

**President's Message
December 2013**

Our golden jubilee year is now over and we can look back with satisfaction at the main celebratory events. The afternoon of our AGM was memorable for being shared with the Organ Club, who hosted a master class at St George's, Hanover Square; and Simon Williams was our much appreciated guest recitalist. Attendance was also good when we visited David Liddle at Methuen Park, and as Stephen Jasper rightly reported, "one always comes away...having learnt something about organ playing and repertoire". In mid-summer it seemed only right that we should be in Enfield itself, the very heart of the EDOA's emergence fifty years ago, and St James, Enfield Highway saw a goodly crowd enjoy our founder Eric Pask's talk on the early history of the Association followed by a members' recital and thence a convivial meal at a nearby carvery. Lastly, the visit to try the organs at Haberdashers' school included players once again benefiting from Roger Carter's skilful and courteous direction.

All of the above reflect the different aspects of what we aim for in the EDOA. I thank everyone who supported them, and especially the committee for all its hard work. If there is anyone who feels that they may have something to offer by way of fresh ideas or who would like to contribute to the planning and organising of events, do please make yourself known, as there is a committee vacancy to be filled. The 2014 AGM will soon be upon us: Saturday 8th February at St Nicholas, Harpenden, with tea from 4.00 pm for the prompt 4.30 start. Full details elsewhere, including our website www.edoa.org.uk, and don't forget about the meal afterwards, always so pleasant!

The passing of Chris Garratt has marked the loss of another of our original members and we have been condoling with his widow, Alison. An encouraging number of members attended either at the crematorium (including David Felstead) or at Brookmans Park U.R.C., where Chris was clearly held in respect and affection as one of their organists. Chris's contribution to the EDOA over many years will always be recalled with gratitude, as will his friendship by those privileged to have known him.

The reopening of the at-long-last restored Royal Festival Hall organ is being keenly looked forward to by us all. The *Pull Out All the Stops* festival brochure is most enticing and further details are promised for the New Year. One of the 'Breaking Boundaries' concerts will feature Martin Creed's commissioned world premiere 'Face to face with Bach' played in the middle of an all-Bach programme by James McVinnie. Also of great significance in 2014 will be the 150th anniversary of the RCO. Do read the article in *OR* where Catherine Ennis explains how we are all invited to participate in the '150 for 150 Recital Challenge'; see also www.rco.org.uk/150years.php.

With every good wish for an enjoyable and (once you get the chance!) relaxing Christmas and for a very happy and musically rewarding New Year.

Terence Atkins