



THE PATRIOT

Quarterly Newsletter of the John Hampden Society
No. 26 - Autumn 1999



NO MILLENNIUM STATUE FOR THAME

Thame Town Council has decided not to proceed with the John Hampden Society's proposal for a statue of the Patriot on the town's Millennium Circle (pictured).

At the meeting held on 10 August, councillors decided that other people who have contributed to the life of the town should be honoured, and that our proposal was too costly and inappropriate.

Councillor Mike Whelply was reported by the Thame Gazette as saying that, '...to put up a bronze statue would sadly pander to the low life of



the town.' This was obviously a reference to the vandalism of the Aylesbury statue (see 'Vandals In Aylesbury').

Members of the John Hampden Society are disappointed at this decision, because we believe that a statue of John Hampden would enhance that part of Thame High Street, but we respect the wishes of the town's elected representatives

However, we feel that, although Hampden may not have founded a school, endowed a charity, or left a piece of land to the townspeople, he contributed to the life

of the town, and many others, by his efforts on the national stage. Without the unrelenting efforts of Hampden and his contemporaries against tyranny, Thame and many other towns like it might not enjoy the freedom of a representative council able to sit and freely deliberate on matters of local concern.

The matter has also been clouded by the figure of £45,000 which has been bandied about as the cost of the proposed statue.

The suggestion for such a memorial was made because we heard that the Town Council had

funds for the project and needed ideas, but at no time did anyone from the John Hampden Society mention any costings. Latest indications are that the Millennium Circle will remain unoccupied for the foreseeable future

However, there is good news in that Thame Historical Society is negotiating for some premises in which to set up a museum, and this has been approved by the Town Council. Should the plans come to fruition, it is likely that a part of the museum will be devoted to John Hampden.

EUROPEAN SHIP MONEY

The Daily Telegraph City Comment column of Sept 7, in an item about the European Commission's proposed withholding tax, said:

'What would John Hampden make of the withholding tax? The few remaining British historians may remember him as the man who went to prison rather than pay Ship Money, a tax levied without the consent of Parliament. Hampden was killed during the Civil War, but helped to establish the principle of 'no taxation without representation' which cost us the best part of the British Empire.'

We wrote to *The Daily Telegraph* correcting the historical inaccuracy (Hampden was never imprisoned in connection with Ship Money), but agreed that there would be no one of his calibre among the European finance ministers due to meet in Finland the following weekend. Indeed, we claimed that there is no one of the Patriot's calibre anywhere in politics today.

Publication resulted in several letters to the Society from interested persons, and two new members were recruited as a result.

WANTED

The Society has given an increasing number of lectures this year, all illustrated by our slide programme. To ensure a consistent standard of projection and to save time loading magazines beforehand, we have purchased a second-hand slide projector, a Kodak Carousel S-AV 2500 with a zoom lens and five magazines. This will eventually be stationed with one of our members in Thame, and will be very useful at the Society's exhibition there next June.

The only real drawback is that no remote-control lead for changing the slides came with the machine, and a new one appears to cost at least £50. If any has, or knows of, such a lead for sale at a rather more reasonable price, please contact the Vice-Chairman.

• A new addition to the list of the Society's lecturers is **Robert V. Hammond** of Wendover, who has given two illustrated talks in the past few weeks. His first one, to Pitstone Local History Society at Ivinghoe in September, resulted in the recruitment of a new member.

HOUSE OF LORDS

The Society's newly-enobled Chairman, Lord Hollenden, took his seat in the House of Lords earlier this year, a few weeks before the voting rights of hereditary peers was removed. Allocated one of a double peg on which to hang his coat, he found that the other one was occupied by **Viscount Hampden!**

• Our Patron, **The Earl of Buckinghamshire**, stood for election to the truncated House of Lords, but, sadly, was unsuccessful.

BETTER LATE THAN...

Once again apologies are in order for the late appearance of this newsletter. The Editor can only plead pressure of business, and the drawback of only having 24 hours in each day!

NEW MEMBERS

11 new members have joined the Society since the AGM in April, bringing the current membership up to 155.

A belated welcome, therefore, to **Mrs Moira Watts** of Aylesbury; **Eric & Jean Baines** of Speen, Bucks; **Michael & Joan Portsmouth** of Waltham St. Lawrence, Berks; **Mrs Joyce le Naimaster** of Mill Hill, London; **Michael Malone** of Wendover; **Stanley Cramer** of Loughborough, Leics; **Richard & Sharon Parsons** of Chalgrove; and **Rodney Parker** of Sydney, Australia.

Mrs le Naimaster and **Mr Cramer** joined as a result of the letter in *The Daily*
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VANDALS IN AYLESBURY



John Hampden has had his sword stolen - an incident which may have helped to scupper our proposal for a statue in Thame.

Three youths in their late teens wrenched off the sword and scabbard from the statue in Aylesbury's Market Square on the night of 4 July, but were caught on the closed-circuit TV cameras and arrested. The items were quickly recovered, and retained by the police while Aylesbury Vale District Council considered how to replace them.

David Betts, the council's head of strategic client services, said, "It is not a run-of-the-mill regular repair job, and we are trying to talk to the sort of people who deal

with these things".

On 9 October the sword and scabbard were handed back to the council in a ceremony (above) to coincide with Thames Valley Police's Crimestoppers campaign, and they were re-affixed to the statue about a week later. *The Bucks Herald* had previously reported that, when the items were replaced, the statue would spend a day with a crooklock across the chest, to help promote Aylesbury Police's anti-car crime campaign.

Mercifully, this didn't happen!

- The three youths responsible for the received what is described as 'restorative justice cautions'

Our top picture shows Supt Paul Friday and two of his officers handing back the sword and scabbard to Cllr Neil Stuart of Aylesbury Vale District Council, and (below) the statue before it was vandalised



John Steel-Clark



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DIARY

DATES

2000

April (date & venue to be advised) Annual General Meeting.

Thu 15 June An illustrated talk to Chinnor & District University of the Third Age at Chinnor Village Hall, commencing at 2.30 pm.

Sat 17 & Sun 18 June The John Hampden Exhibition (in association with Thame Historical Society) in the Masonic Hall, High Street, Thame. (Admission times to be advised)

Sat 17 to Sun 25 June A Living History by Col. John Hampden's Regiment of the English Civil War Society in Thame. (Full details to follow)

Sun 18 June A Memorial Service and Wreath Laying by members of the Society at the Hampden Monument, Chalgrove. (Time to be arranged)

Sat 24 June The Society's Annual Dinner at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame - 7.30 pm for 8.

(All meetings commence at 8pm, unless otherwise stated)

PUBLICATIONS

Derek Lester and **Mrs Gill Blackshaw** have been co-operating on a book about the mystery surrounding John Hampden's death and the supposed exhumation by Lord Nugent (see *'The Patriot'* nos. 21,22 & 24).

They have exhaustively researched original records, and have come to some radical conclusions which may well cause controversy among professional historians.

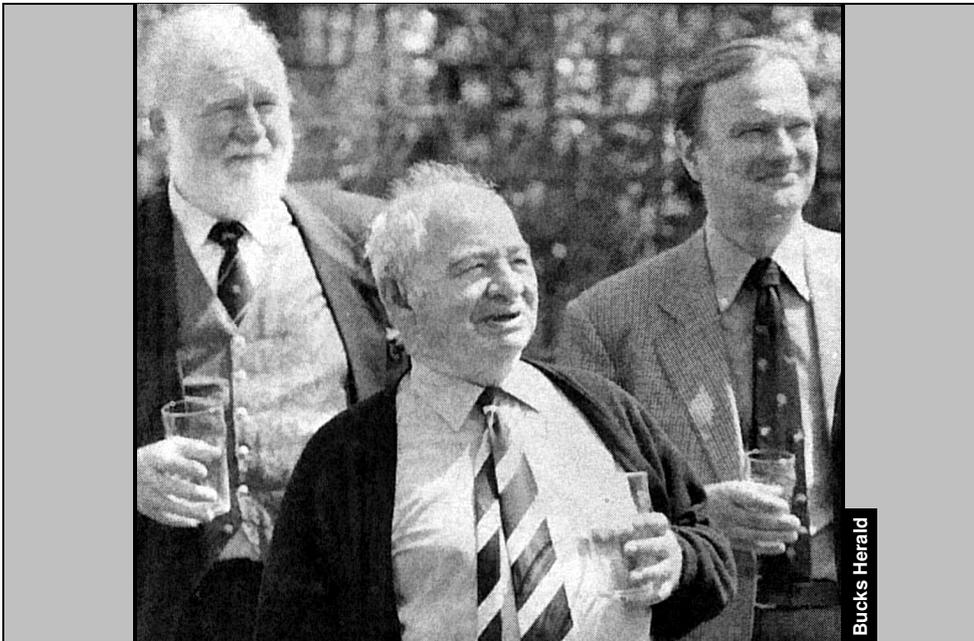
Following the success of *John Hampden of Buckinghamshire - The People's Hero*, the Society has decided to publish this new work, which runs to about 36 pages of A5 with a number of illustrations. Publication should be in late January, and copies will probably retail at £2.50 each.

Because of his involvement with his own book, **Mr Lester** has had little time to work on the formatting of **Michael Pearson's** history of Hampden's Greencoats, but it is still the intention of the Society to publish this as soon as possible.

Graham Barfield and **Mrs Gillian Goodall** have been collaborating on a leaflet to be entitled *In the Steps of The Patriot*, which will feature the places in Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire associated with John Hampden.

Published by

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MILLENNIUM MYSTERY

Chairman **Lord Hollenden** (right) and Vice-Chairman **Roy Bailey** are pictured here hard at work representing the Society at the launch of the Chiltern Brewery's Millennium Ale in July.

But who is the rather more famous person in the middle? A Battle of Chalgrove commemorative mug and tea towel will be awarded to the first three people to write into the address on page 2 with the correct answer. No faxes or e-mails.

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Telegraph, while **Richard Parsons**, who is a member of the Royalist Marquess of Winchester's Regiment in the ECWS, was the first member to use the application form on the Society's web site.

This is reproduced on page 4, so if you know of someone who wishes to join the Society, please use this form - or a photocopy if you don't wish to spoil your copy of *'The Patriot'*.

RENEWALS

Those members who do not renew their subscriptions by standing order will find a reminder enclosed with this newsletter. Please return the completed form to Membership Secretary **Liz Morris** as soon as possible.

Your new membership cards will be sent to you with the next issue of *'The Patriot'*.



The Spread Eagle Hotel

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ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT &
BANQUETING

ANNUAL DINNER

We are pleased to announce that the **guest speaker at next year's Annual Dinner will be Lord Saye and Sele of Broughton Castle.**

Lord Saye's 17th century ancestor was one of John Hampden's colleagues, and during the period from 1629 to 1640, when no Parliament was sitting, Hampden and other opposition leaders met in a secret room at Broughton Castle, under the guise of Providence Company meetings.

The first Lord Saye was strongly opposed to King Charles's policies, and tried hard to force the King to prosecute him for failing to pay Ship Money Charles chose Hampden instead, and the rest, as they say, is history.

Members who visited Broughton Castle in April 1997 will remember Lord Saye's lively style, and we look forward to hearing about 'Old Subtlety', as his ancestor was known.

REVAMP

Our Chairman, **Lord Hollenden**, has pointed out that the Marble Hill Society always include a statement of their aims at the top of their newsletter, and has suggested that we do the same.

A revamp of the newsletter's masthead is being planned, and we shall adopt this excellent suggestion, but if any members have any other ideas for a redesign, please get in touch with the Vice-Chairman.

It would be appropriate if these modifications could be incorporated into the first issue of 2000, which will be published in mid-January.

APPEAL

The roof of the church of St Mary Magdalene at Great Hampden (*below*) is in need of repair, and an appeal has been launched to raise the necessary £150,000.



David Andrew

The timbers are affected by death watch beetle, which means that a temporary roof will have to be erected over the building and all the tiles removed. Much of the stonework will also have to be repaired.

The Society was instrumental in helping to raise money to save the Hampden memorials just after our formation, and we are keen to do all we can again to assist in this latest very necessary act of preservation. **John & Gillian Goodall** held a fund-raising lunch in their big barn in September and raised £522.

We have already made our own donation to the fund; if you wish to make a contribution, please make your remittance payable to 'Great Hampden PCC' and send it to The Old Rectory, Great Hampden, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9RL, marking the envelope 'JHS'.

WRESTLING WITH GOD

As part of the activities to mark the 400th anniversary of Oliver Cromwell's birth, the University of Nottingham School of Continuing Education held a study day at Lincoln Cathedral on November 26. Entitled *Wrestling with God*, the four papers presented looked at Cromwell's effect on Lincolnshire, and Lincolnshire's effect on Cromwell.

The John Hampden Society was represented by **Graham Barfield**, accompanied by his wife Pauline.

WEB SITE

In the next few weeks we shall be expanding the Society's web site, which is beginning to attract an increasing amount of interest.

The three Hampden wills which were transcribed by **Mrs Lesley Wynne-Davies** (John's, his father William's, and his cousin Richard's), will be put on-line, together with the copy of the impeachment of the Five Members.

These will be of interest to scholars of the period, and we also hope to incorporate the Hampden chronology, which is a diary of John Hampden's life, and the Hampden family tree.

THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM

I/We wish to apply for membership of the The John Hampden Society.

Surname(s) Forename(s)
 Address

 Postcode
 Telephone No Signed
(include STD code)

	<u>British Isles</u>		<u>Overseas</u>	
Adult membership	£7.50	<input type="checkbox"/>	£10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Under-18 membership <i>(Date of birth.....)</i>	£5.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	£7.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Joint membership <i>(give both names)</i>	£12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	£18.00	<input type="checkbox"/>
Family membership <i>(give all names)</i>	£20.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	£30.00	<input type="checkbox"/>

I/We enclose a cheque/postal order for £ as a donation to the society (optional)
(please tick the appropriate box)

STANDING ORDER AUTHORITY

To:-The Manager

Please write the name and full postal address of your bank in this box

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 Address

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Signature

Account No.							
Bank sort code			-		-		

Please insert your bank account details in this box

I/We instruct you to pay the above account the sum of £ *(in figures)*
(in words) now and on the 1st of January annually until further notice to **THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY**
 (Sort code/account no. 77-63-08 - 67421368) at TSB Bank plc, 3 Rose Lane, CANTERBURY, Kent CT1 2SP,
 quoting reference number *(for official use only)*

(If completing this mandate as a new member, please send a remittance for the first year's membership and delete the words 'now and' above. The standing order will then come into effect on the 1st of January following.)

Please send the completed form and any additional remittance to:-

**The Membership Secretary, The John Hampden Society,
 31 Craigwell Avenue, AYLESBURY, Bucks HP21 7AF.**

Please enclose two second-class stamps for the return of your membership card.
(not applicable to overseas members)