



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society
No.72 - Autumn 2012



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 SOCIETY MARKS ITS FIRST 20 YEARS



The Society celebrated its 20th anniversary (a couple of weeks early) on Sunday 14th October with a church service at St Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden. A good turnout of members was augmented by the regular congregation who took part in the special morning prayers from the Elizabethan prayer book of 1559, which John Hampden would have known and used. The psalm and lessons were taken from the earliest edition of the King James Authorised Version of the Bible, printed in 1611.

The worshippers were welcomed by lay minister Anton Machacek, who was standing in for the Rev. Deiniol Heywood. The first lesson, read by parishioner Rob Merrick, was taken from the Book of Amos, while the second was from St Mark's Gospel and was read by the Society's Patron, the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

In his sermon Anton Machacek said that, like Amos, John Hampden was part of the established order, but rather than use his position to entrench and defend privilege, spoke out and later fought and died for a fairer nation.

The service finished with the singing of the first three verses of the highly-appropriate hymn sung at the service at Grampound in 2001. (see *The Patriot* no. 32)

Following the service there were short addresses by the Society's Patron, Lord Buckinghamshire (*below*), and by Chairman Sam Hearn. Lord Buckinghamshire said, "It is a great privilege to say a few words today on behalf of my cousin Ian Hollenden and myself in honour of our great ancestor, John Hampden the Patriot".

He went on to review some of Hampden's legacy – his name being given to schools in Buckinghamshire and to towns in the USA and New Zealand; his memory influencing the drafting of the American constitution and in the name of a flourishing college in Virginia, the Hampden Sydney College; and the Hampden Clubs that sprang up in Britain during the Industrial Revolution. But Lord Buckinghamshire pointed out that, until the published works of Lord Nugent and John Adair (not forgetting the efforts of members of this Society), Hampden had been seriously underestimated in comparison to the reputation of his cousin Oliver Cromwell.

"When I go to Hobart in Tasmania", said Lord Buckinghamshire, "I stay in Hampden Road, Battery Point, so a Hobart stays in a city named after a previous Earl and in the road named in honour of his Hampden ancestor. What could be more fitting?"

Lord Buckinghamshire said that he always found it emotionally moving to read the words of Hampden's friend Arthur Goodwin writing to his daughter after Hampden's funeral.

Our Patron concluded by saying, "May I close by remembering my ancestor, John Hampden, in the words taken from *Ecclesiastes* and praised in music in the anthem composed by Vaughan Williams, 'Let us now praise famous men and our fathers that begat them.' Amen".



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Sam Hearn thanked Deiniol Heywood, Anton Machacek and especially John Gabbitas, who had organised the event but was, sadly, unable to be present due to illness. Sam pointed out that this service was to mark the Society's 20th anniversary. Some people might think that a church service was not right for a secular society, but this was the second one we had held here and it was John Hampden's church.

The readings were very appropriate, especially the extract from St Mark's Gospel; Hampden had been a wealthy man but the Rev. Richard Baxter had said that he was sure that they would meet in Heaven.

It was time to remember the Society's original founders – many of whom are no longer with us – and look back on our achievements, but also to embrace the joy of making new friendships and to look to the future.



Members enjoying lunch at The Gate Inn and (inset) Chairman Sam Hearn and Richard Jenkinson discussing the merits of the beer

The members of the Society then adjourned to The Gate Inn at Bryant's Bottom, where the Harvey Room had been set aside for our lunch. We were pleased to welcome Richard Jenkinson, founder of the Chiltern Brewery, who had also attended the church service. Naturally, bottles of the brewery's John Hampden's Ale had been specially ordered, thanks to Anthea Coles, and a toast was drunk to John Hampden the Patriot.

The Society's first Chairman and the owner of Hampden House, Tim Oliver, later sent a message saying, 'Is it really 20 years? Congratulations on forming a lasting society', and our President, Professor John Adair, wrote, 'Congratulations on the Anniversary! I well remember that inaugural meeting in the Great Hall. I am delighted that the John Hampden Society continues to flourish and I shall certainly be raising my glass to toast its future - may it go from strength to strength'

Amen to that.

LESLEY WYNNE-DAVIES

1932-2012



Lesley Wynne-Davies, one of the Society's longest-serving members, died at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, on 4th October after a short illness.

Margaret Lesley Boatwright was born at Oxhey, Hertfordshire and attended Watford Grammar School, but spent most of her adult life in South-East London. She was educated at King's College London, where she obtained a First Class Honours degree in Classics in 1957. After her first degree, she studied Palaeography. For many years she was Senior Classics Mistress at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Girls' Grammar School (now College) in New Cross. On retirement, she studied for a PhD in Mediaeval History which she was awarded in 1995. The title of her thesis was *An introduction to and Edition of the Chief Justice's Roll of the 1286 eyre to Buckinghamshire*.

Lesley was a member of the Executive Committee of the Richard III Society and editor of the members' magazine, *The Ricardian*. She lectured each year at the Keele University Latin and Palaeography Summer School. She was also, for many years, co-ordinator of volunteers at the National Archives and was awarded an MBE in 1999 for services to the Friends of the Public Record Office (as it was then known).

Lesley joined the John Hampden Society in 1993 and early on used her skills to transcribe photocopies of some original Hampden wills which we had been sent. When in 2006 (in the new entry for John Hampden in the *Dictionary of National Biography*) the historian Lord Russell cited the Inquisition Post Mortem on Hampden's father William as evidence that the Patriot had actually been born in 1595, Lesley arranged for me to view and photograph the original document at the National Archives. (see *The Patriot* no. 46)

Lesley married Colin Wynne-Davies, a dentist, but was divorced in 1964, and was known as Dr Lesley Boatwright in her academic work.

Roy Bailey

CHANGES IN MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM JANUARY 2013

It was agreed at the 2012 AGM that the Society's annual membership rates from January 2013 will be as follows:-

Single Member £15.00

Joint Membership £20.00

Junior/Student £10.00

The John Hampden Society has changed its bankers to the Co-operative Bank. Please cancel your current standing order before December and re-instate it in favour of:-

The Co-operative Bank, Skelmersdale, Sort Code 08-92-99

for the credit of

The John Hampden Society, Account No. 65557909

The Hon. Treasurer requests that members should consider paying their annual subscriptions by standing order. Subscriptions paid by cheque should be made payable to 'The John Hampden Society' and sent to the Hon. Treasurer at the address set out below. There are facilities on the Society's website at www.johnhampden.org for making online subscription payments.

If you are a UK tax payer a new Gift Aid form should also be completed and sent to the Hon. Treasurer at the same address. HMRC has altered the Gift Aid regulations and members are required to complete new forms with a revised wording. Gift Aid forms are enclosed with this edition of *The Patriot* and can also be found at www.johnhampden.org. The forms can either be completed online and e-mailed to the Hon. Treasurer or printed off and posted.

YOUR HELP IN MAKING THESE NEW ARRANGEMENTS WORK SMOOTHLY WILL BE MUCH APPRECIATED.

**Derek Lester, Hon. Treasurer, The John Hampden Society
2 Farm Close, Chalgrove, Oxfordshire OX44 7RL.**

Tel: 01865 890451. E-mail: thetreasurer@johnhampden.org

Registered Charity No. 1098314

PETER LELY - A LYRICAL VISION

Exhibition at The Courtauld Gallery,
Somerset House, The Strand,
London WC2R 0RN

11th October 2012 - 13th January 2013

Peter Lely was England's leading painter from the period of the Civil War to the reign of Charles II. Depicting a pastoral world of shepherds, nymphs and musicians, these pictures are all the more extraordinary for having been painted during the turmoil of the English Civil War and its aftermath.

This is a unique opportunity to see some of the most beautiful and seductive paintings made in 17th-century England. The exhibition includes an important group of paintings loaned from historic private collections.

The Gallery is holding a number of exhibition events including a Late Night Openings on 29 November 2012, when the gallery will be open until 9pm. Admission is free for those dressed as a Roundhead or Cavalier (no swords allowed!)

For further information please visit www.courtauld.ac.uk/lely



DIARY DATES

2012

Thursday 15th November. Executive Committee meeting at 2 Farm Close, Chalgrove, Oxon OX44 7RL, commencing at 7.30. If any Society members wish to attend this meeting, please notify the Hon. Secretary on 07543 054335 or by e-mail. (*see website*)

2013

Friday 18th January. An illustrated talk to Chinnor & District U3A at The Reading Room, High Street, Chinnor, Oxon, commencing at 2.30 pm.

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

www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm

OUR NEW VP



The Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, has accepted the Executive Committee's invitation to become a Vice-President of the Society.

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LETTERS FROM AMERICA

By co-incidence, the Society recently received communications from two of our members in the USA. One is Alice Hawes of the Hampden Historical Society, our contact on our visit in 1994 and an honorary member of the John Hampden Society. The other is one of our newest members, Patricia Claus, who lives just across the river from Hampden.

8 Short Wharf Road
Hampden
Maine 04444
USA

87 Arctic Station Road
Orrington
Maine 07774-3013
USA

This Memorial Day we were away, and thus unable to attend the Veterans of Foreign Wars' tribute to the British military men who died at the Battle of Hampden. I went back later to see the floral display the VFW left there. I found that like a few graves there and at many graves in the cemetery across the street, our winter and spring storms have caused gravestones to be tipped out of place somewhat. That was the case with the Daughters of the British Empire stone marking the site of the burial of the British men at the Old Burying Ground. I found the stone tipped forward; soil several inches deep at the back and left side were open a few inches. At the back side I noticed a round smooth disk among small stones in the soil. I picked up the disk which was a smooth dark brown but so discolored I could not tell if it were a medal or a coin. I took it home to clean it up, and will return it after trying first to find who put it there. It is a British penny 1947, King George VI.

Possibly you would be able to help us.

1. In *The Patriot* written soon after the Society's visit here in 1994, I noticed that there is a photo of Frank Hansford-Miller laying a flag at the grave of the British military men. John Whitehead, Derek Lester and John Goodall are in the photo also. Might the coin have been placed by the grave at that time? Would you know who placed it?

2. In an issue of a Bangor newspaper in 1985 there is a photo of a Hampden Historical Society member at that gravesite. The article states that the British men were originally buried by the Sowadabscok Stream, but in 1970 the stone was moved to the Old Burying Ground at the request of the Fredericton (New Brunswick) Daughters of the British Empire. This would have been too early for the 1947 coin to have been placed there, but it has been mentioned by people at the Hampden Historical Society that members of the Fredericton DOBE came occasionally to view the stone, and might have placed that coin there before they disbanded.

(The Fredericton DOBE had disbanded by 1978 when Bob and I moved to Hampden.)

3. Two years ago we helped host a group from Fredericton that held a meaningful ceremony at the Old Burying Ground, placing a Union Jack and a Canadian Flag at the gravestone. The coin might have been placed by them.

Your help would be appreciated. (Maybe YOU placed the coin there in 1994!) (*Not guilty!* - R.B)

Alice M. Hawes

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Doing my genealogy for the past four months has been such an amazing experience for me. There have been so many coincidences that I'm beginning to believe there are no real coincidences!

In the course of the research I discovered that I am a descendant of the Rev. Robert Lenthall Jr., who was the rector at Great Hampden in 1643... this would make him the minister who officiated at John Hampden's funeral, and who may be the only person who ever truly knew where Hampden was buried. Not only that, but it appears from genealogists' opinions that these two families were related by marriage, although exactly how hasn't been proven. In any event, Robert's father was the vicar of Great Missenden beginning in 1604.

Our Penobscot County Genealogy Society met at HHS headquarters in July and I met Alice and Bob, who told me of your visit and what you did while here, including the visit to the Revolutionary War monument in Hampden. How wonderful that these two societies made contact with each other and that you were able to come here to march in their parade!

They seemed very interested in my family's story and I joined their society and am planning on going to the next meeting. And I grew up just across the river from the town named after someone who was very closely connected with my family... just bizarre.

It is indeed a very small world, and I am still just floored over all these revelations. Someday I hope to go to England to do more research and visit all the places where my ancestors lived. I certainly hope to go to Great Hampden in 2020 for the celebration of the 800th anniversary of the church of St. Mary Magdalene.

I have just begun writing a little tract about the life of Robert Lenthall and hope to finish that in the Fall. I will certainly have the members of the Society take a look at the finished draft and see what you think.

Patricia Claus



Dr Frank Hansford-Miller laying the Union Flag at the Old Burying Ground, Hampden, in 1994. At the back (left to right) Dr John Whitehead, Derek Lester and John Goodall.