Events

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2018. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.46pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Francis, Welwyn Garden City.