



Edington Music Festival Association Newsletter

Spring 2016

EMFA Subscriptions 2016

IT HAS BEEN agreed that subscriptions should be raised to a minimum of £15 per annum. If you pay by Standing Order please do remember to inform your bank of the change. Cheques should continue to be sent to Sue Lowery at 10 High Street, Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire BA14 6EL. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact her on sue.lowery@edingtonfestival.org or on 01380 871549.

Apologies for the late production of this newsletter due to unforeseen circumstances.

Edington Festival 2016

THE FESTIVAL this year takes place from 21 to 28 August.

Edington Arts forthcoming programme

EDINGTON ARTS are launching their 2016 concert programme with an organ recital by Ashley Grote, Master of Music at Norwich Cathedral and former Director of the Edington Music Festival, in the Priory Church on Saturday April 16th. Ashley of course led the fundraising appeal for the new organ, but this will be the first chance he has had to perform on it, so we are all awaiting the concert with a great sense of anticipation. His programme includes music by J S Bach, Mozart, Walton, Elgar and Vierne, whose symphonies Ashley has recorded.

On Saturday 14th May there will be 'An Evening with Claire Jones'. Claire is a former Royal Harpist who has already had a number of career highlights, including playing at the Royal Wedding Reception for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge, and a new CD launched in the USA in March. She is a passionate promoter of the harp, and will talk about it and her career, accompanying her chat with a variety of magical music on both the classical and smaller Celtic or lever harp.

Then on June 18th the great choral conductor Brian Kay will be leading a workshop on Lauridsen's *Lux aeterna* and Rutter's *Magnificat*. Application forms are available now through the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org. Brian was a Festival Singer while a Music Scholar at King's College Cambridge in the 60s, and was a founder member of The King's Singers from 1968-82. There will be a run-through performance at the end of the day between 6

and 7pm, and we heartily recommend that you go along if you can.

Later events are a saxophone quartet on October 15th, and an Advent Concert by the choir of Magdalen College Oxford on December 10th. Tickets and full information are available now through the website, www.edingtonarts.org or phone 01380 831256 or 01380 871549.

The Edington Festival at 60

THE sixtieth Festival was an extended song of praise and thanksgiving. Taking its inspiration from a cycle of organ pieces by the enigmatic French composer Jean-Louis Florentz, the Festival considered the different things that are needed in order that the praise of God might be uttered. The climax of this must surely have been at Saturday Evensong with the performance of a big-boned *Magnificat* by David Briggs, commissioned by the Festival, and also the Walton *Coronation Te Deum*. There were other highlights all through the week however. For many of us the Solemn Requiem on Friday evening was surely dominated by thoughts of David Trendall, and a superb and moving performance of Duarte Lôbo's *Requiem* was a fitting tribute. I wonder how many did not know of the sheer beauty of the set of Buxtehude's 'mini cantatas' *Membra Jesu Nostri*, four of which provided the framework of the Thursday Sequence? Each evening we had a chance to hear the new organ put through its paces by one of our organists. All of this framed by the vital undertow of Gregorian chant, morning and evening. Thanks are due to countless people for making such a good week possible and apparently effortless.

2015 Festival Exhibition.

SIXTY is a landmark age in anyone's books, probably the first time one looks back properly to take stock of what has brought you to where you are now. The 60th Music Festival was no different in this respect, so it seemed right that we should look back at the shining talents of those participants who have made such a great contribution to the reputation and longevity of the Festival, and have helped make it what it is today.

An exhibition of 60 participants, composed of 60 photographs each with a

short piece of biographical text, was produced, mounted and hung against the walls in the Priory Church, in chronological order. It began with Sir David Calcutt and organist Christopher Dearnley, and finished with Ashley Grote and Benjamin Nicholas. On the way it drew attention to just how many of the participants (mostly men, but some women), had or have gone on to become internationally important in the world of vocal and instrumental performance in opera, recital, composing, conducting, directing, broadcasting, teaching—and to some who made enormous contributions in non-musical careers—our armed forces, the voluntary sector, and the law.

These 60 were chosen from the more than 1300 musicians who have taken part in the Festival since 195. What it demonstrated to everyone who looked at the exhibition is the incredible talent on which we draw every year, and how privileged we are to be participants ourselves in such an extraordinary event.

But what of Canon Ralph Dudley, we hear you ask? The only photograph of him which was sufficiently clear to enlarge was as part of a group picture of the 1957 participants, unearthed by the widow of Christopher Dearnley. So Ralph Dudley had a place of honour in the Festival Tent outside, with his own biography, alongside a request for identification of many of the others in the group. We now have about two thirds of them, but the others—mainly the trebles—remain anonymous. If you think you can shed light on any of them, do let us know.

The full list of those included in the exhibition, in alphabetical order, is:

Paul Agnew, John Mark Ainsley, Jonathon Arnold, Peter Barley, Robin Blaze, James Bowman, Charles Brett, Paul Brough, Jeremy Budd, Sir David Calcutt, Sir David Calvert-Smith, Simon Carrington, Andrew Carwood, Michael Chance, Rogers Covey-Crump, Patrick Craig, Laurence Cummings, Sophie Daneman, Christopher Dearnley, Canon Ralph Dudley, Sally Dunkley, Stephen Farr, Jeremy Filsell, Ian Fountain, Liz Franklin-Kitchen, Jonathan Freeman-Attwood, Andrew Gant, John Eliot-Gardiner, Michael George, James Gilchrist, Peter Godfrey, Julian Gregory, Ashley Grote, John Harper, Robert Harre-Jones, Nicholas Hinton, David Hurley,

Daniel Hyde, Grayston Ives, Brian Kay, Sir Philip Ledger, David Lowe, Andrew Lumsden, Robert Macdonald, Matthew Martin, Jeremy Moore, Benjamin Nicholas, Daniel Norman, James Oxley, Francis Pott, Simon Preston, Robert Quinn, Carolyn Sampson, Richard Seal, Jeremy Summerly, Julian Thomas, David Trendell, Geoffrey Webber, Edward Wickham and Peter Wright.

ANNE CURTIS

EMFA Annual General Meeting, 24 August 2015

Chairman's Report for the year 2014–15

THE MAIN TASK of the Association is the administration and appropriate distribution of money. During the year grants are made by the Association towards the 'core costs' of the Festival, which have been identified as printing, mailing, organ tuning, catering, hiring of facilities and insurance. Specific details may be found in the Treasurer's report.

With the completion of fundraising for the new organ, attention has been paid to the appropriate distribution of excess funds, as previously agreed, between the Edington Music Festival Association to further their aims, the Friends of Edington Priory and 'a fund for projects specific to the village and parishioners of Edington'. It was considered that Edington Arts would be an appropriate beneficiary for the third category. The organ, as with all new instruments, has needed time to 'bed down', and time has only confirmed that this is a fine instrument of which all can be proud.

As expenditure on the organ project draws to a conclusion, much time has been spent in carefully reviewing our financial position. The arrangements for a standing grant to be paid by the Association upon receipt of a grant request from the Festival continue to work, and there has been some discussion about how this might be expedited more smoothly.

I must record my thanks to all the members of the Association Executive Committee for their dedication and hard work during the past year. Between them they perform many important tasks, each of which ensure that the Festival runs as smoothly as it does.

PETER MCGEARY
Chairman

Treasurer's Report for the year 2014–2015

THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1 May 2013 to 30 April 2014 has been another great year for the Edington Music Festival Association. We started the year with £61,658 in the bank and finished the year with funds of £59,715. A key feature of this

year has been the commencement of the rundown of the organ campaign which included covering the outstanding costs and distribution of the excess funds.

Our membership subscriptions are broadly in line with last year and the vast majority of this continues to be paid by standing order. The full collection plate continues to come to EMFA so that we can claim gift aid on the loose change under the HMRC Small Donations Scheme. We refining the way we provide grants to the EMFS in order to ensure that we can benefit from the small donations scheme whilst minimising the impacts on the EMFS finances.

The collection plate income has not yet returned to what it was before Organ project. This is beginning to be of concern as the festival income is struggling to cover the Festival running costs which have increased over recent years.

The Association no longer benefits from high interest rates and even our special high interest accounts provide little additional income. CD sales from the festival week and newsletter now remain at a background level.

Our expenses increased again this year owing to the organ fund running and fundraising costs. During the financial year 2014–2015 grants were made for the two commissions for the 2014 Festival. The Association also made the final payments for the organ construction and covered other organ fundraising costs.

The association maintains a reserves policy as recommended by the Charity Commission and this has been maintained at £10,000. These funds are maintained in a separate CAF/Scottish Widows account.

This year has seen the Organ Project start to grind to a close. Although all the construction costs are now covered there are a few items of expenditure remaining. The next financial year will focus on closing out the organ project. As set out in the fundraising brochures the excess funds from the very successful fundraising campaign will be divided three ways between the EMFA, to further their aims, the Friends and a fund for projects specific to the village and parishioners of Edington. Relating to the latter category the Association has already made a grant of £1500 to Edington Arts.

Once again I, and all of the EMFA trustees, would like to thank all donors for their generous contributions to the Association and the Organ Project.

JUSTIN LOWE
Treasurer

Revd Mark Jones

ON 18 OCTOBER 2015, Revd Mark Jones held his last service as Vicar of Edington in the Priory Church, together with members of the congregations from Bratton, Coulston and Erlestoke. He and his family have now moved to the parish of Penarth and Llandough in South Wales. During his short time as Vicar of the parish he managed to become well acquainted with the Festival, entering with grace and good humour into what to many clerical eyes would be a rather odd annual invasion of visitors, singers and clergy! Mark was able to join the group of people who travelled to Talinn in Estonia, to celebrate the old Priory organ's commissioning at its new home.

We pray for him in his new ministry in Wales, and also of for the parish of Edington in their period of interregnum.

Revd John Streeting

SADLY, REVD JOHN STREETING, Team Rector of Axminster, died last October. A professional musician before seeking ordination, John will be remembered by many visitors to the Festival not only as a priest but also a composer whose music was often performed at the Festival. His Funeral Eucharist was held in a packed Axminster Priory Church on 30 October. Duruflé's *Requiem* was sung by a choir of his friends under the direction of Judy Martin, and other music was provided by two local choirs that John had supported. The sermon was preached by Revd Peter McGeary.

Compact disc offer

OUR CD offer this issue presents one of the glories of the Anglican repertoire: Howells' 'Collegium Regale'. The composer, a relative outsider to the church, almost accidentally (some reports suggesting that these masterpieces of the liturgy owe their genesis to a bet) provided one of its greatest musical adornments of the twentieth century. Stephen Layton and his award-winning choir took the trip to Coventry Cathedral for this very special recording.

Discs are £12 each. If you would like to order, please send a cheque payable to *Edington Music Festival Association* to Sue Lowery, 10 High Street, Steeple Ashton, Wiltshire BA14 6EL (01380 871549).

