

## **Enfield & District Organists' Association**

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at  
St Mary's Church, Welwyn on  
Saturday 17th February 2024 at 5.00pm.

**Present** were Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary), Matt Tattersall (Hon. Treasurer) and 8 members.

**Apologies for absence** were received from Anne Coffey, Jonathan Gregory, Jonathan Marten, Peter Stokes, Gary Thornett and Pavlos Triantaris.

**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 Matt Tattersall.

### **Matters arising from the Minutes.**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

### **President's Report**

A very warm welcome to you all for our AGM here at St Mary's, Welwyn. On your behalf I thank the Team Rector, the Rev'd Dr David Munchin and the churchwardens for allowing us to use this lovely church and its fine facilities. Especial thanks go to Roger Carter for all his hard work in the preparation and planning for this occasion, not least in arranging for the meal afterwards in the Wellington opposite. One of Roger's much valued organ clinics was held here some years ago, and long before that a workshop led by Robin Coxon, but this is the first time that the EDOA has come to beautiful Welwyn for its AGM.

Looking back on any past year will often stir memories of loss and 2023 was no exception for our association. Early in the year we were sorry to hear of the deaths of Dr David Ralph of Stevenage and one time organist at Hatfield Hyde near here; of James Kynnersley of Ridgewell, Essex; and of Michael Coffey of St Albans. Both James's widow, Michaela Cottee, and Michael's widow, Anne, I am pleased to say, remain as members of the EDOA and we continue to hold them in our thoughts.

News of Joyce Beaumont's passing in November was a great sadness to us all. Her membership stretched back to our founding year of 1963. Joyce was a much loved and admired organist and teacher, as some in this room can testify. An obituary will appear in the next newsletter.

Another blow was the shocking news of Peter Smith being found dead on Christmas morning. The many singers at his meticulously planned funeral in St Mary's, Ware were testimony to his inspiring life's work as performer, choir-trainer, schoolmaster and composer in Edmonton, Enfield, Cheshunt and finally, and rewardingly, Ware. Peter served the EDOA for over 55 years, and his musical contributions to the newsletter were always appreciated, not least his final pair of offerings in September, which included his lovely chant to Psalm 84, one of the memorable items at his funeral.

For last year's AGM we were privileged to be at St Alphage, Burnt Oak and have Rosemary Evans as our recitalist. Roger Carter's masterly review in the March newsletter is a reminder of a most enjoyable occasion. We are sorry that Eric and Rosemary and John Shepherd are unable to be with us today.

Three successful and thoroughly enjoyable events stand out from last year, two of them involving other associations, thus adding to the pleasures. At Chelmsford Cathedral in May we shared the Eastern Region (of the IAO) Organ Day with colleagues from the Beds & Herts, the Cambridge, the Essex, the Norwich and the City of London. The planning went back a long way (and I thank Michael for his work on our behalf) and the event had originally been planned for Bury St Edmunds until it was noticed that Suffolk was showing no interest! William Whitehead was the star of the show, including a masterclass, but do look at Luke Jones's informative review in the June newsletter.

Another long-planned and highly successful joint event was with the Southwark and South London Society of Organists in September. They ventured up to see and try the organs in All Saints', Friern Barnet and St Andrew's, Southgate, and very pleasant it was to join them and to be made so welcome at each church. The committee is looking to planning further such occasions.

Two annual "musts" in the EDOA year are the Members' Recital and the At Home. We already knew from a previous visit that Dave Miller would welcome us warmly to St Mary's, Potters Bar. It was mid-summer Saturday and we were treated to fine performances by Damon Ying, Pavlos Triantaris, Luke Jones, Jonathan Gregory and Michael Hennin, and I thank them all. Unfortunately, the "At Home" could not take place as planned for November, but I'm delighted to report that it was only a postponement. Ruth is now looking forward to inviting us to her home once again on Thursday week, 29<sup>th</sup> February, the title this time being (unsurprisingly) *Leap into Spring*. In thanking Ruth (and her husband, Michael) for her generosity in again offering to host an At Home, I should also like to thank her for serving on the committee. Michael will have more to say about the committee in a moment, but Ruth has to stand down for a year; but we do hope she'll be willing to return as soon as possible! Thank you Ruth!

As has frequently been pointed out, our geographical placing means that there is so much on offer in addition to our own planned events; indeed, August and December were the only 'quiet' months – though for any of us to think of December as 'quiet' is surely anachronistic!! Members were encouraged to make the most of the London Organ Day in March; the RCO International Organ Day in April; the St Albans International Organ Festival (right on our doorstep: how lucky we are!) in July; the Free Church Choirs' Festival in St Albans in October; the London Organ Forum (in Birmingham - don't ask!) in November; and last, but certainly not least, Organists Online at Bloomsbury, an annual 'must' for the last Saturday in January.

All of the above occasions and so many more, be they a straightforward recital or, say, a trip to view Dutch organs, are listed in the EDOA newsletter. This is a vital part of the association and I thank everyone who has contributed, such as reviews, articles and obituaries, and also the greatly appreciated pieces of music. Peter Smith's compositions and arrangements will be much missed! As we know, Rosemary Knight continues to edit the newsletter and also keeps our website up to the mark. My words of thanks on your behalf can only be inadequate.

I also warmly thank Matt Tattershall who has quickly settled into the role as Treasurer and, as ever, Michael Hennin for all he does as our long-serving Secretary, much of it behind the scenes to ensure the smooth running of the EDOA and keeping your President up to scratch. Peter Stokes and Roger Carter are also thanked for their contributions to the committee. When Roger and I play some duets in a little while, I'll let Roger do the talking as I've said more than enough now!

### **Secretary's Report**

Michael Hennin reported that ten 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 Matt Tattersall the statement of the Association's accounts was adopted being proposed by Michael Hennin and seconded by Rosemary Knight. The Treasurer proposed that subscriptions 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 Ruth Lewis and seconded by Hilary Bailey. All were in favour.

### **Election of Committee**

Ruth Lewis retired after her second term and was thanked for her work. Roger Carter was elected to serve a second term being proposed by Hilary Bailey and seconded by Susan Dingle. Peter Stokes was elected to serve a second term being proposed by Ruth Lewis and seconded by Hilary Bailey.

### **Election of Independent Examiner**

Colin Gage was re-elected Honorary Auditor and thanked for his work, being proposed by Matt Tattersall and seconded by Michael Hennin. All were in favour.

### **Programme of Events**

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2024. 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 6pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Mary's.