

# THE ELGAR SOCIETY

England & Wales · Charity number 298062

## Details

---

**Status** Registered

**Legal form** Other

**Registered** 1988-01-22

**Register** [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

## Contact

---

**Address** 134 Oglander Road  
London  
SE15 4DB

**Phone** 07816 221316

**Email** [info@elgarsociety.org](mailto:info@elgarsociety.org)

**Website** [www.elgarsociety.org](http://www.elgarsociety.org)

## Activities

---

**Objects:** THE SOCIETY IS FOUNDED IN HONOUR OF THE MEMORY OF EDWARD ELGAR WITH THE OBJECT OF PROMOTING A WIDER INTEREST IN HIS LIFE AND MUSIC.

**Activities:** THE PROVISION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES AND ACTIVITIES TO WIDEN KNOWLEDGE OF ELGAR'S MUSIC FOR ALL, SUPPORT FOR THE ELGAR BIRTHPLACE MUSEUMS AND EDUCATIONAL ESTABLISHMENTS, THE FUNDING AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF PERFORMANCES AND RECORDINGS OF HIS WORKS, THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF RESEARCH INTO ELGAR'S MUSIC, AND THE PUBLICATION OF A SCHOLARLY JOURNAL CONTAINING THE RESULTS OF SUCH RESEARCH.

## Classification

---

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Makes Grants To Organisations, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research
- **What:** Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

## Geography

- Germany
- Scotland
- United States
- Throughout England And Wales

## Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£47,423	£57,427	-	-
2023-12-31	£63,826	£54,093	-	-
2022-12-31	£56,947	£50,377	-	-
2021-12-31	£38,092	£45,719	-	-
2020-12-31	£126,446	£28,681	-	-

## Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Caroline Gilderdale		2022-06-05
DAVID PETER MORRIS FRSA		2023-07-16
Elizabeth Jane Luder		2019-06-02
Malcolm Westwood		2025-07-20
Martyn Marsh Grad. ISM		2021-06-06
Myles Manders-Young		2025-07-20
Peter John Smith		2019-06-02
Roger Allen		2025-07-20
STUART FREED		
Samuel Dobson		2022-06-05

**THE ELGAR SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 298062

---

# Accounts

---



**The Trustees' Annual Report and  
Accounts**

**1 January 2024 to 31 December 2024**

**Published in the *Elgar Society News* in April 2025  
and presented to the Annual General Meeting on 20 July  
2025**

## THE ELGAR SOCIETY

### Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2024 - 31 December 2024

#### 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 Acting Secretary at 64 Willis Road, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire, HP17 8HF.

##### Trustees

The following acted as Trustees during the period under review:

Stuart Freed	Peter Newble (until July 2024)
Sam Dobson	Philip Petchey
Caroline Gilderdale	George Smart (until July 2024)
Liz Luder	Peter Smith
Martyn Marsh	Roy Whittaker (until July 2024)
David Morris	Prof. David Young

##### Elected Officers

Chair:	Stuart Freed
Vice-Chair:	Martyn Marsh
Secretary:	Post vacant, David Morris, Acting Secretary
Treasurer:	Peter Smith

##### Other National Post-holders

Archivist:	Post vacant. Caroline Gilderdale until July 2024.
Data Protection Officer:	Stuart Freed
Journal Editor:	Kevin Mitchell and Editorial Board of Andrew Dalton, David Morris & Andrew Neill
Membership Secretary:	Chris Bennett
News Editor:	Peter James
Web Officer:	Stuart Freed

##### Branch Officers

Branch	Chair	Secretary
London	Philip Petchey	Ruth Hellen
North American	Arthur Reynolds	Lee Kaufman
North-West	Geoff Scargill	David L. Jones
Scotland	Ian Lawson	Kitty Parker
Southern	David Pearce	Post vacant, David Pearce Acting Secretary
West Midlands	Wendy Hill	Richard Smith (until 13 April 2024), post vacant
Yorkshire & North-East	David Young	Malcolm Westwood

##### Advisers

Bankers:	Lloyds TSB
Independent Examiner:	Adrian Benselin

##### Honorary Posts and Awards

**President** – Sir Mark Elder CH CBE

**Vice-Presidents** - Diana McVeagh, Dame Janet Baker CH DBE, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Andrew Davis CBE (died April 2024), Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE, Andrew Neill, Martyn Brabbins, Tasmin Little CBE, Julian Lloyd Webber OBE, Julian Rushton.

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

1992	Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore	2013	Sir Andrew Davis
1992	Leonard Slatkin	2013	Sir Mark Elder
1999	Jerzy Maksymiuk	2015	Daniel Barenboim
2000	Tadaaki Otaka	2015	Diana McVeagh
2007	Andrew Litton	2016	Martin Bird
2008	Sakari Oramo	2016	Teresa Cahill
2009	Danube Symphony Orchestra	2016	Alexander Walker
2009	Vladimir Ashkenazy	2019	Anastasia Vedyakova
2011	Michael Kennedy	2019	Adrian Brown
2011	Anthony Payne	2019	Dame Janet Baker
2012	Barry Collett	2021	Christopher Bishop
2012	Jacek Kaspszyk	2023	Neil Mantle
2012	Sir Colin Davis		

#### **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Society is governed under a constitution adopted with effect from 1 January 2008 and subsequently amended in June 2010, June 2011, June 2018, June 2022 and July 2024. Its Council consists of the elected officers, and up to eight other members of the Society.

The Executive Committee consists 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.

There are five committees/working parties (1) Elgar in Performance (which includes Elgar in Education) which decides on grants in respect of performances of Elgar and in respect of educational projects (and special projects) and (2) the Branch Chairs' Committee, composed of the Chairs of the branches of the Society (3) three additional working groups have also been formed to deal respectively with (a) Recruitment/Retention (b) proposals for the Society's 75th anniversary and (c) Education and Young People.

#### **Subcommittees/Working Parties active during 2024**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Chair/Convenor</b>	<b>Members</b>
Elgar in Performance (including Education)	Dr Roger Allen	Executive Committee, Peter Newble
Branch Chairs Committee	Philip Petchey	All other Branch Chairs
Elgar Online Group	Sam Dobson	Martyn Marsh, David Young, Chris Warsaw (North America) and Marian Rutland
Recruitment and Retention Group	Martyn Marsh	Michael Trott (Sec), Philip Petchey, Frances Prince, Geoff Scargill, Peter Toothill, Chris Warsaw
75th Anniversary Group	Andrew Neill	Stuart Freed, Martyn Marsh, Chris Warsaw, Ruth Helen, Geoff Scargill, David Morris, Michael Trott, Jonathan Hope and Peter Smith
Education Working Group	Geoff Scargill	Michael Trott (Sec), Martyn Marsh, Jonathan Hope, Steven Goulden, Myles Manders-Young

#### **Council and Executive**

The Council met three times online during the year. The Executive Committee met twice. Much of the business was progressed by email and Zoom. The branch chairmen did not meet in 2024.

### **Branches**

At the start of the year there were six UK branches organised geographically, and a further branch covering America and Canada. There are also links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany. 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 for consolidation with the accounts of the national 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 2024 and the Trustees are not aware of any material change in risk which needs to be reported.

### **Reserves Policy**

The Council's policy is to retain reserves equal to at least one year's expenditure.

### **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 (now known as The Firs) 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.

The Society seeks to promote performance of Elgar's music, especially the more rarely performed works. 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. It is concerned to introduce the composer and his music to younger audiences and, by making grants for appropriate educational activities, to achieve this.

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 January 2024– 31 December 2024)**

### **General Overview**

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 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 continue to be focused on rebuilding activities following the Covid-19 pandemic nationally and at branch level.

The main developments during the year were:

- Branches have continued successfully meeting following the Covid pandemic.
- Performances supported by *Elgar in Performance* and the education and special projects funding continued to increase but pre-Covid levels have not been reached.
- The Elgar Online Group has co-ordinated the year-round programme of online offering in such a way as to avoid clashes with live branch meetings (see details below).
- The Elgar Festival has been supported alongside the Birthday Weekend events which this year again included a lunch.
- The AGM was held as a Zoom meeting to enable members who cannot travel to Worcester to participate.
- Monitoring the membership numbers;
- continuing links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany;
- keeping under review the Society's financial position;
- continuing to work closely with the National Trust at The Firs and funding a programme of events containing a talk and concert with young performers;
- negotiating with the British Library regarding digitisation of Elgar scores held by them, and agreeing a grant towards this;
- agreeing a scheme with the Holst Society for joint reduced-price membership.
- During the year the Council has:
  - received a report from the Recruitment & Membership Working Party chaired by the vice-chairman;
  - formed an Education Working Group to examine the ways the Society can relate more effectively with young people;
  - continued to issue a weekly email newsletter from the chairman to all online members;
  - received reports from the group set up to look at proposals for the Society 75th Anniversary in 2026.

*Elgar Society Journal*: Under Kevin Mitchell's leadership, the editorial board continues to oversee the production of an informative and interesting *Journal* which is issued three times each year (together with the Society's *News*, edited by Peter James) and is distributed both in physical and electronic form.

**Sponsorship and Legacies**: We continue to encourage donations and legacies for specific projects.

**Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition**: We continue to promote 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.

## Elgar in Performance

RECIPIENT	ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE	GRANTED
Orchestra of the Music Makers	Enigma Variations	9.3.24	SOTA Singapore	250
London Chorus	Orchestral Songs Op 48, 59, 60	7.3.24	Holy Trinity, Sloane Sq	250
Brockham Choral	Part Songs, Enigma, Music Makers	7.12.24	St Martin's Church Dorking	500
Culwick Choral Society, Dublin	Light of Life	17.5.24	St Andrew's Dublin	750
Brussels Young Adult Choir	Four Part Songs Op.53	5.5.24	Brussels	200
Ormskirk Music Soc	From the Bavarian Highlands Op.27	6.7.24	Burscough, Lancs	200
Motettenchor Loerrach	From the Bavarian Highlands Op.27	13/14.7.24	Loerrach/Mülheim	350
Cantemus Choir	All Elgar Programme incl.Op27	22.6.24	St James, PO10 7DP	200
Collegia Musica Chiemgau e.v.	From the Bavarian Highlands Op.27	5/6.10.24	Bad Reichenhall/Munich	500
Willow Orchestra	Symphony 1	28.9.24	St John's Hampstead Heath	500

The Elgar in Performance scheme continues to support Elgar performances in the UK and abroad with the aim of actively encouraging wider acceptance of lesser-known works. It was pleasing in 2024 to see no fewer than four performances of *From the Bavarian Highlands* Op.27, two in Germany and two in the UK, with a further UK performance scheduled for March 2025. Other significant events included the early choral work *The Light of Life* Op.29 given by the Culwick Choral Society of Dublin; and Symphony No.1 Op.55 in Hampstead given by the Willow Orchestra, an ensemble comprised of young orchestral musicians at the outset of their professional careers. The Elgar in Performance Group is keen that the scheme should become more widely known, especially with regard to the Society's aim of encouraging active engagement with Elgar's music amongst young musicians.

*Dr Roger Allen, Coordinator – Elgar in Performance*

## The Journal

During April, August and December 2024 further editions of Volume 24 of the *Elgar Society Journal* were published, running to 77, 81 and 105 pages respectively, with a cover photograph of Elgar at Severn House in April, John Henry Newman in August and the souvenir programme for the 1924 Pageant of British Empire for December.

The April issue contained an article on Elgar and August Manns by Arthur Reynolds; Dr Relf Clark wrote on Elgar and Parratt; Paul Guinery on Elgar and Delius; and Maddy Tongue on Dorabella. Andrew Neill introduced three essays on The Importance of Elgar by Scott Dickinson, Adrian Partington and Eleanor Roberts.

The August issue opened with obituaries of Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore and Sir Andrew Davis by Andrew Neill, followed by further articles on 'The Importance of Elgar' by Dame Janet Baker, David Cairns, Andrew Staples, Neal Davies, Neville Creed and Roderick Williams. Simon Heffer wrote on Holst to commemorate the latter's 150th anniversary. Alan Tongue wrote on 'Dorabella' as a conductor, followed by an article on Frank Schuster and Leslie Wylde by Chris Adams. Professor Julian Rushton reviewed the Carus edition of the score of *The Dream of Gerontius*.

The December issue opened with an article by Andrew Dalton and Andrew Neill on Elgar's *Pageant of Empire*, marking the centenary of the British Empire Exhibition in Wembley in 1924. Dr Relf Clark wrote on Elgar and Stanford and Norman O'Neill was remembered by Em Marshall-Luck. The June A.T. Shaw lecture given by Julian Lloyd Webber and Kenneth Woods was published, with further essays on 'The Importance of Elgar' by Diana McVeagh, Julian Lloyd Webber and Dr Christopher Kent.

During the year seven books and nine CDs were reviewed as were the four volumes of the LPO Legacy which are only available as a download. A number of letters were printed and the recordings that Elgar made in 1924 were noted – the '100 Years Ago ...' columns recalled what the composer was doing during that year.

The editorial team has worked in harmony to edit, proof-read and assemble the *Journal* and we are greatly indebted to Mike Byde for carrying out the formatting of each issue, often having to produce several versions before the final copy is ready for the printers, John Price, who we also thank for their work in printing and posting the *Journal*.

## The News

The usual three editions were published in 2024 with the aim of combining Elgarian news and features with information from branches and the Society's officers. Among notable articles was a feature in April's issue by Stephen Bibby, who replicated Elgar's journey up the Amazon, a century on. The Society's farewell for Sir Mark Elder at the Hallé was included in August's edition, as well as four reminiscences of Jerrold Northrop Moore. The December issue carried an article about a performance of *The Kingdom* in 1909 conducted by Elgar, and an account of a visit to Hasfield Court.

It's always a pleasure to receive unsolicited items of interest from occasional contributors, so Society members should not hesitate to send their articles or letters - even handwritten ones sent by snail mail for those without computers. Special thanks go to Robert Gilbert, typesetter and compiler of the concert diary, and to regular contributors including (but not limited to) Richard Smith, John Norris, Philip Petchey and Andrew Neill.

Peter James

## Membership Report

The table of branch membership, as at 31/12/2024, is shown below. It should be noted that many members have nominated two branches, and the actual membership figure at the end of the year was 792, this to include life members, hon. members and vice-presidents. This shows a fall of 33 from the 2023 total.

The total number of new members joining in 2024 was 29 - slightly fewer than 2023's figure of 37. There were more resignations and sadly more deaths this year. The total number of members removed from the register in 2024 was just over 50.

In order to give some members more time to pay their subscriptions, there were no members removed for non-payment in 2024. This was only partially successful, and we believe we will lose some members for non-payment in 2025.

<b>Branch membership</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2016</b>
London	257	261	269	277	286	320	321	307	338
North America/Canada	50	51	49	49	52	49	42	45	45
North-West	99	104	108	114	119	120	117	113	127
Scottish	40	42	46	48	50	50	47	59	59
Southern	77	79	76	83	86	89	97	90	102
West Midlands	177	179	178	188	192	229	216	187	210
Yorkshire/North-East	56	58	55	52	52	55	53	45	50
<b>Area Memberships</b>									
South-West	30	31	33	41	45	54	58	58	64
East Anglia	40	43	44	54	54	56	57	50	65
East Midlands	21	24	27	31	34	37	31	24	33
<b>No Branch/Area Affiliation</b>	123	126	129	145	119	161	127	143	160

## The Archives

All material which has been sent to me in terms of hard copies – papers, correspondence, paintings, concert programmes, newspaper articles etc. – is now stored in the Archive at the Hive in Worcester.

All documents from Elgar Society branches, vice-chairman and chair have now been collated and organised and will be transferred digitally to the Digital Archive in February 2025.

I relinquished the role of Archivist in June 2024 (due to increasing commitment to other organisations), as was briefly mentioned at the AGM. It also seemed that this was then an appropriate time for me to cease receiving any more archive material.

Caroline Gilderdale

## Elgar Society Online

Elgar Society Online (ESO) has continued its work throughout the year to present a wide and interesting variety of talks available to anyone, member or non-member, with internet access. The subcommittee for the live Zoom meetings consists of: Sam Dobson (Chair), Martyn Marsh, David Young (all national Council members), Marian Rutland (Bury St Edmunds) and Chris Warsaw (North America). No meetings of the subcommittee were held during the year. The few issues which arose were dealt with by email. All matters relating to Vimeo films were dealt with by Peter Newble and Andrew Neill.

We originally aimed for eight events during the year but unfortunately achieved only six as it proved impossible to find a suitable date for a November talk and the December talk had to be abandoned due to technical problems encountered by the speaker. Titles and presenters of the six talks which did take place are as follows. Attendance at each talk is shown in brackets. The January talk was hosted by ESO but arranged by North-West Branch.

13 January 2024	<i>The Second Symphony: another Elgarian Enigma</i>	Duncan Eves
(attendance details not held)		
2 March 2024	<i>Ann Greening: Mother of Edward Elgar</i>	Michael Trott (33)
23 March 2024	<i>Elgar's Peyton Lectures</i>	Sir David Eastwood and Christopher Morley (34)
6 April 2024	<i>Elgar and Joachim</i>	Arthur Reynolds (40)
25 May 2024	<i>A Lifetime of Making Songs: Elgar au Salon</i>	Julian Rushton (30)
10 October 2024	<i>Elgar for a New Generation</i>	Ryan Czekaj (31)

All talks were recorded and requests for a link to the recording are made through Peter Newble.

The established practice is that speakers who are Society members are not paid a fee. This year the standard fee was £150 but none of the speakers were paid as they were all Society members. Of course, the group is always on the lookout for likely speakers on subjects of interest. We are aiming to present seven or eight talks for 2025. The committee have said they are happy to pay three or four speakers per year but this is not something for which we have a target.

Overall, the subcommittee are happy with the management of ESO and the choice of speakers. The average attendance for Zoom talks in 2024 was 34. The previous year's figures are 31 for 2023 and 35 in 2022, showing that interest remains steady. We gain publicity through the chairman's regular newsletters, the Elgar Society's website and with posts on the Facebook pages of the Elgar Society and the Edward Elgar Society.

Sam Dobson - Elgar Society Online

## 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 Elgar talks and performances in their home area.

### **London Branch**

The London Branch held meetings as follows:

5 February	<i>Alice Elgar – guardian of a genius</i>	Simon Baggs
4 March	<i>An evening with Colin Matthews</i>	
15 April	<i>Heartbreak in Tuscany: Elgar's Op.57</i>	George Parris
13 May	<i>Elgar and his concert band transcribers</i>	Tom Higgins
10 June	Branch AGM; <i>Piano recital of music by Elgar</i>	Mitra Alice Tham
7 October	<i>Elgar's atypical variations</i>	Julian Rushton
4 November	<i>Elgar and Stanford</i>	Relf Clark
2 December	<i>The Pageant of Empire</i>	Andrew Dalton & Andrew Neill

Reports of the February to October meetings appear in the relevant issues of *Elgar Society News*. Relf Clark's talk in November compared the lives of Elgar and Stanford, showing the marked differences in their education and career development. He also shed light on the way their relationship changed over the years.

In December, Andrew Neill and Andrew Dalton gave a richly illustrated presentation to mark the centenary of the gigantic two-year British Empire Exhibition at Wembley attended by half the nation, focusing on the largely forgotten twelve-week *Pageant of Empire* that was to feature much music, specially written by Elgar, for massed bands and choirs. The presentation included recordings of most of the pageant's orchestral and solo songs, reconstructed in 2010 by Martin Yates and Roderick Williams, to show what might have been had the weather and over-ambitious programming not overtaken the event.

All our meetings were again held at Queen's College in Harley Street. Attendance is steady, though we would naturally like to see more people at our meetings, which are both varied and of a high quality. For all branch activities we are reliant on a large number of people who help in a variety of ways and our thanks go to all of them.

*Ruth Hellen – Secretary, London Branch*

### **North American Branch**

The Elgar Society's North American Branch is a largely virtual branch that meets once each year for a three-day conference organized to take place in a city where a major Elgar work is being performed. A review of our 2024 conference, held in St Louis Missouri, appeared in the *Elgar Society News*. North American Branch is internally funded and makes no application to the Council for funding.

*Arthur Reynolds*

### **North-West Branch**

Our total branch membership is currently down to 99 - the first time it has dropped below 100 for many years. This is mainly due to the death of elderly members and the number of new members joining the branch not compensating for the decline. As reported last year, we are not complacent and are actively looking at ways of encouraging others, particularly the more youthful members of society, to come along and join us and see what we have to offer.

All our meetings in 2024, apart from the meeting and AGM on 13th January (both of which were held via Zoom) were held as live events and were as follows:

13 January 2024            Duncan Eves presented 'The Second Symphony: another Elgarian Enigma'. Duncan's talk was testament to his scholarship and recognition that the creative process of a musical genius can only be glimpsed by inference and educated guesswork. Duncan regards this symphony as one of the twentieth century's greatest symphonic masterpieces

- 10 February 2024 David Jones gave an extensive, wide-ranging and well-illustrated PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Elgar: A Dreamer of Dreams'.
- 09 March 2024 Pupils from Chetham's School of Music (led by their Music Director, Tom Redmond) played a selection of instrumental pieces accompanied by piano. (This meeting was held at the Carole Nash Hall, Chetham's School of Music.)
- 13 April 2024 Michael Trott gave us a detailed and well-illustrated talk on the subject of 'Hubert Parry: The Development of a Great Personality'.
- 11 May 2024 Charlie Perry gave a fascinating illustrated talk on 'Angels and Demons: Elgar's Choral writing for his three major Oratorios'. (This meeting was held at the Liverpool Quaker Meeting House.)
- 19 May 2024 Although not a North-West Branch meeting, many members from the branch, and several from other branches of the Elgar Society, came to Manchester's Bridgewater Hall for two afternoon concerts given by the Hallé Orchestra conducted by Sir Mark Elder in which Elgar's 'Enigma' Variations featured prominently. The lunchtime concert entitled 'The Musical Story of Enigma' was a family concert designed to be fun, interactive and easy to understand by children. It was introduced by Tom Redmond and Sir Mark Elder. The afternoon orchestral concert (which began at 4.00 pm) included a performance of the 'Enigma' Variations. It was the final Opus One Series concert which Sir Mark was to conduct before stepping down as music director of the Hallé. It was appropriate that the final work played was by Elgar. In his twenty-four years as music director, Sir Mark has championed, performed and recorded with the Hallé many works by Elgar to huge acclaim.
- 05 September 2024 The annual North-West Branch Sunday Luncheon was held at the Alma Lodge Hotel in Stockport. After the lunch, four branch members talked about and played pieces of recorded music which held a special significance for them. Altogether a very enjoyable experience.
- 12 October 2024 Harvey Davies (piano) and Sarah Ewins (violin) - both of them professional musicians from the Pleyel Ensemble - played and talked to us in a delightful programme entitled 'Elgar - Live Music'.
- 23 November 2024 Andrew Dalton gave us a detailed and fascinating presentation entitled 'Billy Reed - A Musician's Musician'. It included many excerpts of rare recordings.
- 14 December 2024 Andrew Neill gave us an illuminating, wide-ranging, and well-illustrated presentation entitled 'Pageant of Empire' in which he spoke about the music which Elgar composed for a pageant as part of the 1924 British Empire Exhibition at Wembley.

*David L. Jones - Hon. Sec., North-West Branch*

### **Scottish Branch**

The year was largely inactive for the Scottish Branch and, in anticipation of this, the branch waived the usual offer of funding from the Society. An AGM was held by Zoom in June at which the committee was able to report on a couple of potential home-grown events, but neither could be brought to fruition before the end of the year. These, and others, are still under current consideration, but the branch has turned largely into a promotional outpost for the Society, encouraging attendance at local Elgar concerts and promoting awareness of the Society at them by leafleting. As well as performances by amateur orchestras - notably Neil Mantle's Scottish Sinfonia which the Branch continues to sponsor - the new conductor of the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra is beginning to show a significant track record with Elgar's large-scale works. The committee aims to develop the branch's connections with performers of Elgar works, and also to organise occasional events which will feature both performance and a level of analysis rather deeper than audiences can get from programme notes.

*Ian Lawson - Branch Chairman, Scottish Branch*

### **Southern Branch**

The Southern Branch had a normal year of meetings at our two locations in Winchester and Havant. However, we started 2024 by joining with others in a meeting on Zoom featuring our vice-chairman, Duncan Eves, talking about 'Elgar's Second Symphony: another Elgarian Enigma' – a subject very familiar to Duncan, having studied it at Southampton University. Live meetings continued in February at our Havant venue, with Peter Avis describing his many exploits in 'My Summertimes on Bredon', having climbed the hill a great many times. In March, Michael Butterfield took us on a tour with 'Caractacus' at Winchester, and in April Andrew Keener introduced us to some 'Unsung Elgarians' back at Havant. At our May meeting in Winchester, the former broadcaster, musician and composer Chris de Souza asked the question, 'Why did it take so long for Brahms to complete his First Symphony?' He described the many mysteries surrounding it, together with the enigma of Brahms's relationship with Clara Schumann.

I attended the 2024 Three Choirs Festival in July, this year held in Worcester. It is always an opportunity to meet musical friends and to make new ones, and to promote the objectives of our Society. It was delightful to chat informally to the then Master of the King's Music, Judith Weir, who attended most of the festival. Worcester is always a bit special for Elgarians. It also provides a good opportunity to recruit speakers for Southern Branch. My review of the festival was published in the December edition of the *Elgar Society News*.

Southern Branch commenced the second half of its 2024 programme with the September meeting, held in Winchester, when a well-attended audience heard Richard Westwood-Brookes's talk 'The Violin Concerto - Who is The Dark Lady?' Richard gave us his best guess, which prompted much discussion among the audience. This was followed in October by Andrew Neill, who gave a fascinating talk at Havant about the 'Pageant of Empire' held at Wembley in 1924 to support the Empire Exhibition. This has subsequently been published as an article in the Society's *Journal*. Our final talk of the year was given by Alexis Paterson, the retiring chief executive of the Three Choirs Festival. Her presentation discussed new music of the last 300 years of the festival's existence, ably making the point that all music was new at some stage. It was held in Winchester.

I added a plea for more members and guests to attend our meetings, particularly at Havant where numbers always seem to be lower. This is a better location with a café and excellent audio-visual facilities laid on.

Our 2025 season will open on 22 February at Winchester when Michael Trott will tell us about his joint project with Hilary Elgar and the late Dr Brenda Watson to record the life of Elgar's 'wonderful mother' Ann. Full details are on the website, Southern Branch page. A full year of presentations will then follow at our two locations.

And finally, our branch hopes for a new secretary have evaporated, so the position is still vacant. I continue to remind all members of the Southern Branch that we very much need a dedicated branch secretary, but no one seems willing to take on the job. We would also like one more committee member. Nevertheless, we managed to achieve a full programme of meetings in 2024 and plan to do the same for 2025. Member numbers have again fallen in Southern Branch, as well as more generally. Our regular meeting attendees remain loyal, but we still need to spread enthusiasm for our Society and recruit more members. We are maintained financially by the subvention from the national treasurer and raise donations and raffle income at our meetings. However, we notice that the cost of venues and speaker expenses continues to increase.

*David Pearce - Chairman, Southern Branch*

## **West Midlands Branch**

For 2024 the branch held its meetings at The Firs, Elgar's Birthplace, in Worcester, Holy Trinity Church Hall in Malvern, Malvern Priory and Christ Church in Avenue Road, Malvern.

Saturday, 27 January 2024: 'Ann Greening – Elgar's mother.' The well-known Elgarian and previous chairman of the West Midlands Branch, Michael Trott, gave a most interesting presentation on Ann Greening. For several years, Michael has been researching the life of Ann Elgar, together with her great granddaughter, Hilary Elgar, and the late Brenda Watson. This research has resulted in a book about Ann which is available from Michael or at our branch meetings and formed the subject of his talk.

Saturday, 17 February 2024: Annual Branch Lunch. The ever-popular yearly branch lunch was again held at Holy Trinity Church Hall in Malvern. As always, we must thank our caterer, Leslie Hitchen, and her team for a delightful selection of dishes. She tells us that if our lunch is held in

2026 it will mark her 30th year. Our thanks to Gill Bradshaw for compiling her usual mind-bending quiz.

Saturday, 16 March 2024: 'Arranging Elgar for Military Band'. We were delighted to welcome Tom Higgins to talk on arranging Elgar for military band. Tom studied conducting at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, gaining a silver medal in his first year. He has conducted several leading British and German orchestras, including the Royal Philharmonic, and recorded a revival of Elgar's *Fringes of the Fleet* with the Guildford Philharmonic Orchestra which included Roderick Williams as the main soloist. He recently arranged and conducted two other albums for Somm records: *Crown Imperial* (CD 0138) and *Elgar and his Peers* (CD 0170). Both include several Elgar works arranged for military band, with the latter produced with the support of the Elgar Society.

Saturday, 13 April 2024: AGM. The AGM followed the usual pattern with Wendy Hill elected as our chairman. Richard Smith officially stepped down as secretary, and thus the post is now vacant. As an interim measure several of our members have taken over certain secretarial duties. After tea, five members introduced their favourite Elgar piece which brought forth some surprises.

Saturday, 11 May 2024: 'W.H "Billy" Reed'. Andrew Dalton is a member of the London Branch of the Elgar Society and joint editor of the *Journal*. For some time, he has been researching the life of Elgar's great friend William Henry 'Billy' Reed and treated us to a masterly talk on the life of the famous violinist and composer. Apart from the profuse illustrations Andrew showed during his talk he also played excerpts from some of the recordings made by Reed and several of his own compositions.

Saturday, 15 June 2024: The Albeo Trio. We returned to The Firs for a recital by the Albeo Trio (Anwen Mai Thomas, harp, Lloyd Hampton, flute, and Emily Clark, viola) all of whom are recent alumni of the Royal Academy of Music and are based in London. They began with a clever transcription of Elgar's *Chanson de Matin* which seemed to lend itself to the unusual combination of instruments. This was followed by another transcription of three movements from Ravel's *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, and the Flute Concertino by Cécile Chaminade. After tea, each member told us how they began their careers in music. Then came the *Elegiac Trio* by Arnold Bax, which was actually written for flute, viola, and harp, and the trio ended with another transcription of an Elgar work, *Chanson de Nuit*.

Friday, 2 August 2024: 'Elgar as a Symphonic Poet. *The Apostles*, *The Kingdom* and the Central European Tradition.' For the Elgar Society lecture at the Three Choirs Festival in Worcester Dr Roger Allen, emeritus fellow of St Peter's College, Oxford, gave us an excellent illustrated talk on Elgar's two major oratorios and how they fitted into the European tradition. A three-course lunch followed. Both events were given at Worcester Royal Grammar School.

Saturday, 14 September 2024: 'England's Britannia - Dame Clara Butt.' It was perhaps appropriate that Jacqueline Edwards's talk preceded the Last Night of the Proms, scheduled to take place that evening. Among her many claims to fame, Dame Clara Butt will be remembered for her connection with Elgar's 'Land of Hope and Glory' and *Gerontius*. Jacqui is a distant relation of Dame Clara and she gave a most illuminating talk on the contralto. This was a most entertaining afternoon, not only for Jacqui's talk but also for her even-handed views on the perhaps idiosyncratic contralto. We can certainly recommend her talk to other branches.

Saturday, 12 October 2024: 'The Dorabella Cipher'. One of our new members, Don Bartlett, gave us a fascinating if controversial solution to the Dorabella Cipher. He began by giving a brief biography of Dorabella, the tenth 'Enigma' variation. This was followed by his solution to the cipher which Elgar sent her in a letter dated 1897. Several attempts have been made to decode this and Dan's explanation was certainly ingenious.

Saturday, 9 November 2024: Elgar's Organ Sonata in G major. A large audience was present at Malvern Priory to listen to a lecture/recital given by the distinguished organist James Lancelot. Following a brief introduction by Roger Allen, James began his lecture by describing how the Sonata came to be written. In 1895 the organist at Worcester Cathedral, Hugh Blair, asked Elgar to compose a work which would be played during a visit by 150 American musicians. The resulting Sonata was only completed five days before the Americans arrived. The afternoon concluded with James giving an excellent performance of the work on the Priory's splendid organ. For the benefit of the audience, a camera had been installed above the organ keyboard to enable us to marvel at the ability which James possesses.

Saturday, 30 November 2024: Songs by Elgar and his contemporaries. Branch events for the year ended with a concert by the Elgar Chorale conducted by Piers Maxim. Their programme, at Christ Church, included songs by Elgar and Samuel Coleridge-Taylor.

Our branch continues to publish its bi-yearly newsletter, which is distributed to all our members with electronic versions going to the chairmen and secretaries of other branches. Current membership is 181 and continues to remain constant.

Finally, the branch wishes to report, with great sadness, the passing of committee member David Packman. For many years David had worked tirelessly to champion classical music in general, and Elgar in particular, to younger people. As part of this he originated the West Midlands Branch awards to schools which are given successively to schools in Worcester, Hereford, and Gloucester to coincide with the Three Choirs events in these cities.

*Richard Smith*

### **Yorkshire & North-East Branch**

Our 2024 season has been broadly successful with an exceptionally strong programme both in terms of speakers and topics. But the season was not without incident.

It opened auspiciously with Julian Rushton's talk (20 January) on Elgar's Op.59, a setting to music of words by Gilbert Parker. Julian brought to our attention a little-known but captivatingly attractive song cycle, with examples at the keyboard and from CDs. Jeremy Dibble's authoritative presentation (24 February) was based on his newly revised study of the life and music of Stanford. This was followed (16 March) by Peter Newble's thoroughly prepared presentation on Elgar's *Sea Pictures*. The first of our international speakers was Michael Schwalb from Germany, whose presentation on Albert Sammons opened our ears to fascinating aspects of style and interpretation during Elgar's lifetime.

Then the ceiling fell in – less than three days before Lewis Foreman's scheduled talk (18 May) on 'Recording British Music', which was entirely reliant on the Bedingfield Room's audio/visual facilities. There was no choice but to postpone the presentation to next year. In its place I gave a hastily prepared talk (in the chapel) on the Violin Concerto.

The entertaining, informative talk by John Dressler (22 June) from the USA on Elgar and Bantock was given in the nearby Hotel du Vin, before we returned to our regular home at the renovated Bar Convent for two related talks, on Elgar and Wagner (Michael Butterfield on 28 September) and Elgar and Germany (Geoff Scargill on 26 October).

Any fears that these two talks would be unhelpfully repetitive were eventually dispelled as the two speakers brought contrasting, fascinating elements to subjects of fundamental relevance to our understanding of Elgar's musical language.

Unfortunately, our final speaker of the year, Duncan Eves, had to withdraw because of illness, but Duncan kindly forwarded his fine, thought-provoking script and PowerPoint presentation, which I was able to deliver on his behalf.

I have now been chair of this branch for five years, a position which I have found enjoyable and challenging in equal measure. In view of the period served, and my poor health, the time is right for a change of leadership, and I am grateful to Howard Gregg for agreeing to take over the chair. I am equally grateful to our relatively new friend and colleague, Len Young, for agreeing to take over as treasurer. Both these appointments have, of course, been subject to the usual protocols.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to work with such dedicated and delightful colleagues as Paul Kampen (speaker secretary), Howard Gregg (treasurer), Malcolm Westwood (secretary), Richard Surrey (technical officer), and the rest of the committee – Paul Grafton, Julian Rushton, Jonathan Wainwright, Len Young, and Philip Scowcroft (who is, sadly, stepping down on health grounds, and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for years of devoted service).

Finally, a word of thanks to all our members and friends for supporting the Yorkshire & North-East branch, as a result of which we can look forward confidently to the next five years.

## C 2024 INITIAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS

During 2024 the Society has continued to build upon the successes of previous years. As has been reported elsewhere, the two biggest challenges faced by the Society are the ability to recruit and retain members and persuading existing members to take an active role, either locally in branches or nationally by serving on the Council or Executive committees. I would encourage all members to consider coming forward and volunteering in any way possible.

Whilst general membership has broadly maintained its level, the work done by vice-chairman Martyn Marsh and his Recruitment and Retention Working Group, has devised a range of strategies to develop R & R that focus upon national, local and individual contributions. It is expected that some of the actions proposed will be put in place over the coming year.

At the time of writing, The Firs, Birthplace of Edward Elgar, is in the final stages of coming fully under the control of the National Trust. The Society's most significant contribution to the development of the Firs is its sponsorship of a series of recital/lectures that take place throughout the spring, summer and autumn in the Carice Room. These offer free entry and feature a variety of Elgar's small-scale music. In recent discussions with the NT about the future of this series, it was agreed that they will investigate the possibility of including a youth event, featuring local children performing Elgar's and other composers' music.

The British Library has undertaken a project to digitise all the Elgar archive in its care and to make it available online free of charge to users. The cost of this project was put at £125,000. The Society was approached and in negotiations agreed to pay 10% of this sum. The contract was negotiated with the BL by Ruth Hellen and myself and the digitisation will '... include digitisation of all of the Sir Edward Elgar letters which are known at the date of this Agreement to be held at the BL, plus autograph manuscripts of two of Elgar's oratorios, namely *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom*, entailing digitisation of six volumes of music manuscripts in total'.

The Elgar in Performance scheme continues to support performances of Elgar's music both within the UK and overseas. I am delighted to report that the main task of administrating the scheme has been taken over by Dr Roger Allen, emeritus fellow in Music, St Peter's College, Oxford. Roger brings his vast knowledge and experience to the role and, together with the other members of the EiP committee, has helped a number of performing groups to mount concerts that might otherwise have fallen by the wayside.

I am delighted to report that the acting honorary secretary of the Society, David Morris, has agreed to stand as hon. sec. on a permanent basis, adding this role to the many positions that he has held within the Society.

On a less happy note, we mourn the deaths of two great Elgarians, Sir Andrew Davis, and Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore whose funeral and memorial service I attended on behalf of the Society.

In May I attended two concerts in Manchester marking the retirement of Society president, Sir Mark Elder, from his post as music director of the Hallé Orchestra. At a reception after the second of these, I was privileged to present Sir Mark with a letter signed by Elgar. Particular thanks are due to Geoff Scargill for organising the presentation, which took place in the Bridgewater Hall.

The 2024 A.T. Shaw Lecture was delivered by Julian Lloyd Webber and formed part of the last day of the Elgar Festival. This year the lecture was in the form of a conversation between Julian and conductor Kenneth Woods. The lecture took place in the Royal Porcelain Works Museum in Worcester and was followed by the Chairman's Reception and Lunch, where forty Society members enjoyed a meal in one of the upstairs galleries, before attending a concert in the Henry Sandon Hall and the Evensong and chaplet laying in Worcester Cathedral. The day ended with the traditional Elgar toast at The Firs.

As will be seen elsewhere, the Society's *News* and *Journal* continue to thrive under the guidance of Peter James and Kevin Mitchell. Thanks are due to both as indeed they are to the countless members who serve on the Society's many committees and working groups but are too numerous to mention by name.

Unfortunately, the maintenance of the Elgar graves in St Wulstan's Church, Little Malvern, can no longer be administered by the Society. Consequently, negotiations have resulted in this duty being transferred to the Elgar family. Some time ago the Society held an appeal to raise money to carry out vital maintenance work. Once completed, a substantial sum was left over and has been used for general maintenance. It has been agreed that the residue will be transferred to the family ensuring that the money donated is used exclusively for the intended purpose.

The Society's online meetings continue to prove popular, offering a wide variety of programmes of interest. Thanks are due to Sam Dobson for seeking out excellent speakers and often guiding them through the pitfalls of internet presentation.

My regular emails to members, initiated during covid lockdown(s), have continued to be popular and have encouraged me to continue the series, which I will do for as long as members and others send me material to include.

Finally, may I offer my thanks to past chairman and current vice-president Andrew Neill. Andrew has been leading a group of members who have been gathering together to plan for the upcoming celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Society. At the time of writing, it is too early to outline exactly what is being planned, but I can assure everyone that 2026 will be an exciting year for the Society.

*Stuart Freed*

**The Elgar Society**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

	2024			2023
	General Fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Total £
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions	25,546	-	25,546	26,388
Gift Aid	2,809	-	2,809	2,704
Royalties	-	-	-	147
Investment income	3,557	-	3,557	12,812
Branch receipts	7,964	955	8,919	8,946
Other	100	-	100	-
Lunch receipts	1,084	-	1,084	750
Donations and Legacies	5,408	-	5,408	12,079
<b>Total income</b>	<b>46,468</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>47,423</b>	<b>63,826</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<i>Society objectives</i>				
Journals & Newsletters	17,772	-	17,772	17,366
Branch Activities	19,800	300	20,100	16,211
AGM	163	-	163	-
PR & Advertising	425	-	425	522
Web site maintenance	573	-	573	468
On-line presentations and meetings	1,316	-	1,316	591
Chairman's lunch	1,355	-	1,355	1,176
Sundry	962	-	962	914
Elgar in performance	6,666	-	6,666	8,665
Grant to Elgar Festival	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
Grants for concerts at the Firs	1,525	-	1,525	1,750
Elgar Medals	-	-	-	48
<i>Administration</i>				
Authorised exps Council & Executive	1,328	-	1,328	1,284
Membership administration	242	-	242	98
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>57,127</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>57,427</b>	<b>54,093</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>(10,659)</b>	<b>655</b>	<b>(10,004)</b>	<b>9,733</b>
Balances b/f	101,293	103,556	204,849	195,116
<b>Balances c/f</b>	<b>90,634</b>	<b>104,211</b>	<b>194,845</b>	<b>204,849</b>

**The Elgar Society**

**Balance sheet**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current accounts	10,024	7,612
Deposit account	60,732	75,345
Monmouth BS 90-day account	89,676	87,143
Branches' bank balances	40,066	40,575
Debtors and Accrued Income	2,000	1,862
Creditors	<b>(7,653)</b>	<b>(7,688)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>194,845</u></b>	<b><u>204,849</u></b>
 <b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>		
Kay Trust	81,407	81,407
Branches (London & West Midlands )	21,303	22,149
	<u>104,211</u>	<u>103,556</u>
 General fund	 90,634	 101,293
 <b>Total funds</b>	 <b><u>194,845</u></b>	 <b><u>204,849</u></b>

## **The Elgar Society**

### **Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024**

#### 1. Basis of accounting

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

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 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. During the year a generous donation was received from the estate of the late Trevor Fenemore-Jones. The Society is very grateful for this gift.

##### 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

During the year, travel and other out of pocket costs amounting to £1,282 were reimbursed to five members of the Council when appropriate claims were made (2024 £1,284 reimbursed to eight individuals).

One member of Council (P. Newble) was paid £500 for work on the video interview with Sir Mark Elder. No other 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 are a material part of the total resources expended by the Society. Elgar in Performance grants amounting to £6.666 were made to 16 organisations (2023 £8,665 to 11 organisations).

### 5. Restricted funds

Kay Trust

These funds were given with the proviso that the funds may not be used for routine running expenses but should be devoted to capital or other longer term projects.

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Elgar Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Elgar Society (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2024.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Adrian Benselin

3 Maylands Avenue  
Breaston  
Derbyshire  
DE72 3EE

20 July 2025

**THE ELGAR SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 298062

---

# Accounts

---



The  
Elgar  
Society

**The Trustees' Annual  
Report  
1 January 2023 to  
31 December 2023**

Published in the *Elgar Society News* in April 2024  
and presented to the Annual General Meeting on 14th July 2024

# THE ELGAR SOCIETY

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2023 - 31 December 2023

### 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	Peter Newble
Sam Dobson	Philip Petchey
Caroline Gilderdale	George Smart
Liz Luder	Peter Smith
Martyn Marsh	Roy Whittaker
David Morris (from AGM 2023)	Prof. David Young

#### Elected Officers

Chair:	Stuart Freed
Vice-Chair:	Martyn Marsh
Secretary:	George Smart
Treasurer:	Peter Smith

#### Other National Post-holders

Archivist:	Caroline Gilderdale
Data Protection Officer:	Stuart Freed
Journal Editor:	Kevin Mitchell and Board
Membership Secretary:	Chris Bennett
News Editor:	Peter James
Web Officer:	Stuart Freed

#### Branch Officers

Branch	Chair	Secretary
London	Philip Petchey	Ruth Hellen
North America	Arthur Reynolds	Lee Kaufman
North-West	Geoff Scargill	David L. Jones
Scotland	Ian Lawson	Kitty Parker
Southern	David Pearce	David Pearce
West Midlands	John Harcup/ Wendy Hill	Richard Smith
Yorkshire & North East	David Young	Malcolm Westwood

#### Advisers

Bankers:	Lloyds TSB
Independent Examiner:	Adrian Benselin

#### Honorary Posts and Awards

**President** – Sir Mark Elder CH CBE

**Vice-Presidents** - Diana McVeagh, Dame Janet Baker CH DBE, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Andrew Davis CBE, Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE, Andrew Neill, Martyn Brabbins, Tasmin Little OBE, Julian Lloyd Webber FRM, Julian Rushton.

**Recipients of the Elgar Society’s Medal**

1992	Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore	2013	Sir Andrew Davis
1992	Leonard Slatkin	2013	Sir Mark Elder
1999	Jerzy Maksymiuk	2015	Daniel Barenboim
2000	Tadaaki Otaka	2015	Diana McVeagh
2007	Andrew Litton	2016	Martin Bird
2008	Sakari Oramo	2016	Teresa Cahill
2009	Danube Symphony Orchestra	2016	Alexander Walker
2009	Vladimir Ashkenazy	2019	Anastasia Vedyakova
2011	Michael Kennedy	2019	Adrian Brown
2011	Anthony Payne	2019	Dame Janet Baker
2012	Barry Collett	2021	Christopher Bishop
2012	Jacek Kasprzyk	2023	Neil Mantle
2012	Sir Colin Davis		

**Structure, Governance and Management**

The Society is governed under a constitution adopted with effect from 1 January 2008 and subsequently amended in June 2010, June 2011, June 2018 and June 2022. Its Council consists of the elected officers, and eight other members of the Society.

The Executive Committee consists 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.

There are five committees/working parties (1) Elgar in Performance( which includes Elgar in Education) which decides on grants in respect of performances of Elgar and in respect of educational project (and special projects) and (2) the Branch Chair's Committee, composed of the Chairs of the branches of the Society. (3) three additional working groups have also been formed to deal respectively with a) Recruitment/Retention b) proposals for the Society's 75th anniversary and (c) Education and Young People.

**Sub Committees/Working Parties active during 2023**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Chair/Convenor</b>	<b>Members</b>
Elgar in Performance (including Education)	Steven Halls	Executive Committee, Peter Newble,
Branch Chairs Committee	Philip Petchey	All other Branch Chairs
Elgar Online Group	Sam Dobson	Martyn Marsh, David Young, Chris Warsaw (North America) and Marian Rutland .
Recruitment and Retention Group	Martyn Marsh	Michael Trott( Sec), Philip Petchey, Frances Prince, Geoff Scargill, Peter Toothill, Chris Warsaw.
75th Anniversary Group	Andrew Neill	Stuart Freed, Martyn Marsh, Chris Warsaw, Ruth Helen , Geoff Scargill, David Morris and Jonathan Hope
Education Working Group	Geoff Scargill	Michael Trott (Sec), Martyn Marsh, Jonathan Hope, Steven Goulden, Myles Manders-Young.

## **Council and Executive**

The Council met three times online during the year. The Executive Committee met twice. Much of the business was progressed by e-mail and Zoom. The Branch Chairmen met once in 2023.

## **Branches**

At the start of the year there were six UK Branches organised geographically, and a further Branch covering America and Canada. There are also links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany. 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 for consolidation with the accounts of the national 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 2023 and the Trustees are not aware of any material change in risk which needs to be reported.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Council's policy is to retain reserves equal to at least one year's expenditure.

## **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 (now known as The Firs) 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.

The Society seeks to promote performance of Elgar's music, especially the more rarely performed works. 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. It is concerned to introduce the composer and his music to younger audiences and, by making grants for appropriate educational activities, to achieve this.

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 January 2023– 31 December 2023)**

### **General Overview**

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 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 continue to be focused on rebuilding activities following the Covid-19 pandemic nationally and at Branch level. The main developments during the year were:

- Branches have begun meeting as society recovers from the pandemic.
- Performances supported by *Elgar in Performance* and the education and special projects funding began to increase.
- the Elgar Online Group co-ordinates the year round programme of online offering in such a way as to avoid clashes with live branch meetings (see Details below).
- the Elgar Festival is supported alongside the Birthday Weekend events which this year involved a Lunch;
- The AGM was held as a zoom meeting to enable members who cannot travel to Worcester to participate,
- During the year the Council has :-
  - set up a Recruitment & Membership Working Party chaired by the Vice Chairman
  - formed an Education Working Group to examine the ways the Society can relate more effectively with young people.
  - introduced a weekly newsletter from the Chairman to all online members.
  - set up a group to look at proposals for the & 75th Anniversary in 2026.
  - introduced a new more modern website
  - changed the company that delivers the News/Journal
- monitoring the membership numbers;
- continuing links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany;
- keeping under review the Society's financial position and the Council implemented in 2023 a subscription increase in order to deal with the effects of historic inflation on the Society's funding since the last increase;
- the Society continues to work closely with The Firs and has funded a programme of events containing a talk and concert with young performers

**Elgar Journal:** Under Kevin Mitchell's leadership, the editorial board continues to oversee the production of an informative and interesting Journal which is issued three times each year (together with the Society's News, edited by Peter James) and is distributed both in physical and electronic form.

**Sponsorship and Legacies:** We continue to encourage donations and legacies for specific projects.

**Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit:** In August the Chairman presented the Elgar medal to Neil Mantle in recognition of his work over many years with the Scottish Sinfonia in promoting Elgar's music. The presentation was made at an all Elgar Concert at St Cuthbert's Church Edinburgh.

Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition: We continue to promote 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.

### Elgar in Performance

RECIPIENT	ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE	GRANTED
CobbePianoCollection £400prev.	Care of Elgar's Piano	2021-25	Guildford	400
Elgar Sinfonia	Light of Life	25-Jun	Holborn	1000
Farnborough SO	Froissart Enigma Vns	10-Jun	Aldershot	500
Bundesärztephilharmonie	Dream of Gerontius	22&23Sept	Nurem/Regensburg	2000
Carice Singers	PartSongs in EMF	29.5/2.6	EMF/London	0
Speyer Cathedral	Light of Life Sursum Corda	23-Sep	Speyer	1500
Yorkshire Philharmonic Choir	Music Makers	17-Mar	Wakefield Cath'l	1000
Waynefleete Singers	Coronation Ode etc.	18-Mar	Winchester Cath'l	1400
Asociacion Cultural Filarmonia	Adverts	Jan-23		0
English Music Festival	Intro & Allegro	27-28 May	Dorchester Abbey	0
Redhill Sinfonia	Violin Concerto Sospiri	18-Mar	Reigate Park Church	500
Quatuor Sirius Chamber Project	Brinkwells 4tet 5tet recording	15-Jul	France	500
Orch.of the Music Makers	Symphony No.1	27-May	Singapore	800
Camden Philharmonia	Sea Pictures	08-Jul	StMaryMagd London	400
Gabrieli Roar Youth Project	Dream of Gerontius		Other Projects Appn	
Nat'l Symph Orch Ukraine	Symphony No.1	20-Dec	Kyiv Ukraine	1000
Gillingham Methodist Church	Dream of Gerontius	07-May	Gillingham	0
Stewkley Singers	Dream of Gerontius	20-May	Leighton Buzzard	0
Birmingham Philharmonic Orch	Music Makers	20-Oct	Birm'ham Town Hall	1000
Worcester Concert Club	String Quartet	19-Nov	Worcester	0
Australian Radio		August		0
York Guildhall Orchestra	Symphony No1, Elegy Enigma	2023/4	York	0
	Variations, 3 Bavarian Dances			
Divertimento String 4tet	Tour of Elgar's quartet	October	West Country	0
Norwich Philharmonic Choir	The Kingdom	04-Nov		500

The Elgar in Performance scheme returned to pre-Covid activity levels and the policy agreed by Council over the last three years was tested by a more diverse set of applicants than heretofore, and it will undoubtedly be re-considered over the next twelve months. Highlights for me as an audience member were *The Dream of Gerontius* in Nuremberg and a full house in Speyer Cathedral giving a standing ovation to performances of *Sursum Corda* and *The Light of Life* followed by an unscheduled mass singing in English of *Jerusalem* in Elgar's opulent orchestration. It is also a pleasure to report a first performance of Elgar's First Symphony in Ukraine and Singapore this year.

The Elgar in Performance Group comprised in 2023 the Executive Committee, Peter Newble and Steven Halls. I laid down the mantle at the end of December 2023 and my replacement as Co-ordinator of the Group is Dr. Roger Allen, Emeritus Fellow in Music at St. Peter's College, Oxford. With his background and the vast experience of the other members of the EiP Group, the scheme is in good hands

Dr. Steven Halls  
Co-ordinator, the EiP Group

### The Journal

During 2023 further editions of Volume 23 of *The Elgar Society Journal* were published in April, August and December, running to 93,73 and 72 pages respectively, with a colour reproduction of William Archer's *La mort d'Arthur* for April, a colour photograph of the Loughborough Carillon Tower in August and a picture of Caractacus in December.

The April issue contained an article by Andrew Neill on the music for *Arthur* and the first part of Kevin Allen's study of Richard Penrose Arnold. Dr Relf Clark wrote on Elgar and Parry and Kevin Mitchell produced an article on the 'Cinema Supper' organised by James Barrie at the Savoy Theatre on 3 July 1914.

In August Kevin Allen concluded his article on Richard Arnold, Andrew Neill wrote an extensive study of the music written for the Loughborough Carillon in 1923, and followed this with an article on the *Gramophone* magazine which was founded in 1923. Kevin Mitchell produced a short note on the Coronation of King George V.

In December Professor Julian Rushton wrote on *Caractacus*, Dr Clark studied the connections between Elgar and Handel with particular reference to Elgar's arrangement of the second Chandos anthem by Handel. The A. T. Shaw lecture given in Worcester in June 2023 by Michael Berkeley and Kenneth Woods was also published.

During the year eight books were reviewed, there were two extensive music reviews and nineteen CDs were considered. The recordings Elgar made in 1922 were noted and the '100 Years Ago' columns covered his life in that year.

The editorial team continue to share the work of assembling the contents and we have had a good supply of contributions with plenty more promised for the coming year or more.

We thank all those who have written for us, particularly our reviewers who often do this alongside their professional roles. We greatly appreciate the work of Mike Byde who does the formatting of each issue and produces several versions before providing us with the final copy for the printers. We are greatly indebted to him for his excellent work.

Kevin Mitchell, Andrew Dalton, David Morris and Andrew Neill

### **The News**

The usual three editions were published in 2023 with the aim of combining Elgarian news and features with information from branches and the Society's officers. April's issue was distinguished in an unfortunate way by having no fewer than ten pages of obituaries, including ones for David Michell and John Harcup. In August two outstanding performances of *Gerontius* were reviewed, one in Rome and the other in Manchester. The December issue may have been the fattest ever, containing as it did two lengthy articles: Michael Trott introduced 'A Painful Story' written by Elgar's mother, and Andrew Baker debunked the myth of Elgar's love child.

It's always a pleasure to receive unsolicited items of interest from occasional contributors, so Society members should not hesitate to send their articles or letters – even handwritten ones sent by snail mail for those without computers. Special thanks go to Robert Gilbert, typesetter and compiler of the concert diary, and to regular contributors including (but not limited to) Richard Smith, John Norris, Philip Petchey and Andrew Neill.

Peter James, Editor of the *News*

### **Membership Report**

The table of branch membership, as at 31/12/2023, is shown below. It should be noted that many members have nominated 2 branches to be members of, and the actual membership figure at the end of the year was 825, this to include Life Members, Hon Members and Vice Presidents. This shows a modest fall of 14 from the 2022 total.

The total number of new members joining in 2023 was 37 - an improvement on 2022's figure of 15.

7 members were removed for non-payment of the subscription, and there were a further 24 resignations in the year.

<b>Branch membership</b>	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
London	261	269	277	286	320	321	307	338	349
North America/Canada	51	49	49	52	49	42	45	45	36
North-West	104	108	114	119	120	117	113	127	125
Scottish	42	46	48	50	50	47	59	59	61
Southern	79	76	83	86	89	97	90	102	86
West Midlands	179	178	188	192	229	216	187	210	210
Yorkshire/North-East	58	55	52	52	55	53	45	50	46
<b>Area Memberships</b>									
South-West	31	33	41	45	54	58	58	64	67
East Anglia	43	44	54	54	56	57	50	65	56
East Midlands	24	27	31	34	37	31	24	33	26
<b>No Branch/Area Affiliation</b>	126	129	145	119	161	127	143	160	180

## The Archives

The move towards digitalisation of Elgar Society records is going ahead. The Digital Archive at the Hive in Worcester will comprise records from committees and Society Branches.

Some, (but not all), branches have responded and have sent me material, including agendas, minutes, programme notes, general correspondence etc. When more branches have responded and their material has been received, it will then be deposited together digitally (as a block deposit, rather than in bits and pieces) It is easier to manage this way and will hopefully be the start of annual collections of data in the future.

In the meantime, hard copy material is still being sent to me to be organised and physically deposited at the Hive. This will be ongoing, as people 'discover' materials in their possession.

Caroline Gilderdale, Society Archivist

## Elgar Society Online

Elgar Society Online (ESO) has continued its work throughout the year to present a wide and interesting variety of talks available to anyone, member or non-member, who has internet access. The subcommittee for the live Zoom meetings consists of: Sam Dobson (Chair), Martyn Marsh, David Young (all National Council members), Marian Rutland (Bury St Edmunds) and Chris Warsaw (North America). No meetings of the subcommittee were held during the year. The few issues which arose were dealt with by email. All matters relating to Vimeo films were dealt with by Peter Newble and Andrew Neill. It was agreed we should aim for 8 events during the year, which we achieved. Titles and presenters are as follows. Attendance at each talk is shown in brackets: 7 January 2023: Elgar and Jaeger (aka Nimrod) by Michael Butterfield (54) 4 February 2023: Elgar in Settle by Sarah Lister (29) 11 March 2023: Nicholas Kilburn - Elgar's Forgotten Muse by Richard Westwood Brookes (35) 27 May 2023 The Quest for Billy Reed by Mike Purton (25) 7 October 2023 Elgar's Music for Strings - Style, Form and Influence by Michael

Jameson (27) 28 October 2023 How much Wagner is there in Elgar's Oratorios? by Florian Csizmadia (27) 18 November 2023 Elgar's Piano and the Cobbe Collection by Alec Cobbe (29) 16 Dec 2023 Scenes from the Bavarian Highlands, a Conductor's Perspective by Charlie Perry (24) The established practice is that speakers who are society members are not paid a fee. This year 3 speakers were paid; the standard fee being £110. Where possible the talks are recorded. Of course the group is always on the lookout for likely speakers on subjects of interest. We are aiming to present 8 talks for 2024. We feel the fee for speakers should be increased to £150 for that year. The committee have said they are happy to pay 3 or 4 speakers per year but this is not something for which we have a target. We will be trying a new initiative for 2024. For the January talk ESO will be facilitating a zoom meeting which has been arranged by the North West Branch. As usual the meeting will be open to anyone. We are very happy to help branches in this way. . Over all, the subcommittee are happy with the management of ESO and the choice of speakers. The average attendance for Zoom talks in 2023 was 31 which is down from 35 in 2022. There is no ready explanation for this. At the moment we gain publicity through the Chairman's regular newsletters, the Elgar Society's website together with posts on the Facebook pages of the Elgar Society and the Edward Elgar Society. The subcommittee feels that it should be possible to combat falling attendance by improving publicity and over the next months we will be looking at possible ways of doing this.

Sam Dobson - Elgar Society Online

### 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 Elgar talks and performances in their home area.

### London Branch

The London Branch held meetings as follows:

6 February	<i>For our time: Nationalism &amp; Elgar's Caractacus</i>	Andrew Neill
6 March	<i>Elgar and the note A flat</i>	David Owen Norris
17 April	<i>Albert Sammons – Elgar's violinist</i>	Michael Jameson
8 May	<i>W.H. Reed – a musician's musician</i>	Andrew Dalton
12 June	Branch AGM; <i>Repainting the Mona Lisa: re-arranging Pomp and Circumstance for the Last Night of the Proms 2020.</i>	Anne Dudley
9 October	<i>Master of the King's Music – Elgar to Weir</i>	Judith Weir
6 November	<i>Defusing the red light</i>	Andrew Keener
4 December	<i>'England's Britannia' – Dame Clara Butt</i>	Jacqueline Edwards

Reports of the February to October meetings appear in the relevant issues of *Elgar Society News*. Andrew Keener's talk in November provided some fascinating glimpses of life in the recording studio, with a special emphasis on recordings of music by Elgar which were produced by Andrew.

For our December meeting we were treated to Jacqueline Edwards' presentation about Dame Clara Butt, which had already been enjoyed by other branches. This was entertaining and informative and provided the chance to re-evaluate someone who is often presented as a caricature rather than a superb singer with a world-wide appeal.

This year all our meetings were held at Queen's College in Harley Street. Attendance is steady, though we would naturally like to see more people at our meetings which are both varied and of a high quality. For all Branch activities we are reliant on a large number of people who help in a variety of ways and our thanks go to all of them.

Ruth Hellen - London Branch Secretary

### North West Branch

During 2023 our average attendance numbers at our branch meetings has happily significantly increased again from the low point reported last year after the Covid pandemic, and this despite a further small drop in total branch membership which is now down to 103. Although the recovery in attendance numbers is quite encouraging, we are

not complacent and are actively looking at ways of encouraging others, particularly the more youthful members of society, to come along and join us and see what we have to offer.

All our meetings during 2023 were held as live events and were as follows:

14 January Charlie Perry delivered a fascinating presentation on his experiences of conducting '*Elgar's From the Bavarian Highlands*' in which he entertained us throughout with much live piano playing, singing, the use of visual material and numerous audio excerpts. We were all entranced.

18 February Dr George Kennaway talked enthusiastically about '*Early recordings of the Elgar Cello Concerto*'. His presentation included lots of interesting anecdotes and he brought along his cello to personally demonstrate numerous points including the significant changes in cello technique over time and the change of use from gut to metal strings.

4 March This was a very special meeting, held in the Carole Nash Hall at Chetham's School of Music, in which Sir Mark Elder was in conversation with Andrew Neill about three of Elgar's great oratorios (*The Dream of Gerontius*, *The Apostles* and *The Kingdom*) all three of which Sir Mark was to perform with the Hallé in the space of just eight days in early June at Manchester's Bridgewater Hall. The talk, which was recorded by Peter Newble, and is available in the Elgar Society's On-line events, was informative, fascinating and, at times, very amusing. The subsequent June performance of these three works, which were attended by a good many Elgar Society members (including some from the London Branch), were all quite outstanding and provided a genuinely unforgettable experience.

22 April This meeting was held in Liverpool, when Sandra Parr, Artistic Planning Director of the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra, talked about '*Elgar in Liverpool*', describing the historical connections with the city, Elgar's visits to Liverpool, the Rodewald connection, and moments when Elgar's music have contributed to the city's history. At the end, we were offered free copies of two recent CD recordings of Elgar's music – a bonus.

20 May At our final meeting before our summer break, Paul Hindmarsh (who was a producer for BBC's Radio 3 and involved in the 'elaboration' with Anthony Payne of Elgar's Third Symphony) presented '*Elgar - post World War One*'. The main thrust of his talk was an illuminating account of Elgar's composition *The Severn Suite*, the original score of which was written for a brass band competition. There were lots of very interesting visual and audio illustrations.

24 September Was our NW Branch Annual Luncheon, again held at Stockport's Alma Lodge Hotel, a venue which we have used for a number of years, and the food and service was up to the usual high standard. After lunch, four branch committee members gave a short talk, illustrated by excerpts from recorded music, on a piece of music which held special significance for them. We heard music by Rachmaninov, Beethoven, Parry and Elgar. It all provided excellent after-lunch entertainment.

14 October Jacqueline Edwards gave an illustrated talk entitled '*England's Britannia – Dame Clara Butt*'. Jacqueline is a distant relative of Clara and a distinguished musician in her own right. Everyone present agreed that her presentation was outstanding in many ways – informative and amusing in equal measure. Jacqueline all goes vocal recitals accompanying herself on the piano.

11 November Rev. John Knowles, who was a founder member of the London Branch, a long-standing member and former chairman of the North West Branch, an Anglican clergyman, and creator of the comprehensive Elgar Discography, discography, gave us an inspired talk on '*Elgar's Music for The Church*' indicating that these were pieces written for use as part of a service, rather than for performance. This is a significant body of the composer's work, spanning his entire composing career, that may be less familiar to lovers of his music than other parts of his output. John's talk was impressively researched, his passion for and admiration of these pieces was infectious, and we were touched by the beauty of the examples of the music which we heard.

9 December Adrian Brown, a distinguished musician and devoted Elgarian, gave an outstanding PowerPoint presentation entitled '*Sir Adrian Boult*'. Adrian was himself one of Boult's most gifted conducting pupils and became a lifelong friend and confidante of his mentor. Adrian painted a picture of a conductor often underrated and perceived as having a repertoire limited largely to English music (famously of Elgar, naturally) and the classics (Beethoven, Brahms, etc.). In fact, he conducted a very wide range of music and a number of notable premieres. Adrian talked about his namesake's legendary conducting techniques, and his human characteristics. Adrian memorably conveyed his passion for Boult as man and conductor, and he gave us many new insights. His presentation was also hugely entertaining!

David L Jones (Hon. Sec., North West Branch)

### Scottish Branch

Two events dominated branch activity in 2023. The first was the splendid all-Elgar concert given by our Branch Patron, Neil Mantle, and Scottish Sinfonia on the final weekend of the Edinburgh Festival. Neil has championed Elgar's music for over 50 years, and has conducted all his major works with this orchestra, which he founded in 1970. During the interval, Stuart Freed presented Neil with the Elgar Medal – an accolade richly deserved – and afterwards the Scottish Branch hosted a reception at which we presented Neil with a quach engraved with the opening words from *The Music Makers*.

The other significant event was a home-grown presentation given by branch member and film buff, James Beyer, in which he explored some of Elgar's varied hobbies and interests and showed both Elgar home movies and the Ken Russell film. In a change to the usual format of members' meetings, we promoted the event vigorously to the general and musical public, distributing leaflets at concerts that featured Elgar works and in the locality of the venue. We were rewarded with an enthusiastic audience of 40 and a request to repeat the presentation for The Scottish Arts Club in March 2024.

We were pleased to meet with some of our branch members at a zoom AGM earlier in the year, and hope to arrange other opportunities to gather socially, even if we can no longer adequately support a full programme of talks. But our main aim will be to look beyond our membership for ways to promote Elgar to the Scottish public, both at concerts where his works are performed and through our own collaborations with other organisations.

Ian Lawson- Branch Chairman, Scottish Branch

### Southern Branch

The Southern Branch returned to a normal year of meetings at our two locations in Winchester and Havant, and audience numbers picked-up as the year progressed. Our season started on 4 February when Jeremy Neville gave a presentation on **Elgar and the First World War**. On 11 March, the well-known conductor Nicholas Cleobury gave a talk entitled, **Elgar – the Self-taught Genius**. This was an expanded version of his Three Choirs lecture from 2022 and concentrated on how Elgar became a 'Master Orchestrator'. Philip Reed was due to give a talk on, **A Change of Mind: Britten and Elgar**, on 15 April, but unfortunately tested positive for Covid a couple of days before. We will attempt to re-schedule this talk. On 13 May, members of the SB Committee jointly presented a **Coronation Special: Elgar and the Royal Connection**. This was concurrent with a Branch AGM.

On 19 February, I attend David Owen Norris' **An Elgar Exploration** at the Turner Sims Concert Hall, within Southampton University. After music in the first half given by his student orchestra, David explored Elgar's unfinished Piano Concerto and played the John Bridcut documentary film made for the BBC in 2005 concerning *Elgar and the Missing Concerto* (no longer available).

David has for many years been fascinated by the five 'Improvisations' recorded by Elgar when he was left to himself in the small hall at the Queen's Hall, London, with the recording machine running, at 5 PM on Wednesday 6 November 1929. David was the first to transcribe these recordings; he plays them regularly and has long held that within lies the secret to the completion of the Piano Concerto. David again made this the subject of his Three Choirs Festival Elgar Society lecture, entitled **Improvising Elgar**. Richard Smith introduced this session in the Chapter House of Gloucester Cathedral and I had the pleasure of the Q&A session and the votes of thanks. It was clear that we heard a substantial section Elgar's Piano Concerto. Details are given in the December edition of *The Elgar Society News*. We eagerly look forward to David's final version.

The Southern Branch started the second half of its meetings on 30 September with broadcaster, engineer and choral conductor, Jeremy Summerly to a comfortably full meeting room in Winchester, the best attendance since the Covid pandemic. Jeremy held his audiences attention for a full two hours and more, after which the listeners wanted a debate on the future of the BBC. We were lucky enough to have a BBC producer present, who spoke eloquently on the matter. Dr Kate Kennedy, academic and broadcaster, spoke at the October meeting to an equally fulsome audience on the subject of **Standing on Elgar's Shoulders: Ivor Gurney – the Poet-Composer of WW1**. This was an expanded version of her Three Choirs Festival talk in 2022. It was followed in November by the welcome return

to Winchester of former Southern Branch Chairman, William Cole, who spoke about the French conductor Pierre Monteux to an equally large audience.

I can now confirm that Southern Branch has now invested in a video projector, which we have found very useful, particularly at the Winchester meetings, where there are no such facilities. This was done from branch funds. However, Southern Branch has held a branch bank account with Barclays for many years, but they have proved difficult to deal with recently, in that they want to be contacted, but make this impossible to do. Phone calls to the necessary department require a wait of several hours. I visited my local branch, which I must say was in chaos, with many waiting! Staff tried to be helpful, but could not find the basis of the problem. I now gather from other club officers and from press reports that this problem is general and that, in particular, accounts of charities have been closed for what appears to be no good reason. I expect the worst! I have reported the matter to our National Treasurer.

On a personal basis, I am a regular speaker at the Southampton RMS, both on Zoom and in person at St Denys Church Centre. The offer to Elgar Society members to join SRMS meetings on Zoom remains open, as I have said before.

[www.southamptonrms.org.uk](http://www.southamptonrms.org.uk)

I still need to remind all members that the Southern Branch is in desperate need of a Branch Secretary, but no one seems willing to take on the job. Despite this, yet again we have a full programme of meetings planned for 2024, (including the CEO of the Three Choirs Festival and regular, Richard Westward-Brooks). I have mentioned elsewhere my discussion with concert goers at the Three Choir Festival and the Proms that we can no longer claim to be the largest composer society in the UK. Numbers fell last year in Southern Branch, and more generally, so effort is required by all to spread enthusiasm for our Society and recruit more members.

David Pearce - Chairman, Elgar Society Southern Branch

### **West Midlands Branch**

For 2023 the Branch held most of its meetings at Holy Trinity Church Hall in Malvern, although in May we were able to return to 'The Firs', Elgar's Birthplace for the first time since the pandemic. We are hoping to return there again in 2024.

**Saturday, 28 January 2023: 'Only what might have been'** Following on from last year's talk on recorded music and Fred Gaisberg, Branch member and former Chairman of the Southern Branch, **William Cole**, gave an illustrated presentation on projected recordings of Elgar's music which never happened. Although Elgar made many recordings of his own music, there are significant gaps in this discography and William explored why this might be.

**Dr John Harcup** It was with immense sadness that we had to report the death of our long-time Chairman on 2 February. John had served the Branch for many years and his many contributions will long remain in our collective memory. Besides his firm and yet kindly handling of our Committee, he was able to deliver a selection of talks on Elgar both to our Branch and to those around the country. A tribute appeared in the August 2023 edition of the Elgar News.

**Saturday, 18 February 2023: Annual Branch Lunch** The ever-popular Branch lunch took place for the first time at Holy Trinity Church Hall in Malvern. Again we must thank our caterer, Leslie Hitchen and her team for a delightful selection of dishes and to Gill Bradshaw on compiling a quiz.

**Saturday, 18 March 2023: 'Being a composer'** Recently retired Professor of composing at Oxford University, **Robert Saxton** began his talk by asking 'What do composers do, what might they be expected to do and how do they do what they do? He felt that problem solving was what takes up much of a composer's time. He felt that it was possible for anyone to write music, just as anyone can paint, write poetry or play football, but there is no question that making the transition in sport from school to college and then, possibly, to club level, is a steep climb.

**Saturday, 15 April 2023: AGM** The AGM followed the usual pattern with **Wendy Hill** elected as our new Chairman. Thus our Branch is one of the first to elect a lady Chairman which is much to be welcomed. The Secretary

stated that this would be his last year in office and hoped that it would be possible to find a replacement. After tea, several members introduced their favourite Elgar piece which brought forth some surprises.

**Saturday, 13 May 2023: Roger Allen** (piano) and **John Parsons** (violin) gave a live performance of number of Elgar works - some well-known, others less familiar. Roger then gave a brief but fascinating talk on Elgar's Violin Sonata and the duo concluded by giving an excellent performance of the work. For this event were delighted to return to 'The Firs', Elgar Birthplace.

**Saturday, 10 June 2023: 'Musical education in the state system.'** In a detailed and often highly amusing talk, **David Parkes** spoke of his thirty years as a teacher of music at the Regis School in Tettenhall near Wolverhampton. From the beginning, music had been one of its main activities and under David, as music director, it had an orchestra, a senior choir, a junior choir, a madrigal choir and a folk group. David bemoaned the fact that this seems to be a thing of the past, at least in state schools. He felt that something must be done to overcome the poor state of musical education in this country and we all must try to reverse this trend.

**Saturday, 22 July 2023: 'Improvising Elgar'** For our lecture at the Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester, we were fortunate in welcoming the pianist and lecturer **David Owen Norris**. David began by reminding us that not long before his death, Elgar had begun work on the composition of a piano concerto. Of course this was never completed, but we have an inkling of its content from the piano improvisations which he played and were recorded in 1929. David told us of his ambition to complete a performing version of the work, aided by some of the previous work by Robert Walker and Neil John Owen. David is hoping that by working with three of these improvisations, which he concluded by skilfully playing in turn, would result in a performing version. His lecture was attended by a capacity audience.

**Saturday, 9 September 2023: 'Re-painting the Mona Lisa'** The multi-talented and critically acclaimed composer and musician, **Anne Dudley**, described how she re-orchestrated Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance March for the Last Night of the Proms in 2020. Due to the pandemic, the orchestra had to be reduced in size from 83 to 42 which meant a huge amount of work in producing a full score for these restricted resources and yet make it sound as near as possible to the original. The result of her work, of which she played a recording, was amazing.

**Saturday, 14 October 2023: 'Elgar and John Singer Sargent - Arthur Reynolds'** We all know that John Singer Sargent was a brilliant painter, but in his talk, Arthur told us that many people do not know that Sargent was also an excellent musician. Sadly, he was not good at keeping letters addressed to him. Acting as his own secretary, Sargent routinely discarded the letters he received although there are many such from him. One letter that he did keep was from Elgar which Arthur has in his possession and which he showed during his talk. Why did Sargent elect to keep that particular letter? The answer was the subject of Arthur's talk. Despite the fact that Sargent has been described as the "leading portrait painter of his generation" he failed to paint Elgar.

**Saturday, 11 November 2023: 'The sting in the tail'** Due to the illness of our previously scheduled speaker our November talk was given the pianist and musicologist, **Dr Mike Smith** who brought two friends with him, the singer **Catherine Mason** and the violinist **Kerry Milan**. Mike began his talk by explaining that the title of his talk was from a familiar proverb which is defined as 'In speech or in writing, that which contains a sting or rebuke at the end.' He extended this phrase to music, specifically Elgar's music. We heard a number of recordings illustrating this point in the second half of his presentation. Kerry Milan then joined Mike for a live performance of *Chanson de Matin* which, only seven bars from the end, had that sting in the tail. This was followed by *The Shepherd's Song* which beautifully sung by Catherine Mason.

**Saturday, 2 December 2023: 'Sir Malcolm Sargent' - Sam Dobson** Temporarily freed from coordinating the excellent series of Elgar Society Zoom meetings, Sam Dobson gave us a splendid insight into the life of Sir Malcolm Sargent. He described how the young Sargent made his first appearance on stage aged 14 and gradually began to make his name in Leicestershire. He was 'discovered' by Sir Henry Wood and gave at least two thousand performances at the Proms. He was also largely responsible for reinvigorating the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company. He is regarded as one of the finest choral conductors of his generation.

Our Branch continues to publish its bi-yearly Newsletter which is distributed to all our members, with electronic versions going to the Chairmen and Secretaries of other Branches. Current membership of the Branch did fall due to the pandemic to 181 but now remains relatively constant.

Richard Smith - West Midlands Branch Secretary

### Yorkshire & North East Branch

Our 2023 season began in auspicious manner with a talk by Paul Grafton entitled 'Elgar as I (almost) knew him' (21 January, following the AGM). As was pointed out in the vote of thanks by committee member Pamela Scowcroft, the YNE branch has the 'bragging rights' of having on its committee a descendent (great nephew) of the composer, and Paul's elegant and fascinating account included a family tree and interesting photos and anecdotes about family events, with examples of Elgar's acts of kindness to family members. The talk ended with a video of a complete performance of the Cello Concerto with soloist Sheku Kanneh-Mason. Everyone present felt privileged to have witnessed this living link with history.

We were delighted to welcome back for our second talk of the season (25 February) Simon Lindley, Leeds City Organist Emeritus and Organist Emeritus of Leeds Minster. Simon's talk was on Elgar's Latin church music, and included the following musical examples: 'Ecce Sacerdos Magnus', 'O Salutaris Hostia', 'Ave Maria', 'Ave Maris Stella', 'Angelus', 'A Salutaris Hostia' in F, and 'Ave Verum Corpus'. As always with Simon's presentations, historical context was combined with profound insight to produce a memorable occasion.

Our third meeting of the year (25 March) witnessed a new type of meeting for the branch: an Open Forum, in which volunteers discussed a particular piece, explained its personal significance, and played a recording. Andrew Brownlie chose the Prelude to *The Kingdom*; Richard Surrey, Symphony no. 2, third movement; Paul Grafton, the Cello Concerto, first movement; Margaret Chrystie, *Pomp and Circumstance March* no. 1; Malcolm Westwood, Bach's *Fantasia and Fugue* in C minor, orchestrated by Elgar; and Howard Gregg, the Piano Quintet, slow movement. It was lovely to hear our members enthusing about their favourite pieces – and every one of them stuck to time.

Unfortunately, our scheduled speaker for 29 April, Edward Clark, who was to have spoken on Elgar and Sibelius, had to withdraw, but in his place we were fortunate to have Michael Butterfield, who gave a presentation on *Caractacus*. Through an excellent analysis which paid particular attention to *Leitmotiven*, Michael guided us through the entire work, playing and singing at the keyboard. Such a virtuoso display was both impressive and illuminating.

As is well known, Elgar, throughout his life, supported and benefited from music festivals outside the capital. Our next two talks illustrated this with fascinating accounts of Elgar in Morecambe (Howard Rogerson, 20 May), and Elgar on the Isle of Man (Maurice Powell, 24 June).

After discussing the background to nineteenth century music festivals and competitions, Howard Rogerson focussed on Elgar's commitment to the Morecambe festival, attending between 1903 and 1906, as adjudicator, conductor and composer, and famously noting that the musical capital of England lay somewhere further north than London, and that he was unaccustomed to serving as judge, preferring when in London to be executioner! Musical examples included 'My Love Dwelt in a Northern Land', 'Oh Happy Eyes', 'As Torrents in Summer' (from *King Olaf*), 'Weary Wind of the West', the bi-tonal 'There is Sweet Music', 'Feasting, I Watch' (from *The Bavarian Highlands*), 'How Calmly the Evening', 'Oh Wild West Wind', and 'There is Sweet Music'.

Although Elgar visited the Isle of Man only once (in 1914), Maurice Powell's account was rich in context and detail and included as musical examples the closing passage of *The Banner of St George* and a composition by one of the island's leading musical lights, Haydn Wood, as well as Wood's little-known orchestration of four Elgar songs. In short, although Elgar's connections with Morecambe and the Isle of Man may be described as musical byways, they do link to a major highway in the composer's career. We were grateful to Howard Rogerson and Maurice Powell for drawing our attention to these captivating stories.

Following our summer break we welcomed Mike Purton (23 September, a late replacement for Richard Westwood-Brookes who sadly withdrew for personal reasons). Mike's talk, entitled 'My Journey towards Billy Reed', included an outline of Mike's career as horn player, educationalist and record producer and ended with an account of how he came to produce a recording of the string quartets of Elgar's close friend, the violinist Billy Reed, with substantial extracts from quartets numbers 4 and 5. We were grateful to Mike for stepping in at short notice and delivering such an entertaining and informative account.

Alex Paterson, Chief Executive of the Three Choirs Festival, was our next speaker (21 October) with a fascinating talk entitled 'Novelties of the Three Choirs Festival, 'novelties' being a term used in years past for what we would today call premieres. Alex's examples were wide ranging and illuminating, and included, apart from Elgar, the less familiar composers William Hine, Clara Novello, Alice Mary Smith, and Samuel Coleridge Taylor.

For our final meeting of the year, we repaired to the beautiful surroundings of the Bar Convent Chapel, for a concert by York Cantores (Conductor Joel Starkie), entitled 'Elgar and his Contemporaries'. Composers represented were, apart from Elgar, Dvorak, Liza Lehmann, Quilter, Parry, and Ethel Smyth. The music was most helpfully introduced by committee member Howard Gregg. Some of the pieces were accompanied on the chapel's organ, and so it was an especial treat to hear this lovely instrument, in a concert which formed a fitting climax to another successful season.

David Young, Chairman Yorkshire & NE Branch

## **North America**

Following a highly successful 2023 conference in New Orleans, the principal activity of our Branch has been organizing our 2024 conference as set out below: \_

The North America Branch Conference will take place in St. Louis from Thursday through Saturday, May 2-4, 2024. Here are the highlights:

- We will be staying at The 21c Museum Hotel. Located just three blocks from the concert hall, the inspired interior features a unique collection of paintings and sculpture.
- Our arrival dinner on Thursday will end with a Keynote Address delivered by retired chorus master, Amy Kaiser, who will speak on her experiences training choirs for The Dream of Gerontius as well as Elgar's vocal works of both sacred music and secular part-songs.
- During Friday morning and afternoon we will tour the Gateway Arch and visit Grant's Farm to see the Anheuser-Bush historic buildings and of course the Clydsdale Horses.
- On Friday evening we will attend a St. Louis Symphony Concert the program of which includes Elgar's Cello Concerto with soloist Yo-Yo Ma
- Saturday events will include talks by members and a chamber music recital plus lunch with Society Vice President Leonard Slatkin, who will recall his experiences and challenges as a conductor of Elgar's music.
- Our concluding event will be Saturday night cocktails and dinner at the home of our Branch Secretary Lee Kaufman and his wife Claire.

Arthur Reynolds - Chairman

## **C 2023 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 below:

- a. the provision of educational programmes and activities to widen knowledge of Elgar's music for all and to 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.

During 2021 the Covid -19 pandemic continued to have a major impact on the live activities at branch and national level. As restrictions eased during 2022, branch meetings resumed and a full programme of events and other activities have resumed during 2023. However, due to the success and continuing demand, the programme of online meetings and presentations initiated during the pandemic, have continued and become an important feature of the Society's activities. Almost all of the online offering has been archived and can be accessed by both members, researchers and the general public. It should also be noted that by developing the online element of the Society, it has been able to engage more directly with its overseas members.

As Chair of the Society I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues on Council and the Executive and each and every post-holder in the Society and its Branches, for all their efforts in helping to keep interest in the Society and its activities alive and adapting to the changing conditions surrounding the pandemic and its aftermath.

Particular mention should be made to Sam Dobson, who has both initiated a series of real time Zoom meetings and continues to administer the three arms of Society's digital offering under a single umbrella, Elgar Online.

The Society's News and Journal continue to offer both items of general interest and more in depth material. These two publications appear three times each year and are distributed in both physical and electronic form.

In common with many other similar groups, the Society has begun to engage with the problem of its falling membership. Whilst still healthy in terms of numbers and the decline in membership seems to have slowed considerably, the Executive and Council are conscious of the ageing demographic of its membership and the reluctance of a younger one to become members of groups such as ours. In order to address these issues, the Vice-Chairman, Martyn Marsh, has convened a working group with the aim of formulating proposals to be discussed by the Council of the Society, aimed at increasing membership both within the UK and overseas and attracting younger members.

Mention should also be made of two new projects initiated by Vice-President Andrew Neill. The first of these the founding of a Research Bursary, to be awarded occasionally, when a worthy project is forwarded to the Society at graduate or post graduate level.

The second project surrounds the upcoming 75th anniversary of the founding of the Elgar Society in 2026 and how this should be marked and celebrated. Once again, a small sub-group within the Society has been formed and will present recommendations to the Council of the Society.

Stuart Freed  
Chairman

## The Elgar Society

### Statement of Financial Activities

	2023			2022
	General Fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Total £
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions	26,388	-	26,388	23,968
Gift Aid	2,704	-	2,704	2,493
Royalties	147	-	147	-
Investment income	12,812	-	12,812	762
Branch receipts	8,099	847	8,946	10,907
Lunch receipts	750	-	750	-
Donations and Legacies	12,079	-	12,079	18,817
<b>Total income</b>	62,979	847	63,826	56,947
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<i>Society objectives</i>				
Journals & Newsletters	17,366	-	17,366	12,005
Branch Activities	16,211	-	16,211	22,040
AGM	-	-	-	99
PR & Advertising	522	-	522	923
Web site maintenance	468	-	468	596
On-line presentations and meetings	591	-	591	557
Chairman's lunch	1,176	-	1,176	-
Sundry	914	-	914	723
Elgar in performance	8,665	-	8,665	10,100
Grant to Elgar Festival	5,000	-	5,000	2,000
Grants for concerts at the Firs	1,750	-	1,750	-
Elgar Medals	48	-	48	76
<i>Administration</i>				
Authorised exps Council & Executive	1,284	-	1,284	972
Membership administration	98	-	98	286
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	54,093	-	54,093	50,377
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	8,886	847	9,733	6,570
Branch account transfers	(844)	844	-	-
Balances b/f	93,251	101,865	195,116	188,546
<b>Balances c/f</b>	<b>101,293</b>	<b>103,556</b>	<b>204,849</b>	<b>195,116</b>

## The Elgar Society

### Balance sheet

	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current accounts	7,612	33,466
Deposit account	75,345	-
Investec investment	-	54,125
Monmouth BS 90-day account	87,143	86,027
Branches' bank balances	40,575	34,090
Debtors and Accrued Income	1,862	600
Creditors	<b>(7,688)</b>	<b>(13,192)</b>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>204,849</u></b>	<b><u>195,116</u></b>
 <u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Kay Trust	81,407	81,407
Branches (London & West Midlands )	22,149	20,458
	<u>103,556</u>	<u>101,865</u>
 General fund	 101,293	 93,251
 <b>Total funds</b>	 <b><u>204,849</u></b>	 <b><u>195,116</u></b>

## **The Elgar Society**

### **Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023**

#### 1. Basis of accounting

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

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 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. During the year a generous donation was received from the estate of the late Moira Davies. The Society is very grateful for this gift.

##### 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

During the year, travel and other out of pocket costs amounting to £1,284 were reimbursed to 8 members of the Council and the Executive when appropriate claims were made (2022 £972 reimbursed to 3 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 are a material part of the total resources expended by the Society. Elgar in Performance and other grants amounting to £15,415 were made to 13 organisations (2022 £15,600 to 15 organisations).

### 5. Restricted funds

Kay Trust

These funds were given with the proviso that the funds may not be used for routine running expenses but should be devoted to capital or other longer term projects.

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Elgar Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Elgar Society (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Adrian Benselin

3 Maylands Avenue

Breaston

Derbyshire

DE72 3EE

14 July 2024

**THE ELGAR SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 298062

---

# Accounts

---



# **The Trustees' Annual Report**

**1 January 2022 to  
31 December 2022**

**Published in the *Elgar Society News* in April 2022  
and presented to the Annual General Meeting on 16th July 2023**

# THE ELGAR SOCIETY

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

### 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
Sam Dobson (From June 2022)	George Smart
Caroline Gilderdale(From June 2022)	Peter Smith
Liz Luder	Helen Whittaker (to June 2022)
Martyn Marsh	Roy Whittaker
Peter Newble	Prof. David Young

#### Elected Officers

Chair:	Stuart Freed (From June 2022)
Vice-Chair:	Martyn Marsh (From June 2022)
Secretary:	George Smart
Treasurer:	Peter Smith

#### Other National Post-holders

Archivist:	Richard Hall (To June 2022) Caroline Gilderdale ( From June 2022)
Data Protection Officer:	Stuart Freed
Journal Editor:	Kevin Mitchell and Board
Membership Secretary:	Chris Bennett
News Editor:	Peter James
Web Officers:	Stuart Freed/Robert Gilbert

#### Branch Officers

Branch	Chair	Secretary
London	Philip Petchey	Ruth Hellen
North America	Arthur Reynolds	Lee Kaufman
North-West	Rev. John Knowles	David L. Jones
Scotland	Ian Lawson	Kitty Parker
Southern	David Pearce	David Pearce
West Midlands	John Harcup	Richard Smith
Yorkshire & North East	David Young	Paul Grafton

#### Advisers

Bankers:	Lloyds TSB
Independent Examiner:	Adrian Benselin

## Honorary Posts and Awards

**President** – Sir Mark Elder CH CBE

**Vice-Presidents** - Diana McVeagh, Dame Janet Baker CH DBE, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Andrew Davis CBE, Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE, Andrew Neill, Martyn Brabbins, Tasmin Little OBE, Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM

### Recipients of the Elgar Society's Medal

1992	Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore	2013	Sir Andrew Davis
1992	Leonard Slatkin	2013	Sir Mark Elder
1999	Jerzy Maksymiuk	2015	Daniel Barenboim
2000	Tadaaki Otaka	2015	Diana McVeagh
2007	Andrew Litton	2016	Martin Bird
2008	Sakari Oramo	2016	Teresa Cahill
2009	Danube Symphony Orchestra	2016	Alexander Walker
2009	Vladimir Ashkenazy	2019	Anastasia Vedyakova
2011	Michael Kennedy	2019	Adrian Brown
2011	Anthony Payne	2019	Dame Janet Baker
2012	Barry Collett	2021	Christopher Bishop
2012	Jacek Kasprzyk		
2012	Sir Colin Davis		

### Structure, Governance and Management

The Society is governed under a constitution adopted with effect from 1 January 2008 and subsequently amended in June 2010, June 2011, June 2018 and June 2022. Its Council consists of the elected officers, and eight other members of the Society.

The Executive Committee consists 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.

There are five committees/working parties (1) Elgar in Performance( which includes Elgar in Education) which decides on grants in respect of performances of Elgar and in respect of educational project (and special projects) and (2) the Branch Chair's Committee, composed of the Chairs of the branches of the Society. (3) During 2022 the Council established a Working Group, chaired by Sam Dobson, to coordinate the online presentations for members. (4) Two additional have also been formed, one to deal with Recruitment/Retention and another to consider proposals for the Society's 75th anniversary.

## **Sub Committees/Working Parties active during 2022**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Chair/Convenor</b>	<b>Members</b>
Elgar in Performance (including Education)	Steven Halls	Martyn Marsh, Peter Newble, Executive Committee
Branch Chairs Committee	Philip Petchey	All other Branch Chairs
Elgar Online Group	Sam Dobson	Martyn Marsh, David Young, Chris Warsaw (North America) and Marian Rutland .
Recruitment and Retention Group	Martyn Marsh	
75th Anniversary Group	Andrew Neill	Stuart Freed, Martyn Marsh, Chris Warsaw, Ruth Helen , Geoff Scargill, David Morris and Jonathan Hope

## **Council and Executive**

The Council met four times online during the year. The Executive Committee met twice. Much of the business was progressed by e-mail and Zoom. The Branch Chairmen did not meet in 2022.

## **Branches**

At the start of the years there were six UK Branches organised geographically, and a further Branch covering America and Canada. There are also links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany. 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 for consolidation with the accounts of the national 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 2022 and the Trustees are not aware of any material change in risk which needs to be reported.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Council's policy is to retain reserves equal to at least one year's expenditure.

## **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 (now known as The Firs) 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.

The Society seeks to promote performance of Elgar's music, especially the more rarely performed works. 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 January 2022– 31 December 2022)**

### **General Overview**

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 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 continue to be focused on rebuilding activities following the Covid-19 pandemic nationally and at Branch level. The main developments during the year were:

- Branches have begun meeting as society recovers from the pandemic.

- Performances supported by *Elgar in Performance* and the education and special projects funds have been slow at restarting. Existing approvals have been held over until performances can take place. Details are set out later;
- Launch of the supported recording of Elgar Choral music by The Choir of Royal Hospital Chelsea - "The Reeds by Severnside"
- The existing programme of online presentations and Zoom versions of meetings by some branches have been brought together under the Elgar Online Group which co-ordinates the online offering in such a way as to avoid clashes with live branch meetings (see Details below).
- the Elgar Festival returned to the date prior to the Birthday Weekend;
- The AGM & Birthday Weekend was held in Worcester as a hybrid meeting giving members an opportunity to meet in person and also online.
- Following the election of a new Chairman and Vice Chairman the Council has :-
  - set up a Recruitment & Membership Working Party chaired by the Vice Chairman
  - introduced a weekly newsletter from the Chairman to all online members.
  - set up a group to look at proposals for the & 75th Anniversary in 2026.
  - introduced a new more modern website
- monitoring the membership numbers;
- continuing links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany;
- editorship of the *Journal* continued under Kevin Mitchell and the editorial board arrangement;
- keeping under review the Society's financial position and the need to deal with the effects of inflation on the Society's funding;
- the Society continues to work closely with The Firs.

Elgar Journal: Under Kevin Mitchell's leadership, the editorial board continues to oversee the production of an informative and interesting Journal which is issued three times each year (together with the Society's News, edited by Peter James) and is distributed both in physical and electronic form.

Sponsorship and Legacies: We continue to encourage donations and legacies for specific projects.

Education & Young People: Initiatives in relation to Young People are being reviewed by the Vice Chairman with a view to refocusing activity and initiatives.

Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit: In April The Chairman presented the Elgar medal to Christopher Bishop in recognition of his pioneering work as a producer of first recordings of the major Choral works and his contribution to recording British music. The presentation was made at an all Elgar Concert at Snape Maltings.

Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition: We continue to promote 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.

## Elgar in Performance

As the effects of the Corona Virus and the poor state of the economy continue, the effect on the arts remains deleterious. As I reported last year, in all cases, we offered to hold over any previously agreed grants to groups who intended to perform the works in the subsequent two years. Events moved on, however, and some organisations cancelled the event for which they had received a grant; some bided their time and hoped for better days; some set a date for their postponed performance - the Schwerte *Apostles* from 2020, for example, took place in November 2022. The table below sets out the position for 2022, with some ‘aged’ granted events taking place after postponement and, happily, some new applications being considered and then coming to performance within a twelve-month period. It is a pleasure to report a first performance in Thailand this year.

The Elgar in Performance Group comprises the Executive Committee, Peter Newble and Steven Halls.

RECIPIENT	ACTIVITY	DATE	VENUE	GRANTED
CobbePianoCollection £400prev.	Care of Elgar's Piano	2021-25	Guildford	400
Hertfordshire Chorus	The Black Knight	26-Feb	St.Alban's Cath'l	1000
Avon Valley Concerts	Brinkwells Ch.Music	26-Mar	Dorset	500
Konzertgesellschaft Schwerte	The Apostles	12-Nov	Schwerte, Germany	1500
Phoenix & Beccles CS	MusMakersSeaPix Cockaigne	23-Apr	Snape Maltings	1000
Thailand Phil.Orch	Symphony No.1, Serenade	6&7 May	Thailand	1500
Associaçao Novo Dialogo	P&C No.3 as ballet	20-Jan-22	Portugal	0
EnglishMusicFestival	Ov.SpanishLady+Misc.	27,28,29 May	Oxfordshire	500
Three Spires Singers	Sea Pictures	19-Nov	Truro	800
Hereford Chamber Choir	The Black Knight	10-Jun	Hereford Cathedral	500
Welwyn GdnCity Coir	Spirit of England	Withdrawn.	Allocated 500 originally	

Steven Halls

Co-ordinator, the EiP Group

## The Journal

During 2022 further editions of Volume 23 of *The Elgar Society Journal* were published in April, August and December, running to 69, 69 and 57 pages respectively, with a cover photograph in colour of Yns Lochtyn in April, Ralph Vaughan Williams in August and Elgar’s wind quintet in about 1877 for December.

The April issue contained Kevin Allen’s concluding article on Richard Baxter Townshend, Andrew Neill wrote an extended essay on the *Introduction and Allegro for Strings* with many illuminating comments from executants. Kevin Mitchell provided background information relating to Elgar’s performance of Wolfrum’s *Ein Weihnachtsmysterium* in December 1901 with translations by Geoff Scargill of Wolfrum’s correspondence with Elgar and Alice.

Stephen Johnson’s A.T. Shaw lecture opened the August issue, followed by Arthur Reynolds’ article on Elgar and Ysaye, but the majority of the issue was devoted to Vaughan Williams to mark his 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, with articles by Andrew Neill, Hugh Cobbe and Stephen Connock.

The December issue opened with a conversation between Gareth Newman, former Sub-Principal Bassoon with the LPO, and Andrew Neill dealing with Elgar’s compositions for the Bassoon. Dr Relf Clark wrote an article on Frank Schuster and his ownership of The Hut from a legal perspective.

During the year six books were reviewed, there were two music reviews, eighteen CD reviews with a number of shorter CD reviews. The recordings Elgar made in 1922 were noted and the ‘100 Years

Ago ...' columns reflected Elgar life in that year. In August we had an additional '100 years Ago ...' column covering RVW's life in 1922.

The editorial team continue happily to share the work in assembling the contents, and even though there may be some concerns over the continued flow of new material, the pages are always filled.

We thank all those who have written for us, particularly our reviewers who often do this alongside their professional tasks and once again we greatly appreciate the invaluable assistance of Mike Byde, who carries out the detailed formatting, often producing several versions before preparing the final copy for the printers. We thank him for his work.

*Kevin Mitchell, Andrew Dalton, David Morris and Andrew Neill*

## **The News**

The usual three editions were published in 2022 with the aim of combining Elgarian news and features with information from branches and the Society's officers. April's issue included an article about tracking down Elgar in the 1921 census; a report on Christopher Bishop receiving the Elgar Medal appeared in August, as well as a comprehensive tribute to David Lloyd-Jones, who died in June; in December Philip Petchey wrote about Harriet Cohen's links with Elgar; and, to allay recent concerns, the Elgar Foundation contributed an item about the future of the Birthplace.

It's always a pleasure to receive unsolicited items of interest from occasional contributors, so Society members should not hesitate to send their articles or letters – even handwritten ones sent by snail mail for those without computers. Special thanks go to Robert Gilbert, typesetter and compiler of the concert diary, and to regular contributors including Richard Smith, John Norris, Philip Petchey and Andrew Neill.

Peter James, Editor of the *News*

## **Membership Report**

The table of branch membership, as at 31/12 2022, is shown below. It should be noted that many members have nominated 2 branches to be members of, and the actual membership figure at the end of the year was 839, this to include Life Members, Hon Members and VPs. This is a decline from the total membership recorded in December 2021 of ????

The total of new members joining in 2022 was disappointingly low at 15. 33 members were removed in November for non-payment of the subscription, and there were a further 21 resignations on the year.

<b>Branch membership</b>	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
London	269	277	286	320	321	307	338	349	362
North America/Canada	49	49	52	49	42	45	45	36	34
North-West	108	114	119	120	117	113	127	125	128
Scottish	46	48	50	50	47	59	59	61	72
Southern	76	83	86	89	97	90	102	86	107
West Midlands	178	188	192	229	216	187	210	210	247
Yorkshire/North-East	55	52	52	55	53	45	50	46	46
<b>Area Memberships</b>									
South-West	33	41	45	54	58	58	64	67	69
East Anglia	44	54	54	56	57	50	65	56	51
East Midlands	27	31	34	37	31	24	33	26	17
<b>No Branch/Area Affiliation</b>	129	145	119	161	127	143	160	180	258

## **The Archives**

Over the past year, all the Society Archive material, which is housed at the Hive, has been viewed and listed by CG (Caroline Gilderdale). The collection comprises the uncatalogued material and the catalogued material

### **Uncatalogued Archive (as in May 2022)**

There are forty boxes of Branch documentation/correspondence/photographs/programmes/DVDs etc. There are also bound sets of Elgar Journals and Elgar News. These date back to 1973. The sets have been incomplete, but CG has liaised with Tom Kelly, who has been able to make up the missing sets. These have yet to be deposited at the Hive as they are presently still in Tom's house in Scotland

### **Catalogued Archive**

The items in this collection comprise some fascinating pieces, including many letters to and from Elgar, Carice, Alice with acquaintances, conductors and musicians.

### **Hive Public Library**

There are sets of Elgar Journals and Elgar News which are stored for public perusal in the main body of the library.

### **Ongoing work**

CG has informed the Elgar Council of what is presently stored in our Society Archive and some discussion has been had as to what we would like to be stored in the future. Up to now, everything has been deposited as hard copies. CG has had a meeting with the Hive Digital Archivist with a view to (nearly) everything being stored digitally. She has also been sent various guidelines and regulations for storing material digitally, along with instructions on using DROID-Digital Record Object Identification. Guidelines on copyright have also been sent, but this requires further consultation.

Once we have decided on exactly what we would like to have stored in our future Society Archive, CG will inform Branches, requesting they send (virus free) material via email or securely on DVD

or USB for CG to store securely on her own computer CG will then have further 1-1 'tuition' from the Digital Archivist on how to use DROID and on how to then organise and send everything over to the Hive.

A few items, such as booklets/photographs etc have recently been sent to CG, from a variety of sources and these will be deposited at the Hive in their 'hard copy' form.

Caroline Gilderdale - Hon. Archivist

### **Elgar Online First Report(covering the period from inauguration in October 2021 to December 2022.)**

Elgar Online was set up following my proposal to the Council in October 2021. The idea was to create a group to organize Zoom talks on behalf of the Society as a whole. Such talks had been tried and found to be successful in the East Midlands and other branches during the Covid lockdowns of 2020 and 2021.

To put this into practice a sub-committee was set up consisting of: Myself, Martyn Marsh, David Young (all National Council members), Chris Warsaw (North America) and Marian Rutland (Bury St Edmunds). The subcommittee has met twice, once in November 2021 with a review of progress in June 2022. On the first occasion only, they were joined by Peter Newble and Andrew Neill who both produce Vimeo films. Here a clear distinction was made between the recorded Vimeo work and the live Zoom sessions.

The main aim of the group is to present a wide and interesting variety of talks to those who, for whatever reason, are not attending traditional branch meetings. It is appreciated that for many, and probably a growing number, attending Zoom meetings is becoming their main connection with other society members. The talks are available to anyone, member or non-member, who has internet access.

It was agreed we should aim for 6 events in 2022 in addition to the first event which was actually held in 2021. Titles and presenters are as follows. Attendance at each talk is shown in brackets:

- 18 December 2021 Elgar and the World of Commercial Reality – Richard Westwood Brookes (38)
- 12 March 2022 Sir Arthur Sullivan - Dr Anne Stanyon (41)
- 2 April 'Novelties' and the Three Choirs Festival - Dr Alexis Paterson (36)
- 7 May Elgar and the Ysaÿe Affair - Arthur Reynolds (34)
- 8 Oct Elgar in Berlin - Wolfgang Rittmeier (35)
- 19 Nov Putting Elgar in Context; Women Musicians of Elgar's Time – Dr Leah Broad (27)
- 17 Dec Reading the Music Makers – Professor David Young (34)

The established practice is that speakers who are society members are not paid a fee. This year 3 speakers were paid a fee of £100. Where possible the talks are recorded. Of course the group is always on the lookout for likely speakers on subjects of interest. We are aiming to present 7 or 8 talks for 2023.

Sam Dobson - Elgar Online

## 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 Elgar talks and performances in their home area.

## London Branch

The London Branch held meetings as follows:

7 February	<i>Dweller in Shadows: Writing the life of Ivor Gurney</i>	Kate Kennedy
7 March	<i>From Dunstable to Birtwistle: 'English' composers</i>	Robert Saxton
25 April 2	<i>A change of mind: Britten and Elgar</i>	Philip Reed
9 May	<i>Celebrating Elgar's cello concerto</i> , with Robert Cohen (Royal Academy of Music, Richards Event)	
13 June	Branch AGM; Song recital by Stephen Dickinson and friends	
3 October	<i>BBC Radio in the 78 era</i>	Jeremy Summerly
7 November	<i>Elgar and Parry</i>	Relf Clark
5 December	An evening with Tasmin Little	

Reports of the February to October meetings appear in the relevant issues of *Elgar Society News*. Relf Clark's talk in November compared and contrasted two very different men and composers. As usual, Relf gave us plenty to think about and put the record straight about a number of widely accepted accounts of events. Parry always comes across as a very kind man, as well as one who contributed to the musical life of the country in many different ways, including attending several first performances of music by Elgar and other composers. It was good to hear some of his more unfamiliar music to illustrate the range of his compositions.

We were delighted to welcome one of the Society's vice-presidents, Tasmin Little, to speak to us in December. She gave a fascinating and engaging outline of her career, including her time at the Menuhin School, and talked about performing and recording the Elgar Violin Concerto and Violin Sonata, as well as works by other composers important to her. Her answers to questions were much appreciated.

We continued our celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> birthday with concerts at the Chapel Royal at St James's Palace at the time of the Platinum Jubilee and a visit to Champs Hill in October for outstanding performances by Kathryn Rudge and Will Vann, and Katya Apekisheva and the Navarra Quartet.

A major project reached completion with the publication of *A Pilgrim in Cockaigne*. This book of essays about Elgar, edited by Kevin Mitchell and David Morris, is based on talks given to the Branch in its first half century. Our thanks go to them and their colleagues for the immense amount of work and care they took with this, which has resulted in what we consider an important contribution to Elgarian studies.

It was good to get back to 'normal' meetings throughout the year. These are mostly held in Queen's College in Harley Street. Attendance has recovered well, though we would like, of course, to see more people at our meetings which are both varied and of a high quality. For all Branch activities we are reliant on a large number of people who help in a variety of ways and our thanks go to all of them.

Ruth Hellen - London Branch Secretary

## North West Branch

In December 2022, we have 108 members in the North West Branch. The membership has fallen slowly in the past few years – down from 120 in December 2019. In the last two years, the numbers attending branch meetings has also fallen, mainly because of the restrictions imposed by the covid pandemic, but perhaps, also, a reflection of an ageing membership.

**15 January 2022** Our first branch meeting in the new year, when Charlie Perry was to have presented “Conducting Elgar (including ‘From The Bavarian Highlands’)”, was postponed to a later date (because of covid restrictions.) His presentation was not thought to be suitable for a live Zoom meeting. But, the scheduled AGM went ahead via Zoom on 15 January.

**13 February 2022** Our Annual Lunch, planned for February, was likewise cancelled.

**19 March 2022** Live NW Branch meetings were resumed at our new venue at Emmanuel Church, Didsbury, in South Manchester, when Howard Rogerson came to talk to us about “Elgar and The Morecombe Festival”. Unfortunately, attendance numbers were well down from previous levels for what proved to be a very interesting talk.

**9 April 2022** Simon Baggs gave an excellent presentation on “Alice Elgar” and it was rewarding that attendance numbers again appeared to be increasing.

**28 May 2022** David Young’s fascinating and enlightening presentation entitled “Reading the Music Makers” was very well received by over thirty branch members and friends.

**25 September 2022** After our summer break, and because it had been cancelled in February, our new season began with our NW branch Annual Lunch which was held at the Alma Lodge Hotel, in Stockport. We were delighted when Elgar Society Chairman, Stuart Freed, and his wife, Jan, accepted our invitation to join us. After an excellent lunch, three people (including Stuart) talked about and played a short recording of a piece of music which was of interest to them. There were also two interesting visual displays on boards.

**22 October 2022** This branch meeting was a very special occasion when Hilary Elgar was in conversation with Geoff Scargill about her life, her interests in music, and of course, Edward. This was not a live meeting, but the exciting premiere showing of a pre-recorded Vimeo presentation, recorded, edited, and produced by Peter Newble. This truly fascinating conversation is available for viewing as one of the Elgar Society’s pre-recorded events.

**12 November 2022** Harvey Davies, Director of the Pleyel Music Ensemble, and Sarah Ewins, Associate Leader of the Hallé, made a welcome return to us. They talked about Elgar’s short works for violin and piano, and played several of them, and the afternoon ended with a complete performance of the Sonata for violin and piano, Opus 82. A truly enjoyable and memorable afternoon.

**10 December 2022** Edward Clark, President of the United Kingdom Sibelius Society, gave us an interesting presentation on “Elgar and Sibelius” and talked about various connections between these two great composers.

David L Jones (Hon. Sec., North West Branch)

## Scottish Branch

This year has not turned out quite as we might have wished. We continued to support Neil Mantle’s orchestra, Scottish Sinfonia, and advertised the work of the Society in its programmes – and many of us enjoyed (and promoted) its performance in November of the ‘Cello Concerto, magnificently played by Robin Michael and available on YouTube here:

[Elgar ~ Cello Concerto ~ Robin Michael ~ Scottish Sinfonia - YouTube](#)

Elsewhere we had an excellent Elgar 1 from Martin Brabbins and the BBCSSO in Glasgow and a splendid Fifth Pomp & Circumstance March spectacularly played by John Kitchen on the Usher

Hall organ. Society leaflets were made available on these occasions, but a more formal presence would be desirable.

Sadly, the branch's resources for promoting its own events these days are few and some projects originally intended for 2022 have had to be postponed. The one significant event that should have gone ahead was a performance by the Resol Quartet of the Elgar String Quartet coupled with a contemporary composition by Julian Broughton. Unfortunately, one by one, the four young players went down with a flu-like illness which wiped out their three weeks of planned rehearsal time. A substitute programme of Haydn and Mendelssohn was played – and played brilliantly – but without the Elgar, the branch felt it couldn't justify the cost of underwriting the concert, which was taken on instead by the venue church.

In view of the lack of activity in 2022, we waived our subvention for 2023 and hope to utilise our accumulated wealth on two or three events in the coming year. One splendid opportunity is an all-Elgar concert being played by Scottish Sinfonia in August – details yet to be announced – at which its conductor for over fifty years, Neil Mantle, is due to be presented with the Society's Medal – a supremely well-deserved honour!

Ian Lawson- Branch Chairman, Scottish Branch

### **Southern Branch**

The Southern Branch in 2022 had a year that was much closer to normal, given that in the early part, there was clearly reluctance on the part of some to attend meetings, presumably through fear of Covid. It was the SB Committee decision that we should not resume regular monthly meetings until March 2022, by which time we had resolved the remaining problem on how to manage meetings at our Winchester location – St Lawrence's Church Hall. On Saturday 19 March 2022 at 2 PM in Winchester, we held an AGM and then Vice Chairman, Duncan Eves, gave his long-deferred talk on *The Music Makers*.

On Friday 25 March, we finally had a long-awaited joint meeting with the Avon Valley Concert Society, when all three of Elgar's chamber works were performed. I gave a 30 minute pre-concert talk. An excellent performance was given by members of the Castalian String Quartet, who were joined by the Society's President, Leon McCawley on piano. My talk on the 'Brinkwells Works' had included comments on the incomplete Elgar Piano Concerto and interest was shown afterwards by Leon in playing a completed version. I have taken the matter up with David Owen Norris, who had the original idea on its possible completion, and who has recorded a version. This was a splendid event attended by many AVCS members, but surprisingly few Elgar Society members.

On Saturday 23 April, the well-known conductor of Elgar's works, Adrian Brown, gave a talk about his illustrious predecessor, Adrian Boult, at our Havant location and on 14 May in Winchester, Michael Butterfield gave a talk on the Part Songs of Edward Elgar. Our season concluded with a meeting on 17 September, when Richard Westwood-Brookes gave a talk on Elgar's entry into the world of the music hall with *The Fringes of the Fleet*.

I have mentioned before that Zoom membership of the Southampton RMS has been offered outside our normal geographic area, including the Elgar Society, with three free sessions as a trial. This has attracted new members, but unfortunately, none from the Elgar Society. This is unfortunate as SRMS has developed these talks to a high technical standard, offering stereo 'original sound', in both the presentations and the sessions recorded and made available on the members web site. The offer remains open, but it seems that Elgar Society members, for whatever reasons, do not wish to try Zoom as a presentation medium. [www.southamptonrms.org.uk](http://www.southamptonrms.org.uk)

I have again reminded all members, particularly in the south and London that the Southern Branch is in desperate need of a Branch Secretary, but no one seems willing to take on the job. Despite this, we have a full programme of meetings planned for 2023. It remains to be seen how our membership numbers and meeting attendance will hold up after the pandemic, but fewer SB members have renewed in 2022. It is no surprise that SB has spent less money in 2022 than in 2019 and previous years. We now find that professional speakers are asking for higher fees and the cost of travelling has gone up, as has the price of venue hire. We will also now have to invest in a video projector as all speakers now need this item of equipment. Again, I offer my thanks to the hard-working members of the SB Committee, given that vacancies remain.

David Pearce - Chairman, Elgar Society Southern Branch

### **West Midlands Branch**

**22 January 2022** One of our Committee members, **David Packman**, compared the ‘**Sacred and the Secular**’ the music of Edward Elgar and Arthur Sullivan. He began by reflecting that Sullivan’s work was immediately well received whereas Elgar’s was not always, but of course it is the latter which has endured at least in the more serious genre. He felt that Sullivan was writing to bring release and joy to the hard-working men and women of England while Elgar was writing for the more sophisticated and learned audience and bringing them through the soul’s journey. Seemingly miles apart yet, on reflection, release from perhaps drudgery, to bring joy and hope to people who found life hard physically, mentally and spiritually transforming as inviting the soul to make its final journey to another form of being. In his music choices he compared and contrasted *Patience* by Sullivan and *Gerontius* but Elgar.

**19 February 2022** Our ever popular **Branch Lunch** included a musical quiz with the audience invited to ‘name that tune!’

**19 March 2022** Following an illness by our intended speaker, **Stuart Freed** stepped in at the last minute to give a most enjoyable illustrated talk on some of **Elgar’s lighter pieces**, some familiar, some not. Aably assisted by his wife, Jan, Stuart began by saying that while he could not compete with the erudition of a world famous composer such as Robert, he hoped that his presentation would bring a smile to the audience. Perhaps this might be considered as ‘Radio 2 Elgar!’

**9 April 2022** Our **AGM** took the usual format with Dr Roger Allen being added to our Committee, but sadly David Parkes was forced to stand down as our Events Secretary. Following tea **Richard Smith** gave a short illustrated presentation on **Elgar’s visit to Delius** in 1933.

**14 May 2022** We were delighted to welcome our one-time national chairman, **Wendy Hill** who talked and introduced music on the subject ‘**From Broadheath to Nimrod**’. Her selection began with *Humoreske Broadheath* which was written in 1867 when Elgar was only 10, and was eventually incorporated into the Wand of Youth Suite. Next came ‘*The Language of Flowers*’ – a 15-year old’s tribute to his sister Lucy on her 20th birthday. A number of other early pieces followed, some well-known, some not so well-known. Her talk ended, of course, with Nimrod.

**11 June 2022** On a delightful sunny day **John Knowles**, Chairman of the North West Branch, gave us a fascinating insight **into Elgar, Malcolm Sargent and the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic**. John began by talking about Elgar’s association with Liverpool and especially Alfred Rodewald and Granville Bantock. It may be remembered that Elgar conducted the first performances of *Pomp and Circumstance* Nos. 1 and 2 at the Liverpool Philharmonic Hall. The second part of his talk was a biography of Sargent. As John remembered Sargent directed the Hallé Orchestra in Manchester

(1939–1942) and the Liverpool Philharmonic (1942–1948) and later conducted one of the finest recordings of *Gerontius* plus other Elgar works.

**28 July 2022** The Three Choirs Festival was held in Hereford. As speaker at the Elgar Society lecture we were fortunate in having the well-known conductor and organist, **Nicholas Cleobury**, talking on ‘**Elgar the master orchestrator**’. In his talk Nicholas gave us a masterly review of Elgar’s orchestration techniques. We found that Elgar had not only gained some of his ideas from German composers but also from those of France, especially Hector Berlioz. His talk was illustrated with both sound and visual excerpts culminating in extracts from *The Apostles* which has long been so neglected. The 100 strong audience was most impressed how Nicholas succeeded in conveying Elgar’s musical ideas being neither simplistic or baffling people like me who have little technical musical knowledge. Following the talk, many of us walked the few steps to the Green Dragon hotel in Broad Street for our **three course lunch**. Some of you may know that Elgar was a regular visitor to the hotel during his time at Plas Gwyn. We would very much like to thank the staff of the hotel for their excellent service and a great spread.

**10 September 2022** Our autumn season began with a recital by the young harpist, **Anwen Mai Thomas**. Held only two days after we heard the sad death of Her Majesty, the meeting began with a tribute to her and a recording of Elgar conducting *God Save the King* in 1928. Anwen’s delightful recital began with a piece by Jean-Michael Damase entitled *Sicilienne Variée* and was followed by Fantasia in Eb Major by Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach. Other pieces followed and after tea she concluded with a arrangement of by Trneček of Smetana’s *The Moldau*, an exceptional rendition of a favourite piece.

**15 October 2022** One of our recent new Branch members is **Jonathan Hope**, assistant organist and music director at Gloucester Cathedral since March 2014. He gave a presentation on ‘**Elgar at the Console,**’ beginning by describing Elgar’s *Vesper Voluntaries* composed in 1889. He played extracts from one of them both electronically and then on the fine organ at Holy Trinity church in Malvern. He then talked about arranging a composition for other instruments, remembering Elgar’s orchestration of J.S. Bach’s Organ Fantasia and Fugue in C minor and Handel’s Chandos Anthem II. He followed this with a detailed survey of Elgar’s Organ Sonata which had been composed to be given at Worcester Cathedral for a party of visiting American musicians in 1895. Again he played extracts from three of the four movements on the organ. Jonathan regretted that few orchestral pieces had been transposed and decided to remedy this by adapting Elgar’s *Froissart* overture for organ. He played some of his adaptation and this led to a more ambitious project to transpose another Elgar overture, *In the South*, for organ.

**12 November 2022** **Richard and Joan Smith** gave an illustrated presentation on ‘**Fred Gaisberg, Elgar and recorded music**’. They began with a brief history of recorded music playing some very early recordings dating from the turn of the century. Gaisberg was sent by the pioneer Emile Berliner to establish a record company in London in 1898 and later recorded many famous artists of the time. However, it was not until 1914 that Gaisberg recorded an Elgar piece, *Carissima* which was its first public performance. Elgar and Giasberg gradually became good friends and several more recordings were made using the early acoustic process. Eventually, in 1924, this method was replaced by the much superior electrical process which led Gaisberg to re-record many Elgar pieces and add new ones. These included the two symphonies, both Concerti the three overtures but, sadly only extracts of *Gerontius*. At the end of his life Elgar dedicated *Mina* to Fred.

**3 December 2022** The final meeting of the yearcember, was by our old friend **Richard Westwood-Brookes** who talked on ‘**The Soul of the Violin Concerto**’. In this he gave four alternatives for the identity of the person to which the five dots refer on the title page of the Elgar Violin Concerto. He dismissed the first two possibilities, Helen Weaver and the little-known Adeline Nelson, fairly

logically, but that left Alice Stuart-Wortley and the American Julia Worthington, both of whom could have been the 'soul'. Both had five letter names, 'Alice' and either 'Julia' or 'Pippa' and both have equal claims. Richard plumped for the latter - but it is doubtful whether either will ever be definitely chosen.

Finally, the Branch continues to publish its bi-yearly *Newsletter* which is distributed to all our members, with electronic versions going to the Chairmen and Secretaries of other Branches.

Richard Smith - West Midlands Branch Secretary

### **Yorkshire & North East Branch**

Our programme for 2022 opened on 22 January with our AGM followed by a delightful presentation by committee member Howard Gregg on Elgar's Part Songs. Howard's musical examples – 'As torrents of summer', 'Death on the Hills', 'The Prince of Sleep', 'Go Song of Mine', and the haunting 'Owls' – reminded us of the rich repertoire available in this often-neglected genre.

Stuart Freed gave a highly original presentation on 26 March. In a light-hearted programme entitled 'Elgar and the Critical Ear – with reference to the *Introduction and Allegro for Strings*' - participants were guided through a large number of recordings with the aim of choosing just one. Despite the best attempts of the audio-visual gremlins to disrupt continuity, the meeting was a great success.

We were delighted to welcome Wendy Hill from the West Midlands branch on 30 April for her presentation on 'Elgar's Early Years from Broadheath to Nimrod'. In a wide-ranging talk, covering both biographical and musical aspects – at this stage in Elgar's life the two elements were inseparable – Wendy touched on various fascinating aspects, and played a varied range of musical examples, from 'The Wand of Youth' up to Elgar's own recording of 'Nimrod'. We were grateful to Wendy for presenting her fascinating material with such grace and eloquence.

The local historian Sarah Lister gave a most interesting talk on 'Elgar and Settle' on 21 May. The focus of the talk was Elgar's friendship with Dr Buck, but the topic was extended in virtuoso fashion to include a large network of characters from Settle to Shibden Hall, including Anne Lister (better known from the television series as 'Gentleman Jack') and Anne's 'wife' Ann Walker. The Bar Convent, York, with its central location close to the railway station and park-and-ride stops, delightful tea room, perfectly proportioned meeting room and so on, is an ideal venue for our talks, but it lacks one highly desirable element: a piano. Over the past three years we have considered various options but have decided to stay where we are and buy a portable digital piano. We believe the new instrument, a Roland FP-30X, will enhance proceedings in cases where speakers wish to demonstrate at the piano, or where the presentation is by a chamber choir or instrumental group with piano.

The instrument was unveiled auspiciously at Julian Rushton's talk on 25 June, entitled 'Elgar's Symphonic Study *Falstaff*'. In masterly fashion, Julian guided us through the background to the work, described the musical form and played the most important themes at the keyboard, so that when we came to a complete recording, played in the second half of the presentation, we were able to follow the structure clearly.

For our meeting on 24 September, following the summer break, we were delighted to welcome for a return visit Daniel Grimley, who gave a most enlightening presentation entitled 'A Tale of Two Concertos: Elgar, Delius and Beatrice Harrison'. Many factors of great interest emerged, such as the different approaches of the two composers to their concertos: Delius was happy for Harrison to make whatever changes she wished to the solo cello figuration, whereas Elgar ensured that the figuration was complete and fully notated before handing it over to the soloist. Professor Grimley demonstrated that the charge of loose structure often levelled against Delius's music was not justified in the case of either the Cello Concerto or the Double Concerto. A comparison of the two

recordings Harrison made of the Elgar Cello Concerto (with the composer conducting) revealed marked differences of interpretation – the first being somewhat reserved and strictly metrical, the second more relaxed and expansive – differences which may be explained to a degree by the changing conditions, both physical and technical, of recording sessions, but also by maturing approaches to interpretation. We were further grateful to Professor Grimley for a most stimulating question and answer session at the end of his presentation.

The mezzo soprano Jacqueline Edwards - well known as a concert and opera singer, teacher and vocal coach, and loyal member of the Elgar Society - was our guest speaker on 15 October, for a presentation entitled 'England's Britannia: Dame Clara Butt.' The topic was thoroughly prepared, highly enlightening, and superbly delivered, with a wealth of information about Clara's life, education, rise to stardom, professional partnership with her husband, the baritone and pianist Kennerley Rumford, and connection with Elgar. Much helpful context was offered, such how she compared with other notable contraltos of the age, especially Muriel Foster. We were delighted to discover the relatively large number of recordings which are still available, from which we can marvel at the expressive quality and power of Clara Butt's voice, and appreciate how radically vocal technique, style and taste has changed from her time to the present.

Our season was brought to a close by long-standing committee member Paul Kampen and his talk on 'Barbirolli in Yorkshire'. Paul presented a series of fascinating and in-depth facts and anecdotes about a little known, but significant aspect of Yorkshire's cultural heritage: how John Barbirolli revived musical life in Leeds, a decade before he did the same for Manchester. The talk was the result of extensive archival research in the Leeds libraries, and of Paul's experience as a horn player, including a quarter of a century with Opera North. For the wealth of information, illustrations, humorous tales about Sir John and his devoted orchestral players, and musical examples, reminding us of what a wonderful conductor he was, we remain eternally grateful to Paul.

In conclusion, a word about attendances at meetings. As is well known, during the pandemic the YNE branch initiated a series of Zoom meetings in order to keep up the interest during lockdown, and a number of branches followed our lead. Coming out of lockdown we nervously wondered what the take-up would be once we returned to 'in-the-flesh' meetings. The result was a slow start, but with numbers picking up over the months, despite the attempts of the various railway unions to disrupt our meetings. Pleasingly, attendances are now close to pre-lockdown levels.

David Young, Chairman Yorkshire & NE Branch

## **C 2022 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 below:

- a. the provision of educational programmes and activities to widen knowledge of Elgar's music for all and to 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.

During 2021 the Covid -19 pandemic continued to have a major impact on the live activities at branch and national level. As restrictions eased during 2022, branch meetings resumed. However, due to the success and continuing demand, the programme of online meetings and presentations initiated during the pandemic, have continued and become an important feature of the Society's activities. Almost all of the online offering has been archived and can be accessed by both members, researchers and the general public. It should also be noted that by developing the online element of the Society, it has been able to engage more directly with its overseas members.

As Chair of the Society I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues on Council and the Executive and each and every post-holder in the Society and its Branches, for all their efforts in helping to keep interest in the Society and its activities alive and adapting to the changing conditions surrounding the pandemic and its aftermath.

Particular mention should be made of Peter Newble and Andrew Neill, who have continued to develop online video presentations and to Sam Dobson, who has both initiated a series of real time Zoom meetings and brought the three arms of Society's digital offering under a single umbrella, Elgar Online.

The Society's News and Journal continue to offer both items of general interest and more in depth material. These two publications appear three times each year and are distributed in both physical and electronic form.

In common with many other similar groups, the Society has begun to engage with the problem of its falling membership. Whilst still healthy in terms of numbers, the Executive and Council are conscious of the ageing demographic of its membership and the reluctance of a younger one to become members of groups such as ours. In order to address these issues, the Vice-Chairman, Martyn Marsh, has convened a working group with the aim of formulating proposals to be discussed by the Council of the Society, aimed at increasing membership both within the UK and overseas and attracting younger members.

Mention should also be made of two new projects initiated by Vice-President Andrew Neill. The first of these the founding of a Research Bursary, to be awarded occasionally, when a worthy project is forwarded to the Society at graduate or post graduate level.

The second project surrounds the upcoming 75th anniversary of the founding of the Elgar Society in 2026 and how this should be marked and celebrated. Once again, a small sub-group within the Society has been formed and will present recommendations to the Council of the Society.

Stuart Freed  
Chairman

**The Elgar Society**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

	2022			2021
	General Fund	Restricted funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions	23,968	-	23,968	25,066
Gift Aid	2,493	-	2,493	2,196
Royalties	-	-	-	106
Investment income	762	-	762	651
Branch receipts	10,512	395	10,907	7,503
Donations and Legacies	14,843	3,974	18,817	2,570
<b>Total income</b>	52,578	4,369	56,947	38,092
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<i>Society objectives</i>				
Journals & Newsletters	12,005	-	12,005	11,043
Branch Activities	21,390	650	22,040	10,460
AGM	99	-	99	-
PR & Advertising	923	-	923	120
Web site maintenance	596	-	596	317
On-line presentations and meetings	557	-	557	846
Sundry	723	-	723	380
Elgar in performance	12,100	-	12,100	13,717
Elgar Medals	76	-	76	45
<i>Administration</i>				
Authorised exps Council & Executive	972	-	972	422
Re-branding and web site redesign	-	-	-	7,996
Membership administration	286	-	286	373
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	49,727	650	50,377	45,719
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	2,851	3,719	6,570	(7,627)
Branch account transfers	(727)	727	-	-
Balances b/f	91,127	97,419	188,546	196,173
<b>Balances c/f</b>	<b>93,251</b>	<b>101,865</b>	<b>195,116</b>	<b>188,546</b>

## The Elgar Society

### Balance sheet

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current accounts	33,466	22,994
Investec investment	54,125	54,125
Monmouth BS 90-day account	86,027	85,387
Branches' bank balances	34,090	33,956
Debtors and Accrued Income	600	478
Creditors	<u>(13,192)</u>	<u>(8,394)</u>
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>195,116</u></b>	<b><u>188,546</u></b>
 <u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Kay Trust	81,407	77,433
Branches (London & West Midlands )	<u>20,458</u>	<u>19,986</u>
	101,865	97,419
 General fund	 93,251	 91,127
 <b>Total funds</b>	 <b><u>195,116</u></b>	 <b><u>188,546</u></b>

## **The Elgar Society**

### **Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022**

#### 1. Basis of accounting

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

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 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. During the year generous donations were received from the estates of the late Henry Atterbury and the late Richard Bradburn. The Society is very grateful for both these gifts.

##### 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

During the year, travel and other out of pocket costs amounting to £972 were reimbursed to 3 members of the Council and the Executive when appropriate claims were made (2021 £436 reimbursed to 6 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 are a material part of the total resources expended by the Society. Elgar in Performance grants amounting to £15,600 were made to 15 organisations (2021 £13,717 to 5 organisations). Grants totalling £3,500 which were granted in earlier years but not taken up because of Covid have been written off.

### 5. Restricted funds

Kay Trust

These funds were given with the proviso that the funds may not be used for routine running expenses but should be devoted to capital or other longer term projects.

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Elgar Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Elgar Society (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Adrian Benselin

3 Maylands Avenue  
Breaston  
Derbyshire  
DE72 3EE

16 July 2023

**THE ELGAR SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 298062

---

# Accounts

---



# **The Trustees' Annual Report**

**1 January 2021 to  
31 December 2021**

**Published in the *Elgar Society News* in April 2022  
and presented to the Annual General Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

## THE ELGAR SOCIETY

### Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2021 - 31 December 2021

#### 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	George Smart
Liz Luder	Peter Smith
Neil Mantle MBE (To 6 June 2021)	Helen Whittaker
Martyn Marsh	Roy Whittaker
Peter Newble	Prof. David Young
Philip Petchey	

##### Elected Officers

Chair:	Neil Mantle MBE (To 6 June 2021) Stuart Freed (Acting Chairman from 6 June 2021)
Vice-Chair:	Martyn Marsh (Acting Vice Chairman from 26th June 2021)
Secretary:	George Smart
Treasurer:	Peter Smith

##### Other National Post-holders

Archivist:	Richard Hall
Data Protection Officer:	Richard Hall
Journal Editor:	Kevin Mitchell and Board
Membership Secretary:	Chris Bennett
News Editor:	Peter James
Web Officers:	Stuart Freed/Robert Gilbert

##### Branch Officers

Branch	Chair	Secretary
East Anglia	Peter Newble*	Chris Wiltshire*
East Midlands	Sam Dobson *	Sam Dobson*
London	Philip Petchey	Ruth Hellen
North America	Arthur Reynolds	Lee Kaufman
North-West	Rev. John Knowles	David L. Jones
Scotland	Ian Lawson	Kitty Parker
Southern	David Pearce	David Pearce
West Midlands	John Harcup	Richard Smith
Yorkshire & North East	David Young	Paul Grafton

\* In late 2021 the East Anglian Branch and East Midlands Branch both disbanded.

## **Advisers**

Bankers: Lloyds TSB  
Independent Examiner: Adrian Benselin

## **Honorary Posts and Awards**

**President** – Sir Mark Elder CH CBE

**Vice-Presidents** - Diana McVeagh, Dame Janet Baker CH DBE, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Andrew Davis CBE, Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE, Andrew Neill, Martyn Brabbins, Tasmin Little OBE, Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM

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

1992	Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore	2013	Sir Andrew Davis
1992	Leonard Slatkin	2013	Sir Mark Elder
1999	Jerzy Maksymiuk	2015	Daniel Barenboim
2000	Tadaaki Otaka	2015	Diana McVeagh
2007	Andrew Litton	2016	Martin Bird
2008	Sakari Oramo	2016	Teresa Cahill
2009	Danube Symphony Orchestra	2016	Alexander Walker
2009	Vladimir Ashkenazy	2019	Anastasia Vedyakova
2011	Michael Kennedy	2019	Adrian Brown
2011	Anthony Payne	2019	Dame Janet Baker
2012	Barry Collett	2021	Christopher Bishop
2012	Jacek Kasprzyk		
2012	Sir Colin Davis		

## **Structure, Governance and Management**

The Society is 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 consists of the elected officers, and seven other members of the Society.

The Executive Committee consists 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.

There are two committees (1) Elgar in Performance( which includes Elgar in Education) which decides on grants in respect of performances of Elgar and in respect of educational project (and special projects) and (2) the Branch Chair's Committee, composed of the Chairs of the branches of the Society.

## Working Parties active during 2021

Name	Chair/Convenor	Members
Elgar in Performance (including Education)	Steven Halls	Martyn Marsh, Peter Newble, Executive Committee
Branch Chairs Committee	Philip Petchey	All other Branch Chairs

## Council and Executive

The Council met four times online during the year. The Executive Committee also met four times. Much of the business was progressed by e-mail and Zoom. The Branch Chairmen met once. The year was dominated by dealing with the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, which had significant implications for the usual functioning of the Society and the branches. The main developments during the year were:-

- progress on the remaining components of the Society's adopted strategy;
- Performances supported by *Elgar in Performance* and the education and special projects funds continued to be restricted. Existing approvals have been held over until performances can take place;
- Support for recordings involved two projects detailed below;
- with live branch meetings suspended because of Covid restrictions branches have sought to keep in touch with their members and some branches arranged Zoom branch meetings which can be viewed by the membership generally and visitors. Some branches were able to hold live events in the autumn as detailed below;
- a national programme of online presentations continued to keep in touch with members generally and has been welcomed (alongside some branch online meetings), particularly by members who do not generally attend branch meetings.
- the AGM 2021 was conducted on Zoom and attracted greater numbers of members and a number who had not previously attended meetings in Worcester;
- the Elgar Festival was postponed until the autumn because of the restrictions;
- monitoring the membership numbers;
- continuing links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany;
- editorship of the *Journal* continued under Kevin Mitchell and the editorial board arrangement;
- keeping under review the Society's financial position;

## Branches

At the start of the years there were eight 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 for consolidation with the accounts of the national Society. During the year the East Anglian Branch and the East Midlands Branch disbanded.

## **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 2021 and the Trustees are not aware of any material change in risk which needs to be reported.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Council's policy is to retain reserves equal to at least one year's expenditure.

## **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 (now known as The Firs) 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.

The Society seeks to promote performance of Elgar's music, especially the more rarely performed works. 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 January 2021 – 31 December 2021)**

### **General Overview**

Under Initial Achievements & Plans, the last Trustees' Annual Report stated that 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 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 focus on the following areas

**Elgar in Performance and the Other Projects Fund:** We set the budget at £18,000 for 2021 but the pandemic situation has meant that little was spent in 2020, many projects being deferred to 2021 or cancelled. As planned events pick up during the year, spending will increase. The list of works recommended for support has been updated and some of the restrictions to what may be supported have been lifted or amended.

**Elgar Journal:** Under Kevin Mitchell's leadership, the editorial board continues to oversee the production of an informative and interesting Journal which is issued three times each year (together with the Society's News, edited by Peter James) and is distributed both in physical and electronic form.

**Sponsorship and Legacies:** We continue to encourage donations and legacies for specific projects.

**Education & Young People:** Initiatives in relation to Young People have also been affected by the pandemic and are being resumed as restrictions allow.

**Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit:** In November the Society presented its medal to Dame Janet Baker at an all Elgar Concert given by the Elgar Sinfonia of London, conducted by Adrian Brown, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the London Branch

The AGM and Birthday Weekend : Due to covid restrictions, the Society AGM took place online in June. Because the traditional AGM had to be cancelled, the annual laying of the chaplet by the Gerontius window in Worcester Cathedral, was carried out by members of the West Midlands Branch.

Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition: We continue to promote 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.

During 2021, two of the Society's branches have disbanded. However, during 2020, the Society embarked upon a programme of online meetings. This project has developed and now takes the form three types of presentation: a live Zoom talk that is recorded in real time and subsequently made available to view online: a series of recorded video interviews available to view online: series of videos presentations available to view online. Alongside the national events the East Midlands, Yorkshire and NE, and North West branches have been active in delivering online meetings/presentations. All these online presentations have gained a good following and have the advantage of enabling the Society to engage with many members who would not otherwise be able to attend live presentations. All of these programmes are available to the general public as part of the Society's public benefit duty.

### **Elgar in Performance**

As last year, the table below tells the gloomy story of the effect on the arts of the Corona Virus. Some grants we recognise from last year's TAR: performing and promoting societies with EiP grants contacted us to ask our advice on postponements and, in all cases, we offered to hold the grants over if the groups intended to perform the works in the next two years. The restrictions on live performance persisted, however, and some organisations cancelled the event for which they had received a grant; some bided their time and hoped for better days; some have set a date for their postponed performance - the Schwerte *Apostles*, for example, will take place in November 2022. We can expect further 'aged' grants to be redeemed later in 2022 or in 2023 and next year's TAR will reflect this.

In the meantime, the Rare Songs recording has been released – and it is delightful – and the Somm recording sessions have taken place and, as I write this in January 2022, we are discussing a launch event. Strictly speaking, this is not an EiP grant as the funding is using the some of the substantial donation from our late and dear friend, Ernie Kay. It will be another Elgarian recognition of his love for the composer and the Society.

The Elgar in Performance Group comprises the Executive Committee, Peter Newble and Steven Halls.

RECIPIENT	ACTIVITY	VENUE	GRANT	STATUS
CobbePianoCollection	Care of Elgar's Piano	Guildford	400	Enacted
Fakenham CS	King Olaf	Fakenham	1000	Postponed
Konzertgesellschaft Schwerte	The Apostles	Schwerte	1000	Postponed
Hereford Chamber Choir	Banner of St. George	Hereford Cathedral	500	Postponed
WelwynGC Choral/Orch Soc	Spirit of England	Welwyn GC	500	Postponed
High Wycombe CS	Banner St. George/Vln Conc	High Wycombe	1000	Postponed
Guinness Choir	Dream of Gerontius	Dublin		Postponed
Guildford CS	The Apostles	Guildford	1000	Postponed
Salisbury Music Society	The Apostles	Salisbury	1000	Cancelled
James Unwin	Rare Songs Recording		300	Contracted
Somm choral recording			10870	
Elgar Festival	Various	2000		Enacted
Egor Kolesov organ	Perfs of Organ Sonata	Krasnoyarsk, Siberia St.Petersburg	237	Enacted
2x Tuition Fees			0	Rejected

Steven Halls - Co-ordinator, the EiP Group

### The Journal

During 2021 three further editions of Volume 22 of *The Elgar Society Journal* were published in April, August and December, running to 61, 74 and 61 pages respectively, with a cover photograph of Longfellow in April, the *Enigma Variations* ballet in August and *Bullwhack Joe* by R.B. Townshend for December.

The April issue included a second article on *The Black Knight* by Professor Julian Ruston, an article on Elgar and Longfellow by Arthur Reynolds and Dr Relf Clark examined the cause of Alice Elgar's death in April 1920 and the events surrounding her funeral, with an analysis of those who attended.

Professor Rushton concluded his three articles on *The Black Knight* in August. Andrew Neill provided a detailed history of Frederick Ashton's ballet, *Enigma Variations*, while Tom Higgins looked at transcriptions of Elgar's music. Peter Sutton wrote a further note on *Piers Plowman*.

The December issue opened with the first part of a study of Richard Baxter Townshend by Kevin Allen, followed by an examination by Andrew Neill of Benjamin Britten's response to Elgar's music, showing how this altered over Britten's life.

During the year thirteen books were reviewed, two DVDs, and there were twenty CD reviews. The recordings Elgar made in 1920-1921 were noted and the '100 Years Ago ...' columns reflected Elgar and Carice's life in 1921.

The editorial team continue happily to share the work in assembling the contents, and even though there may be some concerns over the continued flow of new material, the pages are always filled.

We thank all those who have written for us, particularly our reviewers who often do this alongside their professional tasks and once again we greatly appreciate the invaluable assistance of Mike Bye, who carries out the detailed formatting, often producing several versions before preparing the final copy for the printers. We thank him for his work. Thanks are also due to David Morris for his magnificent proof-reading skills, which are invaluable, and to Arthur Reynolds for providing excellent illustrations and material from his extensive archive, which do so much to enliven our pages.

*Kevin Mitchell, Andrew Dalton, David Morris and Andrew Neill*

### **The News**

The usual three editions were published in 2021 with the aim of combining Elgarian news and features with information from branches and the Society's officers. April's issue included a fascinating article by ITV sports journalist Chris Skudder about his great-grandmother Laura and the story of Elgar's *Laura Valse* that she inspired. In August and December we ran David Pearce's two-part exploration of Elgar as 'imp of the perverse', concluding that the Dorabella Cypher is not a cypher at all, merely impish squiggles! In August Warwick Hood described the LSO Chorus's visit to Moscow to perform *Gerontius*; and in December we celebrated the London Branch's 50th birthday concert, where Dame Janet Baker was presented with the Elgar Medal. As ever, thanks must also go to the *News*'s regular contributors, including John Norris, Andrew Neill, Richard Smith and Philip Petchey, and of course to typesetter and concert diary compiler Robert Gilbert.

Peter James, Editor of the *News*

### **Membership Report**

2021 brought 22 new members to the Society, a somewhat lower figure than in previous years. The annual cull of members for non-payment of subscriptions resulted in 30 members being removed from the list. A further 33 members have left for other reasons, with several citing the closing of branches as the reason.

## Branch analysis

<b>Branch membership</b>	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
East Anglia*	54	54	56	57	50	65	56	51	52
East Midlands *	31	34	37	31	24	33	26	17	10
London	277	286	320	321	307	338	349	362	353
North America/Canada	49	52	49	42	45	45	36	34	46
North-West	114	119	120	117	113	127	125	128	120
Scottish	48	50	50	47	59	59	61	72	68
Southern	83	86	89	97	90	102	86	107	106
West Midlands	188	192	229	216	187	210	210	247	229
Yorkshire/North-East	52	52	55	53	45	50	46	46	24
<b>Area Memberships</b>									
South-West	41	45	54	58	58	64	67	69	79
<b>No Branch/Area Affiliation</b>	145	119	161	127	143	160	180	258	270

\* Towards the end of 2021 both the East Anglian Branch and the East Midlands Branch ceased to function. The South West Branch is no longer functioning. Members who are recorded against this Branch are included here to indicate the geographical area spread of membership.

Chris Bennett - Honorary Membership Secretary

### The Archives

The Hon Archivist was able to make a couple of visits to The Hive at Worcester where the Society's archives are held during the past year, first during the Three Choirs Festival and then during the Elgar Festival at the end of October. The following items have been deposited with the archives at The Hive:

- London Branch membership cards for 1984-85 season, one signed by Yehudi Menuhin
- Letters (2) from Michael Kennedy to Martin Passande concerning his Elgar in Hereford booklet *That Sweet Borderland*, 1978
- Postcard from Alan Webb to Martin Passande proposing him for the Elgar Society Committee, 1972

It is hoped that with the end of restrictions more members may make use of the Society's archives in The Hive and that more material will be become available for safe and secure deposit there.

Richard Hall - Hon. 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 Elgar talks and performances in their home area.

## **East Anglian Branch**

The East Anglian branch had been unable to meet since the branch AGM in February 2020, but at last the 2021 AGM was held in Bury St Edmunds on 11 September. Before the pandemic the branch had been suffering with decreasing attendance, meaning a sometimes embarrassingly sparse turnout for visiting speakers and a significant drop in income from fundraising at meetings. The reduced programme arranged for the 2020/21 season to gauge the future viability of the branch had to be abandoned completely, and the chairman was unwilling to stand again. Given present circumstances and the increasing average age of our membership, the meeting voted to close the branch, following a final talk by the chairman on Elgar's *Sea Pictures*.

Thanks are due to the outgoing committee: Helen Whittaker (treasurer), Chris Wiltshire (secretary), Robin Self (membership secretary), Bev Simpson and Roy Whittaker. This was the third incarnation of an East Anglian branch, following those based in Norwich (1978–1991) and Cambridge (1998–1999). We also thank Geoff Scargill, Michael Butterfield and the late Alan Childs (1942–2018), chairman of the former Norwich- and Cambridge-based branches, for their work in re-establishing the branch in 2011.

Peter Newble (Chairman)

## **East Midlands Branch**

Membership: Currently we have 28 members who have elected to be part of East Midlands branch. General Outline: The main business of the branch in 2021 was arranging and presenting Zoom meetings. These were all open to members and non-members anywhere and were all very well attended, usually in the range 30 to 50 in number. There were 8 in all outlined as follows: January, Sam Dobson on Malcolm Sargent February, Richard Westwood-Brookes on Elgar in the Press March, Peter Sutton on Piers Plowman April, John Harcup on Elgar Inspired by.... May, Alex Walker on Takin' Elgar to Eastern Europe June, Stephen Maddock on Elgar and the CBSO July, Arthur Reynolds on A Quest without a Grail October, Dr Martin Firth on Englishness + Nostalgia Branch AGM: This was held in February. The committee was elected as follows: Sam Dobson as chairman and secretary, Julie Johns as treasurer, other members were; Wendy Brooks, Katherine Goodier and Martyn Marsh. I would like to thank them all for their contribution to the running of the branch. In August, when the possibility of restarting 'real' meetings came about, the committee decided to issue a survey to branch members to see how much interest there would be. The survey was as thorough as I could make it and included replies from all the regular attenders from the last few years. Unfortunately it showed that the highest number of attenders we could expect was 11, which the committee considered made the branch unviable. Out of interest, Covid does not appear to have played any role in this. The fundamental cause is simply advancing years. As there seemed no prospect of this changing, the committee took the decision to close the branch. A record of the survey and replies together with minutes of the committee meeting are available if required. The Treasurer's Report: Speakers' expenses and Zoom subscriptions were the only significant entries in the account.

The account has been made up and the balance held (£1923.34) has been paid over to the national account. The branch account has been closed and the national treasurer notified.

Sam Dobson - Chairman & Secretary East Midlands

### **London Branch**

The London Branch held meetings as follows:

- March 1 (Zoom) Elgar's orchestral miniatures: Steven Halls. This talk was recorded and is available on request.
- June 14 (Zoom) 2021 Branch AGM
- October 11 Elgar – the organ and the orchestra: Nicholas Cleobury
- November 8 Elgar in the 1920s: Relf Clark
- December 6 Elgar's church music in context: Stephen Darlington.

In this, the beginning of our fiftieth anniversary year, the Society and the Branch together supported an all-Elgar concert (including the overture *Cockaigne – In London Town*) at which the Elgar Medal was presented to Dame Janet Baker.

Reports of the March and October meetings, along with the anniversary concert on October 24th, appear in the relevant issues of *Elgar Society News*.

Our speakers at our resumed 'live' meetings beginning in October all gave excellent presentations. Nicholas Cleobury summarised Elgar's relationship with the organ and focused on Gordon Jacob's orchestration of the Organ Sonata and Elgar's transcription of Bach's *Fantasia and Fugue in C*. Relf Clark explored Elgar's activities during the 1920s, throwing new light on Alice's death and funeral, listing Elgar's music played at Three Choirs Festival during the period, and looking at music which Elgar composed in that decade. Stephen Darlington compared Elgar's church music with that of some of his contemporaries, much of which has previously been dismissed as sentimental and lacking in substance.

So in a difficult year, the Branch survived and did some interesting things. We hope that 2022 will not be so disrupted. It will see the publication of a book of essays about Elgar, edited by Kevin Mitchell, based on talks given to the Branch in its first half century.

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

Ruth Hellen - London Branch Secretary

### **North America**

My fellow members and I made elaborate plans for a 2021 conference scheduled to take place in Dallas around Sir Mark Elder arrival to conduct Elgar's Symphony No. 1. The program of events included concerts and lectures by leading local musicians and teachers. Unhappily, the conference had to be canceled as the Pandemic once again overwhelmed our intentions.

Arthur Reynolds - Chairman North America Branch

### **North West Branch**

During 2021, our regular series of meetings were, as for other branches, severely curtailed by the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our home base for meetings, at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, has also been closed to members of the public since early April 2020. All our NW Branch meetings in the early part of 2021 were therefore held as Zoom meetings. Meetings held in 2021 were as follows:

**Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> February, AGM** when more than thirty members attended via Zoom and during the course of which all the existing officers and all the members of the committee were unanimously re-elected to office. Paul Turner was also elected as an additional committee member. **After the AGM**, attending members stayed on to be entertained by three members of the committee who each gave a short talk about a piece of music which held a special significance for them. The talks were accompanied by a brief PowerPoint presentation (prepared by John Knowles and David Jones) consisting of a short series of still images followed by an excerpt from a commercial recording of the piece of music under discussion. Thanks to careful preparation and a couple of rehearsal sessions, everything ran smoothly, and the general consensus was that it had been a successful and entertaining afternoon.

**Saturday, 24 April 2021, “Memories of performing Elgar”** in which two NW Branch Members, **Brian Kirtley and Darren Niman**, talked about their memories of performing Elgar. Brian Kirtley spoke about the occasion when he sang, many years ago, as a chorus member of the Lancaster University Music Society, during an all-Elgar concert which concluded with a performance of *The Music Makers*. Other works in that concert were the *Introduction and Allegro for Strings* and *Sea Pictures*, sung by Kathryn Rudge, who was also the mezzo-soprano soloist in *The Music Makers*. Brian spoke of the many connections between the Lancaster University Music Society and North West musicians and organisations including Sir John Manduell, Barbara Rowbotham, and Jane Irwin. Darren Niman then gave an illustrated talk in which he told us about a performance of *The Dream of Gerontius*, given in Buxton, in April 2019, by the Buxton Musical Society Orchestra and Chorus, in which Darren had been the timpanist in a performance which held vivid and unforgettable memories for him. His talk was also illustrated with various images and audio recordings.

**Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> June, ‘Memories of a Brass Band Player and the Elgar Connection’** in which our programme secretary, **Geoff Scargill**, was in conversation with branch member, **Paul Cull**, who had played in several brass bands over a period of sixty years. Paul talked to us about the bands in which he had played, the community aspect of brass band playing, his involvement in the training of youngsters and the amazing variety of fascinating brass band music - including the many arrangements made by famous brass musicians from music composed by Elgar. His talk was accompanied by many images and audio excerpts of brass band recordings of works by Elgar. Later in the season, we were all deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden and unexpected death of Paul Cull.

**Dr Joyce Kennedy** It was also with great sadness that we learned, in early July, of the death of our revered and much-loved branch Patron. We expressed our thoughts about Joyce in our contribution to Andrew Neil’s extensive obituary notice which appeared in the December issue of the Elgar News.

**Our Programme Secretary, Geoff Scargill, had planned our 2021-2022 season with ‘live’ meetings** at our home base at the RNCM, Manchester. Speakers, topics and dates had all been arranged when we learned, at extremely short notice that, owing to new regulations relating to the Covid pandemic, the RNCM were no longer able to offer us accommodation for any of the dates planned for our coming season. However, we were fortunately able to hold planned open meetings in October and November 2021 at Emmanuel Church, Didsbury (in South Manchester) which were as follows:

**Saturday, 2 October, “Elgar and HMV” - Neil Mantle** gave a fascinating presentation which was attended by thirty-five branch members and friends. We learned a great deal about Elgar’s acoustic and electrical recordings made between 1914 and 1933. It was an intriguing, informative and entertaining afternoon and, as a bonus, after the main presentation was completed, we were shown two extracts from video recordings (available on YouTube) of a performance of Elgar’s Violin Concerto in which Neil adroitly conducted the Scottish Sinfonia, and the accomplished soloist was Charles Mutter. It was a really splendid performance and would certainly be well-worth watching, in its entirety, via YouTube.

**Saturday, 6th November - “Only what might have been – Elgar recordings and performances that never happened” - William Cole** This ‘live’ meeting was, again, very well attended. In a wide-ranging presentation, we heard about the works of Elgar which he never himself recorded and others which were planned but only partially recorded or released, and of his 1933 recording with the BBCSO of the *Elegy for Strings* (recently discovered and issued on CD by Somm.) We also learned about the many proposed recordings (which never materialised) with eminent soloists such as Kathleen Ferrier, Fritz Kreisler, John McCormack and Jon Vickers. In the second half of his talk, William then discussed the role of various composers and conductors who promoted and performed Elgar’s works and the many projected/planned performances which, again, never took place. His talk was illustrated by numerous excerpts from many alternative recordings (both studio and live performances - some of them exceedingly rare) which do, fortuitously, exist.

**Saturday, 11 December, “Reading The Music Makers” - David Young** was to have been our speaker at this event. Due to the difficult ongoing Covid pandemic situation and the need to take heed of government restrictions, the advice given by the experts to be cautious in all we do, and with an indication from branch members of the likelihood of a poor attendance at a live meeting, it was decided that we would, unfortunately, have to cancel this open meeting at short notice. The nature of the presentation meant that it was not suitable to be given as a Zoom meeting. We hope to be able to reconvene this meeting during 2022. Our branch membership in December 2021 stands at 112 - down from 119 in December 2020 (due to death, default and resignations, but with the addition of several new members.)

David L Jones, Secretary North West Branch

### **Scottish Branch**

The Branch managed to emerge from its pandemic hibernation and hold two events in the autumn of 2021 that had been delayed by a year or more. One was a talk on and performance of the Elgar G Major Organ Sonata, held jointly with the Edinburgh Society of Organists. The other was a joint meeting with the Scottish Gramophone Group on *Elgar and the Gramophone* for which Peter Newble drove all the way from Norfolk with his precious 90-year-old gramophone aboard, plus his collection of rare 78s and a change of needles for every side played.

Notwithstanding the quality of these events, attendance was predominantly from our co-hosts, with only ten or fewer of our members present. In itself, this is not an issue in that the events successfully represented aspects of Elgar to a new audience. However, the Branch Committee was forced to conclude that it is no longer sustainable to organise a programme of traditional meetings aimed mainly at Society members.

Instead we will aim to take a more outward-looking approach to our activities: offering pre-concert talks to groups performing Elgar, or more proactively arranging performances in conjunction with third parties, such as the Scottish Arts Club. Of course, we hope that Branch members will be able to attend these external events, and perhaps enjoy subsidised ticket prices, but the focus would be towards informing and educating the public on Elgar, rather than deepening the knowledge and appreciation of the membership. This strategy was approved by the Branch AGM in January 2022.

Meanwhile, members have been able to enjoy online presentations available through the Society, and more recently provided locally by Tom Kelly. In August, Tom gave us a talk on the Violin Concerto prior to a public performance by Neil Mantle and Scottish Sinfonia and, in January, he reviewed recent Elgar recordings following our online Branch AGM.

We have yet to set out a programme for 2022, but if Covid constraints continue to ease we would like to return to the idea of a 'Come and Perform Elgar' invitation to schools and young musicians. We also have plans to commemorate our former and founding Branch Chairman, Paul Bassett, with a special event and performance either this autumn or next spring.

Ian Lawson- Branch Chairman, Scottish Branch

### **Southern Branch**

The Southern Branch has held one real live meeting since the last report, which was on 25 September at our Havant location. It was a long deferred visit from our Acting Chairman, Stuart Freed, who presented a most interesting talk about the life and work of the composer and musical educator, Gordon Jacob. He is known in Elgar circles as the orchestrator of Elgar's early Organ Sonata.

The SB Committee met three times during the year in open public spaces and it was our decision that we should not resume regular monthly meetings until 2022, but we will return with a bang in March 2022, when we hope that we may meet again at our Winchester location – St Lawrence's Church Hall.

Our planning for 2022 is hopefully now robust. We will hold an AGM on Saturday 19 March 2022 at 2 PM in Winchester, followed by a long-deferred talk on *The Music Makers* to be given by our Vice Chairman, Duncan Eves. On Friday 25 March, we will finally have a long-awaited joint meeting with the Avon Valley Concert Society, when all three of Elgar's chamber works will be performed. I will give a pre-concert talk on these works. The players will be the Castalian String Quartet and they will be joined by the Society's President, Leon McCawley, to play the piano. The rest of the year's planned events are on the SB pages of the website.

The Southern Branch remains without a Branch Secretary and a volunteer is still urgently sought. I have continued to perform this function, with able assistance from other committee members.

Again, we have not found it possible to persuade anyone to attempt an on-line presentation, but the presentations prepared by others within the Society have been much appreciated by SBN members. In particular, we would like to thank Stuart Freed and Peter Newble for the truly excellent presentations made available on Vimeo and also the branch officers that have produced live presentations on Zoom. These presentations require many hours of careful preparation and we should be grateful to them all. It is now clear that such an enhanced on-line presence should be a permanent feature of our Society; but this is no substitute for real live meetings and the many social benefits that they bring. Hence, getting back to normal should be seen as a priority.

N

One of the advantages of Zoom, when the technology is fully exploited, is the opportunity to forge links with other societies. Clear benefits to each group arise where these different organisations have members with shared or potentially overlapping interests. We have, therefore, sought to foster opportunities for mutual participation in each other's events. Within the Southern Branch's area, the Southampton Recorded Music Society has offered membership to those belonging to the Elgar Society on a Zoom or null membership basis. More information about this was given to members in the Chairman's Reports to the *Elgar Society News* in 2021.

N

It remains to be seen how our membership numbers will hold up as a result of the pandemic, but early indications suggest that newer SBN members have renewed. It is no surprise that SBN has spent less money in 2021 than predicted due to the absence of meeting costs. This surplus could be used to further personal communications with those who are reluctant to renew, or to take part in on-line events, but we will need a replacement secretary in order to achieve this. Again, I offer my thanks to the hard-working members of the SBN Committee.

N

David Pearce - Chair Southern Branch N N N

N

### **West Midlands Branch**

In common with the remainder of the country, the West Midlands Branch was not able to hold physical meetings until September 2021 due to the pandemic. We did, however, organise a meeting at the Three Choirs Festival on 28 July. This lecture was given by the distinguished organist, Adrian Lucas, who talked to an audience of just over 60 on "Atkins, Elgar and Me." Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we decided not to hold our normal Elgar Society lunch.

N

Our first physical Branch meeting was held on 8 September 2021, at which the CEO of the Three Choirs Festival, Alexis Patterson, gave an excellent insight into the organisation of the event. With the pandemic and the temporary closure of The Firs' (Elgar's birthplace) we moved our venue to Holy Trinity Church Hall in Malvern which, because of its size, allowed adequate social distancing. On 6 October Dr John Williams of St. Andrews University talked on the influence of Goethe on several composers, especially Beethoven, and the creation of the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. Another distinguished musician, Dr Roger Allen, gave us the benefit of his research into Elgar's *The Kingdom* under the title "The Nun Goeth Down" on 11 November. The year ended with our Chairman, Dr John Harcup, giving an audio visual presentation on "Now the Letter P" inspired by Elgar. This was an extended version of a talk which he gave on Zoom earlier.

N

We also continue to publish our bi-yearly *Newsletter* which is distributed to all our members, with electronic versions going to the Chairmen and Secretaries of other Branches. Because of the pandemic, we also distributed an additional *Newsletter* during the autumn of 2020 in order to keep our members informed of the work of the Branch during lockdown.

N

N

Another venture of the Branch was the refurbishment of the Elgar grave at St. Wulstan's church in Little Malvern. This had begun to fall apart and was covered in dirt and bird droppings. We approached two stone masons for estimates, and chose George Clifford and Son of Stratford to complete the work. This was duly completed in November and we cannot give the company enough praise for the work which they did. The money for the refurbishment was mainly provided by donations from the West Midlands Branch and the Elgar Family Will Trust. An appeal printed in the *Elgar Society News* resulted in a surplus of funds being received and the Branch plans to use this to replace the rotting wooden cross marking the grave of Elgar's brother Frank in Worcester and for any future work which might be necessary on the Elgar graves at St Wulstan's.

We are still determined to pursue our object of attempting to bring classical music in general, and Elgar in particular, back to schools. In this, we have gained support from the Executive and joint plans are beginning to emerge. We have now instituted two Elgar Junior Awards which are presented to schools in Worcestershire and Herefordshire.

Looking ahead, we have a full programme planned for 2022, including the ever popular Branch lunch which was, of course, could not be held last year. We hope that our programme will go ahead unaltered which now seems more likely.

Richard Smith, Branch Secretary

### **Yorkshire & North East Branch**

Our virtual meetings continued apace during lockdown. Following our AGM on 30 January, Committee member Paul Kampen gave a short presentation, much enjoyed by all, on 'Barbirolli in Yorkshire: Some Preliminary Observations'. We now look forward to a fuller report on the same subject from Paul in November.

Our Annual Committee Meeting on 27 February was much concerned with our future direction after lockdown.

On 27 March Steven Halls, past Chairman of the Elgar Society, gave a most enjoyable presentation on 'Elgar's Chamber Music: From the Shed to the World'. Grateful thanks were expressed for Steven's generosity in sharing his wide knowledge and enthusiasms to such a large, 'virtual' audience.

The presentation by David Owen Norris, the celebrated pianist, musicologist and broadcaster, on 'Elgar and the Note A flat' (17 April), brought into play biography, acoustics and harmonic analysis, together with extended musical examples played live at the piano, in a brilliant, virtuoso presentation which challenged and captivated in equal measure.

Stepping in at just three weeks' notice, committee member Julian Rushton gave a presentation entitled 'Variations, op. 36 ("Enigma"): thoughts in season' (a written version of which appeared in the summer 2021 edition of *The Musical Times*). The starting point for Julian's latest thoughts on the enigma which has so exercised scholars and non-scholars alike since the work's premiere on 19 June 1899 was material recently acquired by the British Library and letters from 1899. From here Julian revisited the evidence and ended by wondering if there really ever was a puzzle to solve. The large audience were clearly hanging on Julian's every word, and were grateful for such an illuminating talk by such a distinguished Elgar scholar.

Richard Westwood-Brookes' talk entitled 'The Soul of the Violin Concerto' (26 June) ended our series of virtual presentations, nine in total. In a well-researched delivery, Richard offered evidence for and against several of the candidates for identification in the enigmatic, Spanish language dedication which Elgar provided in the score of this profoundly moving concerto. We, and the large appreciative audience, were grateful to Richard for concluding our virtual meetings with such thought-provoking ideas.

Looking ahead to a post-lockdown period, the committee, having consulted the entire membership, decided to resume in September with 'in the flesh' meetings at our home, The Bar Convent, York. We believed that despite the undoubted benefits of Zoom/Vimeo presentations – larger audiences, from a wider geographical area – to continue Zooming (for which there was no support) would signal the death-knell of our branch.

We would like to thank all those who have provided technical assistance and helped to promote these virtual presentations, especially Anne-Marie Grafton, Peter Newble and Stuart Freed. Special thanks are due to our Branch Committee, especially Speaker Secretary Caroline Gilderdale who has performed a magnificent service to the Society in arranging these talks and managing to persuade speakers to engage in the new technology. Sadly, Caroline has now relocated and so our loss is the West Midlands' gain.

With a degree of post-lockdown nervousness, we resumed our 'real' meetings at our home, The Bar Convent, on 25 September, with a presentation by the conductor Andrew Padmore, speaking on 'Conducting Elgar'. And what a well prepared, illuminating presentation it was, much enjoyed by an audience which may have been a little smaller than in pre-lockdown days but which was at least viable. Andrew spoke in both general terms and more specifically about *The Music Makers*, with extracts from a recent Proms performance.

Our next meeting was on 23 October, with a reassuringly larger audience, as confidence began to build and word got round about the measures we were taking to keep everyone safe. As evidence of our confidence in the future of 'real' meetings at The Bar Convent, we unveiled our leaflet for 2022 with its full and attractive list of speakers and topics. We were then delighted to welcome John Norris, who spoke on 'Elgar Treasures in the British Library'. As a member of the Elgar Society for almost 35 years and a mover and shaker regarding Elgar Works, the Elgar Complete Edition, and the Collected Correspondence, John was ideally placed to share snippets of fascinating information about Elgar manuscripts and various stages in the compositional process.

Our final speaker of the year was Tom Kelly on 4 December. Tom's topic was 'Beyond and Within Elgar's Enigma Variations', which proved to be a well-prepared, illuminating exploration of the appeal of the work, and in particular the 'Nimrod' theme, over the ages. In short a delightful way to end what was an unusually challenging season. The way things are moving nationally and internationally, next year promises to be equally challenging.

David Young - Chairman

## C 2021 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 below:

- a. the provision of educational programmes and activities to widen knowledge of Elgar's music for all and to 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.

During 2021 the Covid -19 pandemic continued to have a major impact on the live activities at branch and national level.

As Chair of the Society I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues on Council and the Executive and each and every post-holder in the Society and its Branches, for all their efforts in helping to keep interest in the Society and its activities alive and adapting to the changing conditions surrounding the pandemic. As restrictions have eased, branches have started to hold live meetings and, as members have gained in confidence, attendance has been growing.

Particular mention should be made of Peter Newble and Andrew Neill, who have continued to develop online video presentations and to Sam Dobson, who has both initiated a series of real time Zoom meetings and brought the three arms of Society's digital offering under a single umbrella, Elgar Online. This initiative has not only allowed members within the UK and overseas to engage with the Society during the pandemic, but has also enabled the Society to establish an important video archive that will be of use to both those with a general interest in Elgar and his music and those who may be doing academic research.

The Society's News and Journal continue to offer both items of general interest and more in depth material. These two publications appear three times each year and are distributed in both physical and electronic form.

In common with many other similar groups, the Society has begun to engage with the problem of its falling membership. Whilst still healthy in terms of numbers, the Executive and Council are conscious of the ageing demographic of its membership and the reluctance of a younger one to become members of groups such as ours. As a result, discussions are underway to address this situation and it is hoped that with the launch of its new website, a younger demographic can be attracted by a more contemporary image.

Stuart Freed  
Acting Chairman

**The Elgar Society**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

	2021			2020
	General Fund £	Restricted funds £	Total £	Total £
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions	25,066	-	25,066	27,522
Gift Aid	2,196	-	2,196	1,260
Royalties	106	-	106	122
Investment income	651	-	651	213
Branch receipts	5,074	2,429	7,503	3,413
Other	-	-	-	60
Donations and Legacies	2,570	-	2,570	93,856
<b>Total income</b>	<b>35,663</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>38,092</b>	<b>126,446</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<i>Society objectives</i>				
Journals & Newsletters	11,043	-	11,043	10,464
Branch Activities	9,223	1,237	10,460	7,945
AGM	-	-	-	-
PR & Advertising	120	-	120	90
Web site maintenance	317	-	317	432
On-line presentations and meetings	846	-	846	371
Sundry	380	-	380	814
Elgar in performance	1,937	11,780	13,717	6,142
Elgar Medals	45	-	45	1,446
<i>Administration</i>				
Authorised exps Council & Executive	422	-	422	977
Re-branding and web site redesign	-	7,996	7,996	-
Membership administration	373	-	373	-
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>24,706</b>	<b>21,013</b>	<b>45,719</b>	<b>28,681</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>10,957</b>	<b>(18,584)</b>	<b>(7,627)</b>	<b>97,765</b>
Branch account transfers	914	(914)	-	-
Balances b/f	79,256	116,917	196,173	98,408
<b>Balances c/f</b>	<b>91,127</b>	<b>97,419</b>	<b>188,546</b>	<b>196,173</b>

**The Elgar Society**

**Balance sheet**

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current accounts	22,994	28,611
Investec investment	54,125	54,125
Monmouth BS 90-day account	85,387	85,001
Branches' bank balances	33,956	31,367
Debtors and Accrued Income	478	5,207
Creditors	(8,394)	(8,138)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>188,546</u></b>	<b><u>196,173</u></b>
 <b><u>Restricted Funds</u></b>		
Kay Trust	77,433	97,210
Branches (London & West Midlands )	19,986	19,707
	<u>97,419</u>	<u>116,917</u>
 General fund	 91,127	 79,256
 <b>Total funds</b>	 <b><u>188,546</u></b>	 <b><u>196,173</u></b>

## **The Elgar Society**

### **Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2021**

#### 1. Basis of accounting

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

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 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. During the year a generous donation of £2,500 was received from the estate of the late Richard Bradburn. The Society is very grateful for this gift.

##### 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

During the year, travel and other out of pocket costs amounting to £422 were reimbursed to 2 members of the Council and the Executive when appropriate claims were made (2020 £667 reimbursed to 6 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 are a material part of the total resources expended by the Society. Elgar in Performance grants amounting to £13,717 were made to 5 organisations (2020 £6,142 to 9 organisations). Many of the performances due to be sponsored by the Society have been postponed to 2022.

### 5. Restricted funds

Kay Trust

These funds were given with the proviso that the funds may not be used for routine running expenses but should be devoted to capital or other longer term projects.

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Elgar Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Elgar Society (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2021.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Adrian Benselin

3 Maylands Avenue  
Breaston  
Derbyshire  
DE72 3EE

5 June 2022

**THE ELGAR SOCIETY**

England & Wales - Charity number 298062

---

# Accounts

---



# **The Trustees' Annual Report**

**1 January 2020 to  
31 December 2020**

**Published in the *Elgar Society News* in April 2021  
and presented to the Annual General Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021**

# THE ELGAR SOCIETY

## Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

### 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
Paul Grafton (To 20 Oct 2020)	Geoff Scargill (To 20 Oct 2020)
Ruth Hellen (To 20 Oct 2020)	George Smart
Liz Luder	Peter Smith
Neil Mantle	Helen Whittaker
Martyn Marsh (From 20 Oct 2020)	Roy Whittaker
Peter Newble	Prof. David Young (From 20 Oct 2020)

#### Elected Officers

Chair:	Neil Mantle MBE
Vice-Chair:	Stuart Freed
Secretary:	George Smart
Treasurer:	Peter Smith

#### Other National Post-holders

Archivist:	Richard Hall
Data Protection Officer:	Richard Hall
Journal Editor:	Kevin Mitchell and Board
Membership Secretary:	Chris Bennett
News Editor:	Peter James
Web Officers:	Stuart Freed/Robert Gilbert

#### Branch Officers

Branch	Chair	Secretary
East Anglia	Peter Newble	Chris Wiltshire
East Midlands	Michael Toseland*	Sam Dobson
London	Philip Petchey	Ruth Hellen
North America	Arthur Reynolds	Lee Kaufman
North-West	Rev. John Knowles	David L. Jones
Scotland	Tom Kelly	Kitty Parker
Southern	David Pearce	Wendy Wiseman*
West Midlands	John Harcup	Richard Smith
Yorkshire & North East	David Young	Paul Grafton

\*Sadly, Michael Toseland died in May 2020 and Wendy Wiseman died in October 2020

## Advisers

Bankers: Lloyds TSB  
Independent Examiner: Adrian Benselin

## Honorary Posts and Awards

**President** – Sir Mark Elder CH CBE

**Vice-Presidents** - Diana McVeagh, Dame Janet Baker CH DBE, Leonard Slatkin, Sir Andrew Davis CBE, Dr Christopher Robinson CVO CBE, Andrew Neill, Martyn Brabbins, Tasmin Little OBE, Julian Lloyd Webber FRCM

## Recipients of the Elgar Society's Medal

1992	Dr Jerrold Northrop Moore	2013	Sir Andrew Davis
1992	Leonard Slatkin	2013	Sir Mark Elder
1999	Jerzy Maksymiuk	2015	Daniel Barenboim
2000	Tadaaki Otaka	2015	Diana McVeagh
2007	Andrew Litton	2016	Martin Bird
2008	Sakari Oramo	2016	Teresa Cahill
2009	Danube Symphony Orchestra	2016	Alexander Walker
2009	Vladimir Ashkenazy	2019	Anastasia Vedyakova
2011	Michael Kennedy	2019	Adrian Brown
2011	Anthony Payne	2019	Dame Janet Baker (Presentation to be arranged when conditions permit)
2012	Barry Collett		
2012	Jacek Kasprzyk		
2012	Sir Colin Davis		

## 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.

There were two committees (1) Elgar in Performance( which includes Elgar in Education) which decides on grants in respect of performances of Elgar and in respect of educational project (and special projects) and (2) the Branch Chair's Committee, composed of the Chairs of the branches of the Society.

## Working Parties active during 2020

Name	Chair/Convenor	Members
Elgar in Performance (including Education)	Steven Halls	Barry Collett, Martyn Marsh, Peter Newble, Executive Committee
Branch Chairs Committee	Philip Petchey	All other Branch Chairs

## **Council and Executive**

The Council met twice (once live and once online) during the year. The Executive Committee met more frequently than normal, once live and six times on Zoom during 2020. Much of the business was progressed by e-mail. The Branch Chairmen met once jointly with the Executive via Zoom. The year was dominated by adjusting to the implications of the Covid-19 pandemic, which had significant implications for the usual functioning of the Society and the branches. The main developments during the year were:-

- progress on the remaining components of the Society's adopted strategy;
- After the early months of the year the bulk of the programme of events to be supported by *Elgar in Performance* and the education and special projects funds were cancelled or postponed with the bulk held over for dates to be agreed for 2021;
- with live branch meetings suspended because of Covid restrictions branches have sought to keep in touch with their members and some have pioneered online branch meetings and committee meetings;
- a national programme of online presentations has been mounted to keep in touch with members generally and has been welcomed (alongside some branch online meetings), particularly by members who do not generally attend branch meetings.
- some branches have arranged Zoom branch meetings which can be viewed by the membership generally and visitors;
- the AGM 2020 for the first time was conducted on Zoom and attracted greater numbers of members and a number who had not previously attended meetings in Worcester;
- the Festival and Birthday Weekend events had to be cancelled because of restrictions;
- monitoring the membership numbers;
- continuing links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany;
- editorship of the *Journal* continued under Kevin Mitchell and the editorial board arrangement;
- keeping under review the Society's financial position;
- the development of initiatives to increase membership of the Society and revised arrangements for subscriptions and Gift Aid;
- the developments in relation to music education and young people have largely been in abeyance during the pandemic.

## **Branches**

There are eight 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 for consolidation with the accounts of the national 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 2020 and the Trustees are not aware of any material change in risk which needs to be reported.

## **Reserves Policy**

The Council's policy is to retain reserves equal to at least one year's expenditure.

## **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 (now known as The Firs) 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.

The Society seeks to promote performance of Elgar's music, especially the more rarely performed works. 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 January 2020 – 31 December 2020)**

### **General Overview**

Under Initial Achievements & Plans, the last Trustees' Annual Report stated that 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 - *We set the budget at £18,000 for 2020 but the pandemic situation meant that little was spent and items were deferred to 2021 or cancelled.*
- Elgar Journal: *Under Kevin Mitchell as Editor and the editorial board the production of an informative and interesting Journal continued.*
- Sponsorship and Legacies: *We continue to encourage donations and legacies for specific projects.*
- Education & Young People: *Initiatives in relation to Young People have also been affected by the pandemic but will be resumed once the restrictions allow.*
- Elgar Society Medal and Certificate of Merit. *An award of the medal was made, at a concert in London to Adrian Brown. A presentation is to be agreed for the award to Dame Janet Baker when conditions permit.*
- Collaborating with the National Trust on local and national initiatives. *The West Midlands Branch in particular fosters warm links with the management of The Firs, and regular discussions take place on ways of supporting wider initiatives and these will be resumed when conditions allow.*
- The AGM and Birthday Weekend : *The Society AGM took place online in September. The Elgar Festival in Worcester and Birthday Weekend had to be cancelled in 2020. It is understood that the Worcester Festival 2021 has been postponed until the Autumn.*
- Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition: *We continue to promote 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. .*

## **Recordings**

Whilst there have been discussions on particular projects there have not been any recordings supported financially during the year.

## **Elgar in Performance**

The table below tells the sorry story of the effect of the Corona Virus: the grants listed were awarded out of a total of 16 applications, using the Council-mandated grants budget of £18,000. Naturally, most of the grants were awarded during 2019 so a few of the events took place in the United Kingdom and abroad during the first quarter of 2020. The sums against these performed events are shown in the table.

As the virus progressed, performing and promoting societies contacted us to ask our advice on postponements and, in all cases, we offered to hold the grants over if the groups intended to perform the works in the next two years. As the year progressed, we naturally received no further applications and the groups with grants could not as at February 2021 safely plan further performances. There are a couple of recordings planned at the time of writing but the budgets for 2021 and 2022 remain virtually untouched. We all hope for a speedy resumption of cultural events during this calendar year.

The Elgar in Performance Group comprises the Executive Committee, Steven Halls and Martyn Marsh; sadly we lost through death the expert and stalwart Barry Collett during 2020 and he remains much missed.

Cobbe Piano Collection	Care of Elgar's Piano	Guildford	400	Agreed
Somm recording	Military Band arrgmts	1500considered		Rejected
Konzertgesellschaft Schwerte	The Apostles	Schwerte		Postponed
Elgar Chorale				Rejected
Elgar Sinfonia/A.Brown	Payne/Elgar 3	Waterloo, London	700	Took Place
Hereford Chamber Choir	Banner of St. George	Hereford Cathedral		Postponed
WelwynGC Choral/Orch Soc	Spirit of England	Welwyn GC		Postponed
High Wycombe CS	BanrSt.George/VlnConc	High Wycombe		Postponed
Aachener Bachverein	The Apostles	Aachen	1000	Took Place
Guildford CS	The Apostles	Guildford		Postponed
Salisbury Music Society	The Apostles	Salisbury		Postponed
English Music Festival	Spanish Lady Ov.	Dorchester Abbey		Rejected
Trent College	Bavarian Highlands	Nottingham		Cancelled
Elgar Festival	Various	Worcester/Broadheath		Cancelled
Barnet CS	Dream of Gerontius	Saffron Walden		Cancelled
Nova Forester Orch	Arrgmt First Symphony			Rejected

Steven Halls - Co-ordinator, the EiP Group

## The Journal

The new team, led by Kevin Mitchell, succeeded Meinhard Sarembe as editors of *The Elgar Society Journal* in December 2019. During 2020 editions of Volume 22 of *The Journal* were published in April, August and December, running to 77, 77 and 69 pages respectively, and colour front covers were introduced for the August and December issues.

The April issue contained an article on *Marchcroft Manor* by Kevin Mitchell, Richard Westwood-Brookes wrote an article on ‘Alice Elgar at Brinkwells’, Arthur Reynolds produced letters passing between Elgar and Doris Johnson. Tihomor Popovic wrote an in-depth study of *The Crown of India* In August Andrew Neill wrote about Sir Adrian Boult and David Jones paid tribute to Sir John Barbirolli. Christopher Redwood looked at Elgar conducting in Italy, with Arthur Reynolds writing about Dan, Sinclair’s English mastiff. Professor Jonathan Wainwright examined R.J. Buckley’s score of *The Dream of Gerontius*.

The December issue opened with the first of three articles on *The Black Knight* by Professor Julian Rushton, followed by an historical appreciation of Elgar from Diana McVeagh, being a reprint of a lecture she gave to The Elgar Society in 1955, and an in-depth study of the music for *Beau Brummel* by Robert Kay.

During the year four books were reviewed, with two music reviews, one DVD and 20 CD reviews. The recordings Elgar made between 1918 and 1920 were considered and the ‘100 Years Ago ...’ column expanded.

The new editorial team is working well together and with, we hope, a continuing good supply of contributions, we feel optimistic about the future of the *Journal*. The invaluable assistance of Mike Byde in carrying out detailed formatting and producing final copy for the printers is gratefully acknowledged.

Kevin Mitchell, Andrew Dalton, David Morris and Andrew Neill.

## The News

As usual, three editions of the *News* were published in 2020 with the aim of covering all news with an Elgarian content, together with the latest information from the Society's officers and Branches. The *News* relies on largely unsolicited items of interest from occasional contributors so Society members should not hesitate to send their articles or letters. Special thanks go to Robert Gilbert, typesetter and compiler of the (at present) highly speculative concert diary, and to regular contributors including Richard Smith, John Norris and Andrew Neill.

Peter James, Editor of the *News*

## Membership Report

May 2020 saw the first "cull" of the membership since I succeeded to Membership - that is those members who were over a year behind with their subscription. Prior to the cull, they had all been contacted by either email or snail mail. In May alone 62 members were removed from the membership list. 2020 saw 31 new members enrolling. These are all paying members. The total number of members is 946.

### Branch analysis

<b>Branch membership</b>	<b>2020</b>	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
East Anglia	<b>54</b>	56	57	50	65	56	51	52	47
East Midlands	<b>34</b>	37	31	24	33	26	17	10	-
London	<b>286</b>	320	321	307	338	349	362	353	350
North America/Canada	<b>52</b>	49	42	45	45	36	34	46	63
North-West	<b>119</b>	120	117	113	127	125	128	120	125
Scottish	<b>50</b>	50	47	59	59	61	72	68	71
Southern	<b>86</b>	89	97	90	102	86	107	106	116
South-West*	<b>45</b>	54	58	58	64	67	69	79	84
West Midlands	<b>192</b>	229	216	187	210	210	247	229	281
Yorkshire/North-East	<b>52</b>	55	53	45	50	46	46	24	11
No Branch Affiliation	<b>119</b>	161	127	143	160	180	258	270	285

\* Although the South West Branch is no longer functioning members who are recorded against that Branch are included here to indicate the geographical spread of membership.

Chris Bennett - Honorary Membership Secretary

## The Archives

There have not been any additions to the Society's archive during the past year. Several items are awaiting deposit with the archive at The Hive in Worcester, but this has been closed for most of the year because of lockdown restrictions. It is hoped that normal business will be able to resume at some point during 2021.

Richard Hall - Hon. 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 Elgar talks and performances in their home area.

### **East Anglian Branch**

At the first East Anglian branch meeting of 2020, Christopher Wiltshire led us through a third instalment of interviews with those who knew and worked with Elgar: a series which has proved consistently fascinating and more comprehensive than we ever expected.

At the branch AGM which preceded it, the future of the branch was discussed. Numbers attending had been falling to a level that began to look unsustainable. With lower attendance the fundraising income at meetings dropped considerably, and the sparse audiences were an embarrassment when welcoming speakers who had put so much work into their talks and, in most cases, travelled considerable distances. The meeting decided to continue with the branch for at least one more season, with a reduced programme of six meetings in 2020/21, and to reassess the situation at the 2021 AGM in the light of attendance at the remaining meetings in 2020. Sadly, of course, the next meeting was cancelled due to the pandemic and no more have been possible since.

Peter Newble- East Anglian Branch Chair

### **East Midlands Branch**

Membership: Currently we have 35 members. General Outline: 2020 has been a year like no other. This year we have staged 2 'proper' meetings before we were hit by Covid. The committee decided that as the choice was between no meetings at all or Zoom meetings, we would go ahead with Zoom which we arranged for October, November and December. Yorkshire and North East Branch took the same decision but as far as I know other branches have not gone down the Zoom route. We have received many positive emails, both for our decision to go with Zoom and for the fact we open to members, and non-members nationally and indeed beyond. We have lost 2 stalwarts of the branch, our dear much loved and much respected friends Michael Toseland and Barry Collett in May and September respectively. Both made huge contributions to the society and will be sorely missed. Another of our long-time regular attenders, Derek Mear was taken seriously ill in January and is still in a nursing home recovering. I am sure we all wish him and his family well. An attendance of 30 to 40 for Zoom meetings is not unusual. I believe this figure may grow as we become more widely known. Most meetings will be recorded so there is usually an option of viewing the resulting recording. It is our intention to hold monthly Zoom meetings at least until 'proper' meetings become viable. We will probably survey our members wishes nearer the time. During the year, myself, Graham Cooper, Wendy and Katherine have served a full term. I would like to thank them all for their contribution to the running of the branch. Special thanks go to Wendy for taking over the distribution of Newsletters to members who are not online. Graham has decided not to renew his membership for 2021. We wish him well for the future. I am pleased to see that one of our newer members, Julie Johns, is standing for Branch Treasurer. Publicity: We started the year with a two sided A5 leaflet but this was quickly voided by Covid. This type of 'paper' publicity is really aimed at attracting people to our Leicester meetings. We have decided to discontinue this while Covid prevails. In the last 12 months I have produced 9 electronic newsletters which are intended to keep people in the loop. Apart from publicising our events they contain other newsworthy items, most provided by members. I send out frequent reminders to 'spread the word by passing them on. It is most important that everybody works to increase the membership'. We also have the website which I have kept up-to-date. I feel that publicity, especially of the electronic type

is probably best handled nationally. Is anyone any good a Facebook? I'm afraid I'm not. Outline of Meetings: There have been 2 'actual' meetings in 2020. Our AGM in February had an attendance of 11 and the March meeting with Pauline Collett on Elgar's Homes was very well supported with an attendance of 33, our highest for 3 or so years! Well done Pauline! In the turmoil we dropped our usual April, May and June meetings but started on Zoom in October with Martin Firth's excellent talk on Elgar and Vaughan Williams. This was a popular talk with 40 joining and 10 viewing the recording. In November we had Christopher Wiltshire taking us through the second part of his 'Elgar as we knew him' archive and in December, Steven Halls held a conversation 'Filling the Gaps' about the CDs produced during the 11 years of his chairmanship of the society. Over 30 people joined this conversation. Fuller details of meetings can be found below. The Treasurer Reports we are continuing to be very careful with funds and feel that money has been spent wisely. It would be fair to say that Covid has eased the financial pressures on the branch. The expense of room hire has disappeared altogether, as has speaker travel. Zoom costs just over £14 per month. The branch has raised over £100 through sale of second hand books.

Sam Dobson - Secretary East Midlands

### **London Branch**

London Branch held meetings as follows:

- February 3 "Music, when soft voices die, vibrates in the memory" (Shelley):  
Andrew Dalton
- March 2 Edward Elgar and Ivor Atkins : The Worcester connection:  
Adrian Lucas
- October 5 (Zoom) 2020 Branch AGM and quiz
- November (Vimeo) The pursuit of Diarmid and Gráinne: Andrew Neill
- November 16 (Zoom) Grania & Diarmid question and answer session with Andrew  
Neill
- December 21 (Zoom) Informal discussion session

Reports of the February and March meetings appear in the August 2020 issue of *Elgar Society News*.

In common with the rest of the Society, London Branch activities were curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic. It is fortunate that there have been so many opportunities to hear and see music online and on radio and TV. The Society and some branches also took the bold step of producing a series of online presentations which have been excellent and very welcome. We have all learned a great deal about alternative ways of presenting talks and holding meetings.

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

Ruth Hellen - London Branch Secretary

### **North America**

Unhappily, I have little to report. The main activity of the Branch is sponsoring members' Elgarian projects and holding an annual conference. The beginning of the year found us hard at work planning an April 2020 conference in Pittsburg when the pandemic put paid to our efforts. We did manage to sponsor one project: Lani Spahr's splendid work on Volume 2 of Elgar from America.

**Arthur Reynolds**

## North West Branch

During 2020, the regular series of meetings planned by the North West Branch were, as for many other branches, severely curtailed by the restrictions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Our home base for meetings, at the Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, has also been closed to members of the public since early April 2020. However, we were able to hold our planned meetings in January, February and March, which were as follows:

- 18 January *Elgar's Celtic Heroes – Grania & Diarmid*  
Andrew Neill (A well-researched and stimulating audio-visual presentation, which gave an in-depth look at Moore and Yates play and the heavily criticised early performances in Dublin – with English-speaking actors, Elgar's fascinating music written to accompany the play, and a speculative look at the music of some of the Irish composers who might have been asked to provide alternative musical accompaniment.)  
This was followed by the Annual General Meeting.
- 16 February North West Branch Annual Luncheon (held at the Alma Lodge Hotel, Stockport)  
This was followed by two short, illustrated talks given by branch members, Pam Scargill and David Jones, on a piece of music which held a special significance for them.
- 07 March *Elgar in A Flat*  
David Owen Norris (In the first half of his presentation, David gave an erudite and fascinating talk which he illustrated by playing many musical excerpts on the piano. During the second half of the afternoon, David gave a piano recital in which he played (and talked about) Elgar's *Five Improvisations* (1929) and the *Concert Allegro*.)

Full reports of the above meetings appeared in our branch newsletter published in July 2020 and these are available for viewing via the link given on our Elgar Society NW Branch webpage. The meetings scheduled for April, May, October, November and December were all cancelled. Geoff Scargill, our Programme Secretary, contacted the speakers who were to have appeared at our planned season's meetings to see if any were willing to give their presentations on-line as a Zoom-style meeting, but none wished to do so, and all the meetings were therefore cancelled. Our meeting in May 2020, entitled *Sir John Barbirolli: A Miracle in Manchester* (which was to have been presented by Geoff Scargill and David Jones) had been planned as a NW Branch tribute to Sir John Barbirolli, to coincide with the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death in July 2020. Instead, and with the professional help and expertise of Peter Newble, this was subsequently adapted to become one of the series of Vimeo presentations to be given by the Elgar Society. Our branch membership has remained stable in the past twelve months at 120. The inevitable losses due to natural causes has been balanced by an equal number of welcome new members. Our AGM, originally planned for mid-January 2021, is now scheduled to take place as a Zoom meeting on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> February. This will be followed by short, illustrated talks from three of our branch members. The existing officers (Chair, John Knowles; Secretary, David Jones; Programme Secretary, Geoff Scargill; Treasurer, Brian Walker; Minutes Secretary, Richard Hall; Independent Examiner, David Dickman; have all agreed to put themselves forward for nomination for re-election to office. The six existing committee members have, likewise, agreed to be nominated for re-election to office, along with one proposed new member. No other nominations have been received to date.

David L Jones, Secretary North West Branch

## Scottish Branch

Lockdown restrictions put the programme of Scottish Branch meetings planned for 2020 on hold after just one meeting on 19 January. This was our celebration of the centenary of the Cello

Concerto with a presentation by Stephen Halls and Tom Kelly on the origins and character of the work followed by a compelling performance of Elgar's own duo version by student musicians Alasdair Morton-Teng (cello) and Jia Ning (piano). Although the audience was swelled by family and friends of the musicians, there was a disappointingly low turnout of Branch members. The Branch also joined forces with the Scottish Arts Club for a performance of the piano quintet by the, renamed but familiar, Jupiter Ensemble. This was well supported by members of the Scottish Arts Club several of whom were previously unaware of Elgar's chamber music but captivated by this excellent performance.

It had been hoped to have more joint meetings of this kind. But we have had to postpone to 2021, and may have to further postpone, joint meetings for the first time with Edinburgh Society of Organists (with a live performance of the first Organ Sonata to be played by John Kitchen) and Scottish Gramophone Group (with the chance to hear some of Elgar's early recordings on 78 rpm discs on period equipment to be brought north by Peter Newble).

It was particularly sad that we had to cancel the "come and play" event for young musicians planned for 2020. The ever-continuing lockdown means this may have to be postponed until 2022.

Lack of technical prowess has prevented the Scottish Branch from contributing its own online presentations and webcasts. However, our Branch members were able to enjoy and learn from the splendid efforts of others in the Society.

Tom Kelly - Branch Chairman, Scottish Branch

### **Southern Branch**

The Southern Branch managed to hold its meetings on 18 January and 29 February in our usual locations at Winchester and Havant, including the AGM concurrent with its February meeting. In January, William Cole, our former Chairman, gave a talk on 'What Might Have Been', a reflection on major performers and performances that did not quite make it onto disc. Joe Tierney, the National Trust Manager of The Firs gave a most interesting talk about how the 'Birthplace Museum' progressing under the NT management. The meeting was very well attended, including members of the NT and delivered the news that the stolen Elgar's decorations had been recovered.

Ed Wiseman was elected Treasurer at the AGM in place of Jean Jones, who had served in the role for many years, and was roundly thanked for her sterling service. The planned meetings from March were progressively cancelled for the rest of the year as the Covid 19 pandemic took a hold. However, our Vice Chair, Duncan Eves, has planned to reinstate the meetings programme, thus far cancelled, from April 2021 if this is allowable, which will hopefully include our live concert.

In October, we received the tragic news that our Branch Secretary, Wendy Wiseman, had died. A full tribute will be placed in the Elgar Society News. She will be much missed and all our condolences are sent to her husband Ed. This leaves us without a Branch Secretary and we seek urgently, a volunteer to take on the role. In the mean time, I will head up the secretarial function with help from Margaret Morphew and Ed Wiseman, and the rest of the committee.

I have not found it possible to persuade anyone to attempt an on-line presentation, but the presentations prepared by others within the Society have been much appreciated by SB members. In particular, we would like to thank our National Vice Chair, Stuart Freed, and East Anglian Chair, Peter Newble for the truly excellent presentation made available on Vimeo and also the branch officers that have produced live presentations on Zoom. These presentations require many hours of careful preparation and we should be grateful to them all.

Like so many others back in March when the pandemic began, I had hardly heard of Zoom as a piece of software, but as an elderly person living alone, I have embraced its usefulness as a communications mechanism for the several organisations of which I still have a hand in running. I

have joined in most of the Elgar Society national and regional on-line events and have found it a most useful tool. It is, however, no substitute for real live meetings, but our Elgar Society may find it of continuing use as things get back to some sort of normal in giving access to people who have difficulty in travelling to our meeting venues. However, may I offer a word of warning. My perception is that some are still finding difficulty in accessing live on-line events, be it technical or psychological, and that we should be prepared to do even more to access and extend our membership with modern technology.

It remains to be seen how our membership numbers will hold up as a result of the pandemic, but early indications suggest that fewer SB members have renewed. It is no surprise that SB has spent less money in 2020 than predicted. This surplus could be used to further personal communications with those who are reluctant to renew, or take part in on-line events, but we will need a replacement secretary in order to achieve this.

David Pearce- Chair Southern Branch

### **West Midlands Branch**

In common with all Elgar Society Branches we were unable to hold any 'live' Branch meetings after March 2020. However, we did manage to hold three of these before the first lockdown hit us in the middle of March. These were:

- 18 January 'Elgar's Sea Pictures' A recital by the mezzo soprano, Rebecca Leggett accompanied by Nicole Johnson interspersed by Peter Sutton's talk on the poetry of Sea Pictures.
- 15 February Annual Branch Lunch at Christ Church Hall, Malvern including a short musical quiz.
- 7 March AGM and a talk by David Parkes reminiscing on past Three Choirs Festivals with memories of some of the artists who he remembered.

All other live events for 2020 were cancelled. The present situation did not prevent us from publishing our bi-yearly Branch Newsletter which is distributed by mail to our members and, electronically, to the Secretaries and Chairmen of all other Branches. Due to the pandemic, we published an extra autumn edition which, like that which followed in the winter, contained articles by members with an Elgarian theme. Members of the Branch were also able to 'attend' a number of Zoom and Vimeo meetings via the internet, including a Pomp and Poetry video compiled by Stuart Freed and read by Peter Sutton.

We still don't know what the future will bring, but we have plans for talks later in 2021 should these become possible. Our Committee meetings have been help, of course, by Zoom.

Richard Smith, Branch Secretary

### **Yorkshire & North East Branch**

The 2020 season began with the AGM on 25 January at our home, the Bar Convent, York. The Committee was re-elected as follows: Dr David Young (Chair), Paul Kampen (Treasurer), Caroline Gilderdale (Speaker Secretary), Paul Grafton (Branch Secretary), with Howard Gregg, Tony Pook, Prof Bernard Porter, Prof Julian Rushton, Pamela Scowcroft, Philip Scowcroft, and Richard Surrey completing the team. Sadly, Tony Pook died on Easter Sunday 2020 in his 84<sup>th</sup> year; an obituary tribute appeared in *Elgar News* No. 71 (August 2020). The AGM was followed by a talk by the Chair, David Young, entitled 'Reading *The Music Makers*', which was illustrated with a complete recorded performance of Elgar's Ode, complemented by A Listener's Analytical Guide which David had specially prepared for the occasion.

By the time of our Annual Committee Meeting on 29 February, the coronavirus had broken out in the UK. Little did we know, as we gathered at the Hotel du Vin, York (the first UK city to record cases of the virus), that this would be our last gathering in the flesh for some considerable time.

Faced with the national lockdown, the committee carefully considered its options, which came down to doing nothing or keeping up interest by means of on-line meetings. The Branch takes a degree of quiet satisfaction in having taken the initiative with on-line meetings. The first of these (on 23 May) was given by Christopher Wiltshire, whose topic was 'Elgar as Remembered in Radio Interviews by Those who Knew Him', and we are eternally grateful to Christopher for his courage and skill in bringing off such a technical achievement of combining Powerpoint, archival recordings, and Zoom and at the same time presenting such a fascinating portrait. The second talk (on 27 June), 'The Lighter Side of Elgar', was given by Stuart Freed, and we are indebted to Stuart for the way in which he mixed recorded and live presentation, the results of which were not only interesting, lively and attractive but also technically adept. We are equally indebted to Peter Newble for his Vimeo recording (played on 26 September) entitled 'Judas as represented in Music through the Ages', the product of a most thorough piece of research presented with that technical acumen for which Peter is rightly celebrated. Our final meeting of the year (on 28 November) featured a Zoom presentation by committee member Bernard Porter on 'Elgar, the North, and King Olaf', in which Bernard took a brilliant, multi-disciplinary approach, highlighting various strands of cultural history. The talk was enjoyed not only by branch members but by the good number of guests who joined us from other branches, a characteristic of all four on-line meetings.

Our year was brought to an end with a pre-Christmas social (via Zoom, of course), which featured an Elgar quiz and several short presentations by members and guests on 'My first engagement with Elgar's music and what it meant to me.'

In addition to these on-line talks the Branch issued a number of interesting Newsletters, and we are grateful to Paul Kampen for editing these and for keeping our website up to date

I would like to end this Annual Report by thanking our Committee - especially our Branch Secretary, Paul Grafton, Speaker Secretary, Caroline Gilderdale, and Treasurer, Paul Kampen - for their dedication, hard work and excellent spirit during this challenging year.

David Young - Chair Yorkshire & NE Branch

---

## **C 2021 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 to 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.

During 2020 the Covid -19 pandemic had a major impact on the live activities at branch and national level. As Chair of the Society I would like to pay tribute to my colleagues on Council and the Executive and each and every post-holder in the Society and its Branches, for all their hard work, enthusiasm, support and help during what has been a challenging year. The Executive in

particular has been busy in adapting to the pandemic changes and the development of online activities. In particular Stuart Freed with support from Peter Newble and others have promoted some excellent national streaming presentations. These have been supplemented by Zoom meetings from certain branches which have been made available to members generally. I am sure these efforts have enabled members to "keep in touch" and enjoy meeting with others, although not in person. Regular publication of the News and Journal have been able to continue as normal. I look forward to building on this work in the coming year as we strive to keep the Society active in difficult circumstances.

Neil Mantle MBE

**The Elgar Society**

**Statement of Financial Activities**

	2020			2019
	General	Restricted	Total	Total
	Fund	funds		
	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>				
Subscriptions	27,522	-	27,522	24,179
Gift Aid	1,260	-	1,260	3,700
Royalties	122	-	122	168
Investment income	213	-	213	5,144
Branch receipts	2,950	463	3,413	10,623
Other	60	-	60	470
Donations and Legacies	606	93,250	93,856	70
<b>Total income</b>	<b>32,733</b>	<b>93,713</b>	<b>126,446</b>	<b>44,354</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
<i>Society objectives</i>				
Journals & Newsletters	10,464	-	10,464	10,428
Branch Activities	7,545	400	7,945	18,386
AGM	-	-	-	364
PR & Advertising	90	-	90	505
Web site	432	-	432	690
On-line presentations and meetings	371	-	371	-
Sundry	814	-	814	1,367
Elgar in performance	6,142	-	6,142	16,329
Elgar Medals	1,446	-	1,446	-
<i>Administration</i>				
Authorised exps Council & Executive	977	-	977	2,369
Membership administration	-	-	-	114
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>28,281</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>28,681</b>	<b>50,552</b>
<b>Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>4,452</b>	<b>93,313</b>	<b>97,765</b>	<b>(6,198)</b>
Balances b/f as reported	76,768	21,640	98,408	104,606
Transfer between funds	(1,964)	1,964	-	
Balance b/f restated	74,804	23,604	98,408	
<b>Balances c/f</b>	<b>79,256</b>	<b>116,917</b>	<b>196,173</b>	<b>98,408</b>

## The Elgar Society

### Balance sheet

	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Current accounts	28,611	19,334
Investec investment	54,125	54,125
Monmouth BS 90-day account	85,001	-
Branches bank balances	31,367	26,843
Debtors and Accrued Income	5,207	3,775
Creditors	(8,138)	(5,669)
<b>Net assets</b>	<b><u>196,173</u></b>	<b><u>98,408</u></b>
 <u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Kay Trust	97,210	3,960
Branches (London & West Midlands )	19,707	19,644
	<u>116,917</u>	<u>23,604</u>
 General fund	 79,256	 74,804
 <b>Total funds</b>	 <b><u>196,173</u></b>	 <b><u>98,408</u></b>

## **The Elgar Society**

### **Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020**

#### 1. Basis of accounting

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

- the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102); and
- the Charities Act 2011.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102.

#### 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. During the year a generous donation of £93,250 was received from the Kay Trust Fund following the death in January 2020 of Ernie Kay. The Society is very grateful for this gift.

##### 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

During the year, travel and other out of pocket costs amounting to £667 were reimbursed to 6 members of the Council and the Executive when appropriate claims were made (2019 £2,369 reimbursed to 13 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 are a material part of the total resources expended by the Society. Elgar in Performance grants amounting to £6,142 were made to 9 organisations (2019 £16,829 to 27 organisations). Many of the performances supported had to be postponed or because of the pandemic, but are expected to take place in 2021.

### 5. Restricted funds

#### Kay Trust

The funds received during the year from the Kay Trust have been combined with those remaining from an earlier gift made by Ernest Kay during his lifetime. Both gifts were given with the proviso that the funds may not be used for routine running expenses but should be devoted to capital or other longer term projects.

### 6. Elgar Enterprises

A wholly owned trading subsidiary, Elgar Enterprises (a company limited by Guarantee; Registration No: 3821653), was established in 1999. The company has been dormant, and was dissolved on 11 February 2020.

## **Independent examiner's report to the trustees of The Elgar Society**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of The Elgar Society (the Society) for the year ended 31 December 2020.

### **Responsibilities and basis of report**

As the charity trustees of the Society you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Society's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

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

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Society as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Adrian Benselin

3 Maylands Avenue

Breaston

Derbyshire

DE72 3EE

22 June 2021