

Hi Kate, thanks for coming into the Chatroom a few minutes early!

[Kate Cole](#)23:47

Evening

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:47

Hi Kate!

[Kate Cole](#)23:48

Hi Claire

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:52

Just a few more minutes and then we'll get started. We usually have people pile in at the last minute or as we go along.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:52

Are you in Essex at the moment, Kate?

[Kate Cole](#)23:53

I'm currently in Maldon - home of one of the witchcraft outbreaks of the 1570s

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:54

Ah, ok. Is it cold there at the mo?

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

Hi Laurie!

[Kate Cole](#)23:55

It was cold earlier - colder than earlier in the week

[Laurie Duerr](#)23:55

Hi Claire!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:55

Hello everyone

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

It's turned chilly here too!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

Hi Lorna!

[Laurie Duerr](#)23:55

Hi Kate, it is great to chat with you!

[Kate Cole](#)23:55

Hi all

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:55

I make it the o'clock now. Hello! Welcome to this evening's live chat with historian Kate Cole on the fascinating subject of witches and witchcraft in the Tudor and Stuart period. Thank you so much to Kate for her talk and for joining us tonight. If you haven't been to one of these before, all you

have to do is type your question or comment in the text box and press return or send. Kate will endeavour to answer questions as they come in.

[Kine](#)23:55

Hi everyone

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:55

Hello Kate great to have you here.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:56

Hi Kine! Welcome!

[Kate Cole](#)23:56

Great to be here - and to talk about my favourite subject!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:56

I love this subject!

[Laurie Duerr](#)23:56

Really enjoyed your talk, Katie!

[Kate Cole](#)23:56

I gave a talk this afternoon to my local WI - they were fascinated to know about their witches! New Tudor converts in the making.

[Kate Cole](#)23:57

Thank you Laurie

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:57

Maldon hey one wonders what happened to the old Witchfinder General Matthew hopkins

[Kate Cole](#)23:57

Lorna Latest research shows he probably died of something suitable nasty such as TB

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:58

When I was watching your video, Kate, I was struck by how similar the situation was to the situation in communities here in Spain the Civil War. If you didn't like someone, a neighbour, you could get rid of them by reporting them. It seems to have been like that with women who crossed someone or who were an obstacle. Awful!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:58

Well there have been a few myths about his disappearance

[Kate Cole](#)23:58

It was most certainly a form of social control

[Julie Lindner-Reid](#)23:58

People are the same--no matter the country or time

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:58

Hi Julie!

[Kate Cole](#)23:58

I agree Julie. They really are

[Julie Lindner-Reid](#)23:58

Hi Claire!

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:58

Very true, Julie.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)23:59

One Legend speaks of that he was accused of being a witch and executed as one

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:59

What's the worst case you've found in your research, Kate?

[Julie Lindner-Reid](#)23:59

that's a lovely thought Lorna. Karma at its finest.

[Claire Ridgway](#)23:59

Hi Roland!

[Roland Hui](#)23:59



[Laurie Duerr](#)23:59

But you did have to keep up with what the current monarch declared as witchcraft and how significant it was!

[Kate Cole](#)0:00

Lorna - I've heard that legend too. I think I'm right in saying that very recent research has found him buried in an Essex churchyard around-about 1647 and died of something like TB

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:00

Have you heard of the one of him drowning in his own blood

[Kate Cole](#)0:00

Claire - I think it's when children were giving evidence against their mothers/grandmothers. In Maldon, a 13 year old boy gave evidence against his mother.

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:00

Hi all

[Kate Cole](#)0:01

There are also stories of babes in arms declaring that someone was a witch.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:01

It's so sad that children were manipulated in that way.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:01

Hi Lynne!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:01

Wow, no kidding. No one was safe!

[Kate Cole](#)0:01

Claire - exactly. James I evidently turned against children giving evidence. Although he still strongly believed in witches, by the end of his reign he started to stop the practice of child witnesses

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:02

So many of these so called witches were simply doing what their mothers and grandmothers had been doing for many years.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:02

To grow up and realise later what you'd done to your mother, aunt or grandmother. The guilt. Wow.

[Kate Cole](#)0:02

Lorna - exactly - passed down from generation to generation.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:02

Kate, what originally caused the crazy fascination and convictions of witches in Scotland?

[Kate Cole](#)0:03

The Hatfield Peverel witches were a long line of a family of witches - probably starting in the c15th and then eventually catching up with the family in 1566

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:03

Laurie, blame Shakespeare for that.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:03

LOL yes true Lorna!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:04

Hi James!

[Roland Hui](#)0:04

King James was really fascinated by wc, he interrogated witches himself.

[Kate Cole](#)0:04

Laurie - I'm not too sure about Scotland as I specialise in England. In Scotland I think religion/heresy played a massive part. In England, it was never heresy

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:04

James 1st was a strong believer in Witchcraft, I believe it was down to a profesy he was told of when he was young

[Kate Cole](#)0:04

Roland - yes he did. His laws were much more draconian then Elizabeth's

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:05

I found it interesting what you said about witches in England being hanged. Before you read about them, you assume they were burned at the stake.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:05

The book that was used to help identify a witch was written by a woman hating monk

[Kate Cole](#)0:05

Claire - it all gets confused with burning at the stake for protestant martyrs in Mary's reign.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:05

Yes

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:06

Mallious malafercarum. Hammer of witches basically

[Kate Cole](#)0:07

Where-ever I take my talk in Essex, ppl tell me "such and such was burnt at the stake for being a witch" and I have to tell them - no it was a Protestant martyr - not a witch. Half of Mary's Protestant martyrs came from Essex so it's an easy confusion to make.

[Roland Hui](#)0:07

I read that some Scottish witches were 'lucky' enough to quickly strangled first, before being burnt.

[Kate Cole](#)0:07

Roland - that happened in Ipswich during Hopkins reign of terror. A women was convicted of petty treason (murdering her husband) so she was strangled first and then her body burnt in a barrel of oil/tar

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:08

Kate, did they believe that the only way to kill "witches" was to hang them?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:08

Although it's hard to understand people really believing some of the charges against these women, I can see how easy it is for communities to get swept up with the hysteria and with fear.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:08

Roland, that is true, and it was a blacksmith who was chosen to strangle them.

[Kate Cole](#)0:08

In theory, she could have been burnt at the stake for Petty Treason but the legal system - for some reason - took pity on her

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:09

Laurie they weren;t just hung

[Kate Cole](#)0:09

Laurie - in England they were hanged as murderers not as witches (although the crime was murder by witchcraft). So the punishment for murder was hanging. In Scotland, because it was a religious crime, when they were burnt it was thought that the fire was needed to kill their soul

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:09

Claire Salem comes to mind

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:10

Lorna, yes.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:10

Interesting Kate, thanks!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:10

But there was also the trial by water as well

[Kate Cole](#)0:10

Salem is very interesting because it was so strange - it took place in the 1690s - long after England was done and dusted with witches

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:10

Altogether how many people were murdered as witches do we know ?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:11

If they floated they were hung, if they drowned they were deemed innocent.

[Kate Cole](#)0:11

Trial by water wasn't part of the English legal system by the 1500s. But Hopkins used it - although not legal - the authorities loved it because it got him results

[Kine](#)0:12

I read somewhere that the fire also was used as a form of exorcism, to save the soul. Is this true?

[Julie Lindner-Reid](#)0:12

I read the same--that it was needed to "purify" the soul

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:14

Kate, why do you think that people have heard of Salem and the Pendle witches, but the Essex witches aren't so well known? Their stories are so interesting and, as you pointed out, Essex women really suffered. It wasn't a good time to be a woman in Essex who was a bit different!

[Kate Cole](#)0:14

Water purified the soul - a medieval tradition. Also the water was so pure that it would reject a guilty witch

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:14

Am I right in think Kate that during the witch hysteria, there was a village in Germany where after the witch hunters had finished there was just 1 blind deaf woman and baby girl left alive along with about 10 men. The rest of the village was wiped out

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:14

Hi Bill!

[Bill Wolff](#)0:14

Hi Claire, sorry I'm late.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:14

Don't worry at all, Bill.

[Kate Cole](#)0:15

Claire - I really don't know. I think I'm on a one-woman mission to tell the story of the Essex witches! There is a novelist who writes about them and several serious academics but they're not as well known.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:15

Have you heard of the Bokken riders Kate.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:15

Kate, brilliant! Their stories definitely need to be out there. They're just so shocking and sad.

[Kate Cole](#)0:16

Lorna - some of the German nation states had outcries far more serious than England. It was total hysteria and yes villages and communities were wiped out. Robin Briggs is a good author to read on European trials.

[Roland Hui](#)0:16

Kate - any known instances of young persons executed - or at least punished - for witchery? I mention this because in England there were known cases of teenagers burnt for heresy, horrible as it sounds.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:17

Wow, that's unbelievable about Germany! This was also in the 1500s?

[Kate Cole](#)0:17

Claire - it was only last summer that Colchester Castle finally put up a plaque to the Essex witches - paid by the efforts of an Essex filmmaker who purchased the alleged skeleton of Ursula Kemp (executed in 1582 - part of the Brian D'Arcy trials). He had the skeleton reburied in St Osyth (the skeleton turned out to be a male - not a female - a massive story behind that!)

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:18

I believe that some of the problems/murders in Salem, weren't entirely down to mass hysteria, Although Tituba didn't help things much either, she must have scared the hell out of the kids with her stories

[Kate Cole](#)0:19

Roland - it's hard to know ages as the trial accounts rarely gave ages. There weren't any children that I know of - but some women were clearly young as they were of child-bearing age and pleaded the benefit of the belly

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:19

Kate, I suppose at least they're being remembered now then.

[Kate Cole](#)0:19

Lorna - some of Salem's problems was down to ergot poisoning. There's new research going on about that at the moment.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:19

Not to sure but I think the youngest person to be accused of witchcraft was about 2

[Julie Lindner-Reid](#)0:19

I always wondered about those women who pleaded the belly. What ever happened to the children, once they were born?

[Kate Cole](#)0:20

Claire - yes - the last 3 years I've taken their stories all across Essex so they're no longer forgotten

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:20

Wonderful! Well done!

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:20

The trials of the Pendle witches in 1612 are among the famous witch trials in history. Can you tell me a little bit about them please ?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:20

Totaaly agree Kate it was Ergot poisoning which I believe may well be the same thing that happened of the Marie celeste too

[Kate Cole](#)0:21

Julie - I presume they would have quietly been left to die as noone would take them on. Who would want to raise the child of a convicted and executed witch in those troubled times!

[Kate Cole](#)0:21

Lynne - I concentrate my research totally on Essex so sorry I can't tell you about Pendle about from the various books I've read

[Julie Lindner-Reid](#)0:22

Exactly! That's why I wondered why the women were allowed to plead the belly. I suppose the executioners just didn't want to take responsibility for murdering a child in the womb--but thought it was ok if done out of sight.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:22

I've just remembered one of the local legends from where I used to live. I'll post it on the forum tommorrow

[RealTudorLady](#)0:22

Hi everyone, just been reading to catch up. Hello Kate. Hi Claire and Tim and all. Happy New Year.

[Kate Cole](#)0:23

Lorna - although Tudor England didn't really go in for rye / rye bread (I don't think?), there would certainly be other herbs that were most certainly make them hallucinate

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:23

I didn't understand the case of Agnes Waterhouse. That was crazy. OK, she had a cat named Satan, but then if your cat is a pain in the neck then you might call him that! But then to use her praying in Latin as evidence of witchcraft is bizarre. The poor poor woman. Why on earth did people turn against her?

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:24

Hi RealTudorLady!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:24

When a convicted witch was executed they were usually buried at crossroads and I believe they were often staked to the ground as well

[RealTudorLady](#)0:24

Kate, did you see the two part doc on Channel 4_on Witches and how archaeology has dug up witch pots in Essex and Kent dating from the 16th to the 20th century?

[Kate Cole](#)0:25

Julie - there was a case in Mary's reign in Jersey when a convicted Protestant was being burnt at the stake and she gave birth in those terrible flames. The gaoler throw the baby onto the fire and the baby was burnt too. It caused a massive outcry and the gaoler was going to be tried for murder but Elizabeth pardoned him. It meant from then onwards they were very careful that women weren't preg because the baby was deemed innocent of its mother's crimes.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:25

Hi RTL.

[Kate Cole](#)0:26

Claire - re: Agnes Waterhouse - I think that this was a long standing family of witches and the community decided that this was their chance to get rid of her and her sisters/children etc. The pamphlet tells that she learnt her craft at her grandmother's knee. So very long standing family of witches.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:26

Thank you!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:26

In the Hereford museum, they have something called a witch bottle. What exactly was this suppose to do

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:27

Kate, can I ask about Elizabeth Woodville and her mother, and their supposed past family ties to witchcraft?

[RealTudorLady](#)0:27

Yes, I remember that case. Very outrageous.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:27

Laurie SWMNBN has a lot to answer for.

[Kate Cole](#)0:27

I also have a theory about the judge involved in the Waterhouse case (and all cases until his death in 1585). He too was an Essex boy and had a grand mansion in Witham - I think he overheard stories from his wife and his servants who gossiped about what was happening in next-door Hatfield P (where Agnes Waterhouse was)

[Kate Cole](#)0:28

Sorry - I'm loosing track with some of the questions - I'll try to catch up!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:28

So gossip and her family's past. It's just so very sad.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:28

Don't worry, Kate!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:28

Lorna yes! But I thought there really was a supposed case where they had ties to witchcraft

[Kate Cole](#)0:30

Lorna - re: convicted witch - I think that is heresy and I've found no evidence. As murderers, it is likely they were thrown in the criminals pit by the gallows. The staking into the ground comes from the alleged skeleton of Ursula Kemp being dug up in St Osyth's in the 1930s. It was proved by the Essex film-maker just a few years ago that the iron stakes weren't c16th but from the 1920s/1930s! An Essex boy was on the make to make profit with all the people that came to see Ursula Kemp (who turned out to be a male skeleton)

[Julie Lindner-Reid](#)0:30

I crack up every time I see SWMNBN. She's a great storyteller--shame she doesn't bother to get the stories right. 🙄

[RealTudorLady](#)0:30

I think the EW case is Philippa Gregory gone mad. Yes, her mother was accused of witchcraft by Warwick but the lady called his bluff and her connection to Margaret of Anjou and the trial fell apart. There is no real evidence for EW or her family practicing witchcraft.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:30

Laurie, I don't think there is any shred of truth about it, they were simply very gifted (for want of a better word) in the art of herblore.

[Kate Cole](#)0:30

RTL - No I haven't seen that. Was that with Suzannah Lipscombe? I went to one of her masterclasses on witches and asked her "why Essex". She didn't have an answer.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:31

BTW Kate SWMNBN is Phillipa Gregory.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:31

Thanks all!

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:32

It's sad the same factors are at work today- ignorance strife and vested interested - that lead to the torture and execution of thousands of witchcraft every year, in country's such as India, Gambia and by Isis

[Kate Cole](#)0:32

Lorna - a witch bottle was a house-hold's protection against evil spirits and witches. Sometimes it was full of urine. It protected the house. They're sometimes found in Tudor houses in the chimney breast. The Guildhall at Lavenham has either a witch's bottle or a mummified cat (can't remember which) - same principle - it protected the Guildhall from evil

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:32

Good point, Lynne. I guess human nature does not change.

[Kate Cole](#)0:33

Lorna - thanks I was going to ask who that was lol

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:33

I believe the witch bttle in Hereford also contained nails and glass as well

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:33

Kate, when I was at Hampton Court Palace one of the stewards pointed out markings on the fireplaces that were meant to protect against witches. Some were words and others were patterns. I've heard of daisy wheels too.

[Kate Cole](#)0:34

Lynne - Roland Hutton has recently written a book about Witches all across the world - he covers places like Africa etc - a fascinating book. Very heavy going but well worth reading.

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:34

I read that urine and nails in a bottle was done to hex someone

[Kate Cole](#)0:35

Claire - daisywheels - is that the sign of something like the pentagon? Can't remember exactly what - but some sort of pagan / early Christian ritual for protection

[RealTudorLady](#)0:35

Hi Kate, yes it was Susanna and it was very interesting. The witch pot was a hole in the earth or sand lined with stuff like feathers and odds and ends, organic matter, whatever you thought made a curse or spell work. Really weird thing was it was still going on in the 20th century.

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:35

Thanks Kate , I'll keep it in mind

[Kate Cole](#)0:36

For me as a social historian, one of the reasons I got so involved in the stories is that it gives us a very rare insight into normal people's lives and their communities.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:36

A daisywheel shows the Pagan seasons and Birth sign etc give me a sec and I'll find a pic

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:36

I'm not entirely sure, Kate, I think circles with daisies in.

[Kate Cole](#)0:37

Lorna - ah thanks for that - I thought it was something pagan. Someone I follow on Facebook makes a point of finding such marks in early churches!

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:38

Kate, do you think that the "belief" in witches during this time had an impact on religious beliefs and accepted practices?

[Kate Cole](#)0:39

Laurie - I think religion and belief etc is so intermingled with witchcraft that it's very hard to separate. Witches were convicted of murder so not burnt - but religion absolutely was at the heart of it all

[Kate Cole](#)0:40

I liken it to an onion - start peeling away at the surface of an onion and there's more and more layers to it. Just like the belief in witchcraft. There's no single answer

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:40

I was blown away when you said that the last person in England prosecuted for witchcraft was in 1944! We think of it all being long ago.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:40

Yes, certainly makes sense Kate.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:40

Before churches were built, these marks were made of stone blocks and were seen as rudimentary alters, before Christainanty became dominant in England.

[Kate Cole](#)0:40

Claire - the Helen Duncan case! Unbelieve isn't it. Why on earth she wasn't tried for treason or the official secrets act - or whatever was around then, I'll never know!

[RealTudorLady](#)0:41

People believed in nature as well and that seems to have been accepted as it wasn't harmful. If you went into labour for example you had the girldle of Saint Agnus and spells on your legs and thighs to protect you.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:41

Kate, yes, completely crazy.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:41

Some churches incorporated these stone blocks into the building of their church

[Kate Cole](#)0:41

I think the Duncan case also shows how weird English (and now British) law can be - that an out of date Act of Parliament will stay on the statute books until it is physically repealed! I think there's plenty more antiquated acts still about waiting to surface!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:42

They call these marks witch marks but that isn't true

[Kate Cole](#)0:43

RTL - all the old religious beliefs - no longer allowed by the time of the witchcraft trials. I think it telling that Ursula Kemp in 1582 in St Osyths was a midwife!

[RealTudorLady](#)0:43

Wasn't Duncan found not guilty?

[Kate Cole](#)0:43

Duncan was found guilty and imprisoned - I think for 6 months

[Kate Cole](#)0:43

I think also her "promoter" was also found guilty

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:44

You mentioned Hutton's book, Kate, but what other books would you recommend for those wanting to know more about witchcraft and witches through history? And is there a book on Hopkins at all?

[Kate Cole](#)0:44

I believe that her descendants are still trying to get a legal pardon

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:45

<https://twiggietruth.wordpress.com/2015/06/20/pagan-wheel-of-the-year/>

[RealTudorLady](#)0:45

Thanks, she must have known some inside information and probably should have been done for treason but I suppose if you foresee something, that's a clever way to confuse the authorities.

[Kate Cole](#)0:45

Anything by Malcom Gaskill is 100% a must. He's written a short book called something like "a brief introduction to witchcraft" that although a beginner's book and short packs a massive amount of information concisely

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:45

Thank you!

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:46

Do you know anything about the witchcraft trail in the reign of The sun King

[Kate Cole](#)0:46

RTL - it's estimate that approx 10,000 knew of the sinking of the ship!!! Hardly a secret and she was working in Portsmouth at the time. It would have been easy for her

[Roland Hui](#)0:46

Who was the last person to be executed for witchcraft in Britain?

[Kate Cole](#)0:47

The other book by Malcolm Gaskill is "Witchfinders" and it's about Matthew Hopkins. He's my go-to author for English witches. (As is Roland Hutton)

[Kate Cole](#)0:48

Roland - from memory think it was 1685 in Devon - last person to be executed. There were trials upto about 1717 but they were pardoned by the queen (Anne I think)

[Kate Cole](#)0:48

Lorna - sorry no I only reasearch Essex witches

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:49

Roland Witches of Warboys in 1593 I believe

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:49

I'll look up Gaskill's books, thank you. It really is a fascinating subject. I read a novel "The Witchfinder's Sister" over the summer and although it was fictional I did find that it evoked the fear of the times. It made me want to find out more about Hopkins.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:50

Kate again I have a video someone on it I'll post it on the forum, I would love to hear your opinion on it.

[Roland Hui](#)0:50

I think witchcraft - redefined as 'fortune telling' - was still a criminal offense into the 20th century in Britain.

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:50

or that of any other member

[Kate Cole](#)0:50

I'm not a fan of novels about the witches. Some information is correct but I think fact is far more exciting (and bizarre) than any work of fiction

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:51

Oh definitely!

[RealTudorLady](#)0:51

I had to do witches and mental illness as a part of my degree and my paper showed several links to various illnesses and attitudes over four centuries. I was amazed a couple of weeks ago at how many commentaries on the Malleus and other academic works which set the pattern for these trials and how to identify a witch I still have. I have a wide witchcraft library. I don't mean spells of course but history and commentary.

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:51

I agree with you Kate

[Kate Cole](#)0:52

Roland - yes it was - the Helen Duncan trial in the 1940s ended up in 1951 with the repeal of the 1730s witchcraft act and the 1951 act was specially against mediums and fortune tellers. Today it comes under the 2008 Unfair Trading regulation!

[Kate Cole](#)0:52

Lorna - sorry I've missed that - what's the video on?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:52

I agree so many novels slate so called witches, but they don't see or want to see the truth behind what these woman and men truly were.

[Kate Cole](#)0:53

RTL - that's fascinating. I think many "witches" in the past would today be seen to have dementia

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:53

I have it on my computer somewhere (Lorna trawls through 7 hard drives) I'll upload it onto the forum

[Kate Cole](#)0:54

Lynne - some did have something like dementia - you can sometimes detect it in some of the trial accounts - although dementia, of course, wasn't recognised then

[Kate Cole](#)0:53

Lorna - that's my problem with novels. They don't tell the true story and just make it into a gothic horror novel!

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:54

I wouldn't have thought that they had dementia tho

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:55

Thank you, Kate, so much for sharing your time and expertise with us tonight. I am hooked by the subject! I'll definitely be looking into those books! If anyone missed Kate's talk or wants to view it again, the link is <https://www.tudorsociety.com/expert-talk-the-witches-of-elizabethan-and-stuart-essex-kate-cole/>

[Kate Cole](#)0:55

Talking of gothic horrors - Matthew Hopkins became infamous because of the horror film the "Witchfinder General". Vincent Price played Hopkins - Price was then in his 50s. Guess how old Hopkins really was?

[RealTudorLady](#)0:56

Yes, definitely, especially in communities where they were ignored and left alone and muttering was seen as cursing people. I have just noticed on my shelf Essex Witches by Peter C Brown and I think MacFarlane is good on the period as well.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:56

Thank you to everyone for coming to the chat and asking such wonderful questions. It's been a wonderful hour.

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:56

How old was he, Kate?

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:56

Thank you Kate, feel free to drop into our forum and make a comment on any post that tickles your fancy.

[Laurie Duerr](#)0:56

Thank you Claire, and Kate!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:56

30s?

[Kate Cole](#)0:56

MacFarlane is brilliant - another go to book!

[Kate Cole](#)0:56

Matthew Hopkins was only in his 20s!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:57

Wow!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:57

Thank you, Kate, and thank you for everyone. I think it's time for my bed now! Good night!

[Lynne Mclachlan](#)0:57

Thanks Kate, it's been so interesting and thanks Claire

[ADMIN Tim](#)0:57

Thanks everyone!

[Kate Cole](#)0:57

So young but so terrible! The zeal of a youngster caused all that misery

[Kate Cole](#)0:58

Thanks everyone. Hope I've answered all your questions!

[ADMIN Tim](#)0:58

You were wonderful, Kate 😊

[Lorna Wanstall](#)0:58

Goodnight everyone Take care and keep safe. Happy new year Xx

[Kate Cole](#)0:58

Thanks 😊

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:59

Now we'll all have dreams about witches and witchfinders!

[Claire Ridgway](#)0:59

Night night!