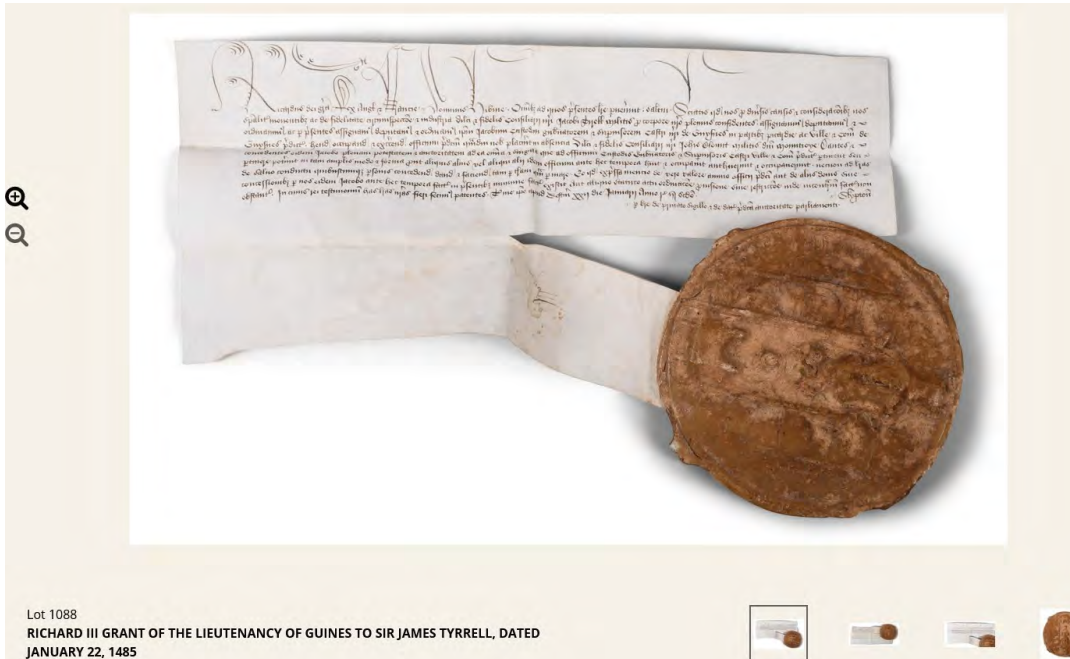




The RICARDIAN HERALD

Connecting our global community

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



Richard's Great Seal crosses international boundaries

Last December, the American Branch assisted the UK main society with two important tasks regarding an original document from the reign of Richard III. This item, a Letters Patent granting the offices of Guines Castle to James Tyrell in January 1485, came up for sale at an auction house in Fairfax, Virginia. The Great Seal of Richard III is still attached to the grant, making it even more rare and valuable.

American Branch chair Susan Troxell, says this amazing project demonstrates one of the greatest strengths of our society " that we can collaborate across international boundaries and facilitate partnerships across the amateur-professional continuum. This is certainly something to celebrate in our Centenary year!" See Pages 9-11.

Several other Richard-related manuscripts feature in this issue of the *Herald*, including the Covenant of Manors, 1478, which specifically mentions Richard, Duke of Gloucester, and his wife Anne. It has been 'adopted' by the Thames Valley Group. Page 18.



Society communications manager Amanda Geary was recently appointed board deputy chair. She talks about her job, and what the society means to her. Page 8



It's an idea that has caught on. Finding Richard-related place names across the globe. Pages 23-26

p2

A WORD FROM MATT

You are the heart of the network

p3

A WORD FROM JANE

Celebrating our first birthday

p7

CHAMPION OF PROXY VOTING

A chat with Rob Smith



What's planned for 2024 Centenary Year. Check the calendars of branches and groups Pages 4-6; Pages 34-40

A WORD FROM MATT

There is a lot going in this year, not least the society's centenary. Amongst all of the activity and achievements, the first birthday of the new *Ricardian Herald* shouldn't slip by uncelebrated. Susan Grant-Mackie has done an incredible job of creating this magazine.

Heart of the network

By Matt Lewis
Chair Richard III Society



As someone who is passionate about the role of the branches and groups community, I would like to offer my gratitude to Susan for all of her hard work. Thank you also to those who have contributed to or enjoyed reading the *Herald*, as well as to Jane Trump, for so diligently acting as a representative of both the society and B&Gs to help grow and maximise the relationships between us all.

It has been great to see more events being arranged by branches and groups, and that they are becoming more ambitious in places too. This is a signal of a thriving network, run by committed people, and enjoyed by enthusiastic members. The pandemic was a direct assault on the edifice of the branches and groups network, preventing the very gathering, sharing and community building that is your *raison d'être*. That you have emerged from that traumatic period filled with the same commitment and enthusiasm is demonstrated in the creation, and success, of these events.

The thriving of the *Ricardian Herald* over the last year has opened the door to increased co-operation, sharing of ideas, and building stronger ties across the community. In engaging with these opportunities, we can find ways to maximise the enjoyment of your members and the impact we can collectively have. Have you tried something that worked really well?

Are there ways to draw in more members that have worked for you? Is there a problem you can't see a way around that others in the network might be able to help with?

Answers, help, and advice can all be sourced within this group from those who share your interest, but also your desire to engage with members and the wider public in your local communities.

We are all bound by a common goal, expressed in the society's Mission Statement. We share an interest that can have many different facets and levels, which is a rewarding exploration of history, but also of very human stories. The desire to surround ourselves with other people as we do so lies, I think, at the heart of the branches and groups network. I get asked quite often why there is a Richard III Society. It's a hard question to answer, and my answer can only be as personal as yours, but the impulse to find a community to share our interests, ideas, and thoughts is very human. I think the branches and groups network is the ultimate expression of that within the society.

For what it might be worth, I am incredibly proud of what the branches and groups achieve. I look forward to seeing many of you in the course of 2024, and in continuing to hear of the work of those I might not get to visit. Thank you for all that you do for the society and for the story of King Richard III.



We are all bound by a common goal, expressed in the society's Mission Statement. We share an interest that can have many different facets and levels, which is a rewarding exploration of history, but also of very human stories.





CELEBRATING OUR FIRST birthday!

By Jane Trump
Branches & groups liaison officer

So, 2024 is finally here and there is so much to be excited about! I am looking forward to hearing all about the different ways the B&G community will be celebrating the society's centenary – and Richard of course – and I am also really looking forward to meeting many of you at various events during the year.

However, I am thrilled that we are starting 2024 off with the first anniversary of the *Ricardian Herald*! With such a vibrant community as we have within the branches and groups, there was a huge need to revive the popular quarterly *Ricardian Recorder* so excellently produced by Jacqui Emerson (and I am immensely grateful to Jacqui for all her support and advice). However, times change and, looking at the style of individual branch journals, I knew any new community journal had to follow a similar pattern which posed a massive headache for me as I am no journalist! Being introduced to Sue Grant-Mackie was the answer to all my prayers and she has achieved so much in the past year and made the *Herald* an excellent journal from the outset. However, there is no journal without input and I am so delighted in the way that the whole B&G community has really engaged with the new magazine and contributed so much to make it the journal it is.

Sue and I really wanted to share with the whole community the excellent research and activity being achieved to promote Richard and his times and, more importantly, we wanted you all to own the journal and share your experiences, knowledge and activities with one another. This is exactly what you have done and I have been educated, amazed and impressed with the wide variety and depth of the articles that have been submitted and which have developed and enhanced the *Herald* with each edition, not to mention enjoying the fun along the way and special mention must go to Jack for that! Articles on commemoration services, rose planting, study days, academic funding for the prestigious Edward IV Roll, research into Richard's 1482 Campaign and Perkin Warbeck, presence at medieval fayres plus widening the historical scope with articles on Saint Cuthbert, medieval tapestry, needlework and medieval costume creation have jostled with branch and group profiles. All of which have demonstrated the talent and enthusiasm of our members plus the friendship and fun element of belonging to a group of like-minded individuals.

The Society has embraced the *Herald* with regular input from our chair and with board members and Fellows being happy to be profiled. Indeed, board members have nothing but praise for it. Sue and I also liaise with the *Bulletin* editor, Alec Marsh so that the two magazines complement each other.

I think this is a huge achievement in one year so a massive thanks to you all - and let's bring on 2024!

NORTH MERCIA BRANCH OF THE RICHARD III SOCIETY PRESENTS

The Dr John Ashdown Hill Memorial Lecture

**An Afternoon with Philippa Langley
The Princes in the Tower – Solving
History’s Greatest Cold Case**

**Historian Philippa Langley reports on the five years of
The Missing Princes Project**

Saturday, April 6, 2024

The Civic Hall, Nantwich

2pm (Doors open 1pm)

Tickets: £15 (Including refreshments)

Honoured guest: Matthew Lewis, Chair of the Richard III Society

**Also via Zoom: Annette Carson; Dr. David and Mrs Wendy Johnson – the
remaining members of the Looking For Richard Project**

**Dr. John Ashdown Hill was the academic who discovered the mtDNA of King
Richard III, resulting in the search, and discovery, of the mortal remains of
the King in the Social Services car park in Leicester in 2012 - the site of the
former Greyfriars Friary. Without John’s ground-breaking DNA research, the
search for Richard III would never have begun or the king discovered, so we
hold this day in memory of a very special man.**

**Contact: e-mail: tedandbess1943@gmail.com ; For bank details or please
send a cheque made out to: ‘The Richard III Society North Mercia Branch’ to
Miss Marion Moulton, 6 Shrewbridge Crescent, Nantwich, Cheshire. CW5 5TF:
Tel: 01270 623664**

Leicestershire Branch Study Day

Saturday, May 18, 2024

The event will be held at the KRIIIVC, 4A St. Martin's, Leicester, LE1 5DB. The day will follow the usual format of four speakers with a coffee/tea break between the morning speakers and the same in the afternoon. It will be own arrangements for lunch. The price of a ticket will be £27 to include morning and afternoon refreshments.

Crown, Parliament and Treason

'Medieval Parliaments in Leicester'

Richard Smith will tell us about the parliaments held in Leicester during the Middle Ages, including the curiously named 'Parliament of Bats' in 1426.

'All the Queen's Jewels 1445-1548'

More than simply decoration, the Queen's jewels displayed wealth, majesty and authority as Dr. Nicola Tallis will explain.

'Treason during the Wars of the Roses'

Dr Euan Rodgers will talk about treason during this period. The talk will be illustrated by documents held at the National Archives, including the bill of attainder against Richard III.

'Royal Seals'

The National Archives holds many wax seal impressions including the Great Seal of Richard III. Dr. Paul Dryburgh will speak about the importance of Seals both historically and as works of art.

**The East Anglian Region of the Battlefields Trust
(Norfolk Region) in association with the Norfolk
Branch of the Richard III Society presents :**

WHERE THEY FOUGHT : The Final Chapter

**March 9, 2024 at The Blake Suite, The Norwich School, Alexander Fleming Building, The
Close, Norwich, NR1 4EH Price : £25**

**9 .55pm Welcome by Tony Hawkins, Battlefields Trust Norfolk Co-ordinator
10 00 – 11 00 The Battle of Barnet 1471 by Peter Masters**

11 00 – 11 30 Coffee

11 30 – 12 00 The Battle of Losecoat Field aka Empingham 1470 by Dr James Barnaby

12 00 – 1 15 Lunch (not included in the price)

1 15 – 2 00 Battles of Hedgeley Moor and Hexham 1464 by Dr James Barnaby

2 00 – 3 00 The Battle of Tewkesbury 1471 by a member of the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society

3 00 – 3 30 Tea

3 30 – 4 15 The Battle of Stoke Field 1487 by Kevin Winter The Battlefields Trust

4 15 – 5 00 Question and Answer session

5pm approx. Vote of thanks and close

Programme subject to change if circumstances dictate. We regret we cannot issue refunds.

Please send me : tickets at £25 each. Total.....

Name

Address/contact email/phone

**Cheques payable to Richard III Society, enclose SAE or tick for e mail receipt
For bank transfers contact Annmarie**

Annmarie Hayek, 20 Rowington Road, Norwich, NR1 3RR Tel : 01603 664021 annmarielouise04@gmail.com

Our society currently has nine Fellows. The choice of Fellow honours senior Ricardians who have offered outstanding service to the work of the society or in the cause of King Richard. In this issue of the Herald, we introduce Rob Smith, of New Zealand.

CHAMPION OF PROXY VOTING

Rob is a former soldier and retired bank official. He has been a member of the society for 33 years and was a vice-president of the society from 2006 until the role was disestablished with the society's recent change to company status. He also acted as the Australasian Liaison Officer for the executive. He was recently awarded Honorary Membership and appointed a Society Fellow.

Rob was the voice of the overseas branches in pushing for representation by way of proxy voting at the society's AGM. The proposal was finally introduced in 2017 when it became necessary for the society to seek membership approval to become a company.

Rob says he has been secretary/treasurer of the New Zealand for far too long!

He became interested in medieval history when at school, initially following the exploits of Henry V. However, when delving into the machinations of the Cousins' War and aware that history is written by the winners, he became convinced that Richard was the victim of Tudor spin, exemplified, of course, by Shakespeare's over-the-top, black comedy. When moving to Lower Hutt in 1990 with his late wife, Helen, he found that the NZ Branch of the society met close by and immediately joined.

However, he has no academic pretensions, willingly acknowledging the achievements and ability of more knowledgeable Ricardians world-wide. Rob's enthusiasm for the society is derived from the close association he enjoys with fellow members at branch level.

With the regular gatherings between Australia Branches and New Zealand the friendship base has grown to become almost like an extended family, one with a common purpose.

Rob is particularly interested in visiting battlefield sites, having researched the conduct of the conflict involved beforehand.



He has not confined himself to medieval times, however, having walked over Waterloo, Passchendaele and the NZ Maori War sites, as well as those familiar to Ricardians.

As recently as last September, Rob revisited Towton and Bosworth. While Towton is easily accessed, Bosworth, Fenn Lane and particularly Fenn Hole are not. These were recently identified as the likely site of Richard's demise. The local farmer is apparently not keen on public access and has allowed the hedgerows to grow so tall that viewing the field was not possible from the road. Even access to the public footpath crossing the site was overgrown and impassable.

Rob now lives in the historic village of Greytown, about 80ks north of New Zealand's capital city Wellington. He has three adult children and nine grandchildren, the three youngest living close by. Rob remains active in Rotary and Croquet Club administration.

He enjoys power walking, Pilates, Bridge, G & T and Pinot Gris and has plans to continue regular overseas excursions.

Society communications manager **Amanda Geary** was recently appointed deputy chair of the board. She says it's an honour, particularly in our centenary year. Here Amanda chats about why she got interested in the society.

COMMITTED TO RIGHTING THE WRONGS

”

We didn't learn about Richard – or the Wars of the Roses – at school, except for during one History lesson when I was about 13, which was about source material and recognising biases, during which my History teacher explained how contrary to popular opinion, there was no evidence that Richard III killed his nephews.



Little did I realise at the time how rare it was to be taught that! It certainly caught my interest and I read a couple of books about Richard, but then life, in the shape of studying, work and then marriage and children took over and I didn't really think about it again until one day in February 2013 when I watched The King in the Car Park documentary.

It was like something clicked in my brain and from that moment on I read everything about the King that I could get my hands on. For my birthday a couple of weeks later, my husband bought me membership of the Richard III Society (I think he may occasionally regret that now!) and there was no stopping me. I eventually also joined the Scottish Branch.

Slightly frustrated that for some strange reason my family didn't want to endlessly talk about Richard, I joined Twitter in the hope of finding like-minded people. One of the first people I spoke to, Sharon, was also a committed Ricardian and we very quickly became partners in crime, travelling together to Ricardian sites, attending talks and study days etc.

Life suddenly got very busy! Soon after that, Sharon was elected to the EC (as it then was) of the Society and was appointed Communications Manager. A year later I was asked to help her, and the following year I was also elected to the EC, eventually taking over the Communications role when Sharon stepped down. And apart from a brief period in 2020, I've been there ever since. A couple of months ago I was also appointed Deputy Chair, which is such an honour – particularly in our centenary year. Taking on a role like Communications Manager does tend to become a full-time job. I'm in charge of our social media output, with day to day responsibility for Facebook and Instagram, as well as R3 mailings, and, of course, the website.

Creating our new website was a mammoth undertaking (it's probably just as well that I didn't realise at the beginning just how big a job it would be!) but it was worth it. Importantly, it is now so much easier for people to find us and to join the Society, as well as to learn more about the real Richard and all the good he did, rather than just the tired old Tudor propaganda. I think that the tide is certainly turning – due in large part to the work of people such as Philippa Langley, Annette Carson and, of course, Matthew Lewis.

The Richard III Society has given me so much. I have learned a huge amount and have made life-long friends. And it has enabled me to fight for a cause I feel passionately about – righting the wrongs done to King Richard's reputation over the centuries. What more could you ask for?

COLLECTING, TRANSLATING A GRANT OF RICHARD III

By Susan Troxell, chair of American Branch



Last December, the American Branch assisted the UK main society with two important tasks regarding an original document from the reign of Richard III. This item, a Letters Patent granting the offices of Guines Castle to James Tyrell in January 1485, came up for sale at an auction house in Fairfax, Virginia. The Great Seal of Richard III is still attached to the grant, making it even more rare and valuable.

The UK society won the auction, but needed to find a permanent home for it in Britain, a process that can take weeks if not months to arrange. Over the past year, archival collections and museums had already become very picky about accepting donations or loans of new items. With the British Museum's recent scandal over the theft of hundreds of ancient artifacts from storage, they are now even more cautious.

This prompted Matt Lewis, chair of the parent society, to contact the chair of the American Branch to see if the item could be displayed to a local museum or institution in the Fairfax, Virginia area pending its eventual transfer to the United Kingdom. Unfortunately, inquiries to libraries and museums (including the Folger Shakespeare Library) proved fruitless as they were unable to accept on loan such a document on such short notice. Their curators said such items were better displayed within a wider exhibit of other items to give it proper historical context.





One of the greatest strengths of our society is that we can collaborate across international boundaries and facilitate partnerships across the amateur-professional continuum. This is certainly something to celebrate in our Centenary year!



Liz Bateman, right, and auction house staff.

Continued from previous page...

The next task was to find a secure place for the grant to be kept until its final home was found. The auction house had limited storage capacity; if the item was not picked up within a few weeks, they would begin charging fees. This is where the structure of the Richard III Society's branches and groups proved incredibly helpful. Looking at our membership list, we saw that Liz Bateman, chair of our Tidewater chapter, had a residence not far from Fairfax. Was she willing to act as the UK society's agent for the purpose of collecting the item and finding it a temporary safe sanctuary? You bet!

So off Liz went to the auction house, where she charmed the staff with her enthusiasm and energy – she even talked up Richard III and the society and may have managed to recruit a new member or two! Liz was willing to keep the item in her personal security deposit box at her bank's vault, where it would be kept safe. When seeing the grant for the first time, Liz remarked "the seal is so big, as big as a pancake!" It's easy to forget how massive the king's Great Seal was, and how it projected supreme authority through its physical size and weight.



Continued from previous page...

RICHARD III SOCIETY

❁ AMERICAN BRANCH ❁

Dedicated to the study of the life & reassessment of the reputation of Richard III & study of 15th century English history & culture



copyright Geoff Wheeler, Richard III Soc.



For members living an ocean away from England, the opportunity to see and touch it “in real life” was even more precious.

Liz went even further. She was able to get the name and address of the man who placed the item for auction, and discovered he was a great collector of seals and was terribly reluctant to let go of this particular item. So she wrote a personal letter to him, letting him know that the society was honored to have won the auction and would do everything it could to have it displayed or shared with the public. And, she included a brochure from our Branch in case he wanted to find out more about our organization.

Not content with just having the item kept secure in the bank safe, another American Branch member - Erik Michaelson, a volunteer palaeographer/Latinist on the Milles Register project - decided he would take a crack at interpreting the grant into modern English. He submitted his transcription and translation to the UK's Research Officer, Marie Barnfield, who in turn brought Livia Visser-Fuchs into the final proofreading process. Having secured those reviews, the American Branch will be publishing Erik's translation in the March 2024 issue of its Ricardian Register research journal. Readers of this newsletter will have to wait to see it there!

As a branch, we were very happy to be called into service for such a significant piece of history. The installation of James Tyrell at Guines Castle, one of the two fortresses protecting the English Pale of Calais, raises many tantalizing questions about Richard III's reign and perhaps even the survival of the Princes in the Tower. For members living an ocean away from England, the opportunity to see and touch it “in real life” was even more precious. It reminds us that overseas branches, even those in the “New World”, can play an important role in the preservation of Ricardian history. One of the greatest strengths of our society is that we can collaborate across international boundaries and facilitate partnerships across the amateur-professional continuum. This is certainly something to celebrate in our Centenary year!

MISSING PRINCES AND HOW THEY WERE FOUND

By Dr Alison Harrop



On December 2, 2023, the Yorkshire Branch was honoured to host Philippa Langley for her first presentation of the new research findings from The Missing Princes' Project (TMPP). The presentation was held at the Yorkshire Museum in the Tempest Anderson Hall and was attended by about 270 people. Society chairman, Matt Lewis, introduced Philippa who began by saying she was delighted to come to York as Richard referred to travelling to York as "our next homecoming" on November 15, 1477.



Pictured on the previous page are, left to right: Yorkshire Branch Chair Paul Williams; Yorkshire Branch E-mail Manager Maria Grazia Leotta; Society Chair Matt Lewis; Scottish Branch President Philippa Langley MBE; Yorkshire Branch Secretary Graham Mitchell; Yorkshire Branch Editor Dr Alison Harrop; Yorkshire Branch Member Amanda Green.

Right this page: Graham Mitchell on mike duty during the presentation.



On December 2, 2023, the Yorkshire Branch was honoured to host Philippa Langley for her first presentation of the new research findings from The Missing Princes' Project (TMPP). The presentation was held at the Yorkshire Museum in the Tempest Anderson Hall and was attended by about 270 people. Society chairman, Matt Lewis, introduced Philippa who began by saying she was delighted to come to York as Richard referred to travelling to York as "our next homecoming" on November 15, 1477.

The project comprises evidence-based research, and Philippa explained how it had all started with the Looking for Richard project. When a Daily Mail article by Michael Thornton accused Richard of being a child killer who was unworthy of such a celebrated funeral, this made Philippa determined to discover the truth. As we know, there is no historical, archaeological, or scientific evidence that the bones in the urn in Westminster Abbey are the remains of the princes.

Even a modern-day examination (if granted) is unlikely to be helpful as the remains are contaminated, include an individual who may be female, plus possibly even animal remains. They were originally buried 10 feet down at the foundation level of the Tower and could be linked to Iron Age, Roman or Saxon times. Charles II was deeply unpopular at the time and seized on the bones as useful propaganda when his surgeon, John Knight, assumed they belonged to the princes.

There was actually a four-year delay in the reburial, and the 1933 investigation of Tanner and Wright was deeply flawed, both facts leading no doubt to further contamination. Although Thomas More wrote that the princes had been buried at the foot of a staircase in the Tower, he didn't say which stairs and went on to say they had been removed later and reburied. Therefore, as there are no identified bodies to be found, this had to be a forensic "cold case".

Because of heavy editing by Channel 4 in their documentary (it was originally to be filmed in two parts but ended up as only one) Philippa was able to tell significantly more than appeared on TV. The contemporary records show no bodies, no burials, no requiem masses and no pious prayers or observances (hugely important in a pious Catholic country). So she had to look at the administrative records compiled by clerks and lawyers (who have no reason to lie) and was advised to "follow the money".





The Dutch research group also found that a second fleet had been amassed for Edward in Burgundy by June 1487 but had to be diverted to Brittany by Maximilian.



The entry point of the murder narrative begins with the invasion of Henry Tudor on August 14, 1485. Not only did Henry delay his entry to London after Bosworth by five days (when he could have made searches in the North for the missing princes) but he issued a royal proclamation saying he would help any legal claimant to the throne! As he had re-legitimised the princes, so he could marry their sister Elizabeth of York, this was important.

Philippa realised she now needed help to pursue parallel lines of investigation and asked for volunteers online. She now has over 300 of these and 300,000 files on her computer at home which had to be rebuilt! The research has taken place in seven different countries and taken years.

The Dutch research group uncovered a receipt in their archives in May, 2020. This is dated the December 15, 1487, when Edward V would have been 17. It says that 400 pikes are to be distributed to the German Swiss Army, under the command of Martin Schwartz, so they can serve Margaret of Burgundy's nephew, the son of Edward IV, who had been expelled from his kingdom. It is signed by three leading courtiers and the secretary to Maximilian of Burgundy (Margaret's son-in-law).

As to Edward's prior whereabouts, there is an eye witness account in the diary of the Silesian knight, Nicholas von Popplau, recording that he saw both princes during a visit to Pontefract in May 1484. Diaries can be unreliable of course, but financial receipts are not! Edward was probably moved to the Channel Islands prior to Bosworth.

The Dutch research group also found that a second fleet had been amassed for Edward in Burgundy by June 1487 but had to be diverted to Brittany by Maximilian. The battle of Stoke Field took place on June 16, 1487 and Edward's whereabouts are unknown after that, though he probably didn't die in battle and further investigations are continuing (notably by John Dike in Coldridge in Devon).

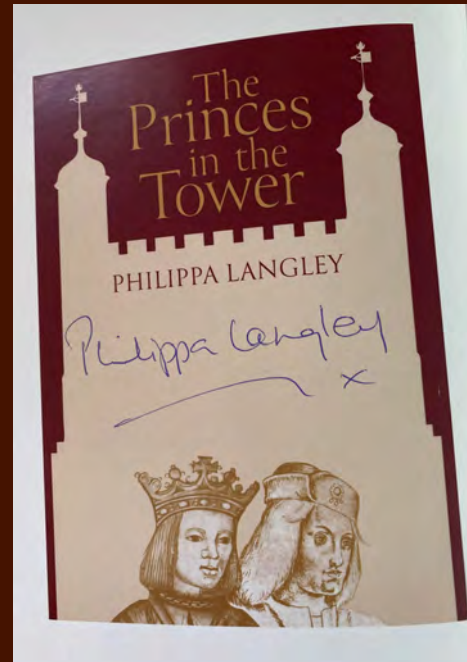
The Lambert Simnel who ended up in Henry's kitchens was not recognised by the Irish Lords who had crowned him in Dublin.

When turning to Richard of York, a witness statement has been found in Arnhem in 1493 when he would have been 20. It is incredibly detailed and every individual mentioned has been proven to be where it says they were and at the correct time.





Although he was forced to sign a confession that he was Perkin Warbeck, he was actually named as Richard of York in Henry's accounts, most of which were destroyed by burning on Henry's orders.



It is signed by Richard of England. It tells how John Howard, Duke of Norfolk arranged to take Richard from the Tower to Europe and that Henry and Thomas Percy (loyal Yorkist retainers with lands in Bedale) were trusted to carry this out. There is also a Pledge of Payment of 30,000 gold florins to the Duke of Saxony discovered in Dresden dating to 1493, signed and sealed by Richard. The seal is full of Yorkist emblems and contains the initial R. Dr Judith Ford an expert in this field, has analysed the signature and matched it to the Proclamation in Scotland made by Richard, Duke of York in 1486.

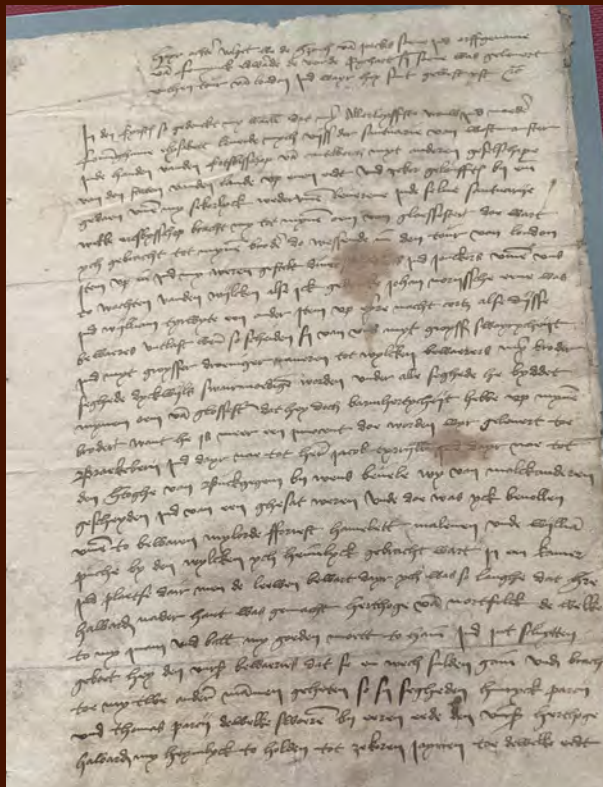
A letter from Maximilian of Burgundy to Henry VII found in the Austrian state archives describes three birthmarks on Richard's person (on the eye, the mouth and thigh) all of which Maximilian had seen as had Margaret of Burgundy (whilst at Baynard Castle in 1480) and which she confirmed in a letter to the Spanish Queen Isabella.

As Philippa pointed out, it would have been an extreme denigration of the blood royal and very dangerous and unwise for the European monarchy to attempt to put an imposter on any throne, so they were clearly convinced of Richard of York's identity. He would have met Henry VII as an equal and not as Perkin Warbeck. Richard mounted three separate invasions of England but finally surrendered in the South West in 1497. He left sanctuary wearing the Royal Cloth of Gold.

Although he was forced to sign a confession that he was Perkin Warbeck, he was actually named as Richard of York in Henry's accounts, most of which were destroyed by burning on Henry's orders. Henry's subsequent treatment of him was brutal of course and included ordering his beating before the execution to cause facial disfigurement, ensuring a lack of recognition. All accounts and many other documents relating to the reign of Richard III were also destroyed by Henry.



**RICHARD, DUKE OF YORK,
PROOF OF LIFE, C 1493.**



So, the answer to the “naysayers” is the amount of documentation found, the huge amounts of money spent, the implications of the denigration of the blood royal and majesty by the European monarchy, and the fact that John, Earl of Lincoln, the only other (unattainted) Plantagenet heir, gave up his claim to the throne in favour of supporting Edward V/Lambert Simnel. There is totality of evidence that the princes survived and no evidence that they died in the Tower. There is of course lots more in Philippa’s book and investigations are continuing!

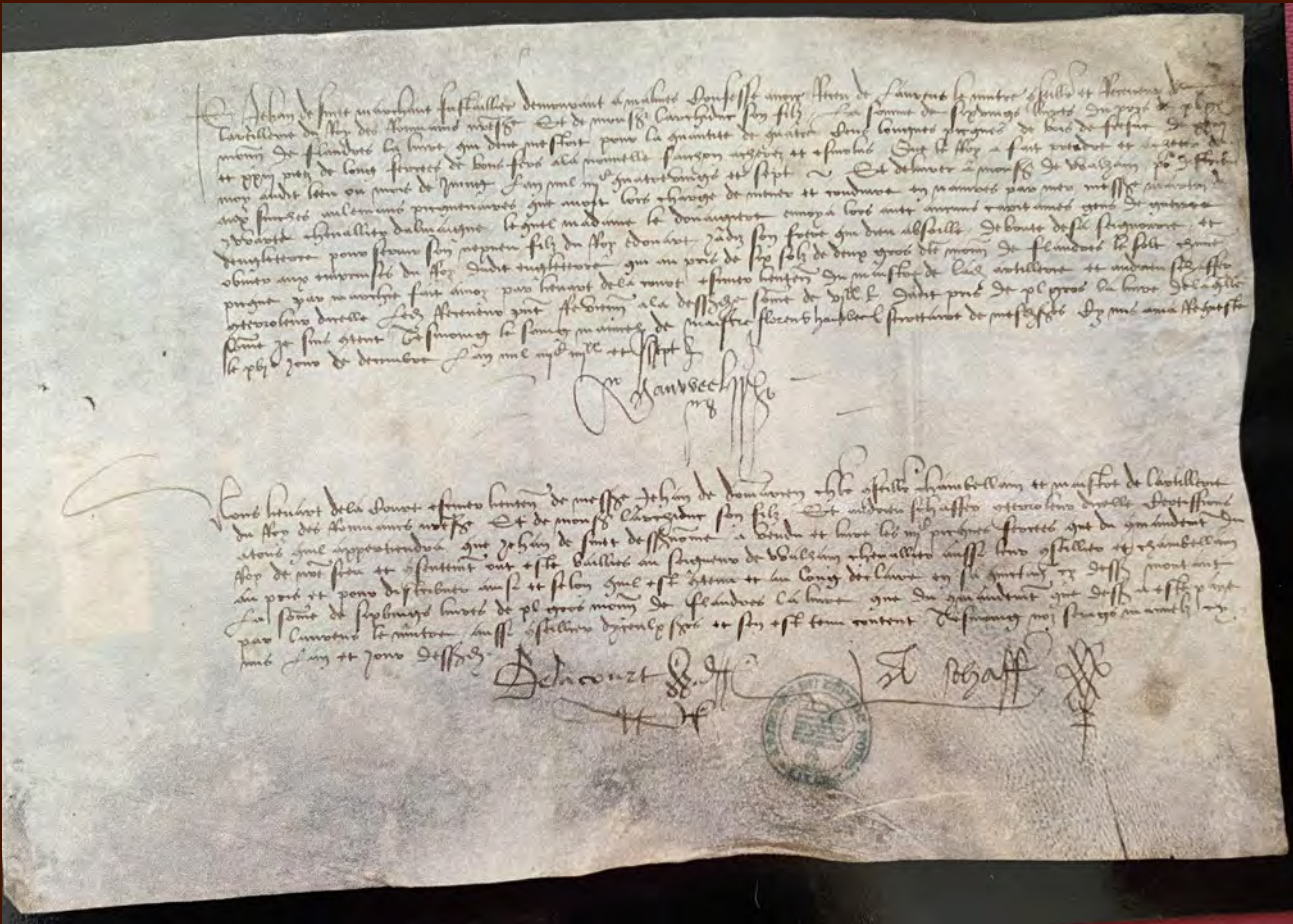
Matt then showed us a clip from the Channel 4 documentary showing their meeting with Rob Rinder in Dublin Cathedral. He also pointed out that the coronation of Edward V in Dublin was attended by Lincoln as the senior Yorkist heir, which was highly unlikely if he had not believed it was in fact Edward. He also added that Elizabeth Woodville was stripped of all her lands and sent to Bermondsey Abbey after the Battle of Stoke Field when she had recently acquired a further estate and had previously shown no signs of retiring to a nunnery previously. Had she also supported the invasion?

If so, what then did she stand to gain if the Dublin king was merely an imposter? After all, she already had her daughter enthroned as Queen and therefore put her standing at risk. Matt also commented that the Heralds sent to Ireland to question Edward V accepted him as the son of Edward IV when he gave satisfactory answers, whilst Polydore Vergil said the invasion of 1487 was an effort to restore Edward V to the throne of England. Regarding Richard, there is an account in the Annals of Ulster saying that “a fleet of Saxons came to meet the son of the Duke of York (Edward IV) who was in the care of the earl of Kildare”. Henry VIII wrote a letter in 1526 mentioning that the organ maker’s son, Lambert Simnel, was named as one of Edward IV’s sons. Tudor circles did not need to lie by then, as the uprisings were over. The meeting was then thrown open to questions from the floor.

One point that emerged was that Thomas and Henry Percy were not related to the Percys of Northumberland but indeed Yorkist supporters. Also that Francis Lovell owned land in Bedale. Philippa also said a whole chapter in the book is concerned with James Tyrrell.



EDWARD V, PROOF OF LIFE, DECEMBER 16, 1497



A connection between the “royal nurseries” at Sandal and Pontefract (only eight miles up the road) is being looked at, as are mentions of a footman to Edward V in the Royal Household. But there is no evidence as yet of any contact between the brothers following their separation, nor that Elizabeth Woodville had any contact with Edward V.

The date of the Dublin coronation was the day before Pentecost in the Catholic Church calendar however which could have been a subtle message to his mother and she would have known if he didn't die at Stoke field.

Philippa also said it is not known whether Dr Argentine made an astrological chart for Edward V though he had done one for Edward IV. It is interesting, however, that the two princes seem to have had quite different personalities as Edward is described as being prone to “melancholia” while Richard was full of chatter and eager questioning.

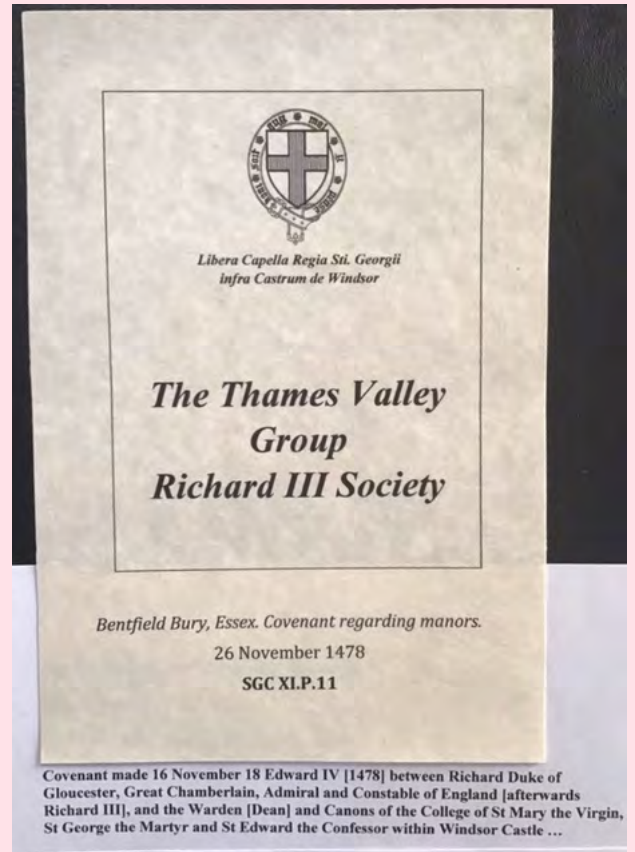
On the real burial site: “Perkin Warbeck” was said to be buried in the church of Austin Friars. There is now a Dutch church erected on the site, but an open passageway exists which might potentially be investigated.

At the end of our event, Waterstones of York ably managed a long queue of customers for book signing. We would also like to thank Melody Wright of the Yorkshire Museum for her helpful organization and Jeff Godwin for providing extra security.

RICARDIANS 'ADOPT' RICHARD'S COVENANT OF MANORS, 1487

By Sally Empson

Treasurer, Thames Valley Group



St George's Chapel Archives at Windsor Castle recently announced that their Adopt a Book scheme would be extended to include pre-1501 manuscripts, archive volumes and documents with wax seals.

Donations made via the scheme fund the repair and conservation of over 6,000 rare items held by the Chapter Library.

I contacted the Archive Office to ask whether it would be possible to adopt a document within the period 1450–1490, and explained the reasons for my choice of dates. The assistant archivist responded, giving me a list of five documents that met our date and the possibility of a Richard III connection.

At the Thames Valley Group's AGM in November we voted to adopt a Covenant of Manors dated 1478 that specifically mentioned Richard, Duke of Gloucester and his wife Anne.

We are now the proud possessors of a facsimile of the bookplate that will be stored with our adopted document together with a full transcript of the covenant itself.

As visits to the archives can be arranged, we hope to be able to view "our" covenant at some point.

SANDWICH BANQUET HONOURS RICHARD'S 1484 VISIT

By Martin Male

Chair, Secretary Kent Group, Richard III Society

This is not what you might think from the title, but an excellent costumed event to celebrate 540 anniversary of Richard's visit to Sandwich in Kent on January 13, 1484.

The evening started with Toni Mount, historian, author and society member, giving a very informative talk about the reason for Richard's travelling to what was then the main port in Kent: to rally the locals in case a threatened war with Brittany became a reality. We learned this threat went away with a treaty being signed between England and Brittany, though Richard was rather wary of the loyalty of Kent. There had been an unsuccessful uprising the previous October in support of the Duke of Buckingham. He took the unusual step of requiring all males between the age of 16 and 60 to take an oath of loyalty to him. Toni explained this would have been taken very seriously indeed as your soul would have been in jeopardy if you broke the oath.

The talk and banquet took place in the historic Town Hall in the centre of medieval Sandwich. There is a museum in the Town Hall where they had arranged for some contemporary documents about Richard's visit to be on display. Toni had helpfully transcribed these, so you didn't have to struggle to read the very neat, but tiny, script of the original documents. If you have never been to Sandwich, it is a fascinating place that retains many medieval buildings and is well worth a visit.



Continued from previous page...

After Toni's talk we moved upstairs for the banquet, brilliantly organised by Dave Batchelor of The Sandwich Medieval Centre, the Sandwich Medieval Trust and BASH - Bringing Alive Sandwich History. Many of the 100 diners were attired in medieval costume which added to the atmosphere. Some of the costumes were quite elaborate and rather costly; one lady said her outfit cost just shy of £1,000!

The mayor of Sandwich and his lady wife were dressed as Richard and Anne, and very good they looked too. They were both very good sports and played their parts with relish. One group of 'peasants' was well lubricated with mead and toasted the mayor - sorry, Richard - lustily on more than one occasion. This was well received by the guest of honour, who seemed to be thoroughly enjoying his role!

The four removes (courses) were announced by the master of ceremonies. It was rather more of a 'blind tasting' as the names of the dishes did not mean much to modern ears, though it was all very tasty and devoured with relish. But it was a bit off putting eating something that tasted perhaps familiar, but strange, at the same time. Each remove was prefaced with grace sung in Latin. It came as a pleasant surprise that the medieval food was so tasty, because I'd imagined it was rather bland.

Between the removes we were regaled by a couple of short 'plays' with St George killing the dragon and later slaying an uppity French knight, all done with tongue firmly in cheek. We were also treated to an eight-piece ensemble dropping the latest 1484 hits on recorder, shawm, percussion and hurdy gurdy. For their final 'set' they encouraged their audience to dance to much hilarity.

It was a really great evening, and I will be looking out for the next one!





Remember Wakefield...

“Worst time for Richard...”

Photos by John Roslin

A total of 13 members of the Yorkshire Branch, and the society and their friends met at the Duke of York's Memorial Pillar in Manygates Lane Wakefield at 2pm on December 30, 2023.

Graham Mitchell, representing the branch committee, thanked fellow Ricardians for being present and reminded all that on this day, 563 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 gathered to remember and commemorate the deaths of Richard, third Duke of York, his second son Edmund, and many hundreds of others.

We were reminded that the battle of Wakefield was not only a huge setback for the Yorkist cause but also the worst time for 8-year-old Richard who, as a result, was sent in mid-winter on a perilous journey across the North Sea with 11-year-old brother George, as refugees to the Low Countries.

Continued from previous page...

Graham then 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 Ricardians then re-assembled at the Chantry Chapel on Wakefield Old Bridge, where further 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 & Friends of Wakefield Chantry Chapel.

At 7pm that same evening 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. This would have been the case in the 15th century and in England until the 1960s. The Mass was celebrated by the Parish Priest at St. Austin & English Martyrs Church Wakefield, with Gregorian Chant sung by the Choir of St. Austin's led by Director of Music Patrick Ganley.

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 15th century society where the importance of praying for the repose of the souls of the faithful was central to Catholic belief.



Celebrating 40 years

LOOKING FOR RICHARD WITH THE NAME GAME

Playing the name game and celebrating its 40-year anniversary have kept the South Australia branch busy over the last few months.

The name game has attracted quite a bit of interest worldwide, with some branches thinking of replicating the amazing results. It's another form of 'looking for Richard' but without skeletons and having to dig deep holes in a carpark. Australia is about as far away from Bosworth as you can get – New Zealand beats it by a three-hour flight from Sydney – but Richard and the Plantagenets have staked a huge claim on the great southern land they never knew existed. (Interestingly, wise folks in Europe always thought there was a great southern land. They decided there needed to be a huge land mass in the southern hemisphere to “balance” out the land in the northern hemisphere.

They were right, but for the wrong reasons). Sue Walladge, secretary of the South Australian Branch, explains that, as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations, members of the Adelaide South Australian Group were challenged to find and post on social media photos of Ricardian-related places in Adelaide. This included place names, road signs, suburbs, companies and products. From the **Black Bull Hotel (George, Duke of Clarence)**, to **The Buckingham Arms**, to **Woodville and Mount Plantagenet**, the members came up with more than 40 relevant place names. Check the full results out on the next page. Sue says that many places would have been named by early settlers to commemorate, or remember, where they came from.





Meanwhile, the branch celebrated 40 years with an anniversary lunch in December. The occasion was attended by 26 people.

Chairperson Rilla McEvoy welcomed everyone and toasts were proposed to King Richard III, Richard III Society, SA Branch and to Meredith Whitford who founded the branch back in 1983. There was plenty of food, drink and talking. The latest Philippa Langley book and TV programme were discussed. There was Ricardian memorabilia on display as well as photos from 1983 to present day.

Founding member Meredith Whitford explains how the branch was formed: In 1982, having quit a demanding job for maternity leave and the joys of domesticity, I decided to track down the Richard III Society and, if possible, join. This involved time in the State Library going through phone books for an address. There was no hint of any Australian branch, but I found a London address and wrote off. The very kind reply directed me to Stuart Soul, then Victorian secretary, and from him I obtained the addresses of other South Australian members - all four.



**Looking for Richard in Adelaide Challenge!
Ricardian locations in and around Adelaide SA**

Richard III Society - South Australian Branch
20



Location	Link to Richard III (relevance or otherwise)
Adelaide Suburbs	
Edwardstown	Edward IV - Richard III's eldest brother, and King. Edward IV, George Duke of Clarence and Richard III all had sons named Edward.
Elizabeth	Elizabeth Woodville, Elizabeth of York, Elizabeth Duchess of Suffolk - Wife of Edward IV, daughter of Edward IV, and some of Edward IV & Richard III respectively.
Woodville	The Woodvilles - The family of Elizabeth Woodville, Queen of Edward IV.
Clarence Gardens	George, Duke of Clarence - Richard III's brother.
Richmond	Henry Tudor - The Earl of Richmond, and King.
Salisbury	Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury - the father of the Earl of Warwick (the Kingmaker).
Surrey Downs	White Surrey - The name traditionally given to Richard III's horse.
Bedford Park	Jacquette, Duchess of Bedford - Mother of Elizabeth Woodville. Jacquette was the Duchess of Bedford (and widow) before she married Sir Richard Woodville.
Eastter	Anne, Duchess of Exeter - Richard III's eldest sister.
Tudor Vale	The Tudor Dynasty.
Cumberland Park	Richard III was appointed High Sheriff of Cumberland in 1475.
Kent Town	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1450 the Jack Cade rebellion began in Kent in support of Richard III's father the Duke of York. In 1473 Thomas Floucarden, Earl of Kent marched on London in support of Henry VI. In 1550 Richard Plantagenet was buried in Eastwell in Kent (he may, or may not, have been an illegitimate son of Richard III).
Edinburgh	The Last King movie - the recent film was almost entirely shot on locations in Edinburgh during 2021.
Stirling	The 16 th century Picot's Chronical recorded that Richard, as Duke of Gloucester, travelled to Stirling Castle with James III of Scotland but this is unlikely due to the timelines and logistics involved.
Windsor Gardens	Windsor Castle Chapel - Edward IV had the chapel built. Both he and his Queen Elizabeth Woodville are buried there, as is Henry VI. Richard III attended meetings of the Order of the Garter in the Chapel.
Adelaide Hotels/Bars	
The Buckingham Arms, Glenelg (now seemingly closed)	Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham - one time advisor to Richard III.
The Duke of York, Adelaide CBD	The Dukes of York - Richard III's father was the third Duke of York. His brother Edward and his nephew, Richard of Shrewsbury, also held the title.
Henry's Bar, Adelaide CBD	Henry VI, Henry Stafford, Henry Holland, Henry Percy, Henry Tudor take your pick!
The Black Bull Hotel, Adelaide CBD	George, Duke of Clarence (Richard III's brother) personal heraldic symbol was the black bull.
The Earl of Leicester Hotel, Parachute	City of Leicester - burial place of King Richard III. Home to the Richard III Visitor Center.
The Talbot Hotel, Adelaide CBD	Lady Eleanor Talbot (aka Lady Eleanor Butler) - alleged first wife of Edward IV.
The Richmond Hotel, Adelaide CBD	Henry Tudor - The Earl of Richmond, and King.
Crown and Scepter Hotel, Adelaide CBD	The Crown Jewels - The crown and scepter are part of the royal regalia which are presented to the monarch at their coronation.
Edinburgh Castle Hotel, Adelaide CBD	As Duke of Gloucester Richard commanded Edward IV's army to defend England's border with Scotland. He led his forces as far north as Edinburgh Castle.
London Tavern, Adelaide CBD	City of London - Richard III visited London often. London is the location of the Tower of London, Westminster Abbey, Baynard's Castle, Etham Palace, and other Ricardian places of interest.

Adelaide Places	
The Rundle Mall Pigs! Adelaide CBD	The White Boar - Richard III's heraldic symbol.
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woodville	The two Queens Elizabeth - Edward IV's Queen, and Henry VII's Queen.
Neville Reserve, Modbury	Cecily and Anne Neville, Richard Neville - Richard III's mother Cecily Neville, his wife Anne Neville. Richard Neville was the Earl of Warwick (the Kingmaker).
Lovell Reserve, Athelstone	Viscount Francis Lovell - trusted close friend of Richard III.
Mount Plantagenet, Flinders Ranges (About 5 hours' drive north of Adelaide)	The Plantagenet Dynasty - the royal house that held the English throne from Henry II in 1154 to Richard III in 1485.
Royalty Theatre, Adelaide CBD	Royalty - the kings and queens of the 15th Century.
Beaufort, A township in the mid-north SA	Edmund Beaufort - 2nd duke of Somerset. Lancastrian leader whose quarrel with Richard, Duke of York, helped precipitate the Wars of the Roses. Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and Derby and mother of Henry VII.
Richmond Oval, Marleston	Edmund Tudor, 1 st Earl of Richmond - Henry Tudor's father.
Pembroke School, Kensington Park	Pembroke Castle - Henry Tudor's birthplace. Edward IV, his eldest son, and Jasper Tudor were all Earls of Pembroke.
St Albans Reserve, Clewley	Two battles of St Albans. The first battle in 1455 traditionally marks the start of the Wars of the Roses. It was a victory for the Duke of York. The second battle in 1463 saw the Lancastrian army of Henry VI defeat the Yorkists.
Ludlow House, Cutlee Creek Rd. (Large homestead built in 1860)	Ludlow Castle - A Yorkist stronghold on the English/Welsh border. Favorite residence of Richard III's father the Duke of York, and where Edward IV sent his eldest son to learn how to rule a household as the Prince of Wales.
Westminster School, Marlon.	Westminster Abbey - The site where the Kings and Queens of England have been crowned for 1000+ years. Burial place of Richard III's Queen Anne, Henry VII, Queen Elizabeth of York, and the 'urn' that allegedly holds the remains of the Princes in the Tower.
St Paul's College, Adelaide CBD	The 'Love day parade' at St Paul's Cathedral 1458 - The parade was arranged by Henry VI as a public demonstration of unity and to reconcile the feuding Lancastrians and Yorkist factions at court. (It failed). Richard III's father, the Duke of York took part.
Lincoln College, North Adelaide	John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln - son of Elizabeth, Duchess of Suffolk (Richard III's sister). Was killed at the Battle of Stoke in 1487.
Anlaby Estate, Historical Homestead north of Adelaide established in 1839.	Anlaby Cartulary 1450 - A history of the Anlaby family from Yorkshire. It references the death of Edward V.
Yorke Peninsula.	Yorkshire - Richard spent most of his adult life in the north of England, much of it in Yorkshire. He was granted lands and castles in region, including Middleham, Sheriff Hutton and Richmond. He lived at Middleham Castle which was his wife's (Queen Anne's) family home.
The Grey Lady, (A ghost said to haunt Adelaide Calvary Hospital).	The Grey family - Sir John Grey was Elizabeth Woodville's first husband. They had two sons - Thomas and Richard.



Continued from previous page...



One I couldn't contact, one wasn't interested in meeting other members, but Kevin Clarke and Walter Welburn were keen to meet. Instant friendships with two of the nicest men I've ever met, and my first experience of how many other interests Ricardians always seem to have in common. By now it was 1983 and the quincentenary of Richard's accession. In the hope of arousing some public interest, Walter, Kevin and I wrote to The Advertiser about the event. It printed our letter and a little 'interest' item, including Stuart Soul as contact person for any other latent Ricardians. Very shortly afterwards Stuart rang me to say he'd received dozens of letters, and it was over to me. Nights spent slaving over a hot typewriter and phone resulted in our first group meeting of, from memory, some 20 people.



Chairwoman Rilla McEvoy and Secretary Sue Walladge 2018 Coronation lunch.



Continued from previous page...

Quick as a flash, Walter was elected chairman, on the proviso he didn't have to be chairperson. I got what I deserved and was elected secretary. We had to begin as a 'group', the status of a constituted branch came later. Publicity brought us more members, and I think at one point had more than 120. We began with quarterly meetings, later changed to bi-monthly, and to begin with we hired a room in a pub, first the Elephant and Castle and later St Leonard's Inn. This was based on the principle that it's what Richard would have wanted - dinner and drinks before the meeting proper. Usually around 20 people attended, and once or twice we had 50 or 60. Publicity was easy in those days because we had a 'hook' of it being 500 years since the start and tragic end of Richard III's reign.

We rolled merrily along with ordinary meetings. In 1985 we held our first annual medieval dinner. Our singing group Cantata Genista, managed and conducted by our lovely and much missed Malcolm Collings, began from an impromptu sing-along at one of the parties. We began our excellent library of reference materials, tape et cetera. Unfortunately, our efforts to persuade any TV channel to show the 1984 Trial of Richard III came to nothing; it still hasn't been shown on Australian TV, but we were able to use its triumphal acquittal of Richard III for the princes' murder to good publicity effect.

In the year 1985 we held our two exhibitions. The Festival Theatre let us put up publicity and historical material when the STC performed Richard III at the Playhouse, and then in August we mounted a comprehensive exhibition in the State Library. This was, if I say it myself as organiser and researcher, a thoroughly professional and comprehensive event, and a superb group effort. Geoffrey Wheeler was an inexhaustible source of help, sending photos and all sorts of material, and helpful hints

Alan Sutton Publishers waived copyright so we could use material from the book of the TV trial. The State Library exhibition unit was endlessly helpful – and said later it was the best exhibition they'd had.



We started a candle ceremony at the coronation lunch/dinner in July, one candle originally for every branch and group. Nowadays we've had to cut back or risk setting off the fire alarm.



Of course, our best asset was Margaret Collings' superb calligraphy, and I hate to think how many hours she put in producing the most beautiful material. The exhibition raised the branch's and society's profiles nicely, and brought in a lot more members.



The Penrith and North Lakes Group enjoyed a Christmas get-together. They welcomed two new members and celebrated an 80th birthday.

Best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous New Year, from all of us in north Cumbria.



The South Australian name game has gone global! A New Zealand Branch correspondent was inspired to take phone in hand and rush around the neighbourhood hunting for likely candidates. These were the first cabs off the rank: Henry Stafford, 2nd Duke of Buckingham. Then we have Dunedin itself. Nearer Antarctica than it is to Scotland, the city was, nevertheless, named after Edinburgh. "Dunedin" is the Gaelic version of "Edinburgh". In 1482 Richard, Duke of Gloucester, took control of Edinburgh.

METAL DETECTING EXPERIENCE DAYS

SHERIFF HUTTON CASTLE

We have set up eight detecting days this year to give you, your friends and family, the opportunity to try out this fascinating and exciting hobby.



Please see website below for more information and a link to book a great day out!

<https://discoverdetecting.co.uk/your-detecting-experience>

Richard III meets James Bond

The Tudor Deception

By Scott Mariani

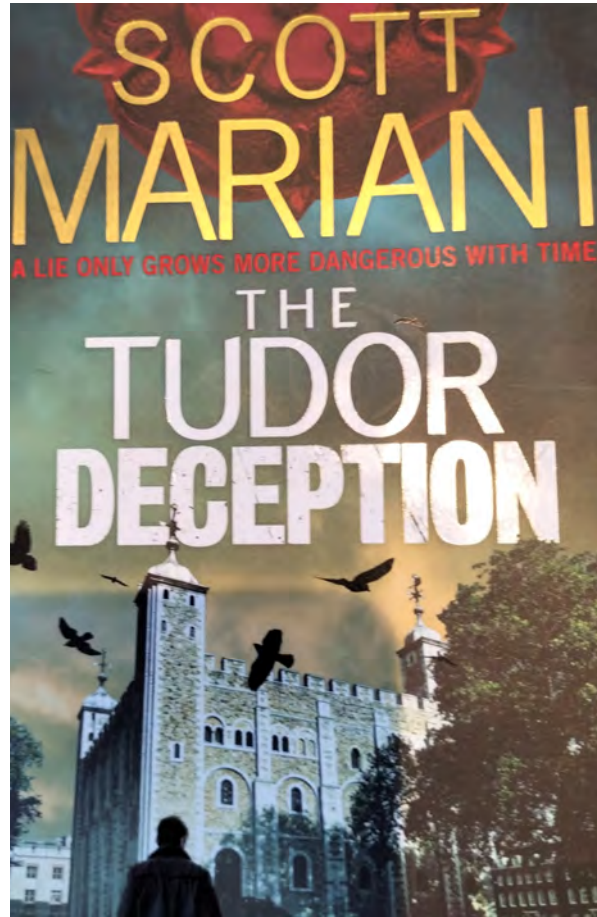
Harper North 2023

407pp paperback, £8.99.

By Dr Alison Harrop

Think James Bond meets Richard III. A stretch of the imagination? Well yes, I thought so too, but in fact the historical element in this thriller works well and adds greater depth to the plot. Scott Mariani is the British author of a prolific series of highly successful novels featuring the character Ben Hope who is an ex-SAS Major, fond of his whisky and Gauloise cigarettes, and who now lives on the west coast of Ireland where he is looked after by his loyal housekeeper Winnie. But Ben has not retired completely as he now freelances, using his military skills to help the relatives of K & R youngsters. K & R stands for 'Kidnapped and Ransomed'. Enter our Missing (or rather now found) Princes in the Tower. Mr. Mariani obviously published this before Philippa Langley's big reveal at the end of last year. Consequently he regards Lambert Simnel as an imposter and suggests the real Edward V died of a fever. However he is in no doubt that Perkin Warbeck was Richard of York, Edward IV's second son and was nurtured to maturity in Margaret's court in Burgundy. He also postulates that Richard fathered a son with his wife Catherine Gordon. Catherine was the daughter of the Earl of Huntly who was a nobleman related to the Scottish King James I. We know that the so-called Perkin Warbeck spent time in the Scottish King's court and this marriage was indeed arranged (which would have been unlikely had the King not believed him to be the true Richard of York) but there is no record of any offspring. Still, as Mariani points out in his Author's Notes "such things have been known to happen..." He names the child who survives as Richard Perkins and he is therefore the last male heir to the Plantagenet dynasty.

Fast forwarding to today, we now have a Professor of History (interestingly named Hugh Mortimer, living in Pocklington near York!) who has discovered he is Richard Perkin's direct descendant. Mortimer has received death threats and asks Ben Hope for his help but Ben turns him down, believing him to be a crackpot. This is unfortunate as Professor Mortimer is then drowned in suspicious circumstances and Ben himself escapes a bomb attack which maims his friend Aurora who is Winnie's niece.



So a regretful Ben sets out to Yorkshire to investigate further and questions Mortimer's brother who alas is no historian. But he now makes contact with what he refers to as the York branch of the Richard III Society, starts reading the Bulletins, and encounters a Tony Kitson who is the Chairman of the York Branch.. Fortunately this is a fictional character because (spoiler) he eventually comes to a grisly end. I suspect this is why the name of the York Branch has been used instead of the Yorkshire Branch to further distance itself from our committee! We also meet in the Bar Convent Conference Centre rather than the White Boar pub. (There is a Blue Boar pub in York but no White Boar as far as I know). However, before his demise, Kitson gives Ben a robust defence of Richard III and exposes the 'Tudor Deception'. This account is succinct and very accessible for the general reading public, but it is accurate and extends over three short chapters.

The trail now moves to Liechtenstein as Ben discovers that Mortimer was assisted in tracing his claim to Hartington Abbey (part of the Huntly estate he imagines was granted to Richard of York and Catherine on their marriage) by a cryptographer named Gustav Bergenroth who lives there. Apparently there really was a Gustav Bergenroth but no evidence that he decoded a secret letter from Elizabeth of York proving Perkin Warbeck's real identity as the thriller suggests. In the light of recent events, it is interesting that the trail passed to Europe however!



Continued from previous page...

Richard meets James Bond

The plot now diverges from fact to fiction with the 'James Bond' element taking over as Ben tracks down Bergenroth and returns to Hartington Abbey in the Scottish Borders to challenge its unscrupulous owner Jasper (Lockwood not Tudor! who is about to sell the property to a Saudi Prince for millions) and also to pursue his own revenge for Aurora.

Nevertheless, the author has done his historical homework and made it very clear, in his final notes, which are facts and which fiction, always good practice for a historical novelist.

What is more he recommends the Richard III Society for further information along with books by Mathew Lewis, Annette Carson and John Ashdown-Hill, and praises Philippa Langley for her research including a link to The Missing Princes Project. He writes well-paced, exciting material in his genre and even if thrillers aren't quite your cup of tea, I think you might enjoy this one and it will certainly help in restoring Richard III's reputation. It is also satisfying that the bad end badly and the good well. Except for poor old Tony Kitson of the York Branch though Mariani does admit he regrets bumping him off "because he was doing a fine job"!

Dr Alison Harrop is a committee member of the Yorkshire Branch, editing their Blanc Sanglier magazine, and is also the author of The Mortimer Affair under her pen name of Alice Mitchell.

"She moved Ricardian mountains..."

Musician Ian Churchward recently recorded a song about Philippa Langley.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgwpA73DJ3g>

Ian says the song was inspired by her research about the missing princes and the latest issue of the Ricardian Bulletin.

*She read a book about Richard the Third
What a story to be told
Struck by so much injustice
Hearsay from the days of old*

*She's moved Ricardian mountains
And her search for the truth moves on
Though some will not believe her
For her I have written this song*

*She found a King in a car park
What a story to be told
Disproving so much hearsay
Rumours from the days of old*

*She's moved Ricardian mountains
And her search for the truth moves on
Though some will not believe her
For her I have written this song*



*A film was made about her
It was called the Lost King
After so many years of searching
Hope came along in the Spring*

*She gathered a team around her
What a story to be told
With the truth about two princes
Rumours from the days of old*

*She's moved Ricardian mountains
And her search for the truth moves on
Though some will not believe her
So I've called this Philippa's song.*



EDWARD'S SHOCK MARRIAGE!

DUCHESS CECILY'S ANGUISH!!

*Dateline: Reading Abbey,
September, 1464*

*By Annette Parry
New Zealand Branch*



Sorry, girls – he’s married! We know that the Earl of Warwick has been on the lookout for a queen for England recently and has been checking out the connections of the French royal family but our sources say that the Earl was just as surprised as the rest of us when King Edward announced recently that he’s already married. And the lucky lady is Elizabeth Lady Grey (yes, we didn’t know of her either). She seems to be the widow of John Grey, the son of Lady Ferrers of Groby who has been in dispute with her over her widow’s portion for some time. No more worries about that, now, we would think.

Lady Grey comes into the marriage with two young boys, Thomas and Richard, who are all set to be playmates and companions of the young dukes of Clarence and Gloucester who are of a similar age.

And yes, if you do the maths, that makes the new queen much older than King Edward – not royal, married before and old – what has he done?

Sources tell me that that was just the question that the Duchess of York asked her son when he told her. “I could hear raised voices” said a maid of the Duchess’s, whom we have agreed not to name.

“King Edward asked to speak to his mother, and her chamberlain showed him into the solar and I was just bringing in the wine when her grace told me to leave them in private.



Continued from previous page...

"I didn't intend to listen but they were speaking very loudly and the doors of the castle don't close that well and you can hear quite well if you are nearby. She asked him who this woman was, and what was he thinking of, marrying someone whose family was Lancastrian and therefore traitors to his father the late Duke.

She went on about Elizabeth's father and brother insulting the earl of Warwick at Calais several years ago because they were baseborn but the King said he was there at the time and that wasn't what happened. It didn't make sense to me. Then her grace went on about Lady Grey having children and the King said he was a bachelor but had children too so that was good because they were both fertile so she would have a grandson very soon. The Duchess made a choking sound then and said that she hoped they hadn't already slept together because that would only show that she was trying to trap him into marriage like the other trollope did. I couldn't hear the king's reply but the duchess was crying and said that his father wanted him to be happy and marry a French princess and had tried to arrange this in his cradle and it was the king's responsibility to marry well for his country."

Our source went on to say how upset the duchess was and how she had taken to her chamber and had not seen her steward for several days. "We are all very worried about her".



Image AI generated

The new queen's mother is the duchess of Bedford, Jaquetta of Luxembourg, who married the duke as his second wife. Her father is Richard Woodville or Wydeville or Wyddville or something and she is one of twelve. Her married sister is Lady Strange but there are many younger sisters who will be keen to become duchesses or countesses – Clarence, Gloucester or Buckingham maybe? She has five brothers; one is Lord Scales and another is in holy orders. Queen Elizabeth (how odd that sounds!) was born in 1436 or 37 – a lady never tells but we intend to find out – and we hope to confirm that her horoscope complements that of our King (a Taurus born in 1442). So a boring conference at Reading about some new coinage has taken an exciting turn.

“Why weren't they microchipped?”

Popular columnist Jack Clarke finally got his paws on Philippa Langley's book in November - the missing princes project is a subject close to his heart - as he himself went missing a few times when he was younger! After careful consideration of all the new evidence Jack decided to 'sleep on it' before issuing the following statement:



This book is great! It confirms what I always thought - Richard didn't murder those two lads - they were just lying low while waiting to be rehomed! After all most of us have had to keep a low profile at some point - I certainly have - particularly if there has been a 'cake related incident!'

Another thing that occurred to me – why weren't they microchipped?

My friend Marion is giving us the chance to delve into the project as this year's John Ashdown Hill lecture is An afternoon with Philippa Langley.

It'll be grand! I'm working closely with Marion to get it all organised - but please contact her for tickets as I'll be busy having cake, or a nap, or I might be in the pub.

Love, from Jack xxx

CALENDAR OF BRANCH AND GROUP CENTENARY EVENTS - 2024

AMERICAN BRANCH

Saturday 6 July / 12:00 – 14:00 EST

Zoom Presentation

“The American Branch celebrates the Society and the King”

Event Description: The American Branch welcomes any member of the Richard III Society or its branches and groups to attend our celebratory Zoom talk by its chair Susan Troxell and research officer Dr Compton Reeves. The event will include a virtual toast to the Society on the occasion of its 100th anniversary, a brief presentation on the Society's history, achievements, and the American Branch's role in supporting its mission, and a lecture detailing the historic and well-documented double coronation of Richard III and Queen Anne in 1483. Attendance is limited to 100 participants with priority given to American Branch members.

MORE INFORMATION: via American Branch Website: <https://r3.org/events-gmm/>

ARUN GROUP

Saturday 6 July

Trip Out

The Arun Group will be having a picnic at the Weald and Downland Museum.

CONTACT: Julia Langham - Email j.langham39@btinternet.com

CANADIAN BRANCH

Saturday 6 July

The Canadian Branch celebrates the 100th Anniversary of the Society

Event Description: There will be a showing of the Society's Anniversary Video.

Details TBC.

CONTACT: Tracy Bryce – Email: chair@RichardIII.ca

DEVON AND CORNWALL BRANCH

Saturday 11 May

Service and Presentation

Memorial Service for King Richard III followed by a presentation on the history of the Society and a picture presentation of our Branch

CONTACT: Edna Coles – Email: ednacoles@blueyonder.co.uk

LEICESTERSHIRE BRANCH

Saturday 18 May

Study Day

“Crown, Parliament and Treason”

All day event at the Richard III Visitor Centre, Leicester

Details on the Leicester Branch website: <http://www.richardiii.co.uk/news.html>

Possible service in Cathedral (another date) - TBC

CONTACT: Sally Henshaw - Tel 0116 243 3785 /
Email sallyoftarahill@gmail.com



CALENDAR OF BRANCH AND GROUP CENTENARY EVENTS - 2024

MERSEYSIDE AND WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

Saturday 6 July

Film Showing

There will be a special showing of the film, 'The Lost King' will be shown at the Southport Bijou Cinema followed by a Q&A Session.

CONTACT: Margaret Byrne – Email margaret.byrne58@tiscali.co.uk

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH

Saturday 6 May / 7pm AEST (10am BST)

Zoom Discussion

“The Coronation of Richard III”

Matthew Lewis

CONTACT: Rhonda Bentley - Email info@richardiii-nsw.org.au

NORFOLK BRANCH

Saturday 9 March

Study Day

“Where They Fought - The Final Chapter”

CONTACT: Anmarie Hayek – Email anmarielouise04@gmail.com

NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE GROUP

Saturday 6 July

Leafleting

The North Staffordshire Group will be distributing leaflets locally.

CONTACT: Penny Lawton – Email nstaffs22@gmail.com

PENRITH AND NORTH LAKES GROUP

Monday 7 October

Talk and Leaflet Display

Venue: Penrith Library

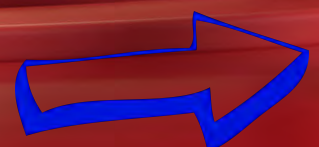
Thursday 10 October

Talk in Person

Sue Scott-Bucclench will be giving a talk (subject TBA)

Venue: Carlisle

CONTACT: Sue Scott-Bucclench – Email sue.sb48@gmail.com



CALENDAR OF BRANCH AND GROUP CENTENARY EVENTS - 2024

SOUTH AUSTRALIA (ADELAIDE)

BRANCH

Saturday 6 July Celebration Lunch

CONTACT: Sue Walladge – Email walladge@internode.on.net

THAMES VALLEY GROUP

Saturday 6 July Celebration Lunch

CONTACT: Sylvia Morrison-Moore – Email s.morrison-moore@hotmail.co.uk

WESTERN AUSTRALIA BRANCH

June (date not yet given) Gala Afternoon Tea

Gala Afternoon Tea using recipes from the Branch's book of medieval recipes. Includes costume wearing, a quiz and the presentation of a research paper discussing past anniversaries celebrated in days gone by.

CONTACT: Alison Carman – Email: Richard3inWA@gmail.com

YORKSHIRE BRANCH

Saturday 6 July Middleham Festival

The Yorkshire Branch will be manning a stand at the Middleham Festival.

CONTACT: Graham Mitchell – Tel 01535 645454

BRANCH AND GROUP CALENDAR OF EVENTS - EARLY 2024

AMERICAN BRANCH Saturday 23 March / 14:00 EST Zoom Talk
"Questions about the Missing Princes"
Q&A Session with Philippa Langley

Friday 12 April / 15:00 EST Zoom Presentation
"Report on the Edward IV Roll"
Professor Emily Steiner, Dot Porter, Ariel Bates, Emma Dyson, Noa Nicolsky, University of Pennsylvania, hosted by the Free Library of Philadelphia.

MORE INFORMATION: via American Branch Website: <https://r3.org/events-gmm/>

CANADIAN BRANCH
Sunday 10 March Zoom Talk
"The Corpus Christi Guild of York"
Sheilah O'Connor
Sunday 14 April Zoom Talk
"Aristocratic Women's Reading Circles"
Sheila Smith
CONTACT: Tracy Bryce – Email: chair@RichardIII.ca

NOTE: The Canadian Branch leaves it up to the speaker as to whether they wish external people taking part in its Zoom meetings

DEVON AND CORNWALL
BRANCH Saturday 6 April Presentation in Person
"The Black Prince"
Dave Elliott

Saturday 11 May Service and Presentation
Memorial Service for King Richard III followed by a presentation on the history of the Society and a picture presentation of our Branch

CONTACT: Edna Coles – Email: ednacoles@blueyonder.co.uk



BRANCH AND GROUP CALENDAR OF EVENTS - EARLY 2024

GLOUCESTER AND BRISTOL BRANCH

Saturday 6 April

Talk in Person

“It’s the Mortimers wot won it – the Wars of the Roses and the Mortimers”

Philip Hume Secretary of the Mortimer History Society

This talk shows how the origins of the Wars of the Roses lay in the feuds between Mortimer and Lancaster from the 1370s to 1425. Richard, Duke of York, inherited a feud already 50 years-old. It was their Mortimer blood and ancestry that enabled Richard and then his son, Edward, to argue a stronger claim to the throne than the Lancastrian one, and ultimately to win the crown. Furthermore, it was their Mortimer wealth and estates, particularly the Marcher lordships, that gave them the resources to win the throne. Thus, the Welsh Marches became a focal point of the conflict, whilst ultimately it was Mortimer blood and wealth 'wot won it'.

Saturday 4 May

Tewkesbury Battlefield Society Conference*

***All day event (although participants should be able to attend part of the day).**

An opportunity for members to attend the Tewkesbury Battlefield Society Conference. Full details will be available later.

Saturday 18 May

Field Visit

Guided tour by Richard Goddard

***All day event (though participants should be able to attend part of the day).**

We plan to make a morning tour and, time permitting, go on to Winchcombe for a guided tour and/or Hailes Abbey. Full details will be available later.

CONTACT: Claire Arnold - Tel 07730 404740 / Email claire.arnold@sky.com

LEICESTERSHIRE BRANCH Thursday 21 March

Talk in Person

“Browne’s Hospital Stamford – Domus Dei”

Anabel Morris

The Hospital was founded in 1475 by wool merchant William Browne and licenced as an almshouse in 1485 by Richard III. It is still an almshouse today and Anabel Morris will tell us about its lifespan of over 500 years.

Thursday 18 April

Talk in Person

**‘Why Maps Matter – Discovering Medieval Leicester and the Greyfriars Legacy’ Grahame Appleby
Presentation on how we use maps to inform our understanding of a place and why the scheduling of Greyfriars preserves more than the original burial place of Richard III.**

Thursday 16 May

Branch Annual General Meeting

Saturday 18 May

Study Day

“Crown, Parliament and Treason”

All day event at the Richard III Visitor Centre, Leicester

Details on the Leicester Branch website: <http://www.richardiiiileics.co.uk/news.html>

CONTACT: Sally Henshaw - Tel 0116 243 3785 /

Email sallyoftarahill@gmail.com



BRANCH AND GROUP CALENDAR OF EVENTS - EARLY 2024

NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH Sunday 28 April Zoom Discussion
Discussion with Matthew Lewis on Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine.
[19:00-20:00 SYD EST / 10:00 – 12:00 UK GMT]

CONTACT: Rhonda Bentley – Email info@richardIII-nsw.org.au

NORFOLK BRANCH Saturday 9 March Study Day
“Where They Fought - The Final Chapter”

CONTACT: Annmarie Hayek – Email annmarielouise04@gmail.com

NORTH MERCIA BRANCH Saturday 9 March Talk in Person
“The Last White Rose”
Justin Soper

Saturday 6 April The Dr John Ashdown Hill Memorial Lecture
“The Princes in the Tower – Solving History’s Most Famous Cold Case”
Venue: Nantwich Civic Hall: 2.00 pm
Historian Philippa Langle reports on five years of the Missing Princes’ Project.
Philippa Langley

Saturday 11 May Talk in Person
“The Foreign Policies of Edward IV and Richard III”
Matthew Lewis

**CONTACT: Marion Moulton - Tel 01270 623664 /
Email tedandbess1943@gmail.com**

SOUTH AUSTRALIA BRANCH

Saturday 6 April Talk in Person
Judith Carr is giving a talk about her daughter, Louise’s time at Leicester University during the dig for Richard.

Saturday 11 May Members’ Session
Members will give short talks on ‘Now and Then’.

CONTACT: Sue Walladge – Email walladge@internode.on.net





Researching &
Reassessing
Richard III