

**The John Hampden
Society**
Annual Report and Financial
Statements for the year
ended 31st December 2020

Registered charity 1098314

Foreword

The Trustees present their report and the financial statements of the Charity for the year ended 31st December 2020.

Trustees

The Trustees who served during the year are shown below.

Roy Bailey, Chairman
Anthea Coles, Honorary Secretary
Sam Hearn, Honorary Treasurer
Phillip Broomfield, Membership Secretary
Peter Osborne Co-opted Trustee (June 2020)

Structure, Governance & Management

The Society has been a registered charity since 2003. The structure, governance and management are set out in its constitution agreed by the membership in 2003.

The objects of the charity are to;

- Make the character and achievements of John Hampden better known to the general public.
- Provide a library and archive of materials for research into Hampden's life and works.
- Preserve and conserve and erect monuments and artefacts associated with John Hampden.

Day-to-day responsibility for both restricted and unrestricted funds is delegated to the Honorary Secretary and the Honorary Treasurer.

Charity law requires the Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Trust and of its surplus or deficit for that period. In preparing financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

Bankers The Coop Bank plc Delf House Southway Skelmersdale WN8 6WT	Registered Office 134 Park Road Chiswick W4 3HP
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The Chairman's Annual Report – 2020 (and 2019)

General

The aims and objectives of the Society are set out in the Society's constitution which is accessible to members on the website. In planning the Society's activities for the year, the Trustees kept in mind the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Accounts

It is the responsibility of the Trustees to ensure proper accounting records are maintained that are able, with reasonable accuracy, to provide the financial position and statements of the charitable company in compliance with the 1993 Charities Act and 1985 Companies Act. The Trustees are also responsible for the safe keeping of all of the Society's assets and for taking all reasonable steps to detect and prevent any fraudulent or other irregular activities.

Funds

The Society currently held no restricted funds at the year end. All the Society's funds can therefore be used to further any of the Society's aims and objectives. The funds donated by members to enable the Society to specifically acquire the Hampden Locket were all expended in the year.

Trustees

In addition to their financial responsibilities the trustees are also collectively responsible for the policies, strategy and management of the Society. The trustees are appointed annually at the AGM from within the membership. There is provision in the constitution for the trustees to co-opt additional trustees during the year and one new trustee was appointed in this way in 2020 and another in 2021.

Membership

The total number of members at the end of the year was 80 compared with 85 at the end of 2019. This is a decrease in membership of 6% in the year.

Public Benefit

The Trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance and confirm that its activities provide a public benefit and are aligned to its objects (as stated in its governing documents) for the preservation, interpretation and presentation of battlefield sites as educational and heritage resources.

The Trust readily co-operates with other organisations with shared concerns and interests so that through collaborative working, resources and effort can be pooled and used to maximum effect.

Activities

To call this the Chairman's Annual Report would be misleading, as the coronavirus pandemic prevented us from holding an Annual General Meeting in 2020. So there are 2 years of the Society's activities to report, and I will be as brief as possible.

The 2019 AGM was held in the splendid surroundings of Hartwell House Hotel, where members enjoyed an excellent lunch in the former Hampden ancestral home, followed by a fascinating talk by member Bruce Alexander, who drew on his career as an actor to suggest that John Hampden would have attended the theatre. One longstanding member later said that it was, 'one of the best AGMs I can remember'.

We were back in Aylesbury in July for another enthralling talk; this time by Professor Ian Beckett, whose subject was *A Military Historian's Civil War*. Held at the Bucks County Museum, this event was not as well attended as we had hoped, but the whole of Professor Beckett's presentation is preserved on the Society's website.

In September 2019 Homes England, a non-departmental government body which funds affordable new housing in England, announced that they had purchased two areas of land next to Chalgrove Airfield, with a view to residential development. This would have an adverse effect on the 1643 battlefield site. Last year the planning application was published and, along with dozens of other organisations and private individuals, the Society made known its views. Formal approval to include the scheme in the Local Plan has been given, but there the matter rests.

With the retirement of John Bercow as Speaker of the House of Commons, the Society asked the new Speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, to replace him as a Vice-President; an invitation Sir Lindsay gracefully accepted.

The Society's plans for 2020 included the AGM and lunch at *The King's Head*, Aylesbury; participation in the Thame History Fair in June; Executive Committee meetings; and talks to interested organisations. All these had to be cancelled, and the Committee adopted the video-conferencing program Zoom in order to conduct their meetings and to keep in touch with the membership. Not only did this have the immediate advantage of saving time and money on travel to a suitable venue, but our Membership Secretary, Phil Broomfield, who lives in Bournemouth and hitherto participated via Skype, was no longer at the mercy of intermittent wifi connections.

Other casualties of lockdown were the proposal to erect a plaque in Great Hampden church to mark John Hampden's burial place; staging of a play about Ship Money being written by member Jim Rodda; and my personal wish to hold this year's AGM in Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight.

On the plus side, we were able to hold two members' meetings on Zoom, with participation from some of our members in the USA, and this has proved to be valuable experience for holding this AGM in the same way. It is proposed that, even when we can hold conventional AGMs in the future, the meeting will be equipped with a computer and big screen so that far-flung members can take part.

In May 2020 we were advised that a locket allegedly containing a piece of John Hampden's hair was coming up for auction. Thanks to the efforts of member Peter Osborne, who runs an art gallery, we were able to acquire the artefact for £396, most of which was met by members' donations. Included in the lot were two mystery portraits and the typescript of John Drinkwater's book *John Hampden's England*, plus a part of his play about Oliver Cromwell. Having extracted all possible information from these documents, they were donated to the Friends of the Dymock Poets (of which Drinkwater was a member) for lodging in the University of Gloucestershire Museum. The locket is destined for a local museum.

Together with Jim Rodda, Peter Osborne has been negotiating with the Chiltern Society, who are the custodians of the site, to improve the visibility of the Ship Money monument at Prestwood. Work on reducing the hedge height has taken place, and plans include improving the legibility of the monument's engraved inscription and installing a weatherproof box to hold John Hampden Society leaflets.

The requirements of the 2016 General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) made it necessary for the Society to obtain members' approval for compiling and publishing a shared membership list. This task was undertaken by Beth Rogers, and she successfully completed this within a few weeks.

During 2019 it was decided to donate copies of John Adair's biography of John Hampden to libraries around the country, and several went out containing bookplates indicating the Society's involvement. At one of the recent online members' meetings, Gordon Schreck from the USA asked if a copy could be purchased by Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, as they only had one. The Society despatched a pack of 5 as a gift, which was gratefully received.

Throughout the past 2 years the Society's newsletter, ***The Patriot***, has continued to be published, and always contains plenty of news, articles, book reviews, etc. Contributions are always welcome. Most members receive and read this electronically, but we have a few who like to have paper copies by post. For the past 10 years these have been printed by Sarsen Press of Winchester, and the Society is grateful to proprietor Tony Hill, who has had to continue single-handed since the first lockdown, and still provides a quick and high-quality service.

The Society's website continues to provide an essential facility for hosting the diary of events, copies of ***The Patriot*** and much archive material. The Webmaster welcomes suggestions for what to include on the website.

Peter Osborne and Beth Rogers have both been co-opted onto the Executive Committee in the past few months, and are proving to be a valuable addition to the team. They have both indicated their intention to stand for election at this AGM, and I commend them to the membership.

As I promised before, I shall be standing down from the post of Chairman and membership of the committee this year. I have been involved with helping to run the Society since its foundation in October 1992, but decided to retire at the 2016 AGM. However, subsequent events – lack of candidates for the committee and a general air of defeatism – made me decide to stand as Chairman in 2018 to try to stem the decline.

I gave myself 3 years and I hope I have succeeded to some extent. If so, it is thanks to the excellent support of Hon. Secretary Anthea Coles, Hon. Treasurer and Webmaster Sam Hearn, Membership Secretary Phil Broomfield, and Peter and Beth. Our Patron, Miles Buckinghamshire, is always there to give us wise advice and encouragement.

Despite a shortage of active members, I believe the Society is in much better shape than it was in 2017, and I am optimistic about its future.

Roy Bailey – Chairman

**THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
THE 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER 2020**

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Income			
Members Subscriptions (2019 gift aid £198)		937	1,148
Fees for talks		100	130
Other donations (The Hampden locket)		370	0
Goods Sold		90	218
Interest earned		1	2
Hartwell House Lunch (2019)		0	468
		<u>1,498</u>	<u>1,966</u>
Expenditure			
The Hampden locket purchase		397	0
Postage		142	-84
Travel and meetings		75	435
Bucks County Museum Event (2019)		0	235
AGM at Hartwell House (room hire, meals etc)		0	729
Insurance		75	75
Wreath		0	0
Printing		108	257
Stationery		36	-10
Bank charges & adjustments		8	1
Website related expenses		204	112
		<u>1,045</u>	<u>1,750</u>
Net surplus / (loss) for the year		453	216
Opening Stamp Stock		556	510
Opening accruals		-415	-117
Opening debtors		65	0
Closing Stamp Stock		-426	-556
Closing accruals		-50	415
Closing debtors		154	-65
In year adjustment		0	395
Opening bank balance		7,071	6,273
		<u>7,408</u>	<u>7,071</u>
Closing bank balance – 31.12.2020 (2019)		7,408	7,071

THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY
Registered Charity 1098314

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31st December 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
Tangible assets	1, 2 & 3	0	0
Total fixed assets		0	0
Stock of stamps	4	426	556
Debtors		50	65
Cash at Bank		7,408	7,071
		7,884	7,692
Creditors		-154	-415
Net assets		7,730	7,277
Unrestricted funds		7,730	7,277
Total charity funds		7,730	7,277

Notes & Policies

1. The Society owns a medallion sculpture of John Hampden. It is on permanent loan to Thame Museum. The Society purchased a locket of Hampden's hair in 2020. These assets are not for sale and would be hard to value.
2. The Society maintains a reference Library. These books are not held for resale and no value has therefore been placed upon them. The catalogue can be viewed at www.johnhampden.org
3. Books etc bought for re-sale are written-off in year of purchase.
4. The stock of postage stamps held at year end are valued at current prices.