

**President's Message
December 2015**

Among the obituary notifications of IAO members in the latest *Organists' Review*, the Cornwall Association names Sir David Willcocks, for he hailed from Newquay. The national tributes have been copious and effusive, but this *OR* has some particularly personal memories by Timothy Brown, who was a King's choral scholar fifty years ago. Do read it to find out just what it was like to sing under this greatest of choir trainers and (one of many revelations) discover what happened when the *Psalms of David Volume One* recording was made.

News of the death of Peter Collins is a great sadness, but the company to which he gave his name has announced that it will continue to operate as normal. It is worth recalling that Peter Collins began his independent and pioneering work near St Albans and for many years operated from a workshop in Redbourn. The 1989 I.O.F. organ will serve as a memorial to this fine craftsman.

I make no apology for my constant references to *Organists' Review*, and if you are not a regular reader of it, why not treat yourself to a Christmas present by subscribing? You will not be disappointed! You can subscribe at <http://www.allegro.co.uk/organists-review/>. The latest issue is, as ever, a mine of information, and it was a delight to learn that there is an annual skittles match between the Bournemouth & District and the Dorset associations. The article '43 qualities each church organist must possess' ranges from 'Function properly at 8 am' to 'Develop diplomatic skills equal to those of Cardinal Richelieu'. On a more serious note, Neil Cockburn offers sound advice on the use of online music resources, including why he favours Spotify to the 'needle-in-a-haystack world' of YouTube. Elsewhere, Joe Riley, always entertaining and provocative, lists his YouTube Top Five, while the regular 'What's on your iPod?' this time features Peter Holder. Musical choices, discoveries and enthusiasms bring us neatly to the next EDOA event, the 'At Home' at the kind invitation of Ruth Lewis – see elsewhere in this newsletter and www.edoa.org.uk.

A month later, on Saturday 27th February, is another date for your diaries: the EDOA AGM. It is doubly good that we are returning to St Andrew's, Enfield and with Linden Innes-Hopkins as our guest recitalist. Remember: AGM at 5 pm; recital at 6 pm; meal at 7 pm (fish and chips nearby). Do please support this and bring along your thoughts and aspirations as to how best the EDOA might serve you.

Meanwhile, 'tis the season to be jolly' and the ever faithful *Carols for Choirs* (especially the green and orange ones) will be well-thumbed as we once again revel, gratefully, in those glorious, incomparable carol arrangements and descants by the late, great Sir David Willcocks. With my best wishes for a happy and tuneful Christmas and a peaceful and rewarding New Year.

Terence Atkins