

Whilton Local History Society

THE KING IN THE CAR PARK

The Society met on 11th September to hear a talk about Richard III, the King in the Car Park. The speaker was Richard Smith, chairman of Leicester Richard III Society.

There was a good attendance and we were all carried away with Richard's enthusiasm for his subject. His talk was amply illustrated and he opened our eyes to the complexities of the so-called Wars of the Roses and the Hundred Years War with France, which formed the background to the life of Richard III. There was a Northamptonshire link, because Richard was born in Fotheringhay Castle

We heard how Shakespeare's interpretation has vilified Richard's character for centuries, but that there were attractive and beneficial aspects of the man, which are less well known, including his loyalty to his brother, Edward, and his introduction of the bail system.

As chair of the Leicester Society, our speaker had been involved with those who discovered Richard's remains under a private car park, once part of Greyfriars. He traced for us the process of identification and the final re-burial in Leicester Cathedral in the spring of this year.

As his audience we found the talk both enjoyable and stimulating.