

# The RICARDIAN HERALD

Connecting our global community



*The magazine for the worldwide branches and groups of the Richard III Society*



## Tribute to Richard, Duke of York

Some 562 years ago, midway between Sandal Castle and the town of Wakefield, thousands of men and boys fought hand to hand, maiming and killing and dying.

In December, 2022, Yorkshire Ricardians gathered to remember and commemorate the deaths of Richard, Third Duke of York, his second son Edmund, and many hundreds of others. White roses were laid at the base of the Duke's Pillar. **Yorkshire Branch commemorates, and welcomes increasing membership - Pages 5 - 6.**

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### BUC'S HISTORY

The book that started it all NOW available in a brand new edition. Discount for society members.

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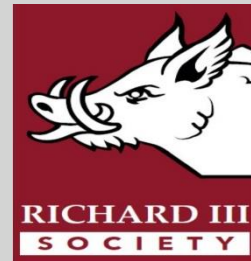
### SUNNES & ROSES

Richard meets rock: interview, and review.

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### RICHARD'S A DOLL

Literally! Expert miniature doll maker discusses her craft.



### WELCOME!

This is the first issue of the new *Ricardian Herald*. Enjoy! Comments and contributions most welcome.

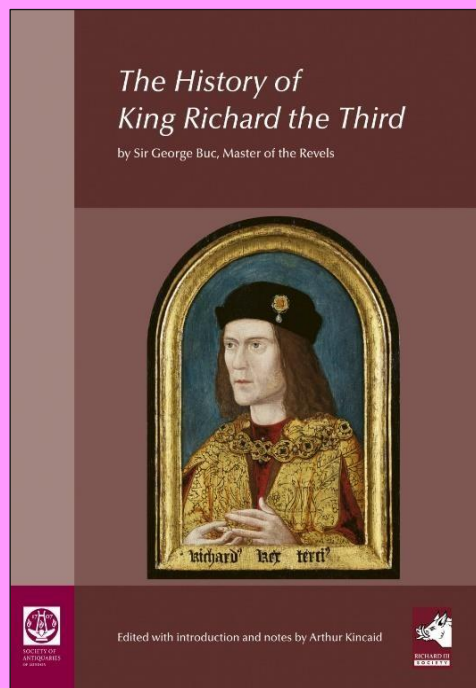


### Matt's Word

Branches & Groups urged to unite and become a network that supports fellow members. Page 3



You could take an eye out with that! Pages 7-10



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# Building strong connections worldwide

By Matt Lewis

Welcome to your brand new *Ricardian Herald*. I'm pleased that a regular publication for branches and groups is being resurrected, and offer my thanks to Susan Grant-Mackie and Jane Trump for their hard work in getting this first issue to press. One of the unexpected consequences of the misery of the last few years has been the increased use of things like Zoom. I know that to some it remains an aggravation, but for an organisation like ours, it offers benefits that are hard to ignore. Hybrid AGMs over the last couple of years have allowed members from around the world to engage with the society in ways that would have been impossible before. More engagement means more voices, more ideas, more opportunities, and a closer community. Nowhere has this new positive been more felt than in the society's Zoom talk programme. Every month we are able to welcome members from across the globe to hear fascinating talks related to Richard's life and times. Seeing members from the US and Australia, some getting up in the middle of the night, is exciting.

All of this is to say that the ability to communicate across widespread networks is at our fingertips now, and is there to be exploited. The society's branches and groups have always done incredible work in their local areas. You are often the public face of the society, the point of first contact for those interested in Richard III, and that makes you incredibly valuable. In the past, branches and groups were spread around the world but could be disparate, isolated, disconnected from each other. No more! The *Ricardian Herald* is part of a movement to encourage branches and groups to unite, talk, share, develop, and become a network that supports fellow members. In grasping these



opportunities, we have the change to magnify the reach, the influence, and the effect of branches and groups.

One of Richard's most impressive achievements was building strong connections in the north that he supported and which in turn supported him. He clearly understood the importance of operating within a network to magnify power and influence. It's another lesson we can learn from his example to help grow branches and groups and reach new audiences to share our message with. Have you tried something that worked incredibly well? Share it with others so that they can exploit your fantastic idea. Have you tried something that flopped horribly? You could save others from the same experience. Would you like to try something but need some inspiration? Now you have a network of people with ideas that you can tap into. Connecting branches and groups promises to be a step forward for the society and for the network of branches and groups. Sharing best practice and bouncing around ideas are great ways to improve what we do, which ought to draw more people to branches and groups and therefore to Richard III's story. I hope the *Ricardian Herald* will prove a strong starting point to achieve this. Enjoy!

**Matt Lewis is chairman of the Richard III Society**



## For our community, by our community

By Jane Trump

Hallo to everyone in the Branches and Groups (B&G) community! I can't tell you how excited I am at this, the inaugural *Ricardian Herald*. In my short time as branches and groups liaison officer I have had the pleasure in liaising with you all and privileged to have been included on many of your mailing lists. Through these I have learned so much of what is going on in the B&G community and the standard of the various branch magazines is incredibly high – both in content and presentation. I have been so impressed with the quality of research and dedication that goes into these journals and thoroughly enjoyed reading about the social side of things.

I strongly believe that the B&G community is the backbone of the society. Without the tireless support, research, promotion and enthusiasm of this community, the society would not be the society it is today. On top of this more 'serious' side is the fun element to be had from like-minded people meeting together to share in Ricardian activities. Valued friendships have been forged and enjoyed for many years – something I can personally attest to – and it gives members a sense of belonging and a corporate purpose.

So, given this, let's share it! Let's really use the *Ricardian Herald* to complement the existing magazines, sharing experiences more broadly to enhance our sense of worldwide community. Let's share ideas, tips and even advice! Let's share photos of good times had, and achievements. Let's share research and articles. I know there is a lot of excellent work being done. Articles don't have to be research-based. Please do share any initiatives being taken with other B&Gs, historical societies or with local bodies to



promote Richard and the society, and please do share the fun! I regularly thank Richard for all the laughs I have had in my time with the Thames Valley Group.

I would like to send a huge thanks to the editor, Sue Grant-Mackie, for getting this project off the ground with such stunning results! I am eternally grateful to her as I couldn't have done it. However, recognition should go to Jacqui Emerson for producing the original *Ricardian Recorder* which inspired the production of the *Ricardian Herald*. Sue and I share Jacqui's vision of bringing this worldwide community together through a quarterly magazine which is for the B&G community by the B&G community. I am delighted and encouraged by the support and enthusiasm Sue and I have received.

Here's to the continued success of the *Ricardian Herald*, building and enhancing our sense of community and I hope you enjoy this first edition as much as I have!

**Jane Trump is branches and groups liaison officer**

### WAKEFIELD COMMEMORATION

By Graham Mitchell

Six Ricardians met at the Duke of York's Memorial Pillar in Manygates Lane, Wakefield at 2pm, December 30, 2022. Dr Alison Harrop and myself represented the Yorkshire Branch Committee.

I thanked members for being present and reminded all that on this very day, 562 years ago, this open land, midway between Sandal Castle and the town of Wakefield, was the scene of utter carnage as thousands of men and boys fought hand to hand, maiming and killing and dying.

We had gathered to remember and commemorate the deaths of Richard Third Duke of York, his second son Edmund, and many hundreds of others.

I read a short account of what took place in the battle and subsequently on Wakefield Old Bridge from the book *Richard Duke of York, King by Right* by Society Chairman Matthew Lewis. A few moments of silence ensued concluded by the ancient prayer for the dead ...

***"May the souls of the faithful, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, and rise in glory - Amen"***

White Roses were laid at the Duke's Pillar and the Ricardians then re-assembled at the Chantry Chapel on Wakefield Old Bridge where further



Images, top: The Duke of York's Memorial Pillar in Manygates Lane, Wakefield.



Bottom: Chantry Chapel on Wakefield Old Bridge.

white roses were laid on the altar in memory of Edmund, Earl of Rutland. The group was welcomed and hosted by David Royston, chair of the Trustees and Friends of Wakefield Chantry Chapel.

At 7pm the Chantry Chapel was host to a Catholic Solemn Requiem Mass in what is known today as The Extraordinary Form, being sung entirely in Latin with the priest facing the altar, as would have been the case in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, and indeed throughout England until the 1960s. The Mass



was celebrated by Monsignor Canon David Smith, Parish Priest at St. Austin and English Martyrs Church, Wakefield, with altar servers from St. Wilfrid's Church in York. The Mass included Gregorian Chant sung by the Choir of St. Austin's, led by Director of Music Patrick Ganley.

In his Homily, Mgr. Smith explained that the liturgy of the Mass in Latin, the prayers used and the chants sung would have been entirely familiar to Richard, Duke of York, his family and all of 15<sup>th</sup> century society where the importance of praying for the repose of the souls of the faithful was central to Catholic belief.

He reminded the congregation of the importance of remembrance and the contribution of our prayers for those who have died. The branch was represented at this Mass by myself.



Detail of the Duke of York's Memorial Pillar.

**Graham Mitchell is membership officer for the Yorkshire Branch**

## Policy change, movie boost membership

**By Graham Mitchell**

For many years the society felt unable to give details of the branch geographically closest to other nearest branches, groups or members. This meant many branches and groups, whilst knowing from new membership lists in the *Ricardian Bulletin* of the presence of many members nearby, were unable to contact them and thus were constrained in their membership. With the more recent society policy of giving new members the option of having their names and contact details sent out to branches and groups, membership has grown significantly in at least one branch. I have recorded at least a dozen



new branch members signing up in the last three months following the society's policy change. This is an extremely welcome boost to our membership. With the increased interest in Ricardian matters following the screening of *The Lost King*, and a flow of new members to the society, the Yorkshire Branch has received many new names forwarded by the society, and we have been able to follow these up, resulting in a very welcome increase in the membership of the branch. So, a hearty thank you to the society for making this possible.

# Richard thrives in the land of the Stanleys

**By Marion Moulton**

The North Mercia Branch started life as The North Mercia Group on March 10, 2010. This inaugural meeting came as a result of a letter I sent to the December *Bulletin* in 2009, saying I had retired from teaching in Lincolnshire and was moving back to my roots in Nantwich, and I wondered whether there was anyone in that area who was interested enough to meet up and talk about Richard III.



**Images, top: Marion Moulton doing her bit for the Ricardian cause. Archery Day in Lichfield.**

**Bottom: Bosworth, 2014. All those featured bar one are still members, or honorary members, of the branch.**

Ten people contacted me, and we met outside Nantwich Church on a very cold day on March 10, 2010. Amazingly, there had never been any interest in forming a group interested in Richard III in the Nantwich area until that day. Hardly surprising as Nantwich is in the very middle of the dreaded Stanley lands! There is also a very strong Civil War interest because 'Holly Holy Day' commemorates the Battle of Nantwich, fought on January 25, 1644. It was a key battle and dictated the outcome of the Civil War. It is the first re-enactment of the calendar of the Sealed Knot.



are made to feel welcome and needed, and to get a feeling of belonging to the branch, so they are kept informed of meetings and events.

We were invited to become a branch in November, 2017. We did not have to apply. There was special article about us in the *Bulletin* around that time, praising our efforts and our numbers in such a short time of existence as a group of the society, and I was invited to lay the wreath of white roses on Richard's tomb. I don't want to blow my own trumpet, but one of the important things I think in encouraging members to stay, is to ensure they always get a friendly greeting and

We are lucky at the Crown, because we have an arrangement that our meeting room is free as long as some of us have lunch beforehand. Chatting over a meal is a very good way welcoming new members to the branch and meeting up with more established members. It's always difficult walking into somewhere totally new, but a friendly meal beforehand certainly helps break the ice. Former society chairman Phil Stone, now deceased, remarked that on the first occasion he came to talk to the group, as it was then, that there was an overall impression of friendliness and then later was heard to remark



about us: 'what a friendly group'. I am very keen to maintain this tradition.

My committee comprises three founder members and myself. I had known Geraldine McDonnell a long time before the group was formed, as she used to attend banquets hosted by the Lincolnshire Branch of the society at the Angel and Royal Hotel in Grantham. I was Press Officer of this branch until just before I retired. I had already put my advert into the *Bulletin*, but I met up with Geraldine at the Holly Holy Day Banquet in January 2010, and she was sharing a table with three friends, who later became some of the founder members of the North Mercia Group. Viv Reeves, my Treasurer, joined later in 2010 only taking control of the finances when our first Treasurer had to move across the country to Rutland.

But she does an amazing job and always has her finger on the financial pulse! Richard Skinner is my Chairman and a good 'front' man. He and his wife, Fran, have recently become ordained priests in the Church of England, so he is our contact for 'higher things'! Geraldine is our Vice-Chairman. She is also a qualified librarian so she is invaluable when I want information on past events. She is so organised. Geraldine attends Swinnerton Roman Catholic Chapel – the private family chapel of Lord Stafford, and arranges for Masses to be said for Richard on certain occasions. Thus involving Viv, Richard and Geraldine most of the time gives me lots of support and I don't feel I am on my own all the time. I think this is also key to running a successful group or branch.

We had our first group outing in June, 2010. We went to Edstaston between Wem and Whitchurch, where Richard established a Chantry



**Marion presents Philippa and John with a bust each of Richard III, 2014. It was made by a friend of one of the branch members.**



Chapel in 1484, and it was during the lunch that I got a really good feeling that the group stood a chance of surviving. By this time, I had become friendly with members of the Greater Manchester Branch, so some of their members were also with us – amounting to about 15, but I was pleased to see that although they didn't know each other very well, they were all talking and I knew it boded well for the future of the group. I was right! We have never experienced what some groups and branches have had – numbers dropping. Numbers have fluctuated but not alarmingly so. We now have

just over 60 members on the list. They don't all come every time, but they all maintain contact either by email or telephone.

The inaugural Memorial Lecture for Dr John Ashdown Hill in April last year also generated new members and I have put membership leaflets of the society in our local museum, Tourist Board and library. I have had to top these up, but have only acquired one new member so far, but it's early days.

Before we became a branch, I did most of the organising, but I was always in constant communication with Viv, and the other members. Even though we are now a branch and need to be more formal, this is still the case, so I never feel I am just on my own. I am in constant touch with my three committee members and I have made some lovely friends among the members. We even have two four-legged members, one of whom is allowed to attend meetings. Jack Clarke the lurcher and Bran Skinner, a rescue dog from



Romania who I believe has some Norwegian connections and a variety of other European countries! She is very well behaved and we never hear a sound from her during the meeting.

We meet every month from February until December. Our Janus Day is always held in February – the start of the new year. Janus is the Roman god of doorways; he has two faces. One looking back and one looking forward.

It was something I coined when the group was formed, but even though we are now a branch and running on more formal lines, our annual meeting is still our 'Janus Day'. Meetings are held in March, April, May, June, September, October and November, with a Christmas lunch at the Crown Hotel bringing the year to a close. We usually have an outing in July and I invite



**At Fotheringhay: executing a North Mercia Branch tradition of saluting Richard at the Castle mound - the day of the Society Christmas lunch and carol service**

members to join me at the Bosworth Memorial weekend in August. Last year was slightly different as I launched the Inaugural Memorial Lecture to Dr John Ashdown Hill in April – the month of his birthday. In order to keep the date special I am planning a biennial series for the lecture and in between a Dr John Ashdown Hill Social Day for the branch, this way keeping April

## Secrets of success – members have their say

*The success/secret of the North Mercia Branch is very much down to you (Marion)! You go out of your way to make all members feel very welcome and special. Your enthusiasm 'rubs off' by encouraging members to socialise with each other in turn. You thus create a relaxed atmosphere, which quickly settles in Guest Speakers. No wonder North Mercia Branch has attracted attention - and envy! Malcolm Riddoch*

*I think we (you) are successful because you organise such a varied and entertaining programme covering the leading players in the period, music, art, key events, armour, pot luck medieval lunches, trips, et cetera. We cater for people who perhaps don't know a lot about the Wars of the Roses, and we don't assume they will. We try to build up their knowledge gradually. They are not pressured to understand the ins and outs of the period. John was particularly good at this, and I think Matt is the same, although all our speakers are very good. The ambiance of the Crown, and the room we have the talks in, helps. It's historic and welcoming. The fact that we meet for lunch, if you want to, is also good. We can get together and chat about Richard socially. People can ask questions without feeling stupid, rather than having to do it in a public meeting. I think we are very supportive, and eager to help members learn more. Also we are a friendly bunch. Geraldine McDonnell*

*Val got to know about the branch from Pat Hill, whom she got to know at Gymphobics in Nantwich. It sounded interesting, and Val thought I would like to go, as I am very keen on history! We duly went along to our first talk, and found it very well-run, friendly and interesting. Your leadership and enthusiasm were also attractive to us both. We hope the branch will continue to be as enjoyable in the future! David and Val Hutton.*



**Jack's Book Club: Jack Clarke, the lurcher, ponders the points made by Matt Lewis in one of his books.**

special for John's memory. This Social Day is a new idea, but it aims to maintain the friendliness of the branch and enable as many members as possible to get to know one another.

We are having afternoon tea and will be serving cheese scones, tea cakes and Eccles cakes – all John's favourite treats and one of the members has contacts within the 'war gaming' fraternity so we are hoping to replay the Battle of Bosworth, though whether the result will be any different hangs on the throw of the dice.

We are privileged to be able to welcome Dr Michael Jones in July this year, who will be speaking about Edward the Black Prince, Richard's great uncle, and in September this year we are hoping to have our first weekend away with a visit to the Middleham area.

Thank goodness for the 'tick' box, which has been added to the membership form. I am aiming to put as many of these forms as possible in our local libraries, museums and tourist outlets in Cheshire, but also in Shropshire and Staffordshire as these are our catchment areas. I am hoping our 2023 programme is interesting enough to tempt interested parties to attend some of our events. Onwards and upwards, as Philippa Langley says!

**Marion Moulton is chair of the North Mercia Branch**





## Still going strong after 40 years

By Rilla McEvoy

In April 1983 Meredith Whitford brought together a small group with a common interest - Richard III. A few of these were affiliated with the Victorian Branch and some, who joined later, had been members of the UK Branch, unaware there were Australian branches.

Initially meetings were held at members' homes on a Friday night, but as numbers grew a larger venue was needed. The Elephant and Castle Hotel in Adelaide was chosen. In October 1984 our first annual meeting was held here. Meals and drinks were ordered; with all the back and forth due to ever increasing numbers this venue was fast becoming inadequate. Consequently, in March, 1985, we moved our meetings to the St Leonard's Inn at Glenelg. Our meetings were every three months, and new management at St Leonard's didn't think

we were a viable proposition, so for a few years we met at various places.

There were three meetings at Glenelg Community Hall and one at Fullerton Community Hall. In 1989 we moved to what has become our permanent home, the National Council of Women's rooms on South Terrace. Our first Chairman was Walter Welburn, who ably served in this post for many years. Walter died in March, 2006 and his funeral was our April meeting. He is very much missed. He was the true definition of a gentleman. Meredith Whitford was our first Secretary - she who started all this! Meredith has since gone on to be a published author - *Treason*.

A Richard III library was started and has grown to quite a substantial collection of both fiction and non-fiction. Therefore, a librarian was needed. There have been a few people who have held this post. I have been the librarian for quite a few years over my time in the group. In our collection we have copies of talks given, DVDs, brochures

**Image above: Christmas lunch-wear in 2019. A hat or something Ricardian. Margaret, Lisa, Judith, Di, John, Rilla, Ruth, Anne, Judy, Anne, Sue.**





from various Ricardian sites and other such material too numerous to mention. Sue Walladge and I have shared this post for a while now. While our numbers were small, a treasurer wasn't required. However, when we were granted Branch status on April 15, 1985 a treasurer needed to be elected and a bank account opened.

Meredith as secretary filled this role until it was taken over by Judy Ridings.

The year 1985 turned out to be a very big year for us. A medieval choir Cantata Genista was formed. Our choir master was Malcolm Collings, and he led us to heights none of us thought we could reach - myself included! We sang on many occasions. The saddest was at Malcolm's funeral. He is still missed.

Isolde Wigram visited Adelaide in April. Isolde had contacted Saxon Barton, who had started The Fellowship of the Boar, relaunched as the Richard III Society. A party was held for her on April 6. She stayed in Adelaide until April 10. Her gift from our branch was a teapot made by a South Australian potter.

Also in 1985 we put on two exhibitions. The first being at The Festival Theatre when the Sydney Theatre Company performed RIII at the Playhouse. Our second was a very large display at the State Library. Meredith was the organiser and researcher for this. Margaret Collings used her calligraphy skills to enhance the display. Meredith stepped down as secretary in 1986 and Marg Collings was elected to this post. She served for 18 years and was awarded The Robert Hamblyn Award for her service to the Richard III Society. She stepped down as secretary in 2004 and was elected as chairwoman.

Margaret produced some really wicked quizzes that certainly tested our brain power. Her many talents included producing our *Nova Genista* magazine and *The King's Kitchen* recipe book.

**Photo above: February, 2013.  
Members of the Adelaide Branch  
meet to celebrate the discovery of  
Richard's remains.**



Sue Walladge took over as secretary from Margaret and has been in this role ever since. In her very long time as secretary Sue has produced many folders filled with information and pictures from *The Dig*. They are an extraordinary reference for us.

Over the years we have set up stalls at medieval fairs. It involves a lot of hard work, and, as we are aging, we decided it's not worth the time and effort needed to make the days successful.

Our meetings have mainly centered on the life and times of Richard, as you'd expect.

However, some topics were a little freer with the span of history. Two that were very interesting were (1) If you could change one thing in history what would it be?

(2) Explanations for various mysteries, for example the disappearance of Agatha Christie, what is the Loch Ness Monster? There were some funny answers.

On many occasions our dinners have been very colourful, with our interpretation of medieval dress. The meals we prepared were often from

*The King's Kitchen*. And what fun we had at our Christmas dinners! Belly dancing by one of our members, flamenco dancing, short skits - the list is endless. In 2003 one of our members asked that our meetings be held on a Saturday afternoon instead of Friday nights. We all thought this to be a wonderful idea, as we were by then all getting older and not so confident driving at night. So, the proposal was adopted and from 2004 we have been meeting on a Saturday afternoon. But for some reason the member who wanted this change stopped coming. We had also moved to monthly meetings. Adelaide Branch has hosted two Australasian Conventions. One in 2001 and our last in 2022. This was meant to be in 2001 but postponed because of Covid. By the time of the 2022 Convention, our numbers had dropped significantly so in 2012 we considered disbanding. Even though we were small in numbers - 18 but only nine or 10 come regularly to meetings - the convention was a success and we were justifiably proud of what we had achieved.

**Image above: Adelaide branch dinner 1988.**





**Adelaide members at the first Ricardian convention, Melbourne, 1990**

When I mentioned the possibility of our Branch disbanding in 2012, only the dig for Richard saved us. This monumental moment in history brought us new members. We had an inside track with the dig - Louise Carr. She is the daughter of member, Judith Carr. Louise had been our Chairwoman before she headed to England. To many of us, the finding of Richard's bones in our lifetime has been a very emotional event.

When *The Lost King* was shown in Adelaide a group of us went along to the theatre.

While some of the portrayals might not have been 100 percent accurate, we found the film to be very good. Over the years we have seen people come and go. But the passion of all of the members past and present has never waned. We have been, and still are, committed to the life and times of Richard III.

I have been impressed by the number of members who have told us their interest in Richard began after reading *The Daughter of Time*. That is certainly true of Sue Walladge and me. We found this common interest in our early

teaching days together. Which, of course, led us to initially join the UK Branch until we were tracked down by Meredith Whitford and joined what was then the Adelaide Group - not having enough members in 1983 to be classed a Branch.

There's not many of us still left from the original 1983 members and we have seen a lot of changes. My hope is that the society will keep going to get the truth out there about Richard. Of course, what we all still have to strive to do is convince people that Shakespeare wrote plays, not history. I have omitted (on purpose) a running list of all the office bearers over the past 40 years because that list would be very long! I believe the most vital person in all this is Meredith Whitford. Without her drive to gather people together and form our own Adelaide Branch, we would have missed out on the talents and friendships that we have



**Adelaide branch, December, 2021. Rilla, Margaret, Anne, Judith, Robyn, John, Di, Lisa. Photo Sue Walladge.**

experienced over the past 40 years.

Our monthly meetings are a chance to not only talk Ricardian things but to have a wonderful social outing. During Covid this proved

invaluable as we could still hold our meetings face to face due to low numbers and a big room. We didn't feel so isolated. I do believe these meetings were beneficial to our mental health during the pandemic. Forty years of the Adelaide Branch (South Australian) and we are still going! Here's to at least 40 more.

***Loyaultie me lie***

**Rilla McEvoy is chairwoman of the Adelaide Branch**



## Zoom offerings begin with *The Scoliotic Knight*

By Sally Keil

The American Branch is very pleased to announce the inauguration of a new Zoom Presentation series for its membership. In January, Dr Tobias Capwell kicked off our new program with his lecture entitled *Richard III - The Scoliotic Knight*. Dr Capwell is one of the foremost experts on English armor of the Medieval and Renaissance period, having obtained a PhD from Leeds University and having published widely on the subject. For many years, he was the Curator of Arms and Armour at the Wallace Collection in London. Dr Capwell played a pivotal role in the design and construction of the armor for Dominic Smee, King Richard III's body double, and acted as advisor on the film *The Lost King*. In full armor, he also rode as an honor guard for King Richard's hearse at the services in Leicester, England.

Dr Capwell is also the author of a three volume 'coffee table' size set of beautifully illustrated books on medieval armor. As a benefit to our membership, volumes two and three are available for borrowing from the branch's non-fiction library. Next up in the Zoom presentation series is a lecture by myself - *The Archeological Discovery and Reinterment of the Remains of King Richard III*. I will walk us through all of the incredible challenges faced by The Looking For Richard team that resulted in such an historic find. This lecture will be given in March, to coincide with the US release of the movie *The Lost King*.



**Sally Keil, secretary of the American Branch, announces a new series of Zoom presentations for members.**

The summer lecture will be given by Dr Compton Reeves, our branch's Research Officer, based on his upcoming book *Growing Old in Medieval England*. He gave part of this entertaining talk at our General Membership Meeting this past fall, Washington DC. He showed us that, contrary to popular belief, medieval people often lived surprisingly long lives and found ways to be productive and to have pleasurable hobbies and pastimes.

The fall lecture will be given by Dr Joel Rosenthal, Professor of History at SUNY-Stony Brook, about the powerful churchmen and in particular the bishops who were at the court of Edward IV and Richard III - so we might hear some very interesting things about men such as Robert Stillington and John Morton, both of whom played significant roles in history. The Zoom Presentation Series is provided to all members of the American Branch free of charge, as another benefit of membership.

**All the dates and times of the American Branch's Zoom Lecture Series will be posted on our branch's web site: [www.r3.org](http://www.r3.org). Please check our Events page.**

# Daunted members encouraged to explore research

By Tracy Bryce

In June 2021, the Canadian Branch of the Richard III Society celebrated the 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary since its founding in 1966; and for as long as I can remember - which extends back to about 30 years of those 55 - our meetings have featured a research paper. More often than not, this has been prepared and presented by one of our inquiring and talented members, on a Ricardian or medieval topic of their choosing.

Through the years we've been treated to a wide variety of presentations, from the perennial favourite *What Happened to the Princes in the Tower?* to *The Transformation of Witchcraft in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century*. In a departure from our usual form, this past September we invited Dr. Stephanie Lahey, a post doctoral research fellow at the University of Toronto's Centre for Medieval Studies, to share her knowledge on *Parchment Quality and Scribal Choices in the Later Medieval Ages*.

Since then, we've enjoyed short presentations on Bishop Robert Stillington, and Beaulieu Abbey and its association with fugitives from the Wars of the Roses. In January, member Sheila Smith delivered a fascinating presentation on Katherine Neville, Duchess of Norfolk, and at time of this writing we are looking forward to papers on *Medieval Cathedrals: Concepts and Construction* by Clement Carelse; *Philippa of Clarence: The Mother of York* by Juliet Howland, and *Familial Resemblance through Royal Portraiture*, by Catya Hynard. In the pre-Covid days, our June gathering was a member picnic/potluck held in honour of the branch founders, Bill and Anne Buyers, but in this time of Zoom, we continued instead with our regular monthly meeting format. This June however, we are planning a potluck of a different kind.



**Members of the Canadian Branch, during a visit to the Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, to view medieval manuscripts associated with Richard III and his period. November 2019.**

We've invited our members to select, research, write and present short biographical pieces on figures from, or associated with, Richard's life and the Wars of the Roses, to share and eventually populate the long-neglected *Dramatis Personae* page on our branch website at [www.richardiii.ca](http://www.richardiii.ca). This provides a wonderful opportunity for some of our members who are daunted by the thought of preparing and presenting a long paper, to dip their toe into research. We've offered 15 different characters to study, from Sir Richard Ratcliffe to Thomas Lord Stanley, and members will get all the support and advice they request during the process. We're very much looking forward to the results! The Canadian Branch meets the second Sunday afternoon of the month, except December, July and August at 2pm Toronto time - 11am PST and 7pm GMT. Our meetings consist of an original research paper to start, followed by a business meeting and then social time. We welcome other members of the society to attend the presentations, should the presenter consent to the wider audience. If you would like to receive notification of our upcoming meetings, please send your name and email address to [chair@richardiii.ca](mailto:chair@richardiii.ca)

**Tracy Bryce is chair of the Canada Branch**

## Raising awareness about Richard 'whenever, wherever'

By Edna Coles

On a Spring day in 2016 I decided to visit the Devonport Naval Heritage Centre in my home town of Plymouth. I was interested in the exhibition they were holding to commemorate the Centenary of the Battle of Jutland, as my father had served on HMS Tiger during the battle. During the visit I spoke to another visitor, Shirley Stapley, whose father had also served on HMS Tiger at Jutland.

During our conversation I happened to mention my interest in Richard III and that I'd been a member of the Richard III Society for some years, imagine my surprise when Shirley informed me that she was the Chairman of the Devon & Cornwall Branch of the Society and invited me to their next meeting.

I went to the meeting, joined the Branch and by the next meeting I was the Branch Secretary! Serendipity indeed! The Devon & Cornwall Branch was formed in 1979 and we enjoy regular meetings and events.

Although we are a fair distance from the most familiar Ricardian sites, we do have several links to Richard's time and have visited Cotehele House, Exeter & Tiverton Castle to name a few, and we are planning to visit Powderham Castle this year. We have also organised trips farther afield to the usual Ricardian sites. Our meetings are held at Ford Park Cemetery, either in the Visitor Centre or, more often, in the beautiful Victorian Chapel. A good number of our members are also members of the Friends of Ford Park Cemetery, who raise funds to keep Plymouth's only independent cemetery functional. We are lucky to have this relationship which is mutually beneficial in that we have a central venue to use and are able to purchase refreshments and, in turn, this provides income for the cemetery. The Friends of Ford Park also cater for any events that we may organise, such as our Ricardian Cream Tea this year. Myself and Maggie Heath, a fellow Richard III member, in our role as Friends of Ford Park secretary and trustee, are organising a Medieval Lunch in September.

In this story, Edna refers to local artists devoted to bringing Richard's time to us. Musicians The Legendary Ten Seconds, and Louise Goldsborough Bird, of Angelique Miniatures. Their stories and work are featured on the following pages.



A few of our group at our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary banquet at Pentillie Castle in 2019.

This will obviously be of interest to our fellow Ricardians, who will hopefully dress up in period costume for the occasion. We are fortunate to have had some very interesting speakers in the past and included in this year's programme is a talk from our local author Philip Photiou on the second book in his Wars of the Roses trilogy *The Lamb of God* which promises to be a fascinating event. There is also a lady living fairly locally who has a business selling exquisitely dressed homemade miniature dolls, including most of the key characters from the Wars of the Roses (yes, Richard and Anne Neville are there). We are lucky enough to be having a talk on the research and the manufacture of these dolls. Band, the Legendary Ten Seconds, based in Torquay, will be familiar to most of you and they have performed for us on a number of occasions. They will be singing some of their Ricardian songs at our Medieval Luncheon. We may be out on a limb in the South West but we are an enthusiastic group and will continue to raise awareness about Richard wherever and whenever we can.

**Edna Coles is Secretary of the Devon & Cornwall Branch**



# Sunnes & Roses

## Richard's story with a modern beat

The Legendary Ten Seconds started off as the solo music project of Ian Churchward during the time when he was the lead guitar player of The Morrisons who were featured on John Peel's radio one show back in 1987. In 2013 Lord Zarquon joined Ian's music project and since then various guest musicians and vocalists have helped out in the recording studio. The most recent musician to join the project is Jay Brown who has helped to compose and record a song called the *Time Stream*. The Legendary Ten Seconds has recorded many critically acclaimed English folk rock albums which chronicle the Wars of the Roses and the life and times of Richard III in England during the late 15th century. The albums are available on Amazon and iTunes and the band has donated money to a scoliosis charity from some of the income generated from the sale of their music. The CD versions of the albums are available via the Richard III Society in the UK. In 2018 the band recorded the *Mer de Mort* album which was commissioned by the Mortimer History Society to commemorate the society's tenth anniversary. It is an historically accurate album of songs which tells the story of the significantly important Mortimer medieval family from their roots in Normandy prior to the Battle of Hastings and into the 15th century. The album



**Legendary Ten Seconds' Ian and Rob at Torquay Museum.**

includes historical narratives read by the actor John Challis (Boyce in *Only Fools and Horses*) who was the patron of the Mortimer History Society. 2019 saw the release of four albums, *Devon Roses*, *History Book Part One*, *Instrumental Legends* and *Thrilling Blunder Stories*. In February 2020

the *History Book Part Two* album was completed and this was followed by *The Acoustic Almanac*, *Amazing Songs* and the *Pageant of Torbay Part One* albums. Additionally, a new version of the first Richard III album was released in digital format via Circle of Spears Productions. The new version of the album features fictional narratives written by Sandra Heath Wilson. Three albums were released in 2021, the *Pageant of Torbay Part Two*, the *Semi Acoustic Almanac* and *Songs About Devon* albums. The latest album is called *Sagas of the South West* which follows the release of the *Musical Almanac* and *Jules Jones* albums in 2022.

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**New Zealand musician John Grant-Mackie talked to Ian about his music and interest in the medieval:**

**What was the main inspiration fueling this project?**

*If the question is regarding the Catherine of Aragon song (a track on the Sagas of the South West album) then the inspiration came from reading a book which had a chapter about how she arrived in Plymouth for her marriage to Prince Arthur. The book was a collection of chapters about various interesting things about Cornwall and Devon. Quite a few of the song*

*ideas for the Sagas of the South West album came from reading one book. After I heard about the discovery of the grave of Richard III in Leicester I recorded lots of Ricardian songs. Later on, I became interested in the local history of the South West of England after I went to a very interesting lecture at Torquay museum about a Pageant that took place in Torquay during the 1920s.*

**How did you approach translating the subject matter and history into song? Were there any particular stories you found particularly easy or difficult?**

*Most of my song ideas come from reading books. My wife wrote the lyrics for the Jolly Scarecrows song. There is an annual scarecrow competition in the Babbacombe and St Marychurch districts of Torquay and I thought it might be a nice idea to write a song about it. I took lots of photos of the scarecrow competition last summer and then asked my wife if she could try to write the lyrics for a song after looking at the photos. It took her about an hour to write the lyrics and a couple of days for me to compose the music for the lyrics. That was probably the hardest one in terms of composing the music.*

**How long did the writing process take? Did you envisage the amount of instruments to be involved, or just added as you recorded?**

*It usually takes me a couple of days to write a song. For the Sagas of the South West album it probably took me about three or four months to compose and record the songs. Over the last couple of years I tend to have more than one album project on the go. Most of the time they are concept albums. Last year I was working on a comedy album, the Sagas of the South West, an album of traditional folk songs and one which wasn't a concept album. I tend to use the same instruments on my recordings, acoustic guitar, electric bass guitar and keyboards. My friend Mike usually finishes the song recordings for me by adding drums and mixing and mastering it. Sometimes he will play bass guitar on the recording and quite often keyboards. I've got some friends who I will ask if they can sing some harmonies on my songs. For the Catherine of Aragon song I recorded my wife singing with me. My step daughter's husband Ashley played trumpet on my song about the Spanish Armada.*

**Did the recordings turn out as you intended? Any happy accidents occur?**

*Generally, they do, sometimes better than I expected and sometimes what I thought would be a really good song doesn't quite sound as good as I thought it would. Most of the happy accidents come when I pick up the guitar and somehow stumble upon a melody or phrase that turns into a new song. When I was recording my Ricardian concept albums I can remember picking up the guitar and within a few minutes I had composed a new instrumental which became Confort Et Liesse. I made a video of Dominic Smee at the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre using that tune as the background music.*

**What do you hope listeners take away from this?**

*I hope they enjoy listening to the songs and think that's a really good tune with interesting words. It would be really great if someone heard my Ricardian songs and then became interested in Richard III.*

**Was there a specific approach that you had when writing and recording to adhere to the stories involved?**

*For the Sagas of the South West album I tried to think of some interesting stories that would make an interesting song. I would read a chapter of the book about Cornwall and Devon and then try to write a song based upon what I read before moving on to the next chapter. I try to make the sound of the song fit the subject matter. With my Ricardian songs I tried to make them sound a bit medieval or have an English folk rock feel to them.*

**What's your favourite track and why?**

*The one about the Scarecrows because my wife always writes the best lyrics and I think the tune for it is very good. I think it is quite nice to write a happy song.*

Although I am quite pleased with my Ricardian song lots of them aren't very happy. Especially the ones about the battle of Bosworth.

**What were the choices in instrumentation? Purely to support the song, or any historical context or meaning intended?**

*The choices are based upon the instruments I own and whoever I can find to help me with the recording process. I have access to lots of mellotron sounds and quite a few of them sound great on my folk rock songs. My mandola sounded great on the Ricardian concept albums although I must admit I don't know how to play it properly. My keyboard playing is the same. My favourite mellotron keyboard sounds are the cello, flute and bassoon. I must stress though that I don't own a mellotron. I would need to be quite rich to be able to afford to buy one.*



[www.thelegendary10seconds.co.uk](http://www.thelegendary10seconds.co.uk)



## REVIEW

The Legendary Ten Seconds album *Sagas of the Southwest* is a brilliant foray into Historic Folk Rock, or what I've dubbed, Historock. Sounds and influences shift effortlessly from Jethro Tull and The Doors, to The Beatles and Bob Dylan. The list of instruments used on the record lends to possible cacophony; especially with such an independent production budget. However, every instrument is used for its unique qualities to support the song, so it never feels over-done. So, too, are the vocal parts, stories and tales sung by lead singer Ian, mainly, but backed by a well-appointed supporting cast. The music is such that one can imagine listening through the busy air of a 15th Century inn, but has mellotron booms & drones that would suit any modern concert hall. Regaling and stirring, filled with warm British humour, while at times delicate and sombre, *Sagas of the Southwest* is a fine artistic approach to illustrating the stories of the Wars of the Roses, and of Richard III. As someone little initiated into this history, I found it a great way to have such historic context delivered.

Keep on Historockin' Ian & Co.

-John A. Grant-Mackie



# Richard is a doll

## Angelique Miniatures 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary

I am Louise Goldsborough Bird, the artist behind Angelique Miniatures. On March 7 this year, I celebrate 35 years as a professional miniature doll artist and doll couturier.

I create **one twelfth scale\*** miniature porcelain dolls and ornamental clothing from all historical periods, plus fairies and fantasy characters. I also design and make couture doll clothing plus ballet, theatrical and historical costumes for larger adult collector fashion dolls. My work is enjoyed by collectors from all over the world, including the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, the USA, Canada, Ireland and mainland Europe, including Scandinavia, to name but a few. In addition, I write regular doll dressing 'How To' projects for a UK miniatures magazine *Dollshouse and Miniature Scene* and have done so for many years.

Angelique Miniatures began in 1988 when I needed a career change. I originally trained and worked as a professional dancer, singer and actress, and dressing dolls was my hobby. So I swapped my hobby for my business with help from the Government Enterprise Allowance Scheme which provided start-up help for new businesses in England at that time.



King Richard III is dressed in the fashion of c1485 with pure silk robes, jewelled and decorated as befits a King of those times. He wears black hosen with a Medieval style tied cod-piece and on his feet are real leather ankle boots.

Over a fine ivory silk shirt is a short doublet of pale gold silk brocade, laced with golden thread to reveal the top of his fancy silk corset (as was worn by men at this time). The golden doublet has full sleeves gathered at the cuffs to show off the fine lace frills of his shirt and false slashing can be seen along the lower edges of each sleeve.

Worn over his doublet, is a lined robe of wine coloured silk edged with fancy black and gold braid. The robe has long hanging sleeves, slashed part way down, as was the fashion of the day. Around his shoulders is a richly jewelled 'chain' and on his fingers are several crystal 'rings'.

King Richard's 'pork pie' style hat has a notched and turned up brim, delicately laced with golden thread and further embellished with golden jewelled filigree.

The love of dolls and miniatures started when I was very little when my Dad made me a dolls' house for my second birthday/Christmas present. I still have that dolls' house more than 50 years later and recently renovated it as a lockdown project. This was only the second renovation it had ever had, the first being when I was around 18.

In the early 1990s, I decided to make all my own porcelain doll parts and had a one-day crash course in the basics of porcelain making from another doll artist. Armed with my newly bought kiln, liquid slip and some miniature doll making plaster moulds from America, I began another trial and error learning curve.

The same was true when it came to painting the dolls' faces, which I found the scariest part of all, as I've never been able to draw! However, I had learnt stage make-up at theatre school, so I reasoned that painting a doll's face was actually no different from painting my own...and this approach worked well.

Another skill I had to get to grips with was wiggling and, after several unsuccessful and very sticky attempts, I found my own methods of creating the hair styles my miniature dolls required.

Later on in the early 2000s, I gained a City and Guilds certificate in Fashion and Design, which helped me to improve upon the skills I had already acquired. To this day, I enjoy learning new methods and improving my techniques with each doll or costume I create.

I'm often asked if I use special tools for the work I do and in all honesty, my most useful tool is the end of a very old paintbrush! It's handy for turning small clothing and poking stuffing into tiny spaces. Even the point of a simple pin is ideal for positioning tiny rhinestones in place to form jewellery on a miniature doll.



**One twelfth scale miniature porcelain doll standing about five-and-a-half inches tall**

Anne Neville was the beloved wife of King Richard III and mother to his only child, a son, who sadly died before he reached adulthood. Queen Anne wears a fine gown of golden silk jacquard trimmed with fancy braid, in the long sweeping style of c.1485. This stunning gown is high-waisted with long tight close-fitting sleeves and a low neckline that reveals the top of her claret silk under-gown. She holds up the hem of her over-gown with one hand to show the rich braid-embellished silk of her under-gown.

Underneath her top clothing are silk stockings, and real leather slippers. On her head she wears the popular 'butterfly' headdress with a delicate silk chiffon veil draped over its wired antennae. On her fingers are several crystal 'rings' and around her neck is a jewelled golden necklace.

As well as working through my order book of commissions, I am often inspired to create a doll or doll costume. Inspiration comes in many forms for me, such as TV costume dramas and films, characters from history and even books and music. For example, after reading about Elizabeth of York, the daughter of Edward IV, I really wanted to create her in miniature doll form, along with her husband, Henry VII. Both dolls tested my skills, but I thoroughly enjoyed the challenge and it was lovely to

work on those late medieval/early Tudor style costumes, which are rarely seen in miniature form.

I particularly enjoy Tudor and medieval costume and have created Henry VIII and his six wives many, many times over the years, but my favourite was when I made this notorious King slumped asleep in a chair after one too many drinks!

Another favourite character I was inspired to make in miniature, was King Richard III. After hearing about his burial site being discovered and reading more about him, I really wanted to create this fascinating character, along with his wife, Anne Neville. I wrote a blog post about creating my mini King Richard and also a post about making his wife, and the challenges I experienced in recreating her complicated 'butterfly' headdress in miniature. Here are the links for



those posts, and there are several other miniature doll posts on my blog too that may be of interest to readers.

<http://www.angeliqueminiatures.co.uk/blog/?p=680>

<http://www.angeliqueminiatures.co.uk/blog/?p=696>

Following the successful miniature version of Richard III, I was commissioned to create a Richard III costume for a customer's 17 inch male fashion doll. Designing the patterns and producing this costume in a larger scale doll was a task I really enjoyed. Unlike the miniature doll, where the outfit is fixed to the doll, the clothing for 17 inch Richard had to be removable, so I needed to use completely different techniques and skills. I enjoyed the project so much that I also wrote a blog post about this costuming adventure.

<http://www.angeliqueminiatures.co.uk/blog/?p=836>

Reproducing clothing in miniature of any scale is a challenge in itself. Much of the 12<sup>th</sup> scale miniature doll's costume is created totally differently than that of a larger doll or human. Miniature doll costuming involves the skill of illusion. The use of false panels, trim et cetera. is the only way to produce the right look whilst keeping the bulk to a minimum, in order to preserve the correct shape and design of the costume.

I admit to being a perfectionist. As far as I am concerned, a project is not finished until I'm completely happy with it. I won't send out anything to my customers unless I'd feel happy receiving it myself - and I've never been a 'that'll do' girl! So, if a project takes a week, a month or longer to complete, it takes as long as it takes. Quality miniature work cannot be rushed.



No prizes for guessing who this is!

My work can be seen on several social media sites such as, Facebook, Pinterest and Twitter, plus I have a main website and a blog. I also have an on-line store where customers can see and purchase ready-made dolls and ornamental clothing items, and all those items can also be bought direct from me if the customer prefers.

I can be contacted for commissions or other sales: through my main web site (via an e-mail form) Facebook or Twitter.

[www.angeliqueminiatures.co.uk](http://www.angeliqueminiatures.co.uk)

\*One twelfth scale means an inch to a foot, so a male 12<sup>th</sup> scale doll would be about 6 inches tall and a lady, about 5 ½ inches.

# Calendar of events



*Some branch events for the next quarter. If other branch and group members would like to attend, get in touch with the branch contact in advance so they know you are coming.*

## Leicestershire Branch

### THURSDAY MARCH 16

Castle Hill Excavations- The site on the edge of Leicester Forest was granted to the Knights Hospitallers in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. They held the land until 1482 when it was exchanged with Edward IV for land in Lincolnshire. Matthew Morris will explain what the 2016 archaeological excavations uncovered.

### THURSDAY APRIL 20

How to Build a Castle – a talk by Peter Liddle on the building of the unfinished Kirby Muxloe Castle. William Lord Hastings began work on the castle in 1480, continuing until his execution in 1483.

All meetings are held at the Richard III Visitor Centre, 4A St. Martins, Leicester. LE1 5DB commencing at 7.00 pm unless otherwise stated. Meetings are free to Branch Members, but visitors are requested to donate £3.00 towards the expenses of the meeting. Further details can be obtained from the Branch Secretary, Sally Henshall: E-mail: [sallyoftarahill@gmail.com](mailto:sallyoftarahill@gmail.com) or Web Site: <http://www.richardiileics.co.uk>

## Norfolk Branch

### SATURDAY MARCH 11

Day Seminar in association with the Battlefields Trust: Where They Fought Part 2 – Winter is Coming  
09:45 – 17:00 || Price: £25.00  
The Blake Studio, The Norwich School, the Close, Norwich NR1 4EH

To book please contact Annmarie Hayek:  
[annmarielouise04@gmail.com](mailto:annmarielouise04@gmail.com)

### SATURDAY APRIL 29

Afternoon Meeting - Talk on Nelson by Max Keen

### SATURDAY MAY 20

Afternoon Meeting - Talk on The Role of the Medieval Herald in Peace and War by Davie Fawcett.

All afternoon meetings are held in the Chapel, Norwich School, admission £3.00, starting at 2.30 pm. Please contact Annmarie Hayek in advance if you would like to attend with talk.

Welcome to this, the first issue of the *Ricardian Herald*. For branches and groups, by branches and groups. If you would like to share your events, news, views, personal profiles – along with a lot of photos - please send them to myself, the editor ([siriandponcho@gmail.com](mailto:siriandponcho@gmail.com)) for the May edition, by May 14, 2023. Should you wish to join Leicestershire and Norfolk Branches by getting the word out for the events calendar, the same email and deadline apply.

The *Ricardian Herald* is here to celebrate you. If you have any queries, don't hesitate to contact myself – in New Zealand - or society branches and groups liaison officer Jane Trump, in the UK ([janetrump@btinternet.com](mailto:janetrump@btinternet.com)) The Richard III Society has the time zones covered – of course.

Did I mention photos? Susan Grant-Mackie – editor, *Ricardian Herald*.

