

# Transcript of our live chat with Tony Riches on Katherine Willoughby and the Protestant Martyrs

Claire Ridgway23:54

Welcome to tonight's/today's live chat with historical novelist Tony Riches. Thank you to Tony for joining us and for his wonderful talk on Katherine Willoughby and the Protestant martyrs. Please feel free to ask Tony any questions on his talk, his books and his research. I'll be here just keeping an eye on things as moderator. We'll be giving away one copy of Tony's book on Katherine to one lucky "chatter" too.

Bill Wolff23:54

Hi Tony, I wrote you after "Henry" and you were kind enough to answer. Hi Claire and group!

Lorna Wanstall23:54

I love Wales, grew up on the Welsh borders

Claire Ridgway23:54

I'm glad you made it, Georgia!

Lorna Wanstall23:56

How old was Katherine willowby when she married Charles

Tony Riches23:57

Katherine was fourteen at the time, and Charles Brandon was forty nine

Bill Wolff23:57

Are we OK, I don't seem to be tracking well.

Lorna Wanstall23:57

Hi Roland

Claire Ridgway23:57

I think so, Bill.

Rozsa23:58

Hello all and is Hurricane Gloria affecting you, Claire?

Claire Ridgway23:59

Rosza, we had snow at the beginning of the week but things have settled down here now, thank you.

Stephanie Currier23:59

Hi everyone! Sorry I missed the last chat earlier this month I have been moving and then very ill! I hope everyone is having a great day.

Lorna Wanstall23:59

How did she become Charles Brandon's ward.....

Claire Ridgway23:59

Hope you're on the mend now, Stephanie.

Tony Riches23:59

CB paid Henry for her wardship after her father died

ADMIN Tim0:00

I always feel that the age difference between Brandon and Katherine was well beyond the norm, even for the Tudor times. How much court gossip was there?

Tony Riches0:00

He offered to pay for her on instalments, as a future wife for his son

Anthony Hillman0:00

Hi Tony, have you ever seen that Holbein drawing of Katherine?

Tony Riches0:01

The courtiers joked that he'd married his daughter

Lorna Wanstall0:01

Stephanie, moving is a real pain.... When we moved in 2018 it was manic..... We moved on a Wednesday spent one night in the house and then went on holiday for a fortnight.. [When we came back well you can guess

Georgia Cosenza0:01

I knew virtually nothing about Catherine Willoughby until I saw the video and read a couple of the articles on the site. I never realized how influential she was. So now I'm looking forward to reading Tony's series.

Tony Riches0:01

yes I have his res copies of all the portraits

Lorna Wanstall0:02

Why wasn't Katherine allowed to stay with her mother?

Tony Riches0:02

Catherine Parr's book is dedicated to Katherine

Rozsa0:02

In your book Tony, Katherine seems not to have come into her own until her second marriage.

Would you agree?

Claire Ridgway0:02

It must have been heartbreaking for her to lose her sons to sweating sickness like she did.

Stephanie Currier0:03

Thank you Claire! Lorna, it is so stressful! I didn't realize I had so much stuff. Georgia, I was in the same boat as you, and have really been interested in her after watching the video.

Tony Riches0:03

It was normal for young ladies to be mentored as prep for court - in this case by Mary Tudor

Georgia Cosenza0:03

Hmm. Is there a problem with the chat or is it on my end. Not seeing much including my last comment

ADMIN Tim0:03

Holbein's portrait drawing is, like all his works, amazing. He never seemed to romanticise his subjects ... it's like you actually could see her in real life.

Claire Ridgway0:03

Georgia, sometimes you need to refresh your browser page. It's fine for me, but sometimes there can be a glitch.

Tony Riches0:04

Katherine never really got over the loss of her sons

Bill Wolff0:04

Could be slow for you Georgia, mine is ok now.

Anthony Hillman0:04

Can I ask when did Katherine join the court? She is someone I would love to know more about

Tony Riches0:04

Holbein is a genius

Lorna Wanstall0:04

Stephanie, I am still finding things even now..... Got to sort the sheds out this week as a lot of stuff got crammed in there and forgotten about.

Roland Hui0:05

Yes, good question by Anthony, how authentic is the Holbein drawing of her? Or is it another Duchess of Suffolk? Frances Brandon?

Tony Riches0:05

Katherine started at court when she married Charles Brandon

Tony Riches0:06

I believe the Holbein portrait is of Katherine

Anthony Hillman0:06

There is a miniature of her also I believe

Stephanie Currier0:07

Lorna, haha! It's like Christmas each time you find something you forgot about.

Lorna Wanstall0:07

What did her mother think about Katherine's reformed faith beliefs?

Tony Riches0:07

Yes I have a copy - and of her older at Grimsthorpe, which I saw last year

Anthony Hillman0:07

Yes I think the holbein drawing is of Katherine

Georgia Cosenza0:07

Ok, finally dawned on me to try a refresh of the browser and all seems well and see that You suggested that Claire. Thanks

Tony Riches0:08

Katherine's mother was horrified at her reformist views

Claire Ridgway0:08

Lamorna, I don't know whether you got my email about you winning the book from the last chat.

Please can you email me at [claire@theanneboleynfiles.com](mailto:claire@theanneboleynfiles.com) re shipping address? Thank you!

Claire Ridgway0:08

That's good, Georgia!

Anthony Hillman0:09

That's brilliant Tony! 🤔

Lorna Wanstall0:09

Was Katherine originally brought up as a Catholic? and how did Katherine become involved in the reformed faith. Was that down to Charles

Tony Riches0:10

Yes - until she began listening to Cranmer's sermons

Lamorna0:10

Hi Claire, I'm just about to email you!

Tony Riches0:10

CB was secretly agnostic

Claire Ridgway0:11

Lamorna, thank you!

Lorna Wanstall0:11

CB agnostic, now that is very interesting.

Stephanie Currier0:11

I think its just fascinating Katherine knew all of Henrys wives

Rozsa0:11

CB was an opportunist from what I can tell. Anyone else?

Bill Wolff0:11

I bet there were many closet agnostics.

Tony Riches0:11

Yes Katherine could not have been better connected

Anthony Hillman0:12

Yes me too, she would be a great person to speak to

Stephanie Currier0:12

Was she to young to be apart of Katherine of Aragons court?

Tony Riches0:12

CB liked to keep his options open

Lorna Wanstall0:12

Stephanie, I think she was named for Catherine of Aragon and I believe Catherine of Aragon was her God mother

Tony Riches0:12

Katherine was only at Catherine of Aragon's court because of her mother

Lamorna0:13

I never thought of Stephanie - it would be very interesting to know what Katherine thought of all of Henry's Queens!

Tony Riches0:13

Katherine was best friends with two of them

Lorna Wanstall0:13

Perhaps CB being Agnostic, is the reason to why his friendship with Henry lasted to the end of his life

Anthony Hillman0:14

Who was they Tony? Catherine Parr I'm guessing and the other?

Rozsa0:14

Indeed, Tony. CB was one of the few who defied Henry 8 with his marriage to Henry's sister and came out of it with both his head and their friendship intact. I'm sure Henry 8 recognized a kindred spirit in CB.

Tony Riches0:14

Yes if you study CB's letter you can see he has no strong views on religion

Roland Hui0:15

Was it easy for Katherine W. to go into exile abroad? Did she literally have to sneak out of England?

Lorna Wanstall0:15

Lamorna I think Catherine Parr knew 5 of them too

Tony Riches0:15

No it was almost impossible to escape undetected - and even abroad Mary sent men after her

Rozsa0:15

Yes, I would like to know, along with Anthony who the other one was aside from Catherine Parr.

Claire Ridgway0:16

Was there anything you found out about Katherine, or those related to her, that surprised you?

Tony Riches0:16

Anna of Cleves

Lamorna0:16

Would be interesting to know what Katherine made of Anne Boleyn given that her mother was a close friend of Catherine of Aragon.

Tony Riches0:16

Yes I was surprised she named her daughter Susan

Rozsa0:16

Ah, Anna of Cleves, the smart survivor.

Anthony Hillman0:17

Ahhhhhhh good old anne of cleves!

Lorna Wanstall0:17

So would you say that CB simply bent with the wind and happily went along with whatever the old git Henry said and did

Kate Ferguson0:17

Tony, is there any evidence, or what is your opinion, regarding the nature of Katherine's marriage to Charles Brandon? Was it friendly? Loving?

Claire Ridgway0:17

Thank you!

Lamorna0:17

That makes sense given that Anne of Cleves was also a Protestant.

Tony Riches0:17

CB was really unhappy about the trial of Anne Boleyn - but still went along with it

Rozsa0:18

Lorna, he defied Henry by marrying Henry's sister before he brought her back from France, after the death of French king Louis XII, Mary's husband for 3 short months. It was quite a risk!

Tony Riches0:18

Katherine was sent to welcome Anna of Cleves to England

Lorna Wanstall0:18

Rozsa I agree Anne of Cleves was very astute, and quickly figured out the fat git she had married

Tony Riches0:18

they remained friends for the rest of her life

Rozsa0:19

Tony - I got the sense that Katherine was not passionate about CB in the way she was about Richard Bertie. What say you?

Tony Riches0:19

Anne did quite well out of the deal

Tony Riches0:19

Yes Katherine had to marry CB out of duty - but chose RB for love

Lorna Wanstall0:19

Rozsa yes CB did take a real risk in marrying Mary.

Tony Riches0:20

Marrying CB also made Katherine the most important woman in England after the queen

Lorna Wanstall0:20

What duty was it that Katherine felt she had to marry CB

Anthony Hillman0:21

Wow!

Lorna Wanstall0:21

Welcome Kate

Rozsa0:21

Anne of Cleves was the only wife of all of them who got away from Henry and remained friends AND with significant alimony. Perhaps this was because he was utterly unattracted to her yet recognized the significance of keeping her good will.

Tony Riches0:21

CB expected her to agree - that was the way of the world

Kate Ferguson0:22

Thank you Lorna! Loved the chat last time, so made sure I was on time for this one!

Lorna Wanstall0:22

Rozsa, I have always felt that if Henry had only given his marriage to Anne a chance it could have been successful

Bill Wolff0:23

I totally agree Lorna.

Lorna Wanstall0:23

I also feel that Anne of Cleves sailed right past our little island on her way down the Medway to Rochester

Lamorna0:24

Henry could always have looked elsewhere for female company if Anne was not appealing but stayed with her for political expediency.

Claire Ridgway0:24

I love that Katherine seems to have had such a strong personality.

Rozsa0:24

Lorna, I heard that Anna had a personal body smell that drove Henry up the wall. There's something about the sense of smell that is the deciding factor in whether it's Yay or Nay between two people.

Tony Riches0:25

I believe all the negative stuff about Anna of Cleves was fake news

Bill Wolff0:25

Rosa, I doubt the stinker element existed.

Anthony Hillman0:25

So was Katherine another who took Henry's eye?

Rozsa0:26

Bill, the stinker element was times ten back in the days of washing once or twice a year.

Tony Riches0:26

Possibly - but it wasn't mutual!

Anthony Hillman0:26

Sorry If I seem oblivious, she just isn't someone I've had a chance to read about properly yet! Haha

Lorna Wanstall0:26

Rozsa, the words Kettle and black come to mind, here, as it's believed that due to Henry's rotten legs he could be smelled from 5 rooms away

Bill Wolff0:26

3!

Tony Riches0:26

Katherine was waiting to marry Richard

Claire Ridgway0:27

If there'd been anything wrong with Anne, others would have mentioned it, and her ladies would have advised her.

Rozsa0:27

the thought of having to bed Henry is beyond the pale. That smell, that flab, those small beady eyes...

Lorna Wanstall0:27

It's possible that it was simply the perfume Anne used Henry didn't like..

Tony Riches0:27

Henry just needed an excuse

Tony Riches0:28

he decided she wasn't a maiden

Lorna Wanstall0:28

Tony he made many excuses, it all boiled down to one thing it was his fault, and always had been

Rozsa0:29

I think it was just her. She was from a more or less Germanic background where all the fabulous wiles and charms of an Anne-Boleyn type raised at the French court would have never even crossed her mind. That's what Henry liked and Anna had none of it. But he respected her so he set her aside with a generous sum and the appellation of beloved sister.

Anthony Hillman0:29

How long did Katherine remain at court for after Catherine Parr's death?

Bill Wolff0:29

Let's face it, AofC was a political deal, H8 had eyes for young cuties, we'll maybe til KP.

Kate Ferguson0:29

Once married to RB, did Katherine remain at court?

Tony Riches0:29

I think it was poor Cromwell's fault - and he paid for it

Tony Riches0:29

No Katherine 'retired to the north'

Tony Riches0:30

Even Elizabeth didn't invite her back

Anthony Hillman0:30

Oh yes, I read somewhere she's buried up north isn't she?

Rozsa0:30

Yes, Cromwell should of had them meet in person before it was a done deal. An attractive portrait cannot substitute for personal attraction.

Lorna Wanstall0:30

Well In any case I think there was a lot of fault with everything... Cromwell, Hales, and possibly Holbien too

Anthony Hillman0:30

Elizabeth could be harsh lol

Bill Wolff0:30

Cromwell was a problem there, but I think his many enemies leaped on him given the opening.

Tony Riches0:31

I visited her tomb at Spilsby - there is a post with pictures on my blog

Anthony Hillman0:31

I will have a look at that, thanks Tony!

Rozsa0:31

Tell us about her tomb. Romantic? I heard Richard Bertie eulogized her. Was that from your book?

Tony Riches0:31

Katherine's tomb is amazing as it has a life-sized 'green man' and a Saracen

Tony Riches0:32

Bertie risked his life for Katherine many times - and is buried at her side

Kate Ferguson0:32

How did Bertie risk his life for Katherine?

Lorna Wanstall0:32

Why was K.P.'s child placed into her care. Surely the most obvious person to let baby Mary go to was her brother.

Tony Riches0:33

My book is as factual as possible - I didn't need to make anything up

Rozsa0:33

More pls., Tony. Do tell about the green man and the Saracen. Bertie arranged this?

Lorna Wanstall0:33

Bertie must have truly loved his wife

Tony Riches0:34

The Saracen is an ancient Willoughby emblem and can be seen on the gates at Grimsthorpe Castle

Rozsa0:34

I agree, Lorna! Thank God Katherine deigned to marry him, because she must have longed for the real thing after living with the ambitious CB

Rozsa0:34

My gosh, what is the significance of a Saracen as a Willoughby emblem? Fascinating!

Georgia Cosenza0:35

I believe that I read that Anna of Cleves became good friends with Mary I when Mary was Queen and that Anne converted to Catholicism. This must have made her friendship with Katherine a bit awkward maybe. Or was this maybe at the time that Katherine was exiled on the continent?

Tony Riches0:35

Here is the link to my post about Katherine's tomb . <https://tonyriches.blogspot.com/2019/09/death-of-katherine-willoughby-duchess.html>

Lorna Wanstall0:36

Rozsa If Katherine had married him, I think given Katherine's radical religious views Henry would have cast her off and possibly had her charged with heresy

Anthony Hillman0:36

Will have a good read of that after the chat!

Claire Ridgway0:36

I think Anne of Cleves could be quite pragmatic when it came to religion. Her mother was in charge of her education and was Catholic, I believe.

Tony Riches0:37

Yes - Anna's family were quite odd though

Lorna Wanstall0:37

Georgia, You are right Anne of Cleves was good friends with Mary, She shared a coach with Elizabeth and Mary's coronation.. she is buried by the high altar in Westminster abbey

Claire Ridgway0:38

Who's been your favourite historical personality to write about so far?

Tony Riches0:38

I recommend Heather Darsie's book about Anna <https://tonyriches.blogspot.com/2019/04/book-review-anna-duchess-of-cleves.html>

Rozsa0:38

I would agree that Anna of Cleves was quite pragmatic. It would take a supreme pragmatist to survive escaping marriage in style from Henry 8.

Lorna Wanstall0:39

Another book for my wish list...

Tony Riches0:39

Mary Tudor Queen of France - she's my first choice to meet when they sort our time travel

Claire Ridgway0:39

Mary Tudor is fascinating.

Tony Riches0:40

It was really moving to see a lock of her hair - all the centuries melted away

Rozsa0:40

Mary Tudor knew how to bring CB to the marriage table. It was dangerous for him, too!

Lorna Wanstall0:40

Rozsa, she must have had a fair bit of knowledge about Henry's first 3 wives, and worked out the best course to take when Henry wanted rid of her

Tony Riches0:41

I wonder if CB did a deal with Henry, so it wasn't quite the risk he made it out to be?

Lorna Wanstall0:42

Has anyone heard of the book, Heart of a rose? Dinosaur brought it among other books for me for Christmas

Georgia Cosenza0:42

Thank for the link to your blog Tony

Tony Riches0:42

Henry had all his sisters' fortune as her 'punishment'

Claire Ridgway0:42

Tony, what are you working on at the moment?

Rozsa0:42

Anna Cleves was a smart woman. Katherine Parr appeared to be too.

Lorna Wanstall0:43

Yes Katherine Parr knew just what to do when Gardiner tried to have her arrested

Anthony Hillman0:43

Yeah Katherine Parr was very clever

Rozsa0:43

Lorna - am impressed with your sobriquet for your beloved.

Anthony Hillman0:43

Just wish she never married Thomas Seymour

Tony Riches0:43

Book one of my Elizabethan series is Drake - a fascinating character full of surprises

Claire Ridgway0:44

I do love Drake.

Rozsa0:44

What happened to Bill in Arizona? Are you out in the hot tub on your terrace?

Bill Wolff0:44

Drake landed near me in California!

Tony Riches0:44

I felt sorry for his wife - after all that waiting she died when he was kingdied

Bill Wolff0:45

72F today, Rosa

Tony Riches0:45

I've just been writing about Drake's visit to California

Lorna Wanstall0:45

Rozsa, the thing is he hates history, but he knows it makes me happy. He's an ancient fossilized bad tempered dinosaur.. lol

Laurie Duerr0:45

So Tony, would you say that CB really loved Mary Tudor? Compared to his relationship with Katherine which was prompted by business and financial reasons?

Rozsa0:45

Sick with envy, Bill. 48F here, torrential rain.

Bill Wolff0:45

But I leave Marin County in the winter.....rain!

Tony Riches0:45

Yes CB loved Mary Tudor since she was a girl

Rozsa0:46

I believe CB really loved Mary Tudor. However he also loved being Henry's #1 friend at his court.

Lorna Wanstall0:46

Rozsa, very damp and foggy here, dare say the damned fog horn will be blaring out tonight

Laurie Duerr0:46

Thanks, I just love their love story!

Rozsa0:47

Lorna, you have a way with words. And with husbands.

Lorna Wanstall0:47

Rozsa I think that Mary and Charles had been in love long before she married Louis

Georgia Cosenza0:47

Yes, I agree that Anna of Cleves was very pragmatic. I think that's why she was so successful. Just wondered how Katherine would've felt about it. The little I've read seemed to suggest that she was quite firm in her reformist beliefs.

Lorna Wanstall0:49

Georgia, AOC mother was a Catholic, so she would have had some sort of Catholic belief. I believe Her reformist beliefs were merely for convenience

Rozsa0:50

Lorna - I think the same thing about Mary and CB. And frankly, Louis was still mourning Anne of Brittany, the love of his life. But he desperately wanted a son and his advisors urged him to try for one with a remarriage ASAP. Mary seemed perfect for the job. Except that Louis was worn out and on his way to join his Brette in immortality.

Rozsa0:51

Did Mary Tudor die of breast cancer?

Tony Riches0:51

We mustn't forget that Mary liked the title Queen of France - and used it until her death

Tony Riches0:52

The term was 'a pain in her side - which could have been cancer

Lorna Wanstall0:52

I think Henry knew that C.B and Mary were in love too. He could/would have guessed what would have happened when CB was sent to France to bring her back

Tony Riches0:53

That thing about Henry agreeing Mary could marry a 'man of her own choosing' is a clue

Rozsa0:54

Yet he still punished her and CB with an enormous financial fine for marrying him on her own.

Claire Ridgway0:54

Thank you, everyone, for joining the chat, and a big thank you to Tony. Georgia is today's winner – congratulations! Georgia, we'll get a copy of Tony's book on Katherine sent to you.

Tony Riches0:54

...and did very well out of it. he wore the Mirror of Naples in his hat

Lorna Wanstall0:55

Mary would have known how Henry's mind worked though, and decided to Marry C.B before Henry could betroth her to some other royal

Bill Wolff0:55

Thanks all, most enjoyable.....now out to the patio. Love Arizona in the winter!

Tony Riches0:55

Bye from Pembrokeshire - would love to return to talk about Drake sometime



Anthony Hillman0:55

Well done Georgia and thank you Tony



Lorna Wanstall0:55

Well done Georgia, happy reading

Claire Ridgway0:55

Enjoy the patio, Bill!

Laurie Duerr0:55

Thank you Tony and Claire!!

Claire Ridgway0:56

Thank you so much, Tony, and that would be wonderful!

ADMIN Tim0:56

THanks all! Tony, we'd love you back for your talk on Drake in due course

Rozsa0:56

I'm sure that's why she insisted CB marry her before leaving France. Goodbye to you in Pembrokeshire, Lorna in the fog, Claire in Spain, Bill on the patio and everyone else.

Tony Riches0:56

Thanks again Tim

Claire Ridgway0:57

Bye/Good night everyone! Enjoy the rest of the weekend! Next live chat is an informal one and is on 31st.