



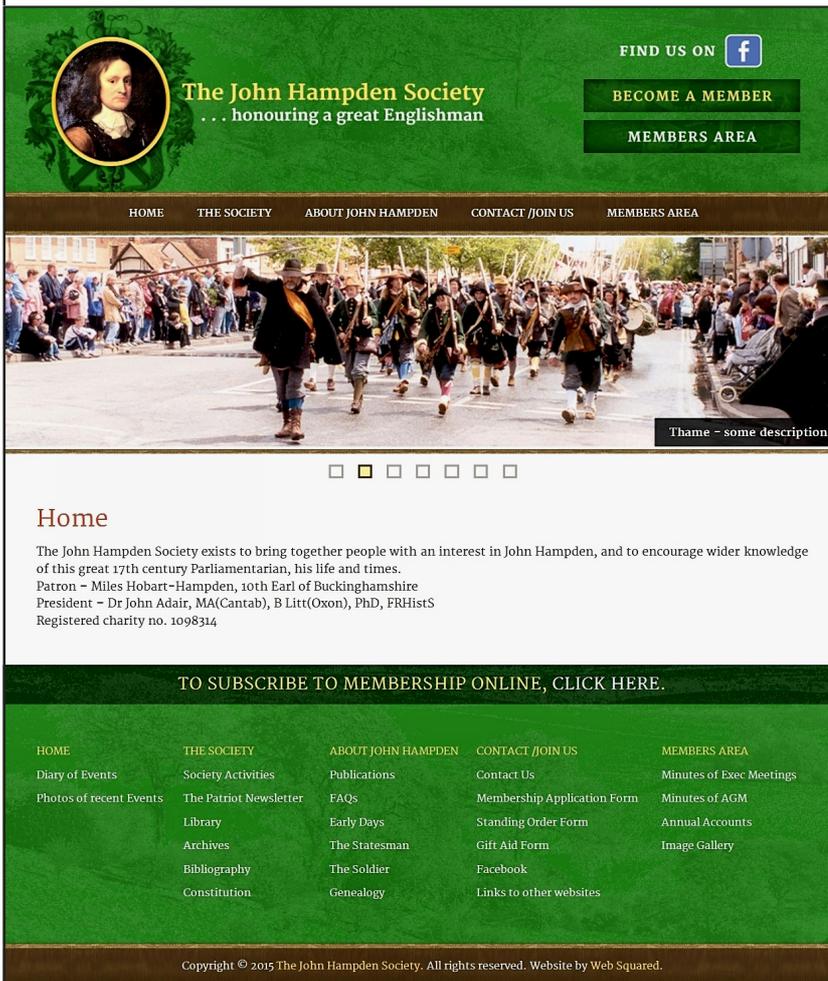
# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society  
No. 83 - Autumn 2015



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'S NEW WEBSITE



The screenshot shows the home page of the John Hampden Society website. It features a green header with a portrait of John Hampden and the text 'The John Hampden Society ... honouring a great Englishman'. There are buttons for 'FIND US ON' (with a Facebook icon), 'BECOME A MEMBER', and 'MEMBERS AREA'. A navigation menu includes 'HOME', 'THE SOCIETY', 'ABOUT JOHN HAMPDEN', 'CONTACT / JOIN US', and 'MEMBERS AREA'. Below the menu is a large image of a historical reenactment on a street, with a caption 'Thame - some description'. The main content area has a 'Home' section with a brief description of the society and its patron, Miles Hobart-Hampden. At the bottom, there is a section for 'TO SUBSCRIBE TO MEMBERSHIP ONLINE, CLICK HERE.' and a detailed navigation menu with links to various sections like 'Diary of Events', 'Society Activities', 'Publications', 'Contact Us', 'Minutes of Exec Meetings', etc.



The picture on the left is an image of the home page of the Society's new website, which is being designed and constructed by Web Squared Ltd of Newbury.

As can be seen from the menus, the new site will include many facilities not on the current one, such as an image gallery and a genealogical section that can be linked to outside facilities.

The Society's website sub-committee met Sarah Large, MD of Web Squared, at The Bear Hotel in Hungerford in August to discuss the project, and since then she has been hard at work producing the new layout. Our picture above shows (*l-r*) Chairman Steve Barriff, Sarah Large, Hon. Treasurer Sam Hearn and Webmaster Roy Bailey - all keeping suitably refreshed, of course!

Comments and suggestions from members and interested parties would be welcome, and should be sent to Steve Barriff at [thechairman@johnhampden.org](mailto:thechairman@johnhampden.org). It is hoped that the new website will go live by the beginning of 2016.

## SITUATIONS VACANT

As of next April, following the Society's AGM, the posts of Newsletter Editor and Webmaster will become vacant.

These are important positions within the Society, and the Executive Committee is looking for a person or persons willing and able to take over.

The new website is being designed in such a manner that it can be easily updated by anyone competent to use a word processing program, such as Microsoft Word. The newsletter is produced on Microsoft Publisher, a program similar to Word, but any desktop publishing program can be used.

Anyone interested in either of these posts should contact me, either at [thewebmaster@johnhampden.org](mailto:thewebmaster@johnhampden.org) or on 01488 648441, and I will be happy to take them through the procedures.

**Roy Bailey**

## WAVING THE FLAG FOR THE SOCIETY

Members Jim Rodda and Sam Hearn waved the flag for the Society at the 2015 BLHN Conference in September. This year's event was held in the magnificent Oculus Centre in Aylesbury (*pictured*). The oval-shaped hall, within the new District Council's offices, is described on the Aylesbury Vale District Council's website as 'a practical and flexible space ... a truly unique venue'.

The Society's stall enjoyed a steady stream of visits from conference attendees eager to learn more about John Hampden and the Society itself. Our publications continued to sell in healthy if not spectacular numbers and a number of membership forms were handed out. There were also several enquiries about the availability of speakers to talk to local groups about Hampden.



The subject matter of this year's five lectures contained little of direct relevance for Hampden aficionados but all the lectures were professionally presented and interesting in their own right: The subject matter ranged from a comparison of the development of the medieval settlements at Eton and Windsor to the 'birth' of the modern city of Milton Keynes.

The BLHN Chairman and event organiser David Thorpe issued a plea for volunteers to come forward to assist in promoting future events and providing hands-on help on the day. Members who would like to help in any way should contact him on [thorpeds@hotmail.com](mailto:thorpeds@hotmail.com). Alternatively you can contact the Society's Treasurer Sam Hearn on 020 8995 2666 for further information. Members' children or grandchildren may wish to consider volunteering in order to add a special twist to the so-called personal statements that now accompany University applications.

**Sam Hearn**

---

## A CALL FOR NEW TRUSTEES

As some of you will recall a plea was made at last year's AGM for new committee members (Trustees) for the John Hampden Society. As is all too apparent(!) some Trustees are perhaps not as young as they once were and in order to ensure that the Society continues to grow we are always on the lookout for new and enthusiastic members to join our ranks.

The duties of a Trustee are far from onerous (*unless you happen to be both Newsletter Editor and Webmaster!*) and ideally require attendance at four or five meetings during the year. Most matters are adequately dealt with either over the telephone or by e-mail, meaning that residence in Buckinghamshire, or indeed the UK, is not essential.

A more detailed list of the roles and responsibilities of the Society's Trustees will be provided to any member who is interested in becoming a Trustee. Members are of course welcome to attend any meeting of the Executive and this may be a useful way to find out more about what the Trustees actually do.

If you are interested, an informal chat with either me, or any of the other committee members, would be welcome.

I sincerely hope that you will be able to assist.

**Steve Barriff**

## OBITUARY

### The Reverend Dr Joyce Mary Bennett, OBE 1923-2015

We are sad to announce the death on 11<sup>th</sup> July at the age of 92 of long-standing member The Revd. Dr Joyce Bennett, OBE, who was the first English woman to be ordained as a priest in the Anglican Communion.



Dr Bennett was ordained in Hong Kong in 1971 – almost 25 years before the Church of England allowed women to officiate, and was hailed as an inspiration to those campaigning for the ordination of women in the Church of England.

She was born in London and educated at Burlington School in Westminster before taking a degree in History and a PGCE at the University of London. In 1949, she travelled to Hong Kong and began work as a CMS missionary. She remained teaching and preaching in

Hong Kong, being ordained by Bishop Gilbert Baker in St. John's Cathedral on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1971.

She was Principal of St Catharine's Girls School in Hong Kong from 1968 until she left the colony in 1983, having been appointed OBE in 1971. She retired to live at Totteridge, and despite not being allowed to officiate in England, she continued to look after the expatriate Chinese community in this country, holding services for them in St Martin-in-the-Fields and attending many events in High Wycombe.

In 2010, she was present at the dedication of internal doors at the church of St Francis of Assisi (*pictured*), which was also attended by the Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Revd John Pritchard. It was in this church that she was laid to rest on 3<sup>rd</sup> August. The service was attended by more than 30 school children from St Catharine's School in Hong Kong. A memorial service to celebrate Dr Bennett's life was held at St Martin-in-the-Fields Church, Trafalgar Square, on 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Dr Bennett was unmarried and is survived by her adopted daughter Mary, her former pupil and nurse.

Joyce Bennett joined the John Hampden Society fairly early on (her membership number was 085) and became a life member. She was very insistent that her entry in the published address list should include her two titles and her award!



## DIARY DATES

### 2016

**April.** The Society's Annual General Meeting. (*Date and venue to be advised.*)

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)

## IN GOOD HANDS

The Chiltern Society has passed responsibility for the upkeep and improvement of the Ship Money Memorial at Honor End near Prestwood to one of their members, Jim Rodda. Fortunately Jim is also a long-standing member of this Society.



He is looking for volunteers to assist in hedging, trimming and other light gardening duties associated with the site. Jim is keen to develop some embryonic ideas that would sensitively conserve the Monument whilst making it much more accessible to both walkers, cyclists and motorists.

If you wish to learn more about what is planned please contact Jim Rodda on [james-rodde@btinternet.com](mailto:james-rodde@btinternet.com). Any future meetings are likely to convene at the Hampden Arms pub in Great Hampden which is close to Jim's new home and to the Monument itself.

## MEMBERSHIP

The annual membership subscription to the Society, payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year, is:

Single members	-	£15.00
Joint members	-	£20.00
Junior/students	-	£10.00

This newsletter is published quarterly and distributed free to members.

Published by

**The John Hampden Society**

Little Hampden

Cryers Hill, High Wycombe

Bucks HP15 6JS

Tel: 07543 054335

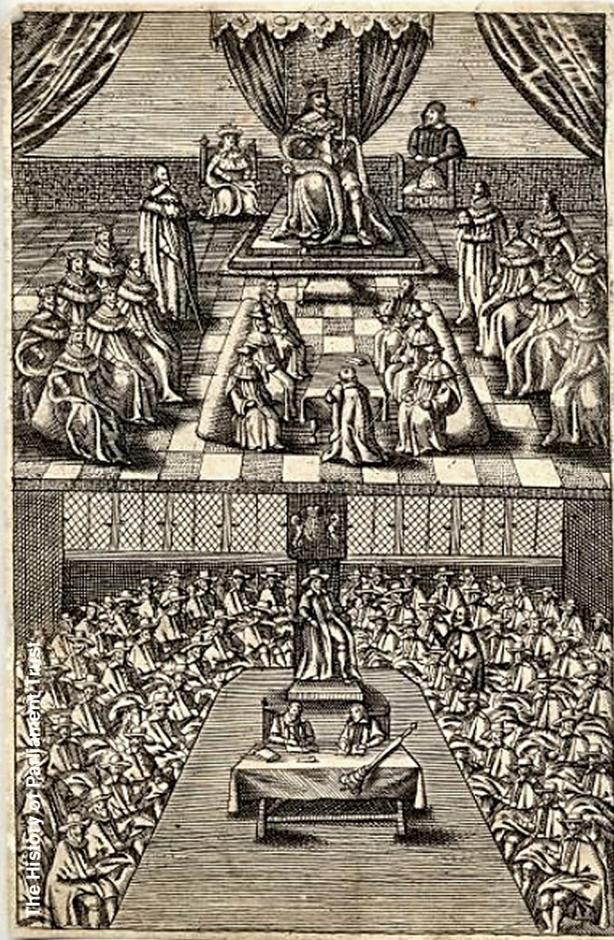
e-mail: *see website*

Website: [www.johnhampden.org](http://www.johnhampden.org)

Registered charity no. 1098314

## THE 'HAPPY' PARLIAMENT

John Hampden was first elected to Parliament in 1621 and sat for the Cornish seat of Grampound. He was subsequently elected for the newly re-enfranchised seat of Wendover in the Parliament of 1624. The project to collate and publish on the internet the proceedings of this parliament is now well under way. The following article written by Philip Baker is re-published by kind permission of the History of Parliament Trust:-



A 17th century Parliament

The 1624 Parliament remains one of the most puzzling and controversial of all the early Stuart Parliaments. The most harmonious of all the early Stuart assemblies, it fits rather awkwardly into the accepted scholarly framework, which views the period between 1604 and 1629 as one of steady and marked deterioration in relations between the king and the Commons. Its burst of legislative activity has helped to inspire important recent research, moving political history into new realms, exploring the connections between Parliament and the public in Stuart England, for example, on the relationship between parliamentary politics and petitioners and the publication and circulation of news.

Moving forward our understanding of this Parliament, however, has been hampered by the lack of a good edition of its proceedings. For all of the other Parliaments of the early seventeenth century, the scattered evidence has been brought together and edited by the Yale Center for Parliamentary History, a project which dates back to the 1920s and one of the great historians of the pre-Revolution English Parliament, Wallace Notestein. The proceedings of the 1624 Parliament, uniquely, remained unpublished when the Yale Center was closed in 2007, leaving a gaping hole in the material readily available and accessible for this critical year in the history of Parliament.

The History of Parliament Trust agreed to become the repository of the 1624 material collected by the Yale Center, and a £97,000 grant from the Leverhulme Trust and additional funding from the Friends of the Yale Center for Parliamentary History and the Mercers' Company of the City of London have enabled the History to take on the project. It is being managed by Philip Baker, who works closely with Andrew Thrush and the team which has

recently published *The House of Commons, 1604-29*, and is now working on the House of Lords over the same period. The 1624 proceedings will be published online as well as in print, and, with the biographies we have already published and other online resources, will begin to offer the prospect of a connected set of resources which will enable scholars to dig more deeply and more easily than ever before into the vexed politics of the early Stuarts.

The project began in January 2012, using the methods and principles established by the Yale Center, and is a major undertaking. For the proceedings within the House of Commons alone, there are some seventeen diary and journal accounts, some written by well-known figures such as John Pym, while the authorship of two of them remains uncertain. The accounts vary widely in both their physical appearance and in the level of information they bestow. Some are fair hand copies providing detailed accounts of members' speeches and the legislative process, while others take the form of rough scribbled notes, perhaps written on the diarist's lap in the Commons' chamber itself. One is in law French, two use an early form of shorthand and, uniquely to this Parliament, three different versions of the Commons Journal survive for periods of its sitting. The edition will include complete transcripts of all of this material.

On 12 February 2015, on the 391st anniversary of its opening, the publication of *Proceedings in Parliament 1624: The House of Commons* began on the internet, hosted by British History Online. The first in a progressive release of the Commons' proceedings made available, for the first time, those covering the opening month of the Parliament, some eleven days of business consisting of over 90,000 words of text. When completed, the release of the full eighty-four days of Commons' proceedings covered by the various diaries and journals of the 1624 Parliament will give scholars free online access to over 770,000 words detailing the work of the so-called 'Happy Parliament'.

Printed by Sarsen Press  
22 Hyde Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 7DR  
Tel: 01962 854281 info@sarsenpress.com

Every effort is made to obtain permission to reproduce the images in this publication from the relevant copyright holders and to ensure that all credits are correct. We have acted in good faith and on the best information available to us at the time of publication. Any omissions are inadvertent, and will be corrected if notification is given in writing.