

Enfield & District Organists' Association

Minutes of the **Annual General Meeting** held at
St Michael's Church, Highgate on
Saturday 15th February 2025 at 5.00pm.

Present were Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Hon. Secretary), Matt Tattersall (Hon. Treasurer) and 8 members.

Apologies for absence were received from Tony Bralant, Roger Carter, Ruth Lewis, Jonathan Marten, Dave Miller, Paul Minchinton and David Patrick.

Minutes of the last AGM were circulated, having been previously available via the website. They were approved and signed by Terence Atkins, being proposed by Michael Hennin and seconded by Rosemary Knight.

Matters arising from the Minutes.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

President's Report

Welcome to St Michael's, Highgate for the AGM of the EDOA. As some of you know, we had originally planned to meet further down the hill at St Joseph's, but our plans were thwarted. I am extremely grateful to Michael Hennin for quickly contacting Paul Dean, the Director of Music here, who saved the day by offering us this lovely church. In thanking Paul, I also thank on your behalf the vicar, the Rev Kunle Ayodeji, and the churchwardens. I see that St Michael's opened in 1832, with its first organ going in ten years later. Paul is the fourteenth organist here and some of us will recall his predecessor Alan Gray; and over fifty years ago it was a young Peter Wright, now lately retired from Southwark Cathedral. The current organ was installed by Nicholson's in 1985 and it goes without saying that we are all very much looking forward to Jonathan Gregory's recital.

AGMs cannot be avoided, but regulars will not need reminding that we do try to make the occasion as attractive as possible. The welcoming tea on arrival would have been provided again by Ruth Lewis, but sadly she is incapacitated at the moment. Our grateful thanks go to Rosemary Knight for kindly stepping in to ensure that we have still been well catered for. Last year, St Mary's, Welwyn, a new venue, proved ideal. For the recital, Roger Carter invited me to join him in a variety of duets and a real pleasure it was to work with him. The end result was entertainingly reviewed in the April newsletter by Philip and Poly Shrimpton.

Having just mentioned Philip and Poly, now would seem a good moment to congratulate them heartily on their marriage last October in St Andrew's, Enfield (birthplace, as it were, of the EDOA), where Philip is organist and Poly sings in the choir. Some of the music at the ceremony was by Peter Smith, a poignant reminder of his attractive style. Meanwhile, a few weeks earlier on August 24th an 'Organ Extravaganza' in memory of Peter took place in St Mary's, Ware, joyfully celebrating his life and musical gifts to a full church.

A most welcome and popular EDOA event is the occasional 'At Home' – and last year we were privileged to enjoy two, though in fact the first was a postponement from the November. As it took place on February 29th and at a time when we're all desperate for the end of winter, the theme was 'Leap into spring', resulting in a tremendous variety of music enjoyed through playing, singing and listening. Similarly, the second one produced a wide range of musical delights arising from 'Regal birthdays', November 14th being the birthday of King Charles. Ruth Lewis cannot be thanked enough for hosting us and feeding us on each occasion with such generosity.

Organist associations thrive on visits to churches to try out organs, and thus on July 6th a small group (sadly a mere handful) discovered the delights and varieties on offer at St Leonard's, Flamstead and St Mary's, Redbourn. Roger Carter is thanked for arranging this. A fortnight earlier a couple of members also took the opportunity to visit St Mary's, Reed, for 'open console', one of several events celebrating their new organ by Mander (for whom Philip Shrimpton works).

Last year's Members' Recital was much appreciated by members and audience alike, and our thanks go to Richard Harvey for arranging for us to use St John's URC in New Barnet on September 28th. A fine photo of the instrument can be seen in the October newsletter. Of the five players (two others had had to withdraw) two were student members, Joel Colyer and Matthew Porter, our youngest; and their performances showed great promise.

There is much else on offer to the membership beyond what is planned by the EDOA. Last year the 38th London Organ Day in March took place at Our Lady of Victories Church in Kensington, the venue of one of the most exciting organs in the UK. The RCO International Organ Day in April and the London Organ Forum in Cambridge in October were also of significance and wide repute. And as ever, the Bloomsbury Online Organ Day three weeks ago was popular, entertaining and informative.

Looking ahead, if I may, I draw your attention to the IAO Eastern regional day planned for May 31st in Cambridge, following on from the splendid Chelmsford event two years ago. And we must keep in mind that 2025 is Play the Organ Year. Encouraging good people of all ages and abilities to consider taking up the organ is dear to all our hearts and we in the EDOA will play our part.

Finally, I commend and thank everyone on the committee for their devotion and commitment to the EDOA, not least Roger Carter and Peter Stokes. Matt Tattersall is our hard-working and uncomplaining Treasurer; Rosemary Knight edits the newsletter, so attractive and informative, and keeps the website up to date; and Michael Hennin continues as our ultra-efficient Secretary, ensuring the smooth running of the association and keeping your president up to the mark. I thank Matt, Rosemary and Michael from the bottom of my heart and commend them to you.

Secretary's Report

Michael Hennin reported that ten events had been held over the past year, four hosted by EDOA. He encouraged members to put forward ideas for events and suggestions for new venues. Those with internet access were encouraged to join the members' list. Five new members joined in 2024.

Treasurer's Report

After an introduction from Matt Tattersall the statement of the Association's accounts was adopted being proposed by Michael Hennin and seconded by Stephen Jasper. The Treasurer proposed that subscriptions remain at £15, being seconded by Joel Colyer. All were in favour.

Election of Officers

Terence Atkins (President), Michael Hennin (Secretary) and Matt Tattersall (Treasurer) stood for re-election being proposed by Hilary Bailey and seconded by Susan Dingle. All were in favour.

Election of Committee

Roger Carter and Peter Stokes continue their second term. Ruth Lewis was elected to the committee; she was proposed by Hilary Bailey and seconded by Susan Dingle. All were in favour.

Election of Independent Examiner

Colin Gage was re-elected Honorary Auditor and thanked for his work, being proposed by Matt Tattersall and seconded by Michael Hennin. All were in favour.

Programme of Events

The secretary outlined some forthcoming events for 2025. Members were asked to contribute ideas and suggestions for events.

Any Other Business

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 5.44pm with thanks to the vicar and church wardens at St Michael's, Highgate.