

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

# The Protector's Pen

## Association News

Cromwell Day 2018  
Report on AGM  
Study Day  
Schools' Conference

## Stuarts don't sell

by Antonia Senior

## Worcester

## Dunbar

## Australia

In the Press

## News & Events

Vol 20 Issue 2 July 2018

The  
CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

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

# CONTENTS

## Inside this issue

Chairman's Note	3
Notes from Council	3
Cromwell Day Service 2018	4
AGM Oxford 2018	5
New Council Members	5
Stuarts don't sell	6
In this year...1642	7
Marston Moor Info Board	8
Huntingdon Study Day	8
Cromwell & Australia	9
Meet our President	10
Worcester	12
Cromwellian Gazetteer	14
The Dunbar Tapestry	15
Schools' Conference	16
Cromwell Museum	17
Curator's Corner	17
Book Reviews	18
Twitterbox	19
Civil War Conference, Shrewsbury	20
Events	20
In the Press	
- Shocking moments in history	13
- Oliver Cromwell.....lost at sea	13
- A right royal wedding	14
- Poughley Cottage	14
- Dunbar troops buried	15
- Meghan Markle's link	19



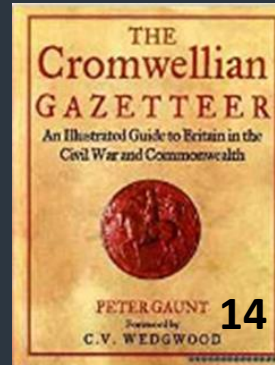
4 CROMWELL DAY SERVICE 2018



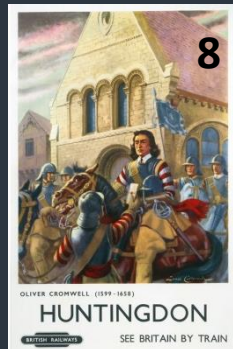
5 CROMWELL ASSOCIATION AGM 2018



6 STUARTS DON'T SELL  
by Antonia Senior



14 GAZETTEER ON LINE



8 STUDY DAY 2018



17 CURATOR'S CORNER



10 MEET OUR PRESIDENT:  
PROFESSOR PETER GAUNT



Front cover: Worcester Cathedral -  
The Chancel  
(cc-by-sa/2.0 - © Lewis Clarke -  
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*The Protector's Pen* is the newsletter of The Cromwell Association. It is published twice a year and distributed to our membership, and is also available on our website in the members' area. 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 also be found on your membership card.

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[www.olivercromwell.org](http://www.olivercromwell.org)

# The Protector's Pen

## Chairman's Note

Welcome to the summer edition of *The Protector's Pen*.

Last year the Association launched the online Directory of Parliamentary Officers and this year *The Cromwellian Gazetteer* has been made available on our website. The site, recently revamped, is viewed from all over the world, and has had 60,000 visits in the last year, the majority from the UK but more than a third from the USA, and even visits from Mongolia, Fiji, Greenland and Grenada. But not all of our members are connected to the Internet and there is an undeniable digital divide between those who can and do access material online, and those who do not.

It was once put to me that any new technology that is available before you are ten is just accepted, before you are twenty managed, before you are thirty thought of with awe and wonder, after the age of thirty is just seen as the Devil's work. That of course is grossly unfair as many older people take to new technology with ease and enjoyment, but for others what is available on the web is, and remains, a mystery.

The Association has tried to embrace new technology and is committed to making as many of our resources as possible available on the web – we even have a Twitter account (though I suspect that is regarded as 'old hat' by anyone born this century). The ability to promote our objectives is hugely enhanced by things that were just not possible ten years ago, let alone imagined when the Association was created in 1937.

Despite all the possibilities that are now open to us, we remain committed to

actual events rather than virtual events, hard copy publication rather than having everything despatched electronically, and creating opportunities for members to meet, discuss, debate and disagree.

There is an argument though for giving members the option of receiving electronic copy rather than hard copy, as a means of cost-control. The rise in printing and postage costs is inexorable, and will inevitably lead to increases in the cost of subscriptions in the future. *Would you be willing to forgo hard copy publications if it meant that subscription costs were kept down? Is this an option which the Association ought to explore without in any way compromising our current output? Please let me know what you think about this suggestion – it just might be worth considering.*

I am delighted that this issue of *The Protector's Pen* has so many articles by a range of contributors. Antonia Senior's name may be familiar to some, not only for her own novels but also for her historical fiction reviews in *The Times*; a better person to comment on novels set in the 17<sup>th</sup> century I cannot think of. Australian member Noel Turnbull responded to a request for some thoughts on perceptions of Cromwell in Australia; and new member Laurie Pettit has some interesting thoughts on Dunbar. To each and every contributor, many thanks.

*John Goldsmith*  
Chairman

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

## Notes from the Council

The Council has met twice since the last mailing. Planning and, just as importantly, reviewing our events took up quite a lot of meeting time but other items included:

- The requirement to comply with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR); please see the letter enclosed with this mailing.
- Trying to get all new members (and current eligible members) to complete a Gift Aid Declaration Form; also enclosed with this mailing.
- Agreeing to send a letter to Cromwell's House, Ely, to support an external funding bid.
- The need to strengthen Council by the addition of new members.
- The need to ensure audibility at all our events and to that end considering the purchase of a portable PA system.

Full minutes of all Council meetings, once approved, are posted on the Members' Area of the website if you want a more complete picture of our discussions.

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

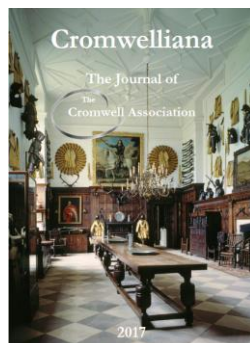
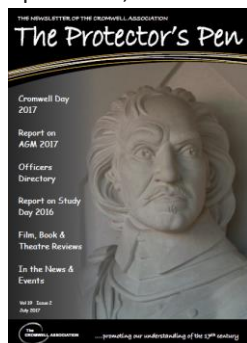
The next Council meeting will be at the end of October.

To contact the Association by email please use:

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

or write to;

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CB23 7DL



# The Protector's Pen

## Cromwell Day 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018

This year the annual service of commemoration for Oliver Cromwell will take place in Worcester, site of one of Cromwell's greatest victories, and the concluding battle of the civil wars on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1651.



The Battle of Worcester Society (BoWSoc) have been marking the anniversary of that event for a number of years, but members of the Association are usually committed to our own service (normally held at Westminster) and therefore unable to join with them. As Westminster is unavailable to us this year, the Association is delighted to accept a long-standing invitation from the Society to mark the anniversary of Cromwell's death with them in Worcester.



The Commandery

If members want to take the opportunity to visit the recently revamped Commandery, the Society is kindly inviting us to join them there for coffee at 11.00am on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September. Members will be given discounted entry to the Commandery for £4.00 on production of their membership card. Richard Shaw, the Chairman of the Society, will give a guided tour to members at 11.30am.

Lunch is not provided but there is a café at the Commandery and numerous eating places nearby.

At 13.45 a wreath will be laid in the Courtyard of the Commandery to commemorate Cromwell and those, on both sides, who died at the Battle of Worcester. The wreath will be laid by Professor Peter Gaunt, our President and speaker for the day. Members who do not

want to visit the displays in the Commandery will be able to attend without paying the admission fee, but will require their membership card.

From 14.00 members should assemble in the Lady Chapel of Worcester Cathedral, which is a short walk from the Commandery. The service will commence at 14.15 and will be led by the Rev. Dr Tim Woolley. The Association is very grateful to the cathedral authorities for making this possible. There will be a retiring collection at the conclusion of the service.

Members can then reassemble at The Guildhall on the High Street for the Society's costumed procession to the Commandery at 17.00, where there will be a pay bar and opportunity for socialising before the Drumhead service at 19.00 on the nearby Fort Royal.

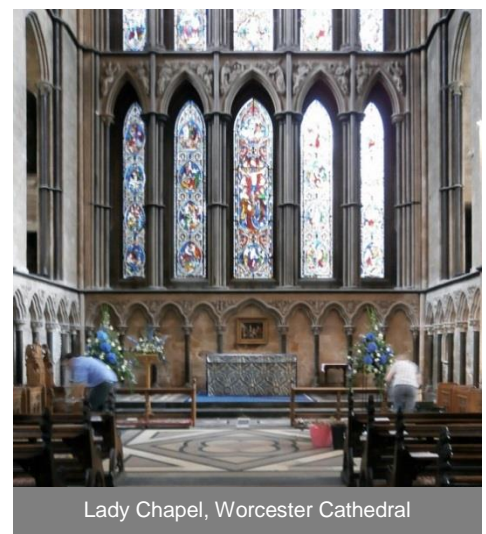
### Cromwell Day Timetable

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 11:00 | Tea and Coffee at The Commandery  |
| 11:30 | Guided Tour of Commandery   |
| 12:30 | Lunch – café at Commandery or nearby eating places  |
| 13:45 | Wreath-laying ceremony in the Courtyard at the Commandery   |
| 14:00 | Lady Chapel, Worcester Cathedral  |
| 14:15 | Service led by Rev Dr Tim Woolley   |
| 15:00 | Close   |
| 17:00 | The Guildhall, High St. for the Battle of Worcester Society's costumed procession to the Commandery |
| 19:00 | Drumhead service on the nearby Fort Royal.  |

On the following day, Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, a new information board to explain the significance of the site of the confluence of the rivers Teme and Severn, (south of Worcester) will be unveiled at 11.30am, and all are invited to attend. The board is the initiative of the Battle of Worcester Heritage Partnership, to which the Association has contributed.

Access to the site is easiest from the south and parking has been arranged at the Ketch Caravan Park and Moorings, just off the A38 Bath Road (WR5 3HW) next to the B & M store when travelling south, or just after The Ketch (Beefeater) car park when travelling north. There is a gate across the entrance, which will be open. A short distance beyond the gate is a large car park on the right. From here we can walk through the caravan site and along the riverbank for about 400 yards to the confluence. Walkers will need stout shoes; there are a few small up and down bits, but steps have been cut. BoWSoc members will be there to act as guides. For members who are staying in Worcester but who do not have transport, lifts can be arranged on the Saturday.

The decision to hold the service out of London was only taken after long consideration and we hope that members will support the events and enjoy visiting the delights that Worcester has to offer. The city is well-served by railways and is close to the M5 for those driving. The city centre has a number of car parks including a new one in Cathedral Square run by NCP. If you are planning a visit and would like further information please go to <http://www.visitworcestershire.org/worcester>



Lady Chapel, Worcester Cathedral



# The Protector's Pen

## Cromwell Association AGM

At Oxford on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018, the Association met at the Quaker Meeting House for our AGM. It was a cold, drizzly day – such a contrast to the record-breaking heatwave we'd just experienced...was it only a week earlier?

The lovely garden was coming into full bloom; if only it had been warm and sunny to enjoy it more fully. Needless to say, the hot tea and coffee on arrival were seemingly welcomed by all.

The AGM went smoothly and to time. Updates and summaries of activities such as Teachers' Day, *Cromwelliana*, and Plaques & Monuments were presented by relevant Council personnel. All presently serving officers were re-elected and two new members to Council were nominated and elected, namely John Gibbon and David Woodall. Stuart Orme from the Cromwell Museum (Curator) introduced himself and gave an update of the current situation together with some exciting planned events.

Following the formal business of the AGM, Vanessa Moir gave a well-illustrated, informative and interesting talk covering Oxford and the civil war – the city of course being Charles I's chosen alternative capital from 1642 to 1646.

A raffle was held and raised a total of £158. Notably, Cromwell's Gin (available from Aldi...other gins are available!) was, perhaps deservedly, won by our Treasurer. A further £118 was taken on the merchandise stall.

A good spread was laid out for lunch which members enjoyed whilst catching-up with old friends and meeting new faces.



Quaker House garden

After lunch, those who had signed up for the guided walking tour of the city were split into two groups: one led by Vanessa Moir and the other by Serrie Meakins. Both tours were well received – big thanks to Vanessa and Serrie for making the walks so informative. During the walks we took in Christ Church, which King Charles chose as his home in his new capital, Merton (the Queen's residence), the Bodleian Library, and Divinity School – not only used in the Harry Potter films, but



Bodleian Library

perhaps more importantly, used by the Commons when Charles I held a parliament in Oxford in January 1644.

Despite the city being extremely busy with Saturday shoppers, tourists and other guided walks, we managed not to lose

anybody along the way, or not that we know of!

Both groups eventually met up in the café of the Weston (or New Bodleian) library where, once again, there was a chance to have a chat, not to mention a well earned rest...and another hot drink!

*Maxine Forshaw*

## Welcome to our new Council members

At the recent AGM in Oxford two new members were elected to serve a three year term on Council.

David Woodall, who hails from Jersey, is a heritage professional with a strong interest in Cromwell and the civil war, and for the last ten years he has been working at Windsor Castle for the Royal Collection Trust. His workplace was the subject of his article in last year's *Cromwelliana*.

John Gibbon studied at Sidney Sussex in Cambridge, as did Cromwell himself. His career, until retirement, was spent in investment management in the City of London. He now lives in St Ives near Huntingdon and is an active member of the Friends of the Cromwell Museum, where he also regularly volunteers.



David Woodall and John Gibbon

## Stuarts don't sell

by **Antonia Senior**, writer and freelance journalist

**Imagine lining up every novel written about Henry VIII and his wives. How far would they stretch? From Greenwich to Hampton Court, surely. But a similar line of novels about the Stuarts would barely register. In terms of historical fiction, the Tudors sell and the Stuarts are invisible. Why?**

Why are there more novels about the dullest of Henry's wives than the most dynamic characters a century later? Anne of Cleves: Yes. Henrietta Maria: No. Why Thomas Cromwell, but not Oliver?

'The Stuarts just don't sell,' said one publisher to me over a late night dram at a gathering of historical novelists. Why, I demanded? There are so many stories, so many characters, I told him. A catastrophic Civil War. The emergence of women's political consciousness. A Queen of England hiding in a ditch as canon balls whistle overhead. A regicide. A closeted King, obsessed with witchcraft. And Cromwell himself – an obscure man propelled by talent and fortune to lead a country. His wife – what a story! A country housewife, sucked in by the whirligig of war and spat out onto a Queen's throne.

There might have been more drams drunk. Wild handwaving as I made my point. seventeenth century castles sketched in the air. At the end of my enthusiastic rant, he shrugged. 'Readers don't like the Stuarts,' he said, wandering off to look for someone less shouty. One of the Victorian Gothic novelists, probably.

Despite the publishers' gloom, there are some wonderful novelists writing about the seventeenth century. Elizabeth Fremantle has written a number of critically-acclaimed books about the Tudors, but is moving to the court of James I for her new book, *The Poison Bed*. Fremantle says: 'I tend to follow the stories that excite me and the Jacobean period is a perfect fit for the direction my writing has taken recently.

I have found myself greatly inspired by ideas springing from the drama of the time – some of the darkest and bloodiest plays ever written.' But she recognises that the current market is difficult. 'It's true that the Tudors are an easier sell, particularly abroad. Everyone's heard of Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth to the point that they have become archetypes but this also means that the best stories have been overtold and the market is saturated.'

Part of the knowledge gap starts at school. I was lucky enough to study the English Civil Wars at A-Level, taught by an inspirational history teacher. But before that – nothing. Lots on Henry, wattle and daub huts and the First World War. Nothing on one of the most seismic events in British history.

I can see the pattern re-emerging. Last term, my ten-year old did Henry VIII. Again. This term she told me she was doing the Stuarts. I whooped, until it emerged that 'doing the Stuarts' means the Gunpowder Plot and the Great Fire of London and nothing in between.

Katherine Clements has written three books set in the seventeenth century. Her latest, *The Coffin Path*, is a dark ghost story, set on the bleak Yorkshire moors. She says: 'People love the drama of the Tudors, especially Henry VIII. They know about the six wives because they learned it at school and, as Hilary Mantel says, people are touchingly loyal to the first version of history they learn.'

The story of Henry VIII is pleasingly straightforward: young, handsome prince

becomes a fat, wife-killing monster. The stories in the seventeenth century become a little more complex. In reductive, story-telling terms, it's harder to tell the goodies from the baddies.

Those men who were in favour of principles we are keen on now, such as liberty and freedom of expression, were infused with off-putting religiosity. The women's voices, even when they are demanding a say in the country's politicking, are heavily laden with an awareness of female subordination to their men and their God. The cavaliers, meanwhile, may strike a romantic pose in the popular imagination, but this is hard to reconcile with their political aim – the defence of a system which enshrined the divine rule of an inherited monarchy.

The role of religion in the seventeenth century is fascinating to those of us who love the period, but potentially off-putting to those who do not. To a modern eye, there is something almost embarrassing about the notion of fighting over souls. The earnestness of the Puritan mission is peculiar even to the modern Christian – to the children of Richard Dawkins it is preposterous.

All historical fiction is a reflection of the age in which it is written, as much as the age about which it writes. Looking back on the Civil Wars, we view one side as politically toxic and the other as spiritually ridiculous. This contradiction draws writers who like shades of grey, but it could also be this tension which alienates potential readers.

Nowhere are the contradictions more evident than in the person of Cromwell himself. Clements says: 'His story is slippery and complex, like the man.'

One of the differences between writers of history and writers of historical fiction is that we cannot sit on the fence. We have to make decisions in circumstances where a historian is duty bound to offer alternative versions up for scrutiny. And footnotes. But in we go, tin helmets on. James I: gay or

straight? Charles I: inept or unlucky? Charles II: Astutely inefficient or lazy? And so on.

(cont'd)



# The Protector's Pen

Oliver Cromwell is difficult. He appears in my latest book, *The Tyrant's Shadow*, and I set about the research expecting to make a decision on the man's motives and character. But Cromwell polarised opinion even then. No two contemporaries say the same. He is maddeningly elusive when you try to pin him down. In the end, I decided to make this problem a virtue in the book. Cromwell is scrutinised, discussed and watched. Those who want to ascribe vicious motives to his actions can and do; those who love him interpret him differently. His charisma is blinding, obscuring the real man, and people react to it in different and tribal ways.

To twenty-first century eyes, again, Cromwell is difficult. Henry VIII is motivated by sex, power and money. These, we get. Cromwell is motivated by God. His bullish faith is the one strand of the man that his enemies and friends agree on. In modern Britain, sex is less embarrassing than faith.

Clements also sketched a fictional Cromwell in her novel, *The Crimson Ribbon*. She says: 'I think the whole Civil War period suffers from a lack of understanding. For whatever reason the period is downplayed in our national story, not taught much in schools, and Cromwell is misrepresented as this dour, miserable Puritan – a hero or a traitor depending on political stance, an argument that still gets people riled up. For me, the reality is not so black and white (I mean, who is?). I'd love for someone to give us a more nuanced take on the man – to make him real, rather than the caricature. But, compared to the Tudors, there is no single, sexy narrative to hang his story on.'

The impact of the Civil Wars is further obscured both by Cromwell's success at being the bulwark against anarchy, and by the Restoration. Yes, the world turned upside down; but then it righted itself again. Cromwell was not Robespierre; a blessing for the English, but a curse for the novelist.

In the twenty years of civil strife, there was an outpouring of political thought which would seed all the revolutions to come – including the women's rights movement. But the Restoration set a slow-leaking seal

on this erupting dissent. To the casual reader, the chaos of the mid-seventeenth century can seem like a blip in history – too complicated and ultimately unimportant to bother exploring. All that blood and misery just to end up back where they started.

The Glorious Revolution, which completed the move away from absolutism, is not the most novelistic of events. No blood, no violence, no heroes. Just the quiet assertion of principles established in blood decades before.

The Restoration itself is the one Stuart era event which has inspired some bestselling historical novels – Rose Tremain's *Restoration* and its sequel *Merivel* chief among them. Andrew Taylor's wonderful historical crime novels *The Ashes of London*, and *The Fire Court* are also high in the charts. Angus Donald, a best-selling writer of books about Robin Hood, is two books in to a new series set in Charles II court.

In our historical myths, Cromwell is a Christmas-hating misery and Charles II is a sensuous party animal. Both caricatures are misleading – but one is easier to sell than the other.

There is space for optimism, however, about the seventeenth century's other stories. Fremantle says she has seen a marked shift away from the over-chronicled Tudors and towards their successors among fiction writers and biographers. She says: 'I am convinced that readers will fall in love with a most dramatic and fascinating century.'

*Antonia Senior*

Born in London, Antonia Senior studied history at Jesus College, Cambridge, before becoming a journalist. She worked at *The Times* for fourteen years. By day serious journalist, by night voracious reader of fiction, particularly historical.



## In this year...1642

### A look back at a summary of the year's events.

- Jan 04** The King fails in his attempt to arrest the five MPs
- Jan 10** Popular support for Parliament forces the King and royal family to leave London.
- Feb 12** The King refuses to surrender control of the militia to Parliament.
- Mar 5** Parliament passes the Militia Ordinance, despite the King's objections.
- Mar 19** King Charles sets up his court at York.
- Apr 23** Sir John Hotham prevents the King and his entourage from entering Hull, the site of England's main northern arsenal.
- Jun 01** The Nineteen Propositions passed by Parliament, requiring the King to give up control of the militia and the right to appoint ministers.
- Jun 06** The King issues the first Commissions of Array.
- Jun 18** The King rejects the Nineteen Propositions.
- Jul 02** The fleet declares for Parliament and accepts the Earl of Warwick as its Admiral.
- Jul 04** Parliament appoints the Committee of Safety.
- Jul 10** The first military action of the English Civil War takes place when a Royalist raiding party approaches Hull to burn down buildings outside the town walls, but is driven away by gunfire from the defenders.
- Jul 12** Parliament resolves to raise an army. The Earl of Essex commissioned as Captain-General.
- Aug 21** Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice join the King.
- Aug 22** King Charles raises the royal standard at Nottingham Castle. King and Parliament now at war.....



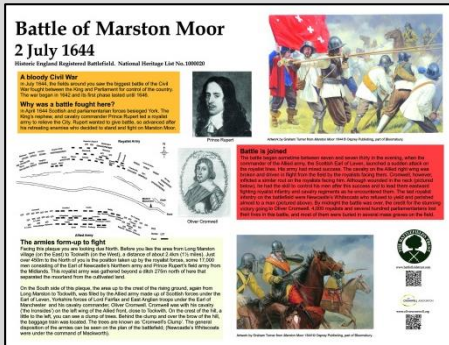
<http://bcw-project.org/timelines/the-english-civil-war>

(to be continued...)

# The Protector's Pen

## Marston Moor Information Board

The battle of Marston Moor was one of the turning points of the first civil war and one in which Oliver Cromwell played a decisive role.



It is a site which has always been of importance to the Association and in 1944, to mark the 300th anniversary of the battle, a major monument was placed there. Over the years we have maintained the monument and continue to do so. In the more recent past there has also been an interpretation panel on site, but over time it has become rather shabby and dilapidated.

By the time you receive this edition of *The Protector's Pen* a new panel will have been erected on site, a joint initiative of The Battlefields Trust and the Association.

A report of the unveiling will appear in the next edition. The panel is in full colour and thanks to the work of Simon Marsh of the BFT is a very attractive way to inform visitors about the significance of what took place there.

You can, of course, readily find out more about the site by consulting *The Cromwellian Gazetteer*.

[http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=2858](http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/?page_id=2858)



## Study Day in Huntingdon

The title of this year's study day, "Oliver Cromwell...why should we care?" was aimed to appeal primarily to those new to the subject, but in the event proved to be equally fascinating to those with a long-standing interest in the subject.

With an audience approaching 70 in number, the Assembly Room in Huntingdon Town Hall was a splendid setting for the event on a humid day at the beginning of June.

Each of the four speakers in the morning was restricted to a 30-minute slot; in the afternoon the panel discussion, very well led by James Blatch, was by most people's judgement a success; it was followed by questions from the floor.

What the day proved is that there is always room for a general overview, back to basics, look at Cromwell and his career. With different speakers the same type of programme would probably work on an annual basis, with a different discussion and question session in support.



Huntingdon Town Hall



Andrew Barclay (left), John Sutton, James Blatch, David Smith and Jon Fitzgibbons

All of the contributors had kindly agreed to waive any fee so that the profits from the day could go to the Friends of the Cromwell Museum, who undertook the practical arrangements for the day, including the much appreciated lunch. The sum raised for the Friends was £1,400 which will in due course be used to support a specific project at the Museum.

### 'Cromwell'... in Huntingdon





# The Protector's Pen



## Cromwell and Australia



In 1891 when the delegates of the six Australian colonies were negotiating a constitution for the new national Australian Government, there was considerable discussion about what the new nation would be called. Candidates included The Federated States of Australia, the Australian Dominion and assorted other things. Sir Henry Parkes, the New South Wales Premier and a man considered 'The Father of Federation', suggested the term 'Commonwealth' derived from common weal or wealth and signifying common well-being or common good. A substantial majority supported the name although a few delegates objected because it was 'suggestive of republicanism', owing to its association with the Commonwealth of England, under Oliver Cromwell's Protectorate.

Before and after that there was little discussion of Cromwell and the Civil Wars in Australia although there was intermittent interest by military scholars and odd unexplained things such as a WWI artilleryman from a NSW farming family who was named Oliver Cromwell Lowrey and a long-lived Oliver Cromwell Davis also from NSW. In 1820 a member of the Talbot family (which had been dislodged from Malahide by the regicide Myles Corbet) sought to recreate Malahide in Tasmania. The building burnt down in 1835 although the property continues as a sheep farm under new owners using the old Malahide name.

There were a variety of reasons for limited interest in Cromwell. British history is now not much taught in Australia. My generation saw large maps of the world covered in red prominent in classrooms, but I didn't study British history seriously until the final year of secondary school (then it was 18<sup>th</sup> century politics) and in first year Law when there were compulsory subjects on 17<sup>th</sup> century history and legal history. Moreover, in a largely multicultural society there are now vastly different community-forming narratives than 50 years ago – except for an interesting controversy, of which more later.

Australian was also for decades a staunchly monarchist society with people standing up for 'God Save the Queen' in cinemas. The 1999 defeat of the republican referendum has set that cause back although there is still a strong republican movement and high profile supporters in politics and elsewhere.

Significant Irish immigration to Australia (with some among the convicts transported in the 1788 First Fleet) entrenched a dark legendary view of Cromwell in much of the Australian Labor Party and among Irish descendants generally. I still experience some hostility (including being kicked once) from people of Irish heritage when Cromwell's name is raised.

On the other hand Australian military studies, while nowadays probably more US- than UK-focussed, have encompassed Cromwell's military record. For instance, in a 1968 issue of the Australian Army Journal (a publication for theoretical, historical and strategic issues) Lt-Col A.E. Limburg CVO contributed a major piece on Cromwell as a General. Limburg canvassed Cromwell's life and political career but mainly focussed on his military record. While less than enthusiastic about executing monarchs, Limburg concluded: 'This (the Standing Army), possibly the most remarkable one the world has seen, was chiefly made by Cromwell. He had shown how to train a troop, then a regiment, then many regiments and finally an army, and effectively to use these forces against the enemy.'

But the most sustained Australian political and media debate about Cromwell was started in 2011 as part of our ongoing culture and

education wars. The Institute of Public Affairs, a right-wing think tank, published a book, *The National Curriculum: A Critique*, which was launched by the then Shadow Education Minister, Christopher Pyne, who warned that there will 'come a day when an entire generation of Australians will never have heard of Charles I or Oliver Cromwell.' The book was designed as a repudiation of the Rudd-Gillard government's new National Curriculum which sought to widen the range of choices available to students and embrace both a more global view of history and one more inclusive of indigenous history and culture.

One of the National Curriculum developers, Professor Tony Taylor, made some compelling arguments for the Curriculum but sadly responded to the Civil Wars' reference by saying '(it) is arguably just a series of confused and confusing localised squabbles that may have special significance for UK history but not for anybody else (unless they like dressing in period costume).'

Pyne, by the way, liked the Civil War allusions and in February 2012 channelled Cromwell when moving a motion of no confidence in the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, shouting: 'you have sat too long here for any good you have been doing'. Gillard lasted another year although there is no record of Pyne quoting or mentioning Cromwell again. At the time one of the IPA staff remarked to me that the Civil Wars would be the next big issue in education and a new Liberal Government. He doesn't seem to have mentioned it since either. Nevertheless Pyne, as Education Minister in the new Liberal (read Conservative) government, did announce a review in 2014 of the Curriculum by a hand-picked panel, including a former party staffer who had attacked the curriculum because it 'undervalues Western civilisation and the significance of Judeo-Christian values to our institutions and way of life.'

However, there are some lasting sources for the Civil Wars in Australian institutions. The National Library of Australia in Canberra has 83 books, documents and pictures relating to Cromwell and seemingly everything written by S.R. Gardiner. The University of Melbourne Baillieu Library catalogue lists works by Peter Gaunt, Jane A. Mills, Tom Reilly and Ivan Roots and there is even a solitary issue of *Cromwelliana*.

The State Library of Victoria contains the John Emmerson Collection which emphasises the reign of Charles I and the Civil War. The SLV describes it as: 'The only comparable collections belong to the British Library and Oxford's Bodleian.' The collection of rare books includes more than 5,000 items bound in 3,500 volumes featuring books and pamphlets from the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was amassed over 40 years by bibliophile, John McLaren Emmerson QC (1938–2014) who had careers as both an Oxford physicist and Melbourne barrister. His family donated the collection to the SLV in 2015. The collection includes a bound volume of *Mercurius Civicus Londons Intelligencer* covering 1643 to 1646, a vast number of pamphlets and tracts printed and circulated during the 1640s, and an early edition of *Paradise Lost*.

And as John Goldsmith reminded me recently, the nearest to a direct descendant of Cromwell, and the owner of the significant Cromwell-Bush collection, is an Australian citizen.

*Noel Turnbull*



## Meet our President ...Professor Peter Gaunt

I was born and brought up in Guildford, and educated at its Royal Grammar School. I took my first degree in history at St David's, Lampeter which included a significant element of archaeology. I am very interested in archaeology and worked on a number of excavations. During the 1980s I worked as an architectural historian on Hampton Court, and other royal palaces. However, I also had a keen interest in the political history of the post-civil war era and especially of the Protectorate and I went on to do a doctorate at Exeter University on the Councils of the Protectorate.

I was very fortunate to spend a year as a post-doctoral research fellow at the Victoria University of Wellington in New Zealand in 1984–5 and later in the decade I had spells as a temporary lecturer at Royal Holloway and elsewhere. In 1991 I was appointed to a lectureship at Chester College of Higher Education, now the University of Chester. Over a quarter of a century later I am still at Chester, as Professor of Early Modern History in the Department of History & Archaeology. I live with my partner (she is a hospital pharmacist working in Manchester and she views my interest in visiting churches, castle ruins, industrial remains and the like as a fairly harmless idiosyncrasy) in north Cheshire.

### Who, or what, first stimulated your interest in Cromwell?

I first studied the period as a special subject within my History A-Level. It was taught by Mr Sturley, who was excellent at bringing out both the excitement of the period and its people (including Cromwell). This was in the mid-1970s. I remember reading David Underdown's *Pride's Purge* and Blair Worden's *The Rump Parliament*, and being struck by how the period could be interpreted anew. When I first got my reader's tickets for the manuscript room in the British Library and for the Public Record Office, I was thrilled at being handed boxes or bound volumes of early modern papers and being able to read and to touch letters written by Cromwell, Fairfax, Waller, Thurloe and all the rest of those parliamentarian heroes. That thrill has never left me. Opening a box of mixed manuscripts in an archive is still like Christmas morning, full of anticipation of what may be inside, even if in the end the contents turn out to be an assemblage of mouse-nibbled, damp-riddled incomplete and now more or less incomprehensible financial jottings of no great consequence.



### Was it a conscious decision to make Cromwell the main focus of your academic career?

Cromwell is a fascinating character who always repays further study, and my publication record includes two biographical studies – very different in tone and approach, I hasten to add – of the man and his career, plus plenty of articles, chapters and papers on him, so there is no doubt that he has loomed very large in my own research and writing and in my academic career. On the other hand, I'm not sure he has been the main focus of my career. My teaching at Chester is very broad and varied, and has in the past included large slabs of archaeology and landscape history. On the other hand, I have always sought to teach Cromwell in some form. I recall many moons ago being interviewed for a lectureship at University College Cork and, on being asked what topic I might offer as a special subject

should I be appointed, proposing Oliver Cromwell, a suggestion which was followed by an intake of breath and an uneasy silence from the panel. I have always taught a final year undergraduate module on 'The English Revolution: causes, course and consequences', in which Cromwell plays a central role. Meanwhile, over the years my research and writing have shifted somewhat, and although Cromwell and the 1650s still loom large – much of my work has been on the Protectorate government and the structure and operation of the central administration 1653–59 rather than specifically on Oliver or Richard Cromwell – I have also published quite extensively on the civil war and the military history of the 1640s. Thus my next two books will be a jointly-authored overview of Tudor and Stuart Britain; and alone, a study of the human and personal experience of the civil war drawn from first person accounts.

### You have previously said that Cromwell has been treated kindly by modern historians and is perhaps due a re-appraisal. Has your attitude to Cromwell changed over the years?

I am not consciously aware that my attitude to Cromwell has changed significantly and when I dipped into my biography of the mid-1990s, I found myself largely still in agreement with what I had written. As the years have crept by I can sympathise more when during the 1650s and in his own fifties Cromwell wrote about the infirmities of advancing years and, given current events, I think we are all now far more conscious of the ways in which strongly-held religious beliefs can lead on to all sorts of actions and consequences. Like most modern historians, privileging his surviving letters and speeches, my interpretation of Oliver as a soldier and statesman, as a politician and man of God, is broadly positive.

(cont'd)

# The Protector's Pen

## What direction do you think Cromwell studies should take over the next few years?

It would be wonderful to know more about Cromwell's early adult life, down to c. 1640, but the surviving sources are very thin and it is difficult to see how that aspect could be taken much further than John Morrill and Andrew Barclay have already taken it, unless major new primary sources come to light. I think there is more to say about Cromwell's political and religious outlooks during the 1650s, at the time of the Rump and Nominated Assembly as well as during his Protectorate. I am hoping that the publication of the History of Parliament volumes covering the MPs of 1640 to 1660 will fuel new work specifically on the Protectoral parliaments. In respect of Ireland, John Morrill and John Cunningham have recently shown how much there is to be uncovered of his post-1651 attitude and outlook; let's have more of that, more on his views of Scotland and the Scots post-1651, perhaps more on his foreign policy outlook both before and during his Protectorate.

More fundamentally, I was very struck by Ronald Hutton's sharper, more sceptical and challenging views outlined in his chapter on Cromwell in his 2004 study *Debates in Stuart History*, which asks a number of pertinent questions, not least whether we should allow Cromwell so much leeway to speak to us in and through his own words, and whether that is good historical practice. That chapter could and perhaps should have led on to far more questioning of historians' approaches to, and interpretations of, Cromwell than seems actually to have been the case.

## For many members, and others, you are synonymous with the Cromwell Association. How did you first become involved?

Well, I don't think it is particularly healthy for any one individual to become 'synonymous' with an association or society and the Cromwell Association is a membership organisation and has always been run in their interests and, at their direction, by a wide and talented group of officers and other Council members. That my own chairmanship carried on for over

twenty years in the end was certainly not my wish or original intention and repeatedly over that period I sought a successor to whom the chairmanship could pass. I have been president now for just a touch over a decade and, while honoured to be re-elected to that role at our recent AGM, most of our presidents have served in that capacity for somewhere between ten and fifteen years and I will aim to conform to that pattern.

My direct connection with the Association began in the mid-1980s. I was approached by the then chairman, the polymath Trewin Copplestone, who was seeking two things – firstly, new and younger blood on the Council, which I joined at his invitation, and secondly a historian to write a topographical guide or gazetteer to civil war and Cromwellian Britain, a project and publication which the Association had earmarked as part of its own 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. I agreed, and *The Cromwellian Gazetteer* became my first book. Trewin and I worked well together. At first informally, but then formally, I became deputy chairman.

## What do you think should be the priorities for the Association at the moment?

Without in any way being complacent, I think we have the balance about right in terms of where we pitch our activities – aimed at a broad range of members and a wide interested audience, while having sufficient intellectual rigour to appeal to specialists and academics. I don't have any thoughts of radical change or ambitions to drive the Association in a different direction. But I do have three thoughts. Firstly, for any society and group like ours, new material being added regularly is absolutely vital and should be one of our priorities. Secondly, much the same could be said of the database of parliamentary officers. I am full of admiration for it, but I am also very aware that it is far from perfect or comprehensive and that it will require further work. Thirdly, I am keen that, in terms of our activities and the events we run, we don't adopt a metropolitan outlook and that London does not become by accident or design a sort of default location for us.

## If you could ask one question of Cromwell about any aspect of his career, at any point in his life, what would it be?

Oh, there are so many. I would like to ask him about the 'murky' episodes and try to tease out the whole truth – 'Did you really never foresee that you would be exempted from the Self-Denying Ordinance?', 'What did you discuss with Cornet Joyce when you met him shortly before he seized the king at Holdenby House and what did you tell him to do?', 'Why did you spend so long in Yorkshire in autumn 1648 and how much prior knowledge did you have of Pride's Purge?' and so on. I would like to ask him about many aspects of his life during the 1620s and 1630s, about his relationship with various members of his close and extended family, about his business interests and about his conversion experience, as well as about how precisely he worshipped in church or chapel both then and also during the 1650s. As his life was nearing its end, it would also be wonderful to be able to ask him how much he cared about his legacy and what he thought it would be. That would all be fascinating.



Alexander Popham  
(courtesy Royal Armouries, Leeds)

From Peter Gaunt's Review of *Portraits of the English Civil Wars* by Angus Haldane in *Cromwelliana* 2018:

'We will all have favourites we would like to have seen here and whose omission we might regret...[for example] the equestrian portrait of Alexander Popham capturing the spirit of the war...'

# The Protector's Pen

## Worcester

In late September 1642 the London parliamentarian Nehemiah Wharton rolled into Worcester with his regiment and he provided a pen-portrait of the town in one of his letters just as the civil war was starting.

Worcester, he noted, 'abounds in outward things of all kinds ... It is pleasantly seated, exceeding populous and doubtless very rich. It is situated on the east bank of that famous river Severine. The walls in the form of a triangle, the gates seven, the Bulwarks five but much decayed; no Castle, only a mound of earth. In this City there is a very stately Cathedral, called St Maries, in which there are many stately monuments; but amongst the rest in the middle of the choir is the monument of King John, all of white marble, with his picture [effigy] thereon to the life. On the South side, King Arthur's tomb [actually that of Prince Arthur, short-lived elder son of Henry VII] of Jette, but no picture [effigy] thereon. This City hath also a strong stone Bridge over the Severne, consisting of six arches, with a gate on the middle of the bridge, as strong as that on London Bridge, with a porch'.

Wharton was there as part of the Earl of Essex's main parliamentarian army, a forward cavalry unit which had skirmished with Prince Rupert's horse a few days before, around Powick bridge south of the town, and had been badly mauled in what is often seen as the first significant engagement of the civil war proper. But

the king's men had themselves moved on up the Severn Valley and Essex was able to occupy Worcester unopposed. The parliamentarian army in turn moved off and away in late October, in order to engage the king's army; the town was effectively abandoned and, in the wake of Edgehill, royalists were able to occupy and secure Worcester unopposed. They proceeded to hold Worcester for the remainder of the main civil war, repairing and revamping the circuit of medieval walls and gates, fortifying the bridge over the Severn and probably by 1646 extending the defensive circuit on the eastern side to encompass rising ground where, then or a little later, a freestanding artillery fort, Fort Royal, was thrown up. Worcester was garrisoned and became the administrative centre for the overwhelmingly royalist-controlled county. Perhaps even more valuable to the king's war effort, it became a centre via which textiles, iron, armaments and gunpowder, some produced in Worcester itself but most manufactured in the Severn Valley region, were gathered together and then transported across the Cotswolds to the king's capital at Oxford. Moreover, with Gloucester and its hinterland held firmly for parliament, Worcester became a vital point on the lines of communications between Oxford and

the royalist heartlands of South and Mid-Wales. Despite occasional raids or half-hearted sieges (for example, Waller approached the town in early summer 1643) together with growing threats from Gloucester and Gloucestershire to the south and from Shropshire, itself falling increasingly under parliamentarian control, to the north, Worcester was not seriously threatened until the closing months of the war. Following a two-month close siege and bombardment in summer 1646, the royalist governor and garrison surrendered on terms in late July. The so-called diary of Henry Townshend, a royalist administrator who was in Worcester for most of the war, provides a wealth of information about the running of royalist Worcester and the sometimes disruptive military presence there, as well as a day-by-day account of the siege of May to July 1646 which ended royalist control.

Oliver Cromwell had played no direct part in any of this, for at no point during the main civil war of 1642–46 did he campaign around or particularly close to Worcester. He was there just once during the war years, when, having allowed or even encouraged the Scottish-royalist army at Stirling to push south, across lowland Scotland and into England, he caught up with that army and destroyed it at Worcester on 3 September 1651. That Worcester was the site of the final battle and of the destruction of the Scottish-royalist cause was not entirely Cromwell's choice; for although he appointed parliamentarian units in northern England to shadow and shepherd the Scots as they moved south, and he also arranged for a mixture of regular troops and militia units in southern England to keep them well away from London, he could not have been sure that his opponents would make for and make a stand at Worcester, rather than seeking to do so at Shrewsbury or Bridgnorth, which they passed by or through, or turn west to occupy Hereford or enter Wales. Once the Scottish-royalist army had chosen to occupy Worcester, it is noticeable that Cromwell took his time to approach the town – he was, after all, close by at Stratford-upon-Avon as early as 26 August – and certainly had the town surrounded and all escape routes blocked (cont'd)



Battle of Worcester, 1651 (engraving by Barlow, 1750 – @National Army Museum)

# The Protector's Pen

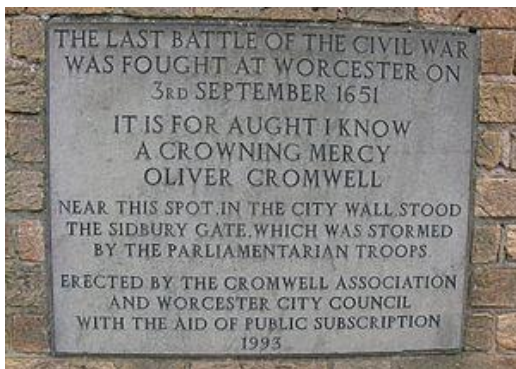
well before the attack of 3 September.

Cromwell may have been hoping that the enemy army would come out and offer battle in the field, thus avoiding the complexities of engaging them within or around the suburbs of a fairly well-defended town; or he may simply have been waiting until the first anniversary of the unexpected and God-given victory he had won against huge numerical odds at Dunbar. What he clearly did not envisage or countenance was a lengthy siege operation. Having surrounded the town, with numbers and other resources firmly on his side, he launched an assault on 3 September, adopting an adventurous twin-pronged attack; part of his army driving up from the south, along the west side of the Severn and crossing the Teme, part of it attacking the eastern side of the town.

Military historians often do not get very excited about the battle and given Cromwell's huge advantages and careful preparations he was almost bound to secure the overwhelming victory which in fact came his way, despite sometimes fierce resistance and hard fighting, in the course of 3 September. Pausing somewhere on the outskirts of Worcester at 10 pm that evening Cromwell wrote a hurried note to the Speaker, in which he admitted to being 'so weary, and scarce able to write', yet he was buoyed up by the great victory God had just bestowed – 'Indeed this hath been a very glorious mercy'. Having rested, he wrote a much fuller and better known letter to the Speaker on 4 September, in which he used the ringing and oft-quoted description of Worcester as 'for aught I know, a crowning mercy'.

Cromwell left Worcester later that day and never returned. Indeed, never again did he command an army in the field. Worcester was Cromwell's final battle as well as, in his eyes, the crowning mercy of the civil wars.

*Professor Peter Gaunt*

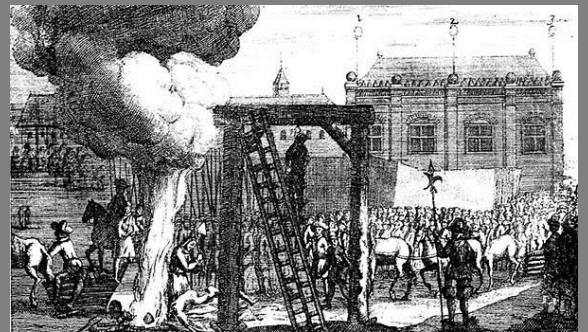


## 11 shocking moments in history



Arguably one of the most remarkable moments in history. In 1661 the body of Oliver Cromwell was exhumed from Westminster Abbey to be 'executed' for treason.

Just two-and-a-half years earlier, in November 1658, Cromwell had been given a state funeral at Westminster. An officer in the Roundheads (parliamentary army) at the outbreak of the Civil War in the summer of 1642, Cromwell went on to become one of the conflict's key figures and played a leading role in Charles I's trial and subsequent beheading. Following the king's execution a republic was declared, known as the Commonwealth of England.



How, then, did Cromwell's body come to be dug up and symbolically executed? Witness investigates....

Extract from a tweet (9 May 2018), linked to :

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/victorian/11-shocking-moments-in-history/>

Read more on the matter on our website :

[http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=2254](http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/?page_id=2254)



## Oliver Cromwell.. ...lost at sea

The MV Oliver Cromwell – a Mississippi-style riverboat which had been moored on the Severn at Gloucester for the past 25 years – was being brought to its new home at Coleraine's Crannagh Marina last week when disaster struck off the north Wales coast.

The steamer was built as a Dutch barge in 1922 and converted to a riverboat hotel in 1933.

Seamus Carey, owner of the Crannagh Marina Complex, commented: 'We were really looking forward to conducting a major refurbishment of the vessel and transforming it into a luxurious 15-bedroom static hotel and restaurant on the picturesque River Bann,' he said last night. 'It was to be Ireland's first ever floating hotel and a great addition to the north coast's tourism offering.'

*Belfast Telegraph and i-Paper, Monday 28 May 2018*



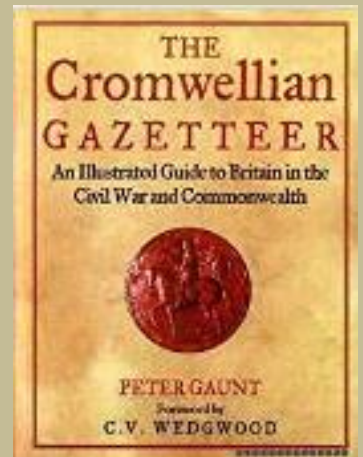
# The Protector's Pen

## The Cromwellian Gazetteer now online

A fair proportion of the Association's membership is likely to have a copy of the extremely useful *Cromwellian Gazetteer* by Peter Gaunt on their bookshelf. The book was first published in 1987 over the imprint of the Cromwell Association and Alan Sutton, a well-established publisher. It was a commission by the Association to mark our own 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and designed as a guide to sites connected with the Parliamentary cause during the Civil War and Interregnum 1642–1660, giving particular prominence to those places linked to Cromwell. The deal with Suttons was that the Association undertook to buy 300 copies to help underwrite the production costs, and the author was paid a very modest sum for his labours.

Since the late 1980s the world of book production has changed enormously and the book went through at least one reprint, with a different cover to the original blue one, before it finally went out of print. For anyone interested in locating sites connected with Cromwell the book remains absolutely invaluable, and a wonderful source for an overstretched curator or librarian to answer questions about Cromwell's travels.

The option of the Association attempting to reprint the book was briefly considered but rejected on cost grounds; but now, with the kind permission of the author and copyright holders, the Association has made the entire text of the *Gazetteer* available online. To make it as user-friendly as possible it has been broken down into six sections. Consideration was given to attempting to plot all the sites on an interactive map but the density of entries would mean that it would be unusable on anything other than a large screen desk-top pc. Hopefully, by presenting the text as it is, the information should be readily viewable on a smaller device. It is perfectly possible to put the text you want on to a smartphone or tablet and consult it when you are out and about.



The *Gazetteer* is arranged alphabetically by county – that is, counties as they were in 1987. This disregards historic divisions swept away in the major reorganisation of 1974, and overlooks those changes made since. So, for example, entries for Worcestershire are to be found under Hereford and Worcester, Yorkshire appears as North, West and South Yorkshire and the old East Riding under Humberside, which includes parts of North Lincolnshire. While this may be frustrating at times (and cause you to muse on the idiosyncrasies of English local government) hopefully with use you will acquire familiarity with the layout. Use of the Search Tool in Adobe Reader will assist, combined with the power of Google Maps, to locate an individual site.

In addition to the geographic entries, the *Gazetteer* has an introductory essay outlining the scope of the work and its methodology; supported at the end by maps plotting Cromwell's itinerary and two genealogical tables, as well as an index of select names, which is presented as one section.

The great advantage of digital publication over hard copy publication is that it is possible to add new copy. Obviously the original text will continue to appear in its original form but the scope remains to add a page of Errata and Additions. Inevitably over the thirty years that have elapsed since the original publication there are some minor corrections to be made which will be added to the website in due course.

[http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/?page\\_id=2858](http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/?page_id=2858)



### ...A right royal wedding

Sir, Libby Purves describes anti-royal wedding sentiment as “online Cromwellianism” in her otherwise excellent piece (“At last a break from all the doom and gloom”, May 21). This designation is somewhat unfair in light of the lavish, regal weddings that Oliver Cromwell arranged for his daughters Mary and Frances at the royal palaces of Hampton Court and Whitehall in November 1657. The two sisters, often styled “princesses”, married a week apart in considerable grandeur, the conspicuously joyful celebrations lasting for several days with great feasting and newly commissioned musical entertainment from the court poet Andrew Marvell.

Cromwell himself entered into the spirit – carousing, performing in Marvell's masque and wearing a costly new suit of grey velvet cut in “the Spanish fashion” with silk stockings and gold-laced garters; a far cry indeed from the dour joyless Puritan he is usually painted to be.

*Dr Miranda Malins*

Historian and trustee of the Cromwell Association.

*The Times, Tuesday 22 May 2018*



### Recently sold: Poughley Cottage

A Grade II Listed cottage in the downland village of Eastbury (nr Hungerford, Berkshire) which is believed to date back to 1482. It is said that Oliver Cromwell stayed here on the eve of the Battle of Newbury in 1642!



# The Protector's Pen

## The Dunbar Tapestry

In the year 2005 I began to make a yearly pilgrimage to Doon Hill, overlooking the site of the Battle of Dunbar on the key date of September 3rd. I was there for 6.00am in order to feel smug that, unlike C.V. Wedgwood, Thomas Carlisle or John Buchan, I was there at sunrise and saw the sun coming up out of the German Sea rather than, as they wrote more romantically and inaccurately, 'over St.Abb's head'. What has also always been misreported about Dunbar is that the Scottish soldiers were sheltering behind the corn shocks. It is well recorded that crops and grazing were destroyed as part of a 'scorched earth' policy. There had been no harvest and, therefore, I have just robbed the poor Scottish soldiers of the shelter they have enjoyed since the history of the Battle of Dunbar has been in print.

I made my second annual pilgrimage to Doon Hill on a beautiful, blustery night with a Baptist minister friend. As it got light and the sun was coming up in a clear blue sky, there was a distinct chilling of the air followed by about 30 seconds of sleet. September 3<sup>rd</sup> 1650 had also been a night of storm and sleet!

It is funny how little details become the loose threads in a tapestry. You see a loose thread and pull and the tapestry changes. The thread halts, caught around another loose thread and you pull that one and a whole section drops out of the tapestry. Teasing and worrying at loose threads and threads which don't appear to belong in a certain place, you unravel the tapestry, afraid that you might destroy it. But then you start to identify the original needlework and the way the originator of the tapestry has used certain types of thread and you are no longer pulling at

loose ends, you are becoming one with the person who created the tapestry.

Historians are sticklers for dates and times, chapter and verse and recognised credentials. I offered *The Scotsman* an article I had written on the Battle of Dunbar and its aftermath. They didn't want it because 'I was not known'. It contained the first plausible description of the treatment of the Scots after the Battle of Dunbar. It contained incontrovertible proof that the Scots had not burnt the woodwork in the Cathedral, because much was sold. Roxwell Parish Church in Essex has an organ surround, now a screen, from one of the several organs in Durham at the time.

In his reports from every one of his victories, Cromwell liked to tell Parliament what he had been blessed with. At Dunbar, he reported the sick, injured and starving prisoners whom he dismissed. He wrote of his concern for the 'fit' prisoners and he had an idea of the numbers of artillery pieces and weapons he had accumulated. He even had an idea of how many 'enemy colours' he had taken; but he was short of one thing and in dire need of one thing: food. If Cromwell had captured a well-supplied baggage train with food and supplies, he would have mentioned it. He didn't.

As we tease away at that thread, we need to go back and look at the Musters.

Heritors and leaders were to turn up with 30 days' supplies for their men or 40 days' supply if from above Aberdeen. The Muster was ordered in early July and the Battle of Dunbar was in early September. Towns and cities had to be fed and many areas had to have been badly affected by the 23,000 young men that the Muster adds up to.

Carts, horses, smiths, wheelwrights and labourers. All away to battle. Would you like to pull this thread with me? Sir David Leslie had played Cromwell like a fish. He had played a blinder! He had Cromwell hog-tied and ready for slaughter. But he had also a large number of men who, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September had not eaten for four days or more.

David Leslie was in no position to play the waiting game because his men were beginning to show the malnutrition that had been their lot for weeks. Sir David had 'blown it', being, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September more than 45 days into 30 days' supplies. Leslie had to do what he had avoided all along. He had to face Cromwell. Poor Leslie!

One might say, 'But surely the Scots would have been re-supplied'. The King's men would have been fed well. The lancers and 'proper' soldiers of Leslie's army would have had adequate supply but the conscript, the semi-combatant would have been left to his own devices. Comparing the two armies, one well run and (sort of) well supplied, the other left to their own devices and food to be taken by the fittest. But Cromwell's well-run, disciplined army is living on peas and oats, so what were the Scottish conscripts living on?

It has been fashionable to demonise the English treatment of the Scots at Dunbar and Durham but all you need to do is pull at one thread and ask 'Did anyone in the Scottish hierarchy actually give a damn for the conscripts?'

I challenge all the whingeing Scottish 'historians' and Royalist apologists to show one piece of proof that the conscripts were cared for by their own leaders. And then I will show you the machinery that went into place to try to save the conscripts, courtesy of Oliver Cromwell. Letters, instructions, orders, threats, logistics. Followed by letters to and from Massachusetts preparing places for the Scots as Indentured Servants. Letters to Cromwell from John Cotton in Massachusetts telling him of the buildings and personal plots that the men would have. Letters telling how the men would work so many days for their masters and have so many days to work their own plots of land.

(cont'd)

## Remains of Scottish Troops reburied

A simple graveside ceremony has been held as the remains of 17<sup>th</sup> century Scottish prisoners of war were reburied after their discovery during building works at Durham University.

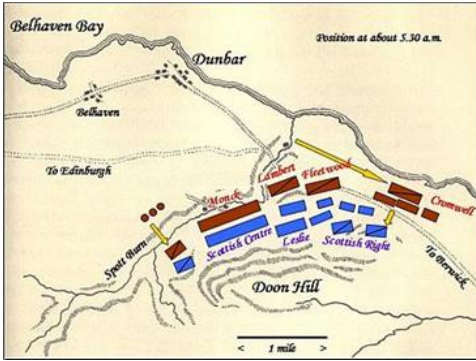
Extract from *i-Paper*, Saturday 19 May 2018



# The Protector's Pen

## Cromwell Association Schools' Conference

England in the 1640s



According to the editor of *The Scotsman*, I was a nobody, as were the conscripts in their time; but the 'tapestry' of the Battle of Dunbar, with the loose and spurious threads removed is becoming a clear picture. Let me restore that tapestry and remove a slur and a lie which has been told against our honourable Parliamentary army and against the people of the North East of England.

Sir David Leslie, King Charles II and the entire Committee of Estates have hidden amongst the rags and tags of untruths which once made up the Battle of Dunbar. It is perhaps justice that I, a nobody, should be the one to bring those 'somebodies' to book, on behalf of the nobodies they first abused and then abandoned on the field at Dunbar.

*Laurie Pettit*

**Editor's note.** Laurie Pettit is an Association member who has taken on the task of refuting the charge that Cromwell caused the death of Scottish prisoners from Dunbar who were held in Durham Cathedral in the autumn of 1650, and whose remains were found during recent building works.



### Quote of the day

"Jeremy Corbyn is the Cromwell of his age, wanting to ban everything".....

Liz Truss.

The Tory MP makes some historical comparisons.

*i-paper, Saturday 23 June 2018*

This year's event took a slightly different form, being aimed directly at Sixth Form students rather than their teachers, though the latter no doubt gained a lot from the day! It was kindly hosted by St Paul's Boys School, Hammersmith, who provided a welcome cool venue on a very hot day – no repetition here of Cromwell's opening speech to the Nominated Assembly! It was attended by 120 students from 11 schools.

The morning consisted of a series of debates looking at some key questions, with speakers putting forward contrasting arguments. The first was between Dr David Smith and Professor Peter Gaunt on the issue of why Parliament won the Civil War. Dr Smith argued that Parliament's control of London and the South East meant that its resource base, linked to its efficiency in exploiting this, meant that it was much more likely to win a protracted war. Professor Gaunt argued that in terms of the actual military operations there is no sign of the royalists losing due to lack of resources, but rather, key decisions proved crucial – the failure to follow-up Edgehill and the 'unnecessary' battles of Marston Moor and Naseby. It opened up the difference between a 'big picture' systematic explanation and one based more closely on contingency and accident.

The second debate, between Professor Jason Peacey and Dr Joan Redmond was on the issue of when regicide became likely, and on the comparative responsibility for it of Charles I and Cromwell. Both agreed that the trial and actual regicide were distinct, with a number of individuals supporting the former but not the latter. Dr Redmond saw Charles' repeated refusal

to plead, and so acknowledge the authority of the Court, as crucial; Professor Peacey felt that only with the sentence did regicide become inevitable and up to that point other outcomes were possible.

The final session, between Professors Gaunt and Peacey, looked at whether the Civil War should be seen as a national conflict or a series of interlocking local ones. The latter argued for close links between London and the localities and a strong awareness of national issues, while the former put the view that, at least in the distant part of the country local conflicts could be carried on, or avoided, with little reference or involvement by central authority.

The afternoon was given over to a number of source-based seminars looking at different aspects of the period. The ideas discussed here will be appearing on the Schools' section of the Association website, along with audio files of the debates.

All in all it was a most successful, interesting and enjoyable day; and thanks are due especially to Serrie Meakins for organising it, and St Paul's for hosting us.

*Richard Warren*



Jason Peacey (left), David Smith, Joan Redmond debating the regicide (courtesy St. Paul's School)



# The Protector's Pen

## Cromwell Curator's Corner

'So how do you feel about writing a regular column for *The Protector's Pen*?'



It was one of the first questions that my predecessor as Curator of the Cromwell

Museum, John Goldsmith, now Chair of the Cromwell Association, asked me back in February when we met for coffee. I was spending a morning trying to extract as much knowledge as possible from John about the Museum and its collections, and didn't really feel like I could say no!

In all seriousness, I'm delighted to be able to get a regular column in order to grow the relationship between the new Museum Trust and the Cromwell Association. I know many CA members have a strong affinity for the Museum, housing as it does the best collection of objects relating to 'Old Noll' anywhere in the world, and it's great to be able to keep you updated on our activities.

The Cromwell Museum Trust continues to strengthen, with the Town Council being very supportive by providing us with an office space and use of the historic court rooms in the Town Hall, which will give us greater space for school visits and temporary exhibitions. As a result of this new confidence, the Trust took the decision to appoint a new, full-time curator to manage the Museum and help drive it forward over the next few years. Accordingly, I was appointed and took post in February. The time has flown by since then!

As a bit of background about me; I've a History degree and postgraduate qualifications in Education and Museum Studies. For 14 years I worked for Peterborough's cultural trust, leading on the interpretation and programmes for Peterborough Museum, Flag Fen Bronze Age site and Longthorpe Tower, as well as developing a guided tours programme for the city. I was a key member of the team that refurbished Peterborough Museum in

2012, and for eight years developed and managed Peterborough's annual Heritage Festival. For the last two years I was Director of Operations at Peterborough Cathedral, helping develop this year's programme of celebrations for its 900th anniversary. Having long had an interest in the Civil War, it's a great privilege to now work with such an amazing collection relating to such a fascinating figure as Cromwell.

One of my current projects, which will be essential to plan our future, is to put together a new Forward and Development Plan, looking at what we want the Museum to look like and be over the next decade. We'll be holding consultation sessions for this over the summer, to which Cromwell Association Council members will be invited, and any members will also be welcome to attend or give their views.

In the coming months, we're hoping to attract more visitors to the Museum with a programme of events and exhibitions. As those who attended the Study Day in June will know, we've played host to a huge Lego model of the English Civil War storming of Basing House, constructed by Museum volunteer and Lego enthusiast Mike Addis. The model, 7 feet wide and



9 feet long, took three weeks to assemble and used over 150,000 Lego bricks in its construction. The model created a lot of interest and brought many new visitors into the Museum, particularly younger ones! We've other events coming up, family activities in the summer and a programme of talks and tours in the autumn.

Do keep up to date with what we're up to via our website:

[www.cromwellmuseum.org](http://www.cromwellmuseum.org)

or our social media streams – we're on

 [@thecromwellmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/thecromwellmuseum)

 [@museumcromwell](https://twitter.com/museumcromwell)

Do pop in and see us if you're in Huntingdon too!

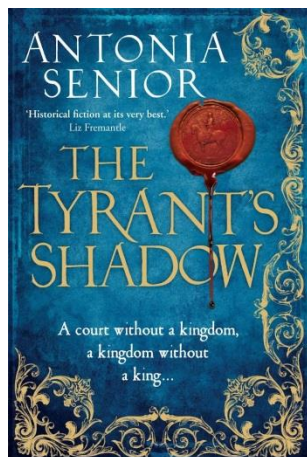
*Stuart Orme*

Curator, The Cromwell Museum

## Book Reviews

### The Tyrant's Shadow

Antonia Senior's novel, *The Tyrant's Shadow* continues the story started in *Treason's Daughter*, and revolves around the lives of Will Johnson, whose wife died dramatically at the end of the first book, and Patience, his sister. It is set during the tumultuous years 1653 to 1658. Throughout the narrative, it is all too clear that Cromwell's influence is all-embracing, yet the great man makes very few appearances in the book. When he does, it is as a complex and thoughtful man, not the stereotype so often found in historical fiction of this period. In fact, the period is painted with a delicate brush, (the richness of the writing has drawn comparisons with *The Miniaturist*) to the extent that some of the depictions are painful to read. Patience, particularly, is portrayed as a typical 17<sup>th</sup> century woman so that some of her behaviour and beliefs are quite alien to the modern reader, especially her obedience to a Fifth monarchist bully and her adherence to her religious beliefs. Antonia does not shy away from the complex religious and political background to this period. Indeed, the historical background is accurately and colourfully drawn. The story stretches from England to Germany, the West Indies, Paris and the Virgin islands! The naval scenes were especially gripping, and the smell and sounds of the streets of London rose easily from the page. Antonia had clearly researched the Fifth Monarchists (London's Puritan jihadis, as she calls them on her website!) in some depth and her knowledge shone through, making the novel so much more pleasurable to read.



The book considers some timeless themes too, the nature of power and the importance of religious beliefs in determining behaviour. Patience stands for many people at this time, aligned with the new yet still attached to the old; her marriage to the Puritan who shares her beliefs is unhappy, and her attraction to Sam Challoner, a royalist, is undeniable.

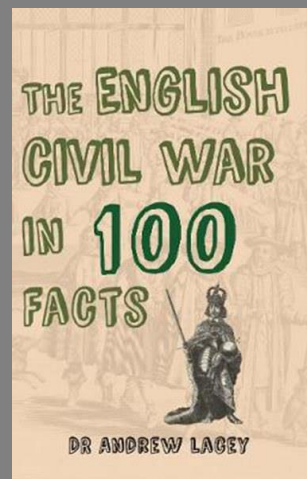
Antonia has the journalist's eye for a fast-paced and gripping tale, with colourful characters and a strong plot line. This was very evident in her first novel in the series. This sequel is even better, more literary in style, with an assured writing style. I hope she will complete the story to make a trilogy at some point in the future.

*Serrie Meakins*

### The English Civil War in 100 Facts

This book aims in a number of short articles to 'set out the main story, present some of the major characters and introduce some of the issues that the war was fought over...a number of which are today still the subject of debate!'

The '100 facts' are presented in chronological order, but rather than a book to read from start to finish, this is one to perhaps read two or three articles at a time, or to skim through the index to cover related issues. From such diverse subjects as: Charles I dashing off to Spain with Lord Buckingham to try and woo the infanta; the Fifth Monarchists, the Levellers and the Diggers; the ups and downs of the numerous parliaments and the rise of the New Model Army – it also briefly covers the impact and involvement of Scotland and Ireland in the civil wars and ultimately the end of the Commonwealth and the Declaration of Breda which prepared the way for the restoration of Charles II. If you also throw in Ship Money, the Militia Ordinance, a few battles, the trial of the King, the Humble Petition and Advice, and Religious Tolerance... you get the picture that the book covers a wide scope of the issues and events from the period.



The author is the first to admit that this is not a comprehensive list, and in a few articles acknowledges where information has been taken from key writers on the period. There are, however, no recommendations for further reading – which might have been useful for the audience at which this book is probably aimed. The articles are all short and concise, and whilst not in great depth – as someone who is not well-versed in the history of the period, it has encouraged me to seek out a more recognised publication to read further on this pivotal period in our history.

*Simon Blake*

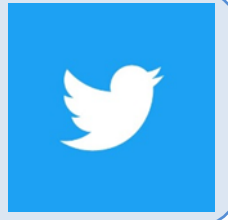
Dr Andrew Lacey, **The English Civil War in 100 Facts**, Amberley Publishing, RRP: £8.99 (paperback),

Antonia Senior, **The Tyrant's Shadow**, Corvus Publishing, RRP: £8.99 (paperback), £3.79 (kindle)

# The Protector's Pen

## Twitterbox

Miranda Malins looks after the Tweet feed for *The Cromwell Association*. Below are a few of the tweets that have been sent out or 're-tweeted' in the past 6 months. If you have something of interest, please forward to Miranda to re-tweet or tweet on your behalf...



**Cromwell Association** @Cromwellorg · 11 Dec 2017  
Exciting news - our brand new website is now live! Go to [olivercromwell.org](http://olivercromwell.org) for a wealth of information on Oliver Cromwell and his times - a wonderful resource for the curious, enthusiasts, students and academics alike. Let us know what you think!



**The Cromwell Association - dedicated to the life of Oliver Cromwell**  
The Cromwell Association aims to promote our understanding of Oliver Cromwell 1599-1658 and his life, legacy and significance in English history. [olivercromwell.org](http://olivercromwell.org)

**George Wasserhouse** @wasserhouse · Jun 2  
Fantastic @Cromwellorg study day in Huntingdon in aid of the wonderful @MuseumCromwell the highlight for me was @DrJFitzgibbons description of the restoration as the "most depressing period in English history"!



**The Cromwell Museum** @MuseumCromwell · May 21  
Case cleaning again today, and the highlight object for a condition check was this exquisite late 16thc #apothecary cabinet that belonged to #Cromwell, still with its medicine pots and various tools. A privilege to see up close. #museums #history #medicine #17thCentury #ECW



English Civil War, John McCafferty, King Charles R and 7 others

**History Today** @HistoryToday · Mar 13  
Oliver Cromwell's plan to dispatch a massive force to conquer the Spanish Americas has been largely forgotten.



**Imperial Designs: Cromwell's Conquest of Jamaica**  
The Lord Protector's move on Jamaica transformed Britain's early empire. [historytoday.com](http://historytoday.com)

**106.9 West Hull FM** @wearewhfm · Jan 18  
#CharlesI to return to Hull - nearly 400 years after he was turned away. #Hull's refusal to grant the king entry to the city sparked the #EnglishCivilWar. #Hull2018



**Charles I is returning to Hull - 400 years after he was turned away**  
Hull's refusal to grant the king entry to the city sparked the English Civil War [hulldaily.com](http://hulldaily.com)

**Cromwell Association** @Cromwellorg · Jan 26  
Friends - head to Cheshire today for the wonderful [bit.ly/2BuH5ok](http://bit.ly/2BuH5ok) - the annual re-enactment event known as Holly Holy Day to mark the battle of #Nantwich. Events all day including the chance to hear our own Prof Peter Gaunt & @Temulkar, Lucy Moore & Rob Hodgkinson this eve

**Charles Spencer** @cspencer1508 · May 16  
Wonderful 1643 letter from Charles I to his loyal subjects in Cornwall, penned during the English Civil War - this stands above the door in the church of Fowey, where I talk on Charles II in an hour's time. #tochacking #englishhistory



**Civil War Centre UK** @civilwarcentre · Mar 27  
Sword and gauntlet of Sir Tom Fairfax - 17th century Commander of New Model Army - going on show from Thursday @civilwarcentre See our amazing new Cutting Edge exhibition! Open 10am to 5pm. @VisitNotts @HLFEastMids @HistoryExtra @Sealed\_Knot @ECWSociety



**History of Parliament** @HistParl · Mar 16  
The first post to our new blog page - James I to Restoration - is from Dr Patrick Little, 'Irish Disputes in Westminster': [ow.ly/HuIQ30IXoXk](http://ow.ly/HuIQ30IXoXk) The Commons 1640-1660 & the Lords 1604-1629 Sections will be posting about all things #HistParl in the early & mid 17th century.



**Irish Disputes at Westminster**  
To launch our new James I to Restoration blog, and also mark St Patrick's Day, Dr Patrick Little of the Commons 1640-1660 Section discusses the controversial presence... [thehistoryofparliament.wordpress.com](http://thehistoryofparliament.wordpress.com)



## Meghan Markle's link to Oliver Cromwell

MEGHAN Markle's family tree has been revealed as it emerges the American's ancestor studied at Cambridge University and was a friend of Oliver Cromwell...

...Reverend William Skepper, the princess-to-be's great-grandfather nine times removed, went to Sidney Sussex College in the early 1600s. Mr Skepper graduated with a bachelor of arts at the same time as English Civil War leader Mr Cromwell, whose skull is said to be buried somewhere in the college grounds. The connection – discovered by Australian historian Michael Reed – is all the more significant because Meghan could gain the title Duchess of Sussex after she marries Prince Harry.

Mr Rogers said: 'William Skepper was admitted in 1612 and graduated in 1618. This means he was at the college at the same time as Cromwell.'...

Extract from Daily Express, Thursday 25 January 2018

**Editor's Note:** Searching online reveals Rev. William Skepper and his family emigrated to New England in 1639 and that his parents were Edward and Mary Robinson Skepper with a well documented line of Royal ancestry including King Edward III. See Gary Boyd Roberts' book, 'The Royal Descents of 600 Immigrants'.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/168943716/william-skepper>

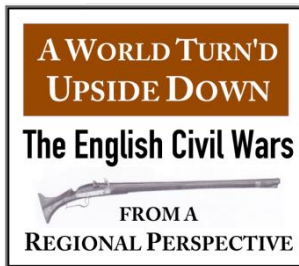
# The Protector's Pen

## Civil war day conference in Shrewsbury

A one-day conference, to be held at the University Centre in Shrewsbury (the venue for our 2017 AGM) on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018



The conference will explore aspects of the civil war from a regional perspective and will range over the conflict, its context and its repercussions in Shropshire itself, the central and northern Marches and parts of the western Midlands.



Although this is not an Association event and the Association is not organizing or funding it, several of the speakers are either members or have recently spoken at our events. Thus, Peter Gaunt and Jonathan Worton will explore how the civil war was waged in Cheshire and Shropshire respectively, and Malcolm

Wanklyn and John Sutton will examine aspects of Catholic engagement in Warwickshire and Staffordshire respectively, while other lectures will reassess the Shropshire clubmen and examine how the poor law in Shrewsbury was affected by the events of the mid-seventeenth century.

Because the event is being subsidised by the University Centre Shrewsbury, the price, which includes a buffet lunch, is remarkably modest. That makes it all the more important that anyone interested in attending should book without delay; and, as numbers are limited, booking and payment in advance are essential.

A flyer giving further information about the event and details of how to book and pay is included in this July mailing.

<http://shropshirehistory.com/civilwar/civilwar.htm>



Stokesay Castle – fortified and garrisoned in the civil war

## Publications, Exhibitions and Events

Date	Venue	Details (website)
Summer	Battlefields Trust	A season of Battlefield Walks including: 21 <sup>st</sup> July – Evesham, 19 <sup>th</sup> August – Chalgrove - see <a href="http://www.battlefieldstrust.com/default.asp">www.battlefieldstrust.com/default.asp</a>
Summer	NCWC, Newark	Exhibition – Cutting Edge: The Changing Tools of War – see <a href="http://www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/events/">www.nationalcivilwarcentre.com/events/</a>
Aug 2	The Commandery, Worcester	Lucy Moore talks about 'Lady Fanshaws Receipts, A Heroine of the English Civil War' – Civil War Nights at The Commandery
Aug 4 – 5	Ulverston, Lake District	Sealed Knot – Battle and living History – see <a href="http://www.thesealedknot.org.uk/events/new">www.thesealedknot.org.uk/events/new</a>
Aug 25 – 27	Tretower Court, Crickhowell, Powys	Life in the 17 <sup>th</sup> Century @Tretower Court – see <a href="http://cadw.gov.wales/events/allevnts/life-in-the-17th-century-tretower-august-2018/?lang=en">http://cadw.gov.wales/events/allevnts/life-in-the-17th-century-tretower-august-2018/?lang=en</a>
Aug 25 – 27	Hylton Castle, Sunderland	ECWS – Major Event
Sep 1	Worcester	Cromwell Association, Cromwell Service Day (details in this Newsletter)
Sep 1 – 2	The Commandery, Worcester	The Battle of Worcester Commemorative Drumhead Ceremony
Sep 15 – 16	Gloucester	ECWS – Major Event
Sep 28	Cromwell House, Ely	In Conversation with The Curator of The Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon - Stuart Orme – see <a href="http://www.olivercromwellshouse.co.uk/index.php?page=whats_on">www.olivercromwellshouse.co.uk/index.php?page=whats_on</a>
Oct 11	Cromwell House, Ely	Mrs Cromwell's Kitchen - Autumn Harvest
Nov 3	University Centre, Shrewsbury	Civil war day conference with the University of Chester
2019 – 27 Apr	Newmarket, Suffolk	Cromwell Association AGM

All information correct at time of going to press