

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

# The Protector's Pen

AGM 2016

The Civil War  
in Newark

Beverley Gate

Teachers' Day

Samuel Pepys  
Exhibition

Exhibitions,  
Book & Play  
Reviews

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....promoting our understanding of the 17<sup>th</sup> century

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Front Cover : Queen's  
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(Courtesy of NCWC)



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SAMUEL PEPYS EXHIBITION

From time to time the Association sends emails to members with news and information about events and activities that will not wait until the next mailing. Since the last mailing there have been three such emails sent, on 18<sup>th</sup> August, 21<sup>st</sup> October and 3<sup>rd</sup> December. If you have not given us your email address and would like to ensure that you receive any future mailings then please send your email address to our Membership Secretary, Paul Robbins, [robbins\\_P1@sky.com](mailto:robbins_P1@sky.com).

If you have given us your address, but not received the emails then please make sure that we have your current email address. We usually receive a few 'not-delivered' messages after each mailing which could be due to errors at our end (or yours).

President	:	Peter Gaunt
Chairman	:	Patrick Little
Treasurer	:	Geoffrey Bush
Membership Officer	:	Paul Robbins

# The Protector's Pen

## Chairman's Little Note

Welcome to the spring edition of *The Protector's Pen*. This time we are focussed on Newark, where the AGM is to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. There is an article giving the historical context of Newark in the civil war and a review of the new civil war museum. I hope they whet your appetite!

Among the usual reports and reviews we also have a very positive report about the progress of turning the Cromwell Museum into a charitable trust, and details of how you can contribute to the campaign. The Association is to give a grant to the Museum to help it over the crucial first couple of years, but any additional funds would be gratefully received!

I am sorry to report that our merchandising officer, Susan Hughes, has now stepped down from this position to concentrate on other charitable work. Many thanks to Susan for

fulfilling this role in the last couple of years! If anyone would like to take on this role, please get in contact ([plittle@histparl.ac.uk](mailto:plittle@histparl.ac.uk)) and I can provide more details. It is not an onerous job, and does not entail joining the council as a trustee, but it is a valuable service to the membership.

This is my last *Protector's Pen* as chairman, as I step down at the AGM in April. So I would like to take the opportunity of thanking my fellow council members, especially the hard-working officers: Peter Gaunt, John Goldsmith, Geoffrey Bush, Maxine Forshaw, John Newland and last but not least the late David Hall. My enjoyment of the job over the last seven years has been in large part down to their friendship and support. I will still be active within the Association, so my departure from the chair is more a reshuffle than a resignation!

Patrick Little  
Chairman



Delusions of grandeur: the chairman 'upon a little Scots nag'



## Oliver Cromwell



### The members' area of the website

From time to time members have contacted the Association indicating that they have had problems navigating to and accessing the members' area of the Association's web site. These are the simple steps to follow to get you there:

Left -click on the button on the home page that says members only area; this will take you to a screen with the following information.

To access the members area please use the following ID when logging on: p62157504-0

Use the new password given on your membership card for 2015-16.

The password changes annually.

[Click here to continue to the members' area.](#)

When you click to the next dialogue box enter:

Username : p62157504-0

Password : as given on your membership card.

Neither the Username nor Password is specific to individual members - that is a level of sophistication we cannot yet aspire to! The intention is to put more material onto this area of the web site so it is worth making sure you know how to access it.

If you have any suggestions for the website, please contact me at [jrgoldsmith@talktalk.net](mailto:jrgoldsmith@talktalk.net)

# The Protector's Pen

## Cromwell Day: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015

Cromwell Day this year was a great success. We started with a walking tour of Cromwellian London, led by a Blue Badge Guide and entitled 'The City of London's East Side Story', which covered many of the sites of seventeenth century significance, including the remarkable church of St Katherine Cree and the Bevis Marks synagogue.

The service in the afternoon was back at the right place - Cromwell Green - and on the right day - 3<sup>rd</sup> September! The service was led by Rev Tim Woolley, the address was given by Dr David Smith of Selwyn College, Cambridge, and the wreath was laid by our president, Professor Peter Gaunt. As is now customary, we were accompanied by a silent protest by an unholy alliance of Irish republicans and English monarchists, watched closely by the Metropolitan Police. After the service we adjourned for tea at the Jubilee Café.

We had a good turn-out this year, and, as is also customary, the rain stopped in good time for the service!



Church of St Katherine Cree



## Study Day - City Temple, London : Cromwell's Religion, 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2015

There has been a great deal of academic work on the religious context of the 1640s and 1650s lately, and the aim of the day was to present the latest findings and consider how they alter our view of Oliver Cromwell. The introduction, by Professor John Morrill, and the final paper, by Dr Joel Halcomb, looked at Cromwell directly, considering his private religious views and whether he might be considered an Independent Congregationalist. The other three papers looked at the wider context. Dr Elliot Vernon explored the Presbyterian churches that emerged during the civil wars and their tensions with Cromwell over 'liberty of conscience'. Professor Ann Hughes focused on attempts to create a 'national church' under the Protectorate. Dr Kate Peters considered the political importance of the early Quakers, suggesting that their role was more active than has been allowed. The day ended with a round-table discussion and questions from the audience. It was a privilege to have top academics sharing their ideas with us, and explaining what is a difficult and complex topic. A challenging day in every respect, as some commented afterwards! Yet without understanding Cromwell's religion, will we ever understand what made him tick?

# The Protector's Pen

## Cromwell Association AGM 2016 : Newark Civil War Centre

# NATIONAL CIVIL WAR CENTRE

NEWARK MUSEUM

The 2016 Cromwell Association AGM will be held at the National Civil War Centre in Newark on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April, by kind invitation of the director Michael Constantine.

The Centre, which opened last summer, is in the middle of Newark - full details below. Newark is next to the A1 and on the East Coast mainline with trains from London King's Cross. There are a number of car parks in Newark, see <http://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/carparks/carparks/> for details. There is also a map on the reverse of the AGM agenda, enclosed with this edition of The Protector's Pen.

### Timetable

- 10:30 Coffee/Tea at NCWC
- 11:00 AGM (agenda enclosed)
- 12:00 Lecture on *How the National Civil War Centre was made* by Michael Constantine
- 13:00 Break for lunch (see booking form enclosed)
- 14:00 Walking Tour of Historic Newark including the castle and the Queen's Sconce
- 16:00 Close at NCWC

Tea and coffee will be available from 10.30 am and the Annual General Meeting will start promptly at 11.00am. At 12.00 noon Michael Constantine will give a talk *How the National Civil War Centre was made* with time for questions and discussion. We will then break for lunch. A buffet lunch is available (a booking form is enclosed) which will provide an opportunity to meet other members of the Association and catch up with friends, old and new. There will also be opportunity during the day to look at the exhibition if you have not already visited.



National Civil War Centre (courtesy NCWC)

After lunch, staff from the centre will lead a walking tour of historic Newark, which will take in both the castle and the Queen's Sconce, the best surviving Civil War earthwork in the country. The walk will take a couple of hours and cover a couple of miles. Some parts of the Sconce and the Castle may be challenging for those with mobility problems. The walk will finish back at the Centre at approximately 4.00pm.

We hope that as many members as possible can come along to the AGM and hear about what has happened, and what is planned for the next year, and maybe find ways to become involved in the running of the Association.

John Goldsmith

### Further information:

Opening times : 10am to 5pm daily.  
Price £7 adults, £3 children, £6 concessions.  
Reduced price for Association members.  
The town trail app can be freely downloaded on Google Play and the iTunes App Store. Search for NCWC.

 <http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com>

 @civilwarcentre

 [www.facebook.com/NationalCivilWarCentre](http://www.facebook.com/NationalCivilWarCentre)

National Civil War Centre,  
14 Appleton Gate,  
Newark,  
NG24 1JY

**NATIONAL  
CIVIL WAR  
CENTRE**  
NEWARK MUSEUM

# The Protector's Pen

## Teachers' Day 2015

The Teachers' Day in 2015 marked a new venture for the Cromwell Association. The intention was to use the day as a way to promote our new Schools and Colleges website, but we also wanted to offer a thought-provoking and useful seminar for A level students and their teachers.



Four illustrious historians, Patrick Little, David Smith, John Morrill and Ronald Hutton (illustrated l-r) agreed to come to Selwyn College in Cambridge to debate topics from the 1650s, relevant to the A level syllabus. Debates were to range from whether or not Cromwell was a military dictator, why he rejected the crown and why Richard Cromwell failed.

In the planning stages we had no idea how popular such a day would be, but, after extensive advertising to schools, we were delighted when 63 delegates turned up on 30<sup>th</sup> June. Selwyn College provided an excellent lunch and the quality of debate and questions was extremely high. Many teachers asked for a repeat of the day in 2016. Therefore, the second Teachers' Day will take place at Newnham College on 28<sup>th</sup> June this year, and this time



Selwyn College, Cambridge

the focus will be on the 1640s. Our speakers this year will be Patrick Little, Jason Peacey, Laura Stewart and David Smith. Advertising is ongoing as we go to press, but we hope for a turn out to match 2015.

Such a high quality and well-regarded venture can only help to raise the profile of the Cromwell Association among schools, teachers and students; so we hope that the event will become a regular fixture in our calendar.

Serrie Meakins

## A visit to the National Civil War Centre

We first visited the building which now houses the National Civil War Centre in 2006, whilst taking part in a Civil War re-enactment event. Alan and other officers took part in an evening banquet, to which local dignitaries were invited. We were fascinated by the building, but really only saw a small part, namely the splendid Tudor hall where the banquet took place.

So we were very interested to sign up for a conference and visit the new Centre. Many years back, Alan had hopes that Basing House would become the National Civil War Centre, but Hampshire County Council took a different route.

Some £5.4 million has been spent on the new Centre, and its name "National Civil War" instead of "English Civil War" has been chosen to reflect that, as we know, this war without an enemy was far from being solely English but in fact affected all three kingdoms. However, I do wonder if this is a step too far in accuracy, for the general public struggle to differentiate between anything that is not the Tudors, and all they know is that Cromwell killed the King, and when he wasn't doing



Old Magnus Building, NCWC

that, he smashed up churches and banned Christmas.  
(cont'd)

# The Protector's Pen

We also feel that the museum is displayed the wrong way round. The Centre shares the building with an exhibition of local history, and the Civil War centre is in the early nineteenth century school room: a handsome hall, with plenty of cases. But the remainder of the building is large and rambling, and used as temporary exhibition space, which would surely have been better employed as the main museum, with the hall used as the temporary space. We understand that of 5,000 items, only 500 items will be on display at one time, which seems a shame. Always better to have lots of things to look at for when the technology breaks down (as it often does). As a National Collection that is quite tiny; even the Cromwell Museum in the small school building seems to have more to see.

The present display (when we were there in August 2015) consists of approximately 50% Newark items, and a few pieces on loan from the local area. One notable loan is the wheelchair of Thomas Fairfax, a vast and heavy chair for someone whom we think of as being rather slight. It is memorable for both its poignancy, and for the technology of the chair: capable of being self-propelled, but surely only whilst zooming along the Long Gallery!

The remainder of the gallery largely consists of a good choice of artefacts on loan from the Royal Armouries. The hall is decorated with modern reconstructions of colours and cornets, some of dubious veracity.

Understandably there is a great focus on Newark, but almost at the complete exclusion of information from the rest of the United Kingdom. There are no large-scale displays on the main field battles of the Civil War, and although the Newark Siege is very well presented, there is little information on other sieges which of course made up most of the fighting of the Civil War in other parts of the country. There is very little about national personalities, or details of ordinary soldiers and civilians.



Throughout the town, you may follow a trail, using an Augmented Reality app to access a number of short films, which to be fair we haven't seen. However, we think that they are versions of the same films which we saw in the centre. The films appear to be low budget and they fall somewhat short of historical accuracy, and lack a decent period feel. Nicola was astonished to see the dodgy costumes, including the rather startling sight of a woman's jacket worn back to front - it is, after all, far more difficult to lace your jacket the wrong way!



Wheelchair of Thomas Fairfax

But we don't wish to be too negative as the museum is only just setting up, and hopefully will attract collections from elsewhere in the UK to reflect the overall picture of the Wars. However, we know only too well from personal experience that local authority sponsored museums are rapidly on the decline and we fear will mostly have vanished in the next five years. If Newark and Sherwood District Council can keep their nerve and continue to provide financial backing for the museum, we are sure that they will become the beneficiaries of other collections which no longer have a home and deserve to be kept in the public domain.

In conclusion, the museum could do better, but what is there is good. And in the current difficult times we can only applaud the local authority, their staff and volunteers, and commend it to your notice.

Alan and Nicola Turton

# The Protector's Pen

## A Night at The Opera : *I Puritani*

A friend of mine is really interested in anything to do with Oliver Cromwell and enjoys opera, so when I saw *I Puritani* was being performed by the Welsh National Opera at our local theatre, we booked tickets.

The story centres on Elvira the daughter of a Roundhead, betrothed to Ricardo, a Roundhead of her fathers choosing, but in love with Arturo a Cavalier! Add in the unrecognised wife of Charles I who is being held as a spy and we have an opera.

A priest convinces Ricardo to allow Elvira to marry as her heart desires, but Arturo does his duty to Queen Henrietta Maria and disguises her as his bride Elvira so they can make their escape. Elvira is heartbroken and goes into a decline.

Three months pass.

Elvira is still bereft, Arturo returns and finds Elvira and is shocked at her state of mind as he convinces her she is his one true love. But he is captured, tried as a traitor and sentenced to death. A messenger arrives to proclaim a pardon to all Catholics just as Arturo dies.

The advertisement for the opera showed a typical roundhead helmet and a modern police flat hat, so I expected some element of time travel.



Act I is set in the 1970s with Orangemen marching with a banner showing Oliver Cromwell. Elvira is dressed in a blue Margaret Thatcher style suit. The Queen is captured in disguise in a black shiny mac waving the Eire flag.

Act II is set in the 1650s, a beautiful dress and hairstyle for Elvira and black puritan dress complete with tall hats and lace collars for all the others. I was confused as the 1970s Elvira, in blue suit, is visible on stage, sometimes matching Puritan Elvira's gestures but not singing. I'm not sure if many in the audience understood the significance either, by the chatter I overheard.

Act III is back in 1970s with the blue-suited Elvira, briefly joined by six puritan Elvira's, and then she continues alone. All the cast are in 1970s costumes until the entrance of the messenger with the proclamation, dressed as a puritan.

The ensemble singing was wonderful as were the male soloists and Elvira. The subtitles were not as distracting as I thought they might be and gave me a very useful handle on the storyline.

In conclusion, although there was no music by Queen or choreography by the Marx Brothers, I really enjoyed my Night at the Opera!

Paul Robbins



## Making the past come alive

As we approach the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Great Fire of London there will inevitably be a lot of focus from the media on 17th century London, what it looked like before the fire, and as a consequence what Cromwell's London looked like (though I doubt those words will be used).

A project to recreate (as an animation) the City, pre-fire, can be found online at

<http://www.openculture.com/2013/11/fly-through-17th-century-london.html>

It is seriously impressive and was the winning submission by students from de Montfort University in a competition run jointly between the British Library and a games developer. While you can never travel back in time, this is an imaginative attempt to make you think time travel might just be possible.....



# The Protector's Pen

## Wallingford re-enactment June 2015



We ventured up to Wallingford on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2015 to see the Wallingford Castle battle re-enactment, or 'Major Muster' as they are also known. A good turnout saw hundreds of English Civil War Society members transformed into foot soldiers, fully supported by cavalry and artillery. The battle took place over two days and was blessed with fair weather. The aim was to portray how an engagement may have progressed during this bloody conflict and how Wallingford and its castle fared. The battle started with a cannonade from several large artillery pieces (apparently, one of the larger guns - thankfully not in action on this day - registers on the seismometer at Reading University when it is fired (over 20 miles away); we can vouch that the 'earth shook' every time even one of the smaller cannons fired!). There then followed a series of engagements between the infantry from both sides, armed with sixteen foot long pikes and muzzle-loading, gunpowder-firing, muskets. There was enthusiastic hand-to-hand fighting, (we even spotted Alan Turton moving forward in the ranks to take on the king's foot soldiers!) and there were small cavalry forces on both sides

attempting to disrupt the complex military formations - all against the backdrop of the remains of Wallingford Castle. In addition to the re-enactment, there was also a Living History display in the Castle Gardens which aimed to demonstrate a combination of both military and domestic life in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Wandering through the site we saw (and could touch) artefacts such as clothing and weapons in close detail and watch artisans, craftsmen and traders, such as carpenters and cheesemakers, at work. Some of the aromas from the 17<sup>th</sup> century cooking in the camp's kitchen were, however, a little overpowering!

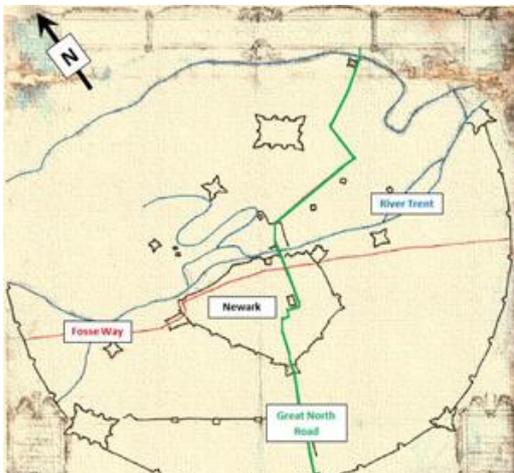
The event was well worth the visit. What will stick most in our minds is the noise from the 'battle' from just a few hundred participants, with a few dozen musketmen and a handful of cannons; what must it have been like at some of the actual battles?

Simon Blake & Maxine Forshaw

# The Protector's Pen

## Newark in the Civil War

That the small but prosperous market town of Newark-on-Trent, close to the border of Nottinghamshire and Lincolnshire, played such an important role in the civil war is in many ways easily explicable. Newark lay at the crossroads of two crucial inland transport routes, the Great North Road, running from London to Scotland via Stamford, Grantham, Doncaster, Boroughbridge and Durham, and the Fosse Way, linking Exeter and the South West with Lincoln via Ilchester, Bath, Cirencester and Leicester. Newark also lies on the River Trent and was one of the lowest easily bridgeable points across that crucial north Midlands waterway. Although by the time of the civil war Newark's twelfth-century stone castle was rather dilapidated and its medieval urban defences had been rendered obsolete by the subsequent expansion of the town, Newark was strongly defended on its north-western side by the Trent, which here briefly divides into two separate waterways that rejoin within two miles or so, thus forming a roughly rectangular flat island of land - 'the Island' (as it was unimaginatively known) - immediately north-west of the town. The smaller River Devon, which flows into the eastern course of the Trent on the south-western outskirts of Newark, offered a much more limited defensive role on that side of the town. But while the potential importance and military capacity of the town in the civil war were and are clear, that it became a royalist centre in late 1642 and that, despite a strong parliamentary presence in the



Newark at the crossroads of the Fosse Way and Great North Road

region and repeated operations against it, it then endured as a royalist super-garrison and regional base until the closing stages of the war, through to its surrender on terms in May 1646, are rather more difficult to explain.

During the autumn and winter of 1642-43, parliament fairly swiftly and with only limited resistance took control of much of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, including the two county towns. However, displaying a strategic grasp and daring not always apparent in his later campaigns and despite the fact that his hold over Yorkshire was as yet far from secure and was still being hotly disputed by the Fairfaxes, during the closing weeks

of 1642 the Earl of Newcastle, as commander of the king's northern army, dispatched part of that army southwards in order to secure a valuable salient along and around the borders of Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire, thus driving a royalist wedge between regions which were rapidly falling into parliament's hands. Accordingly, by the end of the year Newcastle's men had secured the key town of Gainsborough, lower down the Trent valley, as well as Newark itself, apparently without much of a fight, and began fortifying their new bases. With royalist possession of Newark and the surrounding land - as far south as Belvoir Castle, which was also secured around this time - dividing and threatening parliamentary territory to the east and west and with the town lying more or less equidistant between parliamentary Nottingham to the south-west and parliamentary Lincoln to the north-east, Newcastle and his officers doubtless anticipated that their hold on Newark would soon be challenged. The royalists' swift and dynamic response demonstrates their desire to retain and to cement their hold on such an important land-transport hub, a route of communication between the king's northern heartlands and his territory further south, including his new wartime capital of Oxford, as well as a means of denying parliament unrivalled and untroubled dominance in the north-eastern and east Midlands. On the other hand, while control of a key crossing point on the Trent was also useful, the king's men were never able to build on their possession of Newark in order to develop the Trent as a royalist water highway - parliament's firm possession of Nottingham upstream and of Kingston upon Hull on the Humber estuary (into which the Trent flows, a few miles to the west of Hull) meant that the royalists could never develop the river and valley of the Trent into much of a strategic military asset.

A royalist account of early 1643 noted that 'the enemies of his Majesties peace have cast full many an envious eye [on Newark] as being a great barre to their proceedings and suffered it to sinke so deepe into their fancies and imaginations that they have often taken it in their dreames and sometimes in their printed Newes Bookes, but never durst appeare before it untill Monday last....'. This account goes on to describe the first significant parliamentary attack upon Newark, at that time garrisoned by perhaps 1,500 royalists under the town's first governor, Sir John Henderson, who by this stage had at least begun to construct a line of earthwork bank and ditch, complete with arrowhead projections or bastions behind which artillery could be mounted, to defend the town and garrison. On 27 February 1643 the parliamentary Thomas Ballard, in command of a combined force of perhaps 6,000 men from Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire, plus ten artillery pieces, approached the town. On the following day, once his summons

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# The Protector's Pen

## Newark in the Civil War (cont'd)

had been rejected, Ballard first bombarded the newly-constructed earthworks and then sent units forward to attack at least two different parts of the royalist line. But Henderson's defences held, a royalist counter-attack during the afternoon drove the attackers back and then put them to flight, falling back in disorder, in the course of which they lost several score men - killed, wounded or captured; the royalists claimed their enemies lost over 200 dead and that the survivors spent the next few hours cowering under hedges. Several accounts - not just royalist sources - suggest that Ballard was remarkably lack-lustre in his command of the operation and point to his incompetence or misconduct. Lucy Hutchinson for one was scathing, alleging that many parliamentary officers present wished to resume the assault on 1 March but that Ballard, refusing to explain his decision, insisted the operation be abandoned and they march away. Whatever the truth of such allegations, Hutchinson is probably correct in claiming that parliamentary forces thus squandered their best chance of taking Newark before it became such a strong and formidable royalist base.

Although local and regional parliamentary forces approached Newark several times later in 1643 - Cromwell himself was in the area during the summer and autumn - no further serious attacks upon Newark were launched until March 1644. During the intervening period the royalists strengthened their hold over the area, making significant territorial gains in Lincolnshire in particular, garrisoning a string of lesser bases to protect the approaches to Newark and better fortifying Newark itself - at least some of the network of royalist earthworks protecting the town were almost certainly built or at least begun at this time. Some were constructed by Henderson, others by Sir Richard Byron, who succeeded him as royalist governor during the latter half of 1643. Thus, Byron was in command and in a strong position when Sir John Meldrum approached and laid siege to Newark on 29 February 1644. Taking advantage of improving prospects for parliament in the north Midlands in early 1644 - Newcastle was having to pull most of his troops away northwards, to counter the threat of a Scottish army which had crossed the border in support of their English parliamentary allies - Meldrum commanded a combined force of around 7,000 Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire and Lincolnshire troops. Over the next few days, this force drove in several royalist outposts, captured key bridges over the Trent and the Island and thus completely surrounded the town, which now suffered close siege and sustained bombardment. The king was so concerned about the fate of Newark that he ordered his nephew, Prince Rupert, to put together a relieving army and to cross the Midlands from his Shrewsbury HQ to relieve Newark. Moving swiftly and picking up reinforcements from royalist

garrisons such as Lichfield and Ashby de la Zouch en route, by the time Rupert reached Newark on 21 March he commanded a force of around 6,500 men. Approaching the town at dawn with his cavalry, Rupert may have caught Meldrum by surprise. The royalists first occupied Beacon Hill to the east of the town, swept down, and after a short but sharp fight, routed much of Meldrum's horse and then, with support both from his infantry and from Byron's garrison, Rupert drove most of the rest of Meldrum's besieging army into a confined area adjoining and on the Island, where, 'cooped up in a very narrow room' as one contemporary account put it, they found themselves isolated, surrounded and in a hopeless position. After 48 hours, but without further significant fighting, Meldrum's men surrendered en masse.

By the time of the third and final parliamentary operation against Newark, which began at the end of 1645, the situation had changed hugely. In the wake of Naseby, the king had few armies and limited territory left and he had clearly lost the civil war; royalist Newark and its hinterland were now isolated in a sea of almost unbroken parliamentary territory and resources now massively favoured the attackers. Even so, it is testimony to the strength of the royalists' physical defences by this stage of the war - not only the earthen banks and ditches encircling the landward side of the town but also separate earthwork artillery forts or sconces, other artillery emplacements and batteries and lesser earthwork forts defending key bridges, especially those onto and off the Island - as well as the determination of the garrison and its then governor John, Lord Belasyse (Byron having been dismissed early in 1645 and his immediate successor, Sir Richard Willys, lasting only a few months before he in turn was dismissed by the king) that Newark resisted for so long. In part, too, this was a consequence of the approach adopted by the huge besieging force, comprising Scottish troops under the Earl of Leven and an English parliamentary army under Sydenham Poyntz, which was built up and invested the town during December 1645. Instead of attempting a direct assault, the besieging force moved slowly - initially very slowly, perhaps because of the harsh winter weather - occupying and fortifying a circuit of villages and other strategic positions around Newark, often throwing up their own earthworks around and between their bases. Gradually the besieging army moved forwards during late winter and spring 1646, driving in royalist outposts, occupying and fortifying more ground; thus the Scots secured the Island, building their own earthworks there, including a large artillery fort, dubbed 'Edinburgh'. Although the Newark royalists had opened negotiations with the besiegers during April, the operation, and with it royalist control of Newark, did not end until early May, when the king, who had surrendered himself to

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# The Protector's Pen

## Newark in the Civil War (cont'd)

the Scottish army, ordered the garrison to surrender. Terms were signed at midnight on 6 May and two days later Belasyse and his remaining troops - by that stage probably around 1,500 men - were allowed to march off and the parliamentarians took undisputed control of what by that stage was described by one contemporary as 'a miserable, stinking, infected town'. Indeed, disease took hold of the area and both Newark and the

surrounding villages endured a serious and deadly outbreak of the plague, just as their long and destructive involvement in the civil war was coming to a close. Newark and its people had paid a very high price for its wartime role.

Prof Peter Gaunt,  
University of Chester

## 1656, Cromwell and the readmission of the Jews: towards a tolerant and pluralist society

This was the title of a one day conference organised by the Woolf Institute at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge in January 2016. The Institute, which is based in Cambridge, is an academic, charitable body that strives, through educational programmes, to improve relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims. Oliver Cromwell was an undergraduate at the College; his head was returned there in 1960 and is buried near the chapel.

Professor John Morrill of Cambridge University, and a vice president of the Association, argued that while Cromwell was strongly in favour of readmission, others were against. The Whitehall Assembly convened by Cromwell in 1655 failed to reach the consensus he was hoping to establish. It did though produce the legal opinion, which was generally accepted, that the expulsion of Jews by Edward I in 1290 was either illegal, because it hadn't been approved by Parliament, or if it was legal, was valid only during the king's lifetime which ended in 1307. This probably helped Cromwell to proceed by executive action and he quietly allowed a synagogue and a cemetery to be established in London in 1656.

Why did Cromwell allow readmission when many of his supporters were opposed?

John's view is that he was not a millenarian; that is someone who believes that the conversion of the Jews will lead to the second coming of Christ. Such persons emphasised the books of Daniel and Revelation; Cromwell preferred Psalms, Isaiah and the first five books of the Bible, the Pentateuch.

He was, however, interested in biblical scholarship; the originally chosen people could help the new chosen in understanding the Old Testament. There were also reasons of State. Jews who were readmitted came from Amsterdam, but they were of Portuguese origin. The first Dutch War ended in 1654 opening up prospects for better trade. Cromwell was also keen to cultivate good relations with Portugal, Spain being the common enemy. Though there were limits, Cromwell was generally in favour of toleration and had, for example, supported the 1650 Act which abolished

compulsory church attendance.



Sidney Sussex College Chapel, Cambridge

Professor John Coffey, University of Leicester, dealt with Protestant and, particularly, Calvinistic attitudes to Jews. These were softer than those of the medieval church. Theodore Beza, Calvin's successor at Geneva, was particularly positive. Roger Williams, the English founder of Providence Plantation, Rhode Island in 1636 was another important influence arguing in favour of religious freedom.

These views, including millenarianism, continued into the eighteenth and nineteenth century; Wilberforce and the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Shaftesbury were mentioned and even today Christian Zionism is a significant force in N. America, Brazil and South Korea.

Professor David Feldman of Birkbeck College, University of London, and Director of the Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism, considered the

PEARS INSTITUTE  
FOR THE STUDY OF  
ANTISEMITISM



(cont'd)

# The Protector's Pen

## 1656, Cromwell and the readmission of the Jews: towards a tolerant and pluralist society (cont'd)

toleration/aversion syndrome. In eighteenth century Britain, Dissenters were tolerated but not well regarded. While the legal position of all non-Anglicans improved in the nineteenth century, negative attitudes to Jews, and Roman Catholics, persisted. The same is true today of more recent immigrants. Aversion only fades slowly over time.

Professor Miri Rubin, Queen Mary College, University of London, considered the position of Jews in England from their arrival, with William the Conqueror, in 1066 to their expulsion in 1290. Although the community was tiny - perhaps 3-4,000 out of 3m - it was important, particularly in money lending, monarchs and landowners such as abbeys being among their significant customers. However, Jews did not have a monopoly, and lost market share during the thirteenth century when they tended to move from cities to smaller towns, eg Cambridge to Royston.

Professor David Abulafia, Cambridge University, is well known for his book *The Great Sea: A Human History of the Mediterranean* which was a popular success in 2011. He considered the background of the Portuguese Jews who came to England from Amsterdam. Although expelled from their homeland in the late fifteenth-early sixteenth century, some of them found refuge

in the Atlantic colonies of both Portugal and Spain, the Canaries, Sao Tome, etc. They were involved with Portugal's almost worldwide trading network - most strongly identified with the fifteenth century Prince Henry, the Navigator - but which remained vibrant in the seventeenth century, and included both Amsterdam and London.

Roundtable - Religious and Tolerant, Yesterday and Today  
Chaired by David Feldman, the other members of the panel were Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury, now Master of Magdalene College, Cambridge), Rabbi Joseph Dweck (Senior Rabbi of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews congregation), Edward Kessler (Director of the Woolf Institute) and Professor Eugenio Biagini (Cambridge University).

Despite the distinguished panel, this session lacked focus. Perhaps the final word should be given to Dr Kessler, "God is tolerant, he must be, he puts up with us".

John Gibbon

Further reading : <http://www.olivercromwell.org/jews.htm>

## The Cromwell Museum Trust

### Report on progress to becoming a charitable trust

Our Shadow Board continues to meet monthly and has made decisions over policies, strategies and operational issues. In January they successfully recruited a new curator and we hope to be able to announce her name shortly. Coupled with this, our efforts through the volunteer programme are going very well with 45 formal applications received. We have two training days planned for February and March.

On the finance front, the Trust considers the final Business Plan on 29<sup>th</sup> January and it is also developing a funding strategy. Short-term funding is the first priority to close the gap for the first year's running costs. The lump sum to be passed over by the County Council is almost enough but not quite! The strategy also focuses on the medium term; aiming at securing enough resources to comfortably run the museum for a three year period. Longer term funding will focus on redevelopment and growth.

The Trust is considering its Communications Plan and Strategy on 29<sup>th</sup> January; this will include web presence. It has already agreed its new corporate logo and branding style.

Obviously the collection is key to the whole operation. New loan agreements are being discussed with the major lenders, who are all supportive (Bush Family, Museum of London and Royal Armouries) and a Collection Agreement is being drafted between the Council and the Trust. We have also just finalised a copyright agreement between the same parties governing use of all the digital images.

We await the response of the Arts Council accreditation panel in February and hope to get another extension giving the Trust time to bed in before it makes a full return later in the year.

Freehold transfers and leases are all in preparation and Huntingdon Town Council is being extremely supportive. As the new landlord for the building it is also providing support by way of a range of back office functions and advice. This is set to be a most positive partnership.

An application was submitted to the Charities Commission in December for charitable status. This decision is awaited.

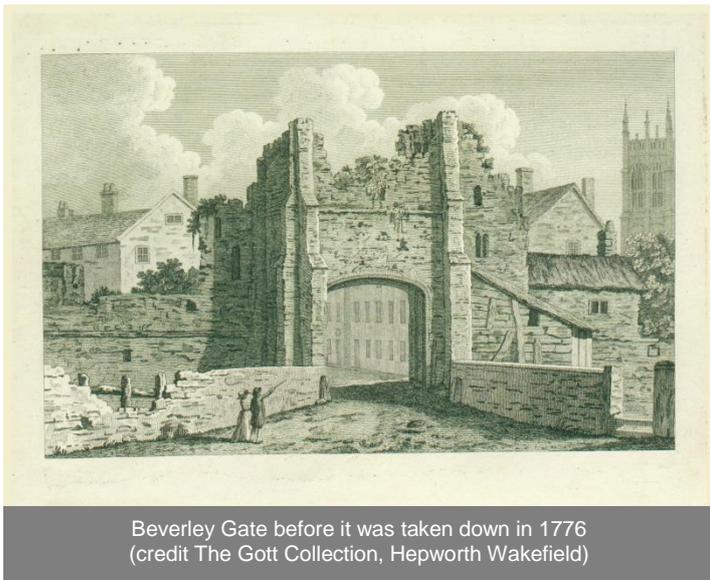
Fiona O'Mahony,  
Museum Project Officer  
[Fiona.O'Mahony@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:Fiona.O'Mahony@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

# The Protector's Pen

## Beverley Gate - Kingston upon Hull

Although the raising of the King's standard at Nottingham in August 1642 is held to be the start of the first civil war, events in Hull four months earlier are often overlooked. The governor of Hull, John Hotham, refused to admit the king on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, barring his entry through the Beverley Gate. The town was a Parliamentary stronghold throughout the civil wars and the refusal to allow the king to enter the town, and to seize the large arsenal it held, was an influencing factor in subsequent events.

Until the 1980s the site of the Beverley Gate was marked by a plaque, but archaeological work revealed the remains of the 14<sup>th</sup> century gate. In the late 1980s an amphitheatre style display was created but 25 years on it is looking shabby and has been described as a 'litter-strewn hole'. Hull has been awarded City of Culture status for 2017 and the local authority, in its attempt to present the urban environment in the best way possible, made proposals last year to bury the Gate and to mark the site with a 'couple of poles and a sculpture nearby'.



A local furore ensued with an active campaign to preserve the Gate and a petition to Hull City Council (with around 2,500 signatures) was submitted, asking that the site be preserved. The planners responded to the concerns by proposing two alternative schemes, after having been dissuaded by Heritage England from pursuing the idea of covering the remains with a glass panel. The first scheme was to improve the amphitheatre setting of the remains and generally make it look far more attractive. The second option was to re-bury the Gate and to mark its position in the paving.

The two proposals were put out for consultation in early December and a total of 3,889 took part in the poll organised



The design for Beverley Gate that has received public endorsement.  
(© Kingston upon Hull City Council)

by the council. In an overwhelming response 87% voted in favour of the first scheme to leave the remains of the northern gate house and section of the wall exposed in a re-configured amphitheatre. In a side comment the council noted that two-thirds of those taking part in the poll were aged over 40. Detailed design work is now underway and the decision on a revised scheme will be made in April.

One of the quirks thrown up by the controversy was that the remains were neither scheduled as an ancient monument, nor listed as a building of special architectural or historic interest. Historic England has now successfully made a recommendation to the Secretary of State that they be scheduled, so the remains now have a level of protection not enjoyed previously.

The Association only became aware of the issue because a local member contacted us to tell us what was going on.

If you learn of anything in your area which you think might be of concern, please let the Association know.

John Goldsmith

Further information can be found at:

<http://cityplanhull.co.uk/index.php/beverley-gate/>

# The Protector's Pen

## Exhibition Review

**Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire, Revolution.**  
**National Maritime Museum, Greenwich until 28**  
**March 2016**

The National Maritime Museum considers Samuel Pepys 'history's greatest witness' and it is in this capacity that this exhilarating exhibition traces Pepys' eventful life through a tumultuous age. We watch the execution of Charles I alongside Pepys the truant schoolboy; listen to Charles II retell his escape from the Battle of Worcester to Pepys the ambitious naval administrator; and sit with him in middle age as he presides over the Royal Society, privately admitting his struggle to understand all the ground-breaking research with which he is presented.



Throughout, we are reminded of Pepys' uncanny ability to engage with and reflect down the centuries so many of the key interests of his time: politics, the navy, the development of science and a golden age of music and theatre.

As the exhibition unfolds, Pepys begins his famous Diary, and through it he takes us to the heart of political life. He gives his account of sailing aboard the Royal Charles to bring Charles II back to England in 1660 and rushing to tell the king of the great fire that has broken out in the City of London in 1666. He mourns the legions dead from the plague and gossips about the beauty of the king's mistresses. He watches with horror as the Dutch burn the English fleet in the Medway and endeavours to keep on the right side of history through the Popish Plot and eventual Glorious Revolution.

The exhibition is at its best using Pepys' Diary in this way, to capture the age. And this extends as much to the social and cultural life of Restoration London as the political upheavals. Some beautiful costumes conjure up

the fashionable excesses of the new court; the plague and the fire are explored in vivid detail; and the popularity of the reopened theatres is captured particularly well with actors performing contemporary dialogue.

It is a great pleasure to see gathered together so many famous portraits of the key protagonists. In addition, a wealth of impressive objects such as Charles I's gloves and waistcoat, the Order of the Council of State proclaiming Cromwell as Lord Protector, Restoration memorabilia, and musical and medical instruments ensure that the visitor is truly immersed in Pepys' world. And this world is not solely confined to London. An interesting section on Britain's burgeoning imperial power and Pepys' visit to the colony of Tangier place London in its truly commercial context and connect us to the history of maritime Greenwich.

True Pepys aficionados will learn little that is revelatory about his life or his Diary: Pepys' love affairs, home life and household are less well explored than they might have been and it feels at times as if the immediacy and intimacy of his Diary entries are lost. Pepys the observer and engager in public affairs is well captured but Pepys the private man - joyful, proud, fallible - remains elusive. But this is a small complaint. The general enthusiast for the period will enjoy Pepys' company through a lively and thorough examination of the Interregnum and Restoration. The momentous events of the time, and their inescapable importance to British history, are presented and explored with aplomb in this hugely enjoyable exhibition.

The exhibition closes soon so do hurry and visit if you can. If you can't, consider splashing out on the weighty exhibition catalogue which presents all the exhibits in greater detail with a number of interesting essays (see the Book Review in this issue of Protector's Pen).

Dr Miranda Malins

### Further information:

Opening times : 10am to 5pm daily.

 <http://www.rmg.co.uk/national-maritime-museum>

 @NMMGreenwich

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

 020 8858 4422

National Maritime Museum  
Romney Road  
Greenwich  
SE10 9NF



# The Protector's Pen

## Book Review

**Samuel Pepys Plague, Fire and Revolution. The exhibition catalogue.** Edited by Margarette Lincoln, 287pp, Thames and Hudson in association with the National Maritime Museum, 2015, ISBN 9781906367572. £25.00 paperback.

Exhibitions are by definition ephemeral, whilst the catalogue is a permanent record of what has been on show, for what is often all too limited a period. The catalogue for the current exhibition at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich is very much more than a record of what the exhibition contains, with a number of essays by a range of authors on different aspects of the subject. This is very definitely not the type of catalogue to walk around the exhibition with, weighing in at nearly 4lbs and extending to almost 300 pages, but it is something to be read, reflected on, and enjoyed.

The essays cover in detail aspects of Pepys' career which the exhibition barely seemed to scratch the surface of, and provide the context and background for, the themes of the exhibition. Inevitably there are some minor irritations, for example a reluctance to use the term 'Protectorate' to describe the period from 1653-59, instead using the term 'Commonwealth'. A reference to Cromwell dismissing Parliament in 1653, asserting that it was a military dictatorship from then on and no mention of any Protectoral Parliaments, but that is par for the course.

The glory of the catalogue is the illustrations which are lavishly spread throughout the very attractively designed book. Some of the images are very well known, but others less so. The portrait by Robert Walker in the catalogue is the one in the

National Portrait Gallery's collection, whilst the one in the exhibition was the version (perhaps slightly inferior) on loan from Temple Newsam in Leeds. There is an excellent image of the *Royal Charles* which sailed under the name of *Naseby* when it took Pepys to collect Charles Stuart to bring him back to England in 1660. On the facing page is a far less well-known image of the vessel drawn in coloured ink in the *Journal of Edward Barlow* from the NMM's collection.



Whether or not you have been able to visit the exhibition, this catalogue is well worth getting hold of and settling down to enjoy.

John Goldsmith

## Publications, Exhibitions and Events

<u>Date (2016)</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Details</u>
Nov 20, 2015 - Mar 28	National Maritime Museum, Greenwich	Exhibition - Samuel Pepys: Plague, Fire and Revolution
Mar 19	Banbury Museum, Spiceball Park Road Banbury, OX16 2PQ	Battlefield Trust, Talk on The City of Oxford during the Civil War 1642-1646
Mar 25 - Apr 17	NCWC, Newark	Wicked Wounds and Marvellous Medicine! Easter Holiday Family Events
Apr 09	The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6ND	Battlefield Trust, Talk on Battlefield Archaeology
Apr 09	Basing House	Sealed Knot Event
Apr 23	NCWC Newark	Cromwell Association AGM
May 28 - May 29	St Fagans National History Museum	English Civil War Society, Re-enactment
May 29	Newstead Abbey	Sealed Knot Event
Jun 28	Newnham College, Cambridge	Cromwell Association, 2nd Teachers' Day
Jul 23 - Apr 27 (2017)	Museum of London	Fire! Fire! Exhibition of The Great Fire of London

All information correct at time of going to press

