

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



SUNDAY 11 OCTOBER 2015

PHILIPPA LANGLEY AND JOHN ASHDOWN-HILL EACH RECEIVE THEIR MBE AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE

The Richard III Society congratulates Philippa Langley and Dr John Ashdown-Hill on each receiving the MBE from HM The Queen at Buckingham Palace on Friday, 9th October. Philippa and John have been awarded the MBE in recognition of their services to ‘the Exhumation and Identification of Richard III’ (London Gazette). The MBE is given by Her Majesty the Queen in recognition of a significant achievement of outstanding service to the community, and for local ‘hands-on’ service which stands out as an example to other people.

- Philippa Langley’s successful *Looking For Richard* project marked the first-ever search for the lost grave of an anointed King of England.
- The project took seven and a half years, including four years of research and remarkably on the first day of the dig, King Richard’s remains were discovered in the place Philippa Langley had indicated.
- Vital to Ms Langley’s search getting underway and its successful conclusion was the identification by Dr John Ashdown-Hill of the mtDNA sequence of Richard III in 2004/5.

A quote from Philippa states ‘After discovering a King in a car park, it is almost as surreal to be at the Palace today to receive this award. It marks the end of a gruelling ten-year journey and I would like to thank all those who put me forward for this recognition and honour. I am delighted the discovery of King Richard has ignited world-wide interest in his story. For the very first time, this historical figure is being read about widely to understand the facts surrounding his life and times and to question the received wisdom and ages-old mythology that has enveloped him for centuries.’

Dr John Ashdown-Hill has said: ‘It seems that various people - including members of the Richard III Society – started campaigning in 2013, and it’s thanks to their efforts that, early in May of this year, I received the most amazing letter from the Cabinet Office! How wonderful that all the work which Philippa and I did has now been officially and publicly recognised.’

The Richard III Society believes this Honour to also be a recognition to all Ricardians who have supported the project over the years, reflecting their confidence in this long, arduous but exceedingly gratifying conclusion.

Dr Phil Stone, Chairman of The Richard III Society comments: ‘The Richard III Society congratulates Philippa Langley and John Ashdown-Hill on their momentous day.’

-ENDS-

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*.

Visit: www.richardiii.net

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A photograph of Ms Langley, courtesy of the Press Association, is available on the Society's website http://www.richardiii.net/whats_new.php#investiture