

Welcome to tonight's live chat. I'm sure we'll have more people join us as we go on. A big welcome to Nathen and a huge thank you for his wonderful talk on Henry VII. It was so good to learn about Henry's early life, fascinating stuff.

Nathen Amin20/10/2017 23:59

Hello everyone

Claire Ridgway00:00

Hello Nathen! We've had members asking if you'll do a part 2 sometime.

Nathen Amin00:01

I could do! About Henry after he became king perhaps?

Elizabeth Goodman00:01

Hi everyone, sorry I'm late!

Lorna Wanstall00:01

Nathen, why was H7 obsessed with the arthurian legend?

Claire Ridgway00:01

Yes please Nathen! I'll be in touch.

Lorna Wanstall00:01

I was at tintagel today by the way it's beautifull

Nathen Amin00:02

Hi Lorna. The simply answer I guess is propaganda reasons. In 1485, the year Henry obviously came to the throne, Thomas Mallory printed Arthur's legend in English book.

Nathen Amin00:03

This became widely read and sowed the seed of Arthur and the legendary age in the minds of Englishmen. Arthur was connected with the ancient Britons, and Henry, being Welsh, either saw an opportunity to make capital, or perhaps genuinly felt sentiment. Perhaps both

Lorna Wanstall00:03

That makes a lot of sence

Nathen Amin00:03

An Arthurian golden age to follow a period of tyranny? An Mallory's book being so popular? Too good to pass up

Laurie Duerr00:04

Interesting Nathen! And was it also possibly to further justify his reign, since he had claimed the throne by force on the battlefield?

Claire Ridgway00:04

Hi Roland!

Roland Hui00:04

Is Winchester particularly associated with King Arthur? Is that why he had his son Arthur Tudor born at that city?

Nathen Amin00:05

Very possibly. Did Arthur himself have the best claim to the throne he eventually seized? Possibly not. But take the crown he did and rule well he did. Henry probably wanted people to view Arthur as a precedent to his own golden era

Lorna Wanstall00:05

One of the things I actually suprized to find out about H7 is that worcestershire, wasn't didn't really support him, being that worcestershire is next to wales more or less

Lorna Wanstall00:06

in the little Malvern priory (which of course I know so well) one of the windows depicts that of Elizabeth woodvilleand her daughters

Nathen Amin00:06

Winchester was named by Thomas Mallory in his 1485 book La Morte D'Arthur. It was very much in the minds of people that year it was where Camelot was. Obviously this is vey disputed before and after, but at that time, it was Winchester

Claire Ridgway00:07

Nathen, what drew you to Henry VII?

Nathen Amin00:07

Imagine how confident in 'destiny' Henry must have been to go to such lengths. He must have been absolutely certain the child was going to be a son. Truly believed in fate?

Nathen Amin00:07

It was ancestral propaganda

Lorna Wanstall00:09

H7 was hot on myths and legends then? but I find it strange, that he didn'tmake more of his ancestry of cadwallder

Nathen Amin00:09

Hi Lorna. the difficulty is associating 'Wales' with how it is today. It isn't that surprising to learn Henry struggled for support in the Welsh marches, Brecon, Powys, Hereford, Worcester etc when you consider they are traditional Mortimer, and then York, lands. Today we think of Wales, as we know it, as 'Tudor Land', but there was a lot of York land in what is today south-east Wales

Nathen Amin00:11

Claire - I liked Henry VIII and I liked Welsh history. Two separate interests that met nicely in Henry Tudor. Once you discover his story, his birth, his upbringing in the household of the man respinsble

to his father's death, the exile, the near assassination attempts, and the successful ending, I think its an alluring story

Claire Ridgway00:12

Yes, as you said in your talk, his early life and rise to the throne make for a good Hollywood movie. It's strange how it gets ignored and he is thought of as boring or as a miser.

Nathen Amin00:12

Lorna - I think he did quite a lot, really; at the end of the day, how more prominent a position could he give Cadwaladr than using the dragon as his main emblem. Its key to remember, as well, he didn't need to appeal to the Welsh once king. They were in the bank. Utterly loyal. He had to appeal to the English. They didn't care about Cadwaladr

Claire Ridgway00:12

I remember my A Level history and the focus on Henry VII's financial policies - yawn!

Dawn hatswell00:13

Henry and his mother, were they really that close

Nathen Amin00:13

Imagine Henry's story being given the Braveheart or Kingdom of Heaven treatment (without the gratuitous diversions from fact, of course)

Roland Hui00:13

Nathan, even though H7 and Elizabeth of York's marriage was an arrangement, do you think they got on well?

Lorna Wanstall00:14

Hi roland

Nathen Amin00:14

Claire - yeah I'm not too well versed on those policies either! I'm intending to some time soon go back the SB Chrimes magisterial book on Henry and give them a good going over again!

Claire Ridgway00:14

Who would you cast as Henry though in the movie?!

Lorna Wanstall00:15

If I have remembered this rightly, H7 could be quite sneaky when it came to collecting his taxes from the nobles

Dawn hatswell00:15

I think Mark Rylance, he has a look of him

Nathen Amin00:16

Hi Dawn. Henry and Margaret is a bizarre one, because they didn't really know each other personally that much before he became king. He was born, she remarried and possibly moved away from him early doors, by 4 he was living with the Herberts away from Margaret, and there was the

odd visit we know. Then at 14 he was gone abroad until 28. Straightaway after he became king, however, they appeared utterly devoted to one another. Modern day thinking has me feeling how can you get so instantly close to someone you have barely been around, but who knows, perhaps the simply bond between mother and son back then was stronger.

Elizabeth Goodman00:16

I rewatched The Shadow of the Tower recently, it really brought to life what a good king Henry's was and how he overcame so many difficulties

Lorna Wanstall00:16

Claire I think I would like to see the actor Lothaire ?he played the french ambassador in the tudors

Claire Ridgway00:16

Must look him up Lorna.

Nathen Amin00:17

Roland - there is no suggestion Henry and Elizabeth ever had anything other than a successful marriage. He doesn't seem to have had a mistress, they comforted each other heavily after Arthur's death, they were constantly conceiving until her death and he seems to have had a breakdown after her death. Nothing suggests otherwise. The most successful royal marriage, perhaps?

ADMIN Tim00:18

Hi Nathen, can you tell us about your involvement in the new statue of Henry VII at Pembroke?

Nathen Amin00:18

Claire - that's beyond me. I'm not good with casting. I do know I find it impossible to believe anyone can top James Maxwell's performance in Shadow of the Tower however

Claire Ridgway00:18

I do think that their marriage had quite an impact on Henry VIII, perhaps he was always looking for a woman like his mother. Who knows?!

Dawn hatswell00:18

The mother bond could be true, but she was a canny lady though, a good mind, so maybe he respected her advise and judgements and visa versa

Lorna Wanstall00:19

Agreed Nathen James Maxwell was brilliant.

Dawn hatswell00:20

I have that series Elizabeth, remember some as a kid, but I haven't watched my set yet

Elizabeth Goodman00:20

He really was! It was good to watch it again

Nathen Amin00:20

Lorna - sneaky or prudent? Money meant security, for himself and his dynasty. I think in later years,

after Arthur's death and everything hinging on the future Henry VIII's survival and competency to be king, he went more and more after money. Polydore Vergil, (supposedly super biased to him) certainly criticised him for it. Yet I think - would you rather be taxed under Henry or routinely under threat of death under other, more ruthless monarchs?

Lorna Wanstall00:20

Claire the Actor Lothaire bluteau as h7

Roland Hui00:21

Has anyone read or seen 'The White Princess' (by Philippa Gregory)? I was constantly rolling my eyes watching the series. With all the inaccuracies and sensationalism it was really too much to take!

Claire Ridgway00:21

Thanks Lorna!

Dawn hatswell00:21

What about Elizabeth and Margaret, did she not dominate her somewhat

Claire Ridgway00:21

I heard that the novel had Henry raping Elizabeth of Y, so I didn't bother with it.

Laurie Duerr00:22

Agreed Claire, I can't take that!

Lorna Wanstall00:22

Roland, The White Princess was one of SWMNBN went out the window

Nathen Amin00:22

Hey Tim. Around 2011 it struck me that Pembroke wasn't doing next to anything to promote its Tudor heritage, and I visited north Wales where a magnificent statue exists in a village called Corwen for the Welsh prince Owain Glyndwr. The only people with the 50-100,000 who could fund such a thing was the Welsh Government. They're big on heritage so I launched a petition which was debated and discussed by the powers that be for a

Elizabeth Goodman00:23

Ew, I'm not sure that ever happened!

Nathen Amin00:23

over a year. Ultimately, they felt it wasn't affordable and passed. The people of Pembroke however took up the cause and campaigned successfully for it using fundraising and some grants. I helped in an advisor or consultant role to that successful campaign really. And the end result is unbelievable

ADMIN Tim00:24

(SWMNBN - She who must not be named - Philippa Gregory)

Dawn hatswell00:24

"That's Entertainment" Roland, the majority want it, so the majority get it haha and

Lorna Wanstall00:24

Did H7 and EoY have any sort of contact (I'e letters)with each other before they married

Claire Ridgway00:24

I'm so glad it went ahead, Pembroke really should be playing on this link to history.

Dawn hatswell00:24

Haha Tim

Laurie Duerr00:24

What an achievement Nathen! You must be so proud!

Nathen Amin00:25

I don't believe we know Lorna. Certainly no known evidence survives.

Nathen Amin00:26

I am proud. Its a shame I don't live local anymore because I'd be down there constantly just staring at it. The location is incredible, on a small bridge overlooking the Mill Pond underneath the castle. Such a picturesque view. Google a pic if you haven't seen it. A photographer's dream

Laurie Duerr00:26

Nathen, what about the myth that H7 waited a few months to marry E of Y, because he wanted to be sure that she wasn't pregnant with Richard III's baby??

Claire Ridgway00:26

So, are you going to be writing a biography of HVII, Nathen? If so, I think I might know a publisher who'd be interested! 🤔

Lorna Wanstall00:27

Do you think H7 and EoY had sex before they were married.. Arthur's birth was supposed to be a month early

Nathen Amin00:29

Gibberish Laurie. In truth, Henry married Elizabeth at the earliest realistical opportunity. First things first, Henry had to sort the kingdom out, and yes he wanted to be crowned and his first parliament out of the way first. But Henry and Elizabeth were related in the eyes of the church. Anything he did to jeopardise that could result in any marriage being declared void and children illegitimated. Which kind of defeated the purpose of the union. So Henry waited until he had the papal dispensation, or at least a promise of one. Henry got that on 14th January 1486. 48 hrs later, they werw married

Dawn hatswell00:29

Have l see some of your photos on Instagram, the statue etc? Nathen

Nathen Amin00:29

in truth, Henry delayed the marriage by 2 days!

Laurie Duerr00:30

Thanks Nathen, that's very encouraging to hear!

Nathen Amin00:30

Claire - I doubt it. It just seems an overwhelming subject. I'm happy to wait until Sean Cunningham's major project next year. Maybe many years down the line!

Claire Ridgway00:30

Well I think you'd be the perfect person to take it on.

Nathen Amin00:31

Maybe Lorna. I recall reading something about once the marriage was asked for by parliament in the December, and the papal dispensation was acknowledged as on the way, they were as good as 'safe' to go ahead. So maybe they did have sex technically before marriage but not breaching any 'rules'

Nathen Amin00:31

Cheers Claire! We'll see

Lorna Wanstall00:32

Yes I understand, that a betrothal was as binding as a marriage so that hadn't done anything wrong, if they did have sex

Dawn hatswell00:33

I see Elizabeth as a quite, retiring soul, is this right, not like her mother

Claire Ridgway00:33

Whenever I post about the Battle of Bosworth, I always get at least one comment saying that Henry Tudor was a coward, he didn't even fight and yet there was Richard III in the midst of it. How would you answer that?

Claire Ridgway00:33

Sorry, feel free to ignore my question for a bit and carry on with the marriage topic.

Nathen Amin00:34

Exactly Lorna. Hey Dawn - I think she's not a really well known figure, we don't have a great deal of material on her. I think she just played her role perfectly. Didn't get in the way but wasn't a pushover. A perfect queen.

Nathen Amin00:36

Anyone who arranges an army, sails from France with a ragtag mercenary force with Yorkists he barely knew, walked hundreds of miles through Wales and then went to battle..against the King of England and all his might, was not a coward. A coward would never have left France

Claire Ridgway00:36

So true!

Lorna Wanstall00:36

why do you think H7 didn't re marry after EoY death?

Lorna Wanstall00:37

Certainly H7 must have been a determined man, to do what he did, come hell or high water

Nathen Amin00:37

Ridiculous for people to sit on the internet and call someone a coward for not fighting in a battle (which wasn't his role as a commander, it was to survive and become king) baffles me. I'd take a guess that some such people wouldn't speak out if someone jumped them in a queue in the supermarket and yet they're attacking someone from 500 years ago for not wading in without abandon, evne though he wasn't a soldier himself? Would I get up and go to Afghanistan and get stuck in right now? No.

Elizabeth Goodman00:38

I think Henry's VII was a pragmatist as far as the battle was concerned, he waited until Richard was dead then nipped in and grabbed the crown

Dawn hatswell00:38

Maybe that shows his attachment to her Lorna.

Nathen Amin00:38

Hi Lorna. Probably a combination of grief for Elizabeth, lack of perfect match and ill health. Maybe Henry suffered depression at this time in his life; he certainly seems to have lost a lot of motivation

Claire Ridgway00:38

People do feel safe behind their computers to judge others.

Roland Hui00:38

There was talk that H7 wanted to wed Katherine of Aragon after Arthur's death - how true was that?

Nathen Amin00:39

Yes Elizabeth. You don't march to battle to get yourself killed. You go to win, fight another day, take the prize.

Nathen Amin00:40

I've never come across a satisfactory source for that Roland, to be honest. I very much doubt it was ever seriously considered, if at all. Too much problems. Same as Richard III and Elizabeth of York

Lorna Wanstall00:40

almost like say wiliam the conqueroe just sat on his bum looking out over the battlefield eating a sandwich.. If he hadn't of got stuckin at hastings, he wouldn't have become king either.. H7 went all

out to become king or die trying.. Bosworth was a do or die situation. He wasn't going to flee that battlefield and live to fight another day.

Nathen Amin00:41

He also wasn't a commander. He was a novice. You don't go straight to the top! Richard was experienced battlefield commander. Different men, different skills.

Lorna Wanstall00:41

I'm not sure Nathen, but I think the idea was floated, but the Spanish monarchs were against it from the start

Laurie Duerr00:42

Nathen, I've heard that it was H7's army from France that brought the Sweating Sickness to England--do you possibly have any insights on that?

Nathen Amin00:42

Perhaps Lorna. I know they mentioned it in their correspondence

Lorna Wanstall00:43

But from what I remember, of a Bosworth talk we had, Richard made a mistake and led his men into boggy ground and that when the ragtag tudorr army closed in for the kill

Michelle Nasello00:43

Wasn't H7 the last king to fight in battle for the throne? After that it was the soldiers that fought for the king.

Dawn hatswell00:44

Think it would have caused the same problems that occurred between hvlll and kofA cpthe consummation thing perhaps

Lorna Wanstall00:44

I find it most strange that an experienced and battle hardened soldier as Richard should make such a mistake

Shelley Varran00:44

Interesting

Lorna Wanstall00:44

No I believe thatacolade is one of the George kings Michelle

Nathen Amin00:44

Laurie - interesting Stanley claimed he was sick before Bosworth so couldn't travel to London, so

perhaps the sickness was around in England before the French. the '🤔 estilence' certain spiked throughout the 15th century at times. Definitely a rise after the French army arrived, so there may be truth. Guess its like 'Fresher's Flu' we hav at start of University years, too many new people mixing in new environments and germs are prevelent.

Elizabeth Goodman00:44

Richard was the last king to die in battle?

Nathen Amin00:45

Hi Michelle, well maybe for the throne; I mean, Henry VIII went to battles but never really got too stuck in, and they weren't really for the throne (not the English one, anyway)

Lorna Wanstall00:45

I believe it is George 2nd Michelle

Claire Ridgway00:46

There was an outbreak of sweating sickness in the summer of 1485 but I don't think there's any evidence to tie it to Henry and his forces.

Nathen Amin00:46

I think he's the last King of England to die, the crown becoming Great Britain after 1707

Claire Ridgway00:47

Here's what I say in my book on the sweat "Although some experts believe it was carried to England by French mercenaries in Henry Tudor's army in 1485, the civic records of York record a disease with the same symptoms as sweating sickness affecting the city in June 1485, two months before army landed at Milford Haven on the Pembrokeshire coast. There are also no records of the disease affecting Henry's army or the Welsh population it had contact with during its march through Wales to Leicestershire. The disease was obviously known in England before the Battle of Bosworth because, according to the Croyland Chronicle, when Richard III called on Thomas Stanley to travel from his home in Lancashire to Nottingham, after news of Henry Tudor's landing had broken, Stanley "made an excuse that he was suffering from an attack of the sweating sickness, and could not possibly come". It appears, therefore, that Henry Tudor and his forces cannot be blamed for its introduction."

Nathen Amin00:47

My spelling is shocking by the way! Typing quickly on a small keyboard. I do know how to spell normally!

Nathen Amin00:47

What Claire said!

Dawn hatswell00:47

George II, 1743

Laurie Duerr00:47

Very informative, thanks Claire!

Lorna Wanstall00:47

Nathen In the case we can call H8 a coward and he deserves the title along with a fair few other names, which I won't repeat here.

Lorna Wanstall00:48

Nathan my spelling is a nightmare, and my punctuation is a disease.

Nathen Amin00:49

My wife, a history teacher, always called Henry VIII a 'spoilt brat'. I see why. Has the air of an entitled son of privilege sometimes.

Claire Ridgway00:49

Hi Shelley and Michelle!

Dawn hatswell00:49

The sweat could have come with trading ships

Lorna Wanstall00:50

Nathen my words for H8 are far more cutting than your wife's

Dawn hatswell00:50

Yeah but that's how he was brought up don't you think, more so after Arthur died

Nathen Amin00:51

Certainly sheltered after Arthur's death

Elizabeth Goodman00:51

H7 and EoY must have been so scared that Prince Henry would die too

Michelle Nasello00:51

Hello everyone

Nathen Amin00:52

Well, unfortunately Elizabeth didn't live long enough after Arthur to worry too much. Far worse for Henry VII, left to pick up the pieces

Lorna Wanstall00:52

EoY thought she could (for want of a better word) replace Arthur

Elizabeth Goodman00:52

True!

Nathen Amin00:53

Exactly Lorna.

Dawn hatswell00:53

Do you think Arthur was a sickly lad?

Michelle Nasello00:53

How was Margaret Beaufort towards EoY after the marriage of her son to her? Did she think she was a witch? Or did she like EoY?

Lorna Wanstall00:53

Do you think he would have remarried if the right woman came along

Nathen Amin00:54

Nothing to really suggest he was. No real outpourings of concerns in the chronicles about his health to be honest

Nathen Amin00:55

Margaret and Elizabeth appear to coexist as far as we can tell. There's no real sign of any major issues or public spats. Just like us today, probably had good days and bad days. Relationships far more complex than A or B

Lorna Wanstall00:56

Although I think MB dictated the birthing chamber and set up a set of rules that were to be followed

Nathen Amin00:56

Henry was supposedly quite taken with Joan of Naples but never really did much about it.

Michelle Nasello00:56

Margaret Beaufort, did she have any influence in the court of H7?

Dawn hatswell00:56

That's what I think too. cant see Henry marrying Arthur at that time if it would put him at risk, or not be able to do what was expected either

Dawn hatswell00:57

Margaret wrote the confinement rules did she not?

Nathen Amin00:58

She had considerable influence in Cheshire as th wife of Stanley, and probably capable of significant patronage as the mother of a king. Favours here and there. Did she dictate policy? No official evidence, although I'm sure she offered her opinions on matters in public, as did many previous King's mothers I suspect.

Elizabeth Goodman00:58

I'm pretty sure she did

Nathen Amin00:58

Yes Margaret Beaufort drew up some ordinances for childbirth

Lorna Wanstall00:59

what sort of relationship did H7 have with Elizabeth woodville

Michelle Nasello00:59

I knew about the royal birthing chamber book she wrote.

Claire Ridgway00:59

I did a talk on her ordinances - <https://www.tudorsociety.com/margaret-beauforts-ordinances-video/>

Nathen Amin00:59

I can't say I know much about them personally

Elizabeth Goodman00:59

He eventually sent her to Bermondsey Abbey?

Claire Ridgway00:59

Thank you so much to Nathen for joining us here, it's been a fun talk.

Claire Ridgway00:59

And very enlightening too!

ADMIN Tim01:00

THE WINNER OF Nathen's book "House of Beaufort" is (drum roll) ... Dawn Hatswell.
Congratulations!

Nathen Amin01:00

That's ok!

Dawn hatswell01:00

WOW!!!

Nathen Amin01:00

Well done Dawn

Claire Ridgway01:00

Thank you everyone for coming along. If you haven't watched Nathen's talk then do catch it at <https://www.tudorsociety.com/expert-talk-henry-vii-nathen-amin/>

Lorna Wanstall01:00

Thank you Nathen, feel free to drop in our forum and post a comment on anything that tickles your fancy

Claire Ridgway01:00

Congrats Dawn!

Nathen Amin01:00

In Welsh, congratulations is llongyfarchiadau

Nathen Amin01:00



Lorna Wanstall01:01

Well done Dawn, happy reading..

Nathen Amin01:01

Thanks Lorna

Elizabeth Goodman01:01

Thanks for this evening everyone!

Laurie Duerr01:01

Thank you Claire and Nathen!

ADMIN Tim01:01

Thank you, everyone!