



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 47 - Summer 2006



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

NEW CIVIL WAR ENGULFS AYLESBURY!

Not quite, but a mild attack of internecine strife has broken out among some of the Buckinghamshire-based members of the John Hampden Society, with, as yet, no serious casualties.

'It is appropriate that our War Memorial was sited beside the original position of his statue', wrote Valerie, 'and as we stand before the War Memorial on Remembrance Day we should cast a glance side-



In a letter to *The Bucks Herald* on plans to improve Kingsbury, one of Aylesbury's public squares, the Society's Vice-Chairman Bob Hammond suggested that the statue of John Hampden should be relocated there from its position in the corner of the nearby Market Square. He repeated this proposal at the Society's AGM, producing a robust response from Aylesbury resident Valerie Horne which greatly enlivened the meeting.

Valerie vociferously maintained, as she had also done in an unpublished letter, that Sir Henry Fehr's splendid statue should remain in the Market Square where local benefactor James Griffin presented it to the people of Aylesbury in 1912.

She pointed out, as did one of the benefactor's descendants, Edward Griffin, that Bob was in error in claiming that the statue was moved to make way for the War Memorial. This was installed after World War I. The Hampden statue was actually relocated in 1988 to allow buses to turn at the top of the square, something which no longer happens.

ways at John Hampden and remember that he also gave his life fighting for that which he felt was right. Losing your life fighting in a civil war against unjust taxes is just as great a sacrifice as losing it fighting on foreign soil. Both causes are for liberty and the good of the people. John Hampden should remain in the Market Square - the living heart of the town.'

The resulting vote at the AGM was overwhelmingly in favour of the statue remaining in the Market Square.

Editor's note: As I live some 50 miles from Aylesbury, I haven't hitherto had an opinion on this matter. However, on a recent visit to Aylesbury, I had occasion to walk through the Market Square, and was struck how abysmally sited is John Hampden's statue.

As our picture shows, it is hemmed in by trees and modern buildings, and Hampden is pointing straight at the premises of a travel agent, as if saying, 'Here's a good place to book your next foreign holiday!' Relocating the statue to the centre of the Square would seem to me to be the best option, although this would interfere with the market.

WILLIAM HAKEWILL (HAKEWELL) 1574 -1655

Bob Hammond and Sam Hearn are researching an article for *The Patriot* on John Hampden's colleague, the constitutional lawyer William Hakewill. A considerable amount of biographical information is available but so far they have been unable to locate any references to a portrait or bust of Hakewill or members of his family.

They are, in addition, interested in any evidence that might confirm a possible family connection between Hakewill and Hampden's first wife Elizabeth Symeon. Can any of our readers point Bob and Sam in the right direction?

In preparing the article it has become clear that Hakewill's role in Hampden's life and career was not fully appreciated by Lord Nugent, Hampden's first biographer. Nugent, for example, deliberately played down Hakewill's role in the re-enfranchisement of the boroughs of Marlow, Amersham and Wendover. Nugent's approach has been followed by subsequent biographers. Bob and Sam believe that there is evidence that Hakewill was a significant influence in Hampden's life and that he could in some respects be regarded as a mentor.



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ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT
& BANQUETING

LOTTERY MONEY FOR BATTLEFIELD TRAILS

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has awarded a grant of £15,000 to the Battlefields Trust to create trails across the Civil War battlefields of Brentford and Turnham Green and improve local understanding of these historic events.

The project, which starts this summer, involves the installation of information boards at Brentford and Turnham Green which tell the story of the battles and their wider importance for the 1642-1646 Civil War. The Battlefields Trust will also use the grant to provide public talks on the battles and produce leaflets which will be freely available in local libraries and museums. The Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society, Hounslow Heritage Guides, The Duke of Northumberland and Syon Park Estate and the John Hampden Society are all participating in the project.

Local heritage guides will be offered the opportunity to learn more about the battles and incorporate their history into the walks they lead. Local schools are also to be involved in a creative art competition, the winners of which will open the battlefield trails in late 2007.

Frank Baldwin, Chairman of the local Battlefields Trust branch, said: 'We are delighted the Heritage Lottery Fund has made this project happen. The importance of the Brentford and Turnham Green battles have for too long been underplayed by historians. This grant will raise their profile greatly.'

For Further information, please contact

Simon Marsh from the Battlefields Trust on 020 85592805 (h), 07749-459131(m) and e-mail: sifial@hotmail.com.

Frank Baldwin, Chairman of the London and South East Branch of the Battlefields Trust on 0207 387 1871 (h) 07813 179668 (m) and e-mail: baldwin@clara.co.uk.

James Wisdom, Chairman of the Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society on 0208 995 7413 and e-mail: jameswisdom@compuserve.com

- The Battlefields Trust, together with several public bodies and the Nationwide Building Society, has produced another battlefields trail linking three important Midlands engagements.

Launched on 24th June, the 20-mile trail links Edgote (1469) in Northamptonshire, Cropredy Bridge (1644) in Oxfordshire, and Edgehill (1642) in Warwickshire.

The trust has produced a sumptuous colour leaflet giving details of all three battles and their accompanying walks, plus connecting car and cycle routes, and information is also available on the Trust's web-site at www.battlefieldstrust.com.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2006 AGM was held at Hampton Court Palace (*below*) on St. George's Day. The Society is fortunate in having a Treasurer with access to the Members' Room there, and it is thanks to the hard work and organisation of Sam Hearn that this historic facility was made available to us on this occasion.

Unfortunately inclement weather meant that attendees of the meeting were unable to take advantage of the opportunity to stroll around the gardens or the maze, though those who arrived early managed to have a look at parts of the building. Prior to the meeting we were able to partake of a welcome cup of coffee in the Members' Room kitchen.

Once assembled in the meeting room, the Society was welcomed to Hampton Court by Pat Sweeney, Head of Customer Services.

The meeting was opened by the Society's Chairman, Lord Hollenden, who reported on the events of the past year, following which Sam Hearn explained the Society's financial position.

Liz Morris spoke briefly about membership, explaining that some members had left but others had joined, so numbers were fairly stable. Most members had paid their

annual subscription with only one or two still to be followed up.

The officers and members of the Executive Committee were elected unopposed.

Various projects were touched upon and updates given where appropriate. Derek and Gill Lester's latest literary offering, *Hampden's Monument Unveiled*, was launched at a special price to attendees, and signed copies sold very well.

Projected future events were suggested and the meeting concluded with discussion about John Hampden statue in Market Square, Aylesbury, which our vice-chairman felt should be relocated to Kingsbury, where it could be seen in solitary splendour. Another Society member felt very strongly that

this should not happen and a lively interchange took place on the subject. (*see 'New Civil War Engulfs Aylesbury!'*)

Following the meeting, Sam Hearn treated all present to a most interesting illustrated talk on Sybil Penn, after which refreshments were served prior to departure. Special thanks are due to Sam for making this year's AGM such an interesting and memorable event.

Anthea Coles



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS!

Dr Paul Hooper has kindly donated to the Society his entire library of 122 reference books on the 17th century.

Included in this mammoth collection of just about every important work on the period are Gardiner's 4-volume *History of the Civil War*, Macaulay's *History of England*, and (of course) the biographies of John Hampden by Lord Nugent, Hugh Ross Williamson and John Adair.

It is hoped that this collection will be housed somewhere in the new Museum at Thame, where students will be able to refer to these important works.

The Society wishes to express its grateful thanks to Dr Hooper for such a generous gesture.

And he hasn't finished there! He has also made available to the Society the text of his book *John Hampden in the Short Parliament*, and this will probably be our next publication.

Watch this space!

THE HAMPDEN MONUMENT UNVEILED

This book, by Derek and Gill Lester, about the unveiling of the Chalgrove Battlefield Monument in 1843, is still available to members at the promotional price of £4.50 plus postage and packing, and can be ordered from:

**Park Meadow Cottage
Thame Park Road
Thame
Oxon OX9 3PJ**

All remittances should be made payable in sterling to **The John Hampden Society**.

Postage charges apply to the British Isles only; overseas customers should check the international rates.

BOOK REVIEWS

Restoration - Charles II and his Kingdoms 1660-1685 by Tim Harris

Published in paperback by Penguin History - 506 pages

The author originally intended to write one big book. He changed his mind and has published two books, *Restoration* and *Revolution*; neither of which can be accused of being small in either scope or physical size. It is important to remember when reading *Restoration* that it was conceived as part of a larger project.

Tim Harris successfully covers the differing impacts of late Stuart arbitrary (if not absolutist) policies on the three Kingdoms. He cleverly demonstrates how both the King and those he was seeking to influence appreciated how actions and developments in one part of the British Isles would be perceived in the others. He argues that Charles II played a difficult hand well and that this was amply demonstrated in the later years of his reign. The potentially damaging Exclusion Crisis was dealt with in such a way that his Whig enemies were neutralised and support for both Charles and his brother were greatly enhanced.

For members of the John Hampden Society there are some interesting reflections on the Rye House plot in which a small group of radical Whigs planned to assassinate Charles II and his brother the Duke of York (later James II). The Patriot's grandson, John Hampden, was implicated in the plot and narrowly avoided execution.

In the author's opinion the deliberate decision by the restored Charles II to return England to the constitutional position on the eve of the Civil War had significant benefits. Important reforming legislation passed during the early months of the Long Parliament in 1641 remained on the statute books. The Crown was shorn of prerogative courts, such as the Star Chamber, and the ability to raise extra-parliamentary levies such as ship money. The position was somewhat different in Scotland and Ireland.

The book is dedicated to John Morrill, who was the author's PhD examiner and adviser. Members will remember Professor Morrill's excellent talk at the Day School in 2004. Tim Harris taught for some years at Emmanuel College, Cambridge. He moved to Brown University, Rhode Island in 1986 where he is now Professor of European History.

I have just finished reading *Restoration* and am now looking forward to reading *Revolution*. However I intend to take a little break before I do! John Morrill is made of sterner stuff and in a review of *Revolution* elsewhere proudly declaims, 'I could not bear to wait, and read it in three long, long evenings. It is that kind of book'. For those who wish to cheat, *Revolution* does include a 40-page summary of *Restoration*.

Sam Hearn

To Return a King - Oliver Cromwell to Charles II 1658-1661 by David Dougan

Published by Grove Publishing at £11.99 plus £1.50 p & p

The timescale of this book obviously precedes Tim Harris's, and should probably be read first. The Society doesn't yet have a copy to review, but Dr David Dougan's work deals with the momentous times following the death of Oliver Cromwell in September 1658.

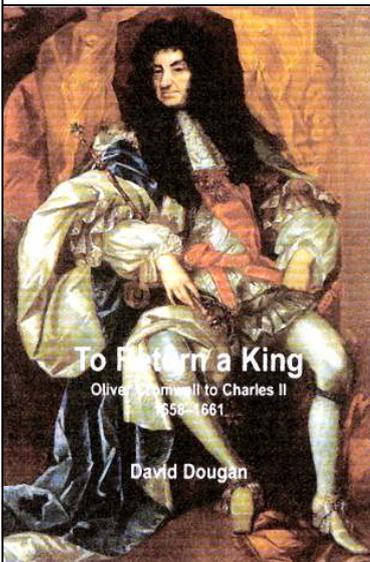
Should England continue with a non-royal form of Government and appoint another Lord Protector, or should it undo the events of the past sixteen years, pretend that the Civil Wars had never happened and that Charles I had not been executed, and return, in effect, to the Middle Ages?

This was an agonising decision which split the country throughout 1659 and threatened a resumption of civil war. The solution, while not perfect, was widely felt to be the least bad outcome.

David Dougan is a former journalist and broadcaster who has changed from arts management to lecturing and writing on the 16th and 17th centuries. *To Return a King* is a self-publishing venture, and copies can be ordered from:

1 Grove Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 3BE

Remittances should be made payable to David Dougan.



DIARY DATES

2006

Saturday 7 Oct. Bucks Local History Network Annual Local History Fair and Conference, to be held at Aylesbury Civic Centre commencing at 10 am.

Sunday 22 Oct. Wreath laying by the Sealed Knot at the battlefield of Edgehill. Details to be confirmed.

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

IN MEMORIAM

We have been saddened to learn of the death in June of member Leslie Cameron of Chorley, Lancashire. Leslie had not been a member of the Society long enough to become involved in any activities, but his keen interest was highlighted by his daughter Heather.

In a letter to Membership Secretary Liz Morris, Heather wrote, 'Dad was so enthusiastic about the John Hampden Society, so I think it is only right I should become a member, if that is alright with you'. Leslie's membership for this year has therefore been transferred to Heather, and we hope that she will continue it in the future.

Another June death, at the age of 56, was that of Dave Truen, our contact on *The Bucks Herald*. Dave was a good friend to the Society, and was always ready to publish items of news about our activities. He was kind enough to allow us to re-print his obituary of our Vice-President Elliot Viney in the Autumn 2002 issue of *The Patriot*.

Published by

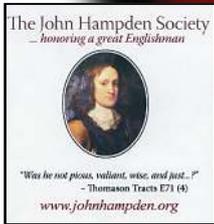
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THE ANNUAL DINNER

The Society's Annual Dinner, held this year on 24th June, was as enjoyable and entertaining as ever. Around 30 members and guests sat down to a meal that was well up to the Spread Eagle Hotel's usual high standard, and were entertained and informed by a fascinating talk by Dr Maija Jansson.

Dr Jansson pointed out that it was only after his involvement with Ship Money that John Hampden became famous enough for the North American to seek to identify him with these two names. She demonstrated by listing her meticulous research that both these stories are fallacious.



Making a welcome return after being guest speaker two years ago, Dr Jansson, who is Director of the Center for Parliamentary History at the University of Yale and a Vice-President of the Society, spoke on the intriguing subject, *The Multiple Mr Hampdens*.

Described by Dr Jansson in an earlier letter to the Society as 'some myths demythologized', this was an in-depth look at a couple of persistent stories concerning the Patriot. The first was about the 'Master John Hampden, a gentleman of London' who, according to Edward Winslow, Governor of Massachusetts, wintered in the North American colony in 1623.

He may well have been the 'John Holmeden, gentleman', whose name appeared on the passenger list of the *Supply*, which sailed from Bristol to Berkeley, Virginia in September 1620. This mysterious gentlemen, whose name became corrupted to 'Hamden' or 'Hamdin', later left the Berkeley colony and may have been Winslow's guest.

Dr Jansson also dealt with the story that Hampden and Oliver Cromwell had tried to emigrate to the New World in 1638, which she believes was started by Americans who revered Hampden as a hero.

Diners were fascinated to find beside each plate a small picture (*above left*) in a translucent envelope. Dr Jansson eventually revealed that they were fridge magnets and, when congratulated on producing them, admitted that she had only produced the person who produced them, as they had been made by her daughter Lisa!

- The visit in June was the second that Dr Jansson and her husband, Dr Paul Bushkovitz, have made to the UK this year. In March she attended a reception in the Speaker's House at the Palace of Westminster to present to the UK Parliament the Yale Center's eighteen volumes on the parliaments of 1625, 1626, 1628, and 1640-41 (*below*).



This was to mark the publication of *The Opening Session of The Long Parliament*, the Center's mammoth work on which Dr Jansson has been working for 10 years. Although this only covers the Long Parliament's first year, it comprises 7 volumes each of 860 pages and costs in the region of £400.

As the Long Parliament lasted officially from 1640 to the Restoration in 1660, this looks like being a long job!

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GIFT AID - A LOST OPPORTUNITY

Please help us raise funds for the Society. It will cost you nothing and all you have to do is enter your name and address on a simple form and sign it. If you have still not returned a gift-aid form in favour of the Society what are you waiting for?

In May I sent out forty letters with gift-aid forms attached to members for whom we have no gift-aid declarations on file. To date I have received back only five completed forms. As a result we can now claim back an additional £14.10 a year from HM Revenue and Customs.

Could those of you have not yet replied to my letter please do so.

Gift-Aid is proving to be an important source of income for the John Hampden Society. So far to date the Society has reclaimed £649 under the scheme. This additional source of funds has enabled us to be able to defer an increase in the membership subscription for four years.

If you need another copy of the gift-aid form or any other information please do not hesitate to contact me on either my home number **020 8995 2666** or my work number **020 8781 9896**. Alternatively you can download the gift-aid form direct from the Society's website.

Sam Hearn