



## ANNUAL REPORT

# THE RICHARD III SOCIETY

Year ended 31 March 2017



### 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

I take pleasure in introducing our annual report for 2016/17, which shows that we are in good shape and making progress across all our areas of activity.

The *Ricardian Bulletin* and *The Ricardian* continue to be first-class publications and impressive showcases for the work of the Society. However, our online presence is of increasing importance, crucial for our future relevance and growth. So it is pleasing to see that we now have a presence on Twitter and a Research Blog.

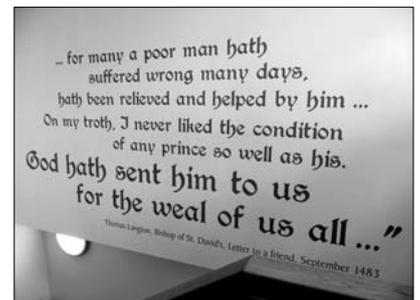
This report provides a useful source of information about the Society and its achievements, at the same time reflecting the dedication and hard work of the many members who voluntarily give their services at both national and local level. We remain an effective historical society, with steady membership levels and the confidence to continue our work to secure a lasting rehabilitation of Richard III's reputation.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the financial report and accounts are not included with this report. They will, however, be presented at the AGM on 30 September 2017, and will be published in the following December's *Bulletin*. In the meantime I can assure members that our financial position remains healthy, as the accounts will demonstrate once they are available.

**Phil Stone (Chairman)**

### Key achievements for 2016/17

- Initiating and financing the favourable contemporary quotes about Richard III at the Leicester's Richard III Visitor Centre.
- Organising the 2016 study weekend in Shrewsbury.
- Introduction of membership cards and linked discounts for members.
- Provision of a new standard for Middleham Castle and agreement to have it flown on significant Ricardian dates.
- Launch of the Society's Twitter account and further enhancement of the website.
- Continuing progress with the Milles and IPM projects and launch of the Research Blog.
- *Memorandum of Understanding* with Leicester University over the use of images of Richard III's skeleton.
- 60th anniversary of the Society's refounding.



Quote from Thomas Langton, bishop of St David's. Letter to a friend, September 1483. Richard III Visitor Centre, Leicester

### 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 2016 AGM for the year October 2016 to September 2017. 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 2017 AGM.

### Executive Committee

At the 2017 AGM the following were elected to serve on the committee: Sally Henshaw, Gretel Jones, Sarah Jury, Sharon Lock, Marian Mitchell, Richard Smith, 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, and later in the reporting year Amanda Geary was co-opted to the committee. 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 the Working Party has continued to meet both physically and electronically. The key factor remains the Society's potential charitable status and during the year it has been necessary to seek specialist support from legal and charity experts to help determine whether this is the right option.

Progress has been much slower than envisaged due to the considerable workload and the difficulty in obtaining clear and concise advice to meet the requirements of the Charities Commission. Once recommendations can be framed for the way ahead, a broad range of consultation will be undertaken to enable a motion to be presented to the full membership. Although this is taking longer than first envisaged, the Working Party feels that it is more important to get it right for the next generation than to seek a quick solution.

The Chairman of the Working Party, Dave Wells, will give an updated report at the 2017 AGM.

## Secretariat

During the year to March 2017, the Secretaries have continued in their traditional role, providing vital support for the Chairman and the Executive 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

## 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 2016 the award was made to **Pauline Harrison Pogmore** for her services to the Yorkshire Branch.



This year's recipient, Pauline Harrison Pogmore, being presented with the award at the 2016 AGM by the Chairman

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. Although the numbers of contacts have dropped from the very high levels during the period following the discovery of Richard's remains and the reburial, correspondence volumes remain high, reflecting ongoing interest in Ricardian matters in general and the Society in particular.

The Secretaries also have responsibility for organising key Society events, such as the Members' Day and Annual General Meeting, and managing the Society's archive store, which, for added continuity and security, was



Example of the new membership card introduced during 2016

moved to the custody of E-Mediacy during the year. A significant achievement during the year was the introduction of annual membership cards for all members, together with a series of

negotiated discounts available at relevant historical sites on the production of said card.

Following the announcement at the 2016 AGM that Sue and Dave Wells will be taking a step back from front-line duties, they have been working to ensure a smooth handover of responsibilities, involving a restructuring of the Secretariat function. They are pleased to confirm that Sharon Lock will take over the role of Secretary after the 2017 AGM. There will be a new appointee of Events Co-ordinator and Sue and Dave will continue to manage the Sales Liaison function.

## 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 2017. The bracketed figures are those for 31 March 2016.

Fully paid-up Society memberships reached a peak of 4,855 in March 2015 following the discovery of King Richard's remains in 2012 and subsequent reinterment in 2015. However, as is usually the case following a peak, during 2016/17 membership fell back somewhat, and the number of fully paid-up memberships at the end of the reporting year was 3,562 (4,645). To set this in a wider context, the trend has been for the Society's membership numbers to increase during the current decade from 2,608 in March 2010 to the present level.

However, it is important to note that the above figures are calculated on the basis of treating the family membership categories as a single member. To calculate the Society's total individual membership is more complex. The family membership categories obviously assume a minimum of two individuals per household. Since about 2005 our database has captured the names of family members if provided on the application form. The database indicates there is now an average of 2.5 members per household for the family membership categories, and 2 members per household in the senior family membership categories, and so, applying appropriate multiples to such categories, the total number of individual members is estimated at 4,130.

From 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017 there were 303 (588) 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 of fully paid memberships, by country (family memberships counting as one unit), as follows: Australia 136; Austria 6; Belgium 3; Bulgaria 1; Canada 78; China 2; Denmark 6; Finland 2; France 17; Germany 24; Gibraltar 1; Hong Kong 1; Ireland 8; Italy 4; Kenya 1; Luxembourg 1; Malta 2; Netherlands 14; New Zealand 28; Norway 1; Poland 1; Portugal 3; Russia 1; South Africa 1; Spain 3; Sweden 2; Switzerland 3; UK 2,772; USA (including members of US Branch) 441.

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

## Branches and Groups

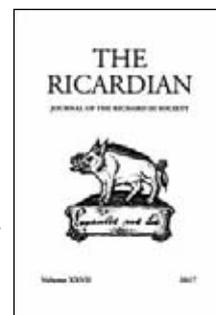
At the end of the reporting year there were a total of 19 branches and 19 groups; all are active and have regular events programmes. Many, though not all, publish newsletters or journals, copies of which are held in the Society's Papers Library. Most groups are located in England, although they are also established in Northern Ireland, 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. Only one group has an anniversary this year: the Sussex Group celebrated 30 years.

Two new groups were established and had their first meetings during the reporting year; these were Northern Ireland and Merseyside & West Lancashire. A group is being proposed in Northampton but is not active as yet. Since 2012 14 new groups have been 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 e-newsletter, *The Ricardian Recorder*. Some branches hold their own study and lecture days, particularly the Gloucester, Leicestershire, Norfolk and Yorkshire branches.

## Regular publications

*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.

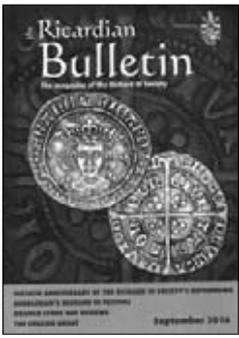


Contributions have continued to be on a wide variety of topics. The 2017 edition of *The Ricardian* includes articles on: John Russell, bishop of Lincoln and Chancellor of England; non-resident cathedral canons; Richard III's epitaph; the marriage of Jacquetta Wydevile and John, Lord Strange; and an account of James Dokeray, Mayor of Drogheda and Constable of Carrickfergus Castle.

Twenty-one reviewers have done sterling work reviewing 27 books, and summary notes have brought another 19 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 team meets every quarter in London, shortly before the publication of each issue. The magazine contains a mixture of Society and Ricardian-related news, reviews and correspondence, together with articles and features covering a range of fifteenth-

century topics. There is always at least one article with a specific focus on Richard III. During the year articles were published covering topics including the relationship between Richard III and Anne Neville, the influence of Richard, duke of York, on his son Richard III, the College of Arms, and a digital reconstruction of Middleham Castle. A number of regular features covered aspects of fifteenth-century life, livery collars and seals.

### Online communication

**Society website:** the website is a gateway for members and visitors to the Society's work. It provides up-to-date news and information about the Society, its structure, activities, services and history. It also provides information 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. Its home page has undergone a complete reorganisation to allow for more regular refreshing; it is now regularly updated to include images of places associated with Richard III's life, where relevant tied in to the month that association took place. Members have been invited to submit their own ideas for images they would like to see featured.

The Branches and Groups pages have been completely refreshed and now give either links to extant branch/group websites or to a standardised PDF document showing their upcoming events. This has enabled a consistent approach to the provision of branch and group information for the benefit of new and potential members. As part of the Website Communications Committee's remit other pages are under review to ensure that the website is kept relevant and up to date.

An addition to the site during the reporting year was the inclusion of an 'Introductory Reading List', prepared by the Research Committee, which will become a permanent feature. This was in response to requests received through our social media channels.

Traffic on the website has increased markedly since last year. For the calendar year 2016 statistics show that the site had 5,593 users; 26.6% of these were returning users and 73.4% were new ones. So far in 2017 (January to March) we have almost exceeded the user total for 2016,

with similar percentages for returning and new users. This indicates that visitors to our website are continuing to use it on a regular basis.

**Facebook:** the Society's 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 18,000 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.

The Facebook Administrative team has been expanded to enhance response times to any queries raised on the page, this will also allow us to provide live posting during relevant events, enabling members unable to attend to share in what is happening in the Society.

**Twitter:** The launch of our Twitter account at the 2016 AGM has been a real success story, allowing us to post live tweets and photos of events as they happen. We now have over 700 followers, and to date have posted over a 1,000 tweets. Twitter's immediate impact allows for faster-moving and more informal discussions with members and non-members alike. It is a valuable tool for spreading information quickly and widely, and allows us to raise the Society's profile and promote its aims amongst the public.



**RIII Mailings:** since its inception in December 2012 RIII Mailings has been providing signed-up members with e-mail alerts about 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 19 mailings were sent and there is a 50% opening rate. 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.

### Promoting the work of the Society

Richard III continues to have a high public profile; consequently we continue to deal with a constant stream of enquiries from members, other organisations, the media

and the public. This often involves engaging with other organisations and the media to promote our work and to challenge inaccurate depictions of the king that might occur. Highlights of the year that reflects this interaction include the following:

- We continue to support and have a presence at major historical events such as the Tewkesbury Medieval Festival, the battle of Bosworth annual commemorations and Middleham's Richard III Festival.
- We have worked with the Nottingham Castle Trust, who are managing a £24m heritage regeneration project to develop the castle, with the aim of ensuring that Richard III's role in its history is properly acknowledged.
- The BBC's series *The Hollow Crown*, which featured William Shakespeare's history plays from *Richard II* to *Richard III*, ended early in 2016 with *Henry VI Part 1* to *Richard III*. The portrayal of Shakespeare's 'Richard III' by Benedict Cumberbatch was a particularly violent one. We contacted both the BBC and Benedict Cumberbatch to request that the production to be accompanied by a warning that it was fictional drama and not factual history.
- In response to the inappropriate use of images of King Richard's skull for 'artistic' purposes, the Society, together with Philippa Langley, agreed a *Memorandum of Understanding* with Leicester University over the future use of images of the king's remains.
- We provided a new standard for Middleham Castle to replace the existing one which had become rather worn. The new standard is made of more robust material and agreement has been reached to increase the number of significant Ricardian dates when it is flown. The initial suggestion for replacing the flag was made by Yorkshire's Dave Johnson and Christine Holmes.



The presentation of the new standard to Middleham Castle

## 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 *Bulletin*, research projects, publications, individual members'

research, and conferences and study weekends. We keep members informed about our research initiatives via the Research News and Notes section of the *Bulletin* and the Society's new Research Blog. 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 *Bulletin*. The IPMs have now been fully transcribed and calendared and are undergoing editing with a view to publication in 2018. They will also be accessible online.

**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 24 members actively transcribing the wills, of whom four are competent Latinists. Sadly, during the year John Gray died; he was one of our most prolific transcribers. Each will is transcribed twice, and then both transcripts are checked by a third person. So far 253 wills have been transcribed once; of which 126 have been transcribed twice; and 89 have been checked. The project will inevitably take some time to complete; in the meantime articles about the testators are being 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 gives members an opportunity to conduct research into the lives of people living (and dying) in late fifteenth century England.



Logo of the Milles Project

**Polydore Vergil:** This project, based on the original manuscript of Polydore Vergil's *History*, continues to make progress, albeit slowly. 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.

**Research Weekend 2017:** This was due to take place at the Lion Hotel, Shrewsbury, over the weekend 31 March–2 April 2017, on the theme of 'Wales and the Marches during the Wars of the Roses'. All the preparation work for this conference took place during the reporting year, although the income and expenditure will be reported in 2017/18.

**Palaeography Course:** During the year 19 members signed up for the course, and three completed it, two

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. Those who complete the course have a real sense of achievement and indeed two of the latest ‘graduates’ are now participating in the Milles Project.

**Bursaries:** The Society funds two bursaries that are generally available to postgraduate students studying at UK universities, which are administered by the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of York and the Institute of Historical Research (IHR) in London. A third bursary is available exclusively to members of the Society. In 2016–17 no applications were received from York or from members of the Society, and none of the applicants for the IHR bursary fulfilled the set criteria, so no bursaries were awarded for this year.

During the year Tig Lang continued in the role of Bursary Officer, with responsibility for the Bursaries.

**Society Research Blog:** this was launched during the reporting year and is run by the Research Committee. Its purpose is to help share knowledge of research into the life and times of Richard III, whether carried out by Society members, with Society funding, or completely independently of the Society. The blog can be accessed at <https://riiiresearch.blogspot.co.uk>



**Research enquiries:** over the year nearly 50 research enquiries were received and dealt with. These included specific requests for help and advice from schools, students, family historians and general requests for information from a variety of sources.

## 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.

The reporting year was another busy one for education with many queries for information from schools and individual students. To enhance responses to future enquiries it is planned to have a dedicated education/junior section as part of the Society’s website. The purpose of the section will be to provide education and not propaganda, allowing visitors to make up their own decisions and interpretations. Another developing

strand of the Society’s education work is liaison with other bodies such as English Heritage and The Battlefields Trust, who also seek to offer educational support to schools and others. It is hoped that it will be possible for there to be joint projects in the future and those discussions continue. A similar work of liaison needs to be undertaken with examination boards so that the Society can better support GCSE and A level students.

In order to support teachers undertaking projects on Richard III the Society is offering support materials for teachers. It also continues to make a number of modest grants to encourage schools to study the life and times of Richard III.



The Society provided funding for ‘A’ Level students from Wymondham High Academy to take part in a Wars of the Roses living history weekend

## Richard III & Yorkist History Trust

The Trust, founded in 1985 to take over most of the Society’s academic publishing activities, has continued to work with authors and editors of initiatives which it has agreed to support. These are 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 S. Nicholas Shambles, London*. We now expect these projects to be completed in the Trust year 2017/18. The study of the important FitzHerbert family, noted in last year’s report, has, however, had to be cancelled owing to the changed circumstances of the author. We hope it may be possible to revive this at some point in the future.

Last year’s report commented on the new practices adopted by the Trust and its revised and closer relationship with the Society – the Trust’s parent body. The Trust remains most grateful to the Society for its support and the implicit vote of confidence involved.

## 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 known as the Barton Library in his memory.



Dr S. Saxon Barton OBE,  
founder of the Richard III  
Society

During the reporting year 57 new items were added to the collections of books, papers and audiovisual material that are available for members to borrow. Some of the books were donations from generous members. The total number of items borrowed is a little higher than last year's figure at 258: 23 non-fiction books, 20 novels, 200 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 and scans.

The Library Team raised a record sum of £662 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.

**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, including this year supporting the appeal for funds to replace the roof

**Barley Hall:** the York Archaeological Trust (YAT), which owns the Hall, has 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.

The Society's stall at the 2016 Bosworth weekend



**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

The first visit of the year was a long weekend based in Antwerp at the beginning of May, during which time exceptionally hot weather was enjoyed. The trip included a visit to Bruges to see the Procession of the Holy Blood, always, a magnificent spectacle, albeit that on this occasion it arrived over an hour late. Visits were also made to Ghent, Mechelen, Dendermonde and Lier.

On a sunny day in July there was a visit to historic Faversham, an ancient town packed full of listed buildings, and a briefer visit to Canterbury. Reading was the destination on a rainy day in September to visit the city's museum with its replica Bayeux Tapestry. A visit was also made to the ruins of Reading Abbey, where archaeologists are trying to find the burial place of King Henry I. The afternoon was spent in peaceful and serene Minster Lovell, where teas and homemade cakes were provided courtesy of a Ricardian churchwarden.

The usual visits took place to Sutton Cheney and the Bosworth Battlefield in August, and Fotheringhay in December. All trips were well supported during the year and the Visits Committee thanks all the loyal members who signed up for them. New members are welcome to join them too; it is a good way of meeting fellow Ricardians.



Ricardians amongst the ruins of Minster Lovell,  
September 2016

### Sales

Sales Administration (stockholding and sales) continues to be managed by E-Mediacy Ltd on behalf of the Society, whose interests are overseen via the role of Sales Liaison, which is fulfilled by the Secretaries.

This was a slightly disappointing year, with total gross sales of around £10,000, compared with over £14,000 for 2015/16. This figure includes sales of £1,300 at the AGM



Graham Turner greetings cards, a new sales item introduced during 2016/17

(a decrease of some £500 over the previous year) and £900 at Bosworth. This was also down on the previous year but the weather was a significant factor for the event, with rain and high winds affecting overall attendance.

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. During the year, we have continued to stock popular items – both books and merchandise, together with new titles and different merchandise such as cards and CDs. As ever, the Sales team is looking for new items (books and merchandise) for the sales catalogue and would welcome any suggestions.

### The future

There continues to be a high level of interest in the historical Richard III amongst the general public and the media. The Society will continue to seek new opportunities to promote its work and to build on established platforms. 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 and the Middleham's annual Richard III Festival We will also continue to explore the possibility of a commemoration of King Richard elsewhere in the country and will continue to 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 maintain and develop education initiatives, and to work with other like-minded bodies, 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 2018 Triennial will take place in Loughborough, and the theme will be Medieval Coventry.
- The next two AGMs will be held as follows: 2017 in London and 2018 in Leicester.

**The Richard III Society was founded 93 years ago and we have achieved much over these years, not least our significant contribution to fifteenth-century research and scholarship. We will continue the work to secure a fair reappraisal of King Richard and his achievements.**





## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

# THE RICHARD III SOCIETY



Year ended 31 March 2017

## FINANCE REPORT 2016/17

### Highlights

- surplus of income over expenditure
- sizeable reduction in Bulletin costs
- substantial legacy monies received
- Society funds exceed £250k.

The 2016/17 reporting year has been a largely successful one from a financial point of view, with the Society generating a surplus of income over expenditure of just under £10k from normal activities.

As was to be expected, income from membership subscriptions fell by 12.9% when compared with 2015/16, although this was mitigated through the sterling efforts of E-Mediacy's membership department, who undertook a calling programme to non-renewing members early this year. As members are aware, it was agreed at last year's AGM that subscriptions for existing members will increase slightly from this October, which it is hoped will maintain subscription income for 2016/17 at a sustainable level.

Overheads are very slightly up compared with the year 2015/16. The main reasons for this relate to website and marketing and advertising costs. The latter includes the replenishment of the stocks of Society pens and badges which are given away to help publicise the Society. Members will have noticed that the website, which is our shop window for members and non-members, has undergone some exciting development throughout the year and the Executive Committee has been happy to support a slight increase in costs to achieve this.

The costs associated with producing and distributing the *Ricardian Bulletin* and *The Ricardian* have fallen from £54,537 in 2015/16 to £45,838 in 2016/17, which means that as a percentage of subscription income 53.3% went towards producing these excellent publications this year compared with 55.3% last year.

As usual the tremendous work performed by the Visits Committee and organisers of the Study Weekend have ensured that the events enjoyed by members continue to cover costs and even generate a modest surplus.

Spending included £1,744 for the vinyl quotes that can be seen on the walls at the King Richard III Visitor Centre in Leicester and a grant of £5,000 to the Yorkist History Trust.

The total increase in our funds of £50k includes very welcome legacies of just under £40k. These do not form part of our income for tax purposes and in order to highlight this and ring-fence these funds for suitable future projects, they are shown as a separate line in the balance sheet and not as part of the income for the year.

Our immediate financial position is one of relative security and the Executive Committee is open to suggestions as to how members' funds might best be utilised in furthering the aims of the Society.

**Sarah Jury, Treasurer**

**RICHARD III SOCIETY**  
**Accounts for year ending**  
**31 March 2017**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2017**

**ASSETS**

<b>Bank</b>	
Current A/c	£ 15,792.40
No 2 A/C	£ 21,246.26
Business Money Mover	£190,290.37
Monument (note 1)	£ 1,013.12
PayPal	£ —
	£228,342.15

Stock	£ 9,095.63
-------	------------

**Library**

Brought forward	£ 17,299.61
Additions	£ —
Disposals	£ 662.00
	£ 16,637.61

**Prepayments**

AGM 2017	£ 481.55
Study Weekend	£ 11,768.35
Milles Study Day	£ 158.40
	£ 12,408.30

**Debtors**

R3S USA (note 3)	£ 7,740.06
Advertising	£ 30.00
Visitor Centre	£ 240.00
	£ 8,010.06

Bank errors (note 4)	£ 281.67
----------------------	----------

Fixed assets	£ 2,042.99
--------------	------------

£276,818.41

**LIABILITIES**

**Creditors**

Trade	£ —	
Palaeography	£ 1,020.98	
	£ 1,020.98	£ 1,020.98

**Funds**

RCRF	£ 909.24	
Armour (note 2)	£ 5,927.46	
Monument Fund (note 1)	£ 789.76	
	£ 7,626.46	£ 7,626.46

**Accrued income**

Study Weekend 2017	£ 16,580.00	
Milles Study Day	£ 661.50	
	£ 17,241.50	£ 17,241.50

**Members' funds**

Brought forward	£201,241.03	
Surplus for year	£ 9,923.46	
Carried forward	£211,164.49	£211,164.49

Legacies received (note 5)		£ 39,764.98
-------------------------------	--	-------------

£276,818.41

**Notes to the Balance Sheet**

1. Monument Fund bank account has not yet been adjusted to reflect withdrawals from the fund by members redirecting their donations to the Fotheringhay appeal
2. Donations for Dominic Smee's armour awaiting distribution.
3. This figure for the USA includes the 2016 subscriptions which have been settled post year-end.
4. Awaiting reimbursement from HSBC for D/Ds not belonging to the Society.
5. In view of the substantial amount received in 2017 it is appropriate to show these monies separately.

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

*Notes*

## INCOME

Subscriptions	£ 85,962.03
Merchandise sales	£ 9,031.82
Non-members sales	£ 1,255.75
Advertising income	£ 146.00
Donations	£ 3,862.18
Legacies	£ –
Bank interest	£ 118.69
Royalties	£ 127.34
Miscellaneous income	£ 5.00

Any income received via Paypal is quoted net of charges

## Events for members

Study weekends and conferences	
Triennial	£ 19,630.45
Society members' visits	£ 6,322.00
AGM refreshments	£ 155.40
	£ 26,107.85

These are now recorded as being credited to balance sheet funds

£ 126,616.66

## EXPENDITURE

Opening stock	£ 10,642.19
Add stock purchased	£ 3,645.13
Less closing stock	£ 9,095.63
Cost of sales	£ 5,191.69
Direct sales admin costs	£ 5,345.48
Total sales costs	£ 10,537.17

**Membership** £ 8,715.09

## *Ricardian and Bulletin*

Design and print	£ 24,327.02
Distribution	£ 21,511.95
	£ 45,838.97

## Overheads

Committee	£ 6,441.43
Insurance	£ 970.00
Storage	£ 1,188.00
AGM	£ 5,472.74
Floral tributes	£ 74.00
Christmas carol	£ 300.00
Miscellaneous expenditure	£ –
Bank and credit card charges	£ 525.80
Marketing and advertising	£ 1,000.62
Library	£ 168.77
Website	£ 4,673.42
	£ 20,814.78

## Donations

General	£ 2,016.00
	£ 2,016.00

**Awards, grants and bursaries** £ 5,664.26

## Events for members

Study Weekend	£ 17,497.75
Society members' visits	£ 5,608.64
	£ 23,106.39

Transfer of interest to Monument Fund £ 0.54

£ 116,693.20

**Surplus of income over expenditure** **£ 9,923.46**

In 2016 the Richard III Society initiated and financed three favourable contemporary quotes about Richard III which can be viewed at Leicester's King Richard III Visitor Centre.

- Thomas Langton, Bishop of St David's. Letter to a friend, September 1483.
- Dominic Mancini, December 1483
- City of York Records, December 1485

