



# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 49 - Winter 2006/2007



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

## HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL

With Christmas behind us, we can start looking forward to the spring with lighter evenings and warmer weather.

The Committee intend to organise a variety of events during the coming months. The first such event will take place around the time that this newsletter reaches you and is the visit to the Chiltern Brewery, on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, with a tour of the Brewery, lunch and a talk by Simon Marsh of The Battlefields Trust. This will be reported on in the Spring edition of *The Patriot*.

It is hoped that this visit will be well attended, affording the opportunity of sampling some of the final products, including the renowned **John Hampden's Ale**.

The second event has been arranged for Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> April at Hartwell House and takes the form of a reception, a talk by Dr John Adamson and a three course lunch. Full details are shown on the enclosed flyer. Early booking is recommended as a similar event last year was heavily booked.

At the beginning of December the Society's Honorary Secretary received an intriguing email from Mr Carl Nielsen of the Bath Auctioneers, Gardiner Houlgate. He wished to inform the Society that his firm had "*a portrait consigned to us of John Hampden, after Robert Walker (1607-1658)*". In his opinion the portrait could be a contemporary copy of the original portrait owned by The Earl of Germains.

Mr Nielsen further advised us that the painting will be put up for auction on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and that he expects it to sell for somewhere between £400 and £800. The Society has requested more information about the provenance of the painting but has not yet received a reply.

Executive Committee member June Wailling was moved to comment that:



*"there are many similarities in the clothing and stance, but it is not John Hampden's face - it misses the point altogether of his determination ... he is not nearly so handsome as in the Walker portrait!"*

Some members will recall that many so-called portraits of Hampden have come to light over the years. Apart from the original Walker picture none is likely to have been painted from life. It would be interesting to know who painted this portrait and who its original owner was.

The Executive Committee has agreed that because so little is known about it the Society will not be bidding for the painting at auction. Individual members may feel differently: even an imperfect copy of an original can have some sentimental value. All requests for further information should be addressed to:

[auctions@gardinerhoulgate.co.uk](mailto:auctions@gardinerhoulgate.co.uk)

**Sam Hearn**

After 14 years and more than 40 issues, I have decided to step down as Editor of *The Patriot*. In that time the Society's newsletter has progressed from a photocopied paste-up with poor quality black-and-white photographs to a full-colour production produced by desktop publishing and available online.

Since issue number 34, Hon. Secretary Anthea Coles and I have shared the editorship; each of us producing alternate issues, and Anthea sending me her output for checking and proof-reading before she printed it on either her boss's laser printer or her own long-suffering inkjet. This eventually proved to be a less than happy arrangement, particularly as the quality of the result tended to vary. So last year I decided to hand over the editorship entirely to Anthea, who has done a splendid job with her 6-monthly efforts and has really come to grips with the DTP program which we share. From now on, she will be wearing the green eyeshade and all complaints can be sent to her!

I shall still have a hand in the production process, as we recently discovered a commercial printer who can produce high-quality colour laser output at a reasonable price. This is Colourplus Print & Design of Monument Business Park, Chalgrove, who have printed Derek and Gill Lester's last two books and whose results with *The Patriot* can be seen in issues 47 and 48. By a strange quirk of fate, Colourplus are situated only a few hundred yards from the battlefield of Chalgrove, and only slightly more from Chez Lester. So in future Anthea will send me her finished output for conversion into the special files required for printing, and these will be e-mailed to Colourplus. Derek will then supervise the printing process and return the copies to Anthea for despatch. As webmaster I shall also be responsible for uploading the pages to our website.

This may sound slightly involved, but the system is working well so far, and is certainly more efficient than the previous arrangement. Let us know your thoughts on the results.

**Roy Bailey**

## MAGNA CARTA

That John Hampden and many others in early 17<sup>th</sup> century England considered Magna Carta of great import in their fight for the recognition of the rights of Parliament, there can be no doubt. It gave their cause a legal justification. Not only did many Englishmen feel diminished by the ineffectiveness of the elected members of Parliament, on which surged a natural anger against the Crown, but they were emboldened in their resolve by the undisputed presence of the Royal Submission ‘in perpetuity to the people’, which Magna Carta represented.

We know, of course, that it was not ‘the people’ as we think of them, that King John gave the promises to, but the great barons of the time, and in general it was for their benefit. Many of the clauses over the centuries became out of date and lost their purpose even by the time of John Hampden’s life.

There were a few clauses, however, which were still very relevant in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and remain so to this day. These were to prove to be cataclysmic in the years before the Civil War



Sir Edward Coke

Clause 39 was one such: ‘No freeman shall be taken, imprisoned or disseised or exiled.....except by the lawful judgement of his peers or by the law of the land.’

Other clauses were interpreted to give Parliament authority over the King’s demands for subsidies or forced loans.

For John Hampden and many MPs who had been through the Inns of Court and now found themselves in opposition to the Stuarts, Magna Carta substantiated the authority behind the various Petitions of Rights. We know John quoted Magna Carta in his defence for refusing to pay a forced loan, for which he was imprisoned in January 1627 in the Gatehouse Prison near Westminster Abbey. Others did likewise; in all seventy five were released from prison with John Hampden after a year.

This re-emergence of the Great Charter was comparatively recent, because after its acceptance on June 15<sup>th</sup> 1216, at Runnymede, near Windsor, it was gradually sidelined by all future Kings, who did not want to acknowledge a legal document which curtailed their power. Occasionally over the centuries some brave person would attempt to bring it to the fore, but it was not until the 16<sup>th</sup> century that it began to gather its own momentum. Indeed by a bizarre twist it was another charter, The Forest Charter, which was continuously used. This was used to control what happened in the forests which covered about 50% of the country.

In the early 1600s, Sir Henry Spelman called Magna Carta ‘the most majestic and a sacrosanct anchor to English Liberties,’ and Richard Hakewill, presumably related to

Hampden’s mentor William Hakewill, termed it ‘The most ancient statute law.....sealed and won with the blood of our ancestors.’

In the year John Hampden first entered Parliament, Edward Coke, a former Chief Justice of England, introduced a Bill ‘to explain Magna Carta and put it into execution.....’ He was imprisoned by James I, together with others, including John Selden and John Pym. This must have been horrifying for many in the Lords and Commons. It showed how afraid the Stuarts were of Magna Carta and the lengths to which they would go to prevent its re-emergence.

It had been my intention to write in some detail about the Ship Money Case, but before doing so I felt it would be right to think on Magna Carta. There is no doubt it was a sacred charter to John Hampden and those who fought for the same cause as him.

**Robert Hammond**

Ref: Magna Carta – Geoffrey Hindley  
The Patriot – John Adair.

## THAME MUSEUM UPDATE

The long-awaited Thame Museum has now opened its doors and the Society is fortunate in being afforded the opportunity to set up a display of artefacts and items of interest collected over the years, but which could previously only be displayed at exhibitions.



The John Hampden plaque has been loaned by the Society to Thame Museum and is now mounted in the main display room where it is illuminated by a spotlight.

A Civil War soldier, dressed in John Hampden’s regiment colours is also being planned. Derek Lester is very kindly supplying weapons and a uniform for this display, which will be housed in a glass case.

It is also hoped to exhibit John Hampden’s funerary helm from the Buckinghamshire County museum and negotiations are being undertaken with that organisation in connection with the hoped-for loan of this article.

An illustrated display board is being prepared giving details of the life of John Hampden with significant dates and information and a selection of Society literature will be available for purchase at the Museum.

The Thame Museum is now open to the public on Saturdays from 10 am to 4 pm, Sundays from 12 noon to 4 pm and Tuesdays from 10 am to 4 pm.

The official opening of the Museum is scheduled to take place in April.

**Maurice Kirtland**

## THE BED

Following publication of the article on 'The Bed' in the last Newsletter, the following letter was received from the Society's President, Dr. John Adair.

"Dear Editor,

Your last edition was not only enjoyable but also stimulating: it stirred your President to life in his Winter Quarters and so he seizes his pen. First, yes I did see the bed reported to be Hampden's in the Aylesbury Museum. Was it his?

Well, as you report, John Drinkwater thought it was; I was lucky enough to own a copy of *John Hampden's England* when I was a boy living in South Buckinghamshire and it helped to create my interest in the Patriot. But was Drinkwater right?

In my own biography I did note that the initials and date E.W. 1617 were carved on the bedstead, among other initials I believe. Now adults don't tend to carve their initials on furniture: it is a practice we associate with schoolboys (I think schoolgirls are exempt from this particular form of vandalism, but there may be some female members who nurse guilty secrets). Schools in times of old seemed to tolerate it – visit the old schoolroom at Eton and see for yourself.

Now E.W. could possibly be Edmund Waller, Hampden's cousin, who would have been 11 or 12 in 1617. My recollection is that young Waller attended Thame Grammar School too, but the D.N.B. will correct me on that. If other carved initials (assuming there are some) tie up with the names of Thame pupils (assuming a school list survives), then the provenance of the bed could indeed

be the school. Assuming two or three boys to a bed and not too many boarders, that would then make it about 1 in 5 that John Hampden actually slept in it.

I wish I had known that the bed was bed was being offered for sale in 1987.....

On another matter, it has long been my hope that every graduate of the Hampden-Sidney College in the United States would be given a copy of Hampden's story – a great link with the young people of America. Has anyone established links with Hampden-Sidney College?

Last but not least, I warmly welcome the idea of publishing *The Opening Session of The Long Parliament* and, as Presidents should sometimes lead from the front, I shall be sending the Treasurer my cheque. My reasons are two-fold. First, this solid piece of research is vital background for the understanding of Hampden's leadership role in the Long Parliament and, given our aims, we should therefore support it. As the Executive Committee says, it will provide an important reference source for members and others. Secondly, we are also indebted to Dr. Maija Jansson for her scholarly contributions to our Society. I for one look back with much pleasure on her most interesting talk about Hampden's place in the American political tradition at a Spread Eagle dinner a year or two ago and here is a token way of showing our appreciation.



## DIARY DATES

**2007**

**28th March** An illustrated talk to the Amersham Society.

**April/May** The Society's Annual General Meeting [date and time to be confirmed].

**21st April** Lunch at *Hartwell House Hotel*, Aylesbury, preceded by a talk by Dr John Adamson. 1145 am for 12 noon.

**23rd June** The Society's Annual Dinner at *The Spread Eagle*, Thame. [to be confirmed]

**5th September** An illustrated talk to the Cherwell branch of the *University of the Third Age* in Oxford [time and venue to be confirmed].

**29th September** A conference at *Hampton Court Palace's* new education centre entitled 'The Noble Revolt: new perspective on the Origins of the English Civil War'. Three speakers including Dr John Adamson. 10 am start.

**13th November** An illustrated talk to *Thame Historical Society* at The Church Barns, Thame, commencing at 8pm.

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

Before sinking back into the comforts of Winter Quarters, may I take this opportunity of sending all members my greetings and best wishes. It is a real pleasure to see our Society flourishing – let us keep it so."

**John Adair**



Dr John Adair was one of the four founders of the John Hampden Society in October 1992, and it was quickly realised that he was by far the most appropriate person to hold the post of President of the Society. He has made a career in matters of leadership, having written more than 35 books on the subject, and is a highly-respected military historian.

Following National Service in which he served as an adjutant in Sir John Glubb's Arab Legion - the only National Serviceman so to do - John became senior lecturer in military history at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, and adviser in leadership studies. He became the world's first Professor of Leadership Studies at the University of Surrey in 1979. For 5 years he worked in leadership strategies at ICI with the famous Sir John Harvey-Jones, who said, 'John Adair is without doubt one of the foremost thinkers on leadership in the world.'

It is as a military historian of the English Civil Wars period that John demonstrates his Presidential credentials. His books include *Roundhead General* (the story of Sir William Waller's campaigns), *By the Sword Divided* (eyewitness accounts of the Civil Wars), *Cheriton 1644*, and *Founding Fathers* (the Pilgrims in England and America), and his 1976 biography of John Hampden (republished in 2003) remains the definitive biography of the Patriot.

John's 'winter quarters' are in the village of Compton, near Guildford, where he lives with his wife Thea, and runs the Adair Leadership Foundation. A book about him entitled *John Adair: Foundations of Leadership* is to be published in March. For further details, go to [www.johnadair.co.uk/](http://www.johnadair.co.uk/).

## PUBLICATION DATES

This and future editions of *The Patriot* will be published at the end of January, April, July and October, rather than the normal quarter days as in the past.

The rationalé behind this is that various issues have, in the past, been delayed in order to include reports and updates on events that take place either just before or very soon after the quarter days. Hopefully, by changing the date of issue it will be possible to produce the newsletter on time and include up-to-date information.

The new dates fit more easily with regular events, such as the AGM, normally held in April and the annual dinner which is always scheduled for the end of June.

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ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT & BANQUETING

## THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Over the weekend of 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> March 2007 the Oxford University of Continuing Education is holding a weekend school to explore the causes, events and impact of the ensuing political upheaval and military campaigns that led ultimately, in 1649, to regicide and republican rule, following the constitutional conflict between Charles I and his English subjects.

The charges for attending what promises to be a very interesting and informative weekend are between £70 and £139, depending upon the package booked, i.e. meals, accommodation, etc.

For further information, please contact the University either by telephone, on 01865 270368/270380, by e-mail on [ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:ppdayweek@conted.ox.ac.uk), or by logging on to the website - [www.conted.ox.ac.uk](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk), where an application form can be downloaded.

The venue for this weekend school is Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford.

## BOOK REVIEW

**The Tyrannicide Brief:** The story of the Man who sent Charles I to the Scaffold, by Geoffrey Robertson. 429 pages plus 34 illustrations. Published 2005 by Vintage Books. ISBN 9780099459194.

The author has done us all a huge favour by rescuing the story of the radical barrister John Cooke from obscurity. The civil wars waged by Charles I cost one in ten Englishmen their lives and yet in 1649 parliament had great difficulty in finding a lawyer who was both capable and willing to prosecute the King. In the end the brief was taken by John Cooke.

Robertson has an engaging style and writes with great passion. His knowledge of the England's legal system in the in the seventeenth (and twentieth century) is illuminating and never dry. In setting the scene for the Civil War he raises the Ship Money issue, and there are seven references to Hampden in the first 84 pages.

Pedants will detect a few factual errors; the battle of Brentford is for example described as a skirmish. Robertson writes rather disingenuously – the difference in writing a history book rather than a legal text is that you actually look forward to having them [i.e. your errors] pointed out.”

Geoffrey Robertson QC is a leading human rights lawyer and a UN war-crimes judge. He was involved with the cases against General Pinochet and Hastings Banda, and in training the judges who tried Saddam Hussein.

*Sam Hearn*

## OBITUARY

We are sorry to announce the death, just before Christmas, of a former John Hampden Society member, Terry Gibson, at the age of 70.

Terry's wife, Rosalie, was a member of the committee and treasurer of The Society for many years.

Terry was a keen gardener, winning many prizes in the 'Thame in Bloom' competition. He was also an accomplished bell ringer, being Captain of the Tower at St Mary's Church, Thame.

Terry will be sadly missed by his family and many friends and the Society would like to take this opportunity to send condolences to Rosalie and her family.

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Tel: 01865 400040

## THE OPENING SESSION OF THE LONG PARLIAMENT

A big thank you to those members who have made donations totalling £135 to assist the Society in purchasing the seven volumes of *The Opening Session of the Long Parliament* published by The Yale Center for Parliamentary History. A further £38 will be recovered in gift-aid on the donations and a worthwhile discount has been negotiated from the suppliers.

However additional donations would still be most welcome. The names of all the donors will be listed on an insert to be placed inside each volume.

Dr Paul Hooper has indicated that he would like to consult the work when he begins to prepare his paper on Hampden's role in the Long Parliament. We wish him well in this venture. Members will have an opportunity to examine some or all of the volumes at the next AGM.

## OF ROYAL DESCENT

The Hampden and Pye families have many closely related ties from the realms of history, which Norman Lawrence, an ex Society member and distant relative of both families, researched. This work has now been published posthumously on the web and can be found at [www.ofroyaldescent.com](http://www.ofroyaldescent.com) It mainly concerns the Pye family as Norman's descent was closer to them, but there are many snippets about the Hampdens. It is hoped there will be another instalment as there is much more material in Norman's archives.

It was Norman who inspired me to write *The Controversy of John Hampden's Death*. I told him that I had what amounted to an autopsy on the exhumed body, which exonerated the Pyes and the slur cast upon their name. Unfortunately he died before the publication came to print so on his web page the myth of the exploding pistol lives on.

What does come out of this work is how influential the Hampdens and Pyes were in the highest courts of England and hence its title, *Of Royal Descent*.

*Derek Lester*

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