

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Members Meeting held via Zoom on 24th January 2021.

Present: Roy Bailey (Chairman), Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Sam Hearn (Hon. Treasurer) Phil Broomfield, (Membership Secretary), Peter Osborne, Pat Claus, Gerald McGregor, Charles Harvey, Beth Rogers, Gordon Schreck, John Pearson, Jim Rodda, Peter Aschenbrenner, Brian Cox and Annabel Bailey.

1. Welcome

Roy welcomed everyone meeting and asked that each attendee mute themselves and indicate via the screen if they wished to speak.

2. Apologies:

Received from Miles Buckinghamshire, Maija Jansson, Betty McBean, Bruce Alexander, John Seal, Lady Helen Motteux, Steve Barriff and John Hobart.

3. Introduction by the Chairman:

Roy mentioned that this was the third members' meeting to be held via Zoom. There were no minutes of the last meeting due to technical problems and he commented that the meeting had not been very well attended.

He did not intend to present a report himself as all the news and events of the past year had been published in *The Patriot*, and members of the committee would be reporting on their own activities.

He went on to say, 'You will notice that there are a lot of reports. The one person who does not do a report is Anthea, our Honorary Secretary. She serves a very useful purpose behind the scenes, beavering away to keep the Society running smoothly, and we could not do without her. Thanks a lot Anthea for all your work'.

He then asked Sam to give his report.

4. Report from the Hon.Treasurer: (Sam Hearn)

Sam reported that he had prepared the accounts ready for the AGM. He commented that the Society had not incurred much in the way of expenses during the past year as due to lockdowns we had been unable to arrange much in the way of events. We did, however, purchase the Hampden locket that had come up for sale by auction. The purchase had been handled by Peter Osborne on behalf of the Society and the purchase had been made for the most part with the aid of donations. Sam told the meeting that there was £7,408 in the bank account at the end of the year, so we have funds to do things when the situation changes. The current situation shows that we have just under £8,000 in total.

5. Report from the Membership Secretary: (Phil Broomfield)

Phil reported that the membership currently stood at 85 and he is currently working through the list and contacting those members who have not so far paid their subscriptions, having received £375 so far according to the last bank statement that he had received. Sam stated that he had since had a chance to check the bank account and that several other members had paid up. Phil reported that he has made good progress with persuading people to pay by standing order rather than sending cheques, which helps to cut down on the work involved each year. Once the membership list has been reconciled with Beth's responses from members to the personal data authorization, Phil will produce a new list for publication and use by the Society.

6. Report on Personal Data Authorization: (Beth Rogers)

Beth had been asked by Roy if she would undertake the task of contacting all members to ask for their authority to use their data held by the Society which, she explained, is now required by law. She has had about a 75% response and is still following up some members but feels that most of those she has not heard from will not respond.

Pat Claus told the meeting that members in the United States are also governed by our laws and therefore are affected by this issue. Gordon enquired whether Beth had received his response as he has had a problem with his e-mails and Roy suggested that Gordon might e-mail him so that Roy can check we have the right e-mail address for him.

7. Website:

Roy and Sam have been discussing how to improve the website which had contained one or two anomalies. Sam has been working on the amendments and reported that there is an update required to the software which will be undertaken, though members will not notice any difference when this has been done. One of the points that Roy was not happy about was that it took two clicks to open the required copy *The Patriot*. Sam said that there was a problem over changing this, but he is still working on it. Most of the problems he has now managed to deal with.

Sam told everyone that there is an Archive section accessed via a button at the bottom of the screen and this was not easily spotted but gave access to some interesting articles including the Bucks Gardens report and a facsimile of the Doomsday Book entry. Peter Osborne commented that he knows someone who deals with websites and it might help if he asked her to look at our website and see if she has any ideas on how it could be improved. He feels that *The Patriot* and the website both contain a lot of good information, but the website could perhaps be a little more streamlined.

8. The Patriot:

Roy commented that the newsletter and the website - and to a certain extent Facebook - are important to the Society. We have managed to produce the newsletter throughout the last year and he mentioned that Sarsen Press in Winchester, who have for some years handled the printing of *The Patriot* for those members are unable to download it from the website, are continuing to do an exceptionally good job. Since lockdown Tony Hill has had to lay off his staff and is running single-handed but still manages to deal with the printing and sending the copies out to Anthea within a very few days of receiving copy from Roy. We owe Tony a big vote of thanks.

9. Report on the Drinkwater Locket: (Sam Hearn and Peter Osborne)

Sam explained that some of the documentation that came with the locket was handed over to the Friends of the Dymock Poets as it was of more relevance to them and they were delighted to receive it. This left the Society to decide about the locket itself. It has been decided that the best solution is to offer the locket to a museum on long loan and Sam has been trying to contact the National Civil War Museum at Newark or the Bucks County Museum in Aylesbury, but owing to lockdown he has been unable to contact either. Peter had suggested offering it to Amersham Museum which is a small local museum who have been able to build a large extension due to having benefitted from a legacy, giving it much more scope for displaying articles of interest. The museum also has the facility to run a mobile service, meaning that it can take items of interest to schools, homes, etc., giving it the opportunity to offer additional publicity.

The Curator at Amersham would be happy to have the locket and would also be willing to do a talk for the Society if we wish. The only problem with loaning the locket to the Amersham Museum would be that it is a Museum devoted to the local area and we would need to provide evidence of a connection between John Hampden and the town of Amersham. Sam recalled that there was a farm in Amersham where John Hampden had attended meetings and he would certainly have visited Amersham. Beth felt that Amersham would be a good home for the locket and feels it would be possible to come up with links to John Hampden. Sam recalled that, during a guided walk round Amersham prior to an AGM some years ago, he had spoken with the guide and had offered to write an article concerning William Hakewill and the links with John Hampden.

Charles Harvey asked whether we had thought of offering the locket to Thame Museum, but it was pointed out that there was already a lock of hair owned by the Society on loan to Thame Museum.

Roy took a straw poll regarding what we should do and in summary it was decided that the Society might benefit most from a link with the National Civil War Museum or the Aylesbury Museum, but in general everyone was happy that we consider offering the locket to Amersham.

10. Report on Ship Money Monument (Peter Osborne)

Jim and Peter have managed to improve the views of and from the site of the memorial and the Chiltern Society have produced roundels which indicate the route to the monument which forms part of the John Hampden walk drawn up by the Chiltern Society.

The memorial itself is of sandstone and the inscription has become virtually illegible. Much thought has been given about how to rectify this. The wording is reproduced on a board near the monument, but quotations are being obtained from stonemasons for recutting the wording on the monument which will probably take place in the spring. There are various organizations with an interest in this monument, so getting approval will not be a quick process. It was hoped that, in due course the Chiltern Society might do an article in their magazine about the monument, the locket and the John Hampden walk and the cycle route, which takes in the Chalgrove monument as well as the statue in Aylesbury.

11. Submitted questions from members:

There were no submitted questions.

12. Open Questions from Members:

Roy asked Pat whether she had contact with the Hampden Historical Society in Maine, but she explained that the Society is not meeting at present, so she has not had any contact with it lately.

Sam produced a magazine entitled *History Revealed* which contained reasonably accurate references to John Hampden, though a timeline ignores many of the battles, which Sam will point out to them.

Gordon asked how many members of the Society reside in the USA and was told that there are 9 American members at present.

13. Suggestions for future Events:

Peter Osborne reported that Friends of Amersham Museum would like the Society to do a talk. Roy is not sure whether he could do this live via Zoom but wondered whether he could pre-record a video to show and then answer questions via Zoom. This could then be thrown open to other societies at the same time.

The curator of Amersham Museum does Zoom talks and would be happy to talk to the Society.

Roy commented that giving talks had been a good source of income for the Society, giving us an opportunity to sell books, etc., and we normally asked for travelling costs and a donation, rather than charging a fee.

Peter Osborne said that the Griffin Club (named after an 18th century debating society which met at *The Griffin* in Amersham) would like us to give a live talk on John Hampden to about 60 people when lockdown is lifted, and we are able to do so. Roy has a Power Point presentation that he uses when doing live talks and he offered to lend this to Peter at the appropriate time,

Roy asked that, if anyone had any ideas on talks and events that the Society could run, they should pass that information on to Anthea.

Gerald commented that 13th November 2022 will be the anniversary of the Battle of Turnham Green and he wondered whether the Society might hold an event commemorating this. Roy pointed out that it will also be around about the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Society and Sam had expressed an interest in the organization of an event to mark this. Roy also said that it is likely that we will be publishing issue 100 of *The Patriot* at that time.

14. The 2021 AGM:

Roy commented that the rules have been eased due to lockdown, so it is not now imperative to hold an AGM at a specific time. The Government are considering putting back the local council elections in England and Wales until July, and they would normally be held in May, so we may have great difficulties holding a physical AGM at that time. He did not believe that we could come to any decision on this until we had some idea what the regulations would be at that time.

If we are unable to hold a live meeting this year, we will consider doing so via Zoom and he wondered about allowing members a postal vote. If we can hold a live meeting this will be arranged at *The Kings Head* in Aylesbury, but we will try to incorporate Zoom, using a big screen, so that members from afar can also join in.

Pat said that an organization she belonged to had held an on-line AGM and had given members postal voting rights and she would look at this and let us know how the system worked.

Beth mentioned the fact that we had intended to hold an AGM at Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight, but Roy stated that, although it was one of his ambitions to do that, it is on the back burner at present. He hopes that it may be possible to look at this venue again at some time in the future,

15. AOB:

Gordon Schreck asked John Pearson for his email address in order to be able to contact him when he travels to London as he does occasionally. He would like to be able to meet John as they are both retired lawyers. John said he would be happy to pass on his email address.

Charles Harvey stated that he was storing a large supply of the John Adair biography, which Sam offered to take back from him if he wished. However, Charles was happy to continue keeping the books but wondered if we were aware that he had them. Gordon Schreck stated that there is only one copy in Hampden Sydney College library and he felt that they would be happy to receive a larger number for which they would pay shipping costs and probably make a donation to the Society. He will discuss this with them and let us know.

Sam felt that we should try to find a new biographer who might be interested in updating the biography.

16. Date & Time of Next Meeting:

To be announced. Roy felt that this will probably be the AGM, but members will be notified in due course.