

**President's Message  
December 2011**

After all the exhausting activity of Christmas, how welcome are the last few days of December! Hard-pressed, over-worked organists and choir directors (as many of us are) certainly need time to recuperate after the busiest festival of the year; but it is also a time to take stock and look forward to the challenges of the New Year, no doubt helped along by the occasional resolution. New year resolutions for EDOA members might include making a nomination for the committee or even offering yourself to serve, supporting more of our events or even coming up with suggestions of your own – not to mention learning new repertoire, revisiting those Hanon exercises, daily refreshing one's keyboard skills before breakfast - and a host of other worthy intentions.

For those nominations and ideas for events/activities/venues, our AGM will soon be upon us: Saturday, 25th February at 5.00pm. Details are given elsewhere, including how to book for the convivial meal. Our guest recitalist at St Mary's, Tottenham is our good friend David Aprahamian Liddle. What better combination of splendid instrument and brilliant performer!

David was the star organist at the wonderful, action-packed 'Organists On-Line' celebration last January at Bloomsbury Baptist Church. This year's special event is 'Grand Orgue – The 19th Century Explored' on Saturday, 28th January, from 2.00pm. Three distinguished young players will give half hour recitals and there is much else on offer, culminating in Gerard Brooks as guest organist at 6.00pm. Apart from all the organ performances, the Bloomsbury buffets served at every event are sufficient enticement for going along to this church. Incidentally, they are also hosting a 'Small Choirs Festival' with Philip Norman Music Services on the following Saturday afternoon (4th Feb).

Bloomsbury in January and our AGM/recital/meal in February are only the start of what is hoped will be a year of many good things for EDOA members. Of the variety that is already planned, I would especially commend the 'At Home' to be hosted by Dr Colin Wharton in March. He has two pianos and an organ all in one room, so it should be an exciting evening for performers and listeners alike. Again, details in this newsletter.

Finally, looking back to the departed year will recall a number of anniversaries, not least Alain (b.1911), Guilmant (d.1911), Liszt (b.1811) and even *Hymns A & M* (b.1861). It was also the 50th birthday of *Carols for Choirs*, which has done so much to enhance carol services and concerts. The new *Carols for Choirs 5* is therefore a timely addition. Some of its items may seem a little daunting, but there are many gems, not least 'What child is this?' by the young Thomas Hewitt Jones, which is proving an absolute winner. All fifty carols were reviewed most helpfully in the recent *Organists' Review*, page 60. If you still don't subscribe to *OR*, there's another resolution for you in 2012!

*Terence Atkins*