

**President's Message
June 2013**

The Golden Jubilee celebrations of the EDOA continue with what amounts to our pinnacle event, on Saturday 6th July from 5.00 pm, at St James's Church, Enfield Highway. As detailed elsewhere, a members' recital is included. It is very much hoped that on this occasion in particular, both as performers and as audience, the committee will be far outnumbered by the overall attendance of everyone else, which means...YOU!

My Wednesday evenings are usually preoccupied, but I was grateful recently to be at the Alexander Palace to hear Colin Walsh, who is such a fine player. His measured, intelligent approach was evident throughout the brilliant recital, from the opening Fanfare by Gordon Jacob to the concluding tumultuous Vierne Toccata. When he played at Barnet some years ago, I was deeply impressed and moved by his performance of Bach's 'Holy Ten Commandments' chorale prelude (BWV 678) from the *Clavierübung*, so it was a joy to discover it 'on the menu' once again. Its dignified chorale in canon over a steady bass with decorative two-part writing above is in marked contrast to the *manualiter* that follows, a jolly fughetta with ten (of course!) entries. Both settings are well worth studying, as are all the chorale preludes in this unique collection.

Having enjoyed the privilege of our AGM recital at St George's, Hanover Square, it is good to see a specification and brief history of the splendid organ in the latest *Organists' Review*. It is featured on the last page, and inside the folding back cover is a lovely photograph showing the whole instrument, with Simon at the console. Do book Thursday 31st October for the first anniversary recital: it's John Scott. The same *OR* also has an article by Tom Winpenny on the St Albans Organ Festival, which like us is celebrating its 50th anniversary. One of the IOF competition judges will be the first prizewinner, Susan Landale. Back in 1963 the prize money was £30, but now it is £6,000.

Finally, do look out for what the forthcoming BBC Proms have on offer. Of particular interest is the bank holiday (Monday 26th August) matinee concert of light organ music, by Richard Hills, one of the few players to maintain success in both the theatre organ and the classical organ worlds. With best wishes to you all for an enjoyable and relaxing summer.

Terence Atkins