

**NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Friday, September 17, 2021
Royal Grammar School
Newcastle upon Tyne.

MINUTES

Documentation was sent to members on email in advance (and made available on the website at <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/2021-AGM.php>): Agenda; Minutes of the previous AGM (September 25, 2020); President's Report; Hon. Secretary's Report; Membership Secretary's Report; Treasurer's Report; Financial Statement for Year ending July 31, 2020; Auditor's Report. Biography for proposed new executive committee member, Ian Lawson.

1. Apologies for absence

Due to venue constraints, the 2021 AGM took place two weeks earlier than originally planned. Many members were unable to attend for a range of reasons. Apologies were received from Pat Allat, Peter Allat, Liz Atkins, Peter Atkins, Julian Bates, David Bateman, Mick Bond, Wendy Bond, Peter Cleland, Colin Dunnigham, Arnold Fairless, Ian Fells, John Guyon, David Jenkins, Ian Lawley, Stephen Lawson, Jenny Lewis, Michael Lewis, Jane McKnight, Roger Mills, Robert Tindall, Alan Townsend, Candida Whitman-Fells, and James Wright.

2. Minutes of previous AGM, September 25, 2020.

Minutes of the previous meeting had been sent out to members on email. No comments or amendments were received via email, or from AGM attendees on the day. Andrena Telford proposed that we accept the minutes. Margaret Wilson seconded. These minutes were thus approved as an accurate record.

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising that were not dealt with under subsequent Agenda items.

4. President's Report.

Heather Cordell welcomed NCA members to our first formal face to face event for 18 months. We had inherited a very attractive programme for 2020 and 2021 from Bill and Andrena Telford, but sadly the COVID pandemic prevented us from benefitting from this. However, many of the planned events have been rescheduled for 2022.

The President's report had been circulated to members in advance. A summary of the highlights is as follows: We were able to hold three meetings by Zoom: a Quiz in December 2020 and two Zoom talks in 2021 (*Ruth Dodds and Tyneside in the 1920s* by Margaret Bozic MBE; and *The Work of the HALO Trust* by Chris Loughran). Details can be found on the NCA website at <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/what-we-do.php#FutureMeets>

The Freshers' Party was held on September 17th in Newcastle at the Literary and Philosophical Society (Lit & Phil). It was well attended with over 40 Freshers, guests and NCA committee members. The event went very well, and we hope that many of the Freshers will join the NCA if they return to the region.

Future meetings for 2021 will begin with the Buffet and Annual Lecture immediately after the AGM. Further meetings for 2021 are

- Sunday November 28: *Autumn Concert, Sage Gateshead*
- Friday December 3: *Christmas Lunch, County Hotel, Newcastle*
- Saturday December 11: *Festive Afternoon Tea & Film, Tyneside Cinema*

Booking forms and information on these events will be placed on the website, and sent via email or post to members once all details are finalised.

[Post-AGM note: these were uploaded to the website and emailed to members on September 30th and posted to 30 members without email on October 2nd].

4. **Hon. Secretary's Report.**

The Hon. Secretary's Report had been circulated in advance. The following are the highlights. Planned meetings in addition to those mentioned by the President are:

- Wednesday December 18, 2021: *Freshers' Reunion*
- Wednesday, March 16, 2022: *Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club, Newcastle*
- Saturday, April 23, 2022: *Spring Outing, Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens*
- Saturday, May 14, 2022: *Spring Walk, Raby Castle, County Durham*

We also have a Winter Outing planned for Friday 4 or 11 February, 2022 at the Life Science Centre Newcastle and a Summer Outing for Saturday, June 11, 2022. A visit to Farne Islands and Seahouses was planned for the latter but is subject to change *[Post AGM Note: the Hon. Secretary's written report was overly confident here]*. Dates and venues will be confirmed once we have finalised arrangements.

We also intend to continue to hold informal and online events such as walks, quizzes, and talks, which will provide opportunities for members who continue to avoid indoor gatherings. Members are invited to suggest informal activities.

The Secretary also reported on the following:

Newsletter

The next of our twice-yearly newsletters is due out in January 2022. Contributions are especially welcome from members and should be directed to Gilbert Cockton (gilbertcockton@gmail.com) by mid-December. Text contributions should preferably be between 200 and 500 words. Photographs are welcome, preferably in electronic form (but not necessarily – great care will be taken with prints).

Email Communications

Most of our members now receive event flyers, newsletters, and other communications electronically, which saves a great deal of time and money on the part of the Association. If you have an email address and are willing to receive your NCA mail this way, please make sure you email the Hon. Secretary.

Website

We encourage members to make the NCA website a regular source for information, along with our group page on the Cambridge Alumni site [<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridgeassociation>].

No comments or questions in relation to the Hon. Secretary's report have been received by email from the membership, and so we can accept that it has met with approval. On behalf of the Association, we record our thanks to Andrena Telford for her work as Hon. Secretary over the years (2010-2020).

5. Membership Secretary's Report.

Currently, we have 170 members, including 6 Honorary and 5 Associate members. Associate members are partners of deceased NCA members who have regularly attended our events, and to whom it is our policy to offer NCA membership and continued access to events. Freshers can also become Associate Members. We have two new members and have had two resignations. We have 140 members on our email list, and 30 on our postal list.

We were saddened to hear of the deaths of Mike Gaunt (Fitzwilliam 1968-71, Law) and Nick Robson (Caius 1954-57, Law). Mike and Nick were remembered in the July newsletter.

The secretary thanked members who had paid their subscriptions for 2021 and invited those who have not yet paid their £10 to do so soon.

6. Hon. Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer's report had already been circulated, along with the Audited Financial Statement for August 1, 2019-July 31, 2020, and the Auditor's Report.

COVID restrictions have resulted in limited financial activity. A surplus of income over expenditure has resulted from a reduced call on subscription income, especially for venue deposits that are required in advance of events. Printing costs have also been reduced.

Due to an error in combining the reports into a single AGM document, the Income and Expenditure details of the accounts could not be covered at the AGM. These were available in the accounts spreadsheet on the website. The Secretary apologised for this error and promised to correct it on the website.

A question about debtors resulted in clarification that these are others' debts to the NCA that take the form of deposits paid in 2020 for events that will now take place in 2021 or 2022.

[Post-AGM note: a correct version of the combined reports was uploaded to the website. NCA members were notified on September 30 2021 as part of the email sending the forms for the remaining 2021 events].

7. Auditor's Report.

The Hon. Auditor, Vinny Holden, had audited our accounts, and his statement to that effect had been circulated in advance. The auditor has confirmed that the balance sheet and income and expenditure account presented by the Treasurer were accurate and reflected the current position of the bank account.

No comments, questions, or suggestions in relation to the Association's finances were received by email from members, and the Treasurer's report, the financial statement for 2019-20 and the Hon. Auditor's report can all, therefore, be accepted. On behalf of the Association, we record our thanks to Susan Austin for her excellent work as Treasurer, and also to our Hon. Auditor.

8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee.

All officers and ex-officio members have indicated their willingness to continue as Executive Committee members. A new member, Ian Lawley, has volunteered to join the committee. Information about Ian was included in the AGM papers for members.

The President asked members to approve the continuation of the existing committee and the addition of Ian Lawley. Kate Hilton proposed that members approve, seconded by George Hopper. The existing committee will thus continue, joined by a new ex-officio member.

9. Any Other Business.

The first formal face to face NCA event for 18 months provided a much-awaited opportunity for the current President to personally thank the former President and Secretary, Bill and Andrena Telford, for their extended excellent service to NCA members. They have been thanked with gifts and a newsletter article in January 2021. However, with Bill and Andrena attending the AGM, members were able to thank them with a very appreciative round of applause.

Professor Heather Cordell, President
Emeritus Professor Gilbert Cockton, Hon. Secretary