

Your Committee

Terence Atkins (President) was born and educated in London. In his youth he was in the City of London and Eastern Society of Organists, including serving on the committee, and also played the double bass in the Forest Philharmonic. While at the Royal College of Music, he was Organ Scholar at St George's Chapel, Windsor, under Dr Sidney Campbell; his other teachers have included Dr John Birch and Dr W S Lloyd Webber. Terence is a Bachelor of Music of London University, a graduate of the Royal Schools of Music, and holds diplomas in organ playing and teaching. He is now in his 40th year as Organist and Choirmaster at St John the Baptist Parish Church, Chipping Barnet.

After many years of running successful music departments in two Hertfordshire schools, Terence now concentrates on private teaching, accompanying and examining. He has completed 32 years as Director of the Elstree Singers (who now rehearse in Arkley!). Terence has given recitals in North America, Hong Kong and throughout the British Isles. As well as serving on the executive committee of the Hymn Society and as Vice Chairman of the Barnet & District Local History Society, Terence is a keen supporter of a number of other societies, literary, historical and transport. He does not possess a television, but is an avid radio fan, not least of the Archers.

Robin Coxon (Treasurer): Robin's earliest musical experiences were as a chorister at Durham Cathedral. Later he took a mathematics degree at Durham University, gaining his FRCO the same summer. Robin joined EDOA in 1967, is a former Chairman, and has been Treasurer since 1973. He took up his present post as Organist of St Francis, Welwyn Garden City in 1976, and additionally as Chapel Organist of Queenswood School in 2007. Robin is a Trustee of The New School of Organ Studies and has organised their weekly lunchtime recitals at Marlborough Road Methodist Church, St Albans since 1998. He was President of The Organ Club from 2006 to 2009.

By happy chance, after graduating at different Universities, Robin and Mary both chose to take the Postgraduate Certificate in Education at Nottingham, where they met. This year they will celebrate their 48th wedding anniversary; they have three children and six grandchildren.

Michael Hennin (Secretary) joined EDOA in 1988, and became a committee member the following year, holding the post of Secretary during 1990 and 1991. After stepping down for two years, he served the Association again as a committee member 1998–2002 and was elected Secretary in 2004.

Michael is principal organist at Our Lady of Mount Carmel & St George RC Church. He began learning the organ in 1987 with EDOA member Joyce Beaumont and in 1991 passed his Grade 8 with distinction.

Returning to full time education in 1997, Michael subsequently completed a three year music degree course at Middlesex University (Trent Park) where his organ teacher was EDOA member Carol Jarman.

Michael is married to Marilyn and they have two children, Holly and Samuel.

Morwenna Brett had a good Yorkshire musical education which included piano lessons to Grade 8, school choir, and playing the viola in the Middlesbrough Schools Symphony Orchestra.

She got a scholarship to read science at Oxford – hated the course, so misspent the three years singing and acting, moving into arts management when she left – looking after the London

Mozart Players, Raymond Gubbay tours with Jimmy Galway, Viennese Evenings with Vilem Tausky at the Albert Hall, and the like.

Her keyboard skills remained rusty Grade 8 until a couple of years ago, when she was volunteered by Jane Kraft at St Stephen's, Bells Hill to play the organ for the Patronal Day. Needless to say she immediately found herself on the rota. It was a short step from there to depping around the Barnet Team Ministry churches, and at this point some lessons were thought in order. She is studying through the RCO Academy with Gerdi Troskie and Frederick Stocken, and aiming for ARCO via CertRCO. She conducts a small but enthusiastic U3A choir which performs at lunch clubs round Barnet.

Her current day job is developing online courses at a design college in Chelsea. To keep up with her students she has to keep up with social media, so for a bit of fun she set up an organ blog www.theladyorganist.com two years ago. It's been more of a success than anticipated: it was the guest blog at the RCO London Summer School last year and has readers and contributors all over the world.

Robert Evans studied organ and composition at the Royal College of Music and continued with postgraduate studies at London University. He has a particular interest in organ building and has transplanted and restored a number of redundant instruments. This includes one at St Ignatius College Enfield, replacing an existing unworthy electronic machine, and also a pipe organ for a church in Hertfordshire which originally served as a practice organ in Addington Palace. He has reconstructed a Baroque manual chamber organ which is in regular use in his music room at home in Southgate. Composition is an active interest, with recent work being published in the 'Sing Evensong' series. He is active as a recitalist, having undertaken a tour of Normandy in summer 2013. Other interests include horology and motorcycling when time permits.

He was previously a Head of Department in a number of secondary schools as well as being an examiner for GCSE and A level Music.

Rosemary Knight is a Lancastrian born and bred. She studied German at UCL and taught German for a time before joining a major IT company where she trained as a systems engineer and spent the rest of her working life, mostly supporting a global financial system for General Motors.

She began learning the organ in Skelmersdale and has played in various churches since 1978, when a church in Hoxton was desperate. Since July 2013 she has been organist and choir director at Holy Trinity Leverstock Green in Hertfordshire. She is also a member of the St Albans Bach Choir.

Following a company takeover she was able to take early retirement in 2009, and spend more time on music. A pupil of Roger Carter, she passed the CertRCO in spring 2013, and in the same year she gained an MA in historical musicology from Goldsmiths, University of London.

Peter Smith was born in Edmonton in 1944 and educated at the Latymer Grammar School and at Durham University, where he gained an honours music degree under the legendary Professor Arthur Hutchings. He then taught in schools for thirty-three years, of which the last twenty-eight were spent as Director of Music at Bishop Stopford's School, Enfield, where he established a strong choral tradition and installed a two-manual pipe organ in the

school hall. He was Organist and Choirmaster at Edmonton Parish Church from 1967 to 1978, moving to a similar post at St Mary's, Cheshunt in 1979, and gaining, in course of time, the Fellowship (1970) and Choir-training (1983) Diplomas of the RCO. There was also a wonderful opportunity to study Bach and French repertoire with Peter Hurford in St Albans during the academic year 1975-6.

Peter worked extensively for the RSCM between 1972 and 1990, finally directing prestigious choral courses at Lincoln Cathedral from 1986 to 1990, and broadcasting three times for the BBC as organist or director. Since early retirement from schoolteaching in 2000, Peter has pursued new projects including solo and choral singing, organ improvisation, overseeing the complete restoration of the fine Hill organ at Cheshunt, and conducting a research project into the choral music of Charles Villiers Stanford (MMus, Dunelm 2009).

In January 2013, after leaving his post at Cheshunt, Peter undertook a position as temporary organist/choirmaster at St John's, Friern Barnet, and is now fulfilling a similar task at Ware Parish Church, as well as playing, directing and singing in other venues on a freelance basis. Hobbies include walking, travel, reading, visiting museums, art galleries, churches and country houses, and attending concerts, operas and recitals. Peter has also been known to watch snooker on the telly, together with repeats (on 'Dave') of 'Have I got news for you', 'QI' and 'Mock the Week'.

Ted Sharp remembers a childhood in an unheated Victorian vicarage lit by gas, with coal, groceries and milk delivered by horse and cart, rationing, the blitz on Sheffield, shrapnel and so on. Communion at 8.30, then Matins, Sunday school and Evensong was the pattern for the vicar and his family.

The bright spot in his school days was piano lessons. In terms of relative importance at his school in the early 50s, music and art came well down the scale below all sports, even cross country running which, unlike music, was compulsory. Music lessons had to be taken by skipping, with permission but not with approval, other lessons or parts of them. Default subjects for those who expressed no wish for anything else were Latin and Greek. Along with many others at the school, he never had a science lesson in his life.

As one of his father's three organists, he had a number of organ lessons on leaving school at age 17, his last formal music training for perhaps 50 years until he had five or six lessons with the organist at St Mary's Welwyn, who then decided to move away from the area. He does not think that the two things were directly connected.

Ted worked as a chartered accountant in industry until retirement 18 years ago and then trained and worked as a psychotherapist part time for some years until retiring from that as well.

He has a large Allen Quantum organ at home, which EDOA members are welcome to play by pre-arrangement (01438 798594). He was for a time during 2013 the organist at St. Peter's, Tewin where he now plays for just one Sunday a month.

In addition to his enjoyment of the organ and piano, Ted is an enthusiastic motorcyclist and pilots light aircraft from Panshanger airfield.