



The Trustees' Annual Report

**1 January 2020 to
31 December 2020**

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and presented to the Annual General Meeting on 6th June 2021**

THE ELGAR SOCIETY

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

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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 Saremba 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

Branch membership	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
East Anglia	54	56	57	50	65	56	51	52	47
East Midlands	34	37	31	24	33	26	17	10	-
London	286	320	321	307	338	349	362	353	350
North America/Canada	52	49	42	45	45	36	34	46	63
North-West	119	120	117	113	127	125	128	120	125
Scottish	50	50	47	59	59	61	72	68	71
Southern	86	89	97	90	102	86	107	106	116
South-West*	45	54	58	58	64	67	69	79	84
West Midlands	192	229	216	187	210	210	247	229	281
Yorkshire/North-East	52	55	53	45	50	46	46	24	11
No Branch Affiliation	119	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 50th 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, 13th 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 held, 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 84th 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		
	Fund	funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
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
Total income	32,733	93,713	126,446	44,354
Expenditure				
<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
Total Expenditure	28,281	400	28,681	50,552
Surplus/Deficit	4,452	93,313	97,765	(6,198)
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	
Balances c/f	79,256	116,917	196,173	98,408

The Elgar Society

Balance sheet

	2020	2019
	£	£
		restated
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)
Net assets	<u>196,173</u>	<u>98,408</u>
<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
Total funds	<u>196,173</u>	<u>98,408</u>

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