



# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society  
No. 87 - Summer 2018



The John Hampden Society is a registered charity which 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

## A RETURN TO THE FRAY

We apologise to all our readers for the long gap between this edition of *The Patriot* and edition no. 86. We hope that normal service can now be resumed. The absence of a newsletter has not however been because members of the Society have ceased to be active. Indeed, in part it has been because the trustees have been engaged in other Society activities that there has no been time to produce a newsletter. As always, we would appreciate members' feedback on this edition of *The Patriot* and indeed any ways for improving it. Many past editions have been enhanced by contributions from members and we would be grateful to receive any appropriate material, from images to recipes, reports to research.

**Sam Hearn**

## 25th ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

The highlight of the Society's year was the well-attended anniversary banquet held at Hampden House on 7th October 2017. A time to reflect on the achievements of the last quarter century and to look forward to the next 25 years.

Local MP and Deputy Prime Minister David Liddington, (*pictured right*), was our speaker and guest of honour. The splendid seventeenth-century food prepared and served by historic catering expert Stuart Peachey and his team was washed down with John Hampden's Ale donated by the Chiltern Brewery.

This was an occasion when the Society could thank those many people and organisations who have been so helpful to us over the years. Particular thanks are due to Tim Oliver for allowing us to use Hampden House for this unique and very special event.

As our picture bottom right shows, our Patron proved to be a great hit with two young ladies!



## CHALGROVE BATTLEFIELD

The John Hampden Society and the Battlefields Trust continue to monitor developments that might threaten the battlefield. The proposal to construct a massive housing development on the airfield site appears to have been watered down. No houses will apparently be built on the battlefield site itself and a buffer zone with natural screening will be created to protect the setting and the views of the battlefield.

## THE 2018 AGM



The Society's Annual General Meeting (*below right*) was held at Thame Museum on Saturday 14th April. Members had an opportunity to look around the Museum and see the artefacts on loan from the Society. During the visit Anthea Coles made an additional loan to the Museum on behalf of the Society – a lead tobacco jar of probable seventeenth-century provenance. This item is now on display in the case housing the model of the Civil War soldier (*left*).



The tobacco jar (*above*) was donated to the Society by Mr Frank Manning whose father-in-law had unearthed it many years ago whilst farming land that forms part of the famous Chalgrove Battlefield.

Yet again the AGM was sparsely attended but members were in good spirits. Elections for the Executive Committee resulted in the following:

Chairman - Roy Bailey  
Hon. Secretary - Mrs Anthea Coles  
Hon. Treasurer - Sam Hearn  
Membership Secretary - Philip Broomfield

Lord Buckinghamshire remains as an ex-officio committee member, and Steve Barriff continues in the post of Webmaster.

## THE 2017 AGM



Our formal annual meeting was held in Old Amersham's historic Market Hall. Amersham was one of the three Buckinghamshire boroughs successfully re-enfranchised through John Hampden's efforts.

Several members of the Society enjoyed a guided tour of historic Amersham and a pub lunch before the AGM. Our pictures shows them underneath the Market Hall.

Attendance at the meeting was disappointing. The list of apologies for non-attendance was longer than the list of attendees. Roy Bailey advised the meeting that in his opinion the Society really could not survive and flourish in its present form without the active involvement of more of its members.

## TALKS

The Society continues to provide speakers for local history and community groups. The latest talk was given by Roy Bailey in July 2018 to the Beaconsfield Probus Group. The venue, appropriately enough, was a local night-club called 'Revolution'.

In October 2017 Sam Hearn delivered a talk to the Hampton Society in Twickenham on Dame Sybil Penn (nee Hampden), John Hampden's famous great x 2 aunt.

Miles Buckinghamshire gave a talk in March 2017 about his illustrious ancestor to the Hampden Lodge of the Thame Freemasons.

Further talks are planned for the future.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Conscience Is My Crown

by  
Patricia M. Claus

ISBN 9780852448809 228pp

#### CONSCIENCE IS MY CROWN

A Family's Heroic Witness  
in an Age of Intolerance



Patricia W. Claus

2017 saw the long-awaited publication of Patricia Claus's excellent book. Full of detailed and fascinating research the book follows the interconnected lives of four men who played pivotal roles in the religious and political struggles of sixteenth- and seventeenth-century England.

John Hampden's friend and relative the Reverend Robert Lenthall left England's shores for the New World, only to return home, disillusioned, barely three years later. Two of the Reverend's relatives, the Speaker of the House of Commons William Lenthall, and the Speaker's uncle St Robert Southwell, also played their parts in the political and religious upheavals of the times.

The Speaker defended Hampden and four other men accused of treason by boldly asserting the rights of the House of Commons when Charles invaded it in January of 1642. His uncle St Robert Southwell, a Jesuit priest, poet and writer of some renown, paid the highest price of all these men for the freedom of conscience, dying as a martyr at Tyburn for the crime of being a Catholic priest.

*Sam Hearn*



## DIARY DATES

**2018**

**Sunday 2 Sept** Executive Committee meeting to be held at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel, Shillingford, Oxon OX10 8LZ commencing at 2 pm.

**Saturday 29 Sept** Buckinghamshire Local History Network 2018 Annual Conference and Fair, to be held at The Oculus, The Gateway, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8FF commencing at 10 am.

For up-to-date information, see the Diary page on the Society's website at:

[www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm](http://www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm)

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## THE 375th ANNIVERSARY OF HAMPDEN'S DEATH



Maurice Kirtland, Lord Buckinghamshire and Cllr Ann Midwinter

A brief ceremony to mark this event was held at Thame on Sunday 24th June. In attendance were a number of members of the Society and inhabitants of Thame. A wreath was laid by the Earl of Buckinghamshire, Patron of the Society, beneath the plaque marking the site of the house where Hampden died of his wounds. This was a repeat of the Society's first public event exactly 25 years earlier.

The Mayor of Thame, Councillor Mrs Ann Midwinter, said that John Hampden was very much a part of Thame's history and that Thame was also a part of Hampden's life, as he had attended Lord Williams's School and had died in the town.

Lord Buckinghamshire spoke about his ancestor's life and sterling qualities, and finished by quoting from Arthur Goodwin's letter to his daughter following the death of his lifelong friend.

## MEMBERSHIP

The annual membership subscription to the Society, payable on 1<sup>st</sup> January each year, is:

Single members	-	£15.00
Joint members	-	£20.00
Junior/students	-	£10.00

This newsletter is distributed free to members.

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## HAMPDEN'S MILITARY CAREER

Through the winter of 2016/17 a series of four well-attended talks were given at the Bucks County Museum under the auspices of the John Hampden Society and the Battlefields Trust.

The first talk was by military historian and long-standing member, Ian Beckett. He covered the impact of the Civil War period on Buckinghamshire both before and after Hampden's death. Members can refer to his 2015 book *Wanton Troopers: Buckinghamshire in the Civil Wars 1640-60* for a fuller account.

The remaining three talks were delivered by Simon Marsh (*right*), another military historian and member. He covered the battles of Edgehill, Turnham Green and Brentford, the siege of Reading and the running battle at Chalgrove. He was keen to place each engagement in its wider context and reflect on Hampden's role. The Society is grateful to Ian and Simon for these special talks which explored so thoroughly this key aspect of Hampden's life.

Tieing in with this is an essay entitled *John Hampden - War Leader?*, written by Jonathan Keen as his final year degree dissertation and available on the Society's website at: <http://www.johnhampden.org/war-leader-pdf/>.

Mr Keen concluded that 'It is an injustice of history that John Hampden's essential leadership role in the English Civil War has been so largely neglected. Perhaps the relatively understated nature of his role during the conflict has played a part in this. Conceivably, Hampden's discreet character and lack of obvious eccentricity have combined to make him inaccessible to historians. Perhaps the historical esteem in which Hampden was held in the nineteenth century led to a sense of academic complacency and resulted in a lack of relevant literature. Yet John Hampden was a successful and authoritative war leader, and his fundamental contribution to Parliament's ultimate victory should not be forgotten'.



## UP TO DATE



The John Hampden Society may exist to study the 17th century, but we use 21st century technology to help us in our work.

As well as Facebook, e-mail, digital photography, mobile phones, etc., we use Skype to enable committee members to avoid travelling long distances for meetings. Our picture shows members of the committee at their meeting on Sunday 25th March at the Shillingford Bridge Hotel in Oxfordshire.

Left to right in person are Steve Barriff, Roy Bailey, Anthea Coles and Sam Hearn, while Phil Broomfield is participating via Skype from his home in Bournemouth, 90 miles away.

We also have a committee WhatsApp group which was set up in May.

If you are interested in joining the Society's committee but are worried about getting to meetings, here is the answer.

## THE SHIP MONEY MONUMENT

Member Jim Rodda has been working with the Chiltern Society to improve the maintenance of the site of this nineteenth-century monument, which stands in Honor End Lane, Prestwood. A new information board has now been erected.

The Board has been designed by the Chiltern Society with the assistance of Jim Rodda and Sam Hearn. Visitors will now be able to read the text of the inscription on the monument and learn a little about John Hampden and Ship Money.

It is also the Chiltern Society's intention to install a rustic bench there in the near future, and they will consult the John Hampden Society as to the design.

Gavin Johnson of the Chiltern Society is pictured standing proudly beside the new board.



## THE GRAND REMONSTRANCE ANNIVERSARY



To mark the 375th anniversary of the passing of the Grand Remonstrance, the Trustees were able to arrange, through the Speaker's Office, the laying of a commemorative wreath on 22nd November 2016 at the foot of John Hampden's statue at the entrance to the Central Lobby in the Palace of Westminster.

Parliamentary business meant that the brief ceremony had to take place early in the morning. This was not a convenient time for many members, but three London-based members were able to make it.

Miles Buckinghamshire laid the wreath and gave a short address. He was accompanied by two students from Hampden-Sydney College who were visiting from the USA. Two Members of Parliament were also in attendance: Dominic Grieve the ex-Attorney General and the member for Beaconsfield, and Ruth Cadbury MP for Brentford and Isleworth.

The Grand Remonstrance remains a core constitutional document and Hampden's role in guiding it through the Commons was crucial.

## LADY IN RED

It is amazing how, in historical research, one discovery often leads to another – if you dig deep enough.

At the beginning of September our Membership Secretary, Philip Broomfield, posted a link to a picture (*right*) on the Rhode Island School of Design website. It was entitled *Portrait of a Lady of the Hampden Family*, and showed a young woman in a lavishly embroidered, pearl-encrusted gown draped with a deep pink shawl of taffeta, known as an 'Irish mantle'.

Philip wanted to know who she could be, and Hon. Treasurer Sam Hearn thought she might be John Hampden's aunt Elizabeth, wife of Sir Jerome Horsey MP. The History of Parliament website entry for Horsey confirmed this; she was Griffith Hampden's eldest daughter, had married Horsey in 1592 and died in 1607.

We had encountered this lady before; in late 2000 June Wailing sent us a copy of the picture, which had appeared on the cover of a magazine entitled *The English Gentlewoman*. We featured the picture and story in *The Patriot* no. 30 but, sadly, in those days the newsletter was printed only in black-and-white, so the beautiful colours could not be appreciated.

While I was perusing The History of Parliament website I decided to check out John Hampden's entry, and was pleasantly surprised to find a good deal of information about his early parliamentary career that I had not come across before. The entry terminated in a brief mention of Hampden's death in 1643, but one of the footnotes was most interesting. It read: 'The eldest son, John, was born at Flitton, Oxon. on 23 Oct. 1623 and baptized there on 6 Nov.'

Many years ago (more than I care to remember!) I was researching John Hampden in the Bodleian Library in Oxford and came across a baptismal entry in the Fritwell, Oxfordshire, parish register which read:

'1623 Nov 6 HAMDEN Jhon s.Mr.Jhon, born Oct 23'.

Hitherto young John Hampden was said to have been born in 1621 and was Hampden's eldest child. This entry would make him junior to his sister Elizabeth.

Rather than rehash the whole saga again, I refer you to *The Patriot* nos. 22 and 29, which contain the whole story and are on the Society's website. Suffice it to say that, at the time, most authorities declined to accept this as evidence, including our member the late Lesley Wynne-Davies MBE PhD, who was also a committee member of the Richard III Society and a Friend of the National Archives.

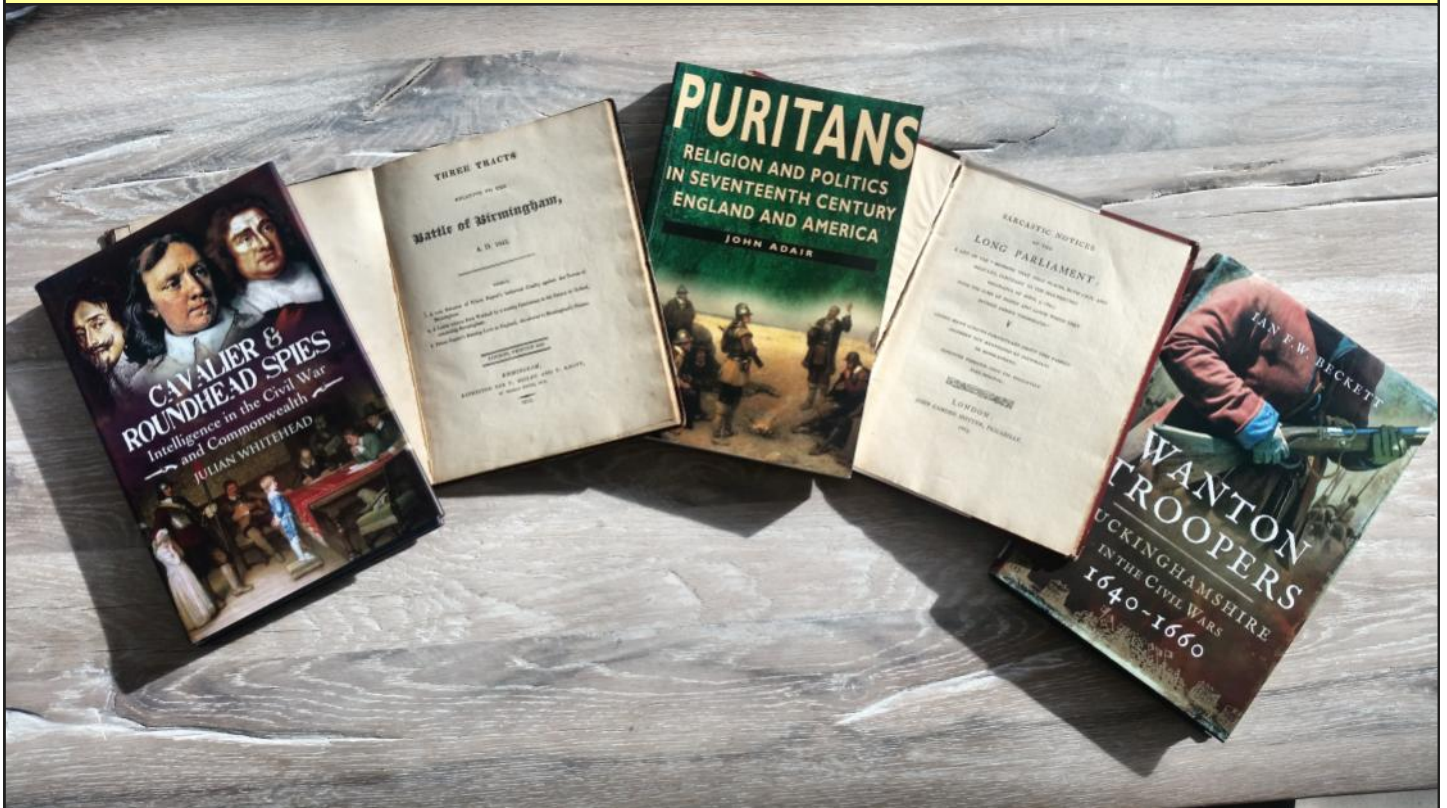
It is good to see that as important an authority as The History of Parliament accepts our findings, although they have the name of the village wrong. Once more the John Hampden Society has justified its existence.

**Roy Bailey**



## THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

One of the Society's best kept secrets is our library of over 160 books that all relate to John Hampden, his contemporaries and the political and military history of the United Kingdom in the seventeenth century. Members are very welcome to borrow any of these books on request; the only charge being the cost of postage if they cannot be collected from the Treasurer, Sam Hearn. He can be contacted on 020 8995 2666. Arrangements can often be made to deliver any book free of charge in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and the London Area.



The Trustees will also consider applications from non-members who wish to borrow any volumes for study or research purposes. A small deposit may be required in the case of such loans. Members should feel free to advertise the fact that the Society has a specialist lending library to relatives, friends, neighbours, local history groups, schools and colleges.

The Library's catalogue is located at <http://www.johnhampden.org/the-society/library/>

There are many fascinating and unusual books in the Society's library. It would be wonderful if one or two members would borrow a few books and provide brief reviews for publication in future editions of *The Patriot*.

The Trustees are aware that many publications and archives of historic interest are now digitalised and made freely available to the public. We would like to provide a service (via the Society's website) that directs enquirers to relevant books, documents and images that are available in a digital format. The Society is happy to accept further donations to the library and is very grateful to those who have already made such donations.

We are keen to ensure that the Society's library is well used. If you are interested in helping us promote the library in any way please do not hesitate to contact Honorary Secretary Anthea Coles at [thesecretary@johnhampden.org](mailto:thesecretary@johnhampden.org)

## THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER!

Early in February 1779 the American privateer *Hampden* sailed from Brest leaving behind a lawsuit over one of her prizes and a dispute with John Paul Jones over the recruitment in France of American seaman. What happened next?

All will be revealed in the next edition of *The Patriot*. If any member has access to a free image of Francis Holman's picture of the *Hampden* in action please contact me on 020 8995 2666.

Francis Holman (1729–1784) was a British maritime painter, little recognised during his own lifetime, but whose paintings are now sought after.

**Sam Hearn**