

PUBLICITY PROFORMA

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with assistance from Ian Mason, Tony Tuckwell and John Edgar

The Putney Debates: Nov 2nd-11th 1647

Saturday 7th January 2023

Martin Frampton is the Historical Association (Essex Branch) Programme Secretary. He is keen to include debates and audience participation. This is his 2nd planned debate. It considers the meeting of the General Army Council that started in the Church of St. Mary the Virgin, in Putney, then moved to the lodgings of Thomas Grosvenor, the Quartermaster General of Foot. They were chaired by Oliver Cromwell, the Lieutenant General. (Sir Thomas Fairfax, the Captain General was unwell and did not attend). William Clarke and his team, took copious notes for the first five days, however, no notes were made during the final 7 days.

Martin Frampton provides a brief background to the political power struggle between King Charles I and Parliament, from the Petition of Right until the house arrest of King Charles at Hampton Court.

The debate is between two of the main combatants. Henry Ireton, the Commissioner General, (Cromwell's son-in-law) represents the Army Officers, known as the Grandees. Colonel Thomas Rainsborough, an Army Agitator represents the Levellers and other factions.

The audience, are members of the Army Council of the New Model Army. They are asked to consider which constitutional settlement they prefer or which argument has been made the most convincing. The aftermath of the Putney Debates will then be discussed.



Martin Frampton