

President's Message September 2019

Our warmest good wishes go with Ben Markovic as he settles into his organ scholarship at Worcester Cathedral. Following this next year, he will commence undergraduate studies at Cambridge as organ scholar at Queens' College. Ben's recent Bury Park recital included Simon Lesley's entertaining *Eine kleine lift music*, about which I'm sure all the quips (flawless ... appeals to all levels ...) have already been made; and if you want an alternative to Rawsthorne's *Hornpipe Humoresque*, look no further.

Several of us responded to Ted Sharp's 'at home' invitation to enjoy the endless delights of his Hauptwerk organ under the expert guidance of Nigel Stark – see the last Newsletter. Many thanks once again to Ted for his generous hosting and for kindly offering to welcome others who may wish to have a play (01438 798 594). For one of our newer members, Pavlos Triantaris, this was his first EDOA event and he made quite an impression. His recital later in June at St Stephen, Walbrook had to be delayed by an hour as most unusually the church had double booked! More normal circumstances are sure to prevail for Pavlos when he performs in Chingford Parish Church on Saturday 16th November at 2:30 pm. The splendid half-yearly London Organ Concerts Guide is a reminder of how fortunate we are to have such a riches to choose from; and we all owe a debt of gratitude to Rosemary for her assiduous listing in every Newsletter of all that is on offer, both near and far.

Philip Norman's talks are invariably excellent value and so it is good to have secured him once again, this time for Tuesday evening, 17th September at 8:00 in St Andrew's, Enfield. Under the title "Let the Organ Thunder", Philip will focus on liturgical organ music. You will see this is the first of many good things in store, thanks to the committee's careful planning, but it is worth repeating that any suggestions for EDOA events and activities will always be most welcome.

The educational articles in *Organists' Review* are one of its many strengths, this quarter's (September 2019) being no exception. The Organists' Toolkit is always extremely helpful, as exemplified by Anna Lapwood's sensible and supportive advice on the practicalities of developing one's keyboard skills, so important to us all. The new Education Editor is David Pipe, well known in Leeds for setting up a highly successful Organists' Training Programme in partnership with the RCO and also (from now) the University of Huddersfield. He writes of his enthusiasm to "explore ways to make the organ even more appealing, interesting and relevant to young musicians (of whatever age!)". An account of the Newbury & District Organists' Association Bursary Scheme gives food for thought as we all consider ways of rising to the challenge.

Terence Atkins