



THE PATRIOT

Quarterly Newsletter of the John Hampden Society
No. 30 - Winter/Spring 2001



The John Hampden Society 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

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS JOHN HAMPDEN VIDEO

The initial moves towards the production of the Society's video about John Hampden have been made. On 1st February committee members held a special meeting with Roger Crittenden, Head of Teaching Programmes at the National Film & Television School at Beaconsfield, and his Finance Officer Jim Rodda.

This meeting, postponed from 1st December 2000 because of Mr Crittenden's illness, was organised jointly by our Hon. Treasurer **Sam Hearn** and by **Mr Rodda**. It has been proposed that the School produce the video on behalf of the Society as a training exercise, and as most of the filming would be done either in the Great Hampden-Thame area or in London, it is ideally situated.

Despite these advantages, Mr Crittenden pointed out that the School would not be able to produce the video free of charge, and that it was too early to talk of cost. He advised the committee to go away and work on a possible script, thinking in more detail about what we envisaged for the content of the video and the audience we wanted to reach. He felt that, provided the Society obtained the necessary clearances and permissions, the School, given sufficient notice, would then probably be able to take on the actual shooting.

It was then decided that committee members should each submit their suggestions for the format of the video and these would be considered before a further meeting with Mr Crittenden and **Mr Rodda**. A number of ideas have been sent to Vice-Chairman **Roy Bailey**, who is co-ordinating the initial script production and who will be consulting a professional scriptwriter.

Mr Hearn stated that, once we had something actually going, possibly a detailed shooting script and some initial material, he would be able to approach potential sponsors and ask for financial help.

- Do you have any suggestions as to the content of the John Hampden video, which is will probably be between 20 and 25 minutes in length? If so write fax or e-mail your ideas to the Society. We need as many good ideas as possible to make this a worthwhile project.

WINTER LUNCH

The Winter Lunch, held at the Chiltern Brewery on 18 November, was as great a success as the Spring Lunch there in March 1999.

Once again Richard and Lesley Jenkinson laid on some excellent food and drink for the 30 members who attended.

Following the lunch, a talk on the two wives of John Hampden was given by Vice-Chairman **Roy Bailey** and **Robert Hammond**; the former dealing with Elizabeth Simeon and the latter with Lady Letitia Vachell. It was suggested that this could form the basis of an article in a future issue of *'The Patriot'*.

- Richard Jenkinson reports that John Hampden's Ale is now stocked in the shops of a number of prestigious National Trust properties in the area.

They are Stowe, Hughenden Manor and Waddesdon Manor in Bucks, Cliveden and Basildon Park in Berkshire, and Osterley Park in West London.

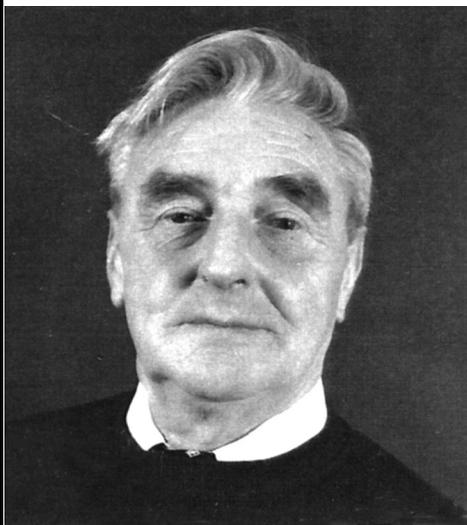


Where is this delightful little church? See page 4.

OBITUARY

As reported in the last issue, **Len Barker** died last autumn at the age of 70. This appreciation is written by **Mrs Valerie Horne**.

It is with deep sadness that I write to tell you of the death of Mr Leonard Barker at home on Friday 29th September 2000.



Len joined the Royal Air Force as an apprentice in the 54th Entry achieving the rank of sergeant at the age of twenty-five, far earlier than was usual at the time. On returning to Halton Camp to take up post as an instructor, Len devised an entirely new approach to the training manual for his apprentices which remains in use today.

After a successful career in the Air Force, Len joined Klockner Moeller as Technical Manager where he designed and implemented a computer system taking the company into the computer age.

A staunch member of the Ellesborough Silver Band for nearly thirty years, Len played Eb bass, enjoying the wide repertoire of concert and contest performances. He also held the post of treasurer.

Upon retirement, Len decided to indulge his passion for history. His interest and commitment, combined with his organisational skills, has resulted in an impressive archive of carefully collected information on his chosen period - the 17th century - most of which he could call to mind immediately.

During the last six months, Len was in and out of hospital many times. He was determined to attend the John Hampden Exhibition in June followed by the Annual Dinner and enjoy the company of his many friends again. This he achieved. It was difficult for him but Len showed characteristic strength throughout.

Len will be greatly missed by us all and I would like to add my tribute to everyone's appreciation of his remarkable work - a very modest man.

● We must also report the death in November at the age of 85 of **Mrs Joyce le Naimaster**, of Mill Hill, North London, who had been a member of the Society since 1999.

BOOKS FOR SALE

Thanks to the wonders of the Internet, the Society has been able to purchase a number of reasonably-priced copies of Professor John Adair's biography of John Hampden.

Some of these were quickly snapped up at the Winter Lunch in November, but there are two remaining, and these are available to members for £17.50 post free. If you would like one, send a cheque to the Society's address on page 3. First come, first served!

We have also purchased a first-edition copy of Lord Nugent's *Some Memorials of John Hampden, His Party, and His Times* for the Society's library. Published in 1832, this was the first detailed study of Hampden and attracted a lot of criticism.

The two-volume set is available for members to borrow, but we do not intend to trust it to the post, so interested parties must make other arrangements. It will be available at the AGM.

EXHIBITION

The Society's travelling exhibition, which is a slightly smaller version of the one in Thame last June, proved to be a great success in Chinnor.

The next venue was to have been Thame Library, but because it is so small the erection of our display boards would have prevented people getting to the books!

As a result of a recent talk to the Wantage branch of the University of the Third Age, we have been invited to display the exhibition at The Vale and Downland Museum in 2002.

If any member knows of a suitable venue for this exhibition, which provides pictorial information about both John Hampden and the Society, please get in touch with **Maurice Kirtland** on 01844 213449 or kirtlands@lineone.net.



Brewers (by appointment) of
JOHN HAMPDEN'S ALE

and other fine beers

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

Tel: 01296 613647

Fax: 01296 612419

Why not visit our brewery shop?

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

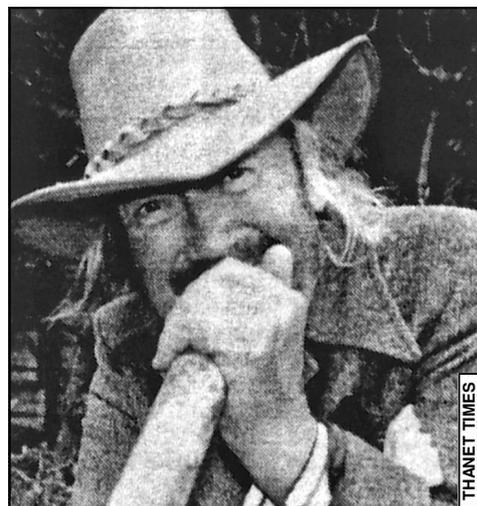
The increase in subscriptions for members in the British Isles, which came into force at the beginning of the year, produced the inevitable confusion.

Some members failed to send the new Standing Order forms to their banks, and consequently paid at the old rate. Three members indicated that they would not be renewing, but forgot to cancel their Standing Orders. Swings and roundabouts!

Membership Secretary **Miss Liz Morris** has been struggling to bring order to this chaos, and no doubt all will soon be resolved.

The increase means that the rates on the Society's cream promotional leaflet are inaccurate, so if you have any of these or know of an outlet with some, please withdraw them as soon as possible. New leaflets will be printed and distributed shortly

FRANK SPEAKING



Members who live in the Meridian TV region of Southern England may have seen one of our founders, **Dr Frank Hansford-Miller** (above), featured in the programme 'Coastal Ways' in December.

Dr Hansford-Miller, who is 84, was seen jogging on the beach near his home at Birchington in Kent, and was interviewed talking about his song-writing and his time in Australia, where he has a second home. He apparently graduated from the aboriginal didgeridoo university in Alice Springs, and the item ended with our former Treasurer giving a demonstration of the playing of this unusual instrument!

● The Society's reprint of **Dr Hansford-Miller's** short illustrated life of Hampden, now entitled *John Hampden of Buckinghamshire - The People's Hero*, is proving to be very popular (except possibly in Chinnor!). Several copies are sold at each illustrated lecture given by members of the Society, and it is available in a number of bookshops in the Aylesbury-Thame area.

GRAMPOUND UPDATE

by
Graham Barfield

As announced in the last issue of *'The Patriot'*, a major event for the Society will be the installation of commemorative plaques at Grampound, Cornwall, to celebrate John Hampden's entry into politics in 1621, when he was elected Member of Parliament for that town.

This is a milestone activity for the Society. While we have, in the past, been instrumental in motivating the repair and maintenance of existing Hampden monuments, we have not so far initiated the placing of our own memorials to John Hampden - largely because in his home area he has already been honoured in this way by various individuals and bodies at intervals over the last 165 years.

The Grampound link allows us to strike

out in a new direction in promoting a greater awareness of Hampden and the pivotal part he played in 17th century political reform. The society will be commissioning two specially cast bronze plaques for the event. One is intended for the front of Trevail (above), formerly known as Hampden House, situated on the town's main street and reputedly the house in which John Hampden stated during his 1621 election campaign. The other will be located in the parish church above the choir stalls in the chancel.

The Trevail plaque will be circular, about 15" in diameter and carrying the wording:

'John Hampden of Buckinghamshire (1594-1643), celebrated Parliamentarian and military leader in the English Civil War, stayed in the house on this site when elected Member of Parliament for Grampound in 1621'.

The church plaque will be rectangular of landscape proportions, around 14" x 10", and be worded:

'In memory of John Hampden of Buckinghamshire (1594-1643), celebrated Parliamentarian and military leader in the English Civil War, who was chosen by the burgesses of Grampound to represent the town as its Member of Parliament in 1621. Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum'.

During their long life the plaques will need to do credit both to John Hampden and the Society. For this reason we are commissioning them from a foundry which has long experience in supplying national conservation bodies like English Heritage, for whom quality is a paramount requirement.

Due to the nature of the buildings involved (Grade II Listed and ecclesiastical), the Society may also have to pay for permissions to install the plaques. In total we believe that we should set aside £750 for the project.

This is a substantial sum to fund from membership subscriptions, and as it is a one-off venture we are unashamedly inviting any interested parties who wish to help promote the Society's aim in this way to make a special donation to the cost of the plaques.

If every one of our 160 members could give £5 we would be able to cover the cost, but members' donations above that amount would be very welcome, as any surplus will be devoted to the expenses involved in producing the John Hampden video. The names of all donors will be published in a forthcoming issue of *'The Patriot'*.

Cheques made payable to 'The John Hampden Society' will be gratefully received by the Society's Hon. Treasurer, **Sam Hearn**, at 134 Park Road, Chiswick London W4 3HP. It would help

if they could be endorsed 'Grampound' on the back.

The Society will be generating as much media coverage as it can, both national and local, for the Grampound event, so as to widen general

interest in John Hampden and his work. To that end we should like as many people as possible to take part, at some time over the four-day period from Thursday 30th August to Sunday 2nd September. These dates coincide with Grampound's annual carnival and fete.

The Society will be mounting its exhibition in the local school on the Thursday and Friday, and on each of these evenings a member will give a different illustrated talk on aspects of John Hampden and his times. The Trevail plaque will be unveiled on Saturday 1st September, accompanied by a dedicatory speech from a leading member of the Society. The church plaque will be unveiled during the course of a service on Sunday 2nd September.

Committee members of the John Hampden will be active as usual, but it would be a great advantage if we could count on the physical participation of members too. It is hoped that some members might be tempted to make a short holiday in the area around the relevant dates, and that they could spare a few hours either on the Thursday or the Friday to help man the exhibition or to boost the numbers at the unveilings at the weekend

Will any Society member who:

Plans to attend the event;

Would be able to help with the exhibition

Could offer others a place in his/her car for the journey

Would like transport in another person's car

Be interested in sharing the cost of hiring and driving a mini-bus or people carrier to Cornwall and back

Like guidance about accommodation in the area

please contact me at 31 The Lanes, Oakethorpe Road, Bolehill, Wirksworth, Derbyshire DE4 4GP: telephone 01629 822487 as soon as possible, so that we can plan to make this an enjoyable, shared, modestly-priced event for as many members as wish to take part.



2001

Sun 22 April Annual General Meeting at Hampden House, Great Hampden, commencing at 2.30 pm. Followed by a talk on John Hampden in the Long Parliament by **Robert V. Hammond**.

Sat 30 June An illustrated talk by the Society's Patron, the **Earl of Buckinghamshire**, to the Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church. (Time and venue to be advised)

Thur 30 Aug - Sun 2 Sept

The Society's official visit to Grampound, Cornwall

(All meetings commence at 8pm, unless otherwise stated)



AA *** RAC
The Spread Eagle Hotel

THAME
OXFORDSHIRE
OX9 2BW
TELEPHONE (01844) 213661

ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT &
BANQUETING

SERIOUS ERROR

A serious error was included in the last (Summer/Autumn 2000) issue of *'The Patriot'*.

It should have been number 29, but was inaccurately numbered in the masthead as 28. This means that there are two number 28s around; the correct one being the issue dealing with our 'Rename Downing Street' campaign.

This issue is therefore correctly numbered as 30, and you should renumber your copy of the last issue.

The Society's Vice-Chairman have given the Editor a severe telling-off and ordered him to buck up his ideas!

Published by

The John Hampden Society
The Malt House, Great Shefford
Hungerford, Berkshire RG17 7ED
Tel: 01488 648441
Fax: 08700 522514
E-mail: enquiries@johnhampden.org
www.johnhampden.org

HAMPDEN, NEW ZEALAND

Our picture on page 1 shows the church of St. Stephen in Hampden, New Zealand, home of the Society's two farthest-flung members, Hugh and Trixie Muldrew.

Hampden was one of the 12 places around the world bearing that name which we contacted in 1993, and Hugh, at the time, was Chairman of Waihemo Community Board, which includes Hampden. By a remarkable co-incidence, the Muldrews were planning to visit Britain that year, and they were in Thame at the time of our Commemorative Ceremony in 1993.



①

During their last visit to the UK in August 1998 (see *'The Patriot'* no. 23), Hugh kindly gave us the photographs which are reproduced here, and also a book entitled *Northern Approaches* by C.W.S. Moore. Published in 1958 by Otago Centennial Historical Publications, this is a history of the districts surrounding Hampden.

The township of Hampden stands on the eastern coast of South Island in the district of Otago, approximately 50 miles north of Dunedin on the main road and rail link between Christchurch and Invercargill. The settlements in this area were some of the earliest established in the South Island. Whalers and sealers had been operating off the Otago coasts since the 18th century, and in 1836 a whaling station was established at Moeraki, 2 miles south of Hampden. When the first settlers arrived in the area they found that the whalers had already established good crops and were keeping cattle and sheep, so the newcomers were able to devote their energies to building their homes without the constant worry about food.

Hampden, which has the doubtful honour of being one of the smallest of New Zealand's boroughs, was first surveyed in 1860 and a sale of sections recorded in 1863. The streets were all named after British towns and cities - Chelmsford, Lincoln, Worcester, Shrewsbury, Liverpool and London; the latter two comprising the main road, Highway 1, through the town. The early settlers must have had a knowledge of the English Civil War and an admiration for those who fought in it, for as well as Hampden, Otago contains the towns of Cromwell and Naseby.

Hampden was proclaimed as a borough on 8 September 1879 with an area of 630 acres and a population of 500. Early meth-

ods of transportation were by sea, with shipping using the fine natural harbour at Moeraki, and coaching and waggoning. The latter were encouraged by the discovery of gold in Otago in the 1860s, and soon a regular coach service was running on the newly-built road between Invercargill and Oamaru. By 1865 there were two hotels in Hampden catering for this traffic - The Hampden and The Clyde. The sand on the beach at Hampden and Moeraki contained traces of gold and 20 men were employed extracting it there in 1867. During the depression in the 1860s, gold mining started again on some inland properties.

These road services ceased with the opening of the railway line in November 1876. Originally it was planned that the route would follow the main road through the town, with the station to be situated in Hampden Square, at the junction of London and Liverpool Streets, but after a second survey it was decided that the line would skirt around the coast.

The first church at Hampden was the Presbyterian church which was opened in 1870, indicating again that the early settlers had a nonconformist tradition probably dating back to the 17th century. The Anglican church of St. Stephen (later rebuilt) was opened in 1881 and the Catholic church of Our Lady Star of the Sea in Hampden in 1894. The school was opened on its present site on 21st June 1864.

Nowadays Hampden is no longer a borough but is a part of Waitaki District Council centred in Oamaru, 20 miles to the north. The population has shrunk to about 350, and it is mostly a retired area, with some farming and a small fishing fleet at Moeraki, where Hugh Muldrew's son has a restaurant.

The local climate averages 10-12 degrees C in winter and 12-20 degrees in summer, with an average rainfall of 22 inches.

Our black-and-white reproductions cannot do justice to Hugh's colour photographs (the school has a beautiful sky-blue roof) but it is obvious that Hampden is a lovely place set in beautiful countryside.

Perhaps it is time that the Society organised a visit there so that we can see for ourselves!



②



③



LADY IN RED

This picture, which was sent to the Society by Mrs June Walling, comes from the Museum of Art, Rhode Island School of Design, and appears to have been reproduced on the cover of a magazine entitled *The English Gentlewoman*.

Enquiries to the Royal Ceremonial Dress Collection at Kensington Palace by Hon. Treasurer Sam Hearn brought the response from Curatorial Assistant Jenny Lister that the portrait can be dated to 1606 and that the lady is in a type of masquerade dress and is wearing an 'Irish mantle'.

The interesting thing is that the caption states that it is a lady of the Hampden family.

But which one?

Hugh Muldrew's pictures show: ① a general view of Hampden, ② Hampden primary school, which has approximately 70 pupils, and ③ the Hampden District War Memorial and Community Centre