



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 74 - Spring 2013



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

AGM 2013



Deiniol Heywood - Rector of St. Mary Magdalene, Great Hampden

The Society held its 21st AGM at The Gate Inn at Bryants Bottom near Great Hampden on Sunday 21st April. A pleasing number of members attended the morning service at St Mary Magdalene Church at Great Hampden, where the Patriot is buried. The Rector, Deiniol Heywood, gave a special welcome to the John Hampden Society and its members. See below for details of the Church's appeal for donations. This is a worthy cause that members may well wish to support.

Members enjoyed a three-course luncheon and the opportunity to socialise with friends and colleagues before the formal proceedings of the AGM. Membership Secretary Brian Cox ran a book stall for those wishing to purchase any of the Society's publications and products.

Immediately before the AGM began The Chairman introduced Colin Cartwright and Andrew Clark who updated members on the *Walking with Bucks Suffragettes* booklet part-sponsored by the Society. Colin was sure that the booklet has helped to raise awareness of the story of John Hampden, and the little-known connection between him and the women's suffrage movement in Bucks and the wider area. Andrew suggested some options for a new Hampden trail leaflet and there was general agreement that such a leaflet would be beneficial in making both the Society and the story of John Hampden better known.

The record shows that 20 members attended the AGM. A long list of apologies was reported by the Honorary Secretary at the start of the formal meeting. The election of officers produced some important changes: Sam Hearn stood down as Chairman but was elected unopposed as Honorary Treasurer, a post that he has held before. Ian Hollenden was unfortunately unable to attend the meeting but was elected Chairman. Derek Lester stood down as Treasurer and did not seek re-election as a trustee. A long-serving member, Stephen Barriff, was elected as a new trustee.

The outgoing Chairman, Sam Hearn, thanked Brian Cox and Derek Lester for all their hard work in organising the administration of the increase in membership subscriptions and the change in the Society's bank. It was reported that most of the problems arising from these changes had now been resolved. Sam also thanked those members who had inadvertently made duplicate payments but had advised the Treasurer to treat these as donations.

Sam reviewed the highlights of the year in his Chairman's report. He made particular mention of the agreement by Mr Speaker Bercow to become a Vice President of the Society. This followed the Speaker's much appreciated participation in the Society's event at Aylesbury to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the statue of John Hampden. Derek circulated copies of the annual report and accounts which are now available in the members' area of the website.



Members, including Mrs Gloria Smith from Canterbury (with headband), enjoying a good meal and the opportunity to socialise before the meeting

Great Hampden Church needs to raise £70k

It is important to the John Hampden Society that the church of St Mary Magdalene at Great Hampden remains a vibrant and active part of the local community. The church is the Patriot's last resting place and houses several unique Hampden family memorials.

The Parochial Church Council wishes to make a number of improvements designed to make services easier to hold and to enable more and better community events to be run. These new facilities will include a building with toilet and storage facilities, and a new wheelchair friendly path to the south porch.

Pledges and donations can be made either by bank transfer or by cheque made payable to Great Hampden PCC and sent to PCC Treasurer Alan Costin at Woodview, Redland End, Speen, Bucks HP27 0RW. The usual gift aid arrangements apply.

Nat West Bank.: Sort Code 52-21-27: A/c No. 02004488: A/c Name - Great Hampden PCC. Please quote reference 'Appeal'.

THE TRIUMPH AND THE TRAGEDY OF MR. SPEAKER LENTHALL

For William Lenthall (1591-1662) his great moment both in life and in history was his adroit response, as Speaker of the House of Commons, to King Charles I on the morning of the 4th January 1642. The king had arrived with an armed guard of 400 men and demanded the arrest of the five members, but they had been warned in advance and had left by river before the king's arrival. Lenthall replied:-

"May it please your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as this house is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here; and humbly beg your Majesty's pardon that I cannot give any answer than this to what your Majesty is pleased to demand of me".

Unfortunately much of his long record as Speaker was not so glorious. Having entered the Commons in 1640 as member for Woodstock, he supported Parliament against the King in 1642, and the Army against the Presbyterians in 1647. After being removed with the Rump in 1653, he returned as Speaker of the first Protectorate Parliament in the following year. Although not as Speaker, he also sat in the Parliament of 1656, being one of those who urged Oliver Cromwell to take the Crown.

As General Monck prepared the country for the return of King Charles II in 1660, Lenthall was again prominent as Speaker of the Long Parliament, but at the Restoration a testimonial from Monck saved him from imprisonment. He failed, however, to get a seat in the Convention and he was excepted from the Indemnity.

Probably fearing for his own safety he gave evidence against a regicide who had been captured in Brussels, one Thomas Scot, confirming words spoken by the accused long before in the Commons, relating to his approval of the trial and death of King Charles I.

Thus Lenthall, who had so strongly defended Parliamentary privilege in January 1642, was in October 1660 to assist in a trial, conviction and execution by relating information which Thomas Scot in his own defence claimed to be 'a high breach of privilege'. Two years later, in 1662 William Lenthall died at his Burford estate.

Brian Cox



A YOUNG JOHN HAMPDEN

Derek Lester has drawn our attention to this portrait which is from the Christie-Crawford collection, currently on show at Stow Library, St Edwards Hall, The Square, Stow-on-the-Wold GL54 1AF.



The Captain Christie Crawford
English Civil War Collection

Title: John Hampden 1595 -1643 as a young man

Date or Period: 17th Century

Attributed to: English School

Signed/Marked: Yes

Country of Origin: United Kingdom

Description: Oval head & shoulder portrait long brown hair white collar black dress with white lining showing through and held by jewelled clips

Notes: CCs catalogue Bought at Christies sale July 3rd 1931 painting in bad condition had to be restored and canvas 'relieved'

Says by Dobson and a pencil note £24-4s-0d (is this the cost or the restoration costs?)

Measurements: The object - Height 61 centimetres

The object - Width 51 centimetres Signatures & Marks

Type: Monogram

Placement: Middle right side

Inscription: JOHN HAMPDEN

Do any members know of any other portraits of, or purporting to be of the Patriot and their current whereabouts? If so, please let us in on the secret, with a photograph if possible, in order that we can include this information in a future edition of the newsletter.

- The collection at Stow also contains another supposed portrait of an older John Hampden. Art historian David Appleby accompanied members on a visit to inspect it in 1993 (left). A photograph was reproduced in a survey of various Hampden images in *The Patriot* no.4, but Mr Appleby pronounced it as probably a Victorian copy of another work.

JOHN HAMPDEN'S SECOND IN COMMAND

When things came to a head in 1642 neither side was really ready for what was to become years of brutal civil war. Regiments had to be formed by men on both sides who had little or no military experience. Some, like Cromwell, grew into the role over a number of years, but few would deny the importance of getting fighting force up to speed as soon as possible. John Hampden, like many of his colleagues, had little experience in the art of military warfare so it was imperative that he chose the right men to fight alongside him. He was given a commission to raise a regiment on 30th July 1642 and quickly set about the task.

As is well known, the bulk of his fighting force was drawn from his home county, the yeomen of Buckinghamshire. But what of the commanders, the men who, under Hampden's banner, were going to lead these men into battle? Here I think Hampden shows great perspicacity. Of the two men he chose to fight directly under him one was a mercenary born in Warwickshire, who had fought on the continent, and the other was a shoemaker from London.

Joseph Wagstaffe clearly had a reputation as a man who knew his way around a battlefield and had a proven track record in Europe. He was fighting with an Irish regiment in the French Army in 1642 when the conflict broke out and he returned to England. Despite his eminent qualifications as a fighter he was apparently not well liked by Hampden's men as being 'blasphemous to their Puritan ears'. His stay, however, was relatively short lived since on the 5th of January 1643 Wagstaffe was captured by Royalists near Brackley and taken to Oxford.

According to the Royalist newspaper, *Mercurius Aulicus*, he sought release on the grounds that he had returned from serving in France to be employed in the Irish wars, 'but unawares, not being sensible of the niceties of the distinction between King and Parliament, he was engaged in action against his Majesty; that now being more perfectly informed of his misdoings, he was desirous to make tender of his service to his sacred Majesty'. As Miss Rice-Davis was to opine several centuries later, he would say that, wouldn't he?

Hampden's second choice was less obvious on the surface. William Barriff was a shoemaker who lived and worked in Wood Street in the City of London. A prominent member in his local parish of St Albans, and a member of the Court of Assistants in the Cordwainer's Company. However, in his spare time he was also an active member of the Honourable Artillery Company and, more importantly, the author of what was to become the leading military manual of the Civil War, *Military Discipline or the Young Artilleryman*. This book, first published in 1635, ran to six editions and whilst it may not have had the popularity of J.K. Rowling's magnum opus, at the time, was much sought after by both sides in the conflict.

If Hampden actually knew Barriff, or whether it was just by repute is not known, but Wagstaffe's transfer of allegiance in January 1643 meant that Barriff became the Lieutenant Colonel under John Hampden; a role he seemed to carry out assiduously until Hampden's untimely death in June 1643. After Chalgrove Barriff would have taken command of the regiment, but that too was short lived since on 28th July 1643 Barriff also died. How he died is unknown but it seems likely that he succumbed to typhoid - the illness that was savaging a large number of the Parliamentary troops after Reading.

Steve Barriff



DIARY DATES

2013

* **Sat 27th July.** Bucks Family History Society Open Day at The Grange School, Wendover Way, Aylesbury HP21 7NH, commencing at 10 am.

* **Sat 28th Sept.** Bucks Local History Network Annual Conference and Fair to be held at Dr Challoner's Girls High School, Little Chalfont HP7 9QB, commencing at 10 am.

Visit to the Houses of Parliament with the possibility of attendance at a session of Prime Minister's Questions. Date to be announced.

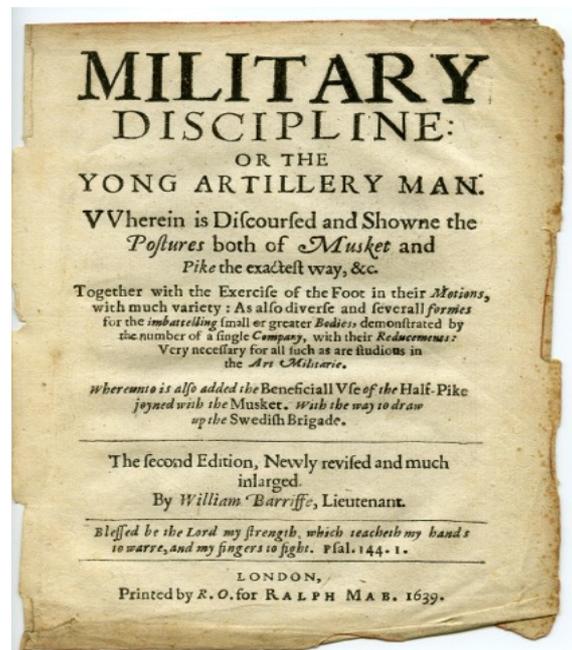
Visit to Chiswick to include a talk on London Civil War Defences and incorporating a trip to Fullers Brewery. Date to be announced.

* *The Society is planning to have a stand at these events.*

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

www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm

Published by
The John Hampden Society
Little Hampden
Cryers Hill, High Wycombe
Bucks HP15 6JS
Tel: 07543 054335
e-mail: (see website)
Website: www.johnhampden.org
Registered charity no. 1098314



The cover of William Barriff's military manual

MYSTERY POEM

As promised, here again is the poem discovered by our former Membership Secretary, the late Liz Morris, and published in *The Patriot* no. 28:

King Charles the First to Parliament came,
Five good Parliament men to claim;
King Charles he had them each by name,
Denzyl Holles and Jonathan Pym,
And William Strode and after him,
Arthur Hazelrigg Esquire
And Hampden, Gent, of Buckinghamshire.

The man at the gate said 'Tickets, please,'
Said Charles, 'I've come for the five M.P.'s.'
The Porter said 'Which?' and Charles said 'These:
Denzyl Holles'

In at the great front door he went,
The great front door of Parliament,
While, out at the back with one consent
Went Denzyl Holles ...

Into the street strode Charles the First,
His nose was high and his lips were pursed,
While, laugh till their rebel sides near burst, did
Denzyl Holles and Jonathan Pym,
And William Strode, and after him
Arthur Hazelrigg Esquire,
And Hampden, Gent, of Buckinghamshire.

HUGH CHESTERMAN
King Charles the First

'Speech Practice' ed. by G. Colson, 1959

Liz originally discovered this in *Country Like This*, published in 1972 by the Friends of the Vale of Aylesbury, and by co-incidence Maurice Kirtland has just drawn our attention to the same source. The poem also appears in Greta Colson's collection of speech exercises, but we can find nothing about Hugh Chesterman's work.

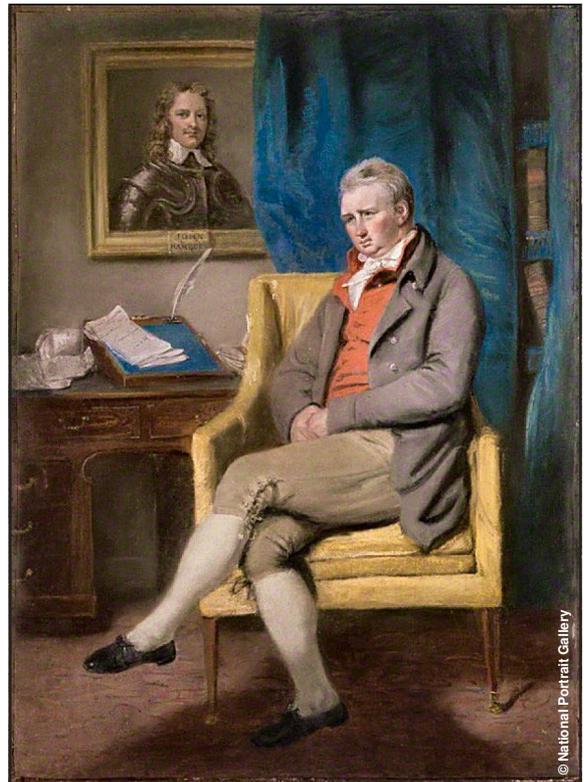
Chesterman was a prolific author of children's books and poems who lived at Islip, Oxfordshire, in the 1920s and '30s, and we can only assume that this poem was contained in a larger work.

Roy Bailey

FRESH BLOOD ON THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Society welcomes the election of long-standing member Steve Barriff as a trustee and member of the Executive Committee. Steve has recently retired as Highways Director with the City of London Corporation after spending almost forty years in the City. He first became interested in John Hampden when researching the life of his ancestor William Barriff - someone who also spent most of his life in the City of London.

ANOTHER ADMIRER



Dr Paul Hooper recently sent us a cutting containing this picture, which appeared in the March issue of *History Today*.

It is of William Cobbett, the farmer, radical reformer, and author of *Rural Rides*, who later became MP for Oldham. He was imprisoned in Newgate between 1810 and 1812, where this chalk engraving is believed to have been produced.

It depicts Cobbett in his study, with works by the other famous radical of the period, Thomas Paine, on the table and what purports to be a painting of John Hampden on the wall.

Hampden was greatly admired by campaigners for Parliamentary reform at this time, and it was only later that his name and fame were eclipsed by that of Oliver Cromwell.

2013 MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Single members - £15

Joint Membership - £20

Junior/Student - £10

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**The Membership Secretary
The John Hampden Society
9 Mulberry Drive
Wheatley
Oxfordshire OX33 1UT**

Email: membership@johnhampden.org

Printed by Colourplus Print & Design
28 Monument Business Park, Chalgrove, Oxon OX44 7RW
Tel: 01865 400040

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