



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 50 - Spring 2007



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

HISTORIC DAY FOR THAME



Members of John Hampden's Regiment, led by Derek Lester, formed a Guard of Honour for the Lord Lieutenant of Oxfordshire, Mr Hugo Brunner, when he officially opened Thame Museum on Saturday, 14th April.

In his speech, the Lord Lieutenant mentioned the support of Lord Saye and Sele of Broughton Castle for the Parliamentarian cause during the Civil War. He also quoted the famous statement by John Hampden, inscribed on the Hampden Jewel, "Against my King I do not fight, but for my King and Kingdom's right"



John Hampden Society members will be very pleased to know that there is a comprehensive section on John Hampden and the Civil War, including a graphic panel giving details of the most important events of his life and a model Civil War soldier dressed in John Hampden's regimental colours. The uniform and weapons were donated by Derek Lester, Commanding Officer of the regiment (now promoted to Staff Colonel on the General's Staff), who advised on the display.

Thame Museum is now open to the public on Tuesdays and Saturdays, from 10am to 4pm and on Sundays from 12pm to 4pm.



Kirtland has been closely involved with the creation of the new Museum at Thame that includes a magnificent new exhibition devoted to John Hampden. Sam Hearn has been working with the team established by the Battlefields Trust to mark the battlefields at Brentford and Turnham Green. Finally the Society has purchased for the library the seven volumes of the Opening Sessions of the Long Parliament.

Bob went on to list the Society's activities including the visit to the Chiltern Brewery in February, the talk to the Amersham Society in March and the opening of the Thame Museum in April.

The Honorary Treasurer, Sam Hearn, reported on a successful year financially with a surplus of £394 and an end of year cash balance of £1,404. However he amplified comments made by Bob Hammond that the Society would need to be considering an increase in membership subscription rates.

The Honorary Secretary, Anthea Coles, reported on membership numbers drawing on the records recovered from Liz Morris' papers. There would appear to have been a slight increase in numbers in 2006.

Each named post on the Executive Committee and three further positions were voted on individually. Two members of the Committee, June Wailing and Mike Portsmouth, had decided that, due to other commitments, they would be unable to stand for the coming year, but it is hoped that this will only be a temporary situation and that they will return to the committee in the future. All candidates were elected unanimously. No candidates were proposed for the role of Membership Secretary. Bob Hammond asked that anyone who wished to take on this important position should contact the Honorary Secretary for details. The Executive Committee can co-opt new members during the year.

Sam Hearn

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

The 2007 AGM was held in the library of Hartwell House on Saturday 21st April. The meeting was opened by Bob Hammond, Vice Chairman, deputising for the Chairman Lord Hollenden, who was unfortunately unable to attend. Bob asked for a minutes silence in memory of Liz Morris, the Society's Membership Secretary. He recalled Liz's important contributions to the Society and her quiet but cheerful demeanour.

Bob went on to report on a year of solid achievement for the Society. Two talks had been given to outside organisations, four editions of *The Patriot* newsletter were issued, the last AGM was held at Hampton Court Palace and the Annual Dinner at the Spread Eagle in Thame was addressed by Prof. Maija Jansson. In addition the Society held a lunch time meeting at Hartwell House in April 2006 where Dr Tracy Borman gave a talk about Henrietta Howard, Countess of Suffolk, a descendant of the Patriot.

Society members have also been involved in a number of interesting projects. Derek and Gill Lester have published a book about the events surrounding the unveiling of the battlefield monument at Chalgrove in 1843. Final preparations were made for the publication of Paul Hooper's book on Hampden in the Short Parliament. Maurice

Thank you Sam, for the hard work you put into organising this AGM, the splendid talk and the superb lunch.

Bob Hammond

Obituary

ELIZABETH ANN MORRIS [LIZ]



It was with much sadness and shock that we learned of the sudden and tragic death of our Membership Secretary, Liz Morris, on 12th March.

Liz was a hardworking and conscientious member of the executive committee and will be remembered for her youthful demeanour and sense of humour. She worked tirelessly to promote the Society. With her father she had spent many hours researching her family tree in order to prove the family link with John Hampden, in accordance with information passed down through her family. Liz was also actively involved with many local activities, including the Liberal Democrats, and will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

A large number of tributes have been received, both by the Society and by Liz's family, including one from Hampden (Maine) Historical Society as follows:

"On behalf of the Hampden (Maine) Historical Society, we extend our sympathy to the family of Elizabeth Morris as well as the John Hampden Society on the death of Elizabeth Morris. She was known to us through our receiving The Patriot, and through which we recognize the sincere, effective role she played as membership secretary in the John Hampden Society. It is, in part, through her efforts that the goal of the Society in "bringing together people with an interest in John Hampden and encouraging wider knowledge of (him), his life and times" has come about."

This opportunity is taken to express gratitude for all her hard work for the Society over the years, and send condolences to her brother Michael and sister in law Maureen, and their family in the loss of a very valued family member.

THE HAMPDEN JEWEL

In 1795 the Bodleian Library received from Thomas Knight of Godmersham in Kent a variety of historic artifacts. Amongst this collection was a pendant stone identified as 'the Hampden Jewel'.

The jewel is a plain cornelian in a heart shaped setting of silver. Carved into the setting around the Jewel is the famous couplet: "Against my King I do not fight, But for my King and Kingdom's right."

The provenance of the Jewel is uncertain but it has always been described as the jewel that was worn by John Hampden at the battle of Chalgrove.

There are no records that Hampden ever owned such an object but that is not surprising. It is a very personal item probably acquired as a gift from a close friend or relative. In addition it would have been worn close to the body and would not normally have been visible.

Cornelian stone is a fairly common and inexpensive gem stone but it has been prized from the days of the earliest civilizations of Egypt and Iraq for its supposed healing, creative and spiritual qualities. Appropriately it is supposed, amongst other things, to help hot-headed people overcome anger and establish self-control.

YOUR JEWEL

The designer Paula Bolton was commissioned by the commercial arm of the Bodleian Library to create a replica of the Hampden Jewel. It is the best selling item in their small collection of jewellery for sale which you can view at www.shop.bodley.ox.ac.uk/acatalog/Jewellery.html or in their shop.

The Society has negotiated a special rate from the Bodleian and can offer these remarkable replicas for £32 plus £5.25 for UK postage and packing. Place your order with the Treasurer on 020 8995 2666. A small stock will be on sale at the AGM.

The replica Jewel is a cornelian set in silver. It comes on its own chain in a small presentation case. Unfortunately it proved impossible to engrave the original couplet onto the replicas, but each presentation case contains a small leaflet giving the history of the Jewel and the text of the inscription.



Original Jewel



Replica Jewel

Erratum: In the last edition of *The Patriot* the date of the signing of the Magna Carta was given as 1216. This, of course, should have read 1215. We apologise for this error which escaped the eagle eye of both the editor and the proof reader!

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HAMPDEN AND THE VENETIAN REPUBLIC

Following the AGM, members and their guests were served a welcoming glass of Pimms in the Library of Hartwell House. The assembled party then moved to the Doric Dining Room for a talk by the historian and broadcaster Dr John Adamson (*pictured*), followed by an excellent three-course lunch.

The speaker began with some complimentary remarks about the work of the Society and the importance of groups like it in keeping alive an awareness and interest in History. Dr Adamson briefly reviewed how perceptions of Hampden's importance had fluctuated over time. Hampden, he lamented, once seen as the acceptable face of constitutional reform had been forgotten when the Victorians focused their attention on Cromwell. In the last century the Marxist and determinist approaches to history had all but ignored the Patriot.



Dr Adamson linked what had happened to Hampden's reputation to the failure of generations of historians to understand the central importance of Robert Rich, Earl of Warwick, in the events leading up to the Civil War. According to Dr Adamson long before the Civil War a closely knit group of aristocrats and MPs, including Warwick and Hampden, were actively working towards the creation of a new form of government for England that would be in many respects like that of the Venetian Republic.

Remarkably, in 1640/1641 this group managed, according to Dr Adamson, by astute political tactics and the use of the Scottish military threat to secure control over all the key positions in government and the military. King Charles was stripped of all real political power. England became to all intents and purposes an oligarchic republic or 'commonwealth'.

Dr Adamson argued his case convincingly but it goes without saying that the implications of this new interpretation will need to be carefully thought through and no doubt much debate lies ahead. Whatever the new orthodoxy that emerges it is likely that Hampden's role in these events will be reappraised.

Those members who would like to learn more about Dr Adamson's new research and conclusions can acquire a copy of his new book. *The Noble Revolt: The downfall of Charles I*, is available for £14.99 via Amazon or at most good bookshops. In addition the Society plans to run a conference on 28th September entitled *New Perspectives on the causes of the Civil War* at which Dr Adamson will be the key note speaker.

Dr John Adamson was educated at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, where he took a first class degree in History and Classics. He took his PhD at Christ's College Cambridge where he was a research scholar. Dr Adamson has been a visiting fellow at Yale and the University of California and is currently is a fellow of Peterhouse, Cambridge.

This is the second event that the Society has held at Hartwell House. There was general agreement that we were well looked after by the hotel staff and that the venue was appropriate for a lunch time event and the AGM.

Sam Hearn



I came upon this picture entitled 'John Hampden' when looking at a book in the Local Studies Centre at Aylesbury. Unfortunately I lost the book's title. I am very enthused by the picture. It certainly is what I would expect the young Patriot to look like. The structure of his face together, with the appraising gaze so similar in the Elliot portrait make me 90% sure. I would put the age between 18-21 years. The simplicity of the collar suggests his Protestant belief. The picture is ..by permission of Manzi, Joyant & Co. Who were they and where is the portrait now? I would welcome any comments.

Bob Hammond



DIARY DATES

2007

Saturday 23 June

The Society's Annual Dinner at [The Spread Eagle Hotel](#), Thame. 7.30 for 8pm.

Wednesday 5 September

An illustrated talk to the Cherwell branch of the [University of the Third Age](#) in Oxford. (Time and venue to be confirmed)

Saturday 29 September

A conference at [Hampton Court Palace's](#) new education centre entitled *The Noble Revolt: New Perspectives on the Origins of the English Civil War*. Three speakers including Dr John Adamson. 10 am start.

October

The Society's 15th Anniversary Banquet. (date and venue to be confirmed)

Tuesday 13 November

An illustrated talk to [Thame Historical Society](#), at The Church Barns, Thame, Oxon.

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



The Spread Eagle Hotel

THAME
OXFORDSHIRE
OX9 2BW

TELEPHONE (01844) 213661
www.spreadeaglethame.co.uk

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The John Hampden Society
Little Hampden, Cryers Hill
High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6JS
Tel: 07985 607224

e-mail: secretary@johnhampden.org
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A PROPHET IN HIS OWN COUNTRY

I accepted an invitation to talk on the 28th March to the Amersham Society, with a mixture of pleasure and trepidation. Although I now live in West London I was born and schooled within a few hundred yards of the seventeenth-century Town Hall where the Amersham Society holds its meetings.

The topic of 'John Hampden - Traitor or Patriot?' had, according to my hosts Sir John and Jean Johnson, drawn an unusually large audience of over a hundred people. It was good to be reminded that the name of Hampden can still draw a crowd in the heartlands of mid-Bucks. The audience was attentive and asked a great many questions.

After the talk a large throng of people inspected the Society's mobile display panels. My stock of the Society's books was quickly sold out.

Sam Hearn

TREASURER'S REQUEST

In the period before a new Membership Secretary is appointed, would those of you who still pay your annual subscription by cheque please consider making these payments by standing order.

Payment by standing order is administratively far simpler for both the Society and you. If you would like to pay by standing order please contact me and I will supply you with the Society's banking details and if necessary a standard letter for your bankers.

A big 'thank you' to all members who have completed one-off gift-aid forms covering their annual subscription payments. There are however still a handful of members who have not completed a form. If you would like to give a little more to the Society without any additional cost to yourself then please contact me and I will send you relevant simple form.

In 2006 the Society received £164 in gift-aid from the HMCR. A claim for £237 was submitted in mid April. In the current tax year, because the basic rate of tax has been reduced, the amount we can reclaim will fall from £2.80 for every £10 donated to £2.50. I hope however that you agree that it is still well worth reclaiming this money.

Sam Hearn 020 8995 2666

RETURN TO CHILTERN BREWERY



the inimitable John Hampden's Ale.

An all too quick tour behind the scenes confirmed that the ancient and revered art of the English brewer is still flourishing in the beautiful Buckinghamshire countryside. Richard Jenkinson was keen to point out a number of enhancements that had been made since our last visit although my notes are a little incoherent at this point. The fumes from the mash tub may have had something to do with this. The tour completed we sat down to a hearty lunch that allowed the Brewery to show off some of its other beer related products, such as sausages, cheese and various relishes.

The meal was followed by a splendid talk by Simon Marsh of the Battlefields Trust. He updated us on the progress being made, with the aid of an HLF grant, to mark the 1642 battles at Brentford & Turnham Green. Simon recounted the stories of the battles, focusing on the role played by the Greencoat Regiment and Hampden himself. The Greencoats fought with distinction and at one point were responsible for snatching victory from the King's grasp.

This was a great opportunity for new members and guests to be introduced to the Society in a relaxed and convivial atmosphere. We are of course grateful to Richard Jenkinson, Keith Knight, Sue Benwell and Simon Marsh for making this such a special day.



Sam Hearn

SPONSORED WALK

On Sunday 16th September the Wendover Arm Trust are holding a sponsored walk of as much or as little of the 6.75 miles of the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal as can be managed. They have generously offered a partnership with the John Hampden Society with both organisations to receive 50% of the proceeds. Further details available from Sue Hetherington on 01296 622955. Publicity leaflets will be available in the May edition of the *Wendover News*.

This could be a very enjoyable way of raising funds for both organisations, so why not go for it?

HELP!

To date we have received no volunteers to take on the role of Membership Secretary. If you think you might be able to undertake this, please contact either Anthea Coles on 07985 607224 (e-mail secretary@johnhampden.org) or Sam Hearn on 020 8995 2666 (e-mail treasurer@johnhampden.org) for further information.

THE HAMPDEN CHALICE

To the Editor

In the preface to *To Right the Wrong* by Edna Lyall, first published in 1893, an interesting item regarding John Hampden is recounted. I leave it to the reader to judge its accuracy and authenticity.

'The Earl of Buckinghamshire – who kindly showed me many things connected with his ancestor – still has in his possession a sixteenth-century chalice bearing an inscription, 'From this cup John Hampden received the consecrated wine at the hands of Robert Lenthall, Rector of Great Hampden'; and as it appears from the church register that Lenthall was not formally inducted till November 30, 1643, but was apparently in charge of the parish in June, it may perhaps be fairly conjectured that the inscription on the chalice refers to Hampden's last sacrament.'

All the other facts Edna Lyall listed have proved to be very accurate, so is this Chalice still in the Hampden family?

Derek Lester