

# 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* - Reconsidering the Battle of Towton: the Franco-Burgundian evidence

*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**