



THE PATRIOT



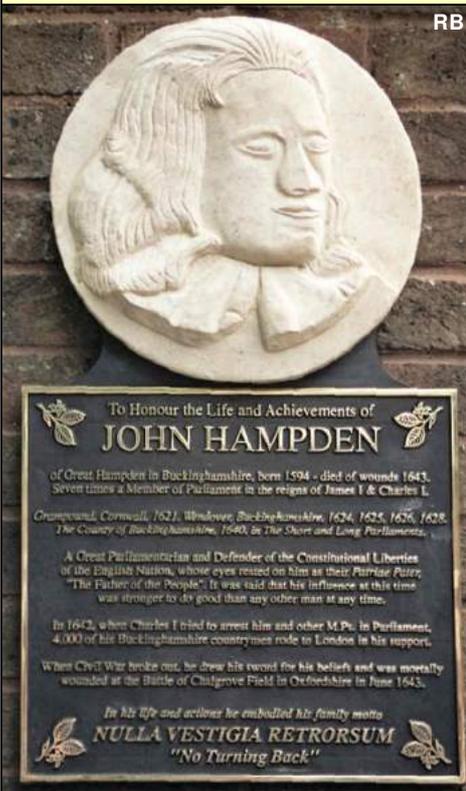
Newsletter of The John Hampden Society

No. 37 - Winter 2003/4

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

JOHN HAMPDEN HONOURED IN HIS OWN COUNTRY

Second memorial to the Patriot unveiled at Wendover



The new memorial at Wendover

The unveiling of a plaque to commemorate John Hampden's tenure as MP for Wendover was the second such event that the Society had organised within 2 years. On this occasion, although **Graham Barfield** again produced the plaque, I was not involved in the organisation (*writes editor Roy Bailey*).

This was the province of **Valerie Horne**, and so she and **Graham** have contributed their own accounts of their activities, and **Sam Hearn** has written an amusing piece purporting to come from the shade of Richard Baxter. My contribution is this

account of the day as I saw it, with some assistance from my wife **Annabel**.

I had a wonderful feeling of relaxation when we drove towards Buckinghamshire on Saturday 21st June. For the first time I would be attending a John Hampden Society function for which I bore no responsibility and at which I had no task to perform - other than to enjoy myself. Actually that wasn't strictly true, as I intended to take a good number of photographs for the archives and for *'The Patriot'*, but I knew that there would be plenty of other photographers there.

First stop was the church of St. Nicholas at Great Kimble, which **Michael Malone** had arranged to be open so that the replica of the Ship Money roll could be inspected. We had overlooked the fact that he had also arranged for a talk and a small exhibition to be held, so we missed the first few minutes, partly because of the problems of finding somewhere to park.

Some 40 or 50 people, including several John Hampden Society members, were sitting in the pews listening to church organist Roger Howgate talking about John Hampden's connection with the church. He showed us two highbacked, elaborately carved chairs of the right age to have been present and probably used at the signing of the Ship Money roll.

He debunked the theory that soldiers had drilled in the graveyard. "How could 600 or so men drill here?", he asked. "They are far more likely to have used the next field". He expounded happily on John Hampden's Chalgrove wound (the overloaded pistol version) and the burial to which prominent Royalists apparently came from Oxford. Despite some wobbly facts he was obviously enthusiastic and many people will

have left knowing more than before.

When one of the locals found out who I was, he asked me to say a few words about the day's events, so I exhorted everyone to come along to Wendover. I'm not sure that many did! One woman who stayed on to chat among the refreshments was Mrs Jean Prest, a descendant of the Patriot, who had an etching of John Hampden with this note on the back:



Great Kimble church, where the day's activities began

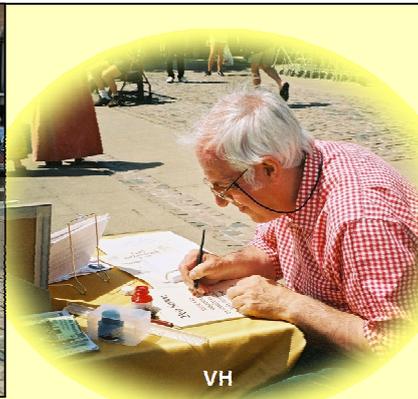
'This etching was done by Col J.G. Day RE, then living at Aylesbury, for the Earl of Buckinghamshire, and a copy given to the Rev Guy Beech [her father] Rector of Turvey, in April 1922. Col Day wrote as follows in sending me this copy: "It is done from some very old engravings I picked up, but I found the face, etc, like the Aylesbury statue." Beneath the portrait is Chalgrove Field - the battle in which Hampden was killed - drawn from the base of the said statue. G.B.'

Mrs Prest also has a family tree, a copy of which she has since sent to us, and so our knowledge grows.

continued on page 2



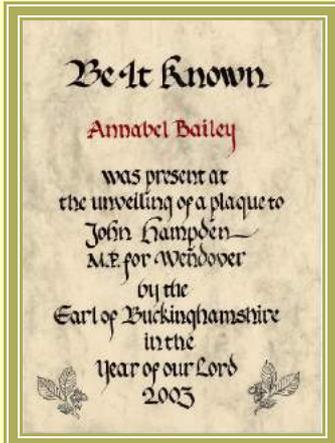
Valerie Horne, Alan Myers, Bob Hammond & Maurice Kirtland at the Society's stall



Alan Myers hard at work



Sam 'Praisegod Barebones' Hearn & Maurice Kirtland on duty



A sample of Alan Myers' work



Peter Kaminsky and the Greencoats on parade



Musketeers Gill Blackshaw & Mike Portsmouth

At Wendover activities were already evident on the Manor Waste - the open area in the centre of the town. The Society had set up its stall with books and products, and both the Chiltern Brewery and Chalgrove Local History Group also had stands.

Maurice Kirtland explained that he had been unable to put up the exhibition as the wind kept blowing down the display panels, and there was nowhere to drape the Society's banner. **Pity!** However, Valerie Horne had arranged for a duplicate exhibition to be displayed in the Library, but nobody seemed to know about this until the place was shut.

We parked in the Red Lion car park and met Derek Lester and his John Hampden's Regiment colleague Peter Kaminsky. They had kindly organised a uniform for me, which, while lacking gloves and a sword, was extremely smart. I was flattered that they were also lending me a pair of brand-new replica 17th century shoes made of real leather.

Sam Hearn had sensibly hired an upstairs room in the Red Lion for the day, as we had an extraordinary general meeting to hold later on, but this was not yet available, so Mike Portsmouth and I were allowed to change in one of the bedrooms. Suitably kitted out, we wandered around to the Library to look at the plaque, which was being guarded by a rather exhausted-looking Graham Barfield. When you read his and Valerie's accounts you will understand why.

So far the centre of attention was across the road at the Manor Waste, where Derek, Peter and other members of the Greencoats had set up their banners beside a ferocious looking cannon. It was a relief to learn that they had no intention of firing this.

On the end of the Society's stall Alan Myers was busily producing commemorative parchments at £1 a time and, presiding

over our books and products, which included the new printing of John Adair's 1976 biography of Hampden, was the Puritan preacher Praisegod Barebones. Closer inspection revealed this to be Hon. Treasurer Sam Hearn in authentic gear!

The Chiltern Brewery stand was manned by Richard Jenkinson's son Tom, and had plenty of John Hampden's Ale available. While we were there we were pleased to see Roger Paynter from Grampound, who had broken his journey to the Midlands to call in and say hello.

Back at the Red Lion for some lunch, and to chat to the various members who were arriving. At 2 o'clock we all repaired to the upstairs room, where the EGM was to be held. This was to approve alterations to the Society's constitution to enable us to obtain charity status.

continued on page 3



The Chalgrove Local History Group and Chiltern Brewery stalls



Lord Hollenden, Lord Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher and Valerie Horne

Such formalities were quickly completed and we then assembled in the hotel car park with the various dignitaries who would be taking part in the procession around to the Library. Our Patron Lord Buckinghamshire and our Chairman Lord **Hollenden** were joined by the Deputy Lieutenant for Buckinghamshire, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher Bt., our Vice-Chairman **Bob Hammond**, and representatives from various local councils.



Ready for the off!



The procession en route to the Library

Leading the procession were **Derek Lester** and Peter Kaminsky bearing the standards of Colonel John Hampden's Regiment. Among the ranks were **Mike Portsmouth**, **Gill Blackshaw**, and other musketeers from the Greencoats.

The brilliant sun shone out of a blue sky and glittered off civic chains of office, halberds and anachronistic spectacles as we marched the short distance from The Red Lion around to the Library. The procession aroused a considerable amount of interest, hearty cheers and some good local press coverage, but sadly the local papers persist in using an inauthentic black-and-white engraving of John Hampden when we have supplied them with copies of the correct colour portrait.

The first speech was by Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, and he had culled much of his information from our web site. He was particularly taken with our Downing Street campaign.

Good afternoon everybody. Its lovely to see you all here on a very hot and sunny afternoon. I was going to come in a suit but then I thought, John Hampden was known for being a man at arms - he marched 6,000 of his countrymen from Buckinghamshire up to London, and I thought he might come back to haunt me if I turned up in a suit, so I've come armed, just in case. (Laughter)

Now we are here in Wendover, as you all know, to witness the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate Buckinghamshire's greatest person, John Hampden, better known as 'The Patriot'. Now John Hampden is not the greatest person in the county just because history tells us so, but because the readers of the *Bucks Free Press* voted him as such! (Laughter)

Their December 13th edition revealed that the Patriot achieved a stunning 42% of the vote in the final round, when he convincingly beat Sir John Mills, Sir Steve Redgrave, Enid Blyton, and even his fellow politician Benjamin Disraeli.

Now I think that, in this day and age of celebrity, it is absolutely fantastic that a 17th century historical figure can beat the famous names of the 19th and 20th century in a public poll.

John Hampden's fame has spread far and wide, but his connection to Wendover goes back to either 1624 or 1625 (depending on which source you go for), when he became MP of the town,



Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher in full flow

...serving 3 terms of office. And of course the school here - which is one of only two in the county - is named after him as well, and I am sure we'll hear a little more about the great man in a moment.

Much of the credit for keeping the name of John Hampden alive must go to the John Hampden Society, which was formed in 1992. Many of you will know, but others won't, that their aims are (*here he detailed them.*)

The Society has been extraordinarily successful in the 10 years they've been going. They've got a thriving membership; they hold many and varied events throughout the year; and have already saved a number of Hampden artefacts. They even have an ale, a beer named after them - it's very good too, I can tell you - I've had some!

But so far one ambition has eluded the John Hampden Society, and that is to have Downing Street named Hampden Street! (Laughter)

Here he retold the history of Downing Street, which appeared in 'The Patriot' no.6 - Spring 1994. There was much laughter when he mentioned that Sir George Downing was awarded a baronetcy for his treachery!

Now I don't know about you, but I think this is an absolutely splendid campaign which we should all support, and I wish the Society the greatest luck in achieving their endeavours to get the name of Britain's most famous street changed to Hampden Street! (*shouts of Hear! Hear! and applause*)

Now the Society's Patron, the 10th Earl of Buckinghamshire, Miles Hobart-Hampden, is a direct descendant of John Hampden and he's right here with us today, and it gives me enormous pleasure, Miles, to invite you to unveil this wonderful plaque to the Patriot. Many thanks. (*Applause*)

continued on page 4

Our Patron, **Miles Buckinghamshire**, responded:

Well, Sir Henry, I don't really want to follow you at all because that was such a wonderful speech, and I'm very glad to hear that we will be continuing, with your support, to fight for Hampden Street in the coming years. I just want to say that its a great honour for all of us to have you here as a representative of The Queen, making a speech, and I am told reliably that Queen Victoria refused to sleep a night in Huntingdon, which is where Oliver Cromwell comes from (who was John Hampden's cousin) so perhaps we will be a bit more forgiving here in Buckinghamshire about the activities of the Parliamentarians.

Before I unveil the plaque - and will then be followed by Ian Hollenden, who is also a direct descendant of John Hampden - I'm going to just spend a little bit of time talking about John. I'll just take us back, if you like, to the 1640s, when Buckinghamshire was not such a peaceful place as it is now. In fact it was a very turbulent part of the world and as we know that in the Civil War we had a Battle of Aylesbury; we had the Battle of Chalgrove Field, just across the border in Oxfordshire; this was a part of the world that was well fought over in those times. But before the Civil War John Hampden was the leader of the Parliamentarians behind Pym in a joint fight for our freedoms which we still enjoy today. If you think about John (who in my book was certainly the MP for here in 1625), he then became in the Long Parliament the MP for Buckinghamshire, and before that he was MP for Grampound.

so I think in this man we had someone of huge integrity, huge honesty and great courage - it did take an immense amount of courage to stand up to the King of those days, and to fight for our freedoms.

Well, some 360 years ago it was not such a good time for John; at this moment he was probably lying in the Greyhound Inn in Thame, having been badly wounded at the Battle of Chalgrove Field, and in fact he died in 1643 on 24th June, which incidentally was the anniversary of his marriage to Elizabeth.

So its not a time of the year that we don't think very heavily about John Hampden and the influence he had on all of us.

Just after his funeral his great friend Arthur Goodwin wrote about him and said of John, 'He was a gallant man, an honest man, an able man, and take all, I know not to any man living second', and I think that these things said about John were meant from the heart. A man of immense integrity of whom we, in Buckinghamshire, can be very, very proud. So today by unveiling this memorial here we both commemorate and celebrate the life of John Hampden. Thank you. *(Applause)*



Lord Buckinghamshire unveils the memorial

Finally **Ian** paid tribute to **Valerie Horne**, who, as he said, was responsible, more than anyone else, for organising this event and had worked tirelessly for many months to bring John Hampden Day to a successful conclusion. His thanks on behalf of everyone was greeted with great acclamation - and some pretty blushes from Valerie!

The ceremony ended with **Derek Lester** calling for three cheers for The Queen, three cheers for John Hampden, then dismissing the Greencoats.

After the ceremony, several of us had been invited by Wendover Parish Council to a reception in the Shoulder of Mutton. The less fortunate ones had to be content with enjoying sandwiches in the meeting room of the Red Lion.

On the way to the Shoulder of Mutton I fell into conversation with local MP David Liddington, and we discussed the Downing Street campaign. I suggested that, if he wanted to assist the Society in this, he might consider putting down an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons on the suggested name change. He was by no means averse to this idea, so perhaps we shall have to pursue him on it.

Tea and various comestibles at the pub were most welcome, and we spent some time chatting to members of Wendover Parish Council and other locals.

Annabel and I then strolled once more along baking streets then under a cool avenue of trees, across the Bucksbridge, over a tempting stream and into Bucksbridge House, former home of John Hampden's lawyer, William Hakewill.

The owner, Mrs Sarah Nicholson, had opened it as part of the National Gardens Scheme, and when we arrived one of the helpers on the gate was so thrilled to see me in 17th century costume that he insisted on paying our admission fee!



Lord Buckinghamshire delivering his speech, photographed (above right) by Maurice Kirtland and Roy Bailey. Pictures by The Bucks Herald

He was probably best known for his opposition to Ship Money which he launched - as everybody has a launch - in Great Kimble church just down the road. But if you think about him - OK, he's known for the Ship Money opposition, but he was in fact a charismatic leader and a great man of influence in the Parliament of that time. Clarendon, who was a Royalist adviser, called him 'The Father of the People' and wrote very, very well about him in his book of those times.

More recently John Adair, who is a famous historian, has written about John Hampden - he knows more about John than perhaps anyone else - and called him the Winston Churchill of the 1640s,



The final speech was by our Chairman **Ian Hollenden**, who thanked everyone connected with the day's events.

These included Graham Barfield, who had put in such splendid work on the roundel surmounting the plaque; Mike Griffin, Chairman of Aylesbury Vale District Council; Barry Searle, District Councillor for Wendover; Edward Wilkinson, Chairman of Wendover Parish Council; Judith Myers and her fellow councillors on Wendover PC; Ann Hooton, Wendover Parish Clerk; Jane Larkin, Editor of Wendover News; the various corporate bodies and individuals

whose donations made the event possible, and fellow John Hampden Society committee members, who all worked very hard.

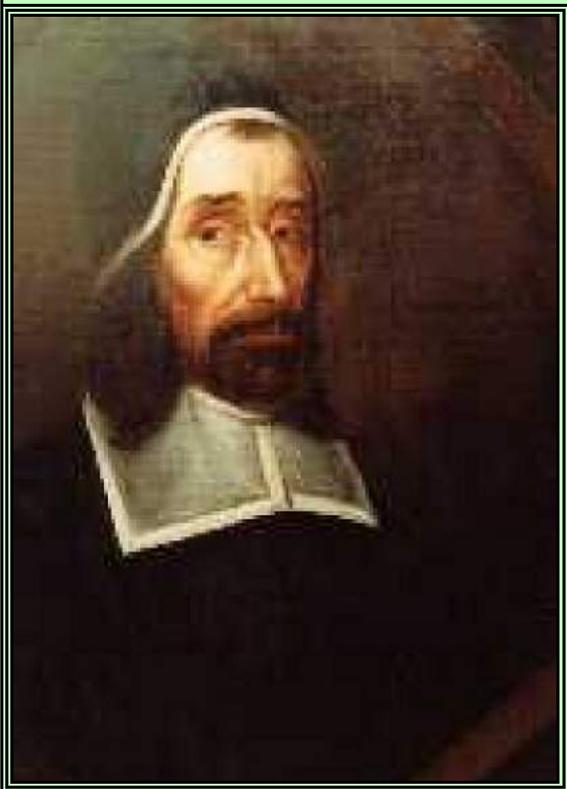


Lord Hollenden thanks the participants

YE SAINTS WHO TOIL BELOW

by
Sam Hearn

Several bystanders in Wendover for the unveiling of the Hampden plaque reported seeing an 'apparition' or 'phantom' resembling a seventeenth century puritan cleric. 'The Patriot', acting on an anonymous tip-off, contacted the Reverend Richard Baxter (1615-1691) (pictured) through slightly unusual channels. Our special correspondent, Anna Baptiste, asked him for his thoughts on the day and the reports of a 'ghostly apparition'.



Question: What exactly is your interest, Reverend Baxter, in John Hampden?

Answer: Call me Dick, it's so much simpler. In truth I never met the Patriot when he was alive, but I was a big fan of his. I did however have the honour of visiting Hampden House as the guest of his son Richard. You will recall that I was much criticised for commenting in my book *Saints' Everlasting Rest* that Heaven would be all the more enjoyable because I would at last get to meet John Hampden.

Question: Do you have any theories, Dick, about the Wendover sightings of a 'ghostly cleric in seventeenth century garb'.

Answer: I can honestly say that I saw nothing unusual and I was there all day. I even attended the early morning affixing of the plaque to the wall by the blessed sculptor Master Barfield assisted

by Mistress Valerie Horne. I watched the musket drill of the Hampden Regiment flag party, and the setting up of the stalls on the Manor Waste by the John Hampden Society, the Chalgrove Society and the Chiltern Brewery

Question: Dick, I am sorry to interrupt but your agent said that you would only be available for a short time. I understand that ghostly appearances are associated with outpourings of emotion.

Answer: I get your drift, Anna. I experienced this for myself in 1642 when I walked the battlefield at Edgehill on the morning after the bloody conflict. Certainly there was a goodly crowd at Wendover for the procession from the Red Lion hostelry and the unveiling of the plaque by the Earl of Buckinghamshire. The speeches by Lord Hollenden and the Earl were of the finest quality, but it was the speech of the Deputy Lord Lieutenant that roused the assembled crowd to strong emotions. It is surely intolerable, as he pointed out, that even though our Prime Minister's residence is on the site of Hampden's home it is currently named for that venomous turncoat toad George Downing. I noticed that the local MP David Liddington looked suitably chastened at this point. Nevertheless I did not at any stage see a ghost. I do believe however that I saw the excellent stone profile carved by the Blessed Barfield wink!

Question: So are you working on any interesting projects at the moment?

Answer: Since my collaboration with hymn writer John Hampden Gurney in the nineteenth century I have not felt that inspired. I am charmed that one of my favourite lyrics still 'charts' as hymn 564 in 'Hymns Old and New'.

Question: So, finally, is John Hampden in Heaven, as you guessed he would be?

Answer: That my dear, is for you to say. I couldn't possibly comment. Prince Rupert and the Lord Protector Cromwell do drop by occasionally and they have been on very good terms since 1688. The Prince is still a little miffed that no one has erected a statue or plaque to him.



2004

Wednesday 28th Jan. An illustrated talk on John Hampden to Buckingham Archaeological Society, MBI, Yeomanry House, University of Buckingham, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Sunday 15th Feb. 'The Battle of Newbury - 20th September 1643 & 28th October 1644' (see *Battlefields Trust* - page 8) **CANCELLED**

Monday 23rd Feb. An illustrated talk on John Hampden to Jordans and District Rotary Club at The Bell House Hotel, Beaconsfield, commencing at 7.30 pm.

Sunday 14th Mar. 'A Walk around Cropredy Bridge - 1644' (see *Battlefields Trust* - page 8)

Tuesday 23rd Mar. An illustrated talk on John Hampden to Amersham Ladies' Dinner Club at Guido's Rest, Amersham, commencing at 1.30 pm. (*This is a private meeting*)

April (Date to be arranged) The Society's Annual General Meeting.

Monday 26th Apr. An illustrated talk on John Hampden to Launton Historical Society at Launton School, Bicester Road, Launton, Oxon, commencing at 7.45 pm.

Thursday 3rd June. An illustrated talk on John Hampden to The Diabetic Association at the Diabetic Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital, near Aylesbury, commencing at 7.30 pm.

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

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



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ACCOMODATION, RESTAURANT
& BANQUETING

Graham Barfield put an enormous amount of work into producing the head of John Hampden to surmount the plaque at Wendover. This is his account of what it involved:

As soon as I'd offered to produce a profile bust of John Hampden in stone to surmount the bronze commemorative plaque I realised I might have taken on a job beyond my capabilities, as I only produce one piece of sculpture per year - at a week-long carving course held in The National Stone Centre near my home in Derbyshire - and my score up to this year was a very modest five items in total.

My original plan had been to copy the bust on the wall at Thame, taking a photo and turning the negative over so I could make a print with the head facing right instead of left. There is, as we discovered, another version of the Thame carving at Pyrton Manor, but which one is a copy of the other would be hard to tell.

In the event, Valerie Horne produced for me a close-up of the head on the Aylesbury Market Place statue. Normally, viewers of this see Hampden's head from below, looking up, but Valerie had found a picture which had been taken on the same level as the head. As it was, in a manner of speaking, a fresh look at John Hampden I thought it would be interesting to use this as a start point.

I contacted the tutor to say exactly what sort of stone I needed - thickness, overall dimensions, back and front faces parallel and type of material. We settled for Hopton Wood Stone, a very pure limestone quarried locally, which looks and feels a bit like marble. It is much favoured by a number of celebrated sculptors including Eric Gill and is also the material from which 120,000 headstones for some of the fallen of World War I were carved. It seemed a thoroughly suitable medium in which to commemorate John Hampden.

The bronze commemorative panel had been completed with its integral blank roundel at the head, so I knew to exactly what size the stone needed to be rounded off. We used a diamond cutting disc to cut off the four corners of what had started as a square flat slab and then it was hand work (and hard work) all the way. A photocopied enlargement of Valerie's picture was transferred by a mix of carbon tracing and sketching the key details into a squared off grid drawn on the stone's surface.

As work progressed it became apparent that there were going to be problems of perspective and proportion, due to attempting to render on a very shallow bas-relief stone, something copied onto a flat piece of paper, from an original which was a casting in three dimensions. The difficulties were compounded by the fact that unlike the flat profile carvings at Thame and Pyrton which simply show one side of the face up to the nose, like the head on a coin, I was attempting to do an angled view of the face and had to compress all the modelling of the hair, cheeks, nose, mouth and eyes into

a depth difference of no more than an inch.

Five days' hard work on the course went absolutely nowhere and I began seriously to consider sawing the bronze roundel off the top of the inscription panel, abandoning the carving and making some excuse about its having broken in the closing stages. However I'd discovered that it was possible to do all the work with just a trio of stone chisels so I bought three, borrowed a small metal-headed mallet and went home with a very incomplete John Hampden.

I left the carving for about a week and then, when my interest and inspiration had renewed themselves, I finished it off in a few more days. Luckily there's a specialist mason a couple of miles down the road, and they were able to sell me the polish to make the stone weather resistant and some stick-anything epoxy resin for fixing.

Very carefully I measured the thickest part of the carving back to front, drilled three holes through the bronze roundel in the most suitable places and matching holes into the back of the carving, hoping that I wouldn't accidentally go through to the face. The top ends of stout nails would in due course be pushed through and these plus lots of resin would fasten stone and bronze together.

On their own, both bronze and carving were just about liftable and it had been my original intention to fix the former to the library wall at Wendover, then apply the carving to it. I could however see problems in doing this, so decided to unite both elements before fixing in place.

Valerie had earlier measured the format of the brick/mortar courses and the foundry had cast the four threaded bolt fixing lugs into the back of the plaque in exactly the right places, so we found ourselves with the easy job of drilling holes in the mortar rather than the brickwork and it was done in no time at all, using a sturdy cordless drill. I'd previously made a simple template, as at Grampound, to ensure that everything was level.

We'd been advised not to assemble the items until the actual day in case somebody decided overnight to get to work with a can of spray paint, and so we returned early Saturday. It then became apparent that with bronze and stone united, the combined

weight was going to be on the limit as far as Valerie and I were capable of handling, but fortunately a tall, strong, 17th century divine arrived in the shape of Sam Hearn to lend another pair of hands.

I had not had the wit to realise that the carving at the top would make the whole assembly top heavy and although the resin - specially formulated for securing sculpture in vertical locations - was supposed to go off in four minutes, the installation showed a distressing and repeated tendency to want to fall forward out of its fixing holes.

I was beginning to think that we might have to do the unveiling with the plaque propped against the foot of the library wall, when Sam pointed out that if we could get more resin into the actual holes and force the protruding fixing bolts well into them and the resin, this would solve the problem. We then fell to scraping off the rapidly-setting resin from the back of the plaque and replacing it with some more. Forcing resin into the holes was easier said than done, because it stuck to whatever we used to push it in and tended to come back out again on the end of the pusher.

At last, working frantically against the clock we got it sorted and I stood on top of a pair of steps forcing the plaque and carving flat against the library wall until that blissful moment when I experimentally took my hand away and the installation stayed put. It hadn't gone down quite flush to the wall on one side so we forced more resin into the gap for good measure. We tacked up a little rail over the top to hold the unveiling cloth on Velcro and the job was done. By contrast, the rest of the day was quite relaxing!

By general consensus it was suggested I return to put a couple of discreet clamping lugs, one each side of the shoulder where the top edge of the panel runs up to meet the bronze roundel on which the carving is mounted, and this I did the following Tuesday. Though I don't think it entirely necessary, it's a sensible added precaution for something which unlike the Grampound plaques, is on display in a rather public place.

People have been very kind about the carving, but, as the originator, I can see its many shortcomings. Let's just say that if I'd been more experienced I could probably have made it more professional, but in the event it turned out rather better than - at one stage - I thought it was going to. And although I haven't signed it, it'll be my epitaph, too, because if it lasts as long as the one at Thame, it'll still be around many years after I'm gone.



Waiting for the adhesive to set, while Sam Hearn holds the ladder



Mission accomplished!

My John Hampden Day

by

Valerie Horne

John Hampden Day dawned with the promise of a beautiful day ahead; after sixteen months of planning the day had finally arrived.

I dressed in my 1600s clothing and by 9.30 I was on my way to Wendover. As I turned in towards the Library I could see Graham Barfield had already begun preparations for affixing the plaque. The stone carved roundel had been fixed to the plaque the night before to allow setting time.

The ever-resourceful Graham had thought to bring a set of steps with him. I looked at the dainty, but beautifully crafted, wooden stepladder, which together with a bench, was supporting a two-inch-thick plank to make a platform of suitable height to fix the plaque into place. I did a swift calculation - my nine stones plus Graham's thirteen, maybe, the weight of the plaque, and the plank, all to be borne by the delicate steps!

"What does the plaque weigh?", I asked casually. "Just over seventy pounds" replied Graham. Another five stones!...once again I looked at the stepladder. "That was my Dad's", he said. Oh dear, I thought, that probably makes them about sixty years old at a conservative estimate. I wondered if the next half hour would reduce them to firewood! The words 'Health and Safety' were now chasing round in my mind.

We were just trying to lift the plaque on to the plank when Sam arrived. This made the task easier although it was still an awkward lift. We checked everything was O.K, lifted it down, and laid it on the plank. The mounting composition recommended by the foundry works similarly to Araldite, and needs to be mixed at great speed.

"Golf ball size dollop of number one and pea size of number two", muttered Graham, mixing furiously. We lifted up the plaque again and Graham manoeuvred it into position. The mixture should have set in four minutes, but actually took about fifteen, causing some considerable panic! Somehow there seemed to be a fair amount of 'golf ball and pea' on our hands, and on the steps, but at least the steps had survived. Why had I been worrying?

At last we could stand back and look at the plaque. The head seemed to come to life once it was in the position, catching the



Valerie watches the culmination of all her hard work at the unveiling ceremony

light from the right hand side as it was designed to do. The Hopton Wood stone is a lovely warm colour; it is a very hard limestone and not the easiest choice from a working point of view. Seeing the bronze plaque in a new light I was pleased to see how well my original drawing for the beech leaves had transferred to the medium of cast bronze.

Whilst we had been engrossed in our task our tables had been delivered to the Library instead of to the Manor Waste. "I was told to the Library", said the driver and drove away. Sam and I took an end each and carried one to the place where it was needed. Where are all the volunteers to help set everything up? My fault, I suppose, I didn't say it will be necessary to have some volunteers to help. I was naïve enough to think people would realise that for themselves. One learns the hard way. Sam and I carried another table. Bob arrived with the John Adair books and offered to help set out the stall. Maurice arrived with the stock and we were soon doing a brisk trade.

Alan, the scribe, was kept busy producing souvenir scrolls. The Chiltern Brewery and Chalgrove Local History Group also set up stalls. Peter Kaminsky arrived with cannon and Greencoats and the various pieces of the cannon were soon manhandled into position, proving a constant attraction. At this point I had to disappear as the exhibition had to be removed from the library before it closed at 1 pm. It was rewarding to see many people in costume; Sam made

an excellent 17th century vicar, and Roy looked very dashing in his costume. The sun shone over the proceedings all day, with not a cloud to be seen.

It was good to see that some members had travelled long distances to attend - Paul Hooper from the Isle of Wight, David Marcombe and Kate Holland from Nottinghamshire, Mrs Mary McCormick from South London and especially Roger Paynter from Grampound. A great pleasure to see them all again. Our stall was forced to close at 3 pm as everyone manning it was to take part in the procession.

The procession left the Red Lion, led by the John Hampden Regiment of Foote Colour Set (Derek and Peter), resplendent in their costume, with standards waving in the breeze, and flanked by the Greencoats. With the sun glinting on the ceremonial chains and all the colourful costume it made an impressive sight. As the procession swung round the corner spontaneous applause began and quickly grew in volume. For me, this was the icing on the cake!

Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, launched into a speech which was lively and stimulating. The following speech by Miles Hobart-Hampden, the Earl of Buckinghamshire, made with such obvious depth of feeling, was marvellous. Then the moment for which we had all been waiting as Miles took the cord and unveiled the John Hampden Commemorative Plaque to a hearty round of applause. Ian Hollenden gave grateful thanks to Wendover Parish Council and everyone concerned in this project. Derek called for three cheers for the Queen and for John Hampden and the ceremony drew to a successful conclusion.

As I left at 6 pm I thought I would just go and take my leave of John Hampden. I found him bathed in the early evening sunshine, and Graham, his sculptor, also taking a few moments of quiet contemplation at the end of this memorable day. Now I know how James Griffin felt when the John Hampden statue in Aylesbury Market Square was unveiled. So do you, Graham. We thank you for your gift.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

The following alterations have occurred since the issue of the last address list:

Hugh & Trixie Muldrew, 88a Perth Street, OAMARU, New Zealand. No telephone number. E-mail: hughtrixie@hotmail.com

Bob Hammond's postcode should read OX9 TA.

Maurice & Anne Kirtland's e-mail address should read anne&maurice@tiscali.co.uk

Howard Giles's telephone number is no longer operational.

Please advise the Membership Secretary of any other errors or alterations.

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continued from page 4

The garden is the result of quarter of a century of work by the owners on different levels, with soft grass and a swimming pool that **Annabel** was sorely tempted to walk through rather than around!

There was a well-stuffed herbaceous border as big as many a garden and yards of posts supporting an acre of netting over the colourful vegetable garden. All this profusion is carefully tended by the owner with two-and-a-half days help a week - someone has to keep the fruit cage secure.

Eventually it was time to make our way to The Spread Eagle Hotel in Thame for our Annual Dinner. The sweltering uniform and the new shoes had been returned to Peter Kaminsky, so we persuaded **Sarah Barrington** to let us have a room in which to shower and change before the dinner.



This was of the usual high standard, and instead of a guest speaker, members were treated to a triple talk on the three women in John Hampden's life.

I spoke about his first wife Elizabeth Symeon; **Bob Hammond** on his second wife Lady Letitia Vachell; and **Sam Hearn** on his mother Elizabeth Cromwell.

The last, and very necessary, ceremony of the day was for **Ian Hollenden** to present **Valerie Horne** with a huge bouquet of flowers (left) as a final 'thank you' from the Society for all her hard work in organising the day's events.

It had been another triumphant day that had presented John Hampden to the public and left a permanent memorial to him in the town he represented in Parliament.

What next?

BATTLEFIELDS TRUST

Newbury. Trustee James Parker will lead a party across the site of these two important Civil War actions. James was involved in the campaign to preserve the battlefield during the building of the Newbury bypass. The tour across First Newbury will begin at 10 am from The Gun public house, which is to be found opposite the Falkland Memorial at Wash Common. Take the Andover Road - the A343 - out of Newbury town centre. For the walk across the second Newbury battlefield, which is on the other side of the town, again meet at The Gun, this time at 2 pm.

Cropredy. Stephen Barker will be leading a party around the site of this North Oxfordshire battle fought between Charles I and Sir William Waller on June 29th 1644. In order to lure increasing numbers of Parliamentary forces from besieging the Royalist capital in Oxford, Charles led his army into the Cotswolds. Waller pursued and was presented with an opportunity to destroy the Royalist army strung out about Cropredy. The battlefield itself is fascinating to walk; the key features being easily accessible. Meet at the Brasenose pub in Cropredy village at 1.30 pm. The inn serves food from 12 noon.

Please use the slip below to book your place. For further information telephone 01280 824877.



VH

Who is this little lad? If you know him, please contact Valerie Horne on 01296 432329

ROLL OF HONOUR

The following, listed in alphabetical order, contributed to the cost of producing the Wendover Memorial Plaque. The Society's Committee would like to express its thanks to them:

A Avery, Aylesbury Vale District Council, G. Barfield, A. & G. Coles, C. M. Ettenfield, R.V. Hammond, T. S. Hearn, R. H. & J. M. Heasman, Dr P. D. Hooper, V. Horne, B. R. & V. M. Keating, A. R. May, M. E. McCormick, M. C. D. Malone, M. G. Morris, E. A. Morris, M. & J. Portsmouth, A. F. & J. Rodda, B. R. Shirley, J. Wailing, Wendover Parish Council.



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PHOTOGRAPHIC CREDITS

The photographs of John Hampden Day in Wendover were taken by Roy Bailey, Anthea Coles and Valerie Horne, and they are credited with their initials on each one.

The John Hampden Society is grateful to *The Bucks Herald* for the use of two of their pictures

The Battlefields Trust - Middle Anglia Branch

I/We are able to attend the Walk at Cropredy Bridge on Sunday March 14th 2004.

Name/s Number attending Tel.....

Please return to Stephen Barker, 12 Hazley Walk, Buckingham MK18 7BL.

I/We are able to attend the Walks at Newbury on Sunday February 15th 2004

Name/s Number attending Tel.....

Please return to Stephen Barker, 12 Hazley Walk, Buckingham MK18 7BL.