

P-04-447 Campaign for Statue of Henry VII in Pembroke – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team

Petitioner Notes RE: Henry Tudor Statue Petition

1) Since the petition has been submitted there has been a flurry of press coverage regarding the petition, including correspondence from various parties interesting in the campaign. The campaign has been featured in the Western Telegraph and Milford Mercury whilst receiving a full page spread in the Western Mail for the second time since the campaign commenced. I have also been interviewed for a piece which featured on BBC Radio Wales and which is still accessible via the website as a featured piece, arguing for further recognition of Henry Tudor, "Wales' forgotten king".

2) The discovery of Richard III in Leicester has led to a renewed level of interest in the late 15th century and the events surrounding his death, an event in which Henry Tudor features prominently. There is a great opportunity to attract a degree of deflected glory from this discovery and attract scores of tourists to visit the birthplace of the man responsible for the death and overthrow of King Richard. The death of Richard III can not be told without Henry Tudor and it is key to capitalise on this good fortune.

3) The ongoing quarrel between the cities of York and Leicester for the burial rights to Richard III has only served to emphasise the importance placed on tourism derived from medieval monarchs, ostensibly still capable of proving to be a cash cow. The argument has reached global levels, with input from as far afield as Australia and USA. Once more it demonstrates the possibilities in tapping into this Richard III phenomenon and how larger communities than Pembroke are eager to exploit tourist opportunities from this period. The official Leicester Tourist industry have developed Richard III weekend breaks from £79 per person, something that could easily be replicated in Pembrokeshire. Alison Weir the Author has nationwide Tudor Tours that sell for £5k a person, these should be exploited to bring people into Pembrokeshire, something a Statue would greatly enhance.