



# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of The John Hampden Society

No 36 – Summer/Autumn 2003

September 2003.

**THE COMMITTEE APOLOGISES TO ALL SOCIETY MEMBERS:**

It is with our heartfelt apologies that we are producing another interim newsletter. Unfortunately a number of technical problems have delayed the publication of the normal edition of *The Patriot*, including a bad attack of computer viruses. Hopefully these difficulties will be resolved in the near future, and a bumper colour edition of *The Patriot* should land on your doormat later in the year.

We take this opportunity to thank those members who telephoned to enquire whether their names have been accidentally removed from the mailing list – it is gratifying to know that you have noticed the lack of newsletter and taken the trouble to enquire what has happened to it.

The following items are a brief resume of Society activities this year.

**WENDOVER DAY:**



This was a wonderful day, with perfect weather for the unveiling of the memorial to John Hampden on the wall of the Library. The event was extremely well attended with many people arriving in period costume, which all added to the general excitement of the event. This event will be covered in full in the next newsletter



No prizes for guessing who!

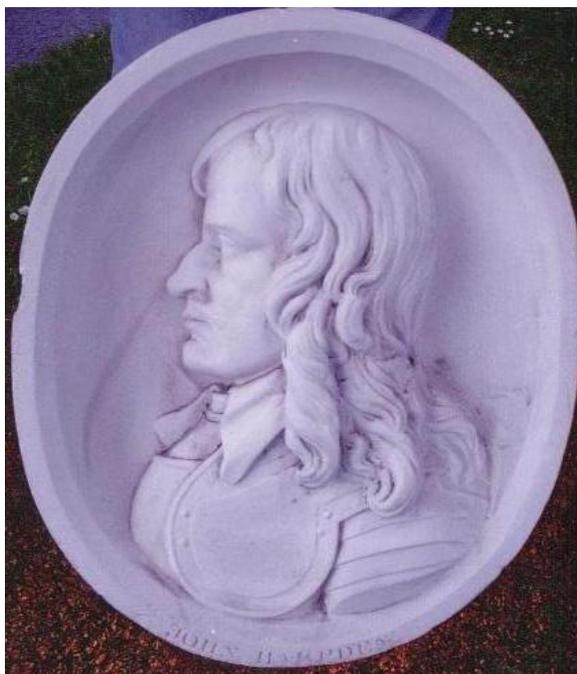
At last Wendover has a memorial to John Hampden



Three local ladies, suitably attired for the event.



## NORFOLK LOFT DISCOVERY SPARKS DEBATE !



The owner of a sixteenth century farmhouse near Norwich made a remarkable discovery whilst clearing out his loft. He stumbled across a large object that had lain undisturbed for at least 27 years and perhaps considerably longer.

The object is a plaster cast profile-bust or plaque of John Hampden. It is some 770mm by 650mm and weighs over 30 Kgs. There are no distinguishing marks on either its front or back apart from the name "John Hampden" visible in the photo in the centre of the rim at the bottom. There is a metal strip affixed to the top of the object presumably to assist in attaching it to a wall.

Research by Maurice Kirtland has confirmed that the plaque is identical to the plaque on display at The John Hampden School, Thame. It was previously part of the Thame Girls Grammar School that was demolished in the 1970s.

Derek Lester has identified a link between the Norfolk and the Thame plaques and the battlefield monument at Chalgrove. Derek has discovered that the plaques are exact copies of the marble plaque by Scoulter (a pupil of the more famous Westmacott) that forms part of the monument itself.

It would therefore seem reasonable to assume that the plaster casts were made from the marble original and cannot therefore have been manufactured any later than 1843 when the Chalgrove monument was erected.

Marjory Trusted, Senior Curator of Sculpture, at the Victoria and Albert Museum has advised the Society that plaster casts are extremely difficult to date but that given this object's provenance it is unlikely to be a modern fake.

An acquaintance of the owner familiar with the importance of *The Patriot* has persuaded him to offer it to the Society before seeking to sell it elsewhere. The owner would accept £800 but does not wish to negotiate.

The owner has kindly entrusted the custody of the plaque to the Society. Members wishing to view it should contact the Treasurer, Sam Hearn on 020 8995 2666 (Home) or 020 8781 9896 (work).

The Executive Committee has discussed the plaque and has been unable to agree that the Society should purchase it. Members have made generous donations in recent years but the Committee felt it would be unreasonable to make a further request for funds so soon after the erection of the Wendover Plaque.

However should one or more members wish to purchase it for the Society the Committee felt sure a suitable home could be found for it. The Committee is also making tentative approaches to appropriate bodies that may like to buy the plaque.

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### ANNUAL DINNER:

As usual a very enjoyable evening at The Spread Eagle in Thame, and a fitting culmination to the excitement and hard work of Wendover Day, brought to a close by three short, extremely interesting, talks on the three ladies in the life of John Hampden. The food was, as usual, superb.



Vice-Chairman Bob Hammond giving one of the three after dinner talks

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## JOHN HAMPDEN PORTRAIT?



Whilst researching at the National Portrait Gallery for information on Sir Arthur Goodwin and his son-in-law Lord Wharton, I came across a portrait of John Hampden that I had not seen before. Accompanying the portrait copy were two letters from a John Benett-Stanford of Pyt House, Tisbury, Wiltshire. The first letter is dated 1908 and it read thus:

*“Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> 1908*

*Marcus Dimsdale Esq  
Messrs Smith Elder & Co.  
15 Waterloo Place  
LONDON, SW.*

*Dear Sir.,*

*I have been reading with great interest your article in the July Cornhill Magazine on Hampden. The last paragraph of this specially struck me. I have in this house an exceedingly old picture of John Hampden by some unknown artist and if ever you care to come to this portion of England I shall be delighted to show it to you.*

*This picture has probably been in this house since the time it was painted, as during the Civil War particularly two Bennett Brothers took opposite sides. The one who owned this place being Secretary to Prince Rupert a leading Cavalier; the brother who owned Norton Bavant being a Roundhead.*

*Curiously enough the eldest son of the Roundhead married the only child and daughter of the Cavalier and thus reuniting the two families.*

*If my wife can take a satisfactory photograph of the picture I will forward you one in a few days.*

*Yours faithfully.,*

*[signed] JOHN BENETT-STANFORD.”*

The second letter is dated 1912 [and presumably his wife had now taken the necessary photograph!]

*“17/6/1912*

*The Curator  
National Portrait Gallery  
Trafalgar Square, London, S.W.*

*Dear Sir.,*

*I enclose you a photograph of a picture that we have had for many years at Pythouse with the name of John Hampden underneath it.*

*A man, who is somewhat of an authority on Cromwellian records was looking at this picture with me the other day and he stated he believed the name was incorrect, and that it appeared to him that the name John Hampden was not at all right.*

*Could you trace this with any picture you have and let me know if in any way it is similar?*

*The clutches somewhat resemble those worn by the Cromwellians, but the hair barely does.*

*I should be very grateful to you if this portrait if in any way resembles any picture you have got of this man.*

*Yours truly.,*

*[signed] JOHN BENETT-STANFORD.”*

Both letters are interesting. In the first John Bennet-Stanford is saying he has “an old picture of John Hampden by some unknown artist”. He goes on “The picture has probably been in the house since the time it was painted, etc”. He then goes on to describe the classic Civil War story of a family with divided loyalties.

In the second letter he has now been advised that it is not John Hampden and, because the hair is long, it could not possibly be a Cromwellian!

My wife and I decided to go to Tisbury to see what we could find out locally. We arrived on the day of the Annual Carnival, which meant we were unable to drive around and locate Pyt House. A policeman suggested we make enquiries at the nearby antique shop as the owner had knowledge of the local history. Indeed she did. She was most interested in our search for the Hampden portrait and suggested we talk to the present owner of the dower house of Pyt House.

As soon as the Carnival was over, we made our way to the Dower House and were confronted by a man riding his horse. I quickly explained our mission. He advised us that he did not possess the portrait and went on to explain that the Bennett-Stanford’s removed many items down to Preston Manor in Brighton.

A few weeks ago we visited Preston Manor with high expectations of seeing this portrait hanging on one of their walls. Alas, no such luck, as in 1957 there was a large sale of many items, including several portraits. However, I have been in contact with the Curator of the Brighton and Pavilion Museums. He is currently checking to see if this portrait was sold and to whom, and maybe, just maybe, it is languishing in their store room at Peacehaven!

So for the moment the mystery remains – is it John Hampden – could it be one of his sons? Perhaps we will never know, but for the moment I will keep digging. *[Mike Portsmouth]*

## **SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS:**

The reprint of John Adair's renowned book "A Life of John Hampden: The Patriot" was available in paperback form in time for Wendover Day and several copies have been sold. This reprint includes a foreword written by the Earl of Buckinghamshire and represents excellent value for money, costing just £10 if purchased from the Society, or £12.99 from Booksellers.

Derek Lester, whose book "The Controversy of John Hampden's Death" has now sold in the region of 900 copies, will shortly be publishing his latest book, based on the newspaper reports concerning the raising of the monument at Chalgrove. Derek has reported that this publication is ready to go, lacking only a design for the cover, with which he is currently seeking assistance.

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## **CHESS VALLEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORY SOCIETY**

A talk was given by Sam Hearn on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September to the CVAHS on "John Hampden and his times". He was ably assisted by his sister Rachel Howes who operated the slide projector. Around thirty people attended the talk at The Whitehill Centre, in Chesham. The audience was most attentive and the talk was followed by a lengthy question and answer session. There were some interesting insights into the impact of ship-money on the people of Chesham.

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## **TAX BENEFITS**

The Charity Commission have written to the Society advising that its name was entered on the Register of Charities on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2003. Our registered charity number is 1098314.

The most immediate benefit of registration for the Society is that we will be able to claim gift-aid relief from the Inland Revenue on all subscriptions and donations to the Society by UK taxpayers. The Society will receive 28p for every £1.00 paid to it by members via the gift-aid scheme.

In order for the Society to obtain this relief each member who is a UK taxpayer must complete a gift-aid form and return it to The Treasurer at 134 Park Road, Chiswick W4 3HP. A blank gift-aid form is included for you to complete and return. This need only be done once. The process of completing the form is very simple so please do not delay, find a pen fill the form in and return it today!

If you are uncertain about anything connected with the gift-aid scheme then please do not hesitate to contact Sam Hearn the Treasurer, on 020 8995 2666.

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## **ANNUAL AWARD:**

This is an idea that the Society is working on at present and hopefully more details will be available shortly. The general idea is to interest local, and eventually, nationwide, schools in John Hampden, by offering a prize for the best essay or work produced by pupils, either collectively or individually, on the life and times of John Hampden.

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## **MEMBERSHIP:**

The Society has a membership of 141 and an up-to-date list is attached for your information. If you know anyone who would be interested in joining, an application form can be obtained from the Membership Secretary, Liz Morris, on 01296 482448. Subscriptions are currently:

	<b><u>British Isles</u></b>	<b><u>Overseas</u></b>
Adult Membership	£10.00	£10.00
Under 18s	£ 5.00	£ 7.50
Joint Membership	£15.00	£18.00
Family Membership	£24.00	£30.00

Liz says that she is still receiving standing orders at the at the wrong rate. As we are now a Registered Charity it is important that everyone is paying at the correct renewal rate.

Liz will be writing to those members whose subscriptions have not been updated in the next few weeks and she will be grateful if they can give the matter their urgent attention.

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## **CHRISTMAS CARDS:**

Thanks to the generosity of Michael Griffin the Society were given permission to reproduce a line drawing by Gladys Crook, a well-known local artist, of the John Hampden Statue, which stands in Market Square, Aylesbury. This statue was presented to Buckinghamshire as a Coronation gift by James Griffin, a relative of Mike's and was unveiled in 1912. This drawing has been reproduced as a limited edition card and is available for sale to Society members at a cost of £1.25 each, 5 for £5 or 20 for £10. Post & packing is £1 for five cards and envelopes or £1.40 for 10 cards and envelopes. The cards would make an ideal and unusual Christmas card or collectors item. To order, please contact Bob Hammond on 01844 260322

## **PUBLICATIONS:**

The Society hold stocks of the following publications and products:

**1. *A Life of John Hampden The Patriot*** by Dr John Adair – A reprint in paperback form of this well-known and popular book, with a foreword by the Earl of Buckinghamshire. £10.00 if purchased from the Society or £12.99 from booksellers.

**2. *John Hampden of Buckinghamshire – The People's Hero*** by Frank Hansford- Miller. £2.50

**3. *The Controversy of John Hampden's Death*** by Derek Lester and Gill Blackshaw. £3.50

**4. *The Hampden Lectures*** – a 32-page, full colour booklet produced in association with the John Hampden Society by the company that owns Hampden House. It contains a number of portraits claiming to be of John Hampden; the text of the talk given by Dr John Adair at Hampden House on 26<sup>th</sup> June 1993 [together with the question and answer session afterwards]; notes on the history and restoration of Hampden House; and some information [now somewhat out of date] about the Society itself. £3.00

**5. *The Battle of Chalgrove Field*** – A print on A4 cream vellum-style paper, of the battle where John Hampden received his death wound. First published in Dr John Adair's 1976 biography of Hampden, and reproduced by kind permission of the author. Ideal for framing. £1.50.

**6. *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

**7. *Colour Postcard*** – A full –colour postcard of the Walker portrait of John Hampden, with details of Hampden and the Society on the reverse. £1.50

**8. *Badge*** - An attractive enamel badge mounted on metal and bearing the portrait of John Hampden in colour. £1.50.

You can order any of these products 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 to 3] otherwise add £1.00.

Items 4 to 7 are post free if ordered with any of the books, otherwise add 50p per order. Cheques/Postal Orders to be made payable to ***The John Hampden Society.***

## **MEMBER PARTICIPATION:**

Over the last few months a variety of questions have been received, mainly by e-mail, from Society members and other people visiting the Society web-site [www.hampden.org]. Some of these questions have been raised in connection with historical research being carried out and others have been to satisfy the curiosity of the person contacting us, on a point about which they are not certain. Whilst we are not always able to immediately supply an answer, questions are forwarded to all Committee members, for attention, some of whom are well placed to carry out the necessary research, and a reply is despatched as soon as possible to the questioner.

If you have any questions you would like to put to the Society, please feel free to make contact by whichever method is most convenient for you. We offer no guarantees, but will do our utmost to supply the requisite information.

Likewise, if anyone has any information that they think would be of interest to the Society members, concerning the life and times of John Hampden, please share this knowledge so that we can all benefit from your knowledge.

The Committee would also welcome any ideas about articles you would like to see included in future editions of ***The Patriot.***

Please address suggestions to the Secretary at Little Hampden, Cryers Hill, High Wycombe, HP15 6JS, e-mail: secretary:johnhampden.org



The Chalgrove Monument

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS:**

**2003**

**Saturday 11th October** - A talk on John Hampden by Vice-Chairman Bob Hammond at St Nicholas's Church, Great Kimble, commencing at 7.30 pm.

There will be an interval during which food and wine will be served, and also a display of John Hampden memorabilia. Following the talk there will be a recital of 17th century music by the John Gill Group.

The Friends of Great Kimble Church will be making an admission charge of £5.00 for this event; the proceeds of which will go towards the restoration of the church.

**Sunday 19th October** - 'Wreath-laying at Edgehill'. The Sealed Knot Society have for many years organised a wreath-laying at Edgehill on the Sunday closest to the 23rd of October. The ceremony takes place inside the Army depot, just off the Kington-Edgehill road at 11am. For security reasons, all wishing to attend must return the form on which names should be clearly printed. This year there will be a guided tour of the battlefield, leaving from the Castle Inn, Edgehill, at 1.30pm. This will be led by members of the Battlefields Trust.

(This event is organised by the Middle Anglia branch of The Battlefields Trust. The form mentioned can be downloaded from our web-site either as a **Word 6** or an **Acrobat PDF** file.) [[www.johnhampden.org](http://www.johnhampden.org)]

**2004**

**Thursday 29th July** A talk on John Hampden to the Thames branch of The University of the Third Age at Thames Football Club, Windmill Lane, commencing at 10 am.

**All meetings commence at 8 pm, unless otherwise stated**



The Ship Money monument at Prestwood

  
**The Spread Eagle Hotel** AA \*\*\* RSG  
THAME  
OXFORDSHIRE  
OX9 2BW  
TELEPHONE (01844) 213661  
ACCOMMODATION, RESTAURANT &  
BANQUETING

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**The John Hampden Society**  
Little Hampden  
Cryers Hill  
High Wycombe, Bucks, HP15 6JS  
Tel: 01494 562279  
Fax: 01494 474227  
e-mail: [enquiries@johnhampden.org](mailto:enquiries@johnhampden.org)  
Web Site: [www.johnhampden.org/](http://www.johnhampden.org/)

  
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**The Chiltern Brewery**  
Nash Lee Road  
Terrick, Aylesbury  
Buckinghamshire HP17 0TQ  
Tel: 01296 613647  
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