

## THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY

### Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting of the John Hampden Society held on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at The Kings Head, Aylesbury and via Zoom.

#### **Present:**

Dr Beth Rogers (*Chairman*) (via Zoom), Mrs. Anthea Coles (*Hon. Secretary*), Mr Sam. Hearn, (*Treasurer*) Mr Philip Broomfield (*Membership Secretary*), Lord Buckinghamshire, Peter Osborne and 15 other members of the Society plus 1 member via Zoom.

#### **Apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Lady Alison Buckinghamshire, Lady Helen Motteux, Michael Morris, Bruce Alexander, Maija Jansson, Cynthia Ettenfield, Robin Willow, Lewis Clark, Roger Howgate and Philip Vincent.

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

These were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.

#### **Matters Arising:**

There were no matters arising.

#### **Welcome from the Chair:**

Beth Rogers welcomed everyone to the AGM both in person and via Zoom.

She reported as follows:

#### **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 held £500 of restricted funds at the year-end. These have subsequently been paid over. All the Society's remaining funds can be used to further any of the Society's aims and objectives.

#### **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 a provision in the constitution for the trustees to co-opt additional trustees during the year. New trustee (Richard Howell) was co-opted in March 2022.

#### **Membership**

The total number of members at the end of the year was 93 compared with 87 at the end of 2021. This is a net increase of 7% 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 educational and heritage resources. The Trust works with other organizations with shared concerns and interests so that resources and effort can be pooled and used to maximum effect.

## **Principal risks and uncertainties**

The trustees have a duty to identify and review the risks to which the Charity is exposed and to ensure appropriate controls are in place to provide reasonable assurance against fraud and error.

## **Activities**

The year started with the publication of the bumper 100<sup>th</sup> edition of the Society's newsletter. It included amongst other things an article by Sir Lindsay Hoyle, Speaker of the House of Commons. There have been three further editions of the Patriot in 2022. This is your publication, and it is always a joy when members offer their own research for publication, such as Bob Hammond's Letitia Hampden article in Patriot 103.

We urgently need a new editor for The Patriot. Long serving editor Roy Bailey indicated his desire to retire some time ago. If no one comes forward to fill this role it will no longer be possible to produce a high-quality format newsletter. The trustees will however endeavour to communicate regularly with members.

In February, Dr Ismini Pells gave a fascinating on-line talk on medical treatments in the Civil War. It was not particularly well-attended but technical Zoom issues may have been a factor.

We were delighted in 2022 that the AGM could be held at Hampden House and that members were able to join us and contribute remotely as well as in person.

A key showcase for JHS in 2022 was the Sealed Knot re-enactments of Civil War military activity at Chinnor and Chalgrove. We are grateful for the Sealed Knot involving the Society. We had a stall at the re-enactments on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> June. The Sealed Knot's Simon Weir played John Hampden on both days.

Members ran a stall at the Thame History Fair on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June. The Sealed Knot provided an honour guard at our wreath laying ceremony in Thame. We also supported the wreath-laying ceremony by the Greencoats at the Chalgrove Battlefield Monument. On the same day several members attended the re-hanging of the replica letter Great Kimble Church and unveiling of the pub sign. Our patron Miles Buckinghamshire gave the address.

Another key event was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Simon Marsh and Colin Cordell of the Battlefields Trust led the annual tours of the battlefields of Brentford and Turnham Green and in the evening members and guests enjoyed a dinner at The Pilot pub in Chiswick to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Society. Former Attorney General Dominic Grieve was our speaker and guest of honour.

Peter Osborne and Jim Rodda have continued to work with the Chiltern Society on the visibility and accessibility of the Prestwood Ship Money Monument. Visitors to the monument, including many walkers, take leaflets from our container. The inscription continues to erode. Jim Rodda had the excellent idea of offering framed transcripts of the inscription for display to organisations associated with John Hampden. Jim has presented these to three schools named after John Hampden, a college, two churches, one museum, one pub and Hampden House. We are grateful to Jim and Elizabeth for this initiative.

The Society had a stall at the Bucks Local History Conference in September. In addition, talks were given to local organisations, by Sam Hearn and Peter Osborne. We need more members to help with the running of stalls at other society's events and at talks. Please let us know if you can help at future events.

The British Civil Wars Memorial Register will be launched in 2023. The Project is being led by the Battlefields Trust and is actively supported by the John Hampden Society and six other organisations. The aim is to record all forms of memorials, plaques and information boards associated with the events of the Civil Wars.

During the year committee members have had productive meetings with Wycombe, Thame and Amersham Museums.

As recommended by the Charity Commission, the trustees have conducted a Strategic Risk Review and have subsequently prepared a Risk Register. These will be discussed at the AGM.

The trustees work on the risk register and a strategic plan will be discussed at the AGM. Several trustees have had health issues in 2022, and none of us are getting any younger! If the Society is to continue its good work and it is vital that members come forward to take on committee roles.

The Society's activities depend on the team of trustees and volunteers I am very grateful to Hon. Secretary Anthea Coles, Hon. Treasurer and Webmaster Sam Hearn, Membership Secretary Phil Broomfield, Peter Osborne, Roy Bailey, Richard Howell and our Patron, Miles Buckinghamshire. We welcome other members to join us. There are always opportunities to support the Society and explore and extend your own skills.

**Beth Rogers – Chair.**

**The Treasurer's Report:**

Sam presented the Society's accounts to the end of December 2022, which showed that the Society was in a good financial position with a closing bank balance of £8,558.

He further commented as follows:

1. The Society has supported the project to create a publicly available register of the location, condition and ownership of memorials associated with the British Civil Wars of the seventeenth century.
2. Books etc. bought for re-sale are written-off in year of purchase (In 2022 £42)
3. 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.
4. 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](http://www.johnhampden.org)
5. The stock of postage stamps held at year end are valued at current prices.
6. The Society collected donations to help fund the Great Kimble Hampden artefacts restoration work (2021) and the Civil War Monuments Register (2022). These restricted funds were paid out after the year end.

**Sam Hearn, Treasurer**

**The Membership Secretary's Report:** Prepared by Phil Broomfield

Phil reported on the current membership numbers. He has chased several who had not paid for this year and two members cancelled. He is currently awaiting two cheques. The number of members currently stood at 92 which is slightly up from last year and was agreed to be good for a Society of our size.

It was suggested that we should be more involved with schools, but it was pointed out that this was not easy to achieve as we did not have anyone able to undertake the task and the Civil War was not on the curriculum at present.

The question was raised about possible junior membership and Anthea commented that we did have a junior membership rate some years ago, which was used when the Civil War/John Hampden was on schools' curriculum, but this had lapsed as it was no longer being used when the curriculum changed. Beth stated that she would follow up on contact with the local schools and we should investigate how The Cromwell Association had progressed with schools.

## **Phil Broomfield, Membership Secretary**

### **Update on *The Patriot*:**

Once again, an appeal was made for someone to take on the editorship of this publication as the forthcoming edition would be Roy Bailey's last one. It was hoped that someone, possibly with Desk Top Publishing experience, might take this on. It is not a very onerous task as there are only four copies a year.

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

Sam reported on various updates to the website bringing it up to date. It was mentioned that the Society will be offering books for sale on Peter Osborne's website as this is geared up to handle orders.

The Society would welcome assistance with the website from anyone with a little time to spare to keep this updated.

### **Update on Events:**

#### **Ship Money Memorial:**

Peter and Jim have continued with their work at the Ship Money memorial and have managed to gain permission to enable a footpath to be formed on the field side of the hedge so that people wishing to visit the memorial no longer have to walk on the very narrow roadway. They continue to maintain the site and often give impromptu talks to walkers who have arrived at the site when they are working there. A supply of JHS leaflets is available in a waterproof dispenser at the memorial.

#### **Zoom Talk:**

There is a talk scheduled to take place via Zoom on 10<sup>th</sup> June by Dr Andrew Lacey entitled The Only Anglican Martyr - King Charles 1 and the Beauty of Holiness, commencing at 4pm (1600 hrs) BST.

#### **Great Hampden Church:**

Members of the Committee will be attending a service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden with a meeting to follow in order to discuss the provision of a plaque in the church commemorating John Hampden. This was originally discussed shortly before lock-down and an approach had been made to the Diocese for permission to do so, but events overtook this application, and it is hoped that we will now be able to continue with this project.

#### **Election of Officers:**

No nominations had been received from members to join the committee. Nominations for the existing committee, who had indicated that they were prepared to stand, were read out and voted on as follows:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>	<b>Voting</b>
Chairman	Dr Beth Rogers	Sam Hearn	Rich Howell	Unanimous
Hon. Secretary	Anthea Coles	Sam Hearn	Phil Broomfield	Unanimous
Hon. Treasurer	Sam Hearn	Phil Broomfield	Beth Rogers	Unanimous
Membership Secretary	Philip Broomfield	Anthea Coles	Sam Hearn	Unanimous
Committee Member	Peter Osborne	Rich Howell	Beth Rogers	Unanimous
Committee Member	Richard Howell	Anthea Coles	Sam Hearn	Unanimous

It was therefore confirmed that the above appointed committee would stand for the coming year.

#### **AOB:**

Charles Harvey mentioned the copies of the John Hampden biography he is holding for distribution to schools. Beth spoke at length at the meeting about the Society's Strategic Plan and Risk Register, which had been drawn up and discussed over the course of several executive committee meetings.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Rich Howell for travelling to the Jamestown Settlement Museum and tracking down the Hampden bed which had been used by John Hampden when he was a pupil at Lord Williams's Grammar School in Thame. Rich had obtained photographs of the bed which were shown at the meeting.

At this point, the meeting was declared closed and there followed an interesting talk by Charles Cordell on The Battle of Aylesbury.