

**President's Message
March 2013**

Our 50th anniversary year got off to a splendid start at St George's, Hanover Square with a very well attended A.G.M. and a record number of 20 staying for a convivial meal at Brown's. This was our third time of using St George's and we are grateful to Simon Williams for his welcome and for his excellent recital (see Roger Carter's review). Many of us were also present at the start of the afternoon to enjoy a master class given by James Parsons to five promising young players, all thanks to the Organ Club. For the EDOA it was a privilege to be invited by the Organ Club to share in all this wonderful music before we settled down to our own meeting.

The Minutes are of course available, but I should like to endorse the thanks of us all to those who are going to be missed from the committee and to those who are being gratefully welcomed, with open arms, to serve on it. Roger Carter has completed two terms and Linden Innes-Hopkins has sadly left after only one, but we know that they will continue to be active within the association. It is gratifying that all vacancies have been filled as we welcome Morwenna Brett, Rosemary Knight, Peter Smith and (for a second term) Peter St John Stokes, who join Robert Evans and Lilian Gibbens. My thanks and gratitude to them all, and also of course to the two great stalwarts, Michael Hennin (Secretary) and Robin Coxon (Treasurer). I would also add that for the newsletter you are now reading and the association's web-site which you are encouraged to visit we owe our deep thanks to Rosemary, whom we congratulate on having just gained her CertRCO.

On the following Saturday it was the London Organ Day, when it seemed that "all the (organ) world and his wife" were in attendance at the Royal Festival Hall. It was good to meet up with several EDOA friends, including our founder-member, Eric Pask. As with our golden jubilee, there was nostalgia, but also much looking forward. Full details of this action-packed and rewarding day are given in Morwenna Brett's article. Many of us who were there could recall fond memories of some of the brilliant recitalists who appeared at the RFH console over the years, and only three days later the organ world was sorry to learn of the death of one of the greatest of these. This was Marie-Claire Alain, whose recording legacy was probably unsurpassed and included the complete organ works of Bach three times over (an achievement matched only by Lionel Rogg).

Finally, you won't need reminding that the many and various EDOA events planned for this our anniversary year will be listed, with details as and when, in the newsletter and on our website. The first is planned for Monday evening, 29th April, when we shall pay a (return) visit to David Liddle at 8 Methuen Park, Muswell Hill, the former home of Felix Aprahamian. Come along and enjoy!

Terence Atkins