

'Richard III' Study Day

Saturday 8 March, 10.00-16.00, Building 65 Avenue Campus



09.40-10.00 Coffee

10.00-10.05 Welcome

10.05–11.00 Dr Lynda Pidgeon: Richard III and the Wydeviles

Who was Richard III and what was his relationship with Queen Elizabeth (the White Queen) and her family the Wydeviles? Was Richard an arch dissembler, hiding his true feelings until the death of his brother left him free to usurp the throne and destroy the Wydeviles?

11.00–11.40 Dr Mark Edwards: Richard III's Scoliosis

Examination of Richard III's skeleton has shown that he had a scoliosis. This is a medical condition in which a person's spine is curved from side to side and is a relatively common disorder, affecting up to 3% of individuals. This talk will provide a background understanding of the form and functions of the spine before the clinical features, diagnosis and potential causes of scoliosis are explored. The way the condition might affect an individual's lifestyle will also be discussed.

11.40–12.00 Coffee

12.00–12.50 Dr Cheryl Butler: A Game of Thrones

From the Earl under the Flagstones to 17 dead Lancastrians, Southampton played a part in the power struggle between the houses of York and Lancaster. A Portuguese spy, the third priest, a failed rebellion all left their mark on the town and its people as the turbulent reign of Richard III came to its climax; as power changed a new Welsh clique arrived in Southampton taking on positions of influence, but what side would the town be on when a new Richard of York appeared on the scene

12.50–13.45 Lunch

13.45–14.40 Professor Ros King: Shakespeare's Richard III

Shakespeare's Richard III is often considered either as Tudor propaganda or as simply a vehicle for a single star actor. The famous 1985 RSC production in which Antony Sher bounded across the stage on his crutches like a malevolent insect, wearing flamboyant floor length sleeves and (reputedly) ermine lined boots, had everyone else dressed in indistinguishable shades of grey. Yet the play has speaking parts both for more children and for more queens than any other by Shakespeare, and a significant cast of unnamed citizens who repeatedly voice their concerns, sometimes by stubbornly keeping silent. This talk will consider the powerful combined effect of all those little-regarded voices.

14.40–15.00 Tea/coffee

15.00–15.55 Bob Woosnam-Savage: ‘Killed the Boar, Shaved His head’; the Violent Death of Richard III

In September 2012 a skeleton was excavated during an archaeological project at the former site of Greyfriars Church in Leicester, England, which lay beneath a local council car park. Part of the projects remit was also to seek out any remains of the grave or tomb of the last Plantagenet king Richard III who had been buried in the choir of the church in August 1485 following his death at the battle of Bosworth. The skeleton, amazingly, bore signs of both scoliosis and, tellingly, the trauma of battle, which might well aid in the identification of the skeleton. In February 2013 it was publicly announced to the world that the skeleton was indeed that of Richard III and that, after nearly 530 years, the remains of the last king of England to die in battle had been successfully identified.

15.55–16.10 Closing Comments