



# THE PATRIOT

Quarterly Journal of the John Hampden Society

No. 18 - Spring 1997



## HAMPDEN BIOGRAPHY TAKES SHAPE

The re-publication of Dr Frank Hansford-Miller's biography of John Hampden is on schedule for June.

Graham Barfield, aided by his son Nicholas, has been working hard on securing advertising, amending details and drawing up suggestions for the new cover. After much discussion, it has been decided that this will feature the statue of Hampden in Aylesbury Market Place against a background of the House of Commons in the 17th century. This will combine the theme of Hampden as a martial leader and also as a politician and statesman.

The striking photograph to be used on the cover (*right*) was kindly taken by John Steel-Clark, Honorary Secretary of Chalgrove Local History Group, who spent a recent Saturday morning perched on top of a pair of steps held



by Mrs Gill Blackshaw.

The portfolio of both black-and-white and colour pictures which he took will form a valuable addition to the Society's archives, and the one shown here will be incorporated both into our web page and our slide collection. The Society is grateful to Mr Steel-Clark for his invaluable help.

### BROUGHTON CASTLE VISIT

There are still some places available for the visit to Broughton Castle on Sunday 27 April.

Full details of this trip appeared in the last issue of *'The Patriot'* but, to recap, Viscount Saye and Sele will conduct members personally around the Castle, which has associations with John Hampden.

The tour starts at 2.30 pm and will cost £3.50 per person. Tea with scones and cake is also available after the tour at a cost of £2.80 per person and, like the tour, must be booked and paid for in advance. It is recommended that the party meet in the car park by the Church at about 2.20.

If you wish to attend, please complete the enclosed form and return it with the appropriate remittance to the Hon. Secretary by **Monday 21 April**. No applications to participate can be accepted after this date. Those of you who have already booked and who wish to have tea should also return the form with an extra payment.

Members taking part in the visit must make their own arrangements for lunch. The Saye and Sele Arms (01295 263348) is recommended but, again, booking is essential. If the weather is fine there are plenty of places to picnic in the Castle grounds.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

A final reminder that the Society's AGM will be held at Hampden House, Great Hampden on Saturday 26 April, commencing at 2 pm.

Members should find all the relevant paperwork enclosed with this newsletter, with the exception of the agenda. To avoid unnecessary photocopying, this is printed on page 4.

Travellers wishing to lunch locally are recommended to try The Hampden Arms (01494 488255), which is about a mile from Hampden House and which does a range of relatively inexpensive bar snacks. It would be wise to book ahead.

Other convenient hostelrys are The Pink and Lily at Lacey Green and The Rising Sun at Little Hampden.

### DAY SCHOOL

Determined not to leave a moment of his time unfilled, Graham Barfield, together with Dr David Marcombe, will be presenting *'Strongholds, Skinnishes, Sieges & Sallies'* at the University of Nottingham on Saturday 8 June.

This Day School, which costs £18, will be looking at the social and economic effects of the Civil War in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, and will include a coach trip to visit the Civil War sites of Newark. It will finish at The Saracen's Head at Southwell, where King Charles I spent his last night as a free man.

Booking forms can be obtained from The Secretary, Centre for Local History, Education Building, University Park Nottingham NG7 2RD. Tel. 0115 951 4398.

# HAMPDEN ONLINE

Following the establishment of the Society's Web site, the Hon. Secretary has gone online, and has been investigating the Internet.

A number of e-mailed enquiries have been received from interested persons, including one from Robert J. Schadewald of Minnesota, who was trying to locate a family tree of the Barbados Hampdens.

Descended from a Charles Hampden who was buried in Barbados in 1686, these have included among their number Bishop Renn Dickson Hampden, former Rector of Chalgrove and owner of the Hampden Monument, but Mr Schadewald's interest is in a certain Rev. John Hampden of that family who lived in London in the 19th century.

The Rev. Hampden was a fanatical supporter of the Flat Earth Society, and became involved in a very acrimonious court case when he was sued for libel by one Alfred Russel Wallace in 1870. In all Hampden was convicted of criminal libel three times and spent several months in Newgate.

Mr Schadewald, who is a freelance technical and science writer, wrote,

"My interest in the patriot John Hampden developed in a strange, roundabout way. Essentially, I kept running into him whenever I sought information about the other, less well-known John Hampden. But I am interested in the Cromwell period and the patriot Hampden's part in it, as the events and ideas of that time influenced the founders of our republic".

Mr Schadewald's address is 13204 Parkwood Drive, Burnsville, MN 55337, USA.

As well as these contacts, we have

found that the Internet contains nearly 7,000 mentions of the name 'Hampden'. Most of these refer to Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia, but we have discovered web sites for the town of Hampden (Maine); for Reeds Brook Middle School, where we were the guests at the Bicentenary Dinner in 1994; for Representative Debra Plowman, whom we met officially in Hampden; for the primary school in Hampden, New Zealand; and for **Viscount Hampden's** home Glynde Place near Lewes. Following up these contacts could generate more interest in the Society and John Hampden.

A contact by more conventional means was received by our Chairman, **The Hon. Ian Hope-Morley**, from **Dr Maija Jansson**, who is a lecturer in Law and History and is Director of the Yale Center for Parliamentary History at Yale University

**Dr Jansson** had met a neighbour of **Mr Hope-Morley's** and, on revealing the Center's project of publishing the debates in the Opening Session of the Long Parliament, was told about **Mr Hope-Morley's** ownership of the Hampden Estate and about the John Hampden Society.

**Dr Jansson** wrote, "For, not only am I publishing his (Hampden's) speeches in parliament but I live in Hamden, Connecticut, named (in the 1650s) in memory of John Hamden and the ship money trial".

Hampden was said to have owned land in Connecticut, and legend has it that he actually visited the colony. Hamden was one of the towns which we twice wrote to without any acknowledgement, but it would appear that we now have a solid contact there.

## GONE NATIONAL

The Chiltern Brewery's John Hampden's Ale has gone onto Tesco's national bottled beers list, and will therefore be promoting the Patriot and the Society all over the country.

It is not, however, on sale in the Tesco store in Wendover, as reported in the last issue of *'The Patriot'*, because there isn't one!

## ANNIVERSARY

The clock is ticking away towards 22 October, which marks the Society's 5th birthday, and as yet no one has come up with any suggestions as to how it should be marked.

Some sort of convivial gathering seems to be indicated, but we would be interested in any ideas from members

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## NEW BOOK

**A new biography of one of John Hampden's colleagues was published on 1 March.**

*'Only in Heaven'* by Barry Denton details the life and campaigns of Sir Arthur Hesilrige who, together with John Hampden, John Pym, Denzil Holles and William Strode, was one of the Five Members whom Charles I tried to arrest in the House of Commons in 1642.

Like Hampden, Hesilrige was involved in the colonisation of America, and he played a leading part in the Civil Wars, raising and commanding his famous regiment of armoured cuirassiers, 'Hesilrige's Lobsters', as they were known.

He stood out against the arbitrary power of Cromwell as he had against that of Charles I, and aided General Monck in the Restoration of Charles II. However, despite the promise of a pardon, Hesilrige was considered too dangerous to live, and was imprisoned in the Tower, where he died of a fever in 1661.

The later actions and careers of such men as Hesilrige, Lord General Fairfax, Bulstrode Whitelocke, George Monck and Edward Massey give a possible clue to John Hampden's subsequent life, had he survived the Civil Wars.

Barry Denton is Press Officer and Council member of the Cromwell Association, and a founder member of the Battlefields Trust. *'Only in Heaven'* is published by Sheffield Academic Press, 19 Kingfield Road, Sheffield S11 9AS at £17.95.

Published by

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## A WELL-EARNED REST

Our good friend Miss Pat Barnes has retired after 13 years as Honorary Secretary of the Cromwell Association, and as yet they have not found a new one.

Our close links with The Cromwell Association has meant that they are assiduous in reporting our activities in their newsletter, 'The Protector's Pen', which circulates to another (and much larger) group of people interested in the Civil Wars.

The latest issue, edited by pluralist **David Snowden**, reports on John Hampden Week, and mentions our plans to re-publish **Dr Hansford-Miller's** biography. Consequently, we have already received a request for a copy!

Miss Barnes was very helpful with advice when we started the John Hampden Society, and we wish her a happy retirement. She has been made a Vice President of the Association.

- The Cromwell Association will be holding a Civil War Day School at the Royal Armouries, Leeds, on Saturday 14 June, costing £7.95 per person. Details from Dr Peter Gaunt, Dept of History, University College, Chester CHI 4BJ.

## GREAT SCOTT!

**Miss Betty McBean** has kindly sent the Society a cutting from 'The Observer' of 19 January. In his review of the BBC TV production of Sir Walter Scott's classic novel 'Ivanhoe', critic John Sweeney writes:

*"Scott's introduction, written after the novel itself, revealed that he chanced on the name 'Ivanhoe' in an old piece of doggerel:*

*Tring, Wing and Ivanhoe,  
For striking of a blow,  
Hampden did forgo,  
And glad he could escape so.*

*'Tring, Wing and Ivanhoe' were, mythically, the manors lost by an ancestor of John Hampden, the champion of Parliament who so irritated Charles I that he had him jailed. The story of the rhyme is that Hampden's forefather lost his manors for striking the Black Prince with a tennis racket after they had quarrelled, after the style of John McEnroe. So 'Ivanhoe' is simply a place name in a rhyme about a bad-mannered five-setter".*

Being a journalist, Mr Sweeney apparently does not let the facts stand in the way of a good story, because (as we all know) it was not 'Ivanhoe' but 'Ivinghoe' in the original rhyme.

Either he or Sir Walter Scott has made an error, and the Hon. Secretary has not so far been able to find a copy of the novel which contains Scott's introduction. If anyone can check this out, we shall be able to write to Mr Sweeney and put him (or Sir Walter Scott) right.

## ANNUAL DINNER

**Arrangements for John Hampden Week in Thame in June are progressing steadily.**

We have secured the services of our President, **Dr John Adair**, to give the illustrated talk on John Hampden at the Primary School on Friday evening, 20 June.

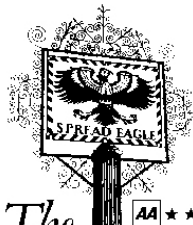
**Dr Adair** will also be giving the post-dinner talk at the Annual Dinner at The Spread Eagle the following evening, when his subject will be Sir William Waller. Waller, who is the subject of **Dr Adair's** latest biography, published by Alan Sutton in April, was one of Parliament's most successful generals, but as an MP lost his command after the passing of the Self-Denying Ordinance.

He was known as 'The Night Owl' for his successful night raids, and was a close friend of the Royalist general Sir Ralph Hopton, who was his companion-in-arms when they fought in the Thirty Years War. Waller's letter in reply to Hopton's offer of an meeting in 1643 is one of the most poignant pieces of writing to emerge from the Civil Wars:

*That great God which is the searcher of my heart, knows with what a sad sense I go upon this service, and with what a perfect hatred I detest this war without an enemy, but I look upon it as opus domini which is enough to silence all passion in me. The God of peace in his good time send us peace, and in the mean time fit us to receive it. We are both upon the stage and must act those parts that are assigned in this tragedy. Let us do it in a way of honour, and without personal animosities.*

Sir William was distantly related to John Hampden through Hampden's poet cousin Edmund Waller, and was also a fellow partner in the Providence Company.

- A menu and booking form for the Annual Dinner is enclosed. This should be returned to Mrs Sarah Barrington, together with a deposit, as soon as possible.



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**1997**

**Sat 26 Apr.** Annual General Meeting at Hampden House, Great Hampden, commencing at 2 pm.

**Sun 27 April.** Visit to Broughton Castle. Meet at 2.30 pm.

**Mon 16 - Sun 22 June.** John Hampden Week in Thame. Full details to follow.

**Fri 20 June.** Lecture by **Dr John Adair** at John Hampden Primary School.

**Sat 21 June.** Annual Dinner at The Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame.

**Wed 22 Oct.** The Society's 5th Birthday.

## NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to new members **Mrs Anne Peck** of Thame, who has just returned from a trip to New Zealand (but not to Hampden!), and **Mrs Anne Dewis** of Princes Risborough, who is a teacher at Monks Risborough C of E Combined School.

Also to **Anthony and Sylvia Nichols** of Haddenham, who quickly signed up for the Broughton Castle visit on receipt of 'The Patriot'.

## WHERE OUR CARAVAN MAY REST...

The Society is intending to set up a temporary office in Thame for the duration of John Hampden Week (16 - 22 June), and we are looking for a caravan or motor caravan which can be used both for that purpose and as accommodation for the Hon. Secretary. If anyone can help in any way, please get in touch.

The Hon. Secretary favours the largest size of Winnebago, but commonsense should prevail!



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# THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY

*...honouring a great Englishman*

**Patron - The Rt. Hon. Miles Hobart-Hampden, Earl of Buckinghamshire**

**President - Dr John Adair MA(Cantab) B Litt(Oxon) PhD FRHistS**

**Chairman - The Hon. Ian Hope-Morley**

7 April 1997.

The Annual General Meeting of the John Hampden Society will be held in the Great Hall of Hampden House, Great Hampden, Great Missenden, Bucks on Saturday 26 April 1997, commencing at 2 pm.

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of the AGM held on 24 February 1996.
3. Matters arising
4. Reports from the Officers:
  - (a) Chairman
  - (b) Hon. Secretary
  - (c) Hon. Treasurer
  - (d) Membership Secretary
5. Amendments to constitution.
6. Honorary membership.
7. Election of officers and committee members. \*
8. Annual subscriptions.
9. Fund raising.
10. Programme of events.
11. Any other business.

\* It would be appreciated if anyone wishing to serve on the Committee would send their nomination to the Hon. Secretary prior to the AGM, although nominations can be accepted on the day. Candidates must be proposed and seconded by members of the Society, and indicate their willingness to stand for election. Copies of the Society's constitution will be available at the meeting, or by post on request.



**ROY BAILEY,**  
Hon. Secretary.