

**President's Message
September 2013**

We have all been saddened by the death of Alan Beaumont and our thoughts are very much with Joyce. A tribute to Alan appears in this newsletter. Among those of the EDOA present at the special service of thanksgiving for Alan's life was Eric Pask, our founder. Joyce herself is one of the faithful few whose membership goes back all fifty years to 1963.

In sharing our golden jubilee with the I.O.F., it is pleasing to report that this year's prize winner is Simon Thomas Jacobs, who hails from Waltham Abbey. Is this the first time a 'local' has won? We congratulate him heartily and wish him continuing success. I remember when I first heard Simon a few years ago at Marlborough Road being particularly impressed by his Bach playing.

Another youngster whose Bach is compelling and commendable is Damon Ying, who has just completed his A Levels at Owen's School. His recital last month was at St Nicholas, Elstree, where he has been organist for the past five years. Apart from an exquisite performance of Mendelssohn's 4th Sonata, we were treated to mostly Bach, including the shorter C major BWV 545, the Trio Sonata no 4, the lovely 'Holy Ten Commandments' (q.v. in the last Newsletter), and finally to end, an impeccable 'Great' G minor, a welcome change from some applause-generating 'flashy' French toccata.

Encouraging and nurturing the talent of all, irrespective of age, is something we strive for in the EDOA, as exemplified in our next event on Saturday morning, 19th October at Haberdashers' Aske's Boys' School, Elstree. We are extremely grateful to Roger Carter for hosting this, including taking another workshop. It marks the final 'EDOA organised' occasion of our golden jubilee and there will be much to enjoy for both players and observers.

With my best wishes for the remainder of our celebratory year and for all the hard work as Christmas beckons!

Terence Atkins