

Members' LETTERS

Will contributors please note that letters may be shortened or edited to conform to the standards of the Bulletin. The Bulletin is not responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors.

March Bulletin, p.18. John Ashdown-Hill Eulogy – a clarification

From Philippa Langley, David Perry and the Looking for Richard Project team, by e-mail

To all those who have heard my Looking for Richard Project (LFRP) talk and have been in touch about the publication of John's eulogy in the March *Bulletin*, this is to confirm that David's eulogy as published was the original and extended eulogy from the service for John in Colchester. Sadly, I was not able to be present at this service and as a result did not receive a copy for any accuracy check for the LFRP. However, for the Westminster Cathedral Memorial Service, David very kindly gave me a copy of his (shortened) eulogy and the following correction was made (red text = delete/blue text = insert):

In 2004 John traced a living descendant, in the all-female line, of Richard III's sister, Anne of York, duchess of Exeter. As one of five members of the 'Looking for Richard Project', John was instrumental in **pinpointing the spot where lay the mortal remains of Richard III** challenging the centuries-old tradition that the king's remains had been thrown into the River Soar. Mitochondrial DNA from Joy Ibsen, the then living descendant, helped verify that the bones that were found were indeed those of the last Plantagenet king. In 2013 John was awarded life membership of the Richard III Society in recognition of his contribution to the Looking for Richard Project.

For those who have heard my talk they will be aware that it was actually I who had pinpointed the likely location of the church and grave (in the northern end of the car park). This was due to an archaeological dig that had taken place in Greyfriars (street) in Leicester in 2007 together with an analysis of local seventeenth- and eighteenth-century writers and a number of published

plans. John agreed this was possible and then undertook more research into this particular location at my instigation. In considering the layouts of friary churches, his new research agreed with my earlier hypothesis. John finally produced a layout of the choir of the church in the northern end of the car park along with my letter R and this I subsequently donated to the Visitor Centre. He produced the layout below for the project in February 2012, a few months before the (first) dig was due to begin.

I appreciate that online in the 2 March 2013 Conference John in his talk suggests that he discovered the location of the church and grave in the northern end of the car park, so it was agreed to include the timeline so that this would be corrected. We then covered it this way in our joint collaborations together, and without any amends to the editions of *The Last Days of Richard III* in this regard.

I hope this helps clarify. This has not been an easy piece to write as I hope you can imagine but John would not have wanted any new mythologies to accidentally take root.

David therefore mentioned the 'bones in the river' story in his Westminster eulogy because John's research in this

was, as many of you know, key for the project.

If there are any further questions in this regard please do not hesitate to get in touch or to come to the special LFRP evening event at this year's Edinburgh AGM where original materials will be available. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you.

More than a typo

From Avril Field-Taylor by e-mail

In the March 2019 *Bulletin*, p. 50, Dr Lawne and R. J. Brenner state in their article on Joan of Kent: 'In 1461, Edward, son of Richard, duke of York, became Edward IV. With Henry VI's death in 1461, several Lancastrian claimants remained, including his son, Edward of Westminster'. I can accept the date of 1461 as Henry's date of death as a typo, but to further state that his death left his son and Edmund Beaufort alive is incorrect.

It is now generally accepted that Edward of Westminster (or Lancaster), brought to England by Margaret of Anjou, his mother, died at the battle of Tewkesbury on 4 May 1471. He was killed where he stood on the battlefield after a charge by Edward IV, who, as usual, left all the clearing up to Richard

Rough dimensions of the surviving Norwich Blackfriars former church

