

Hi - thank you for coming to tonight's chat with Claire Ridgway. Claire's talk was on Catherine Howard and the 1541 interrogations. We'll be chatting about Catherine Howard so please feel free to ask any questions or put any thoughts you may have.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

Hi Laurie!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

Be kind to me lol!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

By the way, Gareth is joining us next Saturday night (8th) for a live chat on Catherine too!

[Laurie Duerr](#)23:56

Claire I admit I'm very excited for your "Countdown" book about Catherine. What a great way it is to explain all of the details!

[RealTudorLady](#)23:56

Hi Tim, many thanks, same here, glad you are both fine. Cheers Claire, lol, I am certain it will. Hi Lorna and Laurie, cheers for that.

[Laurie Duerr](#)23:56

Hi RealTudorLady and Lorna!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:56

I have often wonder what John Lasseles and more to the point Mary Lasselles thought they would gain by their information about Catherine Howard

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:57

I hope you all enjoyed my talk.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:57

Hi Laurie

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:57

I don't think it was gain on Mary's part. Her brother was telling her that she should petition the queen to work for her, and she needed to tell him why she didn't want to.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:58

She felt that she did not want to be connected to someone with loose morals.

[RealTudorLady](#)23:58

I heard your talk a couple of weeks ago and you mentioned a name of another man I can't quite recall, Robert something I think. How was he involved with Katherine and what happened to him?

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:58

Of course, it is difficult to know John's motivation.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:58

Whether he simply felt that he had to pass on the information or whether he felt he could gain by it.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:00

There were two Roberts, I think. Robert Barnes who taught Catherine music with Henry Manox, and then Robert Dampont (Davenport) who was a friend of Dereham. He, like other members of the Dowager Duchess's household was a witness to what went on and also a confidant of Dereham.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:01

Dampont was tortured for information.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:01

Davenport I believe had all his teeth pulled out in an attempt to find out what exactly Dereham and Katherine got up to

[RealTudorLady](#)0:02

John Lassels didn't have to go tittle tattle to Cranmer though and once the poor Archbishop knew he was bound by law really to inform the COUNCIL at least and the King because if he knew and Henry found out anyway, oops big trouble.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:02

Yes, it is said that his teeth were pulled 1 by 1.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:02

Yes, RTL, keeping that kind of information secret could have been seen as misprision of treason.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:03

It beggars belief the torture methods that were used in those days

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:03

I don't envy Cranmer at all!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:03

Lorna, yes, awful.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:03

Hi Ceri!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:03

Yes, loyalty to the appropriate person or side (or at least the appearance of loyalty) was such an important consideration in those days..

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:04

And the pulling of someones teeth would have been seen as one of the gentlier tortures as well

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:04

Yes, definitely, Laurie.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:05

Lorna, it makes me go all goose pimply thinking of having my teeth pulled. So awful, but, yes, I expect there were worse things.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:05

I find it interesting that most people have only heard of Catherine, Culpeper and Dereham, and perhaps Manox, yet there were so many people that suffered in 1541 and 42.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:05

Davenport, that's it! Torture was rarely used and there is always debate about on whom it was used but in this case yes, I believe something was done to Davenport and Dereham, maybe not the rack, but imagine the pain of having your teeth pulled out.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:06

Yes, RTL, it was said that both of them were tortured. Poor Dereham, Culpeper got off lightly compared to him. Although obviously being beheaded is terrible.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:06

Hi Claire and everyone.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:07

Hi Ceri.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:07

Claire, do you think that H8's and Catherine's royal progress in 1541 was a specific instigator in the "information" about Catherine coming out?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:07

I do believe that when Henry was married to Catherine Howard, Cranmer influence with the king was at a low and I suppose the information given to him by John was a real trump card that he had play if he was ever to regain the King's confidence,. Even though he would know it would break henry's heart

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:08

Laurie, I think Mary Hall was the main reason for it coming out, the Culpeper issue came out as a result of the interrogations, but I do think that eventually that would have come out. Too many people knew.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:08

My two months old neighbour Grace wants to join in.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:08

Do you think Cranmer was that self-serving?

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:08

Ok, makes sense, thanks

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:09

I think Catherine had been reckless on the progress, for example, the king's servant finding her door locked when it shouldn't have been.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:09

Was Culpepper tortured or just threatened with it if he didn't tell the truth or his interpretation of the truth

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:09

Ceri, personally, I don't. I think he must have been incredibly worried about passing that information on. He definitely drew the short straw.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:10

Lorna, there's nothing in the sources to suggest that Culpeper was tortured. I think his position and status saved him, as it did from the full traitor's death.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:10

I certainly feel that Catherine had and showed poor judgement, but then she was only young

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:10

RTL, aw, two months? How sweet!

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:10

Yes Claire, that is how I would see Cranmer's role too.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:11

Just my opinion, though, Ceri.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:11

it was like being the one who had the Monteaagle letter in regards to the Gunpowder plot!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:12

I feel that the Duchess should bear some responsibility for how Catherine acted.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:12

Lorna, yes, at times I truly want to shake Catherine when I'm researching her. She may have been young, but she surely knew that it wasn't the right thing to have secret assignments with another man.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:12

I don't think Culpeper was tortured. He was interrogated rather roughly though and over and over again. To be honest it was to get names but Culpeper seems to have boasted about calling on the Queen. Hi Claire, yes, she's adorable.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:13

There is such an inevitability about Catherine's fate.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:13

This is why I said the duchess should have bore some responsibility as she should have seen that she was being led astray by the people who were supposed to keep her chaste

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:13

Lorna, I think it's a shame that the Howards weren't able to step in when the king noticed Catherine and have her removed from court. I think the Dowager Duchess probably did her best to keep her household on the straight and narrow, but when you have young people intent on seeing each other, stealing the keys etc....

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:14

Ceri, yes, there is, hers is such a sad story. I think she just wanted love and attention.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:15

RTL, I think Culpeper had youthful arrogance by the bucketload!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:15

The howards were ambitious and had suffered from Anne's downfall I think they were perfectly happy to allow the situation to continue with Henry.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:16

I don't know. I do wonder if they panicked when they found out about the king's interest.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:17

Catherine was foolish and rash, but she certainly didn't deserve death, but by the time Henry found out about her past, his mind set was one of "If I can't have her no one else will either" A very petty minded attitude in my opinion

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:17

I almost (almost!) feel sorry for Henry when I read about how he seemed to have got his youth back after falling for Catherine, only for it all to come crashing down on him.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:17

Kathryn was not a ninny but she was a very foolish young woman. Come on, your cousin was Queen and had her head chopped off, the King is on wife no five, having buried three others, dumped your predecessor and you want to cheat on him? Even if she didn't have sex with Culpeper, she played a dangerous game. And Culpeper, definitely a cad as was Dereham.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:18

Lorna, no, she didn't deserve that, none of them did, and the poor Dowager Duchess and others in the Tower wondering if they would end up on the scaffold too.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:18

RTL, yes, very foolish.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:19

Lucy Wortley believes that Catherine was manipulated by Dereham and Culpeper, and comes under the heading of an abused child

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:20

I do wonder if Culpeper and Catherine believed that the king was on his way out. He was very ill on a couple of occasions while he was married to Catherine, and I think they were perhaps biding their time. They could marry once the king was gone.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:20

Lorna, yes, Retha Warnicke and Conor Byrne believe the abuse theory too. I don't.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:21

But did Culpeper really like Catherine seriously? Or just saw her as a game, since she was the queen, etc.?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:21

No I can't say that saying Catherine was an abused Child quite rings true with me

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:22

Manox was probably just a bit older than her, and Barnes was present during their lessons, their romance was carried out outside of lessons and was a romance. With Dereham, it was a full sexual relationship witnessed by the girls Catherine shared a bed with, and they called each other husband and wife, and there's no evidence that Culpeper manipulated Catherine. I think they fancied each other.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:22

There were that many people arrested that they didn't have room for them all. Hi Lorna, I think that

she was groomed by MannoX but had a proper relationship with Francis Dereham, although we can't call it child abuse. She certainly wasn't a child when she flirted with Culpeper.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:22

I think she was well aware that she was playing a very dangerous game, but perhaps she liked the thrill of the chase so to speak

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:23

Laurie, I think a bit of both. I think she was pretty and he'd had a romance with her before she married the king, and then he might have thought that he could have a pretty wife and benefit from her being queen dowager.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:24

Yes RTL I'm inclined to believe that MannoX took advantage of her.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:24

Makes sense, Claire. I guess I just tend to think of them as immature youths, not serious about actual marriage yet

[RealTudorLady](#)0:24

Karen Lindsey thinks she had sex because she enjoyed it with Culpeper and Dereham, but then her theories are based on Postmodern feminist ideas.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:25

I don't believe that she and Culpepper had sex.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:26

The idea that Manox abused her in any way is not supported by the evidence of others, in my opinion. They met secretly and were caught embracing, kissing. He of course boasted about knowing a part of her he shouldn't have. Catherine deemed him as not high enough status for her, as did other members of the household. It was bit of a fling with a servant really.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:26

Culpepper may have wanted to, but she had enough sence to know what would happen if she had

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:26

Laurie, Dereham seems to have been more serious about marriage than Catherine.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:27

If I have remembered it rightly, that when Dereham left for ireland he left a large sum of Money in Katherines keeping

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:27

Jane Boleyn believed that Catherine and Culpeper had done the deed, but they denied it, although they said they did intend to in the future. That is something they really shouldn't have confessed!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:28

So what was Catherine's real motivation in marrying Henry? to have more attention and nice material things as queen?

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:28

Catherine often seems very disingenuous in what she said and di,

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:28

did

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:28

Lorna, yes, he did. He assumed they would marry when they got back. I think there is a case for Catherine being seen as a bigamist, as they called each other husband and wife, and they consummated their relationship. An exchange of promises and consummation was all that was needed by law, not even witnesses.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:29

I think even if Culpepper hadn't have said it, the fact he was in her rooms when he really shouldn't have been would have been enough to doubt his actions

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:29

Ceri, yes, definitely.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:30

Lorna, yes, why else would a man and woman meet secretly in places like a privy at night? Even if they were just chatting and kissing, it was intimate.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:30

If all the trouble with Culpepper had not come out, do you think Henry would have annulled his marriage to her and let her live in exile with Dereham

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:31

When you research the interrogations, you get a sense of the rising panic. Catherine changed her story as she realised that she might be in big trouble.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:31

I'm always intrigued by Jane Rochford's role in their meetings. She should have know she was playing with fire. What was her motivation and intention, do you think?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:31

Lorna, I can't see Henry VIII letting that lie.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:32

Lorna, you are probably right, they may not have gone that far as yet, but they both wanted to and that is what condemned them. They may well have been companions but I believe they did more than hold hands. I also believe that if Kathryn wasn't Queen she might have sought a relationship with Culpeper. I don't believe she let Dereham near her after she became Queen and he had come to claim her, but she obviously didn't take him seriously. Let's face it, she was Queen and pampered, so why would she want an ex lover for? She had moved on, Dereham hadn't. What a triangle.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:33

Ceri, my own personal opinion is that Jane Boleyn got herself in a complete mess. I think she helped them once and then that was enough to be misprision of treason so she might as well help

again. I think she got in very deep, very quickly. I talked to Julia Fox about it and she raised the point that Jane really didn't have anyone to turn to. She'd gone to Cromwell in the past for advice, but he was gone.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:33

Yes it was certainly a mess for sure when Dereham came back.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:33

RTL, it was definitely an unwise move to hire Dereham.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:34

Very good point Claire, about Jane. She is certainly a tragedy in all of this too..

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:34

He just couldn't keep his mouth shut, he was a bit of a show-off.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:34

Laurie, yes, I do believe that her breakdown was genuine.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:34

Catherine seems to have liked men like that - boastful and arrogant.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:35

Yes!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:35

Why did Dereham ask for a place in her household he must have known that it would avail him nothing, she had moved on and forgotten him

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:35

We all have a type!

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:35

Was Jane's father dead by this time? Did she have no family on the Parker side?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:36

Poor Jane B she really was made the scapegoat in this sorry mess

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:36

Lorna, I think he was put forward by the Dowager Duchess and I expect he felt that it was a good career move, a royal appointment, close to the king and queen, and royal servants got rewarded nicely.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:37

Ceri, I think he lived into the 1550s.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:37

Yes, she still had family but I'm not sure how close and I'm not sure they could have helped with her situation.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:37

The dowager Duchess must have known the trouble Dereham's appointment at court would cause.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:38

I believe Jane had helped Kathryn when she commanded her and then had no choice afterwards. She knew too much and Kathryn could make threats when she needed to. Jane didn't have Cromwell, probably didn't trust Cramner and felt obliged to help the young Queen as a chaperone.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:38

Lorna, yes, I think in their panic Catherine and Culpeper both blamed Jane. When I read their claims it makes me think of little children being caught being naughty and passing the blame on, pointing at someone else.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:39

RTL, yes, that's what I think too.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:39

I think that Jane tried to act the voice of reason, having seen with her own eyes the courtly intrigues of previous queens she would have known Catherine's actions were dangerous.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:40

I do often wonder if Jane tried to reason with Catherine at any time.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:40

I suspect Catherine must have been very strong-willed. She often seems to have go her own way.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:40

got her own way

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:40

I think she was torn between trying to talk some reason into Catherine, and being a loyal servant to her

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:40

Catherine probably viewed Jane as a bit of a nagging fuddy duddy and like most young teenagers though that nothing would happen

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:41

I was just wondering what Catherine was really like. Whether she just wouldn't listen and expected Jane to just do her bidding, after all, she was queen and Jane was just a servant.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:42

Lorna, yes, perhaps that arrogance of youth, believing that she was immortal and untouchable, that everything would be fine.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:42

I can imagine Kathryn having a hissy fit if Jane said no.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:42

Katherine was capable of great acts of kindness, I believe she sent a fur lined gown and some money to Margaret Pole in the winter of 1540

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:42

Lorna, Gareth Russell challenges the idea that she sent those to Margaret Pole.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:43

But Catherine should have known the role of a servant, since she had just been one as well

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:43

And some of her cast off gowns she gave to her younger sister too

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:43

He found that the queen's tailor did make items for her, but at the same time that the king's tailor made similar items for another prisoner. It was on the king's order and seems not to have been anything to do with Catherine, unfortunately. Just her tailor being used.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:44

Do you feel that Catherine and Culpepper relationship was one of courtly love gone wrong or far further than it should have done

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:44

No, I believe it was an actual romance.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:44

Catherine's letter to Culpepper seems a lot more than courtly love.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:45

They were involved before she was queen and he broke it off.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:45

Kathryn made a decent Queen, she could show compassion and generosity but she could also act with spite and manipulation. Definitely a teenager.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:45

RTL, yes, I think with the right guidance she could have been a good queen consort.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:46

I don't believe that the letter written to Culpepper is real. I feel it was a complete fabrication by Cranmer.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:46

It's a shame she wasn't surrounded by the same kind of people that the young Elizabeth had advising her at key moments.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:47

Its really a tragic and unfortunate situation for everyone involved, like you referenced at the beginning, Claire..

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:47

I can't imagine Cranmer capturing the tone of that letter.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:47

I can't see it being fabricated. What makes you say that, Lorna?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:48

Laurie, yes, awful, awful times.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:48

Having read it a fair few times, my opinion is that it was cobbled together and that with a touch of the pen a few sentences were added to incriminate Culpepper and Catharine, as having a full on relationship

[RealTudorLady](#)0:48

I think the letter is genuine but there is debate over its meaning, love, friendship, concern?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:49

It's just certain things that are said in the letter that don't sound right to me

[RealTudorLady](#)0:50

A few scholars actually share your views Lorna.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:50

I suspect Catherine had never stopped loving (or fancying) Culpeper, so when there was an opportunity for them to get back together I think she took it. I think perhaps they did hold off actually committing adultery as I really do think they thought the king would soon die.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:50

There is debate over the letter.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:51

Its funny to think that Catherine may have viewed her time as queen as just a step in her life to reach the better times!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:51

Yes, a temporary step to proper happiness and security.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:51

If Kathryn and Thomas Culpeper had discussed the King dying that would be treason.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:51

Culpeper would have had intimate knowledge of Henry's health, being one of his most trusted servants. They must have thought him decrepit.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:51

It reminds me of Catherine Parr and Thomas Seymour.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:52

RTL, yes.

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:52

Thomas Seymour at least had the sense to get as far away as possible.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:52

Ceri, yes, and hadn't the king's leg ulcer closed up and made him go black in the face or something. I think everyone feared he'd die and then he pulled through.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:53

Ceri, and Catherine Parr acted very sensibly.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:54

But then I guess she was older and wiser.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:54

I think Catherine did genuinely have some affection of sorts for Henry, perhaps because showered her with jewels etc and treated her very differently than she had been treated by a man

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:54

It must have been a severe reality check for Henry to realise that Catherine and Culpepper thought of him as so old and at death's door.!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:54

Lorna, yes, I think the king doted on her and perhaps she saw him as a father figure. I think she loved him but not in a romantic way.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:54

I feel that Henry had HS, his symptoms fit with what I know of the disease

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:55

Ceri, yes!

[RealTudorLady](#)0:55

Save KP was no young girl, happily and had sense to make sure no scandal came near her and Henry moved Seymour out of the way, didn't he?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:55

Yes, Seymour was definitely moved out of temptation's way.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:55

K.P wasn't all that sensible she sailed very close to the scaffold at one point

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:56

That was over religion , not love, though.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:56

I meant with the Seymour situation.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:56

She obviously never stopped loving Seymour but appears to have been the perfect wife to Henry.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:56

true but I don't think Henry was a fool there he knew that K.P had feeling for TS that's why he sent him away

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:57

Oh yes!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:57

yes in that sense, Henry was smart!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:57

Kp had the good sense to turn off her love if you like for TS when she was married to Henry

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:58

Well, thank you so much for all the wonderful questions! It's a rather juicy topic!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:58

This was great Claire, thanks!

[RealTudorLady](#)0:58

I like the way Henry manipulated the law to make his wives declare past lovers before marriage.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:58

It's certainly been an interesting one that's for sure

[Ceri Creffield](#)0:58

Yes, thanks Claire.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:58

<https://www.tudorsociety.com/upcoming-live-chats-and-christmas-party-8th-and-15th-december-and-4th-january/> gives info on the next live chats.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:59

Thanks everyone! have a good evening!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:59

We have a special one with Gareth next Saturday. We have an extra expert talk going live on the site on Friday (from Gareth) too and December's main speaker, Kate, will be chatting with us on 4th Jan.

[RealTudorLady](#)0:59

Enjoyed that, thanks Claire.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:59

Right I had better climb the old wooden hil, Take care and keep safe everyone

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:59

Thank you so much for being kind with your questions!

[Ceri Creffield](#)1:00

Good night all.

[Claire Ridgway](#)1:00

Good night! I hope you all have a lovely weekend! xxx