



THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 122 - Autumn 2026



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

THE SOCIETY'S NEW PRESIDENT

Following the death of our first President, Professor John Adair, the Trustees are pleased to be able to announce the appointment of Julian Humphrys (*pictured*) as the John Hampden Society's new President.



The selection process involved a great many discussions and consultations with interested parties. The process also included some time spent reflecting on both what the role of the Society's President should be, and the needs of the Society at this time.

Some may remember that Julian was the speaker at our annual dinner in 2010. Others may recall his work with Society member Simon Marsh, researching the location and timeline of the Battle of Chalgrove Field. Those who are members of the Battlefields Trust may also know him from his time as the Trust's Development Officer. He was responsible for extending the Trust's national coverage and presided over a significant increase in its membership.

Julian graduated with a history degree from Emmanuel College, Cambridge, having studied under John Morrill (the renowned Professor of English and Irish History and a former President of the Cromwell Association) and went on to complete a postgraduate qualification at the Polytechnic of North London from where he joined the staff of London's National Army Museum. He curated numerous exhibitions and was spokesperson to the media on all matters of British Army history. On behalf of the Museum, he made three expeditions to Bosnia during the civil war to collect items and information.

Julian moved on to organise English Heritage's programme of guided tours to historic sites and he still leads battlefield walks for English Heritage members. A qualified blue-badge guide, he leads and lectures on a wide range of tours for special interest travel companies both in the UK and overseas.

Julian is the author of numerous books and articles on Britain's military history. He was a contributor to *Historic Battlefields in 500 walks* (San Diego, 2023) and edited the Battlefields Trust's special 2023 publication on the sieges and battles of the Barons' Wars. He has contributed numerous articles to *BBC History*, *History Revealed* and *Tudor Places* magazines. He also writes scripts for multi-media and audio tours including Culloden Battlefield, the Household Cavalry Museum, the D-Day Story, Winchester City Museum, and the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum.

Julian is a visiting lecturer on the archaeology of conflict module of the BA archaeology course at the University of Winchester. He was until recently a Trustee of the Battlefields Trust and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

Julian was surprised and honoured to be asked to be the second President of the Society but is pleased to accept his nomination for the role. He is looking forward to meeting members at future Society events and is particularly keen to introduce himself at a members' Zoom meeting, and to answer any questions that members may have.

Sam Hearn

From the Chair ...

First of all, my thanks to Roy Bailey for reinvigorating the newsletter!

After the sad loss of John Adair, the committee spent some considerable time considering the role of President, and I am so thrilled that Julian Humphrys has volunteered to bring his expertise and experience to the Society. Julian will be chatting to us all via Zoom soon. Welcome to Julian!

In August, I was delighted to meet the contingent of students from Hampden-Sydney College and Professor Shirley Kagan at Hampden House, and to give my regular talk on 'Rebel or Patriot?' in the church. I'm looking forward to reading more about the students' reflections in the next issue of *The Patriot*.

The installation of anything on church property is not straightforward, so I am more than delighted to report that an information board about John Hampden, funded by the Society, has just been installed at Great Hampden Church. I would like to thank the church, the parish and the diocese for their support and practical help to make this happen.

The board sits by a popular walking route which passes through the graveyard, so will be seen by quite a lot of passers-by.

This is an important milestone for the Society, as we pursue our mission of disseminating knowledge about John Hampden and preserving artefacts relating to him. I am very grateful to members who flag up opportunities to the committee, such as the letter up for auction mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you very much to Kate Dimancescu for spotting it and passing it on!

September 12th sees that start of Heritage Week and I was pleased to have been invited by the Town Council to give another talk in Aylesbury. This year it will have a broader remit, but I will be raising awareness of John Hampden within it.

At the end of September, the Society will be represented as usual at the Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference. The topic is 'Political change in Buckinghamshire – from civil war to the suffragettes', and I am looking forward to hearing our own Professor Ian Beckett open the conference with a talk about the Civil War.

As we start to prepare for the 2027 AGM, I appeal to members to consider putting themselves forward for a role in the Society. We need some succession in committee roles in particular if we are to sustain ourselves. Do call/email if you would like more information.

Beth Rogers

thechairman@johnhampden.org

SALE OF THE (17th) CENTURY

One of our enthusiastic American members, Kate Dimancescu of Massachusetts, has flagged up a forthcoming auction of what is described as Historical Documents, Autographs and Ephemera.



© Spink & Sons

Offered in 356 lots by Spink & Sons of London, one of these original documents is a letter (*left*) written by John Hampden to his friend Sir John Eliot in 1631, when the latter was imprisoned in the Tower.

The Society's committee is considering bidding for this very important document, and will be putting out a plea for members to contribute to the purchase price, which is likely to be considerable.

If you are prepared to make a donation, please contact Sam Hearn at thetreasurer@johnhampden.org.

Live bidding begins at 2pm BST on Wednesday 23rd September. As this issue of *The Patriot* was published prior to that date we will report on the result of the sale in the next issue.

Details of the collection and the letter can be found at <https://spink.com/auction/26066>, and scrolling down to the fifth item.

The deadline for contributions for the next issue is 12th December.

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT!

Not really. Having been let down by a former member who (briefly) took over the editorship of *The Patriot*, Chair Beth Rogers stepped into the breach but pressure of work meant that she too has had to step down. With everyone else fully committed both in their JHS responsibilities and professionally, I have volunteered to take over again.

But not completely. The task will be divided between a Commissioning Editor, who will be largely responsible for the newsletter's content, and the Production Editor, who will put all the material together, make it available for the website and send to the printers. That will be my part.

The committee hopes that, by spreading the load in this way, the newsletter will continue to be the Society's flagship.

Publication dates will be on or about the traditional quarter days - Lady Day (25th March), Midsummer Day (24th June), Michaelmas Day (29th September) and Christmas Day (25th December).

Deadlines for submissions for the next issue will be announced in the current one.

Roy Bailey

AMERICAN STUDENTS AT HAMPDEN



During the summer a group of students from Hampden-Sydney College in Virginia visited the UK and spent some time exploring the Hampden country. They visited the Chiltern Brewery, Chalgrove battlefield and finished up at Hampden House. They are pictured in the Great Hall with Professor Shirley Kagan (*seated*) and JHS Chair Dr Beth Rogers.

Full details in the next issue.



DIARY DATES

2026

Saturday 26th September

Bucks Local History Network Conference and Local History Fair. To be held at the National Film and Television School, Station Road, Beaconsfield HP9 1LG, commencing 10am. Speakers include JHS Vice-President Professor Ian Beckett. Booking necessary.

Sunday 27th September. 4pm BST. Online committee meeting via Zoom

TBA. An occasion for members to meet, via Zoom, the Society's new President Julian Humphrys.

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

www.johnhampden.org/

JOHN HAMPDEN AT LORD'S

The Under-15 boys' team from John Hampden Grammar School at High Wycombe recently won the privilege of playing at Lord's – the home of cricket.



Courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd/Tom Jenkins

The school XI won through to the final of Barclay's Knight-Stokes Cricket Cup – a nationwide competition for state schools - which was played at the world-famous ground on Thursday 10th September.

Sadly the team was beaten in the 20-over-a-side final by Altrincham Grammar School, Cheshire.

Our picture shows JHGS captain Harry Watts, on the left, tossing up with the Altrincham captain.

The full story is in the *Bucks Free Press* at <https://share.google/IAzymqMbQAKuyleJW> and also *The Guardian* at <https://bit.ly/4dfdD9X>

Editor's note: For the benefit of our American readers, an explanation of cricket is available on Wikipedia.



© St Mary Magdalene church

GOOD TIMING

The newly-installed John Hampden display board in Great Hampden churchyard (*above*) received plenty of attention on Saturday 12th September.

That was Ride + Stride Day, when cyclists, walkers, horse-riders and drivers of mobility scooters of all ages visited churches all around the country to raise money for the repair and restoration of historic churches and chapels. This is administered locally by the Buckinghamshire Historic Churches Trust.

St Mary Magdalene was just one of 106 Buckinghamshire places of worship that opened its doors and offered hospitality to visitors that day.

Full details are at: <https://bucks-historic-churches.org.uk/ride-stride/>

NEWS FROM NEWARK

An upcoming day conference organised by the Lincoln Record Society on the theme of 'The Revolt of the Provinces: Local Dimensions of the English Civil War' will take place on Saturday 17th October at the National Civil War Centre, 14 Appleton Gate, Newark NG24 1JY.

Full details of the programme and booking can be found on the Lincoln Record Society's website: <https://lincoln-record-society.org.uk/news-events/>

BESIEGED! SIEGES of the CIVIL WARS



A brand NEW, FREE exhibit
Discover how the Civil Wars were fought by Forts and Sieges

2 November 2026 - 4 April 2027
Open: Tuesday - Sunday 10am - 3pm
Closed: Mondays 14 - 20 December, 1 January
ADMISSION FREE
www.civilwarcentres.org

There is also the above exhibit running at the Centre throughout the forthcoming winter.



What's happening here and who are the participants? Answer in the next issue.

CLICKABLE LINKS

Anyone reading this newsletter online will find that the various links in bold and underlined text are hyperlinks. This includes the Facebook logo.

This means that if you click on any of them you will be taken straight to the website or e-mail address in question.

Try it and see!

A LIFE CUT SHORT

Sir Miles Hobart MP (1598 - 1632)



Sir Miles Hobart was one of the more obscure parliamentarians who, working loosely together, became in the 1620s and 30s the organised opposition to the early Stuart monarchs. He played a particularly significant role in the Parliament of 1629.

On the 2nd March, when Speaker Finch moved to yet again adjourn the sitting, he was famously held in his chair by MPs Denzil Holles and Benjamin Valentine. With the Speaker present the Parliament was not adjourned.

This enabled John Hampden's close friend, Sir John Eliot, to deliver his prearranged formal protest against the policies and actions of Charles I. Hobart's part in this incident was to shut and lock the door of the Chamber. This practical measure prevented any

MPs from leaving whilst simultaneously barring the entrance of messengers from both the King and the House of Lords.

The House passed three resolutions condemning religious innovations and unparliamentary taxation. Parliament was dissolved immediately afterwards and did not sit again for eleven years. Hobart was arrested and imprisoned along with Sir John Eliot, Denzil Holles, Benjamin Valentine, William Strode and three others. Only Eliot and Strode refused to apologise and pay a surety. Hobart pleaded that he was unaware of either the Speaker's call for an adjournment or the arrival of messengers from the King and the House of Lords. He was released in March 1631 having offered a substantial £50 surety.

Sadly, Hobart received a head injury in an accident involving a coach at Holborn on 4th June 1632. He died at his home, Harleyford Manor, sixteen days later, and was buried at All Saints Church, in nearby Great Marlow. A plaque (above), paid for by public subscription, was erected in his memory in the church porch. He was unmarried with no children and died intestate. Part of his estate therefore reverted to the Crown, but Harleyford Manor went to two of his second cousins. Hobart was descended from a cadet branch of the Hobart family who owned extensive estates in Norfolk and Suffolk, including Blickling Hall.

Confusingly, there was another Miles Hobart, the second son of Sir Henry Hobart of Blickling Hall, (the first Baronet). During the Civil War, this Miles Hobart of Intwood and Sir John Palgrave commanded two of the infantry regiments raised by the Eastern Association. It is this Miles Hobart who is thought to be commemorated, along with Hampden and Cromwell, in the late nineteenth-century stained-glass window in the Old Church at The Lee, near Great Missenden.

Sir John Hobart, the 3rd Baronet, married Mary Hampden, the daughter of John Hampden the Patriot, in 1656. It is from this union that the Earls of Buckinghamshire are descended, including Miles Hobart-Hampden, the Society's Patron.

Sam Hearn