

The Richard III Society

Promoting research into the life and times of Richard III since 1924

Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, Founder S Saxon Barton



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 22 August 2014

RICARDIAN FLAGS FOR LEICESTER CATHEDRAL

At the Evensong service to be held today, the 529th anniversary of the Battle of Bosworth, the Richard III Society will formally present two flags to Leicester Cathedral. The flags are based on the Arms of England and Richard III's own White Boar banner. The College of Arms, whose charter was granted by Richard III in 1484, were commissioned to produce the drawings and the flags were made up by Turtle & Pearce.

The presentation will be made by Richard Smith and Sally Henshaw, respectively Chairman and Secretary of the Leicestershire Branch of the Richard III Society whilst Society joint-secretaries, David and Susan Wells, will respectively read a short statement of remembrance and lay white roses on the altar.

The genesis of the gift to the Cathedral was a bequest by a local Leicester teacher and long-term member of the Society, Margaret York, who died in August 2011, and who left bequests to both the Leicestershire Branch and the Society itself. Philippa Langley, founder of the Looking for Richard Project, whose campaign led to the discovery of the remains of King Richard in 2012, suggested the idea of a gift of the flags for the cathedral shortly after Margaret's death and it was felt her bequests would be the most appropriate means to fund the gift. Mrs Henshaw said 'I felt that this was a suitable way of honouring King Richard III and also Margaret, one of his most loyal supporters'.

Society Chairman, Phil Stone, has commented 'With the gift of these flags, the Society adds honour to the future burial site of Richard III. Such a display would have been just part of the heraldry seen at the burial of any medieval monarch.'

King Richard will be reburied at Leicester Cathedral on 26 March 2015.

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About the Richard III Society

With a worldwide membership and local branches the Society is actively engaged in original research through its own initiatives and through collaboration with other institutions bodies and scholars. Through the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust, a charitable body established by the Society, we publish important academic works and make research grants.

The Society publishes an annual journal, *The Ricardian*, with original articles on fifteenth century history and a quarterly members' magazine the *Ricardian Bulletin*.

Members of the Richard III Society are available for media interview on any topic concerning the life and times of Richard III, the Leicester dig or any related matter.

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