



# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 70 - Spring 2012



The John Hampden Society is a registered charity which exists to bring together people with an interest in John Hampden, and to encourage wider knowledge of this great 17th century Parliamentarian, his life and times

## BEAUTIFUL BROUGHTON



It was a beautiful Spring day in April, birds singing and primroses sprouting amongst the rolling grass fields on Broughton Castle's estate. One knew this was a perfect setting for an AGM. The Castle's reflection with the blue sky above mirrored in the moat was magical.

Across the bridge towards the Castle's entrance and there to welcome us was Lord Saye. In we went through the big oak door and were ushered into the kitchen for tea.

Lord and Lady Saye, as the wonderful hosts they are, greeted each guest as they arrived and guided them unerringly to their friends. Then we were ready for the tour of the Castle.

It was supposed to be just a quick tour, but the tour guide, who just loves her Castle, had everyone enthralled for nearly an hour.

The Great Hall was set for the lecture by Dr. Vivienne Larminie whose interesting talk of three gentlemen loosely associated with

Hampden and Saye families kept her audience thirsting for more. But such was the distraction of the artefacts all around the Great Hall's walls that minds were wandering back to the days of Hampden who would have dined in this very room.

Vice-Chairman John Gabbitas presented the Chairman's report and piloted the AGM through the maze of minutes, fielding the piercing questions like a professional. Derek Lester, Treasurer, presented the accounts and pronounced they were healthy. Roger Paynter, after many years as Membership Secretary, had stood down so Hon. Secretary Anthea Coles deputised for him and read his report. Brian Cox, already a Committee member, has filled Roger's post. The Committee were delighted by the members' response to the news of the Society changing its bank and increasing the membership subs.

Prior to the meeting Lord Saye allowed Society members to closely examine the *Royal Pardon*, a document written in Latin, which was presented to the Sayes by Charles II. Lord Saye had expressed a wish to know what was actually written on this beautiful document, a task that the Society hopes to accomplish.

Roy Bailey, drawing on his photographic expertise, took high-quality digital images of the document and has sent them to Dr. Maija Jansson, Emeritus Director of Yale University. Maija and her husband are leading Latinists and are using their skill to painstakingly translate the document.

The highlight of the visit was Lord and Lady Saye's most warm welcome and invitation to keep a close association with the Society; the Society reciprocates this gesture and thanks them for such a beautiful day at Broughton.



Derek Lester

## A VANISHED WORLD

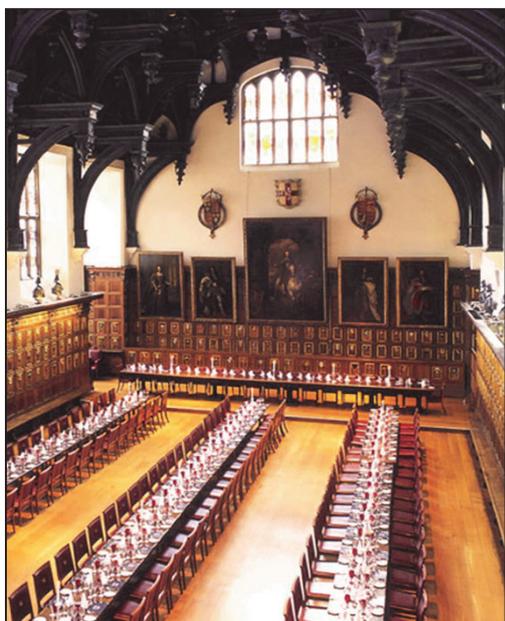
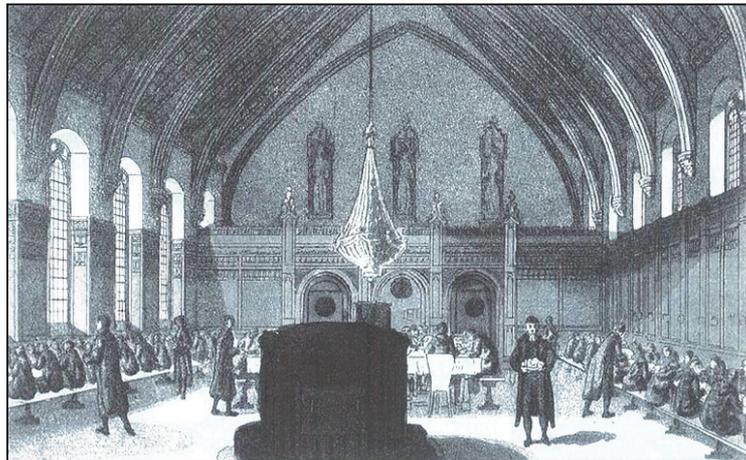
John Hampden's education was completed at the Inner Temple at the heart of the Inns of Court. Hampden was admitted to the Inner Temple on 17 November 1613 but like most of the young men admitted to the Inns of Court he was never 'called to the bar' as a barrister.

Much of the physical world that Hampden would have known was destroyed in 1868 when the Inner Temple was rebuilt by the Victorians. This was itself largely destroyed in the Blitz. Today's Inner Temple emerged from the rubble in the 1950s.

The Great Hall that Hampden would have dined in was essentially the old refectory used by the military monks of the order of the Knights Templar (*see illustration*). The Great Hall of the Inner Temple was substantially repaired twice in Hampden's life time, in 1606 and 1629. The Templars' church with its distinctive circular round plan has miraculously survived.

For those who wish to gain some idea of the world that Hampden would have known should visit the Middle Temple. Its Great Hall, begun in 1562, is one of the finest examples of an Elizabethan hall in the country with a double hammer beam roof carved from the oak of Windsor Forest and an elaborately carved screen made in 1574. The bench table is believed to be a gift from Elizabeth I. It is 29 feet long and made from a single oak tree which was floated down the Thames from Windsor Forest.

The first performance of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night is recorded as having taken place here in 1602. The Hall is still the centre of life for the Inn today as Bench, Bar and Students meet there daily for lunch. It is possible to pre-book lunch to experience these impressive surroundings.



*Sam Hearn*



## John Hampden

John Hampden was a member of the House of Commons for Grampound during the reign of King Charles I (1625-1649).

King Charles I believed in the 'Divine Right of Kings'. This meant he believed he could govern the country as he alone wished. This was different to the division of power between monarch and parliament that dated back to the reign of King Edward I in the late thirteenth century.

John Hampden like others in parliament was determined to protect the rights and privileges of parliament and to make the King answerable to the elected representatives of the people.



John resisted attempts by the King to raise taxes without the agreement of parliament such as ship money tax.

He demanded that the King answer for his actions that exceeded his powers by helping write a letter to the king called the Grand Remonstrance.

He helped prosecute royal advisers who encouraged the King to exceed his powers such as the Earl of Strafford.

John even fought against the Royalists in the Civil War leading to his own death in 1643.

The members of the Executive Committee wish to record their appreciation of the services of Roger Paynter, who stood down as Membership Secretary at the recent AGM.

Roger took on the role in 2007, following the untimely death of Liz Morris earlier that year. Despite living in Grampound, Cornwall (where he was our contact for the plaque unveiling in September 2001) and undergoing a quadruple heart bypass operation in July 2010, he has done his best to cope with the Society's rather shambolic membership system which he inherited. We hope it wasn't that which precipitated his heart attack!

We wish Roger a long and happy retirement with his wife Pat, and hope to see them at one of our events up country.



## DIARY DATES

### 2012

#### Thursday 17th May

A talk by the Society's Chairman, Samuel Hearn, entitled *Sybil Penn, dry nurse to Henry VIII*, at [Thame Museum](#), 9 High Street, Thame, Oxon OX9 3AE, commencing at 7.30 pm.

**Admission charge for either of these talks is £5. Tickets can be purchased from the Museum or reserved by phone on 01844 212801.**

#### Saturday 23rd June

A ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the John Hampden statue in Aylesbury Market Square, Aylesbury. This will be followed by a buffet lunch in [The King's Head](#), provided by the [Chiltern Brewery](#). (See enclosed Invitation/Booking form.)

#### Thursday 9th August

Executive Committee meeting at Little Hampden, Cryers Hill, HP15 6JS, commencing at 7.30 pm.

If any Society members wish to attend this meeting, please notify the Hon Secretary on 07543 054335, or e-mail via the website.

#### Sunday 14th October

A church service to mark the Society's 20th Anniversary at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden, followed by lunch. Times and further details to be announced.

For up-to-date information, see the Diary page on the Society's website at: [www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm](http://www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm)

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## HOLLYWOOD OR BUST

Do you yearn to be another Stephen Spielberg? Do you want to be the recipient of an Oscar?

Such accolades are unlikely to come your way by making a video for the John Hampden Society, but we are looking for someone to take on this important task.

The Society has been keen to make a production (to be available on DVD) promoting both John Hampden and the Society. Some years ago a certain amount of work was done on this project, including using the services of a professional scriptwriter/producer of documentaries. He and several members produced outline proposals and partial scripts, but the cost of video production then was prohibitive.

Now that inexpensive HD camcorders are available, editing can be done on a desktop computer, and DVD copying is inexpensive, the time is right to make another effort to put John Hampden, if not onto the silver screen, then at least into the home viewing market.

If you, or anyone you know, is involved in this type of work and would like to use their skills to make *John Hampden - The Movie* (!) for us, then please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary.

A budget not in the multi-million category is available.

**Roy Bailey**

## THE EXHUMATION OF JOHN HAMPDEN 21<sup>st</sup> July 1828

An entry in Echard's *The History of England* was still causing concern to the fifth Earl of Buckinghamshire 100 years after its publication! When the floor of St Mary Magdalen Church at Great Hampden was being replaced the Earl wrote to Lord Nugent and Dr Grace's report to the Earl is recorded. Dr Grace was the Earl's steward. The pertinent part of letter follows.

*Princes Risborough, April 5th 1828,*

*My Lord,*

*In consequence of the letter I wrote to Lord Nugent by your Lordship's desire he appointed for the purpose of looking over the papers and memorandums likely to afford his Lordship any information related to The Patriot John Hampden but as your Lordship anticipated we found very few papers to repay his search: Lord Nugent however selected a few which pleased him. The Dean of Killaloe's account of the Portrait of John Hampden is one. The old Pedigree of the Hampden Family, and a Memorandum of your Lordship's Family of Sir Miles Hobart in the reign of Chas. 1st. these were the only papers Lord Nugent wished for a second perusal and I have at his request agreed to copy them for his Lordship. Lord Nugent inquired if the pavement of the church was going to be taken up and re-laid and he begs to be informed when that takes place and depends on finding the grave of the Patriot and would very much like to look into the vault if he fails in finding any inscription when the floor is removed and if your Lordship would sanction it: he asked me if I thought you would consent to it should he make application for that purpose".*

On the morning of the 21<sup>st</sup> July 1828 they began by digging in the chancel beneath Hampden's Memorial to his wife. Finding this plot empty they continued digging, unearthing six more coffins. Ever more desperate they unearthed a tomb and as they did the nameplate crumbled off. This they took, without further inspection, to be John Hampden's tomb! On opening this coffin and much to their surprise they found the nearly intact body of a gentleman. They examined its back for bullet wounds and of course found it intact. It was later reported they had found the bones of the corpse's right hand in a bag. The implausibility of collecting and placing the bones in a bag while a battle raged is farcical. But historians of note still insist that Hampden's pistol exploded at Chalgrove!

You can read the full account of the exhumation in *The Controversy of John Hampden's Death*, priced £3.50.



## Re-printing *The History of Watlington*

The only copy of *The History of Watlington*, hand written by John Badcock in 1816, has been found in the Oxford County Library. Permission was sought and given to photograph all the pages of this very rare book. They are now downloaded onto my computer awaiting transcription. Although John Badcock's writing is good the script has blurred over the years because of the poor quality paper, making it difficult to read.

In Lord Nugent's book *Some Memorials...*, pub.1832, the footnotes on page 431 refer to this document regarding the Battle of Chalgrove. There is also an account of the Battle, but this is where volunteers are needed to help transcribe the pages (not to format them, which is my task), with a view to re-making the book 21<sup>st</sup> century style.

For those who can read good old English and copy it into a Word document please contact me via the website.

**Derek Lester**