



THE PATRIOT



Quarterly Journal of The John Hampden Society
No. 15 - Summer 1996

ANNUAL DINNER

The Society's second Annual Dinner was held at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame, on Saturday 22 June - and was even more successful than last year's.

30 members attended, some from as far afield as Derbyshire and Kent, and they enjoyed a meal of the Spread Eagle's usual high standard, accompanied by some excellent wines and John Hampden's Ale. The Society is grateful to **Sarah Barrington** and her husband David for the hard work and effort that they again put into organising this important function.

The meal was followed by a fascinating talk on the history of the Hampden family by one of our new vice-presidents, **Elliott Viney**. Mr Viney traced the fortunes of the Hampdens from Baldwyn de Hampden, who lived in the time of Edward the Confessor, to the last of the male line, John, who died in 1754.

Earlier that afternoon a number of members were conducted around the battlefield of Chalgrove by **Derek Lester**. As forecast in the Spring issue of 'The Patriot', this was a backup for the possible visit to Pyrton Manor, which could not take place because of a wedding reception there.

On the following day several members attended morning service at St. Mary Magdalene Church, Great Hampden, where they were welcomed by the Rector, the Rev. Jonathan White. During the Thanksgiving, the Rev. White referred to the church's most famous parishioner, John Hampden, who possessed vision, integrity and courage in adversity. He prayed that some of Hampden's spirit may remain with us today.

THE ISLAND CONNECTION

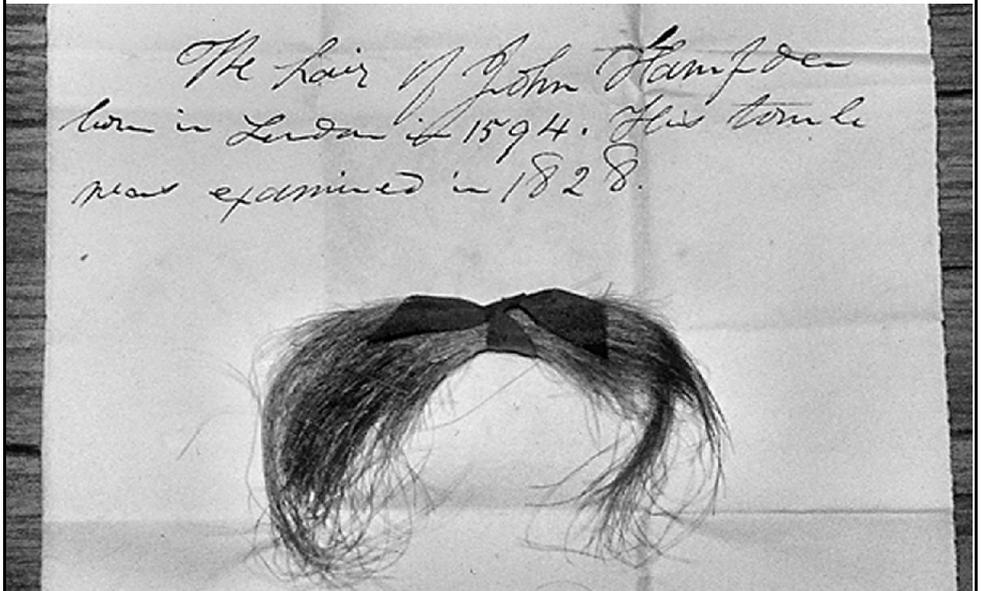
by

Roy Bailey

At the beginning of April I had a short break, with my wife and daughter, on the Isle of Wight. It seemed a pity not to take the opportunity to meet our two enthusiastic Island members, so I arranged to have a drink with **Jan Toms** and **Dr Paul Hooper**.

This led to an invitation from **Dr Hooper** for the other four JHS members to visit the archives at Carisbrooke Castle, where he has been a regular visitor researching his book about the Civil War on the

The notepaper and writing seemed to date from the late 19th century, and the typewriting from very little later, but no one had heard of the two gentlemen mentioned. The hair is a light brown in colour and tied with a piece of blue ribbon. Unfortunately we had to inform Miss Cooper that the current thinking is that the body examined by Lord Nugent in 1828 was probably not John Hampden, and therefore her artefact had doubtful provenance. Nevertheless, she stated that,



Island. It was here that Charles I spent some time in the care of the Governor, Colonel Robert Hammond, who was John Hampden's son-in-law. The archives, which are situated right at the top of the Governor's former house, contain a number of original 17th century books, including a journal of the King's containing his justification for the attempted arrest of the Five Members.

However, imagine our collective surprise when Assistant Curator Rosemary Cooper announced that they had a lock of John Hampden's hair in the archives! This was produced, carefully wrapped in a piece of notepaper with a brief inscription (*above*). Accompanying it was a typewritten card which read, 'Lock of hair taken from head of John Hampden (born London 1594) when his tomb was examined in 1828. Formerly belonged to Rev. John Hayden before passing into the possession of Fred Collingwood'.

given Hampden's connection with Carisbrooke through Hammond, they hope to start a small display about him, in which the lock of hair will feature. Meanwhile, if you are visiting the Island and would like to see this interesting relic, its catalogue number is NETCC: 1985.5385.

There is also a copy of a letter from John Hampden to his kinsman Sir Thomas Barrington, who owned land on the Isle of Wight, in the Newport Public Record Office. Dated 9 June 1643 from Stokenchurch, it is one of the last letters written by Hampden, and the last to survive.

● **Jan Toms** has just published a novel about the Civil War on the Island. Entitled 'Devil On My Shoulder', and written under her professional name of Janet Mary Tomson, it is about a romance between Col. Robert Hammond and an Irish girl he rescues from a siege in 1642. This is **Mrs Toms'** third novel and is published by Piatkus Books at £17.99.

Published by:

The John Hampden Society,
The Malt House, Great Shefford,
Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 7ED.
Tel & Fax: 01488 648441

URSULA MARGARET PYE

1902-1996

We are sad to announce the death, on 28 February, of our oldest member, **Miss Ursula Pye**.

Ursula Pye was a direct descendant of John Hampden through his daughter Anne, who married Sir Robert Pye the Younger. The Pyes were a divided family; the elder Sir Robert was a staunch Royalist, but his son was a Parliamentarian Colonel who was appointed to command the forces sent to

capture his own home of Faringdon House, which was a Royalist stronghold!

It was the younger Sir Robert who was said to have given his father-in-law a brace of pistols which Hampden's servant is alleged to have double loaded, causing them to explode and mortally wound Hampden. Many of the male

members of the family were given the name 'Hampden', and a famous member was Henry James Pye, the Poet Laureate.

Ursula was born at Chingford on 16 October 1902, the only child of P & O's youngest captain Henry George Hampden Pye, who tragically died when Ursula was only 3. Three years later Mrs Pye bought Langham House at Bishop's Stortford, where Ursula lived for the rest of her life.

She was educated at Bishop's Stortford Convent (now St. Mary's School) and took an external London University Degree by correspondence course. She first obtained a Pass in English, French, Latin and Mathematics, and went on to achieve an Honours Degree in Medieval and Modern Languages, which included English, Gothic and Medieval & Modern French. This led to a teaching post at the Convent during World War II.

Ursula Pye was a devoted member of St. Michael's Church. She became Secretary of the Missionary Committee and joined the PCC in 1928,

servicing on it for over 60 years. Her other interests were music, reading and history. She was skilled at the piano, playing it every day until the fall which broke her hip last New Year's Eve, and she also played the recorder and the alto viol. She was a keen singer, too, being a longtime member of the City of London Choir and the Bishop's Stortford Musical Association.



Her interest in history, especially that of her family, led her to join the John Hampden Society early on, but she was also, until her death, President of the Bishop's Stortford & District Local History Society and a longtime committee member of the Johnson Society of London. She never married, although she was engaged for a time in the 1920s to Leonard Wigg.

Ursula claimed that her longevity was due to having 'a contented frame of mind'. She had a fine intellect and firm purpose, and was a woman who knew her own mind, a good conversationalist, very interesting and widely travelled. The Johnson Society's Chairman, Richard Thrall, wrote recently that Ursula was 'a wonderful and supportive member who will always be remembered with much affection for her strong and charming personality'. Members of the John Hampden Society who attended the 1994 AGM at Hampden House will remember Ursula holding court over tea in the dining-room after the meeting - sprightly and interested in all that was going on.

● *This appreciation is part of a much longer one written by Ursula Pye's cousin, Norman Lawrence, to whom the Society is indebted for the information. Any member wishing for a copy of the full text should contact Mr Lawrence direct.*

TRAIL-BLAZING

Angela Feaviour of Edlesborough is embarking on a cycle ride from Belfast to Plymouth, commencing on 22 July and ending on 13 August.

This is a 'Trail-blazing' ride of 750 miles to promote the National Cycle Network and help to raise money for its establishment. The ride is being organised by Sustrans, a civil engineering charity that designs and builds traffic-free routes for walkers, cyclists and disabled people. In September 1995 Sustrans was awarded £42.5 million from the Millennium Fund towards the £183 million needed for the 6,500 mile Network, of which 2,500 miles will be completed by Easter 2000.

Mrs Feaviour will be doing her bit, and has raised about £550 in sponsorship. The route will be from Belfast to Dublin, then from Holyhead through the middle of Wales to Cardiff and Bristol, thence via Barnstaple and Okehampton. She has announced that she will making a point of visiting the two Civil War battlefields en route; Drogheda in Ireland on 25 July and Langport in Somerset on 8 August.

We wish **Mrs Feaviour** a good trip and, if you see her along the way, give her a cheer.



The Spread Eagle Hotel

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ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT
& BANQUETING

CHALGROVE SEMINAR

It has been suggested that the Society hold a seminar or conference to publicise our proposals for Chalgrove battlefield.

This idea was put forward by Kelvin van Hasselt of the Battlefields Trust, and has been discussed by the committee. It would involve hiring a suitable venue close to Chalgrove, organising a presentation, and inviting the media and representatives of numerous influential bodies to see and hear our proposals. Such an undertaking could be costly, and we shall be looking for sponsorship and/or a grant to defray the costs.

A suggested date is Saturday 14 June 1997, and any ideas from members would be most welcome.

BOOK REVIEW

Several members of the John Hampden Society were invited to the launch at the National Army Museum in May of a fascinating new book - 'British Battles' by husband-and-wife team Ken and Denise Guest. **Roy Bailey**, **Derek Lester** and **Gill Blackshaw** represented the Society, while **Mary MacDonald Watson** was there on behalf of the English Civil War Society and **Howard Giles** for English Heritage.

'British Battles' is published by HarperCollins in association with English Heritage and Historic Scotland to mark the launch of the Battlefields Register, and illustrates 57 battles from Maldon in 991 to Culloden in 1746. These are the 47 on English Heritage's Battlefields Register and Scotland's 10 most important ones.

The authors are experienced filmmakers and photo-journalists who have reported war and unrest in such trouble-spots as Afghanistan, Cambodia, Lebanon and the Gulf. In this case, all the battles were reconstructions organised by English Heritage and staged by various re-enactment societies such as The English Civil War Society, The White Company 1450-85, Wolfshead Bowmen and the International Viking Association.

This book is an absolute must for anyone interested in history. With one exception, every battle is described in some detail with eyewitness descriptions, a plan of the action and over 150 superb photographs.

These are so good that you would imagine someone has slipped back in time with an SLR, although closer inspection does reveal that most combatants look just a little too clean and tidy. Some rusty armour, dirty faces and ragged uniforms would have been

more authentic. At least there are no digital watches or vaccination marks in evidence!

References of the various contemporary accounts are given, and there is a useful list of re-enactment societies. **Derek Lester** and **Howard Giles** both appear in the book; the latter looking resplendent in the uniform of a Hanoverian officer of the '45.

Sadly, from the point of view of members of the John Hampden Society, the treatment of Chalgrove is the biggest disappointment. It occupies only two pages (one of which is a large photograph) with a very brief description of the battle, and only a passing mention of John Hampden's mortal wound to illustrate the medical problems of the Civil War. There is no plan of the battlefield, and they even have the wrong date!

This sketchy treatment is probably because Chalgrove had to be included at the last minute as a result of our successful campaign to get it onto the Battlefields Register, and one can only hope that the battle will get the attention that it deserves in any future editions. Apart from that, this book can be thoroughly recommended.

● 'British Battles' retails at £19.99 but, because of our affiliation with the E.C.W.S., members can purchase it for £15.99 (including postage and packing) from:

Mrs M. MacDonald Watson
Thornton's House
Bowridge Hill
Gillingham
Dorset SP8 5QS

Cheques should be made payable to the English Civil War Society, and you should quote your membership number. This offer is open until 1 September.

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RESEARCH

Continuing with his research, **George Morris** has come up with another interesting snippet of information, namely that Sir Winston Churchill was a descendant of John Hampden.

The connection between the great leader of 1940 and the great leader of 1640 is that John Hampden's great-great-granddaughter Elizabeth Trevor married Charles Spencer, 3rd Duke of Marlborough in 1732, and became the ancestress of the Spencer-Churchills.

TALKS

We have been asked by a couple of local history societies to give them a talk about John Hampden and the Society later this year.

Bookings have been made with the Chalfont St. Peter & Gerrards Cross Historical Society for Friday 27 September, and with Princes Risborough Heritage Society for Tuesday 12 November.

Any member wishing to undertake these very valuable public relations exercises should contact the Hon. Secretary, who has all the details and all the necessary material.

VISIT

Sadly, the proposed visit to Broughton Castle in October, which should have been announced in this issue, has had to be cancelled - at least for the time being.

Lord Saye and Sele has encountered a number of family problems which would have made it difficult for him to entertain us properly, so he has suggested that we put the visit back until about May next year.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Welcome to new members **Stephen Wilkins**, landlord of The Red Lion, Stoke Talmage, and **Mrs Carolyn Gaught** of Faringdon. **Mrs Gaught's** membership number is 196, so we hope to see member number 200 fairly soon.

Nicholas Bowman's new address is 16 Manor Drive, Aylesbury, Bucks HP20 1EW. Tel: 01296 86273.

BIOGRAPHIES

Vice-president **Dr. Frank Hansford-Miller** has found 18 more copies of his excellent little 'Lifelines' biography of John Hampden, and has donated them to the Society. These will be available to purchase for £2.50, including postage and packing.

A list of products and recommended reading is available from the Hon. Secretary - but don't forget the S.A.E!

CIVIL WAR PLAY

The Red Room theatre company is putting on a contemporary play entitled 'White Unto Harvest' by Mavis Howard, which looks at the Diggers movement and uses the Civil War as a background.

The play will be staged from 16 July until 11 August at The Lion & Unicorn, 42 Gaisford Street, Kentish Town NW5 2ED. Box office and further information - 0171 813 9653.

THE HARGREAVES COLLECTION

Mrs Gladys Hargreaves of Princes Risborough, who was born and went to school in Great Hampden, has donated a valuable collection of memorabilia to the Society - and the contents make fascinating reading.

As well as several interesting old photographs (*right*) and postcards, there are many old newspaper cuttings which contain much interesting detail. There are a number dealing with the death of the 8th Earl of Buckinghamshire ('Bertie Bucks') in 1963, and the accession of his distant cousin, who worked as a Southend Corporation park keeper, to the title. One cutting mentions the new Earl's heir, Mr Cyril Hobart-Hampden and his 18-year-old son Miles 'who will probably eventually succeed to the title'.

Pride of the collection, however, is Mrs Hargreaves' Local History text book, in which the first entry is 10 November 1937. This contains a piece of information not to be found in any of the official histories - how the Hampden family managed to remain in possession of their lands after the Norman Conquest.

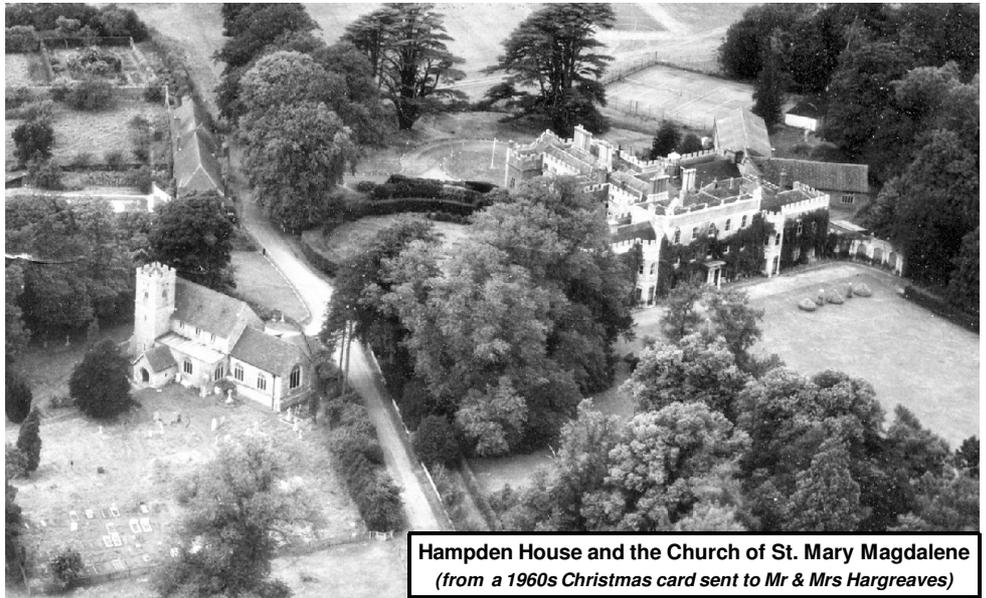
The young Gladys wrote:

'The reasons they kept it when so many Saxon lords lost their lands at the time of the Conquest, was this. When William came he gave the estate to one of his Norman followers. This man had lands in Normandy as well so he had to appoint a bailiff for his estate in England. He very wisely appointed its former owner, who of course understood the people'.

'Now this Norman lord had a daughter, a very beautiful daughter, and the bailiff fell in love with her, and she fell in love with him. So they were married, and the Norman lord left the Saxon lord his lands when he died, and they have been in the hands of his descendants until today. The present Earl is one of his descendants'.

Mrs Hargreaves' book also contains a copy of the Domesday Book entry for Great Hampden, which indicates that, at the time of Edward the Confessor's death (1066), the manor was freely held by one Baldwin, a man of Archbishop Stigand. At the time of the Domesday assessment (1086), it was held from William (the King) by Otbert.

If Mrs Hargreaves' delightful story is true, this Otbert could have been the son of the Saxon bailiff Baldwin and the Norman lord's daughter.



Hampden House and the Church of St. Mary Magdalene
(from a 1960s Christmas card sent to Mr & Mrs Hargreaves)

CHARACTER

An interesting sidelight into John Hampden's character is contained in 'The Improbable Puritan', a biography of Bulstrode Whitelocke by Ruth Spalding.

Whitelocke, of Fawley Court near Henley, was a moderate Puritan lawyer who held a number of important posts during Cromwell's Protectorate. He was at various times Ambassador to Queen Christina of Sweden; Lord President of the Council; a Lord Commissioner of the Great Seal, and Acting Speaker.

He was one of the lawyers consulted by Hampden, whom he claimed as a kinsman, about the legality of the Ship Money levy in the 1630s, and he became a Deputy Lieutenant for both Oxfordshire and Berkshire at the outbreak of the Civil War. Despite this, at the Battle of Turnham Green, Whitelocke 'preferred to trail a pike' and enlisted among the men of his own county in Hampden's famous regiment of Greencoats.

Mrs Spalding writes:

'Under orders from Essex they marched up a lane to a point between Brentford and Acton from which they might surprise the King's forces. This was sound strategy but Essex had second thoughts and sent an officer galloping after them to countermand the order. Whitelocke's tenacious, argumentative nature was not subdued by enlisting and Hampden had to warn him, with good humour, to hold his tongue in case he were shot for mutiny'.

IDENTIFICATION

A small innovation is introduced in this issue, in order to identify members of the Society who are mentioned.

Instead of stating that they are members, their names will appear in bold type, thus:

A.N. Other

MORE GOOD ALE

The original brew of John Hampden's Ale, mashed by the **Earl of Buckinghamshire** last September, has all been sold.

Richard Jenkinson of the Chiltern Brewery states that it proved to be very popular (especially among members of Col. John Hampden's Regiment!), and he has now brewed and bottled a second batch, with the intention of making it a regular part of the brewery's portfolio.

This second brew was available at the Annual Dinner in June and, despite not having the benefit of our Patron's deft touch, was equally as good as the first one.



Brewers (by appointment) of
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* * *

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