# King Charles III champions renewed investigation into Princes in the Tower mystery



The enigma of the Princes in the Tower, a historical mystery that has entranced scholars and the public alike for centuries, may see new light thanks to the support of King Charles III. This age-old tale involves the fate of young Edward V and his brother Richard, Duke of York, who vanished from the Tower of London in 1483 shortly after the death of their father, King Edward IV. The account is steeped in intrigue, with speculation surrounding the involvement of their uncle, Richard III, who declared himself king soon after the boys’ disappearance, thereby casting a long shadow over the legitimacy of the Tudor dynasty.

King Charles, who has a background in archaeology from his studies at the University of Cambridge, is reportedly keen to pursue an investigation into the remains thought to belong to the princes. Historical records indicate that two children's skeletons were discovered near the White Tower in 1674, leading to their interment in Westminster Abbey at the directive of King Charles II. Any further investigations into these remains require the consent of the reigning monarch, a barrier that may now be lifted under Charles III's more open disposition towards such inquiries.

Tracy Borman, Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces, has highlighted that King Charles III has expressed a desire to establish the true identities of these skeletal remains. She noted, “He has said he would like an investigation to go ahead, so that we can determine, once and for all, how the young royals died.” This marked difference in attitude towards the investigation compared to his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II, who had been less inclined to support forensic examinations of the remains.

The political and familial complexities surrounding the princes’ story add a rich layer to this investigation. After their father's death, the boys were placed into the care of their uncle, who swiftly asserted his claim to the throne, branding the princes as illegitimate. The last confirmed sighting of Edward and Richard occurred in the summer of 1483, after which they disappeared into the annals of history, their fate a source of speculation and storytelling for generations.

Historians and archaeologists are now contemplating modern methods to scrutinise the remains more closely. Such advancements in forensic science could potentially provide conclusive evidence regarding the identities of the corpses and the circumstances surrounding their deaths. In a recent analysis, Professor Tim Thornton uncovered new evidence suggesting that Richard III might indeed have played a pivotal role in the disappearance of his nephews. This was supported by references to a personal belonging of Edward V within historical documents concerning Richard’s associates, igniting further debate among historians.

With King Charles's backing, a renewed push for DNA testing on the remains could lead to a resolution of one of British history's most captivating mysteries, blending speculation with the potential for empirical evidence. As discussions evolve, the hope remains that the investigation could finally offer closure to a story that has long haunted the royal lineage and the public imagination alike.

As this historical investigation unfolds, it highlights not only the enduring fascination with the monarchy's past but also the intricate connections between power, legitimacy, and the quest for truth in history.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/2059728/one-of-biggest-royal-mysteries), [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princes_in_the_Tower)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/2059728/one-of-biggest-royal-mysteries), [[4]](https://www.hrp.org.uk/blog/charles-ii-and-the-discovery-of-the-princes-in-the-tower-in-1674/), [[2]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/royals/king-charles-backs-dna-test-28243758)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/royals/king-charles-backs-dna-test-28243758), [[3]](https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/10/14/king-charles-rumoured-want-mystery-princes-tower-solved/), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3vrxe91epro)
* Paragraph 4 – [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princes_in_the_Tower), [[6]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3vrxe91epro)
* Paragraph 5 – [[7]](https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/23034364.king-charles-iii-solve-princes-tower-mystery/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.express.co.uk/news/royal/2059728/one-of-biggest-royal-mysteries> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/royals/king-charles-backs-dna-test-28243758> - King Charles is reportedly supportive of a full inquiry into the 539-year-old 'Princes in the Tower' murder mystery, including a DNA investigation of the remains believed to be those of Prince Edward and Prince Richard. Royal sources indicate that the monarch, who studied archaeology at Cambridge University, is interested in plans to test the bones found in the Tower of London in 1674. Tracy Borman, joint curator of Historic Royal Palaces, mentioned that King Charles has expressed a desire for the investigation to proceed to determine conclusively how the young royals died.
3. <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/royal-family/2022/10/14/king-charles-rumoured-want-mystery-princes-tower-solved/> - Historian Tracy Borman suggests that King Charles may have a different attitude towards investigating the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower compared to his late mother, Queen Elizabeth II. Borman mentioned that King Charles is rumored to have expressed a desire for an investigation to determine conclusively how the young royals died, raising the possibility that the mystery could finally be solved with his support.
4. <https://www.hrp.org.uk/blog/charles-ii-and-the-discovery-of-the-princes-in-the-tower-in-1674/> - In 1674, two skeletons were discovered inside the Tower of London, believed to be those of the Princes in the Tower—12-year-old Edward V and 9-year-old Richard, Duke of York. King Charles II ordered the bones to be re-interred in Westminster Abbey, where they remain. The exact location of the discovery is debated, but it is generally accepted that the bones were found near a staircase inside the White Tower, aligning with historical accounts of the princes' burial.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Princes_in_the_Tower> - The Princes in the Tower refers to the mystery surrounding the disappearance of Edward V and his younger brother Richard, Duke of York, in 1483. After their father's death, the brothers were lodged in the Tower of London by their uncle, Richard, Duke of Gloucester, who later became Richard III. The princes were last seen in the Tower in the summer of 1483, and their fate remains one of the most enduring mysteries in British history.
6. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3vrxe91epro> - Professor Tim Thornton from the University of Huddersfield has uncovered new evidence supporting claims that Richard III was behind the murder of his nephews, Edward V and Richard, Duke of York. The evidence includes a mention of a chain belonging to Edward V in the will of Margaret Capel, the sister-in-law of Sir James Tyrell, who was previously accused of ordering the princes' murder. This discovery suggests that the balance of evidence may be shifting towards Richard III's involvement.
7. <https://www.countypress.co.uk/news/23034364.king-charles-iii-solve-princes-tower-mystery/> - Historian Tracy Borman has raised the question of whether King Charles III could help confirm the identities of the bodies believed to be the Princes in the Tower. Previously, the Church of England, with backing from Queen Elizabeth II, had refused requests to carry out forensic tests on the remains. However, Borman suggests that King Charles is on record expressing interest in solving the royal mystery, which could now benefit from advancements in DNA testing.