

Researching and Reassessing Richard III since 1924

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO

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## PRINCES IN THE TOWER – HISTORY IS BEING REWRITTEN

After centuries of the Shakespearean story that Richard III allegedly murdered the princes in the Tower, suddenly we have new evidence to support our Society's challenge to tradition.

Channel 4's programme *The Princes in the Tower: The New Evidence*, Saturday, 8 p.m. is set to reveal long-overlooked documents that trace their story as never seen before.

If anyone is capable of turning history on its head, that person is Philippa Langley, MBE, King-finder, Fellow of our Society, and leader of research where myth-busting about Richard III is concerned. The documentary brings to life her major new book released on the same date.

The disappearance of the princes has always been described as a great unsolved mystery. Why? Because there was no evidence of their fate. Their murder was never more than conjecture, but it was put about by the authorities and – for safety's sake – only the brave dared to think differently.

From now on, history must take account of this new breakthrough evidence. No longer can anyone confidently claim the princes were killed by Richard III.

The princes, Edward V and Richard of York (sons of Edward IV), had been shown to be illegitimate and removed from the succession by Parliament in favour of Richard III. Originally lodged in the royal apartments of the Tower, London's foremost palace, Edward (12) and Richard (9) disappeared in the summer of 1483. Their removal coincided with an apparent attempt to abduct them during July. King Richard never spoke of their whereabouts. More information about them can be found <a href="https://example.com/hereabouts/">hereabouts</a>.

Matt Lewis, Chair of the Richard III Society, says 'If you look at our Mission Statement you'll see we are a Society driven by research. Now, thanks to another stunning <u>investigative project</u> led by Philippa Langley, it's clear there is documentary evidence to be found if you look for it. We're enormously lucky to have Philippa's vision and determination to mount this search, following her previous success in finding Richard III's grave. For 100 years the Richard III Society has represented the mavericks and sceptics, challenging the accepted view of Richard III because it lacks any evidence. So the discovery of this new material is incredibly exciting.'

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## **Notes to Editors**

- 1. The Richard III Society is a members' organisation with some 4,500 members worldwide, over 20% of whom live outside the UK. The Society was founded in 1924.
- 2. The Society promotes research and education in a key period in history. Its Mission Statement reads:

"In the belief that many features of the traditional accounts of the character and career of Richard III are neither supported by sufficient evidence nor reasonably tenable, the Society aims to promote, in every possible way, research into the life and times of Richard III, and to secure a reassessment of the material relating to this period, and raise awareness of the role in history of this monarch."

- 3. The Society's website, <u>www.richardiii.net</u> contains a wealth of information on Ricardian and related matters. The Society is active on <u>Facebook</u>, <u>X (Twitter)</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.
- 4. For further information, please contact:
  - Matt Lewis (Society Chair) at <a href="mailto:chair@richardiii.net">chair@richardiii.net</a>
  - Amanda Geary (Deputy Chair) at <a href="mailto:comms@richardiii.net">comms@richardiii.net</a>
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