Newbattle Abbey College and The Scottish Historical Review
THE DECLARATION OF ARBROATH 1320–2020
International Conference

Thursday 20 and Friday 21 May 2021

In partnership with:

Programme

Thursday 20 May (Day One)

0915 Welcome and Introductions

Introduction to the College followed by welcomes from Newbattle Abbey College, The Scottish Historical Review and today’s Coordinator. The Coordinator will guide participants through the day and introduce each session chair. The conference will be live-streamed and each session will include an opportunity to ask a question or invite response to a comment via the ‘chat’ function.

0945 The Declaration of Arbroath and the Wars of Scotland

Chair: Professor Michael Brown (St. Andrews)
Dr Fiona Watson (historian, writer and broadcaster), The Declaration of Arbroath: a Blow-by-Blow Account.
Dr Jenny McHugh (Lancaster), The Declaration Betrayed? Arbroath Abbey’s Allegiance and Experience During the Second War of Independence (1332-1357).
Dr Claire Hawes (Aberdeen), The Community of the Realm: a Fifteenth-Century Perspective.

1115 Short Screen Break

1130 Keynote Lecture

Chair: Dr David Ditchburn (Trinity College Dublin)
Professor Stephane Péquignot (Sorbonne), Without or Against the King: Communities as Actors of Diplomacy, Focusing on the Iberian Peninsula from the Thirteenth to the Fifteenth Century.

1230 Lunch
1300  The Declaration’s Afterlife: 1 – The Jacobites, the Union and Unionism

Chair: Dr Andrew Mackillop (Glasgow)
Dr Karin Bowie (Glasgow), Contractual monarchy and national opinion in Scotland, 1603-1707
Professor Murray Pittock (Glasgow), The Declaration of Arbroath in Scottish Political Thought, 1689-1789.
Professor Richard Finlay (Strathclyde), The Declaration and Modern Politics.

1430  Short Screen Break

1445  The Signatories and their Controversial Legacy

Chair: Professor S. Karly Kehoe (St Mary’s University, Nova Scotia)
Graham S Holton (Strathclyde) and Alasdair F. Macdonald (Strathclyde), The Men of the Declaration: Their Significance Then and Now.
Dr Laura Harrison (Edinburgh), Defending the Declaration Against the Far-Right Today.
Professor Dr Klaus-Peter Müller (Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz), The Evolution of Arbroath.

1615  The History of Newbattle Abbey

A short history by Dr Neil Hargraves (Newbattle Abbey College) in discussion with Terry Brotherstone (Aberdeen; chair of the Newbattle Conference Organising Committee).

1655  Short Screen Break

1700  Public Lecture
Chair: Iain Macwhirter (The Herald [Glasgow] political columnist)
Professor David Armitage (Harvard), 1320, 1776, and All That: a Tale of Two “Declarations”.

1830  Close

Friday 21 May (Day Two)

0915  Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introduction to the agenda by today’s Co-ordinator.

0930  Keynote Lecture

Chair: Professor Nicola Royan (Nottingham)
Dr Kylie Murray (Glasgow, formerly Christ’s College, Cambridge), The Making of the Declaration of Arbroath: Texts, Contexts and Traditions.

1030  Short Screen Break
1100 Preserving the Declaration …

Chair (for this and the next session): Professor Steve Boardman (Edinburgh)
Dr Alan Borthwick, National Records of Scotland), Preserving the Declarations since the Eighteenth Century.

1130 … and Dynamising It

Dr Alice Taylor (Kings College, London), The Community of the Realm Research Project, the Declaration of Arbroath, and the Dynamic Edition.
Professor Dauvit Broun (Glasgow), The Dynamic Edition of the Declaration of Arbroath.
Dr Matthew Hammond (Kings College, London), The People of the Declaration: Insights from Social Network Analysis.

This session will include a presentation on the new digital edition of the Declaration created as part of the AHRC-funded Community of the Realm project.

1300 Lunch

1330 Keynote Lecture

Chair: Dr Lynn Kilgallon (Trinity College Dublin)
Professor Seán Duffy (Trinity College Dublin), Who Do You Think You Are? Tracing the Declaration’s Irish Ancestry.

1430 English Influences; Influence in English

Chair: Professor Laura Stewart (York)
Dr Scott Dempsey (Australian National University, Canberra), Temporary King, Sempiternal Kingdom: The Influence of English Constitutional Thought on the Declaration of Arbroath
Professor Roger Mason (St. Andrews), 'The Declaration in Print 1680-1705'

1530 Short Screen Break

1545 The Declaration’s Afterlife: 2 – The Enlightenment, the Radicals and Sir Walter Scott

Chair: Dr Emma Macleod (Stirling)
Professor Edward Cowan (Glasgow), The Declaration of Arbroath. The Picture Since Mainz
Professor Christopher Harvie (Tübingen), Sir Walter Scott’s Striking Omission from Tales of a Grandfather.
Dr Michael Penman (Stirling), The Declaration of Arbroath and Scotland’s Failed Radical War.
A summative discussion with David Armitage, Fiona Watson, Neal Ascherson and others.

Invitation to the 2022 Newbattle Abbey Conversation (date tbc.) on The Significance of the Declaration 702 Years On? – at which a special ‘Declaration of Arbroath’ conference issue of the Scottish Historical Review will be introduced.

Close