

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St Mary Magdalene, Enfield on
Saturday 5th February 2022 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, Morwenna Campbell-Smith 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 Ruth Lewis.

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 Magdalene, Enfield for our AGM. How good it is to be able to meet in person once again after having to be on Zoom last time! On your behalf I thank the Revd. Dr. James Lawson and his churchwardens for allowing us to use this beautiful church, renowned for the wonderful Butterfield interior you see before you. We have rightly come to Enfield from time to time for the AGM, but I believe this is our first here at what is arguably the most visible church in the area. I also thank our member Jonathan Marten, in whose capable hands the music of this church is flourishing. Jonathan and I go back many decades to happy student days at the RCM and together we now provide four of the twelve hands in the annual two-piano concert held across the Lea Valley in Chingford Parish Church.

Following the restoration work on the organ, Jonathan planned a splendid set of lunchtime recitals here last autumn, some given by EDOA members. We are all very much looking forward to listening to Damon Ying put the instrument through its paces. Thank you for agreeing to be our recitalist, Damon, and I'm confident that your performance will more than make up for the deprivation of no recital last year!

As with many organisations, 2021 was the year of Zoom, at least until the summer. For an amusing reflection on this, I would direct you to re-read Michael Hennin's article in the June Newsletter. A distinct advantage has been the opportunity to forge stronger links with our neighbouring, sister societies. Thus in May/June, Malcolm Riley on Percy Whitlock thanks to Kent; a quiz and then a talk by Peter Wright (Southwark & South London); Geoffrey Coffin of Principal Pipe Organs (North Hants); John Francis on Ralph Vaughan Williams (Kent again). The London Organ Day and International Organ Week were also available on Zoom.

Turning now to our own events, I have already referred to the Zoom AGM. Our thanks go to Martin Penny for acting as host. Martin was welcomed to the committee, but it remains depleted, having lost Roger Carter, Robert Evans and Peter Smith (and I renew my thanks to

them from last year). Perhaps we might be able to rectify this, at least in part, before the end of this meeting.

The main EDOA event from the Zoom era was the superb talk by John Norman, following the publication of his informative book *Organ Works – What is an Organ and How does it Work?* Again, I point you to the June Newsletter, for Rosemary's splendid review.

Come the autumn and a return to 'live' events at last! Having hosted us so often on Zoom, Martin Penny welcomed us in person at All Saints' Hertford in October. He is thanked for leading a most engaging workshop on Music for Manuals Only. As Ruth Lewis commented, "we all returned home much better informed". Mention of Ruth brings us to the final event of the year, the 'At Home' she hosted with, as ever, such generosity. 'Fireworks and Fire' (for early November) brought forth a far wider range of variety and entertainment than any of us might have imagined.

Two years ago we were mourning the passing of Eric Pask and now we record with sadness the demise of his EDOA co-founder, David Felstead. He had moved away into Essex some while ago, but reading about David in the summer made me very much regret not having met him in person. Do look again at the obituary by Robert Evans in the September Newsletter. We look back with pride on those who have gone on ahead and strive to keep alive the exemplary ideals they set before us.

The committee continues to work hard on your behalf, meeting once a quarter in Barnet Church, with Martin joining via Zoom. I cannot thank them enough! You have already heard how our two excellent autumn meetings came about through the hard work and careful planning of Ruth and Martin, respectively. I also pay warm tribute to Rosemary Knight who edits our splendid Newsletter and maintains both the EDOA website and the Facebook group. Rosemary's devotion to the EDOA is incalculable, as is Michael Hennin's. As Secretary, Michael's hard work and support on behalf of the Association earns the deepest respect of us all.

Finally, and above all, today we mark the retirement of our indefatigable and utterly devoted Treasurer, Robin Coxon. Robin has served our association as treasurer for a staggering 49 years!! This amazing record is probably unique in the whole of the Incorporated Association of Organists, and will almost certainly never be surpassed in the EDOA. Before Robin is invited to present his final report as treasurer (no doubt with a private sense of indescribable relief!), we wish to record our immense and heartfelt thanks with a presentation that goes beyond my inadequate words.

Secretary's Report

Michael Hennin reported that thirteen events (nine on Zoom) 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 Michael Hennin and seconded by Ruth Lewis. It was unanimously agreed that the annual subscription should remain at £15, being proposed by Robin Coxon and seconded by Susan Dingle. All were in favour.

Election of Officers

Terence Atkins (President) and Michael Hennin (Secretary) stood for re-election being proposed by Ruth Lewis and seconded by John Norman. Matt Tattersall stood for Treasurer; he was proposed by Robin Coxon and seconded by Peter Stokes. All were in favour.

Election of Committee

Rosemary Knight and Ruth Lewis retired after their second term and were thanked for their work. Martin Penny continues his first term. Roger Carter was elected to serve on the committee; he was proposed by Peter Stokes and seconded by Susan Dingle. Peter Stokes was elected to serve on the committee; he was proposed by Michael Hennin and seconded by Roger Carter. Rosemary Knight and Ruth Lewis were co-opted to the committee. All were in favour.

Election of Independent Examiner

Colin Gage was elected Honorary Auditor; he was proposed by Rosemary Knight and seconded by Ruth Lewis. All were in favour.

Programme of Events

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2022. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

John Norman advertised his latest book *Organ Works*.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.42pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Mary Magdalene, Enfield.