

THE PATRIOT

Newsletter of the John Hampden Society

No. 67 - Summer 2011



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

OUR BIG SOCIETY

There is general agreement that the John Hampden Society punches above its weight. However, if we are to continue to flourish the Society needs more members who are prepared to contribute time and effort to its future development. At its most basic this means that all members should be acting as advocates of the Society whenever the opportunity arises. New member's first contact with the Society is still most commonly via a friend or colleague who is an existing member.

How many people have you introduced to the Society and how many have subsequently become active members? Most people find that Society activities and events are a lot more fun once they get to know a few of their fellow members. So if you invite one or two friends to join with you this should immediately increase the pleasure that you derive from membership of the Society. A pleasant way of introducing friends to the Society is to invite them to one of our events.

The Society remains hugely ambitious and it is therefore not surprising that members of the Executive Committee do not possess all the necessary skills to turn some of our imaginative plans into reality. We need people with a professional background in education who can help us forge links with Schools and Universities. We need creative people with experience of writing scripts and filming/photography who can help us develop a DVD about the Society and Hampden. Also, our website needs a revamp and we would like to include a link from it to a specialist genealogical database covering the various branches of the Hampden family.

We are also always on the look-out for people prepared to share some of the Society's "heavy lifting", roles such as membership secretary, treasurer and honorary secretary. Anyone thinking of taking a more active role in the Society is welcome to come along to our meetings and to contribute. Logistics tend to dictate that members of the Executive will either live in or close to Buckinghamshire or Oxfordshire. However, current Executive Members include one individual who lives in Cornwall, another from London and a third from Berkshire.

There are hundreds of other ways that you can both assist the Society and get more out of your membership. Do you have a friend or colleague who could give us a talk at a Society event? Could you perhaps run an event for us at an interesting venue? Maybe you have an old Hampden related story that we could publish in the Patriot or maybe a special photograph or an interesting nugget of information or even just a question that you would like to share with us?

Finally if you would like to discuss any of the above with a member of the Executive Committee our contact details are on the website or call Anthea Coles, the Honorary Secretary, on 07543 054335.

John Hampden and the Women's Tax Resistance League

The Society has been contacted by Colin Cartwright who is writing a book on the women's suffrage movement in central Bucks. He has been struck by how many campaigners were inspired by the tax resistance of John Hampden. Wendover and Aylesbury were apparently singled out for acts of political protest between 1910 and 1912.

At the unveiling of the John Hampden statue in Aylesbury in June 1912 the WTRL laid a wreath honouring the four women who had made a stand with John Hampden. Colin would be interested to hear any thoughts from members on just who these women might have been. You can contact him via Anthea Coles the Honorary Secretary. Our guess is that they were signatories of the Great Kimble Ship Money petition.

According to Colin, on the day of the unveiling of the Hampden statue the WTRL sold 200 booklets about JH, written by Mrs Darent Harrison, and gave out 2,000 leaflets. Do any members the Society possess a copy of either the book or the leaflet? The book had a second print run in 1913.

Lady Isabel Augusta Hampden Margesson, a daughter of Frederick John Hobart-Hampden was a leading member of the WTRL. Following an anti-suffragists riot in 1913 she chaired a public meeting at Hastings protected by over seventy policemen and the Chief Constable of the County.

Anthea Coles

Annual Dinner – 18th June 2011



The wreath at Chalgrove

The evening passed off well although numbers attending were down on expectations. The staff of the Spread Eagle Hotel provided excellent service and the meals were prepared to the usual high standard. Members braved a light drizzle and ventured across the road from the Spread Eagle to lay a wreath on the memorial at site of the house where Hampden died.

It had been agreed that it would be appropriate, since the date of the dinner fell on the anniversary of the battle of Chalgrove, to commemorate the death of the

Patriot and other combatants who fell on 18th June 1643 in this special way. Earlier in the day Derek Lester laid another wreath on behalf of the Society at the Battlefield Monument.

Before the meal the Earl of Buckinghamshire (Miles Hobart-Hampden) gave a personal account of the impact on his life of his most famous ancestor. Each of us has memories of when we first became aware of the Patriot and how he has affected our lives. It was nevertheless a privilege and a pleasure to hear Miles' personal reminiscences. It will be hard to meet him again without remembering that in his juvenile boxing career he was known as "Hammer Hampden" because of his habit of knocking his opponents out.

Several members have commented on the decline in numbers over recent years of those attending the annual dinner. On balance people seem to agree that it would be a pity to abandon this annual social event and important commemoration of Hampden's death. However, amongst possible changes that have been suggested is the idea that we could switch to a cheaper lunch time event with a buffet style meal. Some would also like to see a change of venue. If you have any views on this topic please share them with the Honorary Secretary so that the Executive Committee can take them into account in its discussions.

My final thoughts on this year's dinner are that that Bob Hammond's chocolate pudding looked rather more exciting than my fruit salad and what exactly is the point of a star fruit?

Sam Hearn

The Earl of Buckinghamshire and Derek Lester laying a wreath at the Thame Memorial



BUCKINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY NETWORK 2011 Annual Conference & Fair Saturday 1 October 2011

- Kermode Hall, RAF Halton, near Wendover
- Lectures by local and national experts
- Displays by local societies

MILITARY BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Eight half-hour lectures. Doors open 9am, first lecture 10am.

- Moats, mottes and castles: status and defence in medieval Buckinghamshire / *Mike Farley*
- The Buckinghamshire gentry and the Hundred Years War / *Dr Andy King*
- Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire in the Civil War / *Dr Alan Thompson*
- Portraits of the Civil War, and others / *Sarah Gray*
- Buckinghamshire and the First World War / *Michael Senior*
- The secret war in Buckinghamshire: Bletchley and beyond / *Jonathan Byrne*
- Portraits of Buckinghamshire military men / *Sarah Gray*
- The Buckinghamshire voluntary military tradition / *Professor Ian Beckett*

Contact Sam Hearn or Anthea Coles if you plan to attend the event: We need help setting up our stall and/or managing it for a half hour slot at lunch-time.

Attendance is by pre-booked tickets:

£10 per person without lunch, £16 with lunch, full-time students under 25 free (without lunch).

Book a place by downloading, printing & returning a Booking Form.

www.bucksas.org.uk/blhnconference.html

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The War of the Roses?



Members will recall that The Society assisted the Battlefields Trust in erecting six information boards on the sites of the 1642 battlefields of Brentford and Turnham Green. We are pleased to report that the board at Syon House has been re-sited near its original location in front of an area optimistically referred to as the Rose Garden. For those wishing to visit Syon House, details can be found at www.syonpark.co.uk Sadly the website makes no mention of the battle of Brentford in which the House played a significant role.

Sam Hearn

Book Review

“King James VI and I and his English Parliaments”.

By Conrad Russell, edited by Richard Cust and Andrew Thrush

Hardback 288 pages ISBN

978 - 0198205067 Published OUP in February 2011.

King James VI and I and his English Parliaments is a posthumously published work by Conrad Russell, the foremost historian of his generation working on early Stuart parliaments, and is based on the Trevelyan lectures which he delivered at the University of Cambridge.

It provides a chronological narrative of the early English Parliaments of James VI and I, covering in detail the four sessions of the 1604-1610 Parliament and the Addled Parliament of 1614, with a final chapter looking towards the parliaments of the 1620s. The narrative demonstrates that two problems in particular dominated these sessions: the financial problems of the Crown, and the pursuit of a formal Union between England and Scotland. These were a continuous source of division and disagreement, and neither was satisfactorily resolved.

This book can be read alongside the same author's Parliaments and English Politics, 1621-1629 (Oxford, 1979) and The Fall of the British Monarchies, 1637-1642 (Oxford, 1992) to provide the first continuous narrative of parliamentary proceedings from the accession of James to the outbreak of Civil War since the massive work of S. R Gardiner. Drawing on the much wider range of sources available to modern historians, in particular the full range of parliamentary diaries, it offers the most up-to-date analysis we have of conflict between Crown and Parliament during a turbulent phase of British History.

Source: An extract from Amazon website.

Sam Hearn



DIARY DATES

2011

Thursday 1 September

Executive Committee meeting starting at 7.00. Venue to be announced.

Thursday 8 September

A talk to the John Hampden Probus Club at Weston Turville Golf Club, New Road, Weston Turville, Aylesbury, Bucks HP22 5QT, commencing at 1 pm. Further details from 01296 614843

Sunday 25 September

Lunch at Hartwell House including a talk by Adrian Tinniswood. The talk will begin at 11.45am. A three course set meal will be served at 12.30pm – cost £36.

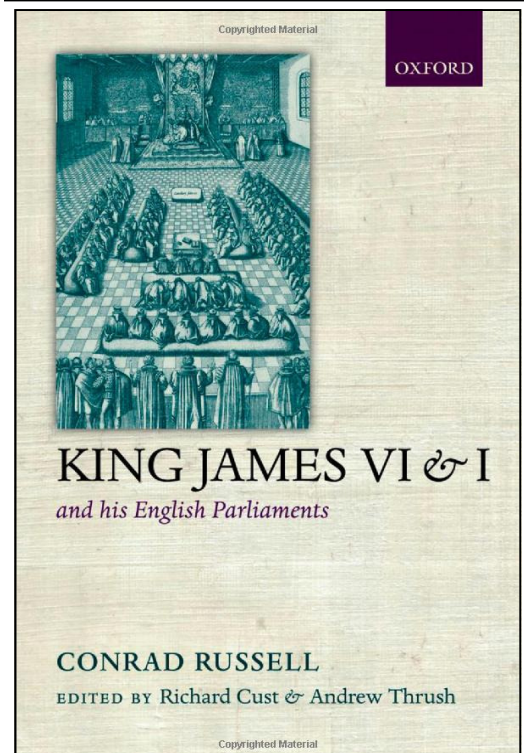
Saturday 1 October

Buckinghamshire Local History Network Annual Conference & Fair, Kermode Hall, RAF Halton, Nr. Wendover. Doors open 9.am. First lecture 10.a.m.

All meetings commence at 8 pm, unless otherwise stated.

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

www.johnhampden.org/diary.htm



OBITUARY

Graham George Barfield

Graham Barfield, who died in the Royal Derby Hospital on 25th April aged 80, was one of the most active and productive members of the John Hampden Society, and was responsible for the planning and production of two of the Society's permanent memorials, as well as our first publishing effort.

Graham was born on 27th November 1930 in South-East London, and although the family moved to Norfolk later, they returned to live on the Sussex/Kent border, and Graham finished his schooling at Cranbrook. He was bright enough to win an Exhibition to Jesus College, Oxford, but was called up for National Service before he could take the place.

Graham served in the RAF and was stationed for a while in Egypt. Just before returning home he was offered a job as announcer with the Forces Broadcasting Service, but he turned it down. He was later to regret this decision as this could have led to a career in the BBC.

Instead he took up his place at Oxford to read French and History, but left after one year. In 1952 he secured a job as Public Relations Officer with Aristoc and moved to Nottingham. He married Pauline in 1955 and they bought a house together near Nottingham. He rose to be Advertising Director at Aristoc but left the company after it was bought out by Courtaulds, not liking to be a part of a large organisation. Graham then joined John Hampden Press in the early 1970s. This was a packaging company whose founder was Gordon Hope-Morley, a descendant of John Hampden and father of the present Lord Hollenden. Here Graham spent the rest of his working life.

He was a versatile man with many and varied skills, which included stone-carving, bricklaying and woodwork, enabling him almost single-handedly to build his own house near Wirksworth. His childhood near Norwich cathedral gave him a great love of medieval church architecture. His work at John Hampden Press involved quality control, process management, client relations and, on occasions, photography (often, to his great enjoyment, of young models in swimwear!)

Graham's knowledge of history and the company name would naturally have led him to join the Society, which he did



in early 1993. He quickly threw himself into involvement in the Society's activities; ordering copies of Frank Hansford-Miller's little biography for his firm's members and organising a tour of the Hampden country for them in June of that year. When the supplies of the Hansford-Miller book ran out he was one of the prime movers in getting it re-published by the Society; the title, *John Hampden of Buckinghamshire - The People's Hero*, and the front cover photograph are his work.

His qualities and enthusiasm meant that he was co-opted onto the committee in 1997, and suggestions and ideas flowed from his typewriter. (He never embraced such modern nonsense as mobile phones, fax and e-mail, and revelled in my description of him as 'Derbyshire's leading Luddite!') Although he was rarely able to travel from his home in the Midlands for meetings, he often came down for the Annual Dinner and other special events, staying with his daughter Pip at Kimble.

Graham also gave talks on John Hampden and other historical matters in the Midlands and contributed at least two interesting articles to *The Patriot*, one of which was about the Hampden bomber, a particular interest of his. He wrote a script for the Society's proposed video, and produced the leaflet *In the steps of The Patriot*: an updated version of which was being considered when he died. He was involved with Nottingham University's Department of

External Studies and also helped a group of medievalists restore a wayside chapel near Lincoln.

As far as the John Hampden Society is concerned Graham's lasting memorials will be just that: the commemorative plaques at Grampound and Wendover. He organised virtually the whole of the Cornish event, and (with Valerie Horne) the one at Wendover, carving the plaque himself. The week we spent in Grampound is my abiding happy memory of Graham; we shared a small room and a capacity for snoring, and I enjoyed to the full his convivial company with his acerbic and quirky sense of humour. As his son Nic said, 'Dad could talk for England', (I would have said for Europe!) I treasure *The Patriot* no. 32, where our joint diary, as well as describing the whole event, was a litany of us scoring points off each other in close friendship.

Graham was an atheist (his divinity master at Cranbrook said, 'He has assumed a completely destructive role!') and a radical democrat with anti-monarchist views (he was a member of Charter 88), but he respected religious ceremony and rite, and was content to see his two children raised as Catholics.

He stood down from the committee in 2003, and his wife Pauline, who was a horse show judge ('looking up horses' bottoms', as Graham put it) died in 2010. In later years he suffered from kidney failure, requiring daily self-administered dialysis treatment and frequent hospital visits, so his activities were curtailed.

Graham was buried next to Pauline at Steeple Arch Cemetery on 9th May, and a celebration of his life, organised by a local friend who is a Humanist celebrant, was held in Wirksworth. He is survived by his son Nic, daughter Pip, and two grandsons.

Graham Barfield was an interesting and complicated man who made his contribution to life in many ways. The world is a better place for his existence, and I am privileged to have known him and counted him as a friend.

Roy Bailey

(Donations in Graham's memory can be made to: **Fund 21095 Renal Services Development**, Derby Hospitals Charity, Royal Derby Hospital, Uttoxeter Road, Derby DE22 3NE.)