



# THE PATRIOT

Quarterly Journal of the John Hampden Society

No. 3 - Summer 1993



## SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION

### JOHN HAMPDEN PUBLICLY HONOURED IN MEMORABLE CEREMONY AT THAME



The wounded John Hampden (right) and Arthur Goodwin approach the Greyhound Inn.  
*Photograph: Bucks Herald.*

The Society's first public event took place in the presence of some 400 spectators at Thame on Thursday 24th June, when the Earl of Buckinghamshire laid a wreath in honour of his illustrious ancestor, John Hampden, at the Hampden Memorial on the wall of Hampden House.

This Commemorative Ceremony came as the culmination of an evening devoted to honouring the memory of the Patriot on the 350th anniversary of his death. At 6 pm, members gathered at the old Lord Williams's Grammar School in Church Road, which John Hampden attended as a boy. After refreshments kindly supplied by owners Booker Tate plc, members were shown around the building by Mary Pethica, the company's former librarian.

At 7.30 a special peal of bells was rung by the bellringers of St. Mary's Church, under the captaincy of Terry Gibson. At 7.55 the Hon. Secretary, Roy Bailey, welcomed the assembled audience, which included representatives from Oxfordshire County Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Thame Town Council, Milwards Shoes Ltd., and Chalgrove Battlefield Committee. A special welcome was extended to Society member Hugh Muldrew and his wife Trixie, from Hampden, New Zealand. By coincidence, Mr Muldrew had arranged to be in England in June and, on learning of the Society's programme, made a point of staying in Thame for the Commemorative Ceremony.

Mr Bailey also thanked the various people and organisations who had helped to make the evening's events possible. These included Booker Tate, Milwards Shoes (for donating window space for a display), Buckinghamshire County Museum (for loaning the exhibits), Brenda Goffin (for producing the wreath), Faith Peake (for supplying the horses), Thame Town Council, and members of Thame Historical Society, especially Maurice Kirtland and Rosalie Gibson.



Bishop Dick Watson leads the prayers in memory of John Hampden.  
*Photograph: Bucks Free Press*

Just before 8 o'clock two horsemen in 17th century uniform appeared from the direction of Southern Road and rode slowly towards the Town Hall. They represented the wounded John Hampden, making his way to the Greyhound Inn after the Battle of Chalgrove, and his companion Arthur Goodwin. Although this event had actually taken place six days prior to Hampden's death, its re-enactment on this particular evening aroused a great deal of interest. The part of John Hampden was taken by Derek Lester, well known as a Captain in Colonel John Hampden's Regiment of Foote, and that of Arthur Goodwin by Gordon Middleton of Chesham.

After the horsemen had disappeared through the archway into Greyhound Walk, the Commemorative Ceremony began with prayers by Bishop Dick Watson, President of Thame Historical Society. Bishop Watson first called on the assembly to remember  
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John Hampden, who died in the Greyhound Inn exactly 350 years ago, attended by the King's doctor, who had come through the Parliamentary lines to be with his friend. The Bishop then prayed for all those who hold office and responsibility, for lives of leadership and service in a world of great need, and for peace. The service ended with the Lord's Prayer.



**The Earl of Buckinghamshire lays his wreath at the Memorial plaque (top left and above) and (left) remembers his famous ancestor. Musketeer Maggie Hulme stands guard.**  
*Photographs: Caroline Hickman*



This was followed by a short speech by the Earl of Buckinghamshire, Patron of the John Hampden Society, who paid tribute to his ancestor as a leader of men and a man who lived by the family motto, 'No Steps Backward'. "Once John Hampden had set upon a course, there was no deflecting him", said Lord Buckinghamshire, who added that Hampden is mainly remembered for his opposition to paying the Ship Money tax in 1635. "We now remember him for his courage and generosity of spirit, and his place in history is assured. In laying this wreath we do honour to his immortal memory".

Lord Buckinghamshire then laid the wreath, specially made from dried flowers in the shape of the Hampden coat of arms, at the base of the memorial plaque, and stood for a few moments in reverential silence.

The final address was by Councillor Mrs Jane Morbey, Mayor of Thame, who pointed out that there were many links with John Hampden in Thame. The Primary school was named after him, and there were many roads bearing the names of famous Civil War figures. She finished by saying, "We stand here today as councillors because of men like John Hampden, who fought and died for democracy." Mrs Morbey then laid a wreath on behalf of the town of Thame.

Following the ceremony, many of the participants adjourned to the Spread Eagle Hotel, where the owner, Mrs Sarah Barrington, had organised a menu of 17th century food and some traditional ale from the Chiltern Brewery at Aylesbury.

Six days earlier, on Friday 18th June, many members of the Society were present at the memorial service at the Hampden Monument at



**Derek Lester as John Hampden, with serving wench Rosalie Gibson (left) and pikeman Dave Gabol (right)**  
*Photograph: Bucks Free Press*

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Chalgrove, organised by the Chalgrove Battlefield Committee. This marked not only the 350th anniversary of the battle, but also the 150th anniversary of the erection of the Monument and the 50th anniversary of the arrival of American troops at the airfield during World War II.

A large gathering of people marched from the Wallis Club in Chalgrove to the Monument, where two separate services were held. The first, conducted by the Rev. Ralph Gutersloh from Upper Heyford, was to dedicate a new memorial to the memory of the American troops stationed at Chalgrove who fell in action. The second, conducted by the Rev. Ian Cohen, Rector of Chalgrove, was to mark the anniversary of the battle in which John Hampden received his death wound.



**The Hon Ian Hope-Morley (centre left) and the Earl of Buckinghamshire (centre right) honour their ancestor at the Chalgrove Service, flanked by Lady Buckinghamshire (right) and John Steele-Clark of the Chalgrove Battlefield Committee (left).**

**Derek Lester holds the Standard of Colonel John Hampden's Regiment of Foote, which bears the family motto 'Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum'.**

Lord Buckinghamshire gave a short address at this service, and the colour party was provided by units of both the Sealed Knot and the English Civil War Society, with Derek Lester as Standard Bearer. The congregation then marched back to the Wallis Club, where speeches were made and refreshments served. On the Saturday and Sunday there was a re-enactment of the battle by the Sealed Knot in Ascott Park.

The following weekend, the 26th and 27th, saw a Celebration of the Life of John Hampden, organised by Great Hampden Parochial Church Council. On the Saturday the grounds of Hampden House were the setting for a 17th century fair, with jugglers, falconry and traditional games. The ubiquitous Col. John Hampden's Regiment of Foote gave demonstrations of pike drill and musketry under the command of the inevitable Captain Derek Lester!

There was a flower festival in the Church, and visitors were able to inspect the newly-restored Hampden memorials. At 5 o'clock Dr John Adair, President of the Society, gave a lecture on John Hampden's life in the Great Hall, which proved to be a great attraction. About 150 people crammed into the Hall and the gallery, and many others had to be turned away disappointed.

In the evening there was concert by the Ridge-way String Quartet in the Church, which was also the setting for a Songs of Praise on the Sunday evening.

In three events within nine days, The John Hampden Society has honoured its hero and helped other organisations to do likewise.

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● The Editor of *'The Patriot'* wishes to thank the Bucks Free Press, the Bucks Herald and Mrs Caroline Hickman for supplying photographs, and Computability of Hedge End, Southampton and Gabletek of Great Shefford, Newbury, for technical assistance.



**Colonel John Hampden's Regiment of Foote display their prowess on the lawns of Hampden House  
Photograph: Bucks Free Press**

## THE WREATH

If you are wondering what has happened to the beautiful wreath after it was laid by Lord Buckinghamshire, rest assured that it has not been thrown away. After the ceremony, it was removed by Rosalie Gibson for safe keeping, and the following day it was placed in the window display in Milwards' shop, replacing the portrait of John Hampden.

It remained there until the display was dismantled on 2nd July, when it was loaned out to the Bledlow Flower Festival. After that, the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Thame, borrowed it for their Flower Festival.

The wreath, which is in the shape of the Hampden coat of arms, was made by Brenda Goffin of Cruck Cottage Crafts, Thame, and is expected to last for five years. It is available on loan to any member or bona-fide organisation who wishes to borrow it. Contact Mrs Gibson on 0844 213948.

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## BACK NUMBERS

All members receive a current copy of *'The Patriot'* free of charge. but newly-joined members might like to know that back-numbers are available from the Hon. Secretary at 75p each, including postage. Cheques/postal orders, as with all Society transactions, should be made out to 'The John Hampden Society', and not to individuals.

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## MEMORIAL LECTURE

Dr John Adair's fascinating lecture on John Hampden on 26th June was recorded, and will shortly be edited in order to produce copies on cassette. These will be available later in the year as a commercial venture, at a price yet to be determined. A donation from each one sold will go to both the Society and to the Great Hampden Parochial Church Council, who organised Dr Adair's lecture.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT

Because of the wealth of material that needed to be included, this issue of *'The Patriot'* is larger than usual - a fact that also helps to explain why it is so late appearing!

The Autumn issue, which should be published on Michaelmas Day, will appear in October and will be of the usual four pages.

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The display in Milwards' window at Hampden House, Thame, prior to the ceremony.  
Photograph: Caroline Hickman

## NEWCOMERS

As reported in the Spring issue of *'The Patriot'*, we have forged closer links with the English Civil War Society. Their External Affairs Director, Jonathan Taylor, has accepted Honorary Membership of The John Hampden Society, and their Organising Secretary, Mrs Mary MacDonald Watson, has joined as an ordinary member.

They are both very welcome, as is Viscount Hampden of Glynde, Sussex, another descendant of the Patriot, who has become a life member, and also Gerald Bradford, of Ashmore Green, Newbury, who served in John Hampden's Troop of Horse in the Sealed Knot in the early 1970s.

We are pleased to welcome all our new members, who have brought the membership of the Society up to 150.

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The former Lord Williams's Grammar School in Church Road, Thame (right), which John Hampden and Arthur Goodwin attended.

## NEW APPOINTMENT

At the Committee Meeting held on 15th May, George Hammond was appointed Membership Secretary. He brings to the post a wealth of experience in running various voluntary bodies, and has already started on re-organising and improving the existing membership system.

Mr Hammond will be responsible for all membership applications, renewals and issue of membership cards, so all such matters should now be addressed to him at:-

**12 Linnet Drive,  
Westcott,  
AYLESBURY,  
Bucks HP18 0PB.  
Tel: 0296658578**

He wishes to remind members that, at the AGM in February, it was agreed that annual subscriptions would henceforth fall due on 1st January each year and would be payable by standing order, to minimise administration and postage. Consequently, members who have paid their subscriptions by cheque or cash will be requested, later in the year, to complete the standing order authority on the new pale green membership application forms. These will probably be sent out with the Autumn issue of *'The Patriot'*.

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## CENTENARY SHOW

On Sunday 19th September, the John Hampden Grammar School at High Wycombe will be holding their Centenary Show, commencing at 12 noon. Lord Carrington will perform the opening ceremony, and there will be several bands, a parachute display, a football match against Wycombe Wanderers, a climbing wall, a children's' corner and a re-enactment of the Battle of Chalgrove, featuring Society member Steve Parrish, the Parliamentary recruiting sergeant.

The Society has been invited to attend with 'literature and goods', as the invitation puts it, so anyone prepared to help man a stall on the day should get in touch with the Hon. Secretary.

Further details can be obtained from the Show Committee Chairman, Christopher Nash, on 0494 482219.

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## THE BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

The Society's President, Dr John Adair, has been appointed to the Steering Committee of The Battlefields Trust, which also includes the Chairman of the Sealed Knot, the Assistant Director of the National Army Museum, and the Director of the Commandery, Worcester. This body was set up in April to promote the preservation of the 50 or more battlefield sites in England, which range from the Roman invasion of 55 B.C. to Sedgemoor in 1685.

None of these have any protection under English law. (in Scotland some battlefield sites are looked after by the National Trust for Scotland) which means that the sites are at the mercy of housing developers, road builders and other vested interests. Naseby, the perfectly preserved site of the decisive battle of the English Civil War, is a case in point, being faced with destruction by the M1/A1 Motorway link when a good alternative route exists.

However, English Heritage are currently investigating the possibility of listing certain battlefield sites, but they are unable to say if Chalgrove is included. As members who visited Chalgrove on 18th June will realise, the battlefield there is largely intact, although the airfield and some industrial units cover a part of it. Test drillings for gravel extraction have recently been carried out there, and Chalgrove Parish Council is anxious to ensure that the area does not become one large gravel pit.

The Battlefields Trust intends to raise funds by means of membership, grants, sponsorship and public campaigns. Anyone wishing for further details of this most worthwhile body should contact:-

**Kelvin van Hasselt**  
Co-ordinator, The Battlefields Trust  
2 Winton Close  
Lymington  
Hants S041 9SU.  
Tel & Fax: 0590 671533

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## VIDEO RECORDING

Dennis Hargreaves has a video recording which he made of both the Commemorative Ceremony at Thame and the drill displays by Colonel John Hampden's Regiment of Foote at Great Hampden.

Dennis is prepared to make a limited number of VHS copies of this tape, which lasts about 40 minutes. for interested members.

He can be contacted at :-

**30 Ash Road,**  
**PRINCES RISBOROUGH,**  
**Bucks HP27 OBQ.**  
**Tel: 0844 342928**

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## PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION

A few Society members and several of the Chalgrove Battlefield Committee travelled to Stow-on-the-Wold on Sunday 23rd May to inspect the unknown portrait of John Hampden.

This is part of the Christie-Crawford collection housed on the upper floor of St. Edward's Hall, and comprising a large number of fascinating portraits of important 17th century personalities, such as King Charles I, Prince Rupert, Lord Astley, John Pym and Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia.



Our tutor for the day was art historian David Appleby, (above, inspecting the picture) who expressed doubts as to whether the portrait of Hampden was genuine. He felt that it could be a Victorian reproduction, but reserved judgement until such time as the picture has undergone a much-needed restoration. It certainly bears a closer resemblance to the Earl of St. Germans' portrait than any other, although the head faces in the opposite direction.

The Trustees then surprised us by handing over the picture on loan to the Society for display in Hampden House during Dr John Adair's lecture - a most generous and timely gesture.

● We hope to feature the various portraits and engravings that are alleged to be John Hampden in a future issue of *'The Patriot'*.

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ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT  
& BANQUETING



1993.

**Sunday 19 Sept. 12 noon.** Centenary Show at John Hampden Grammar School, Marlow Hill, High Wycombe.

(see *'Centenary Show'*)

1994.

The programme for 1994 is still being discussed, but will probably include a summer school at Missenden Abbey.

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## THE LAST HAMPDEN

One of our newer members is Mrs Moira Calvert (née Hampden) of Watlington, possessor of a family tree stretching back to a Charles Hampden who died in Barbados in 1688. Legend has it that this Charles Hampden was the grandson of John Hampden through his eldest son John, who was killed early in the Civil War, but there is no proof.

Mrs Calvert's great-grandfather was the Rev. Renn Dickson Hampden, Rector of Ewelme and later Bishop of Hereford. He was involved with Lord Nugent in the erection of the Hampden Monument on the battlefield in 1843, and had the ownership bestowed on him. Having no children, Mrs Calvert handed over the Monument to Chalgrove Parish Council in 1989.

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## THE LATEST HAMPDEN

With immaculate timing, the Hon. Ian Hope-Morley's wife Callie gave birth to a son on 25th June. Weighing 6lbs 12ozs, he has been christened Henry Gordon, but will be known as Harry. Congratulations to the proud parents.

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## TOUR DE FORCE

Graham Barfield from Matlock, Derbyshire, led a whistle-stop tour of Hampden enthusiasts around the places most closely associated with the Patriot on Saturday 19th June. They visited Great Kimble Church (to see the facsimile document bearing Hampden's signature), the Ship Money Monument at Honor End Farm, Great Hampden House and Church, the Hampden Arms (for lunch), Pyrton, Chalgrove, the Sealed Knot Battle at Ascott Park, the former Lord Williams's Grammar School and the memorial on Hampden House in Thame, and the statue of Hampden in Aylesbury Market Place - all in the space of about 6 hours.

Congratulations to Mr Barfield on a most impressive (and, one suspects, exhausting!) itinerary.

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