

**President's Message
December 2012**

A recent, most interesting recital programme by John Rippin (Marlborough Road, 6/11/12) neatly summarized much for which 2012 will be remembered in years to come, as well as commemorating the anniversaries of some composers dear to organists. Two Royal Fanfares by Arthur Bliss were self-explanatory; and it was good to hear Joseph Bonnet's rare 'In memoriam *Titanic*'. John is certainly good at rooting out the lesser-known, but worthwhile, from the byways of our repertoire, such as the 'Elegiac romance' by John Ireland and the 'Finale-marche' from Boellmann's *2nd Suite*. Needless to say, his performance was Olympian!

For us in the EDOA, we know that our special year is the one ahead, for 2013 marks the Fiftieth Anniversary of the setting up of the Enfield and District Organists' Association – our Golden Jubilee! You are all warmly invited to join in the celebratory events planned by the committee, including the visit to David Liddle in Muswell Hill at the home of the late Felix Aprahamian, and, later on, the summer choral workshop at St Andrew's, Enfield with a talk by our founder-member, Eric Pask. The precise details of these events are still being finalised, but will be made known as soon as possible. Don't forget to check the website!

Meanwhile, the A.G.M. is a must for everyone! We are returning to St George's, Hanover Square and are privileged to have Simon Williams as the recitalist. In addition, we are invited by The Organ Club to attend a master class there earlier in the afternoon, given by James Parsons, who like Simon is an acknowledged ambassador for the organ in education. The date to book is Saturday, 16th February; for timings, see elsewhere.

Only a week later is the I.A.O.'s 27th London Organ Day, which will take place at the Royal Festival Hall. What venue could be more exciting and enticing! Those of us of a certain age will doubtless have fond memories of those wonderful recitals on Wednesdays at 5.55. The place was a veritable mecca for the 'organ world', for one could sit anywhere, the free programme notes by Felix Aprahamian were a revelation, and of course the instrument was spectacular; and above all, in those pre-screen days, it was so thrilling to be able to see the organist in action. Booking forms for the London Organ Day on Saturday, 23rd February, were sent with the latest *Organists' Review* and on-line booking is also available: <http://book.londonorganday.co.uk>

In sending you my best wishes and seasonal greetings, I invite you all to join me in 'raising a toast' to the EDOA as we welcome in its Golden Jubilee New Year.

Terence Atkins