

Cost: £ 39.50 (to include coffee/tea and biscuits)
Non-Member Guests £45
Only a limited number can be accommodated—book early to be sure of your place!

There will be no refunds on cancellations unless there is a waiting list.

Please return the slip below to register to:

Gina Krupski, The Maples, Almshouse Croft, Bradley, Stafford,
 ST18 9DF

or by emailing your details to ginastudydays@gmail.com

Tel: 01785 780956

Payment can be made either by Internet Banking (preferred) to The Arts Society, Sort Code: 40 52 40, Account 00060352 using your Society/Women as a reference or by cheque.

OR directly by TicketTailor

<https://buytickets.at/staffordartssociety/1731823>

Hot and cold food is available at lunchtime in the tea room.

✂ I/We wish to attend the
"Medieval Women" study day on **Thursday 2nd October 2025**

I/We enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to
The Arts Society Stafford/will pay by internet banking,
 TicketTailor. (Delete as appropriate.)

Name(s): _____

Society: Stafford/North Staffs (Delete as appropriate)

Address: _____

Telephone: Mobile:

Email address:

Please include your email address

THE ARTS SOCIETY STAFFORD

MEDIEVAL WOMEN: Fact and Fiction

**A Study Day to be held in the Darwin Suite
 at The World of Wedgwood, Barlaston, ST**



**Thursday 2nd October 2025
 10.30—15.30
 Registration from 10 a.m.**

Dr. Sally Dormer is a specialist medieval art historian and lecturer who trained at Durham University and the Courtauld Institute. She is a course director at the V & A as well as teaching for the Arts Society, amongst others, and leading study tours abroad for Cox & Kings.

Lecture 1—Medieval Women An Introduction

The medieval world teemed with women: biblical women and female saints dominated the Church; personifications of the Liberal Arts, the Virtues, and some Vices, assumed female form; literary heroines and mythical creatures like mermaids populated literature. Women took religious vows and headed up religious houses; they ruled kingdoms and made commissions as patrons; they toiled on the land, and, in towns, worked as wet-nurses, midwives, prostitutes, merchants, and makers. This session will explore the immense variety of women who feature in medieval visual sources.

Lecture 2—Medieval Women as Makers

The written record suggests that medieval makers were typically men, and this view has long been unquestioned. Until very recently, any artefact produced anonymously (commonplace in the Middle Ages), was automatically assumed to have been made by a man. Yet, research proves that medieval women were skilled makers too. Lay women and nuns worked as embroiderers, copied and illuminated manuscripts, and were also involved in less obviously feminine, crafts like blacksmithing, and sculpting.

Lecture 3. Ideals of Female Beauty in the Middle Ages

Medieval women, especially those of high social rank, were expected, typically by their menfolk, to conform to strict ideals of beauty in conjunction with exhibiting decorous conduct, at all times! This session will focus on some of the artefacts that helped them achieve such idealised perfection, often decorated, paradoxically, with scenes of less than seemly behaviour, including vanity cases for cosmetics, combs, gravaors (hair dividers), mirror cases, caskets and jewellery,

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

10.00 - 10.30	<i>Registration</i>
10.30 - 11.30	<i>Medieval Women—An Introduction</i>
11.30 - 12.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
12.00 - 13.00	<i>Medieval Women as Makers</i>
13.00 - 14.15	<i>Lunch</i>
14.15 - 15.30	<i>Ideals of Female Beauty in the Middle</i>



The Temptation of Eve, England 15th century .

British Library MS Harley 4996

Overleaf—Christine de Pizan—The Book of the Queen
c. 1420-1414 Paris—British Library Harley MS 4431