

**NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Friday, September 17, 2021**

Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM, September 25, 2020
3. Matters arising
4. President's Report
5. Hon. Secretary's Report
6. Membership Secretary's Report
7. Hon. Treasurer's Report
8. Auditor's Report
9. Election of Officers and Executive Committee
10. Any other business

Prof. Heather Cordell, President

Em.Prof. Gilbert Cockton, Hon. Secretary

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is very exciting to be back meeting for our first in-person AGM and Annual Lecture since we last met at the Royal Grammar School on September 27, 2019 (with the 2020 AGM being conducted by email on account of the coronavirus pandemic). We look forward to welcoming Dr David Gosling, Clare Hall, Cambridge, to give us a lecture entitled 'Violence and hope on Pakistan's border: an educational encounter'.

Since I took over from Bill Telford as President of NCA at the end of September 2020, our activities have necessarily been curtailed by the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. However, the Committee (Heather Cordell (President), Gilbert Cockton (Hon. Secretary/Website Manager), Susan Austin (Hon. Treasurer/Membership Secretary), Peter Cleland, Colin Dunnighan, Arnold Fairless, Robert Tindall and Andrew Young) has continued to meet regularly via Zoom. We also managed to hold three virtual NCA events via Zoom. On Wednesday December 9th 2020 we held an online quiz; on February 25th 2021 Margaret Bozic MBE gave us a talk on 'Ruth Dodds and Tyneside in the 1920s'; on March 31st 2021 we had a talk by Chris Loughran on 'The Work of the HALO Trust'. Members of several other Cambridge Alumni societies, including the Cambridge Society of N&W Yorkshire and the Cambridge Society of York, joined us for these events.

On Friday 18th June 2021 we held the first in-person NCA events for more than a year: two coordinated NCA walks down the Ouseburn, Newcastle, led by Peter Cleland and Gilbert Cockton, respectively. With coronavirus restrictions now largely eased, we hope to be able to gradually resume our usual programme of in-person events, which for the time being will be announced via email or through the NCA website: <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/>

The current Committee members are all willing to continue for another year and, in addition, Ian Lawley has agreed to stand for election to join us (the constitution states that there should be not more than seven nor less than five non-ex officio members). The Committee hopes that all members attending the AGM will approve the new Committee, and give them your support.

Professor Heather Cordell

04.09.21

HON. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Activities over the past 12 months were severely curtailed by restrictions during the COVID pandemic. Nevertheless, we have been able to organise three online activities, two walks, and the Freshers' Party. Detailed reports of these can be found in the NCA newsletters and on the NCA website: <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/what-we-do.php>

1. Activities since the 2020 AGM (held online)

The 2021 Freshers' Party was our first face-to-face indoor activity since the Annual Dinner in March 2020. Our only meeting after this in 2020 was a Zoom quiz held on Wednesday December 9. 22 members and partners participated.

This year, an online talk was given on Thursday February 25 by Margaret Bozic MBE on *Ruth Dodds and Tyneside in the 1920s*. A second talk was given on Wednesday 31st March by Chris Loughran on *The Work of the HALO Trust*. Alumni from Yorkshire and Edinburgh associations were invited to join us.

Our first face-to-face meetings were outdoors on Friday June 18, with two walks along the Ouseburn, Newcastle led by Peter Cleland and Gilbert Cockton. The Freshers' Party was held on September 13th at the Lit & Phil in Newcastle.

2. Activities for the remainder of 2021

The following meetings are planned for the remainder of 2021.

Friday September 17	AGM & Annual Lecture, RGS Newcastle
Late October/early November	Autumn Concert, Sage, Gateshead
Friday December 3	Christmas Lunch, County Hotel, Newcastle
Saturday December 11	Festive Afternoon Tea & Film, Tyneside Cinema

Venues are booked for the December dates. Information and booking forms will be placed on the website and sent by email. For members who do not receive email communications, paper copies will be sent by post. It may not be possible to arrange the Autumn Concert meeting, but if we can, then forms for this will be distributed as for the December meetings.

3. Activities for the first half of 2022

The following meetings are currently planned for 2022 (originally planned for 2020 and then rescheduled to 2021). Please note that the February and June meetings may not go ahead as planned. The committee will keep these meetings under review and make alternative arrangements as appropriate. Further meetings will be scheduled for after the summer.

Early February <i>Date and venue TBC</i>	Winter Outing <i>planned for Life Science Centre Newcastle, Friday 4th/11th</i>
Wednesday, March 16	Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club, Newcastle
Saturday, April 23	Spring Outing, Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens, Ponteland
Saturday, May 14	Spring Walk, Raby Castle, County Durham
Saturday, June 11 <i>Date and venue TBC</i>	Summer Outing, <i>currently planned as a visit to Farne Islands and Seahouses</i>

4. Possible Additional Activities

The two walks were enjoyed by those who joined them. We are considering adding an

informal programme of walks in the future. We will also consider continuing to hold online events if members would like this. Access to online talks hosted by Cambridge University is also possible.

5. 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).

6. Electronic Mailing

Almost all NCA members now receive event flyers, newsletters and other communications electronically, which saves considerable time and money for the committee. If you have an email address and are willing to receive your NCA mail this way, please inform Gilbert Cockton (gilbertcockton@gmail.com).

7. Website

The website is primarily for timely information about upcoming and recent NCA activities. There is an average of around two visitors per day, so further improvements and extensions are not planned, as the ‘footfall’ does not warrant this.

Prospective NCA members can be directed to <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/contact-us.php>

Committee details are at: <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/who-to-contact.php>

Information on upcoming activities is on the home page, www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk. Information on past activities is at <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/what-we-do.php>

Abridged information can be found on the Cambridge Alumni site (<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>)

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

Current membership stands at 170, 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. We have 140 members on our email list and 30 on our postal list.

We are sad to report the death of Eric Cooley (Clare 1945-48, Mechanical Sciences) and Mike Gaunt (Fitzwilliam 1968-71, Law).

There have been two resignations: Alex Faludy (Peterhouse 1998-2001, History of Art) has relocated to Budapest and Judith Lund (Newnham 1954-57, Modern Languages) has moved into a nursing home.

We welcome two new members: David Jenkins (King's 1964-67, Medicine) and Ian Lawley (Peterhouse 1971-74, History).

We offer free Associate membership to students attending our Freshers' Welcome Party, and now have 101 students on our list. We shall be adding to that number following 2021's event. It is hoped they will become full members should they return to the area in the future.

We would encourage any members who have not yet paid their £10 subscription for 2021 to do so as soon as possible, or to let the Membership Secretary know if they wish to resign.

Susan Austin
Membership Secretary

12.9.21

HON. TREASURER'S REPORT

This report accompanies the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2021.

Subscription income has noticeably fallen this year, perhaps because of the many uncertainties around the pandemic and future activities and concerns for personal safety, but subscriptions have continued to come in after the year end, which is encouraging. Around 80% of subscriptions are now paid by electronically which has been helpful with difficulties in accessing bank branches.

As is apparent from the financial statements, face to face events have been cancelled and activities have taken place online via Zoom, with minimal outlay. All bookings for events subsequently cancelled (Raby Castle, Kirkley Hall and Farne Islands visits and the Sage concert) were refunded.

Deposits totalling £695, made in 2019 and 2020, have been carried forward to 2021/22: these relate to the Christmas lunch, Festive Tea & Film, Freshers' reunion, and Raby Castle. There is an element of risk in carrying forward deposits for almost two years, but so far, the companies involved are still in business and the outlook is positive.

Administrative expenses were similar to previous years and the outturn for the year was a surplus of £346.47. The Association is in a sound financial position to recommence a more normal programme of activity in 2021/22.

Susan Austin

12.9.21

**NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE
ASSOCIATION**

Financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2021

BALANCE SHEET	31 July 2021	31 July 2020
	£	£
Opening balance at 1 August 2020	2455.49	2219.74
Surplus for year	346.47	235.75
Closing balance at 31 July 2021	<u>2801.96</u>	<u>2455.49</u>

BANK RECONCILIATION

Balance per bank statement 31.7.21	<u>2801.96</u>	2419.49
Add: Lodgements not yet credited		<u>91.00</u>
		2510.49
Less: Cheques not yet presented		55.00
Balance per cash book at 31.7.21	<u>2801.96</u>	<u>2455.49</u>

Other assets - debtors	£
Deposits carried forward from 2019/20:	
Raby Castle	300.00
Tyneside Cinema (Festive Tea)	300.00
Revolution (Freshers' reunion)	10.00
Deposit paid 2020/21:	
County Hotel (Christmas lunch)	85.27
Total:	695.27

Vincent Holden
Woolsington

Date 15th September 2021

Dear President

Northumbrian Cambridge Association – Financial Audit Statement 2020 to 2021

I can confirm that I have audited the statement of accounts for the Northumbrian Cambridge Association for the year 2020 to 2021. I can confirm that the balance sheet and income and expenditure account are a true account of the financial transactions over the year and reflect the current position of the bank account.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'V. Holden', written in a cursive style.

Vincent Holden
Honorary Auditor

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

IAN LAWLEY BIOGRAPHY

Ian Lawley: My story so far ...

I read history at Peterhouse from 1971 to 1974 and took a special paper on Josiah Wedgwood and the Staffordshire Pottery Industry, little knowing that this would have a direct relevance to my future career. After I left Cambridge, I took a postgraduate teaching diploma, and met my future wife, Kate, while on teaching practice. When we went on a field trip to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum, I decided that I would rather work in museums than teach. I applied for a job at the museum and worked for several years on the development of the new Museum of Iron at Coalbrookdale.

We then moved to Hartlepool, where I became Keeper of Maritime History. By then, Kate and I had two daughters, Rebecca and Rosamond. Our next move was to The Potteries, where we lived for the next 35 years. After a couple of years working for Stoke-on-Trent City Council as Keeper of Social History at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, I became Assistant Director and eventually Director, responsible for four museums, including the world's best collection of Staffordshire ceramics, a Victorian pottery factory and the sole surviving steam-powered potters' mill.

Over the years, my role changed, and I collected a broad portfolio of other services, including arts, cultural development, field archaeology, and events. Other responsibilities included the co-ordination of Stoke-on-Trent's cultural strategy, trans-national partnerships, an 'Arts for Health' programme and managing the contract for two major performing arts venues.

After one reorganisation too many, I left the city council and worked as a freelance consultant providing strategic, financial and practical advice to museums and arts organisations, mostly in the West Midlands. I also worked as an arts fundraiser for the University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust, and secured funding for a major community history project, If Wards Could Talk, which the trust then asked me to manage. The project involved a programme of oral history interviews, community events, temporary displays, a schools' programme, social media activity, a documentary film, a book and an exhibition.

Over the years I have served as a committee or board member for a number of organisations including the Group of Museum Directors, the Group for Large Local Authority Museums, the Designated Museums Group, the Social History Curators Group, MLA (Museums Libraries Archives) West Midlands, Renaissance West Midlands, the Etruria Industrial Museum, the academic journal Museum & Society, and Stoke on Trent Festival. I have been a trustee of the Friends of the Potteries Museums & Art Gallery, a registered charity, since 2008 and was Chair from 2012 to 2019. During this period, I headed two successful fundraising campaigns, raising £825,000, to save Josiah Wedgwood's First Day's Vase from disappearing overseas and to purchase the Leekfrith Iron Age gold torcs.

We moved to the North East at the beginning of 2020 in order to be closer to our family and be more active grandparents. We arrived just in time for the first lock-down!