



This Newsletter – an excellent innovation by our Secretary – both reminds us of events which many members enjoyed in the last academic year, and gives a first taste of what is planned for the new one. Your Committee will be meeting in September to devise the remainder of the year’s programme, and we would, as ever, welcome any suggestions you may have for the content of our traditional meetings, or for new things which we might do. We are eager to extend the range of our activities, so as to offer things of interest to as many members as possible.

We look forward to seeing you in the course of the year.



James Wright

SO FAR IN 2014:



This year’s **Annual Dinner** took place on March 20th at the unique Biscuit Factory Gallery, Newcastle. After a welcome drink and a private viewing of the gallery (with an opportunity to shop!), we were treated to a fine meal in the newly refurbished Artisan Restaurant. Artisan’s chef, Andrew Wilkinson, has been awarded *N.E. Chef of the Year* and he specialises in using regional and seasonal ingredients to create delicious dishes, which we very much enjoyed. Our thanks go to Judy Vigurs for organising this splendid event.

The **Spring Walk** this year took place on May 17. This year we enjoyed fine weather on our walk

which started and ended at Weldon Bridge in Northumberland. The walk took us along the Coquet Valley and the river bank. En route we refreshed ourselves in the peaceful grounds of Brinkburn Abbey and later at the Anglers Arms at Weldon. Thanks to Nick Jackson for organising and leading.

The **Summer Meeting**, organised by Andrena Telford, was a visit to Seaton Delaval Hall in Northumberland and gave us an excellent private tour of this splendid Baroque country house, generally regarded as the masterpiece of the famed 18th century architect, Sir John Vanbrugh, who also designed Castle Howard and Blenheim Palace.



We were fortunate also to have an introduction to the gardens by one of the National Trust’s

gardeners and to the church by Martin Green. The weather held out until we were snugly ensconced in the Waterford Arms, Seaton Sluice, for a fish and chip lunch.



[All photographs courtesy of committee member Bill Telford.]

CAMBRIDGE NEWS:

Cambridge Alumni Festival is being held from September 26-28, 2014. Anyone interested should visit the website at

<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/events/alumni-festival-2014>

We liked this composite picture of the University Library being built/in its completed state:



FUTURE EVENTS

Dates for your diary, Autumn/Winter 2014

September 23, 2014

Freshers' Party

October 3, 2014

AGM and Annual Lecture

December 6, 2014

Christmas Lunch

December 13, 2014

Festive Afternoon Tea at the
Tyneside Cinema

Details of the events, and application
forms for tickets, will be circulated
nearer to the time.

Do come and support your
Association!

NEWEST MEMBER:

Our Membership Secretary, Nadine Strettle-Brown, has made her own personal contribution to the Association, by giving birth to a baby girl in June. Nadine writes: "My husband Phil and I were delighted to welcome our baby Isla into the world on Thursday 12th June. She weighed in at a healthy 8lbs 9oz and was delivered in the birthing centre at the RVI. Big brother William, just turned two, has welcomed the new addition to his family!"



Many congratulations to Nadine and Phil on the arrival of their daughter.

NOTE: We are especially keen to invite younger members and families to become part of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association and to extend the range of our activities to suit younger age groups. If you know of people in these categories who might be interested, please do let us know and we would be happy to contact them. Suggestions for suitable activities would also be welcome. Please contact Nadine at nad4nu@aol.com, or the Secretary, Andrena Telford, at andrena.telford@btinternet.com.

NCA ANNUAL LECTURE: 'Sacrifice Regained? Evolution, Cooperation and the God Problem'



This year's annual lecture will be given by Professor Sarah Coakley, Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity at Cambridge (since 2007) and an alumna of New Hall (now Murray Edwards College), where she read Theology as an undergraduate (1970-73) and later took her PhD (1983). In between she was a Harkness Fellow at Harvard, where she did a Masters degree (ThM, 1975), and to which university she returned in 1995 as Mallinckrodt Professor of Divinity, after positions at Lancaster and Oxford Universities. A systematic theologian and philosopher of religion, Professor Coakley is committed to wide interdisciplinary interaction in the university, and her recent Gifford Lectures at Aberdeen reflect this trait. In her presentation she will give a taste of her long-term collaboration with the Harvard evolutionary biologist, Martin A Nowak, and suggest that the ideology of the 'selfish gene' is giving way to a more complex and nuanced account of the relation between evolutionary theory, philosophy of biology, and ethics.

The lecture will take place on Friday, October 3, at 7.30 pm, at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle. The lecture will be preceded by the Association's

AGM at 6.00 pm and a buffet supper at 6.30 pm. Further details and an application form will be sent out shortly.

If you have any queries about forthcoming events, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Dr Andrena Telford (andrena.telford@btinternet.com; tel. 01661-825437).