



The Society for Army Historical Research

Serving scholars, enthusiasts and soldiers

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2023

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2023

Wednesday 26th April 2023

The 95th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on Wednesday 26th April 2023 at the National Army Museum in London. Members reviewed the Society's activities, approved the 2022 Accounts, re-elected members of Council, and passed a request from the Membership Secretary to increase the subscription rates for members residing in Europe with effect from 1st January 2024.



Three veteran Council members stepped down at the AGM – Dr Phil McCarty (Essays Co-ordinator), Dr John Peaty (Templer Medal Sub-committee Chair) and Charles Street (Treasurer). All three were given an SAHR-engraved glass as a gesture of appreciation for their services over many years.

Two other Council members announced their intention to step down at the 2024 AGM – Dr Andrew Bamford (Hon. Secretary) and Chris Palmer (Hon. Membership Secretary).

Minutes of the AGM and photographs are posted to the website on the AGM page.

Hon. Secretary, Dr Andrew Bamford

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MR CHARLES STREET, FCCA - an Appreciation

Members who attended the Annual General Meeting on 26th April will have been able to say their own 'goodbyes' to our retiring Treasurer, Charles Street, but his work over many years deserves a tribute in the Newsletter for all members to read.

The Society's financial crisis in 2012 demanded a substantial reconstruction of the principal roles on Council. Coming from a background as a Small Businesses Adviser, Charles was an ideal candidate and grasped the accounts during a period when a good deal of tidying up was required. Thereafter he has looked after our finances in exemplary fashion, producing comprehensible accounts, assisting the business of Council with both wise advice and a welcome flexibility of management when required, and always responding with good humour and promptness.

Apart from dealing with financial affairs, he was instrumental in finding a storage facility for the back stock of Journals and Special Publications, which the Society holds and of which members should take advantage. The moving of that stock from Essex to Surrey, the loading of a borrowed Transit van and the unorthodox state of the suspension springs when it was filled, will long be remembered.



Sir Barney presents Charles with his Fellowship certificate

Charles was also responsible for the introduction of the specially engraved tumblers as part of the prizes for both the Templer Medal Book Competition and the Society's Essay prizes. As they enjoy the stimulating beverage of their choice, recipients are thereby reminded of their triumphs in those fields. And behind the scenes, Charles has also been responsible for liaison with the representatives of His Majesty the King of Malaysia in respect of the generous sponsorship that the Prizes Reception receives from that source.

His deep interest in the military history of India and the Far East, and his astute collecting of texts in that field has been of considerable assistance to various members of the Society, and we are pleased that his continued membership of the Society is assured.

Hon. Editor, Dr Andrew Cormack



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DR JOHN PEATY, FRGS FRHistS PhD MA - an Appreciation

Council acknowledges a debt of gratitude to Dr John Peaty, who has stood down after eleven years as Chair of the Templer Medal Subcommittee. Under John's stewardship the Templer portfolio has grown considerably in scope as the prestige of the prize itself has also increased. In addition to the renewal of the partnership with the National Army Museum, which generously sponsors the prize, John's tenure has seen a major new initiative come to fruition in the shape of the Best First Book prize. First awarded as part of the 2014 prize, this initiative has recognised the achievement of a number of up-and-coming scholars and has also been awarded on more than one occasion to a recipient who has started upon a writing career at a later stage in life.



Sir Barney presents John with his SAHR glassware

John, who retired from the Civil Service in 2021, is a man of many talents and many hats, being a member of a great many organisations with a connection to military history but also to geography. His own doctoral work, carried out at King's College London, looked at the British Army's manpower crisis in 1944 but his familiarity with a broad sweep of British military history left him well set up to preside over the Templer panel. John has never been a man to hold back from speaking his mind, but Council will also remember his somewhat impish sense of humour and whoever takes on his role will have big shoes to fill.

Hon. Secretary, Dr Andrew Bamford

DR PHIL McCARTY, BA (Hons) MA PhD AFRHistS - an Appreciation

The Society is exceptionally fortunate in the dedication and hard work that it receives from those who volunteer to take on particular roles. Though in the spotlight only once a year at the annual prize-giving, Phil McCarty has looked after the Essay Prize portfolio since 2015. He has been ably assisted until recently by Dr Ilya Berkovich, though he has certainly borne the main burden. Encouraging a satisfactory response year-on-year has been no mean task, particularly when, it seems, written work no longer occupies a central place in the curricula of





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secondary schools. The prize for university undergraduates has been more readily responded to and it is pleasing to see that Zeb Micic won in both categories and that the Journal has benefitted from several contributions from Freddie Hyde, who was awarded the 6th Form winner's prize in 2017 before going on to university. The object of the exercise has been to encourage young military historians and this has been both challenging and worthwhile.

Council wishes to record its debt of gratitude to Phil McCarty and to the various members of the reading panels who have helped him at the judging stage.

Hon. Editor, Dr Andrew Cormack

OUR NEW TREASURER – Rohan Saravanamuttu



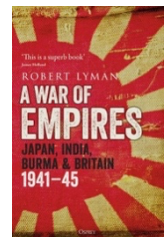
Rohan Saravanamuttu was co-opted onto the SAHR Council in December 2022 and was elected to be Hon. Treasurer at the 2023 AGM.

Rohan studied biochemistry at the University of Kent at Canterbury where he graduated in 1980. He went on to become a Chartered Accountant and had a long career in financial services. After retiring, he studied for an MA in the History of War at the Department of War Studies, Kings College London where he graduated with distinction in 2017.

Rohan was a contributor to *The Encyclopedia of the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars* (Fremont-Barnes, G. (ed), ABC Clio, Santa Barbara 2006). His first book, *Leipzig – The Battle of the Nations: A Wargamer's Guide to the Battle of Leipzig 1813*, was published by Helion in 2022.

OSPREY DISCOUNT FOR SAHR MEMBERS

Osprey Publishing are offering members 20% off *A War of Empires* by SAHR member Dr Robert Lyman to celebrate the release of the book in paperback. Visit the Osprey Publishing website and use the code MyitkyinaUK, MyitkyinaUS or MyitkyinaCAN at checkout according to your location. The discount runs from June 15th until September 14th, 2023.



Robert Lyman proves how vital this hard-fought campaign was in securing Allied victory in the east. Detailing the defeat of Japanese militarism, he recounts how the map of the region was ultimately redrawn, guaranteeing the rise of an independent India free from the shackles of empire.

Molly Chell, Osprey Publishing

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THE TEMPLER MEDAL for 2022

The Templer Medal (and associated Best First Book Prize) for 2022 were announced and awarded at a ceremony hosted by the National Army Museum on the evening of Wednesday 26th April. The ceremony was preceded by a lecture by James Falkner on the Duke of Marlborough and the Battle of Ramillies.

We received an impressive number of entries: 44 comprising 45 volumes from 22 publishers on 3 continents. The awards were announced in reverse order by Dr John Peaty, the Chair of Judges, and presented by Lt Gen Sir Barney White-Spunner, President of the Society. The ceremony was followed by a convivial reception. The Society is once again most grateful to the National Army Museum for its support, not only for hosting the ceremony and reception but also for contributing to the prize fund.

The winners and runners-up were:

Templer Medal for Best Book 2022

1. ***The Wandering Army 1742-1856*** by Huw Davies (Yale University Press)
2. ***Storm and Sack: British Sieges***, by Gavin Daly (Cambridge University Press)
3. ***1945 Victory in the West***, by Peter Caddick-Adams (Hutchinson-Heinemann)

Sir Barney White-Spunner presents Dr Huw Davies with the Templer Medal



Associated Prize for Best First Book

1. ***Ham and Jam***, by Andrew Wheale (Helion)
2. ***The Company's Sword***, by Christina Welsch (Cambridge University Press)
3. ***Who owned Waterloo ?*** by Luke Reynolds (Oxford University Press)

Both Huw Davies and Andrew Wheale were able to attend the ceremony to collect their prizes.

Outgoing Chair of Judges, Templer Medal, Dr John Peaty

NEWSLETTER EDITORSHIP

This is the last Newsletter for which I am the editor. Our Chair, Ashley Truluck, will be taking back this role from me with effect from the next (Autumn) Newsletter.

Membership Secretary, Chris Palmer

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THE ESSAY PRIZES FOR 2022

The Undergraduate and Schools Essay Prizes for 2022 were announced immediately prior to the Templer prize-giving ceremony and presented by Lt Gen Sir Barney White-Spunner, President of the Society. The winners and runners-up were:

Schools Essay 2022

1. ***Congreve Rockets*** by Alexander Tonkin (Yale University Press)
2. ***Evaluate the success of Australian military activity surrounding Phước Tuy Province in the Vietnam War (1966-1971)***
by Oscar Shonfeld (Kingswood School Bath)

Sir Barney presents Alexander Tonkin with the Schools



Essay prize

Undergraduate Essay 2022

1. ***'Savage warfare' in the Abor Hills: C.E. Callwell's Influence on Imperial Policing on the North East Frontier,***
by Jake Dixon (University of the West of England), 3rd Year Undergraduate)

Sir Barney presents Jake Dixon with the Undergraduate Essay prize



Outgoing Essay Co-ordinator, Dr Phil McCarty

SAHR SPONSORED CONFERENCES

SAHR is pleased to sponsor two conferences this year, organised by the publishers Helion and Company. The first of these took place on 15th April at the University of Worcester on the theme of Novelty and Change during the era of the British Civil Wars. After an opening keynote lecture by Professor Peter Wilson that placed the British conflicts of the era in the context of wider European events, delegates heard six papers that respectively covered Fortifications; the career of Sir Marmaduke Rawdon; dragoons and dragoon warfare; new research into the 1646 Battle of Stow on the Wold that potentially relocates the site of the battlefield;

continued overleaf

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SAHR SPONSORED CONFERENCES *continued*

tactics and firepower in the war in Ireland 1641-1643; and Montrose's army 1644-1646. Speakers drew on a variety of approaches that integrated archaeological work and the study of material culture with more conventional means of historical enquiry, to provide a varied and stimulating programme for the day.

A second conference is planned for Saturday 16 September with a similar format but covering warfare during the Tudor era. SAHR members can obtain a £5 reduction on the ticket price by using the code TUDOR2023 when ordering from the Helion website where full details of the event are also available: <https://www.helion.co.uk/military-history-shows-and-conferences/retinue-to-regiment-tudor-warfare-conference.php>.

Hon. Secretary, Dr Andrew Bamford

SAHR 2022 ON-LINE LECTURE SERIES

Our monthly program will continue through the year with a wide variety of topics and speakers. The next tranche of talks is as follows:

June: To be notified.

July Dr Zack White:

The Scum of the Earth': Crime and the battle for command and control in Britain's Napoleonic-era army)

August Mark Zuelhke: *The Dieppe Raid 1942*

September Dr John Peaty: *The Battles of Alamein 81 Years On: Outfoxing the Fox*

Details will be available on the Society's website, including the links to register for each talk. If you have missed any of our earlier talks, they have been posted on the SAHR YouTube channel SAHR Lectures.

Hon. Secretary, Dr Andrew Bamford

THE 2023 TEMPLER LECTURE & DINNER

Dr Huw Davies, popular winner of this year's Templer Medal with his *The Wandering Army* (on the learning & development of the Army between the Seven Years War and the Crimea) – will be our speaker at the Templer Lecture at the Army & Navy Club, London on Tuesday 31st October at 6 p.m., with optional Dinner afterwards. Please make a note in your diaries, details to follow on the website and in the next Newsletter.

Chair, Maj Gen Ashley Truluck



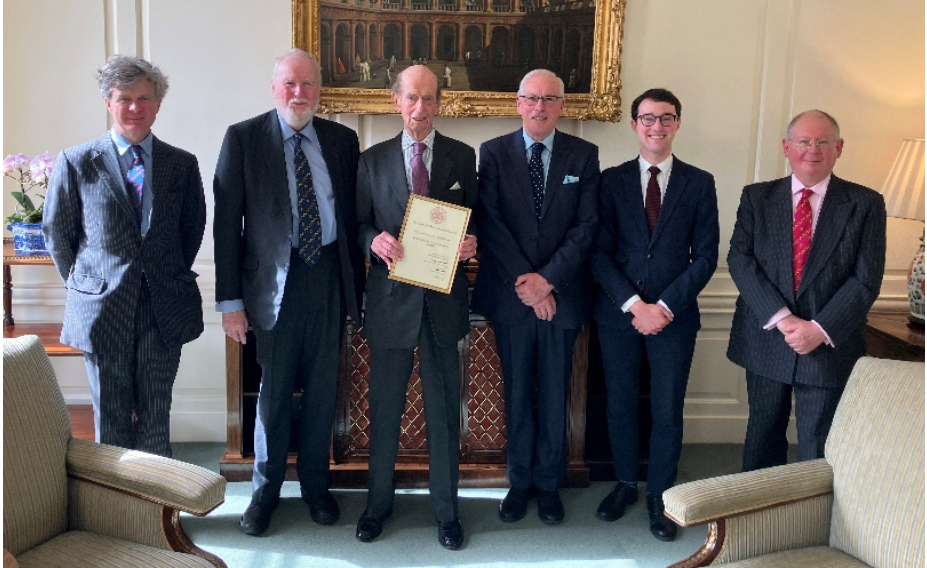
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PRESENTATION OF FELLOWSHIP CERTIFICATE TO OUR PATRON

Date 30 March 2023 – St James Palace



On 30 March an SAHR delegation was received by our Patron, HRH Field Marshal Duke of Kent, at St James Palace where we presented him with an honorary Fellowship on behalf of the Society. Picture shows (L>R) Charles Street (Hon Treas, now FSHAR), Peter Howson (Hon Sec, now VP), HRH (with certificate), Ashley Truluck (Chair/VP), Eamonn O'Keeffe (Social Media) and Andrew Cormack (Hon Ed).

Chair, Maj Gen Ashley Truluck

One-day conducted tour of the Battle of Sedgemoor 1685

The Battlefields Trust exists to foster an interest in visiting and preserving British battlefields across UK and is open to all. Following our AGM lecture on the Duke of Marlborough, SAHR members may be interested in attending Chairman Ashley Truluck's one-day conducted tour of the Battle of Sedgemoor 1685 – Marlborough's first victory and the last battle fought on English soil. RV at the car park by Parchey Bridge on Ward Lane, Bridgwater TA7 8RW, at 10 a.m. on Sunday 3rd Sep for a 3-mile ramble over the battlefield ending at the visitor centre and on to the historic Sedgemoor Arms for an optional late lunch. See <http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/>.

Chair, Maj Gen Ashley Truluck
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