



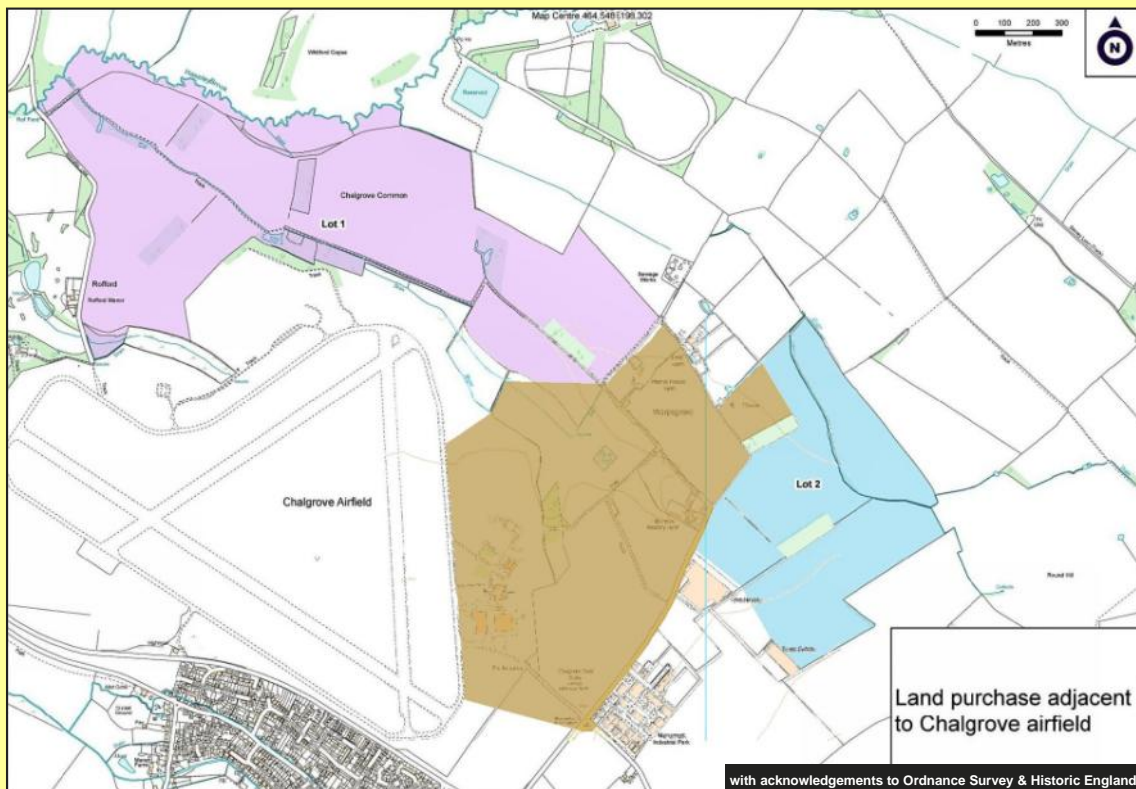
# THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society  
No. 91 - Autumn 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

## CHALGROVE BATTLEFIELD UNDER THREAT!



In September Homes England, a non-departmental government body which funds affordable new housing in England, announced that they had purchased two areas of land (*in blue and purple above*) next to Chalgrove Airfield. Development of the Airfield is also a Homes England project.

The brown overlay shows the registered battlefield area defined by Historic England, which they extended earlier this year to include Warpsgrove House. This is due, in part, to research carried out by Derek and Gill Lester and published in the journal *Oxoniensia* in 2015 in an article entitled *The Military and Political Importance of the Battle of Chalgrove (1643)*. (see <https://tinyurl.com/y24vwouu>) Consequently any development of the land is likely to take account of the registered battlefield and a planning process will have to be worked through.

JHS member Simon Marsh, Research & Threats Co-ordinator of the Battlefields Trust, has written to Homes England stating that the Trust would welcome confirmation that the importance of the battlefield as a heritage asset has been recognised by Homes England in developing its plans for the recently purchased land.

Simon added, 'Separately, under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) I would be grateful if you could provide any documentation you hold relating to the purchase of land around Chalgrove airfield and plans for its use which considers heritage issues relating to the battlefield of Chalgrove'.

In their reply of 17<sup>th</sup> October, Homes England declined, under section 43(2) of the FOIA, to release this information as they claimed it would prejudice their commercial interests and that of other interested parties.

A number of local groups are already gearing up to campaign against this proposal, and the John Hampden Society will play its part in what could become the Second Battle of Chalgrove.



## TALKING ABOUT JOHN HAMPDEN



The Society's public face was in evidence at the beginning of October with two members of the Executive Committee giving presentations.

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> Chairman Roy Bailey (standing in for the Earl of Buckinghamshire, who was indisposed) gave an illustrated talk about John Hampden to Greater Thame University of the Third Age in the Barns Centre in Thame.

As our picture shows, there was a large audience; U3A Chairman Christine Townsend confirmed that the attendance of 78 was a good turnout for their main meeting and that it was the subject of John Hampden that was the attraction. Assistance in dealing with products was given by Hon. Treasurer Sam Hearn (who took the picture) and Brian Cox.

On Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> Sam, assisted by Charles Harvey (*left*), ran a stand for the Society at the Bucks Local History Network conference in the Oculus Conference Centre in Aylesbury.

At both events a large number of the two Hampden biographies were sold, many leaflets were handed out, there were possible bookings for more talks, and a new member was signed up at Thame.

On Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October Sam Hearn also gave a talk to Croxley Green U3A. The subject was Sybil Penn, a member of the Hampden family who was nurse to Edward VI.

A very successful three days.

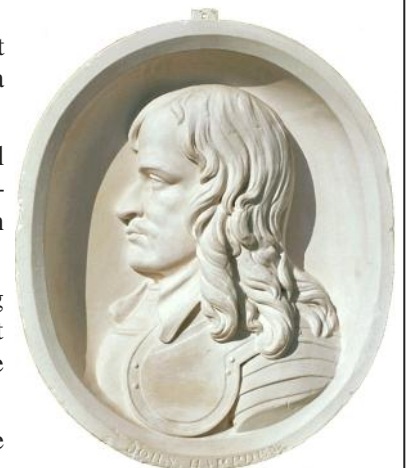
## AN AMERICAN ADMIRER

The problem of running a society devoted to a politician, even a 17<sup>th</sup> century one, is that the reputation of our members of parliament has now sunk to an all-time low, chiefly as a result of their activities in the House of Commons since the 2016 referendum.

Fortunately, John Hampden is still a hero in the USA. We recently received an e-mail from a law graduate in Virginia who had attended Hampden-Sydney College and had acquired such an admiration for the Patriot that he wanted to have a bust of John Hampden in his office. He wanted to know if there was anywhere in the UK that sells such things.

We were obliged to inform him (a) that we knew of no such place and (b) shipping such an artefact across the Atlantic would be extremely expensive. We mentioned that the nearest thing to a bust was the Society's plaque (*right*) which resides in the Thame Museum, and suggested that a portrait of Hampden would be the next best thing.

This he agreed to, so we sent him a copy of the St Germans portrait for him to print. We hope visitors to his office admire it.



## NEW AYLESBURY FEATURE



Back in June the Marketing Department of Aylesbury Vale District Council erected a 'wayfinding monolith' (*left*) in Aylesbury's Market Place which features an image of John Hampden.

We are grateful to member Bob Hammond who alerted us to this edifice and sent us the photo. Sadly, no one at AVDC thought to contact the John Hampden Society (est.1992), with the result that artist Laura Boswell of Winslow based the image on an online copy of one of the later engravings rather than the St Germans portrait.

The text above the picture was sourced from the Aylesbury Town Council's Heritage Walk printed guide. It is not readable in Bob's picture so we are grateful to member Valerie Horne, who ventured out in bad weather to transcribe it for us so that we could check its accuracy.



## DIARY DATES

**2019**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November** Walk the 1642 Battlefields of Brentford and Turnham Green with Simon Marsh and Stephen Porter. For Brentford meet at the Market Square, Brentford (TW8 8AH) at 10:30am For Turnham Green meet at Chiswick Park underground station (W4 5NE) at 2pm. There is a voluntary £5 charge if you are not a member of the Battlefields Trust.

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)

## THE DUEL STONE STORY

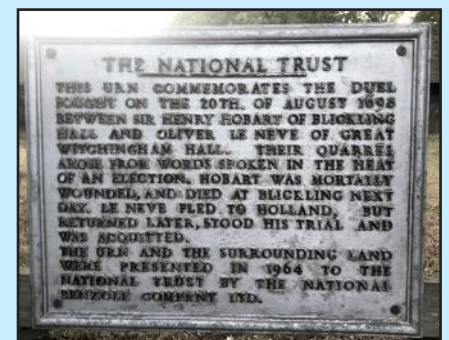


In August Membership Secretary Phil Broomfield and his family holidayed in Norfolk. They visited Blickling Hall (*above*), ancestral home of the Hobart family, which Phil described as 'stunning'.

On 20<sup>th</sup> August 1698, following the election, Sir Henry Hobart, 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet and son of John Hampden's daughter Mary, fought a duel with Oliver le Neve on Cawston Heath, in which Hobart was mortally wounded.

This event is commemorated by a plinth with an urn (*above right*), called the Duel Stone, which stands in Holt Road, Cawston.

Sir Henry Hobart had a son and three daughters. The eldest daughter, Henrietta, was the mistress of King George II, and his son John became the first Earl of Buckinghamshire.



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## AN OFFSHORE AGM?



Members will recall that, in *The Patriot* no. 89, the possibility of holding our Annual General Meeting next year on the Isle of Wight was put forward.

This idea was sparked off by the presence of John Hobart and his wife Katy at this year's AGM and their subsequent admission to membership of the Society. John, who is the councillor for Carisbrooke on the IOW Council, indicated that we might be able to use a room in the Museum in Carisbrooke Castle (*above*) for the meeting, which would be very appropriate.

King Charles I escaped to the Castle in 1642, when the Governor was Colonel Robert Hammond, first husband of John Hampden's eldest daughter Mary, so there is a link there. Furthermore, the Castle holds a lock of hair purporting to be Hampden's, which some members viewed in April 1996. (see *The Patriot* no. 15)

The drawback to this idea is the cost of travel and accommodation, but it is hoped that some sort of package deal combining Bed and Breakfast and ferry travel can be arranged with the local Tourist Board.

However, powers higher than that of the Society's Executive Committee have intervened. In order to stand some chance of enjoying good weather, we were considering holding the AGM in early May rather than in April. As the Early May Bank Holiday weekend is normally the first one in May (Sat 1<sup>st</sup> - Mon 3<sup>rd</sup> next year), we were looking at the following weekend, but because Friday 8<sup>th</sup> is the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day, the Government has designated that particular day as the Bank Holiday. Other factors make it impossible for us to consider the previous weekend instead.

So next year's AGM will be held rather nearer to the John Hampden country, but we will be looking at the possibility of the Isle of Wight for 2021.

Let us know your thoughts by contacting <thechairman@johnhampden.org>

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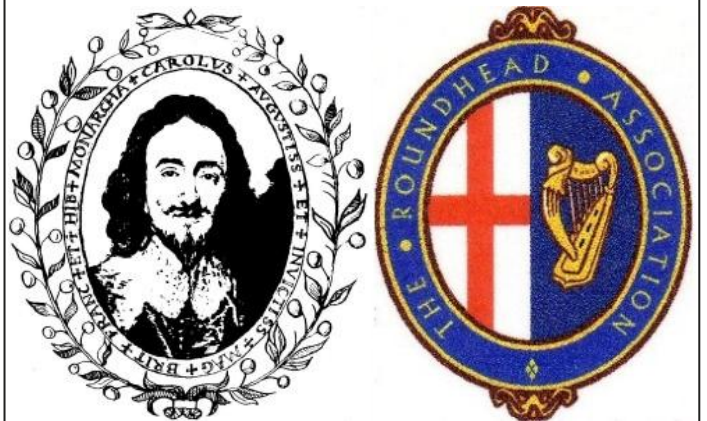
## AFFILIATION MATTERS

For many years the John Hampden Society has been affiliated to two other organisations – the English Civil War Society and the Hampden (Maine) Historical Society. These affiliations have been formalised by granting honorary membership to a leading member of each group.



Kinsley House - headquarters of the Hampden Historical Society

Inevitably the passage of time has meant that these memberships have become out-of-date. In the case of the ECWS, Jonathan Taylor retired last year from the post of Director, while we are sad to learn that Alice Hawes has been in a care home in Bangor for a couple of years and no longer plays any part in the HHS.



Logos of the two ECWS armies

Our contact with our friends in Maine has been maintained by Alice's husband Bob, and he is pleased to accept the offer of transferring her honorary membership to him. They were the leading hosts when eight members of the Society visited Hampden in August 1994, and they organised a splendid programme of hospitality for us. (see *The Patriot* no. 8)

Jonathan Taylor has been succeeded as Director and Chairman of the ECWS by James Addy, who is happy to accept our offer. James, an architect who lives near Stafford, has an impressive CV; a member of the ECWS for 25 years, he is currently in the Earl of Essex Regiment of Foot of the Army of Parliament (excellent credentials!), a member of the West Midlands 4x4 Response team, and he and his wife Vivienne occasionally do 17<sup>th</sup> century/historical banquet catering as a sideline.

A busy chap, and he hopes to come and meet members of the John Hampden Society next year