

**President's Message
June 2016**

Once again we are extremely grateful to Roger Carter for his recent organ clinic. I was sorry not to be able to attend myself, for I know I would have learnt much, but I was soon hearing enthusiastic reports from one very satisfied customer. You can read Ashley's account within these pages. Thank you Roger!

The 30th London Organ Day in March was well attended in the enticing setting of Southwark Cathedral. A significant moment was when Tom Daggett spoke about his work as OBE Organ Outreach Fellow at St Paul's Cathedral in a thought-provoking talk entitled 'Handing it On: Music Education and the Organ'. There is a full transcript in the current *Organists' Review* which I would urge everyone to read. All of us who are involved in any activity that requires maintaining and sustaining – choirs being an obvious example – know how important it is not to be complacent about outreach and recruitment. The EDOA is no exception, and with this in mind I would draw your attention to our own outreach day planned for next month and to be based at St Andrew's, Enfield, as outlined by Michael our Secretary elsewhere in this newsletter. Do please consider assisting in any way you can, and for those who choose to play, here is an ideal way to get to know that organ ahead of our members' recital on Saturday 10th September at 5.00 pm.

There was no shortage of Reger at the LOD and indeed many recital venues are contributing to the 'Regerfest' in commemoration of the centenary of his death at the tragically early age of 43. Some of his vast output may seem a little daunting, but there is also much that is accessible, including many chorale settings. Jean-Baptiste Dupont (France) and Isabelle Demers (USA) are at Bloomsbury Baptist at 4.00 pm on Sats 23rd and 30th July, respectively. At the RFH in April, Miss Demers delighted us with Reger's transcriptions of some of Bach's 2-Part Inventions before a spectacular display with the awesome 'Wachet auf' Fantasia and the colossal Introduction, Passacaglia and Fugue. Not only did she make light of the jaw-dropping technical demands, but everything was played from memory!

No student of the organ can do without Bach and, arguably, no Bach organ student can do without the scholarly legacy of the late Professor Peter Williams. There is a particularly fine obituary in the *OR* (again, no apology...why not subscribe?) by Francis O'Gorman and in it he quotes a tribute from the organ firm Taylor and Boody: "Peter shaped our thoughts, fed our minds and made us better organ builders".

I look forward to meeting as many of you as can manage to support our endeavours at St Andrew's Enfield in July and then for the members' recital in September. All details as ever on www.edoa.org.uk and meanwhile my best wishes for a good summer.

Terence Atkins