

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:48

Good evening RealTudorLady!

[Lauren Browne](#)23:48

Good evening everyone!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:49

Evening Lauren!

How is everyone?

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:49

Good evening Elizabeth!

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)23:49

Hi everyone!

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)23:49

Hi Claire, hope you are well?

[RealTudorLady](#)23:49

Good evening, Lauren and Claire and Elizabeth.

Hello RealTudorLady!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:50

I am, thank you, Elizabeth. A crazy week but catching up with some rest now!

That's good!

[RealTudorLady](#)23:52

I am relaxing before heading off to the Vale of Evesham tomorrow, looking forward to a rest.

I am relaxing before heading off to the Vale of Evesham tomorrow, looking forward to a rest.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:53

Enjoy your time around Evesham!

Thanks

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)23:53

Enjoy!

[RealTudorLady](#)23:53

Thanks

[Lauren Browne](#)23:53

Oh that sounds lovely! Have a great time!

[RealTudorLady](#)23:54

Cheers Lauren

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:54

Hi everyone

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:54

What's the weather like in the UK at the mo?

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:54

Hi Lorna!

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)23:55

Sweltering!

[Lauren Browne](#)23:55

Hi Lorna!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:55

RTL Used to live in Evesham many moons ago

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

Really?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:55

Yes it's been bazing hot here

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

It's hot here, but then that's quite predictable.

[Lauren Browne](#)23:55

Yeah, it's lovely here in Belfast! Quite the change from normal!!! It's supposed to be 28 degrees here next week

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)23:56

Hi Lorna!

[RealTudorLady](#)23:56

Not too bad, getting hotter again. We have had a lot of sunshine, more to come.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:56

We have some very strange weather here. We live on the top of a hill so we have our own little eco climate

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:57

It can pouring down with rain down town, which is a 20 minute walk, but by the time you get up Chalk pit hill it's as dry as a bone

[RealTudorLady](#)23:58

Lovely views from up there. We were up there a few years ago.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:59

I like the views from bluebell hill

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:59

Welcome to tonight's expert live chat. Thank you to Lauren for her wonderful series of talks and for coming tonight. The topic is rivals and mistresses. Feel free to ask Lauren about Jane/Elizabeth Shore, Rosamund Clifford, royal mistresses and/or her research.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:00

Hi everyone! I'm so excited to be back! It's such a pleasure and a rare treat to be able to talk about my research like this

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:00

What exactly happened to Jane Shore once she had done her penance

[RealTudorLady](#)00:01

Hi Lorna, do you believe that Rosamund Clifford was murdered by Eleanor?

[RealTudorLady](#)00:01

I am sorry, I mean Lauren.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:02

It's great to have you back Lauren.. However I have run out of chocolate biscuits Dinosaur ate the last one with his cup of tea

[Lauren Browne](#)00:03

That's a great question Lorna! And quite a difficult one to answer. From records (mostly wills) I have managed to piece together she remarried. Her second husband appears to have been Thomas Lynom who was Richard III's solicitor. Her father's will shows that she, Thomas Lynom and someone called Jullian Lynom (most likely their child) were left some money and household items. He died in the 1490s, however Jane lived until around 1512. We don't know what happened to her after Thomas's death.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:03

Thomas More tells us that after her penance she lived as a beggar on the streets of London, and that she died in abject poverty. However, from the surviving wills this seems quite unlikely

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:05

I'm inclined to think that Jane may have ended her days as a nun or at least in a convent

[Lauren Browne](#)00:05

Also a great question RealTudorLady! It is certain that Eleanor of Aquitaine did not murder Rosamond Clifford. At the time of Rosamond's death, Eleanor was already in captivity by Henry for her involvement in their son's rebellion against him. The first record I have been able to find which states that she murdered Rosamond was written in the mid-fourteenth century

[RealTudorLady](#)00:06

Oh dear Thomas More, not a historian, not as we know it, and didn't her husband write to Richard for permission to marry her?

[Lauren Browne](#)00:06

Oh no Lorna! Sorry to hear about your chocolate biscuits! My boyfriend is usually a biscuit thief too!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:07

Thomas More was a good man of council. but no he certainly wasn't a historian

[Lauren Browne](#)00:07

She could well have ended up as a nun Lorna. That's one of the most frustrating things about this kind of research; having to put your hands up and say "We'll never know"

[Lauren Browne](#)00:08

Yes RealTudorLady, More's history is often quite sketchy! Richard III tried to force Thomas Lynom not to marry Shore, however it seems he was unsuccessful!

[RealTudorLady](#)00:08

Thanks Lauren, I only remember it from the Devils Crown, and novels, but yes, come to think about it by the time Rosamund died Eleanor was a prisoner.

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:08

What did this type of public penance actually involve? It makes me think of Cersei Lannister!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:08

Do you feel that Eleanor Cobham deserved to be tried as a witch

Do you feel that Eleanor Cobham deserved to be tried as a witch

[RealTudorLady](#)00:09

Thanks again.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:09

The legend has been disseminated so well throughout history that the majority of people believe Rosamond's death was at Eleanor's hands. It just shows the impact Tudor authors have had on our own understanding of the past

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:10

Claire I believe she was sentenced to carry a candle bare foot to the church everyday or something like, but I think she may have been whipped as well

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:11

Hi Ceri!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:11

The devils crown is a good series RTL

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:12

Hi Claire and everyone.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:12

Witchcraft is so hard to approach from a modern point of view, and that makes denunciations and trials such as Eleanor Cobham's so hard to really understand. There were a lot of things at play.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:12

It's also incredibly gendered, which is interesting to study but hard as a modern woman not to get angry at haha

[RealTudorLady](#)00:13

I don't think she walked naked, Claire, but you generally carried a candle to a cross in a smock and you might have been whipped and you had to look penitent. Although people did heckle you, in the case of Jane Shore we are told most people felt pity for her. Henry ii did public penance by walking through the streets and then being birched.

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:13

Ha! No, I didn't think so!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:13

Oh sorry Claire, I totally missed your question there!!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:14

One thing that really bugs me when it comes to mistresses, is that the history books always seem to state that Anne B was the first commoner to turn from mistress to queen. That in my opinion isn't true, because Elizabeth Woodville did the same thing and before Anne.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:15

I think it would have been less graphic than Cersei's! But yes, when I watched that episode of Game of Thrones it really reminded me of Jane. She was forced to walk in her underclothes, barefoot, carrying a taper and accompanied by several members of the clergy

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:15

So complete humiliation was the aim?

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)00:15

That's true, Lorna, also maybe one of the reasons E of W was unpopular!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:16

Yes, absolutely Claire. However More tells us that more people pitied her, or delighted to see her in such a state of undress. Of course, we have to take that with a pinch of salt haha

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:16

Lauren, even though fictional plays have Elizabeth Woodville and Jane Shore actually meeting, is there any record of them doing so? I wonder how Elizabeth really felt about Jane?

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:16

Edward IV was single though, unless you believe the precontract.

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:17

So E of W wasn't really a mistress, was she?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:17

One of the most interesting cases of witchcraft and mistresses is one of the mistress of the sun king. She really did do an awful lot of stuff to try and keep the king faithful to her and perhaps even try to influence to get her children by him named as heirs

[RealTudorLady](#)00:17

I believe Eleanor Cobham only wanted to make her husband fertile but it was treason to make spells and predict the King's death so as a woman they blamed her and only her status saved her life. The poor potion woman was burnt and Eleanor spent her life locked up.

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:17

Walking barefoot through the streets of London must have been disgusting when you think of all the horses and other animals in the city.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:18

Hi Laurie, that's a great question! We don't have any records from Jane's time as royal mistress, unsurprisingly they were all destroyed. It's hard to say with absolute certainty what their relationship was like, if they had one at all. Although, I can't imagine it was easy for any queen-consort to know that her husband was being unfaithful to her!

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:18

Hi Laurie!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:18

Ceri Henry 2nd walked through the streets of Canterbury as a penance for Thomas Becket's murder

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:19

Thanks Lauren! Hi Claire!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:19

That's so true Ceri! Something I haven't actually considered before, it must have been absolutely disgusting!

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:20

Were medieval kings just expected to have mistresses?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:20

He was also whipped by the monks, roughly 5 times by each monk, so not only were his feet torn to pieces his back was too

[RealTudorLady00:21](#)

Elizabeth Woodville didn't replace an actual recognised Queen, so in that sense Anne was the first to achieve this.

[Lauren Browne00:21](#)

It's that horrible double standard, Claire. I'm not sure if expected is the right word, but it certainly was seen as quite normal. The queen was, of course, absolutely forbidden to have a sexual relationship outside of her marriage because it could threaten the succession and taint the royal line

[Lorna Wanstall00:21](#)

Claire I believe it was usual as a man has his needs so they believed back then. when his wife was pregnant. There were a few kings that stayed faithful to their wives through

[Lauren Browne00:22](#)

Yes Lorna, there are a few instances where the king appeared to have been totally faithful. Henry VII is a good example of this.

[Claire Ridgway00:22](#)

It just seems so weird to on the one hand expect it but then have a woman do penance for it.

[Lorna Wanstall00:22](#)

H7 did, and so did H8 for the first years of his marriage to COA

[Laurie Duerr00:23](#)

But despite Jane's role as E4's mistress, him and E of W were still said to have had an overall happy marriage, yes? So Eliz may have just accepted E4's behavior then as "normal" for a king?

[Lauren Browne00:23](#)

Edward I is another medieval example

[Ceri Creffield00:23](#)

I don't think the queens had much choice but to accept it.

[Claire Ridgway00:24](#)

I was intrigued by your mention of male paramours with regards to your PhD, Lauren.

[Lauren Browne00:24](#)

Yes Laurie, they appear to have had quite a good relationship for the time. It's so hard to say. Although I can't help but think that human nature might have made her a bit jealous haha

[Lorna Wanstall00:24](#)

Edward 3rd did all the while Phillipa was alive too. He only took a mistress in his autumn years a woman named Alice Perrers

[Lauren Browne00:24](#)

I'm so glad you brought this up Claire! I've literally just started researching for this chapter and I'm very excited about it!

[Laurie Duerr00:25](#)

Yes that would certainly be a reasonable reaction from her!

[RealTudorLady00:25](#)

I think Madam de Montesphan, sorry about spelling was lucky not to get herself executed after the affair of the Poisons, as so many nobles were involved and punishment was across them and many poisoners and women who practised weird stuff with potions.

[Claire Ridgway00:25](#)

It sounds fascinating, Lauren!

[Lorna Wanstall00:25](#)

That's the one RTL

[Lauren Browne00:25](#)

You're right Lorna, and I tried to include her in my thesis, however she's not really mentioned in Tudor literature so there wasn't much to include

[Claire Ridgway00:25](#)

Can you share any info or is it all underwraps?

[Lauren Browne00:27](#)

Hahaha I'm happy to share Claire, although it's still very early days. At the moment, I'm examining

the attitudes toward male friendship, versus concerns about sodomy in the Tudor period. The two main sources I've managed to find are Christopher Marlowe's Edward II and Michael Drayton's poem Piers Gaveston.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:27

Henry 3rd was fond of his little sweeties, it's believed he may have been bi sexual he certainly seemed to have a flamboyant dress sense and actually liked dressing in female clothes.

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:27

Sounds very interesting.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:28

Henry 3rd of France this is

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:28

Thank you, Lauren!

[RealTudorLady](#)00:28

I think Claire wants to watch the mini series when it comes out, Lauren ha!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:28

I had to get a stack of books from the library the other day and most of them contained sodomy in the title.... it proved a little awkward when I was checking them out with the librarian haha

[Lauren Browne](#)00:29

Hahaha here's hoping RealTudorLady! My parents and my boyfriend keep joking that Lucy Worsley needs to watch her back because I'm after her job haha

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:29

Do you believe that there was a sexual relationship between Piers Gaveston and E2

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:30

Ooooooh, yes, a mini-series on these mistresses and also the male lovers would be excellent!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:30

and also between E2 and the younger De spencer

[Lauren Browne](#)00:30

It's so incredibly hard to come down on either side Lorna, us academics love a bit of fence sitting from time to time. The historiography is really split on whether or not they were lovers or had entered into more of a blood-brother bond.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:31

I certainly think that Isabella thought so. The manner of the death of the younger de spencer was certainly not pleasant

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:32

Revenge for her humiliation!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:32

The thing that interests me most about them is how their relationship (sexual or fraternal) is represented after they died. It's certainly represented as a sexual relationship in the Tudor period and indeed before it. So at the moment I'm examining what that meant for their reputations, how it fed into contemporary Tudor concerns about sodomy and the role/ power royal favourites could play at court

[RealTudorLady](#)00:32

I can't get an image of the male paramours in elaborate dresses out of my head like Philippe brother of Louis xiv and Lorraine in the first episode of Versailles.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:32

I believe that Piers and Edward were incredibly close, they had a bond similar to that of Elizabeth 1 and Dudley

[Lauren Browne](#)00:34

Hahaha I would love a mini series eventually! Just need to get the PhD finished now! That's quite an image RealTudorLady! I think I'll have that in my head when I'm doing my research now too! It took me a full day to work out what to call men who may have had an adulterous relationship with kings, male mistresses obviously doesn't cut it haha. So I finally settled on paramours

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:35

How obvious or discreet were kings with their mistresses or lovers?

[Lauren Browne](#)00:35

Yes Lorna, that's exactly what I'm hoping to explore.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:35

Rumour has it locally this is in my home town, that Edward was made to watch hugh de spencers brutal end from the hill above the market square. and that he howled heartbrokenly when he watched his freind been cast down into the flames.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:37

It's quite hard to say Claire, I think it depended on the king at the time and the other circumstances surrounding their relationship. It appears that Henry II certainly wasn't discreet about his relationship with Rosamond, as she is mentioned quite a lot in contemporary chronicles. He could quite openly flaunt it however because Eleanor was in his captivity

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:37

Its funny that we mostly focus on E4 or H8 as having mistresses, but others like R3 did too!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:38

If I have remembereed it properly the Sun King very rarely washed and neither did his mistresses. One day the sun king passed a remark to one of his woman about her manners and she replied "Well at least I don't stink to high heaven"

[Lauren Browne](#)00:38

Oh gosh Lorna, that's such a horrible scene! It certainly was a brutal time

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:38

I think that hanging, drawing and quaertering was a new punishment back then - it hadn't been used very often - and it ushered in a new level of cruelty.

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)00:38

Who was R3's mistress?

[RealTudorLady](#)00:39

The death of de spenser and gavison was terrible. I can understand Isabella wanting them out of her marriage and I understand her anger but the death of hugh despenser in particular was cruel and brutal all the same.

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:39

Weren't R3's mistresses all before his marriage?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:40

I think isabella was venting all her rage and malice on the people she believed had caused her misery.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:40

It's such a horrific way to go Ceri! I've recently come across an execution method used in (I think) the Holy Roman Empire. It was literally just called 'being put in the sea', and from what I can gather it was a bit of a 'walk the plank' situation

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:40

That might be keelhauling Lauren that wasn't nice either

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:41

Yes true, they may have been before he was king!

[RealTudorLady](#)00:41

Laurie do you mean the girlfriends R3 had in his youth rather than as King. He doesn't appear to have been unfaithful to Anne Neville but had two illegitimate children when he was about eighteen.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:41

Yes Ceri, if I remember correctly Richard III had two illegitimate children before his marriage, but there isn't any evidence to suggest he was unfaithful after he married Anne.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:42

The roman's had some very barbaric methods of tourture and all manner of ways to kill a person

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:42

Thanks for the correction!! 😊

[Lauren Browne](#)00:42

We had to a class on medieval torture and execution when I was doing my MA and I had a stomach bug that day... I left feeling very queasy indeed!!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:43

If I have remembered it right it's believed that one of R3 children became a bricklayer and many people thought it strange that a brickie could speak Latin

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:43

What was the effect on a woman's reputation after she'd been a king's mistress?

[RealTudorLady](#)00:45

I shared a bus for two hours with someone studying torture and he told me every detail of every method going. I hate to admit it but I was fascinated.

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)00:46

Mary Boleyn went on to have successful marriages?

[Lauren Browne](#)00:46

Great question Claire! It's a bit of mixed bag to be honest. On the one hand, they were a fallen woman, and her position could have been quite public at the time, so her status could be very well known. On the other, she certainly had power and influence during her time as mistress. Some went on to make quite successful marriages and lived in relative obscurity. The danger, as we have seen with Jane, is if her protector dies while she is still mistress and in her prime. Then, her fate could be less than fortunate

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:46

Thank you!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:47

RTL the manner of torture was very complex and calculated the idea was to keep the victim in agony and make sure they didn't die until they had given up their secrets

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:48

The emperor Caligula was a master at the art of torture, although that not to say there haven't been other just as sadistic and brutal torturers

[Lauren Browne](#)00:48

It is strangely fascinating! Although I study tomb and funeral effigies a lot, so I guess I'm just usually interested in the macabre haha

[RealTudorLady](#)00:49

I would imagine most people gave them up long before the harshest instruments were used.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:49

I believe Caligula coined the phrase "Make them feel like dying."

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:49

And then there is the case of Bessie B, where she had a son that he acknowledged!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:50

Quite a lot of aspects of medieval and early modern society are so alien to us today. It's one of the main reasons I have specialised as a medievalist, because it's so different and fascinating

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:50

There was a set pattern to torture as well tell them what you will , then show them the instruments if that failed to make them roll over use the instruments.. going from the gentler to the harsher tortures as required

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:51

Thank you for mentioning the English Broadside Ballad Archive. I need to get digging on that site. It looks fascinating. Thanks Lauren!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:52

Do you believe that if Fitzroy had of lived H8 would have named him in the line of succession in 1544



[RealTudorLady](#)00:52

Yes, Laurie and Henry finally discovered he could have a son who went on to be brought up as if he was a Prince, almost got named as heir and legitimized and then died aged 17.

[Lauren Browne](#)00:52

Oh Claire, it's an absolutely amazing resource! I use it almost every day and there are several different ways to view the ballads, which is great if they have been damaged.

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:53

I'd never come across it before.

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:53

Yes! It shows how much influence and affect that a mistress could possibly have!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:54

My supervisor is currently finishing a research project on the top 100 ballads of the 17th century, and he's got musicians to record them! They will be put onto an online archive soon with commentary from several different historians (including me!), so i'll have to let you all know when the project is finished

[Lauren Browne](#)00:54

Yes, absolutely RTL and Laurie!

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:54

Sounds fascinating.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:54

If a king cast his eye on a woman and made it known he wanted her as a mistress could she refuse

[RealTudorLady](#)00:54

Wow, that sounds wonderful, Lauren.

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:55

That does sound amazing!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:55

Great question Lorna! It's hard to say because of the lack of sources, but I do believe that happened. One of the top ballads which I've just mentioned is about this exact thing happening!

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)00:55

Didn't Katherine Parr ask if she could be Henry 8th mistress not wife?

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:56

Were the mistresses in France, of Francis I for example, viewed the same way as in England?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:56

I believe it did happen once in C2 reign,

[Lauren Browne](#)00:57

That's such an interesting question Laurie, and it's something I don't know an awful lot about. I would love to write a journal article or expand a comparison further when I've finished my PhD, because it would be really fascinating

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:57

They had the post of Maitresse En Titre in France didn't they?

[RealTudorLady](#)00:57

Louis xiv married one in secret after his wife died and she had refused him sex and she was very pious.

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:58

Thanks Lauren!

[Lauren Browne](#)00:58

Yes, I believe it was Agnes Sorel who made that the official title?

[Ceri Creffield](#)00:58

Frances Howard refused C2 didn't she?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)00:59

Laurie Henry 2 France had a mistress called Diana de Portiers, she was much older than him but she

was with him right to the end of his life. Catherine De Medici had her tossed out of the palace before H2 was cold

[Claire Ridgway](#)00:59

We're just coming up to the hour. Thank you so much to you all for joining us and a special big thank you to Lauren for being our expert speaker and doing this chat. It's been a fun hour. Our July speaker is Matthew Lewis on the Princes in the Tower and our informal chat topic is Thomas Cromwell.

[Laurie Duerr](#)00:59

Good example, thanks Lorna!

[RealTudorLady](#)01:00

Yes, Frances Howard refused and got married and she was banished from Court.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)01:00

Yes Ceri she did, but I believe Barbara Castlemaine was instrumental in wanted rid of Frances as Barbara saw her as a rival

[Laurie Duerr](#)01:01

Thank you Lauren and Claire!!

[Lauren Browne](#)01:01

Thanks so much everyone for joining in tonight, as ever it's a pleasure to talk you! It really is so much fun to bounce ideas around and it really helps me with my work, so thank you all!

[Ceri Creffield](#)01:01

I think there's more than enough for a mini-series here.

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:01

Good night everyone! It's been so much fun!

[Lauren Browne](#)01:01

Hahaha I'll get working on the pitch Ceri!

[Elizabeth Goodman](#)01:02

Goodnight everyone and thank you!

[Ceri Creffield](#)01:02

Good Night everyone and thanks Lauren.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)01:02

yes it's time I crawled upstairs to bed. It's seems a little cooler tonight so I might be able to get some sleep, as long as the numbskuls outside shut up

[RealTudorLady](#)01:02

Thanks Lauren and good luck with your PhD

[Claire Ridgway](#)01:02

Night! See you all soon!

[Lauren Browne](#)01:02

Thank you so much RTL, I'll keep you all updated!