

The Cromwell Association – registered charity no. 1132954

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st December 2018

1. Introduction

1.1 This is the tenth annual report of the trustees (the Council) of The Cromwell Association, which was registered as a charity on 25th November 2009 following the decision of the 2009 annual general meeting (AGM) to proceed with registration.

1.2 The report is for calendar year 2018, which is consistent with the charity's financial year.

2. Administrative details

2.1 The trustees who served during the year were:

Professor Peter Gaunt	President (appointed 28.4.18)
Mr John Newland	Minutes Secretary (appointed 28.4.18)
Mr Geoffrey Bush	Treasurer (appointed 28.4.18)
Mr John Goldsmith	Chairman (appointed 28.4.18)
Dr Maxine Forshaw	Editor of Journal (appointed 28.4.18)
Mr Paul Robbins	Membership Secretary (appointed 28.4.18)

The post of Secretary was vacant throughout the year

ordinary trustees, non-office holding,

Mr John Gibbon	(elected at the 2018 AGM)
Mr David Woodall	(elected at the 2018 AGM)
Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons	(elected at the 2017 AGM)
Dr Miranda Malins	(elected at the 2017 AGM)
Mrs Serrie Meakins	(elected at the 2016 AGM)
Mr Paul Robbins	(elected at the 2016 AGM)
Mr Richard Warren	(elected at the 2016 AGM)
Dr Ismini Pells	(elected at the 2016 AGM)

Officers and other trustees are three year appointments.

2.2 For the purposes of charitable registration the Chairman is also the charity correspondent and his home address is the contact address used by the Charity Commission.

2.3 The governing document is the constitution formally adopted by the Association at the AGM held on 25th April 2009 at Naseby Village Hall.

3. Financial review

3.1 2018 was an excellent year for the recruitment of new members to the Association and income was up by more than 50% over 2017. However, subscription renewals were somewhat disappointing once again but it should be remembered that Council decided to waive membership fees for schools for the subscription year 2017-18 and this policy has been continued in 2018-19.

3.2 A large number of members made very generous donations for which, as ever, the trustees are most grateful. And thanks go also to the many UK taxpayers who completed and returned Gift Aid forms so enabling the Association to reclaim tax amounting to over £900.

3.3 The Study Day held in Huntingdon on the subject of “Oliver Cromwell...why should we care?” attracted an audience of around 70. The proceeds of the day amounted to £1,500 after deduction of the Association’s costs and a cheque for this amount was written to support the Cromwell Museum.

3.4 The Schools’ Conference was hosted by St Paul’s School in South West London and attracted some 125 teachers and 6th Form students. It was gratifying that not only was the day a great success but also that a surplus of £645 was achieved.

3.5 The costs of printing and mailing *Cromwelliana* and the two editions of *The Protector’s Pen* continue to increase. There is not a lot that can be done to reduce costs, in particular postage, without radical change to the form of delivery of our publications. From soundings among members it appears that there is a general desire to retain the present print format. We continue to monitor the market for printing companies and indeed welcome recommendations from members.

3.6 Receipts exceeded payments by £1,653 in 2018, so increasing available funds to £22,263. It is anticipated that Council will authorise increased spending on monuments and other projects in the coming years. This and the mounting publishing costs have persuaded Council to recommend an increase in subscription charges to take effect for the subscription year 2020-21. This will be the first increase in over a decade.

4 Public benefit statement

The trustees have complied with the guidance of the Charity Commission on public benefit.

5 Objectives and activities

5.1 The object of the charity is to advance the education of the public in both the life and legacy of Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), politician, soldier and statesman, and the wider history of the seventeenth century.

5.2 The trust has undertaken to carry out the following activities for the benefit of the public:
To campaign for the preservation and conservation of buildings, sites and relevant to Cromwell

To commission, on behalf of the Association or in collaboration with others, plaques, panels and monuments at sites associated with Cromwell.

To support and encourage the Cromwell Museum and Cromwell Collection library in Huntingdon.

To provide, within the competence of the Association, advice to television, radio, press and other media on all matters relating to the period.

To encourage interest in the period in all phases of formal education by the publication of reading lists, information and teachers’ guidance.

To publish news and information about the period, including an annual journal and regular newsletters

To organise an annual memorial service, day schools, conferences, lectures, exhibitions and other educational events.

To provide an Internet resource for researchers in the period including school students, genealogists and interested parties.

To offer, from time to time, grants, awards and prizes to individuals and organisations working towards the objectives stated above.

- 6 The Council met four times during the year and the major achievements are summarised below:
- 6.1 Members have received two copies of *The Protector's Pen*, edited by John Goldsmith supported by Mr Simon Blake as Production Editor.
- 6.2 The journal *Cromwelliana* edited by Dr Forshaw was distributed with the summer mailing. The articles included the 2017 Cromwell Day address by Dr Stephen K Roberts, and papers on Cromwell and Peterborough and the Huntingdonshire clergy in 1641, along with four papers from the 2017 Study Day on Cromwell and Europe. There were also the regular features of reviews and bibliographies of both book and journal articles.
- 6.3 The Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday April 28th at the Friends Meeting House, St Giles', Oxford. The meeting was well attended. After the formal business was concluded Vanessa Moir gave a lecture on the civil war in Oxford. She then led a walk round the main sites and Serrie Meakins led a truncated walk. The whole group met up again at the Old Bodleian Library before dispersing.
- 6.4 The fourth event aimed at teachers of 17th century history and their pupils took place at St Paul's Boys School, Hammersmith on 27th June with four academics debating and answering questions, followed by a seminar style session. It was a very successful event and the revised format worked well. Thanks to Serrie Meakins for organising the event, and to St Paul's for their generous hospitality. The decision to waive subscription fees for schools is beginning to pay dividends.
- 6.5 The annual Cromwell Day Service was held in the Lady Chapel of Worcester Cathedral on Saturday 1st September. The address was given by Professor Gaunt, our President. The day, planned in coordination with the Battle of Worcester Society, included a visit to The Commandery where a wreath was laid in the Garden of Remembrance, and participation in the Society's Drum Head Service on Fort Royal. Thanks to the Cathedral authorities and the Battle of Worcester Society.
- 6.6 The Annual Study Day was held in Huntingdon on Saturday 2nd June in conjunction with the Friends of the Cromwell Museum. The intention was to focus on why Cromwell was significant, with four speakers contributing. All profits from the event were given to the Friends to help support the Museum. This is consistent with our aim of providing support to the Museum to assist in developing it as a sustainable organisation.
- 6.7 As a result of the continuing generosity of Association member Frederic Borch III a schools essay competition was held for the third year running. It attracted high quality entries and the winning essay will be published in *Cromwelliana*, as well as on the web site.
- 6.8 During the year two projects to improve battlefield interpretation came to fruition. On Saturday 30th June a new board was installed by the monument at Marston Moor in partnership with the Battlefield Trust. The Battle of Worcester Heritage Partnership led an initiative to install an interpretation board by the confluence of the Severn and the Teme to mark an important phase in the battle of 1651. The board, which was supported by several agencies, was unveiled on Sunday 2nd September. The Association's support is fully credited on both boards.
- 6.9 The Association's web site continues to provide an important route by which our objectives are fulfilled. An important addition during the year was the digitised text of *The Cromwellian Gazetteer*.

6.10 During the year steps have been taken to ensure that the Association is in compliance with the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations.

6.11 The Association also continues to have a social media presence and has responded to a range of enquiries throughout the year.

7 Conclusion

The Association has continued to fulfil its charitable objectives across a wide range of activities. The Trustees are open to suggestions for further development within the inevitable constraints of finance and capacity.

8 Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:-

Signature

Full name John Goldsmith, Chairman

Signature

Full name

Position

Date