

BRANCH PROGRAMME 2017 – 2018

We are very much indebted to our Branch Secretary for the hard work she has put in when arranging this varied programme.

Please show your appreciation by helping arrangements to run smoothly. Members are asked to book early, using the slips provided and to pay by the dates specified. Please write the event being booked on to the back of your cheque. Further payment information can be found on the back cover of the programme.

The Branch is not able to take bookings without a properly completed booking slip.

Richard Wheeldon
Branch Chairman

MEETINGS VENUE:

Harrowby Lane Methodist Church Community Centre
Grantham, NG31 9PY.

Prices for all coach trips will include Driver's gratuity whenever possible.

You must check with Travel Wright Ltd on 01636 703813 if you are planning to park at Wrights' Depot.

Worried about parking your car? No problem, there is plenty of secure parking at Westborough Lodge Farm; just ask Jean!

SATURDAY 21 OCTOBER 'THE MIDDLEHAM JEWEL'

An illustrated lecture by Natalie McCaul.

Natalie is Curator of Archaeology at the Yorkshire Museum. She looks after a huge collection of wonderful objects, including the beautiful and precious Middleham Jewel.
Harrowby Lane Methodist Church Community Centre - 8.00 pm.

THURSDAY 16 - FRIDAY 17 NOVEMBER BRANCH CHRISTMAS OUTING TO DURHAM LUMIERE

Artists from around the world will illuminate the city in delightful and unexpected ways with a series of light installations to explore. The installation on the outside of the cathedral is especially beautiful and the cathedral interior is also lit up at night enabling visitors to enjoy a very atmospheric experience. The cathedral now allows access to some of its most spectacular spaces including the monks' dormitory, the old library, the claustal buildings and the monastic old kitchen. There is also an Open Treasure exhibition in the cathedral called 'Making a Joyful Noise! Music at Durham Cathedral'. This features manuscripts, early printed books and musical instruments connected to Durham's musical tradition. The cathedral shop will also be open at night. Many of the shops in the town stay open late during the Lumiere.

We shall have an overnight stay at the Best Western Whitworth Hall Hotel, which sits in its own deer park in a very picturesque location. Following a nice lunch stop enroute, we will arrive at the hotel for dinner at 4.30 pm. After dinner, we will go into Durham to view the light installations. On Friday there will be free time in Durham before we leave for home.

Price - £124.00 per person includes coach pick-ups (enroute only), dinner and bed and breakfast. Single room supplement is £20.00; please note that these rooms are limited, so first come, first served. Personal insurance can be arranged at £11.00 per person; please pay for this at time of booking.

PLEASE BOOK WITH JEAN NOW. The full amount is due with the booking. Cheques payable to JEAN marked 'Durham' on the back.

Coach pick up times: Wright's Depot 8.30 am, Balderton 8.45 am, Westborough Lodge Farm 9.00 am.

FRIDAY 08 DECEMBER BRANCH CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Welby Arms, Allington, Nr Grantham, Lincs, NG32 2EA

Time: 7.30 for 8.00 pm.

Price: £21.00 for a 3-course meal, tea/coffee.

Cheese board is £1.50 extra to be paid for at time of booking. Menu choice available from Jean. PLEASE BOOK WITH JEAN NOW.

PLEASE NOTE that cheques made payable to Richard III Society Lincolnshire Branch marked 'Christmas Dinner' on the back, should be handed/sent to the Treasurer, Ruth Meates. Please see the back cover for Ruth's address

SATURDAY 20 JANUARY – Please Note the Date
MEMBERS' EVENING

This is your evening, with time for a chat over tea, coffee and cake!

There will be a 'Who Am I?' competition. Members are asked to bring along a photograph of themselves as a baby/infant. The person guessing the most correct identities will win a fabulous prize! It is surprising how little some of us have changed!

There will be another Photographic Competition judged by Grantham photographer, Gary Cant, an amusing and sensitive judge who finds something of merit in all the entries, so do not be afraid to have a go. Anyone can enter - you do not need an expensive camera to take a good photograph. Just send two of your photographs size 8" x 10" on any historical subject to Jean before 06 January 2018. No names on the back, but please give each an appropriate title! Another fabulous prize awaits the winner, with prizes for the runners up. There will be a book stall.

Harrowby Lane Methodist Church Community Centre – 8.00 pm.

SATURDAY 17 FEBRUARY

'HOLY WELLS IN HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY'

An illustrated talk by Dr David Marcombe. (David returns by popular request.)

Holy wells were an important part of religious culture during the Middle Ages and many of the places connected to Richard III once had a holy well, including Middleham, Sheriff Hutton and Nottingham. This will be another enlightening and fascinating talk by David. Do not miss it.

Harrowby Lane Methodist Church Community Centre – 8.00 pm.

SATURDAY 24 MARCH (Date Changed to Avoid Easter)

'BRITAIN'S BLOODIEST DAY - THE BATTLE OF TOWTON, 1461'

An illustrated talk by David Skillen.

David was a guide with the Towton Battlefield Society and is an acknowledged expert on the battle. His fascinating talk gives insights into the story of this little known battle and brings the conflict to life in an informative and lively manner.

Harrowby Lane Methodist Church Community Centre – 8.00 pm.

SUNDAY 01 APRIL

SUNDAY LUNCH AT BESTWOOD LODGE, NEAR NOTTINGHAM*

This event was so popular last year that it will be repeated.

The present building is on the site of a medieval hunting lodge. King Richard III was at this lodge when he heard that Henry Tudor had landed at Milford Haven. Come and enjoy a relaxing afternoon on the edge of Sherwood Forest in a place familiar to the last Plantagenet King of England.

Lunch at 1.00 pm. Menus will be available from Jean at a later date. Sunday lunch is usually a carvery but vegetarians are also well catered for.

Price to be advised - according to menu choice.

Please book with JEAN by the end of FEBRUARY.

This is an 'own cars' excursion, but lifts can be organised for those who require them.

*Bestwood Lodge Hotel, Bestwood Country Park, ARNOLD, Nottingham, NG5 8NE.

SUNDAY 22 APRIL

ST GEORGE'S DAY

This will be our third St George's Day celebration and it has turned into a patriotic and enjoyable evening. Add prestige to the occasion by wearing something red and white - St George's colours.

We will have a Bring and Share Supper; there will be tea/coffee available or bring your own drink of choice.

Please contribute to the supper (finger food only). Please let Jean know if you are bringing a sweet or savoury item; this will ensure an equal amount of both!

As this is a Sunday, the venue will not be at Harrowby Lane Methodist Church. The new venue will depend upon numbers.

Please book with JEAN by the end of FEBRUARY. There will be no charge for this event.

SATURDAY 28 APRIL

'CHAINS AND GROATS AND GRAINS'

A talk by Anthony Poulton-Smith. The title is a play on the song 'Trains and Boats and Planes', featuring measurements of length, money and weight. This amusing and informative talk is about how medieval measurements got their names and anyone interested in the medieval period will find it fascinating. Anthony is primarily an etymologist and has had 75 books published, along with 1,500 articles. He has also ghost written some 200 other books. Aside from his writing, Anthony is chair of his local literary festival.

Harrowby Lane Methodist Church Community Centre – 8.00 pm.

MONDAY 07 MAY

DENTON STREET MARKET

Tombola stall in aid of Branch Funds. Please help with this event – maybe lend a bit of colour by wearing costume (not compulsory) on the day, as this attracts interest.

Would each member please donate a prize for the stall or give a cash donation.

Please give prizes and offers of help to any member of the Committee. An organized table of helpers can then be drawn up – even a couple of hours of your time would be welcome.

WEDNESDAY 16 MAY - MONDAY 21 MAY (6 DAYS/5 NIGHTS)

COACH HOLIDAY TO CHINON AND FONTEVRAUD, FRANCE

Chinon is a beautiful medieval town which, along with many other historic places, we will explore during our visit. Every Ricardian or history buff should visit Fontevraud to see the tombs of the early Plantagenets in this atmospheric abbey with a fascinating story to tell.

Jean wants to avoid long, wearying coach journeys, consequently there will be two overnight breaks. The first overnight stop will be at Amiens at the Novotel Amiens Pole Jules Verne with 3 course set menu dinner, bed and breakfast. In Chinon, we stay at the appropriately named 'Le Plantagenet' on a bed and breakfast basis, including a 3 course set menu dinner on the first night only. This quirky, family owned hotel is located on the banks of the River Vienne, very near to the town centre. The hotel owns the next door Le Bistrot du Marché Restaurant.

The return journey will be broken at Rouen at the Ibis Rouen Centre with 3 course set menu dinner, bed and breakfast. The hotel is approximately 1km from Rouen city centre.

This is our most ambitious holiday yet and Jean will be grateful to everyone for booking early and advising her of any special requirements such as dietary restrictions or room requirements etc. at the time of booking.

Price - £637.00 per person includes coach pick0+

ups (enroute only), return Folkestone/Calais Eurotunnel crossings, 5 nights hotel accommodation, bed and breakfast, 3 evening meals as indicated above and all excursions. Please note that single rooms are very limited with a supplement of £188.00, so first come, first served. Personal insurance can be arranged at £32.00 per person at the time of booking.

There must be at least 20 people to run at this price.

PLEASE BOOK WITH JEAN NOW WITH A £100.00 NON-RETURNABLE DEPOSIT. Cheques payable to JEAN, marked 'Chinon' on the back. The full amount must be paid BY THE END OF MARCH.

Coach pick up times to be advised.

FRIDAY 08 JUNE

COACH TRIP TO MARCH CHURCH & ELY CATHEDRAL

March Church is famous for its beautiful roof. Hopefully a Church Warden will guide us around the church. Please take your cameras; the roof is spectacular.

Ely is one of the least known and visited cathedrals in the country. It is a hidden gem; a majestic building with a fascinating story. A guided tour will be followed by free time to explore. Did you know that a contemporary, and possible friend, of Richard III is buried in Ely? If interested, please see Jean! Please try to visit the unique Ely Stained Glass Museum to enjoy beautiful medieval glass; a definite 'must see'.

Please book with JEAN by the end of MARCH.

Price - To be advised. Jean is hoping to organise afternoon tea, but until this is confirmed, the price cannot be given.

Coach pick up times: Wrights' Depot 8.30 am, Balderton 8.45 am, Long Bennington, Royal Oak 9.00 am.

SATURDAY 16 JUNE

BRANCH GRAND AUCTION & POT LUCK SUPPER

This is in aid of Branch Funds and is an important fund raising event.

THE BRANCH NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT AT THIS EVENT. It helps to pay for speakers, room hire and occasionally the subsidy of Branch events. The auction helps us meet costs that increase year on year. We are also keen to support churches and historic sites by offering charitable donations. We will auction anything that is not broken, chipped or dirty. If you cannot attend the auction, please give your item to Jean; otherwise bring it along on the night. We will auction anything in good condition; put on a reserve price on your items if you wish to do so. (Strangest things auctioned so far ... a plastic fountain and a Victorian toilet!) Please bring a contribution to the Pot Luck Supper (finger food only) and your own drink. Jean will make coffee/tea for those who prefer a brew. Family and friends are welcome at this FUN evening, so please join in. Please return the booking form to JEAN by the end of APRIL at the latest. There is no charge for this event.

Venue - Dry Doddington Village Hall. Auction starts at 7.30 pm prompt.

TUESDAY 17 JULY

THE MUGASETH MEMORIAL LECTURE

'FAMILY HISTORY AND THE MEDIA ... BEHIND THE SCENES OF 'WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?''

An evening with Dr Nick Barratt.

Nick was the researcher for the first four series of this iconic television programme. Come along and hear Nick's fascinating stories and be inspired to search out your own roots! Nick is the president of the Federation of Family History Societies and a fellow of the Royal Historical Society. He has presented and appeared in television programmes such as 'Hidden House Histories', 'Secrets from the Attic', 'So You Think You're Royal' and 'Missing Millions'. Nick has written many books from guides to genealogy and how to trace the history of your house, to general history books that include 'The Forgotten Spy' and 'Lost Voices from the Titanic'. He is an accomplished and entertaining speaker. This will be a fascinating evening.

Venue: The Urban Hotel Grantham, Swingbridge Rd, Grantham, NG31 7XT.

Time 7.30pm £7.00 per ticket.

Tickets will be on sale in April – please see MAUREEN WHEELDON. Please book by the end of MAY. Cheques to Richard III Society Lincolnshire Branch.

SATURDAY 04 AUGUST

BRANCH FUND RAISING EVENING

'SCENT, SECLUSION AND SEDUCTION - THE 15TH CENTURY PLEASURE GARDEN'

An illustrated talk by Jean Townsend.

Richard III and his high-born contemporaries would have been familiar with the pleasure gardens of the period. Understanding the symbolism of flowers and herbs, even in the late 15th century, they would have studied the protocols of courtly love.

The long lost gardens of Windsor, Sheen, Eltham Palace and the Tower of London were beautiful, mysterious and expensive commodities accessible only to royalty and the nobility. Jean will explore why these gardens were constructed, what they looked like and what flowers, trees and herbs were grown 500 years ago.

We will have a raffle and a book stall. Please donate raffle items to MAUREEN WHEELDON and books to TRACY UPEX.

Tickets £5.00 – includes tea/coffee and cake.

Offers of help and home made cakes please!

Harrowby Lane Methodist Church Community Centre – 7.30 pm

Tickets will be on sale in April – please see MAUREEN WHEELDON, Please book by the end of MAY. Cheques payable to Richard III Society Lincolnshire Branch.

SUNDAY 12 AUGUST

BRANCH PICNIC - 'A NO SMOKING HOUSE, MONUMENTS GREAT AND SMALL AND A LIFE IN RUINS. WHERE ARE WE?'

By popular request, we will have another coach trip and mystery tour.

The usual picnic format will apply; bring your own chair and a picnic lunch. If the weather is poor, we can picnic on the coach. Come along and enjoy lovely countryside and beautiful buildings. Jean will organise another yummy tea. Please bring your English Heritage card if you have one.

Price - £30.00 per person. Includes coach, entry fees and afternoon tea. A cheap day out! Cheques to be payable to JEAN, marked 'Picnic' on the back, before the end of APRIL

PLEASE NOTE - We must have 25 people to run at this price. The outing is subject to cancellation dependent upon a review of the number of bookings received by the end of May.

Coach pick up times: Wrights' Depot 8.30 am, Balderton 8.45 am, Long Bennington, Royal Oak 9.00 am.

WEDNESDAY 22 AUGUST

REQUIEM MASS FOR KING RICHARD III – SPITAL CHAPEL, LINCOLNSHIRE

This is a moving occasion followed by delicious refreshments and a short lecture on a historical subject. If you have never visited Spital Chapel, you will be amazed as it is a lovely little building. Seats are limited at this event. Refreshments by courtesy of the Lincolnshire Branch.

Attendance by ticket only. Book with JEAN. There is no charge for this event, which is held in the afternoon; time to be advised.

WEDNESDAY 23 SEPTEMBER - TUESDAY 25 SEPTEMBER

'SUN, SAND AND SIGHTSEEING!!'

Jean has secured a superb 2 night stay at the Best Western Beachcroft Hotel at Felpham, near Bognor Regis. The hotel is on the beach front just outside the town centre, has all the usual amenities and is well reviewed. Very close to the town of Arundel with its magnificent castle, there are many other interesting places to visit in the area.

Price - £240.00 per person – this includes coach pick-ups (enroute only), bed, breakfast and an evening meal on each night, all visits and entry fees. Single room supplement is £50.00; first come, first served. Personal insurance can be arranged at £17.00 per person; please pay for this at time of booking.

PLEASE NOTE - We must have 20 people to run at this superb price.

PLEASE BOOK WITH JEAN NOW WITH A £50.00 NON-RETURNABLE DEPOSIT PER PERSON.

Cheques payable to JEAN, marked 'Bognor Regis' on the back. Please note that the full amount must be paid by the end of JULY.

Coach pick up times: Wrights' Depot 8.00 am, Balderton 8.15 am, Westborough Lodge 8.30 am. There is plenty of secure parking at Westborough Lodge Farm; just ask Jean!

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER

BRANCH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Please note, Jean will show slides of the year's events after the meeting.

Harrowby Lane Methodist Church Community Centre – 8.00 pm.