



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 51 - Summer 2007

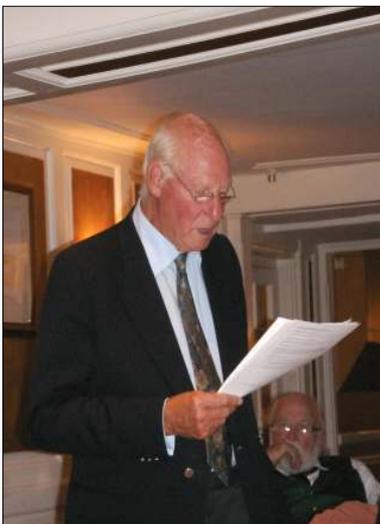


The John Hampden Society is a registered charity which exists to bring together people with an interest in John Hampden, and to encourage wider knowledge of this great 17th century Parliamentarian, his life and times

ANNUAL DINNER 2007



The Annual Dinner held at the Spread Eagle at Thame on 23rd June was well attended, with 30 members making the journey. This number allowed the use of a single table which was set out quite magnificently, with fine floral displays saved from Sarah and David Barrington's Silver Wedding Party the day before. After drinks we sat down to what all agreed was a splendid meal. The meal over and toasts proposed by Roy Bailey to the Queen and to the Patriot, John Hampden, our speaker Dr Paul Hooper was introduced by the Vice-Chairman. Paul of course needs no introduction as such, since he is one of our long-standing members and he regularly makes the difficult journey from the Isle of Wight to attend Society Meetings. On this occasion he brought his wife Elizabeth, and as she enjoyed the occasion, she told us she will come again.



Paul has already written a fine history of the Isle of Wight from 1640-1660, which is a very descriptive and readable account of those 'dangerous times' on the Island and shows how just one part of our country was affected by the War. He has also just completed *John Hampden in the Short Parliament, 1640*. This work has taken 2 years to complete, and formed the substance of his talk.

The talk commenced, taking as a starting point the last days of the 1629 Parliament, which Paul described in a way of great reality, to remind us of the great emotions in the House of Commons at that time. He then passed on to the opening of the Short Parliament, which met on the 13th April 1640, describing in chronological sequence the proceedings until the House was dissolved by the King on the 5th



May 1640. In so doing he showed the great influence that John Hampden had in this Parliament and the way in which he masterminded the due weight which should be given to each grievance so as to prevent any one issue from disrupting the gathering challenge which was being made to the King, the King's supporters and the Church. Paul stressed the way that Hampden, in a modern parlance, kept the House 'focused'. At the same time he stressed the way Hampden jealously guarded freedom of speech, in the House and his stubborn refusal to accept any kind of infringement of its prerogatives especially from the House of Lords.

Dr. Hooper has translated the documents available for us to read in the language of our time, and we are greatly indebted to him for that. At the end of a comprehensive and illuminating talk our Patron the Earl of Buckinghamshire thanked Dr Hooper and this brought a ready applause from the Society Members. Miles also thanked our Hosts Sarah and David Barrington for their hospitality, with which we all heartily



JOHN HAMPDEN'S CONTROL OVER THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Liz Morris, our late Membership Secretary, did me the compliment of asking me to repeat a talk, which some years ago I gave at an AGM. Out of respect to Liz I do that now. As so often happens I have mislaid the notes, but I remember the content. Also I have taken the opportunity to include another debate, which strengthens my proposition. That is, the control John Hampden had over Parliament during 1640 – 1643, was greater, I believe, than any member has had before or since. Each debate recounted also demonstrates Hampden's generous spirit and fair-mindedness, as well as his consummate political skill.

The first episode I relate is taken from our member, Dr Paul Hooper's *History of The Short Parliament*, which we have just published. John Adair also noted this story in *The Patriot*.

'On the 21st April, 1640, a member, William Dell, who was MP for St. Ives and Secretary to the Archbishop of Canterbury talked in a debate on Convocation. Dell said he perceived the house very jealous of innovations in Religion, but they had no great cause for it, he wondered to hear a member of the House say that the churches beyond the sea were about to forsake us because we did forsake our religion. Pym said the words were foul and wanted to know who he was quoting. When Dell said he was quoting Pym himself the house was in uproar and was inclined to have Mr Dell to the Bar and make his recognition.

Said Hampden, "The words are not to be conceived by him alone but by some man else (i.e. Archbishop Laud) If explained he may excuse himself, but it lies still on the members.... in respect he was never here before. If he by vote of the House be satisfied in his judgement that he was mistaken, he may declare so and ask for forgiveness". So Dell was saved by Hampden, 'who stood by his friend' (Dell). He made his apology from the floor of the House and Pym took his acknowledgment of sorrow.

The second story occurred during the Long Parliament, which assembled on the 3rd November 1640. It concerned Sir John Holland, a Norfolk Member, who alone of the Members from that part of the Country appears with any prominence in the early debates. I must give credit here to the great Norfolk historian R.W.Ketton-Cremer. His description of the effect of the Civil War on families in Norfolk/Suffolk is totally absorbing and not to be missed. I quote extensively from him.

At the commencement of the Parliament only a minority of Members supported the Court Party and, therefore, the King. It was a time of great optimism amongst Members. They had returned to Parliament determined to assert its Rights, and to settle many issues both secular and religious. There was a great feeling this was the beginning of a new dawn.



Thomas Wentworth, Earl of Strafford

Sir John Holland made a speech in which he strongly condemned the extensions of Royal Prerogative and the usurping prelates, of the increase in Roman Catholicism and especially Jesuit activity, of the overzealous activities of some councillors of state. His speech was in line with many others made.

In spite of his speech, with its harsh words about the Catholics and their priests, there were still those who regarded Holland with suspicion. Pym gave expression to his view by moving that all those who had married recusants should cease to be Deputy Lieutenants of their counties. On this Holland rose and "admitted the disaffection of my wife in point of religion", but protested his own loyalty. After some debate, John Hampden moved that, since Holland had dealt "so frankly and ingenuously" with the House, he should continue as a Deputy Lieutenant, to which the House agreed by vote. However the matter was presently raised again, and on this occasion Holland made a longer speech, "In spite of his own best endeavours he had been unable to change his wife's mind. He himself was faithful to the Church of England. The children however were of his Faith". Once again the generous-minded Hampden used his influence in Holland's favour. On his proposition the

House declared full confidence in their colleague; "which was done unanimously" wrote Holland. Hampden had taken an opposite position to Pym and had carried a House previously hostile, to a unanimous vote in Holland's favour.

The third example also occurred during the Long Parliament. It concerned the Earl of Strafford, Charles I's powerful lord lieutenant of Ireland, and an autocrat who schemed to deny Parliament assuming its true role. Parliament being aware of this, Strafford was impeached by Pym at the Bar of the House of Lords on 11th November 1640. He was the quarry that Parliament most wanted to remove.

On 22nd March the great trial of Strafford opened in Westminster Hall. By the 10th April, after a strong and emotive defence of his actions by Strafford, there was a concern in the Commons that he might escape impeachment. Because of this the House decided to bring in a Bill of Attainder against Strafford, which essentially, if passed, would be a sentence of death against him. To quote here from Drinkwater '...a strong body of Puritan members in the Commons moved that the issue should not be allowed to depend upon verdict of the already constituted tribunal, but that a Bill of Attainder should be brought in against Strafford.'

On the 16th April the House debated whether to continue with the trial for Impeachment at the same time. There was a strong body in the House who wanted now to rely solely on the Bill of Attainder. However this conflicted with John Hampden's sense of fairness and also his desire to see that Parliament acted in a lawful manner.

I quote here from our President, John Adair's excellent and comprehensive biography, 'Sir Ralph Verney noted that Hampden alone spoke for continuing with the trial "the Bill now depending does not tie us to go by the bill" he argued. "Our Counsel has been heard. Ergo, in justice we must hear his"his reasoning prevailed, and Strafford's counsel spoke in Westminster Hall the following day'. Of course there were many other occasions when Hampden controlled the Commons, such as on the passing of Great Remonstrance. I have picked these three episodes to show his well known generosity of spirit, his determination that justice should prevail, which he spoke of in the case of Strafford, his concern that the House

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continued from page 2

should always be seen to act in an appropriate manner for a law making body. On each of the occasions he took a different view to Pym and in the main the House, but it was his opinion which prevailed. One is bound to ask 'why did John Hampden have such a control over the Commons, especially in those years prior to the Civil War?' Is it possible that since the Ship Money Trial the MPs had come to consider that he was a repository of a wisdom which worked for the good of the Kingdom and Commonwealth? That even those who had doubts were, because of that, prepared to support him? In a rather less obvious way could the impeachment of those judges who found against John Hampden, also have enhanced his influence?

It will be to invite controversy, but I believe John Hampden's power over the House of Commons was greater then, than any MP has ever had since, even to this day.

Bob Hammond

**CONGRATULATIONS TO
SARAH AND DAVID
BARRINGTON
On your 25th Wedding
Anniversary**



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THE VALE OF AYLESBURY

is the title of a book researched and written by Ken & Margaret Morley. It is based on five years of detailed research and writing and will provide an enjoyable and intriguing read for anyone interested in local history and the welfare of the Vale. The book will also be relevant to 5th and 6th formers facing examinations focused on English History. The foreword is being written by the Earl of Buckinghamshire, who has commented that it is "a very good read".

The book is to be published by Paul Bowes of The Book Castle at Dunstable and the pre-publication price is £22. If ordered prior to 31st August the purchasers' names will be recorded in the book on a subscribers list. The book is due for launch at 7.30 pm on Friday 9th November at The Community Centre, Wingrave and all are welcome to attend for a complimentary glass of wine and to collect their books.

Further information can be obtained from Ken & Margaret Morley, 121 Winslow Road, Wingrave, telephone 01296 681155.

BATTLEFIELDS TRUST PROJECT BRENTFORD & TURNHAM GREEN

Designs for the battlefield information boards are well advanced and incorporate many images and ideas supplied by the John Hampden Society. A great deal of text has been prepared for a website to be launched later this year. The website will contain short biographies of some of the key protagonists, including John Hampden and Arthur Goodwin.

An official unveiling is planned for the information board at Syon House, Isleworth on the morning of Sunday October 28th. Representatives of Colonel John Hampden's Regiment will be on hand to add some authentic colour to the proceedings. Members of the Society would be most welcome. The annual battlefield walks led by Simon Marsh and Stephen Porter will take place later in November. Contact Sam Hearn on 020 8995 2666 for further details.



DIARY DATES

2007

Wednesday 5 September:

An illustrated talk to the Cherwell branch of the University of the Third Age in St. Columba's Hall, Alfred Street, Oxford, commencing at 2 pm.

Saturday 20 October:

The Society's 15th Anniversary Banquet. [Date and venue to be confirmed]

Tuesday, 13 November:

An illustrated talk to Thame Historical Society, at The Church Barns, Thame, Oxon, commencing at 7.30 p.m.

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

THE PUTNEY DEBATES 1647

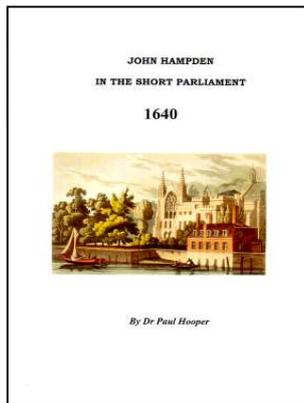
26 October - 2 November 2007

Members may be interested in taking part in a week of activities being organised in and around St Mary's Church, Putney.

The activities will include debates, performances and the opening of a new permanent exhibition in the church commemorating the extraordinary events of 1647. The Putney Debates, for so long 'air brushed' out of the history books, were crucial to the constitutional development of Britain and the English speaking world.

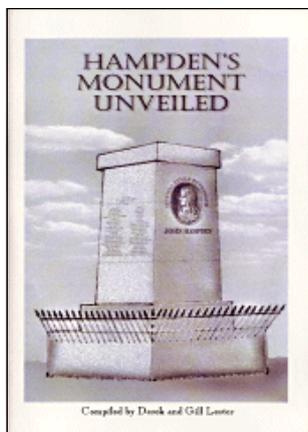
Find out more about what is planned at www.putneydebates.com

THE SOCIETY'S LATEST PUBLICATIONS



John Hampden in the Short Parliament
by Dr Paul Hooper

Price £2.50 plus 50p p&p



Hampden's Monument Unveiled
by Derek & Gillian Lester

Price £4.00 plus 50p p&p

All orders for these and other Society publications should be sent to:

Park Meadow Cottage
Thame Park Road
Thame OXP 3PJ

THE HISTORY OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

Any member carrying out historical research may be interested to know that Mr Charles Harvey has acquired a complete set of these books and would be happy to make the information contained therein available to anyone who wishes to contact him on 020 8455 5174.

Among the information contained in these volumes can be found the names of members of the House of Commons who served at the same time as John Hampden.

CONFERENCE POSTPONED

We have unfortunately had to postpone the conference, 'New Perspectives on the Causes of the Civil War', which was planned for the end of September at Hampton Court. The conference is intended to expand upon the issues raised in Dr John Adamson's new book – *The Noble Revolt: the overthrow of Charles I.*

Dr Adamson had assembled an interesting panel of speakers for the event but his academic commitments and book promoting activities have made it impossible to fit a weekend conference into 2007.

We are currently considering possible dates for the conference in February or September 2008 and will let you know when the plans are further advanced. The Cromwell Association have advised that they will help us publicise the event when the detailed arrangements have been made.



In the meantime I thought that you might like to see a picture of the new Clore Education Centre at Hampton Court, the likely venue for the conference.

Dr Adamson's ideas continue to generate debate. One possible outcome of this may be to throw further light on the precise nature of Hampden's role in the opposition to Charles I's personal rule in the 1630s. It is important that we understand the implications of these developments and that members are able to contribute to the debate.

Sam Hearn



ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Following the resounding success of the banquet to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the John Hampden Society, it was decided to repeat the experience this year, the 15th anniversary of the Society. Unfortunately current Health and Safety regulations have proved something of a stumbling block, and we are unable to commandeer the kitchens at Hampden House for the preparation and cooking of the banquet by the specialist caterers of this type of event.

Much thought has been given to other possible venues, and one in particular has emerged, which it is hoped will prove successful. If negotiations come to fruition, it is likely that this event will take place on **Saturday, 20th October**, so please mark this date down in your diary. As soon as confirmation is received of the date and venue, all members will be notified together with costs and booking information.

To whet your appetite, the list below shows a few of the delicious items on the menu last time:

FIRST REMOVE:

Gammon of bacon pie
Leg of mutton stuffed with apricots
Kippers with onion
Muggers
Eggs in mustard sauce

SECOND REMOVE

Sausages cooked in claret
Roast pork
Lemon chicken
Venison pie
Lob Lolly

THIRD REMOVE

Fruit Tarts
Minced Tarts
Fruit Leathers

ANOTHER HAMPDEN JEWEL?

As a result of the article on the Hampden Jewel (*left*) in the last edition of *The Patriot*, Roy Bailey received a telephone call from Lord Saye & Sele, from Broughton Castle, to say that he has a similar piece of jewellery, bearing a hall-mark on the back.

Lord Saye & Sele has been given the name of our contact at the Bodleian and he is going to have his piece assessed and will let us know the outcome.

Watch this space.....