



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 92 - Winter 2019/20



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

A NEW VICE-PRESIDENT

With the retirement of John Bercow as Speaker of the House of Commons, the Society's Executive Committee invited the new Speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle, to become a Vice-President of the Society.

We are happy to announce that Sir Lindsay (*below*) accepted our invitation in this charming letter.



We have written to the outgoing Speaker, John Bercow, thanking him for his support during his term of office; especially in helping members of the Society to attend Prime Minister's Question Time and several wreath-laying events in the Palace of Westminster.

So as a small token of our appreciation Mr Bercow has been offered a year's free membership of the Society.

The John Hampden Society has had a good relationship with several of the Speakers since the early days. At the time of our formation in 1992 we wrote to the then incumbent, Betty Boothroyd, inviting her to our inauguration ceremony. Although she was not able to attend, she sent us a splendid letter of encouragement, and we received a similar one from her predecessor as Speaker, Lord Wetherill.

NO SUPPORT

The Spring issue of the Campaign for Real Ale's quarterly magazine *Beer* carries an excellent article on Richard Jenkinson, his family and the Chiltern Brewery.

Excellent, that is, except for the comment about John Hampden's Ale, where the author, Roger Protz, states that it is: 'named after a 17th century MP for Wendover and one of Oliver Cromwell's key supporters in the Civil War'.

We disagreed with that description, to put it mildly, and have sent Mr Protz a copy of Professor John Adair's biography of the Patriot for his better information.

OBITUARY

Olive Amy Entwistle

1925 – 2017

(Olive Entwistle died in 2017, but the John Hampden Society was not informed of this until November 2019. We are grateful to her godson Anthony Pritchard; JHS member John Seal; and Angela Killick, Chair of Chorleywood Library volunteers, for the information they have supplied for this appreciation.)



Olive Amy Entwistle was born in Camberwell, London, on 22nd September 1925. Her father Robert F Turney was a City of London police constable, but her grandfather was a blacksmith and wheelwright in Chorleywood, Herts, living in the family's 14th century home, The Retreat, in the eponymous Turney's Orchard. From her teenage years Olive also lived there, and was married to Harold Entwistle at Watford in July 1963. There were no children of the marriage.

Olive was obviously a highly-intelligent person with a wide range of interests. As well as being an early member of the John Hampden Society, she was also one of the earliest members of the local RSPB group and was the first secretary of the Chorleywood and Rickmansworth branch of the Workers Education Association, attending its 50th anniversary in 2002.

Anthony Pritchard writes:

Olive's family were always keen on their commoner's rights and were committed to the protection of the common. Olive continued this role and played an active role in the guardianship of the common and took part in the 'beating of the bounds'. She established an initial meeting of the Friends of Chorleywood Common and became president whilst also being a member of the executive committee of the Open Spaces Society. Olive had a keen interest in gardening, nature and wildlife and was immensely knowledgeable in these things.

She was a gifted, talented and committed teacher who had the necessary skills to control the most unruly and rebellious children but also gave inner city children an insight into the wonders of nature. She became Governor of St Clement Danes School and Chorleywood Primary School.

Olive was an avid reader and maintained a keen interest in news, politics and current affairs. She was a well-known and respected member of the community in Chorleywood and associated with many individuals and groups. She maintained a strong faith within the church community and will be remembered as a strong, independent and knowledgeable person with many interests.

Olive's father was also a gifted artist, and she donated some of his watercolours of local scenes to Chorleywood library.

Olive Entwistle died on 25th June 2017, having survived her husband for more than 14 years.

A NEW MEETING PLACE

Last year the members of the Executive Committee, for various reasons, decided to cease holding their meetings at the *Shillingford Bridge Hotel* near Wallingford. After a good deal of searching *The Swan* at Three Mile Cross, near Reading, was selected as the new venue.

Apart from the fact that the pub does very good food and beer, it is situated a few hundred yards south of junction 12 of the M4, on the old Basingstoke Road. This makes it equidistant from the homes of the Chairman, the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary, while the wifi facility will enable the Membership Secretary to take part in the meetings by Skype as usual.

The meeting room is the little single-story annexe on the front of the building which is available to any group who can assure the landlord, Vic, that they are 'nice people'.

We have put his mind at rest on that point!



BOOK REVIEW

Notes of Proceedings of The Long Parliament Temp. Charles I by Sir Ralph Verney

Published in 1845 by the Camden Society
190 pp

As the publication date shows, this is not a new book. It is one I purchased some years ago to add to my personal collection of books about the Civil War. It is a record of some of the activities of the Long Parliament from December 1640 to June 1642 – probably its most momentous months.



Sir Ralph Verney was MP for Aylesbury at this time; eldest son of Sir Edmund Verney, the King's Standard Bearer who was later killed at Edgehill. Ralph was the one member of the family who espoused the Parliamentary cause during the Civil War. (see *The Patriot* no. 69.)

These notes were taken by Sir Ralph in pencil on sheets of foolscap paper resting on his knee during the proceedings of the House of Commons; often in bad light and while being jostled by other members. This activity was not without danger; the House did not like anyone recording what was said and done, and even John Rushworth, the clerk assistant, was restricted to what he could write in the journal. Lord Digby and Sir Edward Dering were both expelled from the House and sent to the Tower for publishing their own speeches.

Consequently Verney's notes tend to be short and concise; almost staccato-like, but they offer a fascinating on-the spot record of the events of those times. A large part is devoted to the impeachment and trial of the Earl of Strafford, but members of the John Hampden Society will be interested in the three pages covering the 3rd, 4th and 5th of January 1642, describing the King's attempt to arrest the Five Members. (pictured)

The book's editor, John Bruce FSA, states that Verney's account: 'claims to be put on a par with Rushworth's narrative, which it not only confirms, but adds to it such particulars as a person witnessing the extraordinary scene from another part of the house, and probably with somewhat different feelings, was likely to observe'.

This is a book that any student of the 17th century should have in their library. Copies appear to be freely available at between £10 and £20, but not all are Camden Society originals. Search at www.bookfinder.com.

Roy Bailey



DIARY DATES

2020

Friday 13th March An illustrated talk about the Battle of Chalgrove Field to Newbury U3A Military History Group at the Friends' Meeting House, 1 Highfield Ave, Newbury, Berks RG14 5DS, commencing at 10am. (Please note that this talk is only open to U3A members. For further details, contact the Chairman on 01488 648441.)

Sunday 29th March The Society's Annual General Meeting to be held at The King's Head, Market Square, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 2RW, commencing at 2.30pm. (Date and venue to be confirmed.)

Sunday 7th June. Thame History Festival, Town Hall, High Street, Thame, Oxon OX9 3DP. Time TBA. The Society will be represented here.

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

www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm

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SPECIAL EVENT

A special event is being planned for later this year in the Great Hampden area.

Further details will be announced in due course.

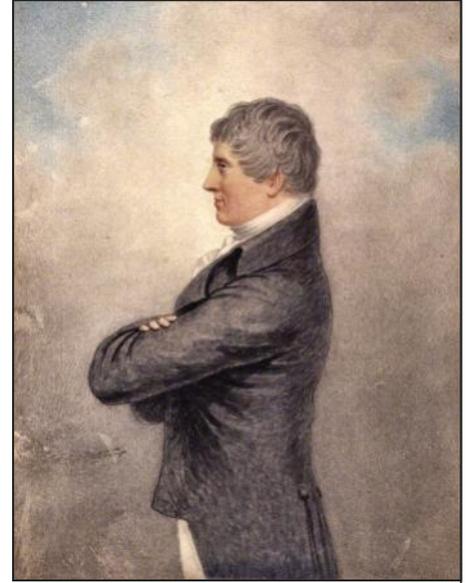
THE HAMPDEN CLUBS AND THE PETERLOO MASSACRE (part 2)

(continued from *The Patriot* no. 90)

The timing of the assassination attempt on the Prince Regent as he returned from the State Opening of Parliament in January 1817 was unfortunate. Unaware of what had happened, a group of Hampden Club delegates led by Henry Hunt (below) had earlier decided to present their petitions for reform to Lord Cochrane (a sympathetic MP). The plan was for 'several thousand people' to march down Whitehall to Lord Cochrane's house next to the Palace of Westminster.

Lord Cochrane accepted the petitions and was carried through the crowds on his chair to nearby Westminster Hall where 'the old rafters of which rang with the shouts of the multitudes outside'. Sadly the debate that should have followed on 'the great national business of the day' was suspended to make room for discussions about 'the outrageous attempt made on the life of His Royal Highness'.

Government informers were providing a steady stream of reports to the Home Office about inflammatory speeches being made at the Hampden Club meetings in the towns of the North-West. At Eccles for example there was talk of 'old disbanded soldiers' training raw recruits in military discipline. Another informer reported that threats were being made against those who refused to join a Hampden Club. In Manchester William Benbow raged against the exorbitant sums of public money allocated to members of the Royal Family. Benbow began organising a major new event – the Blanket March. Thousands of men were to walk to London carrying petitions to the Prince Regent. Samuel Bamford, the chair of the Middleton Hampden Club, refused to join him, calling it 'our first great absurdity'. There had been a change in the political atmosphere. Confrontation replaced the peaceful means envisaged by the Hampden Clubs founders.



The Blanket March set off from St Peter's Field in Manchester on 10th March 1817. As Bamford had predicted the March was undermined from the start by poor planning, and constant harassment and arrests by the authorities. Not a single 'Blanketeer' made it to London and the net closed around the organisers of the March and fellow reformers. William Cobbett, the great leader and publicist of reform, fled to America. Bamford and Dr Joseph Healey, prominent reformers and Hampden Club leaders, went into hiding, but were arrested on the 29th March and sent to London.

Bamford and Healey were interviewed at the Home Office by Lord Sidmouth, the Home Secretary, with Lord Castlereagh in attendance. The suspension of Habeas Corpus meant that they remained imprisoned with other reformers at Lord Sidmouth's pleasure. After several further examinations Bamford faced the Privy Council on the 29th April where he was discharged by Lord Sidmouth without charge. Back in Middleton he returned to his trade as a weaver.

Shortly after his return Bamford met another Hampden Club delegate, Thomas Bacon of Pentrich, who informed him of an imminent uprising in Yorkshire. Bamford begged him not to become involved. There were three isolated risings; the most serious of which originated at Pentrich. On 7th November 1817 three insurrectionist ringleaders were executed outside Derby Castle.



magistrates and militia panicked and violently over-reacted. Local hussars (above) charged a crowd of at least 60,000 with sabres drawn. The final authenticated death toll was 15 with over 600 individuals seriously injured. These atrocities, which became known as 'The Peterloo Massacre', were reported by a *Times* journalist and stunned public opinion across the country. Many commentators regard Peterloo as a milestone in the development of representative democracy in Britain.

Habeas Corpus was restored on 10th March 1818. The General Election of 1818 highlighted the splits in the reform movement obvious at the previous year's Hampden Club Convention. At the beginning of 1819 a new reformist organisation was founded, the Manchester Patriotic Union Society. This neatly by-passed the splits that had developed in the Hampden Club movement and focussed campaigning attention back on to parliamentary reform. Under this banner a public meeting was called in St Peter's Field for January 18th to be addressed by radical reformer Henry Hunt. This passed off without any major problems, but at the much larger meeting held on 16th August the local

Sam Hearn