



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 73 - Winter 2012/2013



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 FIVE MEMBERS AND THE SIXTH MAN

King Charles I, having ordered his Attorney-General to indict five members of the House of Commons on the 3rd January 1642, came to the House the following morning with an armed guard of 400 men to attempt to arrest John Pym, John Hampden, Sir Arthur Hesilrige, Denzil Holles and William Strode. All five were accused of high treason, in that “they have traitorously endeavoured to subvert the fundamental laws and government of the kingdom of England“.

He also came in search of a sixth man, a member of the Upper House, Edward Montague, Viscount Mandeville. Perhaps the fact that he was the only Peer that the king attempted to arrest is a measure of his importance within the opposition. Lord Mandeville inherited the Earldom of Manchester, the title by which he was known when he later became the leader of the Parliamentary Army. Manchester fought bravely at Marston Moor, suffering shell-shock from the carnage. He was not however, a tactical success and retired from public life in 1645 leaving the command of the Parliamentary Armies to Sir Thomas Fairfax. He took no part in public affairs under the Republic, but re-emerged at the Restoration in 1660 to welcome Charles II, whose coronation he organised as Lord Chamberlain. He was rewarded with the Order of the Garter, and died in 1671.

The later fortunes of the five members of the House of Commons differed greatly in the turbulent years which followed their attempted arrest by the king on the 4th January 1642.

John Hampden died of wounds in June 1643 following his heroic part in the Battle of Chalgrove Field. Alas, his particular qualities to conciliate were precisely those in which the victors of the Civil War showed themselves to be deficient in the later 1640s. He is buried in the church of St. Mary Magdalene at Great Hampden in Buckinghamshire.

John Pym, the most influential of the reformers and chief architect of the revolution for Parliamentary supremacy, died of cancer in December of the same year. He was buried in Westminster Abbey, but like many of Parliament's deceased heroes, his body suffered a macabre exhumation in the 1660s.

Sir Arthur Hesilrige fought in the Civil Wars and was active in Parliament throughout the 1640s & 1650s. There was no room for him in the Restoration settlement and although not a regicide, he was imprisoned and died in the Tower in 1661.

The political life of Denzil Holles was altogether more complex. He served in Parliament over a fifty year period, but spent some of the Civil War years in exile in France. In 1644 he wanted to impeach Oliver Cromwell and in 1646 he nearly fought a duel with Henry Ireton. He gained a peerage at the Restoration and in 1667 helped to negotiate the Treaty of Breda with the Dutch. In the same year he was one of only four Peers who opposed the banishment of Edward Hyde, Earl of Clarendon. He died a Baron and an octogenarian in 1680.

William Strode who had spent ten years in prison in the 1630s, died in 1645. He supported the Grand Remonstrance of 7th November 1641 and zealously pursued the prosecution of Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford. His body also suffered exhumation following the Restoration.



Brian Cox

HAMPDEN'S FIRST MUSTER

It's often perceived that John Hampden first mustered his Regiment at Chalgrove on August 15th 1642. This muster may have been Hampden's Regiment brigading with Denzil Holles' Redcoats and Sir Arthur Goodwin's horse regiment at Chalgrove and can be gleaned from the following extract in *The Late Beating Up*:

'How that he received this wound in the very same Chalgrove Field, where August 15 1642 himself had sent together a power of Redcoats, which he procured to be sent from London, with 200 Buckinghamshire men (all under his own and Colonel Goodwin's command) for the taking of the Earl of Berkshire.'



Among Nehemiah Wharton's letters found in the Calendar of State Papers Domestic 1641-43 part of SP28/129 part 1, which details the musters of Hampden's regiment it states, Hampden being at Aylesbury with 400 musketeers on 10 Aug 1642. (Courtesy of Simon Marsh)

Mike Pearson wrote in his dissertation, 'Colonel John Hampden was in Aylesbury recruiting for his regiment, when, in mid August 1642, he received the information that the Earl of Berkshire was at Ascott (in Oxfordshire), intending to execute the king's Commission of Array. (In reply to Parliament passing the Militia Ordinance, the king recruited through issuing Commissions of Array.) So on Monday the 16th of August Hampden, accompanied by 100 horse and 400 musketeers, marched from Aylesbury to Ascott and "without much ceremony, entered the house and apprehended the Earl'. This statement confirms that Hampden was already in Aylesbury before the 15th or 16th August 1642.

Derek Lester

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Adult Members: £15
Joint Members: £20
Junior/Student Members: £10

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2013, kindly arrange payment to:

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AGM 2013

The AGM this year has been scheduled for 21st April. Attendees are welcome to join members of the Executive Committee in attending the Church of St. Mary Magdalene at Great Hampden for morning service at 11.15.

Following the service we are hoping to arrange a quick visit to Hampden House, and will then adjourn to The Gate Inn at Bryants Bottom for lunch and the meeting in the Harvey Room. All arrangements will be confirmed nearer the time, but please make a note in your diary of the date and venue so that you don't miss the opportunity of a pleasant social get-together in the heart of Hampden country.

It was with sadness that the Executive Committee recently received this communication:

Dear Sam,

Further to my email sent before the Christmas holiday, I would confirm my wish to stand down from the Committee for health reasons.

I am sorry to have to say this, but I do have to cut down on my commitments and, unfortunately, I shall have to do so with immediate effect.

Thank you for your and the Committee's kindness and consideration over my term of office which, in the main, I have found stimulating for the right reasons.

With best wishes.

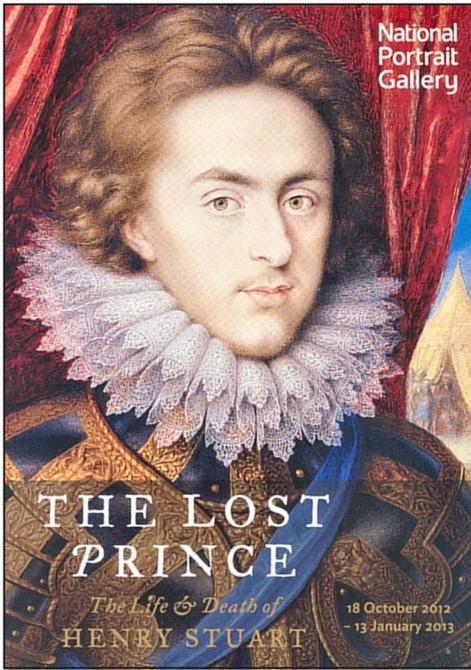
John.

John Gabbitas

John has been, during his time on the Executive Committee, a hardworking and innovative member. With his legal background he has, on a number of occasions, been able to point us in the right direction and his quiet manner and dry sense of humour will be much missed at meetings.

We send all good wishes to John, with the hope that 2013 will bring an improvement in his health problems and enable him to enjoy his membership of the Society.

THE LOST PRINCE



The National Portrait Gallery in London recently hosted an exhibition entitled *The Lost Prince*. This was to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of Henry Frederick, Prince of Wales, elder son of James I.

Henry died from typhoid fever on 6th November 1612 at the age of 18, and his death led to an outpouring of national grief, as he had been the focus of great hopes. He embodied all the princely virtues and his court was the centre of a revival of chivalry and a renaissance in the arts. He was interested in naval and military matters, unlike his father, with whom he often disagreed. Henry disliked some of James's courtiers and admired Sir Walter Raleigh, whom James later had executed.

There were many verses written in praise of Henry within a few months of his death, including a collection entitled *Luctus Posthumous* in which Magdalen students John Hampden and Arthur Goodwin collaborated. (Henry had attended Magdalen in 1605.)

Henry's upbringing in Scotland had been Calvinist in character; one of his early tutors was Sir George Lauder of the Bass, a puritan, and a close friend after 1603 was Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex, later Lord General of the Parliamentary Army in the Civil War. So it seems likely that, had Henry become king, he would not have antagonised his Protestant subjects with the disastrous religious policy of his brother Charles.

On the other hand, Henry had a strong character, inclined to arrogance, and may well have clashed with the rising Parliamentary aspirations of the gentry, but it is difficult to believe that his relations with Parliament would have descended into civil war.



It is pointless to speculate, but it seems likely that, had Henry become king, such 17th century heroes as John Hampden, Oliver Cromwell, Essex, Sir John Eliot, etc, would never have attained the national importance that they did. The history of Parliamentary democracy, of Great Britain, and of the world in general, must inevitably have been much different.

The exhibition at the NPG was a superb affair and included some of the most important works of art and culture from the Jacobean period, There were paintings by Hans Holbein and Nicholas Hilliard – many from private collections, including the Queen's – designs by Inigo Jones and poetry by Ben Jonson, as well as many other artefacts, such as books and armour, associated with Henry.

Any student of the 17th century would have learned much from *The Lost Prince*.

Roy Bailey



DIARY DATES

2013

Sunday 21st April

The Society's AGM to be held at The Gate Inn, Bryants Bottom HP16 0JS, commencing at 2.30, to be preceded by lunch.

Attendees are welcome to join the Committee at Great Hampden Church at 11.15 for morning service. It is hoped that it will be possible to pay a short visit to Hampden House prior to retiring to The Gate for lunch.

Further details will be circulated in due course.

For up-to-date information, see the Diary page on the Society's website at:

www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm

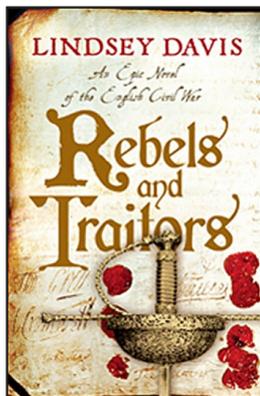
WE HAVE GOT IT COVERED

The Society has secured extensive insurance cover for its members and third parties at a preferential rate. This has been achieved by becoming a corporate member of the British Association for Local History (BALH). The Trustees are grateful to Maurice Kirtland for drawing our attention to this service.

We now have cover for members and third parties engaged in Society activities such as meetings, walks, talks, AGMs, visits to historical sites and the running of a stand at fairs. Please contact the Chairman, Sam Hearn, if you require any further information.

The absence of adequate insurance cover has, in the past, made it difficult or impossible for the Society to organise and even to simply participate in a wide variety of events organised by others. This insurance cover will allow us to be a bit more ambitious with our plans.

Members may like to visit the BALH website www.balh.co.uk for further information about the services that this small charity provides, primarily to local history groups.



BOOK REVIEW

Rebels & Traitors: An Epic Novel of the English Civil War

by Lindsey Davis.

Published by Arrow Books in 2010.

ISBN 978 0 0995 3857 8. 742 pp.

The author is justly famous for her best-selling series of novels featuring the first century Roman detective Marcus Didius Falco. This book, however, is something completely different. As the publisher's blurb explains, it is 'a serious novel on an epic scale, set in the English Civil War and Commonwealth'.

The author confesses on her website that this book "must seem like a new departure for me – though it's really what I always wanted to write. Some of my friends have been hearing about this for nearly fifty years!"

She continues "I was in my teens when I first started caring about the English Civil War, which has always appealed to my libertarian ideals, even though the attempt to install a republic failed and many of the great questions are still being fought over. To take one very pertinent issue, we are still debating what support should be given to soldiers who are injured in government service, and whether there should be a duty of care to the widows and children of those who are killed. The New Model Army felt passionately about that – mutinied over it even - and so do the forces who are serving today in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"In this book, Civil War events are a crucial element of the story, along with the struggling Commonwealth that followed. It was the dawn of modern journalism, a key moment in publishing. 'Ordinary' people took up the struggle and felt able to act and speak on their own initiative in ways that had never happened before. Even civilians suffered horribly. I think that what happened between 1642 and 1658 was extraordinary and should be much better known."

Sadly the author manages to perpetuate the myth that Hampden died from wounds received when his overloaded pistol exploded at "an engagement at Chalgrove". Nevertheless the book is extremely well researched: she describes several battles from the soldier's point of view and records in a straight forward manner the bad food, poor billets, boredom and sickness. At least one member will be pleased to see a detailed account of the siege of Birmingham.

Sam Hearn

THE MYSTERY DEEPENS...



What has been described as 'a 17th century time capsule' was discovered last year in an old house near Lichfield, Staffordshire, where the former owners had spent many years acquiring furniture and tapestries from the time of the Civil War.

The article in *The Daily Telegraph* of 3rd January carried a collection of photographs of the contents, but that of a 17th

century oak-joined press cupboard bears a strong resemblance to the oak cupboard bearing John Hampden and Elizabeth Symeon's names and initials discovered in Suffolk in November 2010. (See *The Patriot* no. 66)

That particular piece was subsequently identified as a later reproduction, but in the light of the photograph in the auctioneers' catalogue (*above*), we wonder...

The whole collection of 171 lots was sold by auctioneers Charles Hanson at Etwall, Derbyshire, on 12th January. The chest in question was valued at £300-500 in the catalogue, but fetched £2,800.

Roy Bailey

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