



# THE PATRIOT

Quarterly Journal of The John Hampden Society  
No. 13 - Winter 1995/96



## JOHN HAMPDEN'S ALE 'THE BEST SINCE 1642', SAYS LORD BUCKINGHAMSHIRE!

The launch of John Hampden's Ale at the Chiltern Brewery at Terrick on Saturday 28 October 1995 was a great success.

Buckinghamshire and Surrounding Areas. Lord Buckinghamshire promised to have this honour added to his entry in the Parliamentary directory!



Many local members of the Society attended, together with representatives from the Campaign for Real Ale, the British Guild of Beer Writers, Central TV and the local press. A Guard of Honour under the command of Major Derek Lester was provided by Colonel John Hampden's Regiment of Foote.

The launch of the ale was designed to mark the 3rd anniversary of the John Hampden Society and the 15th anniversary of the Chiltern Brewery. In his speech of welcome, the Hon. Secretary stated that although co-operation between a historical society and a commercial brewery was unusual, this was all part of the John Hampden Society's on-going programme to publicise the Patriot.

He pointed out that the brewery stood right in the heart of country intimately associated with John Hampden. Just two miles away is Great Kimble church, where there is a copy of the list of freeholders who refused to pay the Ship Money assessment - with Hampden's name at the top - and the Patriot must have ridden through Terrick on numerous occasions en route to Aylesbury.

Richard Jenkinson, proprietor of the Chiltern Brewery, then welcomed the Earl of Buckinghamshire and, after checking that our Patron was who he said he was, appointed him Honorary Head and Chief Ale Conner for the County of

Mr Jenkinson, assisted by his son George, then called upon Lord Buckinghamshire to sample a glass of John Hampden's Ale, and the Earl pronounced it to be 'the best beer since 1642!' He was presented with a case which included bottle number 1 and, following a volley of musket fire from the Guard of Honour, Derek Lester called for three cheers for the Earl of Buckinghamshire.

After the ceremony, the guests enjoyed a buffet lunch which included many of Chiltern's beer-flavoured products, and this was followed by a guided tour of the brewery.

A case (12 bottles) of the ale was also presented to the Earl of St. Germans in appreciation of his help in allowing the use of the Walker portrait of John Hampden on the bottle label. This is in full colour on a pale gold background with a green surround, and is signed by Lord Buckinghamshire. The back label contains brief details about Hampden and the John Hampden Society.

The launch aroused a considerable amount of local interest and, as a result, the Bucks Herald have incorporated a silhouette of Hampden's statue in Aylesbury Market Place into their masthead. This resulted in a large number of enquiries as to who it was.

● John Hampden's Ale is on sale at a number of outlets, including Jordan's Delicatessen in Thame (in association with the Hon. Ian Hope-Morley's company Hampden Wines), the Red Lion at Chalgrove, and direct from the Chiltern Brewery. Richard Jenkinson has generously offered a discount of 10% off retail price to members of the John Hampden Society purchasing the beer direct from the brewery shop. To qualify, please show your membership card or quote your name and membership number.

### AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the John Hampden Society will take place on Saturday 24 February 1996 at Hampden House, Great Hampden, Great Missenden, Bucks, commencing at 2.30pm.

Following the meeting, the Rev. Arthur Taylor will give a talk on John Hampden and the Buckinghamshire Constituency, after which tea will be served in the Refectory.

### ANNUAL DINNER

The proposal to combine the Society's AGM with the Annual Dinner in June came to nothing, because the Great Hall of Hampden House is in use at that time. However, arrangements are being made to hold the Dinner on Saturday 22 June at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame, and we hope, on this occasion, to have a guest speaker.

The price will probably be similar to last year, but for details and reservations please contact Mrs Sarah Barrington at the Spread Eagle - telephone 01844 213661; fax 01844 261380.

There will be fuller information in the Spring issue.

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The Spread Eagle Hotel

THAME  
OXFORDSHIRE  
OX9 2BW  
TELEPHONE (01844) 213661

ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT & BANQUETING

### APOLOGY

Once again, I'm afraid that the winter issue of 'The Patriot' is only two pages, due to pressure of events both before and after Christmas.

The Spring issue, due out on 25 March, will be the normal size.

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# THE HISTORY OF HAMPDEN HOUSE

## Part 2

(Adapted from an article supplied by Hampden Group Management Ltd.)

### (6) Eighteenth century

The north front and north-east and south-east wings were most likely built by the Patriot's great-grandson Richard, but left incomplete on his financial disgrace in 1720, to be finished in the 1740s by his brother John VIII. The accounts of the steward Henry Harding show that three Gothic features were in hand in 1741-2, John VIII's first years of large scale building. These were the arcade or cloister along the back of the south-east wing, the raising and re-roofing of the Old Porch, and the Gothic Porch or west front. Robert Trevor, John's cousin and heir, was already a keen amateur architect, and it may well have been he who suggested enhancing the authentic medieval Hampden House with these remarkably early mock medieval features either by letter or while he was home on leave from his embassy in Holland.

Very expensive works in 1743, poorly detailed in the accounts, probably included re-roofing the great hall with an attic floor over it, and the present mock-Jacobean main stairs. By the 1750s there was quite a vogue for fake Elizabethan and Jacobean detail.

In 1744 to '46 many references to coving and fireplaces in the Bow Dining Room and the Bow Window Bedchamber show that the north-east and south-east wings were being finished off internally. The richly classical detail of the fireplaces and the extraordinary plasterwork were probably designed by the London architect/builder Edward Shepherd (best known for Shepherd Market in Mayfair), who began life as a plasterer. He was paid for supervising in 1743-5.

The garden and grounds saw a good deal of attention in these years. A new kitchen garden was made in 1741-2, lawns laid, brewhouses built and repaired, and so on. The 'Hermitage' of 1747 was thatched and cost only £7, but the 'Pinery' of 1751, a hothouse for pineapples, came to over £80.

Robert Trevor's period as owner, from 1754 to 1783, saw a good deal of embellishment rather than construction. The Drawing Room, the main ground floor reception room in the centre of the east front, may have kept its

Jacobean panelled walls and plastered ceiling until 1756-7, when Trevor's letter show that he was concerned about the laying of a 'cherry wood floor' and similar work. The splendid marble fireplace and elegant rococo ceiling of the Drawing Room must be of this phase. The grounds saw many changes; a new garden was planted with flowering shrubs and turfed in 1755. This will have replaced or spelt the doom of the stiffly planned formal gardens, just then going out of fashion. A new fascination with flowers is suggested by the large new orangery and greenhouse put up in 1755-6.

### (7) Nineteenth and twentieth centuries

The most recent addition of any size to the house is the cloister arcade, with a passage over, of 1741-2. For about a century and a half, from 1760 until about 1920, it remained virtually unaltered, with some rooms papered with 18th century Chinese wallpaper. A Georgian state bed known as 'Queen Elizabeth's bed' still stood in the north-eastermost room on the ground floor, even though downstairs bedrooms had gone very much out of fashion in the 1760s. The Earl of Buckinghamshire of the Hobart family, who inherited the Great Hampden Estate in 1824, lived more often at Blickling in Norfolk, and even put Hampden up for sale in 1847.

At about the end of the First World War, the house was lavishly fitted with a variety of styles. A genuine 15th century great hall, which had been dismantled and rebuilt in 1704 as a barn at Great Kimble a few miles away, was taken down and fitted into the hall at Hampden. In both its previous manifestations it had been a steep pitched roof, but now it had to be flattened to squeeze it under the mid-Georgian attic floor, which had replaced the original roof in the 1740s.

The hall and the ground floor rooms were lined with mock 16th century panelling incorporating some finely carved genuine sections which may have been discovered banished to maids' rooms or remote corridors. The north-east wing suffered the most dramatic changes. It had comprised two splendid ground floor rooms, an anteroom and the state bedroom, whose magnificent domed ceilings occupied the space over. The domes were destroyed and modern bedrooms put in their place, no doubt to cater for fashionable weekend parties, while the two rooms on the ground floor were thrown together to make a reception room of ballroom scale. The party wall was replaced by a screen of Corinthian columns which matched the remaining Georgian plasterwork extremely well, but more incongruously leaded casements were put in all the ground floor windows of the east front.

The spacious country house life for which Hampden House was done up lasted scarcely two decades. The house was leased out in 1939 as a girls' boarding school, which closed in 1978. From then until 1982 no less than 22 films were made here by Hammer Films.

The house then lay empty for three years in a very bad state of repair, but was rescued and found a new role for the future. Tim and Susie Oliver were delighted to be able to purchase and renovate this marvellous historic house.



1996

**Sat 24 February** Annual General Meeting at Hampden House, Great Hampden, Great Missenden, Bucks, commencing at 2.30 pm.

**Sat 22 June** Annual Dinner at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame, Oxon.

## VISIT

Another forthcoming event for 1996 will be a visit to a house which has close connections with John Hampden.

This is being organised by Derek Lester, and full details will be in the Spring issue.

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## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to new members Mrs Gill Blackshaw, Mrs Angela Feaviour, Mrs Sandra Costello, and Lewis M. Clark of Marlborough, Massachusetts.

Mrs Blackshaw, who is Clerk to Chalgrove Parish Council and confesses to be an admirer of Prince Rupert, was one of the Chalgrove Battle Group who researched the battlefield so thoroughly in order to secure its inclusion in the Battlefields Register. Mrs Costello, who lives at Tring, is Editor of the Sealed Knot's journal 'Orders of the Day', which featured John Hampden and the Chalgrove battlefield research last year.

Mr Clark is a friend of the Hon. Ian Hope-Morley, and has sent us an interesting document mentioning the Hampden family. This is an extract from 'The Journal of American History' about the Putnam or Puttenham family, and mentions that Nicholas Puttenham of Penn, born about 1430, married Anne, daughter of John Hampden of Hampden, County Buckingham.

Anne Hampden, and therefore all subsequent Hampdens including John Hampden the Patriot, was descended from the Emperor Charlemagne and the early kings of France through the marriage of her ancestor Bartholomew de Hampden to a daughter of William de Fienes sometime in the 13th century.

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Brewers (by appointment) of  
**JOHN HAMPDEN'S ALE**  
and other fine beers

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**The Chiltern Brewery**  
Nash Lee Road  
Terrick, Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire HP17 0TQ

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