

Adelaide Branch
Richard III Society



November 2nd meeting- J Carr on costumes. December 7th meeting- Christmas lunch – early start- 12.30pm

Our October meeting is our AGM.

Present were S Walladge, R McEvoy, M Collings, A Cooper, D Haynes, J Carr, K Jones, and V Walden.

Apologies from J Forster, L & C Gill, J Mann L Cortez, R Overy, and M Whitford

Minutes of the previous AGM were read and accepted. Business arising- J Carr did talk at the radio station but no feedback or new members resulting.

Correspondence was postcard from J Forster, email from L Gill stating they will not be renewing because of her ill health. R Overy going from full member to BOAR due to divorce finances. J Mann – British towns through History-comments on Stewart instead of Stuart? Also James IV last monarch to be killed on the battlefield. Turns out last monarch from Great Britain whereas Richard III last English king to die in battle.

Newsletters- Dickon Independent, Ricardian Recorder,

Pam from Worcester branch- information on Richard III portrait on display in Hever Castle. Newspaper report quotes David Starkey who is anti-Richard.

Reading of reports- R McEvoy- chairwoman's report

Two years into my role as Chairwoman of the Adelaide branch of the Richard III Society and I am still enjoying it. While our group remains small we manage to have topics that are both interesting and fun.

We decided that at the beginning of each meeting I would read the Mission statement as a reminder of what our Society is all about.

In November 2018 we had talks on food, clothing, houses and trades in the medieval period. December as usual saw us celebrate Christmas by consuming a lovely lunch. We shared something that was special to us eg a favourite story, carol, family tradition etc.

Our February meeting saw a change in tradition and instead of our DVD, Anne Cooper gave us an extremely interesting talk on surnames. In March we had Sue Garforth return to give us a talk on a Victorian scandal "the Tichborne Affair". We hope she continues to give talks as her presentation and information is superb.

April was our DVD meeting. We watched "The man who killed Richard III". We booed and hissed when appropriate. May was our Quiz afternoon. We had a lot of laughs at what Ricardian information we had forgotten.

In June I gave a summary on a book about Anne Neville by Michael Hicks. I was not impressed by the constant use of the word USURP.

Our Coronation lunch was in July. As has become our tradition, we lit candles for Richard, our Branch, UK branch, Australasian and Branches from the rest of the world. We toasted RIII and the Society. As usual the array of food from our small contingent was spectacular.

Sue Walladge gave a talk on RIII at War in August. Again we booed and hissed when appropriate. In September the meeting was Polydore Vergil's Memoir of RIII. Thanks to Robert Bender OAM who kindly made available a copy of his presentation from the Australasian Convention.

Many thanks to the committee members for their ongoing support over the past 12 months. And thanks to our members for their belief in our cause.

SWalladge- Secretary's report (and no -Rilla and I did not collaborate!)

This past year has seen attendances vary from 5 to 14, averaging 9. This is a drop from last year's average of 11! The year's programme was diverse. The AGM meant no change in office bearers and afterward we looked at our members' collections- dolls, wombats, postcards, Egyptian papyri and statues, miniature cottages, spoons, semi precious stone animals and hippos. In November we looked at aspects of life in the 15th century. Christmas lunch was well attended with plentiful food and the sharing of everyone's favourite Christmas memory, story, carol, item, whatever. February's meeting was a very interesting talk on surnames by Anne Cooper. March was our favourite guest speaker Sue Garforth on a non Ricardian topic but still very interesting- the Tichborne claimant. April's meeting started with discussion and information on holding an Australasian Ricardian convention here in Adelaide in 2021. We also watched the DVD on "The Man who killed Richard III" Sir Rhys ap Thomas. In May we held our quiz with answers including a colour. There was further news on the 2021 convention 21st and 22nd August and venue deposit paid to Rydges Adelaide. June was Rilla's talk on Anne Neville using the Michael Hicks book. In summary -there is simply not a lot of evidence to back up suppositions about Anne's life.

July's coronation lunch was a small select gathering with ample food and good cheer. August was Sue filling in, as Meredith Whitford was ill, with an article from the magazine About History on "Richard III at War", written by Tom Garner. (From Barnet to Bosworth, the bloody rise and tragic fall of the last Plantagenet King. England's last Plantagenet King is often portrayed as a villain, but he was a talented soldier who played a leading role in the final battles of the Wars of the Roses.) September's meeting was Sue (again) using Robert Bender's talk on Polydore Vergil. He had graciously provided a copy of the talk which he gave at the Australasian Ricardian convention held in Melbourne. So an interesting year.

My other bits and pieces include forwarding other branches' newsletters/magazines, forwarding any interesting or relevant ricardian news or events, writing and emailing/posting our newsletter, paying subs to UK, writing the annual report to UK branch at end of year.

My thanks to the committee- Rilla as chairwoman, Kevin as Treasurer, Judith and Lisa. And most importantly my thanks to our members who keep coming to meetings and supporting our branch.

K Jones- Treasurer's report

Current committee re-elected unopposed. R McEvoy chairwoman, S Walladge Secretary, K Jones- Treasurer, Committee members L Cortez and J Carr.

General business

Convention 2021 R McEvoy to chair committee, L Cortez, J Carr and SWalladge

From National pen- calendar- to go as \$2 raffle prize.

Meeting closed 2.40pm

Changing history was our topic.

Lyn Gill sent by email -Hitler's mother.

Anne Cooper's was about Plastics. (apologies – these are Sue's scribbled notes as don't have Anne's notes) -The first man-made plastic was created by Alexander Parkes who publicly demonstrated it at the 1862 Great International Exhibition in London. The material, called Parkesine, was an organic material derived from cellulose that once heated could be molded and retained its shape when cooled.

John Wesley Hyatt invented Celluloid, which is derived from cellulose and alcoholized camphor, in 1869 to use instead of ivory for billiard balls.

1907 Leo Hendrik Baekeland improved phenol-formaldehyde reaction techniques and invented bakelite. 1926 - Vinyl or PVC - Walter Semon invented a plasticized PVC. 1938 - Polystyrene made practical. 1953 - Saran Wrap introduced by Dow Chemicals

1954 - Styrofoam (a type of foamed polystyrene foam) - Invented by Ray McIntire for Dow Chemicals. Harold Ridley –came up with the contact lens.

Think of all the things now made of plastic and the increased rates of environmental damage. (plastic bottles, bags etc) Then think of all the benefits. So was plastics a good idea?



Valerie Walden (apologies-don't have Valerie's notes)

Yitzhak Rabin (1 March 1922 – 4 November 1995) was an Israeli politician, statesman and general. He was the fifth Prime Minister of Israel, serving two terms in office, 1974–77, and 1992 until his assassination in 1995. **Question arises on what might have changed if he hadn't been assassinated?**

Rabin was born in Jerusalem to Ukrainian Jewish immigrants and was raised in a Labor Zionist household. He led a 27-year career as a soldier. As a teenager he joined the Palmach,

the commando force of the Yishuv. He eventually rose through its ranks to become its chief of operations during Israel's War of Independence. He joined the newly formed Israel Defence Forces in late 1948 and continued to rise as a promising officer. He helped shape the training doctrine of the IDF in the early 1950s, and led the IDF's Operations Directorate from 1959 to 1963. He was appointed Chief of the General Staff in 1964 and oversaw Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day War.

Rabin served as Israel's ambassador to the United States from 1968 to 1973, during a period of deepening U.S.–Israel ties. He was appointed Prime Minister of Israel in 1974, after the resignation of Golda Meir. In his first term, Rabin signed the Sinai Interim Agreement and ordered the Entebbe raid. He resigned in 1977 in the wake of a financial scandal. Rabin was Israel's minister of defence for much of the 1980s, including during the outbreak of the First Intifada.

In 1992, Rabin was re-elected as prime minister on a platform embracing the Israeli–Palestinian peace process. He signed several historic agreements with the Palestinian leadership as part of the Oslo Accords. In 1994, Rabin won the Nobel Peace Prize together with long-time political rival Shimon Peres and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Rabin also signed a peace treaty with Jordan in 1994. In November 1995, he was assassinated by an extremist named Yigal Amir, who opposed the terms of the Oslo Accords. Rabin was the first native-born prime minister of Israel, the only prime minister to be assassinated and the second to die in office after Levi Eshkol. Rabin has become a symbol of the Israeli–Palestinian peace process. (Wikipedia-so I hope it's correct -SW)

Kevin Jones - the fall of Constantinople. (again Sue's notes)

The fall of Constantinople, (May 29, 1453), conquest of Constantinople by Sultan Mehmed II of the Ottoman Empire. The dwindling Byzantine Empire came to an end when the Ottomans breached Constantinople's ancient land wall after besieging the city for 55 days. Mehmed surrounded Constantinople from land and sea while employing cannon to maintain a constant barrage of the city's formidable walls. The fall of the city removed what was once a powerful defense for Christian Europe against Muslim invasion, allowing for uninterrupted Ottoman expansion into eastern Europe.

Mehmed II repopulated the city with people from a multitude of backgrounds and faiths and relocated his capital from Edirne to Constantinople, ensuring a multicultural seat of power for a multicultural empire. He also began to view himself as *Kayser-i Rûm* ("Caesar of Rome"), the inheritor of the Roman Empire and all its historical lands. He asserted this claim with a series of campaigns that thoroughly subjugated both the Balkans and Greece by the late 15th century.

For Christendom, Mehmed's victory at Constantinople represented a serious shift in its dealings with the East. Now devoid of both a long-standing buffer against the Ottomans and access to the Black Sea, Christian kingdoms relied on Hungary to halt any further westward expansion. Many modern scholars also agree that the exodus of Greeks to Italy as a result of this event marked the end of the Middle Ages and the beginning of the Renaissance

Judith's changing history



Princess Charlotte of Wales. If she hadn't died there would be no Victorian age.

Only child of George Prince of Wales and Caroline of Brunswick. Born 7th January 1796 at Carlton House, died age 21 on 6th November 1817 at Claremont House. She was the original 'people's princess' and seen as the hope of the nation. Her father was not popular and her grandfather had periods of what was referred to as madness. Her premature death caused an unprecedented torrent of grief with months of mourning and altered the course of British History,

Shortly after her birth her parents separated and she grew up in the care of governesses, with little attention from her parents. Her childhood was lonely and she grew into a wilful girl. After much gossip and links to dubious suitors a match was arranged in 1813 with William of Orange. When Charlotte realized that she would have to live in the Netherlands she refused to agree to the engagement. She was introduced to Prince Leopold of Saxe-Coburg and they married 2nd May 1816. They had a short happy married life of 18 months, living away from the politics of court and the behaviour of her uncles.

On 6th November 1817 after 40 hours in labour she gave birth to a still born son and a few hours later she also died.

Therefore within 24 hours two generations of the British Monarchy was wiped out. There was much written and said about her long labour and the doctor who attended her committed suicide not long after. Her death meant that the king George iii had no legitimate grandchildren, his youngest son was over 40. His sons had to make legitimate marriages.

If she and her son had not died.

Edward, Duke of York the 4th son would not have had to dismiss his mistress and hurriedly marry Leopold's sister Victoria and father Victoria.

William would not have had to abandoned Dorothea Jordon and 10 children to marry a young Adelaide.

If Charlotte had lived Victoria would not have been conceived therefore the present line of the Royal family would not exist.

Duke of Kent wouldn't have married Adelaide therefore this city may have been called 'Charlotteville' or similar and King Leopold Road/Street not King William Street.

Haemophilia - Queen Victoria was a carrier, passed it into Russian Royal family. Wouldn't have had the influence of Rasputin if no sickly boy. Would that make a difference to Russian history too?

Di's changing history

My idea has come from a Stephen King novel about trying to change the history of John F Kennedy's assassination. I thoroughly enjoyed the storyline. This chap finds the way back to the time leading up to the assassination. I wonder what would be different today?



During Kennedy's time as President the world came close to WW3 through the Bay of Pigs. If he had not been killed would another war have taken place? Perhaps Marilyn Monroe's life would have improved. Also would the Kennedy family have escaped what seems to be a family curse. ie Robert Kennedy's assassination, Ted Kennedy's scandals, and JFK's son's life ending in a plane crash.

Could these have been avoided?



Rilla's changing history The assassination of John Lennon

When thinking about this talk I decided I wanted to talk about something that was very personal to me. So the moment in history that I would change is the assassination of John Lennon. It's interesting in itself that people use the word assassination not murder. The grief that reverberated the world was profound. For those of us who were old enough to remember hearing the news you probably still remember where you were and what you were doing. I was getting into a friend's car after school.

He was shot on 8/12/1980 by Mark David Chapman (who is still in prison). Given the the tensions in the world today I feel John Lennon's quest for peace would be very welcome.

He wasn't always a peaceful man. In his youth he had anger management issues. But when he met Yoko Ono his way of dealing with issues gradually changed due to her influence and view of the world.

In 1969 "Give Peace a chance" by the Plastic Ono Band was released. This was in protest against the war in Vietnam. The song became an anthem of the anti-war movement. There was a march in Washington in November of 500000 people and this was the song that the crowd sang.

John Lennon's most famous song "Imagine" was released in 1971. The words "Imagine all the people living life in peace" again demonstrates the way he wanted people to be able to live their lives.

In Prague there is the John Lennon Wall. This was just a wall until the 1980s when an unknown artist painted a single image of John Lennon and some of his lyrics shortly after his assassination. There are now images of John Lennon, pieces of Beatles lyrics, poems, peace signs and other designs related to local and global issues. For those of you who are Facebook friends with me, you will see my profile picture is of me standing in front of that wall in my John Lennon t-shirt. By chance the day we visited the wall was John Lennon's birthday.

The wall was a source of irritation to the Communist regime who had limited the freedoms of the citizens. Young Czechs wrote grievances on the wall. The student activists grew and this became known as "Lennonism". Not to be confused with the other Lenin. The authorities tried to paint over the symbols but by the next day the wall was covered with poems, flowers and of course John Lennon.

Today the wall represents a symbol of love and peace. There are now John Lennon walls all over Hong Kong. They have also sprung up in Toronto, Tokyo, Berlin, London, Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland and Taipei.

I think what I'm trying to say is- if John Lennon hadn't been murdered he would have been an even bigger inspiration for the Peace movement. There is a badge in the Nobel Peace Centre with the simple message-"all we are saying is give peace a chance"



Katherine centre with her daughter Joan left.



Katherine's tomb in Lincoln Cathedral

Sue's changing history Katherine Swynford.

Here's a woman who really had an enormous influence on history through her children with John of Gaunt Duke of Lancaster. Those children were the Beauforts.

John of Gaunt married Blanche of Lancaster in 1359 and they had 7 children, 4 boys but only survived infancy -later to become Henry IV, and 3 girls. In 1366 a governess was found in the shape of 16 year old Katherine Roelt, daughter of a knight of Hainault. Within a year she was married to Sir Hugh Swynford a Lincolnshire knight who served John of Gaunt in military matters. Shortly after the wedding Swynford was listed as being in the retinue of Gaunt in Gascony. Interestingly Katherine bore 2 children a son Thomas in 1368 and a

daughter Dorothy in 1370 but there is no record of Swynford having ever returned to England. So who was their father? Swynford died in November 1371. Katherine was granted two-thirds of the lands her husband had held at Coleby by payment of a fee to the King. The king also assumed responsibility for the marriage arrangements of Thomas Swynford who would remain a royal ward until he came of age. Unusual honours for a son of an undistinguished knight who had died in the service of his liege-lord. Katherine came into possession of the Manor of Kettlethorpe during this period. It is reported Lady Katherine Swynford became John of Gaunt's mistress around this time and they had 4 more children- 3 boys and a girl. The 4 took the name Beaufort from the castle in Anjou which formed part of their father's vast estates. Meanwhile John of Gaunt was married to Constance Queen of Castile. Two years after she died in 1396 Gaunt married Katherine. The Beaufort children were made legitimate by Richard II and Henry IV (their half brother) confirmed the legitimization with the qualification that indicated that no right to succeed to the crown was to be conveyed.

The daughter Joan's second marriage was to Ralph Neville of Westmoreland by whom she had 14 children including Richard Neville Earl of Salisbury and father of the Kingmaker and Cecily Neville, the Rose of Raby, mother of Edward IV and Richard III. No Joan would mean no Edward IV and no Richard III as we know them. It would also change the Buckingham family tree and possibly no War of the Roses.

The oldest son John Beaufort was Margaret Beaufort's grandfather. She as we know was Henry Tudor's mother.

So if Katherine had not become John of Gaunt's mistress there would be no Beauforts and history as we know it would possibly be very different.

FROM PAM (very interesting)

Thanks to Michael Elliman for alerting me to the new Blog Page on the Wars of the Roses which is on the History of Parliament Web Page. It deals with the Battle of Ludford Bridge.

<https://thehistoryofparliament.wordpress.com/the-commons-in-the-wars-of-the-roses/>

The Commons in the Wars of the Roses

Welcome to the blog page of the House of Commons 1461-1504 project at the History of Parliament Trust. We will soon receive delivery of our volumes for the House of Commons 1422-1461, and so our medieval team are turning their attention to an exciting new project that will cover the Parliaments of no fewer than five English monarchs: those convened by Edward IV, Edward V, Richard III and Henry VII between 1461 and 1504, as well as the Parliament summoned during Henry VI's re-adeption in 1470-71. The team, headed up by **Dr Hannes Kleineke**, will blog on topics and events that relate to the project as well as pieces that tie in to wider themes on the **History of Parliament Trust's main blog page**.

<https://thehistoryofparliament.wordpress.com/2019/10/10/the-battle-of-ludford-bridge/>

I have finally got some brilliant photos on the website showing the re-enactment on 18 August. Many thanks to Ashley Mantle for going to the re-enactment and then sharing his photos with me, and letting me put some on the website. Pam

<http://www.richardiiiworcs.co.uk/bosworththumbnails2019.html>

Thanks to Ian Churchward for this link to information about the music of The Legendary Ten Seconds

<http://www.medievalarchives.com/2019/10/18/instrumental-legends-inspired-by-life-times-of-richard-iii/>

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