

Live chat with Tony Riches on Charles Brandon – 27 July 2019

Hi from Pembrokeshire 🤗

ADMIN Tim23:36

Hi Tony, thanks for coming to the chatroom early

ADMIN Tim23:36

We are just busy reminding people of the chat on our social media

ADMIN Tim23:37

The joys of the internet mean that Claire and I are in a hotel room in Lanjarón and still able to have this chat.

ADMIN Tim23:39

People tend to join us pretty much on time

Tony Riches23:40

The world is shrinking - I did a Skype chat with Natalie Grueninger in Australia recently and there was no delay

ADMIN Tim23:41

It's all incredible. The reason we started the Tudor Society was to be able to connect people from all over the world with Tudor experts like yourself.

Claire Ridgway23:41

The wonders of technology!

Claire Ridgway23:41

Hi Tony!

Tony Riches23:42

Hi Claire - thanks for the invitation 🤗

Claire Ridgway23:42

We're so grateful that you could share your expertise with us, thank you.

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Hi everyone

Claire Ridgway23:56

Evening Lorna!

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Hello Tony , welcome to our tudor home.

Claire Ridgway23:58

Hi Doc!

Lorna Wanstall23:58

Bit wet and wild today, but we really need the rain. it was ridiculously hot this week, even moving caused you to sweat buckets

Doc Clark23:58

howdy y'all

Lorna Wanstall23:58

Hi Doc

Claire Ridgway23:58

I saw that you had a heatwave, Lorna.

Laurie Duerr00:00

Hi everyone!

Claire Ridgway00:00

Hi Laurie!

Claire Ridgway00:00

Welcome to this month's expert live chat. A big thank you to Tony Riches for joining us and for his excellent talk on Charles Brandon, Duke of Suffolk and good friend of Henry VIII. Feel free to ask Tony about Charles Brandon, Tony's writing and research, and his other books too. One lucky chat participant will win a copy of Tonys book "Brandon - Tudor Knight".

If you missed Tony's talk, here's a link to watch it later - <https://www.tudorsociety.com/charles-brandon-a-tudor-knight-tony-riches-expert-talk/>

Lorna Wanstall00:00

Yesterday was just right for me, spent the afternoon lazing in the garden, reading

Lorna Wanstall00:01

Tony who was Charles Brandon's mother?

RealTudorLady00:01

Hi everyone. Hello Tony, Claire, Doc and all. Hi Laurie.

Michelle Tercha00:01

Hi! This is Michelle. It's my first time here

Lorna Wanstall00:02

Hi RTL, how have you been

Claire Ridgway00:02

Hi RTL!

Lorna Wanstall00:02

Hello Michelle glad to see you.

Claire Ridgway00:02

Welcome Michelle, I'm so glad you could make it!

RealTudorLady00:02

Hello Michelle, very well, thanks Lorna

Claire Ridgway00:02

Hi Roland!

Michelle Tercha00:03

I have to break off, it's my boys' birthdays and we're doing cake soon. Hi, Mr Riches.

Michelle Tercha00:03

Thanks for welcoming me

Claire Ridgway00:03

It was your birthday the other day too, wasn't it Michelle? Have a lovely time.

Lorna Wanstall00:03

Happy Birthday to your children Michelle

RealTudorLady00:04

Just been watching documentary on Apollo 13. Tension or what? Wow!

Michelle Tercha00:04

Thanks. They're 20.

Tony Riches00:04

Hi from Pembroke, birthplace of the Tudor dynasty - and me!

Lorna Wanstall00:05

RTL I am not too sure, but I believe the apollo 13 mission was a one way trip, so the fact they made it back to earth is rather remarkable.

Michelle Tercha00:05

Yes. I got a bunch of Tudor books. Old ones, like Jean Plaidy. Plus Gareth Russell and Julia Fox's bios. So thrilled.

Roland Hui00:05

Can you tell us a little about Charles' 1st two wives?

RealTudorLady00:05

Happy Birthday Michelle. Tony, do you know anything about the girl that Brandon rescued from drowning and adopted?

Ceri Creffield00:05

Google evening all.

Lorna Wanstall00:05

Michelle I love Jean Plaidy books as well

Claire Ridgway00:06

Hi Ceri!

Tony Riches00:06

Yes - I spent a long time researching Anne Brandon. She didn't have much of a life but lived on through her daughters

Ceri Creffield00:06

Hi Claire. I swear I typed "good".

RealTudorLady00:06

That's it, Lorna, it was very intense, they lost fuel, there was an explosion and they had to get them back. It was amazing.

Claire Ridgway00:07

Ceri, good old autocorrect!

Doc Clark00:07

I'm particularly interested in the 1523 campaign in France. In your talk on the tudorsociety website, you mentioned that Brandon was ill and the army limped back to Calais. Yet that army got within 4 days march of Paris. Were they out of supplies or was it illness that turned Brandon's army around?

Lorna Wanstall00:07

Tony We all know Charles Brandon's father was a standard bearer in Henry's army at Bosworth. Do you know who his mother was?

Michelle Tercha00:07

Mr Riches, I really enjoyed your expert talk and looking forward to getting your new book. What do you mean by Anne Brandon living through her daughters. Who were they?

Tony Riches00:08

Brandon's mother was Elizabeth Bruyn - sadly there's not much on record about her

Michelle Tercha00:08

Great question, Doc. If like to know about that, too.

Tony Riches00:09

Hi Doc is was a combination of illness, mutiny - and poor leadership on Brandon's part, he was lucky to survive it!

Lorna Wanstall00:09

Why did H7 take Charles Brandon into his household.

Ceri Creffield00:09

Did Elizabeth Bruyn outlive her husband and if so how much contact would the young Charles have had with her?

RealTudorLady00:09

How many men died of frostbite in the 1523 campaign in France. A winter campaign was not a great idea.

Doc Clark00:10

Poor leadership? Yet he did a good job on the Scots border and in France in Henry's last campaign.

Tony Riches00:10

Hi Lorna - Henry VII took Charles into his household in recognition of his father's sacrifice

Tony Riches00:11

The plan to march on Paris in one of the worst winters was reckless

RealTudorLady00:12

There is some confusion as to if his father, William Brandon was actually knighted but his grandfather was. Do you know if he was. He at least had the honour of being killed by King Richard iii himself.

Lorna Wanstall00:12

As was every H8 tried to do.. H8 was certainly no H5 although in his mind he was.

Doc Clark00:13

I've seen reference to that winter being bad before a while back and have been looking for it ever since. Where can I find a source for the winter of 1523/4?

Tony Riches00:13

Most of his men deserted and Brandon had no idea how to stop them. There is no record of how many died, although plenty had frostbite

Michelle Tercha00:13

What did it mean to be the king's friend? Was he what we'd consider today Henry's "best friend"? And did he still have to bow and say "your grace", "your majesty" ? And do we know how he really felt about the big issues, like the supremacy?

Lorna Wanstall00:14

Michelle the duke of Buckingham thought himself a friend to H8 and we know what happened to him.

RealTudorLady00:14

Didn't he set out for France rather late in the year because Wolsey had one plan and Henry another so the campaign went wrong with the weather and a lack of other military support. I would have brought the men home as well.

Michelle Tercha00:14

True, Lorna!

Tony Riches00:15

Brandon had to show proper deference in public but in private it was different.

Michelle Tercha00:15

Ok. I can understand that.

Tony Riches00:16

The timing of the campaign was possibly Wolsey's fault

Doc Clark00:16

Despite returning to England later than he should have, Henry VIII was furious that he didn't take Paris because he got so close

Tony Riches00:16

Henry said that in all their long friendship Charles Brandon had never knowingly betrayed a friend or taken advantage of an enemy.

RealTudorLady00:17

I bet Brandon was a good drinking buddy. I can imagine him starting some loud drinking games and Henry saying you're on lol

Lorna Wanstall00:17

How old was Brandon, when H8 came to the throne.

Michelle Tercha00:17

So that line in the Tudors, when Brandon died and Jonathan Rhys Meyers says that to the Dark of Hertford, that was true!

Tony Riches00:17

I think Henry made a show of being furious to save face but knew it was an impossible mission

Doc Clark00:18

I've always had the impression that Brandon was a simpler character than many of the clever conniving people at court. Is that a correct take on his character?

Michelle Tercha00:18

Sorry, Earl of Hertford

Tony Riches00:18

Yes Michelle it's documented in council proceedings

Tony Riches00:19

Yes Doc - Brandon was a jouster first and a politician last - which is why he relied so much on Wolsey

RealTudorLady00:20

And then afterwards poor Brandon nearly knocked the Kings bloke off during a jousting accident, just missing his open forehead because Henry forgot to lower his visor. He must have thought oops, now I am for it.

Michelle Tercha00:20

What were some of his other opinions? He wasn't happy about the break up of Henry's marriage to Katherine, or was that in deference to his wife, Henry's sister and Katherine's friend?

Tony Riches00:20

I believe he did - it must have been a worrying moment until the king recovered

Claire Ridgway00:21

Hi Rozsa!

Laurie Duerr00:21

Hi Tony, really enjoyed your talk! So is it true that Mary more proactively pursued Charles, than vice versa?

Rozsa00:21

Hello, Claire and Tony -Did Henry maintain Brandon's friendship to the end? Or did he turn against him as he turned against so many others in his court?

Tony Riches00:21

Yes Michelle - Brandon was most concerned about his wife Mary's position on the break up, as she spoke out in Catherine's defence

Tony Riches00:22

Hi Rozsa - Henry supported Brandon to the end

RealTudorLady00:23

At least Brandon died in his bed with his family around him and Henry gave him a state funeral in Windsor, which was more than those so called clever people in court did. Not as dumb as people obviously thought.

Tony Riches00:23

Hi Laurie I believe Mary left Charles in no doubt about her feelings for him

Lorna Wanstall00:23

Brandon I believe was H8 only true and loyal friend, his death hit H8 hard.

Michelle Tercha00:24

What was his involvement in the defenses against the Pilgrimage of Grace? Or was that strictly the Duke of Norfolk's charge?

Tony Riches00:24

yes Lorna I agree - it's hard to think of any others!

Rozsa00:25

Henry and Brandon must have been kindred spirits, much like Henry II and Thomas Becket, but without any massive falling out. Do you think Brandon was a good husband to Mary, or did he abandon her in the countryside while he stayed at court?

Michelle Tercha00:25

Which is why he makes such a good subject for an historical novel!

Tony Riches00:25

Brandon wanted to stay out of the Pilgrimage of Grace

RealTudorLady00:25

Did Brandon ever get justice for the death of his retainer in the sanctuary at Westminster by Norfolk's men?

Michelle Tercha00:25

Why, Mr Riches?

Michelle Tercha00:25

I mean, why did he want to stay out of the Pilgrimage of Grace?

Tony Riches00:25

No - but it defined his relationship with Thomas Cromwell

Tony Riches00:26

Hi Michelle - he didn't want to persecute the people - and was happy to leave that to Norfolk

Lorna Wanstall00:27

How did Charles view Anne Boleyn

Michelle Tercha00:27

Ok. Now about his relationship with Cromwell. Was he involved somehow in his downfall?

Lorna Wanstall00:27

I don't like Norfolk..

Tony Riches00:27

Brandon had an ambiguous religious position - and struggled with his last wife's protestant views

Doc Clark00:28

Norfolk's not likeable

Michelle Tercha00:28

Me neither, Lorna!

Tony Riches00:28

No Brandon was horrified at the way Cromwell was treated by Henry

Claire Ridgway00:28

Brandon really comes across as a pragmatist

Michelle Tercha00:28

Really? So interesting!

Michelle Tercha00:29

I agree, Claire

Lorna Wanstall00:29

I have a few choice words about Norfolk, a very cold hard hearted creature

Tony Riches00:29

Norfolk's treatment of his wife was unforgiveable

RealTudorLady00:29

Tony, what do you think about the accusations Anne Boleyn made about Brandon and his daughter? I think it was nonsense after his alleged spreading rumours about her and Wyatt. What do you think?

Tony Riches00:30

It's hard to find proof AB even said it, but there was plenty of gossip at court

Michelle Tercha00:30

Great question, Real Tudor Lady!

Laurie Duerr00:30

So was Charles really against Anne Boleyn or was it mostly the idea of having someone replace Katherine of Aragon that he didn't like?

Ceri Creffield00:31

Mary certainly didn't approve.

Tony Riches00:31

Once he'd accepted AB as an inevitability, he felt great pity for her when it all went wrong but could do nothing about it

Lorna Wanstall00:31

Ceri no she didn't I believe she called Anne a whore to her face and may have even slapped her.

Laurie Duerr00:32

Interesting, thanks!

Tony Riches00:32

Mary was one of the few people who could get away with criticising AB

RealTudorLady00:32

Thanks, I believe Charles thought Henry's relationship with Anne was actually changing his old mate and didn't like it and he had trouble with the old lady at home and just wanted a quiet life not being caught in the middle of bossy women.

Tony Riches00:33

Brandon nearly had to choose between his king and his wife

Lorna Wanstall00:33

RTL Poor Charles, no matter what he did he wasn't going to be right

Ceri Creffield00:33

Their friendship outlasted both their wives though.

Michelle Tercha00:34

I think it's interesting, his last wife's religious leanings when her mother was Maria de Salinas.

Tony Riches00:34

Yes - and it was a rare thing for the times

Ceri Creffield00:34

The bromance of Henry's life!

Lorna Wanstall00:34

How long was it between the death of Mary and his remarriage.

Michelle Tercha00:35

Which is why it's such an interesting story, Mr Riches. A man such as Henry VIII, and this one true, loyal friend of his.

Michelle Tercha00:35

Haha, Ceri!

RealTudorLady00:35

Thanks, yes, he made a shrewd choice. Friendship meant something deeper back then and loyalty was key to the oath of a knight and Brandon was the last real knight.

Tony Riches00:35

My next book is about Katherine Willoughby and will be out in the autumn. Charles waited a good few weeks before marrying her

Michelle Tercha00:36

Oh, great! I have been so interested in Katherine Willoughby!

Lorna Wanstall00:36

How did H8 view Charles's haste in remarrying so soon after the death of Mary

Ceri Creffield00:36

She is a fascinating character.

Claire Ridgway00:36

She's one of my very favourite Tudor ladies.

Tony Riches00:36

Katherine was fascinating to research - I'm visiting Grimsthorpe soon

Lorna Wanstall00:37

Katherine Willoughby has a very amusing sense of humour, that's for sure

Tony Riches00:37

H8 would have expected Brandon to remarry fairly quickly, as he was in debt and there was a wealthy young heiress ready and waiting

Ceri Creffield00:38

Very practical!

RealTudorLady00:38

I loved Grimsthorpe, one of my favourite places. Love his Kathy, she was a fine and feisty lady.

Lorna Wanstall00:38

So H8 didn't think Charles was sullying Mary's memory by marrying so soon

Tony Riches00:39

I recommend visiting St Margaret's Westhorpe - the Brandon's Parish Church

Rozsa00:39

My mother will be delighted that your next book is on a woman. She read Mary in three nights but didn't get past the beginning chapters of Jasper, Owen, and Brandon.

Lorna Wanstall00:39

Was the debt to do with the fine imposed by H8 for marrying Mary, without permission

Doc Clark00:40

Why did Brandon give up being Marshall of England to Norfolk? That one never made sense to me. Was he forced to?

Tony Riches00:40

Brandon was always in debt, as he lived beyond his means and was too lenient with hit tenants

Tony Riches00:41

Hi Doc - Henry gave him no choice, as Norfolk was back in favour

Lorna Wanstall00:41

How old was Brandon, compared to Henry.

Tony Riches00:41

nine years older

RealTudorLady00:41

Henry 8 couldn't complain about Brandon, he waited all of 11 days after killing Anne to marry Jane. Henry loved money, the punishment for Charles and Mary literally kept them in the King's debt. Henry didn't press too much but every so often sent them a bill for being at Court when the King should have provided for them.

Lorna Wanstall00:42

RTL, very true.

Rozsa00:43

Do you think Mary and Charles Brandon were lovers before she married Louis XII of France, or did their relationship begin only after Louis' death?

Lorna Wanstall00:43

Think it was acceptable back then for a man to marry a woman after a matter of weeks after the death of his spouse.

RealTudorLady00:44

Thanks, Tony, I have Westhorpe or the village and church on my to do list. It's getting there now with Steve not wanting to drive beyond the Midlands. I will have to go by train. I will go through.

Ceri Creffield00:44

I can't imagine Brandon would have dared do anything before Mary's marriage.

Tony Riches00:44

There must have been something to enable them to move so quickly after the death of King Louis

Tony Riches00:44

I agree Ceri

Lorna Wanstall00:45

Rozsa, interesting question.

Laurie Duerr00:45

And did we know exactly where in France, Mary and Charles actually married?

Tony Riches00:45

Paris

RealTudorLady00:46

Sometime after 3rd March.

Claire Ridgway00:46

Mary was confined in the Hotel de Cluny, which is beautiful. It's a museum now and well worth a visit if you're in Paris.

Lorna Wanstall00:46

Then again in England, may have been st pauls

Rozsa00:46

Lorna - Agreed. I think within 24 hrs. of a spouse's death, friends and advisors were pressuring the widow/widower to get back on the horse.

Tony Riches00:46

She must have wondered if she'd ever leave Cluny

Michelle Tercha00:46

Did he have an opinion on Catherine Howard, the marriage and execution?

Laurie Duerr00:47

Yes Cluny is so lovely!

Lorna Wanstall00:47

Do you think that the new French king really wanted to marry her.

Tony Riches00:47

Yes Michelle - the Brandons never liked the Howards

Michelle Tercha00:47

She just have dazzled hime, Lorna

Lorna Wanstall00:48

So it could be then that Charles viewed KH fall and death was just desserts

Doc Clark00:48

Correct me if I'm wrong but I thought Francis I aided and abetted the marriage of Mary and Charles

Tony Riches00:48

King Francis was Mary's stepson, which even for him would have been a step too far...

Rozsa00:48

I believe Mary was confined for 40 days so as to confirm that she was not pregnant, carrying the next heir to the throne of France. Standard procedure for a queen of France.

RealTudorLady00:48

Henry and the Court had a public marriage for them at Court in May 1515 so they were well and truly wed. well Mary could have been having an heir, so the public had to see the King was on side.

Tony Riches00:48

so Francis helped them leave France

Lorna Wanstall00:49

Thank RTL, got st pauls in my head lately

Michelle Tercha00:49

Oh, right. And Francis was already married to Claude...not that that stopped kings...

Doc Clark00:49

it dure didn't stop bed hopping Francis!

Lorna Wanstall00:49

Poor Claude died so young worn out by childbirth

Tony Riches00:49

I felt sorry for Claude

Michelle Tercha00:49

So did i, Mr Riches

RealTudorLady00:50

Welcome, Lorna, Katherine of Aragon and Prince Arthur married at the old Saint Paul's.

Rozsa00:50

Lorna - The new French king was married to Claude of France, daughter of Anne of Brittany, so he could not marry her. He was wildly attracted, however.

Michelle Tercha00:50

I am learning so much! Thank you all for sharing...

Lorna Wanstall00:50

Francis was certainly a ladies man alright

Lorna Wanstall00:51

Rosza Francis probably wanted to bed her though,

Lorna Wanstall00:51

You are welcome Michelle

RealTudorLady00:51

Tony, do you believe Charles was a womanizer?

Tony Riches00:51

In his youth, but he calmed down a bit with Mary

Tony Riches00:52

He was a 'rock-star' jousting as a young man

Roland Hui00:53

What was Brandon's relationship with Cardinal Wolsey?

RealTudorLady00:53

Alex Seton, a Scottish reformer died at his London home. Do you think CB was a secret reformer like his last wife?

Rozsa00:53

Lorna - I read that Francis' mother, Louise de Savoy, had guards posted to prevent Francis from entering hMary's bedroom, he was so besotted with her. If he had impregnated her while married to Louis XII, Francis would have lost the succession to Mary's son with Louis (although it would have been Francis', it would have been recognized as Louis.' 🤔

Michelle Tercha00:53

Was he given the Duke of Suffolk title so he could properly escort Mary to France?

Tony Riches00:53

Lettere between Brandon and Wolsey show they depended on each other

Lorna Wanstall00:54

Roland I believe it was Brandon who said "England was never merry with Cardinals in it" or something like that. So I don't think he liked him

Tony Riches00:54

The dukedom was a poikey in the eye for Norfolk and damage limitation after the business with Margaret of Savoy

Tony Riches00:55

Brandon was always in debt to Wolsey

Doc Clark00:55

According to Tracy Borman's new book, Wolsey did Brandon some very large favors

Michelle Tercha00:55

I think Wolsey had his uses. He bridged the whole Brandon marrying Mary thing with Henry when it first happened, didn't he?

Roland Hui00:55

Yes, Lorna, I've read that. But didn't Wolsey help Brandon and Mary Tudor get back into H8's good graces after they wed?

Tony Riches00:55

yes - and Brandon did his best to support Wolsey

Lorna Wanstall00:56

So perhaps was thankful to see Wolsey fall as his debt to him would have fallen with him, if that makes sense

RealTudorLady00:56

Wolsey got Brandon out of his marriage entanglement as he hadn't sorted out the annulment of his marriage to his Aunt, Margaret (forget other name) and his first marriage and she turned up when he was married to Mary claiming she was still his wife and needed money.

Tony Riches00:56

No he was saddened by Wolsey's fall - and never bothered by his debts

Michelle Tercha00:57

Lorna, I thought I read that quote was attributed to Brandon, too. But I am a Tudor novice, for sure

Lorna Wanstall00:57

Thank you Tony

Laurie Duerr00:57

What do you think Charles would have thought about the everything that happened with his granddaughter Lady Jane Grey?

?

Tony Riches00:58

I think he was a good family man and was lucky not to know what became of his descendants

Tony Riches00:58

...especially his sons

Lorna Wanstall00:58

I certainly think Charles would have been heartbroken at both of his sons deaths

Laurie Duerr00:59

Very understandable..

Tony Riches00:59

Katherine never got over it

Rozsa00:59

Where is Charles buried?

RealTudorLady01:00

Yes, Lorna, those two young boys, so very sad to die within hours and such a horrible way, such a terrible loss.

Lorna Wanstall01:00

Did Katherine and Charles love each other

Tony Riches01:00

She nearly died of the sleeping sickness herself

Claire Ridgway01:00

Thank you everyone for joining in and for the wonderful questions. Thank you, Tony, for all the excellent answers too! Michelle is the winner of tonight's chat giveaway, so a copy of "Brandon" will be coming your way, Michelle. Next month's chats are 24 and 30 August so do put those dates in your diaries.

Michelle Tercha01:00

It sounds like Charles was a decent man who lived successfully (I don't mean successfully as far as money and status), during a tumultuous time

Tony Riches01:00

Charles is in St Georges Chapel - next to Henry VI

Doc Clark01:00

Great chat. Thank you Tony!

Lorna Wanstall01:00

Nice one Michelle, happy reading.

Ceri Creffield01:01

Thanks Tony. Interesting chat!

Michelle Tercha01:01

Oh, wow!!! Thank you!!! Thank you, Claire, and Mr Riches. I truly appreciate it

Rozsa01:01

Thank you, Tony! Will pick up next book when it comes out.

Tony Riches01:01

Thanks for all of your questions 😊

Ceri Creffield01:01

Congratulations Michele.

Laurie Duerr01:01

Thank you Tony and Claire!

Lorna Wanstall01:01

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

Michelle Tercha01:01

Thank you for an inspiring, interesting chat, Mr Riches. I'm looking forward to reading all your books.

RealTudorLady01:01

His grave isn't too far away from Henry VIII. Did it have stuff on when you went. I asked them to move a trolley so I could see it.

Claire Ridgway01:02

Thank you, everyone, there were some brilliant questions!

Tony Riches01:02

Yes I moved a trestle from Brandon's tomb

Rozsa01:02

Thk you, Claire!