



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of The John Hampden Society

No. 34 - Winter 2002/2003

January 2003.

A Very Happy New Year to all our members.

We are issuing an interim newsletter in order to bring you up to date with our news, as Roy Bailey is on extended leave in New Zealand and unable to carry out his editorial duties until the spring. Unfortunately I am unable, at present, to emulate the normal format in which *The Patriot* is produced, but hope you will, nevertheless, find it interesting. My thanks to everyone who contributed copy for this edition. If you have a relevant article which you think may be suitable for inclusion in a future edition, please let me have it as soon as possible. [*Anthea Coles*].

10th Anniversary Banquet



The Banquet held on 27th October 2003 in the Great Hall at Hampden House was a great success. Diners were treated to 24 authentic seventeenth century dishes served in three “removes”. Few will forget their first taste of muggets, lob lolly and fruit leathers. It was a gastronomic challenge to which 42 members and their friends rose as if to the manner (or perhaps manor) born.

Many of the diners and all the waiters had dressed in elaborate seventeenth century garb. The victuals were served, with skill and enthusiasm, by costumed members of “the Regiment”. Full marks to Paul Cross the Chef and his staff who arrived at 8.30 in the morning to prepare for the 1.30pm start. Thanks are also due to Derek Lester, whose photo appears on the left at the foot of this page, for organising this event.

The atmosphere was greatly enhanced by a power cut that meant the meal was eaten by candlelight. The final touch was the period music played by Peter Bull on a variety of instruments.

Lord Hollenden, on behalf of the Society, presented Roy Bailey [bottom right] with an engraved glass goblet in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the success of the organisation in its first decade. [*Sam Hearn*]



Bucks' Greatest Person

It is official! Readers of the Bucks Free Press have voted John Hampden, Buckinghamshire's greatest Person. The result announced in the paper's December 13th edition revealed that The Patriot had achieved a stunning 42% of the vote in the final round when he convincingly beat Sirs John Mills and Steve Redgrave, Enid Blyton and fellow politician Benjamin Disraeli.

Many thanks to everyone who voted. The competition has certainly stirred up interest in John Hampden and we hope that it may attract a few new members to the Society. The prize for winning the competition is a permanent page on the BFP website. More news of this later. *[Sam Hearn]*

The Wendover Memorial Plaque

The Society has been let down by Aylesbury Yale District Council and we will not now be receiving any funding for the memorial plaque from this source. Obviously the Council must feel that Buck's Greatest Person is already well known enough! Can any members who would like to make a donation to the fund for the plaque please send a cheque to the Society C/O **Sam Hearn (The Treasurer)**. Many thanks to those of you who have already done so. A list of contributors will be published so please be sure to make it clear if you wish to make your gift anonymously. *[Sam Hearn]*

The following contribution was written by Valerie Home, who is working incredibly hard to ensure that this Wendover Day [or John Hampden Day as it is becoming known in Wendover] is the success it deserves to be:

"John Hampden Day, Wendover, June 21 2003.

Just a brief report on progress so far. Many thanks to the few people who did respond to my request for donations towards the plaque and in excess of the amount requested. If you intended to, and didn't get round to it, you still have chance to do so, as, at the time of writing, there is nothing forthcoming from Aylesbury Yale District Council which lays a heavier burden on our funds. The plaque size and design finally chosen has exceeded our original estimate and so donations are still very welcome. Please give this some thought, no, action would better! All the essential pieces of paper for the day are now in our hands, and we are hoping to add displays of crafts and occupations. More information on this in the next newsletter.

Please let Anthea Coles know [on 07985 607224, e-mail secretary@johnhampden.org] if you intend to come as we will need to prepare members badges before the day, and above all please come in 1600s costume, needles are running red hot in Wendover so you will not be the only one dressed to suit." *[Valerie A. Horne]*

The Buckinghamshire Protestation 1642

Preparing an acceptable wording for the Wendover memorial has uncovered an interesting anomaly. On January 11th 1642 a cavalcade of John Hampden's supporters rode into London and assembled as line of horsemen three deep that stretched from the Royal Exchange to Newgate. But how many people actually took part in this demonstration? Anthony Fletcher estimates three thousand. Thomas Babington Macaulay says four thousand. John Adair reports five thousand and Frank Hansford-Miller offers us six thousand.

There may of course be some confusion between those who signed the petition and those who rode to London or even between those who rode to London and those who joined the demonstration. There is also much confusion about what exactly these Buckinghamshire gentlemen were wearing in their hats. Can anyone help us out and perhaps refer us to a primary source? *[Sam Hearn]*

New Zealand 2002/2003.

Immediately following the banquet at Hampden House, Roy and Annabel Bailey took off for New Zealand for a much-needed holiday, to include visits to relatives and also to members of the Society living in that part of the world. Several e-mails have been received from Roy giving a brief insight into his adventures and the next full issue of *The Patriot* should prove very interesting reading. He has written the following article just to wet the appetite ...

"Our New Zealand Odyssey, which began with our departure from Heathrow the day after the 10th Anniversary Banquet, has been a wonderful experience. Annabel and I spent two or three weeks touring the North Island, visiting such wonderful places as The Bay of Islands, Cape Reinga and 90 Mile Beach. the Coromandel Peninsular, and the hot springs at Rotarua.

After we crossed to the South Island and made our way down the east coast via Christchurch, we stayed for a few days with members Hugh and Trixie Muldrew at Hampden. (Actually they live a few miles north of Hampden in a small community called Waianakarua, which is a part of Hampden borough.) During this time we had the pleasure of again meeting Ross and Betty MacMillan, who had visited Britain with the Muldrews four years ago and had been given the Hampden tour from their base in Thame.

When we arranged to visit New Zealand and stay with the Muldrews, it was with the intention of giving a couple of illustrated talks on John Hampden and the Society - one to Hampden School and one to the Waianakarua Lions Club. However, in discussions with Hugh it became obvious that the school children were probably too young to appreciate the subject and some of the Lions members might not be interested. So it was decided that the Lions and the local historical society would combine to organise the talk, which would be followed by a barbecue. (It is high summer here!)

This event has been organised for Tuesday 14th January in the Memorial Hall in Hampden, and will obviously be a bit different from the talks that I have given on the subject to historical societies in England. None of those has so far been combined with a barbecue!

In the course of travelling around this lovely country, I have discovered that the memory of John Hampden was well revered here when the country was being settled. There are two other towns which were originally called Hampden, but which had their names changed, and several towns still have a Hampden Street.

But full details of this will have to wait for an issue of *'The Patriot'* after my return home in March." *[Roy Bailey]*

Reprinting the John Adair Biography of The Patriot:

Before Roy left on his trip to New Zealand, he asked me to look into the possibility of having John Adair's acclaimed biography of John Hampden published in paperback form. Since any copies that become available cost between £22 and £25, it seemed eminently sensible, and with the Author's [also of course our President] permission, and the Committee's agreement, I contacted a publishing house, Thorogood, which had previously worked with John Adair. I am pleased to announce that the Society has reached agreement with John Adair and the publisher Thorogood and this edition will hopefully be available before 21st June, John Hampden Day in Wendover. The initial print run will be one thousand books. Further details will be announced in a future edition of The Patriot, but it is expected that the book will retail for £12.99. It has been necessary for the Society to underwrite this transaction to some extent, but if you all buy a copy, we will see our commitment quickly reimbursed. This is because John Adair has generously waived some of his royalties, which is very advantageous to us. We are greatly indebted to him. *[Bob Hammond]*

Shield and Buckler:

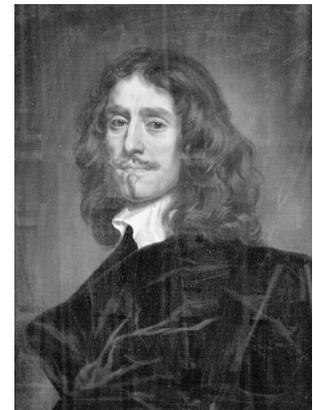
At the AGM last year I gave a talk on the first years of the Long Parliament. Part of that talk gave details of a challenge to one of the Norfolk members. Both Hampden and Pym were involved. I believe the reporting of this adds something to our understanding of John Hampden.

The Parliament opened on November 3rd 1640 and those in opposition to the King greatly outnumbered his supporters. There was an overwhelming optimism that at last reform was achievable and that the outcome of this Parliament would provide lasting happiness in the Country, after seventeen years of misgovernment by Charles. Hyde mentions Pym, Hampden and St. John as being the **principal drivers** of this Parliament.

On the 7th November a number of members presented petitions from the Counties and Boroughs, reciting the burdens and oppressions under which they had laboured for so long. Amongst them was Sir John Holland, a Deputy Lieutenant of Norfolk, and the only member from that County to figure with any prominence in the early debates.

Although he was strong in his Puritan faith, he was married to a Roman Catholic. In spite of his speech with its harsh words against the Catholics and their priests, there were those who viewed him with great suspicion. Pym moved that all those who were married to a Catholic should cease to be Deputy Lieutenants of their Counties. Holland stung by this, rose again, saying 'he admitted the disaffection of his wife in point of religion', but stressed his own complete loyalty. After a period of debate Hampden moved that, because Holland had behaved 'so frankly and ingenuously with the House, he should remain a Deputy Lieutenant' and this was agreed by vote of the House.

However, the issue rumbled on, and was soon raised again. This time Holland made a longer speech, pointing out that 'consciences were in God's hands and that he firmly believed that God in his time will open her eyes' to which end he was working as well.



Sir John Holland

'Once again the generous minded Hampden used his influence in Holland's favour. On his proposition, the House declared full confidence in their colleague; 'which was done unanimously' wrote Holland, 'and stands to this day entered at large upon the journal of the House of Commons and was my shield and buckler in those dangerous times.'

Hampden's defence of Holland depicts graphically how his own judgment could not be overborne by others, even Pym. It is often written how Pym was the supreme governor of the House of Commons, but we see here how Hampden's moderation and generosity was a great tactical advantage preventing Pym's over zealous attitude from damaging their cause. No doubt there were many like Holland who would have been reassured by this. We have another example in the trial of Strafford. There were, I am sure, other occasions, and this was what Hyde was seeing when he wrote of Hampden 'as the pilot that must steer their vessel through the tempests and rocks which threatened it.' It is only too obvious how Pym was taking his party into the eye of the storm. Hampden saw that. After my talk, our treasurer, Sam Hearn, made the point that this was also an attack on Henrietta Maria, who was a Catholic. That is interesting and I certainly agree that some in the House would have relished the comparison.

Perhaps I should write a little more on Sir John Holland. Not surprisingly he never changed his wife's mind. All eleven children, however, were brought up in the Puritan faith. According to Ketton-Cremer, from whose work I have derived much for this article, it was a happy union apart from the religious difference. Holland was a moderate man who sought to help his neighbours who found themselves in difficulties for supporting the King. He was an active member and sat on many commissions, some dealing with Charles. He lived to the age of 98 and was the last surviving member of the Long Parliament.

As a footnote for members, like myself, whose knowledge of body armour of the period is limited, I should explain that a buckler is a small round shield attached to armour on the elbow, presumably to give extra protection to the sword-bearing arm.

That in Italics is taken directly from 'Norfolk in the Civil War' by R.W. Ketton-Cremer and it has been most helpful in writing this article. It is a fine work. *[Bob Hammond]*

Unusual Web Site:

A request was received from Mrs Jackie Hodges of Carbis Bay, Cornwall, that her web site might be advertised in the next issue of *The Patriot*. This is a most unusual site, consisting of a patchwork quilt in 9 panels, each containing information about the Civil War in Cornwall, together with, on panel 4, a representation of the Ship Money incident, a blazer badge of Thame and her John Hampden badge. The web-site address is www.jacquiscrazyquilts.co.uk. Have a look - it is quite unusual and very ingenious.

COMING EVENTS

AGM - date to be announced.

Wendover Day - June 21st to be followed by

Annual Dinner at The Spread Eagle, Thame - June 21st.

ARTICLES FOR SALE

A copy of John Adair's book "John Hampden The Patriot". This copy of the much sought after publication is in good condition and is offered for sale it for sale at the bargain price of £20. If you are interested, please contact Mr Sam Hearn on: 020 8995 2666. e-mail: sam.hearn@btinternet.com



And to end this edition, a view of some of the guests looking forward to an afternoon of feasting and entertainment at the Anniversary Banquet

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STOP PRESS: Received just in time for publication: Roy Bailey and Hugh Muldrew in New Zealand, preparing to talk about John Hampden