



# The Old Southendian Organ Society (OSOS)



## OSOS Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 20 April 2022, 8.00 pm

(Held by video conference.)

### MINUTES

Present: Joe Zammit (JZ), Brian Fletcher (BF), Adrian Lucas (AL), Warren Symes (WS), Gerald Usher (GU), Jon Roberts (JR), Tracy Nutter, John Dixon (JD)

#### 1. Welcome and apologies for absence

GU started the meeting at 8.01pm by welcoming everyone and thanking them for attending. Apologies for absence were received from John Blore and Greg Tucker.

#### 2. Approval of minutes from the 2021 AGM and matters arising

The minutes were approved by all present. It was agreed that any matters arising were covered by later items in the agenda.

#### 3. Reports from the committee

##### a) Chairman

A written report was available on the Society's website in advance of the meeting, where GU highlighted the Society's achievements in the last year despite the continuing restrictions due to the pandemic, and looked forward to celebrating the centenary of the organ in 2023.

##### b) Treasurer

A written report was available on the Society's website in advance of the meeting, where JR noted that the Society's finances remained healthy but that the pandemic had significantly affected fund-raising.

##### c) General Secretary

In the past year, meetings had been held online covering a variety of topics. BF thanked JZ for taking minutes in his absence due to illness at various meetings and apologised that work on membership issues had not advanced as far as he would have liked.

**d) Publicity and Communications**

JZ highlighted the successful Remembrance Concert held in 2021 and observed that online performances had been a good way of engaging supporters.

**e) School Liaison Officer**

A written report was available on the Society's website in advance of the meeting, where WS commented that use of the organ had been restricted by the pandemic, summarised the achievements of the most recent School Organist and reported on tuning and maintenance of the Organ. GU thanked WS for his continued effort to engage students with the Organ and its music, as this was the main area where the Society had been able to be active during the pandemic. WS confirmed that there would be a new School Organist in place for next academic year: Zac (Year 12), a capable pianist, composer, arranger, is considered to be an outstanding musician by Peter Worth, the School's Head of Music. WS was due to give Zac's first organ lesson soon after the AGM. WS hoped that disruption from Covid-19 would reduce and regular assemblies would resume in the very near future.

**f) President**

GU hoped that AL would be able to take a full part in centenary celebrations in 2023.

**4. Elections of the committee for 2022—2023**

The following were unanimously elected by the meeting:

- a) Chairman – Gerald Usher
- b) Treasurer – Jon Roberts
- c) General Secretary – Brian Fletcher
- d) Publicity and Communications – Joe Zammit
- e) School Liaison Officer – Warren Symes.

**5. Appointment of a committee member as Deputy Chairman for 2022—2023**

The role of Deputy Chairman was initially proposed because GU was experiencing some health issues that might have prevented him from attending meetings or conducting the business of the Society. GU no longer felt that this was necessary and suggested that informal arrangements could be made as the need arose, and that this could encompass any other committee members who might be unavailable for any reason. WS asked to formally acknowledge the hard work undertaken by JZ as Deputy Chairman in the past and GU thanked JZ for his wide-ranging contributions to the Society.

**6. Proposal to amend the term of office of the Society's President**

A Society member had suggested at a previous AGM that a two-year term for the President was too short and meant that elections were held more frequently than necessary. This was agreed by the meeting and AL confirmed that he would be happy to continue in the role for five years.

**7. AOB**

- a) JD reported on his involvement with the American Guild of Organists, who are building closer relations with the Royal College of Organists. He has championed the work of OSOS with the RCO and encouraged the RCO to build closer connections with the School and the

Society. The RCO are sponsoring an International Organ Day and JD has contributed a piece available for free download. He was pleased to note that the organ and its music are being widely promoted internationally.

- b) GU expanded on a comment in his report regarding Felsted school. The Director of Music, William Warns, has contacted the Society to gain advice on creating a similar society at Felsted. GU is keen to establish a link between the schools if possible and suggested involving Peter Worth in discussions about this idea. WS hoped to build a programme of events for the centenary to raise the profile of the Organ and thought that a combined concert could be a good contribution to this. He also suggested other local links, such as WHSB. AL added that the current organ scholar of Chelmsford Cathedral is a former student of his and he would be happy to make connections for the Society if needed.
- c) GU highlighted the need to rebuild the Society's membership. Many societies, not only musical, have had difficulties with membership as a result of the pandemic. A special committee meeting was proposed to discuss strategies. GU reiterated that the Society was in good financial health, however, a benefit not shared by other societies.
- d) Shortly before the meeting, news had been received of the passing of David Frostick. In the light of this, AL enquired how much he had been involved with the Organ. WS explained that arrangements were being made for David to help with the voicing of the organ but sadly his health deteriorated before he could visit the School. GU asked whether AL could recommend any other voicers.
- e) GU stated that future committee meetings would focus on planning events for the Organ centenary.
- f) JD expressed his admiration at the way OSOS had continued to operate throughout the pandemic and looked forward to giving a recital for the Society in the future.

## **8. Provisional arrangements for next Annual General Meeting**

GU proposed a similar arrangement for the next year, then thanked everyone for their participation. The meeting closed at 8.33pm.