

World Heritage Day Saturday 18th April Programme
with Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site and County Durham Forum
for History and Heritage



THE PEOPLE'S STORY AT DURHAM CASTLE

World Heritage Day: your Castle
Saturday 18 April 2026, 11am-4pm FREE ENTRY



9:30am – 4:30pm [Durham Cathedral](#) open as usual (donations invited).

10am – 4pm [Cathedral Museum](#) (last entry 3:30pm) Exhibition and 30-minute talks at 11am, 1pm and 3pm on “A Treasure and a Legacy: Conservation at Durham Cathedral” Adults £7.50, u18s free

10am Free walk and talk led by David Butler at [St Margaret's Allotments](#), constructed on the medieval Cathedral quarry – from South Street entrance

10am – 4pm [Palace Green Library](#) will be open free of charge including the [Museum of Archaeology](#) and [World Heritage Site Visitor Centre](#) (accessible with films)

11am – 4pm Free entry to [Durham Castle](#) (last entry 3:15pm) with self-guided tours of the Norman chapel, Tunstall Chapel, Tunstall Gallery and the Great Hall.

11am – 4pm Vanguard Re-enactment Norman soldiers display in the Castle Courtyard

11am – 4pm Heritage Fair and family activities in the Great Hall with local history and heritage societies, visitor attractions, family activities and featuring Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage site Youth Ambassadors

A pop-up drinks and snack station will be available in Durham Castle courtyard.

List of exhibitors in Castle Great Hall

Altogether Archaeology
Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland
Beamish
City of Durham Trust
History of Consett Steelworks
Dream Heritage
Durham Cathedral Friends and Volunteers
Durham Castle and Cathedral World Heritage Site Youth Ambassadors
Durham County Council Archaeology Section
Durham County Local History Society
Durham Museum
Durham University Visitor Attractions, Museum of Archaeology
North East War Memorials Project
Northumberland and Durham Family History Society
Peterlee Local History Group
The Story at Mount Oswald
Thorpe Thewles History Group
Tudhoe and Spennymoor Local History Society
Victoria County History
Wheatley Hill History Group
World Heritage UK and Tyne Valley Community Partnership

Presentations in Bishop's Dining Room (all welcome – access via Tunstall Gallery)

10am – 10:40am	County Durham Forum AGM (members only)
10:45am - 11am	Official Welcome from The Right Worshipful the Mayor of Durham & Photocall in the Castle Courtyard (Great Hall steps)
11 - 11:30am	Keynote WHS Hon Professor Colleen Batey
	“Beyond the classroom: from talks to walks, personalising the archaeological experience for engagement with communities”
11:30am – 12pm	“David McLaren Diaries of Thorpe Thewles” by Sara Hillier
12 – 12:30pm	World Heritage Site Youth Ambassadors
12:30 – 1pm	Volunteering at Durham Museum by Adrian Green
1:30 - 2pm	Durham Cathedral Friends and volunteering with Caroline Peacock and Belinda Fullelove
2 - 2:30pm	AASDN lecture: “World heritage – life begins at 40” by Anne Allen
2:30 - 3pm	“The Romantic landscape setting of Durham’s World Heritage Site” by Martin Lowe, Historic England
3 - 3:30pm	“The Carlton/Thorpe Cross” presented by Bernard Taylor
3:30-4pm	“The Story so far” by Carolyn Ball, County Archivist & Manager

Please note that an official photographer will be taking pictures and BBC Look North and ITV News crews are expected.