



## King Richard remains in Leicester

FROM THE time I took over as High Sheriff of Leicestershire on 7 April 2014, the big question was whether I would have the reinterment of King Richard III in my time in office. However, this was dependent on the result of a Judicial Review carried out by Mr Justice Haddon-Cave, who arrived in Leicester for a trial soon after I took office. I did not dare mention Richard III while he was here, as he wrote up the Review in the judge's lodgings overlooking the cathedral, in case I said the wrong thing and the king's mortal remains were to be interred in York or elsewhere.

Fortunately, not long afterwards, in late May the decision was taken for King Richard to remain in Leicester and to be reinterred in the cathedral (which was to be dramatically internally reordered in the meantime) in the week of Sunday 22 March. Many events took place, including the opening of the Richard III Visitor Centre, a dinner at the Museum of the Order of St John in Clerkenwell for

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the Bosworth peers, and a local fundraiser hosted by my predecessor, Sally Bowie, now a Lay Canon of Leicester Cathedral, and myself.

The week quickly arrived and comprised three principal services in the cathedral, all of which were attended by me and my wife Dot. We were present as the coffin arrived at the Bosworth Battlefield Heritage Centre in the presence of HRH the Duke of Gloucester and thereafter at the Service of Compline at the rearranged cathedral, which was very moving. Four descendants of Bosworth noblemen laid the pall onto the coffin, having been previously rehearsed by my successor, the current High Sheriff Gordon Arthur. They were (for York) the Duke of Rutland (descended from Richard's sister Anne of York and from Sir Robert Manners) and the Hon Thomas Orde-Powlett, MC (of Bolton Castle and descended from Lord Scrope of Bolton), and (for Lancaster) the Earl of Derby (whose ancestor Lord Stanley determined the result of the Battle of Bosworth) and Earl de la Warr (descended from Lord

la Warre who was in exile with Henry Tudor and was later one of his military commanders).

On the Thursday we attended the Service of Reinterment of the Remains which was carried out with enormous dignity. We were lucky enough to have staying with us Harry Scrope, another descendant of Lord Scrope of Bolton. He gave us an insight into his ancestor's part in the battle – in fact if he had done his job properly we would not have been attending any reinterment. The highlight of this was that my wife had her photograph taken with Benedict Cumberbatch! Finally, on the Friday there was the Service of Reveal of the Tomb and Celebration of King Richard, which was something completely different, featuring a cast from the Curve Theatre in Leicester.

However, for me the most moving part was when members of the Coldstream Guards Association guarded the coffin on the Tuesday night. Two of them were John Hamore, the excellent Secretary of the local branch, and Captain Fred Shorrocks, who was Regimental Sergeant Major when I was Adjutant of the First Battalion.

It was a great honour to be High Sheriff of Leicestershire in this special year and to attend all the ceremonies which were carried out with such honour and dignity.

### ◆ Richard Clowes

*High Sheriff of Leicestershire 2014-15*

**Below:** Members of the Coldstream Guards Association guarding the coffin of Richard III

