

# *Adelaide Branch Richard III Society*



## **Meetings**

Saturday May 5th meeting was attended by 9 people with 7 apologies. The founder of our branch, M Whitford attended for the first time in a number of years and was warmly welcomed by all. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and accepted with no business arising.

Our Treasurer was late arriving but did confirm we had \$726.22, including 6c interest which we decided not to spend in a hurry! From that the hall hire of \$410 has to be paid.

Correspondence- 1.news and photos from J Carr (see further in newsletter),2. Isolde Martyn- new book publicity. 3. On demand SBS Michael Portillo Great British rail journeys- Leicester to Loughborough- talks to M Morris, R Buckley and others on the discovery of R3. 4. colouring in books- Illuminated manuscripts, Book of Kells, Medieval tapestries, Knights and Armour, Kings and Queens of England

General business- from the King's kitchen cookbook copies available \$5

July lunch- Valerie – Vyne Grace; Rilla- mushroom pasties.

Memories- Martindale Hall 1986, Carrick Hill picnic,

Merdith Whitford's daughter looking at facebook page for branch.

Meeting closed 2.35pm followed by quiz. We had one round on South Australia, one with pictures of people and places to identify and one called Author! Author! – name the authors of 10 fiction and 10 nonfiction Ricardian books. Definitely got us all thinking!

Next meeting is Saturday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are having a high Tea (fancy afternoon tea) accompanied by various Ricardian readings.

July is our medieval lunch. Have you picked your recipe yet? From the king's kitchen is available at \$5.

**From:** Judith Carr     **Date:** 14 May 2018 at 6:33:00 pm AEST  
**Subject:** News from Liverpool

Hi to you all! At last some sun shine! I've had a bit of a cold so not been out much this last week but Sunday was lovely. Louise was at the football (Liverpool won) so I went into the city on the train, 7 minutes. Lots happening at Albert Dock with a steam rally. I had a lovely afternoon. I love this city so much happens here. We are off to Italy next Saturday. Two views of the docks and the steam organ which played all afternoon, I love these. I will send another email with more photos. Too many for one. Love Judith xx



22/5/18 Train yesterday from Venice to Rome took about three and a half hours. Lots of tunnels and up to 270 kmh! Basic hotel but in good location and I slept really well last night. Low 20s and a few showers today but good for walking. Been underground to 2 archaeological sites. Looking at parts of buildings built 2000 years ago. We had lovely lunch and the lady recognised Louise who was last there in October with Anita. Just had gelato. Now sitting bed with sore feet and some snacks. Another busy day tomorrow but weather forecast not good. More rain. Love Judith





Louise with gelato



Judith and the Colosseum.



**From:** Judith Carr <[elladog.jc@gmail.com](mailto:elladog.jc@gmail.com)>

**Date:** 25 May 2018 at 4:16:52 pm ACST

We had a wonderful time away. We arrived in Venice mid day Saturday and had a time of sight seeing which included sitting by the Grand Canal for pre dinner drinks. Sunday morning we went on a tour of the secret parts of the Doges Palace. This was a place where the area was governed from not a royal palace. We caught the train to Rome in the afternoon, this took about three and a half hours through lots of tunnels and speeds up to 270 kph. I have been to Rome twice before and Louise 4 times but we still find amazing places to visit and more areas are being opened to the public. On Tuesday we got 2 trains from Rome to Ostia a ruined city which was a busy port about 2.000 years ago we've been before but it's a very interesting place and we spent about 4 hours there. The nearby modern town built in medieval times was lovely too and we had pizza at the local shop. We spent a lot of time walking around Rome eating gelato and visiting all these musems and sites and walked 62 kilometres over the 5 days. We got back to Liverpool on Wednesday night at midnight. Yesterday we got some washing done , had a bit of a rest then went to a special screening of the film Labyrinth. Today we're resting! A long weekend here so lots to do. Love Judith

Views of Ostia archaeological site. Some places are well preserved. There are lots of houses small and large. Shops, offices etc. A whole city.







Louise is behind the counter of a shop which sold food and drinks up until about the 4th century AD.



### [RICHARD III SOCIETY](#)

It is with sadness that we announce the passing today (18th May 2018) of Dr John Ashdown-Hill. A prolific and popular author, John played an important, not to say critical, role in the Looking for Richard Project. It was he who tracked down Mike Ibsen, one of the two whose DNA helped to confirm that the remains in the car park were actually those of King Richard. When we first learnt of John's illness, one could only wonder how long he had before he succumbed, Motor Neurone Disease coming in various forms, some worse than others. For John, his passing was probably a blessing though he will be much missed by his friends and members of the Society. Our thoughts and prayers go with them all at this

time. The news comes too late for the June issue of the Ricardian Bulletin but there will be a full tribute in the September issue.

Executive Committee

Thanks to Jane Tinklin for this information on John's Facebook page, quoted below the link:

<https://en-gb.facebook.com/johnashdownhillhistorian/>

"It is with deep sadness that I announce Dr John Ashdown-Hill's passing on the 18th of May 2018. John had a prolific career as a historian and was instrumental not only in the rediscovery of Richard III's burial place in 2012, but in his reinterment; for which John provided a funeral crown and a rosary to be reinterred along with Richard III's remains. John was a popular and beloved mentor for many.

John's final project was a personal one. His collected poems, *The Poetry of John Ashdown-Hill*, were published just days before his passing. All proceeds from the sales of the book will go to John's chosen charity, Aid to the Church in Need." I found this article by accident when browsing. So thought I'd include it.

Discovered on **Atlas Obscura**:

## **Go Medieval by Attaching a Book to Your Belt**

**They're incredibly rare today, but portable girdle books were once very handy.**

BY SARAH LASKOW    APRIL 19, 2018



A girdle book held by the Beinecke Library at Yale University. [BEINECKE LIBRARY/CC BY-SA 2.0](#)

**GIRDLE BOOKS HAD TO BE** small, and they had to be light. From the bottom edges of their bindings extended a length of leather, usually gathered into a knot at the end. This extension of the cover could be used to carry the book like a purse or could be tucked into a girdle or belt. To read, the owner wouldn't even have to detach the book; when taken up, the book would be oriented correctly, just as if it had been pulled from a shelf.

Used from the 14th to 17th centuries, these books were texts that their owners needed to keep close at hand: prayer books used by monks and nuns, for example, or law books used by travelling judges. Though they were valuable objects—luxuries, even—these books were meant to be consulted and read.

“These are books that needed to be specially protected because of a lot of use, a lot of wear. Most of them were probably used daily,” says Margit J. Smith, author of *The Medieval Girdle Book*. “How many books do you have in your collection that you use every day?”

Girdle books were once common enough that they appear more than 800 times in paintings and other art of the period. But today there are just 26 girdle books known in the world. In her book, a catalogue of what she calls “relics of an age long gone by,” Smith has measured, photographed, and investigated the history of each one.



Girdle books were often very plain. This one, from Nuremberg, is the most ornate one known.

[GERMANISCHES NATIONALMUSEUM/CC BY-SA 3.0](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Girdle_book_Nuremberg.jpg)

Smith, a bookbinder and retired librarian who was the head of cataloguing and preservation at the University of San Diego's Copley Library, first became interested in girdle books 15 years ago, and she took a class in Montefiascone, Italy, to learn how to make one. In her preparations, she found that there was little scholarly work—little information at all, really—on these once relatively common objects.

The class took place in summer, and usually, after their work was over, the group would go for a dip in the nearby lake. On one of these excursions, Smith was asking an instructor, Jim Bloxam, where to find more research about the books; together, they decided to start collecting images of all known medieval girdle books—just 24 at that time. After some years of work, Bloxam, a conservator at Cambridge University, had to drop out of the project, but Smith, who says she's interested in “odd things”—she likes to read words backwards and has written about the silverfish that threaten book bindings—continued visiting the world's few remaining girdle books.



Saint James wears a girdle book in 16th-century panel by Hieronymus Bosch. [HIERONYMOUS BOSCH/PUBLIC DOMAIN](#)

When libraries placed these objects, hundreds of years old, in front of her, she felt a sense of awe. “Then you start looking into it, and you see all the debris from 500 years ago. There is dust and hair and fingernail parings and spots of wax from candles and erasures,” she says. “Some of the books



are so fragile that you have to be very careful, especially when turning pages. But if you start measuring, once you get into that, you remember what you are there to do, and you've overcome the initial awe." The books, while still treasures, became objects to be scrutinized.

The part of the book cover that distinguishes a girdle book often looks like a Wee Willie Winkie hat, flopped on top of the book, or a Gandalf-esque beard, stretching down into a neat triangle. Smith discovered that some girdle books have just one extended leather cover, while others have two nested covers, with the outer one designed for carrying. But it wasn't always easy to tell which category a girdle book fit into. One of the first things Smith learned as a bookbinder was how to tear a book down, to see how it worked. In modern books, it's possible to tease back an endpaper and inspect a book's secrets. In the case of the old, rare books, that wasn't possible, so Smith had to run her fingers along the binding to feel for ridges and other hints to the book's inner workings.

"You close your eyes," she says. "As a bookbinder, I have learned to trust my fingers more than my eyes."



The Karlsruhe girdle book from Germany. [WIMPFEL/CC BY-SA 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/)

In the course of her research, Smith discovered the existence of two additional girdle books. One is in Scotland, the psalter of Neal McBeath, the smallest of all the known girdle books. Just 2.5 inches by 1 7/8 inch, the book fit easily into the palm of her hand. It didn't have a spine, just the leather wrapping, and it showed little sign of repair. In Vienna, she found another new girdle book, but this one refused to give up its secrets. Years of repair work on it had concealed most clues about its construction. The girdle cover, for instance, may have been a later addition. "There are unusual

bumps and protrusions under there,” she says. “It’s sort of mystery. I’d like to be able to take it apart completely and see what went on before, before the binding was put on.”

Some of the books had surprises inside, as well. One belonged to a nun, Katharina Röder von Rodeck, who lived at the Frauenalb Convent near Karlsruhe, Germany. She filled the pages with her personal prayers and devotions, as well as notes about her life—when she took her vows, when German peasants rebelled in 1525. At the beginning of the book, she decorated five pages with the coats of arms of her parents’ families, a gray owl holding a red heart, a skeleton holding an hourglass, and motifs of flowers and vines that continued throughout the book. It gives, writes Smith, “a very cheerful and friendly impression”



# BARNET MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL

9th & 10th June 2018

10.30am - 4.30pm

Living history  
Combat and weaponry displays  
Children's activities  
Food and Drink

**FREE ENTRY**

Barnet Elizabethans RFC  
Byng Road, Barnet  
EN5 4NP

Very limited parking available  
Site open from 10am

<https://barnetmedievalfestival.wordpress.com>

 /barnetmuseum  @BattleofBarnet

 **BARNET MUSEUM** The Barnet Society

 **Battle of Barnet Project**

 **LOTTERY FUNDED**





# Richard III Society 2018 Conference

Hosts: Richard III Society, NSW Branch, Inc.

## Where?

Albury Manor House Hotel 593  
Young Street, Albury, NSW, 2640

## When?

Friday November 9, 2018  
(Registration Nov 8 from 3.30PM)

## What?

A day of discovery about the times of King  
Richard III of England · Informative talks &  
presentations · Raffles and sales ·  
Entertainment · Great company

## How?

Register interest and deposit by July 30  
Final payment due September 30



## Back by popular demand!

The most recent conference of the Richard III Society, NSW Branch, in November 2016 was hailed as an outstanding success by all comers. By popular accord we will return in 2018 to Albury to relive our enjoyable time and add new moments to our Ricardian memories.

**Delegates are invited to express interest in presenting.** Research, book reviews, controversy all welcome. Would you be interested in participating in a segment on the program on Friday entitled: "Why and How am I a Ricardian"? All expressions of interest to be lodged by June 30 (see booking form).

**Accommodation** Book directly with the hotel, identifying your stay as related to the Richard III Conference. The Albury Manor House Hotel boasts 40 rooms equipped with various facilities to ensure an enjoyable stay. Rooms available in single, double, twin or family configurations which sleep up to 5. Features include an indoor pool and sauna, dry cleaning service, secure covered parking and free Wi-Fi. PH: (02) 6041 1777 E:alburymanorhouse@bigpond.com www.alburymanor.com.au

**Travel** Hotel is close to railway station and local airport. Local taxi service is available on (02) 6025 2255.

**Rail travel from Sydney:** Dep. Central Nov 8 7.42am; Arr. Albury 3.11pm. Return Dep. Albury Nov 10 11.47am, Arr. Central 7.59pm. Book after 10/5/18. Identify as Richard III Society member. Request car C. Book individually. Pensioner supplement booking fee \$42.54. Info: Kevin Herbert (02) 9977 8505

## Program

Day 1: Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> -3.30 Registration and afternoon tea. 6.00 Pre-dinner drinks. 7.00 Dinner (own cost) Day 2: Friday 9<sup>th</sup> - 9.00 - 5.00 Biennial One-Day Conference. 7.00 Medieval Banquet (cost separate) Day 3: Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> - Departures, optional local tours

**General enquiries:** richardiiiialbury2018@gmail.com

Richard III Society, NSW Branch, Incorporated - [www.richardiii-nsw.org.au](http://www.richardiii-nsw.org.au)  
Patron: HRH The Duke of Gloucester