

Welcome to our live chat with author Sandra Vasoli. Thank you to Sandi for joining us and for her wonderful talk (thank you to James too). Thank you also to TS members for joining. Feel free to ask Sandi any questions you may have about her talk, her books or her research.

ADMIN Tim0:00

Hi Sandra, it's lovely to have you here with us.

Bill Wolff0:00

Looking forward to this!!

Claire Ridgway0:00

Hi Bill Wolff!

Sandra Vasoli0:00

Good evening all! It's just before 6 pm eastern standard time, here on the east coast of the USA.

ADMIN Tim0:01

Sandra, in your video you told us about your visit to Thornbury. Where else did you visit in the UK?

Claire Ridgway0:01

Hi Michelle!

Michelle Nasello0:01

Hello everyone from everywhere!

Lorna Wanstall0:01

Sandra what exactly was Buckingham charged with.

Michelle Nasello0:01

Hi Sandra, love your books

Sandra Vasoli0:02

testing to see if my messaging is going through

ADMIN Tim0:02

Yes, they are 😊

Sharon Conrad0:02

We see you

Claire Ridgway0:02

Yes, we can see the, Sandi.

Claire Ridgway0:03

If you don't see your messages then you can refresh the page.

Lorna Wanstall0:03

yep no problems here

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:04

Hello All. What is Buckingham's name...is it Henry Courtney? I'm always forgetting that.

Sandra Vasoli0:04

hi guys! Now I have it!

Claire Ridgway0:04

yay!

Lorna Wanstall0:04

Hi Anne Barnhill

Ceri Creffield0:05

Enjoyed your talk on Thornbury, Sandra.

Sharon Conrad0:05

Hi Anne

Claire Ridgway0:05

@Anne, Edward Stafford was the Duke of Buckingham back then.

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:05

Hi Lorna and Claire and Tim and everyone...and Sandra 😊

Claire Ridgway0:05

Hi everyone!

Sandra Vasoli0:05

Thank you Michelle for your lovely comment! Hello to everyone!

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:05

Thanks Claire....was there a Courtney?

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:05

Hello Sandra!

Michelle Nasello0:05

@Sandra Vasoli: no problem

Lorna Wanstall0:06

Anne yes there was a henry courtney

Roland Hui0:06

Sandra - was it hard to get permission to see the Henry/Anne letters in the Vatican?

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:06

That's what I thought. Was he one of Henry VIII's cousins? or am I mixing up the two?

Claire Ridgway0:06

There was Edward Courtenay, Earl of Devon, son of Henry Courtenay, so yes.

Lorna Wanstall0:06

Anne I believe he was H* cousin

Sandra Vasoli0:06

Henry Stafford, 3rd Duke of Buckingham, was the builder of Thornbury. he inherited lands from his ancestors. He was actually a descendant of the Plantagenet line

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:07

Sandra, Is he the one who was executed by Henry VIII?

Ceri Creffield0:07

Was Thornbury his principal residence?

Lorna Wanstall0:07

Sandra, Buckingham was deemed a traitor , but exactly did he do to be called traitor

Sandra Vasoli0:08

He was extremely wealthy - and his bad personality - arrogant and haughty - plus his lineage contributed to a betrayal by one of his servants. he was arrested, and Henry VIII, taking no chances, charged him with treason.

Michelle Nasello0:08

Didn't this Buckingham try to kill Henry VIII?

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:08

Was he the one who insisted on dressing as a king and acting as if he really had a better claim?

Lorna Wanstall0:08

Anne H8 executed a lot of people

Lorna Wanstall0:09

Thank you Sandra..

Michelle Nasello0:09

Sorry, wanted to kill Henry VIII

Sandra Vasoli0:10

Buckingham was actually raised by Margaret Beaufort, but his land was restored to him and he ultimately proceeded to build a grand manor house in Gloucestershire.

Ceri Creffield0:11

How come he was raised by Margaret Beaufort?

Lorna Wanstall0:11

If I have remembered it rightly he and H8 were close companions

Sandra Vasoli0:12

he was hated by Cardinal Wolsey, who found Buckingham to act above his station. Buckingham's approval by the Crown to build his castle in the style of a defensible fortress did him no favors! It was thought that he was secretly planning an uprising against Henry.

Michelle Nasello0:12

Margaret Beaufort, really? Very interesting

Lorna Wanstall0:13

Michelle I think it was more from the point of view that Buckingham felt that if H8 had no son he would have the throne, and would marry Mary H8 daughter to cement his right to the throne after H8 death

Michelle Nasello0:14

@Lorna Wanstall: makes sense

Sandra Vasoli0:14

Edward Stafford's father , after initially supporting the Lancastrians, then rebelled against Richard. Once his father had died, Henry VII restored the family's good name and restored their lands, and assigned Edward to the wardship of Margaret Beaufort. Please excuse any typos!!! 🙄

Lorna Wanstall0:14

Is it possible that Cardinal Wolsey embellished Buckingham's crimes to make sure that H8 took Buckingham head off

Ceri Creffield0:16

Henry VIII was a favourite of his grandmother - I wonder whether there was any jealousy between him and Buckingham when they were boys.

Michelle Nasello0:16

@Lorna Wanstall: absolutely! So he could keep his own head

Sandra Vasoli0:16

It's very fascinating because when you visit the Castle today, just outside the castle walls is a large area of unfinished dwellings. These were planned for Edward Stafford's "guards" . They are so extensive that it was widely thought he was raising a mercenary army to rebel against Henry VIII because he felt he had a better claim to the throne than Henry Tudor

Adrienne Dillard0:16

That's a good point Ceri! I hadn't thought about that.

Lorna Wanstall0:17

After H8 knew that Buckingham was a braggard and bombastic and seem to manage to keep him under control

Ceri Creffield0:17

Hadn't Henry VII brought in laws forbidding private armies?

Sandra Vasoli0:17

Ceri - I bet there was jealousy! As an aside - I actually thought the depiction of Buckingham in The

Tudors on Showtime was pretty powerful.

Adrienne Dillard0:18

I thought it was kind of funny that the actor portraying Buckingham looked more like Henry than the actor actually playing Henry, LOL.

Michelle Nasello0:19

@Adrienne Dillard: so true

Ceri Creffield0:19

Yes Sandra - and he looked more like Henry than Henry did in that series!

Sandra Vasoli0:19

Ceri - yes of course there were strict laws against that. And Thornbury's unique stamp is that its walls are crenellated - embattlements - this was a status symbol. If you could get royal approval to build those, you were a hotshot amongst the noble set.

Lorna Wanstall0:19

How do you think Buckingham felt about his father going against Richard 3rd

Sandra Vasoli0:19

Yes what was that actor's name? He was good! And he was a good Henry look alike

Sandra Vasoli0:20

Lorna - good word about Stafford! BOMBASTIC!

Sandra Vasoli0:20

It was well known that his servants disliked him intensely

Sandra Vasoli0:21

Has anyone online been there? To Thornbury?

Sharon Conrad0:21

Actor was Steve Waddington.

Claire Ridgway0:21

Steven Waddington was the actor.

Lorna Wanstall0:21

Steven Waddington, played Buckingham in the Tudors

Sandra Vasoli0:21

oh yes Steve Waddington. He was good Memorable

Claire Ridgway0:21

I liked him in Waterloo Road too.

Ceri Creffield0:21

I'm going to be staying there at the end of Feb, Sandra. Can't wait!

Adrienne Dillard0:21

Sandi - what was your favorite part of your visit to Thornbury?

Claire Ridgway0:21

I've never made it to Thornbury even though we used to live in Gloucestershire. I really want to visit though.

ADMIN Tim0:22

Ceri - take lots of photos and write a piece for Tudor Life?

Anthony Hillman0:22

I went to thornbury castle before xmas Sandra and it was fantastic.... not so much for my credit card though hahaha

Claire Ridgway0:22

Oh yes please Ceri!

Ceri Creffield0:22

Ok Tim , happy to do that.

Sandra Vasoli0:22

OMG! Good for you Ceri - it's hard to describe how mystical a place it is. I think because it's not so highly polished... you can just see a lot of what was there in Anne and Henry's day.

Ceri Creffield0:23

It's just for one night but I think it will be very special.

Sandra Vasoli0:23

Tim and Claire - you guys have to go. It was for sale, but I have heard that the conglomerate which owns it and other hotels have decided to keep it!

Claire Ridgway0:23

We really must.

Lorna Wanstall0:24

I feel that the straw that broke the camels back, when it came to buckingham and H8 was the supposed incident between H8 and Buckingham's sister

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:24

Oh yes, I do remember that, Lorna.

Claire Ridgway0:25

Do you think that Buckingham was actually considering doing something about his claim?

Sandra Vasoli0:25

There is a dungeon there. Gotta visit that. But in the restaurant, toward the eastern end of the building, is the room that Anne stayed in. It was the Duchesses' chambers. Of course this was after the castle was owned by Henry - once Stafford was dead.

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:26

Ooh a dungeon!

Michelle Nasello0:26

Love dungeons

Ceri Creffield0:26

I'll make sure we get to see that.

Anthony Hillman0:27

Which room did you stay in Sandra? I was in the Audley room

Lorna Wanstall0:27

Mary Boleyn's second Husband was a Stafford was he related to Buckingham?

Sandra Vasoli0:27

yes and you can have dinner there! Did you hear the story of the original dungeon? The original owner of the property was a saxon named Brictric. He was the object of desire of Matilda of Flanders....

Michelle Nasello0:27

It's on my list for my next visit to England

Claire Ridgway0:28

@Lorna, distantly related.

Lorna Wanstall0:28

Sandra have you heard the story of how William the bastard made Matilda his wife.

Sandra Vasoli0:28

He rebuffed her. Later, she married... WILLIAM THE CONQUEROR. So let's just say that Brictric was screwed. They - Matilda and William - took ownership of the Castle and lands, and threw Brictric in the dungeon. Where he died. Lovers' revenge at its best.

Michelle Nasello0:29

@Sandra Vasoli: wicked

Anne Clinard Barnhill0:30

If only the walls could talk!

Lorna Wanstall0:30

Thank you Claire..

Sandra Vasoli0:30

Anthony - my husband and I stayed in the Duke's bedchamber. And we had a really really strange experience.... ghostly.

Ceri Creffield0:31

Did you specifically ask for the Duke's bedchamber Sandra or was that just luck?

Anthony Hillman0:31

Oh my goodness! Spooky! :o

Lorna Wanstall0:32

My brother once stayed in a room in the Tower where Anne Boleyn was once lodged, he said that was spooky

ADMIN Tim0:33

Sandra is just having a minor technical issue and will be back in a moment.

Lorna Wanstall0:33

ok

Anthony Hillman0:33

Was this at Thornbury Lorna?

Lorna Wanstall0:33

No in the tower of London

Sandra Vasoli0:34

sorry guys - I had some tech difficulties there for a minute. now back

Claire Ridgway0:34

Anne's lodgings at the Tower were demolished, although they did used to say that she was lodged in the Queen's House but that was built after her death so not true.

Sandra Vasoli0:35

we booked the Dukes Chamber. It is where Henry stayed when he and Anne came in Sept of 1535.

She had the suite below. They are connected by a spiral staircase

Ceri Creffield0:35

Wonderful.

Lorna Wanstall0:36

Sandra You need to tell your computer/phone to behave itself or you will reprogramme it with an axe. When Aragonor Buehilda play up I threaten them with an axe and they behave

Anthony Hillman0:36

Yes that room was the one I thought you was referring to Lorna with your brother, my bad haha

Michelle Nasello0:36

That must have been sweet.

Lorna Wanstall0:37

Yes all 3 of my computers have names. weird

Ceri Creffield0:37

I will be in one of the "deluxe bedchambers", as they call the old castle bedrooms but I don't know which one yet.

Sandra Vasoli0:37

The second night we were there we were awakened at about 3 am by a booming crash. Hugely loud. sounded as if it came from the fireplace. That same crashing cannon like sound happened 3 more times over the next two hours. It freaked me out

Ceri Creffield0:38

Did you manage to sleep at all after that?

Anthony Hillman0:38

Oh my gosh..... REFUND please!!!! Haha

Lorna Wanstall0:38

It's sad to think that so many of the buildings the Tudors once stayed in in the tower are gone.

Lorna Wanstall0:39

What happened to the rest of Buckingham's family after his execution

Sandra Vasoli0:39

No one in reception the next day could explain it. Plus ... my husband's camera went on some weird blitz - and all the Thornbury photos were erased. The camera store had no idea how or why. The camera is fine today. I only had the photos I took with my iPhone.

Michelle Nasello0:40

Oooooooooo I love me a good ghost story

Sandra Vasoli0:40

NO! I couldn't sleep! That room has a wardrobe in it. Henry used it! Haaa - and the windows he and Anne looked out are right near the bed.

Lorna Wanstall0:42

Crikey Sandra the wardrobe must have been big then.. Did they grease the walls so H8 could manage to get his big bum in? LOL

Michelle Nasello0:42

@Sandra Vasoli: eek so sweet, I have got to go there.

Ceri Creffield0:42

There can't be many rooms like that which he used and which people can stay in.

Sandra Vasoli0:42

Also, the mounting block that Anne used to mount her horses is still in the courtyard... the fields where they hunted are pristine and untouched... it's very very evocative

Claire Ridgway0:42

Perfect inspiration for your writing I bet!

Sandra Vasoli0:42

I am certain that Thornbury is the only place quite like that.

Lorna Wanstall0:43

Claire and mine as well.. Sandra's description has just given me an idea for something

Adrienne Dillard0:43

Isn't it amazing to think Anne's foot touched that?

Sandra Vasoli0:43

So.... Claire.... I really feel that it's possible that Anne conceived her third and final pregnancy in that room. What's your view? Date would have been end of Sept 1535.

Sandra Vasoli0:44

IF the reports by Chapuys are not entirely accurate about the age of the poor fetus that Anne miscarried... and after all - how would he really have that fact?... then it is feasible

Lorna Wanstall0:45

Did Buckingham's family weather the storm of Buckingham's disgrace and death?

Claire Ridgway0:46

It depends how pregnant she actually was when she miscarried. If she was only 15 weeks or so then that would be the end of October for conception, when they were back at Windsor.

Sandra Vasoli0:46

Lorna - sort of. But the castle went to the Crown. Then to the Howards. Actually, Princess Mary - Catherine's daughter - stayed there for a goodly time

Lorna Wanstall0:47

So I suppose they could have been likened to pensioners I think that's the word.

Lorna Wanstall0:50

Do you know there is something that is troubling me about Anne's second pregnancy, just how many months was she when she miscarried. Some schools of thought put it down as a stillborn child and yet in other books it is given the name Henry leading me to think that it may have lived just long enough to be given a name.

Lorna Wanstall0:51

My keyboard is playing up so I am getting a lot of mucking ferds wuddled. Sorry...

Claire Ridgway0:51

The 1534 pregnancy? We just don't know. She was said to have a goodly belly in the July I think but then everything goes quiet and it's not mentioned again. I have seen absolutely no evidence of a baby being named, I don't know where that comes from.

Sandra Vasoli0:51

Ceri - when you go make sure you see the library.

Ceri Creffield0:52

I'll add it to my list.

Anthony Hillman0:52

Oh no I missed that!!!!

Sandra Vasoli0:52

A Facebook friend told me about a very strange occurrence she and her husband had when visiting there

Lorna Wanstall0:53

Thank you Claire..

Sandra Vasoli0:54

They saw a book - an old one - with their last name on the spine. When they pulled it out and opened it, inside the front cover was the inscription "For Carl" That is her husband's name. !!!!

Ceri Creffield0:54

I wonder whether anything spooky will happen to us!

Lorna Wanstall0:54

That weird with a capital WE.

Anthony Hillman0:56

Sadly nothing spooky happened to me when I went.... but it was a real magical experience and like a time machine

Michelle Nasello0:56

@Sandra Vasoli: shut the front door!

Sandra Vasoli0:56

Isn't it though? If you take the history tour they offer, the guide will tell you that lots of stuff happens there. But mostly there is such a sense of Anne and Henry . It's undeniable.

Sandra Vasoli0:57

After the Progress of 1535, Henry never visited Thornbury again. It was actually never finished being built as envisioned by Stafford. So when you look at photos you will see it's lopsided

Lorna Wanstall0:58

That's verystrange cause Buckinham and his family must have had some wild old times there

Sandra Vasoli0:58

Yes Anthony! I got that same feeling

Anthony Hillman0:58

I think the staff should dress like tudors too heehee

ADMIN Tim0:59

Thanks all for coming to tonight's live chat. Thank you Sandra for your time! Congratulations to Julie Lindner-Reid - you've won a copy of one of Sandra's books. I'll be sending you an email to ask which book you would like.

Michelle Nasello0:59

@Anthony Hillman: hehe, that could be fun

Claire Ridgway1:00

Congratulations to Julie.

Adrienne Dillard1:00

Congrats Julie! Thank you Sandi!

Ceri Creffield1:00

Thanks Sandra. Well done Julie.

Claire Ridgway1:00

Thank you so much, Sandi, for coming and answering our questions, it's been a fun chat and it's made me want to go to Thornbury even more.

Sandra Vasoli1:00

Apparently the Howards owned it and then it went into disrepair. Today, the great hall, which is on the upper storey, is a ruin. Apparently it was magnificent. The Society for Historic preservation won't allow it to be restored.

Anthony Hillman1:01

Thank you Sandra 🤗

Sharon Conrad1:01

Thank you, Sandi. Congrats to Julie. Good night all.

Claire Ridgway1:01

We have another live chat on Friday, with Anne Clinard Barnhill, same time as today so do come. Thanks everyone!

Sandra Vasoli1:01

THANK YOU ALL! It was fun - GO THERE! and then come back and tell us your stories! Cause there will be some... 🤔

Michelle Nasello1:01

Congratulations Julie, Sandra's books are wonderful, thank you to Claire, Tim, Sandra and everyone. Night all

Mary Rutherford-Birkey1:01

Thanks Sandra!

Ceri Creffield1:01

Goodnight all.

Claire Ridgway1:01

Night everyone!

Adrienne Dillard1:02

Goodnight!

Sandra Vasoli1:02

Congratulations Julei - hope you enjoy the books - and thank you TUDOR SOCIETY! ❤️

Claire Ridgway1:02

Thank YOU!

Sandra Vasoli1:03

My pleasure, everyone!