



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 102 - Summer 2022



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

HONOURING HAMPDEN

Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th June were busy days for the Society. The Sealed Knot were running a weekend of living history and re-enactments at the Rugby Club ground and Thame Museum were holding the Thame History Fair in the Town Hall on the Sunday. We were invited to participate in both these events, with stalls at both venues.

Things began on a cold and wet note at the rugby ground, but we did have lots of visits to the stall. The first was member John Seal who brought his fellow musketeers of Colonel Henry Tillier's Regiment to meet us!



Simon Weir as John Hampden



Braving the elements. Left to right - John Seal, Sam Hearn, Beth Rogers, Roy Bailey, Annabel Bailey, and three members of Tillier's Regiment

Although they were mostly Royalist units, the SK were very complimentary about John Hampden in their commentary, and he was portrayed by one of their best horsemen - Simon Weir. Meanwhile at Chalgrove, Derek Lester of the Chalgrove History Group had very kindly laid a wreath funded by the John Hampden Society at the monument to the battle.

On Saturday evening, Thame Museum hosted an evening of 17th century music and poetry, in which John Hampden was also highly praised. Sunday began with a Sealed Knot Guard of Honour at the plaque in Thame where Maurice Kirtland had already installed the wreath. I gave a short address, and thanked members of the Sealed Knot and the JHS for their participation - the latter both in body and in spirit. For this event, the sun shone on the righteous! .

Members were spread thinly between the two stalls at the Town Hall and the rugby ground. The Sealed Knot repeated their re-enactment, with a representation of the Battle of Chalgrove Field and the withdrawal of a wounded John Hampden. The weather was better, so we were able to reach out to more people, Sam Hearn being particularly pro-active in distributing leaflets.

Leaflets and newsletters were also freely distributed at the History Fair, where members were pleased to meet Rosalie Gibson, one of Thame's leading lights and a former Hon. Treasurer of the Society.



Under the command of Major Andy George, the Sealed Knot honour John Hampden in Thame. Inset - the wreath

continued from page 1



Valerie Horne and Simon Marsh man the Society's stall at the History Fair, while Hon Treasurer Sam Hearn (right) tries his hand at pikemanship



Members then made their way to Great Kimble where member Roger Howgate had organised a wonderful event to commemorate the restoration of the John Hampden artefacts in the church and the church sign which mentioned John Hampden. Roger gave a fascinating historical account of the importance of the Ship Money letter, and our Patron Miles Buckinghamshire followed on with a tribute to John Hampden and his legacy.



Miles Buckinghamshire addressing the visitors in Great Kimble church, with Roger Howgate in attendance

Thanks are due to many members who helped make this weekend such a success - Sam, Roy and Annabel who were ever-present and ever-enthusiastic; Charles Harvey, Simon Marsh and Valerie Horne who provided excellent help on the stalls; Maurice Kirtland who organised a beautiful wreath; Roger and Miles for their work at Great Kimble; Bob Hammond for his support at the wreath-laying; and a special thank-you to Jim and Libby Rodda for loaning their new gazebo to the Society - it certainly saved us from the elements (and probably pneumonia) on Saturday!



Miles and Roger unveil the restored Ship Money roll

Thanks also to the committee members and others who helped JHS to prepare for these activities, offered ideas and items, and visited the activities.



Miles unveils the restored sign in the churchyard (see page 4)

We are also grateful to our hosts for these activities - Phil Williams of the Thame Museum who prompted me to prepare for this weekend many months ago; Andy George, the Sealed Knot commander who organised their activities and was very helpful to the JHS and pro-active throughout (including getting permissions for the wreath-laying ceremony); and everyone at Great Kimble Church.

Beth Rogers

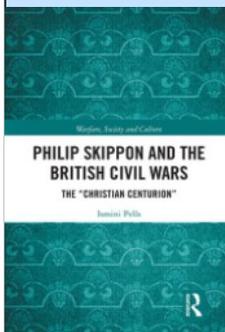
BOOK REVIEW

Philip Skippon and the British Civil Wars: The 'Christian Centurion' by Dr Ismini Pells

Published in December 2021 by Routledge

ISBN 9781032238029

306 Pages, 20 B/W illustrations



This detailed biography is a robust item of historical research, but also accessible and thought-provoking. Dr Pells has taken the story of Philip Skippon, the son of minor gentry in Norfolk, who became the third most-senior general in the new Model Army, and tells us not just the story of one man, but sheds light on what it is to survive in revolutionary times. While Skippon retained his military reputation throughout the 1630s and 1640s, it seems that longevity chipped away at his parliamentary legacy in the 1650s. The religious and political rivalries of the time meant that his limitations were keenly observed by some commentators.

His rise is an inspiring story. He joined the English Army in the Netherlands at the age of 17 to support the Protestants fighting the Spanish, and to earn money, as his family could not provide for him to go to university. He worked hard and gained a reputation. The Dutch were professionalising military service, and so he learned as he earned. On his return to England in the 1630s, he was appointed Captain of the London Trained Bands, who were so important in securing the capital for Parliament when the Civil War broke out.

He survived the disaster at Fowey and was badly wounded at Naseby, but his contribution of introducing 'combined arms' and other tactics learnt as a mercenary were important to Parliament's success. As a military commander he was concerned for his men, and also was keen for them to share his religious motivation, urging them to be Christian centurions. However, he was not a Leveller, and his role as a moderate in the years after the Civil War meant that he was perceived to lack impact. He was loyal to Cromwell and his son, which kept him in a job long into old age. Perhaps because of the post-war compromising, his contribution to the military successes of Parliament have been eclipsed and his name is not well known.

This book is an objective review of his life and times, and a worthy textbook of the period but, sadly, nowhere is there any mention of John Hampden.

Beth Rogers



DIARY DATES

2022

Thur 27th October.

The Society's 30th anniversary.

Sun 6th November. Exploration of the battlefields of Brentford and Turnham Green 1642, commencing at 10.30am.

See: <https://tinyurl.com/24xd4ozv>

Dinner commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Society and the 380th anniversaries of the battles of Brentford and Turnham Green, to be held at The Pilot, 56 Wellesley Road, Chiswick W4 4BZ. Guest speaker - former Attorney General Dominic Grieve QC PC. Further details to follow.

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

www.johnhampden.org/

SHIP MONEY DISPLAY

JHS stalwart Jim Rodda has made a number of framed copies of the Ship Money monument inscription to be displayed by organisations with an association to John Hampden. Jim has been very concerned about the state of the inscription on the monument, and came up with this idea to ensure that the inspiring words are not forgotten, even if they are fading from the stone.

The framed copies have been enthusiastically received by the Hampden Arms pub; Great Hampden church; Hampden House; the John Hampden Grammar School, High Wycombe; Thame Museum; Great Kimble Church; the John Hampden Primary School in Wendover, and the Lord Williams Upper School in Thame.

Other organisations have been contacted. We would be particularly interested if anyone has any contacts at Inner Temple, as we have not had a reply, but they seem to be proud of John Hampden as an alumnus.

If any member would like to nominate an organisation to be offered one of these prestigious items, please email Beth Rogers who will be happy to help.

The Editor writes ...

For once, I have very little to say! The events of the joint JHS/Sealed Knot weekend in June are well-documented here by Beth Rogers, and the whole weekend was very successful and most enjoyable. It wasn't quite on the scale of the ECWS's week-long event in June 1997 (see *The Patriot* no. 19) but it put the Society and the SK in front of the public.

The sad part was that, despite press releases and photos being sent to the *Oxford Mail* and other media, there was no reports in either the newspapers or on TV or radio.

Very frustrating.

Roy Bailey
Editor

editor@johnhampden.org

Published by

The John Hampden Society

Little Hampden

Cryers Hill, High Wycombe

Bucks HP15 6JS

Tel: 07543 054335

e-mail: [see website](mailto:see@johnhampden.org)

Website: www.johnhampden.org

Registered charity no. 1098314

Printed by Sarsen Press

22 Hyde Street, Winchester

Hampshire SO23 7DR

Tel: 01962 854281

info@sarsenpress.com

Every effort is made to obtain permission to reproduce the images in this publication from the relevant copyright holders and to ensure that all credits are correct.

We have acted in good faith and on the best information available to us at the time of publication. Any omissions are inadvertent, and will be corrected if notification is given in writing.

REVIEW

John Hampden and the Battle of Chalgrove

Saturday 11th June

Speaker: Derek Lester

Hosts: Bucks Archaeological Society

Location: Aylesbury and on-line

The Chair introduced the talk by quoting the saying 'The first casualty of war is the truth'. In recent times, it could be argued that there have been political narratives on Covid and Ukraine in which alternative and sceptical views have been suppressed and derided as dangerous.

We have so much information in the modern world, and yet searching for reality is difficult. In the 17th century, pamphlets circulated that were extreme in their support of one side or the other, and the passage of time since does not seem to have helped historians who are interested in what really happened.

Derek explained how our knowledge of the Battle of Chalgrove and of John Hampden's death and funeral has been formed by Clarendon's *History of the Great Rebellion* and Lord Nugent's *Memorials of John Hampden*. He argued convincingly that these accounts, which were written long after the Civil War, were politically motivated and poorly researched.

Indeed, he pointed out that Nugent's work of 1847 is contradicted by historical records and has been criticised by publishers. Some elements of it, such as *The Worthy Discourse* between Hampden and Cromwell, and the grand funeral of Hampden, are probably imagined. Of course, the north side of John Hampden's statue in Aylesbury has an artist's impression of his funeral in 1643 based on Nugent's ideas.

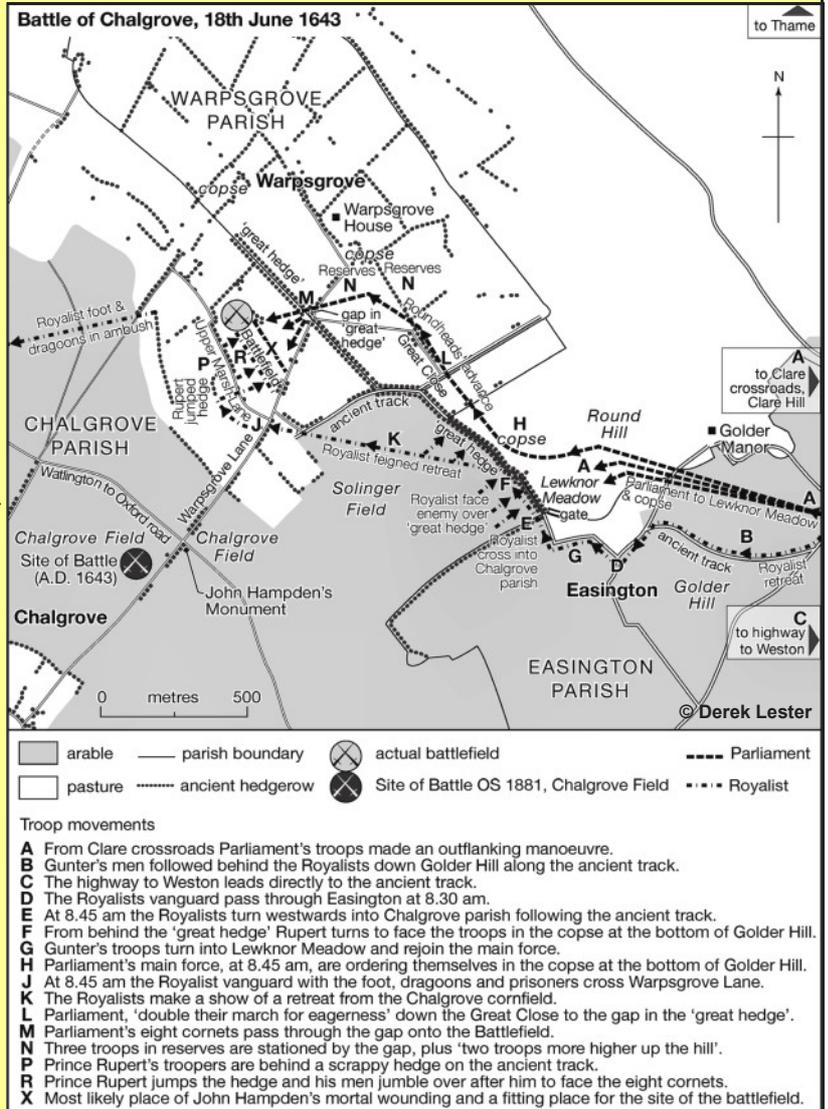
Derek has been researching Clarendon's original diaries which are in the Bodleian Library, and he gave alternative scenarios. His research of the conduct of the Battle of Chalgrove has been discussed in an earlier review of his article in an academic journal, and one listener in this session commented that he would 'remember the hedges!'

The speaker proposed that John Hampden did not leave his men after receiving his wound and returned to the Earl of Essex's headquarters (not Thame). The funeral would have been a low-key affair. Of course, it makes sense in a time of civil war to conceal the location of a body that the other side might want to desecrate at a later date.

Overall, there is considerable food for thought in these alternative scenarios and Derek's book, which is to be published next year, should be a 'must read' for Hampden enthusiasts.

Beth Rogers

(Editor's note: The above map was produced by Derek Lester for his article Clarendon and History: A Case Study of the Battle of Chalgrove, 18th June 1643, published in 2021 in the Journal for the Society for Army Historical Research no. 99.)



RESTORATION

This is a larger view of the restored hanging sign that was unveiled in Great Kimble churchyard on 19th June.

A brief account of the long and complicated restoration of this valued piece of folk art can be found in *The Patriot* no. 100, page 5.

Member Roger Howgate has written a book, *Kimble's Journey*, about the history of the parish. Details are at <https://www.kimblesjourney.uk/>

