

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

# The Protector's Pen

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civil war**

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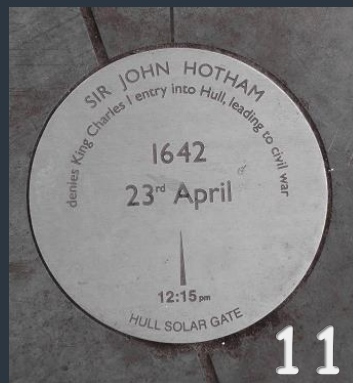
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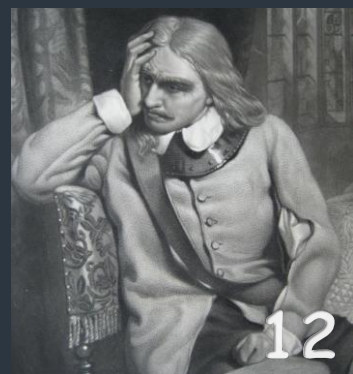
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*The Protector's Pen* is the newsletter of The Cromwell Association and is published twice a year and distributed to our membership. If additional copies are required, to help promote the Association and our work, please contact the Chairman.

The Association is governed by elected officers and Council members.

For all matters relating to :

- subscriptions, please contact our treasurer Geoffrey Bush - [finance@olivercromwell.org](mailto:finance@olivercromwell.org)
- changes of address and email, contact our membership secretary Paul Robbins - [membership@olivercromwell.org](mailto:membership@olivercromwell.org)
- all other matters, please contact our chairman John Goldsmith - [chairman@olivercromwell.org](mailto:chairman@olivercromwell.org)

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

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Front cover: The Siege of Oxford by Jan de Wyck (courtesy Oxfordshire Local History)

# The Protector's Pen

## Chairman's Note

Welcome to the Spring edition of *The Protector's Pen* for 2018

Every year, without fail, as soon as journalists start to fill their columns with words about Christmas, the tired old story that Cromwell banned Christmas is repeated. As the article by Peter Gaunt on our website discusses, this is a misrepresentation of what did happen; but never let the truth stand in the way of a good story. How better to prejudice young minds against Cromwell than by saying he banned Christmas?

Mostly when I read these stories I shrug my shoulders and accept that trying to correct them is an impossible (if not to say thankless) task, but this year the provocation was too great. Whether it was sloppy writing or genuinely held belief, two eminent figures perpetuated the myth this year; Neil McGregor the former director of the British Museum in his Radio 4 series 'Living with the Gods', and Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch, Professor of the History of the Church at the University of Oxford, in an article on the *Radio Times* website. Hang your heads in shame gentlemen!

But how do you counter these gobbets of false news? The only option was that open to all serious commentators, critics, obsessionals and the downright mad - a letter to *The Times* (decide for yourself which category applies).

A letter was published (28.12.17) and there was a short article as a consequence. A small victory.

A brief trawl of the web at this time of year demonstrates that the repetition of the story of Cromwell banning Christmas is not limited to the UK. It happens all over the world; but one website brought a seasonal glow to my heart. *The Punch* is a Nigerian daily broadsheet with a web presence. Its columnist, Kaine Agary, wrote an article on Christmas Eve under the title *The Grinch of Christmas present* which reviewed how Christmas had been banned in the past. Were the old canards repeated? No, she got it right and more impressively she both referred to and quoted from our website. Hallelujah!

It is sometimes easy to overlook Cromwell's international appeal. The Association has nearly 50 members outside the UK, predominantly, but not all, in English speaking countries. Joe Kawasaki, our man in Japan, was invited to write for us about Cromwell's reputation there, which you can read on page 13. I hope that you find it as interesting as I did.

*John Goldsmith*  
Chairman

## High jinks at Westminster

As reported in *The Evening Standard* before Christmas and subsequently in *The Irish News*, *The Times* and *The Daily Mail*, and quite possibly elsewhere, a bronze bust of Cromwell outside the Members' Tea Room at Westminster has repeatedly been turned to face the wall. Speculation as to the reason why, and who keeps doing it, has centred on critics of Cromwell's actions in Ireland (which are, as ever, misrepresented).

One can only sigh and say have they got nothing better to do? Both parliamentarians and the press that is.



## Notes from the Council

The Council met in October and January. Other than the usual items of business to keep the Association running, the main items discussed have included:

- The need to constrain spending as our costs increase quicker than our income.
- How to continue to support the Directory of Parliamentary Officers; it was agreed to fund up to two updates a year, if required.
- Succession planning and the need to attract more members willing to serve on Council.
- Permission to digitise the *Cromwellian Gazetteer* and publish it online.
- Looking at possible long-term projects that will help us fulfil our charitable objectives.
- The venue and form of the Cromwell Day service this year. We are working on plans for it to be held in Worcester on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Full details will be announced at the AGM in Oxford and will be included in our next mailing.

If any member would like to raise an issue with Council, or make any proposals for future events or activities, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

If you have some time and would like to become more involved with the running of the Association, please do not be shy. Step forward and let us know what you might be able to do.

To contact the Association by email please use:

[chairman@olivercromwell.org](mailto:chairman@olivercromwell.org)

or write to: John Goldsmith  
25, Fox's Way  
Comberton  
Cambridge CB23 7DL

## Cromwell Association AGM 2018

This year's AGM will be held in Oxford on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April at The Quaker Meeting House.

The venue is The Quaker Meeting House, 43 St. Giles', Oxford OX1 3LW. All the meeting papers are enclosed with this mailing.



The Quaker Meeting House

The Meeting House is in the garden at the back of 43 St Giles' and provides an attractive setting for our meeting. Located on the west side of St Giles' it is very close to the city centre and less than a mile from the railway station, and closer still to the bus station. Parking in Oxford is always challenging but there is a good Park and Ride service available. The most convenient one to use is the Pear Tree site on the north side of Oxford, just off the A34, as buses from there come down St Giles'.

Doors will open at 10.30 with tea and coffee provided.

The AGM will start at 11.00 and will conclude by 12.00

At noon Vanessa Moir will give a talk on civil war Oxford. Vanessa runs an excellent website: <http://civilwaroxford.co.uk/> which is well worth exploring.

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.

A buffet lunch follows for which a booking form is enclosed; pre-booking is essential. Please do take this opportunity to chat with other members and help make it an enjoyable social occasion.

After lunch there will be walking tours of civil war Oxford on offer. Although not critical, it would be useful if you could indicate if you intend to take the tour - see enclosed papers for details.

For more information about Oxford, including accommodation see:

<http://www.experienceoxfordshire.org/>

Oxford was a Royalist centre in the civil war (see Peter Gaunt's article on page 6) and promises an interesting day.

Please, come and join us for the AGM and help make it a memorable event.

### AGM Timetable

10:30	Doors open - tea and coffee
11:00	AGM
12:00	Vanessa Moir illustrated lecture on Oxford in the civil war.
13:00	Buffet Lunch (a booking form is enclosed and pre-booking is essential)
14:00	Walking Tours
16:00	Close

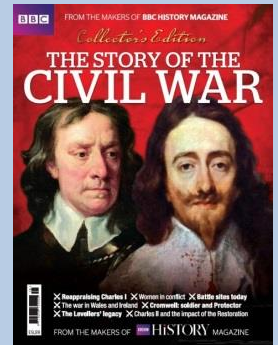


Oxford in the civil war © Vanessa Moir

## Publications

### BBC History Collector's Edition The Story of the Civil War

Examines the personalities of the key figures, delving into the psyches of King Charles I and Oliver Cromwell, and meeting leading Levellers and royalist spies.



Also inside: listen in on the machinations of rebel lords who conspired towards a Scottish invasion of England; learn how the still-novel print media was used to spread lurid propaganda about royalists' supernatural servants; examine the motives and fates of the men who signed Charles I's death warrant; follow the fight of Charles II after his early setbacks; discover the impact of the Restoration of the monarchy in 1660, and more.

Authors of articles include: John Morrill, Patrick Little, Leanda de Lisle, Charles Spencer, Martyn Bennett and many more.

<https://magsdirect.co.uk/magazine/bbc-history-collectors-edition-story-civil-war/>

### History Revealed

#### Civil War: Roundheads vs Cavaliers

Julian Humphrys tells the fascinating tale of two friends, caught up in England's civil war, a conflict that tore families, friends and nations apart.



[www.historyrevealed.com/article/history-revealed/new-issue-sale-9](http://www.historyrevealed.com/article/history-revealed/new-issue-sale-9)

## Publications

### BBC History Magazine

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.



*The making of a military genius* by Martyn Bennett

Published in *BBC History Magazine*, February 2017

<http://www.historyextra.com/article/bbc-history-magazine/oliver-cromwell-secret-his-military-genius-MP-British>

### History Today

A recently discovered 17<sup>th</sup> century shipwreck has caused speculation among experts. Richard Blakemore considers the often overlooked importance of maritime affairs on the course of the civil wars.

*The Civil Wars' Troubled Waters* by Richard Blakemore



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

[www.historytoday.com/magazine](http://www.historytoday.com/magazine)

## Cromwell Day Service 2017

Due to building works at the Palace of Westminster, our service was held at the church where Cromwell was married in 1620, St Giles'-without-Cripplegate.

The anniversary of Cromwell's death has traditionally been marked by the Association with a service of commemoration by the statue of the Lord Protector on the green outside the Great Hall of the Palace of Westminster. This year, as a consequence of extensive restoration work at the Palace, it was impossible to hold the service there.

St Giles' Cripplegate, now situated in the centre of the Barbican development on the north side of the City of London, provided a fitting alternative. It is the church where Oliver married Elizabeth in August 1620. Our service, conducted by the Rev. Tim Woolley after a welcome from the incumbent the Rev. Katharine Rumens, was enjoyed by all, and the accompanying organ



Stephen Roberts and Peter Gaunt

music helped to add to the occasion. The address was given by Dr Stephen Roberts, a vice president of the Association, and will be published in the 2018 edition of *Cromwelliana*. A very welcome addition to the event was the serving of tea and cakes at its conclusion, and the presentation of prizes to the winners of this year's essay competition.



Kate Dorkins and Jerome Glasson with Peter Gaunt

Our service normally concludes with the laying of a wreath on the Cromwell statue; this year a wreath was laid prior to the service at the foot of the bust of Cromwell under the loggia of the Guildhall Art Gallery, a few minutes' walk from St Giles', under the watchful eyes of the local constabulary.

On the morning of the service a group visit took place at the Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, which is the final resting place of a wide range of non-conformists, some well known, including Daniel Defoe and William Blake, and some descendants of Oliver Cromwell. The two guides who led the tours were full of useful information about the burial ground and its 'inhabitants'.

A decision on the venue for Cromwell Day, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018, or the nearest appropriate Saturday thereto, has yet to be made. What is unfortunately certain is that we will not be able to return to the Palace of Westminster for the foreseeable future.



## Oxford in the civil war

Oxford served as the king's capital and his political, administrative and military HQ from autumn 1642 until the end of the main civil war. The allegiance of Oxfordshire and its county town was by no means clear when civil war broke out in later summer 1642. Bulstrode Whitelocke, the parliamentarian MP and diplomat whose main seat and property lay on the fringes of Oxfordshire, noted significant pro-parliamentarian sympathies in the area and felt that the county town might have been secured for parliament in the opening phase of the conflict. But that did not happen and instead the king's advance along the Thames valley in late October and early November 1642, after the battle of Edgehill en route to London, and his return there with his main southern army after the stand-off at Turnham Green, together meant that Oxford and much of the county was secured for the royalist cause without a fight in autumn 1642. The city was quickly fortified and all approaches to it were defended by concentric rings of royalist garrisons. The king's main army, often around or over 10,000-strong, was generally based at Oxford and remained within fairly easy reach of his capital; and even when the king led it further afield, to Gloucester in summer 1643 and into the South West in pursuit of the Earl of Essex's main parliamentarian army in summer 1644, he left a substantial body of troops behind to ensure the security of his capital. Oxford was militarised and turned into a rival capital. The king and queen occupied two of the colleges, while others were requisitioned as accommodation for courtiers and generals and as venues for the meetings of the privy council, the council of war and the rival Oxford parliament set up in 1643. Others served as arsenals, magazines and mints; gunpowder and ordnance factories were established in and around the city and Oxford castle became a particularly nasty and notorious place of incarceration for prisoners of war.

During 1643 and 1644 parliament made military moves which appeared to threaten royalist Oxford, but they did not progress very far. Cromwell occasionally campaigned in Oxfordshire, though with sufficient resources only to threaten and to challenge some of the outer ring of garrisons rather than to mount a serious operation against Oxford itself. Potentially more serious from the king's perspective, in early summer 1644, the Earl of Essex and Sir William Waller pooled their military resources and for a time campaigned together along the Thames valley, enabling them to encircle Oxford. In response and fearing a close siege, Charles led much of his cavalry and part of his infantry away, crossing the Cotswolds and seeking refuge in the Severn valley. As he probably hoped, Essex and Waller chose to pursue him rather than closely besiege Oxford and, better still from his perspective, en route the two men (whose relations were fraught) decided to divide their forces once again and go their separate ways. Oxford was not seriously threatened again until 1645.

The New Model Army, the dynamic field army which parliament created in spring 1645 to win the war, proceeded to do just that over the following 14 months or so. From the perspective of the fragile peace which had returned by 1647, Joshua Sprigg wrote a history of the New Model's actions, in which he noted that the army's victorious campaign of the final phase of the war, in 1645-46, had in effect begun and ended in Oxford: 'Oxford, the king's royal garrison, the place of the king's ordinary residence and retreat, hath, like a parenthesis, included all the action of this army, between the two sieges of it; being first in intention and attempt, though last in execution and reduction'. Sprigg is here referring to the New Model's first siege of Oxford, its first real military action on marching out of London and taking the field under Sir Thomas Fairfax, though it was a brief, rather inglorious, unsuccessful and half-hearted affair, lasting less than a fortnight in late May and early June 1645, and to the New Model's second and successful siege operation, which ran through much of May and June 1646, culminating in late June in the surrender of Oxford on terms.

That second, more prolonged but ultimately successful parliamentarian siege of spring 1646 effectively began at the end of April, shortly after Woodstock had fallen to parliamentarian forces and the king had slipped out of the city in disguise. Oxford was quickly surrounded by a large part of the New Model Army, which encircled the city via a circuit of bases and camps. Several of the villages and high points around the city, including Marston and Headington, were occupied, temporary bridges were built across the Cherwell and lines of circumvallation were begun. Several of the New Model's most senior officers were based in Marston and in spring 1646, as in spring 1645, Fairfax lodged there at the house of the pro-parliamentarian lawyer and politician Unton Crook (or Croke), which also served as the principal venue where parliamentarian and royalist commissioners met intermittently from mid-May to negotiate the treaty or formal terms upon which the city of Oxford would be surrendered. The property, in Mill Lane, Marston, survives, now rather misleadingly known as 'Cromwell House', on the strength of the fact that Cromwell would have visited Fairfax there in spring 1645 and spring 1646 and played a part in the negotiations for the surrender of Oxford; it is now marked by an Association Blue Plaque. Lengthy negotiations ensued, enlivened by some rather limited royalist sallies and intermittent artillery fire in early June and planning by Fairfax to storm the city if need be. In fact quite generous terms were agreed in mid June; the royalist evacuation began on 24 June and Oxford was formally handed over to Fairfax the following day. The surrender of Oxford in late June 1646 marked the end of the city's active involvement in the fighting, as neither Oxford nor Oxfordshire was directly caught up in the so-called second civil war of 1648.

*Peter Gaunt*

# The Protector's Pen

## Frederic Borch III - Essay Prize

Back in 1975, Frederic Borch III won the Cromwell prize for his essay *Cromwell: Military Dictator or Constitutionalist?*

**Cromwell: Military Dictator Or Constitutionalist?**  
by Frederick L. Borch III  
(Awarded First Prize in the Cromwell Association Essay Competition 1975)

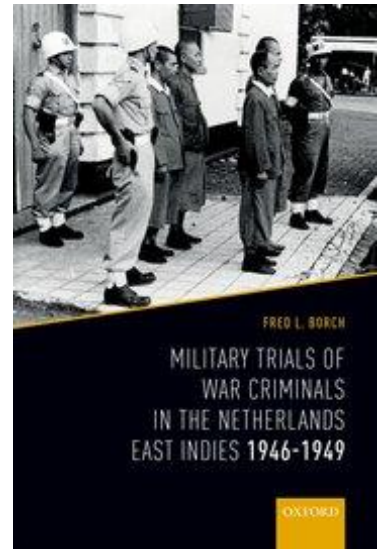
The Great Rebellion reversed decisively the Tudor initiated policy of monarchical absolutism. But any hope for a swift return to the 'good old days' when the 'fundamental constitutions of this kingdom were reserved on the people's behalf in the right and power of frequent and successive Parliaments' was ephemeral.

The military triumphs of Parliament neither ended the Revolution nor ushered in a tranquil settlement. Rather, relations with the Army became increasingly tense, and eventually the latter was wrestling with Parliament for the reins of government.

This sparked a lifelong interest in history in general and the 17<sup>th</sup> century in particular and Fred is still a member of the Association. Today he is also the Regimental historian and archivist for the US Army's Judge Advocate General's corps. He served 25 years as an Army lawyer in the US before retiring as a colonel and has been a legal historian since 2006. Two years ago he offered to sponsor an essay prize for this generation of young historians, and, over the past two years, more than 30 young 'A' level students have submitted essays to the Association. You might have read the 2016 winning entry in *Cromwelliana* with the title 'Does Oliver Cromwell merit a statue outside the Houses of Parliament?' In 2017 the title was 'A brave, bad man.' How far do you agree with Edward Hyde's assessment of Oliver Cromwell? Both essays attracted entries of the highest standard and Peter Gaunt had trouble picking a final winner, which bodes very well for historical scholarship in the future. We are very grateful to Fred for his generosity and, on a personal note, I should add that the students love the fact that he writes to the winner personally each year!

In August 2017 Fred had his own book published by Oxford University Press in the US, entitled 'Military Trials of War Criminals in the Netherlands East Indies 1946-1949'. From 1946 to 1949 the Dutch prosecuted more than 1000 Japanese soldiers and civilians for war crimes committed during the occupation of the Netherlands East Indies during World War II. They also prosecuted a small number of Dutch citizens for collaborating

with their Japanese occupiers. The war crimes committed by the Japanese against military personnel and civilians in the East Indies were horrific, and included mass murder, torture, mistreatment of prisoners of war, and enforced prostitution. Beginning in 1946, the Dutch convened military tribunals in various locations in the East Indies to hear the evidence of these atrocities, and imposed sentences ranging from months and years to death; some 25 per cent of those convicted were executed for their crimes. The difficulty arising from gathering evidence and conducting the trials was exacerbated by the ongoing guerrilla war between Dutch authorities and Indonesian revolutionaries; in fact the trials ended abruptly in 1949 when 300 years of Dutch colonial rule ended and Indonesia gained its independence.



Until Fred began examining and analysing the records of trials from these cases, no English language scholar had published a comprehensive study of these war crimes' trials. While the author looks at the war crimes' prosecutions of the Japanese in detail, this book also breaks new ground in exploring the prosecutions of Dutch citizens alleged to have collaborated with their Japanese occupiers.

A far cry from Oliver and the Interregnum! But if you are interested, the book is available on Amazon.

Fred has already committed to sponsor the 2018 essay prize, for which we are very grateful. If anyone reading this knows a 16 to 18-year-old who might be interested in submitting an essay this year, please do get in touch with me. The essay title hasn't been decided yet - any suggestions welcome too!

*Serrie Meakins*

## Fire of London £2 Coin

There were a number of events and exhibitions to mark the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016 of The Great Fire of London. This coin was issued to mark that anniversary. Aaron West, a member of The Royal Mint's team of expert designers, took the perspective of one of the Londoners seeking sanctuary on the Thames to capture the devastating scenes of the time. The obverse features the fifth portrait of Her Majesty the Queen by Jody Clark.

A commemorative £2 silver coin was also issued to mark the occasion.



# The Protector's Pen

## National Army Museum

'All history is contemporary history' it has been said, and the same holds true of museums. The National Army Museum in Chelsea has recently reopened after a complete remodelling and it very much reflects the internet generation. Out has gone the 'authoritative' chronological story (more or less) and in has come a thematic arrangement which asks the visitor to form and record their own opinions, with the focus very much on present-day concerns, though through the lens of the experience of the past.



There are four galleries - *The Soldier*, *The Army*, *Battle and Society* and *the Army*. Only the second retains a clear chronological structure, acknowledging the New Model Army as the start of the regular army, and with the Walker portrait of Oliver dominating the entrance! It also emphasises the political role of the Army in the Interregnum, though members may bristle a bit at statements such as 'Cromwell ruled as a military dictator' and 'the massacre of Irish civilians at Drogheda'... The civil war items are on display in this gallery and in the introduction to the *Battle* gallery, although there is little about the actual conduct of the war.

*Battle* focuses on a number of key conflicts rather than attempting to cover everything, which could be confusing for those without a working knowledge of British military history. Its highlight is probably the display of Siborne's model of the Battle of Waterloo, a huge piece whose size (and subdued lighting) means that examination in detail needs to be done via the touch-screens: a trifle disappointing but a practical necessity. Touch-screens are very much the order of the day as the museum encourages visitors to explore and participate - you can try your hands at learning the basic military drumbeats or commanding a battlegroup in 'Somewherestar'.

In the other galleries the tendency is to mix material from different periods to bring out the similarities in the soldier's experiences over the years, as well as the contrasts, and this it does to good effect in many cases. There is a lot of material and the layout is very 'busy' with a multitude of exhibits competing for attention, which can either excite or overwhelm, depending on the visitor. This was especially the case in the *Society* gallery which, inevitably, was most focused on recent times and culture. The film *Cromwell*, as reviewed in the previous issue of *The Protector's Pen*, features among many other films dealing with war, and there was a good deal else which led me down memory lane...

There is also a temporary exhibition space; I caught the end of the extended run of the 'Warpaint' show of military artists which was excellent, but will have ended by the time you read this. Its temporary nature means that there is a more traditional feel to this area, with none of the computer content found elsewhere, for good or ill. It would be worth checking the website to see what is on before a planned visit.

The 'Discover More' area actually contains.... Books! As well as the inevitable computer terminals. The library was generalist rather than specialist, but there is plenty to browse, though again the civil war did not appear to be very strongly represented. There is also a cafe (alas, time did not permit me to review this thoroughly) and a gift shop; and as you leave you can see how you and your fellow visitors responded to such questions as 'Is the Army relevant to you?' and 'Can torture be justified?' which again reflect modern preoccupations, or rather those at the time the redesign took place: no mention though of renewed fears of Russia!

Overall the museum has much to appeal, especially to the younger visitor, but at times may frustrate the traditionalist military historian. In its favour, it is free and is right next to the Royal Hospital (the home of the iconic Chelsea Pensioners - retired soldiers of the British Army).

Richard Warren

### Further information

Open Daily: 10am to 5.30pm

Open until 8pm 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month

020 7730 0717

[info@nam.ac.uk](mailto:info@nam.ac.uk)

<https://www.nam.ac.uk/>

[https://twitter.com/NAM\\_London](https://twitter.com/NAM_London)

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

<https://www.youtube.com/user/NationalArmyMuseumUK>

[https://www.instagram.com/nam\\_london/](https://www.instagram.com/nam_london/)

NATIONAL  
ARMY  
MUSEUM

National Army Museum  
Royal Hospital Road  
Chelsea  
London SW3 4HT



## Cromwell and the Quakers

Originating from the ministry of George Fox, the Quakers grew rapidly as a religious sect in the 1650s, with tens of thousands of followers by the decade's end. Emphasizing that the Inner Light of Christ in all believers was a better spiritual guide than the clergy, or even scripture, Fox's followers called themselves 'Children of the Light' and 'Friends of the Truth', later becoming 'the Religious Society of Friends'. It was Fox's enemies, mocking his admonition to magistrates to 'tremble' at the name of God, who first dubbed his followers 'Quakers'.

Cromwell's feelings towards the Quakers were mixed. We know that he was on friendly terms with the Quaker leader Fox and reportedly sympathized with his spiritual beliefs, even if he did not share them. When Fox was arrested and taken to London in early 1654, Cromwell interviewed him personally before setting him at liberty. According to Fox, when their meeting concluded, Cromwell 'with tears in his eyes' implored him to visit again, saying 'if thou and I were but an hour of a day together, we should be nearer one to the other'. It seems Fox subsequently visited Cromwell on a number of occasions to petition the Protector about the sufferings of the Friends at the hands of the civil authorities, with their last meeting occurring in August 1658 when, according to Fox, the visibly-ill Cromwell already 'looked a dead man'.

Yet, despite Cromwell's sympathetic treatment of Fox, the Quakers tested the limits of the religious toleration or 'liberty of conscience' granted under his regime. As Cromwell put it in his closing speech to the First Protectorate Parliament in 1655, liberty of conscience did not extend to 'profane persons, blasphemers' and 'contentious railers... who seek by evil words to corrupt good manners'; he could not abide those who 'pretend conscience' yet act 'disorderly and not according, but contrary, to the

Gospel'; such persons deserved 'punishment from the civil magistrate... their sins being open'.

It was the 'disorderly' nature of the Quakers' activities, not their spiritual beliefs, which worried Cromwell. For instance, some early Quakers were reported to have disrupted church services and railed against ministers as they attempted to preach to their congregations. There was also much alarm concerning the Quakers' disregard for social hierarchies - including their notorious refusal to doff their hats to their superiors. Yet, Cromwell was apparently not so concerned about this latter point: as Fox gleefully notes, Cromwell made no objection to the Quaker wearing his hat in the Protector's presence!

The most obvious example of the limits of Cromwellian toleration towards the Quakers, however, came in October 1656 when James Nayler was arrested for riding into Bristol in apparent imitation of Christ's entry into Jerusalem. So serious was Nayler's crime that he was brought before parliament for trial, with some Presbyterian MPs claiming that the Quaker merited nothing less than the Old Testament punishment of stoning to death. Ultimately, parliament judged Nayler guilty of blasphemy but decided upon a 'lesser' punishment: he was to be branded, placed in the pillory, whipped through the streets of London and Bristol, before finally being sent to prison and put to hard labour.

Cromwell wrote to the Commons on 25 December 1656 to make clear his unease about Nayler's punishment. Yet he did not sympathize with the Quaker: he did 'abhor the giving or occasioning the least countenance to persons of such opinions and practices'. Indeed, had Cromwell wanted to save Nayler from his fate he would surely have intervened sooner - his letter came after the initial stages of the punishment had already been inflicted. In

reality, Cromwell feared that Nayler's case could become a precedent for the Presbyterian-dominated Commons to act as judge and jury against members of other religious sects. In many ways, it was this fear that drove Cromwell to support the provision for a second parliamentary chamber or 'Other House' in the Humble Petition and Advice of 1657. As he famously told a meeting of army officers in February 1657, he believed that without such a legislative and judicial balance over the Commons 'the Case of James Nayler might happen to be your own case'.

*Jonathan Fitzgibbons*

### Cromwell joke leads to prison sentence

Cromwell evokes strong passions but they seldom lead to prison, although maybe they did more often in his lifetime. The *Scottish Daily Record* (14.10.17) reported how an Edinburgh man was outraged by a flippant comment made by South East Cambridgeshire MP Lucy Fraser, about a solution to the West Lothian Question - whether MPs from outside England should vote on English matters. She suggested that the answer was 'Oliver Cromwell' as he defeated the Scots which led to the Union under the Protectorate.

Unfortunately the man left 'vile, vulgar and abusive' comments on the MP's voicemail, which led to a six-month jail sentence. Whilst clearly completely unacceptable it is extraordinary that over 350 years on emotions can run so high.



Edinburgh Sheriff Court

# The Protector's Pen

## Commandery revisited

On Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Paul Robbins and I were delighted to represent The Cromwell Association at the launch of the revamped Commandery in Worcester.

Walking through the wrought iron gateway along the cobbled street, we stepped back into the 17<sup>th</sup> century and were greeted by The Sealed Knot, civil war soldiers dressed in period costume, complete with swords. There were also musicians entertaining their guests with period music and a living history camp.

The atmosphere was enlightening and I was fascinated to discover more about The Commandery - the Royalist Headquarters - and how the civil war affected Worcestershire.



We were pleased to meet fellow Cromwell Association members including Howard Robinson, 9<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Oliver Cromwell (pictured above with Paul Robbins), and Grant Simmonds. As we entered the Great Hall there was a reception with further living history characters bringing the past to life. A formal ceremony was performed by the Mayor (and member of the Battle of Worcester society), Steve Mackay. The gathering was also addressed by actor Rob Leatham, playing the part of John Adams, the second president of the USA.

Displays of period armour could be seen around the Great Hall with information boards. Together with these displays, living history and my imagination, I could hear the echoes of the past and picture those who had walked around this building some 350 years ago.

After croissants and coffee we were invited to join a guided tour of the site. It is a beautiful Grade 1 listed building with over 800 years of history. As we walked through to the first room we could see a timeline including portraits and information on the Tudors and Stuarts. The absence of a portrait of Cromwell was justified by his not being royalty!



Our guide explained that William, 2<sup>nd</sup> Duke of Hamilton, who was Charles II's general, had been gravely wounded at the Battle of Worcester and brought back to this room where he died. We then walked through the walled garden with herbs and plants which reflected those grown during this period.

As we went upstairs, we were asked 'Who would you trust - family, army, media, public, monarchy, parliament'... perhaps just as relevant today as it was then! Further on, there was an hour-by-hour timeline of the Battle of Worcester and a display of silver coins that were found buried beneath the floor of a cottage. The hoard contained a 1644 half-crown marked W, showing that it had been struck at the emergency mint in Worcester, when Charles I urgently needed to pay his supporters.

Further displays and interactives enabled us to find out more about the civil war, with 17<sup>th</sup> century pistols, musket balls and swords on show; and to compensate for no painting, there was a death mask of Oliver Cromwell instead.

Overall, there is much to see and a wealth of information to absorb. The Commandery is keen to explain how they aim to develop their displays and expand in the near future. Funding from Worcester City Council and The Heritage Lottery Fund and other associations has helped pay for this much needed facelift of The Commandery (including good disabled access). It was a fantastic day with lots of opportunities to experience some of the atmosphere of the 17<sup>th</sup> century through living history demonstrations and to discover more about the civil war. For £5.95 (£4.95 concessions) - prices at time of visit - it is well worth exploring.

*Kirsty McQuillan*

# The Protector's Pen

## Beverley Gate, Hull

Two years ago *The Protector's Pen* reported on proposals to preserve the remains of the Beverley Gate in Kingston-upon-Hull. The Gate is significant as it's where Charles I was refused entry to the city in the build-up to the start of the civil war.



The surviving structure now has Scheduled Ancient Monument status and the works were carried out in time to be considered part of Hull's year as City of Culture. Surrounded by a glass half-height screen, you can look down on the foundations of the Gate from all four sides. Disappointingly there is little interpretation other than a poem by Shane Rhodes etched into the glass, which for some people may not really be enough to explain the importance of the site.

Crown v Knight (Beverley Gate, Hull, 1642):

The King, Sir John and stalemate  
Shut Beverley Gate, the drawbridge raised  
A stand-off, halt, retreat, advance  
Roll the dice, ignite history's dance.  
Key point, a turning, power shift.  
Chess move, bar raised, a catalyst.  
At loggerheads, a deadlock, a comedown  
A verbal joust, a fallen crown.  
A sliding scale, a changing tide  
Tipping point, about face, King denied.  
Game of chance, a long wait,  
A new order, a King's fate.

Nearby, though easily missed, in the Queen's Gardens, the city has a new and rather wonderful sculpture, known locally as 'the cheese-grater', which was also commissioned as part of the year of the City of Culture. Initially titled *Shadow Gate*, it was proposed that it should stand next to Beverley Gate but after some discussion it was decided to move it elsewhere. Standing 10m high it is a white perforated metal structure which has almost an Islamic feel to its form and decoration. That in itself

is beautiful, but the properly titled *Hull Solar Gate* does more. As well as the consistent pattern of perforations, there are a number of other holes cut into it which at first glance seem random; they are anything but. Each of the apertures is cut so that they align with the sun at a specific date and time to cast light onto one of about twenty stainless steel discs set into the paving, each commemorating a



particular person or event connected with the history of the city, including Hotham's refusal to allow the king into Hull on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1642.

It is an extremely elegant way of marking a number of different things and there is tremendous local pride in both what it marks and how it does it.

Hats off to Hull.

*John Goldsmith*

## In the Press

### Skeleton 22

#### 17<sup>th</sup> Century Scottish Soldier

Digital reconstruction technology has revealed the face of a 17<sup>th</sup> century Scottish prisoner of war, who died around the age of 21 after being captured by Oliver Cromwell's troops in the wake of his victory over Scottish forces at the Battle of Dunbar.



*i Paper* : Thursday 14 December 2017

# The Protector's Pen

## Study Day 2017: Cromwell and Europe

Held on Saturday 7th October at City Temple on Holborn Viaduct in London.



The theme of Cromwell and Europe seemed to be very timely as Brexit dominates the news pages, and looks likely to do so for some time to come. For many people the suggestion that Cromwell could have been anything other than an instinctive Brexiteer is perhaps challenging, but to try and pose questions as to how Cromwell would have responded to any modern issues is fundamentally flawed and pointless. That does not mean that it is pointless to examine Cromwell's attitude to Europe, and that is precisely what we did.

Papers included an introduction to the Thirty Years War, an event which was well reported in this country at the time, and an overall look at Cromwell's attitudes to Europe and how he engaged with it (despite the fact that he never actually set foot on mainland Europe) which provided very useful context. Detailed studies of three different aspects followed with contributions on the Piedmont, Switzerland and the Netherlands.

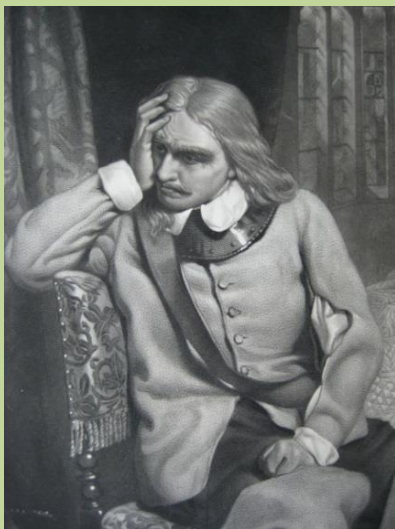


Many thanks to all our speakers. Some of the papers will be published in *Cromwelliana* 2018.

On a less positive note it was disappointing that the event was not as well attended as some of our recent Study Days. Various reasons have been suggested as to why this may have been the case: choice of topic, choice of venue/location, cost, time of year, all or some of which may have contributed to the low turn out. Council will bear these in mind when planning future events.

## Study Day 2018: Oliver Cromwell - why should we care?

To be held on Saturday 2nd June at the Huntingdon Library, Princes Street, Huntingdon.



Perhaps as members of the Association we all take it for granted that we should care, but for new members, prospective members, and those who are mildly curious about Cromwell, surely this is a good question to ask. The event is a sort of back to basics study day with four expert speakers addressing the question by looking at different aspects of Cromwell's career.



Andrew Barclay will look at Cromwell in the 1630s and evaluate some new evidence; John Sutton will consider his early military career, and Jon Fitzgibbons and David Smith will cover the regicide, the republic and the protectorate. All in one intensive morning!

This will be followed by a panel discussion in the afternoon led by James Blatch, an experienced former BBC journalist, who will tease out from the speakers the key reasons why they feel we should care, followed by questions from the floor. This structure is a departure from recent study days and we hope it will prove rewarding.

The day is being run in Huntingdon in conjunction with the Friends of the Cromwell Museum, and all profits from the day will go towards their support of the Cromwell Museum.

The day is modestly priced at £25 for members of the Association and full details together with a booking form are included with this mailing, or places can be booked on-line via our website. Places are limited so early booking is advised. There will also be an opportunity to visit the Museum at the end of the day.

Huntingdon Library, Princes Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3PA



0345 045 5225



[www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/huntingdon-library-and-archives/](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/huntingdon-library-and-archives/)

## Oliver Cromwell in Japan

People in the United Kingdom may be surprised to know that Oliver Cromwell is well known by many people in Japan. The Japanese value history since either national or world history is part of the high school curriculum. Those who opt for world history learn the history of the UK, and Oliver Cromwell's name is prominent. Japan has a few passionate Anglophiles. Their image of the UK is based on a traditional one, nostalgic for the Victorian era. It is an illusion which does not reflect modern, diverse British society.

Except during the tragic era of World War II, Japan has always had great respect for the UK since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1858. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Japan was the first non-Caucasian nation to succeed in modernisation, achieved by inviting brilliant engineers, industrialists, bankers and scholars from the UK, at that time the centre of the world for manufacturing, to share their expertise. The British people may not recall but the UK was Japan's largest friendly nation from 1902 to 1923 following the signing of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

In particular, the Japanese imperial family is very close to the British royal family. Emperor Hirohito (1901-1989) as crown prince had visited the UK in 1921 for an opportunity to establish friendship with the young princes (future Edward VIII and future George VI), and learned about constitutional monarchy from George V. In 1881 when the future George V visited Japan as a young naval officer, he had a tattoo of a red and blue dragon drawn on his arm in Yokohama and showed it to Emperor Meiji (the grandfather of the Emperor Hirohito). Both the Emperor and the Empress were astonished to see it because the tattoo was notorious and seen only among gangsters or criminals in Japan in those days.

Today the role of Emperor has mixed support, despite calls for its abolition in the post-war period. The current crown prince and princess have studied at Oxford University, and are expected to ascend the throne in 2019 following a decision to abdicate by the reigning Emperor and Empress. Other members of the Japanese imperial family have also studied at various colleges in the UK.

Against this backdrop approximately 240,000 people from Japan visit the UK annually for tourism or business. Japanese visitors to London have a fair knowledge of British history obtained from guide books and many would be inquisitive about Cromwell when visiting Westminster.

Until recently political mass communication and speech in Japan inclined to the left as the majority of teachers at public schools were socialist. Germany, Korea, Vietnam and China were divided after World War II. Although avoidable, it is said that Japan was actually divided within civil society into communists and social-democrats. Over 760,000 Japanese people were detained

in Siberia by the Soviet Union after World War II. On returning to Japan, they continued to advocate socialism through mass communication and education under the influence of the Soviet Communist Party. Therefore, Oliver Cromwell was one among many historical figures who received considerable attention.

Emperor Sushun was the 32<sup>nd</sup> emperor of Japan until his assassination by the order of his uncle, in 592. From the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the role of Emperor was not significant because of the warlords (Shogun) and their Samurai warriors. However, no emperor has ever been executed. The current 125<sup>th</sup> reigning emperor is part of an unbroken line of emperors in the same dynasty. The execution of Charles I by Oliver Cromwell is therefore a shocking historical event for the Japanese people.

The Japanese people empathise with Oliver Cromwell for his characteristics as a superior soldier, for his simplicity, frugality and self-discipline, something in common with the Japanese Bushido or the way of the Samurai. Moreover, Oliver Cromwell opened the way to modern constitutional monarchy and republicanism. Therefore, he was highly regarded in Japan as the country indirectly benefitted from his action. Many researchers in Japan study revolutions in the UK, including the Puritan Revolution and Oliver Cromwell.

The first direct connection between Japan and the UK was a personal letter of James I delivered to Tokugawa Ieyasu in 1613. A British trading house was established in Hirado, Nagasaki, but was closed in 1623 following the Amboyna Massacre. It is assumed that Oliver Cromwell may have had some faint awareness of Japan's existence.

Because Oliver Cromwell was introduced and referred to in the Japanese educational community, he is popular among the Japanese business people. 'Not only strike while the iron is hot, but make it hot by striking!' is a quotation attributed to Oliver Cromwell and is a well-known proverb in Japan particularly among business people. In the human resource education, it means that people should be trained while they are young, yet because present-day Japanese young people are earnest, but have no mental toughness, ambition or fighting spirit, it is feared that the proverb may be forgotten and disappear soon in Japan.

The Sherlock Holmes Society and the Shakespeare Society in Japan have memberships larger than those in the United Kingdom. As a Japanese member of the Cromwell Association, it is hoped that the Association flourishes and that Oliver Cromwell is not forgotten or that his name disappears in Japan.

*A J Kawasaki*



## Some questions to our vice president ... Pat Barnes

Pat Barnes is a very familiar face to many Association members but not everybody may be aware of how much she has done for the organisation over the years. Pat was asked to give a little bit of background information about herself and then to consider some questions.

I was born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, and most of my life has been spent in this area. I was educated at Tapton House Grammar School, once the home of railway pioneer George Stephenson. I spent many years at evening college obtaining academic and secretarial qualifications. My career has always been in administration and secretarial posts (except for one blissful summer at Butlin's in Filey working in the riding stables). I worked in various public and private companies and finally as secretary to the County Librarian of Derbyshire.

**When did you first become aware of the Association and how did you become involved?**

I became a member in 1976 having heard an interview with a member on local radio. The first event I attended was the unveiling of a plaque on Henry Ireton's house at Attenborough in Nottinghamshire. In 1982, because I lived close by, I organised the AGM at Bolsover, and laid on a small buffet and asked for donations. Instead of asking the treasurer for some expenses, I actually sent him a cheque. Soon after I was asked to join the Council!

**I have the impression that the Association was less formally structured thirty or so years ago? Is that the case, and if so has it changed for the better?**

The Association was much simpler in its organisation; Council meetings had been very short, newsletters were brief and *Cromwelliana* was quite thin. Having taken a day off work and travelled to London for my first meeting, it was probably the longest meeting they had held to date! I



had no intention of it closing before my long list of questions and suggestions had been discussed. These days everyone on Council contributes, which wasn't the case then.

**You joined the Council in the early 1980s. Who were the characters who stand out in your memory from those days?**

Three people stand out in particular. Major Roy Battock, a lovely elderly gentleman and a London tour guide who took us round the Houses of Parliament and Westminster Abbey. Before I became secretary Roy used to record the minutes in longhand. Barry Denton was for many years the Press Liaison Officer of the Association. Despite being severely disabled he was very active and wrote a lot on the civil war armies; he also had a terrific sense of humour. Donald Good, chairman of the erstwhile Yorkshire Group also worked very hard for the 'good old cause', organising events on Cromwell and the civil war in Yorkshire.

**The previous secretary, Hilary Platt, had been in post for 25 years when you took over in 1984. Was she a hard act to follow?**

It was daunting as Hilary had been in post for so long and I was very grateful for her help when I started. I was actually joint-secretary with Ted Goodman for three years until 1987 when I took on the whole role. The work grew and I did turn it into a much bigger task as I enjoyed corresponding with members. Apart from the treasurer/membership aspect, everything else fell to the secretary. Peter Gaunt becoming chairman in 1991 was one of the best things that happened to the Association. He helped enormously by taking some of the load from me. A hands-on chairman was real progress.

**You were secretary for well over ten years; was all your communication in hard copy rather than by email?**

I was secretary until 1997. Email? It hadn't been invented then or if it had, I missed it. I used to use an electric typewriter at work and then my word processor at home (which did so much work it died in service of the Lord Protector). It was hard work and very time consuming but I enjoyed it. After I finished as secretary, work was shared by several Council members and I took on membership for a while.

**Over the last twenty years, since you became a vice president in 1997, the Association has developed significantly. What do you value most, and what, if anything, do you feel has been lost?**

I enjoyed my time on Council, continuing to serve for several more years and I still, as a vice president, have the opportunity to contribute. The day schools continued to expand in content, always something to learn, and an opportunity for members to meet. I feel that the AGM is particularly important as it gives all members the chance to contribute to the Association's work.

(cont'd)

# The Protector's Pen

**What do you think the Association should be concentrating on over the next ten years?**

There can never be too much publicity to create awareness of the Association's existence and this has to be ongoing. Continuing to try and develop our schools work is also very important and lobbying to ensure that 17<sup>th</sup> century history has a place in the curriculum.

I wonder if the occasional residential weekend might be worth considering, or combine it with an AGM, as has been done in the past. For several years Stephen Roberts and John Sutton organised residential courses at the Wedgwood Memorial College. They were always well attended and included field trips, discussions and talks, as well as trying 17<sup>th</sup> century dance. One year included the film *The Draughtsman's Contract* which resulted in a lively discussion as to what it was all about. I'm still not sure!

## Cromwell was here (allegedly)

On a recent break in Dorset we were walking through the village of Corfe when we came across the following poster advertising the Corfe Model Village.



Included in the attractions were 'sentry boxes with life-size soldiers from the civil war' and a 'village punishment area'... presumably for the alleged dastardly deeds of Cromwell and his troops!

## English Civil War - Matrix Games

Matrix Games and Ageod have collaborated with the Sealed Knot Society - the largest re-enactment society in Europe - in support of this English Civil War game (released May 2017). The King or Parliament? Choose your side and take command of the Cavaliers' armies or the Roundheads and the Covenanters. From Scotland to Dover, from Wales to Kent, the counties raise their regiments to defend the King or Parliament. To remain neutral is not a choice. Manage your resources, your loyalty, your best leaders, choose your strategy and take control of key cities. Become familiar with legendary places like Bristol, York, Arundel, Nantwich, Reading, Oxford. Put them under siege or defend them sending a relief army or just find the enemy at the gates of York...



<http://www.matrixgames.com/products/683/details/English.Civil.War>



## Oliver Cromwell: Full steam ahead

The steam locomotive, 70013 Oliver Cromwell, returned to service in June 2017.

The British Railways Standard Class 7 (Britannia class) loco had been out of service while awaiting delivery of new superheater elements which have been installed at the GCR's Loughborough Locomotive Works. A member of a class of 55, 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* was built at Crewe and completed on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1951 and is famous for working part of the Fifteen Guinea Special (1T57), the final steam rail tour on British Railways in 1968 before the introduction of a steam ban.



Published June 7, 2017 by Andrew Morley from:

[http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/2017/06/70013-oliver-cromwell-due-to-return-10<sup>th</sup>11th-june/](http://www.gcrailway.co.uk/2017/06/70013-oliver-cromwell-due-to-return-10th11th-june/)

*Oliver Cromwell* in full steam can be seen at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XKxYGHTRpW>

## Cromwell Association News

### Updating our website



At the beginning of December the revised website went live. If you haven't already seen it then do have a look at [www.olivercromwell.org](http://www.olivercromwell.org) The look and style of the site is very different from the previous version, but a great deal of the content has been transferred over.

The origins of the site are in the work to mark the quatercentenary of Cromwell in 1999. A joint site for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary was created with the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon; it was the first time that the Association had a presence on the internet. The site went live in 1998 and fulfilled its purpose very well. Once the anniversary was over it was rejigged and continued to function as a joint site for a number of years with the Association taking full responsibility for it in 2014. Various changes were made but the basic structure stayed the same.

transactions. For good or ill the web is a part of everyday life for an increasing number of people.

The new site has been designed so that it can be viewed easily not only on PCs but also on mobile devices and tablets. You can, memory of your device permitting, now look at back copies of *Cromwelliana* online, as well as renew your membership or look at a range of articles about Cromwell and his significance.

For the first time audio files, previously only available to schools members, are accessible to all; so if you want to listen to some of the debates, at times quite lively, that our Teachers Days have generated you can catch up with them here.

The Members' area will give you access to the most recent two volumes of *Cromwelliana* and *Protector's Pen* as well as our Council minutes. Entering the Members' area is easier than ever, the only requirement being to key in the password on your annual membership card.

We hope that the new site will help us to generate more interest and more members. If you have the opportunity, please spread the word about our new site and encourage people to use it.

Many people have helped to make this new site a possibility, but special thanks must go to the person who does the technical stuff, Michael Carrigan. We are very grateful.

And all this has been possible without raising subscriptions for over 10 years (except for overseas members where the costs of mailing have shot up). The Association is run on a shoestring with many services given at a deep discount or even without charge. However, there are cost pressures that we cannot escape, including those of printing and mailing.

Furthermore, the Trustees decided, for the time being, to waive membership fees for schools (worth some £700 in 2017) in order to encourage their greater participation.

The consequence is that over the last 10 years the cost of members' services (publications, website, Cromwell Day, administration, etc.) has risen faster than membership income (subscriptions, donations, Gift Aid refunds). In 2017, for the first time, costs exceeded income. It was only thanks to the profit on Teachers' Day and to not spending on any major project, that an overall surplus was achieved.

It follows that in future we will be less able to devote resources to many excellent projects unless we take steps to address this unfavourable trend.

The Trustees do not wish to raise subscriptions if it can be avoided, nor do they wish to reduce the frequency or size of the publications. Therefore we ask our members to help in any way they can through:

- attracting new members,
- making donations, however small
- remembering the Association in their will,
- completing the Gift Aid refund forms if they are eligible and have not already done so,
- directly supporting revenue raising activities such as selling the Association's merchandise.

(cont'd)



Over the last 20 years the web has had an enormous effect on how information is communicated, how people find out about anything, as well as transforming a vast range of commercial and social

### Treasurer's tidings



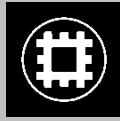
The Association's finances are currently healthy and in the last few years the Trustees have been able to promote various projects in pursuit of the Association's objectives, such as: new monuments and plaques, a donation to the Cromwell Museum, support to the new edition of Cromwell's letters and speeches, a new website and so on.



# The Protector's Pen

## Sites and monuments update

A monument has stood on the battlefield of Marston Moor since 1940, making it one of the Cromwell



Association's oldest historical markers. This is perhaps unsurprising: the battle, which took place on 2 July 1644, was one of the most pivotal encounters of the Civil Wars. The royalist defeat proved that Prince Rupert was fallible and lost the king control of the north of England. During the battle, Cromwell was wounded in the neck and had to leave the field for a while, but he returned to lead his Ironsides in playing a decisive role in the parliamentary victory.

Access to the monument is easy: it is situated on the road from Long Marston to Tockwith and in 1988 the Association decided to add to the visitor experience by adding an information board. The board provides the visitor with details on the background to the battle, how the armies lined up on the day and the events of the battle as it unfolded.

Thirty years have since passed and a combination of time and the ever-

predictable Yorkshire weather has left the information board in a rather sorry state. Therefore, in 2015, the Association took the decision to investigate installing a new, more robust board. A partnership with the Battlefields Trust was established, with the cost of the new board to be shared equally between the Trust and the Association. Permission for the upgrade was sought and granted by Long Marston Parish Council (who own the land on which the monument/board is sited).

The board will be produced by well-established sign company Signarama and care has been taken to select materials that will better withstand the northern climate. The Battlefields Trust's Simon Marsh has overseen the design for the new board. The text remains much the same but colour and new illustrations have been added to make the board more attractive to the visitor. We are particularly grateful to Osprey Publishing for allowing the Association and the Trust to use Graham Turner's illustrations on the board. Many members of the Association will be familiar with the work of Graham Turner, who is

renowned for his historical military art and who has provided the illustrations for over 50 Osprey titles. Another addition to the board is a QR code which can be scanned on a mobile phone and will open the Cromwell Association's new website. It is hoped that this will raise awareness of the Association to a wider audience and perhaps some visitors might even sign up!

The sign is currently with the printers and will be unveiled on a date yet to be confirmed. Details of the unveiling ceremony will be advertised to the Association as soon as these are established. Watch this space. Special thanks must go to Louise Whittaker, (until recently Yorkshire Region Chair of the Battlefields Trust) who has co-ordinated the project, for all her hard work.

## Reminder - have you received our emails?



Please remember to send your address and contact details to: [membership@olivercromwell.org](mailto:membership@olivercromwell.org)

## John Hampden

### Honouring a great man of the Chilterns

In 2015 the Chiltern Society took over responsibility from Bucks County Council for the Ship Money Monument in Honor End lane on the edge of Prestwood. The monument was erected in 1863 on the ground where the warrant for ship money was levied, and commemorates the stand taken by local landowner and MP, John Hampden (1595-1643), in refusing to pay the tax to Charles I. The memorial commemorates not only



Hampden the man, but also his greatest achievement affecting the course of British history. His direct challenging of the prerogative rights of the monarchy eventually led to the constitutional model we enjoy today.

The monument has been cleared, tidied and made more accessible by the Society and information on John Hampden is now available at the site.

*Extract from Chiltern Society Magazine : Autumn 2017*



John Hampden – Robert Walker portrait (courtesy of John Hampden Society)

## After a long day in Parliament...

Aldi has once again proven that you can get premium-quality food at seriously affordable prices. Its *Oliver Cromwell* London Dry Gin received a gold medal at the International Wine and Spirits Competition last summer, beating premium gins that are as much as four times the price for the honour.



*i-Paper 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017*

## The Late Kings' Goods: two exhibitions in London



At the moment there are two exhibitions in London which reveal a great deal about the style of the courts of Charles I and Charles II, whose reigns were separated by the Commonwealth and Protectorate.

- Charles I: King and Collector at the Royal Academy of Arts until 15 April, and
- Charles II: Art and Power at the Queen's Gallery until 13 May

They are both full of wonderful material and demonstrate how for both father and son the acquisition of fine art was more than an aesthetic pursuit.

Charles I's collection was acquired from all over Europe, and as with Charles II's attempts to reconstitute it, it was assembled to demonstrate the power of the monarchy, both to the court at home and to other heads of state. On the death of his brother Prince Henry, Charles I inherited his art collection and never stopped adding to it. He had been bowled over by the riches of the Spanish court in his failed mission in 1623 and bought significant works, both in quantity and quality, as a consequence. Rubens, Van Dyke and other artists were commissioned directly and what we now know as 'old masters' were purchased through dealers. It became the greatest art collection of the age. It is this collection which the Royal Academy celebrates, and the exhibition ranges from classical sculptures to Baroque paintings, from exquisite miniatures to monumental tapestries. The cost of acquiring the collection was enormous. At the same time as he was spending on paintings, Charles I was asking parliament for money to pay for his misguided siege of the Ile de Re.

The story that has clung to the Royal Collection, and one which neither exhibition does anything to correct, is that Cromwell was responsible for the 'sale of the late King's goods', motivated by financial necessity tinged with religious fervour. As ever this is an inaccurate and lazy elision of the Commonwealth, Protectorate and Cromwell. Given the parlous state of the nation's finances in 1649 it was inevitable that parliament would try and raise hard cash where it could, including by the sale of the king's collection. As the nation no longer had a monarch there was no need to reflect the glory that the monarchy represented, and so it was appraised and sold.

Despite critics comments such as 'the royal art hoard that Cromwell could not destroy' (The Times 18.11.17), the creation of the Protectorate in December 1653 led to the withdrawal of large quantities of goods from sale, and the ending of all such sales in the following month. Perhaps the headlines should read 'the royal collection that Cromwell saved for the nation'. The Protectorate realised that even without a crowned head the new regime needed to have furnishings and decoration for the two former royal palaces used by Cromwell, and to have settings appropriate for a head of state.

Was this hypocrisy or practical politics? What is worth noting is that the amount parliament allowed the protectoral household was a fraction of the expenditure of the royal household in the 1630s.

The exhibition at the Queen's Gallery shows how Charles II tried to reassemble his father's collection, and how he attempted to create lavish interiors to match those of the French court. It has some wonderful material and some surprises, not least the connection between the Exeter Salt and a Protectoral mission to Russia, and a larger than life portrait of James II's 'necessary' woman.

Until the middle of April it is possible to see both exhibitions on the same day, and the Royal Academy are offering a joint ticket to both for £29 with coffee and cake as part of the package.

*John Goldsmith*

### Further information - Royal Academy

Open Daily: 10am to 6pm (10pm Fridays)



<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/exhibition/charles-i-king-and-collector>

Royal Academy of Arts  
Burlington House,  
Piccadilly  
London W1J 0BD

### Further information - Queen's Gallery

Open Daily: 10am to 5.30pm  
(see web for days when closed)



<https://www.royalcollection.org.uk/whatson/event/813034/Charles-II:-Art-&Power>

Queen's Gallery,  
Buckingham Palace Road,  
Westminster,  
SW1A 1AA

# The Protector's Pen

## Book Review: This Deceitful Light

by Jemahl Evans

*This Deceitful Light* is the sequel to *The Last Roundhead*, and continues the story of the delightful buccaneer, Blandford Candy. It is supposedly his 'autobiography', written in his dotage in the early years of the 18<sup>th</sup> century when, as the 'Last Roundhead', he is reminiscing on his amazing career during the civil war spent dodging bullets, fighting duels, chasing women and withstanding the increasing puritanical zeal of the time. Like all the best heroes, Candy finds himself at the heart of many of the major events of the period, meeting Cromwell and fighting against Rupert at Marston Moor.

This is a real page-turner; the pace of the story is fast and furious, the characters well rounded and believable (even lovable) and the historical detail is impressive. I particularly liked the battle sequences which were gory and brutal but very well drawn. The depth of research in Evans first novel met with generous approval from other historical novelists; he has maintained his high standards here. I was especially impressed by his knowledge of 17<sup>th</sup> century cursing! Towards the end of the novel, Candy commits to a duel with his great enemy, Sir John Hurry. Rejecting the chance to recant his insults to Hurry, he repeats and builds on them in a wonderfully colourful display of 17<sup>th</sup> century invective. In fact, throughout the book, the language fizzles with ribaldry and bawdiness, which makes for a very entertaining read.

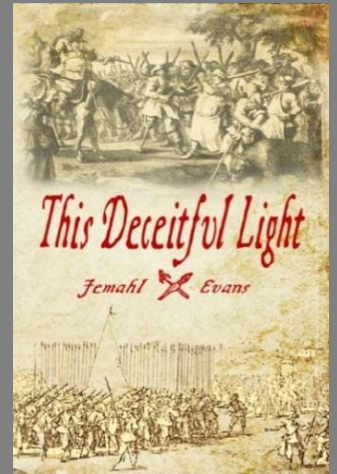
Occasionally, Evans is a little heavy-handed in his efforts to show off his knowledge. A friend has Leveller tendencies; Candy has a black servant; his sister accompanies Henrietta Maria to France (the family loyalties are divided) and he meets or mentions so many 'celebrities': Moll Cutpurse, Margaret Cavendish, both Fairfax's, Manchester, Henry Jermyn, Godfrey Kneller. However, maybe this is churlish of me. I have read so many novels from this period that were riddled with mistakes that it was a pleasure to read such an erudite and carefully researched piece. Indeed, there are copious footnotes throughout the book and at the end for readers who wish to know more.

The main plot concerns an old-fashioned murder mystery, but this is overlaid with ripples of family disloyalty and the treacherous undercurrent of divided loyalties endemic in the civil war period. Evans is excellent at portraying the men in his story, especially his flawed, fallible but very engaging hero, Candy. His portrayal of Cromwell is much better than the caricature that most novelists of the period achieve too. However, his women characters are pretty woeful, tending to conform to stereotype - a bossy sister, a treacherous lover, an open-hearted barmaid and so on. Evans has left a few mysteries still to solve so it's a safe bet there will be a third in this series. I hope he can create a fuller female character this time.

This is an excellent read for anyone interested in the period. I would urge you all to buy it!

Serrie Meakins

Jemahl Evans, *This Deceitful Light*, Caerus Press: £9.99 (paperback)



## Film Review: Admiral – Command and Conquer (2014)

Commercially available, especially from online suppliers, this is a terrific film. It gives you an 'in your face' overview of the three Anglo-Dutch naval wars (1652-1654, 1664-1667 and 1672-1674) of the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. A Dutch language film with English subtitles, at its core it is a dramatisation of the politics of the Dutch nation from the early 1650s to the 1670s. This takes in the fall of the Dutch Republic and rise of the Orange party and William of Orange. It achieves this through following the career and fortune during these years of Dutch Admiral, Michiel De Ruyter.

Although its political focus is centred on Dutch politics, it does touch on internal English politics during the early years of Charles II's reign. Charles Dance portrays the Merry Monarch

in a supporting role that satisfyingly exemplifies his venality and untrustworthiness. Of course, all of this only serves to enhance the integrity of De Ruyter as one who 'must lead his fleet to defend his homeland from the terrorising forces of England', as the blurb on the back of the DVD cover explains. And defend his homeland he surely does.

The film opens with a shoot 'em up battle of the 1650s First War. Both fleets are going at each other with such hammer and tongs that the CGI effects of carnage and chaos do truly give the whole thing a real guts and gore verisimilitude. It is this punctuation of naval action throughout the film that saves it from being merely a slightly tiresome and foot-dragging political

(cont'd)

# The Protector's Pen

B-movie. Admittedly, during the action sequences, if you don't know what the battle you're watching is, by the end you're generally none the wiser. Worry not. Just go with the flow. There's usually another battle round the corner.

One operation that can be identified is the Dutch attack on the laid-up English fleet in the Medway in 1667, during the Second Anglo-Dutch War. This is dealt with in detail. As well as penetrating to the heart of the English fleet and causing much damage, the Dutch also towed back to Holland the extremely prestigious English vessel, *Royal Charles*. This had been the ship on which Charles II had been brought back from the Continent in 1660 but it wasn't the ship that went out to pick him up. The ship that had been despatched to pick up Charles and convey him back to England had been called the *Naseby*. This had been the prestige vessel of the Commonwealth Navy. However, when it carried Charles back to England it had been renamed (for no doubt some obscure reason forever lost in the mists of time) from the *Naseby* to the *Royal Charles*. Now taken as a prize by the Dutch in 1667, in 1672 it was incorporated into the Dutch fleet.

This didn't work out too well. It was found that the *Royal*



*Charles* had too deep a draught to be compatible with De Ruyter's defensive strategy of using the shallow waters off the Dutch coast, and in 1673 the one-time pride of the Royalist fleet was broken up.

For the hubris involved in renaming her from the battle that destroyed the Royalist Field Army in 1645, to that of the son of the malignant who caused the war, this was a

fitting outcome. Not only is God not mocked, God is also a Parliamentarian.

*John Newland*

## Publications, Exhibitions and Events

<u>Date (2018)</u>	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Details (website)</u>
Spring 2018	Battlefields Trust	A season of Battlefield Walks - see <a href="http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/default.asp">www.battlefieldstrust.com/default.asp</a>
Mar 7	Little Hale, Sleaford	Historical Association : Lincolnshire Branch; Oliver Cromwell - Hero or Villain? Dr. David Smith, University of Cambridge - see <a href="http://www.history.org.uk/events/resource/1103/lincolnshire-branch-programme-2017-18">www.history.org.uk/events/resource/1103/lincolnshire-branch-programme-2017-18</a>
Until Mar 11	Preston Park Museum, Stockton-on-Tees	Battle of Yarm 1643, exhibition - see <a href="http://www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk/events/">www.prestonparkmuseum.co.uk/events/</a>
Until Apr 15	Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace	Charles I: King and Collector - exhibition
Until Apr 28	London Museum	Great Fire evening walk - see <a href="http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london">www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london</a>
Apr 28	Oxford	Cromwell Association AGM (see article in this Newsletter)
Apr 28 - Jul 29	Ferens Art Gallery, Hull	Van Dyck's triple portrait of Charles I, on loan from the Royal Collection
May 5 - 6	Tonbridge, Kent	English Civil War Society - camp and siege - see <a href="http://www.ecws.org.uk/our-event-list/">www.ecws.org.uk/our-event-list/</a>
Until May 13	Queen's Gallery, Buckingham Palace	Charles II: Art & Power - exhibition
May 27 - 28	Commandery, Worcester	Oak and Apple day (celebration of Restoration of Monarchy) - see <a href="http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/museums/site/scripts/events_info.php?location=The+Commandery">www.worcestershire.gov.uk/museums/site/scripts/events_info.php?location=The+Commandery</a>
Jun 2	Huntingdon Library	Oliver Cromwell...why should we care? - Cromwell Association Study Day
Jun 23 - 24	Newbury	English Civil War Society - major muster

All information correct at time of going to press