



The Trustees' Annual Report

**1 January 2021 to
31 December 2021**

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and presented to the Annual General Meeting on 5th 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.
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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 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. 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

Branch membership	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
Area Memberships									
South-West	41	45	54	58	58	64	67	69	79
No Branch/Area Affiliation	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, 20th 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, 19th 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 SB 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.

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 full membership basis. More information about this was given to members in the Chairman's reports to the *Elgar Society News* in 2021.

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 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 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 SB Committee.

David Pearce- Chair Southern Branch

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.

Our first physical Branch meeting was held on 18 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 16 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 sun goeth down" on 13 November. The year ended with our Chairman, Dr John Harcup, giving an audio visual presentation on how the letter "P" inspired Elgar. This was an extended version of a talk which he gave on Zoom earlier.

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 addition *Newsletter* during the autumn of 2020 in order to keep our members informed of the work of the Branch during lockdown.

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	Restricted		
	Fund	funds	Total	Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
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
Total income	35,663	2,429	38,092	126,446
Expenditure				
<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	-
Total Expenditure	24,706	21,013	45,719	28,681
Surplus/Deficit	10,957	(18,584)	(7,627)	97,765
Branch account transfers	914	(914)	-	-
Balances b/f	79,256	116,917	196,173	98,408
Balances c/f	91,127	97,419	188,546	196,173

The Elgar Society

Balance sheet

	2021	2020
	£	£
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)
Net assets	<u>188,546</u>	<u>196,173</u>
<u>Restricted Funds</u>		
Kay Trust	77,433	97,210
Branches (London & West Midlands)	<u>19,986</u>	<u>19,707</u>
	97,419	116,917
General fund	91,127	79,256
Total funds	<u>188,546</u>	<u>196,173</u>

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