

The Friends of the Moot Hall Organ

Chairman's Report 30th September 2018

The monthly recitals continue to go from strength to strength! I am keen to emphasise that we really administer these on behalf of the Borough Council, as their reinstatement was very much part of the Heritage Lottery Fund process. Ian Ray, as Honorary Borough Organist, arranges every event and 'The Friends' carry out the administrative tasks. Therefore, this year we are showing their finances separately in our annual accounts.

We have been thrilled to welcome an array of world renowned organists, Daniel Gárdonyi (from Würzburg), Ashley Grote, Philip Prior, Francis Knights, James Davy, Stephen King and, of course, our very own Ian Ray not forgetting baritone Colin Baldy. Our audiences continue around the 150+ mark made up of many regulars as well as a number of visitors, many of whom are now attracted in by the posters we hang on the Town Hall gates on the day of the recital.

This year we have introduced an opportunity for sponsorship of individual concerts and several people have supported the recitals in this way for which we are very grateful! This scheme will certainly continue. With this funding and generous retiring collections, the Tuesday recitals are in fine fettle going into the future.

Once again, we repeated the Heritage Day 'Meet and Play the Organ' event in September; this year with a specific timed start. Ian ran it and we had a total of 23 adults and 7 children, including two teenagers who played very well indeed!

We strengthened the Committee this year with the addition of Ray Gamble and Mike Vernon; Allan Blundell found us an excellent new treasurer, Alison Smith. Our thanks and a warm welcome to them and thanks too to all the continuing committee members. I must also express our gratitude to Alex Blustin our professional webmaster and to Roy Belsey, from Colchester Borough Homes Ltd, who verifies the accounts for us.

Finally thanks to all our members and supporters!