

The 2012 discovery of King Richard III's lost grave by amateur historian Philippa Langley sparked a major dispute. The movie 'The Lost King' alleged that University of Leicester deputy registrar, Richard Taylor, took undue credit for Langley's find. This led Taylor to successfully sue the filmmakers for defamation of character, receiving substantial damages. Ms. Langley now provides her perspective on the events.

"I'm not feeling well. In fact I'm feeling pretty ill, something which I've had to come to terms with in the 30-odd years since I was diagnosed with ME. My symptoms flared up again recently at the prospect of having to go to court to put my side of what happened during the search for and discovery of the remains of Richard III in a car park in Leicester back in 2012, forcing me to make one of the most difficult decisions of my life and pulling out, on my doctor's advice, from attending the trial.

But I wanted to set down some thoughts on what has happened since Richard Taylor, the then Deputy Registrar at the University of Leicester, decided to sue for defamation the actor Steve Coogan (who co-wrote and produced the film) and the producers behind *The Lost King*, a movie about the discovery of the King and the attendant tussle over whose achievement that was.

What's ironic is that - outside of having my sons - discovering the grave of King Richard III precisely where I said it would be, was one of the most significant moments of my life.

Richard Taylor accused the filmmakers of many things, not least that he was defamed by being unfairly portrayed in an unflattering light. He also alleged the film suggested he knowingly misrepresented the facts to the media, thereby marginalising my role in finding King Richard III's remains.

My withdrawal from the case was the driving factor in the decision to settle his claim for damages against the producers, for which I feel desperately sorry.

The movie depicts the University of Leicester unfairly grabbing most of the credit for the discovery of the King.

What I can relate, amidst the legal flak flying about everywhere, are a few facts.

I raised the money in order to proceed with the dig - twice, after the first round of funding fell through.

Leicester University contributed some money to the 2-week dig which uncovered the King - about 30% in total.

This was my dig, I paid for the archaeologists from the fund I had raised, and Richard III's remains were where my years of research had led me to - the northern end of the Social Services car park in the centre of Leicester.

In fact, he was found beside a parking spot with the letter 'R' painted on it, (for 'Reserved'), where I'd stood many years before and had an intuitive experience.

We pretty much knew from the battle wounds and curvature of the spine in the grave that the remains were Richard's. I was beyond elated; the final part of my project was the King's reburial.

But it's true that, 5 months later at a press conference to tell the world that DNA analysis (carried out by the university) proved beyond doubt that the remains were those of Richard III, I was invited to speak 13th out of 13 speakers. I was not on the main platform and, as I remember, the BBC live feed covering the event was cut before I spoke.

Richard Taylor can argue about what he said and when, but what he can't talk about are my own considerable evidences and how I felt during this whole experience - because he wasn't inside my head.

I felt belittled and marginalized, pushed to the side. I would look at the 'We found him' billboards Leicester University pasted up and it cut me to the quick.

They didn't find him.

I found him.

Which is why I am so grateful for the movie, which finally helped exorcise these feelings.

As Steve Coogan has already said, I would urge people to read up about what happened, to see my website, which has published a number of the evidences, to watch the film and then come to their own conclusion."

Philippa Langley MBE