

The Fifteenth Century Conference

Sir Thomas Allen Assembly Rooms Theatre, Durham University
Thursday 4 – Saturday 6 September 2025

Thursday 4 September

1.45pm: Introduction

2pm: Session 1

Len Scales - Sigismund of Luxemburg's visit to England, 1416

Anna Probert - 'And thus endet Vmffrey the Duke of Gloucetre': Richard Fox, Bartholomew Halley and the Parliament of 1447

3.50pm: Tea & coffee

4.10pm: Session 2

Tom Johnson - 'A Reckoning of the Herrings': Quantification and Economic Life in a Fifteenth-Century Fishing Village

Toby Donegan-Cross - Eating Under Watch: Consumption in Durham Priory Visitation Records, 1390–1448

6pm: Wine reception

Held at 7 Owengate, co-hosted by Durham University's Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies and the Yorkist History Trust

Friday 5 September

9am: Session 3

David Grummitt - Edward IV, the Duchy of Lancaster and the War in the North, 1461-1464: Lordship and Logistic during the Wars of the Roses

Selina Whiteman-Gardner - Warfare and Lordship in the Irish Sea, c.1385-1410: The Rise of the Douglasses?

10.50am: Tea & coffee

11.10am: Session 4

Mark Bailey - New perspectives on the mid fifteenth-century economy: extreme weather during the Spörer Minimum and tenurial change

Phil Slavin - The Disease That Would Not Let Go: Plague Outbreaks and their Wider Demographic Implications in Late-Medieval England

1pm: Lunch

2.30pm: Excursions

To Palace Green Library and its collections (Books of Hours), Bishop Cosin's Library and the Exchequer Building, and Durham Castle

5pm: Session 5

Rowena Archer - Managing an Alien Priory. Alice Chaucer, duchess of Suffolk and Grovebury in Bedfordshire

6.15pm: Performance by the Dunelm Four

Held at Durham Castle; a programme of fifteenth-century music

7.00 pm: Banquet Dinner in Durham Castle**Saturday 6 September****9am: Session 6**

Andrew Green - 'The lady would have done much better if she had acted as a mediator': French Noblewomen in Revolt in the Fifteenth Century

Katy Bennett - Royal-seigneurial authority and Plantagenet rule in Gascony: the case of Gaillard II de Durfort, seneschal of Gascony (1399–1415)

10.50am: Tea & coffee**11.10am: Session 7**

Rachael Harkes - The Council of the Marches and Marcher lordships in the later Middle Ages

John Watts - After 'After "After McFarlane"': High Politics and the New History of Political Society

1pm: Lunch**2pm: Close of conference**