

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held on
Saturday 27th February 2021 at 5.00pm
via Zoom

Present were Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary), Robin Coxon (Hon. Treasurer) and 14 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Joyce Beaumont, Robert Evans, Mervyn Hogg and Peter Smith.

Minutes of the last AGM were available via the website. They were approved and signed by Terence Atkins, being proposed by Michael Hennin and seconded by Michaela Cottee.

Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

President's Report

Welcome to you all for this Annual General Meeting of the Enfield & District Organists' Association, 27th February 2021. As with so many societies, it is our first AGM on Zoom, but let us hope it will be our last! On your behalf I would like to express my warm gratitude to Martin Penny of All Saints', Hertford, for his willingness in agreeing to act as host, thus making this meeting possible.

Sadly, of course, our usual guest organ recital followed by a meal cannot take place this year, but as with so much else during these frustrating past months we are sustained with hopeful thoughts of making up for it next year as well as by looking back at past pleasures and highlights. One such treasured memory is of this time last year at Waltham Abbey when Jonathan Lilley enthralled us with his improvisations to the film *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, a brilliant tour de force. This was a public event, but we were made most welcome (as for our AGM) and The Gatehouse just a step away proved an ideal, intimate venue for the meal. I repeat the thanks of us all to the Abbey staff and to Jonathan especially.

We had already enjoyed a warm welcome to Ruth Lewis's 'At Home' in the January, and as on the previous occasion we were well fed with a sumptuous hot supper. It was a most enlightening evening as we shared our recordings of music as re-written or re-imagined by another composer. Many thanks to Ruth for this and for generously offering to host us again once such social pleasures become possible as life gradually returns to normal.

Something else from the early part of last year is worthy of mention, taking place just four days after the AGM, and that was the funeral of our founder member, Eric Pask. Several EDOA members were in the unsurprisingly packed St Nicholas, Harpenden and appreciated the lovely singing of the choir (associated with Eric after his years at Enfield) and also Roger's organ playing.

Some of us also attended Paul Hale's splendid recital on the newly installed organ at St Mary's, Potters Bar in early March. It proved to be the last weekend of any music-making before the grip and chilly silence of Lockdown.

It was a terrible shock and sadness to hear of the death on 25th March of our Honorary Member Dr Jennifer Bate, following a lengthy illness. Jennifer's long involvement with the EDOA will be remembered with gratitude, as will all she did to encourage young female organists through her eponymous organ academy. When interviewed before her last Royal Festival Hall recital, she seemed just as relaxed and equable as when she had once spoken to our association on Messiaen. I feel that it is not out of place to add that the organ world suffered two further shocks with the untimely deaths of Jane Parker-Smith and more recently Catherine Ennis. They were not members, but very much London based. We thus mourn the demise of three of our most outstanding and inspiring organists, all taken while still in their prime.

Hopes rose and then fell again as the year wore on, but at last we were able to hold a Zoom meeting, hosted as per this afternoon by Martin Penny (to whom thanks again) on 25th November. Our Honorary Member Anne Marsden Thomas and her co-author Frederick Stocken have produced the most welcome *New Oxford Organ Method*, together with an informative introductory video. Watching that was followed by a stimulating discussion. It was good that we were joined by members of the Southwark and South London Society of Organists, and they returned the favour only a few days ago with a members' recital and talk. The committee is keen to foster further collaborations with our nearby sister societies.

The significance of the Newsletter, our Facebook group and the EDOA website cannot be overstated and I pay warm tribute to Rosemary Knight for her devoted efforts with all three. In thanking everyone who has kindly written articles, I would also like to draw attention to the music that now appears as a welcome bonus. Peter Smith has contributed more than anyone and we renew our congratulations on his winning the 'Organ Music for Quiet Moments' composing competition. I am sorry to say that Peter has decided that he must retire early from the committee, joining Roger Carter and Robert Evans who have completed their second term. I thank all three for their devoted service. Ruth Lewis and Rosemary continue, with my gratitude. I spoke of Rosemary's work a moment ago and, in closing, I also make special mention of and heartily thank two others who continue to do so much behind the scenes for our benefit: Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary) and Robin Coxon (Hon. Treasurer). Yesterday was Robin's birthday, meaning that we are but one year away from the 'round number' that he has declared will signify his departure as treasurer – and for a successor to be found!

Secretary's Report

Michael Hennin reported that three events had been held over the past year, two hosted by EDOA. He encouraged members to put forward ideas for events and suggestions for new venues. Those with internet access were encouraged join the members' list and receive the newsletter electronically, as printing and postage are a significant expense. The Secretary suggested that the occasional Zoom event may become an additional part of the EDOA calendar in the hope that it will attract more members, especially during the winter months.

Treasurer's Report

After an introduction from Robin Coxon, the statement of the Association's accounts was adopted, being proposed by Michael Hennin and seconded by Rosemary Knight. The Treasurer proposed that student membership should be free up to the age of 25, being seconded by Ruth Lewis. All were in favour.

A new Treasurer needs to be found before the next AGM.

Election of Officers

Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Secretary) and Robin Coxon (Treasurer) stood for re-election, being proposed by David Patrick and seconded by Eric Shepherd. All were in favour.

Election of Committee

Roger Carter and Robert Evans retired after their second term and were thanked for their work. Peter Smith retired and was thanked for his work. Rosemary Knight and Ruth Lewis continue their second term. Martin Penny was elected to the committee; he was proposed by Michael Hennin and seconded by Rosemary Knight. All were in favour. Three vacancies remain.

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 2021. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

None.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 5.38pm with thanks to Martin Penny for hosting.