

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY

Year ended 31 March 2016



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

After the momentous events covered by last year's report, 2015/16 was inevitably somewhat quieter. However, that is not to say it hasn't been another busy twelve months. It seems these days that a Ricardian year can't be otherwise. This report summarises our activities and achievements over the year and demonstrates our viability and our strengths.

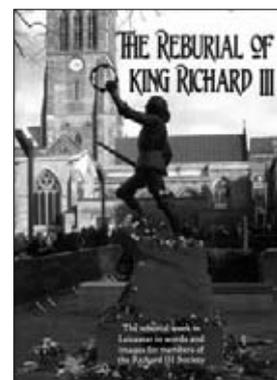
One of our greatest strengths is the diversity and calibre of our membership, acting both collectively and individually, and it is appropriate in this annual report to recognise such contributions. So it is very fitting to record that during the reporting year, Philippa Langley and John Ashdown-Hill were awarded MBEs for their successful and essential roles in finding King Richard's remains. We recognise, too, the considerable contribution to the work of the Society, made over many years, by Wendy Moorhen, who stepped down from her various roles late in 2015. Sadly, we must also remember the contributions of those who have passed away during the year, such as our vice-president Moira Habberjam and Croydon Group stalwart and founder Roy Linsell.

I am happy and proud to commend this report to members; it reflects another busy and successful year, with our finances sound and our membership stable. My thanks go, as always, to all the officers of the Society at every level both in the UK and overseas.

Phil Stone (Chairman)

Key achievements for 2015/16

- Publishing of the Society's reburial week Souvenir Booklet
- Organising the 2015 Triennial in Loughborough
- Successful outsourcing of the membership function
- Launching of the Constitution and Governance review
- Surplus of income over expenditure for the first time in four years
- Solid progress with the Milles, IPM and Vergil research projects



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 2015 the award was made to **Helen Ashburn** for her services to the Greater Manchester Branch.



LIFE MEMBERS AWARDED MBEs

Philippa Langley and John Ashdown-Hill, both life members of the Society, were each awarded MBEs in the 2015 Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of the successful outcome of the Looking for Richard Project. They were invested with their honours at Buckingham Palace in November.



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 2015 AGM. For the year October 2015 to September 2016. Six Vice Presidents were also elected: John Audsley, Kitty Bristow, Carolyn Hammond, Jonathan Hayes, Elizabeth Nokes and Robert Smith. All were elected to serve for the year up to and including the 2016 AGM. It is with regret that we record the death of Vice president Moira Habberjam during the reporting year. We welcome the election of Elizabeth Nokes as a new Vice President.

Executive Committee

At the 2015 AGM the following were elected to serve on the committee: Gretel Jones, Sarah Jury, Sharon Lock, Marian Mitchell, Lynda Pidgeon, Stephanie Scott, Phil Stone, Anne Sutton, Richard Van Allen, Stephen York, David Wells, Susan Wells, and Geoffrey Wheeler. Phil Stone was subsequently re-elected chairman and Jacqui Emerson and John Saunders appointed advisors to the Executive Committee. Stephanie Scott and Lynda Pidgeon both subsequently stepped down from the committee before the end of the reporting year. 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, Communications Committee and the Ways and Means Sub-Committee.

Working Parties

These are temporary bodies established by the Executive Committee to examine a specific area of Society business. Current working parties are as follows: Constitution and Governance Working Party and the Education Working Party.

Constitution and Governance Review

This review was launched at the 2015 AGM and after a slow start, the Working Party has met regularly both physically and electronically. It is considering a number of matters and potential changes to the Society's Governance arrangements. A key factor is whether the Society should seek charitable status and this decision will inform much of the potentiality for change. It is not envisaged that the basic structure of the Society with a central strategic management body and local/regional branches and groups will alter significantly.

The work is ongoing and the original timescale target of completion by the 2016 AGM will not be met, due to the complexities of the requirements of the Charities Commission. An updated report on progress and future proposals will be given at the 2016 AGM.

Secretariat

During the year to March 2016, following the significant events culminating in the reburial, Secretariat duties settled back to their traditional role, providing vital 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.

The Secretariat is also the key link between the Society's management and the wider membership, including the Branches and Groups Liaison Officer. The Secretaries are the first point of contact for general Society enquiries 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.

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 2016. The bracketed figures are those for 31 March 2015.

Following the excitement and heightened media interest around the discovery of King Richard's remains in 2012 and subsequent reinterment last year, our membership numbers went up to an all-time high of almost 5,000. Inevitably once the initial euphoria died down, membership fell back slightly, however we are moving upwards again at a steady rate with a membership at the end of the reporting year of 4,645 (4,855). From 1 April 2015 to 31 March 2016 there were 588 (944) applications to join the Society, the vast majority having been recruited via the internet, particularly the Society's website.

The membership database records the breakdown by

country (family memberships counting as one unit), as follows: Australia 203; Austria 7; Belgium 7; Bermuda 1; Brazil 1; Bulgaria 1; Canada 100; China 2; Denmark 8; Estonia 1; Finland 4; France 24; Germany 34; Gibraltar 1; Hong Kong 1; Ireland 18; Italy 7; Japan 2; Kenya 1; Saudi Arabia 1; Luxembourg 1; Malta 2; Netherlands 2; New Zealand 34; Norway 3; Poland 1; Portugal 3; Russia 3; South Africa 3; Spain 15; Sweden 4; Switzerland 5; Netherlands 15; UK 3,989; USA (including members of US Branch) 553.

For all of the reporting year the management of the Society's membership function has been successfully outsourced to E-Mediacy Ltd.

We note that 2016 is the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death and there are plans for various productions of his plays based on the Wars of the Roses. This may result in increased media interest in the historical Richard III and possibly lead to another surge in membership.

Branches and Groups

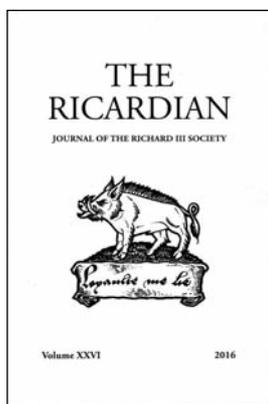
At the end of the reporting year there were a total of 19 branches and 21 groups and all are active, with regular programmes of events. Many, though not all, publish newsletters or journals, copies of which are held in the Society's Papers Library. Most groups are located in England, although groups are also established in Northern Ireland, the Republic of 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 are celebrating anniversaries during 2016: of the branches Canada 50th, Lincolnshire 40th, New Zealand 30th and Worcester 30th and of the groups, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire celebrated their 30th.

The increase in membership over the reporting year has translated into the establishment of three new groups in the UK: Northern Ireland, Citty of London and Merseyside & West Lancashire. Since 2012 there have been 12 new groups formed in the 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.

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 2016 edition of *The*

Ricardian includes articles on: further minor references to Margaret York found in the archives of the Low Countries and northern France; an account of the life of Thomas Hutton, the Clerk of the Parliament to Richard III; a study of religion and society in late fifteenth-century Thetford; the whereabouts and responsibilities of Richard of Gloucester between 1461 and 1470; new light on a noble casualty of the battle of Barnet; the significance of the double cadaver tomb in Denston, Suffolk; an examination of the paternity of Lord Lumley; and an account of the early career of Dominic de Serego, physician to Edward IV and Elizabeth Woodville.

Seventeen reviewers have done sterling work reviewing 21 books, and summary notes have brought another 18 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, including the introduction of colour throughout. During the reporting year the *Bulletin* Editorial team continued to work hard to produce four issues of the magazine. The larger-than-average June and September issues were dominated by coverage of King Richard's reburial, with reports and images of the event appearing in both. We have continued to provide an increasing range of Society-



focused and related information, together with historical articles, and we also commemorated the 600th anniversary of the birth of Cicely Neville and highlighted the publication of the first biography of Josephine Tey.

The *Bulletin* team was also responsible for the publication of the Society's own 72-page

reburial souvenir booklet, which included images and descriptions of all the week's events, plus the text of the key eulogies, sermons and readings from the various commemorations and services.

Society website: the website is a gateway for members and visitors to the work of the Richard III Society. It provides up to date news and information about the Society, its structure, activities, services and history. It also provides articles on Richard III, his family, places associated with him and the Wars of the Roses in general. Additionally, it gives links to related sites with a focus on Richard III and the period. There continues to be a high volume of people accessing the site and feedback from both members and others remains positive.

Throughout the reporting year work has continued on maintaining and updating the website. Wendy Moorhen stepped down as the project leader towards the end of 2015 and her responsibilities were subsumed into the new Communications Manager post. This role now has overall responsibility for the management of the website, RIII Mailings and our social media presence. Sharon Lock was appointed to the post with the brief to develop the website and our social media activities in order to take advantage of the continuing worldwide interest in the king and his reign following his reburial last year.

During the latter part of the reporting year a Communications Committee was established to develop and take forward plans for our internet presence and the services it provides both for members and the wider public. Initial priorities are to develop a feature on King Richard's association with the city of York for the website and to establish an official Society presence on Twitter, with both planned to be launched later in 2016.



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 there were over 16,000 visitors who indicated they liked the site. The page is updated on an almost daily basis with news about the Society and matters relating to Richard III and there is also a regular medieval diary, highlighting significant events and dates from the period.

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 important items of relevance to Richard III and the Society. New members who provide an e-mail address are added automatically, and sent a welcome message explaining the service. RIII Mailings is an important means of communicating with members between issues of the *Bulletin*. There are currently over 3,008 members signed up to the service and they come from all corners of the globe. During the reporting year a total of 15 mailings were sent. We continue to receive positive feedback from members enjoying this service; the small numbers who ask to be unsubscribed indicates satisfaction with the material being disseminated and the frequency of e-mails.

Public relations, publicity and the media

Richard III remained firmly in the public eye during the reporting year following his reburial in Leicester Cathedral. Consequently we have dealt with a constant stream of enquiries from members, the media and the public. The Society is also proactive in responding to historical inaccuracies in the media in instances when a formal response is appropriate. Highlights of the year include the following:

- The Society continues to support and have a presence at major historical events such as the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival, the battle of Bosworth annual commemorations and the Peterborough Heritage Festival.
- Press releases were issued during the year to acknowledge the MBEs awarded to Philippa Langley and John Ashdown-Hill and their subsequent investitures.
- Discussions have been held with the Scoliosis Association to explore areas of common interest in relation to scoliosis and Richard III.
- There were a number of responses to media misrepresentations of King Richard and the Society. We contacted 'Yesterday' TV channel about a series called *Medieval Murder Mysteries*, which contained numerous and blatant historical inaccuracies. *The Spectator* magazine published a review of David Horspool recent book about Richard III which contained offensive remarks about the Society. We made a formal complaint to the magazine about this.

Research

The Society's primary purpose is to promote research into the life and times of Richard III and we undertake this through these key areas: *The Ricardian*, the *Ricardian Bulletin*, research projects, publications, individual members' research, and conferences and study weekends. We keep members informed about our research initiatives via the Research News section of the *Ricardian Bulletin*. Key projects and activities this year include work on the following:

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*. The Inquisitions have now been fully transcribed and calendared and are undergoing double checking in preparation for eventual publication.

Milles Project: see below

Polydore Vergil: This project, based on the original manuscript of Polydore Vergil's *History*, is making good progress. It was started by the late Dr Lesley Boatwright; after her death Dr Stephen O'Connor agreed to continue it and he is currently working on the transcription and translation of the *History's* section relating to Richard III.

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY STALL AT THE BOSWORTH BATTLEFIELD HERITAGE CENTRE



RESEARCH IN ACTION – THE MILLES PROJECT

This is the third Wills project undertaken by the Society. The PCC Register Milles follows on from the PCC Register Logge and contains 660 wills proved in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury during the period 1487 to 1491. Of these 324 are wholly in Latin, 299 in English and 37 partly in English and partly in Latin. Work is now well under way on transcribing and, where necessary, translating the wills. At present there are 23 members actively transcribing the wills, of whom five are competent Latinists. The project will inevitably take some time to complete; in the meantime articles about the testators will be published in the *Ricardian Bulletin* and participants on the project receive a (roughly) quarterly project newsletter containing information gleaned about testators and offering a forum for exchanging ideas and raising queries on anything perplexing in the documents. The Milles Project offers members an opportunity to conduct research into the lives of people living (and dying) in late fifteenth century England.



Logo of the Milles Project

Bursaries: The Society funds two annual bursaries, one administered by the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York and the other by the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) in London. The York Bursary was awarded to PhD student Jennifer Caddick, who has recently secured a first class History degree from York. For her MA, she is proposing to work on gender and ideas of royal and aristocratic masculinity in England in the late fifteenth century. The IHR Bursary was awarded to Katie Bridger, the subject of her PhD being 'Expression and the Landscape: the Leicestershire gentry 1460–1547'. The Society also offers a bursary to members and this year's was awarded to Ed Shine; the subject of his PhD is 'The Life and career of Richard Neville, 5th Earl of Salisbury (1400–1460)'.

During the 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.

12th Triennial Conference 2015: This successfully took place at Loughborough from 17 to 19 April 2015 on the theme of 'Rediscovering Richard III', based on the scientific reports following the discovery of Richard III's remains in 2012.

Research Weekend 2016: This was due to take place at the Hilton Hotel, York, over the weekend 8–10 April 2016, on the theme of 'Wives, Widows and Witches'. All the preparation work for this conference took place during the reporting year, although the income and expenditure will be reported in 2016/17.

Palaeography Course: During the year 12 members signed up for the course, and six completed it, two within the year, and the other four in just over a 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. Those who complete the course have a real sense of achievement and indeed all of the six latest 'graduates' are now participating in the Milles Project.

Education

The Education Working Group was established during 2014/15 to look at how the Society might contribute to the teaching of Richard III and his times in schools and how it might improve its provision for young Ricardians.

Much of the reporting year has been spent on preparing pages for the education section of the Society's website and it is hoped that the first phase will be ready to launch at the 2016 AGM. The emphasis has been on the supply of accurate information about King Richard. In time further sections on broader aspects, such as everyday life in the later medieval period for example, might be added. Young people and most teachers use the web as their usual main route to access and analyse information. Consequently that is the approach the working group has taken.

As with previous years many queries for information from schools and individual students have been received and answered by the Society. A typical request was to spend a whole day with a Year 5 group – three classes – assisting their term's work on King Richard III. Particularly interesting is the work being done by some of those older students specialising in history. The Society has agreed to a number of modest grants to encourage such work.

Future plans include a further development of the website; consideration for the creation of a suitable app for use with all the smart technology that is a feature of social networking; an event – study day/conference – targeted at young people.

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. The Trust has had an exciting and positive year, during which it has

published Harry Schnitker's *Margaret of York, Princess of England, Duchess of Burgundy*. Over and above this, it has agreed to support the research and/or the costs of publication leading to a number of further works which are expected to come to fruition in the 2016–17 Trust year. These are a study of the important FitzHerbert family; editions with commentaries of *The Calais Letter Book* of William, Lord Hastings; Richard Arnold's *Customs of London, a Yorkist Merchant's Handbook*, and a new edition (in partnership with the London Record Society) of *The Church Records of St Nicholas Shambles, London*.

This considerable programme inevitably constitutes a major commitment of expenditure for the Trust, causing it to review its position to secure its future. This has been achieved partly by abandoning its previous practice of providing a variety of small grants and prizes and withdrawing from contributing to the two bursaries provided annually to York University and London Institute of Historical Research students. The Trust has also declined to pursue certain other activities which were proposed. Most significant, however, is that it has made a new arrangement with the Society, the Trust's parent body. The Trust is most grateful to the Society for this support and the implicit vote of confidence involved.

There was one change of trustees during the year brought about by the resignation of Professor Tony Pollard, who had served the Trust for a long time, playing a full part in its proceedings and shepherding research projects which the Trust had sponsored. The Trust thanks him for this significant contribution. In his place Dr James Ross, currently of Winchester University, has been appointed as a trustee.

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 refounded Society, and these 21 volumes formed the nucleus of the collection later to become



Dr S. Saxon Barton

known as the Barton Library in his memory.

During the reporting year 88 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 slightly higher than last

year's figure at 236: 50 non-fiction books, 29 novels, 142 papers and 15 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 installed on 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 £543 towards Library funds by selling duplicate library books and donations of books from members – this more than covers the cost of running the library and buying new items for stock.

Ricardian heritage and sites

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 current RCRF managers are Elizabeth Nokes and Phil Stone.

THE ACHIEVEMENT OF ARMS OF RICHARD III

In 2015 the Society funded the restoration of the achievement of arms of Richard III, which had been originally made for Crosby Hall in London. When the hall became a private residence it was moved to Warwick Castle and later to the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre. Following its restoration it now has a permanent home in Leicester's Richard III Visitor Centre.



Friends of Fotheringhay: Phil Stone is the Fotheringhay co-ordinator. 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 remains in close contact with the Battlefield Centre via the Secretaries and local Society members. We ensure that they are supplied with Society leaflets and are available to answer any queries and we continue to maintain a presence at the annual commemoration weekend

Leicester Cathedral and the King Richard III Visitor Centre: the Society maintains links with both through the Leicestershire Branch.

Visits

We welcomed two new members to the Visits team: Doreen Harris, a long-standing member of the Society, and Gretel Jones, who is also on the Executive Committee.

Although our planned July visit to Duxford Chapel and Cambridge Botanical Gardens unfortunately had to be cancelled through lack of interest, we made up for it by an extra visit to Fotheringhay in June for a Requiem Mass for King Richard. It was a moving and successful event; postponed from the previous year, it proved more effective being held after the reburial. It was also a pleasant change to see Fotheringhay in the summer.

We had a good turnout for our annual visit to the Bosworth battlefield in August and as usual we received a warm welcome at St James' Church, Sutton Cheney, for our memorial service. Unfortunately the afternoon at the battlefield was rather less friendly, as the weather turned wet and cold. Our September outing to Chenies Manor and St Albans was very popular. The manor is a charming old house, still lived in by the family, who were very welcoming to our party. A member of the Battlefields Trust guided us around the streets of St Albans, describing the events of the first battle of St Albans. Our year ended with the customary December visit to Fotheringhay for Christmas lunch and the carol service. It was well attended and everyone in good voice to join in the carols after the usual excellent lunch.

Our grateful thanks to all those members who loyally support our trips. New members, please join us: it's a

good way of meeting fellow Ricardians.

Sales

Sales Administration (stockholding and sales) has been outsourced to E-Mediacy Ltd and the Society's interests are managed via the role of Sales Liaison, currently fulfilled by the Secretaries. Although sales have reduced from the exceptional levels of 2014/15 resulting from the reburial and increased membership, they have remained buoyant.

Total gross sales for the reporting year were over £14,000, compared with some £20,400 for 2014/15: this total included sales of £1,800 at the AGM, an increase of some £500 over the previous year, and £1,360 at Bosworth. We continue to work with E-Mediacy to ensure that our members receive value for money in terms of the publications, information and services provided for them. The Sales team is always

NEW MEMBERS-ONLY BADGE

A special limited edition, members-only, Round Boar Badge was introduced during the reporting year. This has a white boar on a blue enamel background set in a gold tressure.



looking for new items (books and merchandise) for the sales catalogue and would welcome any suggestions.

The future

With the continuing high levels of interest in Richard III and his times 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:

1. To build on Richard III's legacy in places associated

- with him both in life and death. In particular, to maintain good relations with the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre, Leicester Cathedral and the King Richard III Visitor Centre. We will also continue to explore the possibility of a commemoration of King Richard elsewhere in the country and work with Nottingham Castle to ensure that the king's associations with the castle are included in their redevelopment plans.
2. 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.
 3. To maintain the Society's commitment to evidence-based historical research, and to develop our research programme with initiatives such as the Palaeography course and the Milles Project that allow for wide participation by members.
 4. To continue supporting the Richard III & Yorkist

History Trust's ongoing programme of publications, and the Research Committee's commitment to complete and publish the various unfinished projects of the late Lesley Boatwright

5. To develop education initiatives to provide accessible information about King Richard, the fifteenth century and the work of the Society for students and young people.
6. To continue to improve our services to members by maintaining and improving the quality of our website, social media presence and the *Ricardian Bulletin*, and sourcing new sales merchandise.

Key future events include:

- The 2017 Research Weekend will take place in Shrewsbury from 17 to 19 April.
- The 2018 Triennial will take place in Coventry.
- The next two AGMs will be held as follows: 2016 in York, and 2017 in London.

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 recent 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 2015/16

Highlights

- surplus of income over expenditure for the first time in four years
- subscription income levels maintained year on year
- members' funds exceed £200k
- general overheads down on 2014/15.

The 2015/16 reporting year has been one of relative austerity, with a brake placed on spending whilst we tried to gauge how our membership subscription income, which is of course our main source of revenue, might be affected by attrition now that King Richard has been reburied with dignity and honour.

Thankfully, due perhaps to the remarkable events of recent years still capturing the public's interest and imagination, subscription income receipts including donations remained similar to that of 2014/15 at just over £100k. This gave us a welcome surplus of income over expenditure of just under £16k.

We have controlled our costs, although there was one area where additional spending was budgeted for and considered justified. This was in ensuring that the events of March 2015 were captured and published for the benefit of members. We enjoyed the bumper editions of the *Ricardian Bulletin*, filled with all those wonderful colour photos, and also the one-off *Souvenir Booklet*, which was, as promised, provided free of charge to members at a cost for printing, postage and distribution of just under £12k that will, of course, not be repeated in future years.

You will note that there has been little new spending in 2015/16 to support the key priority areas of research and education. This is something that we do need to address if we are to realise the full benefit of the high level of interest in our period of history and achieve the Society's core aims. However, we must continue to carefully evaluate potential projects before allocating funds.

I would like to thank the other members of the Executive Committee for their understanding and support in keeping a rein on costs. The other main lever that we have to balance the books is to retain and grow our membership and our existing loyal members are the best advocates we have to achieve this.

Sarah Jury, Treasurer

The accounts follow on pp 11–12



Commemorating the first anniversary of King Richard's reburial

RICHARD III SOCIETY
Accounts for year ending
31 March 2016

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2016

ASSETS

Bank	
Current A/c	£ 8,038.21
No 2 A/C	£ 20,219.41
Business Money Mover	£ 165,172.22
Monument (note 1)	£ 1,012.58
PayPal	£ 52.29
	<u>£ 194,494.71</u>

Stock	£ 10,642.19
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Library	
Brought forward	£ 17,224.65
Additions	£ 74.96
Disposals	£ —
	<u>£ 17,299.61</u>

Prepayments	
AGM 2016/17 (note 2)	£ 4,435.55
	<u>£ 4,435.55</u>

Debtors	
R3S USA (note 3)	£ 628.38
Advertising	£ 130.00
Visitor Centre	£ 240.00
	<u>£ 998.38</u>

Fixed assets	£ 1,674.59
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£229,545.03

LIABILITIES

Creditors	
Trade	£ 267.65
Palaeography	£ 292.61
	<u>£ 560.26</u>

Funds	
RCRF	£ 778.74
Armour (note 4)	£ 5,600.33
Monument Fund	£ 789.22
	<u>£ 7,168.29</u>

Accrued income	
Study Weekend 2016	£ 19,855.45
Antwerp 2016	£ 720.00
	<u>£ 20,575.45</u>

Members' funds	
Brought forward	£ 185,326.31
Surplus for year	£ 15,914.72
Carried forward	<u>£ 201,241.03</u>

£229,545.03

Notes to the balance sheet

1. Post year end funds withdrawn by members to donate to Fotheringhay appeal have been reimbursed to current account.
2. Includes deposits for both 2016 and 2017 AGMs and stock of folders for use at these events.
3. Carried forward from March 2015 – has been settled post year end.
4. Donations for Dominic Smee's armour awaiting distribution.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2016

Notes

INCOME

Subscriptions	£ 98,694.63
Merchandise sales	£ 12,102.42
Non-members sales	£ 1,918.72
Visitor Centre	£ 802.00
Advertising income	£ 3,152.12
Reinterment Week events	£ 70.00
Donations	£ 4,556.32
Sales of donated books	£ 603.50
Legacy	£ 500.00
Bank interest	£ 104.48
Royalties	£ 73.77
Miscellaneous income	£ 2.17

Any income received via Paypal is quoted net of charges

Including those received with subscriptions £3,955.93

Events for members

Study weekends and conferences	
Triennial	£ 22,622.04
Society members' visits	£ 6,186.40
AGM lunches, etc.	£ 1,085.19
	£ 29,893.63

£ 152,473.76

EXPENDITURE

Opening stock	£ 7,693.07
Add stock purchased	£ 7,888.29
Less closing stock	£ 10,642.19
Cost of sales	£ 4,939.17
Direct sales admin costs	£ 4,330.28
Total sales costs	£ 9,629.45

Reinterment Week events costs

Visitor Centre members' event	£ 410.00
PR – press packs	£ 138.00
	£ 548.00

Membership

£ 8,504.95

Ricardian and Bulletin

Design and print	£ 38,187.22
Distribution	£ 28,233.63
	£ 66,420.85

Inc. Souvenir Booklet £7,366.00

Inc. Souvenir Booklet £4,517.35 net of reimbursement

Overheads

Committee	£ 6,268.98
Insurance	£ 1,237.40
Storage	£ 864.00
AGM	£ 6,568.08
Floral tributes	£ 139.00
Miscellaneous expenditure	£ 58.13
Bank and credit card charges	£ 670.81
Marketing and advertising	£ 274.50
Sign refurbishment	£ 220.80
Library	£ 311.98
Website	£ 3,269.98
	£ 19,883.66

Plaque at Fotheringhay Castle

Donations

General	£ 300.00
	£ 300.00

Awards, grants and bursaries

£ 7,048.53

Inc. final £5,000 payment re IPMs

Events for members

Triennial Conference	£ 18,214.30
Society members' visits	£ 6,368.70
	£ 24,583.00

Transfer of interest to Monument Fund	£ 0.60
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£ 136,559.04

Surplus of income over expenditure

£ 15,914.72