

Adelaide Branch Richard III Society



Meetings

Big reminder that Saturday 2nd September we have Sue Garforth coming to give a talk on the Princes in the Tower mystery. Please make a special effort to be there. 1.30pm for 2pm start.

The August meeting was attended by 9 people with 4 apologies.

The Treasurer Kevin said we had \$692.65 in the bank, some of which was subs already paid. Correspondence included an email from Sandra Richards NCW re trouble they been having with homeless people and that they have engaged a security firm to patrol randomly. Judith Carr's emails and photos of her British trip were shared. The Ricardian Recorder and Ricardus Rex had been forwarded to our members to read. John Ashdown Hill's talkless talks have been downloaded to a USB and placed in our library.

General business

Lisa Cortez gave a reminder about a film, invitations were sent out by email and she has paper copies. Saturday 19th August.

Reminder about subs- pay Kevin Sept or Oct meetings. **Full UK membership \$75,**

Senior (over 60) UK membership \$65, Senior family UK Membership \$75, Junior UK Membership \$45, Student (over 18) UK membership \$65, BOAR membership (members of Adelaide branch only) \$30.

If you wish to pay to our bank account directly through internet banking

Bank SA Richard Third Society (Adelaide Branch) Inc BSB 105-120 Account number 027680340

Please include your name in message to recipient so Kevin knows who it's from and/or email me to say you've paid.

Or by mail to me at 5 Spencer St Cowandilla 5033 or Kevin Jones at 11 Ormsby St Windsor Gardens 5087

Website renewal- Lisa to see Kevin re costs.

D Haynes went along to Adelaide Town Hall The Queen Adelaide room for the Pioneers of SA's function re King William IV's death. L & C Gill also there. Di commented on the enthusiasm shown in commemorating SA historical links.

Meeting closed 2.10pm followed by Talks

D Haynes -Edward V; A Cooper- Battle of Towton; L Cortez- Henry Percy Earl of Northumberland; M Collings- Tewkesbury Abbey; V Walden- Katherine Valois; S Walladge -Founding of R3 Society.

V Walden- Catherine Valois

Born 27/10/1401 in Paris and died 3/1/1437 in Bermondsey Abbey London.

Daughter of King Charles VI of France and Elisabeth de Baviere von Bayern Ingolstadt/Isabeau of Bavaria.

In 1420 King Charles gave Catherine of Valois in marriage to King Henry V of England. This, due to threat of invasion by Henry, accompanied by a demand of a dowry of 2 million crowns, sealed the Treaty of Troyes. Henry died of dysentery 31/8/1422 in Vincennes France. Catherine, Queen for only 2 years, was now a widow with a 9 month old son Henry IV. As Queen Dowager Catherine was in a powerful position.



In 1428 there were rumours that Catherine intended to marry Edmund Beaufort, Earl of Somerset. But she had begun an affair with Owen Tudor, who had been employed by Henry V, and followed with service to Henry VI. Catherine employed him as Clerk to her Wardrobe. Leaving court they retreated to the countryside, apparently marrying in the 1430s at a date and place unknown. No evidence exists. They had 5 children including Edmund, Jasper and Owen.

When the Duke of Gloucester learnt of a possible marriage he had Tudor moved to Newgate and Catherine to Bermondsey Abbey. The children were placed in the care Of Catherine de la Pole. Catherine of Valois died at Bermondsey aged 36 years.

“The Incorruptible body”

Catherine’s grave was destroyed by Henry VII. The body was left exposed for hundreds of years and became a tourist attraction. It is not known whether or not she had been embalmed.

Quote from Samuel Pepys- “On Shrove Tuesday 1669 I to the Abbey went, and by favour did see the body of Queen Catherine of Valois and had the upper part of the body in my hands, and did kiss her mouth, reflecting upon it, I did kiss a Queen: and this my birthday and I 36 years old and I did kiss a Queen.”

A Cooper – The Battle of Towton 1461

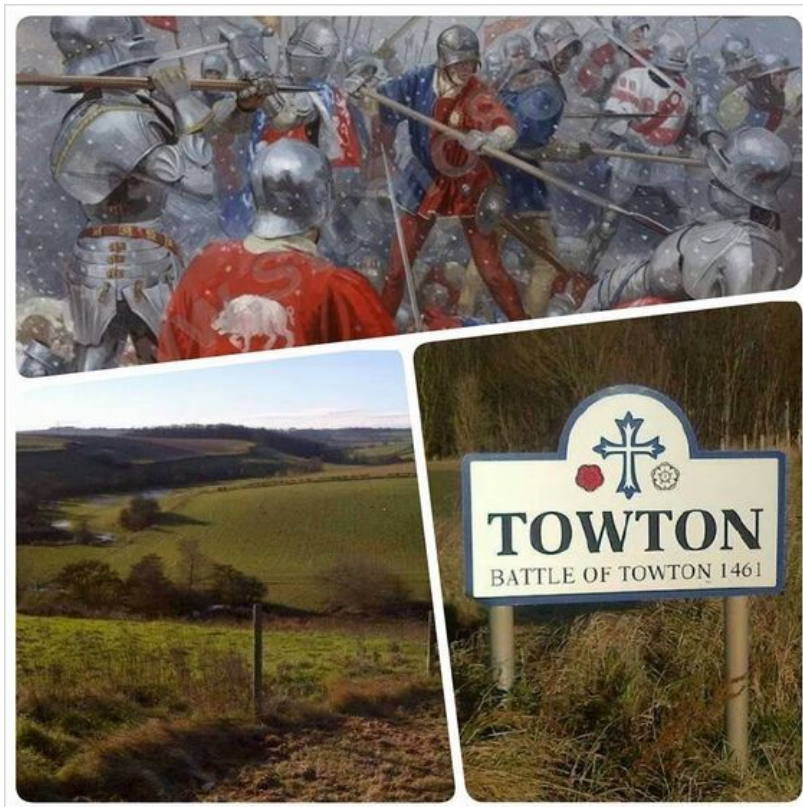
Palm Sunday March 29 After the second Battle of St Albans, Margaret of Anjou tried to re enter London. The Londoners resisted. While she hesitated Edward and Warwick entered London so Margaret fled, dragging Henry with her.

March 4 Edward proclaimed King. A week later he and Warwick pursued Margaret and the Lancastrian Army. Margaret turned at Towton in Yorkshire.

Edward, heavily outnumbered and in driving snow won one of the bloodiest battles on English soil. 28000 of 50000 died on the battlefield. Chief Lancastrian lords were either killed or captured and Margaret, Henry and their son fled to Scotland.

Dramatised by Shakespeare in Henry VI part 3.

Richard III began building a chapel to commemorate the battle in 1483 but it was never completed.



IMPORTANCE- As Henry VI was insane or weak or otherwise unfit to rule, an Act of Parliament had declared that the next monarch was to be Richard, Duke of York but after his death, the crown was to go to his son Edward. Margaret of Anjou refused to accept this. Many nobles believed that she and the Lancastrians had reneged on a Parliamentary decision and so supported Edward. Towton confirmed by force and victory what many felt had been awarded to the Yorkists by Parliament.

(Battle of Towton mass grave was discovered in 1996.

<http://www.bradford.ac.uk/research/faculties/life-sciences/areas-centres/biological-anthropology-research-centre/projects/towton-mass-grave-project/>)

A Cooper -Robert Stillington- Bishop of Bath and Wells.

Robert Stillington- Bishop of Bath and Wells (1420- 1491) Chancellor of England (1467-1470) after taken from Clarence("ill-health") and 1471-75 (unknown)

Bath and Wells a reasonably prestigious but not the greatest in church hierarchy. Mediocre talent as Chancellor according to Croyland.

Claimed to have been the go-between in brokering the engagement of Edward IV and Eleanor Butler, indeed the only witness. Serious claim as not just one of Edward's fancies but a lady of rank and property, indeed when she died was in possession of the 2 disputed manors Edward had taken into his possession to settle dispute with her father-in-law.

Believed to have told Clarence of the pre-contract. Kendal believes Clarence may have blabbed leading to his execution. Fined and imprisoned for defaming Edward and gave oath that it was defamatory. Was a member of the council for Edward V.

Believed by Richard but received no rewards. Founded a school on his own lands near York.

Warrant of arrest issued on day of Bosworth. Arrested by Henry VII 5 days after Bosworth. "The council of York could not save the bishop but showed their feelings by flatly informing his captors that he must be permitted to continue within the same city for four or five days for his ease and rest" *Kendal p385*

1487 when Lincoln and Lovell invaded under the banner of Lambert Simnel, rushed to espouse their cause. After that defeat (Stoke), took refuge at the University of Oxford which surrendered him reluctantly.

Imprisoned in cell in Windsor Castle where he died 4 years later. Buried in a chapel of his own founding in Wells cathedral.

"It seems clear that Henry thought him a dangerous man." *Kendal p 474*

M Collings Tewkesbury Abbey.Gloucestershire

This is not a cathedral but is the 2nd largest parish church in England. The Abbey of the Blessed Virgin Mary was a former Benedictine monastery.

It was begun in the late 11th century after the Norman invasion, about 1090. And the Normans completed their part of the building 30years later. The enormous cylindrical pillars in the nave are the loftiest in the country and the great central tower 132 feet high and 46 feet square is the largest surviving Norman central tower in the world.

The Norman style is the earliest English church style of building. Arches were still semi-circular, not very safe. Because of the width of the arch couldn't be more than twice the height (a semi circle being of set proportions- the radius and diameter of the circle) the enormous weight had to be supported by enormously thick walls and columns. This was solved in the next style with pointed arches where the thrust of the arch is downward, not width. Although the Conqueror founded Tewkesbury Abbey, he did not live to see it completed.

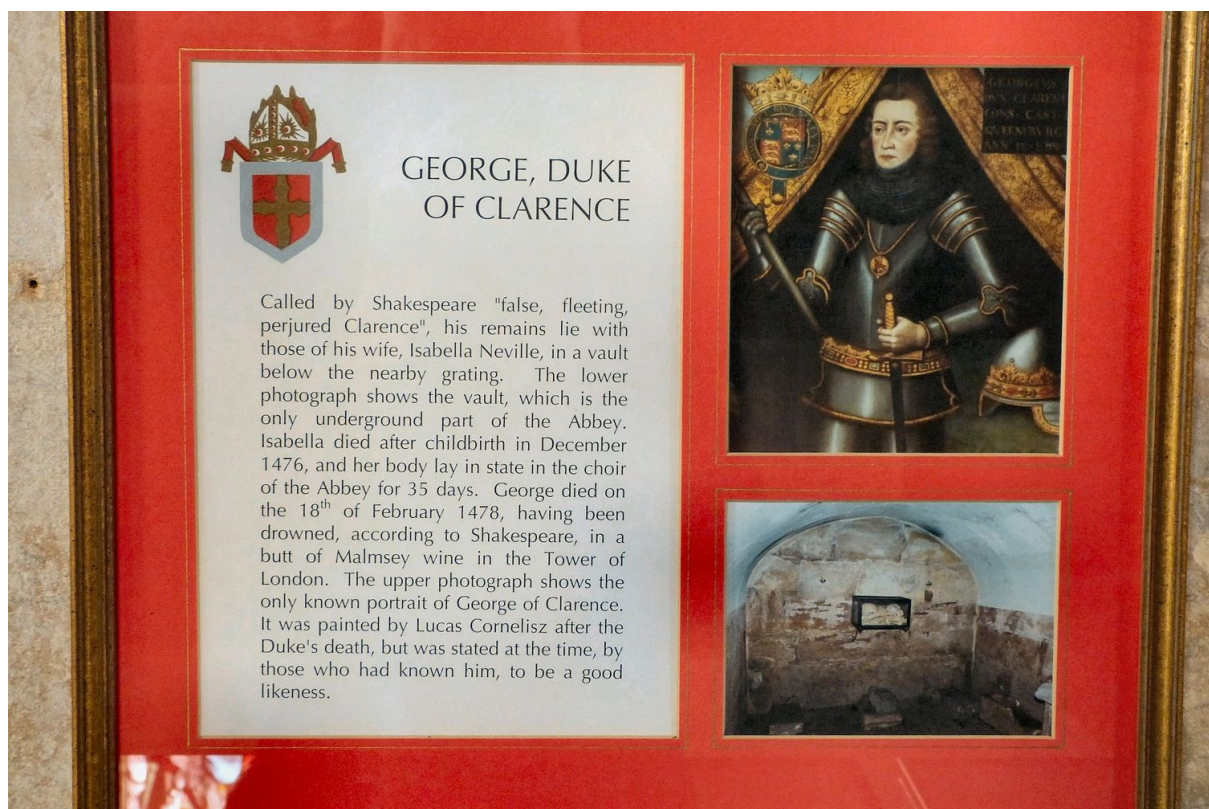


The church has a long list of medieval supporters and is said to contain more medieval tombs than any other British church except Westminster Abbey, including that of Edward of Lancaster Prince of Wales, and George Duke of Clarence and his wife Isobel but these are down below and not on public view.



George Duke of Clarence and Isabel Neville

Alleged remains of Clarence and Isabel Neville kept in a glass box in a vault in Tewkesbury Abbey (the couple were key figures in the dynastic struggle posthumously known as The Wars of the Roses).



The mental picture of Edward IV and his soldiers pouring into the Abbey church and cutting down the Lancastrians who sought sanctuary there after the Battle of Tewkesbury has always worried me. But not every church building had a franchise as a sanctuary and this one did not. And the reports did not always agree. The contemporary report in "the Arrivall" says that Edward "freely forgave all his enemies found in the Abbey." But the Abbey chronicle "and his men carried arms and killed a number of people", and the building was considered so polluted that no services were held in it for a month.....

.....and that 2 days later Edward removed any Lancastrian nobles and put them on trial, thus "broke his word". However the bodies were not dismembered, as was usual for traitors, but all were licensed for burial.

And yes the bits of Lancastrian armour collected from the Battlefield can be seen, lining the inside of the sacristy door, if you apply to see them.



The Sacristy door in [Tewkesbury Abbey](#) is covered on the back by pieces of horse armour recovered from the battlefield by the monks and it bears the scars of arrow holes puncturing the plates.

MINOR player during Richard's time - Henry Percy, 4th Earl of Northumberland (1449 – 1489)



Henry Percy was directly descendent from Henry III's second son and all the Earls of Northumberland had been Lancastrians. His father (3rd Earl) fought against the Yorkists and died at Battle of Towton. His father's estates and title were forfeited and given over to John Neville (brother of Warwick Kingmaker). The young Percy was held under effective house arrest in Tower of London and in 1469 released when he pledged his allegiance to Edward IV and appears to have been loyal to House of York from this time onwards. His father's title and lands were returned to him until 1473 when Warwick and his family turned traitors against York.

Young Percy also found favour with Richard and supported his claim to throne after Edward IV's death. In return the King trusted him and made him the Great Chamberlain of England after Buckingham was executed. Percy mostly remained in the North holding office during Richard's short reign but when the call to arms arrived the Earl obeyed Richard's summons, and brought his Northumberland men to Bosworth. Apparently, although in command of the right wing, his troops never saw any action. Some say Percy was hedging his bets others that he could not take decisive action while the King was in front of him. Some believe he could not rally his troops as they were not loyal to York. Whatever the truth of his non-action, Percy appears to have fared quite well under Henry Tudor suggesting he had pledged a secret allegiance to him earlier on.

Percy had his titles and lands returned once Tudor was crowned, as well as being allowed to return to most of his old posts. He was sent on diplomatic missions, showing that Henry VII must have had quite a bit of trust in him. The men of Yorkshire, ever loyal to Richard were quick to deal out their own justice when they came across him during a during an uprising over unfair taxes - they did not hesitate in executing him.

He was married to Maud Herbert and they had eight children – Maud had previously been betrothed to Henry Tudor.

Percy's eldest daughter Eleanor married Edward, Third Duke of Buckingham, son of that other traitor to Richard III. Interestingly Edward went on to plot against Henry the Eighth and was beheaded for treason like his father!

Lisa Cortez - August 2017

MAJOR player during Richard's time – Henry Stafford, 2nd duke of Buckingham (b. 1454 – d. 1483)



Henry Stafford had an impressive lineage with direct lines of ancestry to previous Kings on father's Stafford lines through Edward I's youngest daughter, Elizabeth de Bohun and also through of Edward III youngest son Thomas. On his mother's side he is descendent of Edward III second son John of Gaunt through the bastard (but later legitimized) line of the Beauforts.

After his father was killed in the Battle of St Albans, he and his brother were made royal wards of the newly crowned King Edward IV and for several years they lived in the Queen Elizabeth Wydville's household.

Edward married him to his wife's younger sister Katherine Wydville and although she had no great lineage, she did come with an impressive dowry for Henry to add to his already large estate. They had four surviving children. Henry was made Chamberlain of North and South Wales, and also given other titles.

After Edward IV death until August 1483, Henry supported Richard's claim to throne rather than the young Prince Edward, Richard had promised to restore most of the Bohun estates which had been confiscated during his father's time when his father had sided with the Lancastrians. Richard also made him Constable of England and the office of the Great Chamberlain.

But for some reason in early October of that year, Buckingham suddenly changed sides, and this has never been satisfactorily explained. Did he suddenly want the throne for himself after Richard was overthrown? Did he have knowledge of the Young Princes' deaths and allied with their mother Elizabeth to avenge them? There have even been suggestions that he himself was responsible for their murders.

All we know is that he joined an already growing rebellion to overthrow Richard III, possibly with the aim of placing Young Edward on the throne but later to support Tudor's claim.

On 18th October 1483, Buckingham and Tudor launched their attack (later known as Buckingham's rebellion). Buckingham had raised an army of Welshmen from his estates in Wales and the Marches and Tudor with Brittany's backing had ships trying to cross the channel. That day, however a very bad storm raged across the country; the ships were forced to turn back and Buckingham could not cross the swollen Severn river. Buckingham tried to escape but was captured by Richard's men, convicted of treason and executed on 2nd November.

We don't know where Katherine went after her husband's execution. She was deprived of her husband's estate and her dower since her husband had been executed for treason but we do know that Richard granted her an annuity of 200 marks. After Richard was killed and Tudor came to the throne, she married Tudor's uncle Jasper.

Lisa Cortez – June 2017

.(Thanks to Margaret Flint NCW for this)

A-ha! Steve Coogan to tell how Richard III's story was dug up

Richard Brooks, Arts Editor

August 20 2017, 12:01am, The Sunday Times

Coogan will question why so many dismissed the idea the king was under a car park

Steve Coogan, the creator of television's Alan Partridge, is to make a film about the epic search for the remains of Richard III.

A skeleton found in a car park in Leicester in 2012 was confirmed as that of the last Plantagenet king



after DNA tests of two descendants.

Coogan has teamed up with the screenwriter Jeff Pope with whom he worked on *Philomena*, the film starring Judi Dench as an Irish mother searching for her son taken away as a toddler. Coogan played opposite her as an investigative journalist.

The new film will centre on Philippa Langley, now president of the Scottish branch of the Richard III Society, who for many years was convinced that Richard was buried, after his death at the Battle of Bosworth in 1485, in the now-demolished Greyfriars abbey in Leicester.

Coogan sees links between *Philomena* and his new film — both involve dogged pursuits of what seems an improbable dream. “This Richard film is about the amateur versus the Establishment, and intuition versus academia,” said Coogan, who will also be bringing back Alan Partridge, his fictional alter ego, to BBC1 next year.

Coogan will also question why so many dismissed the idea that the king was under a car park almost as a joke.

“Yet the remains were found within two hours of the start of the dig,” said Martin Traynor, chairman of the board of trustees of the Richard III visitor centre.

By the time of reburial, in Leicester Cathedral in 2015, more than 100 camera crews from 70 countries came to the city and 366m people around the world saw the ceremony.

Membership of the Richard III society has boomed, while the visitor centre, opened in 2015, has seen visitor numbers rise to an expected 85,000 this year.

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