



THE PATRIOT



Newsletter of the John Hampden Society
No. 35 - Spring 2003

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

"Great and Joyful News out of Wendover" (possibly)

JOHN HAMPDEN DAY - Saturday 21st June by Vice-Chairman Bob Hammond

It has come as a bit of a surprise to realise there are only a few weeks to go until John Hampden Day in Wendover.

After all, it was only in February last year that **Valerie Horne** first mentioned to me her vision of having a memorial to John Hampden in Wendover, the town he was elected to represent five times, and then went on to outline the considerable support she had already enlisted.

This included Mike Griffin, Chairman of Aylesbury Vale District Council Development Control - whose family had erected the Aylesbury Statue - and Barrie Searle, the longest serving and most influential Wendover District Councillor.

I was both taken aback and delighted; it was also less than a year after that seminal moment for the Society when **Roy Bailey** and **Graham Barfield** had planned and brilliantly executed the first of our memorials in Grampound Here then was to be a second for us in two years; the aims of our Society were being truly met.

In due course Wendover Parish Council showed themselves to be equally enthusiastic about the memorial and appointed an experienced councillor, Judith Myers, to liaise with **Valerie**. The indefatigable **Mrs Horne** also made a good contact with the respected editor of *The Wendover News*, Jane Larkham who, seeing how good this would be for Wendover, set about including monthly articles from **Valerie**. This has made John Hampden Day a talking point in Wendover.

I was made aware of this when, at a pre-Christmas party, two of the ladies present started to talk about what they were going to wear on the Day, and then their husbands also. Eventually the Parish Council and then the District Council each contrib-



uted £250 to the cost of the memorial. And of course **Graham Barteld**, who we can always rely on, gave great support in the design and production of the memorial, all at his own charge, even to the extent of becoming a stonemason for the roundel of John Hampden. This is similar to the Thame one, but I am sure with **Graham's** own individual imprint.

Michael Malone has arranged that Great Kimble Church will open on the morning. The importance of a visit there on such a day cannot be overstated. At that little Buckinghamshire church came a defining moment in Hampden's life as well as eventually of the British Constitution.

Mrs Sarah Nicholson has kindly agreed to open her garden on the the Heron Path. Very lovely it is too, with plenty of TLC. This is where the lawyer and antiquary William Hakewill lived. He did much to help Hampden, some of which we know. He was twenty years senior to Hampden

and evidence is being gathered which suggests that he was Hampden's mentor early in the latter's Parliamentary career.

One of the fascinating aspects of this occasion has been to make some members look closer at events in Hampden's life and his associates such as Hakewill.

Sam Hearn, our Treasurer, and **June Wailling**, who works at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, have begun to delve deeply and I hope we will soon be seeing some articles in *'The Patriot'*. Our stalwart Colonel **Derek Lester** will be there with a detachment of the Greencoats to add colour, authenticity and dignity to the occasion. Many members of the Society will be in period costume, as I believe will many people from Wendover.

Not content with having arranged so much, **Valerie Horne** also wanted to have an authentic 17th century fair on the Manor Waste. Although she worked on this for almost a year, the Parish Council recently discovered that they could not support that aspect of the day because their public liability insurers were asking too liigh a premium.

They have kindly offered us the use of the Manor Waste, but we have to decline this, since, although we hope soon to have a public liability insurance (this is being looked at with some urgency), correct protocol would not be served.

Although a disappointment, we are still left with what promises to be a terrific day with costume, colour, lots to do and above all the unveiling of the John Hampden Memorial by **Miles, Earl of Buckinghamshire**.

So still good and joyful news from Wendover, thanks to **Valerie Horne**, her fellow enthusiasts and enablers.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

by

Hon. Secretary Anthea Coles

The AGM took place, as usual, at Hampden House on 6th April 2003, with a total of 17 members of the Society being present.

In his Chairman's report Lord Hollenden noted that the Society, now in its 11th year, had had yet another active and successful period promoting its aims.

He commented on the forthcoming reprint, in paperback form, of John Adair's book 'John Hampden the Patriot', which it is hoped will be available in June and he mentioned a new initiative which the Society are at present exploring, namely an award to a student from Buckinghamshire producing the best essay or piece of work relating to John Hampden or to the Civil War Period.

This project is still at a very early stage but it is hoped to progress the idea in the fairly near future.

Hon Treasurer Sam Hearn reported on the Society accounts and the various items of expenditure that had arisen during the year. He also reported on the success of the recent ballot of members on the question of applying for Charity status, with 87 replies being received from 134 members.

All replies were in favour of the application and Mr Hearn asked the meeting to consider two resolutions: that the Society should proceed with its application and secondly that the new draft constitution should be adopted immediately if the application is successful. Both of these resolutions were passed unanimously.

Membership Secretary Liz Morris, reported on the current state of membership. She commented on the difficulties she was

encountering collecting the correct subscriptions, as a number of members had not amended their standing orders. She had a number of members to contact over this but was working her way through the list.

Four members of the Executive Committee had indicated that they would not be standing for re-election, Mr John and Mrs Gillian Goodall, Mr Graham Barfield and Mr Roy Bailey. All other members were prepared to continue in office and were re-elected, and three Society members agreed to stand for election, Mrs Joan and Mr Mike Portsmouth and Mr Michael Malone. These three members were proposed, seconded and unanimously voted onto the committee.

Mrs Valerie Home gave a short talk on the forthcoming Wendover Day into which she has put a considerable amount of effort to bring to fruition, to celebrate the unveiling of a plaque at Wendover to commemorate John Hampden.

A forthcoming programme of events includes, on 11th May, a Walk round Civil War Oxford, organised by The Battlefields Trust, 21st June - Wendover Day, followed by the Society's Annual Dinner at The Spread Eagle in Thame.

The Bucks Local History Fair is normally held in October and information on the date and venue were awaited. The Society has several bookings to give talks to different organisations during the coming 12 months.

The meeting closed with a very interesting talk on the towns of Hampden in New Zealand by Mr Roy Bailey, who had just returned from a four-month antipodean sabbatical.

HAMPDEN IN WENDOVER

As a result of her enquiries, Mrs June Wailing received the following e-mail from Dr Paul Hunneyball of the History of Parliament Trust:

Dear Ms. Wailing,

Thank you for your enquiry about John Hampden's parliamentary representation of Wendover.

We haven't as yet written Hampden's biography here, but according to our files, he sat for Wendover in the Parliaments of 1624, 1625, 1626 and 1628-9. The borough was not in fact re-enfranchised until 4 May 1624, by a vote of the House of Commons (cf. Journals of the House of Commons, vol. 1, p.697); Hampden's election return for that year does not survive, but the election is presumed to have taken place later in the same month. He was then re-elected for the same borough in the next three general elections.

Again the date of the 1625 election is lost (during this period general elections were conducted over the course of several weeks, so individual boroughs have different dates from each other). However, in 1626 Hampden was returned on 24 January, and in 1628 on 29 February (cf. Return of Members of Parliament, part 1, pp.462, 468,474).

Wendover at this date was of course a two-Member constituency. It appears that Hampden held the senior seat in 1625 and 1628, and the junior one in 1626 (the information is lacking for 1624).

It is often difficult to explain this kind of swapping around, but in this case the explanation may simply be that he was partnered in 1626 by Sir Sampson Darrell, his social superior, whereas his partners in 1625 and 1628 were Richard Hampden and Ralph Hawtrey respectively. I hope that this gives you sufficient information for your present purposes.

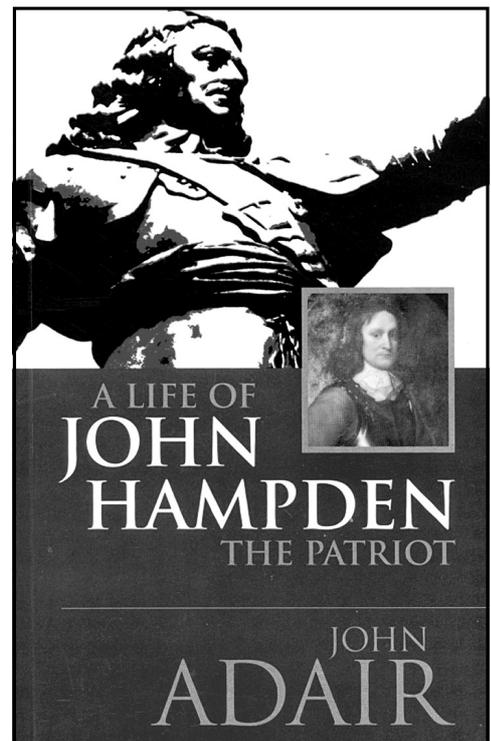
If we can be of further assistance please do let us know, but bear in mind that at the moment our own files on Hampden are a little thin!

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DIARY		DATES
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2003
Sat 7 June Worcester 1651. A walk around the battlefield of Worcester, organised by the Battlefields Trust. See our web site or phone 01280824877 for details.
Sat 21 June John Hampden Day in Wendover. For details and timings see 'Goode and Joyful Newes out of Ailesburie'. Followed by:
The Society's Annual Dinner at The Spread Eagle Hotel, Thame. 7.30pm for 8.
Fri 19 Sept A talk on John Hampden to Chess Valley Archaeological Society by Hon. Treasurer Sam Hearn at White Hill Education Centre, Chesham. All members of the Society are welcome.
All meetings commence at 8 pm, unless otherwise stated.
For up-to-date information, see the Diary page on the Society's website at:
www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm



The above is a reproduction of the cover of the new paperback re-print of Professor John Adair's 1976 biography of John Hampden.

Original hardback copies, of this seminal work have been eagerly snapped up by members, and we are confident that this new impression, which is being published by Thorogood at £12.99, will be even more popular.

Professor Adair has included some updated material supplied by members of the Society, and we also have a mention, so the appearance of this book, with its attractive full colour cover with a maroon background, should promote increased interest in both John Hampden and the Society.

Copies should be on sale at the Society's stand at Wendover on 21st June.

OBITUARY

Cynthia Beaumont 1904-2002

The death has occurred of a former John Hampden Society member, Miss Cynthia Beaumont, at the age of 98.

Miss Beaumont was born at Great Hampden in November 1904 to a family with deep roots in the area. Her mother was a Beauchamp, daughter of the land agent for the Hampden Estate, and her great-grandfather was rector of Great Hampden.

Cynthia's other great-grandfather married the daughter of the rector of Bradenham, and the bride was given a gold necklace by Isaac Disraeli, who lived at Bradenham Manor and was father of the famous Benjamin, Earl of Beaconsfield. This necklace was Cynthia's most treasured possession.

Cynthia Beaumont never married and for the last 15 years of her life lived at the Cherry Trees Nursing Home at Saunderton, near Princes Risborough, where she died on New Year's Eve last year. She is buried at Great Hampden.

Roy Bailey writes: Cynthia Beaumont became a member of the Society some years ago, and displayed a keen interest in our activities, corresponding frequently. When she was forced to terminate her membership for financial reasons, we continued sending her *'The Patriot'* as a gesture.

Following the Society's Spring Lunch at the Chiltern Brewery in March 1999, Annabel and I decided to visit her. Cherry Trees is difficult to find, being much nearer Princes Risborough than Saunderton, despite its address, but our search was well rewarded.

Although grievously crippled with arthritis, which had confined her to her room for the previous 17 years, Cynthia proved to be a bright and lively old lady, with a keen interest in all that was going on in the world outside.

1999 was the time of the 'dotcom' boom, and Cynthia was fascinated by this. 'I don't know what it means', she said, 'but I now sign all my letters - love Cynthia.com!'

A wonderful lady.

UPDATE ON CHARITY STATUS

The decision to register the Society was unanimously supported by the large number of members who returned their ballot papers. The result of the ballot was announced at the AGM and it was unanimously agreed that the application for registration should be submitted to the Charity Commission.

A positive response was received from the Charity Commission on the 16th April. They asked however that we amend the Society's three objectives because the draft objectives "are not expressed in a manner that is wholly and exclusively charitable according to law".

These revised objectives will be discussed and voted on at a special general meeting of members. We have arranged this meeting to coincide with the events in Wendover on 21st June, and a notice to members is enclosed.

The Charity Commission has also asked that we "provide some independent expert evidence as to the educational merit of [studying] John Hampden". Your Committee has contacted a number of appropriately qualified people who are able to provide such an endorsement. If members are able to obtain any additional endorsements then please arrange for them to be forwarded to



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Members might like to visit the website of The Sutton Hoo Society at www.suttonhoo.org to see the kind of information that a small history-orientated charity makes available to its members and the Charity Commission

A MUSEUM FOR THAME?

The possibility of a museum for Thame, which would almost certainly contain a large section on John Hampden, has moved a step closer.

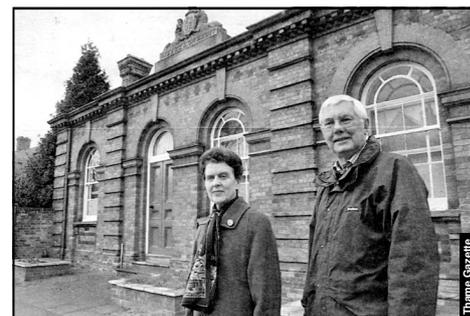
Under the chairmanship of **Maurice Kirtland**, Thame Historical Society is promoting the idea, and an application to site the museum in the recently-redundant magistrates' court in Lower High Street is being made by Thame Town Council to Oxfordshire County Council, who own the building.

In a recent interview with The Thame Gazette, Mr Kirtland, who believes that volunteers would be found to set up exhibits and supervise the museum's running, said, 'The society has lots of donated items which could go on display in the museum and many people from Thame have approached us saying they have items they could loan or donate.'

Interest in a museum intensified after the John Hampden Society and Thame Historical Society held a highly-successful exhibition in the Masonic Hall in June 2000. As a result the historical society wrote to the town council suggesting that the town should have a museum, but there were financial and siting problems at the time. The old courthouse is big enough to also house the tourist information centre, at present operating from a small building in Upper High Street.

'The courthouse is the ideal building as it's in an historic part of Thame,' Mr Kirtland said. 'It would help bring tourism to this historic town and would also give schools a valuable source for local history projects. If you compare the size of Thame to other similar sized towns in Oxfordshire, such as Witney, Wallingford and

Chipping Norton, most of them have a museum. The courthouse would only need limited renovations to turn it into a museum so would not cost a lot of money as the toilets, disabled access and fire escapes are all there. It would be nice if the building was retained for the use of people of Thame.'



Maurice Kirtland and Thame Historical Society vice-chairman Rosalie Gibson outside the courthouse

Thame Town Council, who are keen to see the courthouse retained for community use, have held a meeting to discuss the plan and have suggested a survey be sent out to households to gauge public support. If the proposal is agreed by the County Council, a trust will be formed to apply for grant aid.

'This is an ideal opportunity to provide a museum for the town together with a new information centre,' said Town Clerk Mrs Pat Kingsnorth.

This information was taken from an article by Louise Riddiough published, together with the photograph, in The Thame Gazette on 11th April.



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