

NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

President: Prof. Heather Cordell www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk Hon. Secretary: Em.Prof. Gilbert Cockton

Sunny Cambridge

Committee members and their wives visited Cambridge in June and July for college events: Colin (Wolfson) and Hilary; Gilbert (St. John's) and Ros; and Ian (Peterhouse) and Kate.

The sun shone on us all. Tourists have returned to pack pavements post pandemic, perhaps pulled by Parker's Piece's big wheel (opposite). Views of The Backs enchant as much today as back when we were students.



Programme for 2022-23

Friday, October 7, 2022

AGM & Annual Lecture

Today's NHS Challenges and Opportunities
Sir Liam Donaldson, former Chief Medical Officer for England, Lit & Phil, Newcastle.

Late October/early November, 2022

Autumn Concert (tbc): Sage, Gateshead

Friday, December 2, 2022

Christmas Lunch: County Hotel, Newcastle

Saturday, December 10, 2022

Festive Afternoon Tea & Film:

Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle

Friday, February 10, 2023

National Glass Centre, Sunderland

Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Annual Dinner: Northern Counties Club.

Booking forms will be emailed/posted to members and added to the NCA home page (www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk) as they become available. **Please use our new bank details on the last page of this newsletter.**

We expect to run a full programme for 2022-23. Dates and venues for further meetings will be added to the NCA home page as they become available.

2022 So Far: Two Castles, a Dinner, plus a few lunches

We have run a full programme so far, including a repeat of last year's summer walks. *Longer reports are available at www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/what-we-do.php*

Bellingham Heritage Centre



The weather was kind and the roads free of ice as 28 members and guests made their way to the Heritage Centre at Bellingham which had been especially opened on February 26th to the NCA for a pre-season visit. The Chairman of the Centre Committee apologised for the refurbished shop being still in packing cases and the café in the railway carriages not yet operating but there were still sufficient exhibits to entertain members for nearly two hours. The visit was deliberately unstructured to allow NCA members to progress at their own speed and to linger over exhibits of particular interest.

Following the visit some members sought out local eateries and a few hardy souls, including NCA President Heather Cordell (below) even rambled up to Hareshaw Linn – an attractive waterfall at the end of a woodland walk.



Annual Dinner

The 2022 dinner, held at Newcastle's Northern Counties Club on March 16th, was a special occasion after last year's cancellation. We very much enjoyed returning to this fine venue.

President Professor Heather Cordell welcomed everyone and shared some updates. After a most enjoyable dinner, Heather offered a toast to the Queen. Following that, committee member Peter Cleland (below, Selwyn 1966-69) shared his reminiscences of Cambridge. Two further toasts were proposed: Peter Atkins to Cambridge University and Andrena Telford to the NCA.

Please note that following feedback from members who have not attended annual dinners, black tie will be optional in future.



A Trip to the Zoo

On April 23rd, NCA members visited Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens, which in recent years has expanded its Animal Management programme to encompass more exotic species. We were introduced at close quarters to a variety of species.



Raby Castle



On May 14th, NCA members visited Raby Castle with its 200 acres of deer park. It is famed for both its size and its art, including old masters and many family portraits.

We had refreshments in the Grand Hall. Two groups then enjoyed an extensive and informative tour of the castle. We were all ready for a lunch of soup and sandwiches after that (served in the servants' kitchen).

After lunch, many of us completed two or all three of the castle's recommended walking routes through its estate, with its lakes and herds of red and fallow deer. With wonderful weather, several of us stayed on to watch a cricket match or enjoy a café in the grounds.

Brancepeth Castle



On June 18th, NCA members visited Grade 1 listed medieval Brancepeth Castle. First constructed in the mid-12th century, it has a dynamic history, constantly changing hands and uses. The current owners' family (Dobson) bought the castle to store their extensive book holdings as publishers.

Tea/coffee and biscuits preceded two group tours led by two of the current owner's family. Good weather allowed a full tour of the castle exterior before a comprehensive tour of the important castle rooms. The castle's many occupiers had each stamped their mark on various areas, including the UK manufacturers of Pyrex, whose logo still adorns a door.

A tasty lunch of homemade soup & bread, and homemade cake & coffee/tea was much enjoyed in the castle's dining area. The castle shop was opened for us after lunch, giving us an opportunity to buy postcards, guidebooks, prints from *les grands événements de 1968*, and a very interesting range of Dobson Books.

Summer Walks

Building on our successful addition of summer walks to the NCA programme in 2021, we visited Wylam on July 23rd for two walks. We enjoyed good weather.

Both walks began at the Tyne Riverside Park car park and set off together along the Wylam Waggonway past George Stevenson's cottage to the east edge of Close House golf course. The short walk continued to Blayney Row cottages and returned west along the riverbank to rejoin the wagonway via Hadrian's Wall path.

The longer walk skirted Close House golf course anticlockwise via Hadrian's Wall path north to return southward to Stevenson's cottage via The Rift farm.

Several walkers from both groups joined for lunch at Wylam's Ship Inn.



Members' News

We are sad to report the death on May 19 of Dr. Andrena Telford. She was born on March 1, 1945, in Inverneill, Argyllshire, spent her childhood on Colonsay, and lived in Denny and Kelso before emigrating to Canada in 1961, first to Scotstoun, Quebec, and then to Prince Edward Island (PEI). Educated at Kelso High School and Pope Memorial High School, Quebec, she studied at Bishop's University (BA, Hons), Mount Allison University, the University of Prince Edward Island, the University of Edinburgh (MLitt), the University of Oxford and the University of Durham (PhD).

Andrena married our former President, Dr Bill Telford, in Kensington, PEI, on July 4, 1970. As well as working for the Viking Press, NYC, Cambridgeshire County Council and Cambridge's Parkside Community College, Andrena taught at numerous educational institutions in Canada and the UK, including the Universities of Glasgow, Cambridge, Oxford, Newcastle, and Northumbria.

Andrena became NCA secretary in 2010. She also held administrative roles in other organisations, e.g., the National Association of Women's Clubs (General Secretary), the National Council of Women (NCW, President), the Friends of the Laing Art Gallery (Treasurer), and the John Buchan Society (Council and newsletter editor).

Andrena's interests were wide, e.g., cinema, history, Titanic, literature, architecture, photography, walking, scrabble and, supremely, travel. Over a lifetime together, she and Bill have explored not only the UK and Ireland, but most of Europe, Iceland, Russia, India, the Middle and Far East, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, China, Australia, Africa, and North and South America.

Tributes to Andrena have flowed in from all over, not only from the many friends that she and Bill have made, but also from organisations that they have supported, including branches of the NCW in Taiwan, Korea, France, Australia, Lebanon, Malta, and Israel. Andrena's funeral took place at Newcastle Crematorium on June 7. Her ashes were scattered at Bolam Lake, her favourite beauty spot, on July 4, Bill's and her 52nd wedding anniversary. She will be very much missed.



*Dr. Andrena Telford,
Honorary Secretary NCA 2010-2020*

NCA members have said how welcoming Andrena always was at our own meetings and at the outings she and Bill organised. Committee members too remember her fondly. Andrena made Peter and Helen Cleland extremely welcome when they joined NCA a few years ago. In addition to her academic prowess and efficiency in her role as secretary, Peter remembers her ready smile and calm demeanour. These sentiments are echoed by Robin and Margaret. Andrew Young has fond memories of Andrena's jolly and infectious personality: "it was always a delight to see her - she made one feel so special". Sue remembers her as a lovely, warm and helpful lady, with extraordinary patience in dealing with our constant banking battles, and will miss her greatly. Andrena was clearly a great asset to NCA over many years.

New NCA Bank Account – please amend your bank payment details now

The NCA has a new bank account with Lloyds:

Account name: **Northumbrian Cambridge Association**

Sort code **30 98 97**

Account number **87980962**

All payments for event bookings and subscriptions should in future be made to this account. An updated Standing Order form for subscriptions is available on the NCA website (*How to Join* page). It has been posted with this newsletter to members whom we do not contact via email.