

**President's Message
June 2015**

The EDOA at its very best! That is how I would describe our two recent spring events. Robin Walker's inspiring master class (or workshop, call it what you will) at St George's, Hanover Square gave us all plenty to think about. Many congratulations to Morwenna Brett, Michael Hennin and Ashley Wagner for their impressive Bach playing and for responding so well to Robin's wise counsel and gifted teaching. Thank you to Morwenna for arranging this.

A month later, the promise of a "thrilling day" did not disappoint for our visit to try the organs of both St Michael and All Angels, Bedford Park and St John's, Holland Road. Do re-read Peter Smith's enthusiastic descriptions in the last Newsletter (p 3). Jonathan Dods, a former student of Peter's, is much to be envied for having such a fabulous instrument at his disposal in St Michael's! We are extremely grateful to Jonathan and also to Paul Joslin of St John's and of course to Peter for all that they did to ensure that this visit to west London was so worthwhile and enjoyable.

Nearer to home we are all invited to St Luke's, Enfield for talks and demonstrations of the newly restored organ. For details, see elsewhere in this newsletter and at www.edoa.org.uk – and no excuses for staying away as there is a choice of dates: Thursdays 11th and 18th June, at 7.30 pm. You are particularly encouraged to take up this opportunity to try the organ should you wish to play in our forthcoming members' recital, since St Luke's is to be the venue (Saturday, 19th September).

As an organists' association, what an honour and privilege it is to have an international organ festival "on our patch"! The St Albans Festival will soon be upon us and much wonderful music-making awaits: www.organfestival.com. Similarly, many of us are within easy access of London and the Proms. It is amazing how many of the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts were already sold out within days of bookings opening, but fortunately this is not the case (yet!) for the Poulenc Concerto with James O'Donnell as organist on Tuesday 21st July or the full evening organ recital by Thierry Escaich on Sunday 23rd August. And do look out for M. Escaich also appearing in the next RFH recital series, as he is one of the most exciting French players and improvisers. Meanwhile, from the vast choice of free lunchtime concerts in London – how lucky we are! – don't overlook the 'Cornhill 101' commemorative celebratory recitals, including our respected member and good friend David Aprahamian Liddle on Monday 22nd June at 1.00 pm. Best wishes for a good summer – and happy listening!

Terence Atkins