

**FOR KING OR FOR PARLIAMENT?  
THE STORY OF SYON HOUSE AND THE ENGLISH CIVIL WARS**

With Howard Simmons

Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October  
2.00pm



Battle of Brentford 1642 – by John Hassall 1928

Intrigues, treachery, battles and the trial and execution of a King – come and find out all about the role played by Syon House and the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Northumberland in one of the bloodiest periods of British History

The 17<sup>th</sup> Century Civil Wars were a remarkable period of social, economic, political and religious upheaval and marked a major step in the development of Parliamentary democracy.

The Wars were fought across England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales between 1638 and 1650 and have left a lasting legacy on Britain.

The level of destruction was severe across both urban and rural communities and the casualty rate for soldiers and civilians who died from conflict or disease was proportionately as great as that suffered during World War One.

Syon House and the Percy family were caught up in all of this and played a pivotal role. King Charles 1 and other leading Royalists visited and stayed at the House, as did on other occasions prominent Parliamentarians such as Oliver Cromwell.

Discover how Algernon Percy, the 10<sup>th</sup> Earl of Northumberland who lived at Syon started the Wars as a key Royalist or Cavalier and was appointed by the King as Lord High Admiral in charge of the Navy as well as being a prominent Army Commander. However, he disagreed with the King's policies and resigned his offices of state to become a Parliamentarian and later played a role in the formation of the New Model Army and hosted meetings with Oliver Cromwell at Syon House.

Find out about how the House was caught up in the fighting during the 1642 Battle of Brentford and suffered damage from artillery fire when the King's army attacked and sacked the town of Brentford.

Hear how the Earl of Northumberland was asked to look after the King's children at Syon House and how King Charles I was allowed to visit them here during which time several paintings were made of these visits which still hang in the house and can be seen today.

The tour will tell the remarkable and fascinating story of Syon through the Civil War period as the House witnessed the sharp changes in fortune that led to the execution of King Charles 1 in 1649 and abolition of the monarchy, the creation of England as a Republic for 11 years and the subsequent Restoration of King Charles II in 1660 and his visits to Syon.