

The Cromwell Association – registered charity no. 1132954

Report of the trustees for the year ended 31st December 2015

1. Introduction

1.1 This is the sixth annual report of the trustees (the Council) of The Cromwell Association, which was registered as a charity on 25th November 2009 following the decision of the 2009 annual general meeting (AGM) to proceed with registration.

1.2 The report is for calendar year 2015, which is consistent with the charity's financial year.

2. Administrative details

2.1 The trustees who served during the year were:

the officers, elected at the AGM held on 25 April 2015,

Dr Patrick Little	Chairman
Professor Peter Gaunt	President
Mr John Newland	Secretary
Mr Geoffrey Bush	Treasurer
Mr John Goldsmith	Press Officer
Dr Maxine Forshaw	Editor of Journal.

ordinary trustees, non-office holding,

Dr D L Smith	(elected at the 2012 AGM).
Mrs Serrie Meakins	(elected at the 2013 AGM)
Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbons	(elected at the 2014 AGM)
Dr Miranda Malins	(elected at the 2014 AGM)
Mrs Susan Hughes	(elected at the 2014 AGM)

2.2 For the purposes of charitable registration the Press Officer is also the charity correspondent and his home address is the contact address used by the Charity Commission.

2.3 The governing document is the constitution formally adopted by the Association at the AGM held on 25th April 2009 at Naseby Village Hall.

3 Financial review

Members' subscriptions in 2015 were 20% higher than those of 2014 reflecting both an increased membership and also the higher subscription rates paid by schools.

General donations were considerably lower in 2015 but it will be recalled that in 2014 there was a very generous legacy from the estate of our former Treasurer, David Hall.

We are highly indebted to the many members who donate each year and without whose support we would have to reduce our activities.

A claim for both years, 2013 and 2014, under the Gift Aid scheme for charities was submitted to HMRC in early 2015 and the receipt is now shown in the 2015 accounts. A claim for 2015 will be made in 2016. Thanks go to all those eligible members who have completed the relevant form.

Study Day was held at London's City Temple on the subject of Cromwell and Religion. A larger than expected surplus was made as the planned purchase of recording equipment for the occasion was not made.

A highly successful first Teachers' Day involving over sixty participants was held at Selwyn College, Cambridge. We were granted favourable rates by the College and are very grateful to it.

Postage and printing includes the cost of a new Association promotional leaflet.

A larger than usual edition of Cromwelliana led to costs of printing and mailing being over £1000 higher than in 2014.

Insurance premiums for both 2014 and 2015 were paid via our arrangement with the Battlefields' Trust.

There were no new monuments or plaques in 2015 but further remedial work on the Marston Moor obelisk was necessary.

We recorded an overall surplus of £4,124 in 2015. We anticipate a reduced surplus in 2016 or even a deficit thanks to spending on new projects. However, the trustees see no need to increase subscriptions in view of the healthy state of the Association's finances.

4 Public benefit statement

The trustees have complied with the guidance of the Charity Commission on public benefit.

5 Objectives and activities

5.1 The object of the charity is to advance the education of the public in both the life and legacy of Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), politician, soldier and statesman, and the wider history of the seventeenth century.

- 5.2 The trust has undertaken to carry out the following activities for the benefit of the public:
- To campaign for the preservation and conservation of buildings, sites and relevant to Cromwell
 - To commission, on behalf of the Association or in collaboration with others, plaques, panels and monuments at sites associated with Cromwell.
 - To support and encourage the Cromwell Museum and Cromwell Collection library in Huntingdon.
 - To provide, within the competence of the Association, advice to television, radio, press and other media on all matters relating to the period.
 - To encourage interest in the period in all phases of formal education by the publication of reading lists, information and teachers' guidance.
 - To publish news and information about the period, including an annual journal and regular newsletters
 - To organise an annual memorial service, day schools, conferences, lectures, exhibitions and other educational events.
 - To provide an Internet resource for researchers in the period including school students, genealogists and interested parties.
 - To offer, from time to time, grants, awards and prizes to individuals and organisations working towards the objectives stated above.
- 6 Review of achievements during the year
- 6.1 The Association continues to prosper. The council (trustees) met four times during the year, on 15th January, 26th March, 11th June and 24th September. All meetings took place at The City Temple, Holborn.
- 6.2 Members were sent two copies of The Protector's Pen, in the spring and summer mailings, edited by the Chairman and produced by Mr Simon Blake.
- 6.3 The journal *Cromwelliana* edited by Dr Forshaw was distributed with the summer mailing. The articles included the papers given at the previous year's study day on 'Cromwell's Army', and the 2014 Cromwell Day address by Professor Jason Peacey.
Work has continued on the *Biographical dictionary of parliamentary officers* which is currently being revised for publication with British History Online.
- 6.4 The Annual General Meeting was held at Basing House in Hampshire. The meeting was well attended. Mr Alan Turton gave a talk about the civil war in Hampshire. After lunch Mr Turton led a walking tour of the ruins of Basing House.
- 6.5 The annual Cromwell Day Service on 3 September was held on Cromwell Green, within the Palace of Westminster. The address was given by Dr David

Smith. The service was preceded by a walking tour of Cromwellian London led by a Blue Badge Guide.

- 6.6 The Annual Study Day was held in October at the City Temple on the theme of *Cromwell's Religion*. The event was well attended and successful both in terms of content and financially. It is intended that some of the papers given will be published in a future edition of *Cromwelliana*.
- 6.7 The Association launched a new *Schools' Initiative* this year, with a section of the website dedicated to A Level resources. As part of this, we held a *Teachers' Day* on 28 June at Selwyn College Cambridge, with four historians debating questions focused on the 1650s. This attracted a large number of teachers and students.
- 6.8 The Association has continued to promote its work and interests through the web site www.olivercromwell.org which it does jointly with the Cromwell Museum in Huntingdon.

7 Chairman's conclusion

The year has seen a number of activities of a high standard, and the work of the Association continues to develop. The high-point was perhaps the return of the Cromwell Day service to its traditional venue of Cromwell Green at Westminster, after many years away. I am grateful to all the trustees for their work and commitment on behalf of the Association, and to the membership who have supported our endeavours.

8 Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above

Signed on behalf of the Charity's trustees:-

Signature

Full name Dr Patrick Little, Chairman

Signature

Full name

Position

Date