

# ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



## THE RICHARD III SOCIETY



Year ended 31 March 2018

### 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 again take pleasure in introducing an annual report, this time for the year 2017/2018, demonstrating as it does that we are in good shape and continuing to make progress. However, challenges remain – we need to always be on our guard to ensure that Richard III is treated fairly in the media and we need to be proactive in retaining and recruiting members.

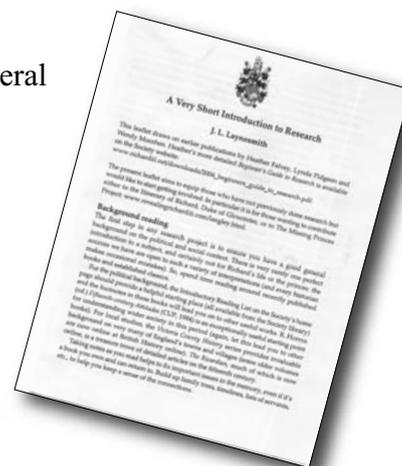
We have maintained our public profile, attending the Middleham, Tewkesbury and Bosworth festivals. We've launched some new research initiatives and produced an excellent basic guide for those wishing to undertake their own research. It is also very pleasing to see that the Richard III & Yorkist History Trust published their 13th publication; over the years the Trust has brought the Society much credit, demonstrating our commitment to good quality historical scholarship.

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 all levels of the Society. I remain grateful for their commitment and enthusiasm and thank everyone involved with the running of the Society. We remain a financially sound and confident organisation and we will continue to work tirelessly to further the rehabilitation of Richard III's reputation.

Phil Stone (Chairman)

### Key achievements for 2017/18

- Preparatory work to ensure that the Society is compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Organising the 2018 Triennial Conference on 'Medieval Coventry'.
- Launch of the Research Prize and new Itinerary Project.
- Production and distribution to members of *A Very Short Introduction to Research*.
- Production and dissemination of a fact sheet covering the life and times of Richard III.
- Publication of the latest Trust book, *The Calais Letterbook of William Lord Hastings, (1477) and Late Medieval Crisis Diplomacy 1477–83*.



### 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 2017 AGM. For the year October 2017 to September 2018 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 2018 AGM.

### **Executive Committee**

At the 2017 AGM the following were elected to serve on the committee: Marlene Arnese, Amanda Geary, Sally Henshaw, Gretel Jones, Sarah Jury, Joanna Laynesmith, Sharon Lock, Marian Mitchell, Richard Smith, Phil Stone, Anne Sutton, Susan Wells, Geoffrey Wheeler and Stephen York. Dave Wells was co-opted onto the committee and Phil Stone was subsequently re-elected Chairman; John Saunders was appointed advisor to the Executive Committee. Sharon Lock resigned during the reporting year and Susan Ollier and Jeanette Melbourne were co-opted on 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, Website 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: the Constitution and Governance Working Party and the Education Working Party.

### **Constitution and Governance Review**

The Working Party has continued its work during the year to examine the options and recommend the best way forward for the Society.

The essential requirement is to establish the Society with some form of legally recognisable status and this has been far from straightforward. The two key considerations have been the potential for charitable status or a company limited by guarantee; these have been the principal areas that have been examined, along with a consideration of whether the status quo could be maintained. A draft constitution for a charitable organisation has been prepared, based on the Charities Commission model and something similar for company status is being worked up during 2018.

Work on the constitutional review had to be suspended during early 2018 due to an urgent need to examine the implications for the Society of GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation), effective from May 2018. However, by the period following that covered by the scope of this annual report, the Working Party had resumed its principal function.

It is expected that a report on the future governance and organisation will be available in September 2018.

### **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 2017 the award was made jointly to Margaret Manning of the New Zealand Branch and Margaret Collings of the South Australia Branch, in both instances in recognition of their many years of service.



**This year's recipients, Margaret Collings with her award and Margaret Manning being presented with hers by Vice-President Rob Smith**

### **Secretariat**

During the year to March 2018, the work of the Secretariat has continued in its traditional role, providing vital support for the Chairman and the Executive Committee plus other ad hoc meetings, events and activities, such as the organisation of and attendance at the Society's stand at the annual Bosworth Medieval Festival weekend.

The Secretary is also the key link between the Society's management and the wider membership and is the first point of contact for general Society enquiries made via post, telephone, e-mail and the website, with the volume of contacts reflecting ongoing interest in Ricardian matters in general and the Society in particular. The role also includes the management of the Society's archive store, which is now located in Ipswich with E-Mediacy.

The year was one of transition for the former Secretaries (Sue and Dave Wells). Last year we reported that Sharon Lock would be taking over but, unfortunately, she was unable to continue in the role. To ensure continuity, Sue Wells resumed the secretarial function, leaving Dave Wells free to continue with the work of the Constitution Working Party. After a further recruitment process, we were pleased to confirm the appointment of Sue Ollier as the new Secretary and the 'two Sues' will work together during a transition period

to enable a smooth handover of the role during the first half of 2018.

The appointment of Jeanette Melbourne as Events Co-ordinator meant that she will assume responsibility in 2018 for organising key Society events including, among others, the Society's stall at the Bosworth Medieval Festival and the Members' Day & Annual General Meeting. Jeanette worked closely with Sue Wells to gain experience of the requirements.

Thus, 2017/18 has been a year of change for the Secretariat but we are confident that the new arrangements will ensure a continued high level of service.

## 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 2018. The bracketed figures are those for 31 March 2017. 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, not all of the new members stayed the course and numbers reduced somewhat over the next couple of years.

The number of fully paid-up memberships at the end of the reporting year was 2,918 (3,562). 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, to calculate the Society's total individual membership is more complex. The family membership categories must assume a minimum of two individuals per household. However, 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 2.3 members per household for the family membership categories, and 2 members per household in the senior family membership categories; therefore, after the above adjustments, the total number of individual members was approximately 3,443.

From 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018 there were 262 (303) applications to join the Society, the 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 132; Austria 5; Belgium 3; Canada 75; China 2; Denmark 4; Finland 4; France 19; Germany 25; Gibraltar 1; Hong Kong 1; Ireland 8; Italy 5; Japan 2; Kenya 1; Luxembourg 1; Malta 1; Netherlands 14; New Zealand 24; Poland 1; Portugal 1; Russia 2; South Africa 1; Spain 5; Sweden 3; Switzerland 4; UK 2,629; USA (including members of US Branch) 441.

For all of the reporting year, the management of the Society's membership function has been overseen by Sue Wells as Membership Liaison Officer. The day-to-day activities have been successfully outsourced to E-Mediacy Ltd. During the reporting year, there was an increase in the subscriptions rates necessitating the updating of standing orders. It is regrettable that a significant number of members failed to pay the new rate despite several reminders in the *Bulletin*. Even more disappointing was the attitude of a small number of these members who responded in an inappropriate manner when reminded of this fact.

## Branches and groups

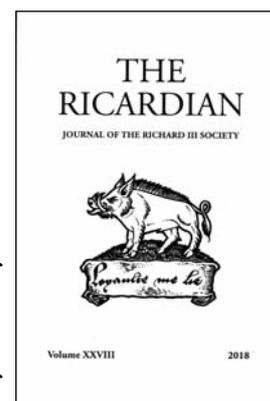
The Society has branches and groups spread throughout the UK and overseas. There are now 22 branches – America has one, together with Canada, New Zealand and the Continent. Australia has four branches with the remainder in the UK. The 19 groups, except for the one in the Republic of Ireland, are all in the UK. The Continental Group and the North Mercia Group both became branches during the reporting year. A new group is proposed for Warwickshire, a part of the country where there is definitely a gap.

The branches and groups page of the website is soon to be updated with a map to show where they are located. We also hope to include photographs of branch and group events and activities. Belonging to a branch or group gives members the opportunity to attend talks, events and outings locally with other Ricardians. Many branches and groups have their own website, produce newsletters and hold their own study days.

Sally Henshaw, the Branches and Groups Liaison Officer, provides an important link between the branches and groups themselves and collectively with the wider Society. She produces *The Ricardian Recorder*, issued four times per year, which provides a forum for branches and groups to advertise their forthcoming meetings. It is also an opportunity to let others know about interesting speakers, or worthwhile places to visit.

## 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 2018 edition includes articles on: the Windsor portrait of Richard III; Edward IV's 'phantom bastardy'; the 1469–70 rebellions of Warwick and Clarence; the life of Hugh Johnys; and the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire lands of Richard, duke of Gloucester.

Fourteen reviewers have done sterling work reviewing 17 books and articles, and summary notes have brought another 17 books and articles to members' attention. Livia Visser-Fuchs is thanked again for assisting with 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 Richard III and Scotland, the children of Richard III, the Crowland Chronicle Continuation and the life and career of Thomas Langton. There has also been a regular feature covering aspects of fifteenth-century life, such as medieval shopping and gardens.

### Online communication

**Society website:** the website is a gateway for members and visitors to the Society's work and achievements. It provides up-to-date news and information about the Society and 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 regularly updating the website, which is a key remit of the Website Communications

Committee. To this end a major review and overhaul of the website is currently under way, including its historical content. Future plans include the adding of key documents from King Richard's reign, such as the *Titulus Regius*.

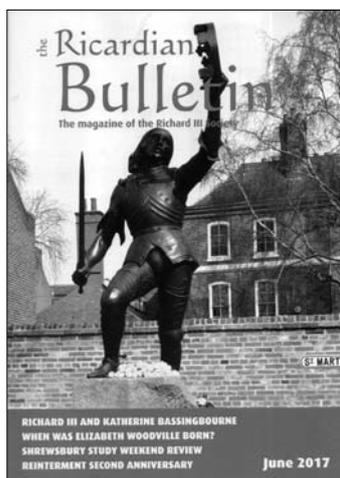
There has been an impressive increase in traffic visiting the website over the past year: around 30,000 users compared to the previous year's c.22,000. Significantly, approximately 84% of these users were new visitors, indicating we are being successful in both attracting new audiences and retaining existing ones.

**Facebook:** the Society's Facebook page, now in its eighth year, 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 our page had over 19,000 followers, with over 20,000 indicating they liked the site and its postings.

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. Posts regularly reach an audience of several thousand, which confirms the page's success in allowing the Society to communicate quickly and effectively with a large and growing audience throughout the world.

**Twitter:** Since its launch at our 2016 AGM the Society's Twitter account has gone from strength to strength. We have nearly 1,500 followers and have posted over 2,000 tweets. Twitter's immediate impact allows for faster-moving and more informal discussions with members and non-members alike. The growing profile of our Twitter account allows us to promote the Society to an expanding worldwide audience, accessing demographics that might not otherwise be open to us.

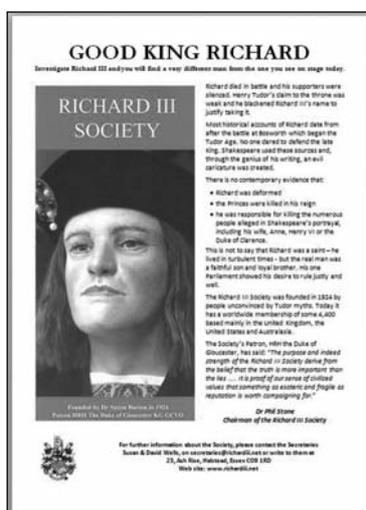
**RIII Mailings:** since its inception in December 2012 RIII Mailings has been providing signed-up members with e-mail alerts about newsworthy events and important items of relevance to Richard III and the Society. New members who provide an e-mail address and agreement to receive e-mails are added automatically, and sent a welcome message explaining the service. RIII Mailings is an important means of communicating with members between issues of the *Bulletin*. Once the new General Data Processing Regulation (GDPR) comes into force we anticipate a decline in numbers signed up for the service, since we will have to contact all recipients to confirm their agreement to receive such e-mails, and it is unlikely all will respond immediately and some might not give their agreement. It is hoped that this will only be a temporary decline, with members rejoining over time. During the reporting year a total of 14 mailings were sent and there is a 50% opening rate. We continue to receive positive feedback from members enjoying this service.



## 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. Some 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. At the 2017 Middleham Festival the Society helped support their 'education day' by providing each of the local schoolchildren attending with a copy of the book *I Was There . . . Richard III* by Stuart Hall.
- Following the BBC's broadcasting of Lucy Worsley's *History's Biggest Fibs – the Wars of the Roses*, which contained a number of inaccuracies, the Society wrote to both Ms Worsley and the BBC pointing these out.
- We were successful in getting a letter published in the influential *Church Times* in response to a previous letter that had asserted a traditionalist view of Richard III. Our response, firmly based on the evidence, made a strong case for the revisionist view.
- When Leicester Cathedral announced that there would be a performance of Shakespeare's *Richard III* in the cathedral, the Society responded robustly. Whilst we were unable to prevent the performance from taking place there, we did persuade the cathedral authorities to allow us to provide a leaflet about the historical Richard III which was given to all those attending the performance.
- We have produced a fact sheet covering the life and times of Richard III, which has been distributed to various Ricardian-linked locations such as Leicester Cathedral, the King Richard III Visitor Centre, Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre and numerous other locations around the UK.
- Following the motion passed at the 2017 AGM requiring the Society to seek professional advice to improve its capacity to engage with the media,



The leaflet supplied by the Society to Leicester Cathedral to give to attendees at the performances of Shakespeare's *Richard III*.

advice has been sought from PR professionals and a small working party was set up to take matters forward. Further progress will be reported in the *Bulletin*.

## 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 and Notes section of the *Bulletin* and the Society's 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 work on editing is continuing with a view to publication in either late 2018 or 2019. 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 six are competent Latinists. Each will is transcribed twice, and then both transcripts are checked by a third person. So far 211 wills have been transcribed once, of which 165 have been transcribed twice and 133 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. In November 2017 we held a Milles Wills Study Day at the King's Manor, York, and nearly all of the participants were able to attend. It was great to be able to put faces to names and also to learn more about some of the testators and about technical matters relating to wills.

**Itinerary Project:** This project, started by the late



Logo of the Milles Project

Lesley Boatwright, aims to compile an itinerary for Richard III before he became king. The current itinerary will be put online, giving others the opportunity to contribute if they find a source that confirms Richard's location at a particular time.

**Middleham Accounts:** the Society holds copies of three sets of late-fifteenth-century estate accounts for the lordship of Middleham: viz, for the accounting years 1465/6, 1473/4 and another from the 1490s. Dr Jonathan Mackman has been working through the originals in The National Archives to verify/correct the Society's previously produced translation of the 1473/4 document and to produce translations of the others. It is planned to make the accounts available online once fully edited.

**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.

**Richard III Society Research Prize:** this was launched during the reporting year as a research prize for the best article on the life and times of Richard III in a peer-reviewed journal. The 2017 prize was awarded to Randolph Jones for his article on 'James Dokeray, Mayor of Drogheda and Constable of Carrickfergus Castle (fl. 1444–82)' which was published in last year's *The Ricardian*.

**A Very Short Introduction to Research:** this brief guide to research was written by the Society's Research Officer and included with the December 2017 *Bulletin*; its aim is to provide members with some basic information and guidance to enable them to undertake research.

**The 2018 Triennial Conference:** This was due to take place at the Burleigh Court Loughborough over the weekend 13–15 April 2018 on the theme of 'Medieval Coventry'. All the preparation work for this conference took place during the reporting year, although the income and expenditure will be reported in 2018/19. From 2019 it has been decided to change from Study Weekends and Triennial Conferences to Annual Conferences.

**Palaeography Course:** During the year six members signed up for the course, and two completed it; one member said that it was too hard and returned the first lesson. 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. As has been said before, those who complete the course have a real sense of achievement and indeed one of the latest 'graduates' is now participating in the Milles Project.

**Bursaries:** The Society funds two bursaries which 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 2017/18 no applications were received from York or from members of the Society. The IHR-administered bursary was awarded to Taylor Aucoin, a postgraduate student at the University of Bristol, for his research on medieval and early modern Shrove Tuesday traditions.

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.

**Society Research Blog:** this was launched early 2017 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. Topics posted during the reporting included the Canterbury Roll and the Duchy of Cornwall accounts. The blog can be accessed at <https://riiiresearch.blogspot.com>.

**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.

This reporting year has been another busy one, with queries for information about Richard III continuing to come from schools and individual students and teachers. Our plans to have a dedicated education/junior section as part of the Society's website provision will now feature extra 'space' from an additional domain gifted to the Society; however, accessing the material will still be done from the main Society site. Websites need to be very visual and so if any members can help by contributing images that would be very helpful. As previously stated, the purpose of the section will be to provide education and not propaganda, allowing visitors to make up their own decisions and interpretations.

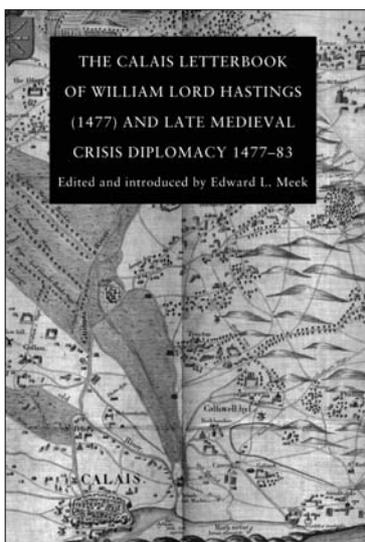
We continue to work with other bodies such as English Heritage and the Battlefields Trust, who share our commitment to offering educational support to schools and others. Similar liaison needs to be undertaken with examination boards so that the Society can better support GCSE and A-level students and their teachers.

In order to support teachers undertaking projects on Richard III the Society offers support and resources for teachers. It also continues to make a number of modest grants to encourage schools to study the life and times of Richard III. An example during the reporting year of the benefits of engaging with schools came when Leicester's Humberstone Junior Academy staged an exhibition entitled 'Richard III: hero or villain?' The Society's Education Officer had visited the school three times over the past couple of years, helping to inspire their interest in Richard III which resulted in the exhibition.

There is a great deal to be done and offers of help are much appreciated (contact: Richard Smith, Education Officer; education@richardiii.net).

### 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. During the course of the year, this resulted in the publication by the Trust, in conjunction with Shaun Tyas, of *The Calais Letterbook of William Lord Hastings (1477) and Late Medieval Crisis Diplomacy 1477-83*, edited and introduced by Edward L. Meek.



The Trust's support for other existing projects to lead to publications, notably Richard Arnold's *Customs of London*, *A Yorkist Merchant's Handbook* and *The Church Records of St Nicholas Shambles, London*, remains ongoing. The Trust also discussed support for two other projects to result in publications by Boydell & Brewer. Finally it agreed to provide a substantial grant towards the cost of a new, definitive edition of *The History of Richard III* by Sir George Buck being prepared by Arthur Kincaid and Shaun Tyas.

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 Society's founder, died in 1957, he left us his collection of Ricardian books. These 21 volumes formed the nucleus of the collection later to become known as the Barton Library in his memory.

During the reporting year 30 new items were added to the collections of books and papers 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 lower than last year's figure at 146: 27 non-fiction books, 12 novels and 107 papers. The lower figures are probably the result of technical problems suffered by the A/V Librarian, and the hiatus while the Papers collection was being transferred from Marie Barnfield to the new Papers Librarian, Clifton Martin.



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

In addition to advising members on their choice of reading material the Library Team also looked up information and supplied photocopies and scans.

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 £259 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), 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 to the YAT on the Hall. 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 Secretariat 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.



**King Richard's tomb in Leicester Cathedral, one of the banners supplied by the Leicestershire Branch in the background.**

## Visits

The first trip of the year was in May to Broughton Castle with a lunch stop in Banbury. Bookings were very disappointing but numbers were just sufficient to enable us to run the coach. Broughton Castle opened especially for us and we were taken around by very knowledgeable and friendly guides.

The proposed July long weekend based in Lancaster had to be cancelled due to lack of interest; somewhat surprisingly, as this was new territory, not previously visited by the Society. There was further disappointment with the lack of bookings for our September trip to Portsmouth Historic Dockyard to see the new Mary Rose Museum. The coach had to be cancelled, but a few hardy members made the journey by train; not too onerous, as Portsmouth Dockyard station is virtually at the gate of the Dockyard.

The usual annual visits to Sutton Cheney and Bosworth Battlefield in August, and Fotheringhay in December took place. Although in both cases bookings for coach travel were down, a pleasing number of members still make the effort to attend using their own transport.

Regrettably this puts the future of Society visits in doubt; trips cannot run without the support of members. We have some trips lined up for next year; however, as to whether the Visits Committee will continue after that will depend on how well these are supported.

## 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 Officer, which is fulfilled by Sue Wells and has now been removed from the Secretarial function.

This was another relatively quiet year compared with the high sales volumes following the discovery and reinterment. There were total gross sales of around £8,400, compared with around £10,000 for 2016/17. Expenditure on administration was £3,030 and stock purchases were a little over £3,260. The sales figure for the year includes takings of £1,850 at the AGM (an increase of some £550 over the previous year) and £720 at Bosworth. The Bosworth figure is approximately £180 down on the previous year. However, 2017 takings were affected by the event attendance, which the organisers confirmed was lower than in recent years.

We continue to work with E-Mediacy to ensure that our members receive value for money in terms of the publications, merchandise, information



**Cover of one of The Legendary Ten Seconds discs, new sales items introduced during 2017/18**

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 items such as cards and a wider range of CDs by arrangement with 'The Legendary Ten Seconds'. The Sales team continues to investigate new items for the sales catalogue and would welcome any suggestions for these from members.

## The future

Six years on from the discovery of the king's remains, there remains 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.
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. To this end we are, with professional advice, exploring ways to improve our handling of and interaction with media.

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, the Milles Project and the Itinerary 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. The development of online information for young people about the life and times of Richard III will be a priority here.

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 and discount options for members. Our social media presence will be enhanced during the summer of 2018 with the opening of an Instagram account.

Key future events include:

- The 2019 Annual Conference will be held in King's Lynn, with a theme of 'King's Lynn – window on Europe'.
- The next two AGMs will be held as follows: 2018 in Leicester and 2019 in Edinburgh.



A Society Research blog posting during the reporting year covered the story of a rare Richard III half-angel coin that had been found and subsequently auctioned with a winning bid of some £40,000. The face of the coin has an image of the Archangel St Michael slaying a dragon, the legend inscribed with 'RICARD:DI:GRA:REX ANGL.' (Richard, by the Grace of God, King of England). The reverse shows an image of an English galley with the monogram 'R' and a rose set below the main topmast, the ship surmounted by a shield bearing the king's arms, the legend inscribed 'O CRUX AVE SPES UNICA' (Hail the cross our only hope). Both sides have the boar mint mark just past the 12 o'clock point.

Images courtesy of and © Dix Noonan Webb.

**The Richard III Society was founded 94 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.**



# FINANCE REPORT 2017/18

## Highlights

- Surplus of income over expenditure
- Subscription income level maintained
- Members funds exceed £260k

The 2017/18 reporting year has been satisfactory from a financial point of view, with the Society generating a surplus of income over expenditure of just over £8k from normal activities.

Although the number of members fell, income from membership subscriptions slightly exceeded that from 2016/17 following an increase in subscriptions agreed at the 2016 Annual General Meeting. This, however, came at a price, as regrettably, as has been reported in the *Bulletin*, a substantial number of members did not act on requests to ensure that they had increased their standing orders at their bank, which caused a great deal of extra work for our membership department at E-Mediacy Ltd. I would take this opportunity to highlight once more the need to ensure this has been done ahead of payments becoming due for the 2018/19 Ricardian year.

Overheads are slightly up compared with the year 2016/17. Areas to note include:

- The AGM, which was in London in this reporting year – this item alone accounts for the reduction in the surplus year on year. It was agreed by members at the last AGM to reduce the frequency at which the AGM is held in London to keep these costs down.
- Committee expenses were higher – it is fair to say that in previous years they have been artificially low, as many committee members were London-centric and/or prepared to subsidise the Society by not reclaiming out-of-pocket travel costs to which they were entitled.
- Costs associated with maintaining the Society website are well down and continue to represent very good value for money

Members will also note the increase in expenditure on awards, grants and bursaries and in addition to the £5,000 to the Richard III & Yorkist History Trust it was a pleasure to be able to award two amounts of £1,000 to individuals engaged in research.

The study weekend in Shrewsbury, like all such events in recent years, was very well managed from a financial, as well as a general organisational, point of view thanks to Lynda Pidgeon and it was possible to refund some of the resultant surplus of income over expenditure from this to participants.

In the balance sheet I would draw members' attention to further legacies of £2,600 received in this financial year for which the Society is most grateful. With members' funds standing at £261,539, and income covering expenditure for the third year in a row, the Society's immediate financial position appears relatively secure. The Executive Committee would welcome suggestions as to how members' funds might best be utilised in furthering the aims of the Society.

**Sarah Jury, Treasurer**

*The accounts follow on pp 11–12*



**The Richard III Society's Grant of Arms was made by the College of Arms in 1989. The Society's Armorial Bearings or 'Full Achievement' appears in the masthead of this report. Above is the Society's Standard, which was granted at the same time. The College of Arms was founded by King Richard III in 1484.**

**RICHARD III SOCIETY**  
**Accounts for year ending**  
**31 March 2018**

**BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2018**

**ASSETS**

<b>Bank</b>	
Current A/c	£ 6,466.75
No 2 A/C	£ 11,527.57
Business Money Mover	£240,442.27
Monument (note 1)	£ 1,013.59
PayPal	£ —
	£259,450.18

<b>Stock</b>	£ 7,059.66
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<b>Library</b>	
Brought forward	£ 16,637.61
Additions	£ —
Disposals	£ 259.00
	£ 16,378.61

<b>Prepayments</b>	
AGM 2018	£ 500.00
Triennial	£4,500.00
Study Weekend	—
Milles Study Day	£158.40
	£ 5,158.40

<b>Debtors</b>	
R3S USA (note 3)	£ 75.40
Advertising	£ —
Visitor Centre	£ —
	£ 75.40

<b>Bank errors</b> (note 4)	£ 353.68
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<b>Fixed assets</b>	£ 2,042.99
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£290,518.92

**LIABILITIES**

<b>Creditors</b>	
Trade	£ —
Refund due (note 5)	£ 550.00
Palaeography	£ 1,407.06
	£ 1,957.06

<b>Funds</b>	
RCRF	£ 480.34
Armour (note 2)	£ 5,927.46
Fotheringhay Church (note 6)	£ 128.80
Monument Fund (note 1)	£ 790.23
	£ 7,326.83

<b>Accrued income</b>	
Study Weekend	£ —
Triennial	£ 18,841.00
Milles Study Day	£ 855.00
	£ 19,696.00

<b>Members' funds</b>	
Brought forward	£211,164.49
Surplus for year	£ 8,008.95
Carried forward	£219,173.44

<b>Legacies received</b>	£ 42,365.59
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£290,518.92

**Notes to the balance sheet**

1. Monument fund bank account has not yet been adjusted to reflect withdrawals from fund by members redirecting their donations to Fotheringhay appeal.
2. Donations for Dominic Smee's armour awaiting distribution.
3. This figure represents a shortfall on *Bulletin* postage costs to the USA due to bank charges
4. Awaiting reimbursement from HSBC for D/Ds not belonging to the Society.
5. Triennial receipt duplicated and not yet refunded.
6. Collection from Xmas raffle not yet paid over to Fotheringhay Church appeal.

# INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018**

**YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017**

**INCOME**

Subscriptions (note 1)	£ 88,755.76	£ 85,962.03
Merchandise sales (note 2)	£ 6,821.11	£ 9,031.82
Non-members sales	£ 1,579.72	£ 1,255.75
Advertising income (note 2)	£ 128.12	£ 146.00
Donations (note 3)	£ 3,151.43	£ 3,862.18
Bank interest	£ 152.37	£ 118.69
Royalties	£ 167.75	£ 127.34
Miscellaneous income	£ –	£ 5.00

**Events for members**

Study weekends and conferences	£ 16,163.30	£ 19,630.45
Society members' visits	£ 4,001.00	£ 6,322.00
AGM refreshments	£ 130.60	£ 155.40
	£ 20,294.90	£ 26,107.85
	£ 121,051.16	£ 126,616.66

**EXPENDITURE**

Opening stock	£ 9,095.63	£ 10,642.19
Add stock purchased	£ 3,261.86	£ 3,645.13
Less closing stock	£ 7,059.66	£ 9,095.63
Cost of sales	£ 5,297.83	£ 5,191.69
Direct sales admin costs	£ 3,834.13	£ 5,345.48
Total sales costs	£ 9,131.96	£ 10,537.17

**Membership**

	£ 7,368.47	£ 8,715.09
<b>Ricardian and Bulletin</b>		
Design and print	£ 26,265.78	£ 24,327.02
Distribution	£ 20,958.34	£ 21,511.95
	£ 47,224.12	£ 45,838.97

**Overheads**

Committee	£ 8,409.04	£ 6,441.43
Insurance	£ 977.98	£ 970.00
Storage	£ 288.00	£ 1,188.00
AGM	£ 7,917.68	£ 5,472.74
Floral tributes	£ 78.00	£ 74.00
Christmas carol	£ 300.00	£ 300.00
Miscellaneous expenditure	£ –	£ –
Bank and credit card charges	£ 530.25	£ 525.80
Marketing and advertising	£ –	£ 1,000.62
Fact sheets	£ 803.00	–
Library	£ 670.74	£ 168.77
Website	£ 3,221.45	£ 4,673.42
	£ 23,196.14	£ 20,814.78

**Donations**

General	£ 520.00	£ 2,016.00
	£ 520.00	£ 2,016.00

**Awards, grants and bursaries**

	£ 7,214.26	£ 5,664.26
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**Ricardian Online project**

	£ 738.24	£ –
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**Events for members**

Study Weekend	£ 13,460.85	£ 17,497.75
Society members' visits	£ 4,187.70	£ 5,608.64
	£ 17,648.55	£ 23,106.39

Transfer of interest to Monument Fund	£ 0.47	£ 0.54
	£ 113,042.21	£ 116,693.20

**Surplus of income over expenditure**

	£ 8,008.95	£ 9,923.46
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**Notes to the income and expenditure account**

1. Any income received via Paypal is quoted net of charges.
2. Figures are after writing off unpaid debtors from previous years.
3. Includes stale cheques from previous years written off as donations.