

BIG SCREEN: FILM AND TV STAR HAS SPOKEN OF INTEREST IN TELLING RICHARD'S TALE

Fans in clamour for actor to become king

Leicestershire actor Richard Armitage has spoken several times about his interest in King Richard III and ideas to tell his story on the big screen or on the stage.

And his own army of fans from all corners of the world are right behind him.

Roswitha Gerhart, who lives in Munich, Germany, has co-launched an online "support network" for a film or theatre production, and more than 1,100 fans have signed up.

Richard Armitage, who most recently played dwarf Thorin Oakenshield in *The Hobbit*, was named after the last Plantagenet king, and has spoken about his story in many publications – including the Leicester Mercury's *More* magazine last month.

by **GEMMA PELOW**

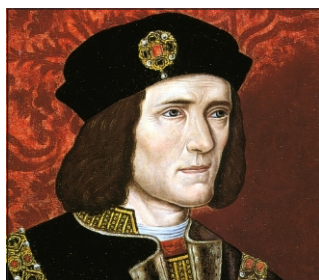
During the interview, he said: "I managed to get home and see my parents in Huncote when we finished filming *The Hobbit* in New Zealand.

"It was just as they were finding the Richard III bones in that car park. I'm excited to hear about the findings of this DNA, I've watched with interest.

"Richard III, now that's a play. I was named after him. My father's a historical fanatic about his character and I've inherited that enthusiasm, but I know by the time I get the chance I'll be too old and too tall to play the role.

"I'd somehow like to realise that part of history."

Roswitha, who has been a fan of the actor since seeing him in BBC drama *Spooks*, said she and other fans wanted to do something to show support.



INTEREST: King Richard III

"For some time, fans had been discussing Mr Armitage's interest in King Richard III on blogs and forums, but without much or any support or interest from the industry," she told the Mercury.

"Another blogger and I got together and we were brainstorming about how to do something to support the idea and Mr Armitage's interest in King Richard III.

"We wanted to call attention

to his ideas and show larger audiences that his fans and others supported them.

"We came up with a petition idea. We want to give him some backing to show to investors, to demonstrate people around the world are interested in a film project about King Richard III.

"The interest already is worldwide."

Roswitha said she had been following the search for the bones of Richard III.

"Richard III strongly arouses my sense of fairness and justice," she said.

"In my view, film is the only way to truly show the scale of the subject – the significance of Richard III's grand ambitions and the disastrous defeats.

"I know how hard it is to find backing for ambitious projects – especially when they concern history."

<http://kingrichardarmitage.rgcwp.com>



STARRING ROLE: Richard Armitage is interested in the story

Had your photograph taken recently?



Even if it's not published, your photo is still available to view and buy.

Leicester Mercury

CALL: 08444 060 910, or visit:

this is photosales.co.uk
/leicestershire



Leicester Mercury

Travel

ALL INCLUSIVE MAJORCA

Selected departures May to October flying from East Midlands



8 days from
£299
per person

Overlooking the Mediterranean, the **three-star Sun Club El Dorado** is an all-inclusive club paradise offering an unbeatable range of services and facilities for the whole family. Set amidst 70,000 m2 of pure nature and 90 m above sea level, the club resembles a Mediterranean village with everything a guest will need for the perfect holiday.

Our price includes:

- Seven nights' accommodation
- All meals, drinks and snacks
- Activities and entertainment
- Return flights from East Midlands
- Luggage allowance, flight tax & fuel supplements

Departing	Prices from
May	£319
June	£369
September	£359
October	£299

Call us on **0844 472 4548** | Quote **NORE1401** | Expiry Date **31 January 2013**
Mon - Fri 9am-9pm / Sat 9am-5pm / Sunday 10am-6pm

Calls cost 5ppm from a BT landline. You may also be charged a connection fee. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary. Prices are from, per person based on 2 people sharing a room and are applicable to selected departure dates, book by dates may apply. Holidays are subject to availability and change. Hotel rating is that of the supplier and may not be the official rating. Where local country hotel taxes are charged, these are payable locally and not included in the price advertised. Terms and conditions and credit/debit card surcharges apply. Holidays are fulfilled by Holiday Gems - Global Travel Group Agent S6886, ATOL 3973, a company wholly independent of Associated Newspapers Ltd. When you respond, Associated Newspapers Ltd and other companies in the DMG group may contact you with offers/ services that may be of interest. Please give your mobile or email details if you wish to receive such offers by SMS or email. We will not give your details to other companies without your permission; please let us know if you are happy for us to do so.

