

April 2023 – Hampden Monument Walk led by Chris (who also did the write up) and Bob

We had a glorious sunny morning for our walk. We started at The Hampden Arms in Great Hampden. Hampden was the ancestral home of the Hampden family, the most famous of whom was the English Civil War hero John Hampden. He was a wealthy landowner and MP who opposed King Charles I's imposition of the Ship Money, a tax to raise money for the Royal Navy. When the King tried to arrest him and 4 others in the House of Commons, it triggered a chain of events that led to the Civil War. John Hampden was an important political and military leader. He was an older cousin of Oliver Cromwell.

Our walk took us past Hampden Monument that was built to commemorate the 200th anniversary of John Hampden's refusal to pay Ship Money.

We walked up The Glade, a long wide avenue leading to Hampden House (see photo). The Glade was reputedly cut in a single night to provide a view for Queen Elizabeth I on one of her visits to the house. We continued our walk towards Little Hampden and then back round to Great Hampden. We passed the back of Hampden House with its Gothic style battlements. In more recent times the house was used by Hammer Films and is now used as offices, and as a venue for weddings and occasional filming. They were preparing for filming when we passed.

We walked through the grounds of Great Hampden Church where John Hampden is buried under the flagstones of the church.

The pub where we parked was closed today so we drove 4 mins down the road to The Gate, Bryants Bottom where we had lunch and a well-deserved rest.

