

# The Richard III Society

Promoting research into the life and times of Richard III since 1924

**Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester KG GCVO, Founder S Saxon Barton**



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## PRAISE WHERE PRAISE IS DUE

- **Praise for the work of the Looking for Richard Project and the University of Leicester**
- **Funding of the facial reconstruction of King Richard**

When the Richard III Society was founded 90 years ago, no-one could have imagined that the remains of the King would ever be found, let alone reburied in Leicester Cathedral. At that time, the story that the bones had been tipped into the River Soar during the Dissolution of the Monasteries was still prevalent.

Following the work of members of the 'Looking for Richard Project' (LFRP), and principally John Ashdown-Hill, the story of the River Soar was shown not to be true and thanks to members of the LFRP and others, the remains of Richard III have actually been found, under a car park, on the site where the medieval Grey Friars once stood. Back in the 1970's a member of the Richard III Society predicted where the remains were likely to be and, as a result of the research that was later put into finding the site, the actual remains were found on the very first day of the dig, more or less exactly where it had been predicted.

The Richard III Society is very grateful to the LFRP team who are all members of the Society, for their work and, with the archaeologists at Leicester University, for finding King Richard III's remains. The Richard III Society is also very proud of the part it played in assisting the team. The Society contributed to the funding at all the early stages, specifically the desk-based research and the ground-penetrating radar survey. Only weeks before the dig was scheduled to begin, one of the financial contributors had to pull out and it was to the Richard III Society and its chairman, Dr Phil Stone, who Philippa Langley turned to for the needed financial support. An appeal document was prepared by Annette Carson and sent around the world to Society members whose response was overwhelming. Within two weeks, enough money had been pledged to enable the dig to go ahead and even to open a third trench. It is important that all who are interested in or celebrate the finding of King Richard III are made aware of the names of these donors, who are enshrined in Philippa Langley's own 'Roll of Honour'.

Together with the LFRP team, the Richard III Society greatly and gratefully acknowledges the work undertaken by Leicester University, especially Richard Buckley and Mathew Morris, the archaeologists, Jo Appleby, the osteologist, Turi King, the DNA specialist, Kevin Schürer, for the genealogical search, and many others, too numerous to mention for fear of leaving someone out.

When the remains had been recovered, they were scanned in the Imaging Department at Leicester Royal Infirmary and the resulting CT scan was used to make a facial reconstruction of King Richard III. Commissioned and paid for by the Richard III Society, the facial reconstruction was made by the leading expert in cranio-facial analysis, Professor Caroline Wilkinson, then at Dundee University and now at Liverpool John Moores. After visiting six museums, around the country, including the British Museum, the facial reconstruction is now on permanent loan from the Richard III Society to the King Richard III Visitor Centre in Leicester, just a few yards from where the king was found and across the road from where the remains will be reburied.

The story, however, does not end there. Following the publication of Dr Turi King's genome sequencing analysis it appears that there would be a 96% probability that Richard had blue eyes and a 77% probability of Richard having blond hair. As a consequence Professor Caroline Wilkinson has made some changes to the facial reconstruction but has commented that further analysis may prompt more changes.

-ENDS-

### **About the Richard III Society**

With a worldwide membership and local branches the Society is actively engaged in original research through its own initiatives and through collaboration with other institutions bodies and scholars. Through the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust, a charitable body established by the Society, we publish important academic works and make research grants

The Society publishes an annual journal, *The Ricardian*, with original articles on fifteenth century history and a quarterly members' magazine the *Ricardian Bulletin*.

Visit: [www.richardiii.net](http://www.richardiii.net)

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