



The
Elgar
Society

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

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THE ELGAR SOCIETY

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

A THE SOCIETY

Charitable Status

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

Office

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

Trustees

The following acted as Trustees during the period under review:

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

Elected Officers

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

Other National Post-holders

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

Branch Officers

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

Advisers

Bankers:	Lloyds TSB
Independent Examiner:	Adrian Benselin

Honorary Posts and Awards

President – Sir Mark Elder CH CBE

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

Recipients of the Elgar Society's Medal

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

Structure, Governance and Management

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

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

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

Sub Committees/Working Parties active during 2023

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

Council and Executive

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

Branches

At the start of the year there were six UK Branches organised geographically, and a further Branch covering America and Canada. There are also links with Elgar Freundeskreis Deutschland in Germany. The creation of a Branch is at the discretion of the Society's Council and requires substantive evidence from a sufficiently large group of members that there is a reasonable assurance of viability. Branches report on their activities via the *Elgar Society News* and are required to submit their annual accounts to the Treasurer for consolidation with the accounts of the national Society.

Risks

No major risks have been identified by the Trustees. The Society is substantially dependent on subscriptions and Gift Aid for its income and it is thus vital to retain and increase membership while ensuring that subscription rates are realistic in the light of the charity's activities and costs. The Trustees consider that if this is done there are no serious risks to future viability. This Annual Report states the position as at 31 December 2023 and the Trustees are not aware of any material change in risk which needs to be reported.

Reserves Policy

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

Objectives and Activities

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

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

The Society seeks to promote performance of Elgar's music, especially the more rarely performed works. While its focus has heretofore been on performances in Britain, it has emphasised encouraging performances of Elgar's music abroad as far as its resources permit. It is concerned to introduce the composer and his music to younger audiences and, by making grants for appropriate educational activities, to achieve this.

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

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

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

- Aiding institutions which have a role in the musical and historical aspects of Elgar to widen the accessibility of their services to socially diverse audiences and/or to provide specific Elgar-related public benefits.

B ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE (1 January 2023– 31 December 2023)

General Overview

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

1. Increase our membership
2. Raise money in support of our activities,
3. Add demonstrably to the encouragement of performances and recordings of Elgar's works,
4. Increase access to the Elgar oeuvre.

At national level, and with all due acknowledgement of Branch activities, our efforts continue to be focused on rebuilding activities following the Covid-19 pandemic nationally and at Branch level. The main developments during the year were:

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

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

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

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

Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition: We continue to promote Elgar Works and the Elgar Complete Edition to make more of Elgar's music available in a timely fashion at a reasonable cost to performers and conductors all over the world.

Elgar in Performance

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

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

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

Dr. Steven Halls
Co-ordinator, the EiP Group

The Journal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kevin Mitchell, Andrew Dalton, David Morris and Andrew Neill

The News

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

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

Peter James, Editor of the *News*

Membership Report

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

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

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

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

The Archives

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

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

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

Caroline Gilderdale, Society Archivist

Elgar Society Online

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

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

Sam Dobson - Elgar Society Online

Branch Activities

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

London Branch

The London Branch held meetings as follows:

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

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

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

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

Ruth Hellen - London Branch Secretary

North West Branch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Scottish Branch

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

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

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

Ian Lawson- Branch Chairman, Scottish Branch

Southern Branch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

www.southamptonrms.org.uk

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

David Pearce - Chairman, Elgar Society Southern Branch

West Midlands Branch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Richard Smith - West Midlands Branch Secretary

Yorkshire & North East Branch

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

David Young, Chairman Yorkshire & NE Branch

North America

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

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

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

Arthur Reynolds - Chairman

C 2023 INITIAL ACHIEVEMENTS AND PLANS

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

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

e. the publication of or support for a scholarly edition of Elgar's music.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Stuart Freed
Chairman

The Elgar Society

Statement of Financial Activities

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

The Elgar Society

Balance sheet

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

The Elgar Society

Notes to the Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

1. Basis of accounting

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

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

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

2. Accounting policies

2.1 Subscriptions

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

2.2 Other incoming resources

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

- the Society becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Where incoming resources have related expenditure (for example, subscriptions) the incoming resources and related expenditure are reported gross in the SoFA.

2.3 Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are only included in the SoFA when the Society has unconditional entitlement to the resources. During the year a generous donation was received from the estate of the late Moira Davies. The Society is very grateful for this gift.

2.4 Tax recoverable on subscriptions, donations and gifts

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

2.5 Branches

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

2.6 Taxation

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

3. Trustees' expenses

During the year, travel and other out of pocket costs amounting to £1,284 were reimbursed to 8 members of the Council and the Executive when appropriate claims were made (2022 £972 reimbursed to 3 individuals).

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

4. Donations, sponsorship and projects

Grants and other financial support given to institutions are a material part of the total resources expended by the Society. Elgar in Performance and other grants amounting to £15,415 were made to 13 organisations (2022 £15,600 to 15 organisations).

5. Restricted funds

Kay Trust

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

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

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

Responsibilities and basis of report

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

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

Independent examiner's statement

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

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

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

Adrian Benselin

3 Maylands Avenue
Breaston
Derbyshire
DE72 3EE

14 July 2024