

Julian Humphrys23:55

Weather in UK has settled down in the South. We had a brief blast of snow in Surrey which caused much excitement and a great number of snowmen

RealTudorLady23:55

It's the usual ten seasons in one day. But we had a bit of a break here in Liverpool for a few hours this afternoon so I went for a walk.

Lorna Wanstall23:55

Hi everyone

Julian Humphrys23:55

Hi Lorna

RealTudorLady23:56

Hi Lorna.

Lorna Wanstall23:56

It's been a bit wet and wild, but nothing major here.

Alana Ask23:57

Hi everyone

Lorna Wanstall23:57

The villages are flooded out but then that's normal for round here anyway. the whole area is marshland

Julian Humphrys23:57

I have just tested positive for Covid so no walks for me for a week

Lorna Wanstall23:57

I hope you will be ok Julian.

RealTudorLady23:57

I went to the two services online at Peterborough for Katherine of Aragon as well and it was very moving.

Claire Ridgway23:57

Julian, oh no! I hope you're feeling ok.

Julian Humphrys23:58

To be honest I feel fine

Lorna Wanstall23:58

I enjoy your battlefields talks

Claire Ridgway23:58

RTL, oh I'm glad they did them online.

Julian Humphrys23:58

Thank you Lorna. Where do you live?

Lorna Wanstall23:59

Julian On the Isle of Grain in Kent

Claire Ridgway23:59

Welcome to our live chat with Julian Humphrys, who is THE expert on battles and battlefields!

Thank you, Julian! I really enjoyed your talk on the Battle of Stoke Field. I love the photos.

Laurie Duerr23:59

Hi everyone! Hi Julian! Hope you're well!

Claire Ridgway23:59

Julian, I'm so glad you feel ok.

Lorna Wanstall29/1/2021 23:59

Hi laurie

RealTudorLady0:00

Hope everything is o. K Julian and you are well.

Claire Ridgway0:00

Hi Alana, Laurie, Lorna, Clare!

Lorna Wanstall0:00

Julian, how involved was Lambert simnel in the battle of Stoke?

Claire Ridgway0:01

Julian, I thought what you said about Lambert Simnel probably doing better with the failure of the rebellion than if it had been successful was interesting. I'd never thought about what his fate would have been.

Clare Shepherd0:01

Hi everyone, I missed you RTL last week. I listened to your talk on 1497 again this afternoon and the other on the cornishvRebellion, both excelken5 talks.mi hope you are better soon.

Lorna Wanstall0:01

Claire Lambert was one very lucky young man

Claire Ridgway0:02

Lorna, yes!

Julian Humphrys0:02

One thing about self isolating is that I have been (once again) tidying up my study. I found all my lecture notes from decades ago including one on a lecture by GR Elton!

Claire Ridgway0:02

Oh good find Julian!

Lorna Wanstall0:02

Put to work in the royal kitchen as aturnspit, he worked his way up to become a royal falconer

Clare Shepherd0:03

Elton was a great historian of his time, how lucky to have notes on him.

RealTudorLady0:03

Who do you think the real leader was Julian as Lambert was obviously a patsy?

Lorna Wanstall0:03

RTL Dela pole was the real power behind it I think

Claire Ridgway0:03

Hi Lamorna!

Julian Humphrys0:04

I always feel that losing Stoke was the best thing that could have happened to Lambert S. I feel 'something' would had happened to him had the Ricardians won

Lorna Wanstall0:04

De la pole was named as R3 heir so he wanted the throne

Julian Humphrys0:04

Absolutely, Lorna. Simnel was just a stalking horse, I think.

Lorna Wanstall0:04

Yes I agree Julian I think Lambert would have disappeared

Laurie Duerr0:04

Yes that certainly makes sense, as the real battle leaders likely would have pushed him out, after they won

Clare Shepherd0:04

For sure, the great lords who re Ellen wouldn't have tolerated him for 5 minutes.

Lamorna0:05

Good evening Claire, Julian and all. It's great to be here. I agree with Lorna that De La Pole played a large part in the planning of the Battle of Stoke Field

Laurie Duerr0:06

Julian, one part I never understood was why/how he pretended to be the Earl of Warwick, when everyone knew that the real EoW was currently in the Tower.. how did that go over?!

Lamorna0:06

I suspect either Lambert would have been `disappeared' or else `evidence' would have arisen to prove he was not one of the sons of Edward IV.

Lorna Wanstall0:06

Do you know what happened to Richard Simmons after Stoke?

Julian Humphrys0:06

It's interesting that H7 was very cross that Lincoln was killed. He wanted to 'question' him to see who else was involved in the rebellion

RealTudorLady0:06

That's who I think was the real power as well. Lincoln was the one with the claim unless he either did want to free Warwick or had as some people think Edward V hidden somewhere. The boy in Dublin who was crowned was more like 16.

Julian Humphrys0:06

He was spared, I believe, because he was a cleric

Julian Humphrys0:07

That's Richard Simmons

RealTudorLady0:08

Is that the priest who trained the boy?

Lorna Wanstall0:08

Do you feel he was possibly shut away in a monastery in solitary confinement so to speak

Lorna Wanstall0:08

RTL Yes it was

Clare Shepherd0:08

I find it very hard to take to Henry vii, even though some historians think he was a good king. Insecure royals are never good to be around.

Julian Humphrys0:08

I think that Simnel clearly wasn't Warwick but what do people think about the identity of Perkin Warbeck?

Lorna Wanstall0:09

Clare indeed Henry 8th chopped up a fair few rivals along the way as well

RealTudorLady0:11

I used to think Warbeck was an illegitimate son of Edward iv or a good actor but now I feel there is a real possibility he may have been Richard 4th Duke of York.

Lorna Wanstall0:11

Yes I think Perkin Warbeck was very convincing, Simnel was seen as silly kid caught up in something he had little understanding about

Julian Humphrys0:11

I have a sneaking regard for H7. It's interesting that when pictures of him and R3 are shown, they nearly always show that picture of a tired Henry at the end of his life

Claire Ridgway0:12

I do find Matt Lewis's work on the Princes' possible survival as very interesting, but I do think Warbeck was a pretender.

Clare Shepherd0:12

Yes, his father's son, but Hvii always seems ean, !or a.

RealTudorLady0:12

Richard of England certainly gave Henry Tudor a run for his money.

Lorna Wanstall0:12

RTL that is very possible, E4 did have a number of by blows before he became king

Clare Shepherd0:13

Ooops seems measy Lorna

Julian Humphrys0:13

I'm a bit old-school over Warbeck and see him as an imposter - a stick that other monarchs used to beat Henry with and then cast aside when it no longer suited them.

Claire Ridgway0:13

Julian, yes, the same old portraits are always used. We don't ever get to see the younger king at his prime.

Laurie Duerr0:13

Agreed, and unfortunately those portraits contribute to his not-so-great reputation as king..

RealTudorLady0:14

I find it interesting that the Imperial and Z

Julian Humphrys0:14

Claire - the worst place for this is the Bosworth visitor Centre. I have moaned to them about it

Lamorna0:14

That is difficult but I think there is a strong case that he was indeed who he claimed to be- he had support from his Aunt Margaret, Duchess of Burgundy, and there is the Tournament of Valenciennes tapestry which some have argued depicts Richard Duke of York.

Claire Ridgway0:14

Laurie, yes, he looks rather dour.

Lorna Wanstall0:14

What I don't get is why Margaret of York funded both of these pretenders schemes

Claire Ridgway0:14

Julian, yes, that's true!

Clare Shepherd0:14

That's true. Its always that mean mouthed , hard eyed portrait

Clare Shepherd0:15

She hated Henry VII

RealTudorLady0:15

Spanish Ambassador secret correspondence call him Duke of York even after his execution.

Lorna Wanstall0:15

At least Lambert fared a lot better than poor Ralph Woodful.

Laurie Duerr0:15

Yes, I think that MoY just wanted to believe that at least one of her nephews was still alive.. even if it was unlikely

Julian Humphrys0:15

Lamorna. I think Margaret, while she was able to, was prepared to support anyone against Henry. I'm looking forward to seeing what Nathen Amin has to say about it in his new book

Clare Shepherd0:16

Me too

Claire Ridgway0:16

I love Nathen's work. I'm really looking forward to his new book.

Clare Shepherd0:17

I think I got an email from Amazon saying it was delayed

Lorna Wanstall0:17

Do you know anything about Lambert's life before he got involved with Simmons/ De la pole.

Claire Ridgway0:17

Clare, yes, it is, because of Covid I think.

Julian Humphrys0:17

I've always been interested in Warbeck's marriage to such a junior member of the Scottish royal family. Had he been who he claimed to be and thought he had a chance of becoming king would he have agreed to it?

Clare Shepherd0:18

A lot of publications have been delayed for the same reason.

Lorna Wanstall0:18

Yes this covid is a pain in the backside

Clare Shepherd0:19

And then some, modern.

Lorna Wanstall0:19

Catherine Gordon was a cousin I believe to the Scottish King

Clare Shepherd0:20

Modern. I'll have to go. This pr3di time text is driving me up the wall.

Lamorna0:20

I'm inclined to agree Julian - for Margaret it was 'anyone but Henry'.

Julian Humphrys0:20

There are various claims about his parentage - baker, carpenter I think

RealTudorLady0:20

The wide range of opinions on the Pretenders is wonderful and now we have Nathan Amin as well. Of course we also have the late John Ashdown Hill and Matt Lewis and the author of Perkin. Its a minefield out there.

Julian Humphrys0:20

Has anyone been to Stoke Field?

Claire Ridgway0:21

Julian, no, although I would have driven past it in the past.

Lorna Wanstall0:22

Well I can go to stoke, it's about 10 minutes down the road, but it's not the battlefield

Claire Ridgway0:22

Are the information boards you mentioned dotted around the area?

Julian Humphrys0:23

Claire, yes as before a relief road was built the very busy Fosse Way ran right through it. I think it was more dangerous then that it was in 1487!

Claire Ridgway0:23

Julian, yes!

Laurie Duerr0:23

Its on my list to go, when we can travel again!

RealTudorLady0:23

No but I have a guide for a walk around the site. One thing I have read is that Henry did not commit himself with the second force for some time and Oxford was actually concerned about the outcome. IS that true?

Claire Ridgway0:24

Hi Michelle!

Michelle Tercha0:24

Hi everyone!! Hope you all are well! Hi Claire!

Michelle Tercha0:24

I remembered again! I'm on a roll!

Julian Humphrys0:24

Yes, the information boards are placed in various spots around the battlefield. Wargames Foundry - who make metal wargames figurs have their HQ at Stoke Hall which I think is quite fitting

Claire Ridgway0:24

Michelle, well done!

Lorna Wanstall0:24

How many men did Dela pole have on his side?

Julian Humphrys0:25

Hi Michelle

Lorna Wanstall0:25

Hi Michelle

Michelle Tercha0:25

Hi Julian, I love your videos. Thank you!

Claire Ridgway0:25

Julian, it's so good that they've put those boards up. It really is an interesting battle and it's wonderful that it's still mostly countryside.

Michelle Tercha0:25

Hi Lorna!

Julian Humphrys0:27

Good question about the numbers as I think we always tend to exaggerate, But maybe 4000 Irish, 2000 Swiss and German mercenaries (funded by Margaret) and maybe 1000 English Ricardians.

Claire Ridgway0:27

And why were the Irish so underdressed???

Clare Shepherd0:27

Did you read that Bosworth Field is to have buildings right on the edge if the battlefield?

Lorna Wanstall0:28

Claire perhaps they felt it was easier for them to fight like that

Claire Ridgway0:29

I thought the description of the Irish ending up like hedgehogs was rather vivid!

Julian Humphrys0:29

The Irish troops were light infantry really and rather than set piece battles they were used to skirmishes and ambushes where heavy armour was less necessary. Also, armour was expensive

Claire Ridgway0:29

Poor men!

Lorna Wanstall0:29

Claire guess the irish were arrow fodder then

Clare Shepherd0:30

No one would feel easy in ordinary clothes against armoured men. Even archers and pikemen had helmets and thick jacks

Julian Humphrys0:30

Claire. Yes, it makes me think of Sean Bean/Boromir in LOTR. When I was at the cinema and the third arrow went in someone shouted out One Hundred and Eighty!

RealTudorLady0:30

The chiefs dressed like that for ceremonial battle, I don't really think they were a good deal under dressed on the field but to be honest I don't think most people were fully armed either.

Claire Ridgway0:31

Julian, ha! Oh dear!

Clare Shepherd0:31

Oxford had cavalry, didn't he?

Julian Humphrys0:32

It's interesting that the inventory of John de Vere, Earl of Oxford includes helmets, brigandines, cuirasses but no single suit of armour

Claire Ridgway0:32

Interesting...

RealTudorLady0:33

The mercenaries must have been better armed and more professional as well as the nobility.

Clare Shepherd0:33

How odd

Julian Humphrys0:33

Clare. It appears so. Dan Spencer has suggested that towards the end of the Wars of the Roses there was a bit of a revival of armoured cavalry.

Laurie Duerr0:34

And then did the mercenaries expect to all stay in England and be a part of the new king's men, if they had beaten H??

Clare Shepherd0:34

I think the German and Swiss had helmets and some had some body protection, didn't they specialise in fighting in formation with pikes?

Julian Humphrys0:36

RTL Yes Martin Schwarz's mercenaries were crack troops and contemporary accounts suggest they fought hard and well. TSome may havve been equipped with the long pikes that were all the rage in Switzerland etc and which some (mike Ingram for example) believe made all the difference at Bosworth

Claire Ridgway0:37

Was it Oxford's experience and skill that really won it for Henry?

Lorna Wanstall0:38

Laurie merceneries fight for money generally, they are an army for hire. There may have been a few that would ave settled after stoke if they had been successful but I think they would have gone home and looked for the next battle to fight

Julian Humphrys0:38

Clare. Yes, if you had pikes you HAD to fight in formation. They relied on presenting a hedge of points. In hand to hand combat they were just too unweildy as the Scots (who hadnt trained with them properly) discovered to their cost at Flodden in 1513

RealTudorLady0:39

An interesting piece of information comes up later in the reign of Henry Vii with the Irish chief men because of course they had received Lambert as King Edward V or vi and crowned him in Dublin. When faced with him at a dinner party they said it was not the same boy as they had crowned. So who where they parading around the North of England and Ireland and who did write to York as King? Very odd indeed.

Julian Humphrys0:40

Claire. I think so, plus the weakness of part of Lincolns army. It seems that Oxford won the battle on his own before the rest of Henry's army which would have been strung out behind could even arrive.

Claire Ridgway0:41

It's amazing that they could beat that force with all those mercenaries.

Clare Shepherd0:41

I'm half Scots and my father was very interested in Scots history. He always maintained that the Scots were usually undertrained and poorly disciplined, as few lairds would spend the money. They tended to be good at the same kinds of warfare as the Irish.

Julian Humphrys0:41

RTL What's the source for this?

RealTudorLady0:41

Thanks Julian, yes they were the best in Europe. Mike Ingim has done some really good work from a military perspective on Bosworth.

Julian Humphrys0:43

Clare S. I think that's probably true. James IV splashed the cash and got the best kit - but just having the latest set of golf clubs doesn't guarantee you a hole in one!

Lorna Wanstall0:44

Clare S I have Scottish ancestry

Michelle Tercha0:44

Does anyone think its even remotely possible Perkin Warbeck was really Richard of Shrewsbury Duke of York? I've listened to Matt Lewis, often and recently (though haven't read his books yet), boy he can be persuasive.

RealTudorLady0:44

I have lost the thread. Oh the Irish chiefs. I can't remember the original source but I know I read it in either JAH or Matt Lewis and they did quote a source. I am sorry I don't have it to hand.

Lorna Wanstall0:45

And I'm proud of it as well

Claire Ridgway0:45

Slightly off-topic, but what's your favourite Wars of the Roses/Tudor era battlefield and why, Julian?

Clare Shepherd0:46

Where from Lorna?

Julian Humphrys0:46

RTL I am very cautious about Bosworth. I think we know where it was fought but , as opposed to Agincourt where we know loads because there are so many sources, the sources for Bosworth are very scanty and the ballad of Bosworth which offers lots of detail is v dodgy. Anne Curry is great on all this and there are a couple of talks by her about the 2 battles on the Battlefields Trust You Tube Channel

Claire Ridgway0:46

Michelle, Matt is very good, but I'm still not sure.

Lorna Wanstall0:46

Michelle. Perkin was certainly a lot more convincing as a pretender goes, but I don't think he was richard of shrewsbury. He may have been a by blow of E4's

Lorna Wanstall0:48

Clare S I believe my ancestry comes from Oban

Claire Ridgway0:48

I'll have to look up Anne Curry.

Lorna Wanstall0:48

Lorna Is a scottish name by the way..

Michelle Tercha0:48

Yeah, you're right...I'm not a Ricardian. I just find it fascinating.

Clare Shepherd0:49

I agree about Anne Curry, I did a FutureLearn course with her. She is great on battles. She has written a lot on Agincourt for instance.

Claire Ridgway0:50

Clare, I'll have to contact her!

Julian Humphrys0:50

Clare. Guildown because I can see it from my house! But seriously Bosworth is fascinating but we just don't know enough about exactly what happened. I like Towton -very evocative but again sources are scanty but I particularly like (in the sense I'm intersted in) Flodden. Unchanged, you can relate the sources to the ground and understand what happened where and why, and theres good access

Clare Shepherd0:50

My family was from Edinburgh, Lorna.

Clare Shepherd0:51

She teaches at Southampton still i believe . Her email would be on their site.

Julian Humphrys0:51

Yes, Anne Curry is excellent

Claire Ridgway0:51

It must be wonderful to be able to stand on a field and really be able to imagine where everything happened.

Lorna Wanstall0:52

Agincourt always makes me think of H8 he so wanted to be like H5 and hammer the French into the ground, and yet when it came down to it he hadn't got the balls to do anything like H5



Claire Ridgway0:52

Clare and Julian, thank you, I'll find her!

RealTudorLady0:52

The source is the Book of Howarth which is an Irish Chronicle from circa 1510 belonging to Sir Nicholas Baron Howarth and has the history of the Rebellion of 1487 and the incident in 1489 when the boy served the Fitzgerald and other Irish Lords wine. It's a long piece and quite detailed and a little later but then many of the historical sources are written up later and it is very interesting.

Julian Humphrys0:52

I can put you in touch with Anne as she is Chair of the Battlefields Trust. The Royal Armouries is selling her brilliant Agincourt book for a tenner, reduced from £40!

Michelle Tercha0:52

I wish I could go to England. A girl can dream!

Claire Ridgway0:53

Julian, that would be brilliant, thank you. Oooh, bargain!

Julian Humphrys0:53

I have the book of Howarth behind me. I'll check it out

Clare Shepherd0:53

Yes, especially, as I paid £40, lol

Lorna Wanstall0:54

Michelle, yeah England isn't a bad place to be. But America has a rich wealth of history as well. You ain't done too bad since you told King George 3rd to get stuffed

Lamorna0:54

Thanks for the tip about Anne Curry's book Julian - I also did her Futurelearn course. And also thanks for the tip about the Battlefield Trust's Youtube channel.

Julian Humphrys0:55

Clare. Me too but I was glad to get it!

Michelle Tercha0:55

Hahaha! True, Lorna. Very true.

Lorna Wanstall0:55

Strange thing really as you say a girl can dream, I want to visit America one day

RealTudorLady0:56

I know what you mean about Battlefield and Bosworth and I would recommend Anne Curry every day. I have her work on Agincourt.

Michelle Tercha0:57

There are a lot of nice and beautiful things to see. I'd like to do a train trip one day, as I can't fly, to see some of our parks.

Claire Ridgway0:57

I'll have to ask her to do a talk on Bosworth for us.

Lorna Wanstall0:57

How long did the battle rage for?

Michelle Tercha0:57

That would be great, Claire! I'm on the hunt for all things Anne Curry too.

Clare Shepherd0:57

I have several of her books, Julian. I like the lucidity of her prose. I can get confused trying to imagine the scene of a battle.

Laurie Duerr0:58

Yes, Bosworth for sure! Since Agincourt is quite outside the Tudor era!

Julian Humphrys0:58

Anne is very rigorous over sources. She's particularly good on the numbers in these battles but has also worked on a database naming soldiers of the 15th cent

Julian Humphrys0:59

Lorna. Are we talking about Stoke?

Lorna Wanstall0:59

Michelle I have never been in an airplane, I haven't even got a passport.

RealTudorLady0:59

I went down to Piel Island last October where Lambert Simnel landed. There is a pub which serves Simnel ale, you can be King for a day and buy everyone a drink. The Castle and Furness Abbey have a brief connection.

Michelle Tercha0:59

Neither do I!!

Claire Ridgway0:59

That hour zoomed by! Thank you to you all for joining in with such excellent questions, and a big thank you to Julian for his talk, this Q&A session and the new videos he's doing regularly for us as part of our Friday videos. Do catch his one on the Cornish Rebellion, which went live today.

Julian, I do hope you keep feeling well and don't work too hard tidying that study!

Lorna Wanstall0:59

Yes Stoke

Julian Humphrys0:59

RTL I am desperate to go there.

Laurie Duerr1:00

Thanks so much Julian! And please take care!

Lorna Wanstall1:00

The hour goes around too quick

Michelle Tercha1:00

Thank you, everyone! Thank you Julian and Claire, great talk.

Clare Shepherd1:00

The course I did gave you access to her database. I even found a soldier who was an ancestor of my English gran. It was part of the course to try to find a relative. It was amazing how many did. I think it listed the area the soldiers came from

Claire Ridgway1:00

Lorna, it does!

Lamorna1:00

Thanks Julian, I look forward to watching your videos. And thanks to Claire for organising!

Lorna Wanstall1:01

Thank you again Julian, always a great pleasure and treat for us when you visit.

Claire Ridgway1:01

Clare, wow! What a find!

Michelle Tercha1:01

That's awesome, Clare! How wonderful!

Julian Humphrys1:01

Re Stoke - Chroniclers love to say battles were long and hard fought - but I think that's a bit of a trope. Vergil says that about Stoke. I suspect that the set piece part of the battle may have been relatively short but that was followed by a much longer pursuit

Claire Ridgway1:01

Thank you everyone. Please keep safe and well.

RealTudorLady1:01

Hi Julian it was a beautiful day as well. Thanks for your wonderful talk. Cheers.

Clare Shepherd1:01

I can't believe the hour is up. Doesn't time fly when you're having fun. Thanks so much Julian.

Claire Ridgway1:02

Tudor talk is always fun!

Michelle Tercha1:02

Good night everyone. Stay well.

Julian Humphrys1:02

Very nice to chat to everyone. Thanks for your interest!

Claire Ridgway1:02

Good night, everyone, and thank you again, Julian, it's been a great chat.