

**President's Message
June 2012**

Once again the Association has every reason to be deeply grateful to Roger Carter for another highly successful and worthwhile Organists' Workshop. There is an account of it in this newsletter by Ted Sharp, one of the six players, all of whom benefited from Roger's wisdom. As an observer, I can vouch that I picked up many tips for the vivification of my own teaching. What an inspiring morning it was!

Another kind of event which we seem to do well in the EDOA is the At Home. We thank Colin Wharton for letting us loose on the pianos and organ in his music room, and now Ted Sharp has kindly invited us to play on his house organ on Monday 25th June. Ted's imminent departure from us was made known at the AGM (minutes now available on line) and we wish him and his wife well for their move to Dorset. The Reverend James Spanner is also moving away, another loss that will be felt keenly. James wrote frankly and movingly last year for the newsletter (June 2011, see page 1) and we offer our best wishes as he settles in West Sussex.

Other EDOA events are detailed elsewhere. At both St Benet Fink, Tottenham on 7th July and at St Silas and Holy Trinity in Kentish Town on 29th September there will be opportunities a-plenty for organ playing or one can go along simply to observe and listen. Either way, it is very much hoped that these will be well supported, so that the committee can feel confident in the viability of the occasions it plans.

As this is being written, the Olympic Torch has just left Lands End, but it will be some time before it passes through EDOA 'territory'. Love the Games or loathe them, we musicians know that there is something very special in London that fills us with pride every single year, namely, of course, the BBC Proms: 76 concerts in all. The *B minor Mass*, *Judas Maccabaeus*, *The Apostles*, Berlioz's *Requiem* and the Proms premiere of Howells's *Hymnus Paradisi* are only some of the choral delights on offer, and there are two organ recitals on successive days (1st and 2nd September at 4.00 pm) by the American marvel, Cameron Carpenter. So, happy holidays and – come rain or shine – happy listening!

Terence Atkins