

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St George, Hanover Square
Saturday 9th February 2019 at 5.00pm.

Present were Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary), Robin Coxon (Hon. Treasurer) and 12 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Beaumont, Anne Coffey, Michael Coffey, Michaela Cottee, Robert Evans, Jonathan Marten, Paul Minchinton, 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 Roger Carter.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

President's Report

A warm welcome to St George's, Hanover Square. We were last here for the AGM in 2013, our golden jubilee year. Simon Williams was the recitalist and earlier that afternoon we enjoyed a masterclass at the invitation of the Organ Club. Simon is still here as Director of Music and we thank him for once again enabling this beautiful and historic church to be available. I also thank on your behalf the rector, the Reverend Roderick Leece, and the church wardens, together with the St George's administrator, Stephen Wikner.

We are all looking forward to hearing Ashley Wagner give this year's recital. I have to confess – though I'm sure this has sometimes been the case before now – that in our planning, recitalist came before venue, but in securing Ashley one suspected this would be his favoured instrument. He has known and loved the St George's organ since lessons with Robin Walker; and a few months ago he put the instrument through its paces in a superb recital. Incidentally, Ashley's page turner today, our newest member Ben Markovic, also has good reason to admire this organ, through occasional lessons from the current assistant, Nick Morris.

Last year's AGM was held at St Francis Church, Welwyn Garden City and for recitalist we were privileged to have another illustrious predecessor of mine, Andrew Parnell. In thanking all those who work so hard for our AGMs, I make special mention of Robin Coxon for all he did to ensure the smooth running of that occasion.

Three further events were hosted by the EDOA during the year, covering a range of the kind of activities that we know work well for us, namely a workshop, an organ visit and a talk.

The workshop in April took place at St James's, Enfield Highway, thanks to Robert Evans, and it proved an excellent venue with its easy-to-manage organ and ideal acoustic and sight-lines. The six takers (including our intrepid secretary bravely offering RCO tests!) covered a wide range of ages and abilities, but each one felt tremendously encouraged and inspired by Roger Carter's reassuring guidance, impeccable demonstrations and incalculable wisdom. Thank you Roger, once again, for your generosity of time and talent.

I'm afraid I was unable to join the visit in June to try the rebuilt organ at St John's, Hyde Park, kindly arranged by Peter Smith, one of whose former choirboys is now Director of Music there. As with all EDOA events, it is reviewed in the Newsletter, and it is clear that it was an informative and satisfying evening; and thank you Peter. After a quiet late summer and early autumn, our final meeting was Philip Norman's timely talk "Christmas Carols – what are they?" We know from experience that Philip will always give good value, with everything thoroughly prepared and well presented, and this occasion at St Andrew's, Enfield was no exception. I thank Philip Shrimpton and Michael Hennin for their hard work towards the success of that evening.

It is worth mentioning another event at St Andrew's, from earlier in the year, in fact on the evening of the day of our morning workshop. This was a most entertaining recital of solos and duets given by Robert Evans, Philip Shrimpton and Peter Smith in celebration of the restored chancel organ. Robert and Peter were two of the recitalists at the original inauguration back in 1972, for the chancel organ was built in memory of Alfred Flower, the first president of the EDOA. Full details of the EDOA's links with the St Andrew's chancel organ and of its opening recital (one notes also Robin Coxon, St John's Hatfield!) can be found in the June 2018 Newsletter. It was particularly good that our founder Eric Pask was able to join us to hear the restored organ; and I'm sure everyone here will wish to join me in sending our very best wishes from this meeting to Eric, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.

We are so fortunate that there is a wealth of other recitals and events for us to enjoy throughout the year. Ruth Lewis has written enthusiastically about the London Organ Day last March, spurring one on to consider the next; and only a fortnight ago the Organists Online Bloomsbury Organ Day was as action-packed as ever, opening with Simon promoting the RCO's Certificate of Accredited Membership, with four eager performers of varying levels raising optimism for the future.

Lastly, but by no means least, I pay tribute to the committee, who work so hard for the benefit of the EDOA. The only regret is that at meetings and events, planned with such care, it is the members of the committee who are all too often in the majority. Any thoughts on how to overcome this will be welcome! Rosemary Knight, Ruth Lewis and Peter Smith continue their first term, while Roger Carter and Robert Evans complete their first term and are willing to serve a second. There is one committee vacancy. We meet but four times a year on Sunday evenings in Barnet Church and it's worth joining for the refreshments alone! I thank all the committee, but am pleased to make special mention of Rosemary for all she does to produce our first-rate, informative Newsletter and to maintain the EDOA website. Thank you Rosemary for doing so much for our benefit. My deep gratitude and heartfelt thanks also go, as always, to Robin Coxon (Hon. Treasurer) and Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary) for all they continue to do, seen and unseen, for the good of the EDOA.

Secretary's Report

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

Election of Officers

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

Election of Committee

Rosemary Knight, Ruth Lewis and Peter Smith continue their first term. Roger Carter was elected to serve a second term; he was proposed by Hilary Bailey and seconded by Susan Dingle. Robert Evans was elected to serve a second term; he was proposed by Peter Smith and seconded by Susan Dingle. 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 Rosemary Knight. 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

Jack Beeson publicised recordings of past events.

Ruth Lewis gave a brief update on The Orgelbüchlein Project.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.40pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St George, Hanover Square.