Ricardian Bulletin Winter 2004

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Contributions
Contributions are welcomed from all members. Articles and correspondence regarding the Bulletin Debate should be sent to Peter Hammond and all other contributions to Elizabeth Nokes.

Bulletin Press Dates
15 January for Spring issue; 15 April for Summer issue; 15 July for Autumn issue; 15 October for Winter issue.
Articles should be sent well in advance.

Bulletin & Ricardian Back Numbers
Back issues of the The Ricardian and The Bulletin are available from Pat Ruffle. If you are interested in obtaining any back numbers, please contact Mrs Ruffle to establish whether she holds the issue(s) in which you are interested.

The Ricardian Bulletin produced by the Bulletin Editorial Committee, General Editor Elizabeth Nokes
and printed by St Edmundsbury Press.
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As you read this, the AGM is behind us and Christmas approaches. Where has the time gone? It was good to see people in Bristol and I hope those who were there enjoyed it. I certainly did. When we got home on the Sunday, I had cause to go out into the garden, where the white rose that had been just a green bush the week before was a mass of blooms - coincidence or sympathetic nature recognising the date?

The AGM saw the election of Peter Hammond as our new president. Following in the footsteps of Patrick Bacon and Jeremy Potter, Peter becomes the Society’s third president. On behalf of you all, I warmly welcome him to the post. We also give a warm welcome to Kitty Bristow a new vice-president. A long standing member of the Society, Kitty has been a prodigious raiser of funds for Ricardian causes. We have also welcomed two new faces on the Executive Committee, Richard Van Allen and Howard Choppin. They will bring some fresh thinking to the committee and I look forward to working with them. Richard has had a long career in marketing communications and his experience will help us develop ideas to improve the promotion of the Society.

This issue has a report from the first joint American and Canadian AGM held in Toronto and I am pleased to see that it was a success. Organising an AGM for one country is hard enough, so the Americans and Canadians are to be congratulated on their achievement. We also have our usual range of articles and features, including the debate around Elizabeth of York’s relationship with Richard which is particularly interesting, not least for the fact that Livia Visser-Fuchs is representing both sides of the argument! The report on the summer survey of members gives us much useful feedback and ideas for the future. I am grateful to Wendy Moorhen for the successful management of this project. Looking ahead, you will find details of next April’s Cambridge Conference, when there will be some fascinating lectures on the four East Anglian families who played such an important role in Richard’s life. We will also be staying at a College known to both King Richard and Anne Neville, so all I can say is ‘book early to avoid disappointment’.

On a sadder note, we carry an obituary for HRH Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, who passed away at the end of October. On behalf of the Society, I wrote to the Patron with our condolences. It’s been a challenging year for the Society, and looking back, we can be proud of the positive media coverage we have secured, as well as being encouraged by the improvements we have made to the running of the Society. Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone the compliments of the season. May Christmas be a time of peace for you all and may the New Year see the beginning of another successful year for all of us who support King Richard III.
Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Richard III Society

The 2004 Annual General Meeting of the Richard III Society was held at the Watershed, Canon’s Road, Harbourside, Bristol, on Saturday, 2 October 2003 at 12.15 p.m. Sixty-one members were present. Apologies for absence had been received from Helen Ashburn, John Audsley, Dudley Barlow, Mike Boon, Daphne Booth, Julia Campbell, Howard Choppin, Iris Day, Barbara Ellams, Heather Falvey, Rachel and Gordon Field, Howard Gregg, Joyce Hutton, Pat Joseph, Renée Jennisson, Andrea Lindow, Gwen Millan, Angela Mortimer, Diane Patterson, Dave Perry, Christine Roberts, Christine Simmonds, Keith Stenner, Doris K Strong, Dr Anne Sutton, Josephine Tewson, Eric Thompson, Juliet Wilson and Ann Wroe.

The Minutes of the 2003 Annual General Meeting, published in the Ricardian Bulletin for December 2003, were approved and signed as correct.

Chairman’s Welcome  The Chairman welcomed members, from the UK and overseas, and introduced the members of the Executive Committee, noting that the 2001 AGM had been in York and that the AGM now visited another historic city with 15th century connections. The last twelve months had been a busy period: much work had been done, but much remained to do. Membership numbers were improving, the website being a major source of recruitment. To enable better cost control both sales and membership services had been taken in-house, and he thanked those who had worked on this, including James Petre, the new membership manager. The Society now had a new database, enabling it to be better informed about its membership. The Bulletin went from strength to strength. The Branches and Groups and committee representatives meeting planned for June 2004 had been postponed but might be reconvened to enable discussion of future plans. There had been evidence throughout the year of positive media impact with members representing the Society’s views on television and in writing and this work would be carried forward with the co-optation of a media professional to the executive committee. The year had seen two silver or twenty-fifth anniversaries, those of the Devon and Cornwall and Norfolk branches. Next year would see the publication of the Wills Project, and the Triennial Conference in April. There are other bodies that also promote Richard III, but the Richard III Society was clearly the oldest and best, a mark of its preeminence being its royal patronage, and the twenty-fifth anniversary this year of H.R.H. The Duke of Gloucester’s Patronage of the Society would be marked by a reception at the College of Arms, when he would be formally invested with the insignia of this office. The Chairman concluded with thanks to the members of the executive committee, to the members of all standing committees and working parties, and to the Society membership as a whole.

Secretary  Elizabeth Nokes read greetings from the American Branch of the Society, which was holding its first joint Canadian-American Branch AGM, and to whom greetings had been sent. The Chairman then read a message of greeting from the Canadian Branch. The secretary’s work throughout the year had comprised communication: with members, in general, as members of branches or groups, contributors to the Bulletin, reporters of media items, and on working parties, including that for the revision of the Constitution. Communication with non-members included PR contact with the media.

Activities since the Annual Report included the annual Bosworth commemoration, and, in light of the postponement of the Branches and Groups meeting, there had been telephone contact with all UK branches and groups, yielding useful information.

Research Officer  Wendy Moorhen re-iterated Anne Sutton’s apologies for absence, and noted that increasingly the makers of television programmes including coverage of Richard III
did consult the Society.

**Librarian** Jane Trump reported that the Library auction had raised over £700.00.

**Visits** John Ashdown-Hill noted that the Visits Committee had developed its role to act as a facilitator for individual visits by Society members, by negotiating concessionary entry to venues including Warwick Castle, Berkeley Castle and the Richard III Museum, York. Suggestions from the membership for other venues would be welcomed, and the arrangement would operate through membership cards. The Visits Committee had been in touch with branches and groups about this initiative, and about how they could have input into the visits programme.

**Fotheringhay Report** The Chairman, in his role of Fotheringhay Co-ordinator, reminded members of the forthcoming Christmas event, and of the Friends of Fotheringhay AGM in November.

At this point in the meeting the Chairman invited Helen Hardegen, from Australia to speak, and she noted that although her branch was separated by many miles from other members, all members were linked by the Society.

**Membership Survey** Wendy Moorhen summarised the results of the survey, which were positive, with useful suggestions and feedback. Members wanted the Society’s image to be improved, new members to be welcomed more positively, and a good balance to be maintained between academics and amateurs. The Society needed a sound membership base, and to maintain liaison with academics. It should be ‘the society of choice’. Geographically the Society was broadening its base, with committee and working party members being distributed more widely across the country, and with the AGM being held outside London. The Bulletin had retained all its old features, while acquiring new ones, and it was noted that membership wanted a clear distinction maintained between the academic level of the *Ricardian* and the Bulletin. The annual *Ricardian* was liked, as also the Annual Report, and the website must be kept up to date. The Society’s research role was to act as facilitator, and it would hope to continue to publish the reports of conferences and study weekends. There was some call for one-day events. Members were apprised of local branch/group contacts through introductory letters and listing in the Bulletin. The library was not able to mount texts online, owing to limited resources. The sales function had been brought in-house and hoped to achieve a better service. Membership would in future be counted by individuals, rather than families, and better information could be supplied under the new arrangements. The website enabled producers and media contacts to locate the Society. It was important to attract younger members to the Society and provide material for them: help from members was needed in this area.

**Strategy** John Saunders, as the Chairman of a West country branch welcomed the meeting to Bristol, and summarised the strategy: where is the Society going and how does it get there? In the past membership had appeared to be stagnating, and the books did not balance. The focus was on research, but the Society needed members at all levels of interest, and an ageing membership had still a lot to offer. For the future the Society should offer value for money, and should seek opportunities for promoting itself and its viewpoint in the media, in both academic and popular fields. The branch/group structure and its relations with the executive committee needed to be looked into, and ways to attract members into branch membership needed investigation. The website assisted communication, and attracted new members, and future developments could include e-commerce, but members without electronic access would still be catered for. In 2006 the Society would celebrate the 50th anniversary of its re-founding: this would be a celebration for members, and would be country-wide. The key message from the executive committee was for members to carry out work collectively, fueled by the efforts of individual members in the UK and overseas.

**Treasurer** Bill Featherstone noted that the year’s income and expenditure was in line with expectations. There was still a deficit but it had been budgeted for, and had arisen due to the production of the *Festschrift*, which was taken into stock as an asset. It would take time to turn around the negative balance, but the intention was to work towards better quality at less, or
no greater, cost. The Treasurer thanked the Auditor and those who had undertaken major re-
organisation work on Society operations.

**The Adoption of the Accounts for 2003-2004** was proposed by Denise Price, seconded by Joan Cooksley and carried nem. con.

**Appointment of Auditor for 2004-2005** The reappointment of Mike Pearce was proposed by Bill Featherstone, seconded by Kitty Bristow and carried nem. con.

**Motion for increase of Society subscription** It was proposed that subscription rates should rise as follows: ordinary member £18.00 [from £15.00], family membership £24.00 [from £20.00], senior citizen family £18.00 [from £15.00], junior/student membership £13.00 (from £11.00), these rates to take effect for existing members from 2 October 2005, and for new members from 2 October 2004. In proposing the motion the Treasurer advised that the increase was necessary in an inflationary age, and to enable the society to be expansionist. He believed it offered value for money. The subscription had not been raised for three years, and the increase would feed into the budget to finance projects and overcome the deficit balance. The executive committee seconded the motion, which was carried nem. con.

**Motion for revision of the Society’s Constitution** Proposing the motion, Peter Hammond noted that changes had been made as needed, and much work had been expended by the working party. The Constitution Working Party seconded the motion, which was carried nem. con.

**The Robert Hamblin Award** On the second occasion of this award, the recipient was Pat Ruffle, who had for many years served as supplier of society journal back issues, and had had a major input into the Fotheringhay kneeler project, being responsible for making up all the kneelers.

**Election of President** Since the death of Jeremy Potter the Society had been without a President, Robert Hamblin having died before he could be offered the post. The Chairman now proposed that Peter Hammond should be elected President of the Society, noting Peter’s long and valuable work for the Society as research officer. The proposal was seconded by Peter Lee, and carried by universal acclamation. Peter responded that he was surprised and grateful, and cognisant of the honour of following Jeremy Potter, a notable administrator. He envisaged the duties of the role to be to advise, when asked, and to warn, if needed. Peter was presented with the insignia of office of President, and in turn presented to the Chairman the appropriate ribbon and badge of office.

**Election of Vice Presidents** John Saunders summarised the particular service to the Society of the proposed vice presidents: Isolde Wigram, re-founder of the Society, whose work we would mark in 2006, John Audsley, active for many years in the Yorkshire Branch, Morris McGee, a chair and vice-chair of the American Branch, Carolyn Hammond, former Librarian, and Kitty Bristow, who had served on the London and Home Counties Branch Committee and as its chair, and who had raised many thousands of pounds for Society causes, including the Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund. That these five members should be elected as Vice Presidents of the Society for 2004-2005 was seconded by the executive committee and carried nem. con. Kitty responded with her thanks to the executive committee, and to fellow members for the honour done to her. She and Carolyn were both invested with their badges of office.

**Election of Committee for 2004 – 2005** Twelve nominations having been received for the twelve vacancies, it was agreed that the following members were elected to the executive committee for 2004-2005: John Ashdown-Hill, Bill Featherstone, Wendy Moorhen, Elizabeth Nokes, John Saunders, Phil Stone, Anne Sutton, Jane Trump, Neil Trump, Rosemary Waxman, Geoffrey Wheeler and Lesley Wynne-Davies.

**Date of Bosworth and AGM, 2004** The Bosworth commemoration would take place on Saturday or Sunday 20 or 21 August 2005 and the AGM would take place on Saturday, 1 October, 2005, in London.

**Any Other Business** Suzanne Doolan asked how a branch or group might obtain a list of members in its catchment area and was advised to contact James Petre, the membership manager.
Peter Hammond advised the meeting that the Patron would be invested with his insignia of office at the reception in November, and Carolyn noted the existence of the Robert Hamblin memorial fund to which members could contribute to fund the insignia of office.

The meeting was concluded by the Chairman’s thanks to all attendees, and to members of the Croydon Group for manning reception.

**Major Craft Sale at Members’ Day / A.G.M.**
The twenty-sixth Major Craft Sale, run by the Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund, was held at the 2004 Member’s Day/AGM from 11.00 a.m. until the start of the meeting, and during the lunch and tea intervals. The craft stall, art and ‘grot’ stall, card/book stall and raffle, made a total of £240.92.

We would like to thank all those who contributed items for sale or raffle, and who helped on the stalls during the day, including –

Daphne Booth, Joan Cooksley, Joyce Hutton, Jean Judd, Sandra Pendlington, Elaine Robinson, Beth Stone, Miss D K Strong, Shirley Watson, Geoffrey Wheeler and Isolde Wigram. Our thanks to them all, and our apologies to anyone we have omitted.

**Elizabeth Nokes, Kitty Bristow and Phil Stone**

**New Members of the Executive Committee**

Two new members have joined the Executive Committee following this year’s AGM. They have been welcomed in ‘From the Chairman’ and here we give you some details about their backgrounds and roles on the committee.

**Richard Van Allen**
Richard will be undertaking the role of Reputation Management Officer, a modern term for what is also known as public relations and promotion. He brings to the Society over twenty years experience in this field. Originating from Zimbabwe (then Southern Rhodesia) Richard came to the United Kingdom and joined the Scots Guards with postings in London, Germany, and Kenya. He left the army whilst in Kenya and joined a safari firm and spent the next two years out in the Kenyan “bush”. On his return to the UK Richard joined the London office of the State Government of Western Australia, where he was responsible for promoting throughout Europe the investment opportunities offered by the state’s rich mineral and energy resources. Later he joined one of the UK’s biggest firms dealing with engineering and construction contracts in the energy industry. He had responsibility for their publicity and promotion activities. At present Richard is a freelance image and communications consultant and he will be developing plans to help raise the profile of the Society.

**Howard Choppin**
Howard joins the committee without a specific area of responsibility at this stage. He already plays an active role on the Bulletin Editorial Committee where he manages the magazine’s display advertising and has responsibility for website liaison. The Bulletin has carried a number of his reports on visits and events so he is already familiar to many members. Howard has a degree in history from the University of London’s Goldsmith’s College and is currently employed as a civil servant working for the Home Office.
The Robert Hamblin Award for Service 2004

This year the recipient of the Robert Hamblin Award for Service was Pat Ruffle. Pat has been a member since 1980 with husband Peter joining a year or so later. She is known to many Ricardians as the keeper and seller of the back-copies of our journals, a role she relinquished only a few months ago. However, the supplying of the journals was only one of Pat’s contributions to the Society. She was for many years assistant sales officer supporting Anne Smith and was a familiar face at Society’s events and visits during the quincentenary celebrations. However, perhaps her greatest achievement was her contribution to the Fotheringhay kneeler project. This was a major undertaking by the Society to supply embroidered kneelers for the church. Many members were involved embroidering canvas but Pat was the person who made up over a hundred kneelers, stretching and shaping the canvases and then stitching them around the blocks.

Pat is a charming and self-effacing lady who deserves the recognition of a Society she has served so well. The Executive Committee would formally like to thank Pat for her service and, on behalf of the membership and Pat’s many satisfied customers, wish her a happy ‘retirement’.

Celebrating Kendall 1955-2005

Next year the Folio Society will be publishing a new edition of Paul Murray Kendall’s groundbreaking biography of Richard III in commemoration of the book’s fiftieth anniversary. Their catalogue for 2005 notes the following:

Less objective were the Tudors who, with political spin and a little help from Shakespeare, turned Richard III into the arch villain of history. Paul Murray Kendall’s biography, the new addition to our series of ‘Kings & Queens of Britain’, is based as far as possible on contemporary sources and does a super job of revealing the reality behind the myth.

It will be a handsomely bound volume which will doubtless grace the shelves of many Ricardians and book lovers. The autumn edition of the Society’s magazine Folio carries an article entitled ‘Stranger than Fiction’ written by Sir Roy Strong which has a passing reference to King Richard: ‘Equally, one might say, Richard III owes more much to the popularity of crime writing, for the fate of the princes in the Tower forms a rare regal whodunit’. However Sir Roy does make a topical comment on the craft of writing history, touching on an issue that has featured in the pages of the Bulletin. He writes ‘Sadly academe rarely cultivates fine literary style and, indeed, rather despises it, rendering most of what is written unreadable, except by the select few’. Sir Roy, a former director of both the National Portrait Gallery and the Victoria & Albert Museum, is a distinguished writer and broadcaster. He is currently the general editor of the Folio Society’s Kings & Queens of Britain series and is of course no stranger to the Ricardian controversy. During his time as director the National Portrait Gallery’s popular and extensive 1973 exhibition ‘The Age of Richard III’ was shown.

The Richard III Society will also be celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of this seminal and well-crafted biography. During 2005 the Bulletin will publish a series of articles on both the book and its author. We will look at the book’s reception in 1955, its impact on the re-founding of the Society and there will be a personal view by the historian Keith Dockray and of the biographer himself by his daughter Callie Kendall.

Wendy Moorhen
**Ricardian Volume 15**

The 2005 volume of *The Ricardian* will be available in March next year and will be distributed to members separately from the *Bulletin*. There are eleven articles including ‘Antony Wydevile, Lord Scales and Earl Rivers: Family Friends and Affinity’ by Lynda Pidgeon, ‘Richard, Duke of Gloucester and the De Vere Estates’ by James Ross, ‘Danse Macabre Around the Tomb and Bones of Margaret of York’ by Paul de Win, ‘The Execution of the Earl of Desmond’ by John Ashdown-Hill and Annette Carson and ‘Parvenus in Politics: The Woodvilles, Edward IV and the Baronage 1464-1469’ by Andrew J Kettle. There will be three review articles including ‘Weight and Beauty. Gothic Art for England 1400-1547’ by Richard Marks and Paul Williamson from myself and Livia Visser-Fuchs and sixteen books reviews have been received to date.

Anne F Sutton

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

When I joined the Richard III Society many years ago it certainly did not occur to me that I might one day be its President but I was very pleased to be asked if I would accept nomination and was most honoured to be elected at the AGM. I am very conscious that I succeed in the office Patrick Bacon and Jeremy Potter with both of whom I served on the Executive Committee. Both of them were inimitable in their own way and will be very hard to follow. When I was elected I said that I thought my role would be to encourage and to advise - but only if asked. With this plan I look forward to being President, helping the Society in the changes now necessary to convey its message in the world and meeting as many members as possible.

Peter Hammond

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**SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER 2004-2005**

May we remind members who have not yet renewed their subscription, that if it is not renewed by **31st December, 2004**, they will be treated as lapsed and will receive no further copies of *The Ricardian*, and the *Bulletin*.

As a reminder, the subscription rates for renewal of membership for this year are:

- **Full Members** £15.00
- **Families (all members of same family living at same address)** £20.00
- **Pensioners (Men and Ladies over 60)** £11.00
- **Pensioner Families (same family, same address, where all pensioners)** £15.00
- **Junior (under 18 years of age)** £11.00
- **Student (Over 18 attending full time educational course)** £11.00
  (*Committee must approve each case*).

Please send your subscription to: RICHARD III SOCIETY, MEMBERSHIP MANAGER, PO Box 1133, Bedford MK43 7ZX. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the RICHARD III SOCIETY.
Your Society Needs Some More of You!

We have been running this campaign since the spring issue of the Bulletin and whilst we have been successful in recruiting a number of new volunteers we need more. Those who have joined the team are beginning to make a real difference to our work. We are now looking for help in three specific areas:

**Indexer for The Ricardian**
The Society’s flagship journal is a mine of information on the late fifteenth century and to make best use of this we need to maintain its comprehensive index which currently covers up to volume 12. We are looking for someone with indexing skills and experience who has the time and commitment to undertake this role.

**Contact:** Wendy Moorhen, Research Officer

**Technical Support for the Society’s Website**
The site has received many plaudits following its launch in 1997. Since then it has been continuously updated and improved. However, in recognition of its increasingly important role in promoting the Society and recruiting members we are about to embark on a major overhaul, so we need members with the right technical skills to help us with this crucial work. If you have experience of the Macromedia Dreamweaver package or similar and have time and enthusiasm to spare then let us know.

**Contact:** Neil Trump, Webmaster

**Young Ricardian Development**
We need to attract younger members to ensure the Society has a future, so we need to focus on how we might do this. Do you have ideas that would help and do you have experience of engaging young people? This is a new area of work so we are very much starting with a blank sheet – can you help us fill it?

**Contact:** Jane Trump, Barton Librarian

Location is not an issue with these roles so they are open to members wherever they live in the world. Information technology access is essential for the website role, but not for the other two. These are exciting opportunities for members to make a real contribution to our work and to help promote the good name of King Richard III. We hope to hear from you. For contact details see inside front cover.
The Membership Speaks

The results of the summer survey of members

Nearly one hundred and fifty of you responded and we now have much food for thought about what you think of the way we do things and especially the changes that have been introduced in recent years. It is important that we have this feedback and even more important that we listen to what is being said. The feedback has been very useful and will inform and influence the work of the Society at all levels. It goes without saying that whilst we do listen to all views we cannot take on board every one of them. To paraphrase words attributed to Abraham Lincoln ‘You can please some of the people all of the time, and all of the people some of the time, but you can’t please all of the people all of the time’. But we will do our best.

Overall there was a wide consensus that the Society provides good value for money with the range of services and activities that it provides. One key message came through – don’t lose sight of our core aims. The Society’s purpose is to seek a reassessment of the life and times of Richard III and to promote a positive view of the king. Our eyes are very much focussed on this and it is central to our strategy for the future. The reforms we are making enable us to be more effective in achieving this goal in a world that is both changing and challenging.

With most of the survey questions requiring written answers rather than ticked boxes any summary cannot cover all matters raised. What we will do is give an overview of the opinions expressed and ideas put forward, with as many specific examples as possible, together with a response where appropriate. We have grouped the feedback under headings:

Location! Location! - geographical perceptions
Do we have a southern bias? Some members think so and cite the composition of the Executive Committee as an example. They suggest that we need to widen the circle and we agree. Over the past two years we have made a lot of effort to broaden the involvement of members in the management of the Society. Whilst the Executive Committee perhaps inevitably remains London-focussed we do now have members from outside the home counties. The standing committees and working parties increasingly involve members from all parts of the country, most especially from Yorkshire. Our recruitment drive for volunteers has also brought in people from across the kingdom and from overseas too. For example, a Canadian member is researching on the internet as part of our initiative to promote The Ricardian to universities throughout the world.

The location of the AGM proved contentious with arguments both for and against London. We have to strike a balance between being practical and being inclusive: and here we have made progress with two AGMs recently taking place outside London – York in 2001 and Bristol in 2004. This pattern will continue with a non-London venue every third year and we look forward to 2007 when York will again host the event. We think this is the right balance, but if you think otherwise let us have your suggestions.

Ricardian Publications
The new-look Bulletin has been welcomed by most of you, with only a few members expressing a preference for the old style. However, there was more of a debate about content which ranged between preferences for a lighter focus on the one hand and on the other a more serious academic approach. In many respects it is The Ricardian which provides that academic focus with its emphasis on articles based on original research. The Bulletin has always been our in-house magazine with a clear remit for reporting Society news and events. These reports aim to give the entire membership the essence of the experience of being there. This is an important service that the Bulletin provides to the many members who for varying reasons are unable to attend Society
events. More recently we have introduced articles and features of an historical nature to fill the
gap created by The Ricardian becoming an annual journal. We aim for these articles to have
more popular appeal, to be entertaining and to give members a real feel for fifteenth-century life.
Graham Turner’s recent article on jousting is a good example of this approach.

There was widespread satisfaction with the quality of The Ricardian and approval of the
decision to publish on an annual basis. A number of comments were made about content some
wanted more articles on Richard himself and some thought there were too many book reviews.
This may reflect the fact that the 2004 volume contained rather more than usual since the Fest-
schrift Ricardian last year did not contain any. A better balance can be anticipated in next year’s
volume. The desire for more articles on Richard is now perhaps addressed by the regular Bulletin
feature ‘The Man Himself’.

Two other publications were subject to comment in the survey. The Annual Report was con-
sidered to be an interesting and useful document, with the pen portraits of Executive Committee
members being particularly welcomed. A number of you expressed the hope that a new edition of Ricardian Britain would soon be available. We can confirm that a new and expanded edition is
indeed in preparation although we can not give a definite publication date yet.

Our Website
The survey indicated that the website continues to be a popular and effective resource for the
Society. However, a number of observations were made which focussed on the need for the site
to provide access to more information, for there to be regular updates and for better working
links to the American Branch’s site. All this is acknowledged and we will be addressing these
issues during the major over-haul of the site that we are to undertake in the near future.

Public Image
It is clear from the survey that members recognise the importance of this area and they are keen
to see the Society promote its work and raise its public profile. A number of useful suggestions
were put forward, ranging from posters for schools and libraries to the commissioning of media
programmes about Richard. We have recently been proactive on the media front with positive
involvement with the Terry Jones and Tony Robinson programmes earlier this year. We do not
have the resources to commission specific programmes but we can do a lot more to influence
media and popular perceptions of the king. To help us develop initiatives to meet this challenge
Richard Van Allen has recently joined the Executive Committee. He will look after our
‘reputation management’ work, which is the modern term to describe the process of promoting
the organisation’s public image. So look out for some exciting new developments.

Research Activities and Events
Research in many respects is the raison d’etre of the Society so we were particularly interested in
what the survey had to say about this area. The overwhelming view was that members are im-
pressed and satisfied by the range and depth of our research activities. There were a number of
suggestions for improving and expanding what we do. A particular request was that we establish
a support service to assist with research and transcriptions of primary material. To some extent
this happens in an informal way already and the Research Committee is keen to explore how we
might bring such support into the mainstream of our research programme. The focus would be on
helping to facilitate members to undertake their own research rather than to do it for them.
Linked to this development is a suggestion that we organise courses on research techniques. This
idea has already been floated in the Bulletin and although we did not receive many positive re-
sponses we have not ruled out the possibility of developing such courses in the future. In the
meantime there is the booklet A Beginner’s Guide to Research which is available to members.

Suggestions were made for the publication of medieval archives and official records and for
reprints of Calendar Rolls. We are making a start here with the forthcoming publication of wills
from the Logge Register and we are looking into the viability of re-printing Calendar Rolls. The Research Committee is always open to suggestions for new publishing projects.

Research events prompted a spirited response from the survey. There was a suggestion that we should publish the proceedings of our triennial conferences, which has been done in the past, the most recent being those of the 1996 Canterbury Conference. We hope to be able to re-introduce the practice for next year’s Cambridge Conference and we are already talking to the speakers to obtain their agreement. There was also a suggestion that instead of study weekends we hold one-day conferences around the country. Again this is something under consideration, although we would not want to do this at the expense of the study weekends, which are popular and productive.

Library Services
Members are very satisfied with the range and quality of services we offer. Understandably there were comments about postage costs when borrowing books. There is little we can do about this unless the promise of more competition in the postal service leads to cheaper rates amongst providers.

The introduction of the ‘Bookseller’ feature in the Bulletin has proved popular, with one survey respondent noting that “we miss nothing” and indeed we try not to. Questions were asked about the availability of Ricardian booklists and this is in the process of being addressed with the new library catalogues which will be announced in the Bulletin.

Visits
Overall, members were satisfied with the range and duration of visits, although some thought that there ought to be more day trips with those oversubscribed being repeated. The Visits Committee have already taken note of the last point with a number of such trips having been repeated or planned to be so. More visits to the north of England was another request. It was pointed out that coach-based trips are important for members without their own means of transport, especially those who have limited mobility due to age or infirmity.

Reports of visits were particularly appreciated by overseas members who cannot, for understandable reasons, easily visit Ricardian sites. As already stressed we do aim to ensure that reports capture the experience of both the journey and the destination. There were comments about the sometimes short period between the announcement of visits and booking closing dates. We are trying to get around this one through advanced notification in the Bulletin and by posting details on the website.

Branches and Groups
A significant issue from the survey was the question of contact between members and their local branch or group. Some commented that they had never been contacted by their nearest branch/group and wondered what the Society’s policy was on such matters. When new members join they are sent a welcome letter from their nearest branch or group and the opportunity is then open to them to make contact. Branches and groups can themselves ask for details of members living in their catchment area so that direct contact can be made. However, these are costly exercises and have had limited results. The Bulletin is the most effective mechanism for keeping the wider membership in touch with the activities of branches and groups so it is important that we receive regular and up-to-date information from them. The improvements we have been making with the Bulletin and our membership services, together with the planned over-haul of the website, will help to improve the presentation and availability of information about branches and groups.

Another point made concerned those members living in areas not covered by a branch or group or places within catchment areas that are remote from where meetings are held. This suggests that we need to have a mechanism to encourage links between individual members on an informal basis in such areas. This is something we will look into and report back in due course.
Membership Services
We have recently made a number of substantive changes to the management of our membership services but these have been too recent to have an impact on the survey. However, there were a number of suggestions made that we could eventually take on board to improve things even more. One idea was to have membership cards and this is certainly something that we are considering. The Visits Committee is taking forward an initiative to secure reduced-rate admissions to a number of historical sites and for this to work we will need to provide members with some form of identification. There are a number of practical issues that we have to get around first, not least the cost implications. In the short term we will issue cards as evidence of membership to those who want to take advantage now of the reduced admission charge opportunities.

Another suggestion made was that we offer the facility for direct debit payments. This would certainly be a more efficient way to collect subscriptions, but there are legal and financial implications which we would have to explore first. It was also pointed out that membership has in the past been counted only by type (i.e. family) and therefore does not give a true representation of the number of individuals who are members. Our new membership database will allow us to account for members by both type and individual, so future statistics will be more realistic once we establish the individuals that make up existing family memberships. We can also confirm that from 2005 the senior citizen’s rate will apply at 60 years of age for both sexes, which satisfies another request made in the survey.

Young Ricardians
There was some concern expressed that the Society was not attracting and retaining sufficient younger members and a number of suggestions were made about how we might address this. These included an essay competition, a regular feature in the Bulletin for young members and the appointment of an education officer to encourage an interest in schools. This is an issue we recognise needs addressing and we have already started to do this through the Education Working Party. It is developing an initiative to raise the profile of Richard III in schools. We are also planning more direct initiatives aimed at the younger generation and will be seeking help and ideas to take this forward.

And finally ….
You have given us a lot of things to do and we will keep you informed through the Bulletin and Annual Report of the progress we are making. As well as giving us more work you have also made a number of encouraging comments. Two in particular stand out: ‘we seem to be more outreaching’ and ‘I feel you are making a real difference in Richard’s defence – it is noticeable how often the official history of him is challenged now’. Another comment was ‘what will happen to the Society when the truth about Richard III emerges?’ Well, we like to think that the truth is emerging and the more it does the easier our job will become. However, we know from experience that even the truth is open to interpretation so there will probably always be a role for the Society.

Our thanks to all those who contributed to the survey and all the others who have voiced opinions and offered suggestions. The exercise has illustrated that the Society is very diverse in terms of the views and outlook of the membership. The Executive Committee has the job both of listening to all views and of acting in the collective interests of the whole Society. Sometimes it is a balancing act, but as our late chairman Jeremy Potter so succinctly put it ‘All have a role to play’.

The Executive Committee
December 2004
From Elsie Watson
*Daily Telegraph* 24 July, sub category – awful old Ricardian crossword clues … General Knowledge Crossword: ‘15 Across. Duke of …….; supporter and later Lancastrian ally and opponent of Richard III who was probably responsible for the murder of the young Edward V and his brother. (10)’. Solution: Buckingham.’ As she comments ‘well, it looks as if the great ‘who dunnit’ mystery has been solved.

From Elizabeth Nokes

From J C Knights
One for Media Retrospective – and a most unusual reason for the defence! From Stanley Ellin’s excellent crime novel *The Eighth Circle*, page 150: ‘Ruth said airily, “It’s as false as all that nonsense about Richard III”. “I know Richard III”, announced Chapman. “He’s the one who had those kids killed in the Tower, the dirty incubus”. “He did not” said Ruth. “I beg your pardon” The O’Mearagh interposed heatedly, “But he most certainly did ..”. Chapman pointed at Ruth. “I’m on her side .. And I mean no matter how much those kids in the Tower asked for it, you can bet Richard never dared lay a hand on them. Why? Because their grandma wouldn’t let him! Just ask my mother-in-law about that’.

From Geoffrey Wheeler and Peter Hancock
*Daily Mail*, 4th October, ‘History in the Faking! As the National Gallery uses a celebrity magazine format in an exhibition, we present other front pages from the past .. O Yea! Vol.6: The 15th Century: ‘Richard III in his own words – the caring side of our most hated monarch: exclusive extracts from his diaries’. [Issue also includes: ‘Joan of Arc on the road to Rouen: her tips in the fashion stakes – what’s really hot on the French catwalk’ and ‘Vlad the Impaler – the real story, by Mrs Impaler’].

From Marilyn Garabet
*Sunday Telegraph*, 22nd August, ‘Best of the Bard .. a unique poll of members of the Royal Shakespeare Company .. Iago was voted the most unappealing of Shakespeare’s character, ahead of Thersites from *Timon of Athens*, Caliban from *The Tempest* and Gratiano from *The Merchant of Venice*. Richard III, surprisingly perhaps, did not feature.’

**New Book**

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**News and Reviews**

**BBC History magazine**

The October issue of the popular BBC History magazine carried its usual Pass Notes item which that month focussed on the House of York. It was disappointing and misleading in its treatment of Richard III and in response Society Research Officer Wendy Moorhen wrote to the magazine’s editor. She pointed out the factual errors and the positive aspects of Richard that they ignored. An edited version of the letter was published in the November issue and fortunately they retained Wendy’s concluding remark ‘So why not be brave and innovative and commission an article on the “alternative” Richard who may just prove to be the real one.’ It is encouraging that BBC History did include it, but it remains to be seen if they will rise to the challenge. We will certainly be pressing them to do so.

**The Wars of the Roses**

(Course code:O04P159HIR)Course Venue: Rewley House, 1 Wellington Square, OX1 2JA, Oxford Starts: Saturday 5 March 2005 Sat 10.00am - Sun 12.45pm (2 meetings)

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**Colin Richmond’s own Festschrift**

*Much Heaving and Shoving: late-medieval gentry and their concerns.*

The well-known, and sometimes controversial historian, Colin Richmond, recently retired from Keele University and a collection of essays in his honour is being published under the editorship of Margaret Aston and Rosemary Horrox. The focus is on the late-medieval gentry, but one essay will be of particular interest to Ricardians: ‘Perkin Warbeck and the murder of the Princes in the Tower’, by Ian Arthurson.

There is a special pre-publication offer of £15.00, which includes postage and packing. The offer, which originally was for orders received before 31 December 2004, has been extended to 31 January 2005 for Society members. Please send cheques, payable to Dr Margaret Aston, Castle House, Chipping Ongar, Essex, CM5 9JT and quote Richard III Society Member.
**Mastermind Challenger – Jenny Dunn**

Society Member Jenny Dunn appeared on BBC’s ‘Mastermind’ programme on xx August and answered questions on Richard III. The programme is probably familiar to all UK members but for the benefit of overseas members this is one of the most series quiz programmes ever devised involving participants sitting in a black leather chair that has become infamous. They answer questions for two minutes on a chosen specialised subject followed by a second round of general knowledge questions. Each year has its own series with four contestants battling it out each week for a place in the semi-finals. The title ‘Mastermind of the Year’ is a prestigious and much coveted honour.

Jenny is not the first member to sit in the black chair. In the very first series a member of the Society gave Richard as her specialist subject. The Bulletin editors thought it would interesting for Jenny to share her experience with you and to tell us what motivated her to do something most of us only just think about.

**What’s it like sitting in ‘that’ chair?**

It was not as bad as I anticipated. In fact it all seemed quite unreal. Being the first to go at least had the advantage of not having to sit there getting more and more nervous.

**How many questions did you know the answer but couldn’t recall them in time?**

I can’t remember all the questions off-hand, but I think there was only one which I didn’t know the answer. I was very much aware of the fact that there were only two minutes to answer as many questions as possible. If you can’t think of the correct answer it’s better to say anything, even if you know it’s wrong. That’s because in the case of a tie, the number of passes is taken into account.

**How much ‘homework’ did you do before the recording and which books did you use?**

I didn’t have as much time as I would have liked to read up on my subject, but I did manage to re-read substantial amounts of several books and to glance at a few others. My main sources were *Richard III* by Michael Hicks, *Richard III* by Charles Ross and *Richard the Third* by Paul Murray Kendall.

**Any advise to any other member who is tempted to apply?**

First of all, if you want to choose the same subject you will have to wait for a couple of years. The rules of Mastermind stipulate that no one may have a specialist subject covered during the previous series. Secondly don’t take it too seriously as it is, after all, only a game.

**How did you develop an interest in Richard III?**

I have been interested in history in general for as long as I can remember. My interest in Richard started at the age of about 11, but I can’t remember exactly what sparked it off!

**What made you put your name forward for Mastermind?**

For years I used to watch Mastermind and often found I could answer more of the general knowledge questions than the contestants. I vaguely thought that I might have a go myself one day, then the programme disappeared and I thought my chance had gone forever. As soon as it came back I thought I had better try my luck and I was fortunate to make it through the interview.

**Jenny scored xx on her specialist subject. For those of you who didn’t see the show here are the questions courtesy of Phil Stone:**

1) Two days before Edward IV’s coronation, Richard and his brother, George, were elevated into
which order of chivalry?
2) On which hill overlooking Bosworth Field did Richard draw up his forces on the morning of the battle?
3) Who was Henry Tudor’s standard bearer slain by Richard during his final desperate charge across Bosworth Field when he was aiming for Henry himself?
4) In 1482, Richard led an army against the Scots, taking back which town that had been ceded to them by Queen Margaret?
5) Which Archbishop of Canterbury crowned Richard and his queen, Anne Neville, in Westminster Abbey in 1483?
6) When the City of York pleaded hardship, Richard reduced the tolls which the city had to collect each year as part of which fiscal obligation?
7) Which ceremony did Richard and Anne hold in York on 8th September, 1483?
8) In 1484, Richard had Edward IV’s mistress, Jane Shore, tried before and ecclesiastical court, which sentenced her to do public penance before being interred in which London prison?
9) At which castle did Richard first meet his life-long friend, Francis Lovell?
10) Which duke rode alongside Richard and Edward V when they entered London on 4th May, 1483?
11) The night before the Battle of Bosworth, Richard camped near which abbey?
12) What office of state did Richard bestow on John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, in June 1483?
13) Following a failed uprising, the Duke of Buckingham was executed on 1st November, 1483, in which city’s market place?
14) The head of which of Richard’s brothers was exposed, along with his father’s, on York’s Micklegate Bar?
15) In 1470, Richard and Edward went into exile, staying with which governor of Holland, who Edward later made Earl of Winchester?

The answers can be found on page 44
The Man Himself

Richard III: A Better Duke than King?:
Part Three

[In the last part of this article we dealt with how Richard used his political skills when he became king. In this final part we look at his foreign policy and then assess his actions as duke and king.]

Foreign Policy
With regard to foreign policy, Richard would seem to have been a victim of continental politics. Historians have criticised Richard for promoting the 'out-dated policy' of anti-French diplomacy by joining Brittany in an anti-French offensive and thus alarming them. However, was this really the case? Henry Tudor had been of no consequence to a secure king like Edward IV, but Richard was new and insecure. Henry, therefore, became a useful tool for any nation wanting to oppose England. Richard's main aim would seem to be that of trying to secure Tudor and his support for Brittany was minimal. If he had tried to court the French by making more favourable overtures to them, Richard might have allayed some of their fears and have achieved more success in securing the person of Tudor. However, he does not seem to have made a serious attempt to do this, which could be argued as being a political error on his part.

Scotland certainly desired peace with England. There were no fewer than four missions for peace between November 1483 and August 1484. However, Richard chose to continue the support given to the duke of Albany by his brother Edward. It was only when Richard was made more insecure by the death of his son in April 1484 and knew he had to channel his military might towards the south of his kingdom that he was prepared to negotiate a truce with Scotland in September of that year.

Conclusion
So how did Richard match up to the ideal set for a medieval king? A king was responsible for protecting the poor against the unscrupulous rich and Richard was certainly active in this respect. He set up the predecessor of the Court of Requests and he built on his reputation when duke for encouraging honesty in his officials and administrators. He tried to get men of substance appointed to positions of officialdom as they were less likely to be bribed.

The laws passed by Richard's Parliament give an insight into his intentions as king. The laws encouraged trade, protected his subjects against loss of land and goods and promoted the upholding of the law. Some historians argue that others should really take credit for these laws. Others say that he was a typical usurper trying to win over the people but Richard would seem to be trying to extend his 'good lordship' to the whole country. It was a public relations exercise in the sense that he had the natural desire to show what he could do for his people as king. However, there is no reason why this desire could not have been a result of genuine concern, the precedent for which peppers his actions as duke.

Thus we may say that Richard as a politician was something of a paradox. He gave the outward appearance of being the 'good prince' with concern for the vulnerable and, in many ways, this was true. He expressed his desire to be available to all who needed him and he was lavish in his patronage to his supporters yet, as king, he acquired the reputation of only being available to give help or patronage to a closed circle of intimates. A man who seemed to know his own mind as duke, it was commonly believed that he would not go against the wishes of these intimates, especially William Catesby and Richard Ratcliffe. (Colyngbourne's famous rhyme is evidence for this.) He gave great loyalty to his brother and his family and worked hard to help pre-
serve his brother's affinity yet in the end alienated that same affinity by usurping the throne and finally destroying the Yorkist dynasty.

Assessing Richard as king is not an easy task because of the brevity of his reign and the unwelcome intrusion of hindsight. What is clear is that Richard was keen to preserve the continuity of his brother's government and attempted to acquire popularity and acceptance through extending his 'good lordship' to the country as a whole. However, his usurpation resulted in dissent and rebellion. It is in how Richard dealt with this threat to his rule that his lack of political acumen starts to show. To the nobility the poacher had become the gamekeeper and this may have made some of them wary of him. To the commonalty, Richard failed to give the political stability he had promised at his accession and this made him unpopular. With his unpopularity came mistrust, which in turn marred his once respectable reputation, forcing him to the need to deny murdering his wife and harbouring incestuous designs on his niece. The fate of the princes, too, haunted him and could have continued to do so, even if he had won Bosworth.

In Richard’s defence, with his narrow power base and the concentration of rebellion in one particular area of the country, he was very restricted in his choice of options. That being said, the political short-sightedness of his often aggressive foreign policy, his handling of others' hereditary rights after the 1483 Rebellion, his relationship with the more powerful members of the nobility and the general lack of long-term direction give the impression of a man who was happier as a powerful subject who could rule a region effectively but always had the back-up of a higher authority when necessary.

It can be argued then that Richard was much more successful as a duke than as a king. It would seem that he worked the system far more successfully as a subject than as a monarch. With his brother's support and reflected authority he built up his own power base and finally, through his good services to the Crown, acquired the prestige of his own palatinate. The evidence would seem to suggest genuine affection and respect for him as lord from most of the political community. He returned that affection and respect and exploited his position not only for his own benefit but often for that of those around him and for the Crown as well. However, we should not forget Richard's achievements as king. In his short reign he put on the Statute Book some important legislation and his Council of the North was praised well into the next century. He tried very hard to work for the 'common weal' and had a genuine interest in those who served him as well as for his own ambitions.

To return to the beginning, Richard should have won Bosworth and if he had done so he would have had the leisure to plan long-term, widen his power base and consolidate his position with the nobility. With his genuine concern for the well-being of those around him and for the less well-off in society, there is every possibility that he could have shaken off his unfortunate reputation, regained much of his former popularity and continued the Yorkist dynasty successfully into the 16th Century.

Bibliography and Further Reading

MA Hicks: Richard III, The Man Behind the Myth, Collins & Brown, 1992
CD Ross: Richard III, Methuen London, 1992
The Debate:

ELIZABETH OF YORK’S LETTER

A letter apparently written by Elizabeth of York in 1484 was first mentioned by Sir George Buck in 1619 in his book *The History of King Richard the Third*. In this letter the princess makes some very indiscreet remarks. Debate on whether it ever existed has gone on ever since Buck’s book was published and the letter is the subject of our Debate this quarter. Unusually we have one person taking both parts but as usual we invite members to make their own comments on this matter.

From Livia Visser-Fuchs

Ten years ago, in the *Bulletin* of December 1993, March, June, September and December 1994, an exchange of letters took place between Dr Alison Hanham, Miss Isolde Wigram and myself about the authenticity and meaning of the letter from Elizabeth of York to John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, of February 1485. In this letter Elizabeth is supposed to have spoken openly of her wish to marry her uncle, King Richard, and to have been unable to conceal her impatience at the fact that Queen Anne was taking so long to die.

The immediate reason for the correspondence in the *Bulletin* was my article in *The Ricardian* of September 1993, vol. 9 (1991-93), pp. 469-74, about the manuscript of a French translation of Boethius, *De consolatione philosophiae*, BL MS Royal 20 A xix, which has a fascinating inscription on the verso of the last flyleaf: Richard III’s motto *Loyalte me lye*, combined with the name *Elyzabeth*, written immediately below. All words are in the same hand, almost certainly Elizabeth of York’s. Whether the inscription is significant, and if so, what it means, is a matter for argument, but Miss Wigram wished to relate it to Elizabeth of York’s controversial letter.

The ‘problems’ surrounding the letter itself are much older and it may be of interest to Ricardians of ‘today’ to rehearse them and re-open the debate on its authenticity, but it is particularly its meaning that seems to give food for thought, if it is considered to be saying what it has been claimed to be saying.

The letter does not survive and is only known from the paraphrase made by Sir George Buck in his *The History of King Richard the Third* of 1619, printed and discussed in the edition by A.N. Kincaid, 1979, pp. 191, xc-xxiv, cxiv, 308, (for this paraphrase see Appendix below). It was also discussed by Alison Hanham in her ‘Sir George Buck and Princess Elizabeth’s letter: a problem in detection’, *The Ricardian*, of June 1987, vol. 7 (1985-87), pp. 398-400, and by Arthur Kincaid, Buck’s editor, in his ‘Buck and the Elizabeth of York letter: a reply to Dr Hanham’, *The Ricardian*, June 1988, vol. 8 (1988-90), pp. 46-49. Their articles cannot be quoted at length but it is clear, to me at least, that it is impossible to establish even Buck’s paraphrase with any degree of accuracy, let alone certainty. Buck’s manuscript, BL MS Cotton Tiberius E x, f. 238v, was damaged by fire and crucial words were lost. Buck himself later made alterations and these were again re-edited by his great-nephew. What the letter really said cannot be ascertained beyond doubt.

There is no reason to doubt that such a letter from Elizabeth to the duke of Norfolk did exist, and that in it she does ask him for his help and does mention Queen Anne Neville -- who was severely ill in February 1485 and died the next month. Whether Elizabeth asks for Howard’s mediation in the matter of her marriage, and whether she means marriage to
the king, or mediation to the king concerning her situation and/or marriage to someone else, and whether she really expressed a wish that the queen would die soon, remain moot points, which will probably not be solved to everybody’s satisfaction. Personally I think it extremely unlikely that a presumably intelligent, almost nineteen-year-old princess would be childish and indiscreet enough to actually mention her desire to wed the king and for the queen to die on paper, unless she was out of her mind. Dr Hanham, in the Bulletin of June 1994, composed a very convincing and innocent hypothetical reconstruction of the original letter, incorporating everything that Sir George Buck mentioned and using the idiosyncrasies of fifteenth-century polite upper-class correspondence which may seem extravagant to us, (for this reconstruction see Appendix below).

Whether Elizabeth really was indiscreet is only one part of the problem. What intrigues me is why should we want her to have been? What does her indiscretion prove in ‘Ricardian’ terms? That he was a man that people could love? That she was so much in love with her uncle that she threw discretion to the winds and forgot ordinary decency when writing about her aunt’s illness? Sir George Buck, whether he paraphrased the sense of the letter correctly or not, wanted to defend Richard III’s character by proving that Elizabeth did not object to his plans to marry her. He goes on, however, to argue that Richard merely used her: ‘pretended [to marry] her, and obtained the good will of the lady [and] of the queen her mother’ and that ‘this love was made [in] policy and cunningly, … to draw her to him that thereby he might [divert her affection] from the Earl of Richmond’. Hardly an attractive character reference in my view.

Miss Wigram, Bulletin, December 1993, p. 42, considered that Elizabeth’s hope to marry Richard ‘is perhaps the nearest we have yet got to documentary evidence that Richard was innocent of the death of her two young brothers as such feelings in Elizabeth would otherwise be unthinkable’. I think there is enough other evidence that Elizabeth Woodville and her daughters were ‘on speaking terms’ with Richard in 1485 and we need not depend on dodgy transcriptions, tendentious interpretations and damaged manuscript pages for corroboration. And even I, often accused of being a ‘dry academic’, realise that passionate love might be capable of overlooking a few nasty rumours against the object of one’s love.

What do people think?

Appendix:

First of all we have the letter as reported by Sir George Buck and re-edited by Dr Kincaid

’[the Lady Eli]zabeth, being very desirous to be married, and growing not only impatient of delays, but also suspicious of the [success,] wrote a letter to Sir John Howard, Duke of Norfolk, intimating first therein that [he was the] one in whom she most [affied,] because she knew the king her father much lov[ed him,] and that he was a very faithful servant unto him and to the king his brother then reigning, and very loving and serviceable to King Edward’s children.

First she thanked him for his many curtesies and friendly [offices, an]d then she prayed him as before to be a mediator for her in the cause of [the marriage] to the k[i]ng, who, as she wrote, was her only joy and mak[er in [this] world, and that she was his in heart and in thoughts, in [body,] and in all. And then she intimated that the better half of Fe [bruary] was past, and that she feared the queen would nev[er die.] And all these be her own words, written with her own hand, and this is the sum of [her] letter, whereof I have seen the autograph or original d[raft] under her [own] hand, and by the special and honourable favour of the most noble and first count of the realm, and the chief of his family, Sir Thomas Howard, and Baron Howard, etc., Earl of Arundel and of Surrey, and the immediate and lineal [heir] of this Sir John Howard, Baron Howard, Mowbray, and Duke of Norfolk, etc’.

Secondly we have the letter as Professor Hanham suggested it may actually have been.

‘Right well beloved and most worshipful sir, I heartily commend me unto your lordship, as to him in whom is my most trust for
the love the king my father ever bore unto
you and the good service ye ever did unto him
and, ever praying for your good health and
welfare. Thanking you heartily, sir, of your
many courtesies and kindness heretofore
shown unto me, whereof sir, I must now beg
you of a continuance, like as I have written
unto you before. Beseeching your good lord-
ship to be my solicitor in the matter ye wot of
betwixt the king and me. The case with me is
such, as God and ye well know, that his grace
is of a truth mine only joy and maker in this
world that may bring about [my desire? my
marriage?] Doing his grace to wit, if it please
you, that I be ever his in heart, in thought, in
body and in all thing to the pleasure of his
grace. Sir, I heartily pray you to show me
your good lordship and do such labour in this
cause on my behalf as I shall ever be bounden
to pray for you. And I pray Almighty God
have you in his keeping. By your bedeswom-
an Elizabeth’

[Suggested postscript, a ‘potentially ambigu-
ous bulletin on the queen’s illness’]
Sir, the most part of February being passed,
yet the queen still lives

‘Agincourt! Agincourt! Know ye not
Agincourt?’ – well, probably not

BILL FEATHERSTONE

I was interested in the review article in the
last Ricardian (‘Agincourt! Agincourt!
Know ye not Agincourt?’) that cast consider-
able doubt on the accuracy of the Gesta de-
scription of stakes six feet long and pointed
at both ends being brought to the battlefield
of Agincourt. I am not an expert on Agin-
court, but I do know something about mili-
tary tactics, and, being a country boy, rather
more about stakes.

We start with the statement that no horse,
however trained, will charge into an obsta-
cle. Since the reviewer uses the term
‘cavalry charge’, the reader may be forgiven
for thinking in terms of the ‘British Square’
in the Napoleonic Wars, but it must be re-
membered that there the horse, and more
particularly the rider, had a choice. Riding
round was an acceptable alternative, with a
lot less danger to both (the French cavalry
attacks on the British squares at Waterloo
had comparatively light casualties). When
faced with no alternative, a horse will at-
tempt to clear or go through an obstacle.

The much more fearsome and well-defined
barrier of the massed guns that faced the
Light Brigade in the Crimea is a case in
point. Some horses successfully went
through the barrier of the guns and gunners,
and turned; their riders sabred the Russians
and returned the way they had come. There
are other similar examples that could be cit-
ed.

What choice did a horse have at Agin-
court? The reviewer says two – through or
back – but there were in fact four. The his-
torical evidence is that, for whatever reason,
they did not get through, and to suggest, as
the reviewer does, that to go back was a pos-
sibility flies in the face of what we know of
the numbers present on the French side and
the topography of the battlefield. Going
back meant being over-ridden. They could
have attempted to move along the front of
the barrier, or stopped. In fact, there was
probably a gigantic jam with some siphoning
off at the sides, all exacerbated by ‘fallers’
by accident, wound or overthrow. This mass
of stationary, fallen and rearing horses would have been a barrier in itself, as well as a sitting target. All this supposes that there was an effective barrier, and this we know to be true from all the evidence of the outcome of the battle. The horse, or rather its rider, has to believe that hitting the barrier will be unfortunate and going over it impracticable.

So the stakes have to be stout enough to impale, even if they rarely had to be put to the test. There is also the point that from the archer’s point of view a barrier of light stakes was psychologically unlikely to inspire much confidence when faced with the mass of French attackers bearing down on them. There is a practical point too – light stakes would be difficult to drive into the ground and would probably need to be dug in, a more laborious process than setting a heavy stake in. A heavy stake will drive itself most of the way in for the foot or so necessary. The horse impales itself, thus driving the stake further in, and the stake only needs to be firm enough in the ground not to sag, and requires little hammering. The comment of Le Fevre about some stakes dropping is solid confirmation of the simple but effective process involved. The reviewer also under-estimates the amount of good stout coppice timber that would have been available then, and so exaggerates the problem of finding the wood.

Basic geometry tells us that to meet a horse in the most effective place – the chest – a stake of six feet long is fine. One foot goes in the ground, and a standard 3 x 4 x 5 triangle creates a point between three and four feet high – perfect. Eleven feet of stake would create such an acute angle as to be impractical. Driving into all but the hardest ground would have been relatively easy, even better if a couple of side twigs were left untrimmed, and a clod or piece of chalk (there were plenty about) used to clench it in position. An even more wild fancy is that the stakes were sharpened after they were set in place: the mind boggles at the thought of the archers attempting this unnecessary and impractical exercise. The reviewer should realize that ‘sharpened’ does not mean ‘sharp’ in the sense that a pencil is sharp. To fix the stakes in the ground or to impale a horse, the stake did not have to have much of a point. Anyone who has re-used a nail extracted by knocking it back through with a hammer will know that hammering a point does not blunt it so that it is unusable. So if some stakes needed a few taps this was not a problem, but they were more likely to use someone else’s stake to do this than use their nice lead mallets, I suspect.

So we are left with the confirmed knowledge that the simplest solution is usually the best – stout six-foot stakes, sharpened at both ends before the battle will do nicely – and this is just what the Gesta states. Of course such stakes could easily have been worked out of the ground like a giant mooring pin, and fixed elsewhere as required – no problem!

[While this article is about the battle of Agincourt it seemed to the editors to have relevance to other fifteenth century battles, particularly of course the possible charge against pikemen at Bosworth.]

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In his description of the death of Richard III at Bosworth Field on August 22nd 1485, William Shakespeare created a long-abiding image of a doomed king, brought to an ignominious end through his own evil deeds and the acts of treachery of those around him. Richard III; ‘Crookback’; murderer of his nephews; deserted by his followers, unhorsed and surrounded by foes, he was slain, his body to face public humiliation.

The perception of the life and character of Richard III, however, has changed over the last 519 years; Tudor ‘propaganda’ has been replaced by historic and scientific research. Now the spotlight has been turned on the debate over the exact location of his defeat and death in the fields of west Leicestershire. In his influential book *The Art of War in the Middle Ages* 1924, Charles Oman dismissed Bosworth in a few words, saying “this can hardly be taken for serious military study – since it was not settled by strategy or tactics but by mere treachery.” How does this comment sit now with the latest archaeological research being undertaken by Leicestershire County Council, who manage the Bosworth Battlefield Visitor Centre and Country Park?

‘The legend of Dadlington Field’

In 1974 the Bosworth Battlefield Trail and Visitor Centre was opened by Leicestershire County Council to provide an interpretation of the events leading up to and following 22nd August 1485. The Trail interpreted the account of the battle by Danny Williams and this was reinforced in the exhibition and guidebooks. In the lead up to the celebrations that marked the 500th anniversary of the battle in 1985 public debate intensified regarding alternative sites to that championed by Williams and interpreted by the County Council. First Colin Richmond with Dadlington Field, then Peter Foss with the Battle of Redemore, produced texts outlining the evidence for alternate sites.

The dispute over the site of the battle has perhaps proven so difficult to resolve in part because it is the only English battlefield to be extensively interpreted to the public. Inexplicably the 1994 report for English Heritage to underpin the inclusion of Bosworth in the Battlefield Register, failed to assess the relative merits of the various hypotheses and provide a definitive assessment. The Registered area for the Battle of Bosworth encompasses a large area that brings in the theories of, notably, Williams, Foss, Wright as well as other historians.

Prior to 2000 most historians and writers were broadly agreed that the location of the battlefield was between the townships of Shenton, Upton, Stoke Golding, Dadlington and Sutton Cheney. Michael Jones in his 2002 book *Bosworth 1485: psychology of a battle* provided the most radical interpretation of the documentary evidence to date. His account of the battle placed the fighting some 4 miles (6km) west of the “traditional” site, near the township of Atherstone.

**Bosworth Battlefield: A Re-Assessment**

In 2003 Leicestershire County Council, as part of their “Revitalising Bosworth Battlefield” project, commissioned a limited ar-
archaeological survey of the Battlefield area. This first survey was intended to form the basis of a fully programmed, three-year archaeological survey designed to determine the location of the battlefield.

Griffiths and Thomas stated of Bosworth in their 1993 publication The Making of the Tudor Dynasty that "poorly recorded "improvements" by drainage, canal-cutting and railway laying have so transformed Redmoor Plain as enclosure to make detailed topographical interpretation now impossible". Foard, however, believes there is "enormous potential in this battlefield, both in the form of physical and documentary evidence, for the reconstruction of the historic terrain as a basis for a reinterpretation of the action." Techniques of investigating historic landscapes are now well developed, but battlefields pose unusual problems. A battle represents a single day in the life of a landscape that has evolved over time in a complex manner. - the battle of Bosworth represents just 2 hours of history over the 5,000 years of human occupation of the area.

In compiling the County Council’s report Bosworth Battlefield: A Re-Assessment the author of the report, Glenn Foard, used the latest techniques in battlefield archaeology, tried and tested in the United States of America at Gettysburg and Little Big Horn. Initial survey work around Ambion Hill and the plain identified by Foss in his 1990 book as ‘Redmore’ has begun to produce a picture of the medieval landscape as it would have appeared in summer 1485. Soil mapping, analysis of relief and drainage and the underlying geology presented using digital terrain mapping have shown the outlines of potential medieval marshland on the plain around the Fenn Lanes between Upton, Shenton and Dadlington. Further analysis of field names and identification of surviving ridge and furrow have strengthened this picture.

From the terrain maps produced in the Re-Assessment Foard has produced a conjectural account of the battle that accords with the terrain. Oman’s ‘foregone conclusion’ decided by ‘mere treachery’ may in fact have been ‘a hard won battle decided by the tactical brilliance of the senior rebel commander (Oxford), perhaps even exploiting a disastrous miscalculation by Richard in the form and position of his battle array’.
Richard may have positioned his extended battle formation on high ground to the south of Ambion Hill, northeast of, and overlooking, the marshy ground. Norfolk was positioned on the right with Northumberland on the left, positioned to protect the King’s army from any attack by the Stanley’s forces. This deployment may have left the right flank of the Royal army inadequately protected, with the lengthy front being unwieldy and unable to respond to Oxford’s attack.

Henry is shown approaching from the west along the Fenn Lanes, with Oxford in the vanguard and Henry to the rear with the smaller centre. On nearing the marsh Oxford executes a tactical manoeuvre to swung his troops to the north, with the soft ground protecting his right flank, before turning east to clash with Norfolk’s vanguard. At this stage Northumberland was unable to engage, leaving the brunt of the fighting to be borne by Norfolk and Oxford.

With neither vanguard able to gain an advantage, the outcome of the battle was in the balance. At this point Henry began his ride towards the Stanley’s forces, and Richard launched the last charge of mounted knights on English soil: a charge that would take him and his troops to Sandeford, to within a few feet of the rebel pretender to the throne. Victory, at one point tantalisingly close for Richard, was snatched away as the Stanley forces finally committed themselves to battle – on the rebel side. Richard was cut down in the marshy ground near where the Sence Brook crossed the Fenn Lanes.

Northumberland’s troops then broke and fled. Northumberland, who had been unable to engage in the battle, marched his troops from the field. The “victorious field” belonged to Henry. This most significant of English battles may have been won and lost on the field through the tactical exploitation of the terrain, and as such it is a battle well worth further, detailed study.

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Anne Sutton, Howard Choppin and Elizabeth Nokes

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ARCHETYPES AND THE PROBLEM OF RICHARD III

[To ‘secure a re-assessment of Richard’s life and reign’ can be seen as a form of subversion ....]

P.A. Hancock

My founding premise is that people are generally lazy. Since I do not wish to be too argumentative too early let me rephrase this statement: people have evolved to extract the maximum amount of information concerning any particular situation at the least possible cost to themselves. To accomplish this they have long adopted the use of ‘templates’, or pattern-based assumptions, which, because of their general efficiency, continue to proliferate today. Let me present an example that will, I hope, be useful. In visual perception, when a pattern has been encountered many times, it forms a template that allows for fast and efficient cognitive processing by matching what is currently visible to the acquired template. But we can get it wrong. Illustrated below is the classic Muller-Lyer illusion which most people have seen before. It does not matter if you ‘know’ about this illusion, it remains a powerful misperception in which we continue to see the apparent difference in the horizontal line lengths even though our stored knowledge constantly reminds us that they are exactly the same.

Figure 1: The classic Muller-Lyer illusion. The purpose here is for the reader to generate a conscious effort to ‘see’ the lines as the same length. Remembering this level of conscious effort will be important for my argument at a later time.

Try, for just a moment, to make a conscious effort to ‘see’ these lines as the same length. As you stare at the illustration, please also remember the level of effort you have to expend to accomplish this sense of equivalence. I would propose that pattern-matching abilities, so useful to the process of perception, are also found in cognition or, more specifically, in decision making. On encountering a new situation, people are helped to decide what they will do by relying on inferences from previous similar instances. If this does not strike an immediate chord, consider the opposite case: think how difficult it is to engage in brand new activities when you have never done them before, i.e. when there is no obvious template to which to appeal. I recall with great chagrin my one and only, never-to-be-repeated, effort at wind-surfing, when I had no past knowledge of a similar activity to compare it with.

But what, I hear you cry, does this have to do with Richard III? Let me now move to this connection. A major component of history is the story. In general, according to our archetypal templates, we like our stories simple. In part a reflection of early Passion
Plays, in part exercises in moral education, stories are meant not simply to amuse but also to educate. One need only go to any modern movie to see just how simple most contemporary story-telling is. There is no reason to believe this is a modern phenomenon. The theme of the redoubtable hero is told in detail in Campbell’s 1973 book *Hero with a Thousand Faces*, which clearly demonstrates that this characterization supersedes any individual culture.

We know some obvious facts about the hero. First, he triumphs. His triumph is seen as the vindication of the hero’s actions in undertaking battle. In stories with more mythical and religious content, the vindication of the hero is viewed as an expression of divine approbation. As with all dualities, such as light and dark, good and evil, in creating and praising our hero we must generate an opposing force against which he struggles. The epitome of this force is, of course, the villain. The degree to which the hero can be heroic is directly dependent upon the degree to which the villain is villainous: the more reprehensible the villain, the brighter shines the hero who defeats him.

If the primary attribute of the story-book hero is triumph, the comparable attitude for story-book villains is defeat. In fact, this is often the way we impose our template on stories in order to decide the good and the bad in each respective situation: the villain is defeated, and he who suffers defeat is the villain. I am sure that my readers will understand that the crime of Richard III on that far-off August day in 1485 was not predominantly in his character but lay in his defeat. (Paradoxically, of course, this defeat eventually proved the source of both his fame and his infamy.) If any further confirmation were needed of this story-like aspect of events, we can see them in the pronouncements of Henry Tudor, who, understanding that his claim to the throne was tenuous at best, appealed to the authority of God, who he claimed sanctioned his monarchy through victory in battle.

For his safety’s sake, Henry had to appear heroic, and for that to be the case Richard had to be the villain. Of course the propaganda machine, as beloved then as now, would have played down the fact that Henry very probably never struck a blow in his own cause that day, which makes all the more poignant the observation wrenched from the Tudor historians that Richard died ‘manfully in the thickest press of his enemies’.

The problem is that people, being generally lazy, are attached to and rely on their archetypes. We like simple contrasts such as black and white, right and wrong. They allow the cognitive system to categorize events and circumstances, without having to go into all that horrible detail only to discover that the answer is an unsatisfactory shade of grey. Those who seek to profit from entertainment certainly understand not to call too heavily on the viewer’s or customer’s capacity for effortful processing of information. After all, a major part of the process of entertainment is the audience’s getting the story for free. No one knew this better than Shakespeare. Take a situation with which the audience can identify, and then play to their stereotypical expectations. *Richard III* is possibly one of Shakespeare’s most biased plays, as well as one of the most popular. In it, we do not see the prototypical battle of hero versus villain; indeed, Henry Tudor materializes only in the final scenes of the play. Rather, Shakespeare uses Richard as a vehicle to explore the inner workings of villainy.

Given that most people can be shown relatively easily that Shakespeare’s caricature fails to capture the historical Richard, why is it that we still struggle to spread the known truth, and why is that truth so frequently rejected? I think part of the answer lies in the cost of rejecting our archetypes. If, as if often the case, one’s first encounter with Richard III comes through Shakespeare’s play, then Richard is easily pigeon-holed and placed in the ‘villain’ template. The fact that an easily-attached sound byte, ‘the wicked uncle’, is also ready to hand further entrenches this archetypal characterization.

To recast Richard requires two separate effortful actions. One is a fracture of the archetype. To understand the actual story one must engage in a significant effort, just as
with the Muller-Lyer diagram, and people in general are patterned to avoid this extra effort wherever possible. A great effort is required to challenge and re-align our assumptions. When I put such propositions concerning Richard to my daughter, she said that she would wait for the DVD. Waiting for a DVD of the known historical record of Richard III as a clear and interesting storyline might take some time. Please understand, I am not saying that we cannot engage in such efforts. Indeed, in large part, this is what Ricardians do. However, for the everyday working adult, the sustained capacity for such effort is often no longer feasible nor, unfortunately, is it seen as useful. This fact argues strongly that our case must be made to children during their education, when the expenditure of such effort in relation to archetypes is expected. Endeavours by teachers to get the story of Richard ‘straight’ from the start will be repaid in later life when the archetype to be challenged is a fairer, if more complex, one than the traditional ‘wicked uncle’.

However, such an action also questions the validity of more general archetypes. As an illustration, let us consider archetypes embodied as sayings, and take as an example ‘Crime doesn’t pay’. What is evident in many societies is that, manifestly, crime does pay. Even a brief perusal of rates at which crimes are fully and satisfactorily resolved in so-called advanced societies shows people that in fact crime is a reasonably profitable proposition. I certainly do not advocate anyone’s engaging in crime of any kind but simply wish to show that archetypes which we foster in our children and which remain with us as adults, may be vastly wrong but still serve a useful purpose.

Thus in advocating a change in a specific archetype, Ricardians might be viewed as part of a larger movement, which questions the assumptions that serve to hold the fabric of society together. Acting to correct the misperceptions about the last Plantagenet king can therefore be viewed by some, albeit unconsciously, as an indirect form of subversion. While it is often the rôle of the teacher to ‘comfort the disturbed and disturb the comfortable’, there remain many of the comfortable who have no wish to be disturbed. To them, Ricardians will be easy to characterize as a small lunatic fringe insisting on change. For the comfortable in either mind or body, change itself is always threatening.

I think that the issues which I have raised represent only one part of the continuing inability of history in general to place Richard III in the most truthful contemporary light. Should we, as a group dedicated to advancing this truth, resort to making the erstwhile king into the archetypal hero? I hope not. Our primary allegiance must be to the truth, wherever that quest takes us. I for one remain convinced that, as historical truth is further revealed, our appreciation of the last Plantagenet king will grow. Not as a saint, or even an irreproachable monarch, but as someone ill deserving the ‘wicked uncle’ archetype under which most of society blithely stores him.

Acknowledgement
I would like to express my thanks for my colleague Dr Anna Lillios for her helpful and insightful comments on an earlier draft of this work.

Further Reading
What is a Theofonoforium?

LESLEY WYNNE-DAVIES

Volunteers working on the Society’s recent wills projects had a newsletter in which their various discoveries could be described and their queries aired. In the August 1997 issue, Moira Habberjam wrote:

‘I have spent countless hours trying to discover what exactly a THEOFONOFORIUM is or was, but with little result. The experts I’ve consulted seem as perplexed as I am. The word, written twice over with such clarity in 1484, certainly meant something to the scribe and the testator, and I cherish the hope that someone somewhere will know exactly what it is and tell me, so that I can complete Will 103, that of Henry Key, cleric, rector of the parish church of Wallington.

He made several bequests to the church of Wallington, where he hoped to be buried, one of them being five marks ‘to the fabric of the theofonoforium of that church’. Later in his will he mentions it again when he instructed his executors to provide two little alabaster images to be placed ‘in the lower part’, in inferiori parte, of that theofonoforium. At this point a picture of an Easter sepulchre sprang to my mind, with two niches below to house the small alabaster figures.

I did not find the word in any of the Latin, medieval Latin or Greek dictionaries that I searched, nor in medieval English and French word lists either. Even friends more learned than I in such matters were unable to give any help. The word was beginning to haunt me, and had entered my dreams too, with such persistence that I reckon I can claim to be one of the first victims of PPSS – Post-Palaeographic Stress Syndrome.

I now solicited the aid of the professionals. All were unfailingly polite and expressed interest, but none came up with a translation since none had apparently met the word before. The editor of the Oxford Latin Dictionary suggested that the word appeared to him to be entirely Greek, and went on to offer an interpretation of its component parts: theo-phono-phorium, with ‘phono’ meaning ‘killing’ and ‘phorium’ meaning ‘carrying’. He envisaged some sort of holder or carrier for a representation of the crucifixion, such as might be used in Holy Week processions.

He also suggested that a scribal error might have caused the confusion, with a representation of a theophany (i.e., it should have been theofanoforium), but thought this less likely. He further advised that as the word was Greek in formation and ecclesiastical in context, possibly an expert in the Greek Orthodox Church might profitably be consulted. Well, I would have done that as well – if I’d known one.

So there the matter stands, still no nearer a solution, and the word remains untranslated in my version of Will 103. But I picture it still in its place there in Wallington parish church, waiting to be recognized for what it is – ‘a delightful example of medieval workmanship, with several typical later 15th century features, such as the two charming alabaster figures at the base of this well-preserved ??????...’

In the next issue of the newsletter, four volunteers responded to Moira’s cry for help. Livia Visser-Fuchs ‘asked the advice of my major support in hard liturgical times, Dom Eligius Dekkers, OSB, ex-abbot of St Peter’s Abbey, Bruges. He loves the puzzles I hand him, he said, but likes them better when he knows the answer. He suspected that it should read “theofanoforium”, and that it was just a “turned-into-Greek-for-the-sake-of-appearing-learned” term for a monstrance or ostensorium, which often had a “lower floor” in which figures could be placed.’ John Ashdown-Hill agreed with this inter-
pretation, and thought that it was likely to be ‘what is nowadays called a “throne”, being a stand upon which a monstrance is set during veneration of the Blessed Sacrament.’ Marie Barnfield suggested that if the word was ‘theofanoforium’ then it might be a sort of crib scene, as the word ‘theophany’ usually refers to Christmas.

On the other hand, yours truly was adamant that the reading (which is perfectly clear) should not be changed from ‘theofono-’ to ‘theofano-’, believing we should only choose -fono- if we can’t make sense of a -fano- word. This is one of the basic rules of textual criticism: you don’t postulate a corrupt text unless there really is no alternative. And the -fono- word must be fonos (Greek phonos), ‘killing’. I think, like Moira, that the object is an Easter sepulchre.

The medieval church developed a dramatized ritual for the celebration of Easter which involved putting a consecrated wafer as the Body of Christ into a symbolic tomb for its resurrection on Easter Sunday. These symbolic tombs were ‘Easter sepulchres’. At first they may have been just a wooden box placed in a corner, but later in some churches they developed into more permanent structures. Sometimes they are built into the church wall, usually on the north side of the chancel. The one at Hawton (Notts) has been described as ‘one of the finest C14th sculptures in England’, and is illustrated in A Guide to Medieval Sites in Britain, by Nigel and Mary Kerr (London 1988). At the top, the Apostles stand looking up at the feet of the ascending Christ. Below them, in three niches, were the space for the symbolic tomb, a scene of Christ rising from the dead, and a scene of the Three Marys. Below this, in four little niches, are figures of the soldiers who slept all through the Resurrection.

Henry Key’s Wallington was in the diocese of Lincoln, so must be the one in Hertfordshire. This is what Arthur Mee (The King’s England) had to say of Wallington church in 1939: ‘We climbed its lonely ridge and found a gaunt church falling to pieces, with ivy growing through the roof, and mice tearing holes in the cloth of the rough medieval pews. But we came again and found the roof repaired, the mice gone, and the bells back in a tower made strong enough to hold them. ... a man whose ancestors lie here passed this way, saw the valiant wooden angels striving to hold up the broken roof, and came to their rescue.’ No mention of a theophonoforium, though.

Nor does the Victoria County History of Hertfordshire (III 286) mention a theofonoforium at Wallington, though it talks about C15th building works there. The north chapel was probably added then, and the north aisle was roofed about 1440-50. The oak screen which separates the north aisle from the chapel is C15th, as is the altar tomb in the chapel. Henry Key may well have wished to make his contribution to the current embellishment of his church. Another PCC testator, Laurence Harrys (PCC 11 Vox) soon followed him in 1495, leaving money for painting the rood loft and its images.

Cussans, the antiquarian historian of Hertfordshire (vol.1, p.85), gives us a little more information about Henry Key. He was presented to the living (presumably by the abbot of St Albans, who had the advowson) on 3 February 1476 on the resignation of John Swepston, and was followed by a Richard Lofte (no date given).

Easter sepulchre – monstrance – procession of crucifix – crib scene – does anyone know for certain what the word THEOFONOFORIUM means? Would any of our members who live in that part of Hertfordshire like to visit the church and make some inquiries? Are there any early Wallington parish documents, such as churchwardens’ accounts, in the Herts Record Office?

*The Dictionary of Medieval Latin from British Sources, being published for the British Academy by the Oxford University Press, has now achieved eight fascicules of varying size and reached the letter O. The first volume (A-B) came out in 1975, so there is some way to go before T for theophonoforium sees the light of day.
DNA – What is it and how can it be used to establish historic relationships?

The letters 'DNA' are an abbreviation for 'deoxyribonucleic acid': All living beings have DNA, which functions rather like an order pad. It lists the materials required to make the components of living bodies, and specifies the order in which they must be assembled. The structure of DNA was first worked out by two Cambridge scientists in 1953. They demonstrated its significance as the basic coding material of life and in 1988 an Oxford University team discovered that it was sometimes possible to extract, replicate and analyse DNA from dead and buried bones.

Every living cell contains two kinds of DNA:
- Nuclear DNA, which is inherited from both parents in a mixed form.
- Mitochondrial DNA (mDNA for short), which is inherited only from the mother, and is normally transmitted unchanged to the child.

Nuclear DNA cannot be used for genealogical research over a wide time-gap, as there is currently no way of determining which components come from which parent or ancestor. Mitochondrial DNA is very useful and is now widely used to establish maternal line relationships, ancestry and descent. This is possible because occasional spontaneous mutations occur in mitochondrial DNA, which are then passed on to descendants.

MDNA analysis cannot prove the identity of an individual. To clarify the identity of dead remains (bones &c) their mDNA has to be compared with a sample from a known or supposed relative, as was done in the case of the bones thought to be those of the Russian Imperial Family.

A mismatch proves for certain that the bones cannot be the person sought.

A positive match does not prove identity (merely that the bones are those of a person with the appropriate mDNA – and thus a relative in some degree of the person sought).

Ricardian Implications – The Bones in the Westminster Abbey Urn

On the assumption that the Abbey Urn could be reopened:
1. MDNA analysis would not be able to establish for certain the identity of the bones in the Westminster Abbey urn.
2. Depending on the condition of these bones, it may be impossible to extract mDNA from them at all.
3. If their mDNA can be extracted and analysed, the result could demonstrate that the remains cannot be those of the 'princes' (by showing that their mDNA is not that of Elizabeth Woodville). Her DNA could be determined either from her bones, from a female descendant of hers or her sisters, aunts etc.
4. DNA analysis (here looking for the Y chromosome) could establish whether or not the bones are male. It could also show whether or not they are the remains of related individuals.
5. If the bones in the urn could be shown to have both Edward IV's Y chromosome and Elizabeth Woodville's mDNA, that would constitute strong evidence of identity.
Dear Editor,

I am surprised at the alacrity with which some Ricardians have jumped from the illegitimacy of Edward IV to the underhand use of the allegation by Richard in his bid for the throne. This allegation is not mentioned in Richard III’s Titulus regius, which only says that Edward IV’s children are illegitimate, and the children of Clarence are excluded from the throne by their father’s attainder, and therefore Richard should be king. The illegitimacy of Edward IV is superfluous.

The bastardy of his children is based on his marriage to Elizabeth Woodville being illicit and invalid because of four objections, labelled in order of appearance by Professor H.A. Kelly as secrecy – witchcraft – secrecy – precontract. Secrecy from the lords (1) and from the church (3) was openly admitted by Edward IV when he revealed in September 1464 that he was already married to Elizabeth Woodville. Given the reputation of the bride’s mother Jacquetta of Luxembourg, the objection that Edward’s consent was affected by the sorcery of the bride and her mother (2) seems plausible. The marriage was also adulterous because Edward was at the time of the wedding still married to Eleanor Butler, nee Talbot (4), which looks consistent with various odd facts and, given his womanising, is the kind of scrape Edward would get himself into.

The last three objections are linked. Both coercion through witchcraft (2) and impediment by precontract (4) could be concealed because the wedding was not celebrated in public (in facie ecclesie) (3), which also ruled out the legitimacy of the children of the marriage. As Professor R.H. Helmholz and others have shown, Richard III had a strong case under canon law, except possibly on the question of jurisdiction. The matter was decided by assemblies of lords, commons, and London citizens, but the usual procedure would have involved lengthy trials on the legitimacy of the reigning monarch Edward V through the ecclesiastical courts, and on his rights of inheritance through secular ones called in his name. This would clearly be considered impossible, and the assemblies would need to decide on the clearest possible arguments.

Neither Richard nor the assemblies needed the illegitimacy of Edward IV. But what about those who opposed the arguments that became Richard III’s Titulus regius? The objections to the Woodville marriage and the illegitimacy of the children were too well argued to be adequately rebutted, but you could distract attention by dragging up the old rumour about the bastardy of Edward IV. Those who did so do not seem to have bothered to work out whether the rumour was supposed to be spread by Richard, his mother, or both. They also invented stories to make the precontract look ridiculous – it was with a foreign princess (which would fail because of non-consummation) or Elizabeth Lucy (which is ridiculous, since she was one of Edward IV’s mistresses).

It seems obvious to me that this nonsense was put about by Richard’s enemies, and that it was only to their advantage. I do not see the gain to Richard or his mother of using the rumour of the illegitimacy of Edward IV, whether it was true or not. And the notion that the rumour makes the succession of Richard III more secure is really baffling. If Cicely, Duchess of York, had really committed adultery to produce Edward IV, would not people argue that she could also produce Richard III by a man not her husband? (And no, I am not arguing for the illegitimacy of Richard III!!).

Once you believe that Richard used his brother’s illegitimacy for his own ends, you can find it even in the Titulus regius. But does the stress there on Richard III’s birth really imply that there was something wrong with Edward IV’s? I think not. And is there convincing evidence that Richard’s Titulus was considered to be an attack on Edward’s legitimacy?

I shall refrain from trying to extract some cheap amusement from the efforts of Tony
Robinson. Ricardians seem to have wisely thought that espousing his views would be taking Michael Jones’ theory of Edward IV’s illegitimacy too far. Recently Ricardian reviews critical of Michael Jones and Ann Wroe have been attacked in the Bulletin, but I cannot help wondering if the attacks would have been so severe if the authors reviewed had not attracted a following already. In the same issue of the Ricardian John Ashdown-Hill has written a tough review of Richard III, a Royal Enigma, by Sean Cunningham, without complaint. (Perhaps I should apologise in advance to reviewer and author in case I have started something).

Gordon Smith

Dear Chairman,
Today I have received the certificate of the Robert Hamblin Award, generously conferred upon me by the Richard III Society, and am most grateful to you and the Committee.

The certificate will give a good deal of pleasure to my grandsons, and will encourage them to take an interest in the work being done rehabilitate the unjustly maligned king, who was likely to have done so much good for the realm if he had reigned longer.

It is a privilege to have the certificate, but the greater privilege for me is to be a member of such a worthwhile and well-run organisation.

Bryan Longfellow

Dear Editor,
I note that Geoff Wheeler fancies he has detected an anomaly (Autumn Bulletin, Correspondence, p. 42) in that I had referred in earlier correspondence to the degradation of the enamel on the Bosworth Crucifix during its period underground, whereas by contrast recently discovered harness pendants from the traditional Bosworth battlefield site have apparently been identified by the preservation of their enamel decoration.

There is, I think, no anomaly. It is undoubtedly the case that burial in the ground can be deleterious for enamel. Just how deleterious (and how quickly) will depend upon environmental factors such as the acidity of the soil, which is variable. Thus buried artefacts with this kind of decoration may have lost all their coloured enamel, or they may have retained some of it in a more or less degraded condition. On the other hand, the metal background which once held the coloured enamel will normally have survived, and will still show signs that coloured enamel decoration was once present.

Certainly in the case of the Bosworth crucifix no coloured enamel now survives on the evangelists’ roundels (though hatching on the metal background indicates its former presence). The contrast in this respect between the present state of the Bosworth Crucifix and that of the Lamport and other crucifixes of similar age and type (which never experienced burial in the ground, and on which the enamel colouring remains well-preserved) is marked and readily observable. The most likely explanation of this phenomenon is that the Bosworth crucifix did indeed spend some three centuries in the ground, as reports of its discovery suggest.

As for harness pendants, I have not myself seen the two from Bosworth to which Geoff refers in his letter, but the black and white illustration which he published is suggestive.

I have recently worked on three very similar items; metal detector finds from Essex, submitted to the Essex Museums Service for identification. On one of these no coloured enamel now survives. On the second about 30% of the original coloured enamel is still present. The original colours of the design remain, in this case, clearly discernible, though the enamel is now degraded to an opaque and crumbly appearance. In the case of the third pendant about 60% of the original enamel remains, albeit in an opaque and somewhat degraded condition. Almost all the gilding has in this case been lost, however.

In the case of the Essex pendants it is possible to make out the design of the arms represented, and in certain cases, to identify them. I will omit the details of my findings, since they are not relevant here. The key, however, to reading (and hopefully then iden-
tifying) the arms in such cases lies in the basic nature of *champlevé* enamel. In this form of enamel decoration, portions of the metal field are cut away to receive the coloured enamel in-fills, leaving other portions of the field as raised metal. As a result, even the total loss of the coloured in-fills from such an artefact leaves the outline of the design surviving as a raised metal silhouette (originally usually either gilded or silvered). From this outline alone a coat of arms may be read and identified if it is sufficiently distinctive.

From Geoff’s illustration, the Bosworth harness pendants appear to illustrate precisely the phenomenon I have just described. His picture of the left hand pendant, in particular, is suggestive of a surviving metal silhouette with missing or degraded enamel in-fills. However, the Bosworth pendants bear distinctive coats of arms, the key elements of which remain clearly delineated in the raised metal field (or *champlevé*). Presumably either enough enamel is present for the heraldic colours to be identified, or these arms are sufficiently unique for them to be identified without seeing the colours.

Such harness pendants are rarely, if ever, unearthed in anything approaching pristine condition. I should be surprised, therefore, if the enamel colouring could be described as well-preserved on either of the Bosworth specimens.

John Ashdown-Hill

Dear Editor,

I recently called into the excellent Farm Shop at the Westmorland Services, at Tebay on the M6. I was intrigued to find that they are selling a cheese (presumably from the Yorkshire Dales) called Richard III. It is a mild and pleasant cheese – which I am sure reflects its namesake’s character. If other members have not yet discovered it, I can recommend it!

Jenny Wright

Editor: see also *Ricardian Bulletin*, June and September 2000

Dear Editor,

While Livia Visser Fuchs and Hannes Kleineke are quite capable of looking after themselves, I feel, having read the heated and very one-sided correspondence provoked by their reviews in *The Ricardian*, that a little redressing of the balance is needed.

It is not the function of reviewers to flatter an author nor to provide complimentary quotations for use on the cover of the paperback edition; that many of your correspondents seem to think it should be is perhaps an indication of the abysmal state of book reviewing in the national press. A reviewer for a serious journal (which is what I understand *The Ricardian* purports to be) is a critic who examines the author’s thesis and the use made of evidence, as well as the work’s style and presentation, and offers an opinion of the book’s merits.

I had read both *Bosworth 1485* and *Perkin* before I read the reviews and consider that both reviewers are eminently fair, giving credit where it is due, but taking issue with what they (and I) feel to be their major weaknesses, mainly the presentation and use of evidence, and in Anne Wroe’s case, a failure to marshal a vast array of sources in a sufficiently coherent way.

Popular history, whether practised by academics or interested amateurs, is a difficult art form, particularly when as so often in medieval history, the evidence is scanty or susceptible to differing interpretations. People who only read popular history tend to have neither the experience nor the access to sources to enable them to test the author’s conclusions and it is therefore all the more important that authors are meticulous in their use of evidence and that when they are not someone points it out.

Celia Parker

Dear Editor,

From the earlier Tower records, which were inaccurate in several places, I take it that Edward IV, after Barnet, ransacked The More, the Hertfordshire retreat of his cousin George Nevill, Archbishop of York, the Kingmaker’s brother, and broke open Nevill’s mitre, pris-
ing out the jewels to be set in the crown. It was safe to do so once Warwick was dead.

These jewels were presumed to include the royal Scots sapphire, which may have come from Cardinal Beaufort if he obtained custody of it from his niece Queen Joan after James I’s murder in 1437. It is not specifically mentioned among the ‘xxxxviii saphires’ in the cardinal’s will, but Nevill was his beneficiary and is said to have been seen wearing the famous sapphire in his mitre in procession in York.

However I have looked in vain for any evidence of it in the crown jewels or anywhere else since, till Regency times. None of the Tudors wore it, and the only English monarch to do so, at least openly, was Edward II in the famous smiling portrait with his golden hair and beard and the view shown beneath of his murder. (Thereafter the She-Wolf returned it for £20,000 in 1328). This engraving, from a lost portrait of Edward, probably shows him wearing the original crown filched by his father from King John Baliol’s baggage when Baliol tried, quite legitimately, to escape with it to France in 1296. It is visible on his seal. It is also included, interestingly, in the underground passage tiles beneath Trafalgar Square Tube, which shows King Alexander III wearing it – it was first used in the coronation of his father, Alexander II, in 1214.

After Barnet there seems no trace of it again until a loyalist bought it back after Cromwell sold it abroad, with Charles I’s paintings, for £60, and restored it to Charles II in 1660. From then on its history is known, and fascinating, but I should be very grateful if some Yorkist expert could unearth its whereabouts, and its use, after it left The More in April 1471. It is possibly one of the jewels promised to Margaret Tudor by Henry VII in his will, but notoriously his son left most bequests, including that one, unpaid. Margaret’s granddaughter, Mary Queen of Scots, wore a table diamond, called the Great Harry, at her Paris wedding to the Dauphin in 1558, virtual proof that the sapphire was somewhere else by then. Henry VIII seems not to have displayed it, whether or not it was in his possession. It is now, of course, in the crown, after travels in France and Italy; the Cardinal King wore it, as George Nevill had done, in his mitre, as can be seen in one portrait in the ownership of the Duke of Hamilton. There is a hiatus between 1437 and 1653 which I should greatly like filled if anyone can help.

Pamela Hill

Dear Editor,

Having now received several issues of the Bulletin in the new format, I feel it is time to express my views on the way the Bulletin is presented and its contents.

While a lot of the articles are interesting and educational, I do miss the friendly and ‘newsy’ approach of the old Bulletin. Why, for instance do we have three and a half pages devoted to Jane Trump’s attendance at a Buckingham Palace Garden Party? I am sure it was most enjoyable and an unforgettable experience for Jane and her husband but surely there was no need for it to take up quite so much space, especially as it was not a Ricardian event open to everybody. Incidentally, I was unaware that the Society was presented with tickets for Buckingham Palace Garden Parties until now. Who decides who goes? Is there a draw for tickets? If so, whose names go into it?

I believe that reviews of Society visits do encourage members to come on future visits, especially new members who might not think about coming on a visit with the Society. These visits also help to foster fellowship and companionship amongst people who share a common interest unlike special events where, of necessity, tickets are limited and only available to a few.

In conclusion, to take a broader view, I feel that the issue here is about the kind of society we, the members, want. Do we want a society where some members of the Executive Committee remain aloof and remote from the grass roots membership or do we want a society that is inclusive and encourages all members to participate in the events and activities that other members volunteer to arrange on their behalf?
Carolyn West

Editor: I agree that Jane’s article was long, but as someone who has been to one of the garden parties, I felt it was a good representation of what they are like, that members might find interesting. The Society has received garden party tickets in 1982, 1985, 1990, 1997 and now this year. The event is always written up in the Bulletin. The Society gets tickets because of the Duke of Gloucester’s Patronage, but it is not predictable – as you can see there was quite a gap between 1997 and this year. As to who decides who goes – the committee decides: in recent years it has tried to include a range of members, as for example this time Shirley and Roy Linsell, who have served the Society for many years manning the door at the AGM, and were founder members of Croydon Group, and on the previous occasion representatives of the Yorkshire Branch went. Although the garden parties are in July, and the initial invitation to submit names comes in the Spring, there is quite a tight time scale between its receipt and the date for its return, so it would be quite unviable to run a draw through the Bulletin, for instance. We look on the offer of tickets as an honour to the Society as a whole, albeit a vicarious one for most members, but hope they will want to read about what the occasion is like in that spirit.

Dear Editor,

Re: Ambion Hill
Thank you for including my letter in the Autumn edition of the Bulletin.

Unfortunately one word has been altered which makes nonsense of the final paragraph. Referring to uncounted numbers of stud farms in the Wensleydale area, the word should read ‘medieval’, not ‘modern’. Obviously there are plenty of modern stud farms in that area: it is evidence of Richard’s breeding programme that we have been looking for, finding remains of many medieval studs.

Thank you for inclusion anyway. I am very glad to see that Michael K Jones has, by his theories, prompted such spirited debate.

Lynda M Telford (Mrs)
of the Ricardian reviews seem really to set out to explain a book in a simple and clear manner so that readers can decide if they wish to purchase it.

There seems to be a lack of recognition that a reviewer is not the same thing as a critic, and should always leave out of the review one thing – their own personality. This is, I realize, extremely difficult, with on the one hand the requirement for objective reporting and on the other the desire not to be boring, but the effort needs to be made. Instead, the reviews now include personal attacks, totally extraneous prejudices that have nothing to do with the work being reviewed, and a few factual errors for good measure. There is even the worst sin of all – a reviewer must never, never, use the ‘I’ word.

On the other hand, review articles, as opposed to reviews, are somewhat different although still giving cause for concern. It might appear logical to give extra space to a work or works of particular relevance to the Society and, of course, such articles are a standard feature of some journals if of no greater value. To some extent the reviewers’ views are legitimate here. In fact the extra space is rarely used to inform the reader, instead it provides an opportunity for the writers to air theories of their own. The article on Bosworth 1485 has already featured in the Bulletin letters pages and I would merely comment that there is nothing usefully in it that could not have taken up a third of the space.

The issue of archers’ stakes in the review entitled Agincourt! Agincourt! Know ye not Agincourt? seems a good example of the problems inherent in the review article genre. I find this an interesting topic, but worry that a lot of what is presented as judicious criticism on the subject is in fact rather tenuous theory. The reader, instead of being informed, is expected to analyse, and that is not fair in a review. There seems no reason to doubt the accuracy of the Gesta description of stakes six feet long and pointed at both ends being brought to the battlefield, and I expand on this elsewhere in this issue. One is left wondering why such an extensive treatment of this point, which adds nothing to the reader’s knowledge of the work under discussion, was included, and I come back to my concerns about the reviews in the Ricardian, and wonder for whose benefit they are being written – the reader or the writer?

Bill Featherstone

Dear Editor
On the subject of book reviews.
Reviews should tell you what a book is about. They should act as guides to what you may wish to read. They also warn you! If reviewers are disturbed by the book, for any reason, they warn you. Reviews act like the age-tags attached to some films so that adults know whether they are suitable for children. Warning: this book should only be read by adults; enjoy it but expect to need guidance, and protection. Warning: this book is not as accurate as it pretends. Warning: this book is fiction dressed as history. Warning: this book is boring. I will not labour the point but it seems a lot of readers of reviews forget this.

Reviews also generate interest. As a consequence, they sell books. Several recent reviews in The Ricardian have certainly sold many books for their authors.

As to the controversies engendered by recent books and their reviews I have nothing to add: the accuracy of statements and the quality of learning have been adequately and correctly defended.

Anne F Sutton
The Barton Library

New additions to the Non-fiction Books and Papers Library

Books


Mr. Austin does not claim that this is a finished work but that it is a collection of notes, particularly of oral traditions, which he hopes will make this a source book for studying the whereabouts of the battle. He does not claim to prove anything but discusses all the evidence from place names around Atherstone, one example being ‘King Richard’s Well’ in the village of Sheepy. Oral traditions mentioned include the one that Richard III granted to the men of the same village the right to sharpen their arrows on the church tower walls.

The book has ten plates and a good index but would benefit from a modern map of the area. The book certainly achieves the author’s object. It is a must for all Ricardians with an especial interest in Bosworth.

Papers

HARDING Alan *English Law Courts in the Later Middle Ages* (from *The Law Courts of Medieval England*)

PAYLING Simon *Political Society in Lancastrian England: The Greater Gentry of Nottinghamshire*

A selection of recent additions to the Fiction Library

The Fiction Library has had nearly 40 new additions since 1998. New books include fiction of all varieties: historical novels; romances; children’s stories; detective novels; time-slips and even science fiction. Below is a selection of these new additions, but for a more comprehensive list please contact either Anne Painter, (the Fiction Librarian) or myself for the fiction book catalogue.


GEORGE Elizabeth *The Evidence Exposed* (1999 paperback)  Three short stories, one of which is called *I, Richard*. Malcolm Cousins has spent years in the single-minded pursuit of a priceless letter, probably written by Richard III on the eve of Bosworth. Does he want it enough to kill for it?


GRACE CL *Saintly Murders* (2001 hardback)  In late summer 1472 physician and apothecary Kathryn Swinbrooke is summoned to investigate a puzzling situation in Canterbury.


HAYES John *No Sanctuary!* (2004 paperback)  Set in 1471 as Edward IV returns to England from exile.

HUME Robert *Ruling Ambition* (2000 paperback)  The story of Perkin Warbeck from his childhood in Flanders to his death at Tyburn.
MAKEPEACE Joanna *The Traitor’s Daughter* (2001 paperback) Set in the reign of Henry VII, the daughter of a Yorkist supporter visits her dying grandfather in Wales.
MARTYN Isolde *Moonlight and Shadow* (2002 paperback) Set in 1483, Heloise Ballaster, maid of honour to Anne Neville and Sir Miles Rushden, friend and advisor to the duke of Buckingham, are about to be ensnared in personal conflict as well as for the throne of England.
SEDLEY Kate *The Lammas Feast* (2002 hardback) It is July 1478 and Roger the Chapman investigates another murder.
SEDLEY Kate *Nine Men Dancing* (2003 hardback) Another Roger the Chapman mystery. This time it is set in the winter of 1478.
WAINWRIGHT Brian *Within the Fetterlock* (2004 paperback) Set in 1396, King Richard II is childless and the succession to the throne is in doubt. Henry of Lancaster returns from exile in a bid to claim the throne. Constance of York (Constance Despenser), closely related to the king and Henry of Lancaster, is drawn into intrigues as her husband and her brother jostle with their Lancastrian and Mortimer cousins in the race for supremacy.
ZABKA Paula Simonds *Desire the Kingdom* (2002 paperback) Set between 1470 and 1485, this is the story of Anne Neville and Richard of Gloucester. This book also contains maps and a family tree.

**Audio-Visual Library Update**

Latest videos to be added to the library include two former episodes of the Channel 4 TV series with Mike Loades, *Weapons that made Britain* (see p 45 of Autumn Bulletin): *The Sword and Armour*, featuring Michael K Jones at the site of the battle of Verneuil, France (1449). Also Channel 4’s *World’s Worst Century: Agincourt* which focuses on the part played by two English archers and Davy Gom and gives for once a more detailed account from the French side with the involvement of Gilbert de Lannois, Marshal Boucicaut and the duke of Brabant, together with interviews and commentary by Juliet Barker, Craig Taylor, Tobias Capwell and Michael K Jones (currently working on a new account of the battle). Agincourt also featured, rather surprisingly, in the Radio 4 series *In Our Time* in which Melvyn Bragg chaired a discussion on the latest research into the subject with authors and experts Ann Curry, John Watts and inevitably Michael K Jones.

**FOOTNOTES - A new service to members from the Papers Library**

In my many years of research I have discovered over and over again that one of the most important aspects, to me at least, is to thoroughly check all the footnotes. Some may seem obscure and uninteresting but just now and then a keyword can change your outlook and give you another lead to follow. This can result in vital information being found or might just encourage us to read something which we may have previously overlooked.

As a new service to members - and specific to the Papers Library - I invite you to contact me with any requests that you may have. I may not always be able to obtain articles as sometimes they go out of print or just vanish but I will try my hardest.

I hope that this will inspire members to follow their own paths of research.

Becky Beale
Postal Book Auction

May I extend my thanks to all those members who participated in the postal book auction announced in the Autumn Ricardian Bulletin. The decision to broaden the selection of books on offer to non-Ricardian fiction and non-fiction seemed popular with you and the auction was a resounding success with many generous bids. Altogether this year's auction has raised just over £733 for library funds. The most popular item with 9 bids was The Crowland Chronicle Continuations 1459-1486, edited by Nicholas Pronay & John Cox. The booklet on Francis Lovel by Robottom, Workman and Carty came a close second with 8 bids. The highest bid was £90 for The Ricardian run: 79 - 159. The highest bid for an individual item was £27 for The Chronicles of the Wars of the Roses.

The winning bids for each title were as follows:

BUCK Sir George (ed Kincaid) The History of King Richard III £25

COOK David Lancastrians and Yorkists: The Wars of the Roses £4

DREWETT R & REDHEAD M The Trial of Richard III (both copies) £7 each

FROISSART (ed GC Macauley) The Chronicles of Froissart £15

HALLAM Elizabeth (ed) The Chronicles of the Wars of the Roses £27

HAMMOND P & SUTTON A Richard III: The Road to Bosworth Field (4 copies) £14.10 £10.25 £7 & £6

HANHAM Alison Richard III and his Early Historians £15

HICKS Michael False Fleeting Perjur'd Clarence £17

KENDALL PM Richard III £8

LAMB VB The Betrayal of Richard III £5

LANDER JR The Wars of the Roses £6

MYERS AR England in the Late Middle Ages £5

PETRE J (ed) Richard III: Crown & People £15

POTTER Jeremy Good King Richard? (2 copies) £7 & £5

PRONAY Nicholas & COX John The Crowland Chronicle Continuations 1459 - 1486 £25

ROSS Charles Richard III £10.75

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<td>ROSS Charles</td>
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<td>ROWSE AL</td>
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<td>SEWARD Desmond</td>
<td>Richard III: England's Black Legend (2 copies)</td>
<td>£12.02 &amp; £9</td>
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<td>SNOWDEN Keith</td>
<td>Kings in Ryedale</td>
<td>£1</td>
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<td>ST AUBYN Giles</td>
<td>The Year of Three Kings: 1483</td>
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<td>TUDOR Miles</td>
<td>The White Rose Dies</td>
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<td>Richard III: Catalogue to the National Portrait Gallery Exhibition</td>
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<td>The King's Grey Mare</td>
<td>£10</td>
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<td>PALMER Marion</td>
<td>The White Boar</td>
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<td>PENMAN Sharon</td>
<td>The Sunne in Splendour</td>
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<td>POTTER Jeremy</td>
<td>A Trail of Blood</td>
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<td>BARBER Richard</td>
<td>The Devil's Crown</td>
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<td>HIBBERT Christopher</td>
<td>The Court at Windsor</td>
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<td>PAIN Nesta</td>
<td>Empress Matilda</td>
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A service to members from the editor detailing fiction and non-fiction historical books that have recently been published or will be published in the near future.


CULLUM, Patricia H. and LEWIS, Katherine J. [Ed], ‘Holiness and masculinity in the Middle Ages’, Univ. Wales Press, £45.00, July 2004


KNIGHTON, Tess, and FALLOW, David [Ed], ‘Companion to medieval and renaissance music’, Univ. California Press, n.e., pbk., £15.95, August 2004

LANGDON, John, ‘Mills in the medieval economy, 1300-1540’, Oxford Univ. Press, £60.00, July 2004
RUBIN, Miri, ‘The Hollow Crown: a history of Britain the late Middle Ages’, Allen Lane, £25.00, January 2005
SAUL, Nigel, ‘The Three Richards’, Hambledon Press, £19.95, November 2004 (‘.. the middle ages in England were strangely punctuated by Richards … triple biography aims to show how much more they had in common than their names .’)
SUMMERS, Joanna, ‘Late Medieval prison writing and the politics of autobiography’, Oxford English Monographs, Oxford Univ. Press, £45.00, July 2004

Answers to the Mastermind questions on page 16

1) The Order of the Bath
2) Ambien Hill
3) Sir William Brandon
4) Berwick-upon-Tweed
5) Cardinal Bourchier
6) The Fee Farm Obligation
7) The Investiture of the Prince of Wales
8) Ludgate
9) Middleham
10) Buckingham
11) Merevale
12) Earl Marshal of England
13) Salisbury
14) Edmund of Rutland
15) Lord Gruthuuse
In what proved to be a most memorable event, the Canadian branch was proud to host the first ever Joint Canadian-American Ricardian Conference and Annual General Meeting the weekend of October 1-3, at the Quality Midtown Hotel in downtown Toronto.

This conference was the first occasion that the Canadian and American branches have formally joined forces in the name of King Richard III. The idea was originally suggested by American member Janet Trimbath in 2002, when Ricardians from the Michigan group met up with Canadian members to attend a production of Richard III at the Stratford Festival.

Registrants came from as far away as Washington State, California, Texas and Florida, and from as close as Toronto itself.

We launched the conference Friday evening with a Meet and Greet. Friends of our branch, Kevin Dark and Norman McMullen of the St. Swithun’s Society, had laid out an attractive display of their monarchy memorabilia for interested Anglophiles to admire. Other entertainments included a film of the 1983 coronation staged by the Canadian branch, Ricardian-themed games such as Pass the Parcel and Ricardian Clue (ingeniously devised by Victoria Moorshead), trawling through the wealth laid out on the Silent Auction tables, lots of socializing with old friends and new acquaintances, drinks and nibbles—a jolly time was had by all.

Our workshop leaders graciously agreed to repeat their presentations, so no one had to miss one to attend the other. Former Canadian Branch chairman Clement Carelse serenaded us with his lovely voice during his presentation on Music in the Church during the Reign of Richard III, as he discussed the use of secular and religious music in the late Plantagenet era. We had the opportunity to exercise our own vocal chords as we learned a section of a plainsong grace to be sung later at the banquet.

Kathryn Finter, an artist from Ottawa, introduced us to medieval illuminated manuscript materials and techniques, and demonstrated her skills in gold-leaf application for our appreciation. As a result, her generous donation of an illuminated letter “D” copied from Richard III’s Book of Hours was the focus of a bidding war during the silent auction. American member Diane Hoffman prevailed, and was very pleased to take this stunning piece home.

After the workshops, we stretched our legs with a short walk to an authentic English pub, aptly named The Duke of York. After a barbeque lunch, we welcomed Alexandra Johnston, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Johnston is a professor of Victoria College at the University of Toronto, the Founder and Director of Records of Early English Drama (REED) and Chairman of the Board of the Poculi Ludique Societas (PLS). She led us through a fascinating presentation on Richard III, York and Drama, describing the preparation for and performance of the Corpus Christi play that Richard would have enjoyed on his visit to York in 1483.

For the afternoon’s events, we trooped over to McClure Hall at Bloor Street United Church to enjoy a rollicking performance of the early 16th-century play, The World and the Child, performed by the Poculi Ludique Societas. Staged by two actors in all the roles, we were led through all the stages of a man’s life—through folly to wisdom. Afterwards, Society member and author Sandra Worth gave a brief talk on her experiences publishing her Ricardian book, The Rose of York: Love & War, and offered tips to other members in the throes of writing or promoting their Ricardian fiction.

We then had what must have been the fastest Annual General Meeting on record for both the American and Canadian branches. With executive officer’s reports and commit-
tee nominations and/or elections announced or distributed in advance, there was only the need to move, second and rubber-stamp the business of the day. Which was just as well, as we all had a party to attend!

Costumes and finery were donned for the parade to Seeley Hall in Trinity College at the University of Toronto, our banquet venue. Our pageant attracted some nice comments on the streets of Toronto. (Canadians are so polite!) By all accounts, Seeley Hall was declared breathtaking with its hammer beam ceiling, leaded glass windows and hardwood floor. Diners were entertained by the music of Hurly Burly, a medieval and renaissance musical group from Peterborough, (Ontario) who performed authentic period music on reproduction instruments during the removes.

Before dinner began, Clement directed us in the plainsong grace that we had learned earlier in the day at his morning workshops. Singing in the round, we honoured King Richard and gave thanks for our feast. Our medieval menu started with a creamy mustard soup with rolls and butter, followed by a green salad and mushroom tart. The main course featured roasted chicken with sides of noodles and cheese and green peas with onion. Dessert was a pear in wine sauce, accompanied by Bosworth Jumbles, and finished with coffee and tea. The piece de resistance was a subtlety in the shape of a castle, alight with sparklers and filled with sweets for all to share.

Bright and early on Sunday, after a buffet breakfast in the hotel restaurant, we reconvened in the conference room to watch an entertaining and thought-provoking presentation by Illinois members Joyce Tumea, Jane Munsie and Nita Musgrave entitled “Comic Conjecture: Plots And Ploys To Reclaim Richard The Third’s Good Name”. The ideas were flowing fast and furious (and frivolously) as we considered ways to promote King Richard and the Society to the public.

Then, all too soon, it was time to say goodbye. Chairman Tracy Bryce closed the conference with final words of thanks and wishes for everyone’s safe journey home.

Credit for the prodigious amount of planning and organization (read: blood, toil, tears and sweat) invested in this event go to members of the Canadian branch executive, which included Victoria Moorshead, Sheilah O’Connor, Christine Hurlbut, and Tracy Bryce.

Victoria Moorshead and Tracy Bryce
Obituaries

PRINCESS ALICE

Her Royal Highness The Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, died on 29 October at the age of 102. Our Patron’s mother, and an aunt of H.M. The Queen, Princess Alice was born Lady Alice Montague-Douglas-Scott on Christmas Day 1901, daughter of the Duke and Duchess of Buccleuch. Last year when she reached the age of 101 and 238 days she became the longest ever living member of the Royal Family.

Lady Alice married Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, the third son of King George V and Queen Mary, in 1935. They had two children, Prince William who tragically died in an air crash in 1972 and Prince Richard, who succeeded his father as Duke of Gloucester in 1974. The Gloucesters were fully involved in the Royal Family’s efforts to maintain the nation’s morale during the Second World War. Then from 1945 to 1947 they lived in Australia following the appointment of Prince Henry as the country’s Governor-General. For many years they lived at Barnwell Manor in Northamptonshire and from 1995, after the death of the Duke, Princess Alice resided at Kensington Palace. She was a member of the Royal Family for nearly seventy years and over that period undertook extensive official duties.

There have been a number of occasions when Princess Alice attended Society events including in 1975 when, together with her son the Duke of Gloucester, she was present at the dedication of Fotheringhay’s York Window. The highlight was undoubtedly in 1980 when she unveiled the Leicester statue of King Richard III on behalf of the Duke who was unable to be present. As Jeremy Potter noted at the time ‘Princess Alice received a great ovation and charmed us all.’

The Society is grateful for the contribution that Princess Alice has made to our work and we extend our sympathy and condolences to the Duke of Gloucester and his family.

Joan Preston 1918-2004

With the death of Joan Preston in August 2004 the Yorkshire Branch has lost its longest-serving member, and Richard one of his most loyal supporters. She was already a Ricardian in December 1960 when a commemoration of the Battle of Wakefield was held. She was also at the Towton quincentenary in the following March when the Yorkshire Branch of the Richard III Society was formed. She was our last remaining link to those early days of the Branch.

Joan was a quiet, rather shy person, but possessed of a keen brain. She was born in the West Riding of Yorkshire and lived most of her life in Leeds. She worked for the Post Office all her working life, and in her free time loved walking in the Yorkshire Dales, the Lake District or the Scottish Highlands. She had friends all over the country, and after her retirement often visited them in Chester, Bristol or wherever. She was also a lifelong member of Yorkshire Cricket Club, whose ground is literally yards away from her front gate.

I first met Joan after I came to Leeds and joined the Yorkshire Branch in 1966. The first meetings I went to were in Harrogate and Shipley, but we began regular local meetings in Leeds in 1968 or 1969. With her hospitable spirit Joan quickly became one of the hostesses of these monthly meetings, and for the last twenty years or so her sitting-room was our main venue. Our last meeting at Joan’s was in May this year. Years ago there might be as many as fifteen crowding into the room, but from that high point we settle down to eight or ten.

Joan never boasted, but beneath her unassuming exterior she was very knowledgeable about 15th century history. She regularly won any quizzes we had on Richard III or the Wars of the Roses. When we looked at her comprehensive collection of books on the period we were not surprised. Joan loved reading, and it was her solace almost to the end.

As well as hosting Leeds meetings Joan supported every activity of the Yorkshire Branch. She was on the Committee for many years, serving as Secretary and as Vice-President at different times. She also participated in the Society’s Continental trips, sharing a room with me, as
long as she was able to stand the journey. The last one was when she was about eighty. She loved them and often talked about them. In later years she relied a good deal on Arthur Cockerill, who had moved to the house next door. She felt the loss of Mrs. Cockerill and then of Arthur very much. During the last few months Joan became frailer, and in July she suffered a stroke and was taken into hospital. She died on Bosworth Day, 22nd August, a month before her eighty-sixth birthday. Joan had a long happy and fulfilled life, and we are all grateful for having known her. The Yorkshire Branch, and especially the Leeds Group, send their deepest sympathy to her niece and nephew and their children.

We are going to miss Joan very much.

Mary O'Regan

Future Society Events

The Visits Committee has recently extended its activities beyond the organising of group visits for members, to include the facilitating of members’ private visits to places of Ricardian interest. We have negotiated discounted entry for Richard III Society members to Warwick Castle, Berkley Castle, the Richard III Museum in York, and to performances of Mike Bennett’s play ‘An Audience with King Richard III’ at the Richard III Museum. These discounts will be available to Richard III Society members during 2005. Full details of how to benefit will be published in the March edition of the Bulletin.

We would hope to continue, and indeed extend, this scheme in the future, and would welcome suggestions from members of venues of Ricardian interest, with whom we might discuss future participation in our discounted entry scheme.

John Ashdown-Hill

Annual Requiem Mass, 12 March 2005

The Society’s annual requiem mass for the anniversary of the death of Queen Anne Neville returns to London in 2005. It will be held at St Etheldreda’s church, Holborn on Saturday 12 March at 12 noon, followed by a buffet at the City Temple (a new venue) and a short service and wreath laying at Queen Anne’s tomb at Westminster.

While some who attend this event do share Richard III’s own religious faith, it is not necessary to be of any particular religious persuasion in order to attend, and to derive interest and pleasure from doing so. A Solemn Requiem Mass combines sights, sounds and smells which would have been very familiar to Richard III and his family, but which many twenty-first century people will never have experienced. The annual requiem therefore provides an opportunity to participate in a ceremony in which Richard III himself participated on many occasions, in a manner which is no mere re-enactment, but a real liturgical occasion.

All members are most welcome to this event. Hear the ancient plainchant and the Latin prayers; smell the incense; see the solemn ritual movements, and join in as much, or as little as you wish! Then, after the requiem mass, the buffet provides a valuable opportunity to meet and talk to fellow Ricardians from other parts of the country (and sometimes even the world).

If you would like to attend in 2005, please complete the booking form on the centre pages and return it to Rosamund Cummings by Saturday 5 February 2005.

John Ashdown-Hill
The Ninth Triennial Conference – Cambridge 15-17 April 2005

Friends and Foes: Richard III and the East Anglian Magnates
After a gap of twenty-one years the Society will be returning to Cambridge for the ninth triennial conference which will be held from the 15 – 17 April 2005 at Queens’ College. In 1984 the Quincentenary Conference was held at Jesus College and its proceedings were published under the title Loyalty, Lordship and Law, which over the years has become one of the Society’s most popular books.

We hope that we can repeat the 1984 success when we return next year to Cambridge and Queens’ College. There will be an exciting programme focussing on the four most prominent East Anglian families of the Yorkist period: the Mowbrays, de la Poles, de Veres and the Howards. All played a significant role for better or worse in Richard’s career as Duke of Gloucester and king of England. Our speakers will include some of the leading experts on these families.

The Programme
To set the fifteenth-century East Anglian context we will open with the Late-Medieval Gilds of East Anglia to be given by David Dymond. He has a particular interest in Gilds which were an integral part of life in both urban and rural areas of late medieval England. David has published many works on the history of Suffolk and his book ‘History and Archaeology: A plea for reconciliation’ sets out his views on the relationship between the two disciplines.

The core of the programme concentrates on the four magnate families:
Rosemary Horrox (Fitzwilliam College Cambridge) will speak on the de la Pole family who rose from their merchant origins in Hull to marriage into the Royal Family in only a few generations. John de la Pole, Earl of Lincoln, was Richard III’s likely heir designate at the time of Bosworth. Rosemary has spoken at previous conferences including Cambridge in 1984.

Rowena Archer (Brasenose College Oxford) will talk about the Mowbray family. She has carried out much research on the nobility of later medieval England, in particular the dukes of Norfolk, and on medieval noblewomen. Rowena is currently working on a new edition of J. Nichols, ‘A Collection of all the Wills of the Kings and Queens of England’ and on a biography of Alice Chaucer, Duchess of Suffolk.

Anne Crawford (formerly with the TNA) will look at the Howard family who eventually inherited the Mowbray dukedom of Norfolk. Anne edited the ‘The Howard Household Books, 1462-71 and 1481-83’ which the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust published in 1992.

James Ross will talk about the staunchly Lancastrian de Vere family. James, the son of the late Charles Ross, was the recipient of the Society’s Edda Curry bursary for postgraduate studies. He has successfully completed his doctorate and is currently working on the History of Parliament project.

To link the East Anglian theme more specifically with our host city Anne Sutton and Livia Visser-Fuchs will give a talk about Richard and his connections with Cambridge. Anne and Livia of course need no introduction to Ricardians. They have been popular speakers at many of our previous conferences.

The speakers are the guests of the Society and there will be many opportunities over the weekend for conference delegates to meet and talk with them.

The Venue
Queens’ College was originally founded in 1446 as St Bernard’s College and re-founded by Margaret of Anjou in 1448. The college also had close relationships with the two queens who followed Margaret: Elizabeth Woodville and Anne Neville. The college owns one of the contemporary portraits of Elizabeth. King Richard was also an enthusiastic supporter of Queens’. Charles Ross noted ‘He had a fine record of religious foundations and benefactions to his name, and in 1477, as duke of Gloucester, had founded four fellowships at Queens’. As king, Richard granted a licence to the college to hold property to the value of £466 and this was followed by grants of lands and rents in five counties from both himself and Anne. The college’s boar’s head badge is of course derived from Richard.

Queens’ College is a gateway back into medieval Cambridge. The Old Court, built in 1448/9, has been virtually untouched and leads to Cloister Court built in 1449 although the cloisters were not added until the 1490s. The wooden bridge (often misnamed as the Mathematical Bridge) leads from Cloister Court across the river Cam to land acquired by the college in 1495 and where the modern Cripps and Lyon Courts have been built, which will house the conference. The college complex includes several other courts and buildings of interest. For a virtual tour of the college visit their website www.queens.ac.uk

The Facilities

Lectures will be held in the purpose-built theatre, Fitzpatrick Hall, situated in Lyon Court and meals will be taken in the Cripps Hall. Unfortunately the Old Hall is too small for our conference and in any event it is likely that it will be closed for refurbishment during April. Bedrooms will be situated in Cripps Court, the Fisher Building and in the Erasmus Building in Friars’ Court. There will be options for single rooms with shared facilities, single en-suite rooms and twin en-suite rooms. All rooms are centrally heated and comfortably furnished. Tea- and coffee-making facilities, soap and towel and linen are provided in each room. There will of course be a bar. Breakfast and lunch will be self-service, with lunch presented as a Scandinavian buffet. Dinner on Friday evening and Saturday’s conference dinner will have waitress service.

Transport and Parking

The college has very limited parking and arrangements for off-site parking are being investigated. Off-site parking is likely to cost around £9 for the weekend. Please indicate on the booking form if you require parking. The college is five minutes by taxi from the railway station.

Other Attractions

We hope that there will be an opportunity to view the College’s collection of medieval documents, some of which will be referred to in Anne and Livia’s talk. There will be some free time available on Saturday afternoon for delegates to pursue their own interests in Cambridge.

What it will cost

Universities have been under a lot of pressure in recent years to raise more revenue following decreases in Government funding. One result of this has been that they are realising the benefits of offering conference facilities outside term time to external customers. These are inevitably priced on a purely commercial basis and this is reflected in the costs.

Residential cost for the weekend to include accommodation in single rooms with shared facilities, breakfast, Friday night dinner, Saturday conference dinner (including wine), lunch on Saturday and Sunday and refreshments will be £243. Rooms with en suite facilities are available for the following supplementary rates: single at £52 and for a twin based on two sharing at £33 each.

Non-residential rate is £138, with the option of attending the conference dinner at a supplement of £40.

To reserve your place please complete the blue booking form insert in this issue of the Bulletin. Payment can be made in two stages: 50% with the booking form and the remainder by post-
dated cheque dated 1 April 2005. We will not pay in the first cheque until 2 January 2005. To keep down our administration and costs it would be helpful if the post-dated cheques could be sent with the booking form. Please provide a s.a.e. (no smaller than 9” x 6” /A5) for the joining instructions which will be sent out in late March. If you require confirmation of receipt of your booking please enclose a second s.a.e.

I look forward to meeting many of you next April in Cambridge for what should be an interesting, informative and enjoyable conference.

Wendy Moorhen Research Officer
**Day visit to Hertford Castle and Hatfield House – Saturday 21st May 2005**

This visit comprises a guided tour of Hertford Castle in the morning combined with a visit to Hatfield House in the afternoon. The cost of the visit will be £22.00 per person, to include the coach, the cost of the guided tour and the entrance fee to Hatfield House, also the driver’s tip and administration costs.

There is little of the original Hertford Castle which dates back to the 11th Century but the modern building is still used as Council Offices and parts of this date from the 18th Century. It is still possible to make out Edward IV’s coat of arms which is over the main entrance to the Castle. There are also the Castle grounds which we will also see during our guided tour. Hatfield House is probably best known as being the childhood home of Elizabeth I and still remains in the Cecil family. As well as the house there are extensive grounds.

Full details and booking coupon will be in the Spring, 2005, issue of the Bulletin

Carolyn West

**Visit to Scotland, Wednesday 29 June – Tuesday 5 July, 2005**

The Society’s main visit in 2005 will take place to Scotland. The Society last visited Scotland in 1994, but then concentrated on Edinburgh: this time we will go further afield. Members are welcome to join from all parts of the country, assembling in Edinburgh, and we hope local members will be able to join us for some or all of the visit.

The visit will be based on the University of Edinburgh in Holyrood on the eastern edge of the city centre, for six nights, dinner, bed and breakfast, one dinner being a formal dinner at which we hope local members will join us. Accommodation will be in single study bedrooms with en-suite facilities. Double rooms will also be available.

Two days of the visit will be based in Edinburgh, visiting the Castle, Holyrood House, and other sites, with free time and guide notes. One day will take in a tour of sites south of Edinburgh, including the ornate 15th century Rosslyn Chapel, Linlithgow and Lennoxlove, a second will visit Sterling, Perth and Falkland, and a third will take in Glasgow, including the Burrell Collection, whose star exhibits include medieval tapestries and stained glass, St Mungo’s Cathedral, and Provand’s Lordship, Glasgow’s oldest surviving house, originally built as a canon’s house in 1471, and creating a vivid impression of life in a wealthy 15th century household.

Cost of the trip: around £395.00, including dinner, bed and breakfast accommodation, the coach (with loo), driver’s tip, rail travel, admin., and a written tour guide. Admission charges have not been included.

We do not arrange group insurance for visits in this country, but you may well wish to take out your own cover.

If you wish to come on this trip, please complete the booking form and send it with £50.00 cheque per person deposit, to Carolyn West, address on booking form. Applications to be received not later than 31 January 2005

Visits Committee
Report on Society Events

Service of Thanksgiving – 25th Anniversary of the Norfolk Branch
On Saturday 31st July members of the Norfolk Branch were joined by members from London to gather together in celebration of a major achievement by the Norfolk Branch. It is twenty five years since we began, initially as a group, and more recently as a Branch.

John Ashdown-Hill organised the event which began with a Service of Thanksgiving in Norwich Cathedral and culminated in the unveiling of a plaque to celebrate the visits of Edward IV, Richard, Duke of Gloucester and Elizabeth Woodville in June and July 1469.

The service began at 2.00 p.m., with member seated in the choir stalls. Following the opening hymn and welcome from the Precentor we moved in procession around the cathedral chanting the litany (or at least giving the Latin and Greek plainchant our best shot) before returning to our seats. Richard III had a copy of the Litany in his own Book of Hours so John particularly wanted to include this in the service. The Precentor and his assistants led the procession with Margaret Dixon bearing the White Boar standard aloft. There were readings from Wisdom, Timothy and Luke and to finish the service a sung Te Deum.

Everything passed off very smoothly, a small but interested audience of cathedral visitors listened to the service and learned more about us, and a laudable milestone in the life of the Norfolk branch was appropriately celebrated.

John and the standard led us from the cathedral to the Blackfriars for the unveiling of the plaque. The Priory of the ‘Black Friars’ (Dominican order) dates from 1226 and following its surrender to Henry VIII at the time of the Dissolution it was bought by the City of Norwich for civic use. This fortunately resulted in the preservation of significant portions of the former priory including virtually the whole of the church, the nave of which now forms St Andrew’s Hall, while the former choir is Blackfriars Hall. The south porch, gift of the Paston family still stands, as do parts of the cloister. This degree of preservation is highly unusual in this country. The buildings today are in regular use for concerts, fairs, craft markets and other entertainments.

John had invited Dr. Joanna Laynesmith to unveil the plaque. Dr. Laynesmith had spoken at a Branch meeting last autumn on the visit of Elizabeth Woodville to Norwich in 1469 and had also mentioned the visit of Edward and Richard. This had given John the idea for the theme of the plaque. We were very pleased that Joanna and her family (including her delightfully cheerful nine month old) were able to join us. The plaque is just inside the entrance nearest to Blackfriars Hall.

After the plaque ceremony we all adjourned to the Hall to partake of large and delicious cakes with tea. The medieval setting was splendidly appropriate to the occasion. Society Chairman Phil Stone made a short address acknowledging the Branch’s achievement and wishing us all the best for our next twenty five years. He also thanked John Ashdown-Hill for all his hard work with which we all heartily agreed. John had worked very hard for a long time right up until the last minute to ensure that the day was memorable for everybody and he thoroughly deserves our thanks for this.

The weather behaved itself (which always helps) and the whole day passed off very well. You are all welcome in 2029!

Report by Frances Sparrow, with acknowledgement to notes prepared by John Ashdown-Hill

Westward Ho!

When the Richard III Society went to Devon and Cornwall in July this year, we were venturing into what was once enemy territory. This was the land of the Lancastrian earls of Devon, and
Sir Richard Edgcumbe; the earl of Oxford, took St Michael’s Mount for Henry VI; even Warwick the Kingmaker, ultimately an enemy of York, has left his mark in Exeter.

The earls of Devon lived at Tiverton, our first port of call, once a flourishing wool town, where the Redvers earls of Devon founded their castle on the instructions of Henry I. In 1262 the direct male line of Redvers became extinct, and the last earl was succeeded by his sister Elizabeth, who became countess of Devon in her own right. She gave the town its water supply, the leat which still runs the length of Castle Street.

When she died in 1293 she was succeeded by her cousin, Hugh de Courtenay, created earl of Devon in 1335. It was Hugh who probably built most of the castle we see today; its walls extend down to the river, a long way below, a very well-chosen defensive position. His descendant Thomas, the Lancastrian sixth earl, was taken at Towton and executed the next day at York, and lost his lands. After Bosworth, Henry VII reinstated Sir Edward Courtenay as earl. His son married Katherine Plantagenet, daughter of Edward IV and sister of Queen Elizabeth of York.

Katherine lived at the castle for many years, dying there in 1527. She is buried in St Peter’s church, next to the castle, a very large church, with a spectacular south aisle and porch built in 1517, and so very new when she was buried there. It is believed that her tomb is under that of a medieval merchant, John Waldron, at the top of the first aisle on the right as you enter, near the altar. It is made up of two different types of stone, the bottom one having a stylised rose pattern, far better carved than the upper, more vernacular, style. Needless to say, Henry VIII ordered the destruction of her tomb.

Katherine’s son Henry, created Marquis of Exeter, was at one point acknowledged heir-apparent to his cousin Henry VIII, but was arrested for plotting against the king and executed in 1538/9. The castle and the earldom were then given by Henry to the Duke of Somerset. Henry Courtenay’s son Edward was imprisoned for fourteen years in the Tower of London with his mother until the accession of Mary I. She gave back his title and estates and hinted at marriage, but it is thought that Edward rashly said that he preferred her sister Elizabeth, and was therefore put in the Tower again. On his release he was banished from England, and died in exile in Padua, the last of his line.

After the usual Civil War troubles and destruction, the castle came into the ownership of the Carew family; in 1960 it was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Ivar Campbell, who commenced major conservation work, which continues to this day under the ownership of their nephew, Angus Gordon. It was Mrs. Gordon who showed us round the castle, in a most informative and entertaining tour. We began in the family drawing room, complete with sleeping cats. There was a room devoted to Napoleon Bonaparte, because a Campbell ancestor had been Governor of Elba when Boney was there; there was a large room with Civil War cannon balls and other armaments, and we were allowed to pass round and try on a helmet (and very heavy it was). Part of the castle had been a GP’s surgery, still in use in the 1960s, and looked a very bleak place to wait to see the doctor.

Mrs. Gordon has a very good collection of pictures and prints of the castle, amassed over the years, which stands her in very good stead. If she needs to make any alterations to the castle and English Heritage object, she shows them the evidence in the old prints, and they have to agree that the castle once looked like that. No grants are received from English Heritage, so the Gordons have converted some of the castle to luxury accommodation and have had the castle licensed for weddings.

The next day we visited Cotehele, a National Trust property in Cornwall once the home of another of Richard III’s enemies. The house takes its name from Hilaria de Cotehele, who married William Edgcumbe, a Devon man, in 1353. The Edgcumbe family lived there for the next 200 years, by which time they had become one of the leading Cornish families. Sir Richard Edgcumbe joined in the Exeter section of Buckingham’s revolt in October 1483, and went into hiding at Cotehele, pursued by Richard’s men. The story goes that he was chased down through the gardens to the river, where he threw his cap into the water to pretend that he had been
drowned. This succeeded, and he escaped to join Henry Tudor in Brittany. After Bosworth he came back to Cotehele, dying there in 1489. The little chapel he built above the river is still there under the trees.

In the house we saw Cromwellian armour again, and fine furniture and tapestries. The rooms are lit naturally, without electricity, and some floors are cobbled. The medieval hall is forty feet long, with walls hung with armour and banners. The chapel is contemporary with the hall, and has a barrel-vaulted ceiling. It contains a fifteenth-century clock with is supposed to be the oldest unaltered pre-pendulum clock in Britain. The kitchens are also contemporary with the hall, full of interesting equipment. I was pleased to learn how a medieval bread-oven worked. There is a medieval barn (now the shop and restaurant) and an old dovecote like a giant beehive. The gardens have Victorian terraces containing unusual plants.

In the afternoon we visited Plymouth. The city was originally on land owned by the monks of Plympton Priory, but in 1439 the townspeople petitioned Henry VI for freedom from the prior, and Henry granted this. Plymouth’s charter, granted by Parliament on 25 July 1440, was the first to be so granted, and its merchants were allowed to form a merchants’ guild. The people paid the prior £41 a year for the right to hold markets and fairs, a rent finally discharged in 1545. Because of its deep-water anchorage, and the silting up of the River Plym further upstream, Plymouth grew and became a very wealthy city, especially as an outlet for wool shipments.

Plymouth was very badly blitzed in the Second World War, and subsequent rebuilding was not always in keeping with the building remaining. A few medieval properties remain. Prysten House is the oldest building in Plymouth, and the Devon and Cornwall branch will in future hold their meetings in it. The Blackfriars Distillery, now the home of Plymouth Gin but once a Dominican monastery, dates from the early 1400s. The Refectory Room, which is a medieval hall with a fine hull-shaped roof, was built in 1431. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the building was used as a debtors’ prison, a Nonconformist meeting place, and a home for Huguenot refugees. The Pilgrim Fathers spent their last night in England here, before sailing away to America and founding New Plymouth.

In the evening we went to Plymouth Moat Hotel to join members of the Devon and Cornwall Branch in the celebrations of their 25th Anniversary. Before dinner there was a wine reception, and the chance to meet Branch members and exchange news and views, and to look at a display of photos showing memorable events from the history of the Branch. Afterwards, John Saunders, Chairman of the Devon and Cornwall Branch, and Phil Stone, Chairman of the Society, made speeches, as did Wendy Tubb, founder of the Branch. She described how she appealed in the Bulletin for any members living in Devon and Cornwall to contact her. Five responded, four of whom met for the first time in a restaurant in February 1979. They formed a group which first met in each other’s homes. Notices were put in libraries, and a piece written for the local paper. Wendy was presented with a bouquet of white roses.

On Sunday morning we first visited Pengersick Castle, at Praa Sands near Marazion. Henry de Pengersick was excommunicated in the fourteenth century for attacking the vicar of Breage and a monk from Hayles Abbey when they came to collect their dues. After him the property descended in the female line, eventually coming to the Milliton family from Devon. When the last Milliton male died in 1571 the property went to his six daughters, who were all married and living elsewhere. Neglected, the castle fell into disuse. Towards the end of the sixteenth century it was rebuilt in a different location on the same site as a fortified manor with an embattled tower added.

Mrs. Evans, the new owner, welcomed us with coffee and biscuits and told us how she bought the castle. We walked through the gardens, largely woodland, steep and extensive, where a nature trail had been built. One cobbled area contains plants used to celebrate the Summer Solstice, and another has plants introduced by Crusaders. At the end of the trail a box hedge delineated the former site of the castle, discovered by dowsing.

Mrs. Evans then showed us round the basement room of the castle tower, and artefacts found
on the site. The castle is supposed to be the most haunted place in Britain, and various companies have made films for TV there. We talked to a group of re-enactors who were busily putting on their armour for a display in the gardens later that day – I found it strange that they had arrived by car, not destrier!

Then we went to Marazion and St Michael’s Mount for the afternoon. Marazion is one of Cornwall’s oldest chartered towns. St Michael’s Mount is just 400 yards from the mainland, joined to it by a cobbled causeway at low tide. A vision of the archangel Michael seen by some local fishermen led to the construction of a church on this granite site in the fifth century. In the twelfth century Bernard le Bec, abbot of Mont St Michel, a similar tidal island off the coast of Normandy, erected a monastery on the summit of the rock for a prior and twelve Benedictine monks. This did not really prosper. An earthquake destroyed the church in 1275, so it needed rebuilding; by 1362, because of the plague, only a prior and two monks were left. It was suppressed by Henry V in 1415 and given to the Bridgettine Abbey of Syon at Twickenham, which he had recently founded. The bishop of Exeter then decided that three chaplains should live there instead of the monks.

In 1473 St Michael’s Mount was captured by the earl of Oxford in support of the deposed Henry VI. The earl and his men disguised themselves as pilgrims and overcame the small garrison and the chaplains. The earl had family connections in Cornwall, and was able to stock the place with provisions and munitions. Eventually he was obliged to surrender after many of his force of eighty men were induced to desert by promises of bribes and favours. He escaped to France, and came back in 1485 with Henry VII to the battle of Bosworth.

In 1497 Perkin Warbeck landed in Cornwall, and was admitted to St Michael’s Mount by the priests. He left his wife, Lady Katherine Gordon, on the Mount while he went to rally support for his cause. He laid siege to Exeter, but the city was held for Henry VII by the earl of Devon, Edward Courtenay, and his son William. Lady Katherine was captured on the Mount and sent to Henry VII at Taunton after her husband’s rebellion failed and he surrendered.

The priory was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1535. It was held for the Royalists in the Civil War, but surrendered in 1646. The next year Parliament nominated Colonel John St Aubyn to be captain of the Mount, and the St Aubyn family have lived there ever since, though it is now in the hands of the National Trust. (Ricardians will know of Giles St Aubyn’s book The Year of Three Kings, which is hostile to Richard III.)

The organizers timed our visit carefully: the tide was out, so we could walk both ways across the causeway. The walk to the castle itself was very steep, with broken steps, steep cobbles and very few handrails, which made it difficult for some people to climb to the top. It is to be hoped that the National Trust provide more handrails to comply with Disability Discrimination legislation.

On our last day we went to Exeter, where we visited the Cathedral independently and then met for a guided tour round the Guildhall. This was built about 1450. During the construction of the roof, Warwick the Kingmaker visited the city and some of the brackets supporting the roof have his bear and ragged staff carved on them. The Lord Mayor’s Swordbearer showed us the regalia. Henry VII gave Exeter a ceremonial sword and a cap of maintenance because they supported him against Perkin Warbeck. The cap was a simple affair of black felt without a brim, and may actually have belonged to the king. It is supposed to be enclosed in a richly-embroidered brimmed version of crimson felt, carried on a velvet cushion. The regalia included four fifteenth-century chains worn by the Waits, the City chamber’s own musicians; they are now too valuable to be worn, and a replica set is used today, worn by the Mace Sergeants.

On our tour of the Guildhall we saw the Lord Mayor’s Parlour, and the Jury Room, also the cells where people were confined the night before their execution. One is now a wine store. One odd thing we saw was a large painting of Napoleon on his horse Marengo – but his face had been painted over with that of the Duke of Wellington.

Many thanks indeed to Kitty Bristow, Marian Mitchell and Carolyn West for organizing this
visit for us and writing the brilliant Tour Guide. An immense amount of work went into the ar-
rangements, all so seamless and professional. Many thanks also to Anne Painter for organizing
the dinner in Plymouth, and for coming to Pengersick Castle on Sunday morning with her hus-
band to do the refreshments. Thanks are also due to the Devon and Cornwall Branch for their
welcome, and for providing help and local information to Kitty, Marian and Carolyn; and to
Geoffrey Wheeler for designing the cover of our Tour Guide. His pen-and-ink drawings are de-
lightful.

Rosemary Waxman

Footnote
Thanks are also due to Rosemary herself for her special care to ensure that all participants en-
joyed themselves. In the nicest possible way on Sunday evening she rounded up all the people
sitting alone (and some sitting in groups) to play some hilarious games of Trivial Pursuits which
set the seal of laughter on an excellent day.

Lesley Wynne-Davies

The Society’s Annual Visit to Bosworth, Sunday, 22 August 2004
The term ‘Bosworth’ is used in the widest sense, since this year the visit included Sutton Cheney
and, instead of the traditional battlefield site, a visit to the Merevale site, courtesy of Dr Michael
K Jones, who was our guide for the day, and undertook this role most comprehensively, taking
the coach microphone and throughout the journey from London to Sutton Cheney giving us a
guided tour of the events leading up to the battle, the protagonists, and the grounds for accepting
the Merevale site.

We commemorated the 519th anniversary of the Battle at Sutton Cheney church. The Rev.
Brenda Campbell welcomed us to the church and thanked the Society for its contribution of
funds, notifying us that the next phase of restoration was about to get underway. [The Ricardian
Churches Restoration Fund subsequently made a grant towards this work]. The service followed
its usual form: George May read the first lesson, Dr Phil Stone read the second lesson, and the
two memorial wreaths were hung: that on behalf of the Society by John Ashdown-Hill and that
on behalf of the Canadian Branch by visiting Australian member Margaret Penecuik. As usual,
we thank Ruth Green for the making of the two teardrop laurel chaplets with white roses and pur-
ple ribbons, and Margaret York for delivering them to the church. The preacher was the Very
Reverend Vivienne Faull, Dean of Leicester Cathedral.

After the service, lunch was taken in the refurbished Village Hall, courtesy of Miss Ann
Read, and in aid of church funds, or as a picnic in the church field, and we then departed for …
the Battlefield, but not as we know it – this was the Merevale battle site. We began with a visit
to Merevale Abbey, where we met up with a contingent travelling independently, and managed to
accommodate most of them on the coach (I had forgotten how long it takes to empty a full coach,
especially on a busy road!).

Firstly Mike took us round to the east end of the church, to overlook the battle site, and then
we went down the road a little way to Abbey Farm, whose owners kindly allowed the party onto
their grounds: we could see remnants of the Abbey, with the ruins of the refectory.

Then we drove to Derby Spinney, which Mike posits as Richard’s death site. It was possible
to be quite as moved by this stretch of countryside as by the more manicured official site.

We returned to Merevale church, where we were able to see the exhibition mounted by the
Friends of Atherstone Heritage, and partake of the most excellent tea supplied by members of
Merevale W.I. We were subsequently able to make a donation to Merevale Church, to go some
way to express our gratitude for their services, and for allowing us to visit the church.

Next year’s ‘Bosworth commemoration’ will also be in the wider sense, as it will take place
in Leicester, to include a service in the cathedral or St Mary de Castro, and the unveiling of the
supplementary Bow Bridge plaque. In 2006 we shall return to the ‘traditional’ model of Sutton
Cheney and LCC battlefield site.

E M Nokes
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Gloucestershire Branch

Following the respective Branch and Group AGM's a full programme of events has been provided for the coming year. All members should have received details. In addition we are intending to supplement the schedule with extra events so please ‘keep an eye’ on the Bulletin and, of course, our own News and Views publication.

As stated in the last Bulletin a new Branch Secretary has now been appointed. Angela Iliff is now fully in post and can be reached on Telephone Number: 0117 3789237 or by email on ailiff@soilassociation.org. Angela has just the background for the role and has already made a telling contribution to Branch administration!

Branch and Group have completed a busy autumn programme, the highlight being our Annual Lecture, this year held at Cheltenham. Tim Porter, a speaker of excellent quality, gave his audio/visual presentation ‘Music in the Age of Richard III’. The event was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all. The ever popular Gwen Waters again gave a superb talk in October on the subject of Llanthony Priory. At Group level we had a very interesting talk from Liz Claridge which detailed recent research into Roger Mortimer and the death of Edward II. Liz will be covering this topic again later in 2005 when she addresses the Branch.

We would like to use this opportunity to warmly invite all Ricardians in our catchment area to join us for one of the forthcoming meetings or excursions. Why not get in touch and perhaps try a meeting to see how you find the experience? You are welcome to bring friends and there will be no pressure on you to join on a permanent basis - it’s entirely up to you. We are a friendly group with wide interests. You will not be expected to present talks - just come along and listen. Although many of our members do give talks we also engage a number of professional lecturers each year to speak on issues of current interest to the Branch. Field trips are very enjoyable and always include adequate time for eating - an activity much appreciated by all Ricardians! If transport is a problem we usually have members in your immediate area who are only too happy to help. Why not ‘give it a try’ and, at the same time, improve your experience of Richard and his times with like minded friends!

Forthcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 4 December</td>
<td>‘Wales in the Later Middle Ages’ talk by Suzanne Doolan (Branch)</td>
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<td>2005</td>
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<td>Saturday 8 January</td>
<td>Short Papers : Members are invited to discuss arrange of topics of choice (Branch)</td>
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<td>Saturday 5 February</td>
<td>‘Roger Mortimer and the mysterious death of Edward II’ Talk by Liz Claridge (Branch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 February</td>
<td>Annual Quiz : Our yearly opportunity to demonstrate collective ignorance! (Group)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 5 March</td>
<td>Guest Speaker - details to be announced (Branch)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 18 March</td>
<td>Debate : ‘Was Edward IV Illegitimate?’ An opportunity to discuss the recent resurgence of interest in the subject following Mike Jones’s TV appearance.</td>
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Keith Stenner

**Greater Manchester Branch**
The Branch has continued to have a successful year. In April we had a fascinating talk by archaeologist Mark Olly on ‘The Green Man’. The semi-human image of the Green Man can be seen carved in either wood or stone in many medieval churches and its origins stretch back into the pagan past. In May I gave a talk entitled the ‘Story of York’ which encompassed nearly two thousand years of history of this fine city, from the arrival of the Romans to the present day. We have also had a Medieval Quiz Night and watched a video of a silent film version of Shakespeare’s *Richard III*. This proved to be very popular and we had a great deal of fun making up our own script as the story unfolded.

At the beginning of August nine branch members visited Bosworth and had a very enjoyable day. The weather was glorious and after lunch we did the battlefield walk, then watched two re-enactors give a display of sword fighting, and had a trip round the museum. At the end of September we decided to arrange a meal at the Watermillock restaurant in Bolton. It is a very imposing gothic style building dating back to the nineteenth century, a perfect setting with a medieval feel, with lovely high-backed gothic style chairs and polished wooden tables in the dining room.

On a more downbeat note, unfortunately we had to cancel our Study Day at Norton Priory due to be held in October as we did not receive enough bookings to make it feasible. After the success of last year we were very disappointed and we are at a loss to know why we did not receive as much support as we expected. We thought that a Northern based Study Day would attract society members in our area but this does not appear to be the case. I have to say that we were quite disappointed that we did not receive any bookings from members of other branches and groups. The support of society members is an important factor in the success of a venture such as this, so if we do decide to go ahead and try again next year please come and join us.

We would welcome any new members who would like to come and join our monthly meetings and we are sure that you would find it a rewarding experience.

Helen Ashburn

**Lincolnshire Branch**
The last six months have been filled with activity. At the end of April we were pleased to welcome Nick Lance who gave an interesting and well illustrated talk on the famous Luttrell Psalter, a Lincolnshire manuscript giving a unique inside into the life of a medieval peasant of the time and also into the lives of some of the aristocracy.

May was our busy month: we had a very successful day at the Denton Street Market on May Day, and replenished branch coffers, while the weekend in Otterburn visited Hexham and Brinkburn Priories, Alnwick and Bamburgh castles, Longframlingham to see where Northumbrian pipes were made, and Holy Island. At the end of May the 50+ auction proved a fruitful venture for the branch, although some people ended up buying things they did not really want!

In June we headed south to Henley on Thames and Stonor, the home of the Stonor family for over eight hundred years and now owned by Lord and Lady Camoys. The Zarosh Mugaseth Lecture entitled ‘Fine Tuning’ was a very unusual musical lecture by Tony Weston.

‘Townsend’s Weather’ was the order of two days at the beginning of August, when we held a table top sale to raise money for the Gifts Day Hospice in Grantham where we now hold our meetings, followed by a picnic lunch in Crowland before a guided tour of the Abbey.

At the beginning of September we turned detective for Jean’s ‘Now for something completely different’ Murder Mystery Evening, set in the time of Robin Hood. He had been found dead in the forest, an arrow wound in his back, and we had to find the culprit from the eight actors from the Robin Hood Theatre at Averham, who played Maid Marian, Friar Tuck, Will Scarlet, the Sheriff of Nottingham, the Lady Ruth, Old Meg and Little John. A buffet meal was provided and
it proved overall to be a very entertaining event and good way of raising money for charity.

We held our Branch AGM in September, re-electing the committee en bloc and following this with slides of past branch events: some of us did look young!

Richard III’s birthday was celebrated in grand style this year, because the Branch went to Germany for four days, including a wine-tasting on a grand scale, a cruise down the Rhine and a visit to Marksberg castle.

Marion Moulton

Mid Anglia Group

A Single to Tower Hill Please!
The Staffords, dukes of Buckingham from 1444 to 1521, are one of English history’s most controversial families. The second duke, Henry, was doubly descended from Edward III, and the family was involved in the West Country Rebellion of 1483, the ‘Pilgrimage of Grace’ (1537), the Scarborough Rebellion (1557) and the ‘Popish Plot’ (1680).

Our new booklet, *The Stafford Line*, by Stephen Lark, traces their senior line from the 2nd duke to the present day (15th Baron Stafford) with notes and illustrations. It is available now, price 50p from John Ashdown-Hill, 8 Thurlston Close, Colchester CO4 3HF. Cheques payable to Richard III Society, Mid Anglia Group, please.

All proceeds to the Mid Anglia Group. If ordering by post, please enclose A5 SAE. (Enquiries from members abroad should please be addressed to Stephen Lark, Flat 4, 16 Willoughby Road, Ipswich IP2 8AP)

West Surrey Group

On a lovely sunny April day about a dozen of us met in the Merry Harriers pub at Hambledon near Godalming (strange how there is always a pleasant hostelry close to whichever site of interest we choose to visit!) After a leisurely lunch we made our way to Oakhurst Cottage on the Green at Hambledon. The 16th Century timber framed house is very small, so half of us were shown downstairs first while the other half started upstairs. The property has been restored as a simple labourer’s cottage, with furnishings and artefacts reflecting four centuries of continuing occupation. Although there are only five rooms, including scullery and dairy, there is much of interest and it is very atmospheric. The garden is a delight and full of the plants and herbs that would have been grown in early Victorian times. The surrounding woods were full of bluebells and it was very easy to imagine a quiet simple way of life far removed from the busy roads and bustle of this 21st century.

In May, three carloads of us braved torrential rain to travel down the M4 to visit Berkeley Castle, overlooking the Severn and the Welsh border. Again, we had a most excellent guide, who enchanted us with tales of the castle and the Berkeley family who have owned and dwelt in it for nearly 900 years. The walls held a fine collection of paintings, both of the family and of past royalty, who were regular visitors. Queen Elizabeth 1st stayed there many times, too many in fact for the then owner, who on one occasion removed himself and his family to the far reaches of the estate in order to divert her (her visits cost her hosts a fortune!) but on his return he found the Queen and her vast retinue well and truly ensconced and a little irate at having had no reception committee! However, when she moved on (to her next unfortunate subject) she left behind her bedspread and this exquisite piece of embroidered handiwork can still be seen on the wall of the China Room.

Probably the most famous (or infamous) Royal to stay there, as a prisoner, was King Edward II, who was foully murdered in the dungeon. There are too many treasures there to relate, magnificent china, carvings, tapestries, paintings and furniture, including an enormous carved Cypress chest which once belonged to Sir Francis Drake.

In the Civil War the Royalist castle was held to siege for three days by the Parliamentary forces who finally breached the wall of the Keep - a great bite out of the wall which remains to
this day, the repair of which is forbidden by law.

We drove from Berkeley to Owlpen Manor, Uley, a short distance away. This is a charming little Medieval manor house, set in a romantic valley in the heart of the Cotswolds. Dating back to 1450, it belonged to the de Olepenne family. It was of especial interest to us as it was where Margaret of Anjou (and presumably Anne of Warwick) stayed en route to the Battle of Tewkesbury and the end of all her hopes and aspirations. In fact her ghost has been seen on a number of occasions in and near the Royal bedchamber but did not grace us with an appearance.

It was a warm sunny afternoon in July when we gathered in Pat’s lovely garden to hear about and see some field archaeology. Two local gentlemen, with many years of experience in the use of metal detectors, came to give us a demonstration in the garden. Although several metal objects came to light there was nothing ancient or of great value. The talk was fascinating and with sixty years of experience, mainly in this part of Southern England, they have found a great many exciting artefacts, dating back into pre-history. They presented us with a case containing ten items that they have unearthed, all dating to ‘our time’ the fifteenth century, and all of everyday use to the ordinary man of the period. These small artefacts were all discovered within a fifteen-mile radius of Guildford and handling them brought us closer to our ancestors who lived here and lost them 500 years ago. The first one was a lead palm guard which, wrapped in a cloth, would have been used by a leather worker to protect his hand when pushing a large needle through leather. There were buttons, the name deriving from the French “bouton”, meaning ‘to push’. A thimble, with hand punched indentations, looking remarkably like the ones we use today. Other items were buckles, both for harnesses and to adorn waist or thigh, handmade nails, both large and small, medieval belt fittings, plain and ornate, for both horse and rider, and a hook fastener (the forerunner of the modern hook and eye) which hooked directly into the cloth—rather ruinous, I fancy! The last item was a fifteenth century ear scoop - best not to elaborate on that! We all came away from Pat’s garden with aspirations to rush out and buy metal detectors.

A very hot weekend in early August took ten of us to Grafton Regis, some stopping for coffee in Stony Stratford. There we read the plaque which commemorates the building, once the Rose and Crown Inn, where Richard and Buckingham intercepted Edward V on his journey from Ludlow to London in 1483. We all converged at the White Hart at Grafton Regis (another convivial inn) and were joined there by Iris Day of the Beds and North Bucks Group. After lunch we made our way to the village hall, where we were met by a sumptuously dressed Elizabethan lady, a Mrs. Susan Merry, who had lived in the village from 1525 to 1582. She took us on a guided tour of this sleepy Northampton village, introducing us on the way to several other villagers in period costumes, each taking on the character of a former resident of their different homes, from Medieval times, through the Tudors, the Civil War and up to the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. We visited the church of St. Mary the Virgin (no traffic to be seen) where we saw the tombs of Elizabeth Woodville’s father and grandfather and heard how the former Woodville Palace became a favourite retreat of Henry VIII. In fact, it was there that he heard of the Pope’s decree against his divorce from Catherine of Aragon and his proposed re-marriage to Anne Boleyn, who is reputed to have stormed out of the palace in anger when she heard the news! Regarding the marriage of Edward IV to Elizabeth Woodville, very little is known about the actual event but local legend says it probably took place at the Hermitage, a religious house nearby.

A few of us expressed a wish to visit the site of the Hermitage and, with our Elizabethan lady, made our way across the fields to where the buildings formerly stood. Now they are just humps and bumps under the turf but it is anticipated that the site may shortly be excavated. In fact, we were told that ‘Time Team’ have expressed an interest. The final event of the day came when Iris (who lives in Stony Stratford) took us to see the remains of the tree, under which, Edward and Elizabeth are reputed to have met. This ancient, once magnificent oak which survived until a few years ago, is now a pile of partly charred wood, having been burnt and vandalised. Iris has a photograph taken in the 1980s of this grand old fellow, hollow and propped up with stakes but still clinging to life after more than 500 years of history. Incidentally, the visit that
Prince Charles made was to plant a sapling from this old tree at another site in Grafton Regis, thus continuing the village’s link to a romantic legend from the fifteenth century.

At our September meeting in Rollo’s house we were privileged to meet Ann Wroe, who spoke to us about her latest book ‘Perkin’. She amazed us with her account of the research she has done into the little that is know about this enigmatic young man. Her meticulous search of archives, both in this country and on the Continent, has brought forth a multitude of information, some familiar and some excitingly new. She is a very busy lady with a responsible job as well as a family to care for and we can only admire her dedication to her research: the pages of notes at the end of her book give some idea of that dedication.

We now look forward to meeting John Saunders, who is coming to our next meeting to give a talk on the history of our Society.

Renée Barlow

Yorkshire Branch

On Bosworth Day, 22 August this year the Yorkshire Branch lost its longest-serving member, Joan Preston, who was one of the founders of the Branch back in the early 1960s and who had supported our activities with dedication and enthusiasm ever since. She will be greatly missed. An appreciation of her appears elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The Branch has gone about its usual pursuits this summer: we paid two visits with our famous tent to Middleham and also commemorated Bosworth at St Alkelda’s Church with the customary short act of remembrance and the placing of Margaret Moorhouse’s lovely flowers below King Richard’s window. The church was still decorated from a wedding the previous day although the colours – silver, mauve and purple – appeared strange to some of us for a wedding, they gave a background of melancholy elegance to our meeting. The Society’s chairman, Dr Phil Stone, had sent a message for Bosworth Day which was read out in the church by our Secretary, Moira Habberjam: this is the first such message we have received, and it created a feeling of solidarity with those Ricardians at Sutton Cheney also remembering the battle, which was much appreciated.

At our AGM in York in September the present committee was re-elected, with the addition of Bradford member Eileen Bussey. It was also decided to increase the subscriptions to our magazine Blanc Sanglier, with effect from October 2005 – they have remained the same for at least eighteen years, but of course postage and everything else have not. The new rates will be £7.00 (including postage) for UK subscribers, and £6.50 (Europe) and £8.00 (rest of world) plus increased postage. We would like to think this is still a very fair price!

The Branch outing on 18 September was to Haddon Hall and Norbury Church and Old Manor. Members and friends enjoyed good weather and the chance to visit the medieval manor house was particularly welcome. The church had been closed for restoration work on the windows, but was open in time for an appreciation of the Fitzherbert effigies and the only (I think) surviving boar pendant of a supporter of King Richard.

Future branch events include the commemoration of the Battle of Wakefield, to be held at Sandal Castle on Thursday 30 December. Would members please meet at the castle at 2.00 p.m., or the Duke of York’s statue, Manygates, at 2.15 p.m. Our Spring Lecture will take place at the Leeds City Art Gallery on Saturday 19 March 2005 at 2.00 p.m. We are very glad that Dr Ann Wroe has agreed to speak, on ‘Perkin Warbeck – who was he?’ All members and friends will be welcome, and admission is free. On Sunday 20 March, Palm Sunday, the Battle of Towton will be commemorated at Towton Hall by the Towton Battlefield Society and other groups.

May I remind members that subscriptions are now due for this year’s issues of Blanc Sanglier, and that copies of Rosalba Press publications, including Joan Gidman’s study of Sir William Stanley, are available from 18 St Martin’s Drive, Leeds, LS7 3LR. Branch Christmas cards may be obtained from our Treasurer, Mrs. C J Symonds, 2, Whitaker Avenue, Bradford BD2.
### New Members

**UK 1 Jul 2004 — 1 Sept 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Andrews</td>
<td>Shrewsbury, Shropshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Bamford</td>
<td>Wakefield</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Bennett</td>
<td>Skipton, North Yorkshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clive Bishop</td>
<td>Bewdley, Worce</td>
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<td>Vincent Burke</td>
<td>Spalding, Lincolnshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helen Combes</td>
<td>Woking, Surrey</td>
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<td>Jonathan Crowhurst</td>
<td>Horton Kirby, Kent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dorothy Davies</td>
<td>Ryde, Isle Of Wight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stuart Day</td>
<td>Sevenoaks, Kent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tina Drury</td>
<td>Dewsbury, West Yorkshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sarah Duncan</td>
<td>London</td>
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<td>Felicity Eastwood</td>
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<td>Stuart Emerson</td>
<td>Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jacqueline Flook</td>
<td>York</td>
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<td>Lynn Gibson</td>
<td>Andover, Hampshire</td>
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<td>Elizabeth Gibson</td>
<td>Arnside, Cumbria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vanessa Hills</td>
<td>Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trevor Hollingworth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Iliff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Derek Jones</td>
<td>Cheltenham, Glos</td>
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<td>Marc Kaiser</td>
<td>Bicester, Oxon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wilma Keppie</td>
<td>Skipton, North Yorks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brenan Lawrenson</td>
<td>Preston, Lancs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Lowe</td>
<td>Eynsham, Oxford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Barry Marsden</td>
<td>Burnham, Berkshire</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diana Marvin</td>
<td>Grantham, Lincolnshire</td>
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<td>Craufurd Matthews</td>
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<tr>
<td>Helena Metcalfe</td>
<td>Dunfermline, Fife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linda Miller</td>
<td>Tewkesbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>Noor Nanji</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosemary Nwyme</td>
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<td>M Parker</td>
<td>Alcester</td>
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<td>Nicholas Sullivan</td>
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<td>Alison Sutcliffe</td>
<td>Colne, Lancashire</td>
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<td>Carol Turner</td>
<td>Lowestoft, Suffolk</td>
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<td>A Waite</td>
<td>Appleby</td>
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<td>Olive Wakefield</td>
<td>Macclesfield, Cheshire</td>
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<td>Gwendoline Warnes</td>
<td>Truro, Cornwall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nicholas Weston</td>
<td>Disley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leila White</td>
<td>Bradford, West Yorks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Margaret Yates</td>
<td>Newbury</td>
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**Overseas 1 July 2004 — 30 Sept 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Galea-Naudi</td>
<td>Sliema, Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Hambly</td>
<td>Hanover, Ontario, Canada</td>
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**US Branch 1 July 2004 — 30 Sept 2004**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alan Clark</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Judi Dickson</td>
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<td>Jose Gomez-Rivera</td>
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<td>Cindra Lou Heckler</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jo/Ann Macpherson</td>
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<td>Theresa L. Miller</td>
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<td>Loretta Park</td>
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<td>Tim Peterson</td>
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<td>Jennifer Randonis</td>
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<td>Steven P. Tibbetts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kimberly Weaver</td>
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<td>Janice Wentworth</td>
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Calendar

We run a calendar of all forthcoming events: if you are aware of any events of Ricardian interest, whether organised by the Society - Committee, Visits Team, Branches/Groups, or by others, please let the Editor have full details, in sufficient time for entry. The calendar will also be run on the website, and, with full details, for members, on the intranet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date(s)</th>
<th>Events</th>
<th>Originator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 Dec</td>
<td>Fotheringhay Nine Lessons and Carols and Lunch</td>
<td>Fotheringhay Co-Ordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>Requiem Mass, St Etheldreda’s, Buffet and Wreath laying Westminster Abbey</td>
<td>Visits Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15-17 April</td>
<td>Cambridge Triennial Conference, Queens’ College, Cambridge</td>
<td>Research Officer/Research Events Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 May</td>
<td>Visit to Hertford Castle and Hatfield House</td>
<td>Visits Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 June</td>
<td>Repeat visit to Colchester, St John’s Abbey Gatehouse, medieval seals</td>
<td>Visits Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 June</td>
<td>Croydon Group 20th anniversary / Joyce Melhuish Commemorative Garden Party</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 June – 5</td>
<td>Visit to Scotland</td>
<td>Visits Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td></td>
<td>See page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 or 21</td>
<td>Bosworth commemoration—Leicester, service, plaque unveiling, tea</td>
<td>Visits Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td></td>
<td>See page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 October</td>
<td>A.G.M. and Members’ Day, English Heritage Lecture, Savile Row, London</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Dec.</td>
<td>Fotheringhay Nine Lessons and Carols and Lunch</td>
<td>Fotheringhay Co-Ordinator</td>
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Subscription Rates

Full member £15; Family membership (all living at same address) £20; Senior citizen member (over the age of 65) £11, Senior citizen family membership £15; Junior member (joining before 18th birthday) £11; Student member (over 18 in full-time education) £11; Overseas mailing charge (£5). Subscriptions became due on 2 October 2004 and should be sent to the Membership Dept, cheques and postal orders payable to Richard III Society