

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY

Year ended 31 March 2015



Mission Statement

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 of the role of this monarch in English history.

Foreword

This has probably been the most momentous year in the history of the Society and in King Richard's posthumous life. The reburial week in Leicester, coming at the very end of the reporting year, was unforgettable. It was pleasing to meet Ricardians from all parts of the world and, particularly, to have the opportunity to talk with representatives from many of the overseas branches.

That our own programme of events was such a success is down to all the planning and sheer hard work carried out by both national and branch officers of the Society in the months beforehand. Whilst this preparatory work dominated the Society's agenda for much of the year our everyday work has of course continued. This is reflected in this report, which chronicles an exceptional and successful year. My thanks as always go to all the officers of the Society at every level both in the UK and overseas.

King Richard III at last rests in peace and honour in consecrated ground, which is, for sure, the year's greatest achievement, and for that we again give grateful thanks to Philippa Langley and the Looking for Richard team.

The Society remains in good shape, financially sound and with a growing and enthusiastic membership, and the future can only be promising for us all. I commend this report to the membership.

Phil Stone (Chairman)

Key achievements for 2014/15

- the Society's programme and for the reburial week (see panel on next page)
- launch of the Milles Wills Project and organising the 2014 Study Weekend
- membership exceeding 4,500 and the successful outsourcing of the sales function.

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE REBURIAL WEEK IN LEICESTER

The Society's constructive engagement with Leicester Cathedral enabled us to have a positive influence on matters relating to King Richard's reburial, including the tomb design and cathedral information panels. It also enabled us to have our own memorial service in the Cathedral. Main achievements include:

- an efficient and transparent balloting process, dealing with over 2,500 ballots for the ticketed events
- donation of two banners by the Leicestershire Branch to Leicester Cathedral to stand next to King Richard's tomb
- Obtaining the inclusion of the *pietra dura* Plantagenet arms on the plinth of King Richard's tomb and the white roses tiles set in the floor around it
- [Compilation of a comprehensive guide to medieval Leicester and the events of the reburial week which was issued to all members
- a proactive PR strategy and communications plan, with press packs, press releases and positive engagement with the media.
- organising two sittings of the Society buffet and catering for nearly 600 members.
- organising the Society Memorial Service, with a congregation of 700.
- management of the Society's hospitality suite, with hundreds of members visiting.
- initiating and organising the performance of *The Middleham Requiem*, with its full choir and orchestra together with an audience of some 400.



The tomb of King Richard III

The Society

The Society was founded in 1924 under the name The Fellowship of the White Boar. It was refounded in 1956 on a wider membership basis and formally changed its name to The Richard III Society in 1959. The Society is an unincorporated body bound by a constitution and managed by an executive committee elected at the AGM, which takes place each October.

Governance

Patron

HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO has been the Society's Patron since 1980.

President and Vice Presidents

Peter Hammond FSA was re-elected President at the 2014 AGM. Six Vice-Presidents were also elected: John Audsley, Kitty Bristow, Moira Habberjam, Carolyn Hammond, Jonathan Hayes and Robert Smith. All were elected to serve for the year up to and including the 2015 AGM.

Executive Committee

At the 2014 AGM the following were elected to serve on the committee: Gretel Jones, Sarah Jury, Marian Mitchell, Wendy Moorhen, Sandra Pendlington, Lynda Pidgeon, Phil Stone, Anne Sutton, Richard Van Allen, David Wells, Susan Wells, Geoffrey Wheeler and Stephen York. Phil Stone was subsequently re-elected Chairman with Jacqui Emerson and John Saunders ex-officio members. The Executive Committee meets every four to six weeks at the Civil Service Club in London.

Standing Committees

These are permanent bodies with specific tasks and responsibilities delegated from the Executive Committee. Current standing committees are: Research Committee, Visits Committee, *Bulletin* Editorial Committee and Ways and Means Sub-Committee.

Working Parties

These are temporary bodies established by the Executive Committee to examine a specific area of Society business. The Publications and Distribution Working Party and the Constitution Working Party have now been merged into a new **Constitution and Governance Working Party**. An **Education Working Party** was set up during the reporting year to consider how the Society might assist the teaching of Richard III in schools and academies; and also how the Society might improve its provision for young Ricardians.

Secretariat

The role of the Secretariat is a vital one, providing support for the Chairman, the Executive Committee and the Ways and Means Sub-Committee, plus other ad hoc meetings and activities, such as the organisation of and attendance at the Society's stand at the annual Bosworth Commemoration weekend.

It is also the key link between the Society's management and the wider membership, including the Branches and Groups Liaison Officer and has now assumed the role of Sales Liaison between the Society and the sales contractor, E-Mediacy. The Secretaries are the first point of contact for general Society enquiries

RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS DURING 2014/15

The Society records its appreciation and recognition of the outstanding contribution of **Susan and David Wells** and **Wendy Moorhen** to the success of our programme in Leicester during the reburial week. All three worked unstintingly throughout the reporting year preparing for the week. Sue and Dave are commended particularly for their management of the Society ballot for the various events and services as well as much else and Wendy for her work on the reburial week brochure and for thinking of and making all the arrangements for *The Middleham Requiem*.

THE ROBERT HAMBLIN AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY

This award was established in 2002 to recognise members who have given significant service to the Society; it is named in honour of the late Robert Hamblin, who was Chairman of the Society from 1989 to 2002. In 2014 the award was made to **Sally Empson** in recognition of her many years of service as the Society's Sales Officer.



Sally Empson receiving the Robert Hamblin Award for 2014 from Dr John Ashdown-Hill

made via post, telephone, e-mail and the website and have responsibility for organising key Society events such as the Members' Day and Annual General Meeting and managing the Society's archive store.

During 2014/15 in addition to the general duties outlined above, the secretaries were heavily involved in the planning and execution of the Society's programme for the reburial week. This included the development and overall management of the balloting process for places at Cathedral Services, Members' Buffet and Middleham Requiem, as well as the general organisation and management of the Hospitality Suite. As a consequence, the volume of correspondence increased significantly with something approaching 7,000 letters and e-mails generated on this matter alone.

Membership

The Society's subscription year runs from 2 October. However, as the financial year runs from 1 April the statistics below reflect the membership as at 31 March 2015. The bracketed figures are those for 31 March 2014.

There were 3,712 (3,305) paid memberships of which 26 (30) were part-paid. Since 2 October 2014 77 (51) members resigned and in February 2015 413 (440) memberships lapsed. These are members who fail to renew their subscription but do not officially resign. As in 2014, the majority of the lapsed members were new, with only 32 having joined before 2012. To calculate the total individual membership is a little complex, as the family membership category means there are at least two individuals per household, but it is only in the past 12 years that we have captured the names of family members, if provided on the application form. A perusal

HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

Honorary life membership was awarded to **Annette Carson** during 2014/2015 in recognition of her significant contribution to the success of the Looking for Richard project and its outcome.



Annette Carson at the 2014 AGM

THE WORLDWIDE RICHARD III SOCIETY



During the reburial week in Leicester members of the Executive Committee met with representatives from the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Back row from left: Rob Smith (New Zealand), Jonathan Hayes (USA), Tracy Bryce (Canada), John Saunders (Ricardian Bulletin), Stephen York (Business Manager), Sarah Jury (Treasurer), David Wells (Secretary) Front row from left Wendy Moorhen (Deputy Chair) Lynda Pidgeon (Research Officer), Phil Stone (Chairman), Dorothea Preis (Australia) and Susan Wells (Secretary)

of the database shows there is an average of 3 members per household for the UK family membership category, so for this year we have taken this into account when making the calculation. Including the American Branch membership of 444, the total number of individual members is in excess of 4,855.

The membership database records the breakdown by country (family memberships counting as one unit and including lapsed and resigned members) as follows: Australia 183; Austria 7; Belgium 5; Bermuda 1; Brazil 1; Bulgaria 1; Canada 90; Denmark 7; Estonia 1; Finland 4; France 21; Germany 30; Hong Kong 1; Ireland 16; Israel 1; Italy 6; Japan 2; Kenya 1; Malta 2; New Zealand 32; Norway 3; Poland 1; Portugal 3; Russia 3; South Africa 4; Spain 13; Sweden 4; Switzerland 5; The Netherlands 13; Turkey 1; UK 3618; USA (including members of US Branch) 562.

From 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015 there were 944 (997) applications to join the Society, the vast majority having been recruited via the internet, particularly the Society's website. For the third year running the discovery of King Richard has seen a sharp increase in membership and despite the attrition the Society is continuing to grow.

Membership Officer Wendy Moorhen, who has been involved in the membership function since 2003, when she project managed the transfer back in-house from a third-party provider, is resigning and the function will once again be outsourced. For full details of the new arrangements see the 2015 September *Bulletin*.

Communication

The Ricardian has been published since 1961, and over

the years has developed into a widely-respected scholarly journal of late-fifteenth-century studies. It continues to flourish under Anne Sutton's editorship and enjoys a good assortment of contributions from members and academics, and has no trouble in finding an excellent array of reviewers.

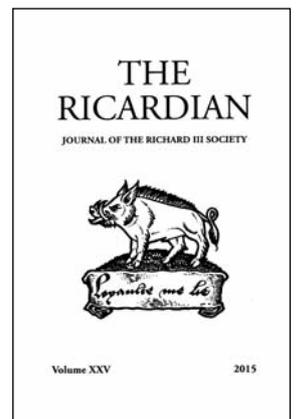
Contributions have continued to be on a wide variety of topics.

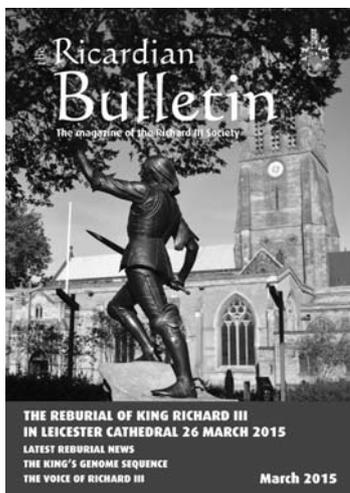
The 2015 edition of *The Ricardian* includes articles on: minor references to Margaret York found in the archives of the Low Countries and northern France; an account of the life of Thomas Roger, the Clerk of the King's Ships; the role of the port of Lynn Episcopi (King's Lynn) during the 1480s; an invitation to the wedding of Richard, duke of York, and Anne Mowbray; the development and use of field guns in the 1450s; and a 1453 Court of Chivalry incident. There is also a review note about the diet of Richard III.

Fifteen reviewers have done sterling work reviewing 17 books, and summary notes have brought another 16 books and articles to members' attention. Livia Visser-Fuchs is thanked again for assisting on the index.

Ricardian Bulletin: the Society's members' magazine was first published in 1974; it underwent a major change in style and format in 2003, with further significant changes in December 2013. During the reporting year the *Bulletin* Editorial team continued to work hard to produce four issues of the magazine.

The introduction of full colour and a new size and





format the previous year has allowed for further innovation in content, particularly with the fuller use of photographs and other images. Coverage of events leading up to King Richard's reburial was a major feature during 2014/15 and resulted in larger than average editions of the magazine.

In addition we have

carried a series of post-Greyfriars articles on King Richard's isotope analysis, his DNA and his possible voice. We have continued to provide an increasing range of Society-focused information and historical articles, and have also commemorated the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Society and the 40th anniversary of the *Bulletin* itself.

Society Website: The website is a point of reference for both members and visitors, providing up-to-date news and information about the Society's structure, its activities, services and history. It also provides articles on Richard III, his family, the Wars of the Roses, and links to related sites with a focus on the last Plantagenet king.

Throughout the reporting year work has continued on maintaining and updating the Society's website. Wendy Moorhen remains the project manager, with the brief to develop the site and meet the growing expectations of our internet presence following the Greyfriars discoveries and subsequent worldwide interest in King Richard. The priority development came towards the end of the reporting year, when we needed to keep visitors and members regularly updated about the reinterment week events and to maintain a daily diary of events as they happened. Back issues of the *Ricardian Bulletin* have been added during the reporting year, providing a rich archive of articles and information for visitors to the site. However, due to time constraints, further development of *The Ricardian* section of the site, including uploading of back issues, has been delayed. A volunteer member, Hilary Blakemore, has been working steadily throughout the year scanning the older copies of *The Ricardian* in preparation for the expansion of this section and the EC take this opportunity to thank her for this. The home page is regularly updated to provide information about relevant news and events. There continues to be a high volume of people accessing the site and feedback from both members and others has been very positive.

Facebook: the Richard III Society Facebook page made its debut in 2010 in response to the growing

importance of social media as a means of communicating information. At the end of the reporting year we were approaching 14,000 visitors who indicated they liked the site. The reburial of the king in March 2015 and the events and debates leading up to it have generated much extra traffic on the site.

RIII.Mailings: Since its inception in December 2012 RIII.Mailings has been providing signed-up and new members with e-mail alerts to newsworthy events and items of importance. There are currently over 2,500 members signed up to the service and they come from all corners of the world. New members who provide an e-mail address are added automatically, and sent a welcome message explaining the service. RIII.Mailings was particularly important during the run-up to the reinterment week, when we endeavoured to keep members apprised of what was going to happen, which hopefully has engendered a feeling of inclusiveness. Katie Dungate, the administrator appointed during the last reporting year, continues in post and the EC would like to thank her for her work. We continue to receive positive feedback from members enjoying this service; the small number who asked to unsubscribe indicates satisfaction with the material we are disseminating and the frequency of e-mails. The service is currently restricted to providing breaking news as quickly as possible to members

Public relations, publicity and the media

Richard III remained firmly in the public eye during the reporting year with the continuing debate over the location of his reburial, the Judicial Review which decided the matter and the build-up to the reburial itself. Consequently there has been a considerable amount of correspondence from members, the media and the public – all making this another very busy and challenging year on the public relations and media front. We were fortunate to have the support of a PR professional for the particularly busy period around the reburial. Key points to note are:

- The Society continues to support and have a presence at major medieval events such as Tewkesbury and Bosworth.
- A number of press releases were issued during the year prior to the reburial week, covering the unveiling of the Cramond Inn plaque, the announcement of King Richard's reburial date and the donation by the Society of two banners to Leicester Cathedral.
- During the reburial week, with over 140 accredited media persons in Leicester, there were many opportunities for the Society to promote a favourable view of King Richard. To help achieve this, eight press releases focusing on positive aspects of the king were issued and we provided

ADVERTORIALS

The Society took out two advertorials (these are paid features) during the reporting year. The first appeared in the February 2015 issue of *History Today* under the title 'New Light on the Reign of Richard III', with a focus on the Inquisitions Post Mortem project which the Society is supporting. The second advertorial was published in the March 2015 issue of *BBC History Magazine*, entitled 'Richard III and the men who died in battle', which focused on the care and concern that Richard III demonstrated for the souls and remains of those who died in battle. These advertorials help to promote the work of the Society and highlighted positive aspects of King Richard's character.



accredited journalists with a press pack, which included these together with the two recent advertorials we commissioned during the year (see above).

- During the reburial week members were interviewed by BBC TV and Radio, ITV News, Channel 4 and many independent radio stations, and also by national newspapers and the local Leicester Mercury, which gave extensive coverage, as did the international TV, radio and press.

Ricardian research

The Society's primary purpose is to promote research into the life and times of Richard III and we undertake this through four key areas: *The Ricardian*, research projects, publications and individual members' research. The Greyfriars excavation and its outcome continue to generate additional work for the research committee, with a high volume of enquiries from members, the press and the public. This has inevitably impacted on time available to spend on research and related projects. Key projects and activities this year include continuing work on the following:

The Milles Project: this project was launched in March 2015 (see opposite).

Lesley Boatwright's legacy projects: on her death in September 2012 Lesley left a number of unfinished projects she was working on. These include: the miracles of Henry VI, an itinerary of Richard's life to 1483, a translation of the original Latin version of Polydore Vergil's History of Richard III, E404 (Exchequer grants) and the final editing of the Middleham Accounts. It is the intention of the Research Committee to carry on these projects and to see the results published. Given other commitments during this busy time progress has been slow, however we hope to make more substantive progress during 2015/16. We will keep members informed via the Research News section of the *Ricardian Bulletin*.

Inquisitions Post Mortem (IPMs) project: The Society is helping to fund a project by the University of Winchester to transcribe and publish the IPMs from the reign of Richard III. These are important primary sources and will be of great value to anyone undertaking research into our period. Regular project updates have appeared in the *Ricardian Bulletin*.

Bursaries: The Society and Richard III and Yorkist History Trust jointly fund two annual bursaries, one administered by the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York and the other by the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) London. In recognition of the impact of inflation over the years the Trust has agreed to match-fund these bursaries increasing their value from £500 to £1000. A further change was made to the criteria for the York bursary allowing PhD students as well as MA students to apply, thus bringing it in line with the IHR bursary.

The York Bursary was awarded to PhD student Mabel Slattery who is working on an interdisciplinary PhD under the supervision of Jeremy Goldberg and Nicola McDonald at the Centre for Mediaeval Studies in York. Her focus will be on comedy and humour in late medieval society.

RESEARCH IN ACTION – THE MILLES PROJECT

The Wills Register Milles, held in The National Archives (TNA), covers the years 1487–91 and contains 662 documents. Of these 299 are in English and it is these wills the project will focus on. Each will is transcribed twice and the two are then compared and checked by a third person, so

it is very much a team effort. Many members involved learnt their skills by participating in the Society's Palaeography course. The project helps to fulfil the Society's primary aim of promoting research into the life and times of Richard III.



The IHR Bursary was awarded to Emma Levitt, who is studying for a PhD at the University of Huddersfield. The working title of her thesis is 'Masculine Display in Late Medieval Court Culture', her main research aim 'is to explore the ethos of chivalry that surrounded high manhood in England from the late medieval to the very early modern period'. The focus is on representations and expressions of manhood that were produced and practiced at the court of Edward IV and at the early court of Henry VIII.

The Society also offers a bursary to members; however there were no applications for this during the reporting year.

During the reporting year Tig Lang continued in the role of Bursary Officer, with responsibility for the promotion of the bursaries and the management of the application process.

Research Weekend 2014: This took place at the Park Inn Hotel, over the weekend 4-6 April, on the theme of 'Death, (Re)-burial and Commemoration', the theme was developed out of the events at Leicester and the interest that arose over the reburial of King Richard.

12th Triennial Conference 2015: This will take place at Loughborough from 17 to 19 April 2015 and the theme will be 'Re-discovering Richard III'. All the preparation work for this conference took place during the reporting year, although the income and expenditure will be reported in 2015/16.

Palaeography Course: During the year 18 members signed up for the course, and four completed it, all within the year. The documents provided are not easy to read at first, but any new 'hobby' requires the participant to persevere in order to learn a new skill and those who do complete the course have a real sense of achievement.

Richard III & Yorkist History Trust

The Richard III & Yorkist History Trust is a charitable trust established by the Richard III Society in 1985 to further education and research related to the history of late-fifteenth-century England and to encourage the publication of such research. It took over most of the Society's academic publishing activities but retains close links with its parent body, which appoints the majority of its nine trustees. The principal duties of these Trustees are to commission and see through the press new publications, and assess applications from scholars and publishers for financial assistance towards their research and the expenses of publication.

Since its inception, the Trust has published 13 books, the latest being *The Herald's Memoir 1486-1490: court ceremonial, royal progress and rebellion*, edited by Emma Cavell. In 2013 The Trust made a large grant towards the publication of the latest volume of the Harlaxton Medieval Studies series, volume XXIII, *The*

Yorkist Age, edited by Hannes Kleinecke and Christian Steer.

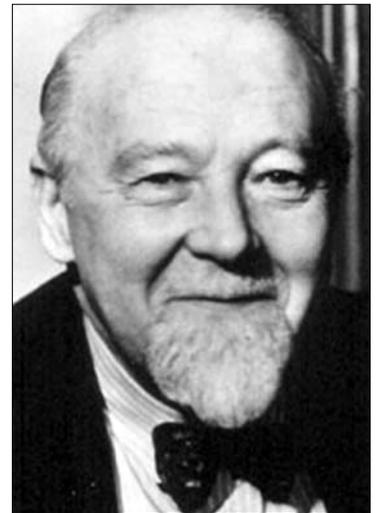
The Trust match-funds the Society's bursaries to York University and the Institute of Historical Research and announced plans for a Richard III Historical Research Prize for an author's first published article in a refereed journal. This will also be match-funded by the Society.

In the previous Trust year, provision was made for a series of research monographs, providing an opportunity for the publication of recently completed doctoral theses on topics related to late medieval English history. The first study now in the editorial process is by Harry Schnitker of the Netherlands, on Margaret, duchess of Burgundy and sister to Edward IV and Richard III.

At its AGM in November, its Chair, Peter Hammond, stepped down after piloting the Trust since its start, thus achieving an impressive 29 years of service. At the same time, Susan and David Wells relinquished their roles as Secretaries and Treasurer. James Petre was appointed Chairman for some three years; Gretel Jones as Secretary and David Biran as Treasurer. A new trustee was appointed, Dr Heather Falvey, filling the place created by Peter Hammond's departure.

The Barton Library

When Dr S. Saxon Barton, the founder of the Society, died in 1957, he left his collection of Ricardian books to the recently re-founded Society, and these 21 volumes formed the nucleus of the collection later to become known as the Barton Library in his memory.



Dr S. Saxon Barton

During the reporting year 150 new items were added to the collections of books, papers and audiovisual material that are available for members to borrow. Many of the books were donations from generous members. The total number of items borrowed is similar to last year's figure at 223: 57 non-fiction books, 14 novels, 92 papers and 60 tapes. In addition to advising members on their choice of reading material the Library team also looked up information, and supplied photocopies. The catalogue of non-fiction papers has been fully updated and uploaded onto the Society's website, and the catalogues of books are currently being revised – new lists will be appearing on

the website as they are completed. The Audiovisual Library is currently undergoing a major reorganisation.

The Library Team raised £125 towards Library funds by selling duplicate library books and donations of books from members.

Branches and Groups

At the end of the reporting year there was a total of 19 branches and 22 groups all are active, with regular programmes of events. Many, though not all, publish newsletters or journals, copies of which are held in the Society's 'Papers' Library. Most groups are located in England, although groups are also established in South Wales, Ireland and mainland Europe. Of the branches, four are in Australia, one in Canada, one in New Zealand, one in Scotland, and one in the United States of America, with the rest in England. A number celebrated anniversaries during the year: Greater Manchester their 40th, Yorkshire their 55th and Norfolk their 35th.

The increase in membership over the reporting year has translated into the establishment of four new groups in the UK. Since 2012 there have been 12 new groups formed in UK and overseas. Accordingly an increasing number of members are taking the opportunity to participate in local Ricardian activities via a branch or group.

Jacqui Emerson, the Liaison Officer, provides an important link between the branches and groups themselves and collectively with the wider Society, and issues a regular newsletter, *The Ricardian Recorder*. Some branches hold their own study and lecture days, particularly the Gloucester, Greater Manchester, Leicestershire, Norfolk and Yorkshire branches.

Ricardian heritage

There are a number of associated organisations that reflect the Society's links during the reporting year with places of Ricardian interest:

Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund: A full list of the fund's donations can be found on the Society's website. The fund is currently overseen by Elizabeth Nokes and Phil Stone.

Friends of Fotheringhay: Phil Stone, the Fotheringhay co-ordinator, is our link to the 'Friends', and over the years the Society has given many gifts, both practical and financial, to the church.

Barley Hall: The York Archaeological Trust (YAT), who own the Hall, have day-to-day management of the building. Society officers Lynda Pidgeon and Carolyn and Peter Hammond are part of an advisory committee on the Hall to the YAT. Individual support for Barley Hall can also be achieved through membership of the Friends of the York Archaeological Trust.

Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre: The Society

has continued to contribute to the recent redevelopments at the centre. We remain in close contact through the Society's Secretaries, who act as our liaison point with the centre's management and ensure that the centre is regularly supplied with Society brochures and publications.

Visits

Our guided walk around the Inns of Court and their gardens proved that London is always a popular venue for visits: our first walk in May was over-subscribed, so a second was organised for October. In November we also had our second visit to the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which was immediately booked following our visit in 2013 to cater for those members who couldn't be fitted in the first trip.

Our long weekend in July was based in Birmingham. It made a good central starting point for visits to Shropshire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire. Cathedrals, monastic ruins, one battlefield (Shrewsbury) and a museum of rescued buildings kept us busy. Harvington Hall and St Nicolas Place were also two of the highlights. September saw us heading towards the south coast. The ancient market town of Romsey was our first stop, then on to Portchester Castle, with its huge Roman walls and Watergate, from where Henry V embarked for France and Agincourt and where Henry VI met his bride, Margaret of Anjou. We had our regular visits to Sutton Cheney and Bosworth Battlefield in August and to Fotheringhay for Christmas lunch and carol service in December.

Early in 2015 the Team said sad goodbyes to Kitty Bristow and Ros Conaty. Kitty had been a member of the team for 20 years, since its very beginning in 1995; her vast experience and knowledge was always much appreciated. Ros had been with us for 10 years and, together with Rosemary Waxman, was a leading light in organising our Continental trips.

The Visits Team met four times during the year and extend their thanks to all those members who loyally support the trips. New members are always welcome; it's a good way of meeting fellow Ricardians.

Sales

In last year's Annual Report we set out details of the outsourcing of the mail order and stockholding activities of the sales function to E-Mediacy Ltd. We are delighted to report that this process, which commenced on 1 May 2014, has proved to be successful and efficient. Because of the interest in Richard III generated by the events of the last year, sales increased exponentially, such that the previous management arrangements would not have been able to cope.

Total gross sales for the reporting year were £20,414.43: this total included sales of £1,335 at the

RICHARD III FUNERAL BADGE

At mediaeval royal funerals royal badges were often displayed on the catafalque. Similar badges made in base metals were given to mourners. Our badge is based on contemporary and earlier designs. It is boxed, with a brief explanatory insert and is fastened with a conventional brooch pin. Many members wore the badge during the reburial week in Leicester.



AGM, almost double the sum taken at the previous AGM held outside London in 2012, and £2,300 at Bosworth. It was felt that the reinterment week was not an appropriate occasion for a major sales initiative but two new items were commissioned especially for the week: a Society tie and a funeral badge. Stocks were exhausted by the second day, although supplies were quickly replenished for mail-order customers via E-Mediacy.

The future

With the high level of public interest in Richard III following his reburial, we will continue to seek new opportunities to promote our work. We will also continue to ensure that our finances remain sound and our members receive value for money in terms of the publications, information and services we provide for them. Key objectives for the coming year are:

- to build on Richard III's legacy in Leicester following the reburial events
- to produce a souvenir brochure of these events for members
- to consider a memorial to Richard III somewhere else in the country outside of Leicester
- to continue to take advantage of media and other opportunities that offer the chance to make the case for a reassessment of King Richard's life and reputation and a greater understanding of his scoliosis
- to maintain the Society's commitment to evidence-based historical research, to develop our research programme with initiatives such as the Milles project that allow for wide participation by members
- to continue supporting the Richard III & Yorkist History Trust's ongoing programme of publications, and to support the Research Committee's commitment to complete and publish the various unfinished projects of the late Lesley Boatwright
- to continue to improve our services to members by maintaining and improving the quality of our website and the *Ricardian Bulletin*, sourcing new sales merchandise and outsourcing our membership function
- to undertake a full review of our constitution and governance structure and seek ways to encourage the participation of members in the management of the Society.

Future events include:

- The 2016 Research Weekend will take place in York from 17 to 19 April.
- The next two AGMs will be held as follows: 2015 in London and 2016 in York.

The Richard III Society was founded over 90 years ago and we have achieved much over these years, not least our significant contribution to fifteenth-century research and scholarship. The honourable and dignified reburial of King Richard has inspired us all to continue the work to secure a fair reappraisal of the king and his achievements.



FINANCE REPORT 2014/15

Highlights

- Society income from all sources exceeds £160k
- Subscriptions including donations over £100k for first time
- Underlying costs rise proportionally slower than income
- Reinterment week events for members deliver a small surplus
- Cost-effective outsourcing of merchandise sales
- HMRC grant Society exemption from registering for VAT.

2014/15 was in every way a remarkable year in the history of the Society. This has resulted in some non-recurring extraordinary expenditure and a deficit to members' funds of just under £10k. As Treasurer I consider these costs were fully justified to ensure that:

- members were kept fully informed, and were able to participate in the ballot for tickets
- our marketing, website and PR portrayed the Society professionally under scrutiny
- our commemoration of Richard's reburial provided a fitting tribute from the Society.

With the exception of the souvenir booklet, which was produced after the end of the financial year, all costs relating to the reburial are included in the 2014/15 accounts and the deficit to members' funds is entirely down to the one-off costs associated with reinterment week.

The Society remains in a healthy financial position, with members' funds totalling over £185k after making donations, grants and awards totalling almost £25k. These included £6k to Leicester in addition to the £30k collected in the Tomb Fund and £15k towards the research into the Inquisitions Post Mortem.

The accounts are presented in a slightly different format this year, with full visibility of all of our gross income. This has been necessary to satisfy the requirements of HMRC, who have exceptionally granted exemption from registering for VAT, and means that there can be no direct comparison with previous years.

Thus income and expenditure relating to Society visits and conferences are now shown as such. The organisers do an excellent job to ensure that costs are covered and I can reassure members that whilst it looks as though this has not been the case this year, this is owing to timing and the changeover in accounting process, whereby some of the income had already been accounted for in the previous year.

Sarah Jury, Treasurer

The accounts follow on pp 11–12



The Service of Reinterment, the highlight of the reburial week In Leicester during March 2015.

Photo by Will Johnston, © Northcliffe Media Ltd

RICHARD III SOCIETY
Accounts for year ending
31 March 2015

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2015

ASSETS

Bank	
Current A/c	£ 25,925.83
No 2 A/C	£ 22,553.47
Business Money Mover	£135,068.34
Tomb (note 1)	£ 1,011.98
PayPal	£ <u>32.26</u>
	£184,591.88
Stock (note 2)	£ 7,693.07
Library	
Brought forward	£ 17,000.00
Additions	£ 317.15
Disposals	£ <u>92.50</u>
	£ 17,224.65
Prepayments	
Triennial (note 3)	£ 3,690.00
AGM 2015/16	£ <u>500.00</u>
	£ 4,190.00
Debtors	
R3S USA	£ 628.38
Unbanked income (note 4)	£ 3,606.47
Capital expenditure	£ 1,674.59
Bank errors (note 5)	£ 258.37
	<u>£219,867.41</u>

LIABILITIES

Creditors	
Trade	£ 738.71
Visitor Centre	£ 250.00
Website	£ 350.88
Palaeography	£ 722.50
Requiem refunds	£ <u>40.00</u>
	£ 2,102.09
Funds	
RCRF	£ 2,405.25
Tomb/Monument (note 6)	£ <u>1,438.62</u>
	£ 3,843.87
Accruals	
Reinterment (note 7)	£ 3,957.10
Membership costs	£ <u>2,372.00</u>
	£ 6,329.10
Accrued income	
Triennial	£ 22,162.04
Subs in advance	£ 104.00
Members' funds	
Brought forward	£194,540.15
Deficit for year	<u>-£ 9,213.84</u>
	£185,326.31
Carry forward	£185,326.31
	<u>£219,867.41</u>

Notes to the balance sheet

- As at 31.3.15 £426.64 held in current account subsequently transferred to this account.
- Stock at net realisable value.
- Triennial took place April 2015 – income and expenditure paid in 2014/15 has been accrued.
- Leicester takings banked post 31.3.15.
- Direct debits not believed to belong to Society – to be queried with bank.
- In December 2014 £30k donations from the tomb fund were paid over to the Leicester Cathedral Charitable Trust. Fund now becomes Monument Fund.
- Costs relating to reinterment week settled post 31.3.15.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2015

Notes

INCOME

Subscriptions	£ 97,532.05
Merchandise sales	£ 20,414.43
Advertising	£ 1,954.25
Reinterment week events	£ 20,482.66
Donations	£ 4,675.84
Bank interest	£ 111.16
Royalties	£ 72.19
Miscellaneous income	£ 887.98

Any income received via Paypal is quoted net of charges

Income from event ticket sales/hospitality suite refreshments
Including those received with subscriptions £3,376.70

Events for members

Study weekends and conferences	
Refunds 2014 study weekend	-£ 364.00
Society members visits	£ 14,761.39
Palaeography	£ 782.06
AGM lunches, etc.	£ 672.83
	£ 15,852.28

£4,159.20 income relating to Shropshire visit recorded in 2013/14

£ 161,982.84

EXPENDITURE

Opening stock	£ 9,430.00
Add stock purchased	£ 9,177.00
Less closing stock	<u>£ 7,693.07</u>
Cost of sales	£ 10,913.93
Direct sales admin costs	£ 5,795.25
Total sales costs	£ 16,709.18

Reinterment week costs

Buffet	£ 9136.80
Requiem	£ 11,670.75
Hospitality suite supplies	£ 519.42
PR	£ 937.08
Ballot	£ 9,123.03
Map guide	£ 2,072.00
Stands for banners	£ 590.14
Website	£ 1,734.00
Visitor Centre room hire	£ 250.00
Travel and meetings	£ 1,905.09

Includes mailings for both the Society and the public ballot.

Additional to normal monthly updates

Pre-planning/site visits, etc. EC all paid own travel/hotel costs for reinterment

£ 37,938.31

£ 13,502.11

Membership

Ricardian and Bulletin

Design and print	£ 20,282.85
Distribution	£ 18,136.05
	£ 38,418.90

Overheads

Committee	£ 4,241.90
Insurance	£ 847.51
Storage	£ 864.00
AGM	£ 2,271.99
Bosworth wreath	£ 74.00
Miscellaneous expenditure	£ 149.33
Bank and credit card charges	£ 732.84
Marketing and advertising	£ 7,762.95
Library	£ 93.65
Website	£ 3,564.83
	£ 20,603.00

Donations

Leicester	£ 6,000.00
General	£ 690.00
	£ 6,690.00

Awards, grants and bursaries

£ 18,020.00

Events for members

Study weekends and conferences	£ 910.00
Society members visits	£ 17,670.90
Palaeography	£ 722.50
	£ 19,303.40

Transfer of interest to Tomb Fund	£ 11.78
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£ 171,196.68

Deficit of expenditure over income

-£ 9,213.84