



The Richard III Society
Adelaide South Australia Branch

Newsletter October- November 2015

Our **November meeting** this Saturday has 2 items on the agenda- the first is to decide what should go on our website . Secondly to have a look at the early talks that we have in the library to see if there are any that members might like to update and present at a meeting. So come along with your ideas and thoughts. 1.30pm for 2pm at NCW 95 South Tce Adelaide. \$5 plus mantelpiece raffle prize.

Committee meeting 1pm for Di, Sue Kevin, Rilla and Lisa.

December meeting is our Christmas lunch plus we have been challenged to write a poem long or short and in any poetic form about Richard III, the reburial, If the poet laureate can do it so can we! Have a go- limerick, sonnet, blank verse, haiku, clerihew, whatever form you like. To be presented at the Christmas lunch.

Our **October meeting** was the AGM, held on Saturday 3rd October, the day after King Richard's birthday and while we didn't have a birthday cake, I had brought in my Yorkshire Brack which was rather appropriate being a Yorkshire recipe. (The Yorkshire Brack is a fruit cake).

Unfortunately Judy was unable to continue as Chairperson due to ongoing family concerns so Di Haynes kindly volunteered when we asked the members if they were interested in being chairperson.

Thank you to Judy for her year as Chairperson. It's a shame she is unable to continue in that role.

Sue remains as Secretary and Kevin as Treasurer. Rilla and Lisa have also come on to the committee.

After the AGM we watched the Reburial of Richard III which was shown on SBS in August. It's the TV programme that was shown in the UK on the day of the reburial. It was a moving and interesting programme.

Chairperson's report AGM 2015 Judy Mann

During my first year as Chairperson we have experienced a major event in the Reburial of Richard III in Leicester Cathedral. There was much pomp and ceremony for the event as befitted an anointed king of England. Well overdue by 530 years. We are lucky enough to have a member in our Branch, Judith Carr, who was able to get a closer insight to the goings on for the various ceremonies and events happening in Leicester during this time. Judith's daughter Louise worked at the University of Leicester and was involved in the early days of the search for Richard and even gets a mention in one of the many publications put out over the past few years since the discovery of Richard's skeleton in 2012. The book is "The Bones of the King" written by the Greyfriars team, Maev Kennedy & Lin Foxhall. Judith gave a

presentation about her time in Leicester at our branch meeting in July and provided a few souvenirs as prizes for our monthly raffle.

Another of our members and former Chairperson Margaret Collings was also present in Leicester during the festivities.

Our March meeting was spent off site at the Bosworth winery in Willunga in the very picturesque Southern Vales wine district. The picnic meeting was attended by a number of our members and a few invited guests. The weather was perfect and the surroundings beautiful. I'm sure everyone who attended enjoyed this outing very much.

Other meetings have included historical presentations by members of our branch, viewing of historical videos and Margaret, being one of our founding members gave a talk on the history of our branch in Adelaide.

As a result of finding Richard the number of books in our library has increased due to the many publications on the subject.

It has been a very interesting year and with Richard now laid to rest I am sure all Ricardians around the world will be looking forward to further exploring clearing his name in relation to the mystery surrounding his nephews.



Some of the members of the Adelaide branch at the Battle of Bosworth winery from left to right- Judy, Valerie, Sue, Kate, Di, Amy, Rilla, Anne John, Margaret

Secretary's report AGM 2015 Sue Walladge

Correspondence this year has mainly been by email and leading up to the re internment of Richard III in March there were many from the UK Society giving updates on what was happening.

Other branches magazines/ newsletters also came by email and were forwarded on to the members for them to read. It's always interesting to read their articles and see what they have

been involved in. We receive the NSW Affinity, the Victorian Ricardus Rex, the USA Ricardian register and the Ricardian Roundup from the UK. By mail we receive the NZ newsletter.

Our newsletter is done monthly, just before our monthly meeting to remind everyone. It is also sent by email to our members and to other Australasian branches as well as to the UK.

Our membership fees usually go through in October/November and the annual report in January. This year the membership fees are being handled differently – by the same company E-Mediacy that now handles the Bulletin and Ricardian postings and Ricardian sales. Fees have had to go up due to the exchange rate changes, after a few years of it being in our favour.

Meetings are still held at NCW South Tce Adelaide. Attendances have been between 7 and 14 (plus Ella of course!) with an average of 10. \$5 plus mantelpiece raffle prize continues to cover our costs.

Our AGM last year led to a change in Chairman. Margaret Collings stepped down after 30 years on the committee- 2 as Vice Chairman, 18 as Secretary, 10 as Chairman. She also was the researcher, writer and editor of our quarterly magazine Nova Genista for 18 years- 72 issues. There are many other things she has been involved in which will take too long now to list but let's just congratulate her on her dedication and hard work for all those years. Thank you Margaret.

This year we've had our usual 2 lunches- Christmas and July's coronation with Judith talking about her time in Leicester . We held a very successful picnic at Battle of Bosworth winery at Willunga in March and are planning to do it again in 2016 but next time at Geoff Merrill's winery where one of our members works.

We watched 2 DVDs The Unseen Time Team special on Bosworth and the weapons used in February and part 1 of Life in Medieval Times- births, marriages and deaths in May. Both interesting and led to some lively discussion.

Back in November we took a somewhat lighthearted look at "where would we bury those bones". In April we covered the funeral of Richard 3- all the media coverage, reports, photos etc. In June Kevin talked about Antony Woodville and in August John showed us the shortlisted books for the Children's Book week. John is one of the judges for this and therefore was very informative.

Finally in September Margaret talked about the history of our branch- from the 4 people who first gathered on 18 April 1983 to the current day. From state library exhibitions, medieval fairs, fundraising for Ricardian causes, quiz nights, talks by members and guest speakers, medieval dinners, our own convention, Cantata Genista- our singing group, the list of our activities and achievements is long.

The library has also increased this year again with more Ricardian books being published. Judith and Margaret had both been in Leicester for the re internment week back in March.

Judith brought back with her a signed copy of 'The Bones of the King' and the media pack given out by the University. There was also a USB with additional media releases from the University- videos, photos etc now in the library (and I have made a back up copy on my computer). 'The Bones of the King' included pages written from an interview with one of our ex members Louise Carr who was working at Leicester University at the time of the dig. She knew many of the people involved. Another addition was Annette Carson's on 'Richard Duke of Gloucester as Lord Protector and High Constable' and she personally signed the copies for our members when we ordered directly from her.

It's been a successful year and we are all looking forward to 2016 and beyond.

A special part of our AGM was the presentation of life membership of the Adelaide branch of the Richard III Society to Margaret Collings. Rilla McEvoy gave a speech before our Chairperson Judy Mann presented Margaret with her certificate.



Rilla giving the following speech.

Margaret Collings Life membership Adelaide branch Richard III Society

Margaret Collings apparently discovered "The Daughter of Time" in 1973 and also noticed a snippet in the newspaper about the R111 Society in Melbourne. This she carried around for many years.

Meredith Whitford in early 1983 contacted Ricardian members in SA about forming a group here. Margaret attended the November meeting. By October 1985 she was the Vice Chair and had been involved with the State Library Exhibition, doing much of the artwork and

calligraphy. In October 1986 Meredith stepped down as Secretary and Margaret took over. She held this position for 18 years until October 2004 when she became our Chairman.

During her time as Secretary and Chairman she corresponded with many fellow Ricardians here and overseas. She has given interviews to newspapers and radio. Her contribution didn't stop there. She also gave talks to outside groups as well as at our meetings. She researched and wrote questions for our quiz nights and provided the prizes (often goodies she had made herself). When members were asked to research and give small talks for our meetings Margaret always had extras as she knew some of us would forget!

In January 1990 our newsletter went from a single page to a quarterly magazine: Nova Genista. This ran for 18 years. In 2008 Margaret's computer gave up the ghost and our magazine was no more. Much of the magazine's content was due to Margaret's passion for Medieval and English history. She was the researcher, writer and editor for the 72 issues that were produced. It went not just to our members but to other branches in Australia and overseas.

Also during her time as Secretary she co-ordinated many fund raising appeals amounting to about \$4000. The amount of time Margaret spent helping with the organisation of the 2001 Adelaide Convention probably couldn't be counted!

Her calligraphy and artistic talents have been used to produce Christmas cards, badges, book marks, book labels, notelets, address labels, calendars and decorated glasses. There may be more that we have forgotten about. For this we apologise.

Margaret researched and produced "The King's Kitchen", a Medieval cookbook. She also contributed, along with other members, to the Clerihews Carols and Songs, a Ricardian publication in 1991. The artwork is predominately Margaret's.

For 6 years she was part of our Ricardian singing group Cantata Genista which was led by her husband Malcolm. Their last performance was at Malcolm's funeral in 1989.

Margaret instituted the candle ceremony at our annual dinner, now lunch. A candle was lit for every branch and group around the Ricardian world.

Without her enthusiasm and passion our Branch probably would have folded some years ago due to declining membership and lack of new members.

So it is with great pleasure we present to Margaret Life Membership from the Adelaide Branch of the Richard 111 Society. October 2015



Judy Mann Chairperson presenting Margaret with her Life Membership Certificate.

Thank you so much for all you are doing to celebrate Margaret's contribution to the South Australian Branch – and to the Richard III Society as a whole. She has my great admiration and I am sure there are many members of the New South Wales Branch who have met her who will feel the same. There were many of us who came to Adelaide in 2001 and thought it was the greatest gathering – and how splendid Margaret looked.

Here's to your very special Life Member.

Julia

Who Killed the Princes in the Tower?



Monday October 19 at 8:30pm (1x60') History Channel

This compelling film explores the truth about Richard III and one of the most infamous episodes in English history. In 1483, the twelve-year-old King Edward V and his younger brother were put into the Tower of London by their uncle, Richard. Weeks later, Richard pronounced himself King. The boys were never seen again.

For more than 500 years it has been assumed that Richard killed his nephews in a craven attempt at glory. But some say Richard was no child-killing monster. Rather, he was the finest King England ever had. Others say nobody killed the princes at all, and they lived anonymously into old age far away from the cut-throat world of the English court.

This film explores what might have happened, interrogating all the possible culprits, and capturing the debates that rage as fiercely as ever. Fresh and incisive, this film combines compelling personal arguments with the latest evidence to present a coherent and contemporary perspective on an enduring mystery.

From Lyn Gill

<http://www.medievalists.net/2015/10/29/do-you-know-the-meaning-of-these-21-english-words-from-centuries-past/>