

# THE PATRIOT

Official newsletter of the John Hampden Society

Issue 110 – May 2024

## WELCOME TO THE PATRIOT 110!

Dear members, Welcome to another newsletter, showcasing reports from events and the views of members.  
Dr Beth Rogers, Chair (and reluctant editor 😊)

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## THE SOCIETY AGM AT BROUGHTON CASTLE MARCH 2024

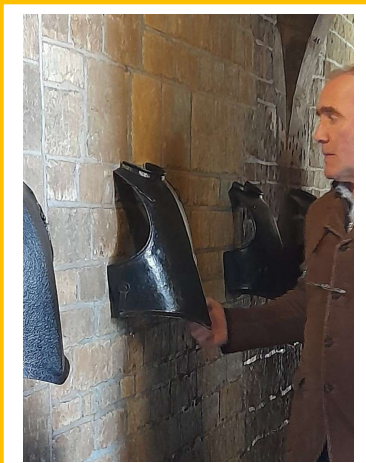
The 2024 AGM was held at Broughton Castle. Several members went on a tour of the castle led by Martin Fiennes, Lord Saye and Sele. It was wonderful to hear about the history of the family, their connections with John Hampden and the Parliamentary cause.

The Chair noted a year of progress in disseminating information about John Hampden. Several talks have been held in Hampden Country and our social media activity has greatly increased. The Society's finances remain robust. Alas, we are still short of active committee members, and the risk of the Society going into decline is ever present.

The Chair would like to apologise again to those members attempting to join online.



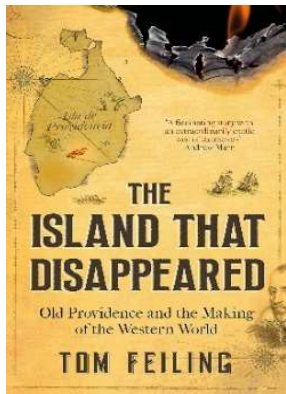
A buff coat in the Great Hall at Broughton Castle, allegedly Oliver Cromwell's. Originally it had a bloodstain, but that has been lost after cleaning.



Lord Saye explains why some of the breastplates seem very small. Not only were people smaller in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, some soldiers were very young, as young as 14.



Members admire the artefacts in the Great Hall

**BOOK REVIEW****The Island that Disappeared: The Lost History of the Mayflower's Sister Ship and Its Rival Puritan Colony by Tom Feiling**By **SAM HEARN**

ISBN: 978-93111-04-1

Published in 2017 by Explore Books

This is a wonderful and inspired book. The author skilfully brings to life the story of a unique episode in our early colonial history. The intriguing title refers to the disappearance of the records of the Providence Island Company for over 200 years due to a misfiling error in the Public Record Office. The papers were filed with the records of New Providence, the first English settlement on the Bahamas. Providence Island predates both New Providence and Providence Rhode Island.

The foundation myth of the United States traditionally begins with *The Mayflower* and the English puritan families who settled in New England in 1620. Few, however, know the story of the 100 men who sailed to Providence Island in 1631 aboard the Mayflower's sister ship *The Seaflower*. They were convinced that England's Empire would begin in the tropical Caribbean and not cold, barren New England.

The twenty investors in the company were amongst the wealthiest and most politically well-connected individuals in England. Most were related by blood or marriage. They included the Earl of Warwick, Lord Brooke and Lord Saye and Sele. Sir Thomas Barrington, one of John Hampden's first cousins, was also an investor, as was Oliver St John, who would represent Hampden in the Ship Money Trial. According to legend the investors met at Broughton Castle, the home Lord Saye and Sele. In practice the investors often met at Lord Brooke's home in Holborn. Hampden's friend John Pym MP was the Company Treasurer and another investor.

The island lies some 150 miles off the east coast of Nicaragua, and 500 miles north of Colombia. Between 1631 and 1641 this was home to a colony financed by Puritan grandees and settled by young male puritans guided by radical preachers and protected by soldiers of fortune and pirates. The investors wanted to establish a profitable, godly out-post run by a governor who reported directly to them in London. They also wanted the King to adopt a foreign policy that was more aggressively anti-Spanish. This suited Charles I's own plans and he was happy to grant a patent for the incorporation of the company that would "annoy the King of Spain".

During its brief life Providence was a colony in almost constant crisis: the settlers struggled to grow enough food to feed themselves, attempts to develop cash crops failed and the slaves introduced to raise productivity revolted. Then of course there were the attempts by the local Spanish forces to dislodge them. The puritan colonists reached a mutually beneficial if cantankerous arrangement with the pirates who found the island a convenient base from which to raid Spain's coastal settlements and the annual treasure fleet.

At once intimate and global, this story of puritans and pirates goes to the heart of the contradictory nature of the Caribbean and how the Western World took shape. For those with an interest in the English Civil War this book provides an important missing piece in the jigsaw puzzle of our understanding. It helps explain how, under the direction of John Pym, a strong coalition of puritan grandees developed an effective working relationship. When the Island fell to the Spanish in 1641 the ambitious idea of using Providence Island as a base from which to establish colonies on the Caribbean mainland was not forgotten. It was an obvious precursor to Cromwell's plan to take Hispaniola and his obsession with the Western Design, but that is another story.

Footnotes:

***Providence Island 1630-1641*** by Karen Ordhal Kupperman, first published in 1993 by Cambridge University Press remains a valuable and scholarly work on the subject and is generously acknowledged by Tom Feiling.

John Hampden was close to the investors in Providence Island, but as Karen Kupperman's research shows he was not an investor. He would not have been appointed as an independent referee of the negotiations to agree what was owed to the Islands first Governor, Sir Phillip Bell, if he were an investor in the company. The reasons for him not being an investor are unknown.



JOHN HAMPDEN – A WYCOMBE MAN WITH GLOBAL IMPACT



Alistair North explains the role of the drummer.



The clerk played an important role – he paid the wages!



The pikes protect the musketeers

Pikemen demonstrate their skills



The fun continues at Wycombe Museum! On April 7<sup>th</sup>, the re-enactors of Sir Marmaduke Rawdon's Regiment of Foote, a royalist regiment, turned their coats for the day and performed as Buckinghamshire Greencoats. Led by Commander Alistair North, they gave displays of pike formations and attacks, musket volleys, and combined arms. There were also living history stalls about the role of the regimental clerk, Puritan ladies running the home, 17<sup>th</sup> century cookery and crafts. Alistair explained who John Hampden was, and the role of the Buckinghamshire Greencoats in the Civil War to eager young recruits and their parents. All were able to try on armour and handle the replica armaments. The John Hampden Society is very grateful to them for their hard work on the day and all the preparation that must have preceded it. People attending the re-enactment were also able to see the John Hampden display in the café. It was a cold day, but fortunately a dry one!

A NEW HOME FOR THE SOCIETY'S ARCHIVES

The committee is very grateful to JHS member Charles Harvey, who has been working hard on classifying our Archive and finding a new home for it. Our collection of books is very rarely used by members or other researchers. Charles is talking to the National Civil War Museum at Newark, who manage the archives of similar societies to ours, such as the Pike and Shot Society. Homing our archive at the museum would mean that Civil War researchers could access our resources more easily, and the National Civil War Museum would have a collection of John Hampden information on site. It also reduces the risk of the resources being lost should the Society fold.

THE "PATER", A POEM BY PATRICK MOODY

They crowded your church,  
Shuffling over Hampdens of old.  
The Lord motioned, the diggers broke ground,  
the first blow of iron upon stone.  
Did you feel it, though your heart beats no longer?  
Great Patriot. Patriae Pater.  
Hand burst by flint's unhappy shot, or so this Lord  
believed.  
The diggers hauled up a casket, cast in lead.  
The Lord Nugent found a cloth, filled with bones  
beside a missing hand.  
"The pistol!" he shouted,  
And held the bones to the roof,

through the beams, to the clouds,  
and above those still, to God himself,  
naming himself "Usurper".  
For in his pride and wild delusion thought to bring up the  
dead.  
But still you rest, Pater, in a place unknown to us.  
You had given enough.  
Lost enough,  
more than deserving of your holy sleep.  
Pater?  
Speak in your own time.  
These ears keep tune with voices of angels.



**BIG TURNOUT AT GREAT MISSENDEN – 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL**



The nave of Great Missenden Church during the talk.

JHS Chair Dr Beth Rogers gave her regular talk: “John Hampden: Rebel or Patriot?” to an audience of around 125 in Great Missenden’s 12th Century Parish Church.

The event which included afternoon tea, was organised by the Friends of Great Missenden Parish Church to raise money for church repairs. Please contact the Friends directly (Regd. Charity 1067435) if you wish to contribute.

The talk was well-received and prompted requests for talks from five local groups.

The Revd Robert Lenthall, who conducted John Hampden’s burial service, was the Vicar of this church from 1627 to 1637 – see Patriots 93, 94 & 100 for more information about him.

**Message from our Patron: Miles, Earl of Buckinghamshire**

Dear members,  
I was sorry that Alison and I could not be with you for the AGM, but I was pleased to hear what an interesting time you had at Broughton Castle. I am sure that you had occasion to reflect, in the Room with No Ears, on the sacrifices made by John Hampden and his collaborators that laid the foundations for the freedoms that we enjoy today.

The increase in our dissemination via social media, the museum displays and requests for talks about The Patriot is encouraging, but it would be great to see more volunteers coming forward to sustain the future functioning of the Society. Having asked for more volunteers to come forward, it is appropriate for me to thank Beth Rogers and her committee members for all the hard work they put into running the Society and to welcome the participation in the society of all our members including those based in the USA.

I wish all members good luck for the forthcoming year and hope to see you at the AGM in 2025.



Photo: Miles and Alison at the Bucks Goat Centre



The much-hyped story of Mary Villiers and her son George hit the screens of Sky subscribers in April. It has been very well received by TV critics and audiences. Historians are less impressed. It does not hold back on the debauchery of the court and James I’s unhealthy obsession with the handsome George. George as anti-hero may appeal to modern audiences, but hopefully they will conclude that Parliament’s attempts to impeach him in 1626 were completely justified!

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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.

**Every effort is made to attribute facts and contributions correctly. If any mistakes have been made, they will be corrected in the next issue after notification has been received.**