

THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY

Minutes of the 11th Annual General Meeting of the John Hampden Society held at Hampden House, Great Hampden on Sunday 6th April 2003.

Present: Lord Hollenden (*Chairman*), Mr Bob Hammond (*Vice Chairman*), Mr Sam Hearn (*Hon. Treasurer*), Mrs Anthea Coles (*Hon. Secretary*), Miss Elizabeth Morris (*Membership Secretary*), Mr Maurice Kirtland, Mr Derek Lester, Mr Roy Bailey, Mrs June Wailling and eight members of the Society.

1. Apologies for absence: The Earl of Buckinghamshire, (*Patron to the Society*), Lady Buckinghamshire, Mr Graham Barfield, Mrs Sarah Barrington, Lady Helen Motteux, Mrs Doreen Taylor, Mrs Gloria Smith, Mr Christopher Hobart, Mrs Angela Feaviour, Mr Alan Lascelles, Mrs Cynthia Ettenfield and Miss Sue Hetherington.

Lord Hollenden opened the Meeting by welcoming all members.

2. The Minutes of the previous AGM had been distributed and further copies were available at the meeting. They were accepted as a true record of that meeting.

3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Reports from Officers:

Lord Hollenden reported as follows:

Chairman's Report, 2003

Once again I am able to report that the Society, now in its eleventh year, has had yet another active and successful period promoting the aims of the Society; that is to say, bringing together people with an interest in John Hampden, and encouraging wider knowledge of the life of John Hampden.

As well as organising events in the context of the first of those aims, the Society is still very active on the educational front. The Society's web site continues to be visited on a regular basis. *The Patriot* newsletter, recently compiled by Anthea Coles, during Roy Bailey's sabbatical in New Zealand, is produced at least four times a year. Thank you Anthea for all your hard work in producing such a well-presented and informative issue, and with colour photographs. Anthea will be relieved to learn that Roy Bailey has very kindly agreed to resume his editorial duties, now that he has returned. The 'Travelling Exhibition' continues to be a popular medium for promoting the life of John Hampden. In addition to this the Society maintains a stock of books and leaflets. Of particular current interest however is the Committee's decision to recently commission a specialist book publisher to reprint John Adair's acclaimed book, *John Hampden - The Patriot*. Having obtained John Adair's permission, for which we are extremely grateful, this project is now in hand. The book is expected to retail at about £12.99. Sales of the free allocation that we have negotiated are expected to pay for the complete print run. It is hoped that copies will be available by June of this year, in time for the Wendover Day.

Whilst on the subject of education, the Committee is exploring a new initiative. We would like to seek the help of local Secondary and Grammar schools to enable the Society to make an award, perhaps called the John Hampden History Award, on an annual or bi-annual basis to a local student from Buckinghamshire. The award would be for the best essay or piece of work relating either specifically to John Hampden, or perhaps more generally to the Civil War period. The Committee would welcome any comments or suggestions relating to this idea, as it is still at a very early stage.

I spoke last year of the highly successful visit in September 2001, by members of the Society to Grampound in Cornwall, where John Hampden lived briefly when he first became an MP for that town. I think that most of us on the Society's committee felt that that was going to be a hard act to follow, however I am sure that all those who attended the 17th Century Banquet held here in the Great Hall at Hampden House, on a very stormy day in October last year, will agree that this was a memorable event. A large number of members attending were dressed in clothes of the time, and period music was expertly played throughout the event by Peter Bull on a variety of authentic instruments. And then there was the food, all 24 courses of it, served in three 'removes'. For many of us it was our first experience of muggets, lob lolly, fruit leathers and other 17th Century gastronomic delights. The committee is deeply grateful to Derek Lester for organising such a unique and enjoyable occasion.

This year we have another very important date for everyone's diaries; Wendover day on June the 21st. The main event of the day will be the unveiling of a John Hampden commemorative plaque. Valerie Horne is the inspiration behind this event, and she will be telling us in some detail about the days programme later at this meeting. She has been very ably assisted by Graham Barfield, not only with the planning of the event, but Graham, rather uniquely, has been using his stone mason skills to produce the plaque of John Hampden that is to be erected in Wendover. Valerie and Graham, thank you from all of us, for all the hard work that you have both put into this project. I very much hope that as many members of the Society as possible will be able to attend and support this event.

Earlier this year, the Committee wrote to all members to ask for their thoughts on whether they agreed with the Committee's decision to apply for charity status for the Society. Our thanks must go to Sam Hearne, the Society's treasurer for untangling the mysteries of this daunting task. Sam is going to speak to us in a moment about this important matter. I must thank all those who replied so promptly to the questionnaire. This certainly is the most important decision that the Society has faced since its inception, but I do believe the positive response that we received will ultimately place the Society in a much more favourable position to seek funding for important projects. The Society's plan for a promotional video about John Hampden, which we have had to put on hold for the time being, is a prime example.

Before I conclude this report, I must thank Liz Morris, our Membership Secretary. Liz has worked tirelessly to keep our Membership records up to date, and in good order, and she will be speaking to us shortly, in more detail about Membership.

Finally may I take this opportunity to remind every one that the Society's annual dinner at the Spread Eagle Hotel is booked for the evening of the Wendover Day on the 21st June.

Hon. Treasurer's Report:

Sam Hearn, the Treasurer, reported that although the Society had ended the year with more cash in the bank than at the beginning of the year expenditure had exceeded income by £298. Timing differences had masked the impact of this on the bank account.

There had been two large and unusual items of expenditure in the year: the large colour printed 'Grampound' edition of *The Patriot* had cost £517 and script advice and a trial filming for the Video had cost £485. Donations of £207 had been received by the year-end to fund the Wendover Plaque. This had risen to £482 by the AGM and it was anticipated that £250 would be received from the Vale of Aylesbury.

Following the year the Executive Committee agreed to spend £1,000 to facilitate the printing of the John Adair biography in paperback format. This should be a self-financing initiative.

It was proposed by Mr Roy Bailey, and seconded by Mr Bob Hammond, that the accounts to accepted as presented. The vote was carried unanimously.

Membership Secretary's Report: Miss Liz Morris reported that at the AGM last year, membership stood at 134, with 16 Life Members. This year membership also stands at 134 with 16 Life Members and 2 Honorary Members, so overall we have lost no members.

During the year 16 joined the Society. This included 6 new members who attended last year's AGM. However, they have failed to renew. Miss Morris had sent out letters 4/5 weeks previously and also telephoned but so far had received no response. She will try again to see if she can make contact. Two or three junior members have resigned and there have also been a couple of deaths, notably Elliott Viney.

Although subscriptions were put up 2 years ago, Miss Morris was still having trouble with some of the Standing Orders, as some people, despite receiving reminders, have failed to amend their standing orders and one or two have actually paid twice. Miss Morris will follow these up again. Mrs Valerie Horne asked whether it might be advantageous to change the date for subscriptions from January to February, moving it further from Christmas, but Miss Morris said she would, for the time being, continue to follow up on these cases. Mr Ropy Bailey asked what was the proportion of members paying by Standing Order and Miss Morris replied that only about 20 – 25 pay by cheque.

5. Election of officers and committee members: Mr Bailey mentioned that, in the event of the Society achieving Charitable Status, members of the Executive Committee would become Trustees, and Mr Hearn gave a brief resume on the difference between an Executive Committee Member and a Trustee.

The Society's President, Professor John Adair, continues without election. There being no nominations for the under mentioned positions, the following officers indicated their willingness to stand for re-election and were nominated as follows:

Chairman: **Lord Hollenden** was proposed by Mrs Annabel Bailey and seconded by Mr Roy Bailey.

Vice Chairman: **Mr Bob Hammond** was proposed by Mrs Anthea Coles and seconded by Miss Elizabeth Morris.

Honorary Treasurer: **Mr Sam Hearn** was proposed by Mr Bob Hammond and seconded by Mrs Gillian Blackshaw

Honorary Secretary: **Mrs Anthea Coles** was proposed by Mr Derek Lester and seconded by Mrs Annabel Bailey

Membership Secretary: **Miss Elizabeth Morris** was proposed by Mr Roy Bailey and seconded by Mr Sam Hearn.

The following four members of the Committee had indicated that they would not be standing for re-election:

Mr John Goodall, Mrs Gillian Goodall, Mr Graham Barfield and Mr Roy Bailey.

Mr Michael Portsmouth, Mrs Joan Portsmouth and Mr Michael Malone indicated their willingness to stand on the Committee. Mr and Mrs Portsmouth were proposed by Mrs Annabel Bailey and seconded by Mr Bob Hammond. Mr Michael Malone was proposed by Mr Bob Hammond and seconded by Mrs Valerie Horne.

All other Committee members were willing to continue in this capacity. Voting was unanimous in favour of all of the above proposals

6. Wendover Day: Mrs Valerie Horne delivered the following dissertation on this project, to which she has given so much time and hard work over the past year:

JOHN HAMPDEN DAY

'Goode and Joyful Neues out of Ailesburye'. At the third application Aylesbury Vale District Council reconsidered their previous decision and have now made a contribution to the John Hampden Society Wendover commemorative plaque fund. Let's say some very persuasive people spoke loudly on our behalf, with the desired result.

JOHN HAMPDEN DAY. JUNE 21st.

Please come in costume of the time, 1600-1650. There are two options for the early morning. Would you care to visit the Church of St. Nicholas in Great Kimble to view the Ship Money document and sit for a while in quiet contemplation in the Church where that momentous meeting took place. Members of the Church have kindly offered to serve tea and coffee. Option 2, William

Hakewill (John Hampden's Lawyer) lived in Bucksbridge House, Heron Path, Wendover and Hampden would almost certainly have visited there. Mr and Mrs Jeremy Nicholson will have their garden open on the day, so that you will be able to visit if you wish. Again tea and coffee will be available.

Before the sundial indicates noon, make your way to 'the Manor Waste (for such is the title of the central open area) where a country fair/market will be taking place. We invite you to experience the sights and sounds of the time (we decided to forego the smells, and the pigs and chickens running loose among the populace!). Here you will see people in costume pursuing occupations of that time which have changed very little over 350 or so years, many still popular today, though now as crafts or hobbies. The piece de resistance is a 17th century blacksmith's forge, which will have trundled across three counties to take part in our event. We have a shepherdess with sheep, spinners, a weaver, lacemakers, an apprentice embroiderer, a woodcarver, a stone sculptor, a basketmaker, musicians and a scribe.

We will have a cannon, another 'piece de resistance' with crewmembers from John Hampden's Regiment of Foote, demonstrating the loading procedure. Unfortunately we will be unable to fire it, as it would destroy all the windows around the square. You will be able to talk to a musketeer and find out what it is like to take part in battle re-enactments. We hope to have mini pikemen showing how pikes were used.

We are doing our best to provide the type of goods that would have been available at the time, both from stalls and wandering sellers, children also will be selling from baskets. The children will be maypole dancing and Morris dancing.

The John Hampden Society exhibition will be on display and some special souvenirs are being produced. John Hampden's Ale will be on sale, as will mead and cider.

Now, as the sundial is showing three of the clock we move towards the highlight of the day. There will be a short procession led by John Hampden's Regiment of Foote colour set followed by the Dignitaries and everyone who wishes to join in. The Deputy Lord Lieutenant will make the introduction. The Earl of Buckinghamshire will make the speech and perform the unveiling ceremony, revealing the Commemorative Plaque to honour John Hampden – a Great Parliamentarian. Lord Hollenden will reply and then we will return to the Manor Waste for the closing ceremony.

I must not close without mentioning the multi-talented Mr Graham Barfield who has donated and sculpted the bas-relief head of John Hampden, which surmounts the bronze plaque. He will be demonstrating his skills on the day. Everyone appearing on the day has given freely of their time and effort and I think we have put together a celebration that not only honours our Patriot, but will be memorable for life and colour. History being made before your very eyes!

Valerie Horne. Co-ordinator for The John Hampden Society, working with Wendover Parish Council.

Lord Hollenden proposed a vote of thanks to Valerie for all her hard work on this project.

7. Charity Status: Mrs Coles reported that out of 134 members, 87 had responded to the ballot held recently. All were in favour of the Society making an application to become a Charity and the subsequent alterations to the Society Constitution in the event of this application being successful. There were no votes against the application.

The meeting considered the following two resolutions:

1. **Resolution One:** Having considered the result of the ballot of the members on the proposal to apply for the registration of the Society as a charity we agree that **the Society should proceed with its application for registration as a charity.**
2. **Resolution Two:** Having considered the result of the ballot of the members on the proposal to adopt a new constitution we agree that **the new draft constitution should be adopted immediately if the application for registration as a charity is successful.**

Both resolutions were passed unanimously.

Mr Hearn reported that following the overwhelming support revealed by the members' ballot the application had already been submitted. However he required the signatures of the Executive Committee to the draft Constitution. The Charity Commission will then be able to process the application.

In response to questions Mr Hearn said that if the application were rejected the Society could continue as at present, but that there were significant advantages to the Society becoming a Charity. In particular there would be an advantage when it comes to raising funds and sponsorship for projects such as the production of a Video. It was also pointed out that as a charity the Society could take advantage of Gift Aid: the Society could claim back tax on donations and membership subscriptions made by UK taxpayers. The sums involved were not large but they would nevertheless be welcome. The Society would be able to consider more interesting and ambitious projects.

Mr Bailey asked whether Mr Hearn had any doubt that the Society would be successful in this application. Mr Hearn indicated that he felt fairly confident, following telephone discussions with Charity Commission staff, that the Society was likely to be successful in its application.

Lord Hollenden then proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Hearn for all the research and hard work that had gone into this project.

8. Fund Raising: This had mostly been covered under the previous item. However it was mentioned that the Society had done well with fund-raising for the memorial plaque, having received £482 and further amounts of £25 and £250 were still to be received, totalling £857. There is still a small shortfall and any further donations would be gratefully received. Mrs Annabel Bailey wondered whether the Society could fund-raise at Wendover Day and members present were told that Mr Mike Griffin had offered to allow the Society to reproduce a card of which he held the copyright, depicting the Hampden statue in Aylesbury. He stipulated that these should only be available for sale at Wendover Day as a limited edition, and his kind offer had been gratefully

accepted. The new edition of John Adair's book should be available for sale on the day and it is hoped that the sale of the free copies from the Publishers will cover the cost producing the paperback. Mrs Horne announced that she had commissioned 'Grand Remonstrance' flags for those children processing to purchase.

The point was made that Mr Graham Barfield has very generously donated the bas-relief carving of John Hampden for the memorial, in lieu of making a cash donation, and care must be taken that his name appears on the list of donors, preferably at the head of the list.

9. Programme of Events:

11.5.03: Walk round Civil War Oxford, organised by The Battlefields Trust, who should be contacted by anyone wishing to take part.

21.6.03: Wendover Day and the Annual Dinner at the Spread Eagle Hotel in Thame.

Date to be announced: Bucks Local History Fair and Conference. This is normally held in early October and notification should be received shortly. It is rather expensive to attend, but well worthwhile. This year it will be held in Gerrards Cross and will be publicised in *The Patriot*. Mr Bailey wondered whether the Society might speak at this event, but speakers are normally academics. The suggestion was made that, if Dr. Maija Jansson were to be in the country at the appropriate time, she might be persuaded to undertake this, but it might prove difficult to arrange as it needs to be booked so far in advance.

25.10.03: A talk in St. Nicholas Church Great Kimble, commencing 7.30.

24.1.04: Talk to Buckinghamshire Historical Society.

25.3.04: Chesham Ladies Club (A Dinner Club) wishes the Society to give a talk.

Date to be Announced: Chess Valley Society would like the Society to give a talk.

10. A.O.B: Mr Lester proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Bailey for all the hard work he has put into the Society since its inauguration. This was seconded by Mr Hammond.

Mr Bailey enquired who owned the photographs included in the exhibition that was on show at the AGM and which he had not seen before. These belonged to Mrs Valerie Horne. He then asked if any other members have photographs or articles which could be used by the Society, would they please let him have them.

A request was made for a suggestion for the speaker for the Annual Dinner. One suggestion made was Arthur Taylor, a local historian. It was also mentioned that there were a few Wendover historians in the area and possibly one of these would be prepared to give a talk on Hakewill. It was suggested that members give this matter some thought and communicate their ideas to a member of the Committee as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm, with a vote of thanks to Mr Tim Oliver for allowing the Society to hold the AGM at Hampden House.

The afternoon ended with a short but interesting talk by Mr Roy Bailey on his recent visit to New Zealand where he visited the town of Hampden. Whilst there he gave a talk on John Hampden to a very large audience and went on to visit a number of towns with roads or streets named Hampden, and in one instance he discovered a "Hampden Hotel".

Anthea Coles
Honorary Secretary
The John Hampden Society.

15th April 2003.