

## President's Message June 2018

Enormous thanks are due to Roger Carter for leading another highly successful and enlightening workshop with wisdom and encouragement. St James', Enfield Highway was the ideal venue and we are grateful to Robert Evans for securing this, making us welcome and introducing its organ. There had been worries about viability, but in the end we had six takers from a wide spectrum of ages and keyboard experience. Half of them are still at school, the youngest having only just turned nine. It is worth pondering that of the six, only two belong to the EDOA and they are members of the committee. As always, whatever the needs and aspirations of those who played, Roger had exactly the right words, supported by the occasional faultless demonstration, and everyone (audience included) felt they had gained far more than they might have imagined possible.

The need to encourage youngsters to learn the organ and to continue to use their skills cannot be over-stated. I wonder how our area compares with some statistics from the diocese of St Edmundsbury, such as that only 4% of churches have an organist under the age of 30 and the use of recorded music to accompany congregational singing is necessary in 28% of all churches. The *OR* review of the London Organ Day refers to Tom Daggett's splendid organ outreach with east London schoolchildren, but adds "...a quick glance at the demographic attending the LOD (and, sad to say, most similar such events) reveals we desperately need... to widen the appeal of our chosen instrument and engage youngsters...." More optimistically, the same issue gives a heartening account of PipeUp, the training scheme that has been flourishing for over a decade in the Salisbury diocese, with youngsters being initially lured by free pizzas!

The date of our workshop, Sat 21st April, proved to be fruitful in more ways than one for the EDOA in its 'home town'. Later in the day, a superb composite recital was given by Robert Evans, Philip Shrimpton and Peter Smith to mark the restoration of the chancel organ in St Andrew's, Enfield. The joy of the occasion was made complete by the attendance of our founder Eric Pask, whose generosity had enabled the work to go ahead.

The BBC Proms will soon be upon us, the greatest musical festival of all! Prom 10 will be of particular interest to the organ world, featuring the Latvian virtuoso Iveta Apkalna in music by Widor (5th Symphony), Franck and others. The notorious Paganini Pedal Variations by Thalben-Ball will be included, a reminder perhaps of the recent and highly entertaining Royal Albert Hall organ extravaganza when they were performed so brilliantly by Olivier Latty. What a pity that this organ prom has been scheduled for a Sunday morning (July 22nd), the least convenient time for most organists to be free to attend!

We are so fortunate that our Newsletter, thanks as ever to Rosemary, contains such a wealth of information about the vast number of London organ recitals and those within our own area of North London and Hertfordshire. You may have noticed that our member Ashley Wagner's lunchtime booking at St George's, Hanover Square has been rescheduled for Tuesday, 10th July. I am sure I am not alone in missing the weekly Marlborough Road, St Albans listings, but all is not lost! To commemorate that church's 120th anniversary, Travis Baker will give a recital there on Sunday 17th June at 3:00pm: [www.mrmc.org.uk](http://www.mrmc.org.uk) I would also commend Richard Brasier's forthcoming performance of the whole of Bach's Clavierübung part III in St Laurence, Upminster on Saturday 7th July at 10:00 am. Whatever and wherever your choice, happy listening throughout the summer!

*Terence Atkins*

