

# Transcript – Gareth Russell Live Chat

Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 10:52 pm

Hi Sharon!



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 10:53 pm

Hi Gareth!



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 10:53 pm

Hello! I am so looking forward to



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 10:53 pm

our chat tonight.



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 10:53 pm

If I disappear it's because my internet is being a bit slow, we've got torrential rain here and it seems to be affecting the internet.



Sharon Conrad

December 16, 2016 - 10:54 pm

Hi Claire and Gareth.



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 10:54 pm

please excuse both my temperamental keys and iffy signal. Internet in Ireland and Spain is apparently losing its finest performance awards!



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 10:55 pm

Yes!



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 10:56 pm

I sent a reminder earlier but have just sent another one out so hopefully we'll get a few more in soon.



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 10:56 pm

Hi everyone



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 10:57 pm  
Hello Sharon, Laurie and Lorna!



Sharon Conrad  
December 16, 2016 - 10:57 pm  
Hi Lorna



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 10:57 pm  
Great to see you again Gareth



Sharon Conrad  
December 16, 2016 - 10:57 pm  
Hi Laurie



Laurie  
December 16, 2016 - 10:57 pm  
Hi Claire! Hi Gareth!



Gareth Russell  
December 16, 2016 - 10:57 pm  
I found Henry VIII's military tactics mesmerising. If for no other reason than I love seeing how details of a famous figure's life shine a new light on their life. We all think so much, and understandably, of Henry's private life, but his military record hugely mattered to his contemporaries.



Gareth Russell  
December 16, 2016 - 10:58 pm  
Hi Lorna and merry Christmas!



Laurie  
December 16, 2016 - 10:58 pm  
Hi Sharon!



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 10:58 pm  
Hi Camille!



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 10:59 pm  
Well, a very warm welcome to everyone tonight and a big thank you to Gareth for joining us. Let's get started!



Camille Green  
December 16, 2016 - 10:59 pm  
Hello Everyone!



Adrienne Dillard  
December 16, 2016 - 10:59 pm  
Hello!



Gareth Russell  
December 16, 2016 - 11:00 pm  
Do you feel as if his military failure was born from his personal problems? Or maybe that's projection?



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 11:02 pm  
Ooooh tough one!



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 11:03 pm  
Perhaps his obsession with being a great warrior king made him jump into things without adequate thought and preparation. Not sure.



Sharon Conrad  
December 16, 2016 - 11:05 pm  
I'm not sure. The first time he went to war, he really didn't have personal problems. He wanted to make a name for himself on the world stage.



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 11:06 pm  
I do feel that PB was a mouth and trousers sort of army commander. He had a plan in his head on what he wanted to do, but wasn't able to put his money where his mouth was so to speak



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 11:08 pm  
I think his French campaign of 1513 was well planned on paper but the reality was very different



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 11:09 pm  
Sharon, he did make a name for himself, being a fat prat is one of them



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 11:09 pm  
Do you think Catherine's success while she was regent made him proud of her or do you think he resented it?



Sharon Conrad  
December 16, 2016 - 11:10 pm  
Lorna,



Sharon Conrad  
December 16, 2016 - 11:11 pm  
I about that. She did outshine him there.



Gareth Russell  
December 16, 2016 - 11:12 pm  
I would guess it was somewhere between the two, Claire. As his wife, she was his property. As his queen, she was his chosen deputy. Scotland had not pushed south from Northumberland on her, namely his, watch. But as Katherine couldn't resist subtly reminding him in her letter, she had won a great victory. That could breed resentment, particularly at a time when the Anglo-Spanish alliance was already being questioned because of her father:



Gareth Russell  
December 16, 2016 - 11:13 pm  
\*father's behaviour



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 11:13 pm  
I think he thought that the reality of war was a walk in the park, and when he won the so called "Battle of the Spurs" he thought he had won a great victory. The French didn't run away because they were scared of P.B's army, the whole thing was a set up by the French to buy their King a little more time so that he could cement the fiddle he has going with Max of Spain. Keeping P.B busy meant that he was none the wiser about being double crossed



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 11:13 pm  
Thanks Gareth!



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 11:17 pm  
If I have remembered it rightly the letter to P.B after "Flodden" and after the "Spurs" K.O.A wrote something like "You have sent me a few live dukes, but behold I send you the bloodstained coat of a dead king." I rather think Katherine's victory over Scotland left a very bitter taste in P.B's mouth



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 11:18 pm  
I love the fact that she really wanted to send more than James's coat!



Teri Fitzgerald  
December 16, 2016 - 11:19 pm  
@Claire Ridgway: She was her mother's daughter!



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:20 pm

I wonder what P.B would have felt about that if she had Claire. The coat was bad enough, but the body, as well? Think P.B might have choked on his own bile.



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 11:20 pm

Very true, Teri, very true!



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 11:21 pm

So sorry for interruption! Signal snaffu. Claire, i love the James IV story- a savage magnificence



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 11:23 pm

Do we think Katherine was more capable than him? I certainly do!



Roland Hui

December 16, 2016 - 11:23 pm

It was Flodden that had H8 thinking later (during their antagonistic divorce proceedings) that should Katherine take the field against him, she would be a fearsome opponent indeed.



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 11:23 pm

Yes, I think she was more capable.



Sharon Conrad

December 16, 2016 - 11:24 pm

Yes, she was more capable than him.



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 11:24 pm

I think Chapuys thought she could "take him" Roland!



Sharon Conrad

December 16, 2016 - 11:25 pm

I was thinking the same thing Roland. It must have given him pause when he thought back to Flodden.



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:26 pm

@Roland: Didn't Cromwell say something like she should have been born a man? A formidable opponent for sure!



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:27 pm

Katherine was a formidable woman



Roland Hui

December 16, 2016 - 11:27 pm

Gareth - if K. had indeed waged war against H8, might she have been successful (she had a lot of popular support)?



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:27 pm

I know that Queen Catherine gets the credit for Flodden, but I really think we have to acknowledge that it was the Howards who commanded in the field for that battle. H8 relied on the two Dukes of Norfolk who did a lot of his fighting for him.



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:28 pm

Roland, I think what we have to look at is whether the English people would have accepted her as monarch if she managed to bump PB off the throne



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 11:29 pm

Yes, Cromwell was magnanimous enough to praise Katherine and Anne Boleyn, which is a likable quality, I think



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:30 pm

@Gareth:Me too!):



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 11:30 pm

True, Doc, and it's good that the Howards were rewarded for their success.



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:31 pm

@Lorna: Interesting point and would the Howards have supported her, I wonder ...



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:32 pm

And equally deprived of power to Claire.



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 11:32 pm

I completely in agreement about the Howards. The 2nd Duke, Earl of Surrey as he was during Flodden, was a remarkable mind. More skilled than Henry and perhaps more gracious than Katherine. The 3rd Duke was less brilliant, but as his advice on Ireland and the north, also underestimated.



Sharon Conrad

December 16, 2016 - 11:32 pm

Did Henry actually go into battle?



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:33 pm

Yes, Katherine was indeed quite formidable, and I too think she could have taken the country militarily if she had so desired because of her and Mary's popularity, especially in the midlands and the north. In 1533, I think Norfolk would have sided with the King. We know he sided with the king in 1536. I think Norfolk would not have supported Katherine if she had gone to war.



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:33 pm

Henry actually went into battle in 1513.



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:34 pm

But the battle of the spurs was more of a rout than anything else



Camille Green

December 16, 2016 - 11:34 pm

thanks I was wondering about that as well.



Sharon Conrad

December 16, 2016 - 11:35 pm

thanks Doc.



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:35 pm

Not too sure Doc, but P.B may have been the man who captured the Duke of Lorraine



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:36 pm

It's an important point that he didn't lead the troops in battle, but he did chase after the fleeing French in armor.



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:37 pm

Battle of the Spurs more like RASC



Sharon Conrad

December 16, 2016 - 11:38 pm

That is an important distinction, Doc.



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:40 pm

As weird as this may sound, much of Henry's success in France in his first little war was due to Wolsey's brilliant logistics. Henry looked very pretty in his gold encrusted armor, but most of the real work of the war was done by others. Loades wrote about this in his Fighting Tudors book.



Michelle Nasello

December 16, 2016 - 11:41 pm

Was Henry a great strategic in war or did he fight on brute strength? Is there any battle he is known for? Sorry this is not a topic I know a lot about but wish to learn.



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 11:42 pm

Kings of course delegated and were succesful in their campaigns, think of Louis XIV and Queen Anne. But Henry was both a delegater, an interfering diletante and a failure!



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:42 pm

Do you think P.B was jealous of Katherine's success at Flooden..



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:43 pm

@Doc Clark: Henry was a master at taking the credit for the work of others.



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:44 pm

... and quick to deflect blame for his own mistakes!



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:45 pm

Yes, Teri, you're quite right there.



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 11:46 pm

Some of my messages don't seem to be going through. So sorry!





Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:47 pm

But while he was a joke for his fiascos in France, I don't think his building up the navy and his program of building modern (for his day) coastal defenses were failures.



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:47 pm

@Gareth: Nicely put!



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:48 pm

I think P.B expectation of war was somewhat rose coloured, the reality of what war was panicked him.



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:48 pm

Gareth, I'm having problems too with messages being dropped but I was thinking it was the really bad weather her in Northern Maine that was at fault.



Elizabeth Clayton

December 16, 2016 - 11:48 pm

When you think of the discrepancy between what Henry wanted to be: a hero, the stuff of legends, and the reality, is there any part of you that pities him?!!



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:49 pm

I'm having to refresh the page every so often too.



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:49 pm

@Lorna: My screen is jumping up and down ...



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:50 pm

Teri I have a huge cat walk in front of mine sometimes too. LOL



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:51 pm

@Elizabeth: That would be a no for me!



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:51 pm

@Lorna

l:



Sharon Conrad  
December 16, 2016 - 11:51 pm  
@Elizabeth, No pity for Henry here.



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 11:52 pm  
You all know my feeling about P.B



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 11:52 pm  
Gareth has been experiencing problems with his wife dropping out.



Doc Clark  
December 16, 2016 - 11:52 pm  
Gareth, what's your take on Henry's naval and fortification programs? (my fingers initially typed fortification, which I'm sure Bo will appreciate...)



Claire Ridgway  
December 16, 2016 - 11:52 pm  
Henry had so much potential I feel...



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 11:52 pm  
Doc



Lorna Wanstall  
December 16, 2016 - 11:53 pm  
Claire but he lacked courage or nerve to take anything on.



Teri Fitzgerald  
December 16, 2016 - 11:54 pm  
@Claire: and he squandered it all ...



Doc Clark  
December 16, 2016 - 11:54 pm  
When I think of all the people he had executed on trumped up charges, my pity for H8 vanishes, Elizabeth. (I'm in the middle of writing up the Pilgrimage of Grace portion of my Lord Morley biography, and have had my fill of Henry's injustices thereby)



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:56 pm

Yes P.B did some very sly and vindictive things Doc... Murdering Margaret Pole, K. H. and Our beloved Anne being just 3 of them.



Gareth Russell

December 16, 2016 - 11:56 pm

I am afraid that I can't see so many of the responses!



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 11:57 pm

Just a couple of minutes to go but Elizabeth Clayton is the winner of tonight's live chat giveaway of "A History of the English Monarchy". Elizabeth, please can you email me with your address at [claire@theanneboleynfiles.com](mailto:claire@theanneboleynfiles.com) - thanks!



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:57 pm

His fellow monarchs had no respect for him either.



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:57 pm

Would it be possible to reschedule Gareth since there seems to be problems out in internet land tonight? I really wanted to hear more from him.



Michelle Nasello

December 16, 2016 - 11:58 pm

@Elizabeth Clayton: Congratulations, enjoy



Teri Fitzgerald

December 16, 2016 - 11:58 pm

@Doc: That would be great!



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:58 pm

Not to worry Gareth, we enjoy and appreciate you coming round for a coffee and a chat. Sorry to say that Dinosaur ate all the biscuits or you would have had some of those as well



Claire Ridgway

December 16, 2016 - 11:59 pm

I'll talk to him and see what we can do. He did warn me that he was having problems this evening so I'm just glad that he did manage to actually get on!



Lorna Wanstall

December 16, 2016 - 11:59 pm

Nice one Elizabeth, happy reading



Doc Clark

December 16, 2016 - 11:59 pm

Thanks Claire! And thank you too, Gareth!



Sharon Conrad

December 17, 2016 - 12:00 am

Congrats Elizabeth.



Claire Ridgway

December 17, 2016 - 12:00 am

By the way, there's an informal chat here on Sunday night, a bit of a virtual Christmas party at 10pm UK time - see <https://www.tudorsociety.com/chatroom-christmas-party-18th-december/> for details.



Lorna Wanstall

December 17, 2016 - 12:00 am

Looking forward to our party on Sunday



Claire Ridgway

December 17, 2016 - 12:00 am

Thank you everyone for joining in tonight and thank you so much to Gareth for his talk and for battling internet issues to be here.