

Programme for 2017

25th February

AGM

followed by "Six months in 1483 – how legal were Richard's actions?" by Annette Carson

Cost £3 (AGM is free, the meeting is normal cost)

18th March

Broken by Battle: is post traumatic stress disorder a modern issue?

11:00-17:00 cost £22 including tea/coffee

8th April

The second fundraising day for John Ashdown Hill "Norwich's secret Queen – Eleanor Talbot"

at Norwich Castle £26 from 09:55 – 17:00

13th May

The Woodville's by Dr Lynda Pidgeon

17th June

Mighty Marcher Lords, a study of Mortimers place in our history by Mickie O Neil

16th September

Katherine Swynford – ancestress of Richard III and Henry VII by Frances Sparrow

14th October

Edmund Beaufort by Stephen David

4th November

Study Day: Harnessed for life: Knightly conduct, Chivalry and Warfare cost £26

All meetings are held at the Assembly House Norwich, begin at 14:30 and cost £3 unless otherwise stated.

This issue is dedicated to Francesca Evelyn Foster

3rd July 1941 – 7th October 2016



I have been friends with Fran for over 50 years. We first met when I was a Saturday girl at Jarrolds and I was thrilled to hear tales of her theatre life. It was Fran who introduced me to "The Daughter of Time" and look where that led us...

Thank you for everything Fran.

Annamarie

Annual AGM

The AGM of the Norfolk Branch of the Richard III Society will be held on Saturday 25th February at the Assembly House Norwich at 2.30pm.

Nominations for the committee should be submitted in writing, seconded and accepted to the secretary.

Secretary's Report

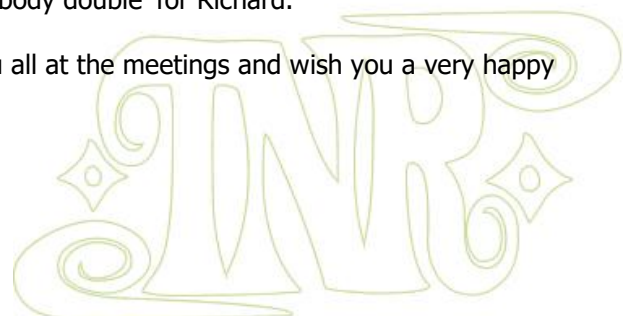
Looking back at 2016 it was in the immortal words of Frank Sinatra "a very good year".

2017 gets even better but I feel it does deserve explaining as to why we have three major events and no I don't think it will be the usual thing!

The March event evolved from a committee discussion and my own involvement with Stand Easy, a military charity. It was intended to be 2 speakers but it just got bigger! I hope you enjoy this slightly out of the normal event. It's back to Norwich castle in April for the second fund raising event for John Ashdown Hill's work here in Norwich. Our usual Study Day is in November and this is a chance to meet Dominic Smeeth the 'body double' for Richard.

I look forward to seeing you all at the meetings and wish you a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Annamarie





On Saturday 15th October John Ashdown-Hill made a welcome return to Norwich to give us another detailed and well researched talk. This was about the Wars of the Roses or, rather as a question and answer session at the start indicated, whether we were talking about either wars or roses.

John's talk centered on the contents of his most recent publication *The Wars of the Roses* and the major questions he wanted to ask and answer. To what – was it a civil war, what was it about, how long did it actually last and did it have anything at all to do with roses.

Various historians have suggested the starting point for the so-called Wars of the Roses. Nobody really accepts 1455 as the actual start just the first battle. But this was far more than just military engagements. John looked at family trees, interlinked, dynasties and foreign involvement or interference depending on your point of view. He took us back to arguments between the aristocracy as to who succeeded the childless Richard II which settled down into personal feuding for the crown of England between two men which never really went away even when one of them was crowned as Henry IV. His son was feted by everyone for his military achievements but failed in his major dynastic responsibility to hand over the throne to a mature heir. The power vacuum left by the baby Henry VI and then the completely inadequate Henry VI allowed dissention and rivalry to ascend again.

John took the conflict far beyond Bosworth or even Stoke in 1487 which might have been the last battle in terms of armour and weapons and a battlefield but was not where the struggle actually stopped. John gave us examples of this which stretched across the reigns of all five Tudors.

Or should we call them the House of Beaufort? And the roses? Henry VII was painted with a red rose and Margaret of Burgundy, Edward IV's sister was painted with a collar showing both white and red. John suggested that while a rose was definitely a Yorkist emblem the colour of said rose was less important.

A fascinating talk, as always. John is speaking next April on Eleanor Talbot when he will be giving us the follow up to the scientific research on her bones.

Frances Sparrow

The Norfolk Branch of the Richard III Society presents

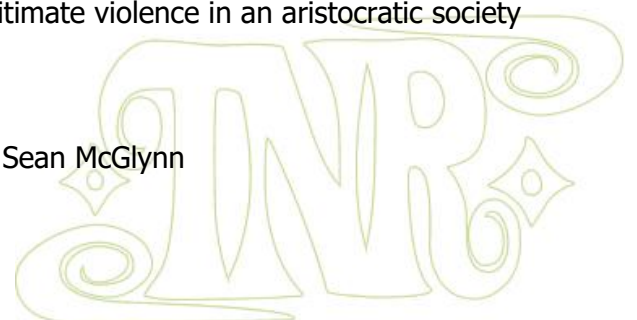
Harnessed for Life: Knightly conduct, Chivalry and Warfare

Saturday 4th November 2017

The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich

Ticket Price £26

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|-------------|--|
| 09:55 | Welcome |
| 10:00-11:00 | A CV in Steel by Frances Sparrow. |
| 11:00-11:30 | <i>Coffee</i> |
| 11:30-12:30 | Richard III: Arms and the Man by Richard Knox and Dominic Smee (Richard III's body double) |
| 12:30-14:00 | <i>Lunch (not included in the price)</i> |
| 14:00-15:00 | The Medieval Laws of War: legitimate and illegitimate violence in an aristocratic society by Dr Mathew Bennett |
| 15:00-15:30 | <i>Tea</i> |
| 15:30-16:30 | Cruelty and Atrocity in Medieval Warfare by Dr Sean McGlynn |
| 16:30 | extra questions, vote of thanks and close |





The Norfolk Branch of the Richard III Society presents the second of its Fund Raising days for John Ashdown-Hill's project.

Norwich's Secret Queen – Eleanor Talbot
Saturday 8th April 2017, Norwich Castle, Ticket Price £26

- 09:55 Welcome
- 10:00-11:00 The true story of Edward IV and his relationships by Dr John Ashdown-Hill
- 11:00-11:30 *Coffee*
- 11:30-12:30 The CF2 bones and the question of parity by Dr Joyce Filer
- 12:30-14:00 *Lunch (not included in the price)*
- 14:00-15:00 The burial of Anne Mowbray by Bruce Watson
- 15:00-15:30 *Tea*
- 15:30-16:30 The new facial reconstructions of the CF2 skull and of Anne Mowbray by Amy Thornton (probably via skype)
- 16:30 extra questions, vote of thanks and close

Programme subject to change if circumstances dictate. Please note: each Norfolk branch event needs a separate cheque. Cheques made payable to Richard III Society Project account.

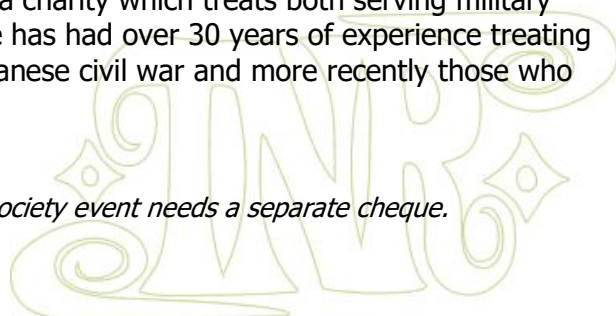
The Norfolk Branch of the Richard III Society presents .:

Broken by Battle: Is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder a modern issue?
18th March 2017, The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich
Ticket Price £22 (to include tea/coffee)

- 11:00 Welcome
- 11:05-11:25 PTSD – an introduction by Dr Phil Stone
- 11:25-12:25 PTSD in the Ancient World by Harry Sidebottom. Dr Harry Sidebottom is Fellow and Director of studies in Ancient History at St Benets Hall, Oxford and Lecturer in Ancient History at Lincoln College.
- 12:25-13:30 *Lunch break*
- 13:30-14:00 PTSD a Medieval condition by Dr Phil Stone Chairman Richard III Society
- 14:00-15:00 Inured by circumstance or vulnerable by nature, evidence of PTSD in the Roman World by Anthony Riches. Anthony Riches is an author of Roman historical fiction with a degree in military history and psychology from Manchester University.
- 15:00-15:30 *Tea*
- 15:30-16:30 Towton: a new look, did adrenalin and shock give rise to the Ambush story? By Glen Brooks. Glen Brooks is an ex Infantry man, he has done 8 active service tours, has been in over a dozen contacts, a road side blast and well over 100 mortar and rocket attacks. He is keen amateur historian.
- 16:30-17:00 Veterans and Trauma: an update by Naji Malak M.Ac. M.B.Ac.C R.C.H.M Naji Malak is an acupuncturist and the founder of Stand Easy – a charity which treats both serving military and veterans traumatised by war and PTSD. He has had over 30 years of experience treating both soldiers and civilians caught up in the Lebanese civil war and more recently those who have served in the British military.
- 17.00 approx. vote of thanks and close

Book early as places are limited. *Please note each Richard III society event needs a separate cheque.*

Programme subject to change if circumstances dictate.



This story follows on from my story 'Richard III's Parking Place', which appeared in the previous two editions of the Norfolk Ricardian. It describes the week in March 2015, when King Richard's remains were reinterred in Leicester Cathedral. My partner, Mustafa, and I had the good fortune to be in Leicester that week and these are some of our impressions.

GLORY DAYS

I was born Jennifer Herrick and I lived the first four years of my life in the village of Rockingham in Northamptonshire, on the borders of Leicestershire and Rutland, before moving with my parents to a farm in North Gloucestershire in 1947. My father, Frederick Herrick, maintained he had traced our family tree back to the sixteenth century and beyond and he collaborated with an author writing a book on the Herrick genealogy. Born one of twelve children to a farming family in Leicestershire, he was immensely proud of his Herrick lineage and he instilled this pride and interest in me, his only child.

In 1960, when I was sixteen, my father and I spent a week visiting the Herrick 'sites' in Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland. We explored the 'Herrick' chapel in Leicester Cathedral; the villages of Woodhouse Eaves and Woodhouse, where we spent hours in the churches and churchyards recording the inscriptions on the Herrick graves; Beaumanor Hall, home of the Herrick family since the sixteenth century until it was sold to Leicestershire Country Council in 1946; the villages of Rockingham and Stockerston, where my father was born – and, between all of this, we found time to visit some of his siblings too. Whether a descendant or not, I became steeped in Herrick history.

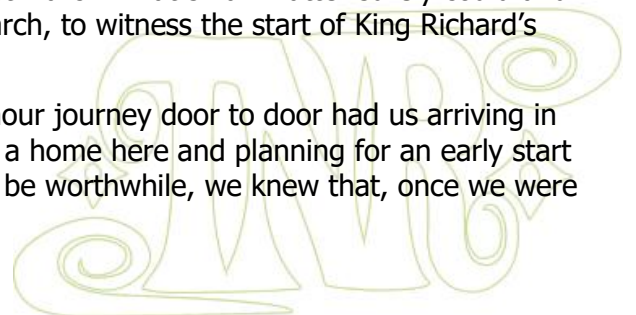
This interest must have been instilled in my eldest daughter too. In 2012, she and her partner travelled from their home on the east coast of England to get married at the Herrick family seat in Leicestershire, beautiful Beaumanor Hall, which is now a Leicestershire County Council conference centre and wedding venue.

In the same year that my families' interest in the Herrick family was renewed due to my daughter's wedding at Beaumanor, the spectacular discovery of the remains of King Richard III was made in a car park beside Leicester Cathedral. What was almost as extraordinary for me was finding out that this piece of land, in which Richard III's remains had lain hidden and unknown for over five hundred years, had belonged to the Herrick family. Alderman Robert Herrick, who was three times Mayor of Leicester and its MP, lived on this plot during the sixteenth and early seventeenth century, and it had then stayed in the Herrick family for one hundred and fifty years. The fortuitous fact that this land right in the centre of Leicester had never been built on and lost forever, but had been Robert Herrick's garden, then waste land and finally a car park, added another extraordinary twist to the tale.

I celebrated a landmark birthday in 2013, when I turned seventy. My surprise gift from my daughters and sons-in-law was a long weekend away with them, and Mustafa, in Leicestershire. We retraced my father's and my footsteps of sixty-four years before and it was all incredibly wonderful. The highlight for me was the afternoon spent watching the archaeologists at work in the 'car park' and having the opportunity to talk to them. They were so helpful and forthcoming with their explanations; so patient, answering all our questions (for probably the thousandth time that week!) Standing a few feet from the spot where King Richard III's remains were discovered, standing in what was once Alderman Robert Herrick's garden, was an experience that gave me goose-bumps indeed.

While the world waited in 2014 to learn where and when Richard's remains would finally be laid to rest, Mustafa and I like, I suspect, thousands of others were inspired by the extraordinary story of King Richard's discovery to join the Richard III Society, as members of the Norfolk Branch. We would be in Turkey during the spring of 2015, returning to England on 21st March. That small matter surely could and would not preclude us from being in Leicester on the 22nd March, to witness the start of King Richard's final journey.

Shutting up a home after three months and a twelve-hour journey door to door had us arriving in England late on Saturday drained and exhausted. Opening up a home here and planning for an early start the next day had us in bed long after midnight. But, all would be worthwhile, we knew that, once we were on the road to Leicester in the morning.



We left home at 8.30 am on a gloriously sunny morning and, after an easy drive on nearly empty roads, we arrived in Leicester at 11.30 am. It was Sunday 22nd March, 2015. Richard's 'glory week' had begun. We had applied for tickets from the Society for all the events that it was possible to apply for and we had been lucky in receiving tickets for a good many of them. Our first would be at Bosworth Field that afternoon.

We drove through the centre of Leicester and then out the other side, following the winding lanes to the Caterpillar factory, which we found easily thanks to the instructions provided, and where we were to park our car. Plenty of car parking spaces and a double decker bus waiting to take us to Bosworth. We sat in the front row on the top deck of the bus, both to and from Bosworth, and had lovely views of the countryside as the bus slowly wound its way along narrow curving lanes in the sunshine – thankfully the round trip route to and from Bosworth had been designated 'one way' that afternoon – and the whole experience was most enjoyable. We were fascinated by the small arable fields after East Anglia's wide-open ploughed-up acres, and the only livestock we saw all day were sheep, lots and lots of sheep. Leicestershire – definitely sheep country!

As we approached Bosworth Field, there was a pub on a corner packed with waiting people in its gardens and along the roadside, many carrying white roses, and I realized that the hearse carrying Richard's remains would shortly be passing this way too.

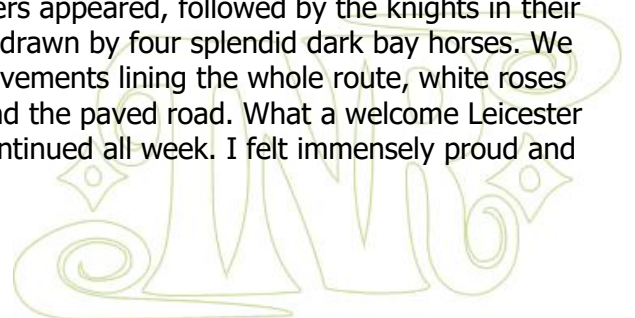
We arrived at Bosworth and got off the bus into a hot, sunny afternoon under an almost cloudless blue sky. We were directed to walk through an open area with stalls depicting life and artifacts from Richard III's time and people dressed in Late Medieval costume. This was all so interesting, and we spent so long chatting to the exhibitors, that we had to hurry to take our place in the marquee. There we found a long queue, with us at the end of it, and we probably waited 30 minutes before we finally got into the marquee. Of course, this put us at the back of rows of seats, not tiered, facing the marquee's open side and the area where the ceremony was to take place. Many people near us opted to go outside to watch the ceremony, but it was full of people outside too, so we chose to stay in the marquee and watch on the screens provided.

First, an escort of medieval monks, then cadets and soldiers and the bier and, on it, the beautiful English oak coffin. Suddenly it felt such a privilege to be there, to be so fortunate to be witnessing this extraordinary event. It was a feeling that has never, and will never, leave me.

We were on the first bus out of Bosworth back to the Caterpillar car park, hoping to be in Leicester in time for the arrival of the cortege at the Cathedral. Soon we had left the winding lanes and were on a main route into the city. All the way along there were hundreds of people on the roadside, all turning or walking away, and the road in front of us was strewn with white roses. We realized we were following the cortege into Leicester, although it was just out of view.

As we drew near to the centre of the city, the road in front of us was being cordoned off and we had to take a right turn. The barriers had been opened to allow the cortege to pass, but were now closed to further traffic. I had been sent maps of Leicester city centre by the Tourist Information office there but assumed, wrongly as it turned out, that all the central car parks would be full. I wished I could find Bow Bridge, the medieval boundary of the city, near where we had parked when we visited the city in 2013 and where the cortege was being received by the city officials. But, I guessed there was no hope of that, so, spying a small side street with a few spare parking spaces, we abandoned our car and set out on foot. It turned out to be quite a trek. We could see the top of the Cathedral spire in the distance, so that was our goal and we rushed headlong towards it.

It was nearly six o'clock when we arrived, breathless, at the procession route. No sooner had we found a viewing spot on the pavement, than the police outriders appeared, followed by the knights in their shining armour and then the gun carriage carrying the coffin, drawn by four splendid dark bay horses. We were amazed by the crowds, thousands squeezed onto the pavements lining the whole route, white roses flying through the air to land on the coffin and the carriage and the paved road. What a welcome Leicester and the people gave to Richard, and this same enthusiasm continued all week. I felt immensely proud and emotional to be there as the procession passed.



After the procession had passed, our part of the crowd joined thousands of others thronging their way to the Cathedral. There the coffin was carried in, to be displayed and kept under twenty-four hour guard until the interment four days later. Then followed the service of Compline, the last service of the day and a welcome time of reflection and quietness.

We did not attend this service but, instead, finally made our way to our motel on the outskirts of Leicester. Very nice and welcoming it proved to be, too, after a very long but quite amazingly wonderful day.

Monday, 23rd March, took us back into Leicester, this time on the park and ride bus near our motel. We were booked to join other Society members for a buffet lunch at the Holiday Inn Hotel, near the Cathedral. Sadly, this was our one disappointment of the week. After queuing for our lunch, we found that there were no spaces left to sit and eat it! I asked a member of the hotel staff if there was anywhere we could go and sit, but was told, no, there were no vacant tables and chairs left. He told us to stand and eat at the bar near the buffet tables, so that is what did. Two other couples had to join us and stand there to eat their lunch too. I felt particularly sorry for one couple, who had come all the way from Canada for this interment week. A minor disappointment, perhaps, and we determined not to let it spoil our enjoyment of the week.

We went, next, to the Society hospitality suite in the ancient Guildhall beside the Cathedral and this more than made up for our lunchtime experience. A warm welcome, endless tea, coffee and homemade cakes and we were soon chatting about Richard to people from all over the world. We purchased a Richard III commemorative silk tie for Mustafa and a Richard III commemorative funeral badge for me, both of which we proudly wore for the rest of the week. We spent some time most days in this hospitality suite, soaking up the lovely atmosphere and adding our enthusiasm to that of the many other Ricardians we had the pleasure of meeting there.

Later, we joined the long queue waiting to enter the Cathedral for the Richard III Society Memorial Service that evening. We were lucky enough, along with nearly 700 other members of the Society, to have been awarded tickets for this service in the ballot. This was a truly wonderful occasion. Our seats allowed us a good view of the coffin, covered in its magnificent pall, and of those who spoke during the service. My abiding memories are of the stillness, the quietness and the feeling of peacefulness; the wonderful flower arrangements decorating the Cathedral; and the words spoken with such dignity by Philippa Langley, who had instigated the search for Richard. She read the words of the first Ricardian, Sir George Buck, who wrote in 1619, and who began:

'And Richard was accounted a good and faithful man all his life, and was reputed a virtuous prince and a wise, and his law and government were of the best and without stain.'

When, Dr. Phil Stone, Chairman of the Society, at the end of his reflections on King Richard's prayer, quoted so movingly from Hamlet,

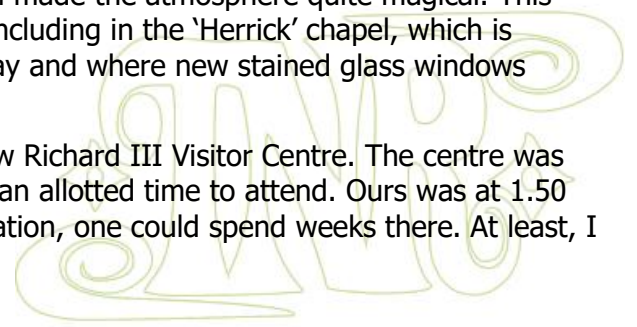
'Good night, sweet prince, let angels sing thee to thy rest'

I do not think there can have been a dry eye in the whole congregation.

On Tuesday, 24th March, we had a day off from Richard III! We had the great pleasure of meeting up with nine of my 'Leicestershire' cousins. What a memorable and happy day that was.

Wednesday, 25th March saw us taking the park and ride bus back to Leicester city centre. Although I understand the queue to visit the Cathedral and view the coffin had started at 4.30 am, there were not too many people waiting at midday. Everywhere, the Cathedral gardens were strewn with white roses and we were entertained by a gospel choir while we waited, which made the atmosphere quite magical. This time in the Cathedral we were able to carefully look around, including in the 'Herrick' chapel, which is beside the tomb where Richard was to be interred the next day and where new stained glass windows dedicated to Richard have been installed in 2016.

Then we joined the short queue for our visit to the new Richard III Visitor Centre. The centre was open just for Society members that afternoon and we all had an allotted time to attend. Ours was at 1.50 pm. I thought the Centre was excellent; with so much information, one could spend weeks there. At least, I



know I could. The whole Richard III story is told in words and pictures and film and, all of it, very well done. A worthy award winner.

The highlight of the exhibition for me was looking down through the glass floor at the very place where Richard III's remains were found 'so near below the surface'.* I spent a long time standing there, reflecting on how I had written the story of this very spot and now here I was, looking down on the projection of his remains in the red-clay earth, which in my story I had imagined had protected him with such care for 530 years.

A very helpful lady guide directed us to a small car park across the road from the Visitor Centre, where can be seen the only remaining part of the wall of Robert Herrick's garden of 400 years ago. Of course, we went to look and I broke off a tiny root of a weed that was growing in this ancient cobbled wall and which is now growing in a pot in my garden!

Our plan for Thursday, 26th March, was to watch the service of reinterment on one of the big screens that had been erected in Leicester and we chose the one in Jubilee Square. The alarm woke us to a very damp, cold day. It seemed we had three options. Stay in our motel room and watch the service on TV. (Fine, but definitely lacking in atmosphere). Watch it on the TV in the motel's reception area. (Slightly more atmospheric, possibly, if others were also watching, but the distractions of a busy reception area). Or, follow our original plan and go to Jubilee Square. We imagined the thousands who would be there, as they had been queuing in their thousands to see the coffin in the cathedral, sometimes waiting four or five hours. (No doubt, there would be plenty of atmosphere in the square).

So, we quickly got ready to go – atmosphere it was to be! We arrived at the park and ride before 8 am, expecting it to be packed, but there was hardly anyone there. I had insisted on such an early start, as I felt sure Jubilee Square would be full of thousands of people and I was hoping by arriving early we would get a good view of the screen. When we arrived in the open square, it was completely deserted and rain and wind swept; there were just two hardy souls sitting on a concrete wall in front of the screen in the rain! We quickly joined them.

I soon realized to come here had not been the right decision! It was bitterly cold and the rain became heavier and heavier and the service did not start until 11.30 am. However, the time passed quickly, reporters came and spoke to us, gradually a few more people arrived and we had an enjoyable time getting to know the two ladies who were already there when we arrived. One, who had come from Canada, was kind enough to give me an origami white boar, which she had made, and which I will treasure.

We watched live as the Countess of Wessex, the Duke of Gloucester and the other dignitaries were driven past the square to the Cathedral. Then, we stood in front of the big screen and watched in awe, along with a sprinkling of other people, the wonderful service of interment as the rain stopped and a glimmer of sun appeared to light up the square.

After the service, we rushed back to the motel to try to get warm and dry. Later, towards evening, we took a taxi to the Church of St. James the Greater, to attend a special Society performance of The Middleham Requiem, attended by the Duke of Gloucester. Again, we had been fortunate enough to be awarded tickets for this in the ballot. The setting, the church, the acoustics, all were wonderful and the whole evening was quite breathtakingly marvellous.

On Friday, 27th March we decided to take a break from Richard III and spent the morning in the National Space Museum in Leicester and, next door, the Abbey Pumping Station Museum. Both are well worth a visit and I especially enjoyed the latter, it was fascinating.

Early afternoon saw us back in the Society Hospitality Suite, where we had the enormous good fortune to meet and talk to Dr. Phil Stone, Chairman of the Richard III Society, Philippa Langley, who found the place where Richard III was buried, and Richard Buckley and Matthew Morris, the archaeologists. I felt like saying 'this is the hand that has shaken the hands of the people who found Richard III'!

Leaving the Hospitality Suite in the Guildhall, we saw two people in medieval costume waiting at a bend in the stairs. Emboldened, I asked them why they were dressed like that. I was told they were putting on a play, it was about to start and there were two seats left. Thus it was that we found ourselves in the Mayor's Parlour, sitting directly under a huge portrait of the erstwhile owner of Richard III's 'car park',

Alderman Robert Herrick, and watching the most fabulous, funny, wonderfully performed play on the life of Richard III. Entitled 'Uncle Richard', and performed by the Tell Tale Theatre company, it set out to unravel the mystery of the Princes in the Tower. The great thing was, everyone in the audience had a part to play. Mustafa's character was very important – none other than King Edward IV!

We stepped out of the Guildhall as dusk was falling. Before us was the most magical scene. While we had been watching the play, 8000 shallow bowls of wax, placed on the ground, had been lit in the Cathedral gardens, in Jubilee Square and the surrounding medieval streets. Along with thousands of others, we walked around mesmerized. At 6 pm we stood among the lighted candles in front of the main entrance into the Cathedral and listened to an hour long peel of bells in Richard's honour and what a glorious sound that was. Then, there was a magnificent firework display on the Cathedral roof, while the words 'Richard III' lit up its Tower. At midnight, the candles were still alight and hundreds and hundreds of people were still milling around, unwilling to leave such a bewitching scene. Finally, in the early hours, we made our way back to our hotel, after one of the most unforgettable, extraordinary, exciting evenings and weeks we had ever experienced.

The words that echo in my mind from that week, that I heard continuously everywhere, are

'Hasn't Leicester and The Richard III Society done Richard proud.'

We certainly think they had.

The End

Report for Meeting of Richard III Society, Norfolk Branch, 16th July 2016

A large number of members met at The Assembly Rooms in Norwich for a talk by Phil Stone about his experiences during the time between finding the remains of Richard III and his re-burial in Leicester Cathedral.

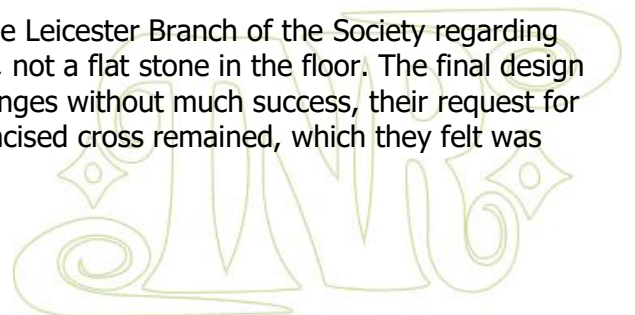
The title of the talk was: "Laughter and Tears and events following the finding of Richard III". However, Phil felt that it could easily have been called: "Tears and Laughter", or "Just Tears", or "Doubts about Cremation".

In 2013 Dr. Turi King's D.N.A. readings confirmed that the remains found in Greyfriars were those of Richard III. The Society, represented by Phil, felt that the remains should be re-buried in Leicester Cathedral, and this had been agreed in principal by the Cathedral and other responsible authorities. Some months later "The Plantagenet Alliance" wanted to be consulted and went to Court to press their claim. They, and others, put forward proposals for other sites: York Minster, St. George's Chapel, Windsor, or Westminster Abbey. York Minster did not show any interest, although Richard had lived in Yorkshire he was Duke of Gloucester, not Duke of York. Westminster Abbey's vaults are full, and St. George's is a "Royal Peculiar", responsible directly to the Queen, and she refused permission for a re-burial there.

The Society's Committee and Phil himself received thousands of letters and emails of congratulation on the finding of the remains. Some were unkind and a few were hurtful, they accused both Phil and the Society of being: "deceitful liars and less trustworthy than Margaret Beaufort"!

The Society Executive endeavored to remain neutral in the face of the arguments about the site of the re-burial, but were accused of being lax. In November 2013 the Plantagenet Alliance went to Court to challenge the site of the re-burial, and, having failed then, tried again in March 2014. Eight weeks later the judgment of the Court upheld the license from the authorities and burial in Leicester Cathedral was allowed.

This was the beginning of many meetings with members of the Leicester Branch of the Society regarding the tomb. The Society felt that it should be a raised memorial, not a flat stone in the floor. The final design was approved by the Cathedral, but the Society asked for changes without much success, their request for the Plantagenet Arms and White Roses was agreed, but the incised cross remained, which they felt was inappropriate.



A Tomb Fund was launched, but after the design was finalised some donors were unhappy and asked for their gifts to be used for a monument elsewhere, this may possibly be in York.

John Ashdown-Hill commissioned the coronet to be placed on the coffin for the funeral, this is now on display in the Cathedral.

On 22 August 2014 the Leicester Group presented two flags to the Cathedral, funded by donations to the Group.

The Cathedral also had a themed Flower Festival: "House of York, Richard III and Loyalty".

The Bishop of Leicester admitted during an interview that when he was made Bishop some members of the House of Bishops were sympathetic that he was Bishop of a small and insignificant Bishopric, he said he felt justified in accepting, he had been rewarded!

Leicester City Council used the opportunity of changes outside the Cathedral to create a "Garden of Life" there. The statue was moved nearer the Cathedral as a focus point.

The press continued to feature items on Richard III and the re-burial, some, especially from the Foreign Press association had very vague links. These included an article in the local Newspaper on the Isle of Sheppey, where Phil had once worked in the Hospital there.

There were some related things that were not a success: The Travel Editions Tour of Leicester, which Phil joined as a private individual, was full of mis-information.

The Society also tried to help the Richard III Visitor Centre in Leicester, and tried and tried again, without success! However, they do agree that the Logo is good. The Visitor Centre opened on 26 July 2014 and Phil spent the day there, taking to visitors.

The T.V. series, "The White Queen" painted a sympathetic portrait of Richard, but it also had many faults. Among which, the Battle of Bosworth was fought in a wood in snow - in the middle of August?

The Society was also approached by a Brewery which wanted to promote Richard III Ale!

In August 2014 at a Press Conference, the dates of the re-internment were announced and the Duke of Gloucester became Patron of the appeal for the costs of the re-burial. He hosted a fund-raising event at the Hospital of St. John in London himself.

At the same time Dominic Smee, who has Scoliosis and could be Richard III's body double took part in a T.V. documentary about the condition itself and experiments with a suit of amour specially made for him.

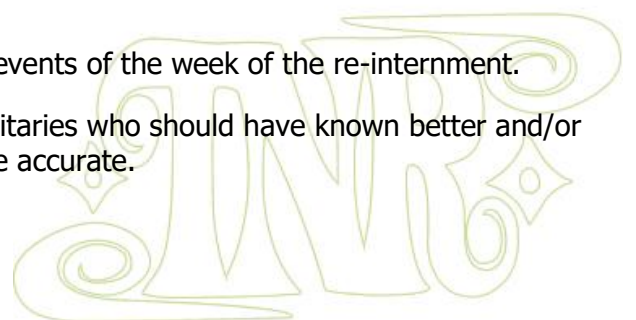
Much commemorative merchandise was produced, some of it, like Graham Turner's painting, of very high quality. Weston Maize Mazes produced a White Boar for their Maze of 2014. Other items were not so successful.

On the surface the Society is a well-oiled machine, but much hard work by many groups was needed to bring the whole re-internment to fruition. Many arrangements had to be made bearing in mind other previous commitments which could not be changed. There was a surfeit of letters and emails received during the 2014 A.G.M., all of which had to be acknowledged. Another task was re-drafting a letter regarding seats in the Abbey - this was done eight times!

The events of 2015 were spectacular, probably the most impressive royal burial since Henry VI was re-buried in Windsor.

Phil rounded up his talk by giving us his personal view of the events of the week of the re-internment.

One of the features was the number of "gaffes" made by dignitaries who should have known better and/or should have checked with the society that their speeches were accurate.





The organisers also missed some essential points, including not informing the person who was "signing" for deaf people watching the T.V. programmes that Phil would be speaking. She had to have a quick look at his text just before he spoke, to get the gist of it.

On the Sunday Phil did much hurried driving around the area to get from the Battlefield to the Cathedral before the cortege arrived. He was amazed at the numbers of people who came to see the procession. He had expected odd groups on street corners but found crowds ten deep all the way along and had to ask the Police for help to cross the road.

Phil found all the Services and events in the Cathedral very moving. He and all the organisers were surprised at the numbers who queued to file past the coffin and who were in the streets during the internment service.

The list of names of the dignitaries and officials that he met was impressive and he commented how interested they were in the whole project.

There has been controversy over the design of the tomb, and Phil admitted that he did not like it at first. But, having visited the Cathedral recently and been able to stand quietly and look at it, he now feels that it is an appropriate lasting memorial.

During the past year the large numbers of letters and emails have continued, the views they contain are very mixed, but all show that Richard III continues to be of interest to the whole world.

Phil feels honoured that the discovery and re-internment happened during his time as Chair of the Society. He feels that the Committee and the City of Leicester handled the events well and is glad to have been a part of it all.

I feel that the Society members should all agree that Phil's guiding hand, even in the background, ensured that the whole project was handled sensitively and with dignity, with much credit to all who took part.

Rosamund Cummings

August 2016

Norwich Branch Meeting of the Richard III Society, 3rd September 2016

The members gathered to hear Frances Sparrow introduce Richard Knox, the 1485 Project Officer for Leicester County Council whose talk was entitled "Finding Bosworth Battlefield."

Richard first addressed the question of why the Battlefield was lost to history, and how it was located. This is mostly due to local traditions and historians who used these were often misled.

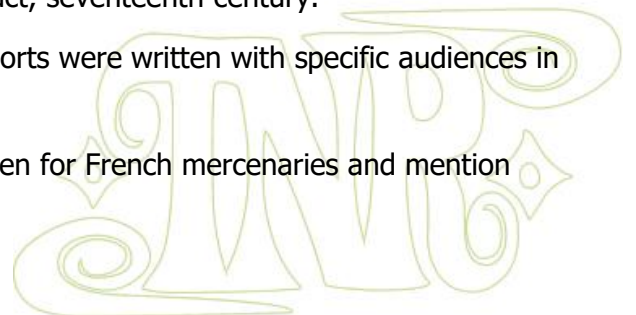
In 1570 local Historian, Holinshead wrote that Richard III had probably based his army on Ambion Hill and in 1790 Wm. Hutton wrote a book about the battle using Holinshead's account, which perpetuated the inaccuracies.

The local traditions, from 1485, are that Richard was at Stapleton and that he was killed at "Redemoor", Henry VII's sources say that Richard was killed at Sandeford and give topographical evidence for this. Tudor was advised by the Earl of Oxford to attack the Duke of Norfolk on the right flank, which can also be confirmed by topographical evidence.

Other circumstance seem to be dubious, for instance, an eighteenth century antiquarian found artefacts that he described as fifteenth century, although they are, in fact, seventeenth century.

We should also remember that after the battle the written reports were written with specific audiences in mind:

- 1486 sources are not pro-Richard III.
- 1490 French sources, written by Jean Molinet are written for French mercenaries and mention cannon in the battle.





- 1490 English report by Rous mentions the battle and where Richard is buried, but gives few other details.
- 1501-3 report by Vergil is probably the most balanced, but it gives details of the battlefield as the place for the birth of the Tudors.

Maps should be helpful, but they are often drawn out of scale and are inaccurate. The earliest map is dated 1611 and shows villages mentioned in reports, but is not accurate enough to actually locate the site. A map of 1785, based on the 1611 map is still inaccurate and it was this map that was used in the nineteenth century to produce the first Ordnance Survey map.

Many relics have been found in the general area, including the Bosworth Cross, but as they have little provenance it is difficult to use them to confirm the location of the battle.

We should also remember that the men in the armies were not always whole-hearted supporters of their leaders. Many Yorkists were fighting for Tudor because they were dis-affected by Richards' actions.

There was a third army to take into consideration: the Stanleys. Both sides had asked Lord Stanley to fight for them and his son, George was a hostage in Richards' power. Because of this Stanley himself was not present, he sent his men to fight under William Stanley, who had met Tudor at Tamworth and had probably made his own arrangement with him.

The battle itself was over quite quickly. The first element was the firing of cannon, with a range of about 100 metres. The second element was archery, with a range of 200 yards. Tudors' men then go round some mud/marsh to attack the Duke of Norfolk's men and push them back. The Earl of Oxford then attacks again, pushing Norfolk back. The Duke of Norfolk is killed.

Tudor then starts to advance with a small group of soldiers, possibly to join up with the Stanleys. Richard sees this and charges at Tudor. There is no Chronicle evidence of him charging downhill. Richard fights well but is un-horsed and surrounded. Stanleys army then comes in to support Tudor.

The efforts to locate the battlefield have taken a long time. It is generally agreed that Richard camped at Ambion Hill, on high ground, and then moved down Fen Lane. While Tudor camped at Merrevale.

In 1973 Leicester County Council wanted to build a Battlefield Centre and choose what they felt, on evidence available, was the best site. This was based on information from Professor Williams of Leicester University, who locates the battle between Ambion and Merefield.

In 1985 research at Dadlington finds burials at St. James' Church. This leads Colin Richmond to locate the battle at Dadlington and re-locates the site there. Also in 1985 Peter Fosse, from Stoke Golding, does topographical research reading original accounts and finds references for the area around Dadlington.

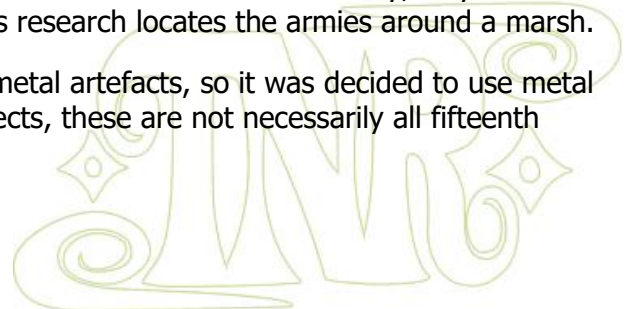
At the same time David Starkey, using the records of Merrevale Abbey, which show that Tudor gave them compensation for damaged crops as his army marched through, suggests that Merrevale Abbey is close to the site. The records also show that Tudor gave compensation to nearby villages "for destruction during battle".

In 1990 Peter Fosse offered alternative sites for the battle, which were supported by Michael Jones in 2002, but these are dubious as there are no records from before the nineteenth century which support them.

The current battlefield location is the result of a Battlefield Survey made between 2005-2010. The survey first mapped the medieval field systems, these show ridge and furrow ploughing, but not marsh.

They then took core samples of earth from the area. These showed that it was Leicester clay, only north of Fen Lane did they find marsh. The modern map, based on this research locates the armies around a marsh.

Archaeology from Towton battlefield produced around 2,000 metal artefacts, so it was decided to use metal detectors at Bosworth. These have so far produced 7,500 objects, these are not necessarily all fifteenth century, but they have yet to be evaluated.





While it appears that items were quickly removed from Bosworth battlefield there is good evidence for the use of cannon. 11 different calibres of cannonballs were found. Test firing of replicas show ranges of between 2,000 and 400 metres.

This research suggests that Tudor advanced his army up Fen Lane, with Oxford taking his men round the marsh.

Millfelde has produced many artefacts of the right date, some with Yorkist high status objects, including the "Star Find": The Bosworth Boar, a silver-gilt brooch found next to a possible burial mound. A Burgundian coin has also been found, suggesting that this was the location of the Burgundian gunners.

Therefore. Millfelde is the most likely place where Richard III was killed.

For the future, there are hopes that more archaeology can be undertaken, looking for more evidence and using metal detectives to find more metal objects.

After Richard was killed his body was stripped and taken to the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary of the Annunciation where it was displayed, to prove that he was dead. He was then taken to the Church of the Grey Friars and buried in the Choir, a private part of the Abbey, so that he was not the focus of pilgrimages. After the dissolution of the Abbey the burial place was marked by a plinth, which was recorded in the early seventeenth century by Christopher Wren, father of the builder of St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Archaeologists were incredibly lucky to find the body as the mixed archaeology was a nightmare to excavate.

If Shakespeare hadn't written about Richard III as a monster would anyone be bothered now, or have bothered to find his grave?

Last thought: Why was Richard III found without feet? Because he was de-feated at Bosworth.

After his very interesting talk Richard took questions, although he had covered so much that there were few to ask.

1. Was the injury to the skull received while he was still wearing a helmet?

Helmets were not easily removable if the chin strap had been fastened, but as these were often uncomfortable and restrictive they were often left un-tied and so could come off if struck by a weapon. In this case the helmet was probably removed before more injuries were inflicted.

2. Did those who supported Richard III after the battle receive punishment?

No, Tudor had won and was anxious to re-unite the country, and as Richard had died there was no immediate candidate to take his place.

3. Is there funding available to continue exploration and excavation of the Battle site?

At present there is no government, local or national, funding available. However, a local landowner with an interest in the history of the site and in conservation has paid for an archaeological survey before creating a natural habitat for wildlife.

4. What about archaeological investigations in Sutton Cheney church?

This would probably not be allowed and, in any case, would be expensive. Only if Burial Pits were found on the Battle Field would it be contemplated.

Frances then thanked Richard for a very interesting and informative afternoon. The audience agreed and the discussions will doubtless continue for some time.

Rosamund Cummings

September 2016

Articles, letters, quotes, opinions, praise, corrections, reviews of books, plays and films with a historical connection, we need them all. Pass any on to Annmarie Hayek and room permitting we will publish them.