Ricardian Bulletin

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Contributions
Contributions are welcomed from all members. All contributions should be sent to Lesley Boatwright.

Bulletin Press Dates
15 January for March issue; 15 April for June issue; 15 July for September issue; 15 October for December issue.
Articles should be sent well in advance.

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

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From the Chairman

Christmas is almost with us and thoughts begin to focus on all we have to look forward to over the festive season. Mince pies are always a favourite and have their origins in medieval times when they contained shredded or minced meat. Baked in oblong containers representing the Christ-child’s cradle, they were flavoured with three spices, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, to symbolise the three gifts given by the Magi, and it was thought lucky to eat one mince pie (only one?) on each of the twelve days of Christmas, a tradition I’m sure many of us are happy to continue.

The Bulletin once again lives up to its reputation for providing members with a wide range of interesting and entertaining articles and features. Edmund, earl of Rutland, tends to be overshadowed by his brothers, Edward, George and Richard, but he is remembered in this, the 550th anniversary year of his death at Wakefield in 1460. Heather Falvey has been busy with some more on the More plus a look at medieval jokes and fables, while Tig Lang writes on medieval breath fresheners, and it was interesting, and surprising, to note that fennel is said to provoke lust. On a slightly connected theme, Peter Stride writes about the possible introduction of syphilis into Britain by Perkin Warbeck’s army.

There is a full report and review of our successful Members’ Day and AGM held in Leicester. It was a very happy gathering of Ricardians in what turned out to be a splendid venue in the Pork Pie Chapel. My grateful thanks to all involved in the organisation, particularly our invaluable joint secretaries and the local East Midlands Branch. I am happy to report that the Executive Committee was re-elected to include the welcome return of Wendy Moorhen. I also take this opportunity to welcome Marie Barnfield as our new papers librarian, and to welcome Angela Moreton and Pauline Pogmore as the new Branches and Groups Liaison officers, and to wish them all well. My thanks to the previous Branches and Groups Liaison Officer, John Ashdown-Hill, who has gone to live and teach English in Eastern Turkey, near the Syrian border.

Next year’s AGM will be back in London and our speaker will be Dr David Starkey! Note the date in your diaries now – 1 October 2011.

It is fifty years since the Anne Neville memorial was unveiled in Westminster Abbey. An early success for the Society, it owed much to the work of our late Vice-President Isolde Wigram and the late Joyce Melhuish. It is fitting, then, that in this issue The Man Himself gives way to The Lady Herself, as we celebrate the anniversary. (With a plaque in the Abbey for Anne and a plaque in Leicester near to where Richard’s remains might lie, if we ever establish where Edward of Middleham is buried, we shall hope to complete the set by doing the same for him.)

It was a great pleasure at the AGM to present the Robert Hamblin Award to Margaret York, who as well as being a noted Ricardian novelist, has also been a member of the Society continuously since September 1957. It was a pity that the florist sent a bouquet of red roses on the day but I’m pleased to report that they sent another display of the right colour a few days later. In her acceptance speech Margaret told us how she was, and would remain, a life-long Ricardian, making her a great inspiration to us all.

As always, I take this opportunity to wish every member, wherever they are in the world, a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.
Annual General Meeting 2010

Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Richard III Society

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Richard III Society was held at The Adult Education Centre, Leicester, on Saturday 2 October 2010 at 2.45pm. 112 members were present.

Apologies for absence were received from Ros & Andrew Conaty, Val Cresswell, Rachel & Gordon Field, Sally Henshaw, Andrea Lindow, Gwen Millan, Wendy & Brian Moorhen, Lynda Pidgeon, Denise Price, John Saunders and Rosemary Waxman. Apologies were later received from the New Zealand Branch.

Minutes of the 2009 Annual General Meeting

These were published in the December 2009 Bulletin. They were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record of the proceedings.

Chairman’s Remarks and Annual Report

Phil Stone welcomed members from the UK and overseas, including Ann Devrell from the South Australia Branch, Elisabeth Sjøberg who lives in Sweden and Julia Campbell who lives in Paris. Greetings from the Canadian Branch were read out by Phil Stone and from the American Branch by Susan Wells.

The Chairman then gave an address, including remarks on the year’s events and proposals for the future. He thanked several people for their input. (An edited copy of this presentation is reproduced on pp. 7-8 of this Bulletin.)

There being no comments or queries about the Annual Report, as published in the September Bulletin, this was confirmed as a true record.

Reports from Members of the Executive Committee and other Society officers:

**Anne Sutton** gave details of various books that were available and, in particular, brought to delegates’ attention the forthcoming publication Richard III and East Anglia, which will be a record of the proceedings of the 8th Triennial Conference of the Richard III Society held at Queens’ College, Cambridge, 15-17 April 2005. It was possible to pre-order this book with a preferential p&p charge.

**Marian Mitchell** gave details of the visits organised during the year and commented on the success of these events – in particular it had been necessary to arrange a large coach for the Tewkesbury Day and even then there had been a waiting list for seats. She gave brief details of proposed trips for 2011 which included:

- day trips to Abingdon in May and Denny & Anglesey Abbeys in September.
- long week-end based in West Sussex (full details in the December 2010 Bulletin).

In addition, Marian mentioned that the Visits Committee was investigating the possibility of a trip to Bruges in 2012 for the Festival of the Golden Tree.

**Richard Van Allen** spoke on a forthcoming a drama series for television written by Philippa Langley (Secretary of the Scottish Branch) entitled ‘Richard III, Last of the Warrior Kings’. This would consist of 6 x 1 hour episodes. The Leicester actor Richard Armitage had expressed an interest in playing Richard.
Carolyn Hammond, the Society’s Library Co-ordinator spoke on:

- The new Papers Librarian: Marie Barnfield had agreed to take on the role following the resignation of the previous postholder, Gillian Paxton. She advised that the papers had to be transferred to Marie and that some work needed to be done to ensure that they were ready for lending. Full details would be given in the December Bulletin and, until then, members were asked not to request papers.
- There were still books available at bargain prices as part of the book auction.

Treasurer’s Report/Adoption of Accounts for Financial Year ending 31 March 2010

Paul Foss presented the final accounts. He apologised for an error in the published figures but emphasised that the approved accounts were correct and had been signed off by the Independent Examiner. There being no questions, adoption of the accounts was proposed by Denys Carden, seconded by Terry Fawthrop and approved unanimously.

Appointment of a Qualified Independent Examiner

Paul Foss recommended the continued appointment of Anne Summerell to examine the accounts and no objections were raised.

Reports from Branches/other Officers

Ann Devrell from the South Australia Branch presented the annual report from the Branch on behalf of the Chair (Mary Collins) and Secretary (Sue Walladge).

Resolutions and Motions

The Chairman spoke to the published motion which was a proposal from the Executive Committee to ‘increase the annual subscription for Society Membership by £2 for all categories as set out in the September Bulletin. Effective with immediate effect for new members and from October 2011 for existing members’. He explained that this was the first increase for three years and was necessary to ensure the continued financial stability of the Society. The Committee having made the proposal, it was seconded by Ruth Carty and agreed without objection. A second proposal relating to the overseas postage supplement was withdrawn as it did not need to be voted on, but did need further discussion by the Executive Committee.

Robert Hamblin Award:

The Chairman explained that this award was instituted in memory of the former Society Chairman, Robert Hamblin, as a means of recognising work done by members of the Society that is of particular merit and ‘beyond the call of duty’. Consequently, it is not open to members of the Executive nor to Vice Presidents or the President.

He then gave details of the award for 2010 – which was to Margaret York. With the passing of Isolde Wigram at the end of 2009, Margaret was now the longest serving member of the Society, having joined in 1957. She was locally born and, after having worked as a teacher in Leicester for many years, she had become a full time author. Her works on Richard III had gained a wide audience and produced many new members. In her work she had done much for the Society and she had been a great publicist for Richard III.
In response, Margaret thanked the Society for the award. She said that she found it difficult to believe her association with the Society was so far reaching but that she had always enjoyed her membership and remained a lifelong Ricardian.

**Election of President**

The re-election of Peter Hammond as President of the Society was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Jean Judd and carried unanimously.

**Election of Vice-Presidents**

The Chairman, on behalf of the Executive Committee, proposed John Audsley, Kitty Bristow, Carolyn Hammond, Moira Habberjam and Rob Smith. He mentioned that a proposal to add Carol Rike from the US Branch had been, sadly, withdrawn following her recent death.

The nomination was proposed by Joan Cooksley, seconded by Nicky Bland and carried unanimously.

Peter Hammond then thanked the meeting on behalf of the Vice Presidents and himself. He said that the Society was a strong link between the world of academia and ordinary people interested in history and he hoped it would continue to perform this function.

Finally, he mentioned the recent recovery of the Boar presented to Jeremy Potter which he now held. He commented that it would make good continuity for each President to hold for the term of his/her office.

**Election of Executive Committee for 2010/2011**

Nominations had been received for Lesley Boatwright, Howard Choppin, Paul Foss, Marian Mitchell, Wendy Moorhen, Lynda Pidgeon, Phil Stone, Anne Sutton, Richard Van Allen, David Wells, Susan Wells, Geoff Wheeler.

The Chairman welcomed the return of Wendy Moorhen adding that it would be good to have her expertise once again available. He also acknowledged, with regret, the decision by John Saunders not to stand for a further year and thanked him for his invaluable support. He wished him well in his retirement.

He then pointed out that the nominations would result in an Executive Committee of 12 persons. The Constitution permitted up to 14 members. This meant that it would not be necessary to hold individual elections and he asked the meeting to consider the nominations as a whole.

The nominations were formally moved by Peter Hammond, seconded by Kitty Bristow and carried unanimously.

The Chairman then thanked the meeting on behalf of all nominees.

**Date of Bosworth 2011**

The annual Bosworth commemoration would take place on Sunday 21 August 2011 although the Society would have a presence at the Battlefield event throughout the weekend.

**Date of AGM 2011**

The AGM 2011 and Members’ Day would take place on Saturday 1 October 2011 in London at a venue to be announced.

**Open Forum and Questions**

No formal questions had been posted.

Elisabeth Sjøberg asked whether it would be possible to announce the number of members at the AGM in future. The Chairman advised that there was a figure given in the Annual Report – membership was currently around 2,500. David Wells commented that the figures were calculated on a regular basis but it would be possible only to provide the most recent information, which could be at least a month out of date.
Elisabeth also announced that there were two places remaining at her dinner that evening and that she would also be organising a dinner for the AGM in London in 2011.

**Any Other Business**

Ann Ayres thanked the Executive Committee for sending the DVDs of the ‘Princes in the Tower’ television programme to the Branches and Groups.

Yvonne Ginn referred to the fortuitous finding of Jeremy Potter’s Boar and wondered if, to avoid the possible loss of such artefacts in the future, members should be encouraged to make appropriate provision in their wills, e.g. to leave them to the Society.

David Wells thanked the Chairman for his work in chairing the Executive Committee and as the Society Chairman. He added that his help and support was invaluable both on a personal basis to the Executive Committee and in continuing to promote the work of the Society.

**RCRF Raffle**

Elizabeth Nokes supervised the drawing of the winning tickets and selection of prizes for the raffle. First prize was won by Kitty Bristow.

**Close of AGM**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 4.20pm and thanked everyone for attending.

**The thirty-second Major Craft Sale at the AGM and Members’ Day**

The thirty-second Major Craft Sale, which is in aid of the Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund, made a total of £182.00.

Grateful thanks, as always, to all who contributed to the success of the sale, either by serving on stalls or contributing items for sale or raffle. We know who the former were, but suspect we do not know the names of all the latter, as people came up to the ‘grot’ and book stalls with items for sale throughout the day: so, if your name is not listed below, and you did contribute, very grateful thanks, nevertheless.

Known contributors and helpers, whom we thank: Kitty Bristow, Alison Carter (who sold the raffle tickets, in costume), Joan Cooksley, Peter and Carolyn Hammond, Marian Hare, Jean Hester, Fiona Price, Elaine Robinson, Beth Stone and Geoffrey Wheeler.

*Elizabeth Nokes and Phil Stone, Trustees, RCRF*

**New for the AGM: the Standard of King Richard III 1483-1485**

© Geoffrey Wheeler 2010

High quality reproduction print A4 size with protective envelope: £2

Now available from Sally Empson, Sales Liaison Officer (contact details on back cover)
Punching well above our weight

The Chairman’s Address to the Society’s AGM 2010

Twenty and more years ago, the late Joyce Melhuish used to ask where we thought she should plan for the next foreign visit to take place, and Kitty Bristow would often reply, ‘Jerusalem, Acre, the Holy Land’, and when Joyce looked askance, as she so often did, saying that they were hardly Ricardian, Kitty would add, ‘Ah, but, you know that Richard would have if he could have’.

Last year, I noted that we were meeting fifty years after the Fellowship of the White Boar changed its name to The Richard III Society and that the survival of the Fellowship and its development into the Society we know today owed so much to Isolde Wigram. Sadly, her death saw the passing of a great Ricardian, but her memory will continue to be recalled as, from next year, the annual AGM lecture will be known as the Isolde Wigram Memorial Lecture.

The Society has continued along familiar paths as well as exploring new ones. At a time when money is tight and the economy fragile, we are financially in good shape, but with rising costs, and particularly the impact of the rise in VAT from January next year, we have had to take the decision to raise subscription and postage supplement levels for the first time in three years.

Binding us together as an international Society more than anything are our two key publications, The Ricardian and the Bulletin, and I thank Anne Sutton and Lesley Boatwright for all the work these involve. Of similar importance in keeping the Society together is our website, which, crucially, is also by far the main source of new members. Websites can never stand still, and we have to work all the time to keep our site up-to-date and relevant. I thank the two key people involved in doing this, my wife Beth, the content manager, and Jane Weaver, the webmaster.

What have we done during the past year? Here are some of the highlights.

- We returned to Leeds for the prestigious Medieval Congress.
- We maintained our presence at Tewkesbury and at Bosworth, having our own stall selling books, etc., and promoting the Society.
- We have expanded our range of promotional items for sale to members with the tote bag and a replica of Richard’s boar badge in pewter.
- The Research Committee’s splendid study weekend in York last April was a great success after the disappointment of last year’s cancellation.

Turning to our branches and groups, I would like to pay tribute to the work of John Ashdown-Hill, who took on the role of their liaison officer in 2004, providing a link between the Executive and the branches and groups. John stepped down from the post a couple of months ago following his move to live overseas, and his role as Branch and Group Liaison Officer has been taken over jointly by Angela Moreton and Pauline Pogmore.

Maintaining membership levels is a real issue, and our challenge is to make sure that we demonstrate three things: that membership of this Society is good value for money, that by being members individuals are contributing to the rehabilitation of a good king’s tarnished reputation, and, finally, that we are making progress in achieving our aims.

What, then, are we planning to do over the next couple of years to achieve all this?
• We are continuing our comprehensive review of the website and we will also continue to explore ways of increasing our internet presence through our Facebook site.
• We will be commemorating the 550th anniversary of the birth of John de la Pole, Richard’s heir presumptive. He and his brothers continued to oppose the Tudors right up until 1525.
• We have plans to have a presence at the Leeds Medieval Congress next year and in 2012 hope to be sponsoring a session of lectures as well as having our publications stall.
• The Visits team have another interesting programme to look forward to, including a long-weekend visit to Sussex, and a couple of exciting-looking day visits too. Looking ahead to 2012, another visit to Bruges for the Pageant of the Golden Tree is being considered.
• We will continue to look for, and take advantage of, media opportunities that offer the chance to make the revisionist case for King Richard.
• Building on the success of the Wills Project, our research programme will continue with an exciting new Ricardian Chronicle Project, while the Research Committee is busy organising our next Triennial Conference, which will focus on the new discoveries at Bosworth, and will take place in April 2012.

It’s always my pleasure during my AGM address to thank everyone involved with the work of the Society. Without the hard work of all the members of the Executive Committee, my chairmanship would be impossible, and I thank them all for their support. To all our branches and groups who do so much to spread the word throughout the world, I give you my thanks and ask that you carry on with the good work. Then there are all those who carry out voluntary roles looking after such things as the library, the sales, the visits, etc. etc. Without these freely-given contributions we simply wouldn’t be here today. Finally, let me not forget to thank you, the members. Without you there would be no Society. I thank you all.

While on the matter of thanks, I would like to take this opportunity to make special mention of Peter and Carolyn. As well as being President, Peter chairs or sits on several committees and is a constant source of help and good advice. Carolyn is one of Peter’s vices — indeed, I’ve often heard him refer to her as his favourite vice — and she does sterling work in her busy role as Library Co-ordinator. My sincere and grateful thanks go to them both.

We will be back in London for the AGM next year, though we’re not sure yet where we will be. However, we are looking into finding somewhere suitable, especially as I can announce that the speaker for the first Isolde Wigram Memorial Lecture will be Dr David Starkey. His subject will be the continued force of Yorkism during the reign of Henry VII. We will need to meet somewhere special, but perhaps not the Lions’ Den at London Zoo, as has been suggested!

During the year, our old presumptions about Bosworth and the tomb at Sheriff Hutton have been turned on their heads, which only goes to show that we shouldn’t take anything for granted. History is not set in concrete, and good and sustained research can lead to new interpretations. In a busy year, our Society continues to punch well above its weight in the ring of fifteenth-century studies.

This year’s AGM has taken place close to where King Richard’s remains, perhaps, are still buried. While we may never know that for certain, there is much that we do know about the man himself, and what we know gives us the confidence to continue the work of this Society. This year, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, our royal patron, has again reminded us that reputation is a fragile thing. Let us continue to demonstrate that the reputation of Richard III is safe in our hands. Let us press ahead with our plans for the Ricardian future, rebuilding the good name of Good King Richard, and, when things get difficult, as they will, let us remember the words with which I began, ‘Ah, but, you know that Richard would have if he could have’.
Susan Ronald’s address to the AGM

Who will rid me of this bad historian: Shakespeare?

In Susan Ronald’s keynote address to the Society, she stated that she hoped she could open our eyes to see why Shakespeare wrote The Tragedy of Richard III when he did, and what his motives were for doing so.

Richard III, despite being part of the history cycle of Shakespeare’s plays, is called a tragedy, which she believes is part of the mystery. As an historian of the period, she found that Shakespeare has left us clues to point to the fact that he had never intended for the play to be taken as a literal history of Richard III’s reign.

The points to be made are:

It is widely acknowledged that Shakespeare wrote the play sometime between 1592 and 1594.

In 1593, Christopher Marlowe was murdered, leaving a vacuum in the world of theatre that shocked that world and helped to catapult Shakespeare into the limelight. Marlowe’s murder was carried out by three men: Ingram Frazier, Robert Pooley and Nicholas Skeres. Two of these men had been known to Shakespeare personally since 1586.

The murderers were in the direct employ of Thomas Walsingham, the young impoverished cousin of the deceased spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham. Thomas suddenly came into a great deal of money in the beginning of 1593, freeing him from debtors’ prison and enabling him to resume his duties working in the Elizabethan spy network of Sir Robert Cecil.

Cecil was of course a ‘crookback’ and the ‘packhorse’ in Queen Elizabeth’s great affairs.

Cecil was also the mortal enemy of Shakespeare’s patron, Henry Wriothesley, earl of Southampton, Robert Devereux, earl of Essex, and Walter Ralegh.

In 1593, Shakespeare was asked to ‘fix’ the play of Sir Thomas More in its famous May Day riot scene, but the Master of the Revels, Edmund Tilney, refused to allow it to pass.

This makes 1593/4 the most likely date of the composition of the play as an allegory for the abuse of power during what was rapidly becoming known as the Regnum Cecilianum.

It puts Buckingham into real context. He is the evil counsel whispering in Richard’s ear, the man who puts Richard on the throne. Buckingham is therefore also Cecil.

It puts the absence of Lady Margaret Beaufort clearly in the proceedings. As the great-grandmother of Elizabeth I, nothing could be said against Margaret, or Richmond, or Queen Elizabeth, widow of Edward IV, as she was Elizabeth I’s other great-grandmother.

Cecil’s own death in 1612 went unmourned by the people, who referred to him as a dissembling smooth-faced dwarf … I know your crookback’s spider-shapen and the man who collected the queen’s taxes who had gone to hell to raise the Devil’s rent.

This means, of course, that it had never been Shakespeare’s intention to become the primary historical source for the reign of Richard III, but rather the writer of a clever, believable allegory that his audiences would understand to be about the Queen’s primary councillor Sir Robert Cecil.
A Very Hansom Room for the AGM

Sally Henshaw of the East Midlands Branch found us a very good place to hold our AGM: the Pork Pie Chapel in Leicester’s Belvoir Street, otherwise known as the Adult Education Centre. It was built in 1845 as a Baptist chapel, and is a stuccoed building with a rounded façade to the street and columns with ornamental bands. It is now Grade 2 Listed, and the listing text describes the actual room where we held the AGM, known as ‘the Hansom Hall’, as ‘semi-circular in plan with moulded balcony on cast-iron piers … (having a) circular ceiling with guilloche pattern’. It was indeed a very handsome room.

The architect was Joseph Aloysius Hansom (born 1803 in Micklegate, York) who is better known as the inventor of the horse-drawn Hansom Cab, which he registered for a patent in 1834. The first ever Hansom Cab was driven down Coventry Road in Hinckley in 1835. Its larger wheels and the lower position of the cab itself were safety features which led to fewer accidents. He sold the patent for £10,000, but unfortunately the buyer got into financial difficulties and never paid up.

He also designed Leicester’s New Walk Museum, Birmingham Town Hall, and the Roman Catholic church of Falmouth.

Later partitions and passages have made the route through and up this building to the Hansom Hall itself a real voyage of discovery. Luckily, Richard van Allen was on duty down in the foyer to help members to find their way. Once people made it to the room, it appeared that someone had hung an old grey coat on one side of the doorway and an old grey pair of trousers on the other, but on closer inspection these were revealed to be metal sculptures.

Lesley Boatwright and then Ken Lowles received members, and Alison Carter sold the raffle tickets. This year our secretaries Sue and Dave Wells produced splendid welcome packs containing all sorts of useful information such as possible places to visit in the lunch-hour (including a map), nearby cafés and restaurants, and details of a number of special offers: the forthcoming publication Richard III and East Anglia (see p. 21), a special AGM price for Peter Hammond’s new book on Bosworth, and the new reproduction of King Richard’s standard by Geoffrey Wheeler (see p. 6). Sue and Dave had also made name badges for everyone who had said in advance.
that they were coming, which is very helpful at meetings like this, when you may know a name very well but not have the slightest idea of the face it belongs to.

Our usual range of stalls was set up round the room under the balcony, and did a roaring trade. We were joined by members of Soper Lane, who demonstrated the work of medieval and Tudor silk women, and Julian Humphrys and David Austin of the Battlefields Trust, whose concern is to preserve and promote Britain’s battlefields. But perhaps the most popular corner of all was the one in which Sue Wells, Rosanna Salbashian and Carolyn West produced a constant supply of cups of tea and coffee and a range of biscuits.

It was particularly pleasing to see a lot of new faces at the AGM – which is, of course, the idea in holding these meetings in different places in turn – judging by the turnout, the cause of Richard III is alive and well in the Midlands. Marion Mitchell organised a coach from London, which proved popular, though its journey to Leicester met the usual delays for roadworks and accidents that seem to bedevil Saturday travel. Ann Devrell from the South Australia Branch was with us, and reported to the meeting on branch activities, and there were greetings from the American and Canadian Branches. Many people travelled long distances to be at the meeting: Elizabeth Watson came from Perth (Scotland), Anne Painter and Elaine Henderson came from the Devon and Cornwall Branch, Suzanne Doolan came from Merthyr Tydfil – and Julia Campbell came from Paris. The AGM really does feel like the coming-together of Richard’s supporters from far and wide to renew their loyalty and direct their future efforts.

**New Continental Group**

Rita Diefenhardt-Schmitt writes: Attention, Ricardians on the Continent! If anybody is interested in forming a Central Continental Group, please contact me. Such a group had already existed, so a certain base is given for a new start. The distance is always a problem in such a group but we have enough opportunities to organise activities.

So if you are willing to take part do not hesitate to get in touch with me at Ulmenweg 8, 65520 Bad Camberg-O.selters/Ts., Germany.

Anybody is welcome so I look forward to your reply.
**Bosworth 2010**

**Commemoration and Commerce**

The people who drew up the constitution of our Society enshrined in it the principle that there should be an annual visit to Bosworth Field on or near 22 August to commemorate the battle and all who died in it, and this has been duly observed through the years. Our service in Sutton Cheney church remains a quiet and thoughtful interlude amid the ever more frenetic happenings put on by Leicestershire County Council to attract the public – and its money – to the refurbished Visitor Centre and performance area on Ambion Hill.

Leicester is fairly central in England. It is 102 miles by rail from London, 116 from York, 121 from Norwich, 110 from Manchester and 118 from Bristol (but 229 from Exeter). So the commemorations here afford a good opportunity for Society members not only to remember the dead and the battle’s aftermath, but to meet and talk, and get to know one another. This year, to mention the furthest-flung, we know that two very new members from Canada were with us, and so were members from the Netherlands, France and Northern Ireland.

As usual, a coach (organised by Elizabeth Nokes) came from London, this time bringing 32 members to the service, and we know of 23 other people who made their own way to the church. The service was conducted by the Rev. Amanda Pike, and the readers were Mary Burgess, churchwarden of Sutton Cheney, and Marian Mitchell, the co-ordinator of the Society Visits Team. Yet again the wreaths were kindly made (at cost only) by Ruth Cochrane, whom we thank for her skill and generosity, and donated, with equal generosity, by the Canadian and Australasian Branches. One of these was hung by a Dutch member, Wim Wiss, and the other by Carolyn West, a member of the Visits Team.

It fell to the Chairman, Phil Stone, to give the address. Phil used as his theme the prayer found in Richard III’s Book of Hours, which has become known as King Richard’s Prayer. This Book of Hours was found in Richard’s tent after the battle, and featured in the recent exhibition at Lambeth Palace in London. Phil imagined Richard coming to Sutton Cheney before the battle to pray. Obviously we can never know exactly what Richard felt, though it is easy enough to make guesses, and Phil speculated that Richard might have prayed on the lines of ‘O God, please give me the victory ... let me give that ferret-faced little Welsh bastard the thrashing he deserves’.

But, as Phil reminded the congregation, we are always told that the answer to a prayer may be ‘no’, and sadly that was to be the answer on that occasion. ‘Sorry, Richard, not this time.’ But the prayer ends by asking Christ ‘after the journey of this life, to deign to bring me before you, the living and true God’; when Richard stood before God after the battle of Bosworth, said Phil, ‘we can be sure that, as he had asked in the prayer that will forever be associated with him, he was covered “in Christ’s grace and glory”.’

Sutton Cheney church, old, small, and comforting, is very much part of the Bosworth ambience, now with the Society memorial and wreaths, and the hassocks stitched and presented by Society members.* It seems a peaceful place today – would it have seemed so to Richard? Not many of his entourage could have accompanied him into it for his pre-battle prayers. Would the church have communicated its calm to them as they anticipated the battle’s turmoil?

After the service, there was the opportunity to go on a battlefield walk organised by the Battlefield Centre. It took people as near to the new site as it is possible at present for a group of people to go, given that it is on private land and the Battlefield Centre has no access to it. The tour returned to the Battlefield Centre in time for participants to visit the exhibition, arena events, the Society sales tent and so forth, and then have tea.

* See p. 57 for more about the Sutton Cheney hassocks.
As last year, the Society had its sales tent in the marketing area which borders the arena. We had a better position this year, near the entrance but not so tucked away, next to the Battlefield Trust tent (with whose personnel we maintained a lively badinage). Sue and Dave Wells and Lesley Boatwright drove up on the Friday in a car packed with merchandise, ready to assist Richard van Allen and the Battlefield Centre staff in putting up the tent first thing on Saturday morning. Lynda Pidgeon also came along on Saturday, bringing more stock for sale.

Saturday’s weather was very changeable. No sooner had we arrange our displays of books, badges and other merchandise tastefully on the stall than the heavens opened, and we had to drag the tables back into the tent and cover them with plastic sheeting. Then the sun came out again, and so did our display. This happened at intervals throughout the day. Medieval markets must have had to cope with the same conditions, but their sales goods probably stood up better to the rain. A few drops of water can ruin a book-jacket.

Meanwhile, in the performance area the re-enactors rode their horses and the armies clashed again. The hawks flew and the music played. But we had missed one attraction: Sandi Toksvig in the Sunday Telegraph on 22 August remarked that the previous week the Battlefield Centre had been holding a ‘Ferret Race Night’.

Our tent attracted many visitors, some more decorative than others. There appeared to be a medieval encampment at the bottom of the arena, with swirling children and dogs, busy craftsmen, and patient people in workaday medieval dress sitting behind stalls. Re-enactors wandered round the stalls when they were not re-enacting. We sold all 25 copies we had brought of Peter Hammond’s new book, and 24 of the new boar badges. People from the Yorkshire Branch had struggled through motorway chaos to bring their own new book, Pauline Pogmore’s Richard III, the House of York and their Supporters. Bosworth weekend is a very good sales opportunity for new items: a number of people came up specifically to see ‘what is new’. The Society’s gross takings for the weekend amounted to £974.75.

Our thanks go to all who worked hard to make the weekend such a success.
Obituary: Carole Rike

Carole Rike, who died at the beginning of August, had been a member of the American Branch since the early 1970s, and had served on the board in one role or another and/or as editor of the Ricardian Register, the journal of the American Branch, without interruption since 1985.

Like many a Ricardian, Carole had a number of interests, though Richard III was always an abiding passion. Carole’s daughter Zoe says she can’t recall a time that her mother wasn’t interested in Richard III and English history. Some of Carole’s other interests (or passions) included shih-tzus, gardening and orchids. One of the joys of her last few months was the construction of a greenhouse.

She ran a successful graphic design and printing business in New Orleans, and printed the Register continuously for twenty-five years. In addition to her work for the American Branch and for her own business, Carole was active in a number of other volunteer organisations. She printed the Tennessee Williams Literary Journal and was active in the New Orleans Personal Computer Club, Save Our Cemeteries, and others.

Her husband, Jim Rike, gave her a Rolls-Royce as a Valentine’s Day gift, and it was a well-known sight around town. It was described as ‘garnet’, but Ricardians know it was actually murrey.

When Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans in 2005, Carole and her family were especially hard hit. The family were out of town when the hurricane struck and had no opportunity to retrieve precious documents and photos. Carole spoke and wrote movingly on the effects of losing so much.

The Richard III Society has lost a very good friend, as has everyone who knew Carole. She will be much missed. Many people have written of their memories of her, and the abiding theme is one of friendship and hard work.

It had been the plan of the Executive Committee to announce at the AGM that we had made Carole a Vice-President in recognition of her work for the Society and for the American Branch. Carole knew this and had expressed her pleasure at it. It is very sad that she never had the chance to be publicly recognised by the members in this way.

[Adapted by Phil Stone from the remembrance published in The Ricardian Register, compiled by Laura Blanchard.]

The Richard III Bursary for 2010-11 tenable at IHR London

The Society is pleased to announce that this bursary, tenable for one year at the Institute of Historical Research, London, has been awarded to Thomas Graham.

Tom took the degrees of BA and MSt in Medieval History at the University of Oxford. His dissertation was on ‘Exeter and its relationships with the local political community, 1461-1509’. He is now registered for a DPhil at Corpus Christi College, and will continue to follow this line of study, considering what a medieval town sought from its patrons and whom it perceived to be capable of delivering this. Why did magnates consider it desirable to patronise a town, and what benefits did they receive? He will also look beyond the ‘patronage’ relationship to other linkages.

Tom will now expand the scope of his investigation beyond Exeter to take in a number of different contexts: towns of different sizes and political structures, perhaps considering nearby Barnstaple, where records exist from the 1460s, and ranging further afield, perhaps to Canterbury (a town in a region with no dominant magnate), the Cinque Ports which in theory possessed an automatic choice of patron in their Warden, or towns such as Shrewsbury, Hull or Beverley, to see how the policy of towns in an area of very strong lordship was affected by it.
What shall we tell the children?

Lucille Dove and others, in stages of indignation varying from seething to boiling over, have sent us a cutting from Saturday 16 October’s Daily Telegraph weekend section on ‘Family & Education’ entitled ‘The princes in the Tower’. It is an extract from The Story of Britain, by one Patrick Dillon, giving what purports to be a narrative in which Uncle Richard seizes the Little Princes (both together, at the gates of London), shuts them up in the Tower amid a flurry of Gothick clichés ‘stone corridors that dripped with moisture’ ... ‘where cold seemed to seep up from the floor and drip from the vaulted ceiling’ ... and then footsteps came down the stairs, a key grated in the lock, the door was kicked open ... and a boatman rowing towards London Bridge heard two screams, so faint they might have been made by river birds ...

This is presented as an episode in ‘a children’s history of the British Isles’.

Apart from the tired old Tudor propaganda, Dillon gets simple facts wrong. We all know that Prince Edward was intercepted at Stony Stratford, not at the gates of London, and Prince Richard was not travelling with him, but already living in London with his mother. They arrive at the Tower ‘by boat in the dead of night’ and are helped up the steps. No. They would have gone in (separately) by the front door. Dillon is thinking of Elizabeth Tudor being taken into the Tower through Traitor’s Gate two generations later. As the Daily Telegraph’s heading-writer says, Dillon’s book ‘looks beyond the dry facts’.

Our chairman, Phil Stone, has written to the Daily Telegraph as follows:

‘I write to ask why a paper of such status as the Daily Telegraph gave publicity to such a highly coloured and grossly inaccurate piece as the extract from The Story of Britain by Patrick Dillon, printed last Saturday 16th October?

‘Thanks to Tudor propaganda and the Shakespeare play, Richard III has been condemned as a villain and usurper. In the belief that very little of this can be substantiated, the Richard III Society has campaigned for nearly ninety years to get him a fair hearing.

‘In the matter of the Princes in the Tower and the other murders of which he is accused, the evidence makes a guilty judgement unsafe. While not going so far as to say that Richard is innocent of the crimes lodged against him, many historians do now agree that there are doubts.

‘Patrick Dillon’s rewriting of history may be designed to engage the younger reader by using stories rather than facts, but that is all this is: a story. it doesn’t even stick to the known facts. Children are impressionable and this will give them a distorted view of a fascinating time in the history of Britain.

‘That such an organ as the Daily Telegraph should give this nonsense publicity is very sad. Placing it in a section of the paper headed ‘Family and Education’ suggests that the lack of history teaching in our schools in recent years is a chicken coming home to roost. With all the cuts in finances announced recently, one can only wonder how long it will be before the hen coop is filled to bursting.

‘The promotion of this sort of nonsense isn’t worthy of you.’

Unfortunately, the Daily Telegraph has not seen fit to publish the Chairman’s letter.
Study weekend April 2011
From Hull to Westminster: the rise and fall of the de la Poles

Date: the weekend will run from the evening of Friday 8 April to after lunch on Sunday 10 April 2011.

Place: as last year, it will be held at the Elmbank Hotel, The Mount, York, YO24 1GE. The Elmbank was built as a large private house in about 1870, and is a short walk (or bus ride) from York station. In the 1890s some of the interiors were altered to Art Nouveau style with some splendid stained glass. There are also wall paintings in a late pre-Raphaelite style in some of the main rooms. All rooms are ensuite and car parking is available.

Please note that numbers are restricted and early booking is VERY advisable.

Cost: Residential rate: £215 per person for single occupancy, with all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. The cost for those sharing a twin or double room on the same basis will be £185 each.
Non-residential rate: £95 per person, which includes lunch on Saturday and Sunday. Non-residents will be able to book dinner at the hotel on Friday and Saturday nights if they wish, at an additional cost of about £15.50 per dinner. Please note that overall numbers for the weekend are limited by the capacity of the lecture-room.

Programme: 2011 is the 550th anniversary of the birth of John de la Pole, Richard III’s heir presumptive at the time of Bosworth, and so the focus for next year’s study weekend will be the dramatic rise and sudden fall of his family, from their humble origins as merchants to being claimants to the throne of England.

On Friday evening we will begin by looking at the de la Poles in the fourteenth century and their origins in Hull, with Rosemary Horrox.
Saturday morning will be devoted to a series of short papers presented by members of the Research Committee, covering
  Alice Chaucer and her family connections (Lesley Boatwright)
  The Tombs at Ewelme (Peter Hammond)
  William de la Pole through political poems (Heather Falvey)
  John de la Pole, duke of Suffolk, and his wife Elizabeth Plantagenet (Lynda Pidgeon)
Saturday afternoon will be free for people to explore York, indulge in retail therapy, or just have a rest. After dinner on Saturday Helen Cox will give us a talk on the battle of Wakefield, and will have copies of her book for sale, which she will be happy to sign.
On Sunday morning there will be two papers: David Baldwin will look at John de la Pole and the battle of Stoke, and Sean Cunningham will speak on the last of the de la Poles.

If you would like to attend the weekend please complete the booking form in the centre of the Bulletin and return it by 20 January 2011 to our Research Events Administrator, Jacqui Emerson, together with your payment and an A5 envelope for the joining pack.
This new biography takes a nuanced view both of Richard III’s reign and of the controversies surrounding it, exploring them in the wider context of the period. Defining Richard’s character as central to the analysis of his actions, David Hipshon emphasises the need to separate the man himself from the caricature that has so often been painted.

Despite reigning for only a relatively short period of time, Richard III is one of England’s most controversial monarchs. His life and rule has inspired a huge amount of literature, not least Shakespeare’s great play, and controversy still surrounds his seizure of the throne in 1485, the mystery of the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower, and his defeat and death at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485.

Incorporating new research and previously unpublished material, this book is a must-read for all those interested both in Richard III as king, and in the development of the English monarchy and society at the end of the medieval era and the beginning of the early modern period.

December 2010: 198x129: 254pp
Hb: 978-0-415-46280-8: £66.00 £48.00

To order at the discounted price visit www.routledge.com/9780415462815 and enter the code RICH1012 at the online checkout.
Other Society News and Notices

Congratulations to Kitty Bristow
One of our vice-presidents, Kitty Bristow, celebrated her ninetieth birthday in September and in recognition of this momentous achievement, the Executive Committee sent her a bouquet of flowers and a card, both in the name of the full membership. Numerous individual cards were also sent.

As if reaching 90 wasn’t enough, the day after her birthday, Kitty left with her family on a five-day trip to Venice on the Orient Express.

Kitty’s son, Mike, has sent us a picture of his mother with the flowers – all white – and Kitty has sent a card of thanks, in which she writes: ‘Dear Phil, I would like to extend my thanks to you, the Executive Committee and the members of the Richard III Society for the most beautiful bouquet of flowers which were sent to me on my birthday. They were really lovely with many white roses !! and the birthday card with its good wishes. May I send my thanks to all the members who sent me cards and congratulations, it was so kind and gave me so much pleasure. I do appreciate it. Thank you all once more. Love, Kitty’

Membership Matters
Thank you to those of you who have renewed your membership, and a reminder to those who haven’t that, although you have received this Bulletin, it will be the last until your subscription is paid. The renewal form is in the centrefold of the September issue. We do hope you will take the time and make that renewal, as we don’t want to lose you.

Once again, some of you have been kind enough to include a donation with your subscription and this is particularly appreciated in these difficult financial times. Thank you to all concerned.

Wendy Moorhen

Payments by Overseas Members
In the September Bulletin we announced that we had to withdraw the credit card facility as our bankers would no longer accept the paper vouchers. The cost of using remote chip and pin was too high in view of the likely number of transactions. We also had to announce an increase in the charge for processing non-sterling cheques. Altogether it was not good news for overseas members.

On the positive side, the PayPal method of payment has been used by many members, both home and abroad, and we are still investigating an alternative credit card facility. Another alternative for overseas members would be to transfer funds direct from their bank account to the Society’s account using the International Bank Account Number (IBAN). The reference is GB50MIDL4022267 1077503 and if a Branch Identifier Code is needed this is MIDLGB2104L. The transaction should also include the members’ name and/or membership number so it can be identified by the membership department and of course any bank charges need to be paid by the member so that the Society receives the correct subscription and postage amount.
New Sales Items
The Society has taken into stock the new book by our President, Peter Hammond, entitled *Richard III and the Bosworth Campaign*, a fascinating reassessment of the decisive campaign of the Wars of the Roses, incorporating the latest documentary and archaeological evidence. Members’ price £14.99 plus p&p (UK £4.50, EU £5.00, rest of world £7.50).

Following a suggestion from a member, the Society has produced an A4 print of King Richard’s standard, superbly designed by Geoffrey Wheeler and supplied in a card-backed protective envelope (see p. 6 for drawing and price details). We can also offer A3 prints and framed A4; prices on application to the Sales Liaison Officer (contact details on back cover).

New Papers Librarian and new Branch and Group Liaison Officers
We are very pleased to welcome Marie Barnfield as the new Papers Librarian. See the Library Pages (pp. 48-9). Likewise we welcome Pauline Harrison Pogmore and Angela Moreton, who have taken over from John Ashdown-Hill as Branch and Group Liaison Officers. All contact details are on the back cover.

New Yorkshire Branch website
Yorkshire Branch have closed their previous website owing to technical difficulties, and launched a new one at www.richardiiiyorkshire.x10.mx. They hope to expand its scope over the coming weeks.

New email addresses
Following intrusion by a hacker (asking for money to visit a sick sister in Malaya) into her previous email address, Pauline Pogmore is now at yorkistrose2@hotmail.co.uk. Hazel Hajdu is now at hhajdu@tpg.com.au. Annette Carson tells us that she is returning to England from South Africa and hopes to be living in Norfolk. In the meantime she has set up a new email address: carsonannette@gmail.com to tide her over the transition period. And please note that Juliet Middleton’s email address needs careful clarification: it is keithmiddlttn@979l.plus.com. The symbol after the 979 is a lower-case letter l, not the figure 1. This makes all the difference.

New exhibitions
Wakefield Museum, Wood St., Wakefield: exhibition on the Battle of Wakefield 1460, on till 29 January 2011. Open Tuesday to Saturday 10.30 am to 4.30 pm. (www.wakefield.gov.uk) First reports from people who have seen this exhibition are very mixed.

Galeries nationales, Grand Palais, Paris: France 1550 Between the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. Ends 10 January 2011. Open every day except Tuesdays, 10 am to 8 pm.

Graham Turner wins the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Trophy
Last August bank-holiday weekend Graham Turner, whose paintings on medieval themes we have several times featured in the *Bulletin*, had a spectacular success at the Royal Armouries in Leeds. On his horse Magic (see June 2009 *Bulletin*, p.18) he won the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Trophy, the most prestigious prize in jousting.

Graham tells us that Magic performed with the consistency of a much more experienced horse during three high-scoring days. On the first day, Graham and Magic won their heat, scoring the maximum number of points. On the second, a very windy day, they scored maximum points on all but one of the runs, and finished one point behind last year’s title-holder. The third day brought triumph, with maximum scores and victory on the very last pass. We hope to have a picture of the event in the March 2011 *Bulletin*.

Graham also tells us that he will be publishing his painting of Richard III at Bosworth as a notelet and greetings card: see his website www.studio88.co.uk
News and Reviews

Ring of Steel, Ring of Stone: York’s Exciting New Museum in Micklegate Bar

As noticed in the last Bulletin (p.16), York Archaeological Trust have recently refurbished and rejuvenated the city’s Micklegate Museum, installing a new Wars of the Roses exhibition. As before, the museum is housed on all three floors of the medieval gate, and is a must during any visit to the ancient city. The entrance, at wall walk level, consists of the pay desk and a well-stocked museum shop which has something for everyone. The museum staff are welcoming and friendly, and very eager to offer information to those unfamiliar with the building.

Lodged in what was the southwest entrance to the barbican is a computerised display showing the sights which would have been visible from the bar in the nineteenth century, including the now demolished Bacchus Tavern. Visitors are able to navigate the screen and discover a full panorama through 360 degrees. Another screen nearby reveals the history of the bar, and events associated with it; again, visitors can navigate the portal and consider all, or specific, historical periods.

The theme of the new-look museum is ‘Ring of Steel, Ring of Stone’, the ‘ring of stone’ being the walls which used to, and in many places still do, encircle the city and the ‘ring of steel’ referring to the battles, skirmishes and other military activities which have taken place in and around York over the centuries.

The ‘Ring of Stone’, although erected primarily for the purposes of defence, has, during its long life, also served a civic as well as domestic purpose, the upkeep of the walls being managed by the six wards into which medieval York was divided. Sections of the wall, known as ‘custodies’, were allocated to the local parishes. Grants of murage made by the king enabled the city to raise taxes for the repair and general maintenance of this vital defence. The city also acquired money by means of renting out property attached to the walls, including space inside the bars themselves. It is noted that in 1198 Benedict, son of Ingleram, was resident in Micklegate Bar, and in 1460, during the residence of Robert Coates, the sum of 33 shillings and 10 pence was paid for repairs to the tenement; this was used for the purchase of oak timber and lead, and for soldering.

Perhaps one of the most interesting residents of Micklegate Bar was local police constable Harry Sowden who, along with his family, was the last occupant of the bar, finally moving out in 1918. Harry, a popular and knowledgeable figure, spent his spare time studying the flora and fauna of the gardens around the bar, and even presented a paper to the Field Naturalists’ Section of the Yorkshire Philosophical Society in March 1918. The exhibition on the first floor of the museum, dedicated to ‘the People of the Bar’, shows photographs of Harry, his wife and children, plus the family dog. Excerpts from his paper, ‘Natural History of the City Walls of York’, are available to take away free of charge in a well-presented booklet.

The large open fireplace around which Harry – and countless others before him – must have snuggled on winter evenings holds a fascinating secret. On display in the inglenook is a notice describing how an ‘ancient pistol’ was found behind a stone by resident children in the nineteenth century. In the days preceding the Health and Safety rules, the pistol apparently found its way into the children’s toy box and is now lost. It is interesting to consider whether this firearm could have been ‘ancient’ enough to have been stashed away during the siege of York in 1644 – of course, as with so many historical mysteries, the best we can do is speculate.
For those of us with a passion for medieval history, the second and top floors are an absolute treat. Taking the theme of ‘Conflict and Rebellion’, attractive information boards explain the military history of York, with particular reference to the bar itself. These begin with a description of Roman martial activity and end with the Jacobite Rebellion, when the heads of traitors were displayed on the bar walls for the last time. Beneath the information panels, a replica helmet from each of the featured periods is displayed, and visitors are encouraged to handle, and even try on, the helmets in order to gauge their weight and size. Continuing the armorial theme, an exceptional DVD entitled ‘How a Man Schale by Armyd – Arming the Knight from the 11th to the 15th Centuries’ is repeatedly shown, and a comfortable cushioned bench is provided for visitors to watch this informative and highly enjoyable documentary. Made by the Royal Armouries, and filmed on location at Barley Hall, the film uses replicas from the Armouries’ collection to show how arms and armour evolved during the medieval period, culminating in the fully-encased man of the late 1400s.

No visit to Micklegate Bar would be complete without an inspection of the second-floor turret which leads up to the roof. During the gate’s long history, it was through this turret, and the small trapdoor above, that the heads of branded traitors were carried before being hoisted above the crenels as a warning to all who passed beneath. This is particularly poignant for Ricardians, and it is surely not too fanciful to imagine the horror of the tenant Robert Coates as the heads of Richard, Duke of York, and his son Edmund, Earl of Rutland, were fetched, bloodied and dripping, from the carnage of Wakefield one cold December night in 1460.

A visit to the refurbished Micklegate Bar is highly recommended, and warm congratulations are due to York Archaelogical Trust for enhancing this already fascinating museum.

Wendy Johnson

NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATION

RICHARD III AND EAST ANGLIA

A record of the proceedings of the Triennial Conference of the Richard III Society held at Queens’ College, Cambridge, 15-17 April 2005

Edited and with foreword by Livia Visser-Fuchs

Contents include:

Richard of Gloucester and his East Anglia Lands: Anne F. Sutton
Friends and Foes: Richard III and the East Anglian Magnates: The Howard Family: Anne Crawford
The de Vere Family and the House of York c.1440-1485: James Ross
The Last Yorkist Rebellion? Henry VII and the Earl of Suffolk, 1499-1501: Sean Cunningham
Socio-religious Gilds of the Middle Ages: David Dymond
‘As dear to him as the Trojans were to Hector’: Richard III and the University of Cambridge: Anne F. Sutton and Livia Visser-Fuchs

MEMBERS’ PRICE £5.00 + p&p (UK £3.00, EU £4.50, rest of world £5.50)
Available from Anne Sutton, 44 Guildhall Street, Bury St Edmunds, IP33 1QF

Please make cheques payable to The Richard III Society
The Edinburgh Fringe Festival

Reviews: Now is the Winter

Members of the Scottish Branch attended a performance of this one-woman play re-telling the story of Shakespeare’s Richard III, but reacted in very different ways to the experience.

**Philippa Langley says:**

*There’s a lot you can do with Shakespeare.*

This was a cleverly staged, beautifully written, and superbly acted one-woman show. *Now is the Winter* played out during the course of the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August of this year with the most intriguing premise: to subvert Shakespeare’s words in order to tell the story of a very different Richard III and to do it through a single witness – that of Richard’s loyal servant, Bess. A fabulous set-up considering the male domination of Shakespeare’s plays and it was, bar some of the content (more on this later), pulled off with aplomb.

As Bess tells her beloved master’s story we are treated to intriguing vignettes of medieval life below stairs from the preparation of strawberries for the Council meeting from my Lord of Ely’s garden, to the laundry, the kneading of dough and the making of essential oil compresses. Helen McGregor who plays Bess (an acclaimed TAG Company actor who’s been in shows such as *Taggart*) gave a nuanced and affecting performance. Taking us through the most dramatic moments of Richard’s life she brought Bess to life in a skilful and emotionally-charged presentation, so much so, by the time we got to the climax at Bosworth we were all, quite literally, dreading it. And with the use of simple but effective sound and lighting techniques throughout (and all from a meagre team of five), it was very successfully done.

However, it was the content that split our happy band of brothers (six Ricardians in all) who went to see it, down the middle: those who felt it did enough, and those who felt it didn’t do nearly enough. I was in the latter group.

The show began with the famous ‘Now is the winter …’ speech which, when spoken (retold to us) by a very proud Bess with eyes alight with devotion and wonderment at her noble master’s achievements, made us all sit up and take notice. This was going to be a very different Richard, and a very different Shakespeare. But within moments of this we were into the ‘hunchback with a withered arm’ speech which, granted, had been heavily edited to remove the worst of it (no dogs were barking at Richard) but why do this at all, when after meeting with the crew for a drink in the pub afterwards, all knew that Richard wasn’t deformed?

It was moments like this that a great opportunity was missed. For example, a description of Clarence, Edward or even Henry Tudor (?) could have been applied to Richard so that when we were then told that he wasn’t ‘shaped for sportive tricks’ or to ‘dance nimbly in a lady’s chamber’ we would have immediately understood that this was because it was his choice and, therefore, not forced upon him (as Shakespeare would have us believe) because he was so ugly and misshapen? A much more intriguing, controversial, and subverted Shakespearean
Richard, surely? And how marvellous if Shakespeare’s description of Richard had been used for Tudor at Bosworth with dogs barking at him!

There were other missed opportunities where the Bard’s misinformation was rolled out such as the Princes being in the Tower – aka the Tudor prison and not the medieval Royal Palace and rightful place of residence before coronation – and Richard not being in the ‘giving vein’ over the Hereford lands for Buckingham. But it was with the Princes where I felt it really missed a trick. Richard was described by Bess (via local gossip) as being ‘full of danger’ and it was then intimated that he did kill them, but this was then softened with a: ‘that was him then, but this is him now’ speech. This I found too perplexing as once again the crew agreed that they didn’t think Richard killed them (at the time, Helen was reading Annette Carson’s The Maligned King and thoroughly enjoying it).

In saying this, there were some clear victories. Richard was depicted as the true heir of York and rightful claimant to the throne through Edward’s bigamous marriage and illegitimacy; the influence of Ashdown-Hill and Jones perhaps?

And in defence of the writer/director, Kate Saffin, the subversion of Shakespeare’s words was seamless and effortless; the sign, if any were needed, of a very gifted and talented writer. And, it was, bar some short but necessary links for clarity, all Shakespeare’s words.

However, ultimately, if you are going to subvert something then you must go for it, cause a veritable storm, don’t pull your punches, be revolutionary. This is the stuff of publicity, and publicity breeds success, not only in terms of ‘bums on seats’ (the tiny auditorium was at best half full) but for those in the audience who already know a little of the truth about the real Richard III (and of course those who disagree with it) but more importantly for those who are yet to discover it.

Does this sound like the peevish nit-picking of a die-hard Ricardian? Probably, but only because it came so close to success. For all the brilliance of this show in so many and wonderful ways, it was for me (and those with me in the split) an opportunity missed. Our thanks to Geoff Wheeler for alerting the Scottish Branch to the production.

Members may be interested to learn that Kate and Helen marked the anniversary of Richard’s death at Bosworth on the 22 August performance by laying a white rose on stage in his memory and having a ‘wake’ afterwards in his honour.

Stuart Akers says:
There isn’t a great deal one can do with Shakespeare.

However, this little play by Kate Saffin attempts to ‘wring’ as much as it can out of the Bard, and not without some measure of success.

Is it remotely possible for a small drama performed by a single person (Helen McGregor) using the words of Shakespeare to try to rescue the reputation of King Richard III? Opinions of those worthy people who have viewed the single hour of this drama certainly differ.

The skill of the lone actor, Helen McGregor is certainly not in question. It takes a great deal to sustain a solitary performance for the considerable period of one hour, and (1) to communicate the various emotions of joy, anger, despair, love, confusion, fondness, and (2) to soften or blur the hard edges of one of the most evil tyrants of literature. As I have said, the language of Shakespeare and the
negative connotations put upon every word and action of the dark anti-hero should defy the ingenuity of a literary well-wisher like Kate Saffin.

Yet, I wonder! As I sat through Helen’s performance, I bethought myself of Sir George Buck, no less. When Buck wrote his History of King Richard III, he quoted at length sources like Thomas More, particularly the passages describing the election of Richard as king by the Three Estates of the realm, and the words of Henry of Buckingham. Buck was a canny operator, for when one removes the deliberate irony of More (as Buck did) the whole process of Richard’s election, the tributes to his good character etc., appear quite appropriate and genuine. That’s how it reads in Buck, which is how the old Master of the Revels intended it.

One can also examine William Hutton’s book on Bosworth. This brilliant autodidact had a rather grudging admiration for King Richard; according to Hutton, Richard was okay, apart from his ambition for the crown. But leave aside for a little the charge of ambition, and Hutton’s estimate of the king as a good man of business and an excellent administrator remains.

Something like this is happening in Kate Saffin’s little drama. Best of course to leave it for people to judge, but for me, some of the lethal utterances of the anti-hero, coming from the mouth of his loyal cook, Bess, don’t leave such a black footprint. Phrases such as ‘not shaped for sportive tricks’ or ‘sent before my time into this breathing world scarce half made up’ do, I suggest, increase our sense of empathy with the ‘scheming duke’. After all, if he was a bit ‘disabled’ – so what? This serving woman loved her master dearly, and continues to do so right up to the bitter end. Even the closing speech from Henry Tudor, whilst leaving out, ‘the bloody dog is dead,’ and minus the vengefulness, conjures up from Bess, a rather heartfelt, passionate plea for peace in England.

I would suggest, that for people who have never heard Shakespeare’s play or know next to nothing about Richard III, watching this playlet might just leave them with the impression that Richard, duke and king, was born into difficult times and did his best, despite his ‘disabilities’, to engage with the challenge of that time.

One thing I do know; the pantomime ogre, the amoral schemer, the child killer, is nowhere in sight.

The Society’s index to testators of English late medieval and early Tudor wills

After much hard work by one of the teams working on the Society’s Wills Project, in 2008 the Society published on CD-ROM the Index to Testators of English late Medieval and early Tudor Wills and Testaments 1399-1540 published in serial publications, books and other printed matter between 1717-2000. This CD is a very useful tool for both local and family historians, as well as for those with a general interest medieval history; however, its rather slow sales suggest that members are not aware of its potential, perhaps because of its somewhat unwieldy title. Recently I wrote a review entitled ‘Local History on CD’ for The Local Historian (the journal of the British Association for Local History), in which the Richard III Society’s CD was one of several that came under the microscope. Below is an expanded version of the relevant part of that review, the aim of which is to open members’ eyes to the usefulness of this index.

In general, although comfortable with surfing the Net or with using word-processing packages, many people are wary of loading and opening CDs on their computers, usually for fear of introducing viruses, which is somewhat illogical since such risks are far greater from the Net. Instructions for opening CDs are frequently minimal but this is
because, given the variety of computers and operating systems in use, instructions cannot be too specific. For anyone using Microsoft Windows, the easiest way into the CD/DVD drive is via ‘My Computer’ in ‘Windows Explorer’ or via the CD/DVD drive window that pops up when a disc is inserted. The disc is opened by double-clicking on the file icon.

The Index to Testators of English late Medieval and early Tudor Wills is a database rather than an index in the traditional format. It comprises a Microsoft Excel table which lists the testators of over 28,000 wills published in serial publications, books and other printed matter between 1717 and 2000. Some wills, in particular those of notable people, were published in more than one publication, and so there are multiple entries for some testators. The listed wills were written, or were proved in an English ecclesiastical court, between 1 January 1398 (1398/9) and 24 March 1540 (1540/1). The purpose of the index is to enable the user to ascertain whether a particular person’s will, or part of it, has been published and is therefore more easily accessible than the original document. As it is an index, it does not reproduce any of the text of the wills, but supplies details of each testator and their will and where the printed version can be found.

The Excel column headings are: Surname; First Name; [Date] Made; [Date] Proved; Place [of Residence]; County; [Printed] Source; Series; [Pages]; Substance; Memo (i.e. notes). This last column provides, where available, such information as the testator’s status or occupation, or whether the published version is in the original Latin or has been translated. It is clear from the ‘Substance’ column that many wills have been published only as partial abstracts, which are not as useful as full transcripts. In their original form, many of the wills are in highly abbreviated Latin and therefore virtually inaccessible to most people: the beauty of this CD is that it enables the user to locate those albeit brief published versions, which, although sometime in very obscure publications, are more legible than the originals.

As the table stands, the user can scroll down the Surname column to search for a particular name; however, if the Excel filter function is enabled, searching for a name is much easier. The filter function also enables searching for wills according to the different column headings, for example, wills from a particular place; however, as the day/month and year in the date (either written or proved) have not been entered in separate columns it is not possible to filter by year, which would have been useful for certain types of research. Although only a basic knowledge of Excel is required to use the database, users with more advanced knowledge can manipulate the contents to provide results for more complicated searches, particularly sorting. It is easy to find, for example, all of the wills produced by testators from Rickmansworth [Herts] (42) or Rye [Sussex] (46).

The accompanying booklet describes the background to the Society’s wills project and also provides detailed information about the sources consulted and the format of the entries. An additional Word file on the CD provides the list of sources consulted, which covers 25 pages. The other part of the Society’s wills project was the publication, in 2008, of transcripts of the wills, dated 1479 to 1486, contained in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury’s register Logge. Although published after 2000, and therefore falling outside the remit of the CD, a Word document on the CD lists all 379 Logge testators. It is worth noting that since 2000, the terminal date of the sources consulted, many more medieval wills have been published, including, for example, over 2,500 in the Suffolk Records Society’s two volumes of wills from the Archdeaconry of Sudbury’s register ‘Baldwyn’. Whether the Richard III Society will eventually publish a companion database to update the CD is something that perhaps needs to be considered. Nevertheless, it bears repeating that there are over 28,000 entries on this very useful CD.

The Index is priced £9.99 + £2.00 p&p (in UK), and is available from Sales Liaison Officer, Richard III Society, 42 Pewsey Vale, Forest Park, Bracknell, Berkshire, RG12 9YA.

Heather Falvey
Philippa Gregory’s Margaret Beaufort is a woman on a mission. As a child, her vivid imagination seizes on the story of Joan of Arc and she is convinced that she is destined by God for glory and greatness as a religious leader. Unfortunately for her, however, everyone else regards her as a commodity; her sole purpose is to marry advantageously for her Lancastrian family and bear children. Married at 12 to Edmund Tudor, she gives birth in pain and fear to his son, Henry, in remote Pembroke Castle. Now a widow, she is swiftly married again, to Henry Stafford, leaving her son in the care of his uncle, Jasper Tudor.

Margaret waits and prays as the dynastic fortunes of York and Lancaster ebb and flow, her mind fixed always on her destiny and that of her son. Her despised husband, Stafford, dies, and Margaret, single-minded to the point of obsession, makes the bold decision to give up her freedom – and control of her property – and proposes marriage to Thomas, Lord Stanley, ‘the very man who would turn his coat to the winning colours’ (p.216). Born a Lancastrian, Stanley became a Yorkist after Towton and is now steward to King Edward.

A loveless, sexless marriage suits Margaret who, as Stanley’s wife, is at the centre of power, the Yorkist court. She feigns loyalty as she plots and intrigues, never doubting, never questioning: for her will is God’s will, she is ‘called by God to great office, guided by the Maid, and constantly hearing the voice of God in my prayers’ (p.221). Stanley, however, is more cynical: ‘you think God wants your son to be king of England ...You hear only what you want’ (p.236).

Margaret hates and despises Queen Elizabeth Woodville because she is everything that Margaret isn’t. Margaret’s own virtues ‘count as nothing in the world where a woman like the queen is praised to the skies for the allure of her smile and for the easy fecundity of her cream-fed body’ (p.221). And if, after King Edward’s death, Elizabeth’s two sons have to die to clear the path for Henry Tudor, then so be it. A secret arrangement with the Duke of Buckingham and they are gone; but no matter, because ‘I do the will of God ... And it has been done’ (p.290). Finally, of course, Henry takes the throne and Margaret achieves her destiny as the mother of a king: ‘My wish, and God’s will’ (p.346).

If Gregory’s Elizabeth Woodville (The White Queen) invoked the magical powers of Melusina to help her, Margaret Beaufort claims a far more powerful supernatural champion, God, whose will is the same as hers. But, divinely inspired or not, it is hard to empathise with her as a woman for she is devoid of feeling, even for Henry, who ‘was born only to fulfil my destiny’ (p.319). Nevertheless there is something compulsive about Philippa Gregory’s Margaret Beaufort, a strange, cold, self-obsessed and driven woman who somehow inspires admiration and just a little pity.

Elaine Henderson

Britain’s Bloodiest Battle – ‘a Bloody Waste’
On Wednesday 20 October BBC4 began a new series of ‘A History of the World’ with a half-hour programme on the battle of Towton, 1461. It was previously shown on BBC Yorkshire. Terry Deary, the man who writes Horrible Histories, narrated the story of ‘the biggest, bloodiest battle the country has ever seen’. He made it very personally motivated, with Edward IV avenging his father and his brother – ‘then he married a Lancastrian and it started all over again ...’. Also taking part were Helen Cox, whose book on Towton we reviewed in the last Bulletin, and artist and re-enactor Graham Turner – with his horse.
A number of members have written to us about two BBC television programmes, University Challenge and Question Time.

From Elisabeth Sjöberg, Susan Russell and others
University Challenge, BBC 2, 30 August, Sheffield University vs Newcastle
Question 1: which English king used the heraldic device of a white lion by virtue of his title ‘earl of March’? No answer. Paxman: ‘Edward IV’.
The question should, of course, have been ‘Which brother of Edward IV used the device of a white boar?’ Luckily the final score was not a close-run thing.

From Gordon Smith and others
Question Time, BBC 1, 30 September.
David Starkey compared the Labour Party leadership elections to ‘Richard III murdering his nephews’.

We quote Gordon Smith’s letter here in full:
‘Anne Sutton’s warning some time ago in the Bulletin about comparing medieval and modern politics was well illustrated by Dr David Starkey on Question Time. He compared New Labour under Tony Blair and Gordon Brown to a royal court, but said of the Labour party elections that produced Ed Miliband as leader, ‘This lot is like Richard III murdering his nephews’. A fellow panellist, the Scottish classical actor Brian Cox, remarked: “Your sense of theatre is ridiculous”.

‘Later Dr Starkey protested he was not criticising Ed for stabbing his brother David Miliband, a fellow candidate for leadership, in the back. He conceded this is what politicians have got to do, and Ed showed astounding personal brutality, ambition, drive and cunning. The deposed former Conservative leader Iain Duncan-Smith did not have these qualities, and therefore did not possess the capacity for leadership shown by Ed. Unfortunately Dr Starkey seems to have forgotten his previous remarks on Ed’s election, because these qualities are the ones found in the traditional characterisation of Richard III.’

Recent numbers of the BBC History Magazine have contained various reviews and articles to interest Ricardians.
From Geoff Wheeler
In September 2010 Michael Hicks wrote a short article on ‘The Wars of the Roses’ to publicise his book of the same name, about to be published by Yale. The magazine added a list of ten places to visit ‘connected to the series of conflicts that saw England riven by revolts, murderous coups, financial collapse and full-scale battles’: four castles (Ludlow, Bamburgh, Raglan and Middleham); two abbeys (Tewkesbury and Westminster); St George’s Chapel, Windsor; Gainsborough Old Hall; the Tower of London; and Bosworth Field.

Hicks has interesting things to say about the origins of the war: ‘the conflict was sparked by a cataclysmic train of events in 1450 that saw England blighted by a massive slump, a government quite without credit, defeat abroad, a parliamentary revolt and a popular rebellion’. And ‘during the second half of the 15th century the people of England witnessed three regional revolts, 13 full-scale battles, ten coups d’état, 15 invasions, five usurpations, five kings, seven reigns, and five changes of dynasty’.

In the November issue, David Hipshon takes Hicks to task on a number of points, including ‘to describe Henry Tudor as the nephew of Henry VI is to give his derisory claim to the throne a legitimacy it did not possess’. He was ‘a step-nephew, if such a thing exists, but he had the weakest claim of any monarch in English history’.

Hicks’ rejoinder does include a note that he agrees Henry VII’s title was weak.
The correspondence is illustrated by a picture captioned ‘Edward IV[seated with his wife, Elizabeth Woodville, and son Edward] greets the future Richard III’. Oops. As Geoff Wheeler points out, it is actually the well-known picture, from the Lambeth Palace Library, of Earl Rivers presenting a copy of the *Dictes des Philosophes* to Edward IV.

**Also in the BBC History Magazine for November 2010 is an article by Desmond Seward on ‘A Secret war against the Tudors’**

This describes how both Henry VII and Henry VIII had to face ‘real and imagined White Rose conspiracies for decades’ after Bosworth. Conspirators are listed with their ‘threat levels’: yellow for Lord Lovell (mission: to murder Henry Tudor in York Minster), orange for Lord Darcy (mission: to sail up the Thames and rescue Katherine of Aragon); red for Lord Lincoln (mission: to put Lambert Simnel on the throne), Sir William Stanley (mission: to stab his old friend in arms, Henry VII, in the back) and Richard de la Pole (mission: to unseat Henry VIII with 12,000 mercenaries).

The article is lavishly illustrated with portraits, of which that of Henry VII is the NPG one printed in reverse (to match the left-looking aspect of the other portraits on the page?) and still attributed to Michael Sittow.

Before we leave the *BBC History Magazine* for November 2010, we should also consider the article ‘Conspiracy Overload’ by Nicholas Vincent, Professor of Medieval History at the University of East Anglia, on Ian Mortimer’s new book *Medieval Intrigue* (published by Continuum). Mortimer is writing to defend and further his theory that Edward II was not murdered in that singularly unpleasant way, but survived, ultimately as ‘an embarrassing family skeleton in an Italian attic’. Prof. Vincent thinks that, having failed to win general academic acceptance for his theory, Mortimer should pass on to other things. ‘His conjectures ... are certainly interesting and were worth stating once. However, repeated here at such length and with so absolute a refusal to modify any position already adopted, they risk trying the patience of even his most fervent admirers’. That is, someone with an axe to grind should not grind it too loudly or too often.

Prof. Vincent finds that the best essays in the book are those towards the end ‘after the sound and fury of the great axe-grinding has almost died away’. Mortimer ‘still has much to communicate about his explorations of the forgotten corners of medieval England. I will not be alone in wishing that he would seek out these new forests to fell.’

**From Sue and Dave Wells**

*I’m Sorry I Haven’t a Clue*

We were listening to a very old radio episode of ‘I’m Sorry I Haven’t a Clue’ (BBC Radio). The chairman was Humphrey Lyttleton and the panellists were Barry Cryer, Graham Garden, Tim Brooke Taylor and Willie Rushton. Rushton died in 1996, which gives a clue to the date of the programme.

The panel was asked to suggest headlines chosen by various papers for news stories suggested by the chairman, and the first one was ‘Richard III and the princes in the tower’. These were the suggestions:

- WR: *The Times*: Grave Setback for Youth Opportunities Scheme
- GG: *Daily Star*: No more ‘It’s a Royal Knockout’
- BC: *Daily Mirror*: Mystery of Princes’ Disappearance: King says he has a hunch
- TBT: *Yorkshire Post*: Yorkshire annihilates Lancashire
- TBT: *Sporting Life*: Richard 3, Princes 2
- BC: *Times Educational Supplement*: Two vacancies at Gordonstoun
- WR: *Melody Maker*: Rolf Harris to re-issue ‘Two Little Boys’
- GG: *Daily Telegraph*: Royal plan for inner city unemployed
- TBT: *Daily Telegraph*: Court Circular: Yesterday HM the King visited the Tower. No princes were involved
- BC: *The Sun*: Spot the Princes and win a Metro
- WR: *Daily Mail*: New campaign: ban these foam rubber pillows
- TBT: *The Sun*: Royal kids snuff it.
A German view of Richard III
‘Victim of deliberate smear propaganda’

From Dr Anne-Marie Leithen, Oberhausen, Germany

TV programme on WDR 22 August 2010

Dr Leithen sent us a DVD of a programme from WDR and also a summary in German from their website (www.wdr.de). We are very grateful to Derek Verdin for translating the summary for us:

In February 2010 archaeologists made a sensational discovery in a field North East of Birmingham. An electrum knight’s pin and other medieval war relics appear to prove that the true venue of the legendary Battle of Bosworth had been discovered. Richard III was defeated there on 22 August 1485, dying in a bitter battle against Henry Tudor, who gained the throne of England as a result of Richard’s death. The defeat set the seal on the downfall of the House of Plantagenet, which had ruled for centuries. Its aristocratic Houses of York and Lancaster had given rise to a bloody feud around the throne, the so-called War of the Roses, which eventually lasted 30 years.

Well over a hundred years after his death on the battlefield the hapless king experienced a resurrection as the worst villain in the history of the theatre. In his drama, William Shakespeare portrayed Richard III as a hateful, humpbacked bastard with the personification of a treacherous monster, who had had his wife poisoned, his brother drowned and his nephews strangled in the Tower. However, according to Dieter Berg, Professor of Medieval History in Hanover, this portrayal conflicts with the historical facts, according to which Richard III was the victim of deliberate propaganda by his successors to smear him. The claim to the Crown by Henry Tudor after the Battle of Bosworth is contentious, and from then on the Tudors made every effort to denigrate their predecessor in order to justify assuming the throne. Berg maintains that, as a favourite of the Tudor Queen Elizabeth I, Shakespeare also participated in the royalist smear campaign with ‘aggressive propaganda’.

According to contemporary chronicles Richard, who was born in 1452, had neither a humped back nor a dreadful character. He was nine years old in 1461 when his brother Edward snatched the crown from the deranged Lancastrian King Henry. Until Edward’s death in 1483 Richard served him as a true vassal, but he then took on the regency, and made clear his claim to the throne over that of Edward’s son, who was only twelve years old. The Prince and his younger brother disappeared at this time, for which Richard was blamed, just as for the death of his wife Anne, to whom in reality he was believed to be a loving husband. Richard III remained King for only two years, during which time he proved to be a capable and absolutely just monarch.

When Henry Tudor crossed over from France with an army in the summer of 1485, and marched on London, Richard sought a rapid outcome, and he moved against the invaders.

As a result of being betrayed by one of his lords, who had been an ally, the king was suddenly surrounded by enemies. According to Shakespeare the last words of Richard III were: ‘A horse! A horse! My kingdom for a horse!’, before he was struck dead like a rabid dog. For two days Henry Tudor publicly exhibited the slain body tied on a horse, and used this to institute the propagandistic lies against the last Plantagenet scion.

Rewriting of English History

From Pamela Spence, Appleby

Cumberland & Westmorland Herald, 3 July

‘Dr Tim Cook, former university lecturer, gave a talk to Cumbrian Literary Group on ‘Shakespeare’s Rewriting of English History’ in which he examined the way Shakespeare fictionalised historical fact. … To illustrate the control the Tudor dynasty had over the playwright, the speaker looked at the portrayal of Richard III as a monster and a hunchback. This was a man who had earned popularity in the north of England, was a good soldier and had loyally supported his brother, Edward IV. … Scenes where family members kill each other reinforced the Tudor message that the horrors of civil war must be avoided.’
**Playing Richard III**

**Kevin Spacey will play Richard III in 2012**

News has been reaching us that Kevin Spacey is to play Richard III at the Old Vic, London, in 2012 – so there will be something else to think about that year besides the Olympic Games. On 26 August Fiona Price alerted us to a press association report that Spacey was to star in a production of *Richard III*, directed by Sam Mendes, as part of the Bridge Project. This project is the brainchild of Mendes, a long-term collaboration in which plays transfer between London and the US and tour internationally. *Richard III* will be put on at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in New York in February 2012, and come to the Old Vic three months later. Spacey and Mendes last worked together in 1999 on the film *American Beauty*, for which each won an Oscar.

Mendes is quoted as saying, ‘*Richard III* is a play I love, and a role I think Kevin is born to play’, and Spacey as saying, ‘with such a remarkable character before me I have a feeling this one is going to be a memorable experience ... I love Sam’s perspective on a role, carving and shaping the actor’.

Both the *Guardian* and the *Independent* for 27 August carried the story. In the *Independent*, in a piece headed “The royal rogue that Spacey was “born to play””, their arts correspondent Arifa Akbar said, ‘[Richard] is Shakespeare’s gloriously Machiavellian monarch-in-waiting, who machinates and murders his way to the throne’, but there is a final paragraph to the effect that Richard’s reputation is considered to be much maligned ‘by some revisionists’. Michael Boyd, artistic director of the RSC, is quoted as saying ‘it’s a part that Kevin Spacey will take apart. I think he could have an absolute ball with it’.

The article lists some other portrayals of Richard III, not always the most expected. Laurence Olivier and Al Pacino are there, but not Anthony Sher, and it has Peter Cook (in *Blackadder*, of course) who played Richard as ‘a doting kindly man who treats the princes in the tower with affection’, Richard Dreyfuss (in Neil Simon’s 1977 film *The Goodbye Girl*): ‘he reluctantly portrays Richard III as overtly homosexual at the insistence of an avant-garde director’ – and got an Academy Award for it, and Ian McKellen, in the 1995 film set in a 1930s fascist England.

Elizabeth Howatt in Melbourne also sent us a press release about the production, issued by the Old Vic to their Friends. She comments that the Society should be making a great effort to ensure that any performance or programme of *Richard III* should point out that Shakespeare was writing drama, not history, and ‘his raw material came from Tudor sycophants’.

**Richard Armitage is reading up on Richard III**

Several people have also told us of an interview with Richard Armitage in the *Sunday Times* of 12 September, in its regular feature ‘A Life in the Day’. The interview, by Ria Higgins, carefully lists what Armitage ate at various meals that day (is this a usual feature of the series?). He leads an energetic life: ‘much of the work I do is pretty action-packed. Riding horseback in *Robin Hood*, chasing spies in *Spooks*, fighting terrorists in *Strike Back.* But then, ‘before bed I’ll have a bath, then look at the long, linear pile of books by my bed. I’m reading all I can on Richard III. He’s fascinating ...’

Do we sense that Armitage might be interested in playing Richard one day?

**Richard III: the musical**

In Media Retrospective in the September *Bulletin* (pp.26-7) we reported that there would be a production of *Richard III* in Amsterdam as a musical, in which ‘Gijs Scholten van Aschat plays and sings Richard III’. We understand that a Dutch member did in fact see the production, and we hope to receive a review in due course.
The Lady Herself

The Westminster Abbey memorial to Anne Neville

PETER HAMMOND

The Society’s memorial to Queen Anne Neville in Westminster Abbey was unveiled by Lord Abergavenny, head of the Neville family, on 1 October 1960. We commemorate its fiftieth anniversary with this newly-edited article about the memorial and its heraldry by Peter Hammond. The article appeared in its original form in the September 1969 issue of The Ricardian. We include it as The Lady Herself, replacing The Man Himself, but could equally perhaps have paraphrased George Bernard Shaw and called it Arms and the Woman Herself.

Anne Neville died on 16 March 1485, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. No monument seems to have been erected over the grave. It has been said that a brass was provided and there is a stone slab still extant (see below) which bears the imprint for a brass said to have been Anne’s. This cannot be proven. No trace remains of her actual burial place. It is known where this was: on the south side of the High Altar, possibly immediately next to it. Dean Stanley says that a leaden coffin was found there in 1866. Both he and the Historical Monuments Commission state that the stone slab from the tomb is preserved in the Abbey, but offer no authority for their statement (it is said to be the large slab at the S.W. corner of the S.E. pillar of the Crossing).

However, in 1960 the Society obtained permission from the Abbey authorities to remedy this unfortunate situation by erecting a memorial plaque. It was actually installed on 1 October 1960. I propose in this article to describe this plaque for the benefit of those who have not seen it, both for its interest as a memorial erected by the Society and for the sake of the arms shown. Since there are now three places where these arms may be seen, i.e. Westminster Abbey, Middleham Church and York Minster, all thanks to our Society, a brief account of them may be useful to some members. They do, in fact, provide very neatly a pictorial statement of the Seize Quartiers of Anne Neville.

The memorial itself is in two parts. The largest part is a brass plaque, approximately 18 inches by 15 inches, with a decorated border. It is inscribed as shown in the box.

The second part consists of a shield enamelled in full colours with the married arms of Anne (i.e. impaled with the arms of England) and with a crown above it. Both parts are fixed to the N. wall of the S. Ambulatory, next to the tomb of King Sebert, and as near as possible to the actual burial site while remaining visible to the general public.

The shield is divided into two parts, as may be seen from the drawing on the next
page. The left-hand half is the arms of Richard III as King, France and England quarterly. The right-hand half is the one of interest here. It is divided into seven ‘quarters’, described below. After the description of each ‘quarter’ is the name of the family represented.

**Quarterly of seven:**

1st. Checky gold and azure, a chevron ermine, for Newburgh.
2nd. Gules, a fess between six cross crosslets gold, for Beauchamp.
3rd. Silver, three fusils in fess gules, for Montague.
4th. Gold, an eagle displayed vert, for Monthermer.
5th. Gules, a saltire silver with a label gobony of silver and azure, for Neville.
6th. Gold, three chevrons gules, for Clare.
7th. Quarterly: 1st and 4th silver a bend sable, 2nd and 3rd Gules fretty gold, for Despencer.

This version of the arms of Anne Neville, and the inscription, both came from the British Museum version of the Rous Roll, The History of the Counts of Warwick. This is an interesting version in that it is unmutilated, and was not altered by Rous to suit the susceptibilities of the Tudors. The inscription is only part of a sentence from the account of Anne in the Roll.

The discussion of the arms that now follows deals with them as those of Richard Neville, as this simplifies the explanation. The quarters 1,2,6 and 7 represent Anne’s mother and her family, and 3,4 and 5 her father and his. This arrangement is somewhat unusual in several aspects. That it is very similar to that used by the earl is known, however, since impressions from some of his seals remain and show a similar marshalling, although whether in fact it was ever used by Anne is not known. The unusual point that concerns us here is that the first and fourth quarters of a quartered shield are usually regarded as the positions of greater honour and occupied by the paternal arms. Here these occupy the secondary positions and their places are taken by the Newburgh, Beauchamp and Despencer coats (this is regarding the whole coat to be a normally quartered with each quarter except the third divided into two).

This order reflects the importance of the Beauchamp inheritance for Richard Neville. He gained far more in lands and offices from his marriage than by descent from his father. As well as the earldom of Warwick with its widespread lands, he received the Despencer inheritance, including the old Clare Lordship of Glamorgan. The last came from the wife of the last Beauchamp earl of Warwick, the Despencer heiress and senior co-heiress of the Clares. The Lordship of Glamorgan was in fact a very important part of his power, since in it he held a Palatine jurisdiction. The Newburgh arms mentioned above were used here to symbolise the earldom, the Newburgh family having been the first holders.

The paternal inheritance of the Kingmaker was not negligible, of course. The lands of the earldom of Salisbury, represented in the arms by the Montague and Monthermer coats, were quite extensive, mainly in Wessex, and his portion of the Neville lands around Middleham was even larger. The Neville coat here represented is difference to show that Richard Neville was not the senior...
representative of the family. The blue and silver colours of the difference mark come from the border of those colours around the Beaufort arms, his grandmother having been a Beaufort.

1 Westminster Abbey records. See letter from L.E. Tanner, Keeper of the Muniments, in the Society papers.

**Edward’s Younger Brother**

**PETER HAMMOND**

Edmund, Earl of Rutland, was the second surviving son of Richard, Duke of York, younger brother of Edward IV and older than Clarence and Gloucester. He was born at Rouen on 17 May 1443 and died after the battle of Wakefield on 29 December 1460, so this year is the 550th anniversary of his death, aged only 17 years.

Edmund was baptised in Rouen Cathedral in a splendid ceremony the same month as his birth, in contrast with his brother Edward who had been baptised in a lower key ceremony in the chapel of Rouen Castle. This contrast has been used to argue that the rumours of Edward’s illegitimacy which surfaced later were probably true, although the evidence is only circumstantial. Not long after his baptism, and certainly by September 1445, Edmund was made earl of Rutland, presumably by the king. At the same time his brother Edward was made earl of March.

The next information we have for Edmund is that he must have been sent to Ludlow with his brother Edward to be educated because there are two letters extant signed by both of them to their father, the duke of York. The first of these was written on Saturday in Easter week, and the year is probably 1454, which would make the date 20 April. The year is unlikely to be 1455, when Easter was on 6 April and it seems probable that March was aiding his father in the run-up to the first battle of St Albans in May 1455. In this Easter letter the boys thanked the duke for new green gowns and asked if they could have new ‘fine bonnets’ too, ‘for necessity so requireth’. They also asked for their breviaries and charged the bearer of the letter to tell the duke about the ‘odious rule and demeaning of Richard Croft and his brother’, earnestly desiring the duke to give credence to what the messenger said. It would be wonderful to know what was behind this. Croft was later the Treasurer of the Household of Edward’s son Edward at Ludlow, so that Edward had presumably forgiven him by then.

The second letter was sent by the two young earls on 3 June 1454 to their father in response to news from the duke, who was now Protector for the sick Henry VI, that he had successfully put down an uprising in York. Edmund and Edward congratulate their father on his victory and assure him that they...
were indeed attending to their learning as he had hoped they were doing. They asked him to send to them Harry Lovedeyne, groom of the Duke’s kitchen ‘whose service is to us right agreeable’. In turn they sent to their father John Boyes whom they obviously liked less than Harry the groom.

From this time onwards we have no further news of Rutland until we hear that he was (aged 16) with his father and brother Edward at Ludlow in October 1459 where they were in arms and preparing to resist an advancing army under Henry VI. The ‘battle’ of Ludford Bridge was a debacle for the Yorkists and the Yorkist commanders, who included the earls of Salisbury and Warwick; they fled in several directions, Rutland with his father to Ireland. In November 1459 Rutland was attainted together with his father, brother and the earls of Salisbury and Warwick. The Yorkists soon regrouped, won the battle of Northampton and by October 1460 they were in charge of the realm. Parliament reversed the attainders and York was made heir to Henry VI. He and his eldest sons were given an endowment to support their new status and Rutland received 1,500 marks (£1,000) a year. Despite this apparent success much of the realm was not under Yorkist control and in December the duke of York, accompanied by Rutland and the earl of Salisbury, set out for the north with an army to confront his enemies. They reached Sandal castle in late December and waited events. What York had not realised was that his enemies were present in much greater numbers than the men he had with him. On 30 December 1460 he was lured out of the castle to a very unequal battle. York himself was killed in the battle and Rutland was killed in the rout afterwards, traditionally by Lord Clifford on the bridge at Wakefield.

After the battle the heads of York and Rutland were cut off and, together with that of the earl of Salisbury and those of other supporters, were placed as those of traitors on Micklegate Bar at the southern entrance to York. The heads of York and Rutland were eventually reunited with their bodies and buried at Pontefract priory. The bodies remained in these graves for 15 years until they were translated to the church at Fotheringhay in 1475 by York’s eldest son Edward, by this time king Edward IV. The transfer of the bodies was the occasion for an elaborate series of ceremonies over the five days of 24 July to 29 July that it took for the cortège, which was accompanied by Richard of Gloucester, to reach Fotheringhay from Pontefract. The bodies were met by the king, and the body of the duke of York was placed in the choir and that of the earl in the Lady Chapel. After an elaborate funeral the bodies were laid in the family vault under the chancel of the church. That of the duke is now in a tomb in the church provided by Queen Elizabeth I after the Reformation; that of the earl of Rutland is probably also there.

Reading List
The Manor of the More Revisited

HEATHER FALVEY

Intermittently between early 1952 and late 1955 the site of the Manor of the More in Rickmansworth, Herts, was excavated by members of the Merchant Taylors’ School Archaeological Society, with the advice and assistance of various experts. At that time the site was a farm, known as ‘Moor Farm’, lying next to the school, separated only by the Metropolitan Railway line; its OS grid reference is TQ082940. The boys’ detailed report, “The excavation of the Manor of the More, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire”, by Martin Biddle, Lawrence Barfield and Alan Millard, was published in Archaeological Journal, 116 (1959), pp. 136-199.

Articles on the More, its owners and inhabitants, have appeared in The Ricardian in 1992, 1994 and 2008. The More is important to Ricardians because the 15th-century moated, brick castle was built by Ralph Butler, Lord Sudeley, during the years 1456-58; and it was later inhabited by George Neville, bishop of Exeter, then archbishop of York. In the sixteenth century the house was inhabited by Cardinal Wolsey, who carried out a great deal of building work on the site, as did Henry VIII. For various reasons (explained in my article in The Ricardian 2008) it was a ruin by the time the surveyor John Norden visited the site in 1598.

During the twentieth century, both before and after the excavation, the main moat was in-filled with clay as a result of road-widening in the area. Furthermore, in the winter of 1959-60 the whole area south of the house and its adjoining moats was bulldozed and then partially levelled up with dumped clay. In 1982 Northwood Preparatory School moved from elsewhere to the site, a partnership which has proved most beneficial. Over the years the school has expanded, but suitable consultations and surveys have always been done before new building work has been carried out. It was not until 1996 that English Heritage listed (or, scheduled) the site; prior to that the national importance of the site was not recognised. It should be emphasised that this is a privately-owned site, inaccessible to the general public on foot – but visible from trains between Moor Park and Rickmansworth or Croxley. The school, in particular the headmaster, Dr Trevor Lee, is keen that the site should be preserved and recognised. On the school’s gates is now a sign stating that it is a National Heritage site and there is signboard in the school grounds giving a brief summary of the More’s history (see the school’s website: http://www.northwoodprep.co.uk/heritage.html).

This year Northwood Prep is celebrating its centenary. As part of the celebrations it has recently planted a replica sixteenth-century knot garden. Another celebratory event took place on 11 October, when I gave an illustrated lecture to pupils, staff, parents and governors on the history of the Manor of the More. Before my talk, there was a brief announcement by Mr David Kenney of English Heritage. He told the audience that English Heritage was planning to carry out a new archaeological survey of the scheduled site. This is not to say that the excavations in the 1950s were not carried out in a professional manner; rather it is to acknowledge, as the boys did at the time, that they were unable to excavate the area to the south of the principal moat, and, of course, that far more sophisticated equipment is now available, which will enable below-ground surveys and the like to be carried out. One of the boys, Martin Biddle, is now Professor Martin Biddle, a highly-respected archaeologist who has worked on numerous world-famous sites. He has retained his interest in the More and will be involved with the new work on the site. (Somewhat dauntingly, he was also present at my lecture.) Dr Lee has promised to keep me informed regarding the English Heritage surveys, so watch this space.
Did Perkin Warbeck’s mercenaries introduce syphilis into the UK?

PETER STRIDE

Syphilis is a disease of significant medical, historical and sociological importance. In 1493 Columbus returned to Portugal and Spain from the Americas, and acute syphilis was documented in that year in a man from Barcelona. The first documented outbreak in Europe occurred in 1494 at the siege of Naples, where Spanish troops fought amongst other mercenaries in Italy both for Charles VIII’s 30,000 strong invading force, and for King Alfonso II of Naples. They are thought to have introduced the disease perhaps via the local prostitutes to their fellow soldiers including at least 500 Scotsmen who fought for Charles VIII during the Italian campaign.1

Scottish mercenaries also accompanied Perkin Warbeck when he arrived in Scotland in November 1495, and the first documented evidence of syphilis in Scotland occurred in 1497.2 Warbeck’s supporters, both covert and overt, were an evanescent group of men of all strata of society, many of whom originated or travelled and indeed sought sanctuary in Europe. Seventeen months after Warbeck’s arrival syphilis was documented in Aberdeen suggesting a causal effect.3

The origins of syphilis
A historical discourse on syphilis requires a little medical theory to explain the explosive nature of this contagion in the late fifteenth century. Was this a new disease of the genus Treponema or an old disease that had undergone recent microbial mutation? Peter Pinter, a fifteenth-century astrologer, believed the conjunction of Venus with Jupiter, Mars and Mercury in October 1493 caused a scourge on Earth, a theory with few supporters today.4 The Italian physician and poet Girolamo Fracastoro first used the term syphilis in the 1530 poem about the shepherd Syphilus who was sent the disease by Apollo for offending the Greek god.5

There are three major, much debated, current theories on the origin of syphilis, the Columbian, the pre-Columbian and the combined theories,6 all of which relate to the four similar treponemal diseases of humans, Pinta, Bejel, Yaws and Syphilis, each probably evolving over millennia from the one before. The most popular transmission theory, the Columbian theory, proposes that syphilis was brought back to Europe by sailors who had intimate contact with native women while on Columbus’s first voyage to the Americas.

The pre-Columbian theory claims the disease had been present in Europe centuries prior to Columbus’s voyage. Some authorities considered the earlier Viking explorers of America as a possible conduit of transmission. Although medical literature does not describe the acute clinical picture before Columbus, skeletons have been found in various European locations bearing lesions considered to be syphilitic by the pre-Columbian lobby and to be due to yaws or leprosy by the Columbian lobby. A limited number, perhaps a few hundred, of European skeletons from 1 – 1450 AD may show past syphilis.

Finally the combination theory suggested syphilis was transported by man thousands of years ago when migrating across the Bering Strait to the Americas, where it evolved into a more virulent contagious disease than the Euro-Asian form which persisted as a mild disease. The debate continues vigorously today in medical research laboratories utilising twenty-first-century advanced techniques, though without a clear answer.
The European outbreak
There is little evidence of widespread outbreaks of a disease clinically recognisable today as syphilis in Europe before Columbus’s return from the Americas to the Portuguese port of Palos on 4 March 1493. Individual cases were reported in Barcelona in 1493. An estimated one million Europeans suffered from syphilis in the late 15th and 16th centuries. The French troops of Charles VIII in the Italian campaign of 1495, aided by Spanish and Scottish mercenaries, when besieging Naples developed a widespread rash of pustules, often with weight loss and sometimes death. It is certain that the peoples of Naples were heavily infected soon after the arrival of the Spanish fleet, which fought for their ruler Alfonso II against the French forces of Charles VIII of France in 1494-5. Francisco Lopez de Villalobos, Spanish physician to the royal court, wrote an account of the disease in 1498, stating the syphilis was a new disease not mentioned in past available medical sources, though he did not connect it with the Americas.7

It is relevant to this paper that the initial outbreak appears to have been spread by mercenary soldiers, perhaps transmitted from the Spanish on to the Scots via the prostitutes accompanying the armies. At least 500 Scotsmen fought for Charles VIII during the Italian campaign. There were 100 Scottish archers at the battle of Parma on 6 July 1495. The Italian military surgeon Marcello Cuman began his book, de Morbo Gallico in 1514, noted that ‘In the year of our Lord, 1494, when Charles the French King took his journey into parts of Italy to recover the Kingdom of Naples, there appeared a certain disease through out all of Italy of an unknown nature ... through copulation of a man with an unclean woman’.9

The disease rapidly swept across the continent, a characteristic feature of a new or at least mutated microorganism infecting societies without immunity or past exposure to this condition, the virgin soil concept. Dozens of doctors writing over the next hundred years described the clinical features and testified that the disease was extremely virulent and highly contagious for some twenty years before abating inexplicably and spontaneously.10

Perkin Warbeck’s army
Perkin Warbeck and his entourage, which would have varied in size and personnel as his star waxed and waned, attended many of the major courts of Europe between 1493 and 1496 when syphilis was spreading rapidly across Europe.11 Successful mercenary armies may be seen as valiant warriors aiding an illustrious cause, while unsuccessful mercenaries are seen as an undisciplined band of ruffians and cut-throats. Gairdner, quoting Hall, described Warbeck’s troops in Scotland as ‘a great army of valiant captains of all nations, some bankrupt, some false English sanctuary men, some thieves, robbers, and vagabonds, which leaving their bodily labours, desiring only to live of robbery and raping, came to be his servants and soldiers’.12

While this may represent a Tudor interpretation, this appears to be a body of men at risk of acquiring infection with syphilis, and disseminating the disease wherever they travelled. Pinkerton believed the German mercenaries were responsible for bringing the disease to Scotland.13

The disease was documented in the Burgh Council Register, as having reached Aberdeen by April 1497, where intimate contact if not sexual activity for transmission was recognised, prostitutes were charged with the sin of venery, and the disease was thought to have come from France.14 They were advised to seek alternative employment or be branded and banished. Paris was considered an appropriate place of banishment of prostitutes even then. This legislation enacted on 21 April 1497 was the first municipal act in Britain dealing with the threat of syphilis. Supporters of Perkin Warbeck arriving in
Aberdeen in July 1495, before the arrival of Warbeck himself, were financed by a tax recorded in the town records ‘to the sustentacioun of aught Ingismen of the Duk of Yorkis’.15

The disease was present in Edinburgh by September 1497, where victims of the disease, and those who claimed to be able to cure it, were banished to the island of Inchkeith in the Firth of Forth, ‘thair to remane quhill God prouyde for their health’ by the King’s Privy Council Edict recorded in the Edinburgh Town Records.16

James IV, a fifteenth-century polymath with an interest in medicine, tried his own therapies and gave money to sufferers from ‘grantgore’. He was the first in a long line of eminent Scottish venereologists! Failures in mere doctors could be punished, as in the case of Thomas Lyn, who was banished from Edinburgh for 19 years for the unsuccessful treatment and death of a chaplain.17

These edicts, as all subsequent legislation to prevent transmission of any sexually transmitted disease anywhere, were totally inadequate, and the disease was found in many other Scottish towns by 1498. Syphilis appeared in verses penned by eminent Scottish poets by 1500. The earliest documentation of syphilis in England is not till 1502, when Elizabeth of York, daughter of Edward IV, is noted in her Privy Purse Expenses, presumably extracted from Henry Tudor, to pay for the medical expenses of one of her protégés, John Pertirche, ‘And payed to a surgeon which heled him of the Frenche pox, 20 shillings’.18

One of history’s ironies is that Warbeck’s campaign may have finally succeeded in causing the death not of Henry Tudor, but his son Henry VIII. While Henry’s cause of death is speculative, and diabetes is the current favoured diagnosis, he may have also had syphilis. Henry was promiscuous and died with a leg wound, obesity and mental deterioration. His leg wound was extremely malodorous, a feature of syphilis as well as other infections. His mental functions deteriorated, though it is difficult to tell when and if his paranoia and megalomania changed into syphilitic dementia.

Conclusions
Mercenary soldiers clearly played a major role in spreading syphilis in Europe in the last decade of the fifteenth century. The significant prevalence of the disease in Scottish cities only a year and a half after the arrival in Scotland of Perkin Warbeck’s army of Scottish and other mercenaries from many European countries, and before known documentation of syphilis in England, suggests that this was the original source of the disease in Britain.

References
2 Jillings, op.cit.
4 Sir J.Y. Simpson, Antiquarian Notices of Syphilis in Scotland in the Fifteenth and Sixteenth Centuries, Kessinger Publishing 1862
6 Pearce, op.cit.
8 Morton, op.cit.
9 Pugh, op.cit.
11 Warbeck’s troops assembled in Flanders, including Flemish and Burgundian knights, archers and gunners, and an English group. They operated in Ireland, Scotland and England.
12 Morton, op.cit.
14 Jillings, op.cit.
15 Simpson, op.cit.
16 Jillings, op.cit.; Simpson, op.cit.
17 Simpson, op.cit.
18 Simpson, op.cit.
In the June 2010 Bulletin two of the articles, although based on two very different types of sources, both revealed various aspects of the lives of ordinary people in medieval England: Elaine Henderson’s discussion of the poem about the tribulations of a Kentish countryman who had been swindled out of his property (‘London Lyckpenny: a Cautionary Tale’) and my piece about testators and their wills (‘Searching for ordinary folk in fifteenth-century England’). These articles made me wonder what other sources there might be which, almost by accident, provided information about medieval daily life.

As luck would have it, I gave a paper at the conference ‘Controversy, Protest, Ridicule, Laughter, 1500-1750’, which was held at Reading University in July. One of the other papers, given by Adam Smyth, was entitled ‘Taking jokes seriously: why Renaissance jests often don’t seem funny’, and in it he gave details of various printed ‘joke books’, some of which had their origins in the medieval period. I decided to investigate.

Perhaps at this point I should add that there was a very good reason for Adam’s title: some of the ‘jokes’ just don’t seem funny to us (partly because they are moralistic tales), and some take a very roundabout route to reach the punch-line. Nevertheless, as I discovered, such tales are in fact highly relevant to the Society.

The most accessible introduction to the humour of earlier centuries is John Wardroper’s book Jest upon Jest, in which the author outlines the history of jokes and jests in print. He demonstrates that the humanist scholar Poggio Bracciolini (1380-1459) was ‘one of the notable Continental contributors to English merriment’ (p.2). As a papal secretary Bracciolini travelled widely in Europe, but he eventually settled in Florence, where he wrote, amongst other Latin works, his Liber facetiarum (Book of merry stories). Many of his fables (‘short stories devised to convey some useful lesson’, OED) are full of sexual innuendo, and it seems likely that one reason for publishing them in Latin was to give them a guise of respectability and learning. But some of the stories of ‘Poge the Florentyn’ were rendered unexpurgated into the vernacular in England in 1484 by none other than William Caxton.

Following his translation of Aesop’s Fables, Caxton printed as a supplement (folios 134 to 142) eleven fables of ‘Poge the Florentyn’ and two other stories written by himself. The book closes with the following words: ‘And here with I fynysshe this book translated & emprynted by me William Caxton at Westmynstre in thabbey And fynnyshed the xxvj daye of Marche the yere of oure lord MCCCClxxxiiij And the fyrst yere of the regne of kyng Rychard the thyrdde’.

Thus the first book of jokes and fables printed in English was produced during Richard’s reign.

The first fable of ‘Poge the Florentyn’ printed by Caxton is transcribed below; the second, which will be the subject of a second article, is the rambling tale of ‘the woman and of the ypocryte (hypocrite)’; and third (not reproduced here for fear of offence) concerns a young wife who unfavourably compared her new husband’s assets with those an ass.

As Wardroper has commented (p.28), it should be noted that although some of these tales might be considered misogynistic, they also indicate that girls and women were able to take care of themselves and indeed in many of the tales men were their victims. These women were uninhibited – they were medieval, not Victorian.
The fyrst fable is of the subtylyte of the woman for to deceyve her husband (Caxton, *Esope's Fables*, folio 134)

The cautele\(^1\) or falshede of the woman is wonder merveyllous / as it appiereth by this fable / Of a marchau[n]t whiche was wedded of newe unto a fayre and yong woman / the whiche marchaunt wente over the see for to bye & selle / and for to gete somwhat for to lyve honestly / And by cause that he dwellyd to longe / his wyf supposed that he was dede / And therfore she enamoured her self with another man / which dyd her mykle\(^2\) good / as for to have doo make and bylde up his hows of newe the whiche had grete need of reparacion / and also he gaf her all newe utensyles to kepe a hous hold / And within a long tym[e] after the departing of the marchaunt he came ageyne in to his hows whiche he sawe newe bylde / & sawe dysshes pottes / pannes / and suche other houshold wherfore he demaunded of his wyf how and in what manner she had fou[n]de the facion and the meane for to have repayred so so \^[sic]\] honestly his hows / And she ansered that it was by the grace of god / and he ansered / Blessyd be god of hit / And when he was within the chamber / he sawe the bedde rychely coverd / & the walles wel hanged / and demaunded of his wyf [as] he had done before / And she thenne ansered to him in lyke maner as she dyd before / And therfore he thanked god as he had done to fore / And as he wold sette hym at his dyner / there was brought before hym unto his wyf a child of thre yere of age / or there aboute / wherfore he demaunded of his wyf / My frend to whome belongeth this fayre child / And she ansered / My Frend the holy ghost of his grace hath sente hit to me / Thene ansered the marchaunt to his wyf in this manere / I rendre not graces ne thanks not to the holy ghost of this / For he hath taken to moche payne and labour for to have it made up myn owne werke / And I wyll that in no maner wyse he me [?]ole no more therwith / For suche thynge belongeth to me for to doo hit / and not to the holy gloost

\(^{1}\) cunning, craftiness, wiliness, trickery, OED.
\(^{2}\) much, great, OED.

Sources:

William Caxton, *Here begynneth the book of the subtyl histories and fables of Esope whiche were translated out of Frensshe in to Englysshe by wyllham Caxton at westmynstre in the yere of oure Lorde M. CCCC.I xxxiiij* (Caxton, London, 1484)

The Real Boar’s Head Tavern

Sue Taylor has told us about an article in the programme for this year’s Globe Theatre production of *Henry VI*, Parts 1 and 2, that contains some interesting information about the real Boar’s Head Tavern, chosen by Shakespeare as the haunt of Sir John Falstaff in Eastcheap. It was one of about 40 taverns permitted in Elizabethan London, and the only one in Eastcheap, in the midst of the meat market. Unlike simple alehouses, taverns served spirits, wines and sheries (Falstaff’s favourite ‘sack’) as well as beer. Food and lodging were also available.

The original building burned down in the Great Fire of London in 1666, but was rebuilt soon afterwards with a carved stone relief of a boar’s head set into the brickwork above the first-floor windows. When the inn was demolished in 1831, the carving was saved and eventually went to the Museum of London in 1972. The Museum has lent it to the Globe for its 2010 season, to complement the three productions featuring Falstaff and may be seen in the mezzanine foyer.
Breath Fresheners, 
Fifteenth-Century Style

TIG LANG

Returning for another look at the recipes and prescriptions in BL MS Harley 1628, I will look in this Bulletin at several recipes for dragetum which appear in the manuscript. Dragetum, a sweetmeat, gives us our old-fashioned word ‘dragee’ for a sweet enclosing a nut, a fruit, or a drug. The recipes for dragees in Harley 1628 are of particular interest to Ricardians, as some of them are for very familiar people.

Four prescriptions for dragees appear in the manuscript: ‘Pro domina Rychemond’ (for Lady Richmond, our old friend (?) Margaret Beaufort), on f. 2r; ‘dragetum for my mastres’ (either ‘for my mistress’ or ‘for my masters’) on f. 2r; ‘dragetum regale’ (‘royal dragee’) on f. 98v; and on f. 96v one prescription with two headings: ‘dragetum pro domino duce gloucestrie’ and ‘dragetum pro domino duce clarencie’ (yes, indeed, two very well known people).

The recipes are related but not identical, with some variation in the ingredients included and in the relative quantities of each ingredient. For Lady Richmond, the prescription contains anise, fennel, caraway, coriander, galingale, zedoary (turmeric), calamus aromaticus (probably sweet flag, acorus calamus) ginger, nutmeg, mace, and liquorice, with the instruction simply ‘mix, and the dragee is made’. The prescription for the dukes of Clarence and Gloucester contains anise, fennel, caraway, coriander, pepper, ginger, nutmeg, galingale, mace, bayleaf, calamus aromaticus, and liquorice. Dragetum Regale contains anise, fennel, caraway, coriander, ginger, nutmeg, galingale, mace, and liquorice, with the instruction once again being simply ‘mix, and the dragee is made’. The prescription ‘ffor my mastres’ is partly illegible (at least it is illegible in the microfilm printouts from which I work – recourse to the original manuscript in London is not possible for me at the moment), but it certainly contains some ingredients in common with the other recipes: anise, caraway, coriander, nutmeg, mace and liquorice.

The Agnus Castus herbal, a late-fourteenth-century middle-English translation of a popular Latin herbal, contains references to some of these herbs and spices which may help us to identify the purpose of our prescriptions. Anise and caraway, we are told, destroy ‘wycked wyndes in mannys humures’. This property is shared by nutmeg, which we are also told will ‘make hym a savery mouth’, (i.e. sweeten the breath); nutmeg is also used for stomach problems. Fennel also ‘comfortyth the stomak’, as does galingale, and galingale sweetens the breath. Liquorice is stated to be good for coughs and against thirst, but may have been included in these recipes for its natural sweetness.

The properties assigned to these ingredients all suggest that the dragees were intended as a digestive and breath freshener, probably therefore to be taken as a sweetmeat after a meal. This use is confirmed by comparison with recipes in the Middle English version of Gilbertus Anglicus’ Compendium of Medicine, a fifteenth-century translation of a thirteenth-century text, where similar spice mixtures are recommended against ‘balking’, i.e. burping, and ‘zoskyng’, i.e. hiccups, with the extra note on one of the recipes that it ‘maketh a mannes mouth well y-savered’.

One ingredient present in Gilbertus Anglicus, and which could be expected in a recipe for dragees, is omitted from all the recipes for dragees in Harley MS 1628 –
sugar. A dragee is after all a sweetmeat, and one would have expected it to include sugar or honey for this reason alone. Another reason for including something of this nature would be to bind together the powdered spices into a palatable mixture; sugar and water, or honey, would have this effect. These mixtures, if made up using only the ingredients stated, would be simply a dry powder, difficult to take unless mixed with something. Once again we are brought up against the problem of the exact purpose of the marginal notes in this manuscript – were they instructions from a doctor to an apothecary, or were they notes to remind someone what had to be paid for? Perhaps the final part of each recipe, ‘mix, and the dragee is made’, can be taken as an instruction to take these substances and make them up in the form of a dragee, adding whatever is necessary to do this. Perhaps sugar or honey did not need to be recorded because it would be obvious to the person making up the mixture that they had to be added. Perhaps they did not need to be recorded because they were supplied by a different branch of the household than the spices and herbs. It seems unlikely to me, anyway, that the recipes as they are given in the manuscript, with no sweeteners, are in their final form as supplied to the patient.

The purpose of the mixtures was most likely to be (as suggested above), to aid digestion and freshen the breath. An additional property of some of the ingredients should be noted, however. Anise, fennel and galangal are all said to provoke lust – an interesting side-effect for an after dinner sweet. The wonders of medieval medicine! – indigestion medicine, breath freshener and aphrodisiac rolled into one.

**Reservation on Kenilworth**

Members might have been surprised to read in the account by Phil Stone of the Society’s visit to Kenilworth (Bulletin, September 2010, p.48), that ‘Kenilworth may not be Ricardian, it isn’t even medieval’, particularly as at least one of the king’s visits was noted by Peter Lee in the same issue (p.44). Richard’s connections with the castle and nearby Maxstoke are detailed in *Ricardian Britain*: he was at Kenilworth on his post-Coronation 1483 progress and is believed to have ordered the demolition of a doorway, transferring it to Maxstoke Castle. Moreover, surely the remains of the great keep and John of Gaunt’s Hall are resolutely ‘medieval’?

However, Phil was quite right to express reservations about the reconstructed ‘Elizabethan’ garden at Kenilworth. Though the extent of the controversy it has aroused has yet to appear in academic publications, a recent article in *Country Life* (August 5 2009), ‘Gloriana’s Garden’ by Sir Roy Strong, questions its claim to authenticity and serves as a salutary warning to palaeographers and anyone attempting to transcribe and understand early documents.

English Heritage proclaimed that the project, unveiled at a cost of £1.5 million, based on archaeological evidence as well as ‘painstaking research into Elizabethan literature, horticulture and art ..., has never been attempted on this scale before’. Naturally, one would assume that with his lifelong interest in and numerous publications on Elizabeth I and her court, as well as garden history, Sir Roy would have been the first person to consult on the reconstruction plans, but evidently this was not the case.

As his article reveals, the prime documentary source is a letter of Robert Langham on Queen Elizabeth’s entertainment at ‘Killingworth Castle’ in 1575: ‘a very complicated document to understand’, he
concedes, the text of which could be read to suggest a very different plan to that created by English Heritage. Sir Roy believes the scheme should have included arbours enclosing the garden on either side, a design that conforms to other sixteenth-century arrangements. No garden at the time would be devoid of such escapes into the shade. English Heritage’s reading of the text is that there was a wooden arbour at each end of the raised terrace, where they sit very awkwardly, obscuring the north façade of the castle. Furthermore, access to the garden was at ground level, not from the terrace.

However, the sternest criticism is levelled at the furnishings. The obelisks have been ‘splendidly recreated in timber, pointed to resemble porphyry’, but the text is specific that they were indeed of stone. The aviary is described in great detail, with full measurements, and the details of its decoration of painted precious stones, and, finally, the chief bone of contention and monumental error is the fountain. The archaeological evidence provided the outline for the octagonal basin and fragments of marble from which it was made. This has been re-created with bas-relief scenes from Ovid’s *Metamorphoses*. The text then describes what arises at the centre: ‘a pair of Atlantes [male caryatids] back to back, supporting a fair bowl of three foot over’ from which Leicester’s cognisance of the ragged staff arises. The word in the original is ‘boll’, which English Heritage read as ‘ball’, not ‘bowl’. If it had been a ball, it would have been described as a sphere, as those on the terrace were. The consequences of this reading has led to topping the fountain with a ball and a mass of little pipes spouting water, wholly out of proportion, a design which flies in the face of what we know of other examples of the period, such as at Nonsuch Palace and Cowdrey.

Sir Roy concludes, ‘What has happened to the Queen’s seat of freestone’, which is recorded at the castle in the reign of James I? I sense what we see is more a monument to committee-speak than what it should be ... in due course, adjustments might be made to what is, without doubt, a brave attempt ... a mishmash, but one not beyond redemption’.
Correspondence

Will contributors please note that letters may be shortened or edited to conform to the standards of the Bulletin. The Bulletin is not responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors.

Re-building Middleham Castle

In the September Bulletin (p.27), we noted a question posed in the last English Heritage Conservation Bulletin: how big a challenge would it be to rebuild Middleham Castle?

From Ray Stacey, via email:
My mind is bursting with reaction [to this suggestion] so just a few of many points.
(1) It is impractical. Even assuming that money could be found for such a venture, where will all the stone come from? ‘Robbed’ stone has been used elsewhere to build houses, walls, etc.
(2) Bearing in mind the changes and improvements to the castle over time, at which point in the life of the castle would it be rebuilt? And that is assuming that archaeologists know what it looked like at different points in time. They do not know for certain, which is why research into castles continues.
(3) If members would like to see a fairly complete castle there are many round the UK. I recommend Dover, Warwick, Conwy, and the state-of-the-art castle at the end of serious castle building, Beaumaris in Anglesey. But do not forget that the wooden structures built inside castles have largely been lost and these were often the most lived-in parts.

Do we agree that it is difficult to read ruins? But that is largely because it, like all castles, changed over time in the same way that we change the houses we live in. But then it got knocked about a bit, neglected and robbed. But interpreting how it was from how it is now is part of the fun, and in doing so we learn about how they probably lived and improved their living conditions while trying to impress others and still being able to defend their territory if necessary. If members would like to learn to read castles, I recommend them to contact www.castlestudiesgroup.org.uk.

From David Johnson, via email:
The Media Retrospective section of the September 2010 issue of the Bulletin carried an extract from the English Heritage Conservation Bulletin in which Simon Jenkins argued for a radically new approach to the preservation and presentation of historic ruins. The extract concluded by asking how big a challenge would it be for EH to rebuild the ‘difficult-to-read’ Middleham Castle so that the modern visitor could understand how a large medieval castle worked.

In common with many Ricardians, my wife and I visit Middleham at least once each year, often daydreaming of how wonderful it would be to restore Richard’s favourite castle. In recent times the Fox family’s inspired DVD Middleham Castle, a Royal Residence has painted an exciting picture of what the fortress looked like in its fifteenth-century heyday. Of course rebuilding Middleham would be a hugely ambitious and extremely expensive project. But since the Media Retrospective piece ended by asking if readers would like to see the castle restored, this is how my wife and I feel such a project might begin.

It seemed to us that the reconstruction of the gatehouse would be a logical ‘phase one’. More of this magnificent structure remains intact than many other parts of the castle, and when completed would provide English Heritage with about four floor levels, an imposing circuit of battlements and a breathtaking rooftop walk. In addition, and most exciting of all, the portcullis could be reinstated as a working feature, demonstrating exactly how a medieval castle gatehouse really worked (just imagine what an attraction this would be). The various floor levels and ground floor guardroom would permit the authentic reconstruction of room interiors and allow extra
space to explain the history of the castle and its illustrious owners.

In addition, such a groundbreaking initiative would almost certainly lead to the return of re-enactor events to the castle, until relatively recently a popular and entertaining feature of the English Heritage calendar. This in turn would provide a much-needed boost for Middleham itself, which in the last few years has lost the Durants store (home of the village post office), the annual medieval festival, and the lovely Old School art gallery and bookshop. The success of the gatehouse project would encourage further stages of the rebuilding process to be undertaken, bringing the golden age of Middleham and its famous castle back to life.

Should historical novelists tell lies?
From Carol Hartley, Banstead

I am writing with reference to the item on p.27 of the September Bulletin about Ian Mortimer and his novel Sacred Treason (written under the name of James Forrester). He is quoted as saying that ‘historical novelists should not be ashamed of telling lies’.

I am disgusted by this view, for at least two reasons. First, any uninformed readers of the novel might well assume that the historical information given in it is correct, and so would be misled into believing things that are not true. Second, in any case, the mere act of knowingly distorting the truth seems to me disgraceful. What is the point of selecting a particular historical period, place and person, if one is then going to give false particulars about them?

The item in the Bulletin states that the main character in Mr Mortimer’s novel is William Harley, Clarenceux King of Arms in 1563. In fact, no person of this surname has ever been an English Officer of Arms. Clarenceux King of Arms from 1557 until his death some ten years later was William Hervy, sometimes written Harvie. Presumably Mr Mortimer’s falsifications extend to changing surnames, or else he meant William Hervy but mistook the name.

I have a particular interest in this as I have worked for many years at the College of Arms. I don’t know if any of the Officers of Arms or staff have come across this novel; they probably have better things to do.

Richard III and Glamorgan
From Margaret Byrne, via email

This summer I was in the pretty market town of Cowbridge in the Vale of Glamorgan. I didn’t realise until I visited Holy Cross Church that it has connections with King Richard and his wife, Queen Anne. The church has a tower that looks like part of a fortification and dates from the late thirteenth century. Inside the church is a small display of Ricardian connections. It appears that the church was enlarged in 1473 when the South Llanquian aisle was built as a gift from Lady Anne Neville, wife of Richard, duke of Gloucester and lord of Glamorgan and Morgan. There is also a photocopy of a document issued by King Richard in 1484. This required Bishop John Marshall of Llandaff to provide a chaplain for the church of Holy Cross on a regular and official basis. The original document, with King Richard’s seal, is in the Glamorgan Record Office. I have this information from a short history of the church kindly provided for visitors by the rector, Canon Derek Belcher. It is definitely worth a visit if you are in the area.

The Archers of Agincourt and Crécy
From Jill Davies and Denys Carden, Bexhill-on-Sea

With reference to Chairman Phil Stone’s letter in the September Bulletin about the long weekend in Calais, we would like to say how much we enjoyed it. It may not be as spectacular as Carcassonne, but Calais is an interesting town which is well worth a visit, and it is especially pleasing in July, with floral displays everywhere. Even better, it put us within easy reach of Crécy and Agincourt. Having been familiar with the names of these famous battles for many years, it was a privilege to have the chance to go there. Fortunately the battlefield sites are still rural and uncommercialised.

At one corner of the battlefield at Crécy there is a tall wooden viewing-tower, from the top of which we could survey the landscape,
while our guide gave us a description of the manoeuvres of the opposing armies. At Agincourt some amusement was caused by a line of colourful two-dimensional English archers, with arrows ready to fly...

The villages of Crécy and Agincourt are pleasant and peaceful, with small museums explaining their respective battles. The charming little museum at Crécy appears to be situated in a former farmyard.

We would like to say ‘thank you’ to Phil Stone for a good idea, and to Rosemary Wixman and Ros Conaty for organising such a memorable holiday.

The church of St Mary at the Elms, Ipswich, has been ravaged by fire

From Carole Gait, Harrow

I was interested to read, in the September Bulletin, an account of the Requiem Mass held in June at St Mary at the Elms church, Ipswich. I was unable to attend, but did go and look round the church a couple of weeks later as I was then staying in Ipswich with a friend.

I am so glad I did. I don’t know whether you are aware of this, but St Mary at the Elms was ravaged by fire shortly afterwards, and I enclose some cuttings sent by my friend which may be of interest. So far, I do not know what the investigations have turned up.

[According to the cuttings, the church caught fire about 8 a.m. on a Saturday in July (no date is given in the paper) and the flames soon engulfed the 15th-century red-brick tower, which had the oldest working clock in Ipswich. Arson is suspected. One more heartening aspect is that over 50 people promptly signed up to help clean the church.]

Demolishing the Tudor false front

From Keith Horry via email

[A fairly new member asked to borrow The Trial of Richard III ...] When I was getting the book off the shelf I found a press cutting by Christopher Booker, who now writes for the Sunday Telegraph, ... dated 10 November 1984, titled ‘Demolishing the Tudor false front’ with a sub-title: ‘Christopher Booker has no doubts about who murdered the Princes in the Tower’. As I read it, I thought that newer members might be interested in it. It is very pro-Ricardian, very damning of Henry VII and Morton, and very appreciative of Tey’s The Daughter of Time. Booker says:

‘Many years ago, like thousands of other children of my generation, I was brought up on a book called The Nursery History of England. With its strangely-memorable pictures of such scenes as Boadicea cutting down the Romans with scythes attached to her chariot wheels, or Canute sitting on his throne while the waves lapped round his feet, it provided the kind of introductory framework to the history of our island which remains imprinted on my memory to this day.

‘The only problem is that, throughout life, I have continually come across persuasive assertions that one after another of these memorable scenes never actually happened. I do not mean such obvious examples as that there is no historical evidence that Alfred actually burned the cakes, or that such figures as Robin Hood and King Arthur ever existed.

‘There was for instance the discovery that Harold never got shot in the eye with an arrow at the Battle of Hastings: it was simply a legend which grew up from the way the weavers of the Bayeux Tapestry happened to show an arrow whizzing past the head of Rex Haroldus at the moment when the caption said he was interfectus. Then there was the learned article I recalled only this week ... which showed conclusively how Guy Fawkes could never have tried to blow up the House of Commons. There was simply not enough gunpowder in the kingdom to perform such a task. ... But there is obviously no familiar episode in English history which has been more comprehensively challenged as fiction than the traditional view of the reign of King Richard III, and in particular the notorious incident when the ‘hump-backed monster’ was supposed to have ordered the murder of the two little princes in the tower ...’

Booker says he was unable to watch the recent TV Trial, but re-read ‘the most brilliant detective novel written’, The Daughter of Time, an ‘entirely convincing revision of the story from start to finish’, and was glad the trial ended in Richard being acquitted.
Commemoration of Richard III and Anne Neville at Aylesford Priory

From John Ashdown Hill

So far as I am aware, the Richard III Society has never made an organised visit to Aylesford Priory in Kent. This is a pity, because it’s worth a visit. Aylesford is a medieval Carmelite Priory which was restored to its original owners in the middle of last century. The present buildings are an interesting blend of medieval and modern.

There is no evidence that Richard III ever visited Aylesford, though he may have done so, since it lies on the route from London to Canterbury. At all events, the priory was certainly in existence during his lifetime. It belonged then, as it does now, to the order of Whitefriars, the order of which Edward IV’s wife and Anne Neville’s first cousin, Eleanor Talbot, became an oblate or lay member.

It is therefore very satisfactory to report that the organisers to the Society’s annual requiem mass have now arranged for King Richard III and Queen Anne Neville to be commemorated in Aylesford Priory’s Friendship Book. This means that every year when the book is turned to the pages for 16 March and 22 August respectively the names of Anne and Richard will be seen by any visitors to the priory. It is particularly appropriate that this book is displayed in the chapel of St Anne (Queen Anne Neville’s patroness) and that this chapel houses a beautiful fifteenth-century image of St Anne.

In addition, King Richard and Queen Anne Neville will henceforth be prayed for annually at masses at the priory.

Wedding at Bisham Abbey

From Judith Ridley

Two years ago our daughter became engaged and the hunt began for a suitable venue for the wedding reception. Imagine my delight when Anna and Matt settled on Bisham Abbey for the occasion. Many years previously David, Anna and I, along with our Thames Valley Branch friends, went on a tour of the manor house. We were given the tour by Margaret Dickinson, a walking encyclopaedia on most things pertaining to the abbey.

The priory church where many of the earls of Salisbury and their families, including Warwick the Kingmaker and his brother John Neville, marquis of Montague, were buried was dissolved in the reign of Henry VIII. The only effigy to survive is of Richard Neville, earl of Salisbury (died 1460), and that is now at Burghfield parish church in nearby Reading. The manor house, dating from 1260, survived, and is now known as Bisham Abbey. It has a rich history of former owners, including George, duke of Clarence, and his daughter Margaret Pole.

When I delved further into the history of the abbey I found that Henry VIII had been a guest there in mid July 1518, 492 years earlier than our family wedding. He had been there for a few days to escape the plague, but another royal visitor centuries later had problems in gaining entry. Queen Victoria’s note informing the Vansittart-Neales of her approach went astray and the footman fumbled with the bell, so the queen turned away, never to return. It is not known if Richard III ever visited Bisham Abbey.

The sun shone for a little while at Bisham on 17 July 2010 and as we sat in the great hall enjoying our own piece of history, I thought of all the people who had passed through in years gone by.
New Papers Librarian
Great news: we have a new Papers Librarian: her name is Marie Barnfield. She has written articles for both the Bulletin and The Ricardian, so she is familiar with the material available for our period, and is looking forward to helping members with their own research whether they are just beginners wanting to find out a little more about our period or seasoned researchers wanting to dig deeper.

After two moves in the last eighteen months the Collection, amounting to some 2,000 items, has got out of order and is in need of a little sorting out and reorganisation before it’s up and running again – so Marie would be grateful if you could postpone asking to borrow items until January at the earliest to give her time to sort things back into order.

You can write to her at: 25 Egerton, High Legh, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 6PT
or e-mail her at: marie.barnfield@gmail.com
We received four other offers of help from members volunteering for the post, so that is most encouraging, and thank you all.

Book Auction
I’m pleased to report that we raised £91 from auction bids and another £248 at the AGM from selling the books left over, plus books donated by other members – many thanks to all who participated. The money will go into the Library’s funds to be used for buying new items for stock and other Library expenses.

New Non-Fiction Books to Borrow
The book examines the last 150 days of Richard’s life from the standpoint of Richard himself and his contemporaries. It re-examines the aftermath of Bosworth, the treatment of Richard’s body, his burial and the construction of the tomb. And there is also the story of why and how Richard’s DNA was rediscovered.

_Richard III and the Bosworth Campaign_ by Peter Hammond (Pen and Sword, hardback, October 2010)
A detailed account of the circumstances which led up to the battle, how both sides prepared for the conflict, and the course of the battle itself. The recently discovered evidence for a new site for the battlefield is fully described. There are useful appendices evaluating the sources for information on the battle, and the legends that have grown up round it, plus the full text of the Act of Attainder of Richard and his supporters.

_The Last White Rose: Dynasty, Rebellion and Treason: The Secret Wars Against the Tudors_ by Desmond Seward (Constable & Robinson, hardback, 2010).
The Wars of the Roses didn’t end at the Battle of Bosworth. Despite Richard’s death, the conflict continued underground into the following century with plots, pretenders and subterfuge by the ousted White Rose faction. In a brand new interpretation of this turning point in history, the author reviews the story of the ‘Tudors’ seizure of the throne and shows that for many years, they were far from secure, and goes on to explain why the new dynasty had such difficulty establishing itself.
Additions to the Fiction Library

*The Red Queen* by Philippa Gregory (hardback, 2010)
The second novel in Philippa Gregory’s series on the Wars of The Roses, *The Red Queen* is the story of Margaret Beaufort from her childhood until her son Henry gains the throne at Bosworth. It begins with her obsession to be saintly like the Maid of Orleans and follows her through her various marriages. All with the aim of placing her son Henry Tudor on the throne of England no matter who stands in her way. (See review on p.26 above.)

*Song for a Lute* by Marguerite Vance (hardback, 1958)
The love story of Anne Neville and Richard of Gloucester, from 1470 until Anne’s death.

*The Song of a Thrush* by Katherine Wigmore Eyre (hardback, 1952)
The story of Margaret and Edward Plantagenet, the children of the duke of Clarence. At Ludlow Margaret finds a home and friends among her royal cousins but incurs the hatred of another uncle, the duke of Gloucester, when she stumbles on a plot to assassinate the Prince of Wales.

Additions to the Audio Visual Library

*Die Landshuter Hochzeit von 1475.* A legacy from the late Isolde Wigram, this 35-minute video is a commercial recording of the festivities in 1975 (re-staged every four years) at Landshut, Bavaria, commemorating the wedding of George, son and heir of Duke Ludwig the Rich, to Princess Hedwig, daughter of Casimir IV of Poland. The original event lasted for eight days and was attended by various European nobles. The film opens with a local chronicler who witnessed the occasion writing his account some years later. He appears in flashback as a younger man observing the festival, the wedding procession and the ceremony in St Martin’s church. Formal court dances follow the wedding banquet, and then the music and dances of the townspeople, and finally the tilting and jousting of the knights, all re-enacted on a lavish and magnificent scale. Although the commentary is in German the proceedings are easy to follow, but as an added aid copies of the accounts from the *Bulletin* of 1993 (Lynda Pidgeon and Stefanie Schonleber) and 1997 (Jasmin Fohrenbach) will be included. The next re-staging is due in 2013.

*Blessed Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury* (Mary’s Dowry Productions, 2009)
A short illustrated documentary on the life of Clarence’s daughter Margaret: courtier, magnate and Catholic martyr. The narration is by Margaret herself, with the action mostly confined to impressions of her wandering in mute resignation, writing letters or gazing through windows from the ruins of her various homes and scenes of imprisonment: Farleigh and Warblington Castles and Cowdray House, always in the same dress, with the occasional fantastic and unhistorical headgear. A scene of Edward of Warwick in prison, looking rather older than he actually was, also suffers from inaccurate costuming when he is shown in 18th-century black and silver apparel. At least the writers seem to have been concerned to set the record straight regarding Margaret’s miserable end. The only contemporary description of her execution reports that the ‘young lad’ (the usual executioner being absent) ‘literally hacked her head and shoulders to pieces in the most pitiful manner’.

Members who would like to know more about Margaret might like to borrow *Margaret Pole, Countess of Salisbury 1473-1541* by Hazel Pierce (University of Wales Press, 273 pages, £40) from the Society’s Library.

Contact details for all the Librarians are on the inside back cover.
On a lovely clear autumnal Saturday the Richard III Society New South Wales Branch held their bi-annual conference, set in the spacious, attractive North Sydney Leagues Club in the Sydney suburb of Cammeray. The event was well attended by regular members and people from the community, with some eager attendees having travelled interstate to attend. A wide range of topics presented throughout the day guaranteed something of interest to everyone.

Carol Gerrard spoke on William Caxton, the first English printer and retailer of printed books, and his monumental Description of Britain. This massive work relied on a variety of sources including the Latin Polychronicon of the Benedictine chronicler Ranulf Higden, as well as the Venerable Bede’s History of the English People, Geoffrey of Monmouth’s History of the Kings of Britain, Gerald of Wales’ writings, and the Domesday Book. The Description of Britain was lavishly filled with myth and legend, fact and fiction, hearsay and conjecture.

Maggie Patton from the NSW Mitchell Library told us about the treasures held by the library, including ancient maps and parchments. We learned about the preparation of vellum, from scraped and treated animal skins, and how it took about 180 calves per book. The fact that DNA in the skin is now traceable by modern technology means that books’ origins can be determined, which has opened up a fascinating new area for scholars to explore. We learned how the production of books changed drastically with the invention of the
printing press, so that specialised teams in assembly lines took over from individual monks in scriptoria painstakingly illuminating manuscripts. The era of manuscripts ended in 1455. Maggie also discussed the transitional works of 1455 to 1501, known as the Incunabula, that used the same conventions as established manuscript makers had used, with the printing presses turning out handwritten and illuminated replicas. The Mitchell Library owns one page of an original Gutenberg Bible, amongst other treasures.

Xavier de Saint-Simon shared his love of the French-language fictional series by Maurice Druon entitled The Accursed Kings, a French perspective on their usually avoided pre-Revolutionary past. Members Lynne Foley, Kevin Herbert and Dorothea Preis offered critiques of books they had recently read. Author Felicity Pulman gave us a fascinating glimpse into the research undertaken for historical novels, Stephen Szabo from Heraldry Australia taught us about heraldic rolls, while Julia Redlich gave us an insight into a selection of medieval poetry and prose.

The many delicate and thoughtful touches of beauty were very much appreciated, from the luncheon serviettes in Ricardian colours of murrey and blue to the calligraphy nametags beribboned in the same colours and topped off with exquisite little white roses, to the hand-lettered bookmarks in our conference packs. The committee clearly went to a great deal of effort to create a day of beauty, refreshment and edification for us, and they succeeded wonderfully.
Visit to Tewkesbury

JO QUARCOOPOME

The day was glorious and spirits high as a coach load of Ricardians scrambled aboard for our visit to Tewkesbury. Every seat had been taken and there was a cheerful buzz of conversation all the way. Unusually for a Ricardian trip, there were no significant delays either navigating through London or cruising along the motorways and the one ominous-looking outbreak of cones – as usual, totally bereft of any workmen – failed to cause problems.

We arrived in Tewkesbury at our ETA of 11.30. Never having been to the town before, I enjoyed my first sight of the medieval black and white buildings, some leaning so far that I wondered how they kept their balance at all, and the proudly displayed banners. The White Boar banner naturally deserves a special mention and was saluted with due respect.

Disembarking from the coach, some of the group headed towards the town and the rest of us went to the abbey to admire its splendours.

In the abbey, the carved Norman arches, gracefully interlacing and topped by ornate décor, were impressive, as were the chantries and tombs of the Beauchamps and Despensers. A plaque – alas, not fifteenth century – commemorates the burial of the Lancastrian Prince Edward, whose death, aged eighteen, at the battle of Tewkesbury ended the hopes of his mother and must finally have broken that fierce lady’s spirit.

Towards midday we assembled at the entrance to the vault said to contain the remains of George, duke of Clarence, and his duchess, Isobel. The first step was at a bit of an odd angle and there was no handrail, so the short descent looked to be more difficult than it was. Ricardians not being easily daunted, we trooped down in small groups to pay our respects. While the skulls on display are not necessarily those of the Claresnces, the larger one looked...
adequate to contain George’s ego and I was impelled to tell him that he would have made a lousy king and would have saved his family a lot of grief had he realised it.

I bought a few souvenirs at the abbey shop, blithely unaware that some eminent Lancastrians killed during or executed after the battle were probably buried underneath and that I may have been standing on Somerset himself as I paid at the till.

There was just time for refreshments at the Refectory (I can personally recommend the chocolate brownies) and a brief stroll before we assembled on the south lawn for the battlefield tour. I use the term ‘assembled’ loosely, as it meant loafing around on benches and munching our sandwiches while Marian attempted a head count. Someone pointed out that Joyce Melhuish would have had us standing smartly to attention in the middle of the lawn, no loafing allowed.

Our guide, Steve, took us across the Vineries and into the Gastons via the road. There we met three unanticipated horses who endeavoured to convey, at first by polite nudging, then by actual shoving, that the fee for crossing their field could be paid in carrots, apples or other equine treats. When we formed a circle to hear Steve’s description of Richard of Gloucester’s attack on Somerset’s lines, across terrain made nearly impassable because of its hedges and streams, the horses invaded the circle in a triangular manoeuvre and feigned deep interest in the lecture. Of course, they were really intending to tread on our toes because we had failed to feed them.

In the field abutting what had been an enclosed deer park in 1471, I found myself once again baffled by Somerset’s tactics. Presumably he was unaware of King Edward’s two hundred men concealed in the park. Was he suddenly inspired to attempt a flanking attack on Edward’s centre on the assumption that his own side would take some supporting initiative? Was there an agreed strategy, in which case did that quick-change artist Wenlock turn his coat yet again? At any rate, Wenlock did not move and Somerset’s action was a disaster. The terrain which had initially given the Lancastrians protective screening became lethal obstacles as they broke, fled and died.

In spite of some road and housing development, enough of the battle site remains for the imaginative to visualise the struggles across difficult country, the Lancastrians’ disarray and that terrible pursuit across the Bloody Meadow.

Arriving back at the coach pick-up point, we all agreed that it had been a most enjoyable and informative day and I would like to close by expressing heartfelt thanks to Marian and the Visits Committee for all the hard work they invest on behalf of the rest of us.
The Yorkshire Branch’s Fiftieth Anniversary

Yorkshire Branch was the first ever branch of the Society to be formed, and this autumn it celebrated its 50th anniversary with a day of talks and a medieval banquet in the appropriate setting of Bedern Hall, York.

Bedern Hall was founded about 1250 as the home of up to 36 ‘singing priests’, that is, the Vicars Choral of the Minster. It is now the HQ of three of York’s civic guilds, the Freemen of the City, the York Guild of Building and the Company of Cordwainers. The actual hall is a fourteenth-century building which the Vicars Choral used as their dining hall. For the Yorkshire Branch celebrations, there were stalls set up in it for the whole day, staffed by Branch members in costume, selling artwork and books. There were displays of medieval weaponry, archery, coins and medical instruments (definitely not for the squeamish), and a layout of Towton battlefield made by Scowan Sykes.

Four talks were given during the day. The first was by our President, Peter Hammond, on ‘Richard III and York’, the second by Pauline Pogmore, secretary of the Yorkshire Branch, on ‘The Nevilles as Battle Commanders’, and John Saunders spoke on ‘The History of the Society’, illustrated by slides. The last talk was given by Tig Lang, and dealt with ‘Medieval Medicine and Cosmetics’, for which the medical instruments on display in the hall had already provided the audience with grim visual aids.

These talks complemented the activities in the hall, which included a medieval doctor (‘Neil’, whose demonstrations drew quite a crowd), a coiner (‘Frank’), displays of medieval clothes and footwear (organised by Lynda Telford and Dawn Gray). An interesting range of medieval linens had been draped over the rowan trees and railings outside the hall, which drew in the passers-by.

Dawn Gray, a keen re-enactor, spent almost the whole day outside the hall in the cold weather demonstrating medieval clothing. Michael Bennett of the Monk Bar Richard III Museum came in his guise of Richard III. There was also a raffle, for which one of the prizes was a very attractive dark blue glass plate with line drawings of northern castles.

In the evening there was a medieval banquet. Most of the diners wore medieval costume to match their surroundings, and pride of place here perhaps must go to Alex Harrison, whose dress was a beautiful deep green with a black velvet hem, cuffs and neckline, ornamented with glittering leaf and flower shapes in beading; this embroidery came from the New World. Mary O’Regan, who was the longest-standing Branch member present, wore a splendid red outfit. – it is a pity that we cannot have colour illustrations in the Bulletin.

Angela Moreton said a brief grace in Latin. Nicky Bland sang a medieval song to which she had put her own sad
words. It was very effective against the stone walls, hung with banners, and timbered roof of the hall. Angela Moreton made a short speech of welcome, and read out a message from Sue and Dave Wells, joint secretaries of the Society, congratulating the Branch on its fifty years and wishing it all the best for the next fifty. She spoke of the immense debt which was owed to those who started the Branch, encouraged its development and worked so hard for it. It was sad that neither John Audsley nor Moira Habberjam, who had both done so much for the Branch, was well enough to attend the day’s celebrations. Angela also proposed the toast to King Richard and the Yorkshire Branch, and Pauline Pogmore also spoke on behalf of the Committee and presented Angela with a splendid bouquet of flowers.

This account has been put together from reminiscences by Angela Moreton, John Saunders, Nicky Bland and Sue Taylor. A fuller account of the day, including the four talks, will appear in the March Bulletin.

Lynda Telford, Jenny Harding, Alex Harrison, Dawn Gray, Pauline Pogmore, Tony Harrison (hidden), Sue Taylor, Hannah Moreton

The White Boar
As I was a-walking one bright summer day
I met a Red Dragon a-hunting his prey
I asked what he hunted this bright summer day
He answered, the White Boar, the White Boar to slay.

As I was a-walking t’was now ’bout noon-tide,
I heard noise of battle, saw men that had died.
I asked of some soldiers why fought they this day?
The answer they gave me, the White Boar we shall slay.

I wandered and wandered but I knew not where,
Until I came nigh to the town of Leicester.
There was I told that White Boar had been slain,
But no-one can tell me where my good king is now lain.

Nicky Bland
Future Society Events

Study weekend 8 to 10 April 2011

Please see p. 16.

Long weekend in Sussex, 14 to 18 July 2011

There are so many wonderful places to visit in East and West Sussex that the Visits Committee have decided to make those counties the venue for our 2011 long weekend.

Our draft programme is as follows:

Thursday 14 July: Pick up in London. Visit Clayton church to see the wall paintings, visit to two windmills (exterior only), lunch and free afternoon in Brighton. Arrival at University of Sussex at about 6.00 p.m., with time to unpack and settle in before dinner.

Friday 15 July: Visit Hardham church to see wall paintings, then Bignor Roman villa, lunch and afternoon in Arundel, including visit to the castle.

Saturday 16 July: Bodiam Castle and Great Dixter

Sunday 17 July: Weald & Downland Open Air Museum at Singleton, where there are 45 properties to visit. The group’s conference dinner will be held tonight. This will be a buffet.

Monday 18 July: Alfriston Clergy House, Long Man of Wilmington, lunch at Tunbridge Wells, then home late afternoon.

The itinerary is subject to change. If we can fit in some extras we will.

Accommodation is at the University of Sussex, Lewes Court. The accommodation consists of two flats on the ground, first and second floors. Each flat has six bedrooms, which are ensuite. There are also four studio flats. Accommodation has provisionally been reserved for 40 people. Tea and coffee making facilities will be provided and towels and vanity packs. Meals will be taken at Bramber House. Four breakfasts, three café-style dinners and the group conference dinner are included in the cost.

Other Information: Bramber House is about a 7-10 minute walk away from Lewes Court. There is a free shuttle bus service which runs about every 10 minutes from the porter’s lodge (near Lewes Court) to Bramber House. The coach can only go as far as the porter’s lodge, for collecting and dropping off group members.

You may wish to drive to the university, and park your car there and travel on the coach on the Friday, Saturday and Sunday with the group. If so, please tick the appropriate box on the booking form. Free car-parking permits will then be obtained for you.

Cost: approximately £400 plus £25 admin charges, comprising: accommodation, meals as set out above, coach hire and entrance to Arundel Castle. Other entrance charges and church donations: own arrangements. Several of the places we propose to visit are National Trust or English Heritage, so please bring your membership cards. We will try to obtain group discounts wherever possible. Travel insurance – own arrangements. This is optional for travelling in the UK if you are a resident here.

If you wish to join this visit please send a cheque for £100 drawn in favour of Richard III Society to Rosemary Waxman, 37 Chewton Road, Walthamstow, London E17 7DW. My telephone no is 0208 521 4261. My email is rwaxman@btinternet.com. Please provide one or two stamped addressed envelopes as set out on the booking form.

Closing date 14 January 2011.
Lincolnshire Branch Report

As the Branch prepares for winter, we can look back at our summer highlights.

In April, we visited Boughton House near Kettering, home of the 10th duke of Buccleuch, for a private conducted tour of the state rooms with their incredible treasures: rare porcelain, notable paintings including many old masters, 40 Van Dykes in one room! There are well-preserved huge tapestries and a fine armoury that includes the sword carried at the battle of Blenheim by John Churchill, later duke of Marlborough. After a picnic lunch, we viewed the 11,000-acre estate with its 5 villages and avenues of lime trees. ‘Planter John’ wanted to drive all the way to London in the shade. A look at a WW2 airfield used by elements of the US 8th Air Force, which is now home to groves of disease-resistant American elms. We then made for home via Geddington with its Eleanor Cross.

In May, via Dumfries, Scotland, to Carrickfergus, Northern Ireland, for a five-day itinerary that drew together visits to Carrickfergus castle, Bonamary friary, the Giant’s Causeway and some breathtaking cliff scenery, not forgetting tours of Belfast City and the Bushmills Distillery. Our route homeward was via the tomb, near Dumfries, of Princess Margaret (d. 1415), daughter of Robert III of Scotland.

In June we scrutinised Beverley Minster for masons’ marks and green men and visited the magnificent Burton Constable Hall.

Devon received our attention in September during a long-weekend that took in Tiverton Castle and the wonderful medieval manor house over the Somerset border at Cothay. Dunster, with its Luttrell connections and Exeter’s fine cathedral were other highlights.

Our programme included enjoyable lectures by Dr Jonathan Foyle on ‘Henry VIII – Builder or Destroyer?’; Bob Trubshaw on ‘The Minds of Medieval Masons’ and Jean Townsend, who presented ‘The Lady and the Unicorn – The Story of a Tapestry’.

This was truly a wonderful summer to remember.

Future Programme: please see our website: richardthethirdlincs.org

Maureen Wheeldon, Publicity Officer

Can you solve this hassock heraldry puzzle?

While visiting Sutton Cheney church for the Bosworth weekend this summer, Sue Wells arranged some of the Society’s heraldic hassocks there to represent in pictures a well-known fifteenth-century rhyme, a rhyme which brought about the downfall of the rhymester.

Can any reader work out what the rhyme was? The sender of the first correct solution will receive one of the new A4 prints of Richard’s boar standard designed by Geoff Wheeler. Please send your solutions to Lesley Boatwright (contact details on back cover).
Greater Manchester Branch Report
At our meeting in June we were introduced to ‘Templars, Hospitallers and Other Orders of Knights’, an illustrated talk given by one of our most popular guest speakers, Mark Olly. This was a fascinating talk encompassing the origins and organisation of the Knights Templar under Hugh de Payns in 1119, during the Crusades, to their downfall in the early part of the fourteenth century. Mark unravelled some of the misconceptions surrounding these religious military knights and also told us about the rise of the Knights of the Hospital of St John or Hospitallers.

Our first visit of the year on a glorious Saturday in July was to Ripley Castle in Yorkshire. Set in the pretty village of Ripley not far from Harrogate, the castle is surrounded by many fine and interesting buildings which adds to its unique charm. We were given a guided tour around the castle which has been the home of the Ingilby family for some 700 years. Parts of the present castle date to the mid-fourteenth century and subsequent owners have added to the overall construction that we see today. It is a place which has had quite a colourful history and one of the most famous inhabitants of the castle was known as ‘Trooper’ Jane Ingilby, a somewhat formidable lady who managed to imprison Oliver Cromwell at the castle during the English Civil War. After a very enjoyable lunch we visited the beautiful fourteenth-century All Saints’ church which contains an effigy dating to the fourteenth century of Sir Thomas Ingilby and his wife and part of a very fine medieval rood screen. Leaving Ripley we then visited the spectacular ruins of nearby Fountains Abbey. Founded in 1132 by the Cistercian order the abbey is set in a valley surrounded by the glorious Studley Royal Gardens. An excellent meal on the way home rounded off a very full and enjoyable day.

A couple of weeks later my husband and I joined members of the North Mercia Group on their visit to Edstaston Chapel and Shrewsbury Battlefield. Edstaston was founded as a chantry chapel by Richard III in 1484 and a chaplain was appointed to say divine service each day for himself, Queen Anne and other members of his family. Sadly my husband and I did not manage to visit the chapel as it was rather difficult to find so we met up with the group at the Battlefield 1403 exhibition centre. After a superb lunch we were given a guided tour around the church of St Mary Magdalene or Battlefield Church as it is more commonly known, built as a memorial to the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403. The new exhibition centre is excellent and gives a very comprehensive history of the battle and participants.

Our final trip of the year was to Clitheroe Castle and Whalley Abbey in Lancashire. Clitheroe lies in the Ribble Valley and was built by Robert de Lacy in about 1186. All that is left is the magnificent keep which gives commanding views over the Ribble Valley landscape. We also visited the excellent museum which includes a collection of silver coins of Henry VI known as the Mitton Hoard which were found locally. Whalley Abbey was our next stop and it was a delight to wander around the ruins of what had once been a fine Cistercian abbey. The last abbot of Whalley, John Paslew, became involved with the Pilgrimage of Grace during the reign of Henry VIII and paid for his involvement with his life. Today it is a peaceful and tranquil place and well worth a visit.

In October members from the Greater Manchester Branch and the North Mercia Group travelled to Leicester for the Annual General Meeting and had a very enjoyable day meeting up with other members of the Society and browsing the stalls. We are currently in the process of organising our programme for 2011 and look forward to another year of interesting and varied meetings and visits.

Helen Ashburn

NEW SOCIETY PUBLICATION
SEE PAGE 21

RICHARD III AND EAST ANGLIA

The proceedings of the Triennial Conference at Cambridge in 2005
Thames Valley Branch Report 2010

We met at the Yorkshire Rose restaurant in Bracknell on a sunny January Sunday for our AGM and usual enjoyable meal and get together, when we welcomed some new members and decided on our programme for 2010. Wendy Moorhen has kindly offered to host the meetings at her house so a group of us met there for the February meeting, where I gave my updated talk on ‘Katherine Courtenay, Plantagenet Princess, Tudor Countess’. For our meeting in March we met at The Harrow in Hadlow for a very congenial meal, then we drove to nearby Ightham Mote, Kent. There have been extensive renovations since our last visit there several years ago and we visited the exhibition which explained the background to the largest conservation project undertaken by the National Trust. They have certainly done a magnificent job and we very much enjoyed our visit to the 700-year-old manor house.

In early May we met at Wendy’s home and were entertained to a performance of ‘My Lady Paston’, written and performed excellently by Sue Taylor. This was followed by afternoon tea. A very enjoyable meeting. In June we met at Greys Court after a meal in a nearby pub. The Ricardian connection to Greys Court was that it was inherited by Alice Deincourt who brought it into the Lovell family by marriage and was in turn inherited by her grandson Francis, Viscount Lovell, on her death in 1474.

On a very hot day in July, a number of us met at The Red Lion, Hatfield, for lunch then we ventured to nearby Hatfield House. We toured the gardens and house, spotting various paintings and heraldry relevant to our interest. After a refreshing cup of tea we ventured out to find the tree under which Elizabeth Tudor sat when she had news that she was queen of England. After quite a hunt we found the site where our present Queen Elizabeth planted an oak in 1985 close to the original tree.

On another sunny day in August we paid a visit to Stonor Park, near Henley on Thames and owned by the Stonor family for over 800 years. We particularly liked seeing the fourteenth-century hall which was brightly painted and had a host of family heraldry.

In late September a number of TVB members visited Suffolk. With new members joining the Branch, it was an appropriate choice to make a return visit to the county after our successful away weekend in 2003. Base camp was a delightful farm house in Lawshall whose owners prided themselves on their breakfast ‘feasts’ and there was no disappointment there. The weather was not kind on Friday afternoon and the walk, which was to take in the main highlights of Bury St Edmunds, had to be adapted to suit the rain. Nevertheless the group visited the church of St Mary’s, Moyse’s Hall, the cathedral and the ruins and gardens of the abbey, and was able to take in other sites such as the Guildhall (now used as rehearsal rooms for the local theatre).

Morton relented on Saturday and the day, devoted to visiting Lavenham, was fine. Lavenham, which boasts some 340 listed buildings, was known for its trade in wool and at the height of its prosperity rivalled some of England’s major cities as a centre of commerce. In later times it has become the backdrop for films and TV series, most notably Witchfinder General (1968), Barry Lyndon (1975), several episodes of the Lovejoy series and most recently Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

The day began at the church of St Peter and St Paul. Building work began on the church shortly after the battle of Bosworth, and Richard’s military nemesis at the battle, John de Vere, Earl of Oxford, contributed funds, and the de Vere House still stands in the town, now a B&B.
establishment. The group moved on to the Guildhall, which, with access to the adjacent properties, all fronting the Market Place, provides the venue for an interesting exhibition on life in the town. After a short time to take in the retail delights of the High Street, lunch was taken at the charming Swan Hotel, an interesting jumble of buildings with a small but beautiful garden.

Despite the plethora of medieval buildings in the town, sadly there are few that can be visited. The Priory many years ago was open to the public even though it was a private home, but it is now an upmarket B&B and only guests have the privilege of viewing it. However, the Little Hall, sited in a corner of the Market Place, is now open to the public. It is also the headquarters of the Suffolk Preservation Society and a member introduces visitors to the history of the Hall before they wander around the building, which was restored in the 1920s. Finally the group embarked on a walk around the town using Suffolk historian David Dymond’s* excellent guide and finishing the day with a welcome cup of tea and cake. It would not be a TVB Ricardian weekend if we didn’t get lost, at least once, and this proved to be the case with finding the local pub booked for dinner that evening. Despite maps, directions and satnavs, the last repeatedly telling us to turn into a road that was closed, a phone call to the pub was necessary, and even though the name of the road was known, and just walking distance to the pub, they couldn't help! Suffice to say the group eventually found it, more through luck than judgement.

The final visit of the weekend was to Kentwell, in the village of Long Melford. Kentwell is a Tudor manor house which is famous for its re-creations of everyday Tudor life and the weekend coincided with one of the their special events. The house was filled with the smell of woodsmoke and the kitchens, brew house, dairy and bakehouse were teeming with ‘Tudor’ folk carrying out their tasks and happy to explain what they are doing. It was a very realistic experience and a delightful end to our weekend.

As I write, we have three more meetings to look forward to this year. Later in October two of our members, Maria Hale and Sally Empson are giving us a talk on ‘Leaves of Gold – the Edward IV Genealogy Roll’. This roll is twenty feet long and was probably created to commemorate Edward IV’s coronation in 1461. We look forward to this with great interest.

Our November meeting will be our AGM, and in December a group will be attending the lunch and carol service at Fotheringhay.

Thanks are due to Wendy for her generous hosting and hospitality and the report on the weekend away. Thanks also to our secretary Sally and to members who have arranged this year’s visits.

Judith Ridley

* A. Betterton and D. Dymond, _Lavenham: Industrial Town_ (1989)
Worcestershire Branch Report
As is customary, the Branch held an outdoor evening meeting in August. A most interesting pedestrian tour of the town of Malvern was undertaken, led by Dudley Brook, a very knowledgeable guide who leads town walks for the Civic Society and for the Tourist Information Centre. Apart from the famous priory, Malvern has few, if any Ricardian associations, and only a small number of medieval buildings remain. Nonetheless, members enjoyed learning about other, more recent, royal connections. Henry VIII, of course, dissolved the priory. Of this Benedictine priory only the gatehouse, which originally led into the cloisters and was rebuilt in 1460 on the site of an earlier building, and the priory church itself remain. Much later, in the nineteenth century, Malvern became famous for its therapeutic mineral water and in 1830 the future Queen Victoria visited the Coburg Baths, named after her uncle, Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg, who had a prolonged stay there five years earlier. Members also saw the concert hall where Sir Edward Elgar’s music was first heard and the pharmacy once owned by Mr Lee and Mr Perrins, who subsequently produced their famous hot and spicy sauce at a factory in Worcester. After a visit to the museum, which has a fifteenth-century exterior and an excellent medieval room, and noting that in the fourteenth century William Langland had written The Vision of Piers Plowman describing the local countryside, members retreated to the bar of the Abbey Hotel, not merely for a well deserved drink but also because this is the only place from which the south side of the priory can be seen.

The September meeting was a successful fund-raising and social afternoon held at Upton Snodsbury. It was very pleasant and included the sale of members’ homemade produce, Ricardian items from the Tewkesbury stall and a number of quizzes and competitions.

At Belbroughton in October members were delighted to welcome Jonathan Davies, a well-known re-enactor, author of numerous articles on medieval and sixteenth-century warfare and founder of the only school re-enactment society in the country. He had brought with him a very large range of weapons and armour from the late middle ages and explained their use and the training required. He even had a copy of a small handgun of the period that he had made himself. Persuaded to put on some chain and plate armour, the Treasurer was suitably impressed by the weight of it. Assisted by his son, Jonathan demonstrated the power of both longbows and crossbows to penetrate armour and then gave a wonderful exhibition of sword fighting. Finally he talked about the injuries these weapons inflicted and the available battlefield surgery, which was more sophisticated than might be imagined. He had taken part in the television film about the battle of Towton and explained that the injuries seen on the skeletons found there, which some archaeologists had thought could be evidence of torture, were in fact entirely explicable given the weapons used and the types of helmets worn. In addition some of these bodies showed that men had been able to survive horrific injuries received in previous battles, since bones had mended and these old wounds could be distinguished from the blows which had finally caused death. Members thanked Jonathan and his son Tom warmly for a most informative and enjoyable, if bloodthirsty, afternoon.

Carol Southworth

In the March and June Bulletins: celebrating Kendall
We shall be commemorating the centenary of the birth of Paul Murray Kendall, whose biography of Richard III is a classic that has played a significant role in promoting the revisionist view of the king. We shall have articles celebrating Kendall’s life and achievements including one by Compton Reeves. In June there will be a feature on the visit to Britain in March 2011 of Kendall’s daughters Callie and Gillian, and an interview with them. We hope to meet Callie and Gillian at Bosworth (where their father’s ashes were scattered) and talk to them about their memories of him.
Yorkshire Branch Report December 2010

As was reported in the September Bulletin, members of Yorkshire Branch were present at Fotheringhay church on 29 July when the ‘reconstructed’ funeral journey of Richard, duke of York, organised by Wakefield Historical Society, ended in a service of Compline. It is always a pleasure to visit this church, and at this formal gathering our Chairman Angela Moreton and Secretary Pauline Harrison Pogmore presented an arrangement of flowers on behalf of the Branch which was placed by the duke’s tomb. We were especially honoured to be introduced to our Society’s Patron, HRH the Duke of Gloucester, who in his address stressed the importance of discovering, as far as was possible, the truth about past events. No-one agrees with this approach to history more than Ricardians! It was an impressive occasion on a lovely summer evening, and we were happy to have been able to take part.

Fotheringhay church is of course the collegiate church of the House of York. Our own Branch commemoration of Bosworth was held, as always, at St Alkelda’s church in Middleham which King Richard intended should be his own collegiate foundation but which only continued as such until shortly after his death in 1485. We were glad to welcome some visiting Society members at this informal act of remembrance: as usual, flowers were placed below the window to King Richard, Queen Anne and Prince Edward, and the Chairman said a few words regarding King Richard’s reputation and that at Middleham we were surely closer to the real man and not the caricature of Tudor legend.

The following week, Committee members and friends attended the Bosworth re-enactment at the Battlefield Visitor Centre, where we enjoyed standing in warm sunshine talking to fellow Ricardians, booing Lord Stanley (always a bonus) and admiring passing horses and dogs. We sold some Branch merchandise too, in the form of copies of Pauline Harrison Pogmore’s new book, Richard III, the House of York and their Supporters, which had come from the printers only the week before. The book is available directly from the author at 169 Albert Road, Sheffield S8 9QX; the cost is £8 inc p&p to Yorkshire subscribers who received a flyer with their August magazine, and £8 plus p&p to anyone else. Cheques payable to Rosalba Press, please.

The Branch AGM was held in York at the beginning of September. For 2010-11 Angela Moreton continues as chairman and Pauline Pogmore as secretary and librarian; Marjorie Hodgkinson takes over the post of treasurer as well as being our sales officer, and the committee is completed by Dawn Gray, Peter Hammond, Cris Reay Connor and co-opted members Hannah Moreton and Lynda Telford. However, as a result of a query arising from the Branch AGM, this Committee has yet to be ratified. A Special General Meeting will be held in York early in April 2011 (date to be confirmed). Full details will be published as soon as possible in the Branch Newsletter and on our website (see p.19), as well as on the Society website and in the March Bulletin. The SGM will also feature a talk on ‘Medieval Families’ by Pauline Pogmore.

The power of modern technology has made itself felt in the Branch this autumn. Pauline Pogmore had to change her email address as a result of being phished, and can now be contacted at yorkistrose2@hotmail.co.uk (a very slight change from her old address). She wishes to thank everyone who contacted her expressing concern at the expensive illness of her cousin in Malaysia! We also had to acquire a new website (again) and are obliged to James Garton for all the work he did on it for us, while sincerely hoping that we’ll keep this one: you should be able to find us at www.richardiiyorkshire.x10.mx, but since the deadline for this report was 15 October, anything might have happened since.

I hope to report in the next Bulletin on our 50th Anniversary Event on 23 October (see pp. 54-55), and will close by reminding members that our commemoration of the Battle of Wakefield will be on Sunday 2 January 2011 at Sandal: the Branch wreath-laying at the Duke of York’s statue in Manygates Lane near the castle will be at 2.15 p.m. as usual, and this year the castle visitor centre is expected to be open as a welcome refuge from any bad weather.

Angela Moreton

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**New Members**

**UK  1 July to 30 Sept 2010**
- Mr & Mrs M. Adams, Surrey
- Sally Badham, Leafield, Oxon
- Matt Betts, Aylesbury, Bucks
- Ian Buchan, Tilstock, Shropshire
- Helen Bushell, Burwash Weald, East Sussex
- Guy Cadbury, Lewes, Sussex
- Richard Cadwallader, Woking, Surrey
- Frances Chetwynd, Nuneaton, Warwicks
- Teresa Cox, Buckhurst Hill, Essex
- Penelope Cross, Stanton Drew, Somerset
- Malcolm Dale, Bury St Edmunds
- Rani Elvira, London
- Josephine Fletcher, Halifax, W.Yorks
- Terry Geldard, South Milford
- Robert Grange, Creaton, Northants
- James Green, Dereham, Norfolk
- Sheryl Haley, Keighley, W.Yorks
- Helen, Rob & Rose Handley, Kingswinford
- Mark Hicks, Staunton, Glos
- Julian Humphrys, Godalming, Surrey
- Ian & Nicola Johnson, Pewsey, Wilts
- Sally Linin, Dartford, Kent
- John Lyons, London
- Janet Moat, Grantham, Lincs
- Hannah Moreton, Leeds
- Susan Moseley, Calshot, Hants
- Yuki Niina, Shrewsbury
- Helene Parry, Wigton, Cumbria
- Kathryn Pegg, Southminster, Essex
- Iris Plume, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
- Diana Rees, London
- Simon Roe, Swansea
- Andrea Schutz, Cambridge
- Neville Sibery, Stoke-on-Trent
- Katherine Simmons, Bournemouth
- Lilian Stockton, Colwall
- Gerald Sturgess, Leicester
- Craig Thompson, London
- Claire, Wayne, Luke & James Trott, N.Yorks
- Richard & Maureen Wheeldon, Lincoln
- Robert Whitehouse, Darlington

**Overseas  1 July to 30 Sept 2010**
- Ariana Ellis, Toronto, Canada
- Steve Ellis, Illinois, USA
- Anne Goodwin, Victoria, Australia
- Erika Millen, Indiana, USA
- Ian Turner, Wellington Point, Australia
- Sarah Turner, Wellington Point, Australia

**US Branch 1 July to 30 Sept 2010**
- Robin Chambers Cunningham, Washington DC
- MaryAnn Dion, Downers Grove, IL
- Jesse Nathan Glaude, Norwich, CT
- Vhalla Otarod, Clarks Summit, PA
- Jeanne & Ken Tackitt, Bellevue, WA
- George Usher, Silver Spring, MD

**Recently Deceased Members**

We are sorry to report the death of Mrs M.W. Walker, of Sudbury, Suffolk (joined 1998).

Lincolnshire Branch are sorry to report the death of Gool Mugaseth, widow of Zarosh Mugaseth, on 8 August 2010. Many years ago, Zarosh was editor of *The Ricardian*. The Mugaseths were Zoroastrians who came to England from India in the 1950s with their family. Jean Townsend of the Lincolnshire Branch describes them as ‘the most wonderful people, who lived by the Parsee faith: good words, good thoughts, good deeds. Gool kept up her association with the Lincolnshire Branch, and was much loved’.

Calendar

We run a calendar of all forthcoming events notified to us. If you are aware of any events of Ricardian interest, whether organised by the Society (Committee, Visits Committee, Research Committee, Branches/Groups) or by others, please let Lesley Boatwright have full details in sufficient time for entry. The calendar will also be run on the website.


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<td>11 December</td>
<td>Christmas at Fotheringhay</td>
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<td>2 January</td>
<td>Yorkshire Branch Commemoration of the Battle of Wakefield</td>
<td>Yorkshire Branch</td>
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<td>Conference on 2nd Battle of St Albans</td>
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<td>The Wars of the Roses: one-day conference at the Tower of London celebrating 550th anniversary of the battle of Towton</td>
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<td>26 March</td>
<td>Blood &amp; Roses: special interest weekend at Christ Church, Oxford</td>
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<td>24-27 March</td>
<td>Study Weekend at York</td>
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<td>8-10 April</td>
<td>Study Weekend at York</td>
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<td>14 May</td>
<td>Day visit to Abingdon and Oxford</td>
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<td>11 June</td>
<td>Worcester Branch 25th anniversary celebration banquet, Belbroughton Church Hall</td>
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<td>East Midlands Study Day on ‘The Power Behind the Throne’</td>
<td>East Midlands Branch (day not yet finalised)</td>
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<td>14-18 July</td>
<td>Long Weekend based in Sussex</td>
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<td>3 September</td>
<td>Day visit to Anglesey Abbey (to be confirmed)</td>
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