

**LETTER FROM THE TOWNSPEOPLE OF CHESHAM, BUCKS, PROTESTING AT
THE IMPOSITION OF THE SHIP MONEY TAX IN 1635
(transcribed by Sam Hearn)**

Letter to Sir Peter Temple the Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1635. Transcribed from page 119,
The Book of Chesham by Clive Birch ISBN 0 86023 641 2. Published by Baron in 1997.

" To the Right Worthy Sir Peter Temple Knight

May it please your worshipping with patience to heare and understand the greevances of the town of Greate Chesham whereas your worshipping gave direction that the constables of Chesham aforesaide should deliver a list or Roule of the men of abilitie to the Assessours that they might levie the som of monie upon them: they have neglected the constables direcion and have imposed greate parte of the money upon poore tradesmen whereby except your worshipping red[e]ve them therein they are to be much burdened.

We the inhabitants of the towne of Chesham manie of us being poore tradesmen yett we are willing to paye according to our abilitie but they have rated us five fold according to the rate of panisioners (according to our valuacion for the Church and poore) we therefore most humblie beseech your worship that ther may be an indiferent levie made and we shall be bound to pray for your worship and shal be readie and willing therein to performe any thing that we may. Thus we humblie take our leave and rest

Your humble petitioners

The Inhabitants of the towne of Chesham "

NOTE:

Only £10 4s 8d of the £125 of Ship Money requested was actually collected from the residents of Chesham. The shortfall is considerably larger than the 80% reduction that the letter writers appear to think would have been reasonable.

A copy of the original document is lodged in the Huntington Library, San Marino, California.