



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY

Year ended 31 March 2019



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 the annual report, this time for the year 2018/19, demonstrating as it does that we continue to make progress. Challenges remain, of course, not least in ensuring that Richard III is given a fair hearing in the press and media.

We have maintained our public profile, attending the Middleham, Tewkesbury and Bosworth festivals. Following a suggestion made at the 2018 AGM, we have begun a programme of erecting plaques at sites associated with King Richard. Next year we should be able to report where some of those new plaques have been erected.

It remains pleasing to see that the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust continues to bring the Society credit, especially in the academic world, demonstrating our commitment to good-quality historical scholarship.

Much time has been spent investigating the pros and cons for the options for changes in the legal status of the Society in preparation for a ballot which takes place in the summer of 2019. My thanks go to members of the working party concerned for their long and, at times, arduous efforts.

This report provides a useful source of information about the Society and its achievements, 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 the commitment and enthusiasm of everyone who helps to run the Society both nationally and locally. It is sad to see the demise of the Visits Committee but it had served its purpose and was no longer viable.

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 2018/19

- Played a key role in the opposition to the planning application by Horiba Mira Ltd to build on a part of the battlefield of Bosworth.
- Progress by the Constitution Working Party in determining a suitable status for the Society, with recommendation and ballot to follow later in 2019.
- Preparation of The Ricardian Online project, making articles from the journal accessible online for the first time.
- Continuing progress on research projects: Middleham Accounts, the Itinerary, Polydore Vergil and the Milles wills.
- Introduction of Executive Committee meeting summaries in the *Bulletin*, enabling more transparency in our governance.
- Progress toward placing Society memorial plaques at important Ricardian sites.
- Launch of the Society's Instagram account.

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 2018 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 2019 AGM.

Executive Committee

At the 2018 AGM the following were elected to serve on the committee: Marlene Arnese, Amanda Geary, Sally Henshaw, Gretel Jones, Joanna Laynesmith, Jeanette Melbourne, Susan Ollier, Richard Smith, Phil Stone, Anne Sutton, David Wells, Susan Wells, Geoffrey Wheeler and Stephen York. Phil Stone was subsequently re-elected Chairman and John Saunders appointed advisor to the Executive Committee. John Whiting was co-opted onto the committee during 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, *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 the Constitution Working Party and the Education Working Party.

Constitution and Governance Review

The Constitution Working Party made significant progress during 2018/19 in its work on recommending a way forward for the Society and to overcome the issues with which the organisation is faced, such as:

- Non-availability of direct debits;
- Personal liability of Society officers;
- Contracting with third parties.

A consultation paper was issued to all members in September 2018 and this proved to be a useful vehicle in communicating the options and difficulties faced in

settling on a course of action. Specialist legal advice was obtained early in 2019 and this has now enabled the working party to recommend a clear way forward to enable a membership-wide ballot to take place during summer 2019 on the establishment of the Society as a Company Limited by Guarantee, for which a set of draft Articles of Association have been produced in consultation with the legal adviser. It is expected that the outcome of the ballot will be announced at the 2019 AGM.

Secretariat

During the year to March 2019 the Secretariat has continued to provide vital support for the Chairman and the Executive Committee. However, the year was one of transition as the secretarial function was taken over from Sue Wells by the incoming Secretary, Sue Ollier. A smooth handover during 2018 allowed Sue O. to take over key secretarial functions whilst allowing Sue W. to focus fully on the busy roles of Membership and Sales Liaison within the Executive Committee.

Day to day, the Secretary is the key link between the Society's management and the wider membership and is the first point of contact for general Society enquiries, with the volume of contacts reflecting ongoing interest in Ricardian matters in general and the Society. A key role is the organisation and minuting of Executive Committee meetings. In early 2019, in response to member requests at the 2018 AGM, we instituted the production of summary minutes for quarterly publication in the *Bulletin*. The aim was to improve transparency for members around the work of the Committee and this initiative has been well received.

In addition, the Secretary has been an active member of the very busy Constitution Working Party. As part of this, the secretariat was tasked with reviewing the Society's procedural documents and co-ordinating the production of an updated set of procedures, with a view to taking on the central management and control of the revised procedural documents in 2019/2020.

Finally, a close collaboration with Jeanette Melbourne, Events Co-ordinator, has helped support the organisation of the Society's stall at the Bosworth Medieval Festival and the Society's Members' Day and Annual General Meeting (AGM).

Thus, 2018/19 has been a busy year and another year of change, but we feel that recent changes have had a positive effect on the services offered to members by the secretariat, the membership and sales function and events co-ordination. We are confident that this enhanced level of service will continue and will be developed even further in the coming years.

Membership

Although the Society's subscription year runs from 2

October, the financial year runs from 1 April and the statistics below reflect the membership as at 31 March 2019. The bracketed figures are those for 31 March 2018. 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 have reduced in the intervening period.

Membership remained constant during the reporting year. The number of fully paid-up memberships at the end of March 2019 was 2,904 (2,918). 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 assume a minimum of two individuals per household but since about 2005 our database has captured names of family members where provided on the application form. In order to calculate as accurately as possible the overall number of Society members, we have assumed an average of 2.3 members per household for general family memberships and 2 members per household in the senior family membership categories. With this calculation in mind the total number of members at March 2019, including the US Branch, was 3,671.

From 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019 there were 268 (262) applications to join the Society, with significant numbers coming via the Society's website. The membership database records the breakdown of fully paid memberships (family memberships counting as one unit) by country, as follows: Australia 119; Austria 5; Belgium 4; Brazil 1; Canada 68; China 2; Denmark 4; Finland 4; France 13; Germany 25; Gibraltar 1; Hong Kong 1; Ireland 7; Italy 5; Japan 2; Kenya 1; Luxembourg 1; Malta 1; Netherlands 12; New Zealand 25; Norway 2; Poland 1; Portugal 1; Romania 1; Russia 2; Spain 2; Sweden 4; Switzerland 3; UK 2,525; USA (including members of US Branch) 409.

For all of the reporting year the management of the Society's membership function has been successfully outsourced to E-Mediacy Ltd, with Sue Wells acting as the Membership Liaison Officer. We would like to place on record our thanks to E-Mediacy for the efficient manner in which they have managed this process during the year.

Branches and groups

The Society has branches and groups spread throughout the UK and overseas. America, Canada, New Zealand

and the Continent have a branch each, while Australia has four. The remainder of the branches are in the UK. The groups, except for the one in the Republic of Ireland, are all in the UK. During the reporting year the Somerset group became a branch and the new Warwickshire group was successfully formed. Sadly, there is no longer a group in Northamptonshire.

Three branches and groups celebrated significant anniversaries this year. The Scottish Branch celebrated their 20th anniversary, Devon and Cornwall celebrated their 40th and the Victoria Branch has been in existence for an incredible 60 years. The branch and group page of the Richard III Society website now shows photographs of several of the branches' and groups' events and activities and more will be added as time goes on.

Belonging to a branch or group allows members to attend talks, events and outings locally with other Ricardians – all of which creates the chance to learn, meet others with similar interests and make new friends. Many branches and groups have their own websites, produce newsletters and hold their own study days.

Sally Henshaw, the Branches and Groups Liaison Officer, provides a 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.

THE ROBERT HAMBLIN AWARD FOR SERVICE TO THE SOCIETY

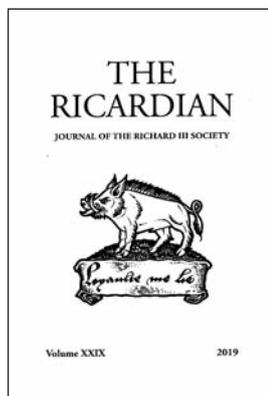
This award was established in 2002 to recognise members who have given significant service to the Society; it is named in honour of the late Robert Hamblin, who was Chairman of the Society from 1989 to 2002. In 2018 the award was made to Jean Townsend of the Lincolnshire Branch, in recognition of her service as branch secretary since 1976.



Jean's award was presented to her by Sally Henshaw, Branches and Groups Liaison Officer, at a meeting of the Lincolnshire Branch.

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.



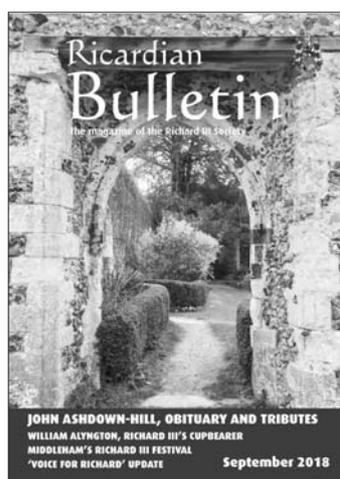
The 2019 edition includes articles on: 'The coronation entry of Margaret of Anjou, 1445' by Anne Lancashire; 'Aspects of the Cult of Henry VI' by Heather Falvey, with tables and illustrations; 'The Earl of Warwick's escape from Dartmouth April 1470' by Hannes Kleineke; 'Good Government, Industry and Ceremony in Richard III's Coventry' by Anne F. Sutton; and 'The Tomb of Richard III' by Nigel Ramsay.

Eighteen books were reviewed, with a review article on 'The London Customs Accounts 1400–1510'. Twenty books and articles had their contents summarised for the benefit of members. Livia Visser-Fuchs is thanked again for assisting with the index.

By March 2019 all the articles from earlier issues, Vols 3–20, had been digitised and indexed in readiness for the launch in summer 2019 of *The Ricardian Online*, a website making all these texts available to everyone, free of charge, with the facility to download individual articles. See www.thericardian.online.

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 regularly in London to review and plan each issue. The *Bulletin* 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 Mortimers, ancestors of the Yorkist kings; the will of Cardinal John Morton; the



mtDNA of the 'princes'; and evidence supporting the *Titulus Regius*. The year's September issue paid special tribute to the late Dr John Ashdown-Hill, and two articles by him, 'Richard III's Christmas' and 'Richard III's Easter', were republished in the subsequent two issues.

Also during the year new environmentally friendly wrapping was introduced for the posting of the magazine.

Online communication

Society website: The website is a gateway for members and visitors to the Society's work and achievements. It provides information on Richard III, his family, places associated with him and the Wars of the Roses in general, plus related sites that focus on the king and his period. It also provides up-to-date news and information about the Society and its structure, activities, services and history. The volume of people accessing the site continues to be high, and feedback from both members and the public 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. Key documents from King Richard's reign are now being added to the website, starting with the *Titulus Regius*.

There has been an impressive increase in traffic visiting the website over the past year, with about 50,000 users compared to the previous year's approximately 30,000. Significantly, approximately 84% of these users were new visitors, indicating we are successfully attracting a new audience while retaining existing ones.

Facebook: The Society's Facebook page, now in its ninth year, has over 20,000 followers, with approximately 21,500 visitors affirming they like 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, allowing the Society to communicate quickly and effectively with a large and growing audience throughout the world. The page, along with the Society's other social media accounts, proved invaluable last year during the Society's campaign against the proposed building on Bosworth Battlefield, enabling information to be shared quickly with a large number of members and supporters.

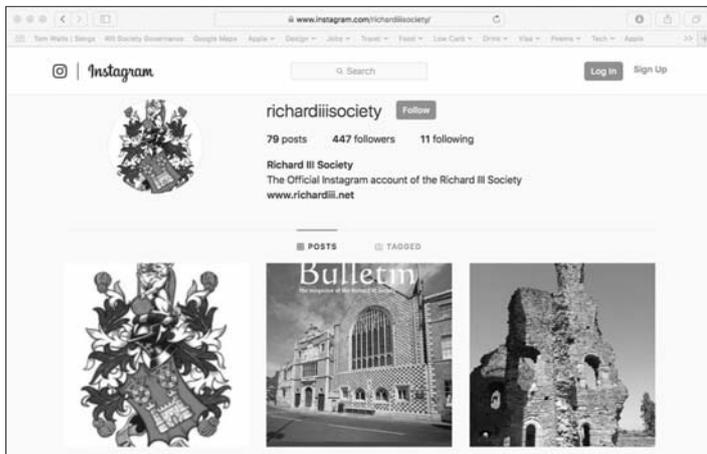
Twitter: Since its launch at our 2016 AGM, the Society's Twitter account has gone from strength to strength. We have over 2,000 followers and have posted

over 3,000 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*. We currently have well over 1,500 members signed up to receive the mailings. During the reporting year a total of 28 mailings were sent and there was a 62% opening rate, an increase from last year. We continue to receive positive feedback from members enjoying this service.

Instagram: This year, the Society also launched an Instagram account, allowing us to use images of historic places of interest and of Ricardian events as another way to promote the Society and its work to a larger audience. This has proved very popular and we already have 439 followers after just 79 posts.

The Society's new Instagram page



Promoting the work of the Society

Richard III continues to have a high public profile and we deal with a constant stream of enquiries from members, other entities, 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 reflect this interaction include the following:

- We continue to support and have a presence at major historical events such as the Tewkesbury Mediaeval Festival, the battle of Bosworth annual

commemorations and Middleham's Richard III Festival. For the 2018 Middleham Festival the Society provided support for their education day by sponsoring the coaches that transported children from local schools to the event.

- The Society, in collaboration with the Battlefields Trust, played a pivotal role in the opposition to the planning application by Horiba Mira Ltd to build a testing facility on part of the battlefield of Bosworth. The Society led an active online campaign, seeking support from relevant individuals and organisations in opposing the application. The Society was also represented at the planning committee when the final decision was taken and spoke against the application. Subsequently the Society's Communications Manager, Amanda Geary, was given an award by the Battlefields Trust for her work in leading opposition to the application.
- We provided factual information about the historical Richard III for a 'trial' of Shakespeare's Richard III organised by the Shakespeare School Foundation, an educational charity that helps schoolchildren gain confidence and self-esteem. The result was a satisfactory 'not guilty' verdict!
- Following discussion with Leicester Cathedral authorities, it was agreed that the Society will have 'a seat at the table' when talks about the content of the Cathedral's Heritage Learning Centre and its programme of lectures, etc., take place. In return, the Society has agreed to give a substantial donation towards the building costs.

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 but has unfortunately been delayed due to the lead researcher's serious ill health. The IPMs will also be accessible online and you can view the wider project at www.inquisitionpostmortem.ac.uk.

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 1487–91. 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 20 members actively transcribing the wills. Each will is transcribed twice, and then both transcripts are checked by a third person. So far 235 wills have been transcribed once, of which 185 have been transcribed twice and 143 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 2018 we held a second Milles Wills Study Day at the King’s Manor, York, which was attended by 25 people and was a very enjoyable and productive event.

Itinerary Project: This project, started by the late Lesley Boatwright, aims to compile an itinerary for Richard III before he became king. Marie Barnfield has been working through checking and significantly updating this information with support from Peter Hammond and Joanna Laynesmith. We have now reached 1469, and so expect it to be completed in the coming year.

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 translations for 1473/4 and to produce one for 1465/6. The first drafts of these are both now complete.

Polydore Vergil: This project to transcribe and translate the section about Richard III from the original manuscript of Polydore Vergil’s *History* was started by the late Dr Lesley Boatwright; after her death Dr Stephen O’Connor agreed to continue it and this is now complete in draft form and should be published in the coming year.

Richard III Society Research Prize: This was launched in 2018 as a research prize for the best article on the life and times of Richard III in a peer-reviewed journal the previous year. This year the prize was given to Hannah Ingram for “‘Pottes of Tryacle” and “‘Bokes of Phisyke”’: the fifteenth-century disease management practices of three gentry families’ in *Social History of Medicine*. The committee also highly commended Christian Steer’s article, ‘The Death of Achilles: the funerary brass of Sir Humphrey Bourchier’ in the

Journal of the Monumental Brass Society and Richard Asquith’s “‘Many byllys were sett up by nyght”’: the commons, political discourse and treason in the rebellions of Warwick and Clarence, 1469–70’ in *The Ricardian*; we would warmly encourage members to read all three.

The 2019 Conference: This took place at the Duke’s Head Hotel in King’s Lynn, 4–6 April 2019, on the theme ‘King’s Lynn: a window on Europe’. All the preparation work for this conference took place during the reporting year, although the income and expenditure will be reported in 2019/20. As always, we are hugely grateful to Lynda Pidgeon and her team for arranging this. In addition, planning was undertaken for a joint



Participants in the 2019 Conference gather at the quayside during a guided tour of King’s Lynn

conference with the Mortimer History Society at Ludlow for July 2019.

Palaeography Course: During the year five members signed up for the course, and two completed it. Although is not easy, it provides an invaluable training for those wanting to do more research, especially on the Wills project.

Bursaries: The Society funds two bursaries which are generally available to postgraduate students studying at UK universities. These 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 2018/19 no applications were received from York or from members of the Society. The IHR-administered bursary was awarded to Rebecca Wheddon of the University of Nottingham for her MA on ‘A Telling Silence: refuting rumour in Ricardian and early Tudor England’.

We also launched a new bursary for postgraduate students wishing to attend the annual Fifteenth-century Conference. This conference is organised by medievalists at a different university each year and consciously combines lectures from established academics and students. It is an excellent opportunity for early-career researchers to deliver papers in a supportive environment where a range of experts can

provide constructive criticism and suggestions. For 2018 we gave bursaries to three students, all of whom are writing articles for the *Bulletin* so that the Society, too, benefits from these bursaries. The students were Daniel Oliver, who spoke about Richard III and the tomb of Henry VI; Ashley Hannay, who is researching Richard III's legal reforms; and Beatrice Widdell, who spoke on 'Belief and Ritual in English Conflict Landscapes', including key battles at which Richard fought.

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 year included the DNA of the Missing Princes and the Tudor Chamber Books. It also provides Rhoda Edwards' *Itinerary of Richard III*. The blog can be accessed at <https://riiiresearch.blogspot.com>.

Research enquiries: Over the year many research enquiries were received and dealt with (mostly by Marie Barnfield and Joanna Laynesmith, with support/suggestions from the rest of the committee as needed). These included specific requests for help and advice from schools, students, family historians, the media and Society members as well as general requests for information from a variety of sources.

Education

The Society's education initiative aims to support the teaching of the life and times of King Richard III in schools and to encourage young people to join the Society. It has been another busy year, with many queries for information from schools and individuals.

At the 2018 AGM the idea of school memberships was launched, and several branches and groups, as well as individual members, have given a membership to a school they know. This builds on the ongoing support some branches and groups already give to their local schools. We also encourage branches and groups to include activities that will appeal to families and younger adults in their programmes.

The development of a separate but linked website to support school students and teachers is in progress. The site will not have a specific study focus, so will be accessible to all, and will include online resources to help teachers in the development of their lessons.

Another ongoing strand of the Society's education work is liaising with other bodies offering similar educational support, such as The Battlefields Trust, with whom we plan to develop joint projects.

For more information about our education initiatives, or to become involved, please 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. There have been no publications in the last year; however, the Trust is supporting existing projects which will lead to publication in the future. This includes Richard Arnold's *Customs of London, A Yorkist Merchant's Handbook* and *The Church Records of St Nicholas Shambles, London*. The Trust is also supporting the publication of *The Urban Church: essays in honour of Clive Burgess* and Gordon McKelvie's book *Bastard Feudalism, English Society and the Law*, to be published by Boydell & Brewer. 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 has also been agreed.

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.

Owing to the sad death of the Non-Fiction Books Librarian Keith Horry, some of the figures this year are estimates. We welcome Cindy Hopkins as the new Books Librarian.

During the reporting year 26 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 about 100 items, approximately 20 non-fiction books, 12 novels and 60 papers.

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 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 £621 towards Library funds by selling duplicate library books and donations of



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

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 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.

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 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 Events Co-ordinator 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

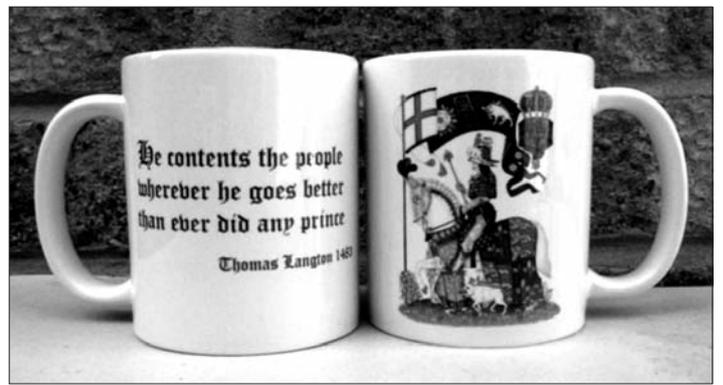
Owing to a decline in numbers attending, making most Society visits no longer viable, the Visits Committee was disbanded during the reporting year. The Society's thanks go to its members for all the work that it did over the 23 years of its existence.

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

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. Again, we would like to thank E-Mediacy for their efficient service during the year.

Sales continued at a steady rate during the year. Precise details are contained in the accounts as reported by the Treasurer. Significant sales opportunities



Many new sales items have been introduced over the year, including this Society mug, featuring the heraldic image of Richard III and Thomas Langton's famous quotation.

included the AGM, where takings were £1,500 (£1,850 in 2017) and Bosworth £1,400 (£720). The Bosworth figure, which is of course affected by overall attendance at the event, is a major improvement on the previous year.

We continue to work with E-Mediacy to ensure that our members receive value for money in terms of the publications, merchandise, information and services provided for them. During the year, we have continued to stock popular items, both books and merchandise, and have added new titles and different merchandise items such as jute bags, keyrings, earrings, mugs, coasters and mouse mats. We continue to investigate new items for the sales catalogue and would welcome any suggestions for these from members.

The future

King Richard continues to inspire a high level of interest amongst the general public and the media, and the Society will continue to seek new opportunities to promote its work and to build on established platforms. We will also endeavour 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. Ongoing initiatives

- 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.
- To maintain the Society's commitment to evidence-based historical research, to complete existing projects while developing our research programme with initiatives that allow for more participation by members (including continuing our popular annual conference), and to develop our relationships with a wider research community and

general public through bursaries, joint conferences and support of the Richard III & Yorkist History Trust's programme of publications.

- To maintain and develop education initiatives, including a dedicated website, 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.

2. Membership

- 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.

3. Governance

- To develop a comprehensive, multi-year plan that will allow us to focus our efforts and to measure our achievements. This will inform our work on the website redesign and the new education website, our social media presence, and our

approach to media and other opportunities to make the case for a reassessment of King Richard's life and reputation.

- If members vote for the Society to become a Company Limited by Guarantee, to complete all steps necessary to register it with Companies House, and to put the new governance structure into place before the end of the 2019/20 fiscal year.
- To document the Society's operating procedures for consistency and best practices, and to ensure orderly handover of duties.
- To continue efforts to improve transparency in the Society's governance and encourage more members to participate.

Key future events include:

- The 2020 Annual Conference will be held in Exeter, with a theme of 'The South-west During the Wars of the Roses'.
- The next two AGMs will be held as follows: 2019 in Edinburgh and 2020 in York.



The battlefield of Bosworth, looking west from Fox Covert Lane across the fields of Fenn Lane Farm. The proposed development by Horiba Mira of a driverless vehicle test track encroaches on part of the battlefield near this view. The development was vehemently opposed by our Society, The Battlefields Trust, the Richard III Loyal Supporters and the Henry Tudor Society, as well as many prominent historians, actors and other well-known personalities, including MP and author Chris Skidmore, who caused a motion to be debated by Parliament. The Society's Communications Manager, Amanda Geary, mounted a widespread online campaign in advance of the planning meeting of 25 September, at which Richard Smith, chair of the Society's Leicestershire Branch, spoke against the proposal, but in the end planning permission was granted.

The Richard III Society was founded 95 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 2018/19

I am pleased to report a modest surplus of just under £3,500 in my final year as Treasurer. This is after the funds generated from our core income enabled us to make the following payments:

- A donation of £3,000 to the Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund (RCRF)
- A little over £2,000 towards a special memorial service for the late John Ashdown-Hill
- A grant of £5,000 to the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust

We have also been very fortunate to receive over £50,000 in legacies from members who have kindly remembered the Society in their wills. These funds have been ring-fenced in the balance sheet and the Executive Committee are exploring plans as to how these should be employed to further the aims of the Society.

Membership subscription income has fallen back slightly to the same level as 2017, but members will be glad to know that there is no proposal to increase subscription rates for 2019. Sales income was flat.

Overheads for the year are down, mainly as a result of the AGM in Leicester being much less expensive than the previous year in London. Committee expenses were also down but this reduction is offset by legal costs of just under £1,500 for advice in connection with the Society's proposed change in status.

Members will note that both income and expenditure on Society visits is substantially down, reflecting that most members now enjoy visits arranged through their local branches and groups, which are of course financially independent of the Society. The only national visits now organised are the annual trips to Fotheringhay at Christmas and Bosworth for the annual commemoration. Both the Triennial conference and the Milles wills study day are included under study weekends and conferences and are financially, as well as logistically and professionally, very well managed.

I believe that I am handing over the post of Treasurer to my excellent successor, John Whiting CBE, in good order and wish the Society every success for the future.

Sarah Jury, outgoing Treasurer

I am honoured to be appointed as the Society's Treasurer and on behalf of all members would like to thank Sarah Jury for her careful stewardship of the Society's financial affairs and all her work over her tenure. She has handed over the financial reins of the Society in good order and I have inherited a healthy position. It is too early in the accounting year to make predictions, but there is no reason to expect significant change to the Society's financial position in 2019/20, though as members will appreciate we are spending further monies on legal advice and the members' ballot in connection with the proposed move to CLG status.

John Whiting, Treasurer (from 1 April 2019)

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 the year ending
31 March 2019

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2019

ASSETS

Bank		
Current A/c	£ 9,732.38	
No 2 A/C	£ 15,008.34	
Savings (note 1)	£266,926.80	
Monument	£ 791.67	
PayPal	£ —	
	<u> </u>	£292,459.19
Stock		£ 6,790.51
Library		
Brought forward	£ 16,378.61	
Additions	£ —	
Disposals	£ 621.00	
	<u> </u>	£ 15,757.61
Prepayments		
AGM 2019	£ 1,864.66	
Study Weekend	£ 15,961.90	
Milles Study Day	£ 158.40	
	<u> </u>	£ 17,984.96
Debtors		
R3S USA (note 2)	£ 7,653.00	
Advertising	£ —	
Unbanked income	£ 22.00	
	<u> </u>	£ 7,675.00
Bank errors (note 3)		£ 1,852.39
Fixed assets		£ 2,042.99

LIABILITIES

Creditors		
Trade	£ 78.00	
Refund due	£ —	
Palaeography	£ 1,551.78	
	<u> </u>	£ 1,629.78
Funds		
RCRF	£ 2,655.34	
Armour (note 4)	£ 5,927.46	
Monument Fund	£ 791.67	
	<u> </u>	£ 9,374.47
Accrued income		
Study Weekend	£ 17,264.17	
Milles Study Day	£ —	
	<u> </u>	£ 17,264.17
Members' funds		
Brought forward	£219,173.44	
Surplus for year	£ 3,477.29	
Carried forward	<u> </u>	£222,650.73
Legacies received		£ 93,643.50

£344,562.65

£344,562.65

Notes to the balance sheet

1. The Savings account includes £93,643.50 of legacy funds, transferred to a new, separate savings account after the year end.
2. This figure represents an estimate re 2018 US branch subscriptions, as awaiting correct number to invoice.
3. Awaiting reimbursement from HSBC for D/Ds not belonging to the Society.
4. Donations for Dominic Smee's armour awaiting distribution.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2018

INCOME

Subscriptions (note 1)	£ 85,710.61	£ 88,755.76
Merchandise sales	£ 5,532.47	£ 6,821.11
Non-members' sales	£ 2,765.38	£ 1,579.72
Advertising income	£ 120.00	£ 128.12
Donations	£ 2,962.14	£ 3,151.43
Bank interest	£ 384.11	£ 152.37
Royalties	£ 140.84	£ 167.75
Miscellaneous income (note 2)	£ 200.00	£ –

Events for members

Study weekends and conferences	£20,291.00	£16,163.30
Society members' visits (see note 3)	£ 596.80	£ 4,001.00
AGM refreshments	£ 230.00	£ 130.60
	<u>£ 21,117.80</u>	<u>£ 20,294.90</u>

£ 118,933.35

£ 121,051.16

EXPENDITURE

Opening stock	£ 7,059.66	£ 9,095.63
Add stock purchased	£ 6,908.75	£ 3,261.86
Less closing stock	<u>£ 6,790.51</u>	<u>£ 7,059.66</u>
Cost of sales	£ 7,177.90	£ 5,297.83
Direct sales admin costs	£ 3,400.36	£ 3,834.13
Total sales costs	<u>£ 10,578.26</u>	<u>£ 9,131.96</u>

Membership

£ 6,051.04	£ 7,368.47
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Ricardian and Bulletin

Design and print	£26,473.46	£26,265.78
Distribution	£20,515.23	£20,958.34
	<u>£ 46,988.69</u>	<u>£ 47,224.12</u>

Overheads

Committee	£ 6,911.02	£ 8,409.04
Insurance	£ 1,007.11	£ 977.98
Legal	£ 1,454.60	£ –
Storage	£ 120.00	£ 288.00
AGM	£ 4,772.19	£ 7,917.68
Floral tributes	£ 78.00	£ 78.00
Christmas carol	£ 300.00	£ 300.00
Miscellaneous expenditure	£ –	£ –
Bank and credit card charges	£ 489.46	£ 530.25
Marketing and advertising	£ 322.74	£ –
Fact sheets	£ 114.18	£ 803.00
Library	£ 315.98	£ 670.74
Website	£ 2,996.20	£ 3,221.45
	<u>£ 18,881.48</u>	<u>£ 23,196.14</u>

Donations

General	£ 600.00	£ 520.00
	<u>£ 600.00</u>	<u>£ 520.00</u>

Awards, grants and bursaries

	£ 6,750.00	£ 7,214.26
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Research

	£ 1,600.00	£ –
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Ricardian Online project

	£ 98.80	£ 738.24
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Blue plaques

	£ 457.80	£ –
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Events for members

Study Weekend	£17,790.65	£13,460.85
Society members' visits (see note 4)	£ 320.00	£ 4,187.70
	<u>£ 18,110.65</u>	<u>£ 17,648.55</u>

John Ashdown-Hill memorial	£ 2,337.90	£ –
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Transfer of interest to Monument Fund	£ 1.44	£ 0.47
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Transfer to RCRF (see note 5)	£ 3,000.00	£ –
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£ 115,456.06

£ 113,042.21

Surplus of income over expenditure

£ 3,477.29

£ 8,008.95

Notes to the income and expenditure account

- Any income received via Paypal is quoted net of charges.
- Compensation from HSBC for bank errors.
- Bosworth wreath – half of these costs are covered by a donation from Canadian Branch.
- From 2018 only annual visits to Bosworth and Fotheringhay.
- Donation by Society to Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund (RCRF) funds: see balance sheet.