

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Happy New Year to everyone. One of my first actions as Chairman was to see about setting up some instrumental workshops - the relative paucity of these is one of the biggest themes in my mail bag from members. Elizabeth started us off with the day at Sykes' Barn in the summer. Although this as a successful day, it was poorly supported by our instrumentalists. Thank you to Elizabeth for organising this. The end of 2009 saw a Spanish Renaissance themed recorder workshop run by Grace Barton. There were about 20 participants in this event and I've heard glowing reports about it. This was not well supported by NWFMF members though - only 6 of our members attended. We were well-supported by people from outside the organisation . Workshops typically cost £400 - £600 each to put on so they need to be supported or we can't put them on. We hope to run another specialist recorder workshop later in 2010. I would like to thank David Allen for helping with the preparation of the music for this event.

The viol workshop scheduled for April at Fort Belan with Ibi Aziz is proving to be very popular and looks set to become an annual event. Thanks are due to Clive Tolley and Anne Clements for organising this. Another comment in my mail bag is about not enough notice for workshops. We're working to get the diary set up 12 - 18 months ahead, but that will take time. However, the events guide in the Newsletter usually carries details of known dates. Forms are put on the web site as soon as they are available and are posted with the newsletter prior to the event. So, put May 8th for Morris, May 22nd for David Allinson, and October 23rd with Michael Procter in your diaries now. Peter Syrus is switching seasons this year and will be holding a voices and instruments day on 4th December, rather than June in a Cheshire village church. Please help event organisers by booking early - you have no idea how stressful it is waiting for forms to come in! Despite appeals in two editions of the Newsletter, I have had a very poor response to the request for updated or confirmed e-mail details: I got two

replies to the first and ten to the second request, that's not even 10 % of our members. Thank you to those of you who did reply to my request, I have passed the details on. I hope that we will have a new Membership Secretary in place after the AGM and we will address this issue then. In the meantime, the e-mail newsletter project has to go on hold until we fix this. It's not an option - paper production costs are just too high - there may have to be a substantial increase in subs, or a two-tier system introduced, with a premium for paper newsletters.

### **Constitution**

As I noted in the last Newsletter, I have re-written the constitution, which has not been amended since 1978. A copy is enclosed with this newsletter. This has been approved by Charity Commission and was signed-off by the Committee on January 10th. This will be presented for approval at the EGM on March 6th. At this, I will go through an overview of the main changes and the reasons for them - it will not be a line-by-line analysis. I hope the whole process will take 15 minutes. A copy of the constitution is also available on the web site to download as a pdf file.

**EGM and AGM Timetable** There is a slight revision to the timetable to fit in with the real reason we are in Liverpool Parish Church - English Verse Anthems.

**EGM 13.00 - 13.15** To approve constitution changes **AGM 13.15 - 14.00** To present annual reports and accounts.

**Committee Vacancies** Following my appeal, a couple of people have come forward offering their services, to which a big 'thank you'. However, Clive Tolley has announced that primarily due to international work commitments, he will have to stand down as secretary at the AGM. Just to help set the scene, the secretary does not handle membership, that's a separate role, also they do not organise events (unless they wish to), we expect to have a separate minutes secretary in place as well. If you can help, please get in

touch. There is always space for fresh faces - if you would like to get involved, please get in touch.

**Sign-off** So, there we have it, my last set of 'Chairman's Notes'. I was expecting to serve at least three years in post, but circumstances have arisen to change that. I have done what I can to try to move NWEMF forward, the rest is up to you.

Best wishes for the future, Ron Kelley Chairman