

The John Hampden Society

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 18th July 2015 at Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford, Oxon.

	Present: Steve Barriff (Chairman), Sam Hearn (Treasurer and Membership Secretary) Anthea Coles (Hon. Secretary), Roy Bailey and Gerald McGregor (for the first part of the meeting).	
1.	Apologies: None.	
2.	Minutes of Last Meeting: These were accepted as a true record of the meeting.	
	<p>Matters Arising: Sam has now collected part of the Society's book stock etc. The wreath-laying event had gone off well and hopefully can be repeated.</p> <p>Beatrice had asked who would be attending the Charity Fair in November. The date of the Fair clashes with the date originally picked for the next committee meeting, but we need to meet before November anyway. It was suggested that Brian might be prepared to attend as he had done in the past.</p>	
3.	<p>Derek Lester and the Library: Steve wondered whether he should reply to Derek's recent letter, pointing out that he is holding the books illegally and if mutual agreement cannot be found and the books returned to their rightful owner, the Society would be obliged to take the appropriate steps for their recovery, and it is hoped that commonsense would prevail.</p>	Steve
4.	<p>Membership Matters: Sam reported that there had been no further new members. There were still one or two existing members who had yet to pay their subscriptions. He stated that there are currently just a few anomalies.</p> <p>With regard to book stocks, Sam had sold quite a few books through the National Theatre and they still have a few books sitting on their shelves.</p>	
5.	<p>Executive Committee Issues: Sam pointed out that we do have a somewhat desperate problem with regard to Trustees. Roy is giving up his role next year and Sam himself is struggling to stay on top of the treasurership and adding membership matters is just a bit too much. The plea sent out to members on two occasions had received no offers of help. Sam said that we could advertise for new Trustees in other journals, though this would cost us some money. We are getting to the stage where we are below critical mass as regards trusteeship. We really need about 8 Trustees.</p> <p>Roy suggested the names of one or two long-standing members of the Society who might be prepared to come on board. Sam suggested that he might phone people and ask them.</p> <p>Another problem that will arise when Roy resigns will be editing <i>The Patriot</i>. Roy felt it would be unfair to expect Anthea to take it on again even if she had the facility.</p>	Sam
6.	<p>The Patriot: Roy gave a list of articles that he either has or has been promised for the next edition.</p> <p>Sam wondered whether we could pay someone a retainer to put <i>The Patriot</i> together ready for printing and it was agreed that this might be a possibility.</p>	
7.	<p>Website: Roy stated that he would now have to contact the lady he had been in touch with in the past regarding the design.</p>	Roy
8.	<p>Accounts: Sam produced a copy of the latest accounts. We still had to pay for printing the latest newsletter and for the wreath.</p> <p>He produced a document for signature by Steve and Anthea, giving instructions to the Co-op Bank regarding signatories.</p>	

9.	<p><u>Society Talks & Future Events:</u> There is currently nothing in the pipeline and some discussion took place concerning how we could best rectify this situation. It was agreed to research local Historical Societies and U3As to find out whether they would like us to give a talk.</p> <p>With regard to the Thame Charities Fair on 7th November, we will have to reschedule the meeting planned for that date in order to have a stall at this event.</p>	Steve
10.	<p><u>Items not on the Agenda:</u> Roy asked how many copies there were of the promotional leaflet and it was agreed that we should need a further supply. He will order a further 250 copies.</p>	Roy
11.	<p><u>AOB:</u> Anthea mentioned the current position with regard to postage. She has now run out of large second class stamps as we had not built up our stocks prior to the price rise this Spring. It was agreed that she should purchase stamps to the value of £300 between now and the next price rise. She had looked into franking machines as requested but we do not have a large enough usage to make this viable. In order to save money she was folding the newsletter and using an A5 envelope for all of the overseas members, which halved the cost of postage to them.</p>	Anthea
	<p>There being no further items to discuss, the meeting was declared closed. The next meeting is scheduled to be held on 7th November, but Steve will contact everyone with more suggested dates as it was felt that we needed a meeting earlier than that. Venue to be Shillingford Bridge Hotel again.</p>	Steve