

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
Waltham Abbey Church
Saturday 15th February 2020 at 3.45pm

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

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Beaumont, Susan Dingle, Paul Minchinton, Ted Sharp 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 Peter Smith.

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 Waltham Abbey, or more precisely, the Abbey Church of Waltham Holy Cross and St Lawrence. On your behalf I thank the Rector, the Revd. Peter Smith and all the staff, not least Jonathan Lilley the Abbey Organist, for enabling us to use this awesomely beautiful historic building. The last AGM here was as long ago as 1992, when our recitalist was Margaret Outen, now Director of Music at the Collegiate Church in Stafford. This year we are taking a break from our usual recital procedure and are very much looking forward to enjoying the film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* to an organ improvisation by Jonathan, and we are all deeply grateful to him for allowing us to be part of this pre-planned public event. For some of us this is the first opportunity to hear the organ since last year's splendid rebuild by Mander's and the EDOA is proud that one of its members (Philip Shrimpton, with us today) was directly involved with that work. We all know that Jonathan's most famous predecessor was Thomas Tallis, organist here at the time of the Dissolution, the monastic foundation here being the last to suffer from Henry VIII's cruel vandalism in 1540. Another distinguished holder of the post was William Cummings, remembered for linking Mendelssohn's tune to 'Hark the herald angels sing' in 1855.

Before we proceed to the AGM, I am sure we would all wish to pay formal tribute to our founder member Eric Pask. His family will be especially in our thoughts at the funeral next Wednesday. This will take place at St Nicholas, Harpenden, Eric's church following his years of distinguished service at St Andrew's, Enfield. The EDOA owes its very existence and indeed its name to Eric. He remained active almost to the end and it was a particular joy that he was able to attend the recital in April 2018 in St Andrew's of the restored chancel organ,

of which Eric was the chief benefactor. Both Joyce Beaumont (sorry not to be with us today) and Robert Evans will write about their memories of Eric in the next newsletter.

For last year's AGM we were privileged to return to St George's, Hanover Square, thanks to Simon Williams, and the highlight was the recital by our member Ashley Wagner, who has just completed his first year as Assistant Director of Music at Birmingham Cathedral. Beginning with Debussy's *Danse* and ending with *Dieu parmi nous* and taking in Bach's (in)famous 'D major' along the way, we were treated to a stunning tour de force on that glorious instrument. Incidentally, the page-turner was our student member Ben Markovic, now at Worcester Cathedral and Organ Scholar-elect of Queens' College, Cambridge.

We always enjoy our annual Members' Recital and in April were warmly welcomed to St Peter's, Edmonton, thanks to Robert Evans, two of whose own pieces were included and much enjoyed. In addition to us four organists playing, it was good to hear Luke Jones, a young violinist of great promise. It was all in all a lovely occasion, well supported by the local congregation.

Another thoroughly enjoyable afternoon was in June at the home of Ted Sharp, who has generously hosted EDOA visits on a number of occasions. It was an absolute joy to play Ted's newly installed Hauptwerk organ and to bask in his infectious enthusiasm! Ted's article in the June Newsletter gives a very clear explanation and includes a characteristically warm invitation to anyone wishing to play the remarkable instrument. Thank you so much Ted!

Philip Norman's talks are becoming a much appreciated part of the Association's calendar and in September his illustrated presentation at St Andrew's, Enfield was entitled "Let the Organ Thunder?? Liturgical Organ Playing from 1600 to 2000". As always, he was utterly engaging, informative and entertaining, and we look forward to his next. Philip featured once again in the recent annual Organists Online Day at Bloomsbury Baptist Church, as did Simon Williams introducing students of the RCO Academy Organ School.

Our final event of the year was a visit to Ponsbourne and Northaw churches, each with a restored nineteenth century organ, with the added bonus of the delightful chamber organ at Northaw. Our gratitude once again to Robert Evans for arranging this most satisfying day, not least the lunch in Northaw's Two Brewers, whose landlord is a former pupil of his! There has actually already been another event since then, namely the 'At Home' courtesy of Ruth Lewis, but that will receive proper review in next year's report.

As has been oft repeated, we are privileged to have so much to choose from right on our doorstep and EDOA members were encouraged to attend, for example, the 33rd London Organ Day at Christ Church, Spitalfields and of course the St Albans International Organ Festival in July, the first to take place since the passing of its much mourned founder, Peter Hurford.

We will shortly be moving on to the elections and I will leave it to Michael to explain the current situation. Some names have arisen in my report, but I pay warm tribute to all of the committee for their hard work and total support: Roger Carter, Robin Coxon, Robert Evans, Michael Hennin, Rosemary Knight, Ruth Lewis and Peter Smith. We meet four times a year, but much goes on unseen (and perhaps 'unthanked') behind the scenes for the benefit of all the membership. Special thanks to Rosemary for not only editing the superb Newsletter and

maintaining our fine website but also this year for creating the EDOA Facebook Group. I also heartily thank Robin for beavering away as Treasurer and Michael as our indefatigable Secretary.

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 David Patrick and seconded by Michael Coffey. The Treasurer proposed that the annual subscription should remain at £15, being seconded by Roger Carter. All were in favour.

The Treasurer announced his intention to retire at the 2022 AGM.

Election of Officers

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

Election of Committee

Roger Carter and Robert Evans continue their second term. Rosemary Knight was elected to serve a second term; she was proposed by Ruth Lewis and seconded by Anne Coffey. Ruth Lewis was elected to serve a second term; she was proposed by Peter Smith and seconded by Roger Carter. Peter Smith was elected to serve a second term; he was proposed by Anne Coffey and seconded by Ruth Lewis. 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 Anne Coffey. All were in favour.

Programme of Events

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2020. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

After an introduction from the officers, Michael Coffey proposed free student membership. Pavlos Triantaris asked if better events advertising could be had.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.45pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at Waltham Abbey Church.