



# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society  
No. 89 - Spring 2019



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

## RETURN TO HARTWELL HOUSE The 2019 AGM

‘One of the best AGMs I can remember’ was the comment by one member who attended the events of 24<sup>th</sup> March at Hartwell House Hotel near Aylesbury, and this seemed to be the general opinion. Credit must go to the hotel staff for their professionalism and attention to detail.

It was pleasure to return to this splendid venue, a former Hampden family property where we have held Annual General Meetings before, and to be welcomed by the manager and his team. Arriving members were ushered into the elegant library, where we were able to drink and talk. Guests were Sam Hearn’s sister Rachel Howes and her husband Alan, and Sir John Hobart, Bt with his wife Katy, who had travelled up that morning from the Isle of Wight where John is a councillor. He is also heir to the Earldom of Buckinghamshire, and it was with regret that we learned that his cousin Miles, our Patron, was not well enough to attend. However, he is now on the mend.



The library at Hartwell House

The lunch was as delicious as one would have expected at such a venue, and was followed by a fascinating talk by local actor and JHS member Bruce Alexander, well known for playing Superintendent Mullet in all episodes of *A Touch of Frost*. Bruce gave a fascinating and well-researched talk which discussed the antipathy of the Puritans towards the theatre, but suggested that it was so much a part of early 17<sup>th</sup> century life in London that John Hampden must have attended performances. An article by Bruce based on this talk will appear in the next issue of *The Patriot*.

The AGM was held in the dining room and followed the usual pattern, with minutes from the previous year’s meeting, reports from officers, and election of the Executive Committee. The four outgoing members - Roy Bailey, Mrs Anthea Coles, Sam Hearn and Phil Broomfield –



Bruce Alexander entertains the members with his talk

were re-elected as Chairman, Hon. Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary respectively, and were joined by Steve Barriff, who will continue in the post of Webmaster.

During ‘Any Other Business’ it was suggested by Mrs Elizabeth Rodda that the large stock of the 2003 reprint of Professor John Adair’s biography of Hampden should be donated to local libraries, and this idea was welcomed.

Following the meeting, John and Katy Hobart became members of the Society.



## YET ANOTHER 'HAMPDEN PORTRAIT'

This exquisite portrait miniature was discovered by Susan Hearn on display in the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) in Toronto. The gallery label described it as 'Portrait of John Hampden (?) around 1650'.

The work was attributed to Franciszek Smiadecki a little known itinerant artist active in England between 1650 and 1665.

The Trustees thought that the subject's hair cut and style of dress were inconsistent with those in vogue during John Hampden's life time. In addition, if it was a portrait of Hampden painted in 1650 it was not executed from life.

The Gallery experts have agreed with our misgivings and are currently carrying out further research. However, many features of the subject's face are consistent with the Robert Walker portrait that is generally agreed to be the only surviving portrait of John Hampden painted from life.

There remains the intriguing possibility that the portrait is that of a close relative of Hampden's, such as his son Richard.

*Sam Hearn*

## PATRIOT OR REBEL

### A talk to Croxley Green U3A

I was invited to give a talk on the 11<sup>th</sup> March to the history section of the Croxley Green branch of the University of the Third Age. It was encouraging to have a sizeable audience of around 45 people filling the British Legion hall. Society members Elizabeth and Jim Rodda were on hand to distribute leaflets and answer questions.

I drew attention to the incident as nearby Chenies where Hampden's eldest son John was killed in a skirmish in late 1642. An audience member mentioned that The Grove, now a large local hotel, had been the home of Thomas Villiers, Lord Hyde, the first Earl of Clarendon (of the second creation).

I have been invited back in October to give a talk about Sybil Penn (née Hampden). Society Members are welcome.

*Sam Hearn*



## A CASTLE IN THE AIR?

The presence of John and Katy Hobart from the Isle of Wight at the recent AGM and the article about Princess Elizabeth Stuart on page 4 have sparked off an idea to which members of the Executive Committee are giving some serious consideration – namely to hold the 2020 AGM at Carisbrooke Castle (*above*).

It may sound a mad idea, and the chances are that we would get an even lower turnout than that at Amersham in 2017, but there is something to be said for it. The Castle has connections with John Hampden; a lock of his hair is kept in the Castle Museum (see *The Patriot* no. 15) and his daughter Mary's first husband was the Governor and Charles I's gaoler, Colonel Robert Hammond. It might be possible to organise package deals of ferry fares and accommodation, and it would make a splendid spring weekend for members.

Watch this space!

## DONATIONS TO LIBRARIES

As reported on page 1, it was decided at the AGM that copies of the 2003 reprint of Professor John Adair's biography, *A Life of John Hampden the Patriot* (of which we have a large stock), should be offered to libraries in Bucks, Oxfordshire and anywhere that has a connection with Hampden or might be interested.

The executive committee has already started writing to the heads of library services in these two counties, but if anyone reading this (and they don't have to be a JHS member) thinks that their local library would be interested, please get in touch with the Hon. Secretary to arrange delivery.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Short Memorials of Thomas Lord Fairfax

written by himself

(from the Society's Library)



An account of key incidents in the Civil War in the words of probably the period's most successful military commander.

Published in 1699, this book is one of the oldest in our possession. It was generously gifted to the Society by long serving member, Dr Paul Hooper.

Fairfax wrote the book after the Restoration, during the final two years of his life,

whilst he was living quietly on his estates in Yorkshire. The book describes and justifies Fairfax's part in what he calls 'the Northern Actions'. The second book defends his failure to prevent the purging of Parliament and the execution of the King.

Fairfax's stated intention for writing the books was to explain his actions to his family and descendants. They were published long after his death in 1671. The books were edited and prepared for publication in 1699 by his son Brian. By that time most of the original protagonists were long dead and memories had become hazy.

The Society's Library also contains a copy of the 1985 biography of Thomas Fairfax by John Wilson. Roy Jenkins reviewed the book and called it 'a highly professional work', whilst Paul Johnson described it as 'A first rate biography.... well researched and gracefully written'.

*Sam Hearn*

## CORRECTIONS

Unlike the national daily newspaper *The Guardian*, not too many mistakes appear in *The Patriot*, but the last issue, no. 88, was an exception.

Two errors in the printed version must be acknowledged. (The online version was corrected before final uploading.) On the front page notice about the AGM, the year should have read '2019' and not '2009'. On page 2, the article about the American privateer *Hampden* should have been entitled 'The Old Red, White and Blue' and not 'The Old Red and Blue'.

## 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.



## DIARY DATES

2019

**Saturday 6th July** A talk entitled 'A Military Historian's Civil War' by Professor Ian Beckett BA PhD FRHistS at the Bucks County Museum, Church St, Aylesbury HP20 2QP, commencing at 2.30 pm. Non members welcome.

**Monday 14th October** A talk by Sam Hearn about Sybil Penn to Croxley Green U3A at the Royal British Legion hall, 161 Watford Road, Croxley Green WD3 3ED, commencing at 2.30 pm. Doors open at 2 pm.

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 John Hampden Society**

Little Hampden

Cryers Hill, High Wycombe

Bucks HP15 6JS

Tel: 07543 054335

e-mail: *see website*

Website: [www.johnhampden.org](http://www.johnhampden.org)

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## SHIP MONEY MONUMENT

In *The Patriot* no. 87 we reported that the Chiltern Society intended to install a rustic bench at the site of the Ship Money Monument at Prestwood, and that the John Hampden Society would have some input into the design.

As our photograph by Elizabeth Rodda shows, this has now been done.

# A PRINCESS LOST AND FOUND

## Elizabeth Stuart (1635 - 1650)

The remains of Elizabeth, King Charles I's fifth child and second daughter, are buried in the parish church of St Thomas's in Newport, Isle of Wight.

With her close connections to the Island, Queen Victoria was fascinated to learn that the old church was the final resting place of a royal princess. At the Queen's insistence the Princess' burial spot was located and her remains re-interred in a vault under the altar of the newly restored church.

The Queen commissioned Carlo Marochetti, reputedly her favourite sculptor, to create a marble effigy of the Princess (*pictured below*). The effigy is now housed in the Church's tiny north chapel. Unfortunately the chapel is normally kept locked.

The Princess's short but eventful life was blighted by the Civil War and inextricably linked to her father's fortunes. Born on 28th December 1635 at St James's Palace, she was named for her aunt, Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia. At the outbreak of the Civil War Elizabeth and her brothers, James and Henry found themselves in effect the prisoners of Parliament and held in the guardianship of the Earl of Northumberland.

Due to her sweet and kind nature Elizabeth was known by her family as 'Temperance'. Her tempestuous upbringing reputedly produced a young woman of unusual character. The French ambassador described the eleven-year-old Princess as a 'budding young beauty' who had 'grace, dignity, intelligence and sensibility'. Clarendon wrote of her that she was 'a lady of excellent parts, great in observation and an early understanding'. However despite her strength of character she was regularly in poor health.



Elizabeth Stuart



Victorian effigy of the Princess with her prison bars removed

In 1643, Elizabeth broke her leg and she and Henry were moved to Chelsea. Here she was tutored by the famous linguist and scholar Bathsua Makin, known as 'England's most learned lady'. By the age of eight she could read and write in Hebrew, Greek, Italian, Latin and French. In 1647 Elizabeth, and her brothers James and Henry, were allowed to travel to Maidenhead for a brief two-day reunion with their father the King who was now also in the custody of Parliament.

Whilst the King was held at Hampton Court Palace, he occasionally visited his children at Syon House, the home of the Northumberlands. These visits came to an abrupt end in September 1647 when he fled to the Isle of Wight and was imprisoned in Carisbrooke Castle in the care of Colonel Robert Hammond, John Hampden's son-in-law.

In 1648 a plot was hatched for the escape of James, Duke of York, from St James' Palace to where the royal children had been moved. Elizabeth is said to have helped her brother escape disguised as woman during a game of hide and seek.

Later in 1648 Parliament decided to remove Elizabeth's household. The twelve-year-old princess wrote a letter appealing against this decision.

*My Lords, I account myself very miserable that I must have my servants taken from me and strangers put to me. You promised me that you would have a care for me; and I hope you will show it in preventing so great a grief as this would be to me. I pray my lords consider of it, and give me cause to thank you, and to rest. Your loving friend, Elizabeth.*

The Lords condemned the Commons for intervening with the Royal Household, and the decision was overturned. However, the Commons demanded that the two remaining royal children be brought up as strict Protestants.

Early on the 29th January 1649 Elizabeth and her brother Henry were taken to Whitehall for their last meeting with their father before his execution. Elizabeth has left a touching and simple account of this meeting. She remembered that he said 'not to grieve and torment myself for him, for it was a glorious death that he should die, it being for the laws and religion of the land.'

In August 1650 Parliament, alarmed at the news of Charles II arriving in Scotland, decided to move Elizabeth and Henry to Carisbrooke Castle on the Isle of Wight. Strict instructions were issued that 'no person should be permitted to kiss their hands and that they should not otherwise be treated as the children of a gentleman.' The children were placed in the guardianship of Captain Anthony Mildmay and his wife.

The Princess's health was never robust and after being caught in the rain whilst playing on the Castle's bowling green she complained of a chill and became gravely ill with pneumonia. She died on the 26th September 1650 and was interred in the chancel of St Thomas' church. The funeral was attended by the Mayor and Corporation of Carisbrooke. Her brother Henry was released by Parliament in 1652 and joined his mother in Paris.