



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:00 pm

Well, I'm going to get things started and people can join in as they arrive. Thank you so much for spending some time with us this evening Elizabeth. I enjoyed putting together your video - I think it was the most complicated one I've done.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Wow i just noticed Claire has mention John Dee, I've been experienmenting with a few ideas to do with John dee, so maybe I



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Can I first ask you - how did you end up doing your research at Warwick University



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Thank you for your wonderful talk, Elizabeth, I have a soft spot for Robert Dudley and, in fact, the whole Dudley family.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Will get some ideas on how to play with the story line a little more



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Thanks so much for inviting me to be here tonight. I'm excited to talk about the Dudleys.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:02 pm

And Tim, to go back to your question about Warwick University, it was very exciting - given that Warwickshire is Dudley country - to spend a number of years as a Research Fellow there.there.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:02 pm

I must confess, I never had Dudley down as being an art lover/collector. I always thought he was a bit of a playboy (loosely worded)



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:03 pm

I know! And that was the really exciting thing (for me) about researching and writing this book - chancing upon more and more documents in the archives that, gradually, showed that our standard perceptions of him needed to be revised.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:05 pm

Researching and writing Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and the World of Elizabethan Art was a bit like detective work, solving a mystery, as I recovered more and more information about Dudley that had been forgotten with the passage of time.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:05 pm

One thing we can say about dudley was that he was fiercely loyal to Elizabeth, eve though he did things that infuriated her. His marriage to Lettice comes to mind



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:05 pm

I have a question from Bryan who I don't think is able to make it tonight. After watching your video, he asked "As the column has a meaning in the painting and the dog sitting on top as well, what is indicated by the Weasel/Stoat/ Mink in front of the dog?"



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:06 pm

I certainly don't feel that Robin was in anyway involved with what happened to Amy. Her death I think was just a tragic accident



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:06 pm

Absolutely, Boleyn! He was forever infuriating Elizabeth, but she always forgave him in the end - with marrying Lettice and also of course with the Netherlands campaign (where he accepted the title of Absolute Governor without her permission).



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:07 pm

I agree, Boleyn, that there is no evidence that Robert Dudley was involved in the death of Amy Robsart. It was almost certainly a rumour started by his enemies at court to discredit him. I suspect that Amy's death was either an accident or a case of suicide.



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:08 pm

Have you spoken to the people at Kenilworth about your findings and Dudley's art collection? How have you found English Heritage?



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:09 pm

Thanks, Tim. I did a lot of work as a Consultant for English Heritage a few years back when I was researching the book: I was involved in the exhibition 'Queen and Castle' which I think opened in 2006 and also in the re-creation of the Elizabethan garden which opened in (I think) 2009 or so. It was very exciting that my own independent research dove-tailed so well with EH's own projects, excava



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:10 pm

excavations that was meant to say!



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:11 pm

It didn't work though. In many ways I think having Dudley about was a reminder to why she shouldn't marry.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:11 pm

Absolutely, Tim! For the exhibition 'Queen and Castle' three paintings from RD's collection were reunited at the castle for the first time since the 1580s, which was thrilling for me.



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:12 pm

Did you see Bryan's question, via Claire, he asked "As the column has a meaning in the painting and the dog sitting on top as well, what is indicated by the Weasel/Stoat/ Mink in front of the dog?"



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:12 pm

Is it true that Dudley had a life size picture of Elizabeth in the hallway of one of his homes



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:12 pm

Another exciting thing about the work I did with English Heritage at Kenilworth was that it dovetailed with work I was doing at Warwick University on the John Nichols Project (which was devoted to the Elizabethan progresses and in which the 1575 visit to Kenilworth loomed large for obvious reasons).



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:13 pm

Thanks, Tim. I did see Bryan's question via Clare, but was slightly unsure as to which painting he was talking about?



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:13 pm

Ha. I remember looking at it when I made the video. I'll look through and find it



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:14 pm

Elizabeth was obviously very important to Dudley, shown by the art he commissioned, the building work he had done at Kenilworth etc. but do you think the couple were actually lovers? Thought I'd ask the question people always want to ask!!



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:14 pm

Boleyn, yes Dudley did have some life-sized pictures of Elizabeth, some of which were displayed next to life-sized pictures of himself as quasi-pairs. So far as we know, he was the only courtier audacious enough to have done this.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:15 pm

Thanks, Claire. I was hoping someone would ask that! Obviously we'll never know for sure one way or the other. But my hunch is that the relationship was probably not consummated. The potential risks for Elizabeth would have been too great. But having said that, I certainly don't think that it was a platonic relationship.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:15 pm

I don't believe they were lovers Claire, but their relationship was a bond forged in stone almost



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:16 pm

There is a sketch of Elizabeth standing in front of an ornate pillar with a dog on top.



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:16 pm

It looks like it has vines or a snake wrapped around it.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:17 pm

That's a nice way of putting it, Boleyn. There was undoubtedly a very strong emotional bond between them. Elizabeth, in particular, was very reliant upon Dudley emotionally - one reason, I think, that he

hardly ever got to fight abroad. She just couldn't bear the thought of having him far away or of having something happen to him.



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:17 pm

I agree, Elizabeth, I think they truly loved each other and that Elizabeth was heartbroken when he died, but that they didn't go as far as sleeping together. It is so sad that they couldn't be together properly.



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:17 pm

And a lizard or some creature in front of the dog  
And a lizard or some creature in front of the dog



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:17 pm

Page 14 of your original slideshow... if it helps!



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:18 pm

Elizabeth always believed that marriage meant death, and I think that sexual contact was much the same thing to Elizabeth as well



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:19 pm

I never realised Robert Dudley was an art connoisseur. What happened to his collection after he died? Did it all go to Lettice?



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:19 pm

That's a really nice way of putting it, Boleyn. There was a really strong bond between them and Elizabeth depended hugely on Dudley emotionally.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:20 pm

Ceri if I have remembered rightly after Robins, death a lot of his property was sold off to pay debts. Lettice for a while, hadn't got much and married again shortly after Robins's death



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:21 pm

So it was most likely broken up fairly quickly then.



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:21 pm

This image: <https://s-media-cache-ak0.pinimg.com/736x/bb/80/a7/bb80a77385c6384c5e969e7db08b4383.jpg>



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:23 pm

I haven't seen that picture before. I like it a lot. I think it looks more like an ermine than a lizard though!



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:23 pm

What I don't understand about Elizabeth is her behaviour towards Lettice



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:23 pm

Tim, Is the image that Bryan was interested in Zuccaro's preliminary drawing for a painting of Elizabeth by any chance?



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:23 pm

Lizard, ermine ... same difference? @Elizabeth - click on the link I put.



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:23 pm

(Joking about the lizard ermine thing, BTW).



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:24 pm

I can't see it was jealousy, as Elizabeth made it quite clear she wasn't going to marry anyone least of all Dudley, so why was she so cross when she found out about Dudley and Lettice



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:24 pm

Love is not logical, Boleyn.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:25 pm

very true



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:25 pm



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:26 pm

Elizabeth is having some technical issues at the moment but will be back soon!



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:26 pm

ok



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:27 pm

OK, I'm back! Sorry for the glitch - I haven't done this before!



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:27 pm

yay! Welcome back!



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:27 pm

Did Dudley and Douglas go through any form of marriage



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:27 pm

Ceri asked about what happened to Dudley's art collection after his death - did it go to Lettice?



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:28 pm

Regarding Bryan's question, the little creature in front of the dog is probably an ermine and, thus, a symbol of purity.



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:28 pm

not a lizard then (no reply expected!)



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:29 pm

As I believe Dudley and Douglas's son tried to claim the title after the death of Robert (stepson) in 1601



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:29 pm

Ah, thanks Clare/Ceri, just getting caught up here: the collection was widely dispersed within about 18 months of Dudley's death. Some items did go to Lettice, but by no means all. There is quite a lot about the fate of the collection in the final chapter of my book.



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:29 pm

Thanks, Elizabeth.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:30 pm

I'm afraid we do tend to rack the brains of our guests Elizabeth



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:30 pm

It's such a shame that it was so widely dispersed. All collections are ephemeral, but Dudley's was especially so - mainly because he died without a legitimate male heir and heavily in debt to the Crown.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:30 pm

It's rather sad that Robert Dudley had no heir to pass everything on to.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:31 pm

I know, so sad, Ceri. Had Philip Sidney not pre-deceased Leicester, I suspect that he would have inherited many, if not most, of Leicester's pictures and would have gone on to surpass him as a patron and collector.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:31 pm

But his relationship with Douglas did produce a child



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:31 pm

Did Elizabeth take any of the artwork for herself?



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:32 pm

A great loss to literature as well that Philip Sidney died so young.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:32 pm

Yes, Boleyn, absolutely. And it has sometimes been suggested that Sir Robert Dudley took some of his father's paintings with him when he moved to Italy in the early 17th century. But there is no proof of this.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:34 pm

Interesting question, Tim. I suspect Elizabeth may have taken some artwork for herself. There are a few items that we know entered the Royal Collection not only after RD's death which were strikingly similar

to items recorded in his possession during his lifetime. I go into some of the examples in the final chapter of my book.



**Ceri C**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:34 pm*

I also wondered whether Elizabeth acquired any of Dudley's artwork.



**Ceri C**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:34 pm*

Ah - you just answered that!



**Boleyn**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:34 pm*

I believe that Elizabeth may well have kept some of Dudley's pictures Ceri, and certainly she is supposed to have kept his letters



**Ceri C**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:35 pm*

I always found the detail of the casket containing "his last letter" very poignant.



**egoldring**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:35 pm*

Another great question, Tim. I have to say that private collectors have been incredibly generous and helpful: no one turned me away. But that's not to say that there's not something that once was Dudley's now gathering dust in an attic or hidden under a bed. My dream would be to stumble upon the (probably lost) Veronese portrait of Sir Philip Sidney.



**Claire Ridgway**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:36 pm*

Perhaps it's hiding with the full length painting of Anne Boleyn in an attic somewhere!



**Boleyn**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:36 pm*

Elizabeth was supposed to have kept a miniature with that picture too



**egoldring**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:36 pm*

Yes, Boleyn, that's a great point about letters. When E died there was a little box by her bed containing the last letter RD had written to her 15 years earlier before his own death (which she had annotated 'his last letter').



**Boleyn**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:37 pm*

It seems so sad that some of these wonderful treasures have been lost. it would be nice to think that these wonderful treasures are hidden away somewhere for us to find, but chances are Cromwell had them burnt



**Claire Ridgway**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:38 pm*

Elizabeth, which is your favourite painting from Dudley's collection and why?



**egoldring**

*July 14, 2015 - 10:38 pm*

Going back to an earlier point from (I think) Ceri, yes Sir Philip Sidney's death was a huge loss in every way. And what a shame that Dudley's other 'surrogate son' - Robert Devereux, 2nd Earl of Essex - also

met a premature end. But had Essex lived he might have gone on to rival Dudley as a patron and collector.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:39 pm

You raise a great point, Boleyn. So many paintings from this period have been destroyed - not just by fire, but by all sorts of other hazards such as woodworm (a big problem since the majority of paintings in 16C England were painted on wood).



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:40 pm

So many pictures of the time have come down to us as copies of lost originals. Do you think there is a chance that copies may have been made of these?



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:41 pm

Claire, I think my favourite is the painting of Dudley that I chose for the cover of my book. It was painted c1563 and really captures him in all his youthful vigour and glamour - and also contains some wonderful echoes of paintings of Charles V. Even as a young man Dudley was not afraid to invite comparisons between himself and the great and the good of 16th century Europe!



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:42 pm

Sorry, Ceri, I'm such a slow typist that I am getting behind on reading the questions. Which copies were you referring to?



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:43 pm

I do feel that when Robin died, a part of Elizabeth died also, if that makes sense. Although RD junior did help to soften the loss of her Robin, she quickly learnt that Junior was in no way like his father. His death was really the end of everything for Elizabeth.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:43 pm

Elizabeth, you mentioned a Veronese portrait of Philip Sydney for instance.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:44 pm

Boleyn, I know just what you mean. I think that there is a sense in which Elizabeth was never quite the same again after Dudley died, that she never really got over his death.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:45 pm

In many ways if it hadn't been for Junior, Elizabeth would have perhaps pined away and died, so in some ways he did her a favour.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:45 pm

And Dudley's death came at such a cruel time, when she could at last feel safe from the threat of Spanish invasion, just after the Armada defeat. It must have changed all her joy and relief to grief.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:46 pm



Ah, Ceri, now I understand. In the case of the Veronese portrait of PS, I don't (unfortunately) think that any of the surviving portraits of PS are copies of the (probably lost) original. But there may be cases of other paintings where an original that hung in RD's collection no longer survives, but a copy does.



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:46 pm

Boleyn, when you say RD do you mean Robert Devereux? He was Dudley's stepson though wasn't he?



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:46 pm

Yes, Robert Devereux was Dudley's stepson.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:47 pm

Yeah that's what I mean Claire,



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:47 pm

I think Robert Devereux definitely helped Elizabeth for a time, perhaps playing the son Elizabeth could never have, but I don't think anyone could take Dudley's place.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:47 pm

Ceri, that's a really nice point about the juxtaposition of the defeat of the Armada and the death of Dudley all within such a short space of time.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:48 pm

Thanks - I've always seen it as a cruel twist of fate.



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:48 pm

Poor Elizabeth, I'm always moved by accounts of her reaction to Dudley's death.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:49 pm

One of the few times that the woman took precedence over the queen.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:49 pm

I agree Claire Robert D was a born flatterer, but didn't have the same tact or understanding that Robin had when it came to dealing with Elizabeth, basically he was like a very overindulged child and believed that whatever he saw he got, via Elizabeth



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:50 pm

Me, too, Claire. And there could not be a greater contrast to the reactions that greeted the deaths of RD's father and grandfather, both convicted traitors who died on the scaffold.



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:50 pm

Yes, Ceri!



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:50 pm

Robert D was forgiven time after time, but I think him drawing his sword on Elizabeth made her realise just how out of control he actually was



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:51 pm

Just 10 minutes to go. Get your questions in while we still have Elizabeth with us!



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:52 pm

And as for Essex, I think those who see the relationship as a romantic one get it completely wrong. He was more like a spoilt child, as Boleyn says. The child Elizabeth couldn't have. That's why he got away with so much.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:53 pm

How long did it take you to do all your research Elizabeth?



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:53 pm

Thanks for asking, Ceri. I worked on it for 20 years on and off.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:53 pm

That's an amazing commitment! I hope you enjoyed it.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:54 pm

True Ceri I do kind of get the impression, that as Elizabeth got older she perhaps regretted not having a child. Be that with Dudley or anyone else. Robert D was in Elizabeth's mind in my opinion, hers and Robin's love child



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:54 pm

That really IS commitment to research!



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:54 pm

Thank you, Ceri. It was actually great fun. I loved the element of detective work, putting together clues, and so forth. It was quite addictive, actually.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:55 pm

Are you working on anything now?



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:55 pm

While there is a moment in the discussion - tonight's winner of a copy of Elizabeth's book "Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester, and the World of Elizabethan Art" goes to Ceri C. Congratulations Ceri!



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:55 pm

I've got a few ideas for my next book, but am basically taking the summer off to recover!



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

Oh wow! Thank you very much Tim!



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

Congratulations Ceri!



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

I have to agree Elizabeth, a thread on our forum, (which we always welcome opinions on by our guests) mentions that factual resarch is very interesting as the deeper one digs the more intersting things one finds



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

Congratulations, Ceri. I really hope that you enjoy it.



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

Happy reading Ceri



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

Thanks - I really look forward to it.



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:57 pm

Yes, Boleyn, it's amazing what one can find in the archives. Sometimes people think that there's nothing new to discover about our period, but it's just not true!



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:57 pm

Please feel free to pop into our forum at anytime Elizabeth, you will always be made to feel welcome



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:58 pm

Although I do warn you I do have a few choice names for some of our heroes and villians



**egoldring**

July 14, 2015 - 10:58 pm

Thank you so much. I've had a great evening! And if anyone is in the Warwick area in the autumn, I'll be speaking about Dudley and the book on Saturday, 3rd October at the Warwick Words Autumn Book Festival ([www.warwickwords.co.uk](http://www.warwickwords.co.uk))



**Boleyn**

July 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

our members are used to my off the latch ideas and warped humour..



**Admin Tim**

July 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Well, we're drawing to a close now. Thank you so much for coming on the chat, and I'm sorry that more of our members didn't make it. We had enough to talk about though ...!



**Claire Ridgway**

July 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Thank you so much for joining us tonight, Elizabeth, and also for sharing your wonderful talk with us. Do keep us up to date on your next project.



**Ceri C**

July 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Thanks Elizabeth.