

## THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY

### Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting of the John Hampden Society held at The Thame Museum, Thame, Oxfordshire on Saturday, 14th April 2018

#### **Present:**

Mr. Stephen Barriff (Acting Chairman), Mr. Sam. Hearn, (*Treasurer*) & Mr. Philip Broomfield (*Membership Secretary*), Mrs. Anthea Coles (*Hon. Secretary*), and 11 members of the Society.

#### **1. Introduction by the Chairman:**

Steve Barriff welcomed everyone to the 27th AGM of the Society and opened the proceedings.

#### **2. Apologies for absence:**

Apologies had been received from Lady Alison Buckinghamshire, Lady Helen & Mr. Hughes Motteux, Mrs. Betty McBean, Mr. Roger and Mrs. Patsy Paynter, Mrs. Sarah Barrington, Mr. Michael Morris, Mr. Jim and Mrs. Elizabeth Rodda, Mr. Charles Harvey, Dr. Maija Jansson, Mr. Richard and Mrs. Valerie Pushman, MS Beth Rogers, Mr. Anthony Harris, Mr. Peter Osborne and Mr. Gerald McGregor.

#### **3. The Minutes of the previous AGM:**

These were agreed to be a true record of the meeting with one minor amendment.

#### **4. Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

#### **5. Reports from Officers:**

##### **Acting Chairman's Report**

Good afternoon. My name is Steve Barriff and I'm currently Acting Chairman of the John Hampden Society.

I'd like to start by welcoming you all to the Thame Museum and I trust that you had plenty of time to have a browse around the building and see the artefacts that are currently on loan from the Society. A further loan to the museum from the Society should be made in due course.

This is the 27th Annual General Meeting and once again I'm delighted to report that we have continued to have a moderately successful one. I'd be the first to admit that we have had issues with our various publications but the conflict with other commitments has meant that the editor has had to struggle at times.

A series of four very well attended talks were given under the auspices of the John Hampden Society and the Battlefield Trust and were held at the Bucks County Museum, in Aylesbury last year. The speakers included John Hampden Society members, Simon Marsh, whom I'm delighted to see here today, and Ian Beckett.

A revised information board is to be erected at the newly refurbished Ship Money Monument at Prestwood, Buckinghamshire and Society members Jim Rodda and Sam Hearn have provided images and written an explanatory text that the Chiltern Society will incorporate into the design of this board.

A Dinner to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Society was held at Hampden House in the later part of last year, to which local MP, David Liddington, was both our speaker and guest of honour. The splendid seventeenth century food washed down with the inestimable Chiltern Brewery's Hampden Ale. It was truly a unique occasion and our thanks must go to Tim Oliver, the current owner of Hampden House.

2017 also saw the long-awaited publication of Pat Claus' excellent book, Conscience is my Crown. It is full of detailed and fascinating research and follows the interconnected lives of four men who played pivotal roles in

the religious and political struggles of the sixteenth and seventeenth century England. As some of you know Pat is a longstanding member of the Society and has worked as a director and curator of a small historical museum on the coast of Maine in the United States.

The John Hampden Society and the Battlefields Trust continue to monitor developments that might threaten the Chalgrove Battlefield. The proposal to construct a massive housing development on the Chalgrove airfield site appears to have been watered down. No houses will now apparently be built on the battlefield site itself and a buffer zone with natural screening will be created to protect the setting and the views of the battlefield. I'm afraid it is a question of having to watch this space. As with all developments of this nature the gestation period can be rather long.

I'm afraid this, once again, brings me on to what has become a regular feature of this AGM, and that is a plea for more Trustees to join the committee. Whilst we all have numerous commitments outside the John Hampden Society a few hours of your time can make an enormous amount of difference to the running of the organization. I know only too well that amongst our membership we have a vast array of talent that can be put to a significant use and should any of you wish to discuss this further with any members of the current committee we would be only too delighted to have a chat with you after the meeting.

As many of you will be aware, rather than leaving the Society in the lurch, I have agreed to stand as "Acting Chairman" for the past year but I'm afraid this is a role that I can no longer practically fulfil. Fortunately, the founder of our organization, Roy Bailey, has unselfishly agreed to step up the plate for the forthcoming year.

#### **The Treasurer's Report:**

Sam reported that, due to his political involvement he had not been able to produce accounts in time for them to be presented at the AGM. It is not a legal requirement that they should be available at that meeting. The only requirement is that they should be available for members to scrutinise during the year, and he will ensure that this is done as soon as he can after the bi-elections on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May. He did, however, report that, at the end of the last financial year the Society had £5,956 in the bank, spread over several accounts with the bulk of this money being in the Co-operative Bank Account. He thought there might be a further small amount in our account with the Bucks Family History Society but was not certain about this. There is also an old account with Lloyds Bank which has not been closed because there is one member who has steadfastly ignored requests to change her standing order and her subscription is therefore still being paid into this account and the account has been allowed to continue for the time being.

As at the date of the AGM, there was a bank balance of £6,399, reflecting renewal subscriptions received, plus a balance held in postage stamps of £532.68.

A major expense in the last year had been the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner at Hampden House., which was not as well subscribed as had been hoped and the cost to the Society was £874, but it was agreed that the dinner had been a resounding success, much enjoyed by those members who attended and their guests, many of whom have requested that they be invited to the next one! Everyone felt that the cost of this dinner to the Society was well justified and that it was a very suitable way to celebrate such a momentous anniversary. It was also agreed that this expenditure complied with the requirements of the Charities Commission.

#### **The Membership Secretary's Report:**

Since the last AGM on April 2017 there have been the following updates to the membership:

##### Members we have sadly lost:

Mr Christopher Hobart (May)  
Jean Gabbittas (May)  
John Saunders (Feb)

New members include:

Hampden School, New Zealand (Aug)  
Peter Osborne (Apr)

Renewals:

37 lapsed members to whom telephone calls and e-mails been made to aim to bring all members into the system of renewing on 1<sup>st</sup> January. 20 have renewed by cheque or standing order payment. 6 resignations received.

Awaiting responses from:

*Hampden School, New Zealand*  
*Bucks County Museum*  
*Philip Emery*  
*David & Lilian Gillie*  
*Paul Hankey, John Hampden Primary School*  
*Philip Hampden-Smith*  
*Mary Steward-Hunter (removed from membership, not paid 2016, 17, 18)*  
*Philip & Rosemary Storr*  
*Tony Wright (removed from membership, not paid 2016, 17, 18)*

Current live membership (those that have paid for this year) stands at 88. The membership list has been updated accordingly.

Prepared by: Phil Broomfield

**The Web-master's Report:**

The website is running well, though it was reported that only a relatively few members have registered to use the Members' Areas. The Executive Committee have discussed, in the past, whether to put the genealogy section into the Member's Area, so that anyone wishing to look at this would need to join the Society first. This may well be something that we will do in the future, when there is more information entered, which is something that the Membership Secretary will be dealing with later in the year, when he has a more time as entering the data is very time consuming.

Roy commented that the company we are with offered free web hosting for Charities, which he had made certain we took advantage of.

**6. Election of officers and committee members:**

Nominations had been received from four members as follows:

<b><u>Title</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed by:</u></b>	<b><u>Seconded by:</u></b>
<b>Chairman: Roy Bailey</b>	Brian Cox	Steve Barriff
<b>Treasurer: Sam Hearn</b>	Anthea Coles	Steve Barriff
<b>Hon. Secretary: Anthea Coles.</b>	Roy Bailey	Steve Barriff
<b>Membership Secretary: Philip Broomfield</b>	Anthea Coles	Gerald Coles

There being no other nominations the above were confirmed as the Executive Committee for the coming year, it being noted that further members could be co-opted onto the Committee during the year if appropriate.

#### **7. Programme of Events and Plans for future Activities:**

Roy is doing a talk for Probus in June and will probably ask Brian Cox if he would turn up to give him a hand.

He will also be giving a talk to the U3A at Newbury, as recorded in the last Minutes, date to be announced.

A list has been produced of organizations to whom the Society has given talks in the past, who can be contacted to ask whether they would be interested in a return visit in the future. Anne and Maurice Kirtland suggested that it would be worth contacting the local U3A organizations, of whom there are a large number, who are always looking for speakers. Sam pointed out that, at present, we only have one or two people who give the talks, but we do have a lot of material which could be loaned to any member who was prepared to take on this task. It was also suggested that, if any member does arrange to give a talk, the Society should be notified in order that the event can be publicised. It would be very helpful to the Society if we had a member who would take on the task of organising talks on our behalf.

#### **8. The Patriot:**

Sam reported that the task of producing this had dropped into his lap, but as with the accounts, he had been very pushed for time this year and, although he had managed to produce one or two editions of *Hampden Voice*, and had a wealth of material for *The Patriot*, he had not been able to produce an edition for some time. Once again, he hopes to be in a better position after 3<sup>rd</sup> May. He explained that the newsletter used to be produced using Microsoft Publisher, which was not without its problems, but he now uses Mailchimp, which also e-mails out the finished product, although printed copies still have to be produced to post out to those members without e-mail addresses.

Roy Bailey has been in touch with a Society member who lives in Fareham, who has stated that she might be able to assist with producing the newsletter, which would be a great help to the Society.

#### **9. A.O.B:**

Sam reported that Gerald McGregor will hopefully shortly be canvassing for members in Parliament and setting up a Parliamentary Chapter, which would be a good idea if successful, but he, like Sam, has been very tied up with the local elections as well as his own business.

There being no further points to be discussed, Steve declared the meeting closed at 5.05 p.m. and refreshments were served.