

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St Alphage, Burnt Oak on
Saturday 11th February 2023 at 5.00pm.

Present were Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary) and 9 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Michael and Anne Coffey, Anne Marsden Thomas, Paul Minchinton, David Patrick, Andrew Pink, Matt Tattersall 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

A warm welcome to you all! St Alphage is a new venue for our AGM, but numbers of us will have enjoyed organ recitals here. These are arranged by our member Eric Shepherd, and it his wife Rosemary Evans who is our distinguished guest recitalist this afternoon. Thank you very much Rosemary for agreeing to play. This year marks the twentieth anniversary of the opening of the current instrument by the late, great John Scott, following the rebuild by B.C. Shepherd & Sons.

Our grateful thanks also go to the staff here for enabling us to use St Alphage, not least the Rev'd Prebendary Hugh Moore, who (amazingly) has served here since 1970!

Many of you will recall last year's AGM at St Magdalene Church, Enfield with Damon Ying's fine recital, perceptively reviewed by Jonathan Marten. Jonathan very recently retired from St Mary Mag's and it is pleasing to report his successor is one of our student members, Ben Markovic, who only yesterday heard that he has gained his FRCO. Particularly memorable was our marking of Robin Coxon's completion of his remarkable and doubtless unique 49 years as EDOA Treasurer. We continue to remain eternally grateful for all that Robin gave to the Association, of course as treasurer, but also in countless other ways. Matt Tattersall, his successor, is very sorry to be unable to attend today and has sent a message which will be read out before his report is presented. I have sent good wishes on your behalf.

It is timely to mention that long-serving member (like me, originally from the old North London Society) David Patrick is extremely sorry to have to miss, owing to increasing health problems. Our thoughts continue to be with our Honorary Life Member David Aprahamian Liddle, still recovering from major surgery. Reference was made in the last newsletter to some of his organ music being enjoyed at recent Cornhill recitals. I might add that visiting David in the Royal Free was both delightful and (as always in his company) stimulating.

We have been sorry to lose Don Gibbons, whose funeral is on Friday week in St Peter's, St Albans. Don joined the EDOA in the 90s after taking music degrees following early

retirement as a BT engineer. He was much appreciated in the St Albans area as both pianist and organist. *Brief tributes were shared from Rosemary Knight and Peter Stokes.*

It is frequently pointed out how fortunate we are that there is so much in the way of organ events on offer and of such easy access, quite apart from regular organ recitals such as take place here. These include the RCO International Organ Day, the more established London Organ Day, the RCO London Organ Forum and the Bloomsbury Organists Online Day; and of course the St Albans IOF is on 'our patch'. They are all announced, along with much else of interest and value, in our splendid newsletter. Typical of such last March was the Organ Gala in Southwark Cathedral featuring the winners of the ten years of the Northern Ireland International Organ Competition. Ten EDOA members (a goodly number!) responded to the offer of free tickets, including one of younger members, Luke Jones, who wrote a splendid review.

A visit to St Mary's, Potters Bar in May was a welcome opportunity to try the new instrument which some of us had heard Paul Hale open just days before lockdown brought everything to a stop. Dave Miller was our gracious host. Dave's a member of the SWO, but we're still working on him for the EDOA! We'll be returning to the church for our next members' recital. Members' recitals are part of our regular pattern, but we wish there would be more partakers. At St Mary Mag's, last June, we were but five, but it was a most enjoyable occasion with an appreciative audience.

In September, Michael's church of St George's, Enfield hosted us, and several guests, for Martin Renshaw and his film Organ Stops. None of us could fail to be moved by Martin's revelations. If you haven't yet ventured onto the organ seat within the depths of London Bridge Station, I'm sure Rosemary Knight (any others?) will offer some guidance.

Our 'At Homes' are very popular indeed, not least in the last three years because of the generous hospitality of Ruth Lewis. Thank you Ruth for once again making us so welcome in November and also to your husband Michael for ensuring that the 'wherewithal' was to hand for partakers to make their contributions. As always, the suggested topic (this time 'the number ten') produced a far greater range of ideas than we had imagined possible!

As we know, sometimes things do not go as planned and our intended trip to St Joseph, Highgate had to be cancelled. There is now someone new in post and we will try again!

Terence concluded by warmly thanking the committee members individually for their devotion to the work of the EDOA. Best wishes were sent to Peter Stokes, who is unwell. Roger Carter and Ruth Lewis continue to serve, but there remain two vacancies. Finally, a huge debt of gratitude was expressed to Rosemary Knight for her tremendous work producing the Newsletter and looking after our website and to Michael Hennin for all he does on our behalf as secretary, much of it behind-the-scenes and unsung.

Secretary's Report

Michael Hennin reported that twelve 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 the Treasurer, read by the President, the statement of the Association's accounts was adopted being proposed by Susan Dingle and seconded by Roger Carter. The secretary proposed that the annual subscription remain at £15, being seconded by Susan Dingle. All were in favour.

Election of Officers

Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Secretary) and Matt Tattersall (Treasurer) stood for re-election being proposed by Susan Dingle and seconded by Hilary Bailey. All were in favour.

Election of Committee

Roger Carter and Peter Stokes continue their term on the committee. Rosemary Knight and Ruth Lewis were co-opted during the year (Constitution 5.5).

Election of Independent Examiner

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

Programme of Events

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2023. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.55pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Alphage, Burnt Oak.