

**President's Message
December 2016**

There was a full church for the inaugural recital on the rebuilt organ of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Ware. We are all very pleased for Peter Smith for the excellence of the restoration work carried out by the Village Workshop, so amply and skilfully displayed by Peter Holder in his thoroughly enjoyable programme. How fortunate that this will be the venue of our

AGM and that Peter Smith has agreed to be the recitalist! The date is Saturday 18th February and after the welcoming refreshments the crucial times are (as always) AGM at 5:00, organ recital at 6:00 and the meal at 7:00 (for those who wish). Details elsewhere in this newsletter and on <http://www.edoa.org.uk/>.

Some vacancies on the committee will require filling at the AGM. Do please seriously consider if you might be able to serve! Meetings are but four times a year on a Sunday evening. Morwenna has already had to take her leave, to our regret but with our very best wishes. She has moved to Frittenden in Kent and we congratulate her on the news of her forthcoming marriage. In thanking Morwenna for all she has done for the EDOA, we know that she will wish to remain in touch and of course will be continuing in her key role for the iRCO.

Once all the rush of Christmas activity is over, you may wish to consider looking at some new opportunities in professional development and assessment. The RCO has launched an early-level certificate scheme, the Certificate of Accredited Membership (CAM), covering three levels (roughly Grade 2 through to Grade 6). To quote Andrew McCrea: "CAM can be viewed as either a self-contained system of accreditation or as a stepping-stone to the RCO's diplomas. Ultimately it will form part of a much wider personal and professional development programme...to support organists...through every stage of their musical lives". Meanwhile, the Associated Board is now offering the ARSM, a new performance diploma to bridge the gap between Grade 8 and the DipABRSM.

There are two wonderful and touching tributes in the latest *OR* (pp 55 and 92) to a lady called Margaret Bearfoot. Her name was virtually unknown to us all, but for many years her column "Corno Dolce" was eagerly anticipated and devoured by the readership and indeed was one of the joys of the magazine. Corno Dolce first appeared in 1976 and finally bowed out in 2003. An example is reprinted, giving an idea of the entertainment and sheer hilarity she brought, a vital tonic for which we were all supremely grateful.

I am confident that the AGM is clearly noted in your new diaries! Two other Saturday dates to look forward to, each with many good things on offer, are 28th January from 1:00 pm (Organ Day at Bloomsbury Baptist WC2H 8EP) and 4th March all day (London Organ Day at The Dutch Church EC2N 2HA). With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Terence Atkins