



# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 78 - Spring/Summer 2014



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

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014



The Society returned to the Barns Centre at Thame for its AGM, held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Due to a number of circumstances outside the control of the Trustees, the meeting had to be held at a relatively short notice and as a consequence attendance was sadly down on recent years.

The trustees were all re-elected and Steve Barriff was elected as Chairman in the place of Ian Hollenden, who still remains a trustee. Beatrice Dobie, who was previously co-opted onto the committee, was formally elected as a trustee. Miles Buckinghamshire, the Society's Patron, said that he thought that he spoke for most members in expressing his gratitude to Ian and the other trustees for all their hard work in what had been a challenging year.

Vice-Chairman Sam Hearn ran the formal part of the meeting and provided a verbal report, summarizing the events and activities that the trustees and members had engaged in during the previous calendar year. Wearing his Treasurer's hat he informed the attendees that the finances of the Society are in a healthy state. The increase in membership subscription rates had proved worthwhile despite the administrative issues involved. Brian Cox, the Membership Secretary, reported in more detail on membership numbers, which remained fairly static.

Members discussed whether or not the Society should still use the Co-operative Bank as its main bankers, bearing in mind the bad press that this institution has received over recent months. It was decided by a show of hands that, in the circumstances, it was still in the members' best interests to remain with this bank for the time being. However the trustees would continue to monitor the situation.

Roy Bailey explained that slow but steady progress was being made with the creation of a new website for the Society. He was also pleased to report that negotiations were well advanced which would allow the Bucks Family History Society to sell the Society's publications.

Anthea Coles made a plea for more articles from the membership for *The Patriot*. The quarterly newsletter is diligently compiled and edited by the Honorary Secretary and is much admired by all who read it. However, it was agreed that there was a need for more contributions from members and others, particularly those with fresh material and/or an original perspective.

A number of events and talks are planned for the forthcoming year that will promote John Hampden to the wider community but should anyone be aware of any relevant events or activities, perhaps something close to where they live, then trustees will be glad to publicise them on the website and in *The Patriot*.

Sam concluded the meeting with a quote from the American author Eric Hoffer, "*In a time of drastic change, it is the learners who inherit the future. The learned find themselves equipped to live in a world that no longer exists.*"

- Because of the circumstances referred to above, publication of this issue had to be delayed so it has been decided to combine the Spring and Summer issues into one.

## VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

It may interest some readers to know that the Victoria County History is currently updating its entries on a number of locations throughout the country. The VCH was founded in 1899 as a private enterprise, with the intention of producing a history of each English county to a standard plan which, in the words of Arthur Doubleday, the founding general editor, made 'a special feature of general articles which should bring into prominence the main characteristics of every phase of county life'. In recent years new initiatives have been taken in several counties where little or no work had taken place for many decades. One initiative, which is currently in draft, gives the history of Chalgrove village. The main remit of the Victoria County History is topography but there is a small reference to John Hampden in their Social History section on the village of Chalgrove together with a photograph of the Chalgrove memorial. The entry reads as follows:

*During the Civil War the parish was the scene of a brief but violent battle. On 17 June 1643 Parliamentary forces from Thame were repulsed at Islip near Oxford, prompting a Royalist counter-attack against Chinnor. Returning the following day, Prince Rupert's men halted in Chalgrove's open fields where they faced a Parliamentary force assembled at Warpsgrove. The Royalist horsemen proved too strong for the Roundheads, whose commander John Hampden was wounded on the battlefield and died later at Thame. This dramatic episode apart, Chalgrove's inhabitants were probably chiefly inconvenienced by demands for grain and other supplies.*

To read more about the village and associated events go to,

[http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/sites/default/files/work-in-progress/chalgrove\\_web\\_social.pdf](http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/sites/default/files/work-in-progress/chalgrove_web_social.pdf)

**Steve Barriff**

## MASTERMIND

Last year, a chemistry teacher from Tring called James Maple contacted our chairman, Ian Hollenden, with a request for assistance in preparing for a forthcoming BBC *Mastermind*. His proposed questions were to be on the English Civil Wars. Fortunately we were able to help him and when the show was finally broadcast in February of this year James managed to answer a creditable twelve out of thirteen questions.

It is not the first time the John Hampden Society has been involved in *Mastermind* and many of you will remember a few years back when Roy Bailey put up an excellent performance on questions about the Patriot himself.

For those of you with a weakness for such things the questions that were put to James Maple are listed below. The answers will be printed in the next issue of *The Patriot*.

1. What was the first major battle of the English Civil Wars, fought on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1643, two months after Charles I had formally declared war on Parliament by raising his standard in Nottingham?
2. Who commanded the Parliamentary army at the battle of Edgehill? He was later defeated at Lostwithiel in 1644.
3. What Act of Parliament, passed in 1645, stripped Peers and MPs of their military or naval commands?
4. In which battle of July 1644 did Newcastle's white coats stand their ground, allowing the other Royalists to flee, but were wiped out as a result?
5. What was the nickname given to the Parliamentary cavalry regiment of Sir Arthur Haselrig because of the troopers' heavy plate armour?
6. What was the name of the governor of Hull who refused Charles entry into the City in April 1642 and was proclaimed a traitor by the King? He was executed by Parliament in 1645.
7. What was the name of the agreement between the English Parliament and the Scottish Covenanters in 1643 by which the Scots would give military support against the King in return for church reform?
8. What was the main political movement behind the 1647 manifesto called *An Agreement of the People*, which advocated religious toleration and electoral reform?
9. Charles I was executed in January 1649. Which executive body of 41 members was established in February to implement domestic and foreign policy?
10. On the 21<sup>st</sup> March 1646 where was the last Royalist field army, commanded by Sir Jacob Astley, defeated by a Parliamentary force?
11. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1651 a Royalist Army under the future Charles II was defeated by Oliver Cromwell in one of the last major battles of the Civil Wars. What was it called?
12. Who was the governor of Pembroke who instigated a rebellion in March 1648 by refusing to hand over the town's castle to a New Model Army garrison, because his men were owed back pay by Parliament?
13. On the 6<sup>th</sup> December 1648 MPs who were willing to continue negotiations with the King were excluded from the Commons. What name was given to this action after the Army colonel who carried it out?

## CHALGROVE REVISITED

It appears that my article on Chalgrove in the last edition of *The Patriot* caused a small stir in some quarters. There are a couple of points that should be made clear from the outset.

1. The views expressed in the article are entirely my own and do not (as with all such articles) necessarily reflect the views of the John Hampden Society as a whole.

2. I have no wish to expunge the village of Chalgrove from the face of the earth, merely to put the events that took place there 370 years ago into context.

The purpose of the Society is to praise the achievements of John Hampden and bring these achievements to the notice of a wider public. Hampden was neither born, educated, lived or even died at Chalgrove. Chalgrove's only claim to fame is that John Hampden happened to find himself in a field there facing Royalist cavalry and in doing so received a mortal wound.

This is, of course, a significant event in John Hampden's life but my contention is that it tends to overshadow both his Parliamentary and military exploits, and it is those that we should be celebrating, not the fact that he was mortally wounded there.

Rather gruesome exhumations took place in the Victorian era to try to ascertain whether John Hampden received his mortal wound by an exploding pistol or a shot from a Royalist cavalier. Here again, whilst this may be of passing interest, does the manner of his wound reflect on the achievements of his life? I would suggest not.

I appreciate such views may be seen as contentious in some circles but would welcome any comments through the pages of this newsletter that could develop this argument.

**Steve Barriff**

**The following letter was received from Society Vice President, Dr Paul Hooper:**

Dear Mr Cox,

I read your article about Ship Money with interest. I think it was originally raised to protect coastal counties against the Barbary Pirates, and raised only there; but Charles decided it was a good way of raising money so extended it into inland counties - illegally.

It was a difficult tax to collect. I enclose a page from my book on the Isle of Wight to show the lengths the Sheriffs had to go to make sure it was collected.

Yours sincerely,

P.D.Hooper.

*"To his honoured friend John Worsley at Gatcombe.*

*Mr Worsley, as you are a gentleman I love and respect, so I desire you not to force me to distrain your goods for his Majesty's Ship Monies. I should be very loathe to do it to any, especially yourself. But as monies must be paid to his Majesty, so there is little reason that I should, besides my pain and care, pay it out of my own purse. Thus hoping you will pay your rates imposed on you, I rest your friend to command.*

*John Oglander.*

*5th March 1637/8."*



## DIARY DATES

### 2014

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July** A talk by the Earl of Buckinghamshire to Chiltern U3A Local History Group in the Barn Hall at Amersham Community Centre, Chiltern Avenue, Amersham, Bucks HP6 5AH, commencing at 10 am.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September** A talk to Abingdon-on-Thames U3A at The Preston Road Community Centre, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 5NR, commencing at 2.15 pm.

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September** A talk by the Earl of Buckinghamshire at St Nicholas Church, Aylesbury Road, Great Kimble HP17 0XS, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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

[www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm](http://www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm)

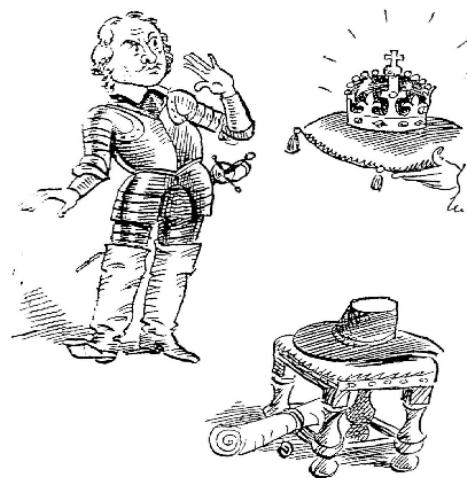
## THE LORD PROTECTOR

Said Oliver Cromwell: 'If you please,  
Don't doff your bonnets and bend your knees,  
Don't offer me sceptre, robe or ring,  
For Oliver Cromwell won't be King!

'Blarney me, bluff me, praise me, pat me,  
"Lord-High-This" and "Lord-High-That" me,  
Call me Protector or any old thing...  
But I won't be, won't be, *won't be King!*

'For Kings too easily come unstuck,  
The last I met didn't have any luck,  
So if there's another it won't be me,  
(Signed) Your Servant,  
Oliver C.'

The Society is grateful to Mr Christopher Lake of Wendover for allowing this poem to be copied from his book.



Cromwell refusing the crown

**Bob Hammond**

## THOSE WERE THE DAYS

In 1938 the Hampden family decided to let Hampden House. The first tenant was a Boarding School for girls aged 10-18 years, run by R. B. Schools Ltd, the Directors being Mrs Robley Browne and Surgeon Captain Robley Browne. Mrs Robley Browne was also the Headmistress.

For a fee of 55 guineas per term the boarders received board residence and a general school course which included Scripture, English, Literature, History (English, European, Greek and Roman), French, Latin, Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, Biology and Nature Study, Geography, Debates, Gymnastics, Games and Mime, Class Singing and Art. Another charge was 1 guinea a term Doctor's fee, a Games fee of 1 guinea and 50 guineas for a Domestic Science Course for senior girls. There were various optional subjects charged at between 3 and 5 guineas per term. Each girl had to pay 5 shillings per term to cover the cost of stationery as it had been found that system taught the girls to be more economical in the use of stationery

Parents could decide how much pocket money each pupil should have at the beginning of each term, which could not be added to during the term, the chosen amount not to exceed £2 per term.

The school had a resident teaching staff of 7 qualified mistresses and several visiting staff.

The girls could, if they wished, have a garden, and the maximum possible time was spent out of doors in the fresh air, with tennis and golf played in the summer and lacrosse and netball in the winter.

This use of Hampden House continued until 1978, when Hammer Film Company became tenants and the house featured in many of their films.

**Anthea Coles**

- I remember visiting Hampden House School when I had started researching John Hampden in the 1960s. The Headmistress then was Mrs Leslie, and she kindly let me stand in what is now the reception area and peer into the Great Hall.

That was as far as I was allowed!

The next visit was in 1992 to meet Tim Oliver and discuss the formation of the John Hampden Society.

**Roy Bailey**

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## JOHN HAMPDEN IN LONDON

Whilst John Hampden is traditionally associated with Buckinghamshire a significant part of his life was spent in London, either as an MP, with his involvement with the Honourable Artillery Company, or as a friend of Sir John Eliot, amongst others. Despite the fire of 1666 surprisingly good records have survived of seventeenth-century London. One of the main ones is the Ogilby and Morgan map of 1682, although descriptions by Pepys, Stow and others enable one to get a feel of the town in that period.

A team of students, calling themselves Pudding Lane Productions, based at De Montfort University, were, in their own words, "tasked with creating a gritty representation of 17<sup>th</sup> century London", and have adapted historical maps and engravings from the British Library using software from game developer Crytek.

The end result, which took nine months to create and runs to almost 8 minutes, scooped first prize in the Off the Map challenge – a nationwide initiative sponsored by Crytek and run in conjunction with the British Library and GameCity.

Our picture shows a still from this evocative production.

You can view this on YouTube at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-W-8YA5uQo>

## OBITUARY

**It was with great sadness that the Society heard of the death last February of Angela Rodda, the wife of long-serving member Jim Rodda.**

**Angela had fairly recently joined the Society in her own right, having previously occasionally attended events with Jim and we had looked forward to having the opportunity of getting to know her better over the coming years. Unfortunately this was not to be.**

**The Society would like to extend their condolences and thoughts to Jim in his sad loss.**

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