

The Society

Elgar



# The Trustees' Annual Report

1 January 2018 to  
31 December 2018

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and presented to the Annual General Meeting  
on 2 June 2019

## THE ELGAR SOCIETY

### Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2018 - 31 December 2018

#### A THE SOCIETY

##### **Charitable Status**

Founded in 1951, the Society registered as charity no. 298062 on 22 January 1988.

##### **Office**

The Society has no registered office. Correspondence should be addressed to the Society's Secretary at 10 Cullin Park Grove, Strathaven, Lanarkshire, ML10 6EN.

##### **Trustees**

The following acted as Trustees during the period under review:

Stuart Freed	Philip Petchey
Jon Goldswain	Geoff Scargill
Paul Grafton	George Smart
Steven Halls	David Young (until 4.6.2018)
Ruth Hellen	Helen Whittaker
Peter Newbie	Roy Whittaker

##### **Elected Officers**

Chairman:	Steven Halls
Vice-Chairman:	Stuart Freed
Secretary:	George Smart
Treasurer:	Helen Whittaker

##### **Other National Post-holders**

Archivist:	Richard Hall
Data Protection Officer:	Richard Hall
Journal Editor:	Meinhard Saremba
Membership Secretary:	David Young
News Editors:	Peter James
Web Officers:	Stuart Freed / Robert Gilbert

## Branch Officers

Branch	Chair	Secretary
East Anglia	Peter Newble	Robin Self
East Midlands	Howard Newton / Michael Toseland	Sam Dobson
London	Philip Petchey	Ruth Hellen
North American	Arthur Reynolds	Lee Kaufman
North-West	Rev. John Knowles	David L. Jones
Scotland	Tom Kelly	Maureen Kelly
Southern	William Cole	Wendy Wiseman
South-Western	Christopher Redwood	Michael Butterfield
West Midlands	John Harcup	Richard Smith
Yorkshire & North East	Tony Pook	Paul Grafton

## Advisers

<b>Bankers:</b>	Lloyds TSB
<b>Independent Examiner:</b>	Adrian Benselin, Chartered Accountant

## Honorary Posts and Awards

President – Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM

## Vice-Presidents

Diana McVeagh	Dr Donald Hunt OBE (to 4 August 2018)
Dame Janet Baker CH DBE	Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE
Leonard Slatkin	Andrew Neill
Sir Andrew Davis CBE	Sir Mark Elder CBE
Tasmin Little OBE	Martyn Brabbins

## Recipients of the Elgar Society's Silver Medal

Year	Recipient
1992	Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore
1992	Leonard Slatkin
1999	Jerzy Maksymiuk
2000	Tadaaki Otaka
2007	Andrew Litton
2008	Sakari Oramo
2009	Danube Symphony Orchestra
2009	Vladimir Ashkenazy
2011	Michael Kennedy
2011	Anthony Payne
2012	Barry Collett
2012	Jacek Kasprzyk
2012	Sir Colin Davis
2013	Sir Andrew Davis
2013	Sir Mark Elder
2015	Daniel Barenboim
2015	Diana McVeagh
2016	Martin Bird
2016	Teresa Cahill
2016	Alexander Walker

## Structure, Governance and Management

The Society was governed under a constitution adopted with effect from 1 January 2008 and subsequently amended in June 2010 and June 2011 and June 2018. Its Council consisted of the elected officers, and seven other members of the Society.

The Executive Committee consisted of the elected officers. A representative of the Branch Chairmen's Committee is a non-voting member. The task of the Executive Committee is to carry out the policy decisions of the Council and to deal with any matters which lie in its terms of reference.

Also in operation were *Elgar in Performance*, which included *Elgar in Education* and special projects, and the Branch Chairmen’s Committee.

### Working Parties active during 2018

Name	Chairman / Convenor	Members
Elgar in Performance (including Education)	Steven Halls	Barry Collett, Martyn Marsh, the Executive Committee
Branch Chairmen’s Committee	Philip Petchey	All other Branch Chairmen

### Council and Executive

The Council met two times and the Executive Committee on two occasions during 2018, with much of the business being conducted by e-mail. Since the 2018 AGM, the main topics of discussion continued to be:

- progress on the remaining components of the Society’s adopted strategy;
- deciding on new recordings and other initiatives;
- dealing with all the applications to *Elgar in Performance* and the education and special projects funds;
- monitoring the membership numbers in the light of further collaboration developing between the Birthplace now run by the National Trust;
- potential President, Vice-Presidents and recipients of the Certificate of Merit and the ES Medal;
- continuing collaboration with German contacts and promoters;
- the continuation of the free membership scheme;
- a proposal for the amendment of the Constitution relating to the Presidential term;
- the development of initiatives to increase membership of the Society;
- the development of Elgar in relation to music education;
- the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

As ever, in this last TAR overseen by me as Chairman of the Society, I pay tribute to my colleagues on Council, my colleagues on Executive and each and every post-holder in the Society and its Branches, for all their hard work, enthusiasm, support and help during the past year.

*Steven Halls, PhD, MPhil, MBA, MA(Oxon), FCMI*

## Branches

There are ten UK Branches organised geographically, and a further Branch covering America and Canada. The creation of a Branch is at the discretion of the Society's Council and requires substantive evidence from a sufficiently large group of members that there is a reasonable assurance of viability. Branches report on their activities via the *Elgar Society News* and are required to submit their annual accounts to the Treasurer so that she can integrate them with those of the Society.

## Risks

No major risks have been identified by the Trustees. The Society is substantially dependent on subscriptions and Gift Aid for its income and it is thus vital to retain and increase membership while ensuring that subscription rates are realistic in the light of the charity's activities and costs. The Trustees consider that if this is done there are no serious risks to future viability. This Annual Report states the position as at 31 December 2018 and the Trustees are not aware of any material change in risk which needs to be reported.

## Objectives and Activities

Under its Constitution, the Society's objective is the education in, and promotion of, the appreciation of the public in the music of Edward Elgar and the education of the public in the life of Edward Elgar through:

- a) the provision of educational programmes and activities to widen knowledge of Elgar's music for all;
- b) support for the Elgar Birthplace museum and educational establishments that attract the general public to Elgar's music and life;
- c) the funding and encouragement of performances and recordings of his works;
- d) the encouragement of research into Elgar's music, and the publication of a scholarly journal containing the results of such research;
- e) the publication or support for a scholarly edition of Elgar's music.

The Society seeks to promote performance of Elgar's music, especially the more rarely performed items. While its focus has heretofore been on performances in Britain, it has emphasised encouraging performances of Elgar's music abroad as far as its resources permit, concentrating

particularly on Germany. It is concerned to introduce the composer and his music to younger audiences and, by making grants for appropriate educational activities, to enhance the quality of life of members of the public.

The Society publishes its *Journal* three times a year, which contains the results of Elgar research and is sold to educational institutions and the general public as well as being sent to members as part of their subscription benefit. There is also a thrice-yearly *News* publication sent to members only. The Society maintains a website which is proving increasingly valuable for members and non-members alike.

Funds are centrally administered, the Council approving the annual budget and budget heads. Branches submit bids for support of their activities based on their administrative costs plus an element in support of their local meetings. Grants are made both to Branches and outside bodies in respect of specific charitable activities and are awarded only when a proposed project is shown to have satisfied strict conditions relating to the stated aims and objectives of the Society. The Society's grant-making policy is conditioned by its objectives and its relatively constrained financial resources. In general, grants are made for the major purposes listed below.

- Assisting sole or group performers, especially in non-commercial situations, who are prepared to play rarer Elgar works or to perform in locations in which the composer's music is unlikely otherwise to be heard and at which the public constitute the majority of attenders.
- Supporting educational activities at all levels from primary to higher and continuous learning that inculcate in the participants special and intellectual skills by using Elgar, his life and/or music as a test bed for such activities or which enhance knowledge of English culture and history.
- Aiding institutions which have a role in the musical and historical aspects of Elgar to widen the accessibility of their services to socially diverse audiences and/or to provide specific Elgar-related public benefits.

## B

### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (1 Jan. 2018 – 31 Dec. 2018)

#### General Overview

Under Initial Achievements & Plans, the last Trustees' Annual Report stated that, in 2018, the Society in partnership with other organisations would undertake the tasks listed below. Progress is described on each one in italics below.

In considering undertaking any activities, the four objectives below are the criteria against which we judge any proposals so that we might:

1. increase our membership;
2. raise money in support of our activities;
3. add demonstrably to the funding and encouragement of performances and recordings of Elgar's works;
4. increase access to the Elgar oeuvre.

At national level, and with all due acknowledgement of Branch activities, our efforts will focus on the following areas.

- Elgar in Performance and the Other Projects Fund will be reviewed by Council following its great increase in 2017 and the consequent recordings. Its criteria, German project and funding will be reviewed by Council during 2018. *The EiP criteria were discussed in March 2019 and recommendations will be made to Council during 2019.*
- We shall continue to support Meinhard Saremba to settle in his role as the Editor of the *Journal* following his auspicious start. *Meinhard has quietly produced fascinating editions during the year and has asked for advice when he needed it.*
- We shall continue to seek to raise sponsorship and legacies to enable us to expand our work and ensure it extends into the future. *Private monies have gone into some recordings but we have received no legacies during the year.*
- Council have made restricted progress on how we can meaningfully support educational work associated with Elgar but we shall observe the efforts of West Midlands Branch during 2018. *This has not proved as simple as some critics envisaged but various initiatives have been attempted in EiP and the Branches, and a Young People's Concert is planned for the West Midlands in 2019.*
- Council will consider nominations for the Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit. *Alexander Walker received his medal in 2018 but there were no other nominations for the Medal or the Certificate of Merit during the year.*

- Now that the Birthplace at The Firs is open, we look forward to collaborating with the National Trust. *The West Midlands Branch in particular has fostered warm links with Management of The Firs.*
- The AGM and Birthday Weekend will be reviewed to consider whether a new format and location might stimulate support in another part of the country. *The new Elgar Festival in Worcester made its debut during the Elgar Birthday Weekend in 2018 and proved a popular success. Plans are afoot to expand it in 2019 and make it a permanent feature. The Society's Council turned down the opportunity to locate the AGM in Sussex in June 2018 to coincide with a planned festival celebrating the Brinkwells music and, in particular, the last significant centenary, of the first performance of the Cello Concerto. The principle remains, however, that the Council could hold the AGM in different parts of the country.*
- We shall continue to work more closely with Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition to make more of Elgar's music available in a timely fashion at a reasonable cost to performers and conductors all over the world. *The number of works available has expanded significantly during the year.*

### Recordings

- The last of the recordings project culminated in 2018. Of the four major CDs (three via SOMM Records and one via the Dutton Epoch label), SOMM's *The Art of the Military Band* had come out in 2017 and the second was released in early 2018 and consisted of choral music comprising *Te Deum & Benedictus*, *Psalm 48 (Great is the Lord)*, *Psalm 29 (Give unto the Lord)*, *O Hearken Thou*, *Ecce Sacerdos Magnus* (a first recording of Elgar's orchestrated version), *Spanish Serenade* and *From the Bavarian Highlands*. The third CD actually became two that were released as a double CD: one featured songs with orchestral accompaniment, and there was a bonus CD of songs for soprano & piano, including world première recordings. The fourth, by Dutton Epoch, was recorded with the BBC Concert Orchestra under David Lloyd-Jones and released during the year. It showcased some of the short orchestral works featured in Volume 23 of the Elgar Complete Edition, edited by David Lloyd-Jones himself. This CD also contains world première recordings – *Air de Ballet*, *Pleading* in Elgar's arrangement for solo violin and orchestra, and the Introduction to the Gavotte from Elgar's *Suite in D* – and Elgar's all-but-unknown arrangement for 'small' orchestra of the *Canto Popolare* from *In the South*. Unplanned, but highly welcomed, were two further recordings to which we gave some support. The postscript to the war music came when Chandos and some members of the Society came up

with some funding, to which we added some more, for a recording of *The Music Makers* and *The Spirit of England*, the unique selling point of the latter being that it featured (as Elgar allowed) a male soloist for the first time. The final recording was *Caractacus* with the Huddersfield Choral Society under Martyn Brabbins recorded at live concerts on 11-13 April 2018 in Huddersfield Town Hall. It seemed too good an opportunity to miss, as we were actually helping fund the performance anyway.

### **Elgar in Performance / Education/ Other Projects**

In 2018, from 26 applications, the following performances and projects were supported by EiP from its initial budget of £18,000, augmented by the monies secured by Council resolution in June 2016 to ensure the support of major recording projects.

*Steven Halls, Chairman EiP & Barry Collett, EiP Administrative Adviser*

Recipient	Activity	Date	Venue	Aid £
Melbourne Intersarsity Choral Festival	Light of Life	20/01/2018	Melbourne	500
Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir	P&C 1 & 2, Spirit of England, Music Makers	03/11/2018	Wakefield	500
Scherzo Ensemble	Sacred Works, partsongs	11/05/2018	Kings College, London	1000
Monteverdichor Würzburg	The Music Makers	17/02/2018	Würzburg	750
Corisande Players and Singers	Music Makers, In the South	27/05/2018	Henry Wood Hall, London	260
Three Choirs Festival	Serenade for Strings, Sea Pictures	04/08/2018	Hereford	500
Aachener Bachverein	The Kingdom	17/03/2018	Aachen	800
Islington Choral Society	Coronation Ode etc	30/06/2018	St.John's, London	400
Baslow Choir	The Music Makers	21/04/2018	Sheffileld	500
Huddersfield Choral Society	Caractacus (recording)	11 to 13 04/2018	Huddersfield	2500
Chandos Records	Spirit of England		(recording)	2500
English Music Festival	War Song, Elegy, Quintet, Salut d'Amour	26/05/2018	Abbey, Dorchester	250

Recipient	Activity	Date	Venue	Aid £
Wimbledon Choral Society	The Music Makers	07/04/2018	Cathedral, Guildford	250
Nottingham Bach Choir	The Apostles	24/11/2018	Nottingham	250
Collett Productions	Violin & choral works	29 and 30 09/2018	Ketton, Oakham	150
Paulus-Chor Zürich	The Apostles	22/09/2018	Zürich	1000
Carducci Music Trust	Intro & Allegro, Piano Quintet	09/11/2018	Cheltenham	400
Brighton Phil. Orch. Chorus	Cockaigne, Psalm 48, Bavarian Highlands	14/08/2018	Brighton	500
Dutton Recordings	Spanish Lady, Severn Suite, Organ Sonata	01/09/2018	(recording)	500
Three Spires Singers	Sospiri, Spirit of England	10/11/2018	Cathedral, Truro	500

## The Journal

During 2018, issues of the *Elgar Society Journal* were published in April, August and December, of 74, 72 and 68 pages respectively. Particular highlights were major essays on *Salut d'Arányi*, *King Olaf*, the World War I anniversary, Elgar's journey to Brazil (by former editor Martin Bird) and *Elgar's Voice* (by the English composer David Matthews).

The column 'Elgar viewed from afar', introduced to illustrate how Elgar was seen in non-British countries during his lifetime, included contributions from France, the Netherlands and Italy.

*Meinhard Saremba, Editor of the Journal*

## The News

As usual, three editions of the *News* were published in 2018, in April, August and December. I attempt to cover all news with an Elgarian content, together with the latest information from the Society's officers and Branches. With colour printing now established (despite a hiccup in August) I aim to include as many photos as possible. The *News* relies on largely unsolicited items of interest from occasional or one-off contributors, like the fascinating reminiscences of a fellow passenger on Elgar's Amazon cruise in December's edition – so Society members should not hold back from submitting their articles! Special thanks are due to Robert Gilbert, typesetter and compiler of the concert diary, and

regular contributors including Richard Smith, Andrew Neill and Tom Kelly. Tom's interview with Karl-Heinz Steffens in April was a particular highlight.

*Peter James, Editor of the News*

## Membership report

As at 31 December 2018 there were 1015 members, an encouraging increase on the previous year's 998. Across the year there have been 74 new memberships, of which 34 were free.

Branch analysis - remember that some members are in two Branches.

## Branch membership

Branch	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
East Anglia	57	50	65	56	51
East Midlands	31	24	33	26	17
London	321	307	338	348	362
North America/Canada	42	45	45	36	34
North-West	117	113	127	125	128
Scottish	47	59	59	61	72
Southern	97	90	102	86	107
South-West	58	58	64	67	69
West Midlands	216	187	210	210	247
Yorkshire/North-East	53	45	50	46	46
UK Unaffiliated	127	143	160	180	258

*David Young, Honorary Membership Secretary*

## The Archives

The principal addition to the Society's archive during the year was the deposit of a run of the *Elgar Society Journal* and *News* from the Society's stockholder, Tom Kelly. This will ensure that there is an archive copy of the Journal always available for reference at The Hive in Worcester.

Advice has been given to the Secretary of London Branch and the Chairman of Southern Branch about the deposit of their non-current records. There is also the prospect of material from the retiring Chairman of the Society and further papers from the previous Chairman.

Members are reminded that the Society's archive is available for consultation at The Hive during its normal opening hours.

*Richard Hall, Honorary Archivist*

## Branch Activities

The Society recognises that Branches contribute to the Society's health as they promote membership and local activity throughout the country. They are particularly important for members who enjoy meeting fellow Elgarians and listening to talks and performances of Elgar's music in their home area.

### East Anglian Branch

The East Anglian Branch met seven times throughout 2018 in the Edmund Room at St. Edmundsbury Cathedral, Bury St. Edmunds. The meetings attract approximately 25 regular members. The Branch was saddened to hear, in March, of the illness and subsequent death of Alan Childs, chairman of the old East Anglian Branch, who had been instrumental in resurrecting it in 2011. A change on the committee meant Christopher Wiltshire took over from Robin Self as Branch Secretary, but it was Robin's programme of speakers which began the season in February with a delightful talk by Peter Worrell on Sir John Barbirolli and the Hallé Orchestra. In March some members went to Snape Maltings to hear *The Spirit of England* and *The Music Makers* sung by Hadleigh Choral Society, and to enjoy supper. Valerie Langford gave the April talk on Roger Quilter, and in May the director of Snape Maltings, Roger Wright, gave a talk on British music. Richard Westwood-Brookes spoke in June describing his extensive research into the enigma of the dedication of Elgar's Violin Concerto. Steven Halls made a welcome return visit on a hot July afternoon and gave a talk on Elgar's orchestral miniatures.

The autumn season began in September when Branch Chairman Peter Newble explored the depiction in music of Judas Iscariot, followed in October by locally-born conductor Adrian Brown describing his tutelage under Sir Adrian Boult and Sir Adrian's interpretation of Elgar's music.

*Bev Simpson*

### East Midlands Branch

2018 was a year of change. Ken Smith died after a long illness; he was a much-loved founder committee member of the resurrected Branch, acting as Secretary in recent years. Gordon Richmond will be known to many Elgarians as founder, Secretary and Chairman of the Branch's existence in the 1970s, before being ordained. He attended our present-day meetings until recently, but sadly passed away at the end of the year. Howard Newton, leading founder of the new Branch, resigned from his Chairmanship to look after his wife Margaret.

We are fortunate to have welcomed Sam Dobson to the committee where he took on the role of Secretary on 8 March, and since July has been busy updating the newsletter and acting as Treasurer since November. The AGM elected Dr Michael Toseland as Chairman. Other committee members are Katherine Goodier, who kindly lets us meet at her house, Michele Goodchild and Graham Cooper, recently co-opted.

Meetings in 2018 started with Dr Steven Halls talking about Brinkwells, and was followed by the Revd John Knowles discussing the composer's music on record. Richard Smith gave us an insight into Elgar's views on the United States and, as an alteration to the published programme, in May Sam Dobson regaled the meeting with details of Sir Malcolm Sargent's life and association with Elgar. A 'Members' Choice' afternoon along with the AGM brought our season to its close. October saw Peter Avis on *Bredon*, and in November Martin Firth considered in detail Elgar's place in oratorio writing and gave us a history of the art. Finally in December Peter Sutton explored Alice Elgar's position in the poetry of her time.

Meetings continue to take place on Saturday afternoons at The Garden Room, attached to Leicester Unitarian Chapel. Although a few members find this central city location inconvenient, and shopping and football traffic can be heavy at times, on balance it is the best we have found with on-site parking, reasonable rent and good facilities.

Work on producing an interesting and varied programme for 2019/20 is in progress as well as avenues to attract members of the public to our meetings. Several 'followers' have either become members of the Society or expressed their intentions to do so.

Although one of the smaller Society Branches, East Midlands is thriving, members and followers combining to enjoy their involvement in the life and times of Edward Elgar.

*Michael Toseland, Branch Chairman*

### **London Branch**

London Branch held a number of events in 2018, as follows:

- 5 February: *The Pageant of Empire*: John Norris;
- 5 March: *The English musical renaissance*: Simon Heffer;
- 9 April: *Sir Malcolm Sargent: social elitist  
and musical democrat*: Andrew Keener;
- 14 May: *Elgar and the innocent ear*: Stuart Freed;
- 11 June: Branch AGM at St George's Hanover Square;  
*Elgar's music for piano*: Margaret Fingerhut;

7 October: *Wood Magic at Brinkwells*: Elgar's chamber music.  
A day of exploration  
at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama.

Reports of the above meetings appear in the relevant issues of *Elgar Society News*.

At the meeting on 5 November, Michael Trott gave his talk on *Hubert Parry: the development of a great personality*, which was based on the enormous amount of research he carried out for his book *Hubert Parry – a life in photographs*. Michael's enthusiasm for his subject has surely encouraged his audiences within the Society to listen to more of Parry's music, especially as Elgar had such regard for the older composer.

Christopher Wiltshire's presentation *Elgar as we knew him* made for an entertaining and, at times, touching evening for our pre-Christmas meeting. He has gathered and edited a significant number of recordings of people who knew Elgar reminiscing about him. The earliest memories were of Norah Crowe, who remembered him giving violin lessons in her house when she was a girl of 12 years old. Perhaps most affecting were the memories of Kathleen Harrison, the nurse who looked after him at the end of his life. The sound clips brought voices and accents from a bygone age into our completely different world.

In April a party of members attended a BBC Singers recital of Elgar choral music, followed by a concert at the Barbican which included *The Spirit of England* and excerpts from *The Starlight Express* conducted by Sir Andrew Davis. A Society stand drew attention to forthcoming events.

An additional event, a day in Oxford, took place in June. This was organised around the opportunity to see Laurence Binyon's manuscript of *For the Fallen* at Trinity College. (Full report in *Elgar Society News*, August 2018.)

Our thanks go to all who contributed to the year's events.

*Ruth Hellen, Branch Secretary*

### **North America Branch**

No report has been received from this Branch.

### **North West Branch**

During 2018 the North West Branch held nine meetings, the reports on most of which have been given in the relevant issues of the *Elgar Society News*. In summary, these were:

- 20 January: our Annual General Meeting followed by *Diffusing the Red Light*,  
an audio-visual presentation by Andrew Keener;
- 25 February: the North West Branch's Annual Luncheon held at The Alma Lodge Hotel, Stockport, with our guest speaker Geoff Scargill;
- 24 March: Wolfgang-Armin Rittmeier's illustrated talk *A German Enthusiast's Love of Elgar*;
- 28 April: Dr Relf Clark's audio-visual presentation *Elgar and Walton*;
- 19 May: *Elgar and Brinkwells* by Geoff Hill (Treasurer of the North West Branch);
- 7 July: A special summer event at Elizabeth Gaskell's House in Manchester featuring a very interesting tour of this historically important venue and a live performance of Elgar's Piano Quintet performed by five members of The Pleyel Ensemble: Benedict Holland (vln), Sarah Ewins (vln), Susie Mészáros (vla), Harvey Davies (pno), and dedicated to the memory of Michael Kennedy;
- 6 October: *The Black Knight, Elgar's first symphony?*  
An illustrated talk by Professor Julian Rushton;
- 3 November: John Knowles (Chairman of our Branch) gave an audio-visual presentation at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool entitled *Elgar, Liverpool and Malcolm Sargent*;
- 8 December: *Elgar in America*, an illustrated talk by Richard and Joan Smith.

(This meeting was brought forward from April 2019 at fairly short notice due to the unfortunate illness of our advertised speaker (Malcolm Walker) who was to have spoken to us about the conductor, Lawrence Collingwood, and the Elgar connections.)

Each of our Branch meetings is reported in full in our Annual newsletter (issued in August) and a link to a pdf file of the full colour newsletter and programme is available on our NW Branch website page.

Particularly in view of the decreasing numbers holding Society membership, we are maintaining our active publicity drive to recruit new members by various forms of local advertising. We are attracting visitors to each of our Branch meetings and a few of these have become Society members as a result.

Our home base for our meetings is at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, but during 2018 we held one meeting at the Quaker Meeting House in Liverpool – now part of our schedule.

*David L. Jones, Branch Secretary*

### **Scottish Branch**

2018 was the end of an era with the sad death, after protracted illness, of Paul Bassett in September. Not only had he been the founder of the Scottish Branch but had been its Chairman for 20 years and organiser of over 120 Branch events. His enthusiasm, success in bringing us first-rate presentations and live music, and his love of limericks are commemorated at greater length in the Scottish Branch's pages of the Society website.

In 2018 there were five full Branch meetings. There were four visiting speakers from England – in January, Adrian Brown on *Elgar's Brinkwells Music*, in March, Chris Wiltshire on *Elgar as we knew him-part 2*, Geoff Scargill on *Elgar and Germany*, and in December Barry Collett on *Elgar before Enigma*. As well as the talks, there was live music provided by the very talented student pianist Ethan Gillespie, Elgar and other songs given by Susanna Horsburgh and pianist David Lyle, and piano music including 'Nimrod' by our own Leon Coates.

The main feature of the October meeting was a performance of the Violin Sonata by local musicians Sheena Jardine (violin) and Stephen Doughty (piano). This was performed almost exactly to the hour and the day of the first private performance 100 years previously. Other Elgar pieces for violin and piano were also introduced and performed at this meeting.

The Branch continued its efforts to link up with and promote concert performances of Elgar's music in Scotland. In February there were two presentations in Glasgow prior to concert performances – one by the tuba player John Whitener before the RSNO performed the First Symphony, and the other on the Cello Concerto (which was being performed by the BBC SSO and later broadcast) by our good friend Iain Farrington.

In August, Branch members sponsored a recital of Elgar and other songs in the Edinburgh Fringe by Judith Gardner Jones and Richard J. Lewis (piano). This took place at the more central venue of St Andrew and St George's Church in George Street and was better attended than previous concerts we have supported in the Fringe. There are encouraging signs that performers organising their own chamber music recitals are including more music by Elgar, including the String Quartet performed twice at the 2018 Fringe by the newly formed Fyrish String Quartet.

The new Branch Committee was voted in at the 2018 AGM in January. Particular thanks are due to Iain Lawson for taking over as Treasurer, Maureen Kelly for stepping in as a stop-gap Secretary, and to Linny Lawson for organising the live music. A programme of events for 2018 and the first half of 2019 was put in place. For the second half of 2018 and first half of 2019, and thereafter, the Branch syllabus will run from September to August.

Apart from our commemoration of Paul Bassett, special thanks need to be recorded to Sharron Bassett who did stints as Branch Secretary and Treasurer over many years, and to long-standing Branch Committee member Norman Arthur, both of whom have now stood down from the Branch Committee. At the end of 2018 there were 47 subscribing members of the Scottish Branch.

*Tom Kelly, Branch Chairman*

### **Southern Branch**

Southern Branch has been active in outward-looking ventures during 2018.

Duncan Eves, Peter Willey and Stephen Wilkins worked on the production of two striking roll-up banners, which enhance meetings and highlight our presence at concerts, notably a successful Elgar concert in Beaulieu where Ed and Wendy Wiseman presented a display for the Society. Stephen Wilkins has brought Southern Branch into the 21st century with a social media presence on Facebook and, more popular and growing, Twitter. See <https://twitter.com/elgarsouthweb>

We are aiming to address the challenge of connecting with young people, Margaret Morphew establishing links with several specialist music courses in Hampshire.

In May, the Branch supported an event organised by our friend Dr Tanya Sirotna, who brought the great English tenor Ian Partridge to Winchester in celebration of his 80th birthday. Enjoyably reminiscing over unpublished recordings, he lamented having only one Elgar song, *Pleading*, in his repertoire. Although he sang in *The Apostles*, sadly Ian Partridge never recorded any Elgar.

Southern Branch membership has remained stable: 98 at the end of 2018 and we held eight meetings shared between The Spring, Havant, and St Lawrence Parish Rooms, Winchester.

- January: the distinguished violist Christopher Wellington reminisced on *My Life in Music*, his esteemed colleagues and the ensembles with whom he played.
- February: Diana McVeagh gave us her *Memories and Reflections* on how the reception of Elgar's music has changed since her first Elgar book was published in 1955. All present found this to be a very special occasion.
- March: Martin Bussey of the *Gerald Finzi* Trust revealed this English composer to us.
- April: Michael Butterfield expounded *King Olaf*, a splendid introduction to this neglected work in anticipation of the Three Choirs performance, much appreciated by some of our members.
- May: In the brilliantly titled *No Great Composers, Please – We're British* Christopher Redwood played music such as Elgar would have known but has now fallen from the repertoire.
- September: Michael Trott celebrated the centenary of *Hubert Parry – the Development of a Great Personality* with us.
- October: Long serving Hallé violinist Peter Worrell made a welcome return visit, entertaining and enlightening us on *Playing Elgar with JB*.
- November: Fittingly marking the Armistice centenary, Adrian Brown explored that late choral masterpiece *The Spirit of England* with the insight of a conductor.  
*William Cole, Branch Chairman*

### **South-Western Branch**

The first talk of 2018 was given by Dr Martin Firth whose subject was *British Music: is there such a thing?* Placing Elgar within that context led to a lively discussion.

On 24 March 2018 the Branch was fortunate in securing a talk by Dr Donald Hunt, OBE, in what turned out to be one of his last engagements. He traced his eventful career and discussed the influence Elgar had had on it.

Parry's centenary year was celebrated by a visit from Michael Trott who had recently brought out his excellent pictorial biography of the composer.

On 30 June Michael Butterfield gave an analytical presentation on Elgar's first and last symphonic poems, *Froissart* and *Polonia*, complete with the

scores projected and salient features coloured. This deservedly attracted the largest audience of the year.

In July Richard Westwood-Brookes spoke about Nicholas Kilburn, who conducted one of the earliest performances of *King Olaf* and subsequently became a valued friend of the composer, encouraging him when he was at low spirits.

On 29 September Duncan Eves gave a fascinating talk about *The Music Makers*, including examination of parts of the original sketches, which were projected onto the screen.

Finally our retiring Chairman, Christopher Redwood, talked in October about the Bristol composer Cyril Rootham whose excellent setting of *For the Fallen* led to some conflict with Elgar..

*Christopher Redwood, Branch Chairman*

### **West Midlands Branch**

The Branch now holds the majority of its meetings at The Firs, Elgar's Birthplace, although we occasionally return to St Leonard's Church of the Beauchamp Community in Malvern, who were so generous in providing their facilities when the Birthplace was being refurbished.

We continue to publish our yearly events leaflet and this is distributed by mail to our members and, electronically, to the Secretaries and Chairmen of all other Branches. Our Branch newsletter is also included in January and July mailings and proves an excellent way of keeping members apprised of all we are doing. We continue to pursue our object of attempting to bring classical music in general, and Elgar in particular, back to schools. In this, we are gaining support from the Executive and joint plans are beginning to emerge. One of our first ventures is to hold a young people's concert in the centre of our region.

Our programme for 2018 was as follows:

- 13 January: *Cross against Corslet – Elgar Longfellow and the Saga of King Olaf*: a presentation by Prof John Hamilton of Harvard University. John's talk has subsequently been published in the *Elgar Society Journal*.
- 10 February: Annual Branch Lunch at Christ Church Hall, Malvern, including an update on the Birthplace by Joe Tierney of the National Trust.
- 10 March: AGM and a talk by Peter Sutton on *Alice Elgar – Poet of her time* with extracts read in his own inimitable style.

- 14 April: *Sullivan without Gilbert*, an illustrated talk by Branch Committee member David Packman on the music of Sir Arthur Sullivan, a contemporary of Elgar.
- 19 May: *The Apostles and Wagner's Parsifal* by Dr Roger Allen of St Peter's College, Oxford, on Elgar's reaction to *Parsifal*.
- 6 June: *Elgar's Lesser Known Works*, a presentation illustrated with many musical examples by Wendy Hill, formerly National Secretary of the Elgar Society.
- 14 July: *Elgar's orchestral miniatures* a talk by Dr Steven Halls, national Chairman of the Elgar Society.
- 30 July: Elgar Day at the Three Choirs Festival in Hereford. *One man and his dog ... Elgar and G.R. Sinclair*: the Elgar Society lecture by Roger Judd, for many years Assistant Organist at St George's Chapel, Windsor. This was followed by the Elgar Society Lunch at which we were delighted to welcome Sir Andrew Davis and Dr Timothy Brain, Chairman of the Three Choirs Association.
- 15 September: *Troyte*, a talk by Dr Jim Berrow, executive producer and independent researcher on Troyte Griffiths. Jim was assisted by Dr Roy Massey who played several musical examples on the organ at All Saints' Church, Malvern.
- 20 October: *Elgar and Atkins – a 100 year personal perspective*, a presentation by Adrian Lucas, conductor of the City of Birmingham Choir and formerly Director of Music at Worcester Cathedral, on Elgar's relationship with Ivor Atkins.
- 3 November: *Hubert Parry: the development of a great persona* given by Michael Trott, formerly Chairman of the West Midlands Branch, to coincide with the publication of his book.
- 16 November: A concert by Cantabile, a prize-winning girls' choir from Hereford Cathedral School, who performed a delightful selection of songs including several by Elgar.
- 1 December: *Elgar and the novelist*, a discussion by the well-known novelist Sue Gee, assisted by Timothy Day, on novels written about Elgar comparing them with her own works.

*Richard Smith, Branch Secretary*

## Yorkshire and North East Branch

Our year started in January with a brief AGM followed by committee member Paul Kampen, himself an active horn player, talking about horn players in Elgar's time, displaying instruments from an earlier era and the development of mouthpieces, and giving examples of Elgar's writing for the horn. March saw the very welcome return of Barry Collett to talk about his interest in exploring Elgar's lesser-known music.

Our live music programme in April featured the Fairfax Ensemble: regular visitors Josephine Peach (piano), and Amanda Crawley (soprano), but this time joined by the flautist Edwina Smith. This enabled them to include both chamber and vocal works in their programme. In May Simon Lindley, retired organist of Leeds Parish Church and Leeds Town Hall, came to speak about his relatives and their connection to Elgar. His grandfather, Professor Emile Cammaerts, was a Belgian poet and writer, some of whose French texts Elgar set in the darkest days of World War I. His great-grandmother, Marie Brema, sang the role of the Angel in the 1900 performance of *Gerontius* in Birmingham and in Sheffield in 1902, the latter under the direction of Elgar.

Our Elgar Branch was re-activated by Geoff Scargill in 2012, and in June 2018 he came to talk about his more recent work in helping to develop the Elgar Society's interests by forming a branch in Germany. He also considered the possible influence of Wagner on the development of the young Elgar.

For various reasons the last three months of our year had to be re-arranged, so Professor Julian Rushton came in September to talk about *The Black Knight* and to expand on Elgar's comment '*I intended the work to be a sort of symphony in four divisions founded on the poem*' by Johann Ludwig Uhland. The original September speaker, John Humphries, then came in October to talk about Elgar and the orchestra, and to consider and compare his early days in Worcester with the celebrated late recordings, when Elgar conducted the London Symphony Orchestra.

Dr Donald Hunt had kindly agreed to come to speak in November but sadly died in August, aged 88. Anticipating possible health and travel problems, he had already given details of his talk to our member Caroline Gilderdale, a friend of the family, and this was presented on Dr Hunt's behalf by another friend of the family, Dr Simon Lindley, whilst Caroline organised and directed a small choir to illustrate the examples quoted in the talk. Thus our year closed with a fitting tribute to Dr Hunt and we were pleased that members of his family were able to attend.

Overall we have had a most interesting year of meetings and we are grateful for the support of the national committee that has made this possible. This will be my final TAR as, after five years as Branch Chairman, I have handed over this role to Professor David Young.

*J.A. Pook, retired Branch Chairman*

## **C 2019 INITIAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS**

Given the purpose of the Society is the education in and promotion of the appreciation of the public in the music of Edward Elgar and the education of the public in his life, Council have agreed a strategy that enabled our activities to be grouped under the aims mentioned under it, viz:

- a. the provision of educational programmes and activities to widen knowledge of Elgar's music for all and develop the public benefit achieved by the Society;
- b. support for the Elgar Birthplace, museums and educational establishments that attract the general public to Elgar's music and life;
- c. the funding and encouragement of performances and recordings of his works;
- d. the encouragement of research into Elgar's music, and the publication of a scholarly journal containing the results of such research;
- e. the publication of or support for a scholarly edition of Elgar's music.

Much managerial time was spent filling the vacant positions of President, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, EiP Co-ordinator and Council members. These were all successfully achieved and only the Chairmanship remains open at the time of writing. Future strategy will depend on the Society's new Chairman, working with Council.

*.Steven Halls, Elgar Society Chairman*

## THE ELGAR SOCIETY

### Statement of Financial Activities for the period ended 31 December 2018

General Fund	2018	2017
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	26,555	27,461
Gift Aid	3,841	3,954
Royalties	188	215
Legacies	0	0
Interest	1	376
Other	11,723	1,051
Donations	505	0
<b>Total income</b>	<b>42,812</b>	<b>33,057</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<i>Society Objectives</i>		
Journals and Newsletters	10,394	9,167
Events / Branches	14,650	12,221
AGM	1,285	429
PR and Advertising	36	570
Sundry	3,292	232
Elgar in Performance	16,838	40,590
Elgar Medals	0	130
Support to the Elgar Birthplace	0	0
<i>Administration</i>		
Authorised expenses for		
Council and Executive	2,318	2,851
Membership administration	0	320
Cost of investment	0	0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>48,812</b>	<b>66,510</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the period</b>	<b>(6,000)</b>	<b>(33,453)</b>
Transfer between funds		30,000
<b>General Fund brought forward</b>	<b>30,887</b>	<b>34,340</b>
<b>General Fund at 31 December 2018</b>	<b>24,887</b>	<b>30,887</b>

Other funds	Brought Forward	Received	Spent
		2018	2017
		£	£
<b>Restricted Fund</b>			
Kay	3,960	3,960	3,960
Branches: London & West Midlands	14,952	14,952	14,952
<u>Total Restricted</u>		<u>18,912</u>	<u>18,912</u>
<b>Designated Funds</b>			
Walker	16,216	16,216	16,216
Ballantine	14,080	14,080	14,080
Elce	6,816	6,816	6,816
Graham	20,056	20,056	20,056
Graves and piano	0	0	0
Dolan	5,000	5,000	5,000
Total		<u>62,168</u>	<u>62,168</u>
Total movements			
<b>Total Funds</b>			
<b>at 31 December 2018</b>		<u>105,967</u>	<u>111,967</u>
<b><u>Balance Sheet at 31 December 2018</u></b>			
Funds Represented by:			
Bank deposits		0	0
Current account		(1,435)	11,298
Investec investment		84,125	84,125
Lloyds Fixed Term		0	0
Branches bank balances		6,859	4,215
Branches' other funds		17,681	14,952
Less owed by Society		<u>(1,262)</u>	<u>(2,623)</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>105,968</u>	<u>111,967</u>