

The Anthony Baines Memorial Prize 2025

The Galpin Society confers the twenty-seventh
Anthony Baines Memorial Prize on

Graham Wells

Graham (born 1944) studied oboe and was an active participant in 'early music' performance, playing a variety of instruments. He established the musical instrument department at Sotheby's auction house, based in London but operating worldwide, and was its head until his retirement in 1999. He brought a great deal of wisdom and common sense into the historic instrument marketplace, acting in the interests of organology as well as of his clients. With his wife, Diana, he has subsequently provided a specialised appraisal and valuation service working for many of the most prominent museums and collections of musical instruments. He was an exemplary chairman of the Galpin Society for 27 years, not only leading the Society through one of its healthiest and most productive periods but also editing the Newsletter, organising meetings, supporting the other officers, and encouraging members in their organological efforts. One of his most conspicuous contributions was organising the 'Made for Music' loan exhibition in 1986. As a scholar he wrote the authoritative early history of the Northumbrian small-pipes as his University of Oxford DPhil thesis.