



THE PATRIOT



Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 98 - Summer 2021

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

AGM REPORT

The Society's Annual General Meeting was held online on 16th May 2021. It was the first AGM held in this way, and effectively it covered two years of the Society's activities. The outgoing Chairman, Roy Bailey, gave a thorough report on the activities since the last AGM, including the JHS submission to planning authorities on the housing developments around Chalgrove Field, the purchase of an (alleged) lock of John Hampden's hair, work on improving the surroundings of the Ship Money monument and welcoming the new Vice-President Sir Lindsay Hoyle. He mentioned some plans that were not able to proceed, but an upside of switching meetings online is that our many members in the USA have been able to take an active part in the Society.

Hon. Treasurer Sam Hearn reported a healthy financial position and Membership Secretary Phil Bromfield reported membership renewals at 81. There were also reports about updates to the website, future events, and the circulation of *The Patriot*.

The incoming Chair, Dr Beth Rogers, proposed a vote of thanks to Roy for being the rock of the Society and working so hard for its success.

'Any other business' covered the recent rebuttal of misinformation about John Hampden, further work needed on the Ship Money Monument and new research on the Battle of Chalgrove (reviewed in this edition of *The Patriot*). Since the AGM, the committee have met and decided on Sunday 27th March 2022 as the date of the next AGM. Please hold the date. Venue to be advised. We hope to have decent technical connections for remote attendance as well.

A RAIN-SOAKED CEREMONY

The wreath-laying ceremony at the Hampden Monument at Chalgrove on 18th June was bedeviled by atrocious weather.



My wife Annabel and I made the journey in persistent rain and found Derek and Gill Lester and Kevin Poile of Chalgrove Local History Group in attendance. Our Patron, Lord Buckinghamshire, was due to lay the wreath, which had been provided by the CLHG, but the weather prevented him from attending, so it fell to me to stand in.

Derek provided a second dedication card for me to complete on behalf of the JHS, and we duly did the honours jointly, by now thoroughly soaked, quite literally, to the skin. Kevin photographed the operation (*left*), but the photo quality was poor because of the rain on the lens.

Derek presented the Society with two copies of his article just published in the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* (see: 'Book Review') and we all went home to dry out!

Later that morning Jim and Elizabeth Rodda laid a posy of flowers (*right*) gathered from the Hampden Estate.



Roy Bailey

The Editor writes ...

At the Society's online AGM held on Sunday 16th May, I stood down from the post of Chairman and from membership of the Executive Committee.

However, it was agreed that I should continue to edit *The Patriot*, as I have done through most of the existence of the Society.

I must thank the committee members for their support during my 3 years as Chairman. As a farewell gift they very kindly presented me with a large number of Chiltern Brewery gift vouchers; some of which have already been used to purchase a case of John Hampden's Ale!

I am also grateful for some of the kind things they and other members said during the meeting.

Our new Chairman, Dr Elizabeth Rogers PFEAA, will bring new ideas to the Society, and so will Peter Osborne. The rest of the re-elected team have, to quote Shakespeare, 'heard the chimes at midnight'.

As Editor, I see my role in future as doing less writing and more commissioning, so I shall be looking for contributions from members - articles, photos, items of news, letters, etc.

An Editorial column such as this has only ever appeared in *The Patriot* once before - in the very first issue, so, as we approach our 30th anniversary and 100th issue, I believe it is time to bring it back.

Roy Bailey
Editor

editor@johnhampden.org

TO HONOUR THE DEAD?

The exhumation and reintering of over 850 bodies buried in the graveyard of St Lawrence's church, Brentford, began on the 28th June.

A number of the combatants killed at the Battle of Brentford were laid to rest here. Ballymore, the developers, have indicated that they are keen to work with anyone interested in erecting a monument commemorating those who fell in the battle.

The Society has contacted the Battlefields Trust about how this matter can best be progressed. John Hampden and his regiment were present at the battle, and played a prominent part in its latter stages when they halted the King's advance on London.

Sam Hearn

A VISIT TO MILTON'S COTTAGE

The trustees are pleased to announce a visit by the Society to the historic John Milton's Cottage at Chalfont St Giles (*pictured*) and the nearby Jordans Quaker Meeting House, on **Sunday 12th September 2021**. We hope that this will provide an opportunity for members to renew old friendships and for new members to be welcomed into the fold.

If you wish to join us for what promises to be an interesting day please email me as soon as possible at thetreasurer@johnhampden.org or telephone 020 8995 2666. **Spaces for the visit to Milton's Cottage are limited, so it would be wise to reserve a place as soon as possible.** If there is sufficient demand we will try and arrange an additional group visit. You are, as always, welcome to bring friends and family members.



The guided tour of Milton's Cottage will begin at 12 noon and last a maximum of 1½ hours. After that you will be free to explore the pubs and coffee shops of Chalfont St Giles and visit the village's ancient Church. We will make our way by car the 2 miles to the Quaker Meeting House later in the afternoon. A brief guided tour of the Meeting House and the Quaker burial ground has been arranged, along with a short video. William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, and his wife are buried at Jordans.

If you would like to know more about Milton's Cottage and/or the Quaker Meeting House please consult the websites <https://www.miltonscottage.org/visit/> and <http://www.jordansquakercentre.org/visiting-us>. Both provide travel directions but please ask if you are likely to need picking up from a railway station or would like to share a car journey. The postal addresses are in the Diary on page 3.

To speed things up at both venues we will be asking for payment in advance (but not just yet). £12 per person will cover the cost of entry to Milton's Cottage and the hire of an appropriate room at the Meeting House. To keep things simple we will not be organising food and drink, so you will have to bring your own or darken the doors of Chalfont St Giles's hostelrys and coffee shops.

Sam Hearn

THE READING CONNECTION



An abbey with a connection to John Hampden celebrates its 900th anniversary this year.

Reading Abbey was founded by King Henry I in 1121, and he was buried there. It became one of Europe's largest royal monasteries, but was mostly demolished by Henry VIII in 1538, and the last Abbot, Hugh Faringdon, was hung, drawn and quartered in front of the Abbey Gateway. (*pictured*)

Part of the buildings which remained became Abbey House, and this was leased by Elizabeth I to Sir Francis Knollys, Treasurer of the Royal Household. His granddaughter Lettice, widow of Sir Thomas Vachell of Coley Park, was living there when she became John Hampden's second wife in 1640. The wedding probably took place in the adjoining St Lawrence's Church.

Ironically, Hampden was involved in the Siege of Reading in 1643, when the Royalist occupiers pillaged the nave of the church for stone to build defensive ramparts.

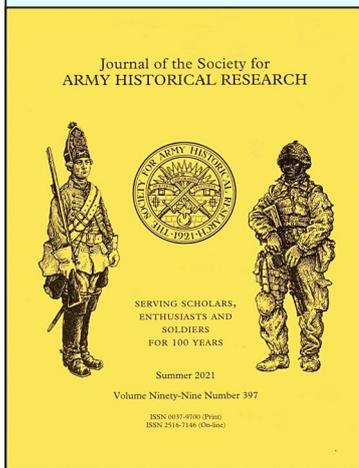
BOOK REVIEW

Clarendon and History:

A case study of the Battle of Chalgrove, 18th June 1643

by Derek Lester

Published in the Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research
no. 99 (2021), pages 134-151



History is always open for re-examination, and we should be grateful to the dedicated scholars and enthusiasts who devote their time and energy to digging out original, difficult historical records, and shedding new light on events. For members of the John Hampden Society, the Battle of Chalgrove Field is important because it was where John Hampden was mortally wounded, so it is exciting when some new research is done to explore the details of that ghastly event.

The author of this new study, Derek Lester, has painstakingly explored historical accounts and combined them with geographical observations to pinpoint the exact site of the battle.

The article begins by explaining how the classic Clarendon history of the Civil War was edited by his son and re-edited in 1826, mainly to justify the winning cause. This left later scholars with a lot of approximation about what really happened.

Mr Lester has reconstructed the 17th century landscape of Chalgrove using ancient and modern maps. Working out where tracks ran, and importantly where the parish boundary 'Great Hedge' was situated, gives insight into where military activity was feasible. He has then re-visited contemporary texts from the Bodleian Library, the British Library and the National Army Museum, including the original Clarendon notes. Clarendon was not at Chalgrove, but he was at Oxford and able to interview the Parliamentary prisoners brought in after the defeat. His original notes give much more detail than the subsequent selective summaries.

The result is a very convincing account of the action, which, on the basis of this research, took place to the north of what is currently marked on maps and by the monument as 'Chalgrove Field'. The article concludes with reference to an indication from a contemporary source that John Hampden was buried in secret. Given what happened to the bodies of other parliamentarians in the 1660s, that was probably wise.

This article is very well-written and accessible. The Society is investigating how best to provide access to the full text of the article, and Mr Lester is also working on a book.

Beth Rogers



DIARY DATES

2021

Monday 23rd August. An illustrated talk about John Hampden by Roy Bailey to the Kettner Society at the National Liberal Club, London SW1A 2HE, commencing at 1pm BST.

Sunday 12th September. A visit by members of the Society to Milton's Cottage, 21 Deanway, Chalfont St Giles HP8 4JH at 12 noon, followed by a visit to the Quaker Meeting House at Welders Lane, Jordans HP9 2SN.

2022

Sunday 27th March. The Society's Annual General Meeting. (*Venue and time to be advised*)

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

www.johnhampden.org/

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INNOVATIVE BOOK PUBLISHERS

The Society is pleased to draw readers' attention to the websites of a couple of innovative specialist independent book sellers. Please let us know of any similar enterprises that you think might of interest to fellow members of the Society.

Di and Saul Books are now selling a selection of books on behalf of the Society. Members may like to peruse the publications available on their extensive website www.diandsaulbooks.co.uk. Within the Military History section of their website you will find an eclectic offer of English Civil War related books.

Sapere Books are republishing *John Hampden The Patriot* in Kindle format at the reduced pre-order price of 99p. It will be fully released on 4th July. The link for purchasing this, and other books by John Adair is www.saperebooks.com/authors/john_adair/

We continue to sell a range of Hampden-related publications at competitive prices via the following link on our website: www.johnhampden.org/publications/. This link uses a secure free service provided by the Bucks Family History Society.

A SLAVE TO MISINFORMATION

Earlier this year the Society received a communication from the Chiltern Society, which administers the Ship Money Memorial at Prestwood (below), advising us that a member had expressed his concern at the Society managing a monument celebrating a man who had large West Indian plantations and hundreds of slaves, and who had withheld Ship Money only to protect his profits from such slavery.



Appalled, we naturally investigated and discovered that John Hampden had no connection with slavery, and that the only Hampden who had was the Revd Renn Dickson Hampden, Lord Bishop of Hereford, who owned a plantation in Barbados. (see his entry on the website: *Centre for the Study of the Legacies of British Slavery*.)

As he was descended from a distant branch of the Hampden family who had apparently settled in the island in the mid-17th century, and as he lived in Victorian times, we were able to strenuously rebut the allegation.

Having apologised, the member then confirmed his lack of knowledge by getting totally confused about the origin of the Hobart-Hampden name.

But that's another story!

TWO THAME BIRDS

The Society's Hon. Secretary recently received the following e-mail:

Dear Anthea,

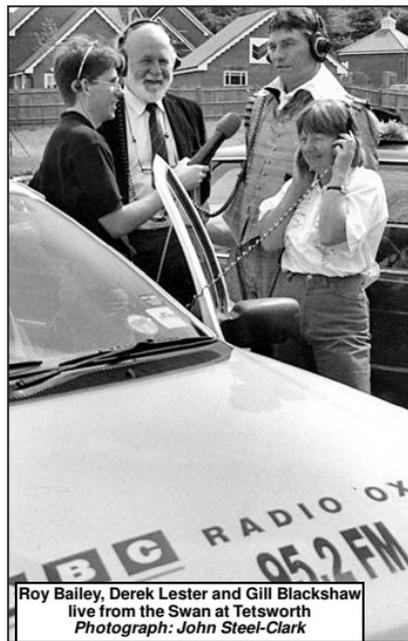
I thought that members would be interested to learn that there is an Exhibition on at Thame Museum at present until the end of August. It is called **Two Thame Birds**, and is all about *The Spread Eagle* and *The Birdcage*. There is a lot about the Barrington years at *The Spread*. The John Hampden Society is also featured because it shows pictures of when we all dressed up in Puritan dress for the re-enactment of the death in Thame of John Hampden. It also shows a photo of members setting off on another occasion for a trip to Chalgrove field.

The exhibition is open from 10.00a.m. until 4.00pm on a Wednesday and a Saturday. If you spend £1 in the Museum shop, you get a voucher for a free coffee at either *The Spread* or *The Birdcage*.

Do hope you will find this information of interest.

Kind regards,
Sarah Barrington

(Editor's note: Sarah Barrington and her late husband David used to run the Spread Eagle Hotel, where the John Hampden Society held many dinners and meetings.)



Roy Bailey, Derek Lester and Gill Blackshaw live from the Swan at Tetsworth
Photograph: John Steel-Clark



Derek Lester as John Hampden, with serving wench Rosalie Gibson (left) and pikeman Dave Gabol (right)
Photograph: Bucks Free Press

These pictures are taken from *The Patriot* no.3 (above) and no. 11 (left), and illustrate the events to which Mrs Barrington refers.

TALKING ABOUT HAMPDEN

The ongoing pandemic has prevented members of the Society from giving any talks to outside organisations for well over a year – the last one was given in person in March 2020 to Newbury University of the Third Age (U3A).

So it is appropriate that the next such talk was also to a U3A group in Abingdon on 7th June this year, albeit by Zoom. Delivered by Hon. Treasurer Sam Hearn and topically entitled *When the Plague came to Great Hampden*, it described the events of 1647 affecting the family of the Revd Robert Lenthall, Rector of Great Hampden. (see *The Patriot* nos. 93 and 94)

Between 11th August and 25th September four members of Lenthall's family and a young visitor succumbed to bubonic plague. Sam described the events lucidly and with some interesting pictures. Over 50 Abingdon U3A members and several from the Society tuned in to enjoy the presentation.

A copy of Lenthall's entries in the Great Hampden parish register can be seen on the Society's website under 'Archives'.