



2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS Hampshire Field Club and Archaeology, Historic Buildings, Landscape & Local History Sections

This meeting brought all five AGMs together online via Zoom

Wednesday 3rd November 2021: 1930-2030 hours

The Zoom meeting opened at 1900 hours to enable all attendees to join; prior to the meeting some members noted difficulties with the link, which was caused by an error in the reminder sent by email via TicketSource. The start was delayed while an email was sent to members with the correct link.

The meeting was recorded.

Members were asked to vote only if they did not agree with a proposal

The President, Jo Bailey, welcomed everyone to the AGM. She explained that paperwork, for the AGM, had been posted to those without access to Zoom who wanted to take part. Sam Butcher was thanked for organising and administering the meeting. Mike Broderick took the minutes. Everyone was muted except for JB & SB. JB asked for those present to use the 'raise hand' option to confirm that votes could be taken; this trial showed that the process worked.

1. Apologies: Bill Fergie, Chris Sellen, Karen Wardley; John Hare due to problems with the Zoom link.
2. Minutes of combined Annual General Meeting 2020:
Acceptance of the draft Minutes as a true record was proposed by Dick Selwood and seconded by Mary & Roger Harris
3. Matters arising:
There were no matters arising.
4. Election of Council Officers: Two posts on Council require annual election; those named below had agreed to continue in post:
 - (i) Treasurer: Valerie Archibald: proposed Dave Allen; seconded Roger Ottewill – VA was therefore duly re-elected.
 - (ii) Secretary: Jane Wheeler: proposed by Dave Allen; seconded Don Bryan – JW was therefore duly re-elected.
 - (iii) Publicity Officer: this post on Council has been vacant for some time so JB was pleased to report that Sam Butcher had agreed to stand; this was very good news as he had reached the end of his tenure as an Ordinary Member of Council. His election was proposed by Jane Wheeler & seconded by Roly Rogers.
The non-executive officers agreed to carry on.

5. Report from the President and Section Chairs –

At last year's AGM, which was postponed from May until November and the first one to be held online, I said I hoped that the Field Club's AGM and all the Sections' AGMs would be back to normal in 2021. Well, here we are again, but with the worst of the pandemic behind us. I know a number of you are now getting accustomed to in-person meetings again, but there are a significant number of people who would rather leave it a little longer. Please let us know if you would like us to start holding talks in indoor venues again.

During the meeting, the President asked those present to vote on a return to face-to-face meetings. The result: 16 out of 43 indicated that they would be willing to return to in-person meetings. A number of comments were made: infections are more likely to be severe in the winter so avoid until later in 2022 (Haighleagh Winslade); outdoor events would be fine but would not be keen on face-to-face indoors at present (Julia Sandison); if we were able to use large buildings, e.g. churches, then spacing could be achieved and nearly every church has electronic equipment which could be used (Frank Green); mixed events, face-to-face & via Zoom, which are being used by some other societies, could be an option (Dick Selwood).

In the meantime, it is important that we share the Treasurer's Report for 2020 with members, report on our activities and fill vacancies on our committees. Like last year, we have done our very best to make sure that the small number of members without access to emails, who want to participate in the AGM, can do so by post.

As we are combining the Field Club's AGM with those of the sections for a second year, I will try to keep the President's review of the year relatively brief:

Firstly, my thanks to all the members of Council and the Section committees for adapting their programmes to work within the extraordinary constraints of Lockdowns 2 and 3. They have achieved this through producing content for a wide range of digital media, as well as continuing to produce our well-established print publications. It has all helped to maintain members' interest in the Field Club, as has the Council's Marketing Group, which has promoted the Society at a number of outdoor events this summer.

One innovation that has made things easier for everyone has been the launch of our monthly HFC News e-Bulletin in January 2021. Most editions are being opened by at least 225 people. I would like to thank Sam Butcher for making this happen. This e-Bulletin complements the six-monthly hard copy newsletter which remains very popular and goes to everyone regardless of their digital access. As well as producing the newsletter, the Editorial Board has published two parts to Hampshire Studies over the last 12 months and the Hampshire Papers Section produced its most ambitious publication so far: Huguenots, Apothecaries, Gardeners and Squires: The Garniers of Rookesbury, by Rosemary Baird Andreae.

Other matters that have been considered by Council over the last year have included the extent to which it can act as an advocate for heritage and archaeology in Hampshire when changes to the planning system, local planning applications and threats to historic environment services put the county's heritage at risk. The outcome of this discussion is now summarised on our website.

Council also continues to monitor changes in its membership and share feedback from members old and new. For example, our Membership Secretary, Jane King shared these comments:

- From a retiring member - "Over the years I have derived much pleasure and gained much knowledge of the county in which I live. This I know has been possible due to the hard work of the Field Club members. My thanks to you all."
- From a new member responding to the question on the application form 'How did you hear about the Hampshire Field Club?' – "Everywhere". We must be doing something right!

We are pleased to say that the increase in subscription rates in 2019 has led to a minimal loss of members and we have continued to attract new members this year despite the reduction in in-person events.

One matter of concern has been that the Local History Section is still looking for a new Chair. We are indebted to Roger Ottewill for 'holding the fort' this year and hope that the Section will find a way forward very soon.

Finally, I would like to say how much I am looking forward to hearing Dick Selwood and Barry Shurlock talk about the Field Club's latest project Celebrating Hampshire's Historians, our contribution to the Institute of Historical Research's centenary celebrations. My thanks to all those who are contributing to this valuable project.

Archaeology: Jan Bristow

As 2020 will be a year that few of us will forget due to the Pandemic, we had all of our events cancelled or postponed, and were unable to meet up in person for several months. However, as ever, the resourcefulness of people does come to the fore. Unlike much earlier pandemics we had the benefit of technology, so that while taking outdoor exercise local observations of archaeology were encouraged and put onto the HFC website.

This virtual experience is something we have become used to. Then by late 2020, while in further lockdown measures the usefulness of the on-line medium of Zoom became apparent, so that in March this year, Professor Mike Fulford of Reading University was able to give members a succinct update on the excavations of the Roman Baths at Silchester using Zoom (around 100 attendees). There is still much to find out from this very early and multi-phase site, we have asked Professor Fulford to write a brief account for our next newsletter in lieu of members being unable to visit the excavations this year.

The continuation of Covid-19 restrictions well into this summer has meant that meetings are still virtual, and we have also encouraged virtual field trips (and have put suggestions on to the website). It has also meant that our committee has used Zoom contact for a year now; we have also met much more frequently to keep up our group's awareness of the situation. Although the last few months has seen a considerable lessening of Covid restrictions, many people are understandably still careful, so it was decided that the Section could not have a conventional Conference and AGM in November, and have organised a series of November weekly lectures instead, all on a collective theme of Romano-British Belief and Ritual (see HFC website). We will see how well this works!

We look forward to having at least some meetings in a real lecture theatre in 2022, perhaps the March David Johnston Memorial lecture provisionally given by Tony Wilmot will be a good start! We plan field trips to well-known Hampshire archaeological sites such as Danebury hillfort as well as excavations next year too.

The support of the Section Committee has been immense, without them there would be no input or ideas.

Hampshire Papers: Dick Selwood

HP 9 *Huguenots, Apothecaries, Gardeners and Squires: The Garniers of Rookesbury* was printed in the early summer. This was fully funded.

HP 10 *Henry VIII's First French War and the Surgeons appointed to his 'Army by Sea' in 1513* is moving towards going to press and is likely to be available later this year.

HP 11 *The Experience of Conscientious Objectors in Hampshire during the First World War* has undergone peer review and is being revised. Publication potentially Q1 2022. Alongside this a new paper on volunteering in Winchester in the early years of the Great War is undergoing peer review.

Sales are usually triggered by a launch event and then later at lectures etc. Covid rules mean that we have not been able to hold a launch for HP 8 (*Memories of the Mayflower in Southampton*) or HP 9. We were considering an HP study day where these two would launch and as many of the other authors as possible would give short presentations, before the end of the year. The University, the obvious venue for the day, is still reluctant to host events and, as is usual, there is a shortage of appropriate venues in Winchester.

Historic Buildings: Bill Fergie

I'm afraid the period from November 2020 has been one of virtual hibernation for the Historic Buildings Section. Individuals and groups have pursued their particular interests, but as far as the public face of the Section is concerned it has not really existed. The Graffiti Group seems to have been particularly busy and there are rumours of interesting finds. Hopefully there will be reported in future editions of the Newsletter. We had hoped to break cover with an invitation for the membership to visit Old Sarum with us on October 9th, but either the notice given was a little short or people are still slightly reluctant to commit to face to face assemblies. We had to call off the visit because of a lack of support. We will re-arrange it at a later date.

Two members of the Section Committee did appear in public on Sunday 3rd October when John Hare and Bill Fergie acted as guides for a Landscape Section tour of Basingstoke town centre to look at, and discuss, some of the older historic buildings which survived the coming of the Town Development Agreement in the 1960s. Despite a lot of demolition a surprising number have survived at the top of the town, but you may never know unless Mike Broderick does a repeat of his series of visits. The number attending was unfortunately in single figures, which may be a further indication of a continuing reluctance to return to normality.

The Section has had one face-to-face committee meeting since such events have been allowed. An outcome of that meeting was that I was authorised to prepare a plea to the membership for volunteers to reinforce our committee. I subsequently wrote such a plea and submitted it for publication in the e-bulletin. However, either my email went astray or editorial control deemed it inappropriate and it never appeared. I repeat it in this report in the hope that it will work its magic:-

A Plea to the Membership from the Historic Buildings Section Committee

Those who know anything of the Historic Buildings Section Committee will be aware that the members have mostly been post for a long time. Some, indeed, have been in post for so long that we seem to have reached a bit of a crisis point in terms of succession planning.

If I tell you that the chair has been in post for approximately 22 years and is nowhere near the longest serving member you will start to get an idea of the problem. With the benefit of hindsight our constitution should never have allowed such role retention. The constitution can readily be altered, but that will not solve the immediate problem of the chair wishing to step down and no other committee member, apparently, being willing to step into the role. If I explain that there are two octogenarians on the committee, and that some others have also been around for quite a while, the problem will become even clearer.

Hampshire has a wonderful heritage of historic sites and buildings, and an unmatched archival record. It is this rich history that has kept us engaged over the years, and probably helped to prevent us realising we should have done more to bring new talent and enthusiasm on board.

We appreciate that some may perceive the committee as a bit of a closed shop, but those who know us well can confirm that negligence rather than unfriendliness has caused our present predicament. We badly need those of the membership who have an interest in, and enthusiasm for, our built heritage to join us. A detailed knowledge of historic buildings is not a pre-requisite to service on the committee, and any newcomers can be assured of a friendly welcome. You can find my address and an email contact at the beginning of Historic Buildings section of recent Newsletters. I look forward to hearing from you.

The Committee hopes to shortly put together a full programme of future events and has a meeting scheduled in a few days' time to pursue that objective.

John Ashworth, in BF's absence, was willing to respond to any queries. He is willing to Chair the Section but would need people with contacts to arrange visits to interesting buildings.

Landscape: Mike Broderick

Reports of Officers:

a) Chairman:

Conference & AGM – no conference took place in 2021. The Landscape Section Secretary is liaising with possible speakers to organise a series of lectures or conference on Southampton in 2022. It is likely that this will be delivered by Zoom.

Summer Trips 2021 – two of the three planned visits to Basingstoke took place, to: 1) the Holy Ghost Cemetery and South View area & 2) Medieval & Post-medieval Buildings of Basingstoke. Both visits enjoyed dry, sunny weather and were appreciated by those present. The Section's thanks are extended to the leaders of these visits.

At the meeting, MB noted that both visits ran at a loss but it is hoped that better publicity in 2022 will resolve this issue.

Summer Trips 2022 – The third Basingstoke visit to look at the religious buildings of the town, apart from St. Michael's, is being planned. Roger Ottewill and Mike Broderick are in the planning stage of a visit that will hopefully take place in early April 2022.

Landscape Section Committee – The composition of the Committee remained constant in 2021. Though no physical meetings took place, communications were maintained by email. My thanks are extended to all Committee Members for their work.

b) Newsletter Editor:

Dawn Cansfield has been pleased to report that a number of new contributors have provided copy for the most recent Newsletter, No. 76. Responses to items from earlier editions would always be welcome. Her deadline is 1/12/21.

Local History: Roger Ottewill

1. Introduction

At the time of last year's AGM I indicated that I was writing my final report as 'acting' Chairman. However, due to the exigencies of the pandemic I agreed to hold things together for a further twelve months, hence it falls to me again to prepare the annual report. As you will be aware, the Local History Section has not been able to organise any 'face-to-face' events during 2020/21 but we have endeavoured to maintain an on-line presence.

2. Hands-On Local History Presentations

Thanks to committee member, Barry Shurlock, and to Sue Woolgar of the Hampshire Archives Trust (HAT), these have been held on the last Tuesday of most months. They are a joint venture of HAT and the Local History Section. Details are set out in the table below:

Month	Topic	Presenter(s)
January	Local history publishing	Barry Shurlock and Roger Ottewill
February	Wessex Sound and Film Archive	David Lee
March	'An Overflowing In-Tray': The Hampshire Magistrate, 1800-1850	David Taylor
April	Parish Histories: the Victoria County History Way	Jean Morrin
May	Today's History for Tomorrow: Keeping Modern Records	Roger Palmer
June	Making Local History Films	Tom Young
September	Digital publishing Part 1	Heather Needhan, Sam Butcher and Martin Coppen
October	Digital Publishing Part 2	Zoe Viney and John Owen Smith

Another Committee Member, Mary Harris, has kindly agreed to assist with the technical aspects of future presentations.

These presentations were well received and are available to view on the Field Club's You Tube channel. If anyone has suggestions for future subjects please let us know.

3. The Future of the Local History Section

In last year's report, reference was made to the fact that: 'In view of the uncertainties and difficulties associated with the pandemic it is felt that this would be a good opportunity to review the activities and possibly the constitution of the Local History Section. To this end when circumstances permit it is hoped to arrange a 'socially distanced' brainstorming session to which all committee members and other interested parties will be invited to attend.' This was held on Monday 25th October, in Winchester. At the meeting after his report it was decided that the Committee would continue without a designated chair; members would take on convening Committee meetings; Sam Butcher will represent section at Council. No change to the Constitution or Committee Members has taken place.

4. Activities in the Pipeline

In the hope that the Local History Section will continue, I am involved in assisting with the following events for 2022 and 2023.

- 2nd April 2022. A half day outing, jointly arranged with the Landscape Section, to Basingstoke focussing on religious buildings past and present.
- Summer 2022. A day outing to the north Hampshire village of Sherfield-on-Loddon.
- Summer 2023. An event jointly organised with the Charlotte Yonge Fellowship to celebrate the bi-centenary of the author's birth and incorporating talks and visits to Otterbourne and Hursley, locations with which she was particularly associated.

5. Newsletter

Our Newsletter Editor, Mark Page, reports that he continues 'to receive a steady stream of articles and books for review and Dick Selwood does his best to accommodate the fluctuating length of the section's contribution'. I am very grateful to Mark for performing this role.

6. Concluding Comments

I wish the Local History Section well in the future and will give my full support to whoever has the ultimate responsibility for the wellbeing of the Section.

6. Treasurer's Report for 2020: Valerie Archibald, Treasurer

Receipts and payments account

Receipts – the total was similar to 2019. There was an increase in bank interest and developer contributions for Hampshire Studies, and we had the first Easyfundraising donations.

Payments – These were almost £2,700 higher than in 2019. The main increases were for postage for the newsletters, paying for two parts to Hampshire Studies, and paying for two years of Archaeology in Hampshire. However, we did not pay out any grants and our online AGM cost less.

Section receipts and payments accounts

These show the receipts and payments. Apart from Hampshire Papers, this was a quiet year for the sections.

Each section considers that it has sufficient funds at the year-end for its future activities.

Balance sheet

This shows the bank balances at the end of 2020.

Notes

Note 2 shows that spend on Hampshire Studies was greater than the receipts, because of the two parts.

My thanks are due to Dr Geoffrey Smith, our independent examiner, who has signed off these accounts.

VA went over the 2020 Accounts reiterating the points made above. There were no questions from members who attended the AGM.

The President expressed her thanks. Acceptance of the Accounts was proposed by Philippa Harrap & seconded by Julia Sandison

7. Election of Ordinary Members of Council and Section Committee Members:

(i) Ordinary HFC Council Members: The Constitution allows for 6 Ordinary Members who can each serve for 3 years; Sam Butcher was thanked for his work over the previous three years. Karen Wardley and Philippa Harris were also thanked for their work as ordinary members.

Roland Rogers has volunteered and was proposed by Dave Allen & seconded by Jane Walker

JB issued a request for other volunteers but none were forthcoming at the meeting.

Anyone interested should contact the President or Secretary directly.

(ii) Archaeology Section Treasurer: Robin Iles will take over the post covered by Jane Wheeler – she is standing down from the Committee; Proposed: Don Bryan; Seconded: Jane Walker. Thanks were recorded to Jane Wheeler for all her work for the Committee.

(iii) Archaeology ordinary members: Ed Donnelly standing down; Jenny Durrant offered and was proposed by Katie Hinds and seconded by Matt Garner. Jane King offered and was proposed by Jan Bristow and seconded by Dave Allen.

(iv) Landscape Section – Chairman (Mike Broderick), Newsletter Editor (Dawn Cansfield), Secretary (Roy Birch) & Treasurer (James Fautley)

These were taken en bloc and proposed by Roger Ottewill and seconded by Mary & Roger Harris.

(v) Local History Section - Chair – RO – no changes to the Committee and those in post happy to continue.

8. Motions – None received.

9. Any other business.

JB congratulated Dick and Barry for work in putting together a successful bid for the IHR Celebrating Hampshire Historians and other work in the background.

Meeting closed at 20:24.