



# THE PATRIOT



Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

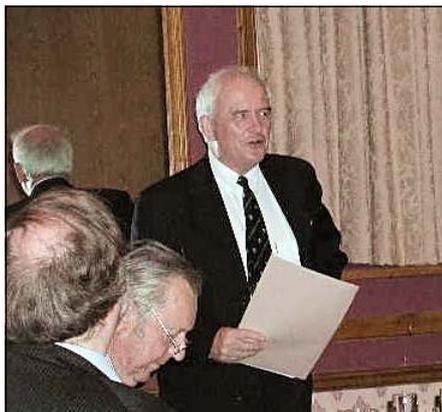
No. 44 - Autumn 2005

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

## ANNUAL DINNER 2005

This event took place on Saturday, 18th June at The Spread Eagle Hotel and was attended by Society members and guests. including Mr Garry Heath and his wife Monica. Garry very kindly undertakes the printing of 'The Patriot' and it was good to be able to publicly thank him for his help and support with this.

The speaker this year was Professor Malcolm Wanklyn, the subject of his talk being "Military Strategy as it affected Buckinghamshire in the first Civil War".



Professor Malcolm Wanklyn

As reported in the summer edition of 'The Patriot', the dinner took place on the actual anniversary of the Battle of Chalgrove and the Society held a wreath laying ceremony at the Hampden Monument prior to the dinner.

Together with the AGM, the annual dinner offers an excellent opportunity to get to know other Society members in a friendly relaxed atmosphere, whilst enjoying a good meal.

This event is always scheduled to take place on the 3rd Saturday in June, so make a note now in your diary and join us in 2006.

The Society would also welcome suggestions for speakers at the dinner, so if you know of anyone who can give a short but interesting talk on a suitable subject, please let us know,

We are happy to pay travelling expenses and provide dinner, or alternatively pay a reasonable fee.

## A MYSTERY

To my highly honoured  
Colonel Sir Thomas  
Barrington att his  
House in Queene  
Streete  
By  
xxxxxx

London

Honoured Sir

You shall understand that this present Monday morning, being the 26 of June, we received the sad tidings of Colonel Hamdens death; he died on Saturday night last.; it being to all honest men a cause of much *relinctation??* and sorrow this day likewise was read in the howse a proclamation which came from Oxford, granting pardon to all members of either howse that would come in to Oxford within ten daies excepting out of that pardon only 5 Lords and 13 Commoners the Earles of Essex Warwick Manchester Stamford and my Lord Say and Seale; Sir John Hotham, Sir Ac: Haselrick, Sir ffran: Popham, Sir Ed: Hungerford, Sir Hen: Lindloc??, Mr Pym, Mr Strode, Mr Natha: *ffrinas??*, Mr Alex: Popham, Mr Hamden, My Lord Major Colonel Mann the proclamation did seeme to anihilate this Parliament; the Lords voted that they would maintaine this Parliament with their lives and *sent* it downe at the conference; and so fixed a declaration might be sett forth concerning this proclamation; our howse did concur; my Lord General is yet at Tame; but we had this day an intimation given us by Mr Pym that he would goe forward upon some designe tomorrow : some commanders in the armie doe refuse the Covenant, I wish the number be not many; I cannot write you any good newes our forces at Leister have taken some of their Commanders; my Lord Fairfax is in great want of horse; the Queene advanceth : the last night the Cavaliers plundered Wickham and tooke a troope of my Lo: Generals horse; and this City tooke an alarum upon it and

were up in armes all night: Colonel Martin's regiment is to goe downe to the armie with all convenient speede: there is nothing yet done in your Committee since you want although I pressed it for the other armies which concerns Essex I will doe anything you shall command: I have nothing else for the present thus in hast my humble service being presented to your selfe and my Ladie I take my leave and with ease rest

June 26 1643

Yours to Serve you

I beseech you present my service to Sir John and his Ladie and all the rest of his Ladies.

Rob: Goodwin

*Who was Rob Goodwin?*

*A copy of this letter has come into the hands of Derek Lester, but so far it has not been possible to find out who wrote it. Was he a relative of Arthur Goodwin?*

*If you have any knowledge of our mystery letter-writer, or can throw any light on his possible identity, the Society would be interested to hear from you.*



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## THANKS

It was John Hampden's legacy to Chalgrove that brought Gill and I together many years ago. I was a 'young' sergeant in John Hampden's Regiment of Foote and Gill, Chalgrove's Parish Clerk. The Regiment had visited Chalgrove many times for banquets and AGMs, being as it was the Regiment's spiritual home. So when the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the battle drew near, Gill approached me to organise the battle. From there our lives entwined with the Society, John Hampden and Chalgrove, each playing a crucial role in our interests in life. Together we got the Battlefield listed with English Heritage, helped to get the Monument checked for stability and the railings around it painted. We also wrote a book on his exhumation. None of this would have happened without the Society.

Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup> 2005 at St. Mary's Church, Chalgrove Gill and I were married. We were so pleased to see our friends from the Society in the congregation and at the reception. The video shows that it was the Society's members who really enjoyed themselves at the evening ceilidh.

Thank you all for your generosity and that of the Society, who presented us with 'The Household Book (1510 - 1551) of Sir Edward Don. We read the book while soaring in a Hot Air Balloon; our wedding present wish. We were booked to fly on the 19<sup>th</sup> August.

We flew from Heathrow to Ecuador and then on to the Galapagos Islands for our Honeymoon. The wild life, if you can call it that, as they were all so friendly, was fabulous. We also went to Cuzco in Peru and visited many Incan sites, including Machu Picchu.

Now it is back to reality, married life and John Hampden Society meetings. Thank you all for sharing our magical day.

*Gill and Derek Lester.*

## THE BATTLES OF BRENTFORD AND TURNHAM GREEN

The battles of Brentford and Turnham Green have been largely overlooked by Civil War military historians and their importance neglected. But the combination of these actions forestalled a royalist assault on London and ensured that parliament was willing and able to fight-on to eventual victory in 1646. John Hampden played a key role in both engagements, demonstrating his credentials as a military commander.

## Background

On 12 October 1642, after learning that parliament's field army under the Earl of Essex was at Worcester, King Charles I left Shrewsbury with his army, taking the opportunity to march on London unopposed. But Essex, discovering the King's departure, gave chase and caught up with the royal army at Edgehill in Warwickshire on 23 October.



The Earl of Essex

Although the battle there was inconclusive, the parliamentarians retreated through the Chilterns to London and the royalists advanced on the capital, occupying Oxford before continuing along the Thames valley. Parliament sought peace with the King and believed an agreement for negotiations had been reached at Colnbrook on 11 November. But early in the morning of 12 November the royal army commanded by General Patrick Ruthven, with the King's nephew, Prince Rupert, leading the horse, marched via Hounslow toward London.

## The Battle of Brentford

The leading elements of the royal army first encountered parliamentary soldiers, probably belonging to Denzil Holles' regiment, at Sir Richard Wynn's house on the west side of Brentford in the early afternoon of 12 November.

Royalist cavalry had to wait until the foot came up to clear parliament's troops from behind a hedge. Pursuing the retreating parliamentarians, the royalists next met a barricade at Brentford bridge defended by more of Holles' men. This position took around one hour for the royalists to overcome. Syon House may have been taken by the royalists during this phase of the battle.

Pressing-on east through Brentford on the London road, the royalists were faced with a second barricade, on the rising ground around the modern day Ferry Lane, defended by troops from Lord Brooke's parliamentary regiment of foot. The fighting here was hard with six royalist regiments of foot brought up to assault the barricade. John Gwyn, a royalist soldier during the battle, gives some idea of the nature of the

fighting which he describes as "after once firing, suddenly to advance up to push of pikes and the butt end of muskets". The royalists were delayed for between two and three hours until parliament's soldiers, who had become almost surrounded, eventually routed. Some ran back toward London, but others tried to swim the River Thames; many drowned.

The royalists pursued the retreating parliamentarians until they encountered a fresh parliamentary regiment under John Hampden, probably at Turnham Green. Lord Nugent claimed, unsourced, that Hampden's green coats had marched from Uxbridge before encountering the royalists. But this seems improbable, not least because parliament's messenger to the King found royalist dragoons at Uxbridge during the afternoon of 12 November; it is more likely the regiment was stationed in Acton. Hampden's regiment was said by one parliamentary report to have charged the royalists five times to cover the broken regiments retreating from Brentford as night fell.



Print of a painting of the Battle of Brentford commissioned by Col Grant Morden MP, donated by Florence Last to the Battlefields Trust

Brentford was badly looted by the royalists after the battle. Nehemiah Wallington, a London artisan, described the King's army as having made the town "...a miserable spectacle for they have taken from them.... all that they have". Around 50 parliamentary soldiers, including many officers, were killed in the fighting with perhaps 90-100 drowning during the rout. A further 400 were captured. Royalist losses were less than 20.

On the night of 12/13 November, parliament tried to move cannon and ammunition from Kingston-upon-Thames to London by barge down the Thames. But these vessels were scuttled after being fired upon from Syon House and threatened by royalist cannon located near to the modern day Kew Bridge.

## Battle of Turnham Green

Overnight, the remainder of the parliamentary field army was reinforced by the London trained bands and auxiliaries, volunteers, sailors, Members of both Houses of Parliament, and many gentlemen volunteers and leading citizens. By the morning of

Sunday, 13 November this army of about 24,000 men was concentrated at Turnham Green. A leading royalist described it admirably as 'a full army of horse and foot, fit to have decided the title of a crown'. It was indeed the largest army that was deployed on a Civil War battlefield.

Although the royalists had attracted some new recruits, their army was only about 12,000 men, matching the Parliamentarians in the number of horse, but with far fewer infantry. Even so, only at Marston Moor in 1644 were there more troops present on a Civil War battlefield than the 36,000 men drawn up on Turnham Green that morning.

The modern open spaces of Turnham Green, Chiswick Back Common, Acton Common and Acton Green are the remnants of the original Turnham Green. On its south side Chiswick common field extended to the village of Chiswick and the walled gardens of the Jacobean Chiswick House. This open space of the green and the common field, surrounded by small hedged fields, was the battlefield.

To protect their left flank, the royalists sent troops on to the rising ground towards Acton. The parliamentarians drove them off and Essex then ordered two regiments of horse and four of foot apparently under John Hampden's command to march between Turnham Green and Acton, to outflank the King's army. But when the detachment had covered about a mile, Essex recalled it, much to the chagrin of those involved in the manoeuvre, including Hampden.

The battle then settled into a stalemate, punctuated by exchanges of artillery fire and royalist attempts to provoke the inexperienced parliamentarian troops to break ranks. But they stood fast and as the King's army was too small to risk an assault, during the late afternoon it withdrew. Essex dared not launch an attack in the fading light and so it could retreat unscathed, marching to Hounslow Heath and then Kingston, before erupting into Surrey. Syon House was also attacked from the Thames by parliamentary ships during 13 November.

At Turnham Green the royalist commanders discovered that the Londoners were prepared to defy a royalist army. Not only had the parliamentarian army been reinforced by citizen-soldiers, but there had been no revolt or even demonstration in support of the King, even though his army was just a few miles from the city. Both sides realised that any further royalist march on London was likely to fail.

Parliament had already organised the construction of earthwork defences, which were extended in the spring of 1643. With the military capability of the citizen-

soldiers demonstrated at Turnham Green, this gave Essex the freedom to campaign away from the capital. Never again were the royalists able to threaten London and their efforts were aimed at inciting an uprising, but they, too, were unsuccessful.

*Simon Marsh  
Battlefields Trust*

*The Battlefields Trust walks the battles of Brentford and Turnham Green on the first Sunday of November each year. Details of the walk on 6 November 2005 are as follows:*

*Brentford: 11:00 - meet outside the Brentford Magistrates' Court on the London Road (not to be confused with the County Court Building outside which is a pillar commemorating the battle).*

*Turnham Green: 14:00 - meet outside Chiswick Park underground station.*

*Each of the walks will last approximately one and a half hours.*

*No charge is made for the walks although donations to the Battlefields Trust charity will be welcome. The John Hampden Society has worked closely with the Trust in the past and their work is worthy of your support. More information about the Trust can be found on their website [www.battlefieldstrust.com](http://www.battlefieldstrust.com).*

*Contact Sam Hearn the Society's Treasurer on 020 8995 2666 for more information about the walks and arrangements for lunch.*



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## DIARY DATES

### 2005

**Saturday 12th November.** A Day School run by the Cromwell Association at The Royal Armouries in Leeds. The theme for the day is "1655 - Year of Crisis?", exploring aspects of the Protectorate and the events of 1655. Further details available on [www.olivercromwell.org](http://www.olivercromwell.org)

*All meetings commence at 8 pm, unless otherwise stated.*

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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## THE BELLS OF ST MARYS.....

As all aspects of John Hampden's life are of interest to us, it might be apposite to remind ourselves that in 1625, when he was 31 years old, he had three bells cast by Knight of Reading, for the tower of St Mary Magdalene Church at Great Hampden. These were the original bells of the tower. They bear the following inscriptions:

- 1 "Our Hope is in the Lord."
2. "Prayes ye the Lord"
3. "Let your Hope be in the Lord".

It would be interesting to know if they were part of a thanksgiving. Some time ago it was found that the first bell was cracked, and this was removed for safe keeping to Hampden House. A replacement was provided by the 7th Earl of Buckinghamshire.



There is little doubt that the original bells rang a mournful peal on that Sunday morning, June 25th 1643, when the body of the Patriot was escorted along the magnificent glade of beeches and Spanish chestnuts by a large company, including Hampden's Greencoats, with drums and banners muffled and arms reversed, singing the 90th Psalm.

*Bob Hammond*

## THE HOUSE OF WHARTON

### Part 3 [concluded]

Lord Wharton did not have to wait too long for, at the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660, he was granted a Pardon by Charles II. Interestingly, he was assisted in obtaining his Pardon from the King's brother, James, Duke of York, who said a few friendly words in his favour. Wharton felt that this unsolicited help from the Catholic heir to the throne was part of a political calculation on his behalf. At the Restoration, Wharton was part of the escort when the King travelled from Greenwich into London on the twenty eighth of May 1660. At the King's Coronation, Wharton was dressed in black in mourning for his wife, Jane<sup>1</sup>. He wore diamonds as coat buttons to enlighten his attire, and he spent eight thousand pounds on horse furniture.

In spite of his Pardon, Wharton had to endure the religious reforms taking place even though the Declaration of Indulgence 1662 came to little. It was quickly followed by an Act of Uniformity in the same year. The Bishops returned to their cathedrals and regained their endowments. The Act meant that Presbyterians were not welcome in the Reformed Church of England. The effect was that, though many came to hear the sermon, most did not take the communion, unless they needed to qualify for office as it was felt, "It is madness to lose an office for a bit of bread and a cup of wine." The majority of the gentry at least showed some signs of conformity to the church, although some attended conventicles or kept non-conformist chaplains. Wharton was found many times at a conventicle but was not punished because of his privileges as a Peer. Wharton and those of like mind had to wait until 1690 for the Toleration Act which gave them freedom to worship as long as they did not meet behind closed doors.

However, stricter penal laws were introduced and the conventicles were broken up. The King's speech to Parliament in April, 1675 maintained the enforcement of the laws against dissenters. Wharton and eight other Peers objected. There soon followed the 'Non Resisting Test Bill' which imposed upon Members of Parliament and officials not to attempt to change the government of State or Church. Wharton spoke on this matter a couple of times. His main points were that a debate in the House is necessary and changes can only be established by an Act of Parliament. The Bishops also claimed Divine Right and Wharton put it to them, "could they excommunicate their Prince?" The Bishops did not answer for they preached non-resistance to the King. Wharton and the Opposition Party made full use of the right to protest. The Court Party voted that this 'Protest' was a breach of privilege. This Parliament had continued for fourteen years and the King had received more money than any of his predecessors in the last fifty years, but as this Parliament opposed his view on the Non Resisting Test Bill and other matters, the King prorogued it for fifteen months (from November, 1675 to February, 1677). Lord Shaftesbury seized upon this prorogation as being illegal as the statutes of Edward III and Richard II, which had not been repealed, state that Parliaments must be held every year. When Parliament assembled in 1677, Buckingham declared, "This is not a Parliament as it has not been dissolved." A parallel motion in the Commons collapsed and the King's chief minister, Danby, proposed punishment for those who supported this view. Wharton and three other Lords<sup>2</sup> were charged with maintaining this view. Eventually they were asked to seek a pardon from the King and the House for their assertions. Although Wharton did ask for<sup>3</sup> pardon, the Chancel-

lor asked him to repeat it which he refused to do. The four Lords were subsequently sent to the Tower. One year later they were released after submitting Petitions to the King. During 1678, all four were back in Parliament with Wharton and Shaftesbury active in various committees.

At the accession of James II to the throne in 1685, Wharton withdrew to the Continent and returned in October, 1686 to be one of the first to declare for William III in 1688. Upon Williams' arrival, Wharton was offered the office of Privy Councillor; however, during the next few years he did not attend the House regularly. His last recorded appearance in Parliament was in June, 1691. Wharton suffered a tragedy similar to that of his uncle the third Lord Wharton, as in December, 1689 his favourite son, William, was killed in a duel (it was thought unfairly) by a Mr. Wolsley. Although Wharton wanted Wolsley to be punished, Wolsley obtained a pardon and left the country. Another of the sons, a Colonel Henry Wharton, was a colourful figure, brave soldier and accomplished swordsman. He was often involved in fights and brawls. In 1680, he was banished from Court for duelling (from which he almost died) and, "running through one of Madame Gwyn's horses who drove too near him". In 1687, he and another brother, Thomas, were involved in a brawl when they desecrated Bramlington Church in the West Country. He also knocked down one of the Duke of Norfolk's coachmen in Tunbridge Wells. In 1686, he joined the Prince of Orange in Exeter and was made Colonel of a regiment. He died whilst on active service in Ireland.

Philip, the fourth Lord Wharton, died in 1695 aged eighty three. He had great taste for architecture and gardens and formed a fine collection of portraits by Van Dyck and Lely. In his house at Winchendon, Wharton had a gallery, one hundred and twenty feet in length, in which hung portraits of the royal family, contemporaries and portraits of his family. He commissioned several pictures from Van Dyck<sup>3</sup>, twelve full lengths and six half length portraits. After Van Dyck's death in 1641, Peter Lely was also commissioned. As a young man of nineteen, Wharton 'sat' for Van Dyck. It is one of Van Dyck's earliest English works and is considered to be one of the most romantic. Also in the collection there were full length portraits of Charles I and a companion portrait of Henrietta Maria. Portraits of his family included his father in law, Arthur Goodwin, full length, noted for its harmonious tones of brown and gold, Lady Wharton, full length, plucking a rose and Jane, his second wife, full length, holding a tulip. Portraits with two females together are rare but in the Wharton collection there was a picture of Philadelphia and Elizabeth Wharton, aged four and five.



**Philadephia and Elizabeth Wharton**

Considerable sums of Wharton's wealth were applied to charitable purposes, namely the purchase and distribution of Bibles and other religious books for the poor. Over one thousand Bibles, with singing psalms and catechisms were to be distributed annually, and it was expected of the recipient to learn by heart several psalms. It is fairly obvious that these books and Bibles were intended for the benefit of Dissenters of whom Wharton was one.

Wharton had lived a long life and through several reigns, including a Puritan Lord Protector. He managed to keep his wealth and titles intact. After the Restoration he always had influence, albeit apart for a short spell in the Tower, he suffered personal tragedies with the loss of his favourite son. He married three times and had thirteen children. In Parliament he received no comfort from the Tories who sang,

"I prithie good Lord, take old Wharton away,  
That young Lord Wharton may come in his place,  
to drink and to whore and a thousand tricks more  
With a damned fanatical face."

Whatever the insults, Wharton could finally see in William and Mary the foundations of national unity being laid, something that previous monarchs were unable to do. Wharton's monument in St. Paul's Church, .Wooburn is inscribed, "an active supporter of the English Constitution, a loyal observer, advocate and patron of the reformed religion, a model alike of good works and a true and living faith."

<sup>1</sup> Jane Goodwin, his second wife, who died in 1658.  
<sup>2</sup> Nottingham, Salisbury and Shaftesbury  
<sup>3</sup> It has been observed by an art expert that Wharton did not insist that all the portraits should be wholly by Van Dyke's hand.

**Mike Portsmouth**

## SOCIETY LEAFLETS

You will find enclosed with this edition of *'The Patriot'* two copies of the Society's new leaflet. Please feel free to pass these on to anyone that might be interested in finding out a little more about John Hampden and the Society. If you need more copies of the leaflet you should contact the Hon Secretary, Anthea Coles 07985 607224. There is no charge for these leaflets but a stamped addressed envelope would be much appreciated.

Members of The Executive Committee try to ensure that stocks of the Society's leaflets are available in local museums, tourist information centres and libraries. Existing members can assist the Society in attracting new members by identifying suitable places for displaying the leaflets and keeping the displays well stocked.

If you have any suggestions for improving the leaflet please contact the Treasurer Sam Hearn on 020 8995 2666.

## MEMBERS' NEWS

Since the last update of the Membership List in June 2005 the following have joined the Society:

**Mr John Walker** of Newquay.  
**Mr Kenneth Griffiths** of London.  
**Ms Pamela Brown** of New South Wales, Australia.

Our Vice-Chairman, **Mr Robert V. Hammond** has changed his address. He now resides at Flat 4, No 8, High Street, Haddenham, AYLESBURY, Bucks, HP17 8ER.

His telephone no is 01844 292635.

*Liz Morris*  
**Membership Secretary**



**The Earl of Buckinghamshire being interviewed about his ancestor in Hampden House in early August by NHK [Japanese Broadcasting Corporation] for their programme about the Palace of Westminster**

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Sir,

I see in the last edition of *'The Patriot'* that another lock of hair from the body exhumed in 1828 has emerged.

In 1996 Rosemary Cooper showed me and several Society members a purported lock of J.H.'s in Carisbrooke Castle (*'The Patriot'* No 16) in 1996. It occurs to me that if we could get the DNA of both specimens identified and they coincided at least we should know if they came from the same corpse, though it does not prove that they were from J.H. A further thought occurs. If we could get the DNA from some known descendents of J.H. and match it against the hairs, there is a chance that we could establish once and for all if the corpse was John's or at least a member of the family. Of course it might be expensive and I do not know how one would go about it but the Society has connections with Oxford and I have no doubt that it could be done at the University. I can think of no project of greater moment for the Society than this.

It set me thinking again about what actually caused John's death and I went back to all sources available to me here from Clarendon to Adair and Lester/Blackshaw and tried to think about it anatomically (I was once an anatomy lecturer). What was he wearing in the battle? He was got out of bed in the early hours in haste; did he have time to put on his buff coat and back and breast plates?; the latter might have a vital bearing. He was riding his horse holding the reins in his left hand (if he was right-handed) and in his right he would have either his sword or pistol. To the layman the shoulder is a large area and can mean anywhere from the side of the chest to the upper arm. Let us be specific; the shoulder joint is the articulation between the scapula and the upper humerus - the glenohumeral joint and that alone; there is also the articulation between the lateral end of the clavicle and the acromial process of the scapula - the acromio-clavicular joint. Many vital structures lie in close proximity to the gleno-humeral joint mostly below and medial to it including the brachial plexus supplying all the nerves to the arm and the large subclavian artery, any of which could be damaged by an injury to the joint.

Clarendon states that the was 'shot into the shoulder by a brace of bullets which brake the bone'. Which shoulder? Which bone? He would have got his information at 2nd or 3rd hand in Oxford so is of doubtful veracity. Essex says only that he was 'shot through the shoulder'. This seems to have been the accepted fact at the time. Nugent states that 'he was struck in the shoulder by two carabine balls which breaking the bone entered his body, and

his arm hung powerless and shattered by his side'. Then 'his head bending down and his hands resting on his horse's neck, he was seen riding off the field'. This might suggest that both hands were injured otherwise he would have used his good hand on the reins. Nugent in his biography does not mention the exhumation nor the 'Pye-pistol' theory, which only became known prior to the exhumation. Gardiner states briefly that he was 'sorely wounded in the shoulder' and dismisses the two theories as 'utterly unimportant'; perhaps he is right!

John Adair in '*The Patriot*' No 21 repeats Essex's statement and then rather surprisingly in his biography states 'a cavalier trooper had ridden up and shot him from behind with a double-loaded pistol. The two balls bit deeply into the flesh behind his shoulder blade'. This apparently written in London shortly after the battle. I find this difficult; had he been wearing his back-plate his scapula would have been covered and the bullets would not have entered; if he was not then the bullets would have gone through the scapula and entered the chest probably resulting in a pneumothorax. There is no evidence that he had a chest injury, and if he had a pneumothorax I doubt if he would have got as far as Thame.

Lester and Blackshaw<sup>1</sup> did a wonderful hatchet job on Nugent's exhumation, and I would only add a couple of points. If the pistol did indeed explode in John's hand I cannot think there would have been anything to put into a bag, but it is possible that the force of the recoil transmitted up the forearm bones and the humerus could have been sufficient to cause a dislocation of the acromio-clavicular joint. I agree that the idea of amputating the arms with a penknife is laughable, but I think they are wrong to suggest that raising up the body on a shovel would have broken the shoulder bones, though it could have damaged the thoracic or lumbar spines. And the idea that tearing off the 'top knot' leaving the brain underneath exposed alone makes Nugent incredible. What about the scalp and the underlying cranium? Is it possible that his arm could have been paralysed without any bone injury? Yes, I think it might. A bullet fired from the front could have entered the body just below the lateral end of the clavicle, passed through the brachial plexus and below the gleno-humeral joint and just lateral to the outer border of the scapula and out of the body, and the arm would be paralysed. In doing so it might have damaged the subclavian artery in which case he would have bled profusely and died before he left the battlefield. We shall never know. As Lester and Blackshaw wrote 'let him remain the hero of Chalgrove and of Parliamentary Democracy'. Would he were alive today.

*Paul Hooper*

<sup>1</sup>The controversy of John Hampden's Death, by Derek Lester & Gillian Blackshaw, available from the Society—£3.50 plus 50p

## THE OLD KIND OF PLUNDERING

**This is a copy of the letter distributed by the Society to attendees at this year's Bucks History Fair held at Winslow. It gives some idea of the anarchy reigning in that part of Buckinghamshire only a month before the Battle of Chalgrove.**

### LORD WENTWORTH TO PRINCE RUPERT

*Buckingham 15<sup>th</sup> May 1643*

*4 of the clock in the afternoon*

*MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HIGHNESS,*

*We came this morning to Winslow, but they were gone before we came, nor as it provided, was it indeed other ways likely, for they were only a sort of country people that never were settled there, but sometimes when they gathered together did use to quarter there; some of the stragglers were killed, but we found no considerable proportion of arms and ammunition, nor horses they having been driven away them all almost, and having had timely notice enough to disperse themselves in safety with their arms.*

*Our men are not very governable, nor do I think they will be, unless some of them be hanged, for they fall extremely to the old kind of plundering, which is neither for their own good nor his Majesty's service: this consideration makes Sir John Bryon and myself very weary of this employment, so that if there intervene no other accident, we hope to return your Highness's troops into their old quarters by tomorrow night.*

*We have already driven off a few sheep and cattle, from a knight that is notoriously known to be ill-affected to the King's service. I am informed we shall find some more such tomorrow on our journey home, we shall do like from them, but I think not we can be ill-natured enough to do it any but such. This is all I have to trouble your Highness with, also I humbly take my leave, and rest your Highness's most humble and most obedient servant.*

*THOMAS WENTWORTH*

Printed for The John Hampden Society

Oxford University is holding a Day School at Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford on Saturday, 5th November, entitled

#### "Recusants and the English Local Community"

to consider the Catholic community in early modern England and its place in local society, how they lived with their Protestant neighbours and why we should not be surprised that Guy Fawkes and his friends attracted little support - note that this event is scheduled to take place on the 400th anniversary of the Gunpowder Plot!

Fees are £38 without lunch, £40.10 with a baguette lunch or £47 with hot lunch.

Contact The Day School Administrator, OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA, tel: 01865 270368

## BUCKS LOCAL HISTORY FAIR AND CONFERENCE

**Held at The Winslow Adult Education Centre on Saturday, 1 October 2005**

This was the 6<sup>th</sup> Conference and Fair. The John Hampden Society has been represented at all of them. County wide historical and archaeological organisations seem to be getting to know us better every year. The Society's book stall was manned by Sam Hearn, Liz Morris and June Wailing. Our new Hampden green display stand was put to use for the first time. The exhibition was assembled off site and then raised and dismantled at Winslow in under two minutes.

The first lecture entitled "Baptists in Central Bucks in the C17th and Benjamin Keach the Winslow Tailor" was delivered by the Rev Eric Eyre. He was an entertaining speaker. He was hugely enthusiastic about Keach who made his name as a preacher, writer and theologian in Southwark having been forced out of Winslow. Keach was the instigator of hymn singing in Baptist chapels and the Rev Eyre gave us a few choruses of a well-known hymn. He was unable to throw any light on the tradition that John Hampden had given land to Baptists at Wendover in order for them to build a chapel.



A visit to Keach's Baptist Chapel [est. 1695] in Winslow

The second lecturer Dr David Noy spoke on "Medieval Winslow and the St Albans Connection - Buying their Blood at the Abbots Will". The lecture examined the relationship between the Abbey at St Albans and its tenants at Winslow. In addition to tithes and rents the Abbot levied at least nine different fines including one known as *leyrwrite* imposed on women convicted of having sexual relations outside of marriage.

The final lecture was on "The Claydons: the role of the Verneys in transforming an English Rural Society 1600-1820". Dr John Broad outlined how the Verneys had gained control of the Claydons (Middle, East and Steeple) and how over two centuries consolidated their position and changed the landscape.

The cost of the day at £7.50 was not exorbitant. The guided tour of historic Winslow in the afternoon would have been worth £7.50 on its own. How else would we have found the tiny but numinous so called Keach's Chapel?

*Liz Morris & Sam Hearn*