



ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

THE RICHARD III SOCIETY

Year ended 31 March 2009

OUR MISSION

In the belief that many features of the traditional accounts of the character and career of Richard III are neither supported by sufficient evidence nor reasonably tenable, the Society aims to promote, in every possible way, research into the life and times of Richard III, and to secure a reassessment of the material relating to this period, and of the role of this monarch in English history.

FOREWORD

Welcome to our seventh annual report, which I am again happy to introduce, especially as it shows that we continue to make good progress across many fronts, and that we are being proactive in looking for new opportunities to present the positive case for King Richard III. Our public profile continues to be raised through involvement with the Leeds Medieval Congress and our co-operation with the Bosworth Battlefield Centre. With the latter, the superb portal has given us a permanent means of getting a balanced and factual view of King Richard across to thousands of visitors every year, which is, of course, a major achievement for the Society. Similarly, our status as a serious historical society has been considerably enhanced with the publication of the two volumes of the Logge Wills, following on from the equally important launch of the Wills Index earlier in the year. Many members were involved in both projects over the years and I salute and thank them all for the excellent results.

Two members from the Executive Committee resigned during the year, Wendy Moorhen and Jane Trump, and I would like to take this opportunity once again to thank them for their outstanding contributions to the work of the Society. As their replacements I welcome Lynda Pidgeon to the post of Research Officer, and Susan and David Wells as joint General Secretaries.

I hope that you find this report a useful document. It is symbolic of the hard work of the many members who voluntarily give their services at all levels of the Society. I am grateful to them all for their enthusiasm and dedication, without which we could not and would not be where we are today. We are a confident and financially viable organisation, but we also know the importance of remaining so in these uncertain times. Finally, though we have many achievements to our credit that must not stop us continuing to work hard to promote research into the late fifteenth century and furthering the rehabilitation of Richard III.

Phil Stone (Chairman)

THE SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1924 under the name The Fellowship of the White Boar. It was re-founded in 1956 on a wider membership basis and formally changed its name to The Richard III Society in 1959. The Society is an incorporated body bound by a constitution and managed by an executive committee elected at the AGM, which takes place each October.

Patron, President and Vice Presidents: HRH The Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO, has been the Society's Patron since 1980. **Peter Hammond** was re-elected President at the 2008 AGM. For the year October 2008 to September 2009 five vice-presidents were elected: John Audsley, Kitty Bristol, Carolyn Hammond, Robert Smith and Isolde Wigram.

Executive Committee: at the 2008 AGM the following were elected to serve on the committee: Lesley Boatwright, Howard Choppin, Paul Foss, Marion Mitchell, Wendy Moorhen, Lynda Pidgeon, Phil Stone, Anne Sutton, Jane Trump, Neil Trump, Richard Van Allan, Susan and David Wells, Geoffrey Wheeler. **Phil Stone** was subsequently re-elected chairman. During the reporting year Wendy Moorhen and Jane Trump resigned from the committee and John Saunders was co-opted on to it.

Standing Committees: these are permanent bodies with specific tasks and responsibilities delegated from the Executive Committee. Current standing committees are: Research Committee, Visits Committee, Website Committee, Public Relations, Publicity and the Media Committee, *Bulletin* Editorial Committee, and the Annual Report Committee.

Working Parties: these are a temporary bodies established by the Executive Committee to examine a specific area of Society business. Current working parties are as follows: Education (Year Seven Medieval History) Working Party, and the Constitution Working Party.

The Robert Hamblin Award for Service to the Society: this award was established in 2002 to recognise members who have given significant service to the Society; it is named after the late Robert Hamblin who was chairman of the Society from 1989 to 2002. In 2008 the award was made to Moira Habberjam in recognition of her outstanding service to the Yorkshire Branch and her prodigious research contribution.

MEMBERSHIP

During the reporting year the membership function has continued to be managed by Brian and Wendy Moorhen, with Wendy also acting as membership liaison officer although she is no longer a member of the Executive Committee.

The Society subscription year runs from 2 October as opposed to our financial year which begins 1 April. The statistics below are taken from the 2 October 2008 to 1 October 2009 membership year and relate to the status of the membership as at 31 March 2009.

At 31 March 2009 we had 1909 paid memberships of which 86 were part paid. Total individual membership, after adjustment for the family membership category (which assumes 2 per household), lapsed members who may yet pay their subscriptions and inclusion of the USA branch (470), stood at 2699 as compared to 2873 last year.

The number of lapsed members has continued to fall again this year. Lapsed members are those who fail to renew their subscriptions but do not officially resign from the Society. They receive the Winter *Bulletin* but are removed from the mailing list in the new year. This year 237 letters (315 last year) were sent to such members and the figure in this category as at 31 March was reduced to 134 (159 last year). The final lapsed figure for the subscription year 2007/2008 was 114. In addition 149 records were removed from the active database at the end of the subscription year as a result of resignations, deaths and the removal of members who had moved home but had not advised the Society of their new forwarding address. Last year this figure was 165.

The membership database records the breakdown by country (family memberships counting as one unit; lapsed and resigned members included) as follows: Andorra 1; Australia 92; Austria 1; Barbados 1; Belgium 1; Canada 66; Denmark 1; France 9; Germany 14; Greece 1; Hong Kong 1; Ireland 1; Italy 3; Japan 3; Kenya 1; Malta 1; New Zealand 26; Portugal 1; Russia 1; South Africa 2; Spain 2; Sweden 4; The Netherlands 6; UK 1837; USA (including members of US Branch) 484.

From 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009 there were 152 applications to join the Society, the vast majority having been recruited via the internet. Overall the Society's annual attrition rate is greater than our recruitment rate although the gap continues to decline. Retention of members continues to be a priority for the Executive Committee, who are constantly seeking new ways to consolidate and expand our membership base.

RICARDIAN COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLICATIONS

The Ricardian: this has been published since 1961 and over the years it has developed into a widely respected scholarly journal of late-fifteenth-century studies. Volume XIX of *The Ricardian* carried six articles and twenty-nine reviews. The articles ranged over ceremony (the entry of Elizabeth Woodville to London before her coronation), parliamentary procedure in Richard's reign (a disputed election at Norwich), and the cultivation of Italian princes by Edward IV by their election to the Garter. An analysis of the coinage attributed to the Yorkist pretenders concludes that they issued no coins, and another of the tomb in St Kenelm's Church, Minster Lovell, concludes it must be the tomb of Francis Lovell's father. Lastly there is a comparison of the two letters from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge written asking for Richard's favour to John Morton and Thomas Rotherham respectively but in very different styles. 'Books and Articles' described four books and fifteen articles dealing with the fifteenth century and published in the last year.

Ricardian Bulletin: the Society's in-house magazine was first published in 1974. A new style and format for the magazine was launched in the summer of 2003 and it has continued throughout the reporting year to offer an increasing range of Society-focused information and historical articles. New features introduced included a series of fiction pieces based on Graham Turner's paintings and interviews with historians and others involved with the fifteenth century.

Society Website: the site continues to be an increasingly important means for communicating with members and the public throughout the world. Recruitment via the internet exceeds all other sources by a considerable margin. We are constantly reviewing the content and format of the site and with this in mind a dedicated content manager was appointed during the year. Other new management arrangements will be introduced later in 2009 to further enhance our presence on the World Wide Web.

Electronic Newsletter: The purpose of this occasional newsletter is to inform members of critical matters in between issues of the *Bulletin* and is available to all members with an email address.

PUBLIC RELATIONS, PUBLICITY AND THE MEDIA

During 2008/2009 we continued to be proactive in responding to media coverage of Richard III and the Yorkist period. We also continued to explore new ways to engage with the media to promote the positive view of Richard III and to attract new members. Highlights of the year include:

- The Society has worked closely with the Bosworth Heritage Battlefield Centre to provide the technology, artwork and text for the Bosworth Portal, which provides visitors with a positive account of Richard III and his times. Visitor throughput could be as high as 10,000 annually not including school groups who visit the site weekly.
- The Society had a presence amongst other historical and archaeological societies at the prestigious Leeds Medieval Congress in July 2008; the congress attracts one and a half thousand academics from around seventy universities worldwide.
- Media interest continues to be shown in the Society and we were approached by a number of programme makers during the year seeking our input, including a factual programme on the Princes in the Tower, a television series on Richard and a proposal for a film version of Sharon Penman's novel *The Sunne in Splendour*.
- We again had a stall at the popular *Who Do You Think You Are? - Live* event at Olympia in February, which gained a lot of interest from attendees. Given the cost of appearing at this event, future participation is under review.
- We also continue to receive queries from a range of sources, including media, writers working on books involving Richard as well as general enquiries about items such as antiques. People are coming to the Society in increasing numbers for information, many via our website, indicating that we are being recognised as a reliable source for information about Richard III and his times.

RICARDIAN RESEARCH

The Society's primary purpose is to promote research into the life and times of Richard III and we undertake this through four key areas: *The Ricardian*, research projects, publications and individual members' research.

Again there were no further Research Community newsletters during the reporting year due to the heavy workload of the contributors. The future of the Community will be reviewed during 2009/2010.

Other major activities this year include continuing work on the following:

- **The Wills Projects:** both the two volumes of the *Logge Register* and the Wills Index CD-ROM were successfully launched.
- **New Wills Project:** the transcription of wills from the Prerogative Court of York.
- **Transcription of PRO/E404 (1475-1491):** these documents cover the records of the Exchequer during the reigns of Edward IV, Edward V, and Richard III and beyond.
- **Transcription and translation of the Middleham Accounts:** this project is being undertaken by Mary O'Regan supported by Moira Habberjam.
- **Bursaries:** the Society funds three annual bursaries, one administered by the Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York, one by the Institute of Historical Research, London and the third by the Society which is open to members studying for higher degrees. The IHR bursary was awarded to Jennifer Rampling of Cambridge University who is researching the alchemy of George Ripley. The York bursary was awarded to Meghan Kawka who is researching Richard III's activities in the north. The Society bursary was awarded to Matthew Ward who is studying for an MA degree at Nottingham University. Matthew is researching the politics of aristocratic death in Lancastrian and Yorkist England.
- **Triennial Conference:** the tenth conference was held from 28 to 30 March 2008 and took place at the Royal Agricultural College Cirencester. The theme was *England's Greatest Mystery – The Princes in the Tower*. The proceedings were subsequently published in the *Bulletin*.
- **Palaeography Course:** two new members enrolled for the course during the year

EDUCATION

The Education Working Party is continuing its work to produce educational material on Richard III for secondary schools. The results of this will be published in the form of a CD-Rom that should be available during 2010.

BARTON LIBRARY

During the reporting year twenty-six new items were added to the collections of books and audio-visual material available for members to borrow, but disappointingly only about one hundred items were borrowed: ten non-fiction books, seven novels, about fifty papers and thirty five tapes. In addition to advising members on their choice of reading material the Library Team also looked up information, and supplied photocopies. A trend noted by the Audio Visual Librarian was renewed interest in the classic drama series of the 1970s such as *Vivat Rex* and *The Shadow of the Tower*. An enquiry from a scriptwriter for the radio adaptation of Jeremy Potter's novel *A Trail of Blood* could suggest a pro-Richard film is under consideration. The Fiction Librarian held an auction of surplus novels which raised £460 for Library funds. At the end of 2008 Rebekah Beale, the Papers Librarian, had to resign due to health problems, and we are grateful for her many years of service. Gillian Paxton was appointed in her place, and she took up office in April 2009.

BRANCHES AND GROUPS

During the past year the number of branches and groups remained unchanged, with a total of 20 branches and 11 groups worldwide. Not all completed an annual return for the year under report, and the degree of activity appears somewhat variable. About two thirds are very active in terms of meetings. However, there are several which make no contribution to the annual calendar of branch and group events, and these must therefore be regarded as, in effect, 'dormant'. The situation is further complicated by the fact that, despite a constitutional requirement to do so, not all branches and groups report their activities and publications to the Branches and Groups Liaison Officer.

Beds & Bucks, Canada, Mid Anglia, New South Wales, New Zealand, Norfolk, Scotland, Victoria, Western Australia and Worcestershire all produce regular publications and send copies to the Liaison Officer for eventual inclusion in the Society's 'papers' library. From these publications the Liaison Officer compiles a quarterly electronic *Ricardian Roundup* which is sent to all branch and group secretaries, and to any other society members who have requested it. Some other branches and groups which do not forward a regular journal also contribute articles and information to the Roundup from time to time – notably the East Midlands Branch. The *Ricardian Roundup* also includes a calendar of all notified Branch and Group events covering the next four months.

RICHARD III AND YORKIST HISTORY TRUST

The Richard III & Yorkist History Trust is a charitable trust established by the Richard III Society in 1986 to further education and research related to the history of late-fifteenth-century England and to encourage the publication of such research. It took over most of the Society's academic publishing activities but retains close links with its parent body which appoints the majority of its nine trustees. The principal duties of these Trustees are to commission and see through the press new publications and assess applications from scholars and publishers for financial assistance towards their research and the expenses of publication. In the past eighteen years the Trust has published eleven books, with the latest being *The Accounts of William Worsley, Dean of St Paul's Cathedral, London, 1475-1497* edited by Stephanie Hovland and Hannes Kleineke. The next publication will be *The Herald's Memoir 1486-1490: Court Ceremonial, Royal Progress and Rebellion* and it is hoped that this will be available in 2010.

RICARDIAN HERITAGE

There are a number of associated organisations that reflect the Society's links during the reporting year with places of Ricardian interest :

- **Ricardian Churches Restoration Fund:** a full list of the fund's donations is to be found on the Society's website. The current RCRF trustees are Elizabeth Nokes and Phil Stone.
- **Friends of Fotheringhay:** the Fotheringhay co-ordinator is a member of the 'Friends' committee, and over the years, the Society has given many gifts, both practical and financial, to the church.
- **Friends of Barley Hall:** the York Archaeological Trust, who own the Hall, have now resumed day-to-day management of the building. A group of former Barley Hall trustees act as advisors to the YAT; these include Lynda Pidgeon and Carolyn and Peter Hammond. The Friends of Barley Hall has now become an 'electronic' organisation. To receive the free irregular newsletter send an email to: friendsofbarleyhall@yorkat.co.uk Individual support for Barley Hall can also be achieved through membership of the Friends of the York Archaeological Trust.

RICARDIAN MEMORIALS & COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

The Society holds three annual commemorations: this year's Bosworth Commemoration took place on 17 August 2008 with the traditional service at Sutton Cheney and the opportunity to view the newly revamped exhibition at the Battlefield Centre. On Saturday 13 December the annual carol service was held at Fotheringhay, preceded by Christmas lunch at the village hall. The annual Requiem Mass was celebrated at the Church of Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Cambridge, on Saturday 14 March 2009, followed one week later by the wreath-laying at Queen Anne's tomb at Westminster. There were no new memorials inaugurated during the reporting year.

VISITS

The first trip of the year in May was a welcome return visit to Avignon, a great favourite with Ricardians; excursions included visits to Aigues-Mortes, Vaucluse and Pont du Gard. The first day trip was in June, to see Fotheringhay in summer for a change; then a few miles up the road to Nassington Prebendal Manor, a fascinating mediaeval house, which also provided an excellent tea. July saw us in Essex, first to Thaxted, a pretty town with medieval buildings and a lovely church, then to Saffron Walden, which also has many medieval buildings, several with the famous Essex pargetting plaster work. In September we were back in London for a City walk, taking in St Helen's Church and the

Guildhall and the sites of the King's Wardrobe and Baynard Castle. The regular visit to Bosworth in August provided a chance to see the new Battlefield Centre with its very impressive displays; and a second visit to Fotheringhay for the Carol Service in December completed the year. The Visits Committee is a small band of dedicated volunteers who endeavour to arrange interesting outings at reasonable prices. As with all things, the cost of hiring a coach for a day trip escalates each year. So please support our trips; if we get a full coach, the cost per person is reduced considerably.

SALES

The Society's sales function continues to be delivered by a small team of able and willing volunteers, led by the Sales Liaison Officer, Sally Empson. The Executive Committee is very grateful to them for their continuing hard work and commitment to the Society. During the reporting year, the sales team processed 112 orders; this, along with face-to-face sales at the AGM and other events, resulted in a total gross sales figure of £4435.12. Best-sellers for the year included the *Logge Wills*, the Wills Index CDs and *Richard III: The Maligned King*. The Society also made a bulk sale of Jeremy Potter's *Good King Richard?* to the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre.

FUTURE PLANS

With the continuing improvements to the Society's financial position and our renewed focus on raising our profile, a number of initiatives are planned for the future. Specific projects in the pipeline include:

- We will again participate in the International Medieval Congress held at Leeds University in July 2009, with a stand in the Historical and Archaeological Societies Fair. The Society will also host a session and present a selection of papers.
- The Society will continue to work closely with one of our members who is a script writer in the film industry and who has purchased the rights to Sharon K Penman's novel *Sunne in Splendour*; a script has been produced and is currently being considered by a number of production companies.
- To support the work of the Executive Committee a Ways and Means Sub-Committee will be established, under the Chairmanship of the President, Peter Hammond, and this will commence its work early in 2009/10. It will not be a decision-making body, but will be involved in the initiation of projects and consideration of proposals from others. All proposals, properly researched and developed, will then be submitted to Executive Committee for approval.
- A review of Society promotional merchandise will be undertaken, with a view to introducing a new range of items, the first being the production of a Society tote bag, which will be available during the summer of 2009.
- The Society is working with the Wakefield Historical Society to assist with their project to recreate the funeral procession for Richard, Duke of York, who was killed in 1460 and buried at Pontefract. In 1476 Edward IV had him reburied at Fotheringhay and in 2010, 550 years after the duke's death, the project will recreate the journey taken by the funeral procession from Pontefract to Fotheringhay.
- With new management arrangements in place for the Society website, a full and comprehensive review of its content, presentation and accessibility will take place during 2009/2010, with an interim launch in autumn 2009. Further reviews will follow in 2010.
- Publication of the Education Pack, 2006 Cambridge Triennial Conference Proceedings and an updated edition of the History of the Society.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The stabilisation of the income and expenditure over the past few years has encouraged the committee to invest in marketing the Society. Income has increased and most expenditure other than marketing has remained steady. The accounts were examined by an independent examiner using Charity Commission guidelines and were accepted by the Executive Committee at their meeting on 2 May 2009.

Paul Foss (Treasurer)

Richard III Society
Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2009

	2009	2008
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions	42,692	41,163
Receipts in advance	1,529	-
Sales less postage	4,103	1,506
Donations	3,146	1,211
Bank interest	85	34
Royalties	310	-
Deficit to accumulated fund	-	-
	51865	43914

Expenditure

Marketing & Exhibitions	11,784	3874
Ricardian & Bulletin		
– Printing Costs	8,576	11,794
– Distribution Costs	7,042	6,276
Administration-Committee	1,173	951
Administration-Membership	6,719	7,996
Treasurer's exp.	400	302
Accountancy	411	411
Donations & Bursaries	1,102	1,009
Library	705	700
Bank and card charges	59	365
Website	421	399
AGM Costs	1,496	939
Study Weekend	982	-
Sundries	1,643	236
Surplus to accumulated fund	8,066	8,662
	51,865	43,914

Summary

B/fwd	38,265	
Income	51,865	
Expenditure	-43,799	
Cash at Bank	46,331	C/fwd

Richard III Society

Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2009

	£	£
Current Assets		
Bank	46,331	
No2 Ac- count	7,692	
Library	17,000	
Stock	5,829	
Prepayment	700	
Debtors	-	
	-	77,552
 Current Liabilities		
Creditors and Accruals	60	
Visits	4,263	
Earmarked funds	3,429	
Receipts in advance	1,529	
	1,529	9,281
		68,271

Represented by:

Reserves	Cash at bank	46,331
	Receipts in advance	-1,529
	creditors	-60
	Prepayment	700
		-889
Total Reserves		45,442
Library		1,700
Stock		5,829
		68,271

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2008/09 – CORRECTION

The financial statement published with the annual report as an insert in the September 2009 issue of the Bulletin contained two errors which we now amend. These are:

1. In the list of expenditure for 2009 the figure of £1286 representing purchases is missing, thus the column as it stands does not add up to the correct figure of £51,865 because of this omission.
2. In the Represented By section at the end of the statement, the library's value is given as £1700 rather than £17,000.

We apologise for these errors and are grateful to those members who brought them to our attention.