

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

The Protector's Pen

Association News

Cromwell AGM
Schools' Day
Subscriptions

Tracing Civil War Soldiers

Save the 'London'

Bridgwater

Cromwell's Head

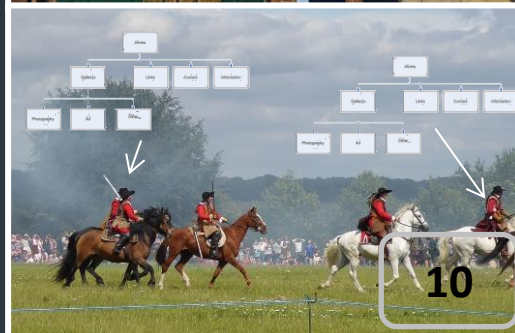
News & Events

In the Press
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Books

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Front cover: Cromwell Dissolving the Long Parliament (1653) by Benjamin West (1782) Painting at Montclair Art Museum, USA

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 our Chair.

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

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

President	:	Peter Gaunt
Chair	:	John Goldsmith
Treasurer	:	Geoffrey Bush
Membership Secretary	:	Paul Robbins

 www.olivercromwell.org
 [@Cromwellorg](https://twitter.com/Cromwellorg)

All opinions expressed in *The Protector's Pen* are the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the Association. *The Protector's Pen* is produced twice a year (March and July) for the Cromwell Association and printed by **The Printing Place**. All information is correct at the time of going to press.

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www.olivercromwell.org

The Protector's Pen

Chairman's Note

Welcome to the spring edition of *The Protector's Pen*

If all goes to plan (cunning or otherwise) you should receive this issue of *The Protector's Pen* and details of the Annual General Meeting a little earlier than is normal for our spring mailing. This is to ensure that you have notice of the event organised by the *Save the London* campaign to be held in Southend before it happens on Saturday 7th March.

Last July, just after the contents of the summer edition of the newsletter were put to bed, I received an invitation to represent the Association at an event to launch the campaign to *Save the London*. It was held at Southend's Central Museum which was also showing an exhibition of some of the finds from the

wreck, along with interpretive material about its discovery and excavation. In this issue you will find an article by Mark Beattie-Edwards explaining more of the fascinating story of this vessel, its catastrophic demise and subsequent excavation. As some of you will know, my background is in

museums, so inevitably I am always thrilled to see stuff – a technical museum term – the material evidence of the past. Although the exhibition is now over, if you are able to make it to Southend you will have the chance to see some of the items retrieved by divers, and for that alone I am sure it will be a worthwhile trip.

The Association was also invited to participate in a carol service held at St Giles' Cripplegate just before Christmas. The church, where we held our annual service of commemoration in 2017, is where Oliver Cromwell married Elizabeth Bourchier on 22nd August 1620. The church had invited representatives of famous individuals connected with the church to give the readings, so Cromwell was represented along with John Milton and John Speed amongst others. It was a splendid occasion with a full church, magnificent choir and mulled wine and mince pies afterwards. Sadly, I do not think that this will be an annual invitation.

Although I can report these events to you, our publishing schedule means that we are not always able to tell you about everything going on, which may be of interest to you, in a timely fashion; so we are currently looking at alternative options. This will inevitably mean using the web or email or social media, rather than an additional mailing which is beyond our means. So if you have the capacity to be online, but have not so far given us an email address, please consider doing so. Our Membership Secretary will be pleased to hear from you.

John Goldsmith
Chair

chair@olivercromwell.org



Notes from Council

Council has had two well-attended meetings since the last edition of *The Protector's Pen*.

Inevitably a significant proportion of our meeting time is taken up with the practical issues of keeping the show on the road, organising events and reflecting on past events. However, there have been some other issues, which include:

- A rise in subscription rates. Council has decided that the inevitable time has come to put our membership rates up, please see page 9. We very much hope that you are persuaded that membership of the Association still represents good value for money and will continue to support us by either taking out a Standing Order at the new rate or renewing in September.
- Details of the new Postgraduate Grants scheme have been finalised, see page 9. We hope that it will attract interest from young academics and make them aware of the Association and what we do. The success of the scheme is in part dependent on getting information about it disseminated as widely as possible. If you are part of the academic world or have contacts within it, please make sure that you spread the word.
- We agreed that the Association should support the costs of a new information board outside the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon, the site of the Association's very first memorial plaque.
- We are aware that our mailing schedule is not evenly spread across the year and consequently there is a long gap between the July mailing and the spring mailing. We cannot afford the resources to provide a third hard copy mailing in the late autumn but we could consider an electronic mailing providing an update on activities and events. Not all members are contactable by email directly, so some would miss out (although this information would also be placed in the Members' Area on our website). Council would welcome member opinions on this issue.

The minutes of our meetings, once approved, are placed on the Members' Area of the website, accessible using the password printed on your annual membership card. Please let us know your views and opinions.

Contact chair@olivercromwell.org or write to:

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

The Protector's Pen

Cromwell Association AGM

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Bridgwater, Somerset on Saturday 25th April 2020



Our constitution requires us to hold our AGM on, or near, the anniversary of Cromwell's birth on 25th April 1599; this year the date falls on a Saturday so we will be meeting on Cromwell's 421st birthday in Bridgwater. The town has been selected as it has both an interesting civil war history and was also the birthplace of General-at-Sea Robert Blake, the great naval commander of the Protectorate.

The meeting will take place at Wembdon Village Hall, Homberg Way, Bridgwater TA6 7BY. The venue is less than two miles from the centre of Bridgwater, just off the A38, and has plenty of parking. Bridgwater is close to the M5 motorway and is also accessible by train from either Taunton or Bristol, both of which are served by London Paddington.



The doors will open at 10.30am with tea and coffee provided, followed by the formal business meeting at 11.00am, when activities in 2019 will be reviewed and plans for 2020 and beyond outlined. All the meeting papers are enclosed with this mailing.

Following the AGM, Dr Elaine Murphy of the University of Plymouth will talk about Robert Blake. The lecture will be open to all so please encourage friends and guests to join us for that part of the day.

A buffet lunch will follow for which booking and pre-payment is essential, see the enclosed form. As usual over lunch we will run a raffle to help raise funds – this year we have decided not to accept books as prizes as we anticipate having a generous number of donated books on the day – but all other prizes are very welcome!

After lunch we will head back to Bridgwater town centre for a guided walk and an opportunity to visit the Blake Museum. Arrangements for afternoon tea will be announced on the day.

AGM Timetable

- 10.30 Village Hall open
- 11.00 Annual General Meeting
- 12.00 Lecture: 'Robert Blake' given by Dr Elaine Murphy
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.15 Guided walk in Bridgwater (duration 60 minutes approx.)
- 15.15 Afternoon tea at a suitable venue!

For those who want more information about the area and places to stay, see www.visitsomerset.co.uk or email bridgwater.tic@sedgemoor.gov.uk



Robert Blake, General at Sea, 1598–1657 by Henry Perronet Briggs, painted 1829

If you decide to stay over, the Langport battlefield site is only a few miles away and there is a self-guided walk leaflet available, of which we hope to have copies available for you on the day.

The AGM is one of the keynote events of the Association's year and a good opportunity to meet other members, find out more about the Association, and make your views known about what you think we should be doing.

John Goldsmith

Schools' Essay Competition

The annual essay prize competition for 2020, generously supported by our member Fred Borch III, invites students to respond to the title:

'A person to be truly admired for nothing but apostasy and ambition and exceeding Tiberius in dissimulation' [Slingsby Bethal 1668]
Given that in 2002, Cromwell was voted the 3rd greatest Briton of all time, how do you explain the contempt shown him by some of his contemporaries?

For more information about the competition and how to enter, contact: education@cromwell.org.



The Protector's Pen

Bridgwater

Bridgwater on the River Parrett in north Somerset was a major river port in late medieval times, and remained an important one in the 17th century.



Its sympathies were largely puritan and parliamentary (its rector, John Devenish, had his lectureship suspended by the Laudian bishop in the 1630s, and it is still known for its enthusiastic Guy Fawkes celebrations) but its fortunes were very much shaped by wider events and it changed control at various times during the Civil War.

Protected by its castle and a six-yard-wide tidal moat, Bridgwater was a formidable defensive position, and from 1643 was a major royalist garrison and supply base. As such, it drew the attention of Fairfax and the New Model Army following its decisive victory at Naseby in June 1645 by seeking to destroy the royalist forces in the South West. Approaching, the New Model Army showed its quality in defeating Goring's attempt to cover his withdrawal at the Battle of Langport, where the decisive action was a successful charge up a lane allowing only four men to ride abreast, by troops who had formerly been part of Cromwell's famous 'Ironsides' regiment. Some 800 of the royalist prisoners taken promptly opted to join the New Model Army.

When Fairfax arrived at Bridgwater he found it strongly defended, with some 40 cannon and over 1,500 troops. While the army rested, Cromwell and he inspected

the town during which, according to legend, the Governor's wife, Lady Wyndham, who had been the future Charles II's wet-nurse, took a pot shot at Cromwell, killing an officer talking to him. She referred to this as her 'love-token'. After considering blockading the town it was eventually agreed to storm it, despite its impregnable reputation, the preparations including establishing artillery positions to bombard the town, the construction of several thirty-foot-long floating bridges to cross the moat and some serious sermonizing by the Army's chaplains.

The attack began early on 21st July, and was successful in capturing that part of the town on the eastern side of the Parrett; the floating bridges (and presumably the sermons too) having proved effective. In retaliation the royalists fired red-hot shot into that part of the town and set much of it alight.

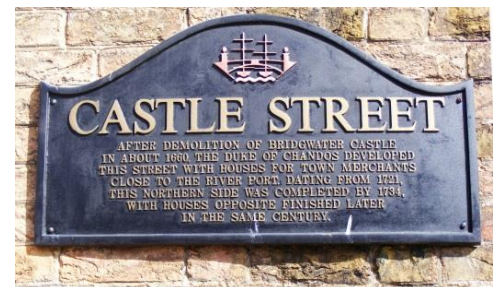
The following day, after two summons to surrender were met with spirited defiance (notably from Lady Wyndham), Fairfax prepared to resume the storm. First, however, he offered to let the women and children leave to spare them the storming and some 800 did, including the now rather less defiant Lady Wyndham.



The New Model Army then began an intense bombardment, some of the guns used having been taken from the king at Naseby, and, using red-hot shot, this set fire to further parts of the town, assisted by hot weather and strong winds (and, according to some, by townsmen setting fires in hopes of driving their unwelcome royalist occupiers out). At this point the royalist governor sought terms and, after some negotiation, the garrison were granted mercy and the town spared the

plundering that normally accompanied a storm. Happily soon after, parliament supplied the means to pay all the soldiers six shillings 'storming money' as a reward for their good conduct. In material terms the victory gained some 40 cannon, large quantities of food, horses and ammunition, and goods said to be worth £10,000. Also:

'The news amazed, astonished, and heavily depressed the King, especially as he had been assured that the place was impregnable, and would never be taken. He refused to consider it excusable that resistance was not prolonged even for one week. It also broke the spirits of his party, and made all despair'.



Between them it can be argued that the Battle of Langport and storming of Bridgwater saw the New Model Army, which had been regarded with widespread contempt by both friends and enemies at its inception, and which had been somewhat shaky at Naseby, 'come of age'. Both its opponents and its own soldiers recognised that it had shown itself to be a formidable force, and it would soon confirm this at Bristol. As Cromwell and its other supporters had hoped, it was on the road to bringing an end to the Civil War by decisively destroying the royalist forces.

Bridgwater's other claim to Civil War fame is that it is the birthplace of Robert Blake, who made his name leading the successful defence of Lyme (not yet 'Regis!') and subsequently Taunton, against large royalist forces, before becoming General-at-Sea under the Commonwealth, in which role he defeated the royalist navy of Prince Rupert, repeatedly outfought the Dutch,

(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

and captured a Spanish treasure fleet. Nelson cited him as one of his naval heroes, and praise can't come much higher than that. While the fires resulting from the 1645 siege destroyed most of pre-Civil War Bridgwater, happily Blake's birthplace survived and is now the town's museum.



Blake Museum, Bridgwater
© Chris Deane (Geograph)

John Westmacott 1941–2019

John Westmacott, who died unexpectedly in early October, was a long-time member of the Association and a descendant of the Protector through Bridget Cromwell. His name will be known by many older members as he served on the Council of the Association as treasurer for 15 years from 1985 onwards, supported by his wife Rachel, who undertook the duties of membership secretary. At a time before records were computerised both tasks required a great deal of time and painstaking effort to keep things in order. John had all the skills required: financial knowledge from his career in banking, patience and attention to detail. His quiet presence at Council meetings and wise counsel contributed greatly to the development of the Association. John was a regular attendee at our events and most recently at the Shrewsbury AGM in 2017. A service of thanksgiving for John's life was held at the church where he worshipped, St Mary's Castle, Reading, where the Association was represented.



Rachel has kindly donated John's library of Cromwell-related books to raise funds on behalf of the Association. A full list of the books is on the Members' Area of our website, with full details of how you can bid for them. If you are unable to access the web, please contact the Chair for further information.

The Association is very grateful for Rachel's generous donation.

Frank Dobson 1940–2019

The national broadsheets all recorded the death of Frank Dobson, the Labour politician and former Health Minister, in November. They noted his political career and service as a shadow minister, minister, and as MP for Holborn and St Pancras for over thirty-five years. Only *The Times* made passing reference to his study of Oliver Cromwell, but it was his interest in Cromwell that led to him being invited to address the Association at the 400th anniversary events in Huntingdon in 1999.

His thoughtful and passionate speech left no one in any doubt that Cromwell was a hero of Frank's and had been since his childhood. The text of his speech can be found on the Association's website at http://www.olivercromwell.org/wordpress/?page_id=489

Shortly after the quatercentenary he was invited to become a vice president of the Association, a role which he held until his death. He always took an interest in the affairs of the Association and attended the AGM at Marston Moor in 2013.



Three of our vice presidents in November 2008 at the ceremony held to mark the 350th anniversary of Cromwell's funeral at Westminster Abbey. Left to right: the late Ivan Roots, Frank Dobson and Blair Worden



Broadcast on BBC Radio 4, Monday Jan 21 @0900

Andrew Marr interviewed a number of authors, amongst whom was Paul Lay, editor of *History Today*.

Paul is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Senior Research Fellow at the Humanities Research Institute, University of Buckingham, and a trustee of the Cromwell Museum, Huntingdon.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000dj9j>

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Puritans and God-given government

Andrew Marr discuss political and religious ideology with Paul Lay, Lisa Mullen, Stephen Tomkins and Lindsay Newman

Available now 42 minutes

The Protector's Pen

Cromwell Day 2019

St Mary's Putney, Saturday 7th September

THE CROMWELL ASSOCIATION

With Cromwell Green remaining off-limits due to the refurbishment work at the Palace of Westminster (and somewhat besieged by pro- and anti-Brexit demonstrators), the Association once again had to relocate its commemoration of Cromwell Day, this time moving upriver to St Mary's Putney, the scene of the opening of the Army Council debates on the Leveller Agreement of the People in October/November 1647.

A number of members started the day with a very enjoyable guided tour of the National Army Museum in Chelsea, adjacent to the Royal Hospital. Time did not permit us to see all the museum but it was very good to see that the 'Story of the Army' gallery opens with a copy of the Walker portrait of Cromwell and one of the very few surviving Civil War colours displayed. While our guide admitted to being more of a Wellingtonian than Cromwellian in his interests, his enthusiasm and knowledge kept us thoroughly engaged beyond our allotted time.

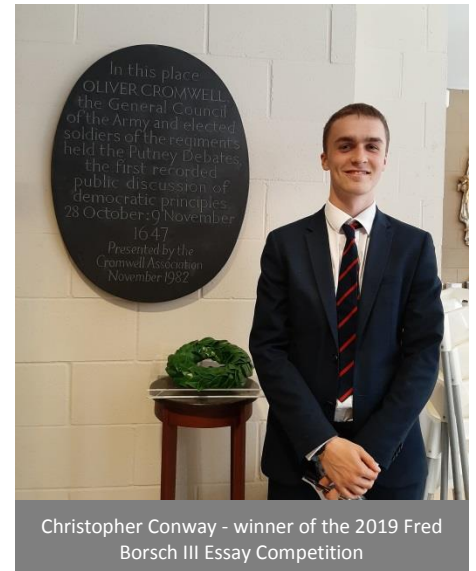
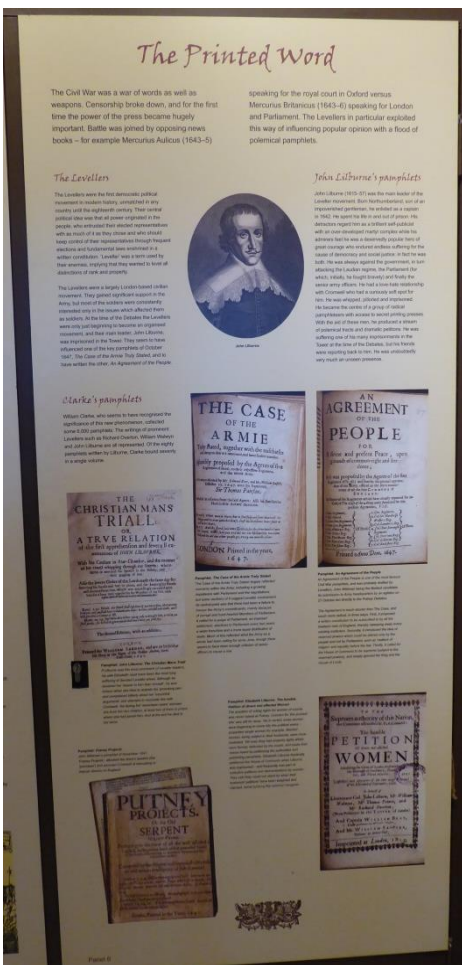


4th Captain's Colour, Sir John Gell's Regiment of Infantry, 1646 © NAM

In the afternoon members and guests gathered at St Mary's, many taking the opportunity to look at the small but very good display about the Putney Debates in the church. The service was led by Rev Tim Woolley, following a welcome from the Rector, Rev John Whittaker, and was attended by around 35 members and guests. The address was given by Professor Ted Vallance of Roehampton University on the theme of 'Blood Guilt and the Trial of Charles I' and will be published in the 2020 edition of *Cromwelliana*.



St Mary's from the river, 1809
The long dormer window was added to give light to the galleries installed in 1664 and 1668; the exterior staircase gave access to the galleries. On the left is the wooden bridge, built in 1729.



Christopher Conway - winner of the 2019 Fred Borsch III Essay Competition

At the end of the service the winner of the 2019 Fred Borsch III Essay Competition, Christopher Conway, of King's College School Wimbledon, was awarded his prize by our President, Peter Gaunt.

Finally a wreath was laid beneath the plaque commemorating Cromwell's participation in the 1647 Putney Debates by Peter Gaunt and Ted Vallance. Though Council had taken up a suggestion that this role could be taken by any willing member, no applications to do so were received. It is hoped that this year members will be less bashful in coming forward to have this honour.

The day concluded with a very fine tea provided by the *Putney Pantry* in the church foyer, giving members and guests a chance to socialise. I wonder if Cromwell, his fellow 'Grande'es', the Agitators and Leveller representatives had such a convivial time?

St Mary's made us very welcome, and it was a most enjoyable and successful day.

When the Head was put to Bed: Dr Horace Norman Stanley Wilkinson



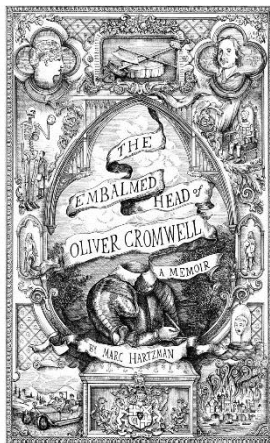
Oliver Cromwell's disinterment and posthumous beheading continues to fascinate. Indeed, his severed head has become the focus of an intriguing story itself. Despite considerable efforts to understand the history of this secular relic there is a dearth of analysis over arguably the head's most important episode – its reinterment. Why did its final owner, Dr Horace Stanley Norman Wilkinson, go against 145 years of family tradition and rebury Cromwell's head at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge in 1960?



Dr Wilkinson graduated from London University in 1950 and subsequently became the only full-time anaesthetic Senior Hospital Medical Officer at Kettering General Hospital. The 1950s were exciting times for anaesthetics. Traditional compounds, such as ether and chloroform, were being supplemented or replaced and in Kettering this was ushered in by an especially dynamic and committed senior anaesthetist team. Particularly noteworthy were Dr Patricia Wallace, whose efforts as Kettering's sole anaesthetic Consultant led to it becoming a training centre for postgraduate studies under the auspices of London's Faculty of Anaesthetics; and Dr Peter Shemilt, who brought thiopental sodium and curare to Kettering after seeing their benefits in World War II. Thiopental sodium put patients into a rapid and pleasant sleep whilst curare prevented problematic muscle movements. Improved control of patients and their pain helped to transform anaesthetics and surgery, and bolstered the wave of medical optimism heralded by the recent inception of the National Health

Service. Problems hitherto insoluble were being overcome by new treatments that reduced awareness and induced forgetfulness in surgical patients. Could this, alongside the confidence in Kettering's anaesthetic department and the wider NHS, have prompted Dr Wilkinson to consider the benefits of a similar approach for Cromwell's head? Did he possibly consider lessened awareness and incapacitation as key to progress for the head, by laying it down in the Sidney Sussex soil in such a low-key ceremony and (still) secret location?

Dr Wilkinson is also of note because of where he kept Cromwell's head before it was reburied. The head came to him in 1957 after the death of his father, Reverend Horace Wilkinson. Dr Wilkinson was still living in accommodation at Kettering General Hospital at this time but the following year he bought Laundry Cottages in Thorpe Malsor, a small village to the west of Kettering. Laundry Cottages – shown on a large painting in the village social club's current pool room – had previously been owned by the Maunsell family who had lived in the village since 1622. In 1649 the then head of the estate, John Maunsell, was a Lieutenant for Oliver Cromwell and in 1655 was described by Major-General William Boteler in a letter to John Thurloe, the Protectorate's Secretary of State, as 'a great asserter of the present government'. John's eldest son, Robert, was later appointed a Justice of the Peace in the 1650s and even after the Restoration they remained a notable Northamptonshire



family. Indeed, they provided the ironstone for Kettering General Hospital when it first opened in 1897.

Contrary to previous commentators, I suggest that Dr Wilkinson, rather than a passive or disinterested individual, was a necessary and sufficient factor for Cromwell's head finally to be laid to rest. Furthermore, that his approach to Cromwell's head is likely to have been crucially influenced by developments in medical practice as well as a growing confidence in his anaesthetic colleagues in Kettering and in broader society.

Dr Chris Smart

(Editor's Note: Read more on the subject, written from the perspective of Cromwell's head, in the book, *The Embalmed Head of Oliver Cromwell: A Memoir* by Marc Hartzman available: www.curiouspublications.com).



Wellingborough Stained Glass Window

Just as a follow up to Peter Gaunt's paper on Wellingborough in the 2019 issue of *Cromwelliana*, I thought I would mention that All Hallows Church (Market Square, Wellingborough) has a part of a stained glass window depicting the incident concerning 'Master Jones and the bear'.

It shows Jones riding the bear surrounded by soldiery. Perhaps an insight into how embedded such stories can become into the local history of an area.

Stephen Ede-Borrett

The Protector's Pen

Cromwell Association News

Subscription Increase

It has been nearly 14 years since the rates for UK members were increased. During this time the Association has changed printers which has brought about a big improvement in the look and presentation of our publications, but this has not come without additional cost. In addition, postal charges have rocketed. Therefore, while the Association enjoys healthy finances, the Trustees have considered it prudent to increase rates this year.

A further important consideration is that the Association's mission encompasses far more than publishing *Cromwelliana* and *The Protector's Pen* and that while some activities generate modest amounts of revenue, many do not. These include:

- commissioning of new plaques and panels at sites associated with Cromwell
- support of the Cromwell Museum
- the provision of an online resource to members, school students, teachers and researchers of the period via www.olivercromwell.org
- the grant of bursaries to university students
- the updating of the Online Directory of Parliamentary Officers, and so on.

We wish to continue and expand these, together with other initiatives, and so we look to the regular income of annual subscriptions for their principal financing.

The Trustees have decided on a smaller increase for our non-UK members given that their rates were changed relatively recently. The depreciation of the pound sterling against most currencies will no doubt cushion the impact!

The rates are:

Membership Type	Current Subscription	New Subscription from Sep 2020
Individual Membership, UK	£20	£27
Individual Membership, non-UK	£30	£35
Additional Member at same address	£5	£5
School / College	Free	Free
UK Institution	£30	£40
Foreign Institution	£45	£50

The mechanics of the change for UK members are explained on the enclosed sheet. Please give it your attention!

A final word: the Trustees are deeply appreciative of the very many generous donations by members. We do hope that these will continue as before.

The Treasurer,
Cromwell Association

Postgraduate Research Grant (PRG)

The Association, in reviewing its long-term goals, decided that it was important to try to develop and build on links between ourselves and young academics. Pressure on the academic world is significant with greater demands to publish and fewer permanent posts on offer. If we want 17th century studies to thrive we need to find ways to encourage and support new research. As a consequence, we are offering some grant funding.

The **Postgraduate Research Grant (PRG)** will further a charitable purpose of the Association by providing encouragement and support to postgraduate students engaged in research on a topic relevant to the Association's core objective of promoting the understanding of Cromwell and his times. Applications from students seeking to conduct research on an aspect of the life and legacy of Oliver Cromwell, or a topic related to the British Civil Wars, the Interregnum (1649–1660) or the Restoration period are particularly welcome.

Grants are open to any person currently studying for a postgraduate degree at a university or similar institution in the UK or Ireland. The closing date for the first round of applications is **31st December 2020**.

It is the Association's intention to award grants annually from a total fund of £1500. Applicants can apply for the full £1500 or for an amount below that sum. The grants are intended for expenses associated with research, such as travel, accommodation, etc. but not, for example, to write up material already researched, or to pay publication fees.

For more information and an application form, go to our website or contact PRG@olivercromwell.org

'I faithfully served ... to the end of those infortunate warres': How to trace Civil War soldiers



The English Civil Wars truly were a national conflict which would have affected every family in the country. The death rate was proportionably higher than the First World War, with one in ten men in the country losing their lives. Keeping the armies on both sides sufficiently manned was an ongoing problem; whereas initially men had been willing to volunteer to defend their King or their Parliament, as the war progressed it became necessary to press-gang men into the army against their will.

With such a high percentage of the population engaged in the conflict, there is a very high chance that you will have ancestors who fought. Unfortunately, tracing their careers in the army is not an easy task because there is no single or complete source to consult. Surviving papers relating to parliamentary soldiers are scattered across many sources, and the majority of the documents relating to the royalist war campaign were deliberately destroyed. It is easier to trace officers than to trace ordinary foot soldiers, but recent and ongoing scholarship is hoping to bring the stories of these forgotten soldiers back into the light.

Tracing Parliamentary Soldiers

A good place to start when trying to trace parliamentary officers is the Cromwell Association's *Online Directory of Parliamentary Army Officers*, which can be accessed free of charge through the British History Online website (www.british-history.ac.uk) This resource contains the names of over 4,000 soldiers who served in Parliament's armies between 1642 and 1646, and some entries date from the later years of the war too. This resource can be searched by keyword for a particular name or location, or can be browsed. The entries have been arranged alphabetically by surname, and wherever possible some biographical information about the soldier has also been added, such as their rank, the regiment(s) they served in, and any known details about their families.

If you're feeling brave, there are numerous records series at the National Archives in Kew which contain information about Parliamentary soldiers. However, very few – if any – of these have been catalogued below file level, so there are no name indexes available, and it is impossible to know in advance whether you will find the information you are

looking for. Tackling these papers is a labour of love and you will need to spend many hours in the archive going through them page by page.

The most prolific of these series are the Commonwealth Exchequer Papers (SP 28), a very broad collection of over 350 files of financial documents relating to the parliamentary military campaigns. These have been broadly categorised into army warrants and accounts, taxes, and county sequestration papers. These are available through State Papers Online, which can be accessed on-site at the National Archives for free, but the documents have not been transcribed so they cannot be searched for specific names.

There is no single source to study parliamentary musters during the 1640s or 1650s. When musters do survive they can generally be found amongst files SP 28/1A to SP 28/125. These have been arranged chronologically. The next set of files in that series, SP 28/126 to SP 28/147, are accounts from garrisons, and regimental payrolls. These have been catalogued to item level and can be searched by location and by the name of the commander. These two sets of documents are the most likely place to find

the names of ordinary soldiers, but searching through them is sometimes akin to looking for a needle in a haystack and there is no guarantee that you'll be able to find the person you want. However, if you do, the feeling of victory makes it time well spent!

Tracing Royalist Soldiers

As stated above, tracing royalist soldiers is very difficult indeed because almost no documentation survives. The National Archives holds a few examples of commissions granted to officers by Princes Rupert and Maurice in the 1640s (in C 115 series). In addition, State Papers Online contains some digitised documents from Charles I and his advisors, and it is sometimes possible to find the names of officers included in those documents.

However, a more reliable method of tracing royalist soldiers is by studying sequestration. This was a policy implemented by Parliament during the 1640s and 1650s to confiscate the real and personal estates of anyone suspected of supporting the King. The main sequestration papers are held at the National Archives (SP 20). These papers have survived because they were created by Parliament, even though they refer to royalists. Sequestration was the subject of my PhD, and I have created an index of the 3,800 petitioners mentioned in the five order books created during the 1640s. Ultimately my goal is to make this resource freely available for anyone to consult, but at present the research is still under embargo.

However, a related resource which is available online is the calendars of the Committee for Compounding. This committee worked alongside the sequestration committee, and allowed people to reclaim their confiscated

(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen

property. To do this they would have to travel to London and attend a meeting at Goldsmiths' Hall, swear an oath of allegiance to Parliament, and pay a large fine, usually twice the annual value of their estates but sometimes considerably more depending on how large a role they had played in the war.

The easiest way to use the calendars is to search for a specific name or place, rather than by browsing them. If there is an entry for the person you are looking for it will give you a summary of references to them amongst the compounding order books or case files. There will often be brief descriptions of any petitions they submitted, and these can contain information about the person's regiment or the commanders they served under. Appearance in the compounding papers at all is usually a good indication that the person was a royalist, and they were described as 'delinquents'. However, sequestration also targeted non-combatant Catholics so if they were charged with just recusancy it is likely they did not serve in the army.

The compounding calendars are available on British History Online (www.british-history.ac.uk) but they are behind a paywall, so you will need to find somewhere with an institutional subscription to access them. Some smaller local libraries may have subscribed, but universities and major repositories such as the British Library, the National Archives, and some county record offices will have access. The original compounding papers themselves are held at the National Archives (SP 23).

The Civil War Petitions Project

A new resource which will make tracing both Parliamentarian and Royalist soldiers easier is an Arts and Humanities Research Council funded collaboration between the Universities of Leicester, Nottingham, Cardiff, and Southampton, entitled *Conflict, Welfare and Memory during and after the English Civil Wars, 1642–1710* (www.civilwarpetitions.ac.uk). This is a free-to-use resource which brings together petitions for financial relief submitted to local and national government by maimed soldiers and war widows during and after the Civil Wars. What makes this resource

unique is that it captures both sides of the conflict: the majority of pre-1660 records provide details about parliamentarian soldiers, and post-1660 most petitioners were royalist.

As with the other digital resources listed in this article, the website can be searched by name and location. If you just want to browse, the data has been broken down into many different categories: petitions and certificates, payments, people, injuries and ailments, events, and places. Each of these categories can be searched or browsed, and many of them contain sub-categories. For example, the petitions and certificates category has been broken down by allegiance and location, and the

and ailments category has been divided into method and location.

The project is ongoing and not all data is available online yet, so check back regularly to see what updates are being made. The petitions on the website capture the voices of ordinary people. Most of the appellants were below the rank of officer, so the petitions contain the stories of how the war directly impacted soldiers and their families, stories which have been forgotten for 350 years.

In the next article I'll be discussing how to trace soldiers who served in Ireland during the 1640s and 1650s.

Charlotte Young

Great Houghton Church

The church of St Michael and All Angels at Great Houghton, between Doncaster and Barnsley in South Yorkshire, is one of relatively few surviving Interregnum-built churches in the country and has strong links with Cromwell, both of which make it worth a visit by members.

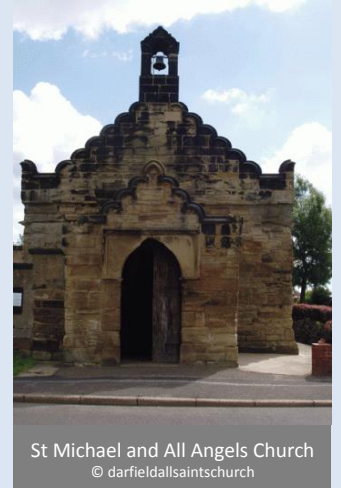
It was originally built as a private chapel for Sir Edwards Rodes in about 1650, at which time he was serving as High Sheriff of Yorkshire. He had been a prominent Yorkshire parliamentarian during the Civil War, co-operating with the Hothams at Hull, served directly under Cromwell at the siege of Pontefract Castle during the Second Civil War, and took part in the pursuit of the defeated Scots after the Battle of Preston. He remained prominent during the Protectorate, being commissioned as a Colonel of Horse, serving on the Protector's Council, and being active in Scotland where he was made sheriff of Perthshire and served as MP for Perth in Oliver's second and Richard's parliaments.

After the Restoration, Sir Edward was allowed to remain quietly on his estate at Great Houghton, and his house, and thus the church, became a great haven for non-conforming Presbyterian ministers ejected from their parishes by the Act of Uniformity of 1662. Though he died in 1666 the chapel remained a Dissenting private chapel until the 19th century, and did not become fully part of the Church of England until 1906.

The church itself, like many others, underwent alterations in the late Victorian period, but retains at least some of its 17th century box pews, and the pulpit – complete with sounding board above – is also original. Local legend has it that Oliver visited the chapel soon after its construction and even preached from this very pulpit. Such a visit is not confirmed by *The Cromwellian Gazetteer* but it does show that he passed through the area on his route to and from his Scottish campaign, certainly visiting nearby Doncaster in August 1651; so a visit is at the very least a real possibility given Sir Edward's known links with Cromwell and his subsequent promotions under the Protectorate and his employment in Scotland.

For members who wish to pay a visit, more details can be found on the parish website at: www.darfieldallsaintschurch.org.uk

Please give the Association a mention when signing the visitors' book!



St Michael and All Angels Church
© darfieldallsaintschurch

Finds from the Battle of Worcester

When plans were made to build a second bridge over the River Severn and a second carriageway from The Ketch to Powick, south of Worcester, the Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service (WAAS) saw it as an excellent opportunity to make an archaeological search of the site which was believed to have been the scene of fighting during the Battle of Worcester on the 3rd September 1651.

Worcester was occupied by a mainly Scottish Royalist army under King Charles II who sent a detachment under Major General Edward Massey to destroy the bridge at Upton-upon-Severn, 10 miles south of Worcester. The bridge was destroyed but in the middle of the night on 28th August a Parliamentary squadron under Colonel Lambert was able to place planks between the parapets and cross the bridge. A skirmish took place and the Royalists were driven back into Worcester, via Powick.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about this venture is that the WAAS were able to send soil samples at various depths of the excavations for scientific analysis. This revealed that the researchers had to dig down to a depth of two metres to find soil from the 17th century. This they did and over 100 artefacts were found, such as muskets balls (some flattened – consistent with having struck a hard object), horse harness fittings, horse shoes, and belt buckles. Items are still being found but at the time of writing the site is under flood water. It is the first time archaeologists have found evidence of the battle *in situ*.



© Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service

Roadworks at the Worcester Southern Link Road site made the dig possible near Powick Church



© Worcestershire Archive & Archaeology Service

Some finds: a horse harness fitting (bottom left), potential decorative items (bottom right), a lead cap from a powder charge (top right) and musket balls (top left)

Historians have always known the area was the site of the final battle of the English Civil War, but very little evidence had been discovered until this find. The WAAS believe the find is potentially of national historical significance.

It is not known at present where the artefacts will be displayed as the site lies in the Malvern Hills

District Council area, but strong representation will be made for them to be displayed in the Civil War Museum at The Commandery in Worcester.

Richard Shaw
The Battle of Worcester Society

Pictures © Worcestershire Archive and Archaeology Service



Montrose Study Day

The National Civil War Centre at Newark played host to the 1st Marquis of Montrose Society's study day on 30th November, fittingly St Andrews day. Through a series of lively and well-illustrated talks we were given an insight into the life of James Graham, 1st Marquis of Montrose. After



James Graham, 1st Marquis of Montrose

signing the Scottish covenant in 1638 and becoming a distinguished soldier, his increasing reluctance to accept the covenanter's extreme views led him to change to the royalist cause. After a series of stunning victories and with the royal standard as his symbol of authority, he became the foremost military commander in Scotland. This was not to last. With the defeat of his army at Philiphaugh he escaped into exile. Returning three-and-a-half years later, he attempted to raise support for Prince Charles, the future Charles II. However, his plans were destroyed on the battlefield at Carbisdale in 1650. His capture and execution ended the story of one of the most charismatic military leaders of the period.

This was the first talk organised by the society and I would like to thank the speakers and organisers for all their hard work in making it a success.

If anyone wishes to expand their knowledge of the civil war in Scotland see:

<http://montrose-society.ndo.co.uk/graham.htm> .



John Lindley

The Protector's Pen

A Wreck from Cromwell's Navy

Deep in the mud of the Thames Estuary lies the wreck of Cromwell's 17th century warship, the *London*.



The *London* by Van de Velde in 1660 - National Maritime Museum

***London* was a 76-gun second-rate ship of the line in the Navy of the Commonwealth of England, originally built at Chatham Dockyard by shipwright John Taylor, and launched in June 1656. The ship gained fame as one of the ships that escorted Charles II from Holland back to England in 1660 during the English Restoration, carrying Charles' younger brother James Duke of York, and commanded by Captain John Lawson.**

Disaster struck on the 7th March 1665, when the *London* was fully laden with supplies in preparation to embark for battle in the Second Anglo-Dutch War, and, as families climbed aboard and waved goodbye to their loved ones, it suddenly and tragically exploded.

Today, over 350 years later, the tragedy continues, as the wreck site washes away with every passing ship and tide – taking its story, and our history with it.

The precise cause of the explosion is unknown. A letter to Henry Bennet, 1st Earl of Arlington, passed on coffee house gossip which blamed the easy availability of gunpowder '20s a barrel cheaper than in London' and therefore by implication, suspect in provenance and quality.

The event was chronicled by prolific diarist Samuel Pepys, who recorded the disaster and the loss of around 300 lives:

'This morning is brought me to the office the sad newes of the *London*, in which Sir

J(ohn) Lawson's men were all bringing her from Chatham to the Hope, and thence he was to go to sea in her; but a little a'this side the buoy of the Nower, she suddenly blew up. About 24 [men] and a woman that were in the round-house and coach saved; the rest, being above 300, drowned: the ship breaking all in pieces, with 80 pieces of brass ordnance. She lies sunk, with her round-house above water. Sir J(ohn)

Lawson hath a great loss in this of so many good chosen men, and many relations among them. I went to the 'Change, where the news taken very much to heart'.

Samuel Pepys, 8th March 1665

While some of the ship's cannons were salvaged and put to use on other vessels, the *London* was all but forgotten until 2005, when the wreck was rediscovered during works in advance of the London Gateway Port development. The wreck was later designated (in 2008) under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973, protecting a restricted area around the wreck from uncontrolled interference.

Since its rediscovery, two very limited excavations (supported by Historic England) and the recovery of loose (at risk) items on the site of the *London* have produced many unique artefacts that offer a window into a crucial time period in British history, and a tangible link to the souls who tragically lost their lives more than 350 years ago.

Whilst some research work is still being undertaken by professional archaeological contractors on behalf of Historic England, all of the current recovery work to save artefacts from destruction and loss is being undertaken by a small team of experienced local divers from the London Shipwreck Trust,

with guidance from archaeologists from the Nautical Archaeology Society.

Despite the high rate of deterioration being experienced across the whole of the wreck site, the divers can only work on site 30 to 40 times per year. Only a small portion of the artefacts on the site have been recovered and conserved, leaving crucial elements of our history, and the stories of our ancestors, lying vulnerable on the seabed, open to both natural and human interference.

The volunteer diving team receives no public funding, with currently no grants from Historic England, the Department of Digital Culture Media and Sport nor any other body to cover their costs of saving our maritime heritage from the eroding seabed. They personally cover these costs from their own pockets.

The *Save the London* 1665 Campaign

When the *London* was first designated as a 'Protected Wreck' by Historic England, back in 2008, it was very quickly added to the 'Heritage at Risk' register as being vulnerable to loss, damage and destruction. Now over a decade on, the *London* remains one of only four shipwrecks on the 'at risk' register with 'Extensive significant problems', being vulnerable to the impacts of both natural and man-made actions.

Time is fast running out, as the site visibly erodes from month to month. Historic England, who have the statutory power to



Divers working on the wreck of the *London*

The Protector's Pen



Nautical Archaeology Society

allocate funds to help preserve and maintain protected wreck sites, acknowledge that their 'financial resources can only solve a small fraction of the problems'.

Without additional financial support and activity, the contents of the *London* wreck will most likely disappear completely within the next twenty years, taking vital pieces of our heritage, history and culture with them.

Much like the *Mary Rose*, the *London* is a very special ship. With further recovery and conservation of the artefacts, the *London* has enormous potential to not only expand our understanding of this tragic historical event, but to deliver the story to the UK, and the wider world, for years to come. For this reason, the Nautical Archaeology Society and the London Shipwreck Trust launched the *Save the London* campaign in July 2019, and have partnered with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council to develop an exciting innovative project proposal to 'Save the London'.

The campaign aims to raise much needed money to support the current and short-term essential recovery and conservation work and to aid the development of long-term funding (achieved via individual donations, grants, trusts, corporate partnerships and sponsorship), and to develop a sustainable business plan that results in the saving of the artefact assemblage and the entire ship.

The campaign was launched at Southend Central Museum on the 3rd July 2019 with stakeholders invited to come together with one purpose and one vision – to *Save the London* before it is too late.

Saving The London

Archaeologically, there are two ways in which the *London* wreck assemblage could be dealt with. Firstly, we could excavate and recover objects and hull structure following the *Mary Rose* type model by having an excavation project vessel moored over the site for many years, involving a relatively small team of divers

and archaeologists working between the tides when the weather allows.

Alternatively, and considering the conditions in the Thames Estuary and the impact to shipping activity that would result from a 10-year underwater excavation, we could design a project to box-out the wreckage using shuttering or a caisson and recover the most vulnerable part (known as Site 2) completely, removing it from the Thames.

The box containing the shipwreck could then be transported to a purpose-built facility and excavated in a shallow underwater aquarium environment with the public able to watch, engage in a dialogue with the archaeological divers, learn about our past and be excited by the thrill of seeing an object, a piece of history, that has not been seen or touched since the ship sank in 1665.

We know that technically it is possible to recover the remains of the *London* wreck in this way, as this was the method chosen by the Chinese back in 2007 to deal with the remains of the *Nanhai No.1* shipwreck, which are now located in the Maritime Silk Route Museum, Hailing Island, Yangjiang, Guangdong Province.

The *Save the London* project is being built around the Southend 2050 Ambition which aims to 'build on their reputation as a welcoming, vibrant and increasingly culturally diverse place'. The project group believes that by supporting Southend-on-Sea Borough Council, the saving of the *London* wreck can form a huge part of the town's 2050 vision, helping to build 'a tangible sense of pride in the place and [where] local people are actively, and knowledgeably, talking up Southend-on-Sea', and to ensure that 'the variety and quality of [the town's] outstanding cultural and leisure offer has increased, and [it has] become the first choice English coastal destination for visitors' (Southend 2050 Ambition – see online).

We believe the opportunities for immediate public engagement would be on a par with those achieved by the *Mary Rose* in the 1980s,

and the ability to incorporate both public and academic educational and research elements would be achieved through our charity and academic partners, following best practise and setting new standards in how an archaeological investigation is undertaken.

The true value of the *London* shipwreck is as yet unknown, but we know that the success of the *Vasa* Museum, the *Mary Rose* Museum and others, highlight that the general public are fascinated by shipwrecks. We know that the *London* is potentially one of the culturally richest shipwrecks in UK waters – our challenge is to bring those cultural riches to the country and the world.

There really would be no other facility like this in the world, with a unique engagement proposition where the public could both watch and interact in real time with the archaeological investigation of a shipwreck. It will be more than just a museum; the centre would be an actual underwater archaeological excavation happening at the same time, in real time, under the watchful eye and interest of the public.

The project would make the excavation of the *London* the most scrutinised investigation of an archaeological site ever, with live streaming and interactive classroom sessions being held with schools around the world every day. People anywhere in the world will be able to dive into history from the comfort and safety of their home, or classroom, and have access to the archaeologists and historians, marine biologists, engineers, material scientists and conservators, and many other professions.

You can keep up to date with the *Save The London* appeal on social media on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube and more information on the appeal can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.nauticalarchaeology.org/appeal/save-the-london>

<https://thelondonshipwrecktrust.co.uk/>

Mark Beattie-Edwards



The London Shipwreck Trust

The Protector's Pen



The Association is delighted to offer members the opportunity to find out more about the *London* at a special event with a programme of talks. To be held:

Saturday 7th March

The Forum, Elmer Square, Southend, Essex, SS1 1NE

Morning Session

The History – chaired by Southend Museum

- 10.30 'Called to several employments' – a brief look at the career and significance of Oliver Cromwell – John Goldsmith, The Cromwell Association
- 11.00 The Building of the *London* – Richard Endors, Historian & Author
- 11.30 Samuel Pepys and the loss of the *London* – J D Davies, Historian & Author

Lunch break

Catering at The Forum, or nearby (not provided)

Afternoon Session

The Archaeology – chaired by Phil Harding, Archaeologist & Presenter, NAS President, *Save The London* Ambassador.

- 14.00 Diving the wreck of the *London* – Steve Ellis, London Shipwreck Trust
- 14.30 Recent Historic England funded activity on the *London* – Hefin Meara, Historic England
- 15.00 The future of the *London* – Mark Beattie-Edwards, Nautical Archaeology Society

The organisers are requesting a donation of £1.00 for each of the talks which are bookable online, with a 67p booking fee via Eventbrite. **If you use the link below the booking fee for Association members is waived, so a total cost of £6.00,** with all proceeds going to the *Save the London* campaign. Alternatively, turn up and pay on the day, but space is limited and priority will be given to those who have booked.

Association members can book online by using this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discover-the-london-southends-time-capsule-tickets-88642446945>

In this year...1649

A summary of the first 6-months of the year's events . . .

- Jan 01** An ordinance passed by the **House of Commons** proposing a special court for the trial of King Charles.
- Jan 02** The **House of Lords** rejects the ordinance for the King's trial.
- Jan 04** The **Rump Parliament** declares itself supreme authority in the land with powers to pass laws without the consent of the King or the House of Lords.
- Jan 06** The **Rump Parliament** assumes full legislative powers.
- Jan 20** Trial of Charles I begins.
- Jan 27** The death warrant of Charles I of England is signed.
- Jan 30** King Charles beheaded.
- Feb 04** News of the King's execution conveyed to Charles, Prince of Wales, at the Hague; Charles assumes the title of King.
- Feb 05** Charles II proclaimed in Edinburgh.
- Feb 06** After a two-day debate, the **House of Commons** votes by 44 votes to 29 to abolish the **House of Lords**. (Act passed Mar 19).
- Feb 07** The **Rump Parliament** resolves to abolish the English monarchy. (Act passed Mar 17).
- Feb 08** King Charles I buried at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.
- Feb 14** Parliament sets up the Council of State to rule with the **House of Commons** in place of the Monarchy and the **House of Lords**.
- Feb 23** The Earl of Warwick dismissed from command of the Navy. Popham, Blake and Deane appointed Generals-at-Sea.
- Mar 09** Engager Duke of Hamilton, Royalist Earl of Holland, and Royalist Lord Capel were beheaded at Westminster.
- Mar 15** The Council of State nominates Oliver Cromwell to command the army to be sent to Ireland.
- Mar 23** Cromwell appeals to the Council of Officers to maintain unity against the criticisms of the Levellers.
- Apr 29** Encouraged by the Levellers, thousands of Londoners attend the funeral of Robert Lockier (executed 27 Apr) in protest against the power of the army.
- May 01** Lilburne's final version of the Agreement of the People issued – even though the Leveller leaders are all in prison.
- May 14** Cromwell leads a surprise night attack on the mutineers camped at Burford, Oxfordshire (three leaders executed 17 May).
- May 19** The **Council of State** declares England to be 'a Commonwealth and free state', with the **House of Commons** as supreme authority in the land.
- May 22** Charles II arrives at Brussels in the Spanish Netherlands to negotiate for help from Spain. He is rejected by the Archduke Leopold, on the orders of King Philip.
- May 22** Parliament formally appoints Oliver Cromwell governor-general of Ireland for three years and commander-in-chief of the army to be sent there.



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

Oliver Cromwell's House: Ely, Cambridgeshire

Cromwell's House is an attractive half-timbered building close to the centre of this small city, near to the cathedral and very close to St Mary's Church. Parts of the house date to the thirteenth century but there have been numerous alterations over the years, including some in the twentieth century.



Two figures, representing Oliver and his wife Elizabeth, stand outside the house. They look younger than the Cromwells would have done when they moved here, from unhappy St Ives, in their late thirties, and are not likenesses, but have the virtue of attracting tourists who might not have noticed the building. In 1636 Oliver inherited a large estate, including this house, from his maternal uncle, Thomas Steward. Thus, the financial position of the Cromwells was transformed.

Entry brings one into reception and a largish shop; the Ely tourist office is also housed here. The guide book, which costs £2, is good on history but doesn't have that much to say about the house as it is today. The regular admission charge is £5.20 but is free to members of the Cromwell Association on production of your membership card. The house is owned by the City of Ely Council, having been transferred relatively recently from East Cambridgeshire District Council.

There is an excellent, easy-to-use audio guide with multiple options. This is strongly recommended and is part of the ticket price. Taking photos is permitted, but some of the rooms are rather dark and above average equipment would be needed.

Starting the tour of the house one begins with The Parlour where a five minute film introduces Cromwell, remarking that the house in Ely is the only one of his residences which still stands, with the arguable exception of Hampton Court. Your reporter thought the film well balanced.

Via the larder corridor one comes to The Kitchen, a large attractive room for dining as well as cooking; there is a big fireplace with adjoining oven. A table is laid displaying some of Oliver's favourite foods, including of course a local eel. There are two panels on the wall with information about seventeenth century tastes. The room also has a view of St Mary's Church where the Cromwells' late-born daughters, Mary and Frances, were baptised. At this point visitors will decide whether they like the somewhat rustic voices on the audio, but this reviewer enjoyed them and felt they were appropriate.

Next it's up the stairs to Mrs Cromwell's Room, which was bright on a sunny winter's day. There is a family corner with games, but the main feature is dress which, for Puritans, especially women, had to be demure. There are also small portraits of immediate family members. The audio explains that religion was at the centre of everyone's life in the 17th century. The celebration of Christmas is broached at this point. Professor Gaunt is mentioned on the audio as the authority on this matter though one doesn't hear Peter's voice. One is told that Oliver didn't ban Christmas but nor did he restore it

when he came to power. However, he wasn't a killjoy: he liked music, dancing, ale and his pipe.

As its name implies, The Civil War Room takes one from the Cromwells' domestic idyll (1636–1642) to the harsh realities of conflict. It's quite a jolt. As the previous room is named after Mrs Cromwell, this one might have been titled after her husband though, as noted above, a more neutral nomenclature has been adopted. There are numerous informative panels, a portrait of Cromwell in uniform and a film of a re-enactment involving the New Model Army. There are helmets to try on – they seem slightly incongruous.

The next room, The Study, is rather dark. It contains two figures, one being a preacher standing with a Bible appropriately open at the book of Psalms, one of Cromwell's favourites. The other figure is seated at a desk, writing, and represents Oliver himself. On a shelf behind him is a five volume set of Thomas Carlyle's *Letters and Speeches*, a nice touch.



However, it is in this room that Association members may feel a certain loss of empathy for what the house is trying to do, as the (ever popular/unpopular) Hero or Villain theme is introduced. It probably is popular with most visitors.

The Haunted Bedroom takes a more serious lurch downmarket, but you know it's considered important because it has its own commentary, you don't need the
(cont'd)

The Protector's Pen



the only way of getting Oliver back to Ely. He left for London in 1646, never to return. And lots of visitors like a ghost story, and perhaps even expect one in a house as old as this. Or is it just pandering?

Finally, it's down the stairs to The Foyer where the Hero or Villain theme is resumed. There is also a rather attractive picture of *The Cromwell Arms*. For part of the

audio in this room. There is no evidence at all that the house is haunted, but this is

19th century the house was a pub, and it could hardly have had any other name.

Further information

Summer Hours: Apr 01 – Oct 31 10am to 5pm daily including Bank Holidays.

Winter Hours: Nov 01 – Mar 31 11am to 4pm daily.

Adults £5.20 Children £3.50

01353 662062

info@visite.ly.org.uk

<https://www.olivercromwellshouse.co.uk/>

https://twitter.com/Cromwells_House

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

Oliver Cromwell's House
29 St Mary's Street,
Ely,
Cambridgeshire,
CB7 4HF



Oliver Cromwell's
House

The exit is through the shop-cum-tourist office, so Oliver Cromwell's House outdoes even the National Trust by getting visitors to go through the retail area twice. That said, the shop is mainly devoted to products highlighting Ely and the surrounding area. There is though some Cromwelliana for sale, one of the highlights being a range of tasty biscuits from 'Mrs Cromwell's Pantry'. However, your correspondent's favourite was a tea towel with a picture of Oliver and the command 'A Cavalier approach to kitchen duties will not be tolerated'.

Despite this reviewer's reservations, a visit to Cromwell's House is strongly recommended. Not surprisingly the house is at its best in the domestic area. Elizabeth Cromwell lived here for ten years, Oliver for only six, and just occasionally thereafter. That said, the Civil War Room is well done and the Study has a certain charm.

John Gibbon



Good citizens of Marlborough – defend your town against the imminent attack of Royalist troops!

On Saturday and Sunday (27/28) July last year we were treated to the sight of the re-enactment of the engagement on the Common at Marlborough depicting some of the events from 25th November and 5th December 1642. In addition there was an excellent 17th Century Living History Display in the Priory Gardens.

Simon & Maxine



The Protector's Pen

Cromwell Curator's Corner

It's been a busy few months, but the wait is nearly over, as the Cromwell Museum will formally reopen after its refurbishment on **Sunday 1st March**. The interior of our 800-year-old building on Huntingdon High Street has been refurbished; the museum's displays transformed over the last four months.

More of the building's medieval arches and columns have been revealed and its mahogany floor restored. Improved lighting and cases show off the museum's collections, and new information panels, interactive displays and films explain the life and time of Oliver Cromwell. More of the museum's collections, including objects not previously displayed, are on show.

The refurbishment has been made possible thanks to several generous grants, totalling over £160,000 from the Association of Independent Museums (AIM), funded by the Biffa Award of the Landfill Communities Fund; the Wolfson Foundation and the Huntingdon Freeman's Trust. We're continuing to fundraise to support our activity and do more after reopening, including the launch of an 'adopt an object' scheme where patrons can sponsor an item in our collections.

We've been supported by, and are very grateful to, many experts who have kindly given their time and expertise to help prepare the new displays, including our core advisory panel of Professor Peter Gaunt, Professor John Morrill, Dr Ismini Pells and Dr Rebecca Warren.

We've also taken the opportunity to clean and conserve some of our paintings, to show them to their best advantage for the reopening, most notably the huge life-sized portrait of Cromwell by Robert Walker, which will now be mounted to confront visitors with the man himself as they enter the museum.

Some of our items have been on their travels during the closure period: Cromwell's hat, one of his swords and our copy of the Lely portrait of him have been on display for the last few months at the National Civil War Centre in Newark, as part of their 'World Turned Upside Down' exhibition; they'll be returning in time for the reopening.



To celebrate the reopening, the Cromwell Museum is staging a weekend of activity. On Saturday 29th February there will be performances of *The Trial of Charles I*, which sold out in 2019, staged in the Town Hall's historic courtroom. The following day the museum will reopen after a parade through the town by re-enactors from the Sealed Knot society.

The museum will formally reopen on Sunday 1st March at 2pm. Thereafter it will be open Tuesday – Sunday, 11am – 4pm: admission is free of charge.

We'll be staging a special tour for Cromwell Association members on Saturday 4th April. We hope you'll take the opportunity to come and have a look then at what we've been doing.

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

www.cromwellmuseum.org

or our social media streams – we're on:

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

Stuart Orme
Curator, The Cromwell Museum

Schools' Conference

The popular Schools' Conference will return in 2020, on 24th June in Cromwell's home town of Huntingdon. The line-up of eminent academics debating subjects of interest to A-level students, will be:

- **Professor Peter Gaunt** of the University of Chester,
- **Dr Jon Fitzgibbon** of the University of Lincoln,
- **Dr Joan Redmond** of King's College, London and
- **Dr Kate Peters** from the University of Cambridge.

The theme will be Cromwell himself, and the day will include three debates in the morning between the academics on subjects concerning Cromwell and his life and beliefs. The afternoon session will be an academic-led source workshop, intended to give students a taste of university teaching. For more information or to book your place please contact: education@cromwell.org.



The Protector's Pen

Books

Rule Britannia

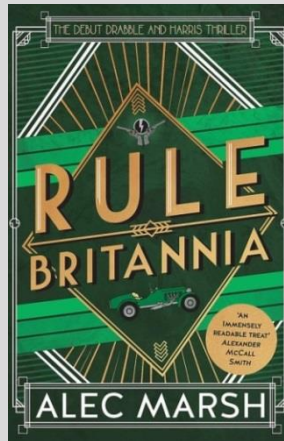
When I sat down to write my novel *Rule Britannia*, I realised I needed a gold standard historic mystery to drive the plot. Then I remembered something I had learned about the man who arguably remains one of the most controversial and divisive figures in the history of these islands – Oliver Cromwell.

I suspect that members of the Cromwell Association will know the posthumous story of Cromwell's head better than most. But when I revisited it, it inspired me: beheaded in 1660 after being buried for three years, Cromwell's head was put on a spike on Westminster Hall for 25 years before being blown down in a gale – and falling into private hands. It eventually became a freak show exhibit.

What drove the fascination with this artefact, and what secret might it contain? These questions soon became the focal point of my novel, which is set in the 1930s against the final climactic days of the Abdication Crisis, but which nonetheless explores themes from the 17th century. What is the secret of 'Cromwell's crown'?

That is what Drabble and Harris, the heroes of my story, have to find out – and along the way I hope that I've not been to disrespectful to the past and the great figures that inhabited and shaped it, the Lord Protector included.

Alec Marsh



Alec Marsh is the author of *Rule Britannia*, Headline Publishing Group, pp 336, October 2019, ISBN – 9781786157188 Paperback £8.99

Word Search Puzzle

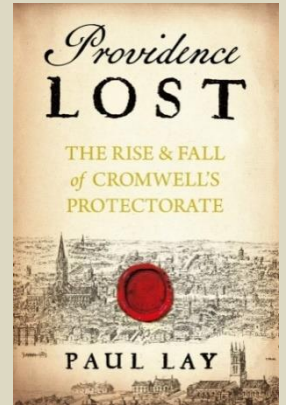
Find the 'Civil War' battles – 21 in total...one is not all it seems!

A	N	S	S	N	A	G	A	F	T	S	N	E	W	B	R	Y	T	L	A	W
Q	P	R	D	E	R	N	N	W	O	D	Y	A	W	D	N	U	O	R	Y	Y
P	R	E	S	S	O	N	T	H	Q	W	R	D	E	Y	M	S	J	R	D	Y
T	A	D	T	T	O	O	Y	N	C	E	S	D	G	R	T	F	U	C	R	D
L	O	G	S	R	A	T	W	B	E	I	D	R	T	W	V	B	C	U	O	N
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H	R	H	P	T	O	R	A	G	S	S	S	T	R	E	T	W	I	L	L	O
P	L	I	P	U	W	E	A	Z	D	V	H	O	N	E	Y	B	E	S	A	N
G	T	L	R	R	Y	H	H	M	I	I	L	I	O	A	I	R	R	D	D	R
F	G	L	C	N	A	C	C	L	E	G	R	A	B	B	N	Z	V	U	W	E
L	L	I	H	N	R	E	V	L	A	M	H	B	T	E	E	A	H	I	O	E
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S	O	S	D	G	T	Z	S	D	G	N	T	E	A	D	N	C	K	N	T	O
T	S	D	R	T	S	N	D	R	T	O	O	P	Y	T	E	I	W	N	W	R
W	W	V	O	Y	E	T	V	O	Y	T	O	U	C	B	T	R	R	G	I	G
I	E	B	I	W	C	R	O	O	M	T	P	G	Y	H	A	M	P	E	T	L
T	S	C	B	T	R	O	P	G	N	A	L	N	N	B	R	D	E	O	T	A
T	T	U	I	I	O	S	R	A	M	R	A	M	N	K	S	D	G	H	R	H
T	R	M	K	L	W	T	O	N	Y	T	G	U	U	K	D	R	T	E	W	C
Y	Y	N	B	F	E	U	T	T	U	S	D	G	R	E	V	O	Y	U	I	S
H	U	R	E	W	E	R	G	T	U	R	N	H	A	M	G	R	E	E	N	A

- Alford
 - Chalgrove
 - Cheriton
 - Cropredy Bridge
 - Dunbar
 - Edgehill
 - Langport
 - Lostwithiel
 - Nantwich
 - Naseby
 - Newbury
 - Oswestry
 - Preston
 - Roundway Down
 - St Fagans
 - Stratton
 - Turnham Green
 - Winceby
 - Worcester +
- A civil war battle - but whose and where?*

Providence Lost: The Rise and Fall of the English Republic,

by Paul Lay.
Published by
Head of Zeus.

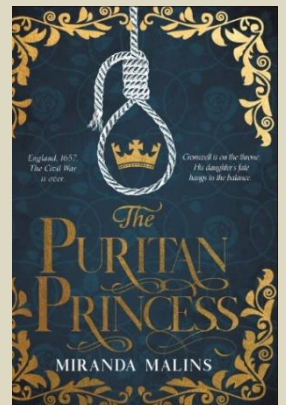


Full review in
Cromwelliana
2020

Coming soon:

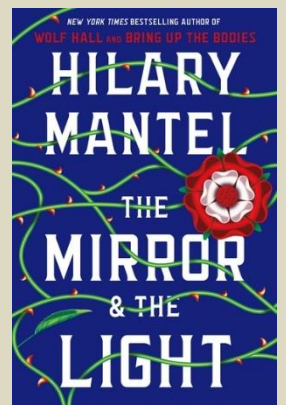
The Puritan Princess, by Miranda Malins, Trustee of the Cromwell Association; bringing the fascinating world of

Oliver Cromwell's court to life, through the eyes of his youngest daughter, Frances. Published by Orion on March 19 2020



The Mirror and The Light, by Hilary Mantel; the final book in her trilogy

about the life and times of Thomas Cromwell. Published by Henry Holt and Co. on March 10, 2020



The Protector's Pen

Exhibitions and Events

Date	Venue	Details
On now	NCWC, Newark	Exhibition : 'Fake News' (uncover the 17 th century's own version of Twitter!)
On now	NCWC, Newark	Exhibition: 'The World Turned Upside Down' (exploring the 17 th century's seismic shifts in religion, science, culture and politics)
Jan 11 – Nov 21	Worcester Art Gallery & Museum	Mayflower400 exhibition
Feb 1	Commandery, Worcester	Re-opens
Feb 29	Huntingdon Town Hall	The Trial of King Charles I
Mar 1	Cromwell Museum	Re-opens (see article)
Mar 7	The Forum, Southend, Essex	Discover more about the <i>London</i> – see article
Mar 7	Shaw House, Newbury	Sealed Knot: 17 th Century Day Out
Mar 21	NAM, London	British Army uniforms over 350 years: from Redcoats to camouflage
Until Mar 22	Edinburgh Castle	Schiltron! How pikes were used by the Scots
Mar 25	NCWC, Newark	Battlefields Trust: Battlefield Heritage Training Day
Mar 29	Stow-on-the-Wold, Glos	Battlefields Trust: Walk across the battlefield (1646)
Apr 4	Cromwell Museum	Special Tour for Cromwell Association Members
Apr 18	Ripple, Glos	Battlefields Trust: Walk across the battlefield (1643)
Apr 25	Bridgwater	Cromwell Association AGM (see article)
Apr 25 – 26 & Aug 15 - 16	Moseley Old Hall, Wolverhampton	ECWS
May 16	NCWC, Newark	Friends of the National Civil War Centre – Battlefields Trust – Civil War Conference 1643 Part II
May 24 - 25	Alton, Hampshire	ECWS: Battle of Alton – Major Muster
Jun 24	Huntingdon	Cromwell Association Schools' Day (see article)
Sep 5	Cambridge	Cromwell Day at Sidney Sussex College
Oct 17	Oxford	Cromwell Association Study Day at Friends Meeting House
Summer 2020	http://www.ecws.org.uk/	ECWS are holding a series of summer events – see their website for full details: Jun 27 – 28, West Midlands Showground, Shrewsbury; Jul 11 – 12, Langport, Somerset; Jul 18 – 19, Chirk Castle, Wrexham; Jul 25 – 26, Ingatstone Hall, Chelmsford; Aug 1 – 2, Chiltern Open-Air Museum

All information correct at time of going to press (*Cromwell Association* events highlighted)



'After its initial 60-day trial in 2019, we're thrilled that **Cromwell's Fine Dining** re-opens from 15 Jan through to April 2020'.

Based at Phyllis Court in Henley-on-Thames, **Cromwell's Fine Dining** is a 'pop-up' boutique restaurant that 'uses locally sourced, fresh British ingredients to create hearty, robust flavours'.

It is named after Oliver Cromwell, whose name is on a plaque on the river bank at the Club which says 'This wall was built by Cromwell from the bricks of the old Tudor House of Phyllis Court, AD 1643'; built at the time when the site was used as a garrison during the civil war.



Can you help?

We are trying to track down a couple of CA members: Cmdr S. Reay-Atkinson and Meg Lane. If you know either of these people, could you please contact **Paul Robbins, Membership Secretary**.

On offer

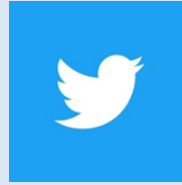
A CA member has donated copies of *Cromwelliana* from 1990 to 2005 inclusive. If you are interested, please also contact **Paul Robbins** (cost of P&P only).

membership@olivercromwell.org

The Protector's Pen

Twitterbox

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



Cromwell Association
@CromwellAssociation

Cromwell Association @Cromwellorg · May 14
The Civil War can't keep out of the headlines at the moment! This is now the longest parliament since the Long Parliament... bit.ly/30lvC7G

Cromwell Association Retweeted

English Civil War @EnglishCivilWar · May 17
A #Leveller mutineer waits to be executed by firing squad. Today is Leveller Day - #onthistday 370 years ago three mutineers were executed in Burford, Oxfordshire. Find out more about the #Levellers in our latest post >> instagram.com/p/BxjmB4oHEr/ #levellersday

Cromwell Association @Cromwellorg · Jun 5
6th formers keen for UCAS points - enter our essay prize compl! Answer "That which you have by force, I count as nothing." Was the English Revolution anything more than a military coup d'etat?" in 2000 wds & you could win £150 & publication. Details on website. deadline 26 July

Cromwell Association Retweeted

English Civil War @EnglishCivilWar · Jun 14
On the anniversary of the day in 1645 when Parliament's new army defeated the forces of King Charles outside a small village in rural Northamptonshire, we look at seven reasons why the Battle of Naseby changed British history forever earlofmanchesters.co.uk/seven-reasons-...



The Cromwell Museum

Cromwell Association Retweeted
The Cromwell Museum @MuseumCromwell · Jun 8
Couple of gentle criticisms of #HistoricTowns on Oxford this evening (which overall was excellent): inaccurate stereotypes of the two sides during the #EnglishCivilWar & over-egging austerity of Cromwell's regime (and him personally). Biggest omission: no mention of Fairfax..? 😊

Cromwell Association @Cromwellorg · May 18
Teachers & students: join us for our popular Schools Conference, this year on "Revolution": 26th June, 11-3 in Newark at the fab @civilwarcentre 4 eminent historians will lecture & lead source workshops. Price £20pp (members) £25pp (non) & inc museum entry. Details on our website

Cromwell Association Retweeted
The Cromwell Museum @MuseumCromwell · May 23
#OnThisDay 23 May 1660 Charles II embarked for England for his restoration on board the 'Royal Charles', hastily renamed from the 'Naseby', the flagship of Cromwell's navy (a huge model of which we now not entirely coincidentally have on display!) Thread 1/2 #17thCentury #OTD



Cromwell Association, Civil War Centre UK, John McCafferty and 7 others

National Army Museum @NAM_London · Jun 24
In case you missed @BBC_ARoadshow last night (we know you wouldn't normally dream of missing it, but these things happen 😊) there's a great bit from 48:00 about a funeral banner for Oliver Cromwell that we were v. pleased to add to our collection recently: bbc.in/2J1oYM7



