

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

The Protector's Pen

Cromwell Day:
September 2016

Study Day:
November 2016

Teachers' Day

Meet John
Morrill

Fire! Fire!
Exhibition

Publications,
Exhibitions &
Events

Vol 18 Issue 2
July 2016



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CROMWELL DAY 2016



AGM NEWARK 2016



STUDY DAY 2016



LONDON MUSEUM - FIRE! FIRE!



FILM REVIEW



Front Cover : Oil Painting of The Great Fire seen from Ludgate, 1670-1678)

(Courtesy of London Museum)

The Protector's Pen is the newsletter of The Cromwell Association and is published twice a year and distributed to our membership. If additional copies are required, to help promote the Association and our work, please contact the Chairman.

The Association is governed by elected officers and Council members.

For all matters relating to :

- subscriptions, please contact the treasurer Geoffrey Bush gbushx@hotmail.com
- changes of address and email, contact the membership secretary Paul Robbins robbins_P1@sky.com
- all other matters, please contact the chairman John Goldsmith jrgoldsmith@talktalk.net

The full mailing addresses for these officers can be found on your membership card.

President	:	Peter Gaunt
Chairman	:	John Goldsmith
Treasurer	:	Geoffrey Bush
Membership Officer	:	Paul Robbins

All opinions expressed in *The Protector's Pen* are the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Association.

www.olivercromwell.org

Chairman's Golden Nuggets

Welcome to the summer edition of *The Protector's Pen*.

One of the tasks that falls to the Chairman of the Association is that of editing *The Protector's Pen*; so with some trepidation it is added to the list of things to do as I follow Patrick Little as Chairman. Both Patrick and his predecessor, Peter Gaunt, are academics, something that I most definitely am not. Most of you may already know that my introduction to Cromwell was a consequence of being the curator of the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon, and that was more or less accidental, and not a job I had specifically applied for.

The Association is neither a traditional academic society nor a popular 'name' society, it has some elements of both, but it has always seemed to me that its strength is in providing a link between the academic world, and those who for whatever reason have a fascination for Cromwell. It is important that the academic engagement with the Association continues and Council is trying to ensure not only that old links are sustained but that new links are developed whenever possible. Pressure on academics is significant and the world of higher education in the UK is target-driven and highly evaluated. Participation in external organisations such as ours can be regarded by university managers as frivolous, but we will try and find ways to remind them that engagement with our membership is valuable and relevant. It can help to spread knowledge of publicly funded research, with all of the benefits that brings to society as a whole, and to the individual institution concerned. Involvement with the Cromwell Association should be a positive part of their external assessment regime.

There are a number of things in the offing in the next couple of years for the Association; the completion of the long-awaited Dictionary of Parliamentary Officers, the archive of Cromwelliana going online and hopefully a relaunch of the website. There are lots of reasons to carry on supporting the Association and, if possible, encouraging others to join.

The Protector's Pen is one of the crucial links between the Association and all of its members, and the wider world. As in all organisations there are some members who want, and are able, to attend events and activities, and others who are content to receive the mailings and observe from a distance. Hopefully if you are one of the latter you may be persuaded to dip your toes in the water at some point and join the former. Either way this publication will continue to try and be of interest to all the membership and contributions, comments and suggestions from members are always welcome.

The one thing I will guarantee, unlike my predecessor, is that you will not be treated to an image of me on horseback nor holding various livestock. However, should I manage to grow a carrot that looks like Cromwell, you will be the first to know.

John Goldsmith
Chairman

The Protector's Pen is produced twice a year for the Cromwell Association (March and July) and printed by PrintPlace. All information is correct at the time of going to press.

Notes from the Council

The Council of the Association meets four times a year and minutes of previous meetings can be found in the Members' Area of the website. At the most recent meeting held on 21st June 2016 the following items were discussed:

- ❖ Finances - we are in good financial health
- ❖ Membership - a small increase over last year
- ❖ Review of the Newark AGM; see report on page 6
- ❖ Plans for future events and publications
- ❖ A small working party was set up to look at updating the website
- ❖ Agreed a policy on how to respond to 'open access' requests for Cromwelliana articles
- ❖ Proposals for unveiling a plaque to Cromwell in Cambridge; see page 15
- ❖ The date for the **2017 AGM** was agreed as **Saturday 6th May**, slightly later than usual to avoid Easter Week and the May Bank Holiday. The planned location is Shrewsbury, full details will be provided in the Spring mailing.

The full minutes of the meeting will be put on the website after they have been agreed at the next council meeting which is on 4th October 2016.

Cromwell Day 2016

The annual service of commemoration will be on Saturday 3rd September.

Once again building works prevent us from holding our service on Cromwell Green by the Thorneycroft statue of the Lord Protector. Sadly this is something we may have to get used to as the Palace of Westminster undergoes a period of modernisation and rebuilding. Whenever possible we will endeavour to hold the service in its traditional location. A wreath will be laid by the statue at 1.45pm and the ceremony can be observed from the pavement above.

The annual service will take place at 2.15pm in the side chapel of Methodist Central Hall, by kind permission of the Rev Dr Martyn Atkins. As members will not be entering the Parliamentary Estate, prior booking for attending the service is not required and members are welcome to bring a friend. The service will be conducted by the Rev Tim Woolley and the address will be given by Jonathan Djanogly, the Member of Parliament for Huntingdon, and as such a successor to Cromwell. Jonathan is a long-standing member of the Association and is a founder trustee of the Cromwell Museum Trust in Huntingdon.

After the service everyone is invited to have tea in the café in the basement of Central Hall.

In the morning a group visit to the Banqueting House in Whitehall has been arranged. Please note that there are a limited number of places (15), so please book early if you



want to join the group! The Banqueting House, completed in 1622, is the only surviving part of the old Palace of Whitehall. The magnificent painted ceiling by Rubens (right) was installed in 1636 and was commissioned by Charles I in memory of his father. Thirteen years later the Banqueting House was the site of his execution. Under the Protectorate it was Cromwell's 'hall of audience' where he received foreign guests and dignitaries, and it was also where the wedding of his daughter Frances to Robert Rich was celebrated in November 1657. For

many reasons, a site resonant with Cromwell connections. The tour will be led by an experienced guide and numbers are restricted to 15 places; the cost per place is £8.00 per person. The tour will start at 11.00am and will last approximately 60 minutes. For details of how to book, see the enclosed form.

For more details of the Banqueting House see www.hrp.org.uk/banqueting-house

For an alternative activity in the morning, you may wish to visit the Museum of London's new exhibition 'Fire, Fire!' - further details on page 13.



Jonathan Djanogly (right) campaigning to save the Cromwell Museum (January 2014)

Timetable:

- 11:00 Tour of Banqueting House (by prior booking only)
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:45 Wreath Ceremony by Statue (view from upper pavement only)
- 14:15 Annual Service at Methodist Central Hall (side chapel)
- 15:00 Refreshments at the Café in the basement of Central Hall



The Protector's Pen

Welcome to new Council Members

At the AGM three new Council members were elected, each to serve a term of three years.



New blood is essential to the organisation and we are delighted to welcome Paul Robbins (far left), Richard Warren (left) and Ismini Pells (right).

Paul, who is already undertaking the Membership Secretary's role writes:

'My interest in Oliver Cromwell began when I was around eleven years old. I attended St Lawrence Church of England School in Birmingham. As part of The English Civil War project, our

teacher took the class to Edgehill. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to explore part of the main battlefield, where the first major engagement of Parliament and the King took place. I must confess to begin with, out of all the pupils, there were only two Royalists. One being Peter King (obvious choice) and me, as his best friend. This opportunity led to my growing interest of 17th century history. As my interest grew I realised the error of my judgement and became more interested in Parliament and Oliver Cromwell. I believed he had achieved Head of State by having a clear vision of a more democratic society rather than being born into a privileged royal life. I became a life member of The Association in 2003 and attended as many meetings as possible, around my working life. I am committed to continuing in this role.'

Richard Warren organised the Sherborne AGM several years ago. He has recently retired and says:

'Coming from East Anglia, after studying at Cambridge I served in the Army for three years, then was a volunteer community worker for a church in Yorkshire before I began my career as a teacher, mostly at Sherborne School. With a background of military service and concern for social reform and 'the reformation of manners' what could I be but a Cromwellian? In addition, my youthful enthusiasm was fired by Rosemary Sutcliffe's novel 'Simon', one of the rare pieces of historical fiction to take a Parliamentary perspective; and before my time, my parents lodged with Canon Wilkinson and with Oliver's head prior to its burial! It was through his son that I joined the Association, while many of my views on Cromwell have been shaped by our Vice President, Professor John Morrill.'

The addition of Ismini Pells to Council helps to reduce the average age by some margin (!) and she has already been persuaded to take on the portfolio for plaques and monuments.

'I am looking forward to getting immersed in this role, as I believe the preservation and interpretation of Cromwell-related and other Civil War sites is an area where the CA can make a significant impact, and visiting these sites is a particular hobby of mine (especially ones sited near good pubs!). My PhD (completed in 2014 at Cambridge, under the supervision of Dr David L Smith) examined the life and career of Philip Skippon, sergeant-major-general of the New Model Army. Currently, I am working as an Associate Research Fellow on the Wellcome Trust funded project 'The Medical World of Early Modern England, Ireland and Wales, c. 1500-1715' at the University of Exeter, and have also recently been an academic advisor to the exhibition 'Battle-Scarred' at the National Civil War Centre at Newark Museum'.



Membership

A note to all members

Included with this mailing is the renewal form for your membership together with the membership card for 2016-17. The membership year starts on 3rd September and prompt payment of subscriptions is much appreciated. If you have not already taken out a Standing Order and/or Gift Aided your membership if eligible to do so, please do consider this. The appropriate form is enclosed.

If for any reason (and we hope not) you do not intend to renew your subscription we would be very grateful if you could advise our membership secretary of this and destroy the new membership card.

Since the last mailing to the membership there have been three emails sent out to all for whom we have email addresses. If you have an email address but have not received these emails please send your address to our membership secretary Paul Robbins:

 robbins_P1@sky.com or
 15 Briar Avenue
Streetly
Sutton Coldfield
B74 3HK

Proposals for contributions to *The Protector's Pen* are welcomed; please contact John Goldsmith:

jrgoldsmith@talktalk.net

The copy date for the next issue is **31st January 2017**.

The Protector's Pen

AGM Newark



As soon as the opening date for the new National Civil War Centre in Newark-on-Trent was known, the Association pencilled it in for the following April as the venue for our Annual General Meeting. Thankfully Michael Constantine, the Manager of the Centre, was keen to welcome us to see what Newark has to offer. The last edition of *The Protector's Pen* carried a review of the Centre and many members had already been to visit; but even in the short space of time between opening in May 2015 and our event, a number of changes had been made to the initial exhibition and layout. It is to the credit of Michael and his team, and particularly to the governing body, Newark and Sherwood District Council, that additional funds have been made available to take account of visitor's comments and adjust what is on show.



The new foyer area of the Centre provided space for member registration and all attendees on arrival were issued with a lanyard with a badge bearing the Association's logo. Such levels of sophistication at an AGM have never been seen before! There were nearly 50 members present for the



business meeting, some of whom had brought guests with them, and the room was full. The Chairman, Dr Patrick Little, opened the meeting and the main item on the agenda was the report of the trustees for the calendar year 2015. This prompted some questions from the floor which were addressed before the
(cont'd)

April 2016

meeting moved on to officer's reports, an update on the Dictionary of Parliamentary Officers project, and the election of officers. The only significant change was that Patrick stood down after serving in the role of chairman for seven years and John Goldsmith was elected in his place. The post of Press Officer was deliberately left vacant and Council will consider that role and whether it should continue, or a new role be developed. Three new Council members were elected (see earlier) and Serrie Meakins was re-elected to serve another term. Patrick Little was elected as a Vice-President of the Association and was presented with a copy of Cromwell's death mask and a bottle of Cromwell Gin as a gesture of thanks for his service as chairman.

After a short break Michael Constantine gave a talk on the trials and tribulations of the creation of the new Centre. The various traumas associated with the buildings conversion featured prominently and it was clear that his regard for builders of previous generations was pretty low; lack of foundations, walls not tied-in and other discoveries. Despite all of the problems the Centre was beginning to thrive and was very busy, not just with visitors, but with events, room hire and the linked theatre next door. Michael was warmly thanked for his hospitality and his presentation.



Following a buffet lunch there were two guided walks on offer, a short one and a longer one; a welcome innovation which, if appropriate, might be repeated at future AGMs. The key sites with Civil War connections in the town centre were visited; the parish church, the places where the main characters had stayed and where Parliamentary bombardment had caused damage. Those on the longer walk then went out to the Queen's Sconce, the earthwork on the south side of the town, and without doubt the finest surviving civil war earthwork in the country.

Throughout the walk the whole group was impressed by the range and quality of interpretative material and art works which underscored the importance of the town's civil war heritage. More than one member expressed an intention to return and explore further, so the local authority's policy of investment will hopefully pay off. So with thanks to the management and the two guides, the consensus view was that the whole day had been a great success.



Cromwell Association Merchandise

The Association sells a range of merchandise, the sale of which helps to raise funds for the Association. We would like to promote our existing stock and remind members of the products that are currently available. We have a plentiful supply of good quality **leather bookmarks** and accompanying slim-line **notepads** in a variety of colours. These make wonderful gifts. The very attractive Cromwell Association **tie** is available in two colours: smart dove grey and 'go with everything' red. We have a limited stock of the popular blue and silver **Parker Pen** branded with the Association's logo.

This is an exciting time in the merchandising role as new products are needed and, as we are a service to you, we would like to hear from you. Is there something you would like to be able to buy? Were you expecting to see an item on the order form and it's not there? What gifts do you want to give? This is your opportunity to get in touch with your ideas.

A couple of items are already being proposed. A new pin badge with an appealing fresh design (not just to be worn with the Association tie) is in the pipeline and will be available by the time of the next edition of *The Protector's Pen*. And now that carrier bag charges are here, is it time to replenish the old cotton bag with something a little more substantial? Let us know.

Can we improve things? Perhaps more details on the order form and colour photographs of items in *The Protector's Pen*? Your feedback would be greatly appreciated at:

susan.hughes2009@virginmedia.com

Cromwell Association AGM...an outsider's view

At the Newark AGM we had a number of guests accompanying members to the meeting. One of them was asked if they would like to let us have their take on the day, and this is what they wrote:

'Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of The Cromwell Association and staff at The National Civil War Centre, Newark. They ensured I was made to feel welcome to the AGM and the activities held during the day at the museum.

One of my first impressions was how organised and friendly the museum staff were. After our names were recorded for the fire register, we were given a day pass for access to the museum. We were then clearly directed to the room where the meeting was being held. The members of The Cromwell Association were professional and welcoming, which is what I would expect of a charitable organisation. The minutes of the last AGM were available along with a thorough breakdown of the finances for the previous year. It seemed there was a sound financial footing for current and future projects. The President, Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer spoke clearly and covered all expected aspects of an AGM. There was an election of officers and council members; everyone seemed happy with the selection of candidates. There were tea and coffee facilities available and a good spread of sandwiches for lunch although a cake or two may not have gone amiss!

Having a little understanding of the history of the British Civil Wars I was both delighted and intrigued to have this opportunity to discover a little more about our heritage, and how Oliver Cromwell became an important figure during this time. In addition, I found this day a valuable experience to begin to build on my knowledge of Oliver Cromwell.

The museum was full of interesting artefacts together with information where I could develop my knowledge on this period of history. However, there was limited time to look around the museum to benefit fully but what I did see was informative and interesting. I did feel that the digital video presentation was not as accessible as I would have desired due to the amount of people watching it at the same time.

I chose to take part on the longer historic trail around Newark which was fantastic. The guide was clear and knowledgeable. It was an excellent opportunity to be shown relevant key points of its history from around the time of the Civil War. In particular, I found the Queen's Sconce of interest. I wonder how many people take these embankments for granted without knowing or understanding what had happened there in the past?

I was curious to discover more about the history of the castle and one of the largest parish churches in England. It was fascinating to learn and visualise what life for the people of Newark would have been like during the Civil War. I could not believe that I had lived not far away from Newark and yet had been blinkered about the history that had happened in this area. It was good to see an alternative shorter trail available, making it accessible for all.

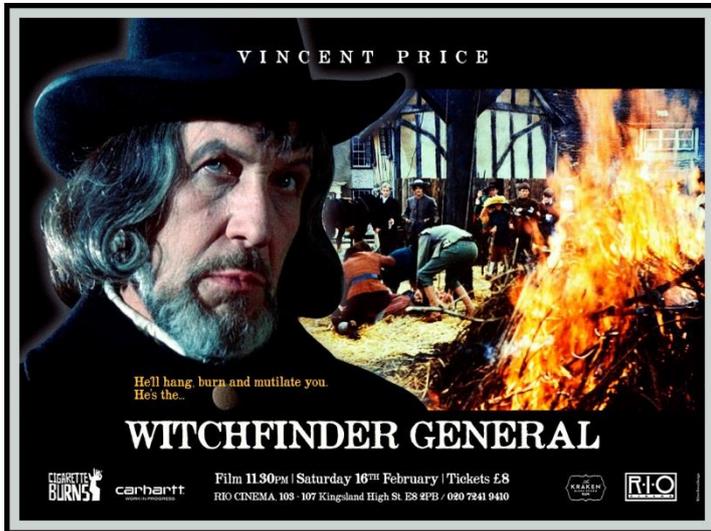
Overall, I believe that The National Civil War Centre in Newark was a relevant place to hold a meeting to help members and visitors connect to the links of the British Civil Wars. Furthermore, it is centrally located so all members have the opportunity to attend from around the UK. It has inspired me to become a new member. I look forward to having the opportunity to gain more experiences through The Cromwell Association and begin to expand my knowledge on the British Civil War and Oliver Cromwell further.'



Members at the Queen's Sconce inspecting one of the artworks that celebrate Newark's civil war history.

Film Review – Witchfinder General

This is not history as recorded fact -
it's better than that....



This film burrows to the emotional heart, as can only be done in celluloid, of a society in terror and to which terror all societies believing themselves under threat can succumb to: that of the enemy within. In 1950s America it was the Communists. In 16th century Elizabethan England it was the Catholics and in Civil War England, between 1645 and 1647, in South East England, it was witches.

This film is based on the 1966 novel *Witchfinder General* by Ronald Bassett, and both film and book are noted in the standard academic work on the topic, *Witchfinders: A Seventeenth-Century English Tragedy*, by historian Malcolm Gaskill. Published in 2005, Gaskill's study traces the effective rise of witch hunting under James I but centres on the witch hunting frenzy of 1645-1647 and the leading role of Matthew Hopkins, the Witchfinder General of the title.

The story is set in the summer of 1645 with the Battle of Naseby on 14 June being the off-screen event that anchors the action to the weeks immediately preceding and following. As the film starts, Matthew Hopkins (played by Vincent Price) is already up and running in full career mode and rooting out witches wherever people will make accusations. A pre-title on-screen hanging of a convicted witch at an un-named village sets the tone for the film.

The core of the film and its narrative dynamic is, as that disingenuous phrase has it, 'based on real events'. On this occasion there is much more truth in it than usual. What happened centred on the then vicar of Brandeston, John Lowes.

From all accounts, the real Rev Lowes was thoroughly loathed by his congregation. When Hopkins came on the scene, Lowes was denounced as a witch, arrested and every attempt made to break him. However, even under the most severe duress, that of being thrown into deep water to see if he would sink (a witch would float), Rev Lowes refused to confess to making a pact with the devil. He was then tried, found guilty and hanged. Resolute to the end, he read the funeral prayers himself before the noose was put around his neck. Lowes's congregation also remained in character. Point-blank, they refused to pay the costs of his execution.

John Lowes, an ordained clergyman, was the most high-profile victim that Hopkins claimed. The incident also provides the historical backdrop for the plot of the film. The film gives Rev Lowes an adoptive daughter, Sara. She is in her early 20s and attractive. Her fiancé is a young Parliamentary cavalry officer, Richard Marshall. Prior to the action at Naseby he is able to visit her and Rev Lowes. With everything still alright (on the surface), Richard returns to his unit. When he returns to Brandeston, the worst has happened: Rev Lowes has been hanged. There is more. Sara had been providing Hopkins with sexual favours in a desperate attempt to save her father. Richard shows his true worth by marrying Sara. He then swears an oath of revenge against Hopkins for what he has done. The rest of the film plays out as a revenge tragedy whereby it is clear there will be a final confrontation between the two, Richard Marshall and Matthew Hopkins, as between Good and Evil.

This is the understood filmic convention and it does happen but with a twist that subverts the normal expectation of the audience. Richard does kill Hopkins and pretty much in self-



(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

Film Review – Witchfinder General (cont'd)

-defence of Sara. So Good does triumph but it's not clean. Richard grabs an axe, the only weapon to hand, and fells Hopkins with it. The man is down, still alive but no further danger. Then, in a pent-up frenzy, Richard just keeps on hacking at Hopkins with the axe. The inference is that Hopkins is still alive as this is happening. Two officers, friends of Richard, arrive as a rescue party. However, their friend is by now too far gone in his rage to stop or even notice them. The hacking continues. Both are utterly appalled and one of them draws his pistol and shoots Hopkins, killing him with the single shot. This is clearly done as an act of mercy to end the Witchfinder's suffering. At this point, the convention is that Richard would come to his senses in a moment of clarity and be shamed with regret for his action. Not so. He turns to his friends and screams at them in rage "You took him from me!!!" The film ends with Sara screaming in horror at the carnage.

Witchfinder General had a bumpy reception on its release in 1968. Contemporary reviews focused adversely on the violence. *The Times* film critic Dilys Powell provided a succinct and representative example with her assessment of it as "...17th century hanging, burning, raping, screaming...peculiarly nauseating". This is not surprising but the film is much more than that. As well as showing what can happen when civil society is put under stress it cannot withstand, it shows in the character of Richard Marshall that we are all morally imperfect and sometimes distressingly so. He succumbed to the violence that engulfed him and would hopefully emerge from it. Matthew Hopkins he wasn't.



On a wider aspect, *Witchfinder General* shows a shift in the representation of the Civil War in cinema. Prior to this, the overriding tone of those feature films dealing with the Civil War had been a cloying sense of unctuous royalist

sentimentality. The 1946 Sid Field comedy, *Cardboard Cavalier*, set in the 1650s, had the immortal voice-over first line, "England has become a prison camp". That says it all. This was followed in the 1950s by *The Moonraker* (1958), whereby, in quite a jolly jape, the young Charles Stuart is helped to escape to France after the Battle of Worcester.



The 1960s began with no real change. *The Scarlet Blade* (1963) backtracked a few years to 1648 with some doomed royalists attempting to release the captured Charles I from his Parliamentary escort. Notable for the magnificent unreality of some of its backdrops the film ends with the few remaining royalists having to hunker down and wait for better times. By the time of *Witchfinder General* and 1968, British Society had begun to

noticeably move on from the overall acceptance of social conformity and hierarchy of the 1940s and 50s. This is what made *Witchfinder General* possible then but probably not before.

Over the years this has become a cult film and rightly so. It has a strong story and rounded characters. The exception to this is Matthew Hopkins as played by Vincent Price. Mr Price plays the Witchfinder General as a 17th century Darth Vader; cold, calculating, ruthless – and dressed in black. Yet, this still works just fine. He comes over very plausibly as someone, definitely, *not* to disagree with. As for the real Witchfinder General, the actual Matthew Hopkins, he never faced justice for what he did. He died in his bed on 12 August 1647 of pleural tuberculosis.

John Newland

In the News



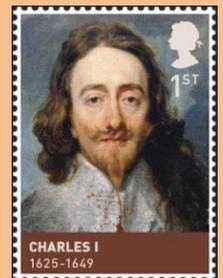
It is 500 years since the Royal Mail was conceived by Henry VIII, who knighted Brian Tuke as Master of the Posts in 1516; however, it was not until 1635 that the service was opened to the public – prior to this the postal service was the preserve of royalty and the Royal houses.



The General Post Office was formalised under Oliver Cromwell in

1657 and in 1784 the service was named the Royal Mail.

<http://500years.royalmailgroup.com>



The Protector's Pen

Cromwell Association Study Day 2016

Interpreting Cromwell and the Civil Wars,
Royal Armouries, Leeds - 12th November 2016



The focus of this year's study day is how museums, galleries and sites have sought to interpret Cromwell and the events of the civil wars, both in the past, and the challenges faced now and in the future. A panel of six speakers are contributing on different aspects of what is a very broad topic.

John Goldsmith will start the day off by looking at how collections have been formed and displayed, and sometimes dispersed, from the 17th century onwards. Simon Marsh from the Battlefields Trust will follow this and look at how battlefield interpretation has developed with specific reference to the civil wars and the work of the Trust. The morning session will be rounded off by Ceri Jones examining how living history can bring the past to life and asking whether it can really work for a complex character like Cromwell.

After a buffet lunch, which will give everyone time to both refresh themselves and discuss the subject informally with others, there will be three further contributions. Keith Emerick will look at the way in which the Register of Historic Battlefields works and ask what more Historic England can do to tell the story of the Civil War and Commonwealth. After our recent AGM visit to the new National Civil War Centre in Newark, it will be fascinating to hear Michael Constantine, the Director, talk about the challenges of running a civil war attraction in today's commercial environment. The last paper, appropriately, will be given by Keith Downen of the Royal Armouries who will discuss how their collections have developed and how they intend to display them in the future.

At the end of the afternoon there will be a roundtable session where perhaps some more general ideas for the future of the subject may emerge.

The subject content of the day is a departure from the format of our more recent study days which have looked in close detail at a single aspect of Cromwell or a subject of direct relevance to understanding the events of the mid-17th century; a model we will return to in the future. It is hoped that this day will be of broad interest to all our members as well as to those more fascinated by battlefield interpretation and more generally the development of museums and galleries.

The Association is delighted that the Royal Armouries are supporting the event as our hosts for the day, in addition to providing one of the speakers. It is ten years since we last met in Leeds, so it is not before time that we return to the national



The Royal Armouries, Leeds

collection of arms and armour for the day. Leeds is readily accessible both by road and rail from all directions.

The event will take place in the Bury Theatre at the Royal Armouries, which is close to the centre of Leeds, on Saturday 12th November 2016. The day will start with registration from 10.30am and will conclude at 4.00pm. Members of the Association are able to book at a preferential rate and full details are on the booking form enclosed with this mailing. We hope that the event will have wide appeal so strongly recommend that Association members book early to make sure of a place.

Further information

Open Daily : 10am - 5pm (last admission 4.30pm)
Free Admission.

 0113 220 1999

 www.royalarmouries.org

 @royal_armouries

 www.facebook.com/Royal-Armouries

Royal Armouries Museum
Armouries Drive
Leeds
LS10 1LT



The Protector's Pen

Cromwell...and the age of steam.

A day out at Fawley Hill Steam and Vintage Weekend presented an unexpected find in the form of a steam engine named 'Cromwell'. A discussion with the owner revealed that the traction engine was built at 'Cromwell' Engineering Works, St Ives, Huntingdon in 1913 by Fowell and Co., and had an impressive (!) 8hp output. The First World War had seen Cromwell Works producing munitions and employing over 100 workers, but part-time work on four traction engines continued, one being completed in 1915 and another two after the war. No 110 was started but never completed. The company was sold in 1923; today only 7 engines are registered.



Cromwell Association Teachers Day 2016

At the end of June the Association held its second Teachers Day in Cambridge. The event was targeted at 'A' level students and teachers of the period, and attracted an audience of nearly 40. The format for the day was three discussions between two historians, chaired by a third. The four contributors were Patrick Little, David Smith, Jason Peacey and Laura Stewart.

The sessions were framed to help students engage with the subject in depth and to gain from the knowledge and experience of working historians. No blood was spilt as the questions were debated, and for each a consensus emerged. It was agreed that parliament neither wholly won the civil war nor the royalists wholly lose it, and that there was blame on both sides for the failure to achieve settlement in 1646-49. The third question of whether we should talk about the *British Civil War* led to the suggestion that terminology, or that of the *War of the Three Kingdoms*, was already outdated (just as some of us were getting used to it).

In the afternoon students had the chance to put questions to the panel. A teacher's question about the admissions policy of university departments prompted some candid and useful answers. They need some convincing. Just saying that you have a passion for history isn't sufficient.

The audience was appreciative of the day and positive comments made. Thanks to all involved and to Newnham for a splendid venue.

Schools membership of the Association is a special category which has its own area of the website with multiple resources for those studying the period. If you have the opportunity to do so, please help draw its existence to the attention of any history teachers you may know.



From left to right: Jason Peacey, Laura Stewart, David Smith and Patrick Little

The Protector's Pen

Exhibition Preview - Fire! Fire!

A new exhibition at the Museum of London. Open from July 23rd to 17th April 2017

1666, the year of the Great Fire of London, was anticipated with apprehension if not downright fear. The symbolism of the date, the association of the number of the Beast 666 in the Book of Revelation, was not lost on contemporary almanac writers and observers. Samuel Pepys amongst others commented on it. A plot against the king was reported in *The London Gazette* in April 1666 with the date of 3rd September as the starting point for insurrection, a plot that was going to include deliberately setting fire to the City.

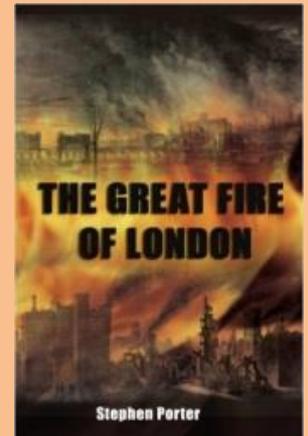
So when fire did break out on the 2nd and took hold on the 3rd September, there were many who believed it must be the work of either Fifth Monarchists, Papists or the Dutch. How much of this aspect is referenced in the exhibition? We will have to wait and see, but for anyone interested in 17th century history it sounds too good to miss, and a possible enjoyable alternative to the Banqueting House visit on 3rd September.

The press release from the Museum says that the exhibition will focus on life on the eve of the fire, the dramatic events that took place as the blaze burned through a quarter of the city in 1666, and how London recovered from the devastation. As one of London's most enduringly popular historical events, Fire! Fire! is designed to be one of the Museum of London's most immersive and interactive exhibitions to date, with setworks to recreate Pudding Lane and a huge moving panorama of London in flames. A variety of incredibly fragile flame-scarred archaeological artefacts reveal the destructive power of the inferno, while letters from eyewitnesses who escaped convey the terror and desperation that ordinary Londoners felt in the face of the fire.



Sharon Ament, Director of the Museum of London, says: "Fire! Fire! showcases the very best of the Museum of London. Given our mission to tell the story of the world's greatest city and its people, it is only right that we honour the anniversary of the Great Fire of London, a truly iconic moment in London's history, with a major exhibition which will be a great day out for adults and children alike."

If you are unable to visit London during the exhibition's run, or you just want some background, Stephen Porter's book *The Great Fire of London* (History Press 2011) is highly recommended.



Further information

Opening times : 10am to 6pm daily (galleries close at 5.40pm)

 www.museumoflondon.org.uk

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 <https://www.facebook.com/museumoflondon>

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The Protector's Pen

Some questions to our Vice-President...

John Morrill is often (and quite properly) described as the leading scholar of Oliver Cromwell of his generation. From 1989 he was the President of the Association for ten years. He has been very generous with his time in supporting the Association in many ways, speaking at events, contributing to Cromwelliana and sharing his enthusiasm for Cromwell in general with members and with others. He was asked for a brief biographical note for this issue of *The Protector's Pen* and to consider some questions.



I was born and brought up in Cheshire, educated in Oxford and taught there (1970-4), and at Stirling (1974-5) and Cambridge (1975-2013). I was married to Frances in 1968 (until her death in 2007) and I have four daughters and five grandchildren. For my 70th birthday we all went off to my favourite place (the wilds of Connemara - where were we 3 miles from a pub, 8 miles from a shop and 70 miles from a hospital (or indeed from a dentist, as I discovered on one of my visits over the years!)) We spent what would have been Frances's 70th birthday on Inishbofin, the remote island 40 minutes off the coast, which was the last place of all to surrender to Cromwell's army in late 1653, and where there is a castle (previously a base for the famous female pirate Grace O'Malley) and then a forbidding prison in the mid 1650s for Catholic priests awaiting deportation to the continent or to Barbados.

What first sparked your interest in Cromwell?

Studying the seventeenth century for A Level with a brilliant schoolmaster (Norman Dore), himself a specialist on the military history of the civil war (after serving in tanks on, and after D-Day). He fired me up and I subsequently wrote an undergraduate dissertation at Oxford on civil-war allegiance that laid the foundations for a lifetime of study.

How has the subject kept you in its thrall for so many years?

Hundreds of small puzzles that illuminate a deeply charismatic man. Some examples from essays I have written - who was the Dr Welles whose lectureship Cromwell was so keen to protect in 1642? What was Cromwell's view of Charles I in the Putney Debates? What are we to make of the clear lie at the heart of his Drogheda letter? What sort of settlement did Cromwell want in Ireland in the early 1650s? Did he nearly take the crown in 1657 and did he give his true reasons for turning it down in April/May?

The current letters and speeches project is a massive undertaking; do you see this as a catalyst for a new generation of Cromwell scholarship?

I hope so! Nine of us have given up several years of our life to the project. We have found few new documents, but we have found much better texts for many of them, resolved many of the problems in stabilising the texts of his speeches and can provide a huge amount of material about the background/context of many, many letters. We have all the texts securely transcribed and edited. It is just a matter of completing the surrounding matter and the appendices. (We are not publishing everything with his signature on it - the hundreds of pay warrants, passes, protections, orders, etc that are pro formas to which he added his name - but we are including exempla of each type, especially when they tell us things we need to know. Thus one of the 'discovered' documents is an order transferring Matthew Alured from Ireland to Scotland just in time for him to be one of the 'three colonels' who denounced the Protectorate in late 1654 - until now we were puzzled by Alured being one of them when he was so far away from the other malcontents. So that will be one of our exempla. Once we have got the list of contents typed up and checked, and a few other final jobs done (I have edited Cromwell's contributions to the Putney Debates from a microfilm and need to check my transcription against the original in Worcester College Oxford - when I tried before the library was closed for renovations); then we have to complete the companion volumes. One is a companion to the edition, eg analyses of what has survived and not survived; we also have to check the reliability of our texts (so many letters only survive in contemporary print or handwritten copies; all the speeches raise problems of reliability); the other is a set of interpretative essays on what the new edition teaches us.

Some people may think there is some kind of conflict between your dedication to Cromwell studies and your personal religious beliefs? Is this the case?

I have the gift of a deep personal faith, which for me places me in the Catholic Church. It helps me to wrestle with Cromwell as another man with a deep personal faith and although his 'theology' is very different from mine, the struggle to turn faith and the teachings of scripture into authentic living is something I understand and find fascinating. I have spent a lot of time focusing on Cromwell's wrestling with scripture and with the ways that God gives very similar choices to people in their present that he had given to the people of Israel in the Old Testament. So at different times of his life, Cromwell meditates on the story of Gideon, the farmer who was called to lead the armies of Israel, which he 'winnowed' and led to victory over the Midianites, who then executed the kings of Midian for

(cont'd)

...John Morrill

atrocities against God's people, and then returned to his farm laden with honours [1648]; on the story of Moses, leading God's chosen people out of Egypt through the Red Sea (Regicide) into the Desert (Rump) towards the Promised Land; or the story of Josiah, the king who completed the Temple (= completed the Reformation begun in the sixteenth century but left incomplete); and the story of David at various points. Cromwell's is empowered by his study of scripture but he was also constrained by the need to stay within the parameters of the biblical parallel. This might be most true of his decisions about taking the Crown. It certainly limited his freedom of action in the period between the Putney Debates and the Regicide about what to do with Charles I.

What do you see as the main role for the Association in the medium term?

To continue to do what it does so well - commemorate a man who bestrode his Age and set his life into the context of his turbulent times. I am especially thrilled by the way the study days have been developing and growing. There is no doubt that there is a Hilary Mantel effect (aided by the way the media dote on David Starkey and several other media-savvy academics) that is adding to the current preference for the Tudors over the century of the Stuarts and Cromwell, and I am always delighted to talk to large groups of enthusiastic schoolteachers who yearn to get us back into the civil-war era - the day before this interview I was talking to 24 schoolteachers about how to make Cromwell interesting to multicultural groups of 12 year olds! The Association has an external portfolio of activities, but the strictly educational one is crucial.

You spoke recently about your work on a major new biography of Cromwell aimed at the interested lay person. How is that progressing?

I am hoping it will write itself once the 5-volume edition is in press. Then I will sit down and write the biography for a general readership. There are so many excellent biographies written for the student market, but has there been a major biography for general (and international) publics since Antonia Fraser in 1973?

If you had the opportunity to ask Cromwell a direct question, at any point in his life, what would that question be?

How did you view your own future and the future of England on Wednesday 31 January, the day after the Regicide?

A Plaque for Cromwell in Cambridge

Soon after the Association was formed in 1937 a proposal was made for a plaque to commemorate Cromwell in Cambridge. Cambridge Borough Council rejected the idea in 1941 - perhaps they had other matters on their mind at the time.

The connection between Cromwell and Cambridge is very strong. He was MP for the town in both parliaments of 1640 and had been a student at Sidney Sussex College for a year. For the greater part of his life he never lived more than twenty miles away and he must have known the town very well. Despite that, Cambridge has never had a public memorial to Cromwell. The Edwardian stained glass window in the Emmanuel URC church on Trumpington Street and the plaque referring to his head in the ante-chapel to Sidney Sussex are the only two markers of Cromwell's connection to the City. (Cambridge received city status in 1951).

In the list of Cromwell plaques and memorials the absence of Cambridge has been a glaring omission and four years ago the Association's Council started the process of addressing this anomaly.

A plaque will be erected shortly as part of the Cambridge City Blue Plaque scheme; full details will appear in the next issue of *The Protector's Pen*. At the time of going to press the details of an event to mark the unveiling of the plaque are being finalised and an enclosure with this mailing will update you.



The Black Bear Inn, Market Street – demolished in 1848 (ref below)

The wording for the plaque which will be fixed to a wall in Market Passage is:

Oliver Cromwell

1599-1658

MP for Cambridge

Lord Protector of the British Republic

**At the Black Bear Inn, which stood on this site,
Cromwell met with the Eastern Association to plan the
Parliamentarian war effort in this region.**

More details on the Black Bear Inn at:

<https://musicb3.wordpress.com/2013/01/11/bygone-concert-venues-6-the-black-bear-inn-cambridge/>

New Book : A Rightful Ruler

A Rightful Ruler by Dr David Dougan

A Rightful Ruler examines the performance of Oliver Cromwell as Lord Protector from his installation in December 1653 until his death in September 1658. In doing so it compares his activities as Head of State to those of his predecessors, James I and Charles I and his successor, Charles II, in three important areas: religion, foreign affairs and the court.

Dr Dougan begins with the religious policies of James and his son Charles. He devotes a chapter to Charles' eleven years of personal rule when no Parliaments were called, and another chapter to the part played by the Duke of Buckingham at both courts.

A chapter on the 'Drift to Civil Wars' leads to the emergence of Cromwell as the outstanding military and political leader, who was the natural choice as Head of State when a new form of politics was introduced following the execution of Charles I.

The book demonstrates what a controversial choice this was, both as a new system and as a new leader. Cromwell was never without his critics either at the time or since. But Dr Dougan shows that much of the criticism arose from a failure or an unwillingness to appreciate the new political landscape. He was never the dictator of popular imagination but was always

constrained through a written constitution to work with Parliament and a Council of State. These constraints produced not only frustration but also a failure to make the progress that Cromwell so urgently desired. At his death, these frustrations were uppermost in Cromwell's mind but Dr Dougan concludes that 'his successes may be regarded as greater than his failures'.

Dr Dougan is a former political journalist working for the BBC and the *Financial Times* before moving into arts administration as director of three public bodies. Since his retirement he has concentrated on lecturing on English History from the Celts, all the way through to the nineteenth century. *A Rightful Ruler* is Dr Dougan's tenth book and his third about the seventeenth century, following his study of Samuel Pepys and then *To Return a King* concerning the return of monarchy in 1660.

A Rightful Ruler by David Dougan, Grove Publishing, 1 Grove Road, Bury St Edmunds IP33 3BE

✉ daviddougan1@msn.com

218pp, 6 full colour, price £10 (10% discount to members of the Cromwell Association) plus £2 P&P.
Please make cheques payable to David Dougan

Publications, Exhibitions and Events

<u>Date (2016)</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Details</u>
Jul 23 - Aug 27	Oliver Cromwell's House	Guided Tours (Saturdays)
Jul 23 - Sep 4	NCWC	A summer of Siege Activities - see website
Jul 23 - Apr 27 (2017)	Museum of London	Fire! Fire! Exhibition of The Great Fire of London
Aug 6 - 7	Bovington Tank Museum	Warfare through the Ages (Medieval to Present Day)
Aug 14	Chalgrove	Guided walk around battlefield by Simon Marsh, Battlefields Trust
Aug 27 - 29	Commandery Worcester	Battle of Worcester Weekend: A Civilian's Story
Aug 28 - 29	Newport Pagnell	Civil War Weekend, English Civil War Society (ECWS)
Sep 3	Worcester	Guided walk around battlefield on 365 th Anniversary by Tony Spicer, Battlefields Trust
Sep 3	London	Cromwell Day (see article in this newsletter)
Sep 17 - 18	Dunbar	Major Muster, ECWS
Oct 1 - 2	Basing House	Drill, Living History and Skirmish, ECWS
Nov 12	Royal Armouries, Leeds	Cromwell Association Study Day: Interpreting Cromwell and the Civil Wars (see enclosure)
Nov 20	Brentford and Turnham Green	Guided walk around battlefield by Simon Marsh and Stephen Porter, Battlefields Trust

All information correct at time of going to press

