

Live Chat with Nathen Amin – Henry VII: The Man

Welcome to August's expert live chat. A big welcome once again to Nathen, a Tudor Society favourite! If you haven't managed to listen to it yet, Nathen's talk on Henry VII is excellent and really dispels the myths surrounding him. Here's the link for you to view the video later - <https://www.tudorsociety.com/nathen-amin-henry-vii-the-man-expert-talk/>

RealTudorLady22:59

Hi Nathen, looking forward to the man behind Henry Tudor.

Michelle Tercha23:00

It was an excellent talk. Thank you for having it.

Claire Ridgway23:00

I find Henry VII completely fascinating and I think history has been very unfair on him.

Laurie Duerr23:01

Hi All! Nathen, very much enjoyed your talk!

Nathen Amin23:01

Thank you Laurie

Claire Ridgway23:01

Hi Therese, hi Laurie, hi Barbara!

Therese Catalano23:02

Hi Nathan enjoyed your recent video about H7.

Claire Ridgway23:02

Nathen, what's the most surprising thing you found out about Henry VII?

Nathen Amin23:02

Thanks Therese

Therese Catalano23:02

Hi Clair!

RealTudorLady23:03

I think Henry VII has definitely been overlooked and maligned and we need to look more closely at him. I just heard your talk, Nathen for the third time and was wondering could you say more about his relationship with his children?

Claire Ridgway23:03

@Therese, don't worry!

Clare Shepherd23:04

Good evening all. Looking forward to this that for days.

Michelle Tercha23:04

I'm a little confused about who Lambert Simnel was claiming to be. Was it Edward V, or Edward, I'm forgetting his full name...George Duke of Clarence son, Margaret Pole brother?

Nathen Amin23:04

The most surprising thing has always been the fact that, of all the things Henry was, he was NOT a miser. Henry was avaricious, it is true, especially as his reign neared its end, but that was one free-spending king. What money he brought in, through fair means or foul, often went straight back out again. Jewels, palaces, dancers, dresses, musicians - Henry knew how to spend and spend big he did. He was a generous father and husband, and in particular I like how much money he spend sourcing Welsh mead! A tippie he learned to like in his youth perhaps?

Michelle Nasello23:04

Hi everyone

Claire Ridgway23:04

Mead is rather yummy!

Clare Shepherd23:06

He liked to gamble too, I think you said, Amin.

Therese Catalano23:06

I will have to try Welsh Mead!

Nathen Amin23:06

RTL - His relationship appears to have been warm. Certainly there is no obvious breach in relations from what little information we have. We know he bought his daughters musical instruments for example, and he was famously distraught at the death of his son Arthur, needing his wife Elizabeth to comfort him. This was his second son that had died, in fact, after little Edmund. I particularly like the touches between Henry and his eldest daughter Margaret when she journeyed to Scotland to become queen. By then, Elizabeth had died, and Henry asked his daughter to remember him in her prayers. Furthermore, Margaret wrote to her father saying she missed him and wished she was still with him.

RealTudorLady23:06

I tried mead once. powerful stuff.

Clare Shepherd23:06

I've tried Cornish mead. Ugh!

Jeffrey Horgan23:07

Nathen Just how serious a threat to Henry Tudor's reign were the two pretenders Simnel and Warbeck

Michelle Nasello23:07

Yeah Henry VIII was a big spender in his time. Lots of banquets and parties. You feast days and all that

Amanda Glover23:08

Hi, I have not managed to watch your talk yet, so apologies if you have already dealt with this. Do you think that Henry is a true "candidate" for murdering the princes in the Tower?

Nathen Amin23:08

Michelle - depends who you ask! For me, Lambert Simnel was a convenient patsy created by a Oxfordshire cabal of Yorkist dissidents claiming to be Edward, Earl of Warwick, the son of Clarence. The real Warwick was imprisoned in the Tower and a rebellion in his name failed the year

before as everyone knew he was in the Tower. So what did this new rebellion do? They created an imposter to front the campaign to draw in support, and it actually worked in Ireland, where Warwick's father Clarence had been born. No imposter, no army. I find it very difficult to entertain ideas other than this one once you really get into the background and context and study the rebellion

Therese Catalano23:08

It's interesting H8 came from a loving family but things did not go well with his family.

Michelle Tercha23:09

Thank you!

RealTudorLady23:09

Thanks, Nathen. Richmond palace was a wonderful looking place from the drawings but did Henry and Elizabeth have a favourite hangout?

Nathen Amin23:10

Jeffrey - in hindsight, not at all, but Henry didn't know this. When he faced Simnel's army at Stoke Field in 1487, he was in the exact same position Richard III had been two years earlier, and Henry more than anyone knew how that ended. He couldn't afford to take any risks during his reign.

Claire Ridgway23:11

Hi Alison, hi Lyndell!

Claire Ridgway23:11

I forgot to say hi to Clare! And hi to anyone I've missed!

Nathen Amin23:12

Amanda - not at all. I always say "fine, add Henry and Margaret Beaufort to the list of suspects but anyone adding them ABOVE Richard III has lost sight of the case", Put simply, Henry was in Brittany and France between 1483 and August 1485 - the last known sighting of the boys was June 1483. So where were they for two years? If they had disappeared in June 1485 there would be a stronger case against Henry, but quite simply they vanished long before they were in his power to be harmed

Clare Shepherd23:12

No problem Claire

Lyndell Prewett23:12

Hello Nathen, Claire and Everybody. SORRY I'm late. Just woke up in Australia. Early for me. I loved your talk about Henry VII, The Man - Nathen

Claire Ridgway23:12

Lyndell, don't worry!

Nathen Amin23:13

I think Richmond was after 1497, but before that they simply rotated the usual haunts along the Thames, from Windsor to Westminster to Greenwich. We do know that after Elizabeth died there in 1503, Henry never visited the Tower of London again in his life.

Michelle Tercha23:13

What do you think about Matthew Lewis' theory that the Princes weren't murdered and were possibly sent abroad?

Nathen Amin23:13
Thank you Lyndell

RealTudorLady23:13
Hi Claire. Unless he found them and secretly had them done away with. He did make them legitimate again.

Jeffrey Horgan23:13
Thanks Nathan---I believe R3's army was considerably larger than Henry Tudor's army including Stanley's soldiers at Bosworth.i also believe Henry was not known to be a warrior king or good soldier.How therefore did Henry defeat Richard at Bosworth

Lyndell Prewett23:14
Thanks Claire. I can't read quickly enough to catch up. So will keep up from now. I'm interested in reading the questions and answers.

Therese Catalano23:14
Nathan, did the middleclass merchants prosper under H7? I seem to have heard this.

Nathen Amin23:14
I think Matt is wrong and he knows this! Or rather, not wrong, but its got to be a fringe theory when compared to the obvious answer which is they were killed by their uncle. All other theories and suspects are fine, but not above or instead of the glaringly obvious answer. Occams Razor is a thing for a reason!

Michelle Tercha23:15
Thanks!

Claire Ridgway23:15
Hi Alana!

Nathen Amin23:15
Jeffrey - a good commander in the earl of Oxford, a Stanley betrayal and a whole bag of luck.

Laurie Duerr23:15
Nathen, how concerned was Henry that his wife's claim to the throne was actually stronger than his? Since he ensured that she was specifically made "queen consort."

Clare Shepherd23:15
Where did the erroneous idea that Henry vii was a miser come from?

Nathen Amin23:16
Laurie - his wife's claim was irrelevant at the time. Henry garnered support of the Yorks by marrying her, but as soon as he was crowned Parliament confirmed his title to rule and endorsed his reign. What anyone thought of any claim his wife had after then didn't matter. He was the king. Parliament said he was. That's all that mattered.

Alana Ask23:17
Hi everyone!

Michelle Nasello23:17

How true @Nathen Amin, won it by luck and a bit of strategy thrown in

Laurie Duerr23:17
Makes sense, thanks!

RealTudorLady23:17
The problem with the Princes is we dont know and just dont have the evidence either way, but that's good for historians who can sell more books that way. Matt and Nathen have done some great podcasts on the Princes.

Nathen Amin23:17
Clare Shepherd - the work of Francis Bacon in 1622, which was bit of a hatchet job on Henry to be honest, and those ideas have never really gone away as historians can be resort to lazy tropes

Amanda Glover23:17
Thanks very much. It is interesting therefore that there seem to be quite a few people promoting the theory these days.

Nathen Amin23:19
They promote it as it is a theory that absolves Richard III of murder.

Jeffrey Horgan23:19
Nathen With R3 killed at Bosworth was there any serious rival to Henry Tudor who was regarded asa more legitimate monarch during his 24 year reign

Clare Shepherd23:19
Henry was sensible and didn't put his life at risk, RI hard ignored the tradition and was cut down.

Michelle Nasello23:19
I would truly love to know the truth about the Princes, and what really happened! UGH so frustrating not having details to connect dots with. So much is unknown.

Clare Shepherd23:20
No bodies, no forensics.

Michelle Tercha23:20
RTL, I listen to everything I can find! I'm a huge, fan a of Nathen and i lke Matt too.

Nathen Amin23:20
Saying the princes lived as there is no proof they died is the easiest way to try and argue Richard III did not murder the princes as they are right - there is no cold evidence he or anyone else did it, but to suddenly have everyone claiming this theory is factual is a bit...well. you'd have to believe Richard was bit of a fool to let the boys go.

Michelle Nasello23:21
@Jeffery, Henry VII Mom, Margaret Beaufort I believe she had a better claim that him.

Claire Ridgway23:21
Hi Elena!

Nathen Amin23:21

Jeffrey - yes, only Edward Earl of Warwick, who was finally executed in 1499. His name had often been associated with rebellions, and in the end the Spanish monarchy all but demanded Henry execute Warwick when yet another plot surfaced in 1499.

Nathen Amin23:23

The claim thing is completely a red herring and a modern obsession - nobody really cared too much about "the rightful claim" back then. Might was Right and the King was the King because he was in a position to make Parliament agree he was king - see Henry IV, Edward IV, Richard III and finally Henry VII

RealTudorLady23:23

What made Henry decide to appoint people of skilled but none noble background to his Court, people who were clever, not who thought they had a birth right to the job?

Michelle Tercha23:23

I find it amazing how Katherin of Aragon and Margaret Pole became such good friends.

Nathen Amin23:23

Hell, the Hanovers came to the throne in the end above 52 other people with "better" claims simply because they were Protestant.

Clare Shepherd23:24

That turned out well too!!

Nathen Amin23:25

RTL - its bit of a myth Henry did not appoint the nobility to positions - he did - the earls of Derby and Oxford and his uncle Duke of Bedford being but a few. Henry however did prefer a meritocracy, promoting those who were willing to work hard for their positions and who would be loyal to him for their opportunities. It makes perfect sense - why take a risk and end up butchered like Richard III was

Amanda Glover23:25

Surely it did have to be advantageous to Henry that he was married to Elizabeth of York even after Parliament declared he was king? Dissenters would perhaps not risk rebellion knowing that one of Elizabeth's children would ultimately inherit, and most of them would not want her, as a woman actually to rule.

Clare Shepherd23:26

I agree RTL, it was just common sense. Henry was pragmatic, some kings could have done with a slice of that, even his son.

Michelle Nasello23:27

Like the Earl of Ormond, Anne Boylens father, he promoted him and gave many gifts before her death.

Nathen Amin23:27

Yes definitely advantageous and how he gained their support in the first place - but his kingship once on the throne had nothing to do with Elizabeth.

Jeffrey Horgan23:27

With these persistent fears of being overthrown was as Henry Tudor's administration of the country seriously undermined during his 24 year reign

RealTudorLady23:27

I think you are right, Nathen, Richard did not always have the best taste in whom he trusted and it cost him. Henry's policy was sound.

Therese Catalano23:28

If Elizabeth didn't marry Henry would she have been allowed to marry anyone else?

Lyndell Prewett23:29

@Amanda Glover. Little did they know that one day two women (Mary and Elizabeth) would rule, in their own right. Wouldn't have been happy then. .sorry, very slow to type.

Nathen Amin23:29

Well, her sisters were married to several of Henry's close associates, so perhaps a match like that would have followed, though there appears to never have been any other consideration than Henry and Elizabeth marrying.

Laurie Duerr23:29

Nathen, I particularly liked your comments in your talk about how by NOT specifically leading armies into battle, Henry was making the better decision, as he realized his place was best to direct and lead from the sideline, as opposed to R3's strategy...

Jeffrey Horgan23:30

Marrying Elizabeth was a masterpiece uniting the two houses and clearly went some way towards Henry lasting

RealTudorLady23:30

I know Henry VII held jousts and tournaments but did he joust?

Clare Shepherd23:31

Yes Laurie and it led to Richard's death. Wellington didn't take his sword into the midst of a battle either, it would be a brave historian who claimed he was a coward.

Nathen Amin23:31

Yeah Laurie - at the end of the day, what good is anything if you are dead? Dead men can't be kings, for one. People may praise Richard for his charge and bravery, but that didn't work well, did it? As for Henry? Well he died a wealthy old man in his own palace having founded the greatest dynasty this country has known and his descendant is still the monarch today

Nathen Amin23:32

RTL - no known records of Henry jousting, no.

Laurie Duerr23:32

Thanks Nathen, love it!

Amanda Glover23:33

@Lyndell Prewett. They would not have known what hit them with Elizabeth!

Michelle Tercha23:33

When Margaret Beaufort had to send Henry to live with another family when he was a boy, I understand this was done all the time. But was this a punishment? For being Lancastrian?

Elena Azadbakht23:33

Hi Nathen - How did you first become interested in Henry VII?

Lyndell Prewett23:33

Yes indeed @Amanda Glover lol

RealTudorLady23:34

Cheers. Henry knew he had good commanders who knew war so he left it to them. He came awfully close to having his block knocked off by Richard though who killed William Brandon and unhorsed huge John Cheyne.

Nathen Amin23:35

Michelle - she didn't send him - in 1461, Henry's wardship was purchased by the Yorkist supporting Herbert family. What Margaret or Henry wanted didn't matter. Luckily he was brought up well.

Nathen Amin23:35

Elena - I am born and bred in the area Henry was born, so local connections really.

Michelle Tercha23:37

Oh, right... I forgot the ..wardships.thank you.

Michelle Nasello23:37

Did Henry VII really not want to marry Elizabeth? If not, for what reason? @Nathan Amin

RealTudorLady23:37

Do you believe Epsom and Dudley really did go too far on the citizens of London? After all Henry signed off on the fines and bribes and so on. It might not have been popular but at least they had a head. They might have been ruined off course.

Lyndell Prewett23:38

@Nathan Amin: I've found Henry VII much more interesting than I ever thought I would. Maybe because first introduced to Tudor history through the stories of Henry VIII, BUT find Henry VII so fascinating!

Nathen Amin23:38

Michelle - no record whatsoever of this being case - Henry in fact married Elizabeth at the very first moment he could. On January 16th, he and Elizabeth were granted papal dispensation to marry (as they were distant cousins) and two days later they married in private. He literally, by church law, married her at the earliest possible moment, and in private at that rather than waiting for some big showy wedding. Henry not wanting to marry Elizabeth? Oh, to the contrary.

Michelle Tercha23:39

So do I, Lyndell!

Michelle Nasello23:40

Nice to know that was the case. Thank you Nathan

Nathen Amin23:40

RTL - Yes, they were tough in what they did, but we could argue it stopped England descending back into war by making the Tudor dynasty insuperable. Is it better to lose your coin or lose your head? New research by the Tudor Chamber Books project team (the foremost experts on Henry VII

and Money) are starting to believe Henry didn't have much involvement in how the money was brought in, rather simply entrusting Empson and Dudley to act

Lyndell Prewett23:40
Great minds Michelle LOL

Clare Shepherd23:41
Funny how historians are obsessed by H8, but Nathen's book on H7 is the first in a while on H7.

Amanda Glover23:41
Would Henry have spoken French Welsh and English equally well?

RealTudorLady23:41
I would love to have seen the old St Paul's from these times and I can imagine the activity and noise and grandeur as Westminster got a make over.

Michelle Tercha23:41
Lol

Michelle Nasello23:42
I'm glad somebody has taken up Henry VII cause. We need to know more about him and his life.

Nathen Amin23:42
Ultimately, Henry was tough at the end of his reign with how he extracted money from his subjects, but the end game was always to pass on the crown to a rich, widely supported, adult heir, and he succeeded. Henry was the first king to oversee a peaceful succession in 87 years. It matters not how he got there - that he did, is his greatest victory.

RealTudorLady23:42
Thanks. I think it was Penn who painted this period as rather grim.

Nathen Amin23:43
Amanda - we know for definite he spoke French, Latin and English - I speculate he knew at least the basics of Welsh as a youngster as he lived there for 14 years. Same as many Welsh children today in a far less Welsh-speaking Wales - you just pick it up second hand.

Nathen Amin23:43
RTL - yes, Penn's book was alarmingly speculative. I often feel like he swallowed a thesaurus during the writing process and tried to come up with as many inventive ways to say "Henry was bad"

Michelle Tercha23:44
Can you speak Welsh, Nathen?

Nathen Amin23:45
I can speak a bit, yes.

Laurie Duerr23:45
Nathen, my only concern with Henry is how he treated Katherine of Aragon for the years after Arthur's death and before H8 came to the throne.. how do you explain his rationale for that?

Amanda Glover23:45

Thanks Nathan.

Michelle Tercha23:45

Yes, The documentary The Wnter King is extremely depressing

Lyndell Prewett23:46

@Nathan Amin. I know it is not a contest, but it appears to me that Henry VII achieved more for England than his son Henry VIII ever did. Would you agree or just different times?

Nathen Amin23:46

Laurie - yes, it is tough how he treated Katherine, and we must remember how her own FATHER left the poor girl in limbo. A pawn of international politics

Nathen Amin23:47

Lyndell - I think Henry VII was the more successful king, yes.

Lyndell Prewett23:47

Thanks Nathan. Interesting!

Michelle Tercha23:48

Yeah, Ferdinand was no peach, he was just as bad

Michelle Nasello23:48

Most daughters were pawns in politics. So sad for KoA to have suffered that.

RealTudorLady23:48

I can sympathise with Henry during the last few years, he had lost wife, heir, baby very close together and another son and daughter, had a possible York Prince wander around and threaten him for years, had a number of invasions and international intrigue, had plots and wide spread conspiracies and fake and real Warwicks popping up everywhere. I think I would be not only cautious, but practically paranoid after that. Its a wonder the poor man was still sane.

Nathen Amin23:48

We must look to our modern leaders to sometimes understand the difficulties medieval rulers put up with - few rulers are intrinsically evil men or women, but sometimes the demands of the role make them undertake unpalatable decisions. Uneasy is the head that wears the crown, indeed.

Jeffrey Horgan23:48

Nathan to your knowledge did any English monarch prior to Henry Tudor leave the countries finances in a better state than Henry did

Laurie Duerr23:48

yes, very true..

Nathen Amin23:49

RTL - and almost every single close confidante he had that had been in exile with him were now dead.

Amanda Glover23:49

Weren't they all when it came to their daughters? Politics were what mattered.

Nathen Amin23:49

Jeffrey - I am not sure to be honest, though I'd be very surprised. Leaving the kingdom skint seemed to be a prerequisite of being a medieval king

Michelle Nasello23:51

Very true Amanda

Michelle Tercha23:52

What is next for you, Nathen? What are you working on

RealTudorLady23:52



Re your comment on Penn, Nathen. Too true. His Sons of York about the three Yorks..Edward, Richard and George is as bad. I think Matt Lewis disliked it a lot.

Nathen Amin23:52

I am writing the biography of the Welsh Tudors, covering the rise of the family initially, and Owen Tudor, Jasper, and Henry's exile. From 1170 - 1485

Michelle Tercha23:53

Oh, awesome!!

Lyndell Prewett23:53

Fantastic.

Clare Shepherd23:53

That is an area that again is under overdue. That will be a must have book.

Michelle Nasello23:53

Sounds wonderful Nathan, can't wait to read it. Thank you

Claire Ridgway23:54

Brilliant!

Michelle Tercha23:54

I'd love to learn more on Catherine of Valois and Owen Tudor. Also the origins of the family

Nathen Amin23:54

Hold on a few years and you'll have just the book.

Lyndell Prewett23:55

As long as it takes Nathen!

Jeffrey Horgan23:55

Yes the Welsh Tudors have a lot to answer for---they gave us probably the most fantastic 118 year in this countries history

Michelle Tercha23:55

I think she's.a sad figure in history. I wonder if Owen really loved her. I hope so.

RealTudorLady23:55

Sounds great, Nathen. Visited their place, well the Church anyway, on Anglesea.

Nathen Amin23:56
St Gredifael's at Penmynydd?

Clare Shepherd23:56
Some people have TBR piles, sounds like Nathan has a "to be written pile".

RealTudorLady23:56
Anglesey I mean, sorry.

RealTudorLady23:57
Yes, the windows had just been repaired. A lovely Church.

Nathen Amin23:57
Yeah, very difficult to get access.

RealTudorLady23:57
Had to go to a house for the key. Well worth the trip.

Nathen Amin23:59
From Penmynydd to Bosworth in less than a hundred years. Not bad.

Michelle Nasello23:59
Yes I need to go back to Wales, it is so beautiful there.

Lyndell Prewett00:00
My husband loved Wales, but I've never been.

Claire Ridgway00:00
Nathen, thank you so much for the wonderful answers to all of our questions and for the excellent talk. You're always so good!
Thank you, everyone, for coming! Amanda Glover is the winner of a copy of Nathan's book "Henry VII and the Tudor Pretenders: Simnel, Warbeck, and Warwick" so we'll organise a copy to be sent.

RealTudorLady00:00
Off to Ludlow in a few weeks, then some tours of Wales.

Claire Ridgway00:00
These hours always go so very quickly!

Laurie Duerr00:00
Thank you Nathen and Claire!

Nathen Amin00:01
Awesome. Congratulations Amanda

Michelle Nasello00:01
Congratulations Amanda Glover

Therese Catalano00:01
Yes thank you cant wait for the new book!

Lyndell Prewett00:01
Congratulations Amanda.

Amanda Glover00:01
Wow! Great news. Thanks very much. I really look forward to receiving it.

Michelle Tercha00:01
Thank you! Good night and stay well everyone! Congrats, Amanda!

Claire Ridgway00:01
Our September speaker is Catherine Brooks on the Howards, and I'll be doing the September schedule of events very soon.

Michelle Nasello00:01
Thank you Nathan Amin, for your knowledge and time.

Therese Catalano00:01
Congrates Amanda!

Lyndell Prewett00:01
Thank you to Nathan and Claire and ALL

RealTudorLady00:01
Congratulations Amanda. Thanks Nathen and Claire. Great Q and A

Clare Shepherd00:02
Thanks for a great hour Nathen and Claire. Good night and stay safe everyone.

Amanda Glover00:02
Thanks to everyone!

Michelle Tercha00:02
Yes thank you, Nathen you're awesome

Nathen Amin00:02
Thank you everyone. Great fun.

Michelle Nasello00:02
Good night/evening to all. Thank you Claire and Tim, as always it's been a pleasure

Jeffrey Horgan00:02
Thanks Nathan

Claire Ridgway00:02
Bye everyone! Take care! Enjoy the rest of your week!

Jeffrey Horgan00:03
Bye everyone

Lyndell Prewett00:03
Bye Claire