



# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 82 - Summer 2015



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

## HONOURING HAMPDEN IN PARLIAMENT

In another first for the Society, our Patron Miles Buckinghamshire led an honour guard of Society members into the heart of the Palace of Westminster on 24<sup>th</sup> June, the anniversary of the Patriot's death, to lay a commemorative wreath at the base of the John Hampden statue. We were accompanied by former Attorney General, Dominic Grieve, MP for Beaconsfield, and Thomas Tweddle from the Speaker's Office.

Members who came on the Society's tour of Parliament in 2013 were disappointed that on that occasion the statue of Hampden by the entrance to the Central Lobby was shrouded in protective plastic sheeting. The extensive restoration works in that part of the Palace have now been completed and the statue is once again proudly on view.

The Society is grateful to Mr Grieve for accepting our invitation. Appropriately not only does he sit for a Buckinghamshire constituency and is a great admirer of the Patriot, but like John Hampden he also attended Magdalen College, Oxford, and the Middle Temple.



(Left - right) Gerald McGregor, Sam Hearn, Annabel Bailey, Tim Mack, Dominic Grieve MP, Lord Buckinghamshire and Roy Bailey



The arrangements for the wreath laying and short address were organised through Thomas Tweddle acting on behalf of Speaker John Bercow MP, one of the Society's Vice Presidents. The wreath was made of realistic looking artificial flowers and can therefore be retrieved and reused.

Our work at Parliament done, some members went to pay our respects at the plaque on the west external wall of St Margaret's church, by Westminster Abbey. The plaque records how the remains of several senior supporters of the Parliamentary cause, including John Pym, were disinterred from the Abbey and deposited in a nearby pit at the time of the Restoration. This is a fate that could so easily have befallen the body of John Hampden.

Finally, members visited the Whitehall Banqueting House, scene of Charles Stuart's execution. The magnificent Rubens ceiling commissioned by Charles is an awe-inspiring propaganda device extolling the kingly virtues of his father, James I, the benefits to be derived from the divine right of kings, and the union of the crowns of Scotland and England.

**Sam Hearn**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This year's AGM was held in the magnificent surroundings of Hampden House where it was attended by 22 members, some of whom had travelled significant distances. We were specially pleased to welcome Patricia Claus and David and Lilian Gillie, who had made a special journey from the United States of America.

The meeting (*below*) was opened with a brief speech from Chairman Steve Barriff in which he praised the devotion of the other committee members and in particular Brian Cox, who has decided to stand down this year after a number of years hard work on the committee.



The Chairman advised that the annual wreath laying ceremony will this year take place in the Palace of Westminster on 24th June, thanks to the endeavours of our Honorary Treasurer, Sam Hearn, and Vice President, John Bercow. This is a significant coup and is likely to raise the profile of the Society. A report of this ceremony will follow in a subsequent edition of *The Patriot*.

Minutes of last year's AGM were agreed and a list of apologies read out by the Hon. Secretary.

The Hon. Treasurer read a report of the Society's finances which showed it to be generally in robust health. There were also reports from the Membership Secretary and the Webmaster, Roy Bailey. Roy took this opportunity to inform members that he had decided to stand down from the Executive Committee and from the posts of Webmaster and Newsletter Editor at next year's AGM.

All the main committee officers were re-elected and the committee were particularly pleased to welcome Gerald McGregor into its fold. Gerald was also kind enough to give a brief talk (*below*) after the meeting on the defences of London during the Civil War.



After the meeting a tour was arranged around the adjacent parish church of St Mary Magdalene, which was enjoyed by all those who attended.

### MEMBERSHIP

The annual membership subscription to the Society, payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year, is:

Single members	-	£15.00
Joint members	-	£20.00
Junior/students	-	£10.00

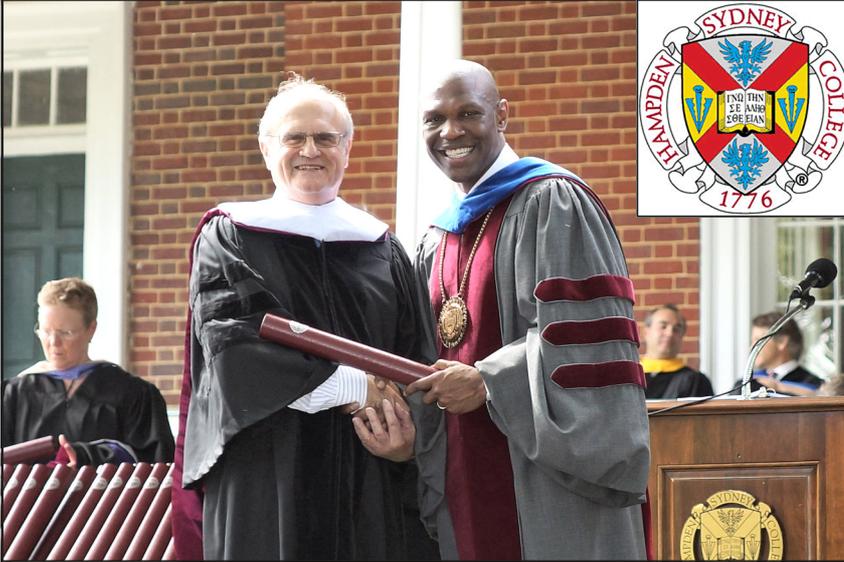
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## HONORARY DOCTORATE

In May our Patron, Miles Buckinghamshire, received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia.



This was awarded for his participation in various charities and service as co-chairman of the Hampden-Sydney College 'Through These Gates' campaign. The citation mentioned Miles' record of service in the pensions and investment industries; in public life as a former member of the House of Lords; and his involvement in many worthy causes, both in the UK and overseas.

One of the College's trustees, Gordon D. Schreck, said, "It is a rare privilege indeed for a college to have the luxury of having a direct descendant of one of its namesakes not only alive but willing to lend their support to the college's mission. For this, we are all in your debt."

"This is a huge honour for me and the John Hampden Society", said Miles. "I had many enquiries about the Society and there is a deep appreciation for what you all do".

Our picture shows Miles receiving his award from College President Chris Howard.

- Hampden-Sydney College was founded in November 1775 (although their badge says 1776) in the tradition of the Scottish Presbyterian Enlightenment, and was named after John Hampden and Algernon Sidney, who had both given their lives in England's two great 17th-century constitutional crises. Sidney was executed in 1683 for allegedly plotting the assassination of Charles II and his brother James.



## FINDING AN ANCESTOR

A day or so after the AGM, I took Pat Claus and David and Lilian Gilles of a brief tour of some of the route of Prince Rupert's night march.

The manor of Great Haseley had been owned by Pat's ancestors, and she was thrilled to find, in the church, the gravestone and brass plate, in Latin, of her ancestor William Lenthall, who was the grandfather of William, the Speaker, and Robert, the Rector of Great Hampden in the 1640s.

**Roy Bailey**



## DIARY DATES

**2015**

**Saturday 18th July.** Executive Committee meeting at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford Hill, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 8LZ, commencing at 2pm.

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)

## MY LINK TO JOHN HAMPDEN

It was by acquiring some old genealogical papers which had been left to the Royal BC Museum in Victoria, British Columbia, that I established the link with my 9<sup>th</sup> Great Grandfather John Hampden, through the marriage of his daughter Ruth to Sir John Trevor.

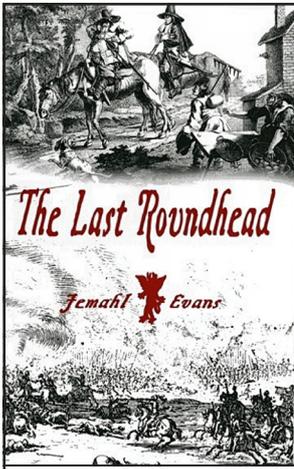
The link to Vancouver actually dates to my 4<sup>th</sup> Great Grandparents - Captain Charles William Barkley and Frances Hornby Barkley, nee Trevor, who founded what is now named in their honour 'Barkley Sound', on the coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Frances was in fact the first European woman to circumnavigate the Globe. A book detailing their adventures on the seas has been published.

Contained within the archive papers were detailed accounts and tables, letters and trees signifying a link from Frances back to John Hampden himself and, of course, the Cromwells. We were intrigued in finding out more so spent many an hour researching newspaper archives and found a letter in the *Pall Mall Gazette* dated March 1884.

It states that Robert, who became the 1<sup>st</sup> Viscount Hampden, appears to have had two marriages. The first one was solemnized at Fleet Prison but all official records of this have been destroyed. Records obtained from Westminster School identify that four of his sons were pupils there and the titles later went to his two sons from his marriage to Constantia de Huybert. It seems that the first two sons were given very large funds in trust, and one of them was Frances' father Dr John Trevor.

It is our intention to produce a complete genealogical tree of the Hampdens, showing all branches of descent. We would like to thank Anthea, Roy and Sam for their invaluable help when we approached them initially in September 2014. We are very much looking forward to getting involved with the Society and would welcome anyone who would like to contribute any information to our studies.

**Helen Sturmeir & Phil Broomfield**



## BOOK REVIEW

### The Last Roundhead

by Jemahl Evans

Published in paperback by Caerus Press

ISBN 978-1-909374-64-5

Flashman goes to the English Civil Wars. Well not quite, but there is more than a hint of George Macdonald Fraser's eponymous hero in Jemahl Evans' tale of Sir Blandford Candy's escapades in the early years of the English Civil War.

This is clearly a work of fiction but it is nonetheless based on real events that took place in the early years of the English Civil War. As a consequence John Hampden makes a number of cameo appearances. As one would expect, Hampden gets a very favourable press compared to some of his contemporaries, who are treated with varying degrees of disdain, and it is for this reason that the novel will be of interest to some of our members.

Sir Blandford Candy has numerous escapades involving women, money, and violence. Not unlike the later Flashman, but set in a period that will be all too familiar with our members.

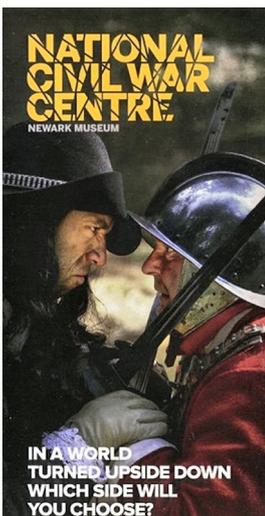
From a historical perspective some of the events that involved Hampden and his regiment are dealt with in a somewhat cavalier fashion (if that is the right word!). It is inevitable that some members of the Society, and indeed some ex-members, will no doubt find fault with parts of the narrative that deal with historical events but it should not be forgotten that this is simply a yarn.

Whilst the book should never be used as a historical narrative it does give one a flavour of some of the unsavoury, and cultural, conditions that people had to endure in the 1640's. Like the Flashman books, there is a large section of foot-notes at the back describing the actual events that inspired the various fictional incidents. The text is also interspersed with such documents as letters between Charles I and Queen Henrietta Maria and issues of Mercurius Aulicus.

*The Last Roundhead* is unlikely to top the *Sunday Times* best seller list but will no doubt be of interest to members of the Society for the contemporary attitudes to John Hampden and the world in which he lived.

**Steve Barriff**

## NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE



This much-needed resource was opened in 3<sup>rd</sup> May this year in Newark, Notts, scene of three sieges during the conflict.

Located behind the town's museum, the £5.4m centre tells the story of the Wars of Three Kingdoms from the point of view of the inhabitants of the town, which lay at the crossroads of the Great North Road and the Fosse Way and provided an important crossing point over the River Trent.

A report on the opening in *The Daily Telegraph* stated: 'Note that word "national," for plucky little Newark (population 37,000) has stolen a march on the many other towns and cities involved in the vicious wars of the seventeenth century and opened the first centre dedicated to the subject.'

Very true, but as a resident of West Berkshire, I would have preferred to have seen such a museum established in Newbury (population 31,000), scene of two major battles in 1643 and 1644. However, bouquets to Newark for its enterprise in stealing a march on every other possible candidate.

The museum also has a National Civil War Trail, which can be downloaded to your smartphone before setting off around the town, and (even better!) a Newark Civil War Ale Trail, covering 10 of the town's pubs.

The Centre is at 14 Appletongate, Newark NG24 1JY. Tel: 01636 655765 . <http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com>.

**Roy Bailey**

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