

Live Chat with Matthew Lewis – 17 January 2020

Claire Ridgway23:48

Evening all!

Anthony Hillman23:49

Hello guys!

Christine Colburn23:49

Hello!

Matt Lewis23:49

Hello! Glad to be here and looking forward to chatting.

Lorna Wanstall23:49

Good evening everyone.. I hope you all had a very happy christmas and new ear

Lorna Wanstall23:49

Year..

Lorna Wanstall23:50

Matt Lewis, we are a lively bunch of history nuts.

Julie Lindner-Reid23:50

Hi everyone!

Matt Lewis23:50

I'm counting on it, Lorna!

RealTudorLady23:51

Hi Everyone.

Claire Ridgway23:51

A belated Happy New Year to you all!

Lorna Wanstall23:51

Hi RTL, how are you?

RealTudorLady23:51

Not too good, but wandering on.

Claire Ridgway23:53

Oh no, that's a shame RTL.

Lorna Wanstall23:53

RTL, yeah you just have to keep plodding along... The wet, cold weather is playing havoc with me at the moment. I feel like I need oiling as every joint is really stiff

RealTudorLady23:54

Thanks. On antibiotics for several weeks.

Bill Wolff23:54

Hi Claire and Group!

Claire Ridgway23:55

Welcome to our first live chat of the New Year and a special welcome and thank you to Matt for joining us. Your talk was excellent too, Matt – thank you!

Feel free to ask Matt anything to do with his talk, 1483: the year of three kings, or his research and books. Tim is poorly so I'm going to be concentrating on copying and pasting for the transcript, so forgive me for being quiet!

RealTudorLady23:55

Hi Bill.

Lorna Wanstall23:55

RTL.. Antibiotics can knock you for 6 sometimes.

Bill Wolff23:55

Hey Real, it's 70F and sunny in Arizona!!

Christine Colburn23:55

Matt, I enjoyed your BBC History Magazine article with Nathen Amin

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Bill making me feel jealous now,, roll on summer

RealTudorLady23:56

It was nice earlier but wet.

Matt Lewis23:56

Thank you Christine - any excuse to argue with Nathen!

Christine Colburn23:56

I appreciate that you can be on opposite sides of an issue and have rational discussions. You seem like good friends as well.

Claire Ridgway23:56

You and Nathen are fab when you're debating, well, you're both fab anyway!

Lorna Wanstall23:56

Matt why did Elizabeth Woodville hate Richard

RealTudorLady23:57

Hi Matt, do you think the mix up in the date of Edward iv death shows he was poisoned (not by Richard)

Lorna Wanstall23:57

Aside from him setting aside her marriage and stealing the throne

Lorna Wanstall23:57

Aside from him setting aside her marriage and stealing the throne

Lorna Wanstall23:58

my keyboard is acting up again, so sorry for spelling mistakes

RealTudorLady23:58

Lorna, Richard didn't steal the throne, he was offered it as the only legitimate heir left.

Lorna Wanstall23:59

RTL true....

Matt Lewis23:59

Hi Lorna. Until April 1483, there's no evidence they disliked each other. That doesn't mean they might not have hated each other, but there is no evidence of any long-running feud. They worked together on several matters, including the Prince of Wales's household. The Woodvilles made a power play in April 1483 that put them in direct conflict with Richard. Just a couple of months earlier, Anthony Woodville had submitted a property dispute to Richard for arbitration, trusting completely in his probity.

Lorna Wanstall00:00

Thank you Matt.

Shelley Varran00:00

Hello All!

Rozsa00:00

Did not Richard II steal the throne from Edward IV? that was my understanding.

Matt Lewis00:01

Hi RTL. John Ashdown-Hill makes a fairly compelling case for Edward having died early - hence the early message reaching York - and it being covered up as the Woodvilles tried to position themselves. It's possible it was kept secret as Henry VII's death was. The Woodvilles had nothing to gain from poisoning Edward really.

Lorna Wanstall00:01

I can see Richard's point in taking/accepting the throne, although I don't agree with the methods he used to get it.

RealTudorLady00:02

Thanks Matthew.

Lorna Wanstall00:02

Matt I believe that the same thing happened upon the death of Henry 8th as well.. His death was kept secret for 4 days I believe

Matt Lewis00:02

Lorna, I kinda think it was Elizabeth Woodville who made the first move and put Richard on the defensive. We know there were armed men in the streets of London long before Richard even left the north.

Shelley Varran00:03

What would have happened to Edward VI's daughter Elizabeth...the one who married Henry Tudor....if Henry Tudor had not captured the throne from Richard III?

Lorna Wanstall00:03

I believe Elizabeth Woodville was a popular queen

Matt Lewis00:03

Richard didn't steal the throne - at least not technically. Edward IV was dead and his son Edward V was proclaimed king, then declared illegitimate and incapable of succeeding. Richard was asked to take the throne as the senior male heir to the House of York.

Rozsa00:04

Was it not Richard III behind the move to declare the Woodville children illegitimate?

Lorna Wanstall00:04

Shelley, if Victory went to Richard at Bosworth, I think Elizabeth would have been married off to a foreign prince somewhere

Shelley Varran00:05

Henry VII, married Elizabeth....what would have happened Elizabeth had Henry Tudor married her?

Shelley Varran00:05

AH, okay....where could she have ended up....I mean who were in the running before Edward VI died.....?

Rozsa00:06

What do all say to the rumor that Richard and his niece Elizabeth of York were lovers before her marriage to Henry Tudor? It seems improbable to me.

Lorna Wanstall00:06

Shelley I believe for a while when Elizabeth was younger she was betrothed to the French dauphin.

RealTudorLady00:06

I can't understand why people believe Richard seized Edward V at Stoney Stafford or Northampton when he merely took legal protection of him, he was a minor after all, and Richard was outnumbered 4 to 1 and yet he didn't fight with them, he knelt and did reference and reassured an anxious, if mouthy young King.

Matt Lewis00:06

Hi Shelley. Elizabeth of York was part of marriage negotiations with Portugal. When Richard's wife died, he arranged a marriage to Joanna of Portugal. As part of the arrangements, Elizabeth was to be married to a duke, who actually became King of Portugal - a good match for her. I suspect a twisting of this story was the root of the story that Richard planned to marry her himself.

Lorna Wanstall00:07

Matt do you think Richard would have Married Elizabeth..

Shelley Varran00:07

Ah, how very different it certainly might have been if Edward VI had lived even another five years.

RealTudorLady00:09

Do you mean Edward iv or Edward v Shelley as Edward vi was the son of Henry Viii?

RealTudorLady00:10

Lorna good question.

Matt Lewis00:10

RTL - I argue in my book that Richard was appointed (or at least understood he had been appointed) Regent, which is different from the English office of Protector The Regent was responsible for the person of the king, so he wasn't seizing Edward, he was taking custody of the king as was his right and responsibility.

Lorna Wanstall00:10

Is it possible that what killed Edward, was an virilant attack of tyfoid.

Lorna Wanstall00:10

Edward 4th that is

Lamorna00:10

Hello everyone! I agree that it was unlikely there was any inappropriate relationship between Richard and Elizabeth of York. Richard himself would have been too religious minded to consider a relationship with his niece - even if she was the daughter of his half-brother rather than his full brother, as some rumours had it!

Rozsa00:11

Ahh, expound upon those rumors, Lamorna.

Matt Lewis00:11

Lorna - I don't think Richard ever even thought of marrying his own niece. He had nothing to gain from it, she was illegitimate and he was incredibly pious. I think it was just a made up story to cause trouble for him - and it worked!

Lorna Wanstall00:12

Matt, very likely a little bit of Shakespear propaganda..

Matt Lewis00:12

Edward IV's death is usually blamed on a chill, but we don't know for certain what killed him. The Crowland Chronicle is clear it was a shock and whatever illness he had should never have killed a poor man, let alone a king.

Lamorna00:12

I often think of Edward IV as the prototype of Henry VIII - Edward being Henry's grandfather. I suspect that Edward's demise was due to years of over-indulgence, similar to Henry VIII, although an infectious disease such as typhoid may have been the final straw for someone already in an unhealthy state.

RealTudorLady00:13

Yes, Matt and I think that is what the problem with Elizabeth Woodville, a Queen Regent was practically unheard of here as they had in France and our Lord Protector would go to an adult male relative of the late King.

Anthony Hillman00:13

Hi Matthew, do you enjoy going to Ludlow Castle and walking in the footsteps of all those famous long gone people we read so much about?

Matt Lewis00:13

The story of Richard planning to marry his niece Elizabeth of York is actually contemporary. Richard stood in London in early 1485 and denied the story - which is a shocking position for a king to find himself in.

Lorna Wanstall00:14

I think Henry has been much maligned by history... His skeleton showed he had a curved spine, but it can't have been too much of a problem for him, as he was a formidable soldier.

Anthony Hillman00:14

I always associate Ludlow Castle with Richard III's time

Lorna Wanstall00:14

I mean Richard, not Henry

RealTudorLady00:14

It was Richard's responsibility to protect and take Edward under his wing until they got to London at least and the Council made more decision or Parliament.

Matt Lewis00:15

Hi Anthony. I'm fortunate to live near Ludlow and I love it there. Standing where so many people I study were is incredible. Richard III, Edward IV, Richard, Duke of York, Warwick the Kingmaker, Cecily Neville, Margaret, Duchess of Burgundy, George, Duke of Clarence - in 1459, they were all within the walls of Ludlow Castle.

Lamorna00:15

I suspect Elizabeth Woodville was angling all along for her own male relatives such as Anthony Woodville to play the role of Lord Protector in the event of Edward V becoming King while still a minor. Ludlow castle is indeed amazing, I too associate Ludlow with the late Mediaeval and Tudor period especially as Prince Arthur and Katharine of Aragon also lived there.

Lorna Wanstall00:15

Anthony, understandable about Ludlow, as Edward's father another Richard did own it.

Laurie Duerr00:16

Hi Matt, how do you rationalize the incident of R3's seizing Edward V upon his route south after his father's death, and abrupt execution of Anthony Woodville and Richard Grey?

Rozsa00:16

was Richard truly a Plantagenet? Or did he have much to prove as did Henry Tudor who came to the Throne with a somewhat flimsy claim?

Anthony Hillman00:16

Lucky you! And I didn't know that Lorna but thanks for telling me! 😊

Matt Lewis00:17

Lorna - it's been suggested the scoliosis Richard suffered with would have reduced his lung capacity and made movement painful. He must have overcome it with rigorous training, because it never appeared to hold him back.

Lorna Wanstall00:17

I love the nickname Richard gave to Henry Tudor..... Richard called him a "Welsh milk sop" lol

Roland Hui00:18

Matthew - Besides R III wanting supposedly wanting to wed Elizabeth of York, there's the theory that she wanted very much to be married to him (based on a letter said to be written by her, now lost). What do you think?

Rozsa00:18

Henry Tudor's mum was no milk sop. If it wasn't for her, I wonder if he would have ascended the throne at all.

Bill Wolff00:18

ROZSA.

Lorna Wanstall00:19

Matt yes, Richard certainly proved that having a disability doesn't have to control your life..

Bill Wolff00:19

OOPS, R... no he wouldn't have!

Lorna Wanstall00:19

Rozsa Yes indeed MB was yet another one of life's formidable woman..

Lamorna00:19

With regard to Richard having nothing to gain from marrying Elizabeth - he could have strengthened his claim to the throne in the eyes of those who saw Edward's line as the rightful heirs - much as Henry Tudor did by marrying her. There is a theory that Edward Duke of York could not have been the father of Edward IV as the dates of the pregnancy and his whereabouts at the relevant time meant that he and his wife were not together at the relevant time. Although records of births

and the travels and movements of even a noble personage such as the DoY may not have been especially accurate in the 15th C.

Rozsa00:20

BILL. Jealous of you in Arizona. Freezing here in New York. Fire roaring in fireplace now.

RealTudorLady00:20

I want to speculate about if Richard won and married Joanna of Portugal and Elizabeth married the future Manuel I as he was negotiating. That also would have united the Houses of Lancaster and York.

Lorna Wanstall00:21

Rozsa I wish I had a coal fire. I love them...

Matt Lewis00:21

Hi Laurie. There's a fair bit to unpack there! I don't think Richard did seize Edward V. I think he took custody of the king as his position as regent required him to do. Woodville resistance to that would have caused Richard concern, especially if Hastings had written north and warned him the Woodvilles were planning coup. Anthony Woodville and Richard Grey were sent north as prisoners rather than being summarily executed. Richard was never quick to execute (Hastings is an exception, but there was a trial for treason first still). If Richard was trying to take real control, even aiming for the throne at this point, he would surely have executed them when he had the chance. Annette Carson argues he meant to use them as leverage to try and get Elizabeth Woodville to cooperate when he arrived in London. If that was the plan, it didn't work.

Rozsa00:21

Hmmm. Does this mean that Eliz. Woodville got around? It's said she was stunningly attractive.

Shelley Varran00:22

This is a great online chat today.

Claire Ridgway00:22

It is, Shelley!

Matt Lewis00:22

Rozsa - Richard was definitely a Plantagenet. The Yorkist claim was based on descent from the second son of Edward III, via the Mortimers. That made their claim (arguably, I guess) better than the Lancastrian claim.

Christine Colburn00:22

Did Edward IV ever write a will, or was it just assumed young Edward would succeed him

Lorna Wanstall00:23

Rozsa EW must have had the "IT" factor to capture the heart of a king..

Lamorna00:23

Matt, you are very fortunate, Shropshire is a beautiful part of the world! If Richard had lived longer, his disability may have become more of a problem for him, leading to respiratory problems and possibly causing his eventual death. Richard may well have suspected that he would not have a long life due to his disability.

Shelley Varran00:23

What eventually happened to Elizabeth Woodville after Henry Tudor (Henry VII) came to the throne....what happened to all her children?

Rozsa00:23

Lorna - I would like to discuss Margaret Beaufort with you in front of a coal fire one of these days. Hot toddies by our sides.

Christine Colburn00:23

I feel like we only ever hear about Henry VIII'S will in relation to the succession

Lorna Wanstall00:24

Shelley Elizabeth wood ville retired to Bermonsey abbey

Matt Lewis00:24

Hi Roland. The letter is tricky. The original doesn't survive and what we have is a transcript of a fire damage copy. I think it was Elizabeth expressing excitement at the prospect of the Portuguese marriage Richard was arranging for her, and it's misconstrued to refer to her wanting to marry Richard.

Bill Wolff00:24

Lorna and Rozsa, count me in on that chat!

Rozsa00:24

EW stood at the side of a road and captured a king. I would have liked to have been a blade of grass observing that meeting.

Shelley Varran00:25

Very interesting, does anyone know what happened to Elizabeth Woodville's remaining children?

Julie Lindner-Reid00:25

I just want to add--about Richard III's spinal condition--don't underestimate the amount of pain or level of disability he was in simply because he got on with things. We can hide a lot, and having money and staff certainly helps.

Anthony Hillman00:25

If only the original letter survived!

RealTudorLady00:25

I think Elizabeth Woodville was a manipulative shrew who knew exactly what she was doing, went into sanctuary and manipulation followed to plot against Richard, get everyone to feel sorry for her, get good marriages for her daughter and get Margaret Beaufort on her side.

Lorna Wanstall00:25

Elizabeth woodville youngest child Bridget became a nun at Dartford. She died in 1530 something

Shelley Varran00:26

YEAH REALLY, just exactly how DID Elizabeth Woodville "capture" the kings interest, wink!

Matt Lewis00:26

RTL - I think drawing in Lancastrian blood was precisely Richard's plan. The Portuguese royal family was the largest and strongest pool of Lancastrian blood by that point. I wrote an article for a magazine a few years back about what might have happened if Richard had won at Bosworth. It's fun to consider.

Shelley Varran00:27

I agree with RealTudorLady.....And Elizabeth Woodville is NOT someone I would have wanted to ever have met....it is too bad her children had to put up with her..

Rozsa00:27

Oh RTL, don't disavow me of my fantasies. I absolutely look up to Eliz. Woodville and Eliz. of York as women who took what life served them and made a 5-star coq au vin.

Julie Lindner-Reid00:27

RTL, I agree that she knew how to manipulate people, but honestly, what other way did a woman have to get ahead in that age? I kind of admire her.

Julie Lindner-Reid00:28

YES Rozsa!

Shelley Varran00:28

Well, there's a good Master's project perhaps, or at least a good book subject, "How life changed for Elizabeth Woodville and her children after Henry Tudor came to the throne".

Matt Lewis00:29

Christine - Edward did leave a will. The last one that survives was around the time of the French invasion, but it's accepted he wrote a later one which doesn't survive. The executors met at Barnard Castle not long after his death, but couldn't prove the will because his wife and children (as beneficiaries) were in sanctuary and so unavailable to administer it. His son Edward V would have succeeded as his recognised heir and Prince of Wales. Men had sworn oaths to accept him as Edward's successor ever since he had been born.

Lamorna00:29

Richard showed great strength of character to do all he could in terms of physical activities including fighting in battle, especially in a world that had little understanding of his condition and could do very little to help him. I'd like to think they did at least have some herbal concoctions to ease the pain.

Rozsa00:29

Did Richard III's supporters betray him at Bosworth by standing by doing nothing while waiting to see which way the wind would blow?

Christine Colburn00:29

Rozsa I hope you're a writer because i would love to read that story!

Shelley Varran00:30

Well, at least we have today, when Women are trying to bring things more even keel on what they can do in life...but God save us from manipulative shrews even in our day now!!!!

Matt Lewis00:30

Lamorna - I think Richard must have wrestled with the perception of his disability - what others thought of him, what he thought of himself and what God meant by afflicting him.

Christine Colburn00:30

Thank you Matt

RealTudorLady00:30

Shelley, EW came out of sanctuary with her children. Her daughter, Elizabeth married Henry Tudor and became Queen. Cecily was married three times. The others either married, died or one became a nun. We don't know what happened to Edward V or Richard some say they were killed, some

died, some lived, some were rescued, its a mystery. EW entered a monastery under Henry Tudor and plotted against him.

Lorna Wanstall00:31

Rozsa Northumberland, sat on the fence and the Stanley's always had one foot in each camp so one way or another the Stanley's had a finger in the pie of things..

Rozsa00:31

Christine, I am, you must take a look at my Anne of Brittany Series. Cooking up an idea for EW's meeting with Edward the King...

Matt Lewis00:32

Shelley - Elizabeth Woodville lost (or gave up, depending what you believe) all her property in 1487 around the time of the Lambert Simnel Affair. She lived until 1492 at Bermondsey Abbey. Those of her children who lived through 1483 survived for many years after her death. The Princes is another conversation I guess!

Christine Colburn00:32

Oh good, you're the Rozsa I was thinking of. Hi!

Lorna Wanstall00:32

Rozsa the Stanley's motto was Sans changer.

Bill Wolff00:32

Lord Stanley was going to be on the Winning Team!!!

Shelley Varran00:32

Thank you RTL!

Shelley Varran00:32

Matt, if you could interview anyone from the Tudor days, who would you like to take with?

Julie Lindner-Reid00:33

Matt--can we talk about the Princes now? 😊

Shelley Varran00:33

talk with sorry for the typo!

Laurie Duerr00:33

Thanks Matt, I appreciate the additional context around that incident.. and though I can possibly understand R3's looking to take custody of Edward V as somewhat of a means of protection, I still don't understand nor agree with Anthony Woodville and Richard Grey's execution, as I am not convinced that they were a real threat or substantially plotting a "coup"; they were just trying to see that Edward V actually claimed the throne...

Lamorna00:33

I agree Matt - the idea of being afflicted as a punishment or test by God must have been heart rending in a religious world where people looked for signs of God's favour or lack thereof in their circumstances, bodily health and things that befell them.

Lorna Wanstall00:33

Matt, the Princes Enigma is a very interesting one though

Rozsa00:33

Hi Christine! Lorna - was that motto "sans changer" one of those projections when one is susceptible to the opposite viewpoint?

Matt Lewis00:36

Rozsa - Bosworth is a complex one (what isn't when it comes to Richard III!). Northumberland is the only noble who didn't engage, but he was arrested by Henry VII after the battle, suggesting it was a premeditated plan. The Stanley family sat in the middle and waited to decide what to do. They eventually joined in on Henry's side. Norfolk and his son and all of Richard's household men fought for him, most of them giving their lives.

Lamorna00:36

The problem Richard had at Bosworth was that not enough people were sufficiently loyal to him personally that they were willing to risk their own necks for him. Northumberland held back, Stanley waited until he could see which way the wind was blowing and knew that he could swing the battle towards whichever side he joined in on. So despite having the larger force Richard seemed to have fewer people prepared to fight for his cause than Tudor.

Lorna Wanstall00:37

Rozsa "Sans Changer" means without changing..

RealTudorLady00:37

You are welcome, Shelley. Bridget was two at the time and I think she became a nun.

Matt Lewis00:38

Shelley - what an awesome question! I find Sir Thomas More very interesting - and there's one theory that says he knew what happened to the Princes in the Tower (and it wasn't what he wrote!). I'd like to get that scoop.

Rozsa00:38

Lorna - Those Stanleys might have put it out there that they were "sans changer" precisely because their true motto was "always on the winning team."

Anthony Hillman00:39

Good answer Matt! I would love to know how much Thomas More DID know

Lorna Wanstall00:39

Lamorna, Richard's army outstripped Henry Tudor's.

Rozsa00:39

Who here thinks it wasn't really Richard in the Tower with Edward, but a boy sent to impersonate him?

Matt Lewis00:39

Julie - I'll talk about the Princes all day long!! My book *The Survival of the Princes in the Tower* lays out all of the theories and evidence that suggests they weren't murdered in 1483.

Bill Wolff00:39

Remember Rozsa, Stanley was "Mr. M. Beaufort"

Rozsa00:41

Bill = Margaret wore those husbands like yesterday's old clothes. She was all about her son.

Lorna Wanstall00:41

RTL, I think the earliest age a child could be accepted into religious life was 7.

Bill Wolff00:41

Yep....and it worked!

Matt Lewis00:41

Laurie - it's tough to find a satisfactory explanation for what was going on with all sides. The Woodvilles definitely made a bid for power - Hastings threatened to withdraw to Calais and barricade himself in if they succeeded. If Richard planned to use Anthony and Richard Grey as leverage, and Elizabeth refused to co-operate, he may have felt obliged to follow through with a threat to execute them, or appear weak. There's no easy, or certain, answer though.

Matt Lewis00:43

Lamorna - the numbers at Bosworth are interesting. If you take out Northumberland and add the Stanleys to Henry's force, they were actually even.

Rozsa00:43

Bill - I adore MB. Just wish she'd had a better "vie sentimentale."

Bill Wolff00:44

R, yes I agree, pretty serious!!

Rozsa00:45

Someone pls. tell me that those two boys weren't smothered in their sleep in the Tower.

Laurie Duerr00:45

Thanks Matt, yes there certainly were many factors and complexities going on during that unstable time.. which makes it all the more interesting for us to learn and talk about!

RealTudorLady00:45

Rozsa, no I don't believe the Philippa Gregory theory that Elizabeth sent another boy to replace Richard, her real son. Elizabeth had no real need to worry, even if she was concerned and I think she was. I also actually admire that side of her. Any of those mothers fighting for the inheritance rights of their sons, Margaret of Anjou, Margaret Beaufort and Elizabeth Woodville all deserving of praise as mothers in real or imagined danger and she had been in danger before back in 1469/70.

Lorna Wanstall00:45

Rozsa, you have to admit for a 13 year old widow and single mum, she is pretty amazing

Shelley Varran00:46

Very good chat room conversation today....

Lorna Wanstall00:46

SWMNBN (P.G) does come up with some very bizarre things

Rozsa00:46

Lorna - I don't know how MB did it. She and Eliz.1 both knock me sideways with their fortitude.

Christine Colburn00:47

Yes, Shelley, I agree! Can't wait to read it all later

Rozsa00:47

Ok - guilty as charged. I have been reading some Philippa Gregory lately. What's SWMNBN, Lorna?

Matt Lewis00:48

Female power in the Wars of the Roses is a fascinating topic. Joanna Laynesmith writes some excellent explorations of it. Women like Cecily Neville, Elizabeth Woodville and Margaret Beaufort did so much because they understood how to use the power they could wield.

Rozsa00:49

Joanna Laynesmith - which book? I hope it's not too academic...

Lorna Wanstall00:49

I wonder what M.B would have made of Henry 8th reign? She was pious and I dare say she would be spinning up a maelstrom if she knew H8 tore up the church etc.

Lamorna00:50

Northumberland certainly took himself out! I believe he was killed a few years later as a result of his lack of support for Richard at Bosworth, didn't his personal body guard stand back and allow him to be killed? I was trying to get at the idea that Richard's men (who in theory outnumbered Tudor at least at the start of the battle) seemed less willing to go all out for him, with the exception of those who were very close to him. And Stanley of course was loyal to Tudor because he was his stepson and thought he would stand more to gain with Henry as King rather than Richard.

Anthony Hillman00:50

Interesting thought Lorna!

Christine Colburn00:50

Henry VII would roll in his grave, too

RealTudorLady00:50

Hi Rozsa wish we could say for certain the boys were not killed, I hope not, they were not killed by Richard, but the truth is nobody actually knows. There are various sources and theories but we actually don't know.

Rozsa00:50

Lorna - I would guess that MB would have thought Henry 8 too pleasure-loving. He was, but I wish MB had been a bit more pleasure-loving herself.

Kate Ferguson00:51

Matt, has there been any further discussion in historical circles regarding the claim that Elizabeth Woodville died from plague at Bermondsey Abbey? It that a theory that is accepted?

Matt Lewis00:51

Joanna Laynesmith has written The Last Medieval Queens and a biography of Cecily Neville. She is an academic, but her books are excellent on medieval women's power.

Lamorna00:52

Henry VIII may have got his ruthless streak, and his determination to have a son to leave the throne to, from his Grandmother Margaret.

Rozsa00:53

Lamorna - What this adds up to for me is that Richard 3 did not inspire love, devotion and passion from his men.

Christine Colburn00:53

What does everyone think about exhuming and testing the bones in the Tower believed to be those of the Princes? Would testing tell us anything beyond possible cause of death?

Matt Lewis00:53

Lamorna - one of the paradoxes around Richard is that those who knew him well were fiercely and absolutely loyal to him, but he struggled to convince other men of power. I suggest reasons for that in the book - Richard's agenda was radical and impacted the authority of the nobility and gentry, which might be why they didn't entirely support him.

Rozsa00:54

Matt Lewis - I will read Laynesmith's The Last Medieval Queens but if it puts me to sleep I will blame you.

Anthony Hillman00:54

Wasn't there meant to be chicken bones or something alongside the princes bones or is that myth?

Christine Colburn00:54

They could be anyone's bones

Matt Lewis00:54

Hi Kate. There was a flurry of discussion when the article came out, but it seems to have died away and it isn't clear whether its accepted or not. I think it remains an interesting theory. For what it's worth, I wondered whether the report applied to Cecily Neville rather than Elizabeth Woodville.

Claire Ridgway00:55

Thank you, everyone, for attending the live chat and for all your wonderful questions and comments. A big thank you to Matt for being so generous with his time and knowledge. Lamorna is the winner of the giveaway. Lamorna, let me know whether you'd prefer a copy of Matt's book "Richard III: Fact and Fiction" or "The Survival of the Princes in the Tower", and I'll get a copy sent out to you.

Bill Wolff00:55

Fun times, all. Thanks much!!

Rozsa00:55

I would like to see the bones tested. How can any myth be truly laid to rest until one has exhausted every means to ascertain its veracity?

Laurie Duerr00:56

Thanks Matt! And Claire!

Lorna Wanstall00:56

Christine.. DNA on the bones, would answer once and for all if they really the bones of the Princes.. but we are still left with the enigma on who killed them and why... Personal opinion here but I feel the Duke of Buckingham had something to do with their death

RealTudorLady00:56

Christine, the bones yes. we should do that, but HM the QE2_would not allow it. Definitely we do need to test them. They are human. That's about it.

Rozsa00:56

Claire - It was much fun, but we missed you. Tell Tim to get well soon!

Kate Ferguson00:56

Thanks Matt!

Christine Colburn00:57

Thank you everyone!

Julie Lindner-Reid00:57

Thank you, Matt! And Claire!

Matt Lewis00:57

Christine - we now have both male line DNA and female line mtDNA for the princes, so if there was any uncorrupted DNA remaining in the urn (the bones have been messed with both when found and when examined in 1933), we could now answer once and for all whether they are those of the princes. I strongly suspect they aren't. Prince Charles is an archaeologist by training, so he may be more open to the idea.

Claire Ridgway00:57

Thank you, Rozsa!

Lorna Wanstall00:57

Thank you Matt.. Feel free to pop into the forum and make a comment on any post that tickles your fancy

Claire Ridgway00:57

Thank you, everyone. Good night and have a wonderful weekend!

Matt Lewis00:57

Rozsa - fair play! If you enjoy it, I'll expect a drink...

Lamorna00:58

I think Richard was the sort of person who was not easy to get to know, but once you were his friend, Loyaute me lie as the motto said! Once you got into his inner circle you were his friend for life. Maybe he was a bit of a Marmite character, you either loved or hated him! Yes, I know of his legal reforms, presumption of innocence, trial by jury and so forth, that are still the basis of our legal system today. Such a shame he never got the longer reign he (in my opinion) deserved, as I'm sure he would have been one of our greatest monarchs. Unfortunately, the way his reign got off to a bad start, with some people believing he had usurped his nephew and then the mystery of what happened to both Princes, he never achieved the mass popularity that it benefits a monarch to have. If his personality was less than charismatic at least in public, then that would not have helped. Edward IV seemed to have charisma in spades that would inspire his men in battle, but Henry Tudor was not a popular King either.

Rozsa00:58

Lamorna - You may be spot on with that observation that Henry 8 got his bones of steel from his grandmother MB. Intriguing!

RealTudorLady00:58

Congratulations, Lamorna. Thanks Matt. Loyaltie Me Lie.

Matt Lewis00:58

Thank you all.

Claire Ridgway00:59

Night!

Lorna Wanstall00:59

Time for bed folks, been a loooooong day. Take care and keep safe everyone Xx