



# **The Trustees' Annual Report**

**1 January 2015 to  
31 December 2015**

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# THE ELGAR SOCIETY

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2015 - 31 December 2015

### 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 12 Monkams Drive, Woodford Green, IG8 0LQ

#### Trustees

The following acted as Trustees during the period under review:

Paul Bassett	Helen Petchey
Stuart Freed	Geoff Scargill
Jon Goldswain (from June 2015)	George Smart
Steven Halls	Clive Weeks
John Harcup (until June 2015)	David Young
Ruth Hellen	

#### Elected Officers

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

#### Other National Post-holders

Archivist:	Richard Hall
Data Protection Officer:	Richard Hall
Journal Editor:	Martin Bird
Membership Secretary:	David Young
News Editors:	Ernie Kay, Richard Smith, Peter James
Web Officers:	Stuart Freed/Robert Gilbert

#### Branch Officers

Branch	Chair	Secretary
East Anglia	Peter Newble	Robin Self
East Midlands	Howard Newton	Ken Smith
London	Philip Petchey	Ruth Hellen
North American	Arthur Reynolds	Lee Kaufman
North-West	Geoffrey Scargill	Patricia Hurst
Scotland	Paul Bassett	James Carter
Southern	William Cole	Wendy Wiseman
South-Western	Christopher Redwood	Michael Butterfield
West Midlands	John Harcup	Richard Smith
Yorkshire & North East	Tony Pook	Rev. Marc Seccombe

#### Advisers

Bankers:	Lloyds TSB
Independent Examiner:	Adrian Benselin, Chartered Accountant

## Honorary Posts and Awards

**President** – Julian Lloyd-Webber FRCM

**Vice-Presidents** - Diana McVeagh, Michael Pope, Dame Janet Baker Ch DBE, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Andrew Davis CBE, Dr Donald Hunt OBE, Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE, Andrew Neill, Sir Mark Elder CBE, Martyn Brabbins, Tasmin Little OBE

### Recipients of the Elgar Society's Silver Medal

1992	Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore	2011	Anthony Payne
1992	Leonard Slatkin	2012	Barry Collett
1999	Jerzy Maksymiuk	2012	Jacek Kaspszyk
2000	Tadaaki Otaka	2012	Sir Colin Davis
2007	Andrew Litton	2013	Sir Andrew Davis
2008	Sakari Oramo	2013	Sir Mark Elder (not yet presented)
2009	Danube Symphony Orchestra	2015	Daniel Barenboim
2009	Vladimir Ashkenazy	2015	Diana McVeagh
2011	Michael Kennedy	2016	Martin Bird (not yet presented)

### 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. 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, which met on 2 occasions in 2015.

A member of the Elgar Birthplace Management Committee is welcome to attend as an observer at Council meetings and the Chairman of the Society is welcome to attend as an observer at Elgar Foundation Board meetings.

### Working Parties active during 2015

Name	Chairman/Convenor	Members
Elgar in Performance (including Education)	Steven Halls	Barry Collett, Martyn Marsh, Executive C'tee
Branch Chairmen's Committee	Geoff Scargill	All other Branch Chairmen

### Council and Executive

The Council met three times and the Executive Committee on four occasions during 2015. Since the 2015 AGM, the main topics of discussion were:

- progress on the many components of the Society's adopted strategy;
- deciding on new recordings and other initiatives;
- appointing a new editor to the Elgar Society Journal;
- appointing a new Secretary to the Society;

- dealing with all the applications to *Elgar in Performance* and the education and special projects funds;
- monitoring the situation developing between the Birthplace and the National Trust and the latter's decision to take over the management of the former;
- potential Vice-Presidents and recipients of the Certificate of Merit and the ES Medal;
- continuing collaboration with German contacts and promoters, managed by the Executive and spearheaded by Geoff Scargill and pursued by him with the help of the Elgar Trust;
- The continuation of the free membership scheme.

As ever, I pay tribute to my colleagues on Council, whose debates are always stimulating, and on Executive, who deal promptly and efficiently with anything that comes their way.

Steven Halls, Chairman

## **Branches**

There are nine 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 might 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 the 31 December 2015 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 is on performances in Britain it encourages performances of Elgar's music abroad as far as its resources permit. It is particularly concerned to introduce the composer and his music to younger audiences and, by making grants to appropriate educational activities, to enhance the quality of life of members of the public. It also supports the Elgar Birthplace Museum with an annual grant based on a levy of £5 per full subscription with the objective of widening accessibility to the location and its contents and encouraging research. Through the activities of the Society, the cultural well-being of the UK is enhanced and interest in this culture is encouraged overseas.

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. 2015 – 31 Dec. 2015)**

### **General Overview**

Under Initial Achievements & Plans, the last Trustees' Annual Report stated that, in 2015, 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.
- *Elgar in Performance*, coupled with the Other Projects Fund agreed by Council, has already allocated some of its £15,000 towards supporting a wide variety of events at home and abroad. *As well as in a variety of UK venues, concerts have been supported in Albania, Russia, Switzerland, and increasingly in Germany.*
  - In particular, we shall concentrate on activities in Germany, where some exciting developments are under way. *The conference in Bamberg took place in April, and was attended by a contingent from the Society.*
  - We shall seek to raise sponsorship and legacies to enable us to expand our work and ensure it extends into the future. *£5,000 was donated by the Elgar Family Trust to match our own investment in the German projects.*
  - The EiP funds also will support recordings, and we are currently negotiating on filling any remaining gaps in the recorded repertoire. *A grant was awarded to Rupert Marshall-Luck to record the Études Caractéristiques. Somm Records launched their recording of the Binyon works and negotiations have continued on aspects of the repertoire still to be recorded.*
  - Use the Ballantine, Elce, W.M. Graham, Walker and Kay bequests to further the aims of the Society. These have already proved very useful in funding recordings and changes to our website.
  - Council will consider nominations for the Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit.
  - The AGM and Birthday Weekend and Elgar Day at the Three Choirs Festival will once more be pleasurable highlights of our administrative and social year.

- 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 reasonable cost to performers and conductors all over the world. *Via Elgar Works, a complete set of orchestral parts and a score of The Dream of Gerontius was deposited with the Verband Deutscher Konzertchöre (Federation of German Choirs) to lend out to choirs wishing to perform that work in the future.*

### Recordings

No major Society-supported recording was produced in 2015 but it was gratifying to note the new Chandos release of *Scenes from the Saga of King Olaf* (1896) and *The Banner of St. George* (1897) performed by the Bergen Philharmonic Choir and Orchestra conducted by one of our Vice-Presidents, Sir Andrew Davis. Both these works were on the Executive’s wish-list for re-recording, making the splendid performances doubly valuable to us.

### Elgar in Performance/ Education/Other Projects

In 2015, from 27 applications, the following performances were supported by EiP from its budget of £16,563.

Recipient	Activity	Date	Venue	Aid
Cobbe Collection	Elgar Piano	5/5		400
Madeleine Mitchell & Samara SO	Violin Concerto	7.2.15	Phlharm’ic Hall, Samara, Russia	800
	Bamberg Conference	17-19.4	Bamberg	3800
Kurrende Tübingen	The Dream of Gerontius	8.3	Tübingen (postponed to 2016)	1000
Alexander Walker, Albanian Radio & TV Orchestra	Polonia, Violin Conc. Spirit of E	20.11	National Concert Hall, Albania	1000
Bristol Uni. Choir & Orch.	Spirit of England and Une Voix dans le Désert	14.3	Bristol	750
Exeter Philharmonic Choir	Music Makers	12.3	Exeter	500
Kirchenmusik am Herforder Münster	King Olaf	7.11	Herford(Westphalia)	500
Würzburg Monteverdi Choir	The Apostles	11/12.7		
Basel & Zurich Choirs	The Dream of Gerontius	27/28.11	Basel & Zürich	1000
Letchworth MusicClub	String Quartet	14.10	Letchworth	100
Rupert Marshall-Luck	Études Caractéristiques		Recording	250
Verband Deutscher Konzert-Chöre	Gerontius Score & Orch. parts		Printing	216
Armin-Rittmeier	Society’s German Leaflet		Translation & print	200

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

### The Journal

During 2015 Vol. 19 Nos. 1–3 of the *Elgar Society Journal* were published in April, August, and December, of 60, 56 and 72 pages respectively. Particular highlights were essays by **Ben Palmer** on *The Sound of Elgar’s Orchestra*, **The Editor** on *Elgar’s War Service*, and **Kevin Mitchell** on *The Starlight Express*.

Martin Bird, Editor

## The News

Since the publication of the August 2014 edition of the *Elgar Society News*, the three compilers, **Richard Smith**, **Ernie Kay** and **Peter James** have continued with the format established in that issue. In conjunction with the *Elgar Society Journal* they publish three editions a year, distributed on 1 April, 1 August and 1 December. The first of these always contains the Trustees' Annual Report as an appendix. With the issues that follow, it is sad to report that one of our Joint Compilers, Ernie Kay, will no longer be able to take an active part due to a serious illness.

Richard Smith, Joint Compiler

## Membership Report

As at 31 December 2015, the number of members was 1125 (1216 in 2014).

82 new members joined during the year, of which 60 were free. Remember that members can be affiliated to one or two branches.

<b>Branch membership</b>	<b>2015</b>	2014	2013	2012	2011
<b>East Anglia</b>	<b>56</b>	51	52	47	25
<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>26</b>	17	10	-	-
<b>London</b>	<b>349</b>	362	353	350	392
<b>North America/Canada</b>	<b>36</b>	34	46	63	37
<b>North-West</b>	<b>125</b>	128	120	125	134
<b>Scottish</b>	<b>61</b>	72	68	71	70
<b>Southern</b>	<b>86</b>	107	106	116	118
<b>South-West</b>	<b>67</b>	69	79	84	89
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>210</b>	247	229	281	264
<b>Yorkshire/North-East</b>	<b>46</b>	46	24	11	-
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	<b>180</b>	258	210	236	266

David Young, Honorary Membership Secretary

## The Archives

The following new accessions to the Society's Archive have been made in 2015:

- Papers mainly from the estate of Vincent Waite, including press notices on the death of Elgar on 23 February 1934; Order of Service for Elgar's Memorial Service at Worcester Cathedral on 2 March 1934; description of Elgar Window in Worcester Cathedral; Service for Unveiling of Memorial to Elgar in Westminster Abbey; 1 June 1972; letters to Vincent Waite (including from John Masefield); scrapbook of press cuttings and reviews 1948-1970s; miscellaneous papers dating from 1905 and various concert programmes 1973-2010 (including Wigmore Hall Recital on 40th Anniversary of Elgar's death 1974 and Tribute to Elgar by LPO, 2007); photographs of 90th birthday celebrations of Wulstan Atkins in 1994 (deposited by Martin Passande, former chairman of London Branch).

Archive CD of *Evelyn's Choice of Music*: Evelyn Barbirolli in conversation with Michael Kennedy in February 2004; Programme for Michael Kennedy Memorial Concert at RNCM, Manchester, 5 October 2015. (Deposited by Geoff Scargill and David Jones, chairman and vice-chairman of the North West Branch, Manchester).

These records will be added to the Society's archive at the Worcestershire Record Office in The Hive, Worcester later in the year.

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 held seven well-attended meetings in 2015 at our usual venue, the lecture room at St Edmundsbury Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds:

- 7 February: *Elgar and the Great War* (Peter Newble)  
7 March: *Recollections of a recording producer* (Christopher Bishop)  
11 April: *Elgar's choral songs* (Donald Hunt)  
9 May: *Elgar's chamber music: From the Shed to the World* (Steven Halls)  
30 May: *Elgar's first symphony* (Tom Kelly)  
10 October: *Elgar and Wagner* (Michael Butterfield)  
321 October: *The unknown in the known: a fresh look at Elgar's Salut d'amour*  
(Rupert Marshall-Luck)

In addition, on 11 July a group of members made a social visit to Ely, where they were given a tour of the Cathedral and heard a superb performance of *The Dream of Gerontius* by the Cambridge Philharmonic, conducted by Tim Redmond.

Members who live in East Anglia but have not attended our meetings before are encouraged to join us, as indeed are any visitors, whether members or not. Thanks are due to the branch committee, especially the Secretary, Robin Self, and the Treasurer, Helen Whittaker.

Peter Newble, Branch Chairman

### **East Midlands Branch**

The Branch had another successful year, hosting nine meetings and attracting between twenty-five and thirty people on most occasions, as members or visitors. The speakers who have visited the Branch and the subjects that they have covered are as follow:

- January: **Stuart Freed** - *Barbirolli's Elgar*  
February: **Anthony Payne** - *Elgar's Third Symphony and other matters*  
March: **Andrew Dalton** - *Fred Gaisberg: HMV recording engineer and Elgar's friend*  
April: **Dr John Harcup** - *Edward Elgar: a medical enigma?*  
May: **Paul & Sharron Bassett** - *Elgar and his great friend W.H. (Billy) Reed, LSO leader*  
June: **Dr Christopher Kent** - *Schumann's influence on Elgar*  
October: **Dr Donald Hunt** - *Carl Nielsen, the Danish Elgar*  
November: **Peter Walden** - *Special People - Those who have inspired me*  
December: *Members' Choice*

It is pleasing to note that we have increased our core support. A number of people who attended initially as visitors have subsequently taken out Society membership. We are making determined efforts to contact those whose names feature on the Membership Secretary's lists but who have yet to attend a meeting. We very much appreciate the loyalty of all supporters. Although based in Leicester we continue to attract people from Nottingham, Rutland, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Coventry and Warwickshire in addition to Leicestershire.

From October onwards we have been settled at our venue of choice, although on some occasions (for example when collaborating with other organisations) we may use an alternative such as in February 2016, when we will meet in a local church for a concert of live music with an accompanying talk. I warmly thank all who have helped to take the Branch forward, in particular, our hardworking committee of four.

Howard Newton, Branch Chairman

### **London Branch**

London Branch held 8 meetings in 2015 as follows:

- February 6 *An evening with Sir Mark Elder*  
March 2 *Elgar abroad: a survey of some great recordings: Rob Cowan*  
April 13 *Sir Adrian Boult: Adrian Brown*  
May 11 *A three-fold cord: Edward Elgar, Ivor Atkins and the earliest origins of the Three Choirs Music Meetings: Steve Williams*  
June 1 AGM: *Elgar's Falstaff: Iain Farrington (St George's Hanover Square)*  
October 13 *Elgar, Britten and me: David Matthews*  
November 9 *Elgar's solo and choral songs with orchestra: Terry Barfoot*  
December 8 *Elgar, Blackwood and The Starlight Express: Kevin Mitchell, with Stephen Harrow, Lyn & Peter Nixon*

Reports of these meetings appear in the relevant issues of Elgar Society News. Our thanks go to all who contributed to the year's events. The average attendance for the year was 51.

In April a party of members attended a concert at the Royal Festival Hall to hear the Berlin Staatskapelle play Elgar's Second Symphony. After the performance Andrew Neill presented the **Elgar Medal** to the evening's conductor, **Daniel Barenboim**, who gave a moving speech of acceptance. These occasions provide an opportunity for members to meet outside the normal programme and also allow for participation by those who cannot usually attend Branch meetings.

The Branch now has a Twitter account, thanks to our committee member Grace Ioppolo who set it up and maintains it <https://twitter.com/ElgarLondon>  
We hope that this will make Elgar more visible to a wider range of people.

Ruth Hellen, Branch Secretary

### **North America Branch**

Widely scattered North America Branch members meet once a year for a conference organized around the performance of an Elgar work. Unfortunately, our intention to meet in Indianapolis in the spring of 2015 ended in failure when Raymond Leppard, music director of the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra was obliged by illness to announce the last-minute cancellation of a concert, the programme of which would have included the *Wand of Youth Suites*, *Dream Children* and *Cockaigne*. Activity on behalf of the Society centred around the production of a CD set scheduled for publication by Somm later in the current year. The Branch's 2016 conference is scheduled to take place on March 3-5 in Chicago.

Arthur S. Reynolds, Branch Chairman

### **North-West Branch**

We currently have 126 members drawn from an area which covers Staffordshire to Cumbria, and the West Coast to the Pennines. Our average attendance at meetings is around 35. We held nine branch meetings during 2015. Most of these were held on Saturday afternoons at our 'home base' at the Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester. Reports on the majority of these meetings have been given in the three editions of the *Elgar News* in 2015. In summary, the meetings are listed below.

17 January AGM, refreshments, and then recorded music introduced by four Branch members.

14 February **David Jones: *In the South*** and **Geoff Scargill: *Elgar and Dreams***  
This meeting was reorganised at very short notice when our advertised speaker backed out.

7 March **Barry Collett: *Elgar and The Great War*** As always, Barry was hugely entertaining.

18 April **Simon Baggs** (violin and viola) and **Nick Patrick** (piano) provided a truly excellent afternoon's entertainment on *Elgar's works from a performer's prospective* which included a talk by **Simon Baggs** with recorded and live music provided by our guests.

9 May Our annual day out (well organised as usual by **John Mawbey**, our Branch Treasurer) was to Skipton, Giggleswick (talk and guided tour of the Morrison Chapel) and Settle.

13 June A visit to Liverpool for Choral Evensong, a guided tour of Liverpool's magnificent Anglican Cathedral, high tea in the restaurant there and then on to the Philharmonic Hall for a splendid performance of *The Dream of Gerontius* given by the RLPO under the baton of their principal conductor, **Vasily Petrenko**, with choir and distinguished soloists. An excellent trip all round. We aim to have an annual meeting in Liverpool.

3 October **Stuart Freed: *Introduction and Allegro for Strings*** in which the audience was asked to participate in a quiz-like presentation which tested fully our musical appreciation.

7 November **Andrew Neill: *The View from Whittenham Clumps*** - a fascinating perspective on the First World War and accompanied by various paintings of the artist, Paul Nash.

5 December **Geoff Scargill** (interviewed by **David Jones**) *Desert Island Discs* in which we were given an insight into Geoff's family, childhood, work, hobbies and musical tastes.

In addition to our Branch meetings, we engaged in a very successful project to release a double-CD set entitled *Evelyn's Choice of Music*. This was from a recording made at a NW branch meeting in 2004, when Evelyn (Lady Barbirolli) was interviewed by Michael Kennedy in a Desert Island Discs type of format. Production costs were kept down to a minimum by a do-it-yourself approach and, as a result, we have been able to donate over £2,280 to the Kennedy Strauss Prize fund at the RNCM. We were delighted when Sir Mark Elder agreed to present the cheque to Joyce Kennedy in January.

David L. Jones, Branch Secretary

### **Scottish Branch**

Our January AGM meeting started with a welcome repeat visit from **Dr Steven Halls**, Chairman of the Elgar Society, who gave us a talk on *Elgar and the Brinkwells Music*. In this talk, continuing from his AGM presentation to us in 2014 on *Elgar's Great War Music*, Steven examined the music written whilst Elgar was based at

Brinkwells in the Sussex woods between 1917 & 1920, including the Cello Concerto, the Violin Sonata, the String Quartet and the Piano Quintet. His talk was illustrated with music and slides. The meeting concluded with the AGM at which the current Committee were all re-elected.

Our March meeting welcomed **Dr Christopher Redwood**, Chairman of the South West Branch of the Elgar Society. He gave his excellent presentation on ***Elgar, Delius and Holst***; three of Britain's greatest composers who all died within six months of one another in 1934. Christopher described the efforts they made to promote British music and played excerpts from the compositions of all three. The meeting opened with live music from Leon Coates (piano) who gave us the piano transcription of *Dream Children* beautifully before he, Heather Fleck (violin) and Heather Coates (cello) played *Three Movements for Piano Trio* – Elgar/Rooke.

Our May speaker was **John Norris**, a member of the Elgar Society for almost 30 years, who presented ***Tales from the Elgar Complete Edition- discovering Elgar's lost works***. Having established Elgar Enterprises, the Society's publishing imprint, in 1999, he relinquished this responsibility in 2006 to set up Elgar Works, an independent charity aimed specifically at stimulating performances of Elgar's less well known works. This led almost immediately to an invitation to take over the responsibility for publishing the Elgar Complete Edition, a near full-time pre-occupation which has taken him into the darker recesses of the British Library and other music archives. A selection of his more interesting findings formed the basis of his fascinating talk.

Pianists **Sean Morrison** and **Emily Ruuskanen**, pupils of Gill Mantle at the City of Edinburgh Music School, performed some live music for us. Together they played Rachmaninov's *Waltz for four hands* at the start of the recital and to close it, Poulenc's *Sonata for four hands*. Individually, Sean played Schumann's Intermezzo from Carnival and Rachmaninov's Elegy, and Emily played first Liszt's *Consolation No.2* and then 6 pieces for keyboard from Bach's *French Suite*. The young musicians prefaced their performances with their reasons for liking the pieces they performed so beautifully.

Our June meeting welcomed **Adrian Brown** with his audio visual presentation ***Elgar and World War 1 – 'The Spirit of England'*** He discussed how Elgar's compositional contribution affected both himself and the War effort. Adrian considered *The Spirit of England* to be a major masterpiece, persuading us as he discussed its genesis and analysed its words and music. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Music, Adrian Brown was one of Sir Adrian Boult's most gifted pupils. He is the only British conductor to have reached the finals of the Karajan Conductors' Competition. The prestigious orchestras he has conducted include the Berlin Philharmonic, the CBSO, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the London Sinfonietta. The meeting commenced with a recording of *The Spirit of England* with Richard Hickox and Felicity Lott.

On Saturday 19 September, **Michael Butterfield** gave us his audio-visual presentation entitled ***Jaeger***. August Johannes Jaeger was Elgar's agent at Novello and was also 'Nimrod' in the *'Enigma' Variations*. Michael discussed Jaeger's long friendship with Elgar and the significant influence that he had on a number of Elgar's most important compositions, including the *'Enigma' Variations* and *The Dream of Gerontius*. Finally, Michael highlighted Elgar's *The Music Makers* and showed *Nimrod* and other works of Elgar quoted within it. The programme for the afternoon had begun with Branch members Ernest and Olive Laing (violin & piano) who

performed for us a programme of Elgar's salon pieces including *Idyll* op.4, *Salut d'Amour*, *Mot d'Amour*, *Chanson de Nuit* and *Chanson de Matin* and the second movement of the *Violin Sonata*.

The final meeting of 2015 in November saw a visit from **Andrew Keener**. Andrew is an independent recording producer whose talk offered an illustrated portrait of one of the most popular but complex personalities among Twentieth-Century conductors, in his audio visual presentation entitled *Sir Malcolm Sargent: Elitist with the common touch?* Andrew played examples of the music of Sargent from the whole classical range including Elgar (*Dream of Gerontius*), Delius and Vaughan Williams as well as Gilbert and Sullivan.

Paul Bassett, Branch Chairman

### **Southern Branch**

Our Branch committee member, **Christine Walters**, launched the year with an affectionate account of the friendship between the Walters and Elgar families including light shed on the 'enigma' mystery. Trombonist **Sue Addison** demonstrated varieties of the instrument and told the entertaining story of Elgar's efforts to play it and the afterlife of his actual instrument.

Hilarity abounded when long-time Hallé violinist **Peter Worrell** reminisced on playing in that cherished orchestra, especially with that most passionate Elgar conductor, John Barbirolli. **David Bury** demonstrated passion, too, in introducing rarer operas by Richard Strauss and the musical affinities and contrasts with his friend Elgar.

Conductor **Leslie Olive** spoke of his experience conducting *The Dream of Gerontius* whilst **Paul Bassett** gave a touching account of Elgar's warm and enduring friendship with Billy Reed.

In *Elgar and Landscapes*, **Stephen Johnson** gave specific examples of landscapes leaving their imprint on some of Elgar's greatest works. Followed by a generous and stimulating discussion, this was a thrilling meeting. Subsequently, **Martin & Jane Bird** delighted a large audience with *Lively Wives and Lovers*, drawing on Martin's extensive researches into Elgar correspondence.

Our Branch meetings are held at our old home, The Spring at Havant, attracting audiences of between 25 and 30, and our new home St. Lawrence Parish Rooms in Winchester, attracting audiences of about 40.

William Cole, Branch Chairman

### **South-Western Branch**

Our Annual General Meeting and party were on Saturday 31 January 2015. 20 members attended the meeting. This was followed by a series of clips from YouTube featuring unusual performances of Elgar's music, and ended with mulled wine and fruit cake.

Our March meeting was addressed by **John Drysdale** who spoke about *Elgar's Earnings*. John is a musicologist and former investment banker. This talk has been reviewed very favourably by other Branches and we also were most impressed. He

covered almost every aspect of Elgar's remunerated activities including unsatisfactory earnings from his compositions, but reasonable rewards in later life from conducting and making records.

In April we had a talk from **Professor Bernard Porter**, who is a professional historian, and he talked on *Elgar and his understanding of Empire*. He provided a thorough account of all the evidence relating to Elgar's feelings towards the British Empire as they developed through his life. In particular he demonstrated how the popular idea of jingoism was very wide of the mark. There were copious musical examples, ending with *For the Fallen* from *Spirit of England*, which represented the mature Elgar's feelings on war and patriotism.

There was a gratifyingly large attendance at the South-west Branch meeting on 30 May 2015 to hear its former Chairman **Michael Butterfield's** presentation *Elgar's Use of the Seventh*. Opening with obvious examples from the *Serenade for Strings*, *'Enigma' Variations* and Second Symphony he then moved on to discuss 'hidden sevenths', i.e. melody lines that extended by that interval with a single intervening note. All of this was splendidly illustrated by excerpts from the relevant scores, painted 'in glorious technicolour' for easy following.

We were privileged to have a visit from the Society's Chairman **Dr Steven Halls** on 27 June. He spoke on *Edward Elgar's Music & the Great War*. He described Elgar's creative and emotional reaction to the World War I, culminating in his acceptance of the post-war commission to write a work for the Loughborough Carillon. This was a splendid PowerPoint presentation with numerous musical illustrations. He covered Elgar's pre-war output in outline, and looked more closely at the post-war works.

The autumn season opened with a talk from **Dr Martin Firth**. Martin is a regular speaker at our meetings as he lives locally and his PowerPoint presentations are very popular, attracting a number of visitors who had not attended our meetings before. His topic was *Elgar's Symphony No.0*, an investigation of Elgar's Organ Sonata and its orchestration by Gordon Jacob. Martin provided the background to Elgar's only major keyboard work, and included a complete recording of the orchestral version of this remarkable piece.

**Michael Trott** visited us on 31 October to give a talk on *Elgar at Marl Bank*, his final home, sadly no longer in existence. He sent us a scholarly paper in advance of the meeting so we were already well informed before he started. The talk was a PowerPoint presentation with a large number of photographs, many of which were unfamiliar. He also had a fascinating sound archive from broadcasts and other sources by people who had known Elgar personally.

On 28 November our Chairman **Dr Christopher Redwood** spoke on *The music Elgar heard*. Christopher is an authority on English music and was able to delight us with examples of English music with which Elgar would have been familiar, but which were unfamiliar to us.

The year ended with our Christmas lunch attended by 14 members. The event ended with an Elgarian quiz, and, as has happened on some previous occasions, the winner was Charles Kinsey, who is a veteran of more public quizzes including the music quiz on Radio 4.

Michael Butterfield, Branch Secretary

### **West Midlands Branch**

As many of you will know there are to be many changes at the Elgar Birthplace Museum with which the WM Branch closely cooperate. The main change is that the Museum will be run by the National Trust from October 2016, and the installation of a tea room and other changes at the Museum will necessarily affect our Branch meetings which are normally held there. A temporary replacement venue for our meetings has been organised.

We continue to hold an annual joint event with the Worcester Recorded Music Society and contribute to, and sponsor, a lecture for the *Autumn in Malvern* festival; the Branch also organised the Society's Three Choirs Elgar Day at Hereford in 2015.

We produce a joint events leaflet with the Elgar Birthplace which has a circulation of 10,000. Several of our members are also volunteers at the Museum. We also continue to produce a bi-yearly Newsletter which is distributed to our members by post and/or electronically (available from the Branch Secretary). The programme to provide further plaques on places of Elgarian interest continues. Two plaques have been provided at Southbank Nursing Home (one paid for by Spire Health) and another will be unveiled at the Worcester Royal Grammar School where Elgar taught when it was the Alice Otley School. One of our members is also investigating installing a plaque on the site of Powick hospital where Elgar was bandmaster.

An important initiative being energetically pursued by the Branch is to bring classical music in general and Elgar in particular back to schools. We deprecate the lack of interest in classical music amongst many.

Our 2015 programme was as follows and is further detailed in issues 55, 56 and 57 of the Society's *News*.

- Annual lunch, Saturday 7 February 2015, Christ Church Hall, Malvern.
- *Elgar's Second Symphony and 19th Century Traditions* by **Dr Matthew Riley**, Saturday 14 March 2015, Elgar Birthplace Museum.
- AGM and *Letters to Nimrod* - a reading with musical extracts, Saturday 11 April 2015. Elgar Birthplace Museum.
- *Elgar's Church Music – a performer's perspective* by **Dr Peter Nardone**, Saturday, 9 May 2015, Elgar Birthplace Museum.
- *Elgar in the 21st Century* by **Julian Lloyd Webber**, President of the Elgar Society. A Three Choirs Festival event organised by the WM Branch at Hereford, Wednesday 29 July 2015. This was followed by the Elgar Society Lunch.
- *Elgar Society Exhibition at the Three Choirs* organised by **David Packman** and stewarded by other members of the Branch at All Saints' Church, Hereford, between 28 July and 1 August 2015.
- *Elgar and Germany* by **Geoffrey Scargill**, Saturday 19 September 2015, Elgar Birthplace Museum.
- *Friend of Friends* by **Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore**, Sunday 11 October 2015, Elgar Birthplace Museum, in conjunction with the Autumn in Malvern Festival.
- *Introduction and Allegro* by **Stuart Freed**. Joint event with the Worcester Recorded Music Society, Saturday, 7 November 2013. Baptist Church Hall, Worcester.

- *Piers Plowman – Elgar’s Bible?* by **Peter Sutton**, Saturday, 14 November 2105, Elgar Birthplace Museum.
- *Don’t Mention the War* by **Martin & Jane Bird**, Saturday, 5 December 2015, Elgar Birthplace Museum.

Richard Smith, Branch Secretary

### **Yorkshire and North East Branch**

We had a good programme for the year, starting on 17 January with a brief AGM followed by a series of films made by the Rev Marc Seccombe, some of which were commissioned and used by the Birthplace Museum. Our regular live music programme, given by **Josephine Peach** (piano) and **Amanda Crawley** (soprano) in April, focused on events taking place in Britain and Europe in Elgar’s time. The *Great War* theme was continued by **Steven Halls** and **Philip Petchey** and an earlier period was covered by **Andrew Lyle** and **Barry Collett** who gave separate but linked talks on the *Powick Asylum music*. **David Lloyd-Jones** spoke about his experience in conducting Elgar’s music whilst **David Jones** examined the great legacy of Elgar’s work in the early days of recorded sound.

Attendance at our Saturday afternoon meetings could be improved but there has been a slight overall increase in our number of members. We are planning a trip to Worcester and the AGM in June, leaving York by coach on Friday 10th with pick-ups in Wetherby and Doncaster, returning on Sunday 12th. We still have a few spaces if members from other Branches would like to join us ([tonypook@talktalk.net](mailto:tonypook@talktalk.net) for further details).

As a committee we are concerned about fund-raising without alienating our present attendees, increasing membership through wider advertising at local music venues and universities and we would like to improve the consistency of our visual and audio sound without too much expense.

Tony Pook, Branch Chairman



**The Elgar Society,**

**Statement of Financial Activities for period ended 31st December 2015**

<b>General Fund</b>	2015	2014
	£	£
<b>Income</b>		
Subscriptions	29,961	30,709
Gift Aid	4,426	7,412
Royalties	0	0
Legacies	0	0
Other	608	3,360
Donations	250	12,000
<b>Total income</b>	<u>35,245</u>	<u>53,481</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<i>Society objectives</i>		
journals & Newsletters	8,752	8,552
Events/Branches	15,575	11,469
Member		
communications	1,023	2,362
PR & Advertising	629	2,482
Sundry	134	2,706
Elgar in performance	7,871	28,500
Support to the Elgar Birthplace	4,370	5,173
<i>Administration</i>		
Travel costs Council & Exec	2,591	2,408
Membership administration	355	528
cost of investment	875	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>42,175</u>	<u>64,180</u>
<b>Surplus/Deficit for the period</b>	-6,930	-10,699
<b>General Fund brought forward</b>	25,490	24,119
Transfers from funds		<u>12,070</u>
<b>General Fund at 31.12.2015</b>	<u>18,560</u>	<u>25,490</u>
<b>Other funds</b>		
	2015	2014
	Brought fwd	received spent
Restricted		
Kay	6460	6,460
Designated		
Walker	16216	16,216
Ballantine	14080	14,080
Elce	36816	36,816
Graham	20056	20,056
Graves and piano	608	400 208 608

Dolan	5000	5,000	5,000
<b>Total</b>		<u>92,376</u>	<u>92,776</u>
Total movements			403
<b>Total funds as at 31st December 2015</b>		<u>117,396</u>	<u>124,726</u>
<b>Balance sheet as at 31st December 2015</b>			
Funds represented by:			
Bank deposits		30,293	55,357
Current account		36,169	65,794
Investec investment		49,125	
Branches bank balances		4,264	4,849
Less owed by Society		<u>-2,455</u>	<u>-1,274</u>
<b>Total Funds</b>		<u>117,396</u>	<u>124,726</u>

These accounts were approved by the Board at its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016

## Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015

### 1. Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the basis of historical cost in accordance with:

- Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP 2005);
- Financial Reporting Standards for Smaller Enterprises (FRSSE); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

### 2. Accounting policies

#### 2.1 Subscriptions

Subscriptions are accounted for in the year in which they are received, except for subscriptions received in advance which are carried forward to the next year.

#### 2.2 Other incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the Society becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
  - Where incoming resources have related expenditure (for example, subscriptions) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

#### 2.3 Donations and legacies

- Donations and legacies are only included in the SoFA when the Society has unconditional entitlement to the resources. This year the Society has allocated the legacies received to two designated funds, the Graham Fund and the Dolan Fund.

#### 2.4 Tax recoverable on subscriptions, donations and gifts

Incoming resources from tax recoverable are included in the SoFA at the same time as the income to which they relate.

#### 2.5 Branches

Although the regional branches of the Society are constituted under separate rules the income and expenditure of the branches are included in these accounts.

#### 2.6 Taxation

The Society is a registered charity no 298062 and accordingly is exempt from taxation on its income and gains where they are applied for charitable purposes.

### 3. Trustees' expenses

Travel and other out of pocket costs amounting to £2534 were reimbursed to 12 members of the Council, the Executive and Chairmen of branches in the year when appropriate claims were made (2014 £2408 reimbursed to 11 individuals).

No member of the Council nor any person connected with them has received any remuneration in the year.

4. Donations, sponsorship and projects

Grants and other financial support given to institutions were a material part of the total resources expended by the Society. Grants made were as follows:

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
	£	£
Elgar in Performance - grants to organisations (2014 – 16 organisations) including expenses	7871	28500

5. Restricted funds

Kay legacy

The Society is one of the beneficiaries of the estate of a former member. The will specifies that the legacy shall not be used for routine running expenses but shall be devoted to capital or other longer term projects.

6. Analysis of fund assets and liabilities

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
	£	£	£
Bank deposits	30292.93	6460	35752.93
Cash at bank	36168.87	0	36168.87
Investments	49125.00		49125.00
Branch Balances	4492.00		4492.00
Current liabilities	<u>-2649.98</u>		<u>-1274</u>
		<u>6460</u>	<u>124726</u>
	<u>117428.8</u>		
	<u>2</u>		

7. Elgar Enterprises

A wholly owned trading subsidiary, Elgar Enterprises (a company limited by Guarantee; Registration No: 3821653), was established in 1999. The Articles of Association prescribe that membership is limited to serving members of the Council of the Society and its directors include, *inter alia*, the officers of the Society.

The company is now dormant and has paid the majority of its funds to the Society, retaining sufficient to meet any remaining liabilities.

## **Independent Examiner's Report to the Trustees of The Elgar Society**

I report on the attached accounts of The Elgar Society for the year ended 31 December 2015.

### **Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner**

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

### **Basis of independent examiner's report**

My examination was carried out in accordance with the general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

### **Independent examiner's statement**

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

A G Benselin  
Chartered Accountant  
3 Maylands Avenue  
Breaston  
Derbyshire

## D 2016 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 the life of Edward Elgar, 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 or support for a scholarly edition of Elgar's music.

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

- *Elgar in Performance*, coupled with the Other Projects Fund agreed by Council, has already allocated two-thirds of its £15,000 towards supporting a wide variety of events at home and abroad, particularly Germany. These include three German performances of *The Dream of Gerontius*, three British performances of *The Music Makers*, two of *Sea Pictures* and two of *The Apostles*.
- We shall seek to raise sponsorship and legacies to enable us to expand our work and ensure it extends into the future. We have already received £39511.49 from the estate of the I.B. (Iain) Browning Will Trust.
- Council are considering how we can meaningfully support educational work associated with Elgar.
- We are having to revise our relationship with the Birthplace in the light of its imminent operational takeover by the National Trust.
- The *Elgar in Performance* funds also will support recordings, and we are still currently negotiating on filling the remaining gaps in the recorded repertoire.
- Use the Ballantine, Elce, W.M. Graham, Walker, Kay and I.B. Browning bequests to further the aims of the Society. The first two of these have already proved very useful in funding recordings and changes to our website.
- Council will consider nominations for the Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit.
- The AGM and Birthday Weekend and Elgar Day at the Three Choirs Festival will once more be pleasurable highlights of our administrative and social year.
- 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 reasonable cost to performers and conductors all over the world.

Steven Halls, Elgar Society Chairman