



# THE PATRIOT



Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 100 –Winter 2021/22

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

## SPECIAL CENTENARY ISSUE!

### A MESSAGE FROM DR BETH ROGERS CHAIR OF THE JOHN HAMPDEN SOCIETY

Dear Members,

It is a great honour to welcome you to the hundredth edition of *The Patriot*. Throughout the existence of the John Hampden Society, this newsletter has been packed with research, reviews, opinion pieces and updates, and this bumper edition will be even more intellectually stimulating than numbers 1-99, as there are twelve pages of everything our members love about *The Patriot*.

We have a lot to look forward to in 2022. This 100<sup>th</sup> edition of *The Patriot* is the first landmark. In March, we will visit Hampden House for our AGM, and at the end of June there will be a programme of events in and around Thame organised by a variety of societies which will include commemorations at the site of John Hampden's death. If you need to remain on Zoom, we will have some online talks, but it would be super to see you in person. In October we celebrate our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, of which more anon.

If you have a bit of time that you could contribute to the Society in any way, either by an item for future editions of *The Patriot* or by joining the trustees, please do come forward. Many hands make light work!

Best wishes,

Beth

### A DATE TO REMEMBER

Remember, remember Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 – the John Hampden Society's AGM at Hampden House.



Hampden House (*pictured*) was the ancestral home of the Hampdens since before the Norman Conquest. The Elizabethan core of the building was built with the combination of chalk and clay known as clunch, but most of the original house was rebuilt in brick in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. There were further alterations in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to a gothic design known as Strawberry Hill. The interior of the house offers many splendid rooms with rococo ceilings and marble fireplaces.

Hampden House is now owned by the Hampden Group, a financial services company founded by the Society's first chairman Tim Oliver. The company acknowledges its links to John Hampden on its website:

**One of the leading figures in the English Civil War, John Hampden's determination and freedom of thought is a quality we look to exhibit throughout our organisation.**

Hampden House is used for offices and a venue for events, and it is particularly popular as a wedding venue: [www.hampdenweddings.com](http://www.hampdenweddings.com). We are extremely grateful to Tim Oliver for making the House available to us for this AGM; the first such physical meeting since 2019.

Further details will be circulated in due course, including the fee, which will be needed to cover light refreshments.

There is a service at the Church at 11am. Members should be aware that on 27<sup>th</sup> March, the church will be celebrating Mothering Sunday.

## The Editor writes ...

The publication of issue no. 100 of *The Patriot* is a milestone in the history of the Society. Our newsletter has progressed from a black-and-white, pasted-up, photocopied offering to one that is full-colour, desktop-published and professionally printed, and which is also available on our website for the world to enjoy. It has helped to make John Hampden better known.

In fact there have actually been more than 100 issues, because in the early years of this millennium there were some emergency editions numbered 'a' and 'b'.

Nevertheless, the publication of a centenary edition in the Society's 30<sup>th</sup> year is a matter of note, especially as this is the first time that we have produced a 12-page issue, and it is encouraging to see some interesting contributions from members of the Society.

The articles by our Vice-Presidents Sir Lindsay Hoyle and Professor Ian Beckett and the involvement of new member Roger Howgate are much appreciated.

The two online programmes organised and reviewed here by our new chairman, Dr Beth Rogers, are a tribute to her imagination and enthusiasm, and she already has plans for 2022.

**Roy Bailey**  
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## HAMPDEN ON THE MOVE

Aylesbury Town Council and Buckinghamshire Council are co-operating on the refurbishment of the town centre. Part of the changes will involve the re-siting of the statue of John Hampden. Society Vice-President Professor Ian Beckett has been looking at the statue's history:

John Hampden's statue has stood in Aylesbury Market Square for over a century. It was first proposed (and entirely paid for) by James Griffin of Eastcroft, Tring. Griffin admired Hampden and conceived of the statue as a coronation gift to the county of Buckinghamshire in 1911. Born at Folly Farm, Tring in August 1832, he was educated locally and spent two years working for the General Post Office in Melbourne, Australia, before returning to manage the family farm in 1859. He retired from farming in 1880 and eventually settled in Tring in 1907, serving on the Town Council. He was also a benefactor of Drayton Beauchamp church.



Initially remaining anonymous, Griffin's offer was put before Aylesbury Urban District Council in April 1911 and, being endorsed by the Lord Lieutenant, Lord Rothschild, and the Chairman of the County Council, Tonman Mosley (later Lord Anslow), was quickly accepted.

It was decided that the laying of the foundation stone would be the centrepiece of the celebration of the coronation of King George V and Queen Mary on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1911. It would be sculpted by the leading monumental sculptor, Henry Charles Fehr, and constructed by Messrs. Webster & Cannon under the supervision of the County Surveyor, W. H. Taylor. It would be placed 'in a commanding position at the top of the Market Square' as an inspiration to the county's youth.



The statue in its original position in 1914 (top), and as it is today (above). The new position will be nearer to Lloyds Bank. The area will be landscaped with trees and will be known as Hampden Place.

Griffin duly laid the foundation stone with a silver trowel, placing a new coin at the base. The completed statue with its reliefs around the pediment was then unveiled by Lord Rothschild on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1912. It was moved to its current off-centre position in 1988, the 1911 coin being found under the statue. The new proposal appears to be to move it back closer to its original position opposite what was the old George Hotel.

**Ian Beckett**

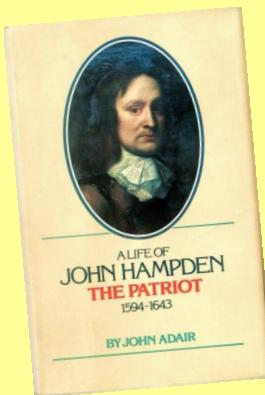
(Editor's note: See *The Patriot* no. 71 for details of the Society's commemoration of the centenary of the unveiling.)

## BOOK REVIEW

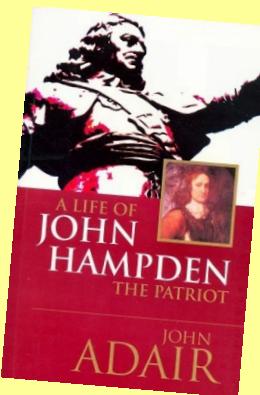
### A Life of John Hampden The Patriot 1594 -1643

by John Adair

Published in 1976 by Macdonald and Jane's - London  
Re-published in 2003 by Thorogood Publishing - London  
260 pp ISBN 0 354 04014 6



This biography of John Hampden was published in 1976, yet it is still the latest and (in my opinion) the best account of the Patriot's life and times. The author, as well as being a co-Founder and currently President of the John Hampden Society, is a leadership theorist and author of more than 40 books on business, military and other leadership.



In his research John Adair drew on new historical studies in the 40 years since John Drinkwater and Hugh Ross Williamson had produced their works about Hampden, and he included some hitherto unpublished letters. The book is illustrated with a number of good black-and white photographs, engravings and maps.

Adair traces the story of John Hampden from the family's occupation of 'the hill of beechwoods' in the Chilterns since before the Norman Conquest to the subject's untimely death after the Battle of Chalgrove Field. 12 sections, with such titles as 'Apprentice in Parliament', 'The Ship-Money Trial', 'The Five Members', and 'Chalgrove Fight', describe in detail the events and influences which formed Hampden's character and drove his actions.

We read with pleasure the affectionate tone of the letters exchanged between Hampden and his friend Sir John Eliot when the latter was imprisoned in the Tower. We learn how Charles I's barbaric treatment of Eliot drove Hampden into opposition to the King's tyrannical policies, and led to his mortal wounding at Chalgrove Field. We learn as much about Hampden's home life at Hampden House with his wife Elizabeth and his children as we do about his political and military activities.

In finely-observed detail the author describes how Hampden rose to national prominence and became known as *Patriae Pater*, 'The Father of the People' and how his memory spread across the English-speaking world and down the centuries until early Victorian times. Then, in *Cromwell's Letters and Speeches*, published in 1845, Thomas Carlyle displayed a contempt for Hampden and claimed that history is made by a few great men. In Adair's words 'The Cromwell band-wagon had begun to roll'. The myth that the Civil War was a tussle between Charles I and Cromwell was born - and is with us to this day.

There have been suggestions that it is time for a new biography of Hampden. Even after more than 45 years and the extra knowledge that members of the Society have contributed to the subject, it would be difficult to improve on Professor Adair's masterly life of the Patriot.

Roy Bailey

(Editor's note: The 1976 original was in hardback; Thorogood's re-publication was a soft back and contains information about the Society and the results of extra research by members.

The Society now holds all existing copies of the 2003 printing, and they can be purchased at <https://www.johnhampden.org/publications/>



## DIARY DATES

2022

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February.** A Zoom talk by Dr Ismini Pells of Leicester University on Civil War medicine, commencing at 7pm. For details see page 11. You can request access to this talk via Eventbrite. Click on the link **Civil War Medical Practices** on the Society's website. There is a charge of £2 for members and £3 for non-members.

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March.** The Society's Annual General Meeting at Hampden House, Great Hampden HP16 9RD. (*Time to be advised.*) Further details on front page.

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June.** Wreath-laying in Thame followed by the Sealed Knot re-enactment and Thame History Fair.

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

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

## A WORKING EARL

When the Society was formed nearly 30 years ago, the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of St Germans kindly allowed us to use the John Hampden portrait which hangs in Port Eliot, and which was given to Sir John Eliot's son by Hampden's son Richard.

Members of the Society visited Port Eliot to view the portrait after the ceremony at Grampound in September 2001. (see *The Patriot* no. 32)

Since the death of the Earl in 2016 we have rather lost touch with the Eliot family, so we were pleased to read the following anecdote in the Peterborough column of the *Daily Telegraph* of 15<sup>th</sup> January:

### He's not too posh to pull pints

Seventeen-year-old Albert "Albie" Eliot became the 11th Earl of St Germans when his grandfather Peregrine died a few years ago. But he won't get the keys to Port Eliot, the family estate, until he is 25. So I was encouraged to hear that young Albie is putting the time to good use by signing up to work behind the bar at the Eliot Arms in his ancestral village of St Germans in Cornwall. What better way to get to know the locals?

# LENTHALL AND HAMPDEN REMIND ME OF MY RESPONSIBILITIES

by Sir Lindsay Hoyle  
Speaker of the House of Commons

Every day on my way to work I walk past a huge painting of Speaker William Lenthall and his family (*below right*) on the staircase to Speaker's House.



Not only is the artwork quite moving, because Lenthall chose to pose with his wife and children, but it also serves as a constant reminder of the responsibility I have to uphold the rights of the House against the executive.

After all, Lenthall was Speaker throughout the troubled years of the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and at a time when the relationship between the House of Commons and King Charles I was at its most fraught.

Lenthall is best known as the first Speaker to stand up to the monarch (*below left*), when the King burst into the chamber looking to arrest John Hampden, a patriot and opponent of the King's arbitrary Ship Money taxes, along with four of his fellow MPs.

The Speaker refused to hand over the MPs to the King, stating famously: 'May it please your majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as this House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here.'



The actions of both my predecessor and John Hampden placed a spotlight on the roles of MPs, and that of the Speaker.

In terms of Hampden, he was standing up for his belief – that the King's powers should be limited. He was also standing up for his country and, no doubt, his constituents of Wendover, an inland borough at the heart of Buckinghamshire, who I am sure would not have taken kindly to the imposition of a tax that had historically been paid by coastal towns for ships to be built at times of war.

Today, those roles remain largely the same. As MPs, we are elected to represent our constituents, to support the political party that helped us secure election, to follow our beliefs and to scrutinise the work of the government.

As Speaker, I do my best to ensure backbenchers can hold the executive to account and have had occasion to remind ministers that when a statement is to be made, it should be to the House first.

These days, our relationship with the monarch is far more cordial. But the rights that both Lenthall and Hampden stood for still stand.

So, when I pass my forbear's portrait on my way home at night, I say a silent 'thank you' to him for helping me to keep alive that fine tradition.

# GREAT KIMBLE - THE HAMPDEN CONNECTION

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, JHS member Roger Howgate, author of *Kimble's Journey*, gave a fascinating talk about the Hampden links to Great Kimble and the restoration of Hampden artefacts owned by the church. He explained that the Hampden connection goes back to 903, but it had not always been close due to religious differences. There is certainly a strong 'oral tradition' of John Hampden, who is said to have lived in Kimble with his second wife. The letter refusing to pay Ship Money was signed in Great Kimble. The Clergy House where the crucial meeting took place became a barn and is now part of a dwelling at Manor Farm.



St Nicholas church with the sign before restoration

Lord Macaulay wrote that John Hampden rode down to Kimble church through the beech-woods on a crisp winter's day to face down the King's assessors for Ship Money. Roger took issue with this romanticised image, explaining that it was probably foggy, the woods were planted in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Hampden was probably staying at Kimble Manor and had prepared and planned the meeting and the document in a pragmatic way.

He gathered people together to sign, and then despatched the document to the High Sheriff. Notably, the amount owed according to the letter was less than John Hampden owed at the time of the Ship Money trial, a part-payment being another element of his careful management of his risk. As explained by Dr Nusbacher in our previous talk, he was a skilled manager!

The hand-made copy of the Ship Money letter held by the church (the original being in the British Library) was badly damaged by rainwater after thieves took lead from the church roof. Roger managed to save it, dry it and restore it.

The church sign, which shows Saint Nicholas and mentions John Hampden, is a valued piece of folk art in Great Kimble. Damage in a storm resulted in the glazing being broken and the painting sustained water damage and mould. It had to be dried for a year in a cool, dark place.

The top layer of varnish was removed fairly easily, then extensive, repeated cleaning was necessary, using some very expensive cleaning agents, a vacuum cleaner and sable make-up brushes. Some paints had to be removed with blades and pooled varnish was removed with solvents.

The sign had to be pared back to bare wood, requiring a modern gesso as an undercoat for re-painting. Roger's art student grand-daughter Ella did some brilliant colour-matching and was able to improve on the original, such as the face of Saint Nicholas.



Restoration of the sign in progress

It takes six months to cure oil paint, after which the sign will be framed and glazed. A new post is required and then the sign will be re-hung and John Hampden Society members will be advised of the date, likely to be in June, and invited to attend.

It was humbling to hear about the painstaking work done by the volunteers to save historical artefacts for the Church and for the memory of John Hampden. We should be very grateful to them. Donations to the restoration project can be made via the John Hampden Society. Please reference your bank transfer as Great Kimble.

If you were not able to attend the meeting, there is a recording on the Archives pages of the Society's website at: <https://www.johnhampden.org/the-society/archives/>. It is a very interesting talk, which has pace but is also packed with well-researched detail.

More about Great Kimble can be found at: <https://www.kimblesjourney.uk/>

Beth Rogers

(continued from *The Patriot* no. 99)

## HAMPDEN AND MILTON The Buckinghamshire connection

### Part 2

Bulstrode Whitelocke, the MP for nearby Marlow, had strong family ties to Horton where his uncle lived. We know from his diaries that he spent a considerable amount of time in the area in 1635-6 because of the plague. In 1637 Whitelocke helped prepare the defence in the case of Rex versus Hampden. The Ship Money controversy and trial, whilst seeming on the surface to be a dispute over administrative protocols, had at its heart the profoundest implications regarding sovereignty. Could and should England be governed without a parliament?

Milton's time at Horton provided him with an unobstructed view of the intensifying conflict between Crown and gentry. He was eyewitness to an incipient political and religious upheaval of unprecedented magnitude.

The attempted seizure of the five members in January 1642 resonated deeply with Milton. In his book *Eikonoklastes* he cites this serious breach of parliamentary protocol as the one of the main reasons why Charles I was unfit to rule. Years after the event Milton, when writing to discredit an anonymous author seeking to rehabilitate the King's reputation, narrated the incident with remarkable recall.

Ultimately Milton came to hold strongly republican views that are first hinted at in entries in his common-place book as early as 1639. By 1660, as the possibility of the return of the old Stuart monarchy became ever more likely, Milton published his *Ready and Easy Way to Establish a Free Commonwealth*, a virulent attack on the institution of monarchy. This did not go down well with the newly restored Charles II. But that is another story.

The calls for Oliver Cromwell to assume the crown during his time as Lord Protector eventually came to nothing and Milton was one of those arguing against it. Hampden never espoused republican views so far as we know. He believed in the efficacy of the old tripartite constitutional format of King, Lords and Commons.

As late as the Putney debates in 1647 Cromwell was arguing against the execution of the King and for the preservation of a monarchy. It is impossible to tell how Hampden's views might have progressed in the light of experience. Faced with the King's continual plotting he might, like Cromwell, have eventually agreed to his trial and execution. The motto on the Hampden jewel would suggest that he would have done so only with great reluctance.

**Sam Hearn**

Main source: *Milton, Republicanism, and Buckinghamshire Anti-Stuart Initiatives, 1637-42* by Warren E. Spehar – Western Connecticut State University

## 400 YEARS AGO

In October 1622 John and Elizabeth Hampden celebrated the birth of their first child, a daughter called Elizabeth.

In 1637 she married Richard Knightley, from a Midlands Puritan family, who fought for Parliament in the Civil War but opposed the trial of Charles I.

The Knightleys had twins called Elizabeth and Richard in 1641, but their mother died on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1643 in London, shortly before her father's own death in Thame.

It seems likely that Elizabeth Knightley's would have been a child-birth death, but many other causes of early deaths were rampant in 17<sup>th</sup> century London. John Hampden must have been campaigning with a heavy heart.

## THE ONLINE ARCHIVE

As well as news of the Society's events and activities, *The Patriot* also frequently contains articles of interest. Much more in the way of documents, videos and links, which may be of interest to those wishing to find out more about John Hampden and his life and times, are contained in the Archives section of the Society's website. This can be accessed by scrolling to the bottom of the Home page, where there is a link.

Among other items, the Archive contains copies of the Domesday Book entry for Great and Little Hampden; John Hampden's will; a history of Hampden House; the Great Hampden parish register for the 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries; and much more. Videos of some of the recent talks on Zoom are also there.

If you have any suggestions for further items you would like to see lodged in this electronic store, please contact:

[thetreasurer@johnhampden.org](mailto:thetreasurer@johnhampden.org).

The Society also has a library of more than 160 volumes on the Civil War and the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Many of these are available for members to borrow. The list is available at:

[www.johnhampden.org/the-society/library/](http://www.johnhampden.org/the-society/library/).

# JOHN HAMPDEN AND OLIVER CROMWELL

## A COMPARISON

The highlight of the programme of the John Hampden Society in 2021 was a Zoom talk on October 9<sup>th</sup> by the eminent military historian Dr Lynette Nusbacher (*below*), who works with government and commercial organisations on strategy development. Her PhD about the English Civil War involved her being frequently ‘elbow-deep’ in records at the National Archives. We were joined by members of the Cromwell Association, the Battlefields Trust and Bucks Local History Network, forming an audience of nearly a hundred viewers.

The title of the talk was *John Hampden and Oliver Cromwell: The managerial and analytical mind in crisis*. Dr Nusbacher argued that John Hampden and Oliver Cromwell regarded themselves as professional gentlemen. This meant that they were competent to run country estates, and their local communities through roles such as Justice of the Peace. To enter this profession, they went to local grammar schools, attended university and spent time at the Inns of Courts learning law. They developed a way of thinking that we would consider strategic. She mentioned that John Hampden could have become a lord when James I was selling titles, but he chose not to do so; he chose the profession of gentleman.



Dr Nusbacher referred to John Hampden as ‘the motivating mind’ and ‘controlling intellect’ behind the Parliamentary cause. She suggested that he took a long-term approach to shifting policy from the reckless and feckless Court to the thinking gentlemen in Parliament. The need for change was evident many years before the start of the Civil War. She positioned five crisis points, the Ship Money trial, the campaign against the Earl of Strafford, the ‘Five Members’ moment, the Battle of Edgehill, and his subsequent attempts to get the Earl of Essex to defeat the king in the field of battle as milestones in this strategy. She mentioned that he set up the decision-making structures on the parliamentary side that enabled the New Model Army to be effective.

John Hampden’s strategy-making and goal-orientation were probably helped by his religious outlook. Dr Nusbacher was careful to avoid the stereotype of ‘Puritans’, but he was one of a group of parliamentarians who believed that it was their duty and vocation to create a godly ‘city on a hill’. This required long term thinking, the development of competence to govern, and ultimately, martial valour to defeat the ungodly.

The talk was fascinating and thought-provoking, and was well received. Member Wendy Grant wrote: ‘What an interesting and mesmerising talk by Dr Nusbacher last night. It offered a whole new and fascinating perspective about the life, career and actions of John Hampden and his contemporaries before and during the civil war’

She added: ‘Considering that Zoom events are relatively new for the John Hampden Society and given the large number of attendees, I thought it went very well indeed. Thank you to all those involved in organising the talk, it was much appreciated. I hope there will be other similar events offered through Zoom in the future’.

Thanks for hosting this talk were also received from the Battlefields Trust, but one JHS member wondered how members of the Cromwell Association welcomed Dr Nusbacher’s opinion that the Lord Protector was ‘promoted above the level of his ability’!

I urge any member who was not able to attend to watch the video which is available on the Society’s Facebook page and also on our website if you have a Google account. And for members who did attend – do watch it again because it gets better every time you listen!

Dr Nusbacher kindly gave the talk for free but asked viewers to donate to The Army Benevolent Fund, so if you have not donated already, please send something to them. For those of you in decision-making roles, you might like to check out Dr Nusbacher’s company at <https://nusbacher.com/about/>

**Beth Rogers**

## ACCESS TO THE SHIP MONEY MONUMENT

The various statues and monuments that commemorate John Hampden are so important and serve for many as an introduction to the man himself and his historical significance. None more so than the Ship Money Monument in Prestwood, now managed by the Chiltern Society.

The CS have created a John Hampden circular walk which connects the monument to the church and to Hampden House before crossing the valley. The views are stunning, and the walk is very popular. In addition to the sign board with details about Hampden and Ship Money, we have recently added a help-yourself box with a leaflet which promotes the aims of the JHS. This has proved to be very popular.



However there are two aspects to the site which concern us. The monument is sandstone and the important inscription is fading fast. Should we let nature take its toll or have the inscription re-etched? As representatives of the JHS, Miles Buckinghamshire, Jim Rodda and I met trustees and senior management of the CS on site in October (*left*) to discuss this and the other pressing issue - the narrow lane which passes alongside the monument.

This is now a busy and dangerous road, and a designated route for heavy good vehicles. The Chiltern Society's Hampden Walk briefly uses this road and we strongly believe that a footpath diversion is needed to protect walkers. There is a possible route on the inside of the hedge to meet another footpath and we are urging the Chiltern Society to organise a permissive path as soon as possible. The landowner has been contacted and we look forward to a speedy resolution.

As soon as this is done the walk will be promoted anew with an article in the Chiltern Society's widely-read magazine. Car parking for walkers has become an issue across the Chilterns and we are also proposing a new optional starting point for the Hampden Walk - appropriately the Hampden Arms in the village. This is a useful place to start a walk anyway for those interested in easy access to the main Hampden sites, and incidentally near the church the diversion also passes a little known motte castle site, known as Danes Camp. See <https://heritageportal.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/Monument/MBC30>

**Peter Osborne**

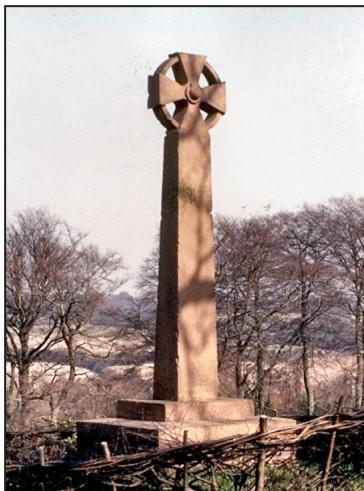
## THE MONUMENT MYSTERY

In a small enclosure off Honor End Lane, close to Honor End Farm, you will find a monument (*right*) dedicated to John Hampden in the form of a Celtic cross. The inscription reads as follows:-

**FOR THESE LANDS IN STOKE MANDEVILLE  
JOHN HAMPDEN  
WAS ASSESSED IN TWENTY SHILLINGS  
SHIP MONEY  
LEVIED BY COMMAND OF THE KING  
WITHOUT THE AUTHORITY OF LAW  
THE 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1635  
BY RESISTING THE CLAIM OF THE KING  
IN LEGAL STRIFE  
HE UPHELD THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE  
UNDER THE LAW  
AND BECAME THE ENTITLED  
TO GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE  
HIS WORK ON EARTH ENDED  
AFTER THE CONFLICT IN CHALGROVE FIELD  
THE 18<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 1643  
AND HE RESTS IN GREAT HAMPDEN CHURCH  
W.E.**

It is commonly thought that Lord Nugent was responsible for erecting this monument – is this correct? I think that there would probably have been a committee to bring this idea to fruition. Permission - and possibly assistance - from the Earl of Buckinghamshire to place it on his land, etc.

I have trawled through miles of film from newspapers of the time, searched archives and libraries (both public and private) to find any mention of an unveiling ceremony. Surely there must have been one - Lords and Ladies - local dignitaries all arriving in their carriages. I cannot imagine it was a clandestine affair carried out under cover of darkness in total secrecy! If it is out there, I have not yet succeeded in finding it.



The other burning question is, who is W.E. and why only his initials? He is eloquent and concise – and to my mind one could not improve on his inscription.

In February 2015 I discovered *Buckinghamshire, A Record of Local Occurrences and General Events, Chronologically Arranged*, published in 1879 by Robert Gibbs, which contained on September 11<sup>th</sup> 1863: 'A monument was erected at Prestwood in Stoke Mandeville on the piece of ground on which the warrant for Ship Money was levied which ended in the Civil War; the principle (*sic*) promoter was the Lord Chief Justice Earle.'

(continued on page 9)

(continued from page 8)

Not surprising really that the author (I presume) of the wording only recorded his initials, as being Lord Chief Justice he is a representative of the Monarch and therefore should probably not be known as to be supporting and lauding a ‘rebel’.

**ERLE, SIR WILLIAM** (1793–1880), English lawyer and judge, was born at Fifehead-Magdalene, Dorset, on the 1st October 1793, and was educated at Winchester and at New College, Oxford. Having been called to the bar at the Middle Temple in 1819 he went on the western circuit, where he slowly acquired a reputation for thoroughness, rather than brilliance.

In 1834 he married Amelia, eldest daughter of the Rev. David Williams, warden of New College, and took silk the same year. He was appointed counsel to the Bank of England, sat in parliament from 1837 to 1841 for the city of Oxford, and was made a judge of the Common Pleas in 1845. He was transferred to the Queen’s Bench in the following year, and in 1859 came back to the Common Pleas as Chief Justice upon the promotion of Sir Alexander Cockburn, being sworn to the Privy Council. He retired in 1866, receiving the highest eulogiums for the ability and impartiality with which he had discharged the judicial office.

During the rest of his life Erle resided chiefly at his modest seat, Bramshott, near Liphook, Hampshire, interesting himself in parochial and county affairs. Though no sportsman he was very fond of horses, dogs, and cattle. His personal appearance was that of a country gentleman, his complexion being said to be ‘remarkably fresh and ruddy, his eyes keen and bright. He died at his estate at Bramshott on the 28th of January 1880. He left no children.

I have now found evidence of a Celtic cross, erected in 1851 by Sir William Erle on Gibbet Hill, Hindhead (said to be on the former site of a public gibbet) in order to dispel the fear of the residents.

#### CONCLUSION:

When the monument was erected in 1863 Sir William was 70 years old but did not retire until three years later. It is possible that my original surmise that he wanted to keep his involvement with the monument quiet may have been correct. Sorry Sir William, Robert Gibbs and I have, between us, blown your cover!

#### FOOTNOTE:

Robert Gibbs, also author of that weighty tome *The History of Aylesbury* - some 700 plus, densely packed pages - gives only a casual five lines to the event in a tiny booklet measuring just 5" by 4". Why? Did he not get an invitation to the unveiling?!

**Valerie Horne**

## BUCKS LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK CONFERENCE 2021



The organisers of these events select interesting venues and last year’s, held on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021 with the subject *Shopping in Buckinghamshire – from medieval market places to modern retail parks*, was no exception. Certainly the facilities at Wycombe Abbey School (*above*) were outstanding and the formal grounds, hidden from the road, were quite remarkable.



As is often the case the theme of the conference had no direct relevance to John Hampden, but it was good to ‘keep the flag flying’ and it is important to make new friends and renew old acquaintances. The Society’s stall (*left*) was shared by Roger Howgate and his Great Kimble display, and we

had many visitors during the conference breaks although attendee numbers were down on pre-Covid numbers. The conference was run as a hybrid physical and virtual event and the technology proved a little challenging for some. Those attending virtually were occasionally frustrated when speakers wandered too far away from the microphone!

Given the changes that we see daily on our high streets, it was salutary to be reminded that retailing has so often been in a state of flux reflecting to the wider changes in society and the increasingly sophisticated nature of the economy. I particularly enjoyed the talk about shopping in Amersham-on-the Hill, by the exuberant Alison Bailey, a trustee of the Amersham Museum. It is however hard for me to come to terms with the fact that the world of my childhood is now ‘history’.

Julian Hunt’s run through of the development of the market towns of Buckinghamshire was very professional and thought provoking. David Noy spoke in great detail about the shops, market stalls and inventories of Winslow 1558 -1750; a subject that was clearly close to his heart. Jackie Kay’s talk on shops and shopkeepers in eighteenth century High Wycombe highlighted the ever changing nature of ‘the High Street’. She skilfully used contemporary maps, plans and prints to speculate on where High Wycombe’s medieval market-place had been located and why it all but disappeared as the town expanded.

We will keep members informed of the plans for the 2022 conference. It would be much appreciated if more people could lend a hand in running the Society’s stall on the day .

**Sam Hearn**

## AN AUTUMN VISIT

A select band of members enjoyed a private visit to Milton's Cottage (*below*) at Chalfont St Giles and the Quaker Meeting House at nearby Jordans on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021



Our local guides at the two venues, Kelly and Nina, greatly enhanced our visitor experience with their personal insights and breadth of knowledge. Both the cottage and the meeting house are compact sites and much of their charm for visitors lies in being able to stand in the spot where history happened.

Thomas Ellwood, John Milton's Quaker friend, helped him secure the lease on what is now called Milton's Cottage describing it as 'this pretty box at St Giles'. This curious sixteenth century home is Milton's only surviving residence. In the nineteenth century a wealthy American offered to buy it and ship it to the USA. Queen Victoria, undaunted by the poet's trenchant republican views, headed the list of subscribers who saved the cottage and Milton's legacy.

Although John Milton only lived there for around eighteen months it was here that he completed what was to become his best-selling epic poem *Paradise Lost* and where he was inspired to begin writing its sequel, *Paradise Regained*. The three museum rooms contain rare books, original paintings and prints that provide a unique insight into the poet's life, work and influence. Kelly, our guide, was happy at our request to expand on the significance of Milton's political career.



Nina Liebenberg (standing) and members in the 1688 Meeting Room

We were unable to resolve the mystery of why the neighbouring property has long been known as Hampden Cottage, but perhaps some local historian can enlighten us?

We all enjoyed a hearty lunch at Merlin's Cave, a pub in the heart of the village, before driving the two miles along the traditional winding country lanes to the Jordans Quaker Meeting House and burial ground. (*above*) The Meeting House was constructed in 1688, just two years after James II's Declaration of Indulgence that suspended the laws against dissenters. The building was extended over the years but a devastating fire in 2005 destroyed a great deal of the property and severely damaged the roof of the original meeting house.

Our guide, the quietly spoken Nina Liebenberg, led us on a fascinating tour of the Meeting House. The Quaker style is plain and unadorned and we were all impressed by the tranquillity of this special place. The cemetery contains around 400 burials including that of Milton's friend Thomas Ellwood, mentioned above. This is also the final resting place of several other prominent Quakers, such as William Penn (the founder of Pennsylvania USA) and his family. In 1881 a request was received from America to return William Penn's bones to Pennsylvania but it was politely refused.

More information can be found at: <https://www.miltonscottage.org> & <https://www.jordansquakercentre.org/>

Sam Hearn

## **HOLES IN THE HEAD**

### **Civil War Medical Practices**

Dr Ismini Pells (*pictured*), who will be giving the Zoom talk on the above subject on 28<sup>th</sup> February, is Project Manager/Postdoctoral Research Fellow in *Welfare, Conflict and Memory* at the University of Leicester. She is also an academic advisor to the National Army Museum and the National Civil War Centre. She has sent us the following pre-view of her talk:



In the popular imagination, early modern medicine has not enjoyed a favourable reputation, although scholarship on the English Civil Wars has begun to rescue the medical staff who served during the conflict from their reputation as bungling and dangerous amateurs recruited from the lowest echelons of a primitive profession. The publications of leading Civil War practitioners have been analysed and shown to contain forward-thinking and scientific practices that remained in place with only modest refinements for centuries afterwards.

Nevertheless, it remains unclear how far such celebrity cases were representative of widespread practice and how far the medical care administered under Civil War systems lived up to contemporary expectations. However, the Civil War Petitions project ([www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/](http://www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk/)) has been gathering documents submitted by maimed soldiers who claimed war pensions from the state, which provide crucial testimonies from those who actually survived the fighting. These reveal evidence surrounding the types of wounds received by Civil War soldiers, the treatment they received and how this impacted upon their return to civilian life.

Using the material gathered by the Civil War Petitions project, this talk will bring to light the treatments described in these documents and compare these to the expectations of contemporary military medical authors from both Britain and mainland Europe to ascertain how far widespread practice correlated to published theory.

## **ABSENT FRIENDS**

The one hundredth edition of *The Patriot* is an appropriate time to remember those no longer with us who have ‘laboured in the vineyard’ and helped make the Society what it is today. Without active members prepared to go that extra mile, the Society would have been able to achieve very little. So we remember with gratitude those whose names are listed below.

The numbers in brackets after their names indicate the issue of *The Patriot* where you can, in most cases, find their obituary or a mention of them. Unfortunately this is not a comprehensive record and we can only apologise for those whose passing has not been marked appropriately.

**George Hammond**, the Society’s second Hon. Treasurer (6). **William Wood**, one of the party who visited Hampden (Maine) in 1994 (14). **Ursula Pye**, a descendant of John Hampden’s eldest daughter Anne (15). **Anna Watson**, wife of the former Bishop of Oxford (17). **George Morris**, father of Liz Morris and a keen researcher (20). **Bishop Dick Watson**, former Bishop of Oxford (21). **Lord Donaldson**, a Labour politician and a descendant of John Hampden (21). **Richard Millard**, former Clerk to Bucks County Council (21).

**Lord Hollenden**, father of the present owner of the Hampden Estate (25). **Norman Lawrence**, Ursula Pye’s cousin and another descendant of the Patriot (25). **Kate Shirley**, also a Life Member of the Cromwell Association (25). **Gerald Bradford**, a keen horseman and Sealed Knot member (27). **Moira Calvert**, a descendant of the Barbados Hampdens (29). **Len Barker** (30). **Joyce le Naimaster** (30). **Alan Walker** 30a). **Elliott Viney**, a former High Sheriff of Bucks (33).

**Cynthia Beaumont**, a bedridden native of Great Hampden who signed herself ‘Cynthia.com’! (35). **Minor Myers**, President of the Illinois Wesleyan University (38). **Gordon Knight**, a keen believer in democracy (48). **Terry Gibson**, husband of former Hon. Treasurer Rosalie (49). **Liz Morris**, former Membership Secretary (50). **Henry Baldwin**, a resident of Hampden Road, Hobart, Tasmania (53). **Viscount Hampden**, another descendant and owner of the Glynde Estate (53).

**Dr Frank Hansford-Miller**, co-founder and first Hon. Treasurer (55). **Joan Portsmouth**, a former committee member with her husband Mike (61). **Marie Endean** (61). **Graham Barfield**, an active and enthusiastic committee member from the Midlands (67). **Alan Dell**, a noted local historian and author (71). **Lesley Wynne-Davies**, a member of the Executive Committee of the Richard III Society (72). **Angela Rodda**, wife of committee member Jim (78 & 80).

**Gloria Smith**, a very enthusiastic member from Canterbury (81 & 84). **The Rev. Dr Joyce Bennett**, first woman to be ordained into the Anglican Communion (83). **Beatrice Dobie**, a former Deputy Mayor of Thame and a JHS committee member (85). **Hugh Muldrew**, a former mayor of Hampden, New Zealand (85). **Jean Gabbitas**, wife of committee member John (May 2017). **Roger Paynter**, former Membership Secretary from Grampound (88). **Olive Entwistle**, a stalwart of the Workers Educational Association in Hertfordshire (92). **Trixie Muldrew**, wife of Hugh. (July 2019). **Anne Kirtland**, wife of committee member Maurice (May 2020). **Robert Stone** (October 2021).

## AN EDUCATIONAL INNOVATION

Just over two and half years ago the John Hampden Grammar School at High Wycombe was awarded a grant following a successful CEF bid to create a further 15 new classrooms at the school. We also expanded the school's intake by one further form group at the same time.



**Left to right - Mark Phillips, Head Teacher Tracey Hartley and Deputy Head Boy Tom Hardy**

The build began in early summer 2020 and was successfully completed on time and to budget for the start of the Autumn term in September 2021. An amazing feat considering the effect on absences and building supplies wrought by the Covid pandemic. Students began using the new build from the very start of term and the Innovation

Hub now houses our Maths, Economics, Business Studies, Psychology and Computer Science departments.

All students therefore get to use the facilities and the building has become a real source of pride to our students. The build also meant that we created a secure third 'Quad' for outside eating and in the summer term Sixth Form study.

Known as the Compass Quad the inset carved stone compass in the flagstones indicates both the moral compass we hope all students will cultivate during their time here and the starting point on their journeys beyond John Hampden Grammar School, to all points of the globe.

In October we were delighted to welcome David Dein MBE, Ambassador for the football Premier League, and Baroness Karren Brady CBE, the Government's Small Business Ambassador, to officially open the Innovation Hub.

After a short introduction by Mark Phillips QC, himself an alumnus of John Hampden Grammar school and long serving school Governor, the ribbon was cut and the Head Boy team showed all our distinguished guests around the Innovation Hub. Guests were then taken to the school hall where David Dein gave a very entertaining talk on the evolution of the Premier League as a business.

The audience of students then had the opportunity to put a number of their questions to Mr Dein and Baroness Brady who both gave very informative and insightful responses.

**Deborah Templing  
(John Hampden GS staff)**



**Left to right - Head Boy Ewen Hayward, David Dein and Baroness Brady**



**The Compass Stone**



**Left to right - Mark Phillips, Head Teacher Tracey Hartley, Deputy Head Boy Tom Hardy, David Dein, Baroness Brady and Head Boy Ewen Hayward**