

# The Cromwell Association – registered charity no. 1132954

## Report of the trustees for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

### 1. Introduction

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

1.2 The report is for calendar year 2019, 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)
Mr Richard Warren	Secretary (appointed 27.4.2019)

ordinary trustees, non-office holding,

Mr John Gibbon	(elected at the 2018 AGM)
Mr David Woodall	(elected at the 2018 AGM – deceased January 2019)
Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons	(elected at the 2017 AGM)
Dr Miranda Malins	(elected at the 2017 AGM)
Mrs Serrie Meakins	(elected at the 2019 AGM)
Mr Richard Warren	(elected at the 2019 AGM)
Dr Ismini Pells	(elected at the 2019 AGM)
Dr Charlotte Young	(elected at the 2019 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 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 25<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at Naseby Village Hall.

### 3 Public benefit statement

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

### 4 Objectives and activities

4.1 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.

- 4.2 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.
- 5 The Council met four times during the year at The City Temple and the major achievements are summarised below:
- 5.1 Members have received two copies of *The Protector's Pen*, edited by John Goldsmith supported by Mr Simon Blake as Production Editor.
- 5.2 The journal *Cromwelliana* edited by Dr Forshaw was distributed with the summer mailing. The articles included the 2018 Cromwell Day address by Professor Gaunt, and papers from the Study Day held in Huntingdon in June 2018 on the theme of 'Oliver Cromwell; why should we care?'. There were also the regular features of reviews and bibliographies of both book and journal articles, and the essay from the Schools Essay competition.
- 5.3 The Annual General Meeting took place on Saturday April 27th in Newmarket. The day was very successfully planned by local member John Sutton, who also gave an entertaining lecture and after lunch led a walk around the main sites of interest in the town. The formal meeting was reasonably attended, though fewer members than the previous year were there. The lecture, which was open to the general public, was extremely well attended, with standing room only.
- 5.4 The fifth event aimed at teachers of 17<sup>th</sup> century history and their pupils took place the National Civil War Centre, Newark, on 26<sup>th</sup> 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. The NCW Centre were very accommodating hosts and the participation by state schools was noticeably higher than in previous years.
- 5.5 The annual Cromwell Day Service was held at St. Mary's, Putney, on the 7<sup>th</sup> September, the scene of the Putney Debates in 1647. The address was given by Professor Edward Vallance, and will be published in the 2020 edition of our journal. The Association was made to feel very

welcome by the Church. Unfortunately, due to continuing building works at the Palace of Westminster, Council continues to seek alternative places to hold our service of commemoration, and will try and strike a balance between locations in London and elsewhere.

- 5.6 The Annual Study Day was a joint event held with the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, on the theme of the civil war in Lincolnshire, and took place in Lincoln on 15<sup>th</sup> June. Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons planned the content of the day on behalf of the Cromwell Association and the SLHA undertook all of the practical arrangements
- 5.7 A new Interpretation Panel at the site of the Battle of Dunbar, an initiative of the Scottish Battlefields Trust, was supported by the Association.
- 5.8 Council discussed at length our spending priorities for the next few years which were agreed as the purchase of an appropriate short biography of Cromwell as an introduction for new members, funding research grants for post-graduate students and enhancing the content of the website.
- 5.9 After a hiatus Council have taken steps to develop the range of merchandise offered for sale to members, thanks to Council member John Gibbon for taking on this area of activity.
- 5.10 As well as the partnership with SLHA the Association was invited to support and participate in events organised by West Sussex Archives, the Save the London Campaign and St. Giles' Cripplegate.
- 5.11 The Association also continues to have a social media presence and has responded to a range of enquiries throughout the year.

## 6 Financial review

### 6.1 RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2019

	2019	2018	2017
	£	£	£
<b>RECEIPTS</b>			
Renewal subscriptions	6,175	5,550	5,742
New member subscriptions	1,535	1,505	980
Donations	1,567	1,677	1,083
Gift Aid refunds	1,119	912	959
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<i>Total membership income</i>	10,396	9,644	8,764
Sales of merchandise	1,210	319	317
Miscellaneous receipts	50	0	50
Bank interest	114	113	189
<i>Net surplus/loss on events:</i>			
Annual General Meeting	-21	103	56
Study Day	300	1,500	-169
Schools' Conference	685	645	917
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<b>TOTAL NET RECEIPTS</b>	12,734	12,324	10,124
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**PAYMENTS**

## Members' services:

Council room hire	240	238	232
Postage, printing, stationery	544	221	509
Cromwelliana and newsletter	7,340	6,973	6,282
Website and IT	494	568	1,220
Insurance	209	210	210
Paypal charges	153	141	114
Horspool biography/other expenses	1,250	75	35
Cromwell Day	439	402	392

*Total - members' services*

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10,669	8,828	8,994

Restoration of monuments	0	0	0
New monuments and plaques	0	181	0
Cost of merchandise	2,021	12	0
Biographical Dictionary	0	0	150
Donations made	0	1,500	0
Essay prizes	300	150	200
PA system	82	0	0

**TOTAL NET PAYMENTS**

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13,072	10,671	9,344
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**NET RECEIPTS/PAYMENTS**

-338	1,653	780
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**BALANCES BROUGHT FORWARD**

22,263	20,610	19,830
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**BALANCES AT 31ST DECEMBER**

21,925	22,263	20,610
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**REPRESENTED BY:**

Bank deposit account	2,616	2,615	2,614
Bank current account	5,309	5,599	3,977
Bank term deposit	14,000	14,000	14,000
Paypal account	0	49	19

**TOTAL FUNDS AT 31ST DECEMBER**

21,925	22,263	20,610
=====	=====	=====

Note: there were no unpaid invoices on 31st December 2019, nor were there outstanding debtors.

6.2 There was a big increase in new subscriptions in 2018 and these have contributed to the 11% increase in renewals in 2019. Additionally, this year the Association has again attracted an excellent number of new subscriptions, 73 in all.

- 6.3 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 of over £1,100.
- 6.4 Merchandise sales have jumped since Council decided to restock and extend the line of products available.
- 6.5 A very well attended Study Day was held jointly with the Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology, the Association's share of the net surplus being £300. Another successful Schools' Conference, this year held at the National Civil War Centre in Newark, yielded a surplus of £685.
- 6.6 There were two items of exceptional cost in 2019. The first was the purchase of 500 copies of the new Penguin paperback edition of David Horspool's biography of Cromwell. Copies of *Cromwell Four Centuries On* have been sent to new members for many years but Council decided that with stocks of these running low the Association should invest in a short modern biography for issue to new members and that it should also be available to existing members at a reduced price. The cost of £1,250 has been fully expensed in the financial year 2019.
- 6.7 The second unusual cost was the purchase of fresh merchandise referred to above. Again, the full amount has been expensed in 2019.
- 6.8 Total expenses exceeded total receipts by £338 in the year. At 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 the Association's funds amounted to £21,925, thus a drop of £338 since the same date in 2018.
- 6.9 The trustees have decided to increase subscriptions rates as from 2020/21, the justification for which is explained elsewhere in this mailing.

## 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, Chair

Signature

Full name Richard Warren Secretary

Date