



# THE PATRIOT

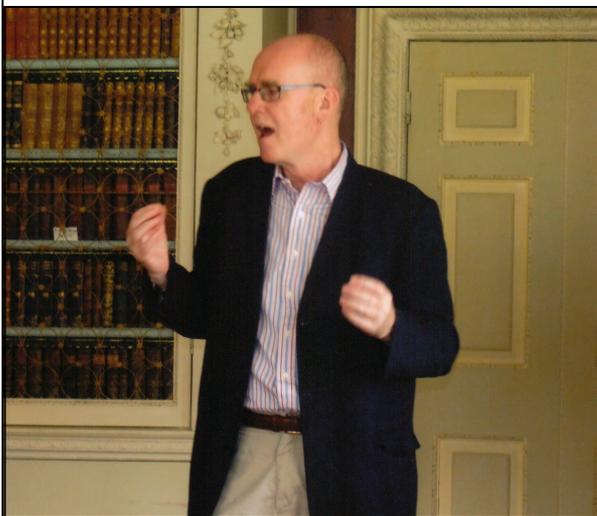
Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 68 – Autumn 2011



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

## PIRATES OF THE BARBARY COAST IN THE 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: THE AUTUMN LECTURE AND LUNCH AT HARTWELL HOUSE.



The Society hosted a lunch at Hartwell House on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> 2011. Adrian Tinniswood delivered his talk in the Library and later led a lively discussion over lunch. His topic was piracy in North Africa, based on his recent book, *Pirates of Barbary: Corsairs, Conquests and Captivity in the 17<sup>th</sup>.Century Mediterranean.*

About a million Europeans were sold into slavery by Barbary pirates in the 17<sup>th</sup>. Century for their slave trade was not confined to the Mediterranean. In addition to piracy at sea, they were also active in the Atlantic attacking the coasts of Britain, Ireland and even Iceland, carrying off whole village populations into slavery. By 1625 they were regularly using the Island of Lundy as a base for such raids.

Tinniswood's research throws new light on the collection and use of Ship-Money. Stuart parliaments certainly considered that Ship-Money was an arbitrary and illegal tax. Consequently, historians often assume that the proceeds of the tax were intended largely, if not solely for the financial necessities of King Charles I and not the Navy. This assumption is, however not supported by an article by M. D. Gordon in 1910, which includes a detailed survey of the collection of the tax by the Privy Council and its uses for naval expenses. Her article shows that during the 1630s that the sums collected and those spent on the navy were in balance.

By their actions, the Barbary pirates had generated an air of panic in both the Mediterranean and off the coasts of Britain. A thousand poor women petitioned Charles I to plead for the release of their husbands from the grievous torments of slavery. In 1636 the merchants and owners of fishing fleets in Exeter, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Poole Southampton and Weymouth got together and complained to the king that they had lost 87 vessels in recent years. In March 1637 William Rainborow, MP for Aldburgh in Suffolk, led a successful expedition fleet against the port of Sale' in Morocco where English seamen were known to be held as slaves. After a four month blockade 293 slaves were handed over. This action also resulted in an exchange of ambassadors between Britain and the Sultan of Morocco which greatly improved the situation as far as that part of the Barbary Coast was concerned. Rainborow's expedition was funded by Ship-Money.

**Brian Cox**



## RESPECTED ROYALISTS

**Sir Ralph Hopton, 1st Baron Hopton of Stratton**

(1598-1652)

Ralph Hopton was born at Witham, Somerset, the son of wealthy landowner Robert Hopton, and was said to be a child prodigy who was able to read at the age of three. He studied at Lincoln College, Oxford, and the Middle Temple, but abandoned his studies there in 1620 to join the expedition to rescue Elizabeth of Bohemia and her husband from the Catholic forces. The heavily-pregnant Winter Queen is said to have escaped from Prague riding postillion behind Hopton for 40 miles. It was in this campaign that he met and formed a firm friendship with Sir William Waller.

After a spell in Parliament and marriage to Elizabeth Capel, he and Waller returned to the Palatinate with a second expedition under Count Mansfield in 1624. Hopton re-entered Parliament the following year and was active on committees, though he made little impression as a speaker. He was created a Knight of the Bath in Charles I's coronation honours list, and served as a JP and deputy lieutenant for Somerset.

When parliament was finally recalled in 1640, Hopton served on both the Short and Long Parliaments and was initially a moderate in opposition to the king, denouncing Strafford and calling for further measures against Catholics, but defending the imposition of Ship Money and supporting the attempted arrest of The Five Members.

Unsurprisingly, when war broke out Hopton was made lieutenant-general under the Marquess of Hertford in the West. He swiftly rallied Cornwall to the royal cause, and defeated the Parliamentarians at Stratton in May 1643. This enabled him to overrun Devon and join up with Prince Maurice, and their combined forces secured a marginal victory over Sir William Waller at Lansdown, near Bath, on 5th July. A few weeks earlier Hopton had written to Waller proposing a private interview and Waller replied in a letter that has since become famous - assuring his friend that 'hostility itself cannot violate my friendship to your person', and deploring 'this war without an enemy'.

The day after the battle of Lansdown Hopton was severely wounded by the explosion of a powder wagon, and was carried to Devizes, where he was besieged by Waller. The relieving Royalist force from Oxford combined with Hopton's garrison to comprehensively defeat the Parliamentarians at Roundway Down on 13th July. Hopton is remembered locally by the Hopton Industrial Estate near the site of the battle!

As a result of this victory he was appointed lieutenant-governor of Bristol and raised to the peerage as Baron Hopton of Stratton. Once recovered from his wounds, he was commissioned general and ordered to advance on London via Sussex. He captured Arundel castle but was driven back and defeated by Waller at Cheriton in March 1644. Returning to the West Country, Hopton was involved in the encirclement of Essex's army at Lostwithiel.

In early 1645 he was appointed to the Prince of Wales' council as a civilian administrator, but the military commander in the West, Lord Goring, caused so much friction that in January 1646 Hopton was re-appointed general and advanced into Devon. His force was overwhelmed by the New Model Army at Great Torrington and, having ensured the prince's escape, Hopton surrendered to Fairfax.

Hopton followed the prince into exile via Jersey, where his wife died, but left the royal service when Charles decided to join his Catholic mother, Henrietta Maria. He re-entered Charles's service later on, but resigned again over the terms of the Treaty of Breda which would have imposed Presbyterianism in England.

Hopton died at Bruges in September 1652, but his body was embalmed and only transferred to his parish church in Somerset in 1661.

Ralph Hopton was a good - but not great - soldier (Clarendon wrote, 'He was an excellent officer in any army for any command but the supreme, to which he was not equal') with a talent for teamwork, and a man of conscience and piety. He delayed one battle until his soldiers had finished hearing divine service. It is said that those he served appreciated the merits of 'their faithful lieutenant' less than did his enemies; Fairfax spoke of him as 'One whom we honour and esteem above any other of your party'.



**Roy Bailey**

# Bucks Local History Network 2011 Annual Conference and Fair, at RAF Halton

## Theme: Buckinghamshire's Military History

Extracts from a report by Jim Rodda who gamely manned a table on behalf of the Society in order to keep "the flag flying"

"I arrived at the Kermode Hall RAF Halton at 9.00 am, courtesy of my son who is a corporal in the RAF central band. I had been to the BLHN gathering only once before. I was on my own and quickly realised that and behind the curve, when I was told that it was "first come first served" and that I would find a vacant table along the very long entrance corridor."

"As I was getting coffee I met Bob Hammond and he very kindly offered to help man the table. All the other tables had lots of display material so our minimalist approach stood out in a perverse kind of way... Unfortunately it was much ignored, but our presence was noted. We met Valerie Horne and two other members."

"None of the 7 lectures, ranging from pre-Norman to Victorian periods ... gave sufficient attention to our hero. The strictly enforced 30 minute timing was partly to blame, together with niggling acoustical problems. John Hampden did get one specific mention, in 'Portraits of the Civil War and Others' by Sarah Gray of the Bucks county Museum. An engagingly modest speaker, she referred to John Hampden as an 'icon' - which immediately put me on her side."

"She explained that the only portrait of John Hampden with any provenance at all was the one that we have on the Society badge. She also introduced us to a supposed portrait of a young Hampden, with flowing locks, (previously unknown to Bob) which she felt had been copied from the 'older' portrait - a reverse of the current police method of tracing suspects for unsolved crimes by updating old photos."

"The Bucks LHN conference is well worth attending with our stock of booklets and small items for sale."

Members who would like to assist at next year's BLHN should contact the Chairman Sam Hearn or Anthea Coles the Honorary Secretary.



## DIARY DATES

### 2011

**Thursday 17 November**  
Executive Committee meeting starting at 7.00.  
at The Wheel, Naphill.  
Venue to be confirmed.

### 2012

**Saturday 14 April** (subject to confirmation)  
AGM to be held at Broughton Castle, to  
include Castle tour and talk by Dr. Vivienne  
Larminie.

*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)**

Published by

The John Hampden Society  
Little Hampden, Cryers Hill  
High Wycombe, Bucks HP15 6JS

Tel: 07543 054335

e-mail: [thesecretary@johnhampden.org](mailto:thesecretary@johnhampden.org)

Web Site: [www.johnhampden.org](http://www.johnhampden.org)

Registered charity no. 1098314

Printed by Colourplus Print &  
Design

28 Monument Business Park  
Chalgrove, Oxon OX44 7RW  
Tel: 01865 400040

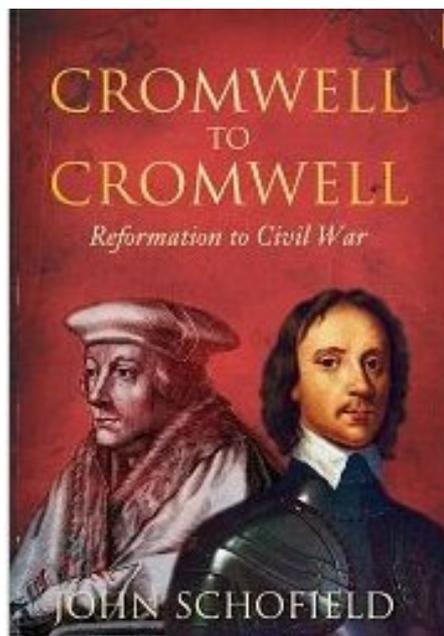
## JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY AGM Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> April 2012

The Society has almost finalised arrangements for next year's AGM at Broughton Castle. We have been fortunate enough to persuade Dr. Vivienne Larminie, Research Fellow (1640-1660), History of Parliament Trust Associate Research Editor, to come along to speak to us before the meeting. It is hoped that we will have a tour of the castle followed by tea/coffee and biscuits during the talk. Proceedings should commence at 1 pm and finish, at the latest, by 5 pm, all subject to final confirmation being received from Broughton Castle.

Further details of this event will be given in the Winter edition of *The Patriot* which is due to be published in early January, but in the meantime, please make a note of the date in your diaries. This will be a unique opportunity to enjoy the ambience of Broughton Castle, have your say at the AGM and enjoy a talk by a knowledgeable speaker, all in one afternoon. We hope to see you there.



## BOOK REVIEW...



### **Cromwell to Cromwell:**

Reformation and Civil War, by John Schofield.

Published by the History Press in 2011. ISBN 978 0 7524 5968 4.

It runs to 288 pages including index.

In addition there are 16 pages of black and white illustrations.

The author has set out to answer the thorny question of how we got from one Cromwell to the other. How did the deferential reformation led by Thomas Cromwell become the radical revolution presided over by his great-great-grand nephew Oliver. John Schofield contends that in the intervening century there had been a profound change in the English character and the way in which people perceived both the monarchy and how the realm should be governed.

The book is not a general narrative of the Tudor and early Stuart periods but rather an account that highlights the most significant developments in church, state and society. The narrative places an unfashionable emphasis on theology. However religious subject matter that could be presented as complex and dry is handled deftly and is successfully integrated into the broader narrative.

This is a useful reference book for anyone seeking to understand John Hampden's world and the religious and political undercurrents that framed both his private life and his public career. It is a salutary reminder that by the early seventeenth century Anglicanism had emerged with a distinct character of its own. There were those who sought to return the Church of England to Rome and those wished to radically reform it in a Presbyterian manner. However, a substantial part of the population had accepted the Anglican enigma of an established hierarchical church with bishops, underpinned by a predominantly Calvinist theology. The political implications of this were profound.

The author is a Visiting Scholar in the School of Historical Studies at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. He holds a PhD in Reformation History and has published works on Thomas Cromwell, Martin Luther and Philip Melancthon.

**Sam Hearn**

## AN ODYSSEY OF ARMS

A cousin of John Hampden left England in the 1620s for New England to seek his fortune. In 1629 the Providence Island company was formed and through this cousin, a shareholder, our John Hampden was able to influence events.

Providence Island Company, apart from growing tobacco, cotton and later sugar cane, was a base for privateers who plagued the Spanish treasure fleet. Spanish revenge came in May 1641 when they overrun Providence Island. Barbados, a 1,000 miles away from Providence Island, records the Hampdens in 1645 settling; were they from Providence?

A genealogy in the Society's archives gives a continuum from 1645 of the Hampden's from Barbados to the present day. It records that the family returned to England around 1813 and bought the Old Mansion in Ewelme.

Renn Dickson Hampden DD, late of Barbados, became a don at Oxford. His influence was such that he secured for Lord Nugent the site for John Hampden's Monument at Chalgrove. In 1847 he became Bishop of Hereford.

Renn Dickson, with his new found status, applied to the College of Armes to re-instate to his family the Ancient Coat of Armes of the Hampdens. The College refused his request stating that he had insufficient evidence to prove his ancestry. He was granted Armes in his own right which bore a resemblance to the Hampden Armes.

**Derek Lester**