

## **Welford and Weston Local History Society**

**[www.welfordandweston.org.uk](http://www.welfordandweston.org.uk)**

### **Newsletter 33 – August 15<sup>th</sup> 2016**

*Thank you for joining or re-joining the Local History Society. As we move into the 2016/2017 season we have currently 84 members of our Society. This level of interest should ensure that we are able to have an exciting and varied programme going forward.*

*Back on the 8<sup>th</sup> June, which seems a long time ago now, we had our visit to Harvington Hall, near Kidderminster. The weather was good, the venue fascinating and the tour guides excellent, which resulted in a great day out for the 30 or so members who went on the outing. We managed to resolve the impasse over lunch arrangements for such a large group, and I think we all enjoyed a delicious meal. Thanks to Sue and Brad for arranging this visit.*

*We're currently looking at where we should visit in June 2017. One of the possibilities is a National Trust property just South of Bristol. This visit would include coach transport and we will be getting back to you with an outline of the costs next month to see what the level of interest is for this sort of outing.*

***The first meeting of our new season will be on 30<sup>th</sup> September, when we will focus on the death and subsequent burial of Richard III.***



*Richard III's reign was cut short in 1485, when Henry Tudor's inferior force engaged Richard's army and defeated it at the Battle of Bosworth, near Leicester. Richard was struck down in the conflict, making him the last English king to die in battle on home soil. After the battle Richard's corpse was taken to Leicester and buried without pomp or ceremony.*

*The very extensive survey carried out (2005-2009) by the Battlefields Trust led eventually to the discovery of the real location of the core battlefield as well as other significant finds, including a small silver gilt badge depicting a boar. Experts believe that the boar badge could indicate the actual site of Richard III's death, since this high-status badge depicting his personal emblem, was probably worn by a member of his close retinue.*



*His original tomb monument is believed to have been removed during the Reformation, and his remains were lost for more than five centuries, some people believing them to have been thrown into the River Soar*

*In August 2012, the University of Leicester in collaboration with the Richard III Society & Leicester City Council began an ambitious archaeological project: no less than a search for the lost grave of King Richard III.*

*Incredibly, the excavation uncovered not only the friary of Grey Friars but also a battle-scarred skeleton with spinal curvature. On 4th February 2013, the University announced to the world's press that these were the remains of King Richard III.*

*Our speaker will be Peter Liddle MBE. His talk will cover the two projects; the earlier Bosworth Battlefield Survey which as County Archaeologist for Leicestershire he managed for the County. More recently, having taken early retirement, he was again involved and frequently visited the Grey Friars project.*

*The second part of Peter's talk will cover the background to the search, the discovery and identification of the remains.*

*Surely one of the most extraordinarily serendipitous archaeological projects of modern times.*

*Kind regards,*

*Brad*

Rosemary Hale 750682, Sue Hook 751400, Paul King 750123,

Brad Plimmer 750716, Doreen Walkden 750436