



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 9:45 pm

Looking forward to tonight's chat. Well I look forward to every one really.



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 9:45 pm

Hi Bo, I'm looking forward to it too.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 9:46 pm

I must admit Claire certainly does give us some very interesting people to pick the brains of.



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 9:47 pm

Thanks Boleyn. Our speakers' diary is full of amazing experts!



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 9:51 pm

Hi Susan! Welcome to the chatroom.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 9:51 pm

Welcome to our merry Tudor home Susan, I hope you will enjoy our lively and amusing chat.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 9:51 pm

I'm sure I'll learn a lot!



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 9:51 pm



Ten minutes until the talk starts.**Boleyn**

October 14, 2015 - 9:58 pm

We do have a lot of fun in our little home.



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 9:59 pm

Hi everyone!



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:00 pm

Hi Sharon!



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:00 pm

Hiya Sharon



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:00 pm

Hi all



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:00 pm

Well, I'm going to start things off officially by welcoming Susan to the Chatroom. I really enjoyed putting together the video to match your talk Susan, and now I need to work out when to get the second part onto the site. There are so many fascinating people who make up the "Tudor story" and you're our expert on one that many people have never even heard of. So - over to you everyone!



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Welcome Susan and thanks for joining us!



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Nice to be here



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Taking out the obvious betrayal of Sans Changer, what do you think was Richard's downfall at Bosworth? I have heard he rode into boggy ground and was done for from that point, but I find it difficult that Richard a experience soldier would have made such a damn fool mistake.



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Please feel free to ask your questions.



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:01 pm

Please feel free to ask your questions.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:02 pm

To answer you Boleyn his fatal mistake was to charge Henry Tudor position with only a few men. It seemed it was a do or die decision



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:02 pm

Why did he do that though



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:04 pm

Surely again as an experienced soldier he would have known such an action would have been unsuccessful



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 10:04 pm

Hi Susan. Maybe he thought he could kill Henry and be done with it.



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:04 pm

How much "live" battle experience had both Richard and Henry actually had during their lives before they met? Was that a factor in the good/bad decisions?



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:04 pm

We can only guess. One of them would be king after that day. I think Richard had decided to eliminate Henry himself, he knew he was betrayed by many of his followers. He could not rely on them. It was foolhardy and a gamble. Sadly he lost that gamble.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:06 pm

I agree that Bosworth was a kill or be killed day



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:06 pm

Richard had far more experience than Henry. Richard had fought alongside Edward in many of the battle during the civil wars. Henry had to rely on his commanders. No, Tim I don't think that made any difference to Richard's actions that day



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:07 pm

I'll jump in with a question. Why Rhys ap Thomas? I know you've written on all kinds of historical topics so what drew you to him?



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:07 pm

Do you think Richard had anything to do with the Princes disappearance/murder



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:08 pm

I still have a giggle over Richard's nickname of Henry "The Welsh Milksop"



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:08 pm

I worked on the 1985 excavations at the Carmarthen friary and became acquainted with Rhys then. No-one had heard of him, so that intrigued me. When they found Richard, still no mention of Rhys...so I put all my research into action!



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:09 pm

For a man who played such an important role at Bosworth, it's so sad that he's forgotten.



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:09 pm

Well, until now!



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:10 pm

Yes, Boleyn I do. He could have produced them to quell the rumours, why didn't he? I think he knew where they were



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:10 pm

I've just put a page from our soon-to-be-published book by Amy Licence at the following link. It is, I think, apt for this discussion...https://www.TudorSociety.com/downloads/all_about_richard_iii.jpg



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:11 pm

I hope will find his place in history for he was a great character. Bosworth was just the beginning of his career. It seems he is now attracting attention



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:11 pm

Interesting I've always believed that the Duke of Buckingham had something to do with it. But perhaps if Richard had won Bosworth he would have produced them.



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:11 pm

I must confess I had not heard of Rhys ap Thomas, but had heard of Rhys ap Gruffydd which is his grandson I think?



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:13 pm

Surely, it would have helped his cause to produce them before Bosworth. It would certainly have meant that Henry had more potential rivals than just Richard, and maybe it would have secured support which he sadly lacked on the day



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:13 pm

Coming from Wales, I had heard of Rhys ap Thomas. I've been to Carew Castle which was one of his principle residences and where he once held a great tournament but there does seem to be very little information generally available about him.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:13 pm

Yes Sue, his grandson who lost the family name when he was executed for treason under Henry VIII



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:14 pm

Yeah I suppose it would, if the boys had been with Richard, perhaps Sans changer might well have stayed true.



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:15 pm

Rhys ap Thomas really is an interesting person... I enjoyed your talk on him and looking forward to Part Two.



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:15 pm

When I was researching Welsh properties with links to Tudor history recently I was quite shocked at how many important Welsh people we just don't hear about. Why are these people so "undiscovered"?



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:15 pm

Did a talk at Carew in August, quite a moving experience. S4C are doing a documentary on him due out Nov I think, did some filming for them. I heard that the History channel have taken it, so Rhys will become international!!!!



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:15 pm

When do you all want the next part to go onto the site? I could possibly get the video made for early next week.. maybe!



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:16 pm

That's such good news Susan.

That's such good news Susan.



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:16 pm

Because they are Welsh, Claire. I learnt far more English history at school than Welsh! It is part of a cultural dominance, I think!



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:16 pm

All good news then look forward to seeing that



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:16 pm

That sounds great Susan.



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:17 pm

That's just so sad Ceri.



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:17 pm

It is changing slowly now, I think.



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:17 pm

Oh I'm glad that he is being featured in a documentary... so good that he is finally being recognised



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:17 pm

Ceri you are correct. History is written by the victors, need I say more, but things are changing. We have managed to save St Peter's church Carmarthen now because of the Rhys link



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:18 pm

Yes, I read about that. Very pleased to hear it.



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 10:18 pm

Good news about the documentary. If the History channel picks it up, we will see it here in the states.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:18 pm

I love Wales I must admit, there is some truly breathtaking scenery and it's steeped in a wealth of history. My favourite place is Beggalert



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:19 pm

Wales still retains some of it's mystical links with it's Celtic past, it is a fascinating country. I lived there for over 20 years and enjoyed it very much



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:20 pm

On the subject of prominent Welsh people, Wales Online is running Welsh history month and there are profiles online of two important 16th century Welshmen - Robert Recorde and Humphrey Llwyd.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:20 pm

Dinosaur's Ancestary is Welsh and he has the typical welch celt look. short and stocky with dark hair and eyes



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:20 pm

Where did you live Susan?



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:20 pm

I'll highlight those in an article on the site, Ceri, as I think a lot of people will be interested in reading more about them. Thanks!



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:21 pm



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:21 pm

Must look out for Welsh history month sounds interesting



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:21 pm

In fact it's quite funny that whenever he went on holiday there with his mum and dad, the minute his mum walked into any shop they spoke to her in Welsh.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:22 pm

Have many of you read the book about Rhys? Did you enjoy it?



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:22 pm

Thankfully she could speak Welsh fairly fluently.



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 10:22 pm

What do you think made Rhys side with Henry? Why was he following Henry, yet not joining in on the drive to Bosworth?



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:23 pm

I haven't read it yet but it's on my Want list.



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:23 pm

I know there's a fair bit of evidence for Rhys ap Thomas being the man who killed Richard III but what are the other theories?



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:24 pm

Rhys may have thought that Wales stood a better chance with a Tudor king. Don't forget Richard had become unpopular especially after the rumours of the princes. Not an easy decision for Rhys, that is probably why he waited before joining Henry



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:25 pm

Why was Richard stripped naked, and slung over a horse? I would have thought that Henry would have given him some dignity



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:25 pm

I haven't read the book about Rhys yet Susan, but think I will get it, as would love to know more about him.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:26 pm

Richard received many blows that day all of which would have killed him, the final fatal blow to the back of the head was dealt by Rhys, but some say it was an unnamed Welshman



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:27 pm

I also heard that Richard's unpopularity was down to his aparent favour of his northern lords



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:28 pm

I think the way Richard was treated affected Rhys greatly...but more about that in part 2. It was 1485 kings killed in battle were fair game, we can't really judge by our standards



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:28 pm

As well as your own book, Susan, what books/resources would you recommend for people to read about important Welsh people of the medieval and Tudor periods?



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:29 pm

When I visited Leicester recently, I learnt that Richard had been given a tomb by Henry VII, which I thought uncharacteristically generous - until I learnt what was written on it. I can't remember the exact words but it called him an usurper and was a magnificent example of propaganda and history being written by the winning side.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:30 pm

Yes I know that Henry 7th dated his reign from the day before Bosworth, therefore making it sound as if Richard was a usurper



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:32 pm

Claire, Ralph Griffiths book on the family of Rhys is excellent, but there are little modern works, on this period about Welsh characters, lots on castles tho'



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:32 pm

I do love all those castles but it is nice to read about people! Thanks for that recommendation.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:32 pm

I don't agree with the methods Richard's used to take the throne, from the boys, but I think he thought he was doing the right thing



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:32 pm

It all goes to prove we shouldn't always believe what we are told...even in this modern age



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:33 pm

Absolutely.



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 10:33 pm

That is true



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:34 pm

Boleyn, I think Richard wanted the crown and this was an ideal opportunity. The Plantagenets were always willing to take even at the expense of family



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:34 pm

Agreed Susan, that's why these chats are so very important to us all as is the forum, as us History nuts chance to share views and books to research



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:35 pm

Yes again I do feel that the platagnets were very oppotunist



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:35 pm

My spelling has gone haywire



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:36 pm

Susan, you mentioned Rhys going to the court of Burgundy, and that it "outshone" the English court. What made the court "shine"?



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:36 pm

They were the devil's brood and I think history shows us how ruthless they could be. I cannot believe Richard was a saintly as some would like us to believe. He took advantage of the situation that had happened



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:37 pm

I found the epitaph....I, here, whom the earth encloses under various coloured marble, Was unjustly called Richard the Third. I was Protector of my country, an uncle ruling on behalf of his nephew. I held the British kingdoms by broken faith. Then for just sixty days less two, And two summers, I held my sceptres. Fighting bravely in war, deserted by the English, I succumbed to you, King Henry VII. But you yourself, piously, at your expense, thus honour my bones And you cause a former king to be revered with the honour of a king When [in] twice five years less four Three hundred five-year periods of our salvation have passed. And eleven days before the Kalends of September I surrendered to the red rose the power it desired. Whoever you are, pray for my offences, That my punishment may be lessened by your prayers.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:38 pm

Yes again I agree, Richard certainly jumped on Stillington's Eleanor Butler/Edward marriage idea.



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:39 pm

Wow, that's quite an epitaph. Thanks for that Ceri.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:39 pm

Tim, the Burgundian court was the finest in Europe. It was noted for learning and having a vast library of books. The court also had it's own order the Knights of the Golden Fleece. Scholarly, musically, in fact in every way a model for the courts to come



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:41 pm

Do any of you think the Tudor dynasty benefitted the british, rather than a Plantagenet king albeit on eof the princes?



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:41 pm

Was the Burgunian court in anyway influence by Margaret



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:42 pm

Well, they did establish a firm monarchy and a stable country, compared to what had gone before.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:42 pm

Boleyn interesting point. No Margaret had no role in any of this.



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:43 pm

I think there would have been further trouble under Edward V with people perhaps taking advantage of him being a boy king. Hard to say.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:43 pm

I feel that Henry Tulip winning Bosworth certainly helped to cement Wales to England a little stronger. As there was no Prince of Wales at that time, well up until Arthur's birth really



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:44 pm

Henry VII was hardly charismatic but he did have a good brain and did set a solid foundation for what followed



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:44 pm

Yes, that's certainly true, Boleyn. There are complaints about the number of Welshmen in London for decades afterwards!



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:45 pm

I think Henry 7 relationship with England, was on a very businesslike scale.



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:45 pm

He was a very clever man indeed.

He was a very clever man indeed.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:45 pm

It was down to Rhys as you will see that Wales had a strong presence in the politics of the English court. Wales has a lot to thank him for.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:46 pm

Yes I agree he brought peace and prosperity to England, but he had all the warmth as a penguin on an iceberg.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:46 pm

Hi ceri, I think they might have been referring to the Rugby fans



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:46 pm

Has anyone ever written about the presence and influence of the Welsh at court at that time? I've never been able to find anything.



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:47 pm

Rugby, yes. perhas!



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:47 pm

perhaps even



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:47 pm

No, nothing substantial has been written about it...so there's a space waiting to be filled, any takers?



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:48 pm

That would be an interesting topic to research....



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:48 pm

It's a rich seam waiting to be mined.



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 10:48 pm

The Welsh are rarely mentioned in respect to the Tudor Court. I was surprised to hear Rhys had anything to do with Henry after Bosworth.



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:48 pm

can you recommend any books on Henry VII... I agree he certainly doesn't look very charismatic in his portraits....he looks very different from his son!



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:48 pm

Funny thing is that when Henry rode through Wales he had very little takers on following him to death or glory at Bosworth



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:49 pm

There were still many Welsh and Welsh-speakers at court in Elizabeth's reign, Sharon.



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:49 pm

@SueB007, there's Thomas Penn's "Winter King" but it's not a full biography.



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:50 pm

@sueb007, MadeGlobal Publishing (which I run) has asked Amy Licence to write a biography on Henry VII. She's planning on getting started early 2016...



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 10:50 pm

That's interesting Ceri. We need more information.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:50 pm

A worthwhile exercise I think. Yes Sue the best one is The Winter King , sorry forgotten the author but you can look it up under the title. Really well researched



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:50 pm

If my lousy memory serves, the early beefeaters, or tower guards, were also chosen from Welsh families



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:51 pm

Is that so?



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:51 pm

Thanks Claire... I will check out the Winter King.... and thanks Tim, great to hear that Amy is writing the biography on him... look forward to that.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:52 pm

Henry relied heavily on Welsh fighting men, especially Rhys and his 2k cavalry, as did his son HVIII in France. The Welsh were loyal to the Tudors



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:52 pm

There are less than 10 minutes to go for this live chat, so please do ask your questions while Susan is still here in the Chatroom.



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:53 pm

What drew you to write about Rhys initially Susan?



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:53 pm

Thank you Susan, I always thought Henry had very little if anything Welsh army



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:53 pm

again another reason to why we love these talks, we get to find out so much



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:55 pm

I was fascinated by the man who it seemed had killed Richard so I did a lot of research while working in Carmarthen. We did a booklet for the 500th anniversary and charted Henry's progress through Wales. Then 30 years past before I did anything...until the opportunity arose...and what an opportunity!



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

It was interesting seeing the route Henry VII took through Wales to Bosworth in your talk.



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

It's a shame it has taken so long for anyone to research this - but yes, a great opportunity for you! New ground.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:56 pm

I'm actually an ancient historian but have always been v interested in the Plantagenets and Tudors



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:57 pm

Wow... must feel great to have finally written your book on him after admiring him for so long.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:57 pm

This is what history is all about Ceri, and like we all do the deeper one digs into our past the more one finds, and the facinating it becomes



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 10:57 pm

Interesting also that he was thinking of going to London and not where Richard was.



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:58 pm

Yes I am so happy that he he i sgetting the attention he deserves. I feel I've done something useful historically



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:58 pm

For those interested in Susan's work, she also writes under the name Susan Sorek.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:58 pm

It's more Tudors and stuarats for me, although I do enjoy every aspect of history



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:58 pm

I think you have, Susan.



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:58 pm

Think it would have been very different outcome if he'd gone to London!



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:58 pm

Thank you Susan for spending your time in the Chatroom with us this evening. I'm happy to announce SueB007 is tonight's winner of Susan Fern's book "The Man who Killed Richard III". Congratulations!



Claire Ridgway

October 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Congratulations SueB007!



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Well done SueB007, happy reading Xx



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Congratulations SueB007.



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

SueB007, can you email your postal details to me at info@tudorsociety.com? Thanks!



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Congratulations SueB007.



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Ooh Thank You!!! I'm really pleased as I want to read!



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 10:59 pm

Congratulations SUE. Thanks everyone, it has been great to chat to you all, hope you enjoy part 2 of Rhys



sharonc

October 14, 2015 - 11:00 pm

Thank you Susan. Good night all.



SueB007

October 14, 2015 - 11:00 pm

Thanks Susan, Claire, Tim and all for a great chat



Ceri C

October 14, 2015 - 11:00 pm

Thanks Susan. It's been great.



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 11:00 pm

Susan, now you are an honorary Tudor Society member, you're always welcome to join us on our live chat sessions.



Boleyn

October 14, 2015 - 11:00 pm

Thank you so much for your talk tonight Susan, feel free to pop into our forum, and make a comment on any posting that tickles your fancy. I hope we can enjoy a return visit soon



SusanF

October 14, 2015 - 11:00 pm

My pleasure!00 pm

My pleasure!



Admin Tim

October 14, 2015 - 11:01 pm

I'll get working on Part 2 (which I have the audio and slides for) as soon as I possibly can...