

THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY

Due to the unfortunate and untimely illness of Roy Bailey, who is currently causing havoc among the Nursing staff at Swindon Hospital, it is not possible to produce '*The Patriot*' at present. I know you will join me in wishing him a speedy recovery [not only for the sake of the nurses], and I have it on good authority that he will knuckle down to his editorial tasks as soon as possible after his release.

In the meantime, it seems appropriate to produce another emergency Newsletter to wish you all a Happy New Year and to bring you up to date with Society events.

Leaflet:

The Society's leaflet has now been updated and this has been sponsored by Paul Meekins, Military and Historic Book Dealer, specialising in English Civil War books, of 34 Townsend Road, Tiddington, Stratford upon Avon, Warwicks, CV37 7DE – Tel: 01789 295086 – www.paulmeekins.co.uk. If you know of any outlets still displaying the old leaflets, please contact me for a batch of new ones to replace them.

Travelling Exhibition:

The Travelling Exhibition will be on display at The Vale and Downland Museum, Wantage later in the year [date not yet fixed], and on Monday 6th May it will be at Chalgrove Village Festival. Later in the year it will also be visiting Abingdon and Watlington and should eventually finish up at Westgate Library in Oxford. The exhibition is an interesting collection of photographs and literature illustrating the life and times of John Hampden and is well worth making an effort to visit if it is on show at a venue near you.

Visit to Grampound:

A very important event took place last year. This was the unveiling at Grampound in Cornwall of two plaques commemorating John Hampden. The Society now holds a large stock of photographic material depicting this visit, which was greatly enjoyed by all concerned and will be reported fully in *The Patriot* when the editor of that publication is sufficiently recovered to set pen to paper. It is hoped that the 100 or so photographs taken by Valerie Horne and other members will be put up on the Society's web site.

The Bucks Local History Fair and Conference – 2001:

Following the success of last year's inaugural event at the Civic Centre in Aylesbury a second Conference was organised by the Bucks Local History Network at the University of Buckingham on 29th September 2001.

At the breaks between the three lectures the 160 delegates were able to visit over twenty stands and exhibitions by local history organisations. The range of subjects on offer was impressive, from genealogical research to medieval archaeology, from local museums to heraldry.

Liz Morris, Valerie Horne and Sam Hearn set up the mobile John Hampden exhibition and ran a stall selling Hampden literature and memorabilia. Thanks are also so due to Roy Bailey, Maurice Kirtland and Bob Hammond for providing the necessary logistical support.

The three lecturers drew on a huge array of research but managed to deliver "the fruits of their learning" in an entertaining and non-technical manner. The lecture by Society member Julian Hunt on "North Bucks and the Industrial Revolution" was particularly well received. It was interesting how many slides of local hostelrys and coaching inns he managed to work into his talk on the pretext of illustrating the economic impact of the introduction of turnpike roads!

An excellent day was rounded off with a fascinating guided tour of the historic parts of Buckingham. The only disappointment was that so few Society members attended this year's event. The five-pound attendance fee was outstanding value for anyone with even just a passing interest in local history.

The Conference looks set to become an annual event and will return to the Aylesbury Civic Centre on Saturday October 5th 2002. We are looking for a member who is prepared to act as the liaison person between the Society and the Bucks Local History Network. If you are interested please contact **Sam Hearn**.

Chalgrove Memorial:

The Society also assisted with the refurbishment of the railings around the Monument at Chalgrove, which had become very dilapidated. These have now been restored to their former glory thanks to the blood, sweat, toil and tears mainly of the John Hampden Regiment under the direction of Derek Lester, with a certain amount of assistance from some members of the Committee.

A few years ago this monument was feared to be in danger of collapse, but marker pins have been inserted at strategic points and a twice yearly inspection is carried out, taking careful measurements between the marked points, and this has proved reassuring as the monument has not moved since the pins were inserted in 1993, and it is now felt that the monument may have been out of true since it was erected.

10th Anniversary Celebrations:

October 2002 will see the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the John Hampden Society, and the Committee is seeking ideas on how best to celebrate this event. One popular suggestion is that the Society organise a 17th century banquet at Hampden House, providing that this property is available to us for this purpose, and also that suitable caterers can be found and the costs kept to a reasonable level. Any other suggestions would be gratefully received, so please give this matter some consideration and pass your ideas to me. [Address below].

Talks:

The Society has been booked to give the following talks during the coming months:

Garsington History Society – 22nd January

Thame Farming Group – 7th March

Hook Norton History Group – 9th April

Cherwell University of the Third Age – 10th April

Chalgrove Village Festival – 4th or 5th May

Two or three members of the Committee are available to give illustrated talks to interested organisations or groups of people, so please do not hesitate to make contact if this would be of interest to other organisations to which you belong. It is also possible to arrange for the exhibition to visit fairs, fetes and functions that are taking place not too far from base.

The Society would be interested to hear from you if you have any suggestions for events or activities that you would like it to consider holding in the future.

Two Diaries of the Long Parliament:

The following article was submitted by a member of the Committee:

"I recently purchased a book with this title, written by Maija Jansson of The Yale Centre for Parliamentary History. This book was published in 1984, so it is possible that some members will have read it

These were two diaries kept by members and they record speeches and events which, although rather piece meal, provide us with some illumination on the year 1641. the most informative diary is that of Sir William Drake of Shardeloes and MP for Amersham, Bucks. He does not seem to have been a very active member although no doubt a conscientious one. It is from his Diary I will quote. He mentions John Hampden a number of times, and I have picked out two episodes which I believe are helpful to the understanding of the latter. It should be said that, because the reporting is brief, it is necessary to read the whole to get an understanding of what was being discussed.

10th March 1641 – This is about Bishops speaking in Parliament.

One of the Members said it was inconvenient for Parliament and it was inconsistent with their spiritual function. Hampden objected to the work 'inconvenient' and said it had too much alloy in it. Inconvenience could not make such a great mutation in the state and therefore he disliked the work. He appears to suggest it should be prejudicial. There are a number of examples of words. Simple expedience was not enough. He clearly saw a weak word could be used against them at some future date. What a description of it's weakness; to have too much alloy in it.

15th March 1641 – This is about removing the Queen's servants.

Sir John Hotham spoke for having a conference with the Lords concerning the Papists about The Queen's person and that it should be delayed for that. John Hampden said that he agreed with the noble gentleman that by moderation was the best way to crave our purpose, but begging leave of him he had to differ from him. For we are now in Parliament and are here to consider what are the laws of the Kingdom. We sit here to see the laws observed, not broken.

I have deliberately avoided being verbatim which I hope makes make the sense easier to understand. Here we have John Hampden, the great respecter of the Law enshrined in Parliament standing firm upon it, and here that quality, moderation, for which he was renowned, is not allowed. Of course we also know that Hampden sensed great danger when those with the ear of the King and Queen and also their children were suspect. One position he himself seemed to crave was to guide the Princes. That he would have done that to the great advantage of the Parliament and the King there is little doubt."

Subscriptions:

It is that time of year again, and it would be appreciated if any members who have not so far renewed their subscription, would send their remittance to the Membership Secretary, Liz Morris, as soon as possible.

UK:	Adults: £10.00	Under 18s: £5.00	Joint Membership: £15.00	Family Membership: £24.00
Overseas:	Adults: £10.00	Under 18s: £7.00	Joint Membership: £18.00	Family Membership: £30.00

Society Publications:

The Society has available a number of publications, namely:

1. *John Hampden of Buckinghamshire – the People's Hero* by Dr Frank Hansford-Miller - £2.50
2. *The Controversy of John Hampden's Death* by Derek Lester and Gill Blackshaw - £3.50
3. *The Hampden Lectures* – a 32-page full colour booklet produced in association with the John Hampden Society by the company which owns Hampden House. - £3.00
4. *The Battle of Chalgrove Field* – a print on A4 cream vellum-style paper of the battle where John Hampden received his death wound - £1.50
5. *In The Steps of the Patriot* – an illustrated leaflet giving a guided tour of the places in Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, associated with John Hampden – 75p.
6. A colour postcard of the Walker portrait of John Hampden with details of Hampden and the Society on the reverse – 20p each or £1.50 for 10.
7. Coloured badges depicting John Hampden - £1.50 each

The above items can be ordered from The John Hampden Society, Park Meadow Cottage, Thame Park Road, Thame, Oxon OX9 3PJ, adding 50p postage and packing for up to 3 books [items 1 – 3], otherwise add £1.00. Items 4 – 7 are post free if ordered with any of the books, otherwise add 50p per order.

We have also acquired 3 copies of Professor John Adair's biography of Hampden, which are available to members for £17.50. These can be ordered from The Malt House, Great Shefford, Hungerford, Berks RG17 7ED. Cheques should be made payable to the Society.

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