



# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 79 - Autumn 2014



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

## THE FUNERAL OF JOHN HAMPDEN

John Hampden died on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1643, following wounds received at the Battle of Chalgrove Field six days earlier. During those six days he had lain at Ezekiel Browne's house in Thame, attended by his lifelong friend Arthur Goodwin. By the 24<sup>th</sup> Hampden was near to death, and Goodwin had to leave to attend to his duties as an officer in the Earl of Essex's Parliamentary Army.

Goodwin bid a final farewell to his friend that day, and later wrote: 'For all I can hear, the last words he spake was to me, though he lived six or seven hours after I came away as in a sleep.' The next day the funeral cortège, composed of Hampden's faithful Greencoats and as many other troops as could be spared, left Thame to convey their Colonel to his final resting place at his ancestral home at Great Hampden. In *A Life of John Hampden the Patriot*, Professor John Adair wrote: 'They would have marched with heads uncovered and weapons reversed. Black ribbons hung like tears upon the colours, while the muffled drums beat out a slow tread. Before him they carried his helmet, armour and sword'.

Many years ago, in the course of my research, I drove from Thame along the A4129 through Princes Risborough and up the steep hill to Parslow's Hillock, then across Hampden Common before turning left past The Hampden Arms and on to the church, fondly imagining that I was following the route of the funeral procession. But then I learned of a legend, that the procession had rested for the night at The Plough Inn at Lower Cadsden (*pictured*), where they were served cherry pies in the shape of a coffin.

Cherry pies are an old Buckinghamshire dish, and when I visited The Plough I found that the legend had some substance. It would have been very difficult for a heavy carriage to be pulled up the steep hill my car had ascended, but the road past the front of The Plough continued as a footpath, gently rising up the shallowest slopes towards Great Hampden. I followed it through the beechwoods, past Solinger House until it joined the end of Grim's Ditch, which led straight to Hampden House and the church. This must have been the route of the funeral procession.

However, the legend that they stayed overnight at The Plough is probably just that. An entry in the Great Hampden parish register reads: 'N.B. John Hampden Esquire Lord of Hampden buried June 25<sup>th</sup> 1643', which was the same day that the cortège left Thame. Goodwin's famous letter to his daughter was dated 26<sup>th</sup>, which Adair states was the day after the funeral. But there is no reason to suppose that the party didn't stop for refreshments – possibly cherry pies – at The Plough. The pub's website - [www.plough-at-cadsden.co.uk/](http://www.plough-at-cadsden.co.uk/) - states, 'It is said that in 1643 a wake was held here for John Hampden by his beloved Greencoats, whilst escorting his body back to the family home at Great Hampden...', but another website claims that this wake was held on the return journey.



The Plough circa 1920



The Plough as it is today

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

From *A Worthy Discourse* (1647):

“The bodye was received at ye church by Master Robert Lenthall, minister of ye parish of Great Hampden, and followed by noe small companye of soldiers, country folke & gentry; ye palle being borne of six; viz Colonell Arthur Goodwyn, Mr Richard Greenvil (Sherriffe for ye countye) Mr Tyrell, Mr West, and Dr Giles (minister of Chinnor) and myself William Spurstow; ye last named (Dr Giles) having been with ye deceased Colonell at Thame in Oxonshire, during ye dayes in which he languished of his hurt received in ye fight near Chalgrove and at his death.”

Robert Lenthall was the brother of William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons at the time of the attempted arrest of the Five Members, while William Spurstow was the chaplain of Hampden’s regiment. The presence of Dr Giles as a pallbearer is interesting.



© LIFE, from a painting by Philip Hermogenes Calderon

Dr Nathaniel Giles was the former parson of Chinnor and an old friend of Hampden; the Patriot had helped to design the parsonage before the Civil War. Giles was with the Court in Oxford when he heard the news of Hampden’s serious wound, and received permission from the King to visit his old friend in Thame. (It is said that Charles agreed because he realised that Hampden was the one Parliamentarian with whom he could do business. Some accounts say that he offered to send his own surgeon.) Sadly, Giles arrived when Hampden was barely conscious.

It is a tribute to the other pallbearers – all Parliamentarians – that they accepted the Royalist Giles in their midst without demur on this sad occasion.

The mourners sang the 90<sup>th</sup> Psalm, and when the service was over and the Greencoats marched back to battle, leaving their dead leader, they sang the 43<sup>rd</sup> Psalm: ‘Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted with me? Hope in God.’

• *In the past few years The Plough has been much altered from the small alehouse shown in our first picture; the interior has been opened out; extensions have been built; and food and accommodation are the priorities, but the licensees have revived the ancient Cherry Pie Festival on the first Sunday in August each year.*

*The pub’s claim to fame these days rests on a recent visit by another leader of our nation, who left his 8-year-old daughter behind after lunch!*

**Roy Bailey**



## LETTER

The following letter was recently received by the Society. If anyone has any information on this subject, please contact us.

Dear Mrs Coles,

I wonder if there is anyone in your Society who can shed any light on a little mystery I came across in a cellar in Lichfield.

It’s rumoured that the cellar beneath the Tudor Cafe on Bore St was used as a prison during the Civil War. There is a door with some graffiti carved into it, including ‘Cave adsum’ and ‘God with us’, both mottos of the Parliamentarians I believe, together with a crude carving of a hanged man, with the name Hampden alongside. I have assumed that this refers to John Hampden, but cannot find anything to link him with Lichfield directly. Also, I am assuming this graffiti was carved by Parliamentarian soldiers, in which case it is curious that they appear to have depicted one of their leaders in this way.

I would be very grateful if there is anyone in the Society (or elsewhere) who may be able to help.

Many thanks,

Kate Gomez.

The picture top left shows the Tudor Cafe, formerly known as Lichfield House and said to have been built in 1510. Ms Gomez’s picture bottom left shows the door with the graffiti enlarged.

## JOHN HAMPDEN ON TV

Sadly this is not a headline one sees much these days but over the summer there have been two programmes in which John Hampden merited a mention.

The first was in Dr Clare Jackson's excellent BBC2 series *The Stuarts*. When talking about the members of Charles's parliament, and in particular the verbose manner of Pym's speeches she says, "John Hampden, who said much less than Pym, and probably, for that reason alone, said it better."

There was also a repeat on BBC4 of Simon Schama's *History of Britain*, which was originally broadcast in 2000. When talking about Charles's methods for raising money and the objections raised, Schama says, "Typical was a Buckinghamshire landowner called John Hampden. John Hampden was not some abrasive unworldly hot head. He was a very well-respected and important member of the county community. Hampden had been deeply moved by the plight of Sir John Eliot, a prisoner [in the Tower of London]. He'd visited him and looked after his teenage boys. Now he would inherit the mantle of resistor - this time against Ship Money - the tax that paid for the upkeep of the navy. Why should counties with no coastlines pay for this - it was iniquitous. It may have only been a few shillings - and in the end Hampden lost his case - but he won the argument. The embers were lit again."

Neither programme threw any deep insights on Hampden's political career, but both illustrated the references with a portrait of John Hampden. As Samuel Johnson was to say about an entirely different subject, "It is not done well; but you are surprised to see it done at all."

**Steve Barriff**

## THE NEW WEBSITE

The members of what goes under the rather grandiose name of the Website Sub-committee (i.e. Steve Barriff, Sam Hearn and myself) have been having a number of meetings in recent months to try to decide on:

- a) A design for the new website that will be attractive, up-to-date, and in keeping with the image of the Society and its objectives.
- b) The facilities that we want to see incorporated into the new website.
- c) Who to commission to do the design and build.

We have looked at the websites of a large number of organisations – especially historical societies and those of famous people – and I think we have reached a consensus on the design. One that we found particularly pleasing is [www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/](http://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/), but there are many similar.

As far as facilities are concerned, a genealogy section, linking the Hampden pedigree to other databases appears to be a must, as well as a gallery for photographs, and a members' forum, which may take the place of the existing Members' Area. To accommodate all this, we have just taken advantage of a special offer by our hosting company to upgrade to a bigger package at a 50% discount. This is excellent value and will accommodate just about everything we want to do in the foreseeable future. If there are facilities that you want to see on the website, contact [thewebmaster@johnhampden.org](mailto:thewebmaster@johnhampden.org).

Design and build will cost money, of course, and the sub-committee is carefully considering a number of companies and individuals in order to select one who can understand our needs and offer value for money. Once produced, it is important that the website can be easily and quickly updated.

We are making haste slowly.

**Roy Bailey**



## DIARY DATES

### 2014

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September** A talk by the Earl of Buckinghamshire at St Nicholas Church, Aylesbury Road, Great Kimble HP17 0XS, commencing at 7.30 pm.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October** A meeting of the Executive Committee. Time and venue to be arranged

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)

## English Civil War

### Mastermind answers

For those of you who were lured into attempting the *Mastermind* questions in the last issue of *The Patriot*, here are the answers:

1. Edgehill
2. The Earl of Essex
3. The Self-Denying Ordinance
4. Marston Moor
5. The Lobsters
6. Sir John Hotham
7. The Solemn League and Covenant
8. The Levellers
9. The Council of State
10. Stow on the Wold
11. Worcester
12. Colonel John Poyer
13. Pride's Purge

James Maple managed twelve correct answers out of thirteen within the allotted two minutes. How well did you do?

Published by  
**The John Hampden Society**  
Little Hampden  
Cryers Hill, High Wycombe  
Bucks HP15 6JS  
Tel: 07543 054335  
e-mail: *see website*  
Website: [www.johnhampden.org](http://www.johnhampden.org)  
Registered charity no. 1098314

## Visiting the home of John Hampden and meeting 'a real live Earl'

Member Colin Cartwright has, during the course of some unrelated research, come across an intriguing and charmingly written article published in the Monthly Record of the Westbourne Park Baptist Chapel (pictured below) in 1902. The article, entitled 'Visit to the home of John Hampden The Patriot', tells the story of a railway journey from West London by 86 members of the Chapel's Bible Circle Society to Great Missenden and their three mile 'tramp' to Great Hampden to visit Hampden House and the nearby St Mary Magdalene's Church, where the Patriot is buried.



A full transcription of the 1,000 word article has been prepared by Stephen Barriff and can be downloaded from the Archive section of the Society's website. The article displays a good knowledge of Hampden and his Ship Money trial and assumes that his audience is similarly well informed and will have more than a passing interest in such matters. Colin Cartwright's earlier researches have clearly demonstrated that in the early twentieth century Hampden's name and reputation were closely linked with radical/progressive political causes such as those espoused by the Women's Tax Resistance League.

The trip was apparently well planned and executed; not only was the party met by "our genial and kind friend, Mr. Redding (the owner of Honor End Farm), and senior deacon at the local Baptist chapel" but they were entertained at Hampden House in person by the Earl of Buckinghamshire, and by the Rector and his curate at the Church. The Earl showed the party several items of Hampden memorabilia, most of which have now been sold, dispersed and/or lost.

Finally, it is worth noting that a railway trip such as this had only been possible for Londoners since 1892. Great Missenden Station was opened in September of that year following the extension of the Metropolitan Line from Chalfont Road to Aylesbury. The Great Central Railway took over the Station in 1899 and linked it to Leicester, Nottingham and Sheffield.

**Sam Hearn**  
(with the assistance of Colin Cartwright)

## We the inhabitants of the towne of Chesham ...

Further to Dr Hooper's letter about the collection of Ship Money on the Isle of Wight, published in the last edition of *The Patriot*, my attention has been drawn to a letter sent by the people of Chesham in 1635 to Sir Peter Temple of Stowe, the Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. Sir Peter had the unenviable task of collecting the Ship Money Tax in his home county.



From a 1905 painting from the Bucks County Museum collections

'The inhabitants' polite letter protests against the rate at which the Ship Money Tax has been applied to them. Following earlier precedents they believed that they had been charged five times too much. They did not challenge the legality of the tax itself and indeed confirmed that they were "willing to paye according to our abilitie". Across the county as a whole only £188 1s 11d of the £4,500 assessment was paid. The collection rate in Chesham was rather better but still only £10 4s 8d of the original assessment of £125 was ever collected.

I am grateful to Agnes Hearn, my Canadian aunt, for drawing my attention to this document. A photograph and transcription of the original letter were published in *The Book of Chesham* by Clive Birch - ISBN 0 86023 641 2.

A copy of the transcribed letter is now available in the Archives section of the Society's website. The original document is lodged in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California, USA.

**Sam Hearn**

- A third article also recently included in the website's Archives is a scholarly piece entitled *Charles I and his Parliaments: The Road to Civil War*.

Written by Membership Secretary Brian Cox, it is too long for inclusion in *The Patriot*, but makes fascinating reading.

Printed by Sarsen Press  
22 Hyde Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 7DR  
Tel: 01962 854281 info@sarsenpress.com

Every effort is made to obtain permission to reproduce the images in this publication from the relevant copyright holders and to ensure that all credits are correct. We have acted in good faith and on the best information available to us at the time of publication. Any omissions are inadvertent, and will be corrected if notification is given in writing.