



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 104 - Winter 2022/23



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

A DAY OF CELEBRATION

The Society's 30th anniversary celebrations were well attended – not just by members but by some interesting guests as well. During Sunday 6th November Simon Marsh and Colin Cordell of the Battlefields Trust led the annual conducted tours of the battlefields of Brentford and Turnham Green - marking the 380th anniversary of the battles - and in the evening 30+ diners enjoyed a celebratory dinner at *The Pilot* pub in Chiswick.



Guest of honour was former Attorney General and one-time Beaconsfield MP Dominic Grieve (*pictured below with Sue Hearn*), who spoke passionately about the principles that had led Englishman to fight Englishman - principles that he maintained had an uncanny relevance in the political maelstrom of modern Britain: the importance of keeping the courts independent of the executive arm of government, and the need for Parliament to act as an effective check on the power of the Executive.



Another honoured guest was local MP Ruth Cadbury (*right*), who quizzed Mr Grieve as to whether he believed that the UK needed a written constitution. (He didn't, but believed that more politicians needed to understand the principles underlying our historic unwritten constitution.)

The evening was rounded off with a talk by new JHS member Howard Simmons on his display of 17th century arms and armour, some of which was produced on Hounslow Heath.



BRITISH CIVIL WARS MEMORIAL PROJECT UPDATE

As reported in *The Patriot* no. 101, the Society is working with seven other organisations to create to record monuments, memorials, plaques and information boards relating to the 17th century Wars of the Three Kingdoms, and those who fought in them. These records will be published in an online database which can be freely accessed by researchers and the wider public.

A website proposal has been agreed and costed and is now being constructed. Over a hundred entries have already been prepared for testing purposes. There will be a soft launch for the website early in 2023, and a well-advertised official launch later in the year.

Members will be encouraged to visit the website, suggest improvements and provide material for additional entries. Submissions can be made directly to the database via the online form at <https://bit.ly/BritishCWMemorials>.

If you have any images or information that you think should be included in the register please contact thetreasurer@johnhampden.org. Members are welcome to share any ideas that they might have on how to maximise the publicity for the launch.

The creation of this comprehensive record of the memorials relating to the Wars of the Three Kingdoms will be extremely useful for anyone wishing to visit them, or to advise others about what resources are available.

More broadly, it will allow a better understanding of how the Wars have been memorialised and how this process has changed over time. At a practical level it will provide a baseline against which any changes, such as damage, loss or new memorials can be measured.

The Editor writes ...

Looking through my collection of photographs of the Society's launch in October 1992 to produce the previous issue brought back many memories, especially the ones featuring the four founders.

Dr Frank Hansford-Miller sadly passed away in February 2008, but our Patron, Miles Buckinghamshire, and our President, Professor John Adair, are still very much around, although they were unable to attend the 30th Anniversary dinner last November. So it was left to me to be the sole representative there of the original 'Gang of Four'!

* * *

The return of the Society to *The King's Head* in Aylesbury for the 2023 Annual General Meeting will discharge a debt of honour.

Arrangements had been made to hold the 2020 AGM in this historic inn, but the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic meant that we had to cancel, promising that we would return as soon as possible. Arrangements are being made to redeem this promise, and members can look forward to not only enjoying the ambience of the Chiltern Brewery's flagship outlet but also their excellent food and drink.

* * *

We are pleased to announce that Dominic Grieve KC PC has accepted the Society's offer of honorary membership in recognition of his long-standing support of the Society and its aims.

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](http://www.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

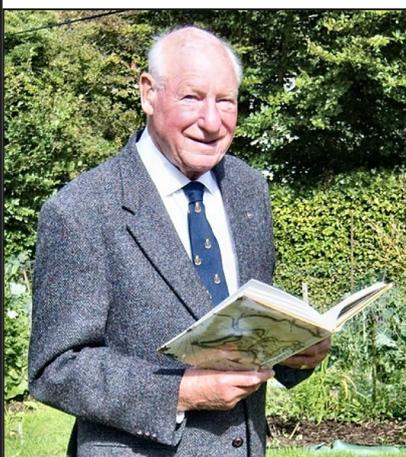
Every effort is made to obtain permission to reproduce the images in this publication from the relevant copyright holders and to ensure that all credits are correct.

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.

OBITUARY

Dr Paul Hooper

(1926 - 2021)



The Society's committee was saddened to hear – somewhat belatedly – that our long-standing member, Dr Paul Hooper, passed away in September 2021 at his home on the Isle of Wight.

Paul was born in Birmingham, but was evacuated to North Herefordshire at the beginning of World War II. He was educated at Bradfield College, Berkshire, and Birmingham University, where he qualified as a doctor.

During his National Service Paul was the Regimental Medical Officer of the 1st Battalion of the King's Shropshire Light Infantry and served as a surgeon in the Korean War. He witnessed the battle of Imjin River and treated over 300 combat casualties, many with horrific wounds. He invented a makeshift ambulance which helped them to survive their journey to the field hospital.

Paul moved to the Isle of Wight in the 1950s and had a distinguished medical career lasting for 30 years as a GP at Pyle Street, Newport. For a time he was on the surgical staff of St Mary's Hospital, and later specialised in paediatrics. One of his proudest moments was when he was elected Provost of the Royal College of General Practitioners for the south of England.

From his youth Paul had a keen interest in history. The Society published his book on John Hampden's activities in the Short Parliament. The companion volume covering Hampden's activities in the opening years of the Long Parliament exists in draft and will be published by the Society. Both of these works are available in the Archives section of the Society's website.

Paul was a keen member of the Isle of Wight Historical Association, and wrote *Our Island in War and Commonwealth* for them. He noted that the first cannon shot in the Civil War was fired from Cowes Castle at a ship carrying supplies to Royalists in Portsmouth, and that the Island's castles were used as prisons for many captured soldiers.

Paul contributed his time generously to civic life and good causes. He donated many important books to the John Hampden Society Library. He will be sorely missed.

GETTING IN PRINT

Bob Hammond's excellent article about Letitia Vachell in the last issue was very well received.

We are always in the market for relevant and interesting contributions for *The Patriot*, together with pictures if possible. Length is not a problem as articles can always be ruthlessly hacked down to size!

There is a style guide which tells you the preferred ways in which to submit your work. For a copy, contact editor@johnhampden.org, where contributions should also be sent.

UPDATE ON RISK MANAGEMENT

The trustees have agreed the format and contents of a risk register for the Society.

This information is incorporated in the Society's strategic plan, and a summary of the risk register can be found in the members' section of the website. A copy of the risk register will be provided on request to any member.

The trustees welcome members' comments and suggestions about the Society's risk management process and its risk register. Risk management will be on the agenda of this year's AGM as an item for discussion.

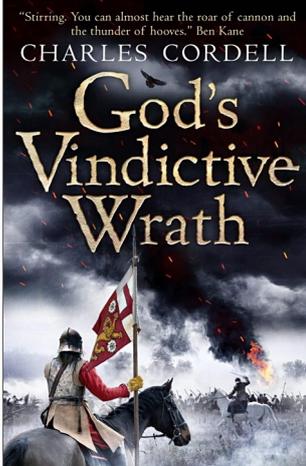
BOOK REVIEW

God's Vindictive Wrath: 1 (Divided Kingdom)

by Charles Cordell

Published in paperback in 2022 by Myrmidon Books

ISBN: 9781910183311 384 pp



Most books I can enjoy, forget and slip into the charity bag. Not this one. This book charged into my memory and dreams – it is VIVID! It starts at the beginning of the Battle of Edgehill and draws you into the mud, blood, sweat and gunpowder – you can smell it.

The book is written as a series of cameos about characters on both sides of the Civil War. It shows that this conflict, unlike the medieval civil wars, was driven by beliefs, but loyalties are not as simple as we might expect – some agricultural workers were fighting for the King because they hated the gentry who imposed enclosures. Whilst reeling from the descriptions of brutality and terror, the reader is challenged to empathise with all the main characters, and also to step back and think. The book shows that war is full of contradictions – bravery and cowardice, ingenuity and incompetence, triumph and tragedy. It was a shock to the fighters and those caught up in it, like the simple villagers who had to house the army passing through.

One notable flaw from a JHS point of view is that John Hampden is not mentioned. His activity at the Battle of Brentford is described by a Royalist captain as 'yet another rebel battalion on the road beyond town'. Turnham Green is covered, but rather briefly, which means that its significance is not fully explored.

Nevertheless, the book is original, interesting, entertaining and thought-provoking - an excellent read. It is the first of a series of books about the Civil War. I wondered whether the next in the series (which is due to be published in 2023) could have the same impact, but I will find out when I read it.

Beth Rogers

(Editor's note: The author draws on his experiences as a soldier and a diplomat in the Middle East, South Asia and North and West Africa. He has pledged to give 2% of his royalties from the book to Armed Services charities. At the end of the book there is an extremely informative historical note about the battles and the period itself. Further information can be found at <https://charlescordell.com/about-charles-cordell/>



DIARY DATES

2023

Thursday 26th January. A talk by Sam Hearn about Amersham MP William Hakewill (a colleague of Hampden) to the Amersham Society at The King's Chapel (behind *The King's Arms*), Old Amersham, commencing at 7.30pm. There will be a charge of £3 for non-members of the Amersham Society.

Saturday 25th February. A Zoom talk entitled 'The most popular man in the House? John Hampden in the Commons, 1640-1643' by Dr Vivienne Larminie of The History of Parliament Trust. Commencing at 4pm (1600 hrs GMT)

Wed 22nd March. A talk by Sam Hearn about John Hampden at St Nicholas Church, Ickford, Bucks HP18 9HZ, commencing at 7.30pm. The £10 entrance fee will also include a glass of wine. Members of the public are welcome, no booking required.

Sunday 26th March. The Society's Annual General Meeting, to be held at *The King's Head*, Market Square, Aylesbury HP20 2RW, commencing at 2pm. This will be followed by a talk on the Battle of Aylesbury by Charles Cordell.

A buffet lunch will be available from 1pm if booked by contacting thetreasurer@johnhampden.org.

Monday 27th March. A talk by Chair Dr Beth Rogers to the Princes Risborough Rotary Club at Whiteleaf Golf Club, Monks Risborough, commencing at 7.30pm.

The title of the talk is 'John Hampden, he had the most absolute faculties to govern the people of any man I ever saw'.

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

www.johnhampden.org/

GOING LOCO

The Society's Chair Beth Rogers recently visited the London Transport Museum in Covent Garden (*right*) to meet John Hampden - not the man but the locomotive!

One of 20 electric locomotives built in 1922, no. 5 served on the Metropolitan Line until 1961. In 1927 the locos were named after famous people associated with the area they served (the Metropolitan Line extended to Amersham.)

Only two now remain; the other one, no. 12, is named after actress Sarah Siddons.



MORE ON THE HOUBRAKEN ENGRAVING

It is right that members of the John Hampden Society should pay particular attention to the Houbraken portrait of Hampden even though it was not drawn from life. This image is freely available to download from the internet, unlike the Robert Walker portrait of Hampden. Unsurprisingly, images based on the Houbraken portrait have therefore often been used to illustrate mentions of Hampden in books and articles.

Houbraken engraving



Walker oil painting



As Derek Lester has pointed out (see *The Patriot* no. 103) there are distinct similarities between the Walker and the Houbraken portraits and is worth considering these in more detail. Both portraits are half length and show the subject facing half right. The hairline, hair parting, forehead and eyebrows are similar. The noses are practically identical. The mouths and lips are similar and the hint of a moustache in the Walker portrait is enhanced in the Houbraken version. The chins and jaw lines are also similar. It is hard to believe that Houbraken had not seen the Walker portrait or a reputable copy of it when he produced his rendering. However the dress-armour that Hampden wears in the Houbraken portrait appears anachronistic, and is very like that worn by Oliver Cromwell (in his pomp as Lord Protector), when painted by Robert Walker.

Lester speculates that the Houbraken portrait is derived from yet another portrait of Hampden that may somehow have found its way into the possession of The Chequers Trust. Fortunately images of the artwork in the Chequers Trust collection are freely available on <https://artuk.org/visit/collection/the-chequers-trust-268> The collection includes 190 portraits by 107 artists but sadly none are of John Hampden. It does, however, include portraits of members of the Cromwell family.

Jacobus Houbraken (1698-1780) learned the art of engraving from his father and specialised in portraiture from an early age. He collaborated with the historian Thomas Birch and artist George Vertue, on the project entitled, *Heads of Illustrious Persons of Great Britain*, published in parts in London from 1743 to 1752. He annotated his work with notes about the original paintings, recording in his portrait of John Hampden that '[the original is] In the possession of Sir Richard Ellys, Bart'. Since Ellys, who was Hampden's great-grandson, died in 1742 it is plausible that Houbraken did see an original or copy owned by him.

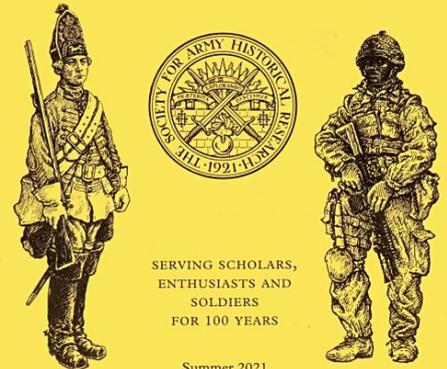
In conclusion, we simply do not know if the Houbraken portrait was based on an as yet unidentified portrait of John Hampden or on the Walker portrait (or even a copy of that portrait). However, the Houbraken and the Walker portraits have so many similarities that it seems likely that Houbraken was influenced either by the Walker portrait itself or of a copy of that portrait that had come into the possession of Sir Richard Ellys.

Sam Hearn

CLARENDON AND CHALGROVE

In *The Patriot* no. 98 we reviewed Derek Lester's paper *Clarendon and the Battle of Chalgrove, 18th June 1643*, which was published by the Society of Army Historical Research.

Journal of the Society for
ARMY HISTORICAL RESEARCH



SERVING SCHOLARS,
ENTHUSIASTS AND
SOLDIERS
FOR 100 YEARS

Summer 2021

Volume Ninety-Nine Number 397

ISSN 0037-9700 (Print)
ISSN 2516-7146 (On-line)

In this case study Lester, an acknowledged expert on the period and the battle, sets out how amendments in the various editions of Clarendon's *History of the Great Rebellion* have muddied the waters of historical research into the Battle of Chalgrove (and the causes of the Civil War) and led many historians of the period astray.

Although Edward Hyde (later the Earl of Clarendon) was in Oxford at the time of Prince Rupert's raid he took no part in the operation which included the Battle of Chalgrove. His account of the battle in the first volume of the *Great Rebellion* was not published until 1702, long after his death. This work was edited by Clarendon's son Laurence, the Earl of Rochester. Although based on his father's original manuscripts and documents it has been clear for many years that it is far from an accurate rendering. The original papers of the Earl of Clarendon are now held by the Bodleian Library - but they have never been comprehensively transcribed and published. This would be a massive task

This paper has now been published as a booklet, and the Society has purchased a small number. These are available for £4.00 each (postage and packing paid).

If you would like a copy of this detailed and fascinating publication please e-mail thetreasurer@johnhampden.org and make a bank transfer to the John Hampden Society's bank account: sort code 08-92-99, account no. 65557909.