

Northumbrian Cambridge Association Newsletter

President: Dr William Telford

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Andrena Telford



From the President:

This is my first contribution to the Newsletter as President, and I would like to begin by paying tribute to my predecessor, James Wright, who has guided the society over many years and has contributed so much to its developing programme of events. As James reminded us at our last Annual Dinner, in his review of the society's archives, in the past there were many years when the Dinner was the sole occasion for Cambridge graduates to meet in the course of the year. There are now eight or more occasions each year to bring people together and to introduce us to interesting places and events in our beautiful and historic part of the country.

Building on this solid base, I hope to see the society continue to flourish in the future and am particularly keen to see more younger members recruited and involved in the NCA programme. The experience of Cambridge has been an important part of all our lives and one way to maintain this link is to encourage more recent generations of graduates to join the society. We also want to preserve the heritage that our older members bring, through their memories, their photographs and their reminiscences.

2016 offers a varied and stimulating programme for all ages, which we hope you will enjoy. From an in-depth exploration of the treasures of the Great North Museum to the 18th century delights of Wallington's walled garden, from the archaeology of Hadrian's Wall to the complexities of contemporary American politics, from stimulating walks to jolly Christmas celebrations, there's something for everyone. We also welcome suggestions from members for possible visits and events and would be happy to incorporate these into future programmes.

Having previously been a Secretary of the Association, and being a long-standing member of the Committee, I

am aware how much work goes into the organisation of these events and I very much hope you will feel able to support the society as generously as you have done in the past. My best wishes to you for 2016.



William R. Telford

(Christ's, 1972-77)

THE NEW PRESIDENT

Bill Telford has been a long-time member of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association and has served both as Honorary Secretary and as a member of the Executive Committee. He is a graduate of Glasgow University and, as Scots Fellow, studied for a Master's degree at Union Theological Seminary in New York before undertaking his Ph.D. at Cambridge (Christ's College). He was a Research Fellow and Tutor at Mansfield College, Oxford, before becoming a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies at Newcastle. For the last seven years of his teaching career, he was a member of the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University. For ten years during this time he was General Secretary of the distinguished international Society of New Testament Studies and organised conferences all over the world. He is presently a Visiting Fellow at St John's College, Durham. Married to fellow NCA member (and Hon. Secretary), Andrena, he enjoys history, film, music, walking, photography and, pre-eminently, travel. He looks forward to leading the Association - with much help from the committee and the society's enthusiastic supporters.

PRESENTATION TO JAMES WRIGHT

At the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting on November 6, a presentation was made to retiring President James Wright, in recognition of his many years of service to the Association. The thanks of the society were expressed by Nick Jackson, who handed over a pair of sterling silver cufflinks engraved with the coat of arms of Cambridge University and a cheque which would hopefully allow James to purchase an extra-special bottle of wine! In a response to the committee, James wrote: "I am only now able to express my heartfelt thanks for the kindness and generosity I experienced on Friday. It had never occurred to me that there would be anything more than a few words of thanks, and I was very touched, as well as surprised, to receive a gift at all, let alone two gifts chosen with such skill to give me pleasure." We're happy to report that James, in company with his wife Jenny, intends to continue as an active member of the Association.



NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

We are very happy to welcome two new members to the Executive Committee, Professor Heather Cordell and Dr Raymond Brown. Heather is Professor of Statistical Genetics and a Wellcome Senior Fellow in the Institute of Genetic Medicine at Newcastle University. She obtained her undergraduate degree in Mathematics from Cambridge (Jesus College) and this was followed, after three postdoctoral years in Cleveland, Ohio, by an MSc in Applied Statistics and DPhil in Mathematical Genetics from Oxford University. From 2004-2006, she was once again in Cambridge, in the Department of Medical Genetics, before moving to Newcastle to take up the newly-established Chair of Statistical Genetics. Outside work, Heather enjoys singing with the Ovingham and District Choral Society and with the Chorus of the Royal Northern Sinfonia. She also enjoys travelling (both for work and pleasure!) and walking/cycling in Northumberland.



Ray was born and brought up on Merseyside and educated in his early years in Ormskirk and Liverpool. Following an Honours degree in Applied Chemistry from Liverpool Polytechnic, he carried out research for his Ph.D. at Cambridge (Christ's College) in the pioneering field of lasers. This led to a postdoctoral fellowship in the Chemistry Department of the University of Toronto, as part of a research group under the Nobel-prize winning chemist, Professor J. C. Polanyi. He spent some time in the Laser Physics group at St Andrew's University, before becoming Senior Lecturer in Physical Science at Swansea Metropolitan University. Ray, who recently moved to the North East with his wife Sue, has a son, daughter-in-law and two grandchildren in the area. His personal interests include history, philosophy, music and hill-walking, and he is an honorary member of the Rotary Club of Llandoverly.

ROBINSON REUNION - Ros and Vinny Holden (2000)

A quick introduction. We met each other in our first year at Robinson, and married 12 years later. What took so long, you may ask? Well, who knows, but we have a Robinson offspring in the way of our beautiful one year old daughter Amélie.

In September 2015, we attended the 15 year reunion. 15 years on and things haven't changed one bit! The bricks are still red, the Porters still talk in dreary tones, directing you to your weekend residence (as if we didn't know where Q Staircase was!), and it was like we hadn't left the building, bumping into former undergraduates and chatting about what they had just bought from Sainsburys, how many tourists were snapping at the Senate House, and what time they were heading to the college bar.

It wasn't just the cast of 2000 present, but those from 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2005 and 2010. We had a great time re-living the good old days in college and finding out what everyone is up to now. There were academics, teachers, doctors, bankers, engineers, people working in PR, finance and IT, and even authors and a comedian in attendance! The evening meal, with sherry aperitifs of course, was a great experience. Memories of the silver service came flooding back, pennies were at the ready catching out those in deep conversations, and the camaraderie, wit and humour left us with a lovely feeling of belonging to a friendly group of people, and a wonderful college with so many happy memories. We will return in 2020!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

[Great North Museum: Special Interest Tours](#)

Saturday, February 13, 10.30 ff.

A chance to learn about the Shefton Collection of Greek Art and Archaeology and to visit the archives of the Newcastle Society of Antiquaries.

[Annual Dinner](#)

Wednesday, March 9, 18.30-22.30

We return to the Northern Counties Club in the heart of Newcastle and are joined by the Oxford University Society for a splendid three course dinner, some Oxbridge reminiscences and, of course, The Quiz!

[Spring Walk](#)

Saturday, May 14, time to be confirmed

This year's spring outing will be based on Wallington where we hope to have a horticultural introduction to the Walled Garden, followed by lunch in the Clocktower Restaurant and a variety of walks to suit all comers.

[Summer Outing](#)

Saturday, June 18, 10.00 ff.

We will begin with a tour of Vindolanda (site and museum) and a chance to learn of the most recent work there. Lunch at the Twice Brewed Inn will follow and then a visit to the recently restyled Roman Army Museum. Children especially will enjoy the interactive displays.

[Freshers' Party](#)

Monday, September 19, 17.30-19.00

Sintons Law, Barrack Road, Newcastle NE4 6DB.

[AGM, Buffet and Annual Lecture](#)

Friday, September 30, 18.00 ff.

Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear, NE2 4DX

This year for our Annual Lecture we are most fortunate to welcome Tony Badger, formerly of Newcastle University and until his recent retirement Paul Mellon Professor of American History at Cambridge and Master of Clare College.

[Christmas Lunch](#)

Friday, December 2, 12.00-14.30

County Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear, NE1 5DF

Our third year in the lovely Strauss Room for a delicious Christmas lunch.

[Festive Afternoon Tea and Film](#)

Saturday, December 10, 15.00-18.00

Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE1 6QG

As before, we'll have a suitable Christmassy film for this increasingly popular event!

2015 RETROSPECTIVE: A PHOTO GALLERY

(Below) The Committee at work!



Society members (above) tackle the quiz at the Annual Dinner.



Our Spring Walk was based on the home of Earl Grey, Howick Hall.

James Wright with our Annual Lecture speaker, John Pickard, Emeritus Professor of Neurosurgery in the University of Cambridge and Fellow of St Catharine's College.



Pre-concert dinner at the Sage Brasserie. before enjoying the RAF concert celebrating the Battle of Britain.

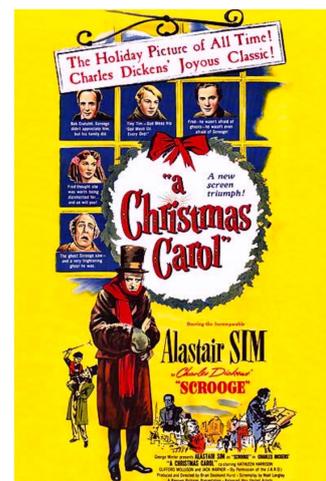
Performers taking a bow at the Sage. We plan to have another musical event later in 2016.



A group of members enjoying the Christmas lunch in the Strauss Room at the County Hotel.



Full of afternoon tea and eagerly anticipating the Christmas film, 'A Christmas Carol'(1951, called 'Scrooge' in the UK) at the Tyneside Cinema.



TIMES PAST: MEMBERS' REMINISCENCES

Barbara Kay: The Newnham and Girton Boat Club, 1941-1944

My last years at school were beset with various complications including re-location, temporary buildings partially destroyed by fire, and wartime evacuation. Thus it was that I arrived at Newnham with little knowledge of team games, but was happy to find that there was a Newnham and Girton boat club, easily reached by bicycle, which offered a new experience. At that time, women were still not officially members of the university but we had at least one boat of our own (an "eight") in its own boathouse. I can't recall how these were paid for.

At first I rowed at number two in the second eight, then in second year as cox, and finally I coxed the first boat. My only duty was to steer the boat away from the bank and from time to time to call instructions such as "easy all" and "come up for a ten". Our coach from the Jesus boat cycled up and down the bank telling me what to do.

The only race we took part in (and won) was against Oxford, and was held in Reading. I think we took our own oars, which in wartime must have been quite an experience. During my coxship I felt I should have a proper cap, so I bought a light blue one from a leading sports shop and hoped that it would look authentic.



Photograph of the Newnham and Girton 1st Eight, 1943-44. Barbara is front centre (with cap), holding cup. Our thanks to Barbara for both her reminiscence and the photograph.

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR!

We would love to have more contributions to the Newsletter from our members. Whether it's reminiscences of your own time at Cambridge, or memories of NCA activities of past years, or your thoughts on Cambridge today, they are sure to be of interest to fellow Cambridge graduates and friends.

Photographs would be very welcome. Contact details for contributions can be found below.

NCA member and former Secretary, Jack Lindsay, has notified us in advance of a summer piano recital in St Cuthbert's Church, Allendale on Saturday, June 11, 2016. The programme is likely to include works by Chopin, Liszt, Schubert and John Field. Pianist Ben Frith, an expert on John Field, will perform on Jack's splendid 1967 Steinway D. Further details of the concert will be sent out with our own summer meeting flyer.

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

William Telford, President

Andrena Telford, Hon. Secretary

Christopher Beadle, Hon. Treasurer

Judy Vigurs, Membership Secretary

Vinny Holden, Hon. Auditor

Ray Brown

Heather Cordell

Michael Gaunt

Nick Jackson

Ros Lawley

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. If you would like to put forward any matters to the Committee, please notify the Secretary beforehand (contact details below).

EDITORIAL CONTACT DETAILS:

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Thanks to Bill Telford for the photographs of Cambridge and of NCA people and events. See more of Bill's photographs on the Northumbrian Cambridge Association website:

www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk