

**President's Message
March 2017**

It was generally felt that the occasion of our AGM in Ware went smoothly and pleasantly. On arriving at the church of St Mary the Virgin, we found an array of enticing cakes to enjoy with the welcoming tea. We thank Peter Smith not only for this but more significantly for his excellent and engaging recital (kindly reviewed by Robert Evans). It was heartening to note a sizeable number from the congregation there in support of Peter's performance. The convivial meal next door at Prezzo's rounded off the evening very nicely. In thanking Michael Hennin for his good work in planning for the success of all this, I would ask everyone to note his plea in the Editorial to this newsletter.

We shall be returning to Ware later on in the summer to give an opportunity for anyone to try the organ. This will be followed by our members' recital in September, when it is hoped that those stepping forward to play will not this time be outnumbered by the committee!

Three committee members completed their second term: Morwenna Brett (see the last newsletter), Rosemary Knight and Peter Smith. Rosemary continues as editor and webmaster and has therefore been co-opted to serve. We remain indebted to her for all she undertakes on our behalf. Peter Smith is also thanked and it is good that, as with Rosemary, he will continue to assist to the benefit of the EDOA. We are very sorry to be losing Ted Sharp and thank him for all he has done, such as arranging the recent visit to Eaton Bray and Woburn and for generously hosting several At Homes. We offer Ted and Ruth our very best wishes for their move to Dorset. Meanwhile, we have been pleased to welcome back, with our thanks, Roger Carter and Robert Evans; and Susan Dingle continues to serve. But there is room for at least two more and so I repeat my plea for anyone else to step forward should the urge to join the committee come upon them....

Once more at the AGM, I found it difficult to adequately express how deeply grateful I am to Robin Coxon as Treasurer and Michael Hennin as Secretary for all that they continue to do for the Association. Thank you Robin and Michael for everything!

As usual, the recent Organists Online Organ Day at Bloomsbury Baptist Church was full of good things. Dame Gillian Weir's lively masterclass had our student member Ashley as one of the three participants. The RCO's new Certificate of Accredited Membership was explained by Simon Williams, with performance demonstrations by early-stage students. We shall incidentally look forward to Simon's talk on the RCO's exams which Susan Dingle has kindly arranged to be hosted at Christ Church, Cockfosters on Saturday morning May 13th at 10:30. With this event and our planned return visits to St Mary's, Ware, good things are emerging for the year ahead. To these I am pleased to add some proposed joint events with the Essex Organists' Association, starting with an advanced master-class in Upminster on Saturday 8th July. Further details of all these good things to be found when appropriate in our newsletter and on <http://www.edoa.org.uk/> Enjoy!

Terence Atkins