

Richard Van Allen spoke on a project currently underway in Leicester led by a Society member. The object was to carry out a scientific-based search for the remains of Richard III. The search would centre on and around the site of the Greyfriars monastery – now a council car park near the cathedral. Early ground radar surveys had produced positive results and it was hoped that a television documentary would be made. Further details would be given when available.

Heather Falvey spoke on behalf of Lesley Boatwright to give an update on the York Wills Project. The work is progressing well although much remained to be done with 18 wills still requiring attention. Heather would be creating indexes to the wills and it was hoped to publish in time for the Triennial Conference in April 2012.

Carolyn Hammond, the Society's Library Co-ordinator, advised that library borrowing figures were up this year although they had not reached the record figures from the 1980s. She added that the librarians were very willing to help to find the right book or paper if members gave details of what they were looking for. She concluded by reminding attendees that there were still books available at bargain prices on the Barton Library stall.

Treasurer's Report/Adoption of Accounts for Financial Year ending 31 March 2011

The accounts had been printed in the Annual Report, and Paul Foss advised that he had nothing to add. There being no questions, adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jean Judd, seconded by Babs Creamer and approved unanimously.

Appointment of a Qualified Independent Examiner

Paul Foss recommended the continued appointment of Anne Summerell to examine the accounts and no objections were raised.

Reports from Branches/other Officers

A number of reports and messages were received from UK and overseas branches. David Wells read out greetings from Tracy Bryce and Nita Musgrave, respective Chairs of the Canadian and US Branches. David then passed on greetings from Callie Orszak Kendall and Gillian Kendall (daughters of Paul Murray Kendall) who were unable to be present but wished the Society well on this day. They had also sent £100 for the Society to use 'as it sees fit'. Reports of the past year were received from Hull, North Cumbria and New South Wales branches, and David also read these out.

There followed brief presentations from overseas members – Hazel Hajdu from the Victoria Branch in Australia and Robert Duncanson on behalf of the Canadian Branch. Both talked about activities within their own areas and gave greetings to the UK AGM. Robert intrigued the gathering with talk of 'Ricardian Bingo', which aroused a degree of curiosity.

Where transmitted electronically, these messages are available on the website. They include a report of the Australasian Convention held in August 2011.

Resolutions and Motions

No resolutions or motions had been received.

Robert Hamblin Award

The Chairman explained that this award was instituted in memory of the former Society Chairman, Robert Hamblin, as a means of recognising work done by members of the Society that is of particular merit and 'beyond the call of duty'. Consequently, it is not open to members of the Executive nor to Vice Presidents or the President.

He then gave details of the award for 2011 – which was to be presented to Annmarie Hayek, Secretary of the Norfolk Branch. In his comments on the award the Chairman said: