

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

The Protector's Pen

AGM 2017

Report on
Cromwell Day
2016

Cromwelliana
1972-2017

Cambridge
Plaque

Cromwell's Head
Review

News & Events

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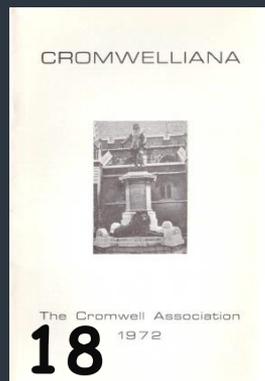
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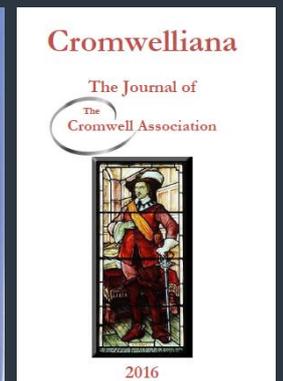
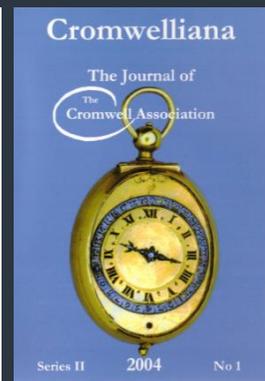
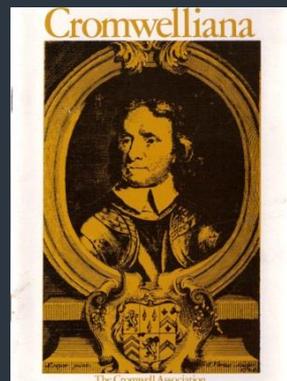
CROMWELL ASSOCIATION AGM 2017



CAMBRIDGE PLAQUE



CROMWELLIANA 1972-2017



COPPER PLAQUE



CROMWELL'S HEAD REVIEW



Front Cover :

A contemporary Dutch print of the desecration and beheading of Oliver Cromwell's corpse

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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 - finance@olivercromwell.org
- changes of address and email, contact the membership secretary Paul Robbins - membership@olivercromwell.org
- all other matters, please contact the chairman John Goldsmith - chairman@olivercromwell.org

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



www.olivercromwell.org



@Cromwellorg

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www.olivercromwell.org

The Protector's Pen

Chairman's Note

Welcome to the first edition of *The Protector's Pen* for 2017

At this year's Annual General Meeting, to be held on 6th May in Shrewsbury, there are some minor proposals to revise the Constitution of the Association. Nothing major, just some tidying up of some of the required officer posts, as circumstances change with time.

The need to make the changes, combined with looking at the whole archive of *Cromwelliana* (which will be available on the website shortly), made me reflect on just how far the Association has come in the last twenty or so years. The development has in part been driven, or facilitated, by technology, and by the enthusiasm of individual members of Council, supported by the membership.

The explosion of the internet and the creation of a website is the most obvious example. The origins of our site lie in the one produced jointly with the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon in 1999 for the 400th anniversary of Cromwell's birth. It has gone through one major change since and another is imminent. Our journal *Cromwelliana* has gone from strength to strength under its respective editors over that period - Peter Gaunt, Jane Mills, Patrick Little and currently Maxine Forshaw. It has a full colour cover, and has over the years become generally more substantial in both content and quality. Our Study Days are now a very firm fixture in the Association's calendar, and provide not only interesting events but also solid content for the journal.

The Protector's Pen itself, twenty years old this year, has grown from a small number of pages in black and white to a regular 16 pages in full colour. Our latest developments are the Teacher's website and the Twitter feed; so Cromwell has hit the Twittersphere. Behind the scenes, the introduction of the membership database has made the management of subscriptions easier, particularly with the ability for members to join and to renew on the website using PayPal.

Like all societies we have had to change and develop; those that don't stagnate and disappear. We are operating at a level where the tasks involved in keeping us moving forward continue to increase but the number of those undertaking the tasks has remained fairly constant. With a membership of between 450 and 500 we are not in a position to do anything other than on a voluntary basis; so if it sometimes takes a little while for an email to be answered, or a query to be addressed, please be patient.

What is both encouraging and rewarding are well supported events and members engaging with the Association. So please, if you have the opportunity, do join in and take part in our activities; and if you have skills you would like to offer, do not hide your light under a bushel.

John Goldsmith

Chairman

Notes from the Council

Since the last issue of *The Protector's Pen* the Association's Council has met twice, once in October and again in January. The following items have been addressed, amongst others:

- A new stock of the volume *Cromwell Four Centuries On* was ordered, to ensure all new members receive a copy
- The format and future of the Cromwell Day services
- Proposals for amending the Constitution
- All events that have happened have been reviewed
- Plans for future events discussed
- New merchandising material agreed
- A way forward for a revamped website.

We also discussed improving our method of sending emails to members. If you have given us an email address we have assumed that means you have given consent to receive emails from the Association from time to time. If that is not the case please let us know.

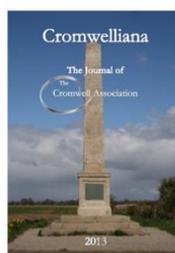
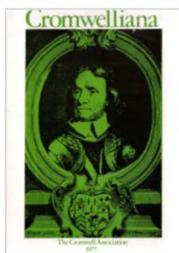
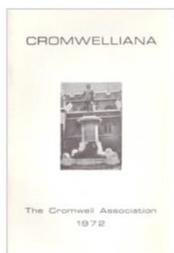
The most recent set of confirmed minutes is placed in the member's area of the website (updated as soon as possible after each meeting).

To contact the Association by email please use:

chairman@olivercromwell.org

or write to:

John Goldsmith,
25, Fox's Way,
Comberton,
Cambridge,
CB23 7DL.



Cromwell Association AGM 2017

Annual General Meeting Saturday 6th May 2017

The Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 6th May in The University Centre in Shrewsbury. All the meeting papers are enclosed with this mailing.

The market and county town of Shrewsbury lies within a grand loop of the River Severn, whose banks remain undeveloped and afford open spaces and river-side walks close to the town centre. Pevsner wrote of the historic core that 'it is still easy to sense the prosperity and vigour of the Elizabethan and Stuart town, in the small market square half-filled with the Old Market House, the twisting streets and attractive and curious courtyards and alleyways. Everywhere the street names are tempting and mysterious'. During the civil war it was a major royalist base and its medieval defences were upgraded, but it was taken for parliament in February 1645 in a night attack led by Colonel Mytton and thereafter served as the HQ for parliament's reconquest of the county. There are some surviving town walls, a castle and many other Tudor and early Stuart buildings, and the town was also the birthplace of Charles Darwin.



The venue for the AGM is in the Guildhall (pictured above) in Frankwell Quay, Shrewsbury, SY3 8HQ. The University Centre is a joint venture between Shropshire Council and the University of Chester and opened in 2015. The Centre is on the north bank of the River Severn close to a modern footbridge which links to the town centre.

For those coming by car, Shrewsbury is encircled by three park-and-ride facilities just off the A49 and A5 to the north-east, south and west of the town. If you are driving into the town, there is a large public pay and display car park - the Frankwell car park - next to The University Centre and accessed from close by the north end of the Welsh Bridge; it will be busy on a Saturday but it is so large that it is almost always possible to find a space. All-day parking there currently costs £4.

For those arriving by train, Shrewsbury is served by direct and quite frequent trains from Manchester, Crewe, North Wales, Chester, Aberystwyth, Swansea, Cardiff (and South Wales) and Birmingham and Wolverhampton. Although there are a few direct trains between London and Shrewsbury, travellers from London (and the east) will usually need to change at Birmingham. The town has a single railway station, from which The University Centre is a five-minute walk. On leaving the station, do not turn left uphill and into the town centre but instead go straight across and walk along Smithfield Street (not one of Shrewsbury's more attractive thoroughfares!), soon passing part of the bus station on your left and with the river opening up on your right until you see the modern pedestrian over-bridge. This will sweep you high across the road

(cont'd)



Full town map at:
<http://www.shrewsburyabbey.com/img19.jpg>

The Directory of Parliamentary Officers

Almost twenty years ago the Association decided to mark Cromwell's Quatercentenary by commissioning research to compile a Directory of Parliamentary officers. To say that it has taken longer than intended is perhaps an understatement, but now thanks due to the herculean efforts of Dr Stephen Roberts and Professor Peter Gaunt, the work is about to come to fruition.

The work is about to be published on the web site of British History Online <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/> and therefore be made as widely available as possible.



INSTITUTE
OF HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

University of London
School of Advanced Study

There will be a launch event in the early evening of Wednesday 17th May at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet St, London WC1E 7HU. Attendance is by invitation only but we very much hope that some members of the Association would like to attend. If you would like to be invited please email chairman@olivercromwell.org by 31st March at the latest. We regret that this cannot be an open invitation due to the restraints of planning and catering.

A full article on the Directory is planned for the next issue of *The Protector's Pen*.

Cromwell Association AGM 2017 (cont'd)

and the river, with The University Centre right in front of you at the other end.

AGM Timetable

- 10:30 Doors open - tea and coffee to welcome you to Shrewsbury and to The University Centre
- 11:00 AGM
- 12:00 Dr Jonathan Worton illustrated lecture on Shrewsbury in the civil war.
- 12:00 Lunch break
- 13:00 Buffet Lunch (a booking form is enclosed and pre-booking is essential)
- 14:00 Walking Tours (see below)
- 16:00 Close

Dr Worton has recently published a book, based on his PhD, entitled: *To Settle the Crown - Waging War in Shropshire 1642-1648* (Helion 2016). He is an expert on Shrewsbury and its hinterland during the civil war. The lecture is **open to all**, so if you have friends and family in the area who you think might be interested, please encourage them to come along.

Two alternative walking tours are on offer at 2pm:

- (i) a shorter walk led by our President, Professor Peter Gaunt and
- (ii) a longer walk led by Dr Worton.

Both walks will finish by 4.00pm. There is **no charge** for either of the walks and **no need to pre-book**.

There are no formal arrangements for tea after the walks, but on the day suggestions will be made for an appropriate place for people to meet up if they wish.

Shrewsbury has an informative tourism website and if you intend to stay in the area there is a wide choice of accommodation on offer - see www.shrewsburyguide.info

For those making a weekend or long weekend of it, the towns of Chester, Ludlow, Hereford and Aberystwyth (all of them royalist strongholds until they were captured by, or surrendered to, parliament towards the end of the war) can all be reached by direct trains from Shrewsbury.

For those with cars, nearby attractive towns and sites with civil war connections include Bridgnorth and Montgomery, Morton Corbet, Stokesay, Clun and Hopton Castles and Lilleshall Abbey; while the world heritage site of Coalbrookdale/Ironbridge is also close by.

Shropshire is also grand walking country, with the Long Mynd, Wenlock Edge, the Wrekin or the gentler slopes of Haughmond Hill closer to Shrewsbury (our AGM may coincide with the bluebells this year). All quite easily accessible.

We look forward to seeing you in Shrewsbury.



Shrewsbury Castle

Study Day 2016 : Interpreting Cromwell and the Civil Wars

A full report on the Study Day held at Leeds Armories in November 2016 will appear in the July issue of *The Protector's Pen*. The lecture - *Collecting Cromwell; how Cromwell and the civil wars have been interpreted in museums and galleries* - will be published in *Cromwelliana* 2017.

Cromwell and Europe Study Day 2017

The date of the 2017 Study Day is Saturday October 7th and the theme is *Cromwell and Europe*; a subject which we have not tackled before and which seems timely given the current debates around Brexit. Just what was Cromwell's attitude to continental Europe?

The programme will cover issues such as The Thirty Years War (the 400th anniversary of which looms in 2018) and some studies of relationships with individual

countries. The list of speakers is impressive and the day looks to be a full and fascinating one.



We are going back to The City Temple in central London for the event, after last year's venture in Leeds.

Full details of the Study Day and a booking form will be included in the summer mailing. In the meantime if you are interested, keep the date clear in your diary.

Increases in overseas subscriptions for 2017-18

After careful consideration, Council has decided that the rates for UK members of £20pa will remain the same for the next membership year starting on September 3rd 2017; but with regret the cost of non-UK membership will increase from £25pa to £30pa. This is a consequence of the ever increasing costs of postage, and in fairness to all members it was felt that the value of subscriptions - once postage costs for our two mailings have been subtracted - should be equal for all members. At least with the fall in the exchange rate the effect should be ameliorated to some extent. Every cloud.....

A Plaque for Cromwell in Cambridge

One of the main activities of the Association has always been the commemoration of Cromwell by plaques and monuments. Our first was erected in Huntingdon in 1938, the year after the Association came into being, and December last year saw our most recent, a plaque for Cromwell in Cambridge. An application had been made in 1941 to Cambridge Borough (now City) Council but was rejected. Presumably other matters were deemed more pressing.

In trying to pick up the most significant gaps in memorials to Cromwell, the absence of anything in Cambridge was a glaring omission, so about six years ago the Council of the Association decided to try and secure something in the town. There are very few places that can be directly linked to Cromwell, and it was felt that the connection should be with the town, rather than Sidney Sussex, the college where his head now rests. After some deliberation the initial choice was of the site of the inn where Cromwell lodged to active residency in order to sit as one of the town's MPs in 1640. This is now occupied by the master's lodge of St John's College on Bridge Street.

Council decided that if possible it would work with the Cambridge Blue Plaque scheme to achieve our objective, but the initial proposal was not enthusiastically received and they asked us to reconsider. After some thought and research a proposal was resubmitted for the site of the Black Bear Inn, in the city centre, where it was known that the Committee of the Eastern Association had met, and which Cromwell certainly attended.



The site of the Inn yard is now marked by Market Passage, and after a site meeting with the Planning Officer from the conservation section of the City Council, an exact spot was agreed. Not the most attractive or prominent of sites, but one that was attainable. The Blue Plaque Committee agreed to the proposal and the Association undertook to fund the costs of manufacturing and mounting the plaque.

To mark the occasion of finally securing a plaque for Cromwell in Cambridge it was decided that we should hold a reception and lecture to promote the plaque, the Association and the Blue Plaque Committee. Finally it all came together on Saturday 3rd December at Cromwell's old college, the closest to Market Passage.

Dr Clive Holmes, the author of the definitive work on the Eastern Association, gave an excellent lecture to an audience of Association members, members of invited local societies and representatives of the Blue Plaque Committee. The lecture will appear in the next issue of *Cromwelliana* (2017).



Sir John Major unveiling the plaque (courtesy Cambridge News)

Following a buffet lunch our guest of honour the Rt Hon Sir John Major, former prime minister and MP for Cromwell's old constituency of Huntingdon, unveiled the plaque itself. Sir John spoke warmly of both Cromwell and the significance of commemorating our history. The event was well reported on the regional BBC television programme



Look East, including interviews with both Sir John and our own chairman, John Goldsmith. It also had good coverage in the two main local newspapers.

So now, a good pub quiz question: What do Oliver Cromwell, the cricketer Jack Hobbes and cryptographer Alan Turing all have in common? Yes, they all have blue plaques in Cambridge.

For the event a handout giving background information was produced which is reprinted here:

Cromwell was born less than twenty miles away from Cambridge in 1599 and his connections with the town lasted throughout his lifetime and beyond. For a year he was a student at Sidney Sussex College, until leaving in 1617 to return home on the death of his father. His skills in debate and rhetoric may have had their foundations there. Over the next two decades he never lived more than a few miles away, at Huntingdon, St. Ives and, from 1636, in Ely.

In 1640 he was elected to represent the town in both of the two parliaments called that year. The intriguing circumstances of his appointment suggest that he had influential connections in Cambridge, particularly among those members of the town's corporation who shared his deep religious convictions. Festering tensions between the king and parliament could not be resolved and led to the conflict known as the English Civil War - more accurately, three wars involving the peoples of all three of the kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland. (cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

As one of the town's two MPs, Cromwell quickly emerged as a committed parliamentarian. Even before August 1642, when King Charles I raised his standard at Nottingham, the point at which the war officially began, Cromwell had already secured arms for the defence of Cambridge and recruited and trained volunteers. More dramatically, he forcibly stopped the colleges sending their silver to the king and seized the ammunition store at Cambridge Castle. He had asserted his role as the local commander of parliament's forces where, very broadly, the townspeople were for parliament and the university for the crown.

He was commissioned a captain in the parliamentary army and raised a troop of horse locally. At the end of 1642 Cambridgeshire and neighbouring counties formed an 'Eastern Association' to create its own regional army and oversee the local war effort, with Cambridge as its administrative base. Cromwell was appointed a colonel with the command of a cavalry regiment in the army of the Association.

Although the Eastern Association's records are incomplete, it is clear from the surviving evidence that the Grand Committee, which oversaw the administration of the Association, met at the Black Bear Inn in Cambridge. The Inn in Market Street, which was demolished in 1848, was one of Cambridge's largest inns and its courtyard is now in part preserved in the footprint of Market Passage. A volume of plans, entitled *Plans of Storeys Charity Estates* May 4 1830 (Cambridgeshire Archives 537/P1) includes a plan of the Black Bear Inn which shows the floor plan at ground level.

Among the Bowtell Collection at Downing College there are a number of extremely rare printed orders issued by the committee, including one reprinted in *Cooper's Annals of Cambridge* v III p 343-44 which refers specifically to the 'Grand Committee chamber' at the Bear. A description of this 'Grand Committee

chamber' is provided in *The Cambridge Portfolio*, Ed., J. Smith p. 389, '*the Commissioners* [of the Eastern Association] *under the Earl of Manchester sat at the Bear Inn in a yard which communicates with Sidney Street and with the Market Street, nearly opposite the entrance into the church of the Holy Trinity. The large room, which about sixty years ago was divided into three, is in an upper story looking [over] the inner yard through three bow windows connected by a long series of narrow lights; the two fireplaces with their carved oak mantelpieces and the oak wainscoting remain, Oct 4 1839*'.

Cromwell was a prominent member of the committee from an early stage of the war: his name heads the list of 'commissioners at Cambridge' which issued orders for the defence of Cambridgeshire in March and April 1643 [see Downing College, Cambridge, Bowtell MS 63, fo. 123; British Library, Stowe MS 807, fols. 204-5].

When parliament passed its ordinance formalising the committee for the Associated Counties in August 1643, Cromwell was the third named of the sixteen commissioners for Cambridge. The instructions for the Committee also stated that 'Every member of the House of Commons resident in the said counties, and the Governor of Cambridge, to be of the said Committee'. Although Cromwell was often on campaign during 1643 and 1644, Cambridge was the base to which he frequently returned.

Cromwell's career after 1649 was played out elsewhere, though until he dismissed the Long Parliament in April 1653 he remained an MP for the town. His appointment as Lord Protector in December 1653, a title he held until his death five years later, meant that he was head of the British republic. He was and remains a figure of international renown whose significance cannot be underestimated.

His connection with the Black Bear continued to be remembered in the years

after the wars: in 1662 Samuel Pepys, staying at the Inn during a visit to Cambridge, was shown the room where 'Cromwell and his associated officers' met during the war.

Following his posthumous execution by the Restoration authorities in 1661, his head passed through various private hands until it found its final resting place in Cambridge in 1960 within the ante-chapel of Sidney Sussex College.

For a place which Cromwell can be so strongly linked to, it is surprising that there is no public memorial to him in Cambridge. There is a stained glass window at Emmanuel URC on Trumpington Street which depicts him wearing the robes of the chancellor of the University of Oxford, a role to which he was appointed in 1651 despite 'the other place' being a royalist stronghold. Cambridge has rather chosen to ignore 'our chief of men'.



Association Chairman John Goldsmith pretending to fix the plaque in position!

The Cromwell Association is delighted that it has been able to work with the Cambridge Blue Plaque Committee to address this anomaly, and that a plaque is now placed in Market Passage to mark the site of the Black Bear Inn.

Cromwell Day Service 2016

The annual service of commemoration took place on Saturday 3rd September, but unfortunately due to building works we were unable to hold the service on the Green by the statue of Cromwell. Permission was granted for a small group to go onto the Green to lay a wreath at 1.45pm.

The wreath-laying party comprised our President, Professor Peter Gaunt, and our guest speaker and member of the Association, Jonathan Djanogly, MP for Huntingdon and as such a successor to Cromwell. There was, as in recent years, a small protest by Irish Nationalists, but it was all peaceful and good-humoured.

The service took place in the side chapel of nearby Methodist Central Hall by kind permission of the Superintendent Minister the Revd. Dr Martyn Atkins and was conducted by the Revd. Dr Tim Woolley, a member of the Association and currently Director of Mission in the Northampton District. Charles Finch played the organ to accompany the singing to the four hymns.

Jonathan Djanogly's address, which will appear in the next issue of *Cromwelliana*, was an interesting take on the development of the Eastern Association in the light of the current debate about devolution to the regions. Too often politicians seem to lack any historical awareness; Jonathan's contribution was a refreshing change and was listened to keenly by the congregation of about forty. The timing of the service was such that it allowed for tea afterwards downstairs in Central Hall's café (always a useful place to know when in that part of London).

Prior to the service a group of members had visited The Banqueting House in Whitehall, the site of the execution of King Charles I, and had a fascinating guided tour arranged by Council member Serrie Meakins.



Professor Peter Gaunt (left) and Jonathan Djanogly MP (right) by the statue with the wreath

Emmerson Collection of 17th Century Material

The State Library of Victoria, Australia, has recently been bequeathed the collection of Dr John Emmerson, a noted bibliophile, of about 5,000 English rare books. The collection includes vast numbers of English Civil War pamphlets and tracts. The Library's website states that the only comparable collections are those of the British Library and the Bodleian in Oxford.

Thanks to member Nigel Sinnott for drawing our attention to this.

The Future of Cromwell Day Services

The Association's annual service of commemoration for Oliver Cromwell, held on the 3rd September, the anniversary of his death, is a major event in our calendar. The first service was planned for 3rd September 1939 but events overtook the Association's plans and it was postponed until after the end of hostilities in 1945. Since then, whenever possible, a service has taken place by the Thornycroft statue of Cromwell on the Green outside Westminster's Great Hall, overlooking Parliament Square. It is an event which distinguishes our organisation from other historical societies, and it is a fitting and proper place and time to commemorate Cromwell, and it is of real significance to many of our members.

We have never been able to access the Green for our service while the House is sitting so the decision of the Cameron government that parliament should sit in the first full week of September has created an obstacle for us in recent years. Combined with the strengthening of security arrangements, the creation of the new visitor entrance, and intermittent building works, we have at times had to find an alternative place to hold the service.

In most, but not all years, we have been allowed to lay a wreath on the statue, and by the good offices of the Methodist Central Hall, we have held our service in their side chapel.

This year September 3rd falls on a Sunday so the service will move to the day before, Saturday 2nd, and we very much hope it will be by the statue, but that cannot be confirmed. Details of the arrangements will be in the next issue of *The Protector's Pen*. However, major building works are planned for Westminster and if previous experience is any guide, Cromwell Green may be given over to contractors and as a consequence limit our chances of access.

(cont'd)

The Future of Cromwell Day Services (cont'd)

What is clear is that for three of the next four years, under the current rules, and regardless of any building works, we will not be able to hold our service on the traditional day and at the traditional time of 3.00pm. As yet parliament has not decided how it will undertake the necessary refurbishment work, but it could, at worse, take not years but decades.

We therefore need to consider what the future of the service is, and there are a number of options, so please express your views, either on (hopefully) the enclosed questionnaire, at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting, or in a letter for publication in the next issue of *The Protector's Pen*.

It needs to be clearly understood that we have no right to hold the service on the parliamentary estate and it is a privilege that we have to request each time, and technically it is within the gift of the Speaker of the House.

Council believes that the service is important to us as an Association and whatever the outcome, the service needs to be supported, and be seen to be supported; so please, if at all possible, put September 2nd in your diary now, for this year's service.



The Frederic L Borch III Essay Prize

In 1975, Frederic Borch III won the Cromwell Association prize for his essay, *Cromwell: Dictator or Constitutionalist?* He has remained a member of the Association all his life, and enjoyed a successful career as the Regimental historian and Archivist for the US Army's Judge Advocate General's corps. He served 25 years as an Army lawyer before retiring as a colonel and has been a legal historian since 2006.

Last year he approached us with an offer to fund an essay prize for today's young and aspiring historians. He says that winning the prize in 1975 was very important for his future career and entrenched a love of history, especially 17th century history.

This was a very generous offer, and after a little discussion, the Trustees decided to open the essay prize to all students between the ages of 16 to 19 years. We chose a broad question and asked students to write 2000 words in answer to the question:

Does Oliver Cromwell merit a statue outside the Houses of Parliament?

The essay prize was promoted to all the schools on our lists and we were delighted to receive 15 entries, all of a very good standard. One of the Trustees, a former A-level teacher, read all the entries and sent them with notes to Professor Gaunt. He also read them all, and finally decided on a winner - Rebecca Bowers of Oxford High School. The winning essay is on the website for you to read.

However, Professor Gaunt was quick to point out that there were four other essays of a very high quality and he had had trouble deciding which to select for the ultimate accolade.

At that point, an Association member very kindly stepped forward to offer a runners up prize (as a one-off gesture) to the four in question: Tom Carrington from Felsted School, Jack Phillips from John Kyle School, Teo Flitcroft from Ibstock School and Alice Holt from Oxford High School.

Rebecca wins a year's free membership of the Association Schools website for Oxford High, a personal cheque for £150 and she will also see her essay in print in *Cromwelliana*. She also received a congratulatory email from a delighted Fred!

This year's essay prize will be promoted to schools very shortly. The essay title this year is:

'A brave, bad man.' How far do you agree with Edward Hyde's assessment of Oliver Cromwell?

We hope that this year we will receive even more entries of a similar high standard.

Serrie Meakins

http://olivercromwell.org/teachers_day_2016.htm



Rebecca Bowers, winner of the 2016 essay prize (centre), with fellow entrants Tiyash Banerjee (left) and Alice Holt (right)

Some questions to our vice-President...Patrick Little

Patrick Little is well known to our members as he only stepped down from the role of Chairman at the 2016 Annual General Meeting, a post he had filled for seven years. He is one of the new generation of scholars succeeding that of our other academic vice-presidents. His contacts within the academic community have been invaluable to the Association and he continues to be an active member of Council. He was asked to give some brief background information and then consider some questions.

I was born in London in 1969 and attended Forest School before going up to Cambridge in 1987. I then studied at Trinity College Dublin (MLitt 1993), and joined the History of Parliament in 1994. Alongside my job, I did a part-time PhD under Professor Barry Coward at London, which I completed in 2000. I married Susanne (a research biochemist) in 1998, and we have two sons. We initially lived in London, then spent ten years in Reading, and moved to Scotland in 2010 to get away from the South East. In Scotland we have a smallholding with sheep, hens and a Fell Pony.

How and when did you first become involved with 17th Century studies?

My parents had a holiday house in Dorset, and I was fascinated by the Civil War in the county, especially sites like the ruined castles at Corfe and Sherborne, so I suppose that was the start of it. At Cambridge I was taught seventeenth century history by Dr John Adamson and Dr David Smith; and Professor John Morrill's 'British Problem' course got me involved with Irish history, initially the 1630s, but then looking at the 1640s and 1650s.

You are currently a Senior Research Fellow at the History of Parliament Trust. What does your day-to-day work entail?

The History of Parliament is a long-term research project which will eventually

publish the biographical details of all the MPs and peers that ever sat at Westminster. We also work on the constituencies, and, increasingly, on more technical matters such as committee-work and procedure. My section covers 1640-1660, and has been running for over 30 years - longer than the events themselves took to happen! The original research involves visits to libraries and archives as well as using the History's own resources and those available on the internet. The raw material is then analysed and written up as articles, which vary in length from a few hundred words to 30 or 40,000, depending on the importance of the person. For the last few years I have been revising earlier articles ready for publication.

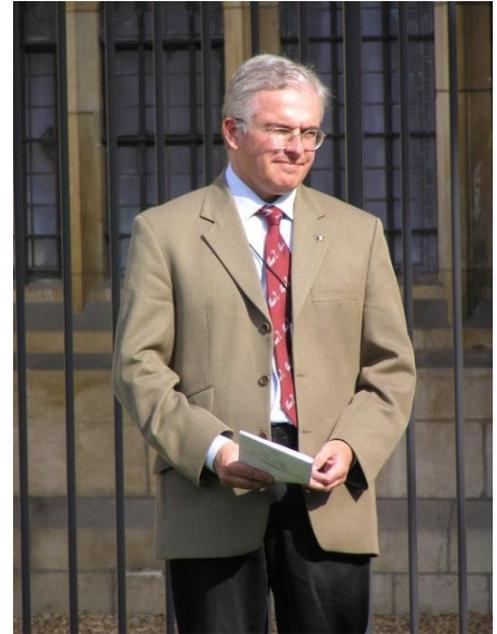
Your work on Cromwell has concentrated on the Protectorate rather than the 1640s. Is that because you find that period more interesting, or because you believe it to be more significant in understanding the man?

I came to Cromwell through Irish history, and specifically through my PhD (and later book) on Roger Boyle (Lord Broghill) who was a key adviser to the Lord Protector.

The work on Broghill led to a book on the protectorate parliaments and further research into the workings of government in Scotland as well as Ireland. That raised questions about the man in the middle of it all.

If it was within your gift to direct future Cromwellian studies, what would be the priority?

I would like more work done on Cromwell in his wider context, rather than as a 'great man' - especially before he became Protector. The work by Stephen Roberts on Cromwell as a back-bench MP is hugely significant. Now we need other areas to be looked at in the same detail, including a reassessment of his role as a subordinate commander, in relationship with those around him.



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

Did you intend to take the crown in February 1657 and then change your mind?

What do you think that the Association should concentrate its resources on?

We need to maintain our strong links with the academic community, as that is what sets the Association apart from other societies. We also need to ensure the younger generation are encouraged to become involved, undergraduates as well as schoolchildren. The challenge is to do both those things and still have an organisation which is accessible for the wider membership.

Is there any one book on Cromwell that you would encourage others to read, other of course than your own?

Andrew Barclay's *Electing Cromwell* - a scholarly book that reads like a detective story.

Is there any favourite place you have which is associated with Cromwell?

Marston Moor.

The Protector's Pen

Events coming to Marston Moor: 2017

If you have ever visited the battlefield of Marston Moor you may have noticed an old farmhouse set back in the fields. This is Marston Grange.



The site dates back to the Cistercian period but the current buildings date from 1769 and the farm covers 406 acres of the battlefield on both the Royalist and the Parliamentary sides.

In the past few years, thanks to the support of: the Royal Armouries, the local history group, York Archaeological Trust, the Battlefields Trust, the Sealed Knot, the National Civil War Museum and not to mention the Cromwell Association, of course, we have been able to run numerous charity events. It was this experience which led us to decide to convert an old falling-down pigsty into an adult education space and to offer talks and walks for groups of up to 30 people.

In 2013 a small, hardy group of Cromwellians were the first to experience this, but the plan

in 2017 is to bring about a greater understanding of Marston Moor through evening talks with the Battlefields Trust, bank holiday walks with author Dave Cooke and myself, and an exciting two days of talks with speakers from a whole range of academic and heritage backgrounds covering the battle and the social history of the period. These will take place on Saturday 3rd June and Saturday 1st July 2017 (the anniversary weekend of the battle). There will also be a play about the battle on the Friday and Saturday of this anniversary weekend. Watch out for the special discounts for Cromwell Association members.

The facilities can also be booked for small private groups of 10 or more if you are keen to organise a more personal event, with catering available too.

You can find further details or book for the events via our website:

www.marstongrange.co.uk

Jo Smakman,
Marston Moor



Soldiers' remains from the Battle of Dunbar

There have been various stories in the media over the past year about the discovery of skeletons in the precincts of Durham Cathedral, and their identification as those of Scottish prisoners captured at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650.



Inevitably most of the stories had a negative take on Cromwell but one local historian, Laurie Pettit, has made a very convincing case that many of the deaths at Durham were not caused by deliberate ill-treatment of the prisoners but by what is known as 'Refeeding Syndrome'. This is a condition caused by the introduction of food following a period of significant fasting. It occurred when concentration camps were liberated at the end of the Second World War and following some famines in the third world when food aid was given.

For more information about the Durham remains go to:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/archaeology/research/projects/europe/pg-skeletons/>

This provides a full and interesting account of the excavations, the analysis and interpretation.

Cromwell and Robespierre

Marxist interpretations and analysis of English 17th century history have been deeply unfashionable amongst historians in recent years, but a recent article by Association member, Bill Bowring, may be of interest to those who appreciate a more political interpretation of Cromwell. Entitled:

Cromwell, Robespierre, Stalin (and Lenin?); must revolution always mean catastrophe?

It can be found online at www.crisiscritique.org/ccmarch/bowring.pdf and is on open access.

Bill Bowring is Professor of Law at Birkbeck College, University of London, and a prominent Human Rights lawyer.

The Protector's Pen

Copper Plaque Portrait of Cromwell



Images of Cromwell, in a variety of forms, crop up in the most random way. Via the website the Association received an enquiry from Al Haut in Blue Ridge, Georgia, USA (quite close to Chattanooga of the Choo-Choo fame). Al picked up an attractive hammered copper portrait panel of Cromwell at a local sale and wondered if we could throw any light on it.

It shows a rather romantic image of Cromwell, in the style of a Delaroche portrait. It measures approx. 24" x 18" and it has an integral 'frame' around it. The reverse of it suggests that it might have been made to hang on a wall, rather than as a free-standing fire-screen. There is a monogram 'N' which is presumably the signature of the artist who made it.

It has been established that it could have been bought by the previous owner either in Nevada or California, but definitely not in the UK. So where did it originate?

If anyone can throw any light on this please do get in touch. For what it's worth I'd suggest it is most likely to have been part of the decoration of a late 19th or early 20th century building which had some kind of Cromwell theme. The internal decoration of the Oliver Cromwell Hotel in New York City from the 1920s possibly, or perhaps a now long-forgotten pub somewhere in this country. The Oliver Cromwell pub in West Bromwich for example (which closed in 2008) did have a plaque of Cromwell, but this is not the same one.

Anybody any ideas where that one went to as well?



A drinker in West Bromwich offers Cromwell a pint
(courtesy of the Black Country Bugle)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

Recently I visited Wicken Church near Cambridge which is where Henry Cromwell and his wife, Elizabeth, are buried. I was intrigued to read in the guide to the church the following:

Henry Cromwell took up residence at Spinney Abbey [near Wicken] in 1659, there to spend a peaceful retirement as a gentleman farmer. It is recorded that Charles II visited him there when seeking refreshment after enjoying field sports in the vicinity of Newmarket.

What can have been Charles' motive to drop in for a cup of tea on the son of his father's nemesis? What could they have had to say to each other? Any ideas?

Yours faithfully

Geoffrey Bush



St Laurence's Church, Wicken

History Today

Maritime Importance in the Civil Wars

The Civil Wars' Troubled Waters by Richard Blakemore

Published in *History Today*, Volume 67 Issue 2 February 2017

A recently discovered 17th-century shipwreck has caused speculation among experts. Richard Blakemore considers the often overlooked importance of maritime affairs on the course of the Civil Wars.

www.historytoday.com/magazine

BBC History Magazine

Cromwell - military genius

The making of a military genius by Martyn Bennett

Published in *BBC History Magazine*, February 2017

In just two years, Oliver Cromwell made the journey from little-known MP with no experience of armed combat to brilliant, battle winning leader. Martyn Bennett reveals how a military novice became one of British history's greatest soldiers.

www.historyextra.com

The Protector's Pen

Review : Cromwell's Head

The subject of Cromwell's head continues to fascinate not just Cromwell enthusiasts but a far wider audience. Film-maker Simon Kennedy had a particular reason to become engrossed with the subject because of a family link to the Bouchiers, Oliver Cromwell's mother's family. The theme of Cromwell's head became a hook for Simon to hang a wider story on, and the result is a documentary which premiered last November at the Red Lion in Holborn. Two Council members have reviewed it here: John Newland is a devotee of film and cinema, and Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons of the University of Lincoln, an academic who has written about the head.



Craig Wiffen as Geoffrey Morant (left), Simon Kennedy Director and Roy Beck as Carl Pearson (right) (courtesy Firewater Partnership)

John Newland's view:

Watching this documentary is a profitable use of an hour of your life. Solid, well-structured and well-edited, it is an informative and worthwhile addition to the history of the period. At 1 hour 7 minutes running time, it begins at the point when Cromwell's head was still firmly attached to the living Oliver. It then progresses down to its removal and subsequent meanderings down the centuries. This provides the narrative thread that the viewer can follow and which keeps them involved.

The narration gives a brief introduction to Cromwell's origins and early life including the intense religious experience which became the keystone that thereafter drove him as a person, both in war and in peace. It kicks into gear with Cromwell becoming an MP and the start of the Civil War. The Civil War, Charles I execution, the Protectorate and all events up to 1658 are all moved along at a reasonable pace. Cromwell's state funeral is fully dealt with as are the events of 1660 when his body is exhumed along with those of Ireton and Bradshaw and all their heads were hacked off and stuck up on spikes on the

south side of Westminster Hall. This was to make sure that these malcontents would forever be obliged to gaze over the courtroom where Charles I had been tried.

The world now moves on to the 1680s when Cromwell's head succumbs to Newton's newly discovered principle of gravity and becomes the property of a night guard at whose feet it falls. From there it undergoes three centuries of being hidden, exhibited as a curiosity and the like. Its gypsy-like journey from pillar to post finally ends when it is laid to rest a second time, with dignity, within the precincts of Cromwell's old Cambridge College, Sidney Sussex, at a secret location.

With the main emphasis of the story focused on events after Cromwell's death and down to the present, every hard fact available concerning this topic appeared to have been sought out and captured. The narration and narrative style is explanatory and straightforward, clear to understand and to follow. The narration takes the viewer through the sequence of events as accepted in the historical record. It also outlines the various conspiracy theories of the time that always arise in these circumstances and effectively dismisses them.

Yet, a documentary is more than clear and effective spoken narration. As a visual medium, what the viewer sees on the screen has also got to stand up as an image and must fuse emotionally with the heard words. This happens. Where contemporary illustrations are available, they are used throughout and appropriately. Otherwise, we are treated to a few bits of authentic-looking actors in authentic-looking period costume doing authentic-looking things. Failing that, and for the ultimate fall-back, we have footage of a Sealed Knot re-enactment event. Even so, all this keeps the flow going in the right direction.

This documentary is not lightweight. It addresses four-square the problem of Cromwell and Ireland, with specific reference to Drogheda and 1649 and without flinching. It also shows how each age has re-interpreted Cromwell according to its own stance. This includes the Irish perception of Cromwell which is, not unexpectedly, un-nuanced to say the least.

Counterpointed with the audio narration there is the expected selection of academic talking heads. These are all heavyweight scholars who speak sensibly and to the point. As the director rations their exposure to the camera and time on screen and gets this right, their contributions add to the viewer's experience. This maintains the pace of the story and keeps the viewer engaged.

Sadly, there are elements that caveat against an absolute endorsement of this documentary. Comments in the narration about Cromwell in 1653 that regarding Parliament, '...he dismissed it in the coup d'etat' and that he 'imposed its

(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

religious dogma' on the country don't sit too well with the actual historical record. Additionally, during the first few minutes, the accompanying music is far too loud and actively competes with the narration to the extent that it's at least a score-draw as to which wins. The sound [music] level then settles down to a lower and acceptable level for the rest of the documentary.

Of more note is the factual error at 24 minutes in. At this point the narrator informs us that, 'In 1688 Charles II died and was replaced by his brother James II'. Well, you learn something new every day. And yet, since we're only talking about Charles Stuart (junior), let's not get too bothered. I doubt our Lord Protector would have.



A sentry with the embalmed head of Oliver Cromwell
(Courtesy Firewater Partnership)

Jonathan Fitzgibbon's view:

Almost a decade ago, when writing my book on Cromwell's Head (Bloomsbury, 2008), I remember thinking that the remarkable adventures of Oliver's remains had all the ingredients of a Hollywood blockbuster: mystery, mistaken identity, double-dealing - and a drunken actor! Now the tale has been brought to life, for the small screen at least, in Firewater Partnership's stimulating new documentary. The film tells the story of the head, and Cromwell's other remains, faithfully and in all its gory detail (warts and all?) - albeit, it must be remembered that, as with all good stories, certain aspects have the quality of a tale that became greater in each retelling, not least the circumstances of the head's disappearance from a pole atop Westminster Hall.

Particularly impressive is the stellar line-up of historians and informed commentators assembled to illuminate the content of the documentary, including our esteemed chairman and no fewer than three vice-presidents of the Association! Laura Knoppers provides some great insights on Cromwell's funeral and the subsequent macabre spectacle of his exhumation and posthumous execution. From a historian's point of view, however, there are a few niggles. There are clumsy errors in the narrative provided by the voice-over: Charles II did not die in 1688; Oliver Cromwell was not the 'only' British sovereign to rule

without actually being a monarch (poor old Richard!). I also suspect that more informed viewers will bristle at some broad-brush statements concerning Cromwell's life and times: Cromwell is described as single-handedly turning the parliamentary troops into the New Model Army; the Levellers are said to have believed that 'all men' should have the vote and subsequently led mutinies in the army 'for democracy'. Such statements belie the learned and nuanced perspectives offered by those scholars who appear in the documentary.

The documentary uses the journey of the head as a lens through which to view wider shifts in perceptions towards Cromwell and his times - a tactic I also adopted in my book, not least because the story of the head, interesting though it is, remains rather patchy. At times in the film the head disappears from view altogether - not least in a thought-provoking excursus about attitudes to Cromwell in Ireland. Much is also made of the fact that Cromwell has found support from politicians across party divides. Yet a revealing interview in which UKIP MP Douglas Carswell praises Cromwell's distaste for 'spineless' parliaments, underlines a key point raised by many historians in the documentary: Cromwell has been, and continues to be, misunderstood and misrepresented. As Blair Worden warns, in a typically evocative contribution, the passions of the past must not be recruited for present political purposes.

Ultimately this is not a documentary about Cromwell the man, nor is it solely about Cromwell's head. Rather, its main subject turns out to be something far more interesting still - Cromwell's reputation and its chameleon-like quality to blend and change with each historical age. Cromwell's head now rests in peace in Sidney Sussex, but - as this film suggests - his memory remains as vibrant and contested as ever.

The DVD and Blu-Ray versions are stocked by the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon and with member discount and postage and packing the cost is £9.20 or £12.80 respectively. Please make cheques payable to the Cromwell Museum Trust and send to The Cromwell Museum, Grammar School Walk, Huntingdon, PE29 3LF. The Museum is only willing to supply within the UK.

Any non-UK orders please email chairman@olivercromwell.org for information.

In the News

i Paper, Wednesday February 8th 2017

'The last time a Speaker of the House of Commons defied a tyrant's will, it sparked a Civil War. That was back in 1642 when Charles I marched into the chamber to arrest five members for treason, and was rebuffed by William Lenthall. "May it please your Majesty, I have neither eyes to see nor tongue to speak in this place but as the House is pleased to direct me, whose servant I am here."

John Bercow is no Lenthall. There was nothing elegant about the way he announced his decision to bar President Trump from the House for his travel ban....'

The Commandery Worcester



Many Association members will be familiar with the Commandery in Worcester. Plans are afoot for a major revamp so we asked about their plans.

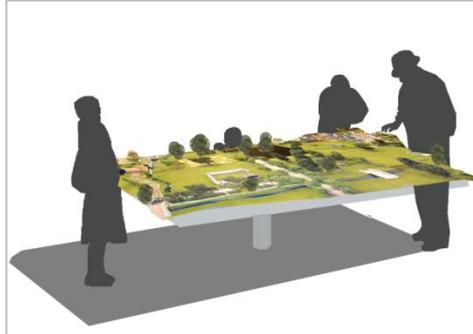
Bringing to life tales of treason, treachery and tragedy in this beautiful building with a bloody past, in the heart of historic Worcester where the English Civil War began and ended.

The Commandery is one of Worcester's key heritage sites, a Grade I listed building in the heart of the historic city with a civil war story unlike any other. A major project is now underway, bringing The Commandery's unique English Civil War story to life through a new interactive exhibition with remarkable collections of objects on display, including placing visitors face-to-face with the death mask of Oliver Cromwell.

The Commandery bore witness to the conflicts and successes of the city for over a thousand years and is the site of the Royalist headquarters during the decisive final battle of the English Civil War, the Battle of Worcester in 1651. *Worcester's Civil War Story* is a new immersive experience due to open in summer 2017.

Visitors walking through *Worcester's Civil War Story* will learn about the civil war through prominent 17th century characters. The Parliamentarian Room will set out why Cromwell's forces were so

successful in battle, while setting out the moral position the side was fighting for.



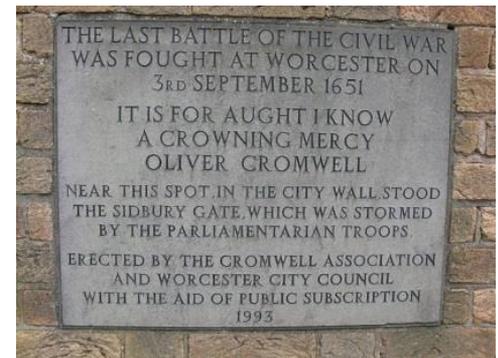
Battle Interactive Concept Sketch
(courtesy GUM Studio)

In this room, portraits of Cromwell and Fairfax will be on display alongside their captivating stories, putting the City's civil war heritage into context and connecting them to the Battle of Worcester, a battle which took place exactly 12 months after Cromwell's victory at the Battle of Dunbar and exactly seven years before his death.

This significant date, the 3rd September 1651, is still marked annually by a service on Fort Royal Hill in Worcester, overlooking The Commandery. This is part of a superb programme of live events with a civil war focus which immerses visitors in the preparations for battle, most significantly our Battle of Worcester weekend 'The Fight for Fort Royal' which will take place on the bank holiday weekend 26th - 28th August.

The exhibition will also introduce visitors to the tactics behind the success of the New Model Army, which led to Cromwell's description of Worcester after the battle as 'a crowning mercy'. Glass cases within the floor of the Parliamentarian Room will map out scenes of the battle strategy, and key events will be explained on the battle table interactive.

The Commandery will become a hub for city-wide trails, marking locations significant to the history of the Battle of Worcester. The site of the final stages of the battle in and around the Sidbury Gate are marked by a plaque erected by the Cromwell Association and the City Council in 1993.



Councillor Roger Berry, Worcester City Council Portfolio Holder for Heritage said: "Our Civil War Story is an important one to tell; it really did 'happen here' and it is right that we reflect this vital part of the city's history and the impact it had on England's democracy."

(cont'd)



Historical sketch of the Commandery in Worcester (https://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/museums/info/1/the_commandery)

The Commandery Worcester (cont'd)

The Commandery's civil war story lies at the heart of its new branding by Worcester-based 'modus Creative', with a basket-hilted sword as the eye-catching central device.

A further £120,000 worth of repairs and refurbishment is being allocated to The Commandery building itself to coincide with the exhibition improvements.

Improvements are made possible by a cash injection of £260,000 from Worcester City Council, £96,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and further funding from Worcestershire County Council, Arts Council England, the Sealed Knot and The Friends of Worcester Museums and Art Gallery.

Further information

Tuesday to Saturday: 10am to 5pm
Sunday: 1.30pm to 5pm

See website for charges

☎ 01905 361821

✉ commandery@worcestershire.gov.uk

🌐 www.museumsworcestershire.org.uk

🐦 <https://twitter.com/worcestermuseum>

📘 www.facebook.com/commandery

The Commandery
Sidbury,
Worcester,
WR1 2HU



Review: Fire! Fire! Exhibition - Museum of London

Fire! Fire! is the Museum of London's exhibition as part of the commemoration of the Great Fire of London's 350th anniversary (www.museumoflondon.org.uk). It tells the story from a brief look at pre-fire London, through the fire's outbreak in Pudding Lane, its progress over the four days and to its aftermath and the rebuilding of the city.

The exhibition is spacious, being designed to accommodate large school parties, and the narrative is clear and well supported with material without there being too much reading - for good or ill - depending on your viewpoint! It sets out to inform rather than entertain, and is largely free of interactive computer screens and doesn't attempt a 'Great Fire Experience'.

Like many exhibitions aimed at wide generalist audiences, Fire! Fire! raises more questions than it attempts to answer, the treatment of the issues being relatively superficial. For example, it describes the existence of various conspiracy theories about the origins of the fire, but does not go into the reasons why these might be so prevalent in the context of the times. Did those who saw the fire as a divine judgement enumerate what sins were being punished?

The great strength of the exhibition, for me at least, was the surviving material. There are some striking archaeological remains recovered from the shop two doors from where the fire started, such as melted roof tiles, window glass showing

the effects of fire damage, and a notable fire-scorched Bible rescued from the flames. There is also a good deal of printed material - numerous contemporary maps and drawings and some written accounts on display. Sadly, in museum lighting I needed to have brought stronger glasses to read much of them! Several of the post-fire reconstruction schemes are on display, not just Wren's relatively well-known plans. I found myself in the camp of those who are glad none were followed and the old street pattern was more or less retained in the rebuilding.

For the dedicated Cromwellian there is relatively little - no mention of the post-Restoration context. Matthew Hale, the chairman of the Hale Commission on law reform during the Commonwealth and Protectorate is pictured as one of the Fire Judges who adjudicated property disputes after the disaster; while the presentation of Charles II and James Duke of York is uniformly positive, though to be fair both did play a very active part in the efforts to control the fire. One wonders if Oliver would have been up to joining in throwing buckets of water onto the flames? The spinet made in 1656 serves to remind us that the 1650s were not a decade of dour puritan joylessness.

Overall, Fire! Fire! is a well-presented exhibition which gives a very clear treatment of the Great Fire, but leaves its context largely unexplored, perhaps inevitably. Well worth a visit if you are in London, probably not worth travelling up especially to see it.

Richard Warren

The Protector's Pen

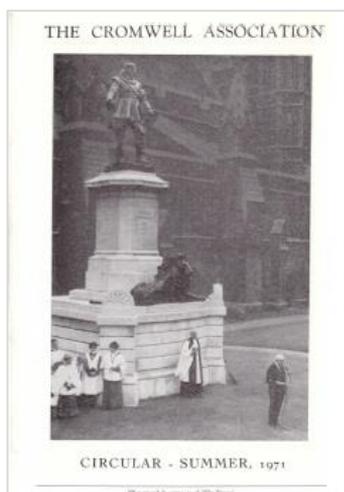
Cromwelliana 1972 - 2017

The Journal of the Cromwell Association

Following the Association's foundation in the mid 1930s, it had communicated with its members and others in a number of ways and formats. For example, during the 1950s and 1960s a handful of the Cromwell Day addresses had found their way into print in pamphlet form, apparently published by or for the Association, and in the latter half of the 1960s the Association published two versions of what it called a 'Handbook'.



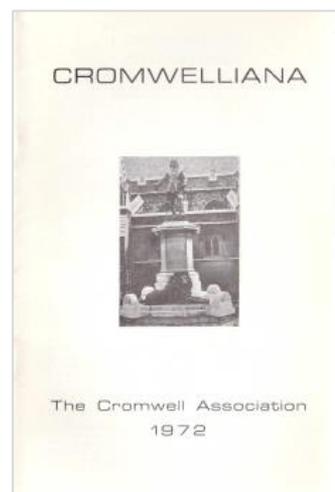
However, in the early 1970s, under Maurice Ashley as President and Trewin Coplestone as Chairman, the Association made a concerted effort to improve, to give a more professional appearance to, and to produce more regularly its printed and published



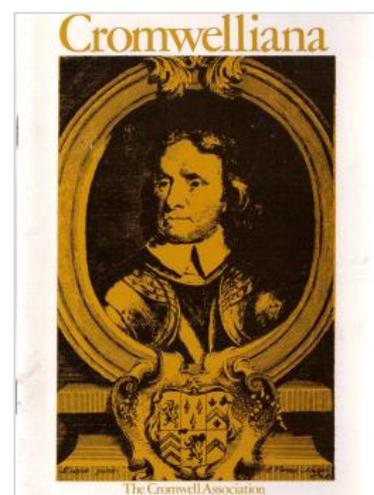
outputs. The first significant, though as it turned out short-lived, move in this direction was taken with the production in summer 1971 of *The Cromwell Association Circular*. Intended mainly for members, though with a somewhat wider circulation and certainly finding its way into the main British copyright libraries, this was a single, double-sided and multi-folded printed sheet, forming a front cover and seven 'pages' of text. Courtesy of *The Times*, the front page was dominated by a black and white photograph of Sir Dingle Foot giving the 1970 Cromwell Day address beneath the Thornycroft statue on Cromwell Green, while behind him the minister and a gaggle of choirboys in full regalia stood waiting around the base of the statue. The contents comprised the texts of Sir Dingle's address, focusing on Cromwell's relations with the law and lawyers in general and with Magna Carta in particular, and of a lecture on 'What happened to Oliver Cromwell's body' which Maurice Ashley had delivered to members a few weeks before, in late May at the 1971 AGM. The opportunity was also taken to give members advanced notice of the looming 1971 Cromwell Day service and to appeal to any members who would be willing to give talks on Cromwell to come forward, in order to relieve the pressure on Maurice Ashley who 'receives more requests from Historical Societies, Schools, Colleges etc. to lecture...than he is able to fulfil'.

While the *Circular* represented a significant step forward by the Association, the council and officers did not rest on their laurels and quickly followed it up with something grander: the launch of an annual journal. In 1972 *Cromwelliana* was born. Published by the Association and initially printed by a London-based printing firm, it appeared more or less annually during the 1970s and beyond. The first edition was a

particularly strong one, comprising the texts of lectures recently given to the Association by three of the then foremost academics of Cromwell and the civil war era, namely C. V. Wedgwood, Austin Woolrych and Ivan Roots.



Although not all subsequent editions had such a distinguished roll-call, for much of the 1970s each edition ran to twenty or thirty pages, staple bound within a wrap-around card cover featuring an image of Cromwell on the front cover; it usually included the texts of the most recent Cromwell Day address or AGM lecture,



together with other articles and shorter pieces submitted by members and also, (cont'd)

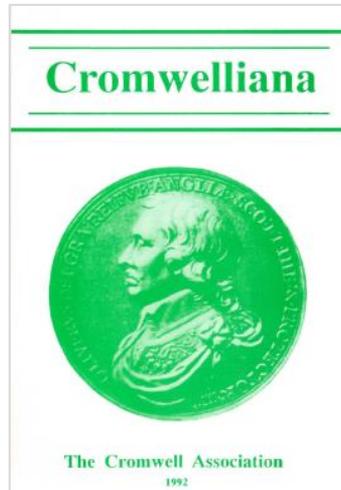
The Protector's Pen

from time to time, the winning entry in the essay prize competition then run by the Association. A small number of book reviews or reports on recent Cromwellian and civil war developments were featured; for instance, in the editions of the mid 1970s the discovery of the surviving register of Richard Cromwell's Protectoral Council, the establishment of a modest battle museum close to Naseby and a short account of the recent unveiling of the Association plaque to John Lambert at Calton Hall. These were printed alongside snippets from members - one of whom was offering to sell to fellow-members some Cromwellian engravings she possessed, while another appealed for help in seeking a bust, 'marble or plaster', of the great man. There was a strong in-house magazine feel to the publication.

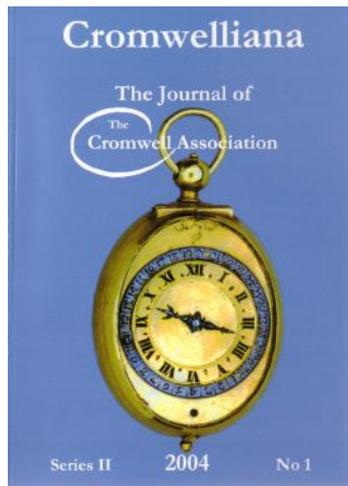
During the 1980s, as A. W. Smith handed over the editorship to Ivan Roots, the journal grew and became more substantial, with several editions running to fifty pages or more. It still contained a few short news items - an appeal to help restore the Lambert chapel of Kirkby Malham church, for example - and for a few editions the formal minutes of the AGM were printed in our journal. But in general *Cromwelliana* became rather more scholarly in feel and appearance, dominated by quite substantial papers - the texts of the Cromwell Day address, AGM lecture and winning essay prize entry, but also other (semi-) academic articles written by members and others. As well as a selection of book reviews, from the early 1980s most editions also included a list of recently-published books and articles relevant to Cromwell, the civil war and the period, something which has become an enduring feature of our journal.

Those developments continued during my own editorship, from the late 1980s to the early 2000s. The AGM minutes soon disappeared, instead printed and circulated to members separately, but the listing or bibliography of recent publications quickly grew and became more thorough and two other regular features, which still endure, were launched: one a

piece on 'Cromwellian Britain', exploring the Cromwellian and civil war links with a particular town, building or site, the other a 'Writings and Sources' piece,



evaluating a particular source or clutch of sources relevant to the period. The number of articles, many of them now fully and academically referenced and sporting endnotes, continued to grow, such that in 1989 the format of the journal, by then over sixty pages long, moved from staple-bound to perfect-bound, and each edition opened with a separate contents page. *Cromwelliana* continued to grow during the 1990s and by the latter half of the decade most editions were running to around or over ninety pages.



In 2003, with Jane Mills installed as the new editor, *Cromwelliana* burst through the hundred page barrier and since then almost every edition has been well over that mark and several have been nearer

to 150 pages. Under Jane and her successors, first Patrick Little and currently Maxine Forshaw, our journal has grown bigger and weightier in every sense; each edition is now dominated by a selection of quite substantial and, in the main, academic articles. The journal has also grown glossier and has a much more appealing feel and appearance, not least by adopting (since 2004) a different and generally full-colour image on the front cover each year.

In recent years these images have related to another emerging trend in the Association's activities, duly reflected in our journal. For several decades the Association had been organising and holding occasional study days, colloquia, day-conferences and the like, but in recent years this has become a more established and now more-or-less annual event. While some of the papers given on the day may not be suitable for publication in *Cromwelliana*, or indeed are not made available by their authors for such publication, recent editions of our journal have usually included two or three articles based on papers given at our most recent study day. Accordingly, over the past few years the cover images have picked up on the overarching theme of the study day, with illustrations of, or relating to, Richard Cromwell, the trial of the regicides, Cromwell's early life, Cromwell and Ireland, Cromwell and the war and Cromwell's religion, something also emphasised by the brief editor's note which, since the mid 2000s, has opened each edition.

Since its inception forty-five years ago, *Cromwelliana* has grown hugely in length, weight and depth, becoming increasingly slicker and more impressive in terms of production values, increasingly attractive in style and rigorous in its contents. It has moved from being an in-house magazine, in which members might appeal for help in finding or selling things, to a more scholarly annual journal, still predominantly pitched at and circulated to the current membership but now with

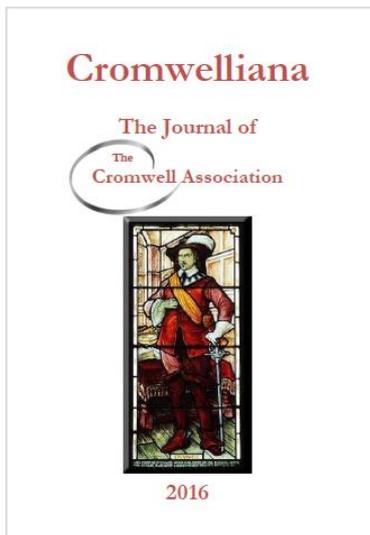
(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

Cromwelliana 1972 - 2017 (cont'd)

a stronger academic feel and potential too. As our newsletter, *The Protector's Pen*, has itself grown and is now printed and circulated more frequently; it has replaced our journal as the main outlet for shorter communications for, by and between members. *Cromwelliana* is flourishing and is in good hands and robust health, though we must be careful to ensure a good balance and that it continues to serve and meet the requirements of our (rightly and very valuably) mixed membership, while also having a broader and, at least in part, academic appeal too.

Peter Gaunt



The whole archive of *Cromwelliana* will shortly be available on our website www.olivercromwell.org. The decision has been taken that all but the two most recent issues will be available to all. In part this decision was taken to ensure as wide a readership as possible, but also because it is consistent with the need for open access by the academic community to meet their standards of assessment under the current funding regime.

An index of all the articles from past copies of *Cromwelliana* is being prepared and will be posted on our website later this year.

New: Cromwell Association Badges



Two new badges are now available for Association members, and very handsome they are too. In the hope that at least one of them will appeal to most members, they are very different.

One is simply the Association's logo picked out against a red background; the second shows the head of Cromwell from a late Protectoral coin, with his name and dates forming the legend. They can be fixed on to any fabric as they have a sturdy pin fastening with a superior clutch fitting on the reverse. Guaranteed to provoke interest and admiration whenever you wear it.



We generate a modest profit on each badge, and hopefully interest as well. Please support the Association and wear your badge, or badges, with pride! They cost £3.95 each and are available by post (see enclosed form); they will also be on sale at the AGM in Shrewsbury.

Publications, Exhibitions and Events

<u>Date (2017)</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Details</u>
All Year	Museum of London	War, Plague and Fire : London in the 1550s - 1650s
All Year	Cromwell House, Ely	Escape Room - Saturdays and Sundays
Feb 8 - Apr 17	Museum of London	Fire! Fire! Exhibition of The Great Fire of London
Mar 19	Stow-on-the-Wold	Guided walk on battlefield by Simon Marsh, Battlefields Trust
Mar 24 - Mar 26	English Civil War Society	The Reiver Festival Hawick - High Street
Apr 23	Islip Bridge, Oxford	Guided walk on battlefield by Gregg Archer, Battlefields Trust
Apr 30 - May 1	NCWC (English Civil War Society)	3 rd Pikes and Plunder Annual Civil War Festival
May 27 - 29	Commandery Worcester	Oak Apple Weekend - A Right Royal Restoration
Jun 16 - Jun 18	NCWC (Battlefields Trust)	Battlefields Trust Conference and AGM
Jun 30 - Jul 1	NCWC, Newark	Newark Military History Conference (Military History Live)
Aug 5 - Aug 6	Tattershall Castle	Sealed Knot, Siege

All information correct at time of going to press