

NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

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

'Just turn up' events

We are considering holding more regular "Just turn up" events – where you do not need to book in advance – and we would be interested to hear your views.

These could include informal walks (where we simply designate the date, start time and location, along with a proposed route), pub meet-ups (where we simply set the date/time/location to meet up for a drink), coffee shop meet-ups, or similar. Perhaps you have some other ideas?

Please get back to us at enquiriesnca@gmail.com to let us know whether you would be interested in any of these types of events, and if you have any suggestions of suitable "Just turn up" activities that we might consider.

Many thanks,

Heather Cordell, NCA President

Janet Townsend

We were very sorry to learn of the death of NCA member Janet Townsend on 5 May 2023 and send our sincere condolences to her husband Alan.



Visit to the National Glass Centre, Sunderland

On February 10 2023, we visited the National Glass Centre in Sunderland for a private demonstration of Glass Blowing, followed by individual visits to the shop and galleries, and then lunch in the pod. The main exhibition was Harvest: Fruit Gathering, which featured the work of two of Britain's leading artists working in hot glass, Rachael Woodman and Neil Wilkin, who have worked collaboratively for almost 40 years. This was their first opportunity to present their work together (<https://sunderlandculture.org.uk/events/harvest-fruit-gathering/>)

Several of us walked to the river mouth after lunch, through fascinating sculptures along the river bank. A few of us carried on up the beach and through Roker Park to Seaburn for the Metro back to Newcastle. Although somewhat chilly at first, the weather gradually improved and there were marvellous clear views.

Shortly before our visit it had been announced that the building will have to close due to structural defects, roof leaks, corrosion and broken glazing that are too expensive to repair. The National Glass Centre will have to relocate elsewhere in Sunderland in a few years time.

Annual Dinner

Northern Counties Club

Wednesday 15 March 2023

This was the ninth annual dinner to be held at the Northern Counties Club in Newcastle (the first was in 1930). In response to member feedback, we relaxed the dress code to 'smart casual (black tie optional)' and everyone had a relaxed evening. As ever, the Club's excellent chef provided a wonderful three-course meal, followed by coffee or tea. Committee members Joanna Quinton and Ian Lawley shared their experiences at Cambridge (ice hockey and spoof Varsity supplements and pantomimes respectively) and toasted the university and the NCA. It was a very enjoyable evening for everyone there.



Please note the new NCA bank account

Account: **Northumbrian Cambridge Association**

Lloyds Bank Sort code: **30 98 97**

Account number: **87980962**

All future payments for event bookings and your annual subscriptions (due by **1 March** each year) should be made to this account. You can find an updated Standing Order form for paying subscriptions on our website *How to Join* page.

Spring visit

Ryhope Engines Museum

Saturday 27 May 2023

Ryhope Pumping Station, which is situated to the south of Sunderland, was built in 1868 and closed in 1967 after 100 years of continuous use. A local icon since the day of its opening, the site supplied water to Sunderland and its environs, and after its decommissioning became a focus for community history and local heritage volunteering.

We congregated at 10.30 (before the museum became busy) and were met by volunteer Keith Bell, who provided us with a comprehensive introduction to the site and its history, then guided us around all three floors of the pump house, with its twin R & W Hawthorn 100 horsepower beam engines under steam.



We were able to pose any additional questions to the team of volunteers who were on hand and explain more of the workings of this engineering marvel. Some members of the group even had the opportunity to shovel coal into one of the twin Lancashire boilers.

We also enjoyed the additional attraction of a Steampunk fair on site. For a rest, some retired to the tea room for refreshments. We then moved to The Albion pub on Ryhope village green for a generous lunch of soup, bread, cheese and salad.



Following lunch, a few of us walked south from the Albion onto England's coastal path towards Seaham. We walked from Ryhope Village to the cliff tops and down into Ryhope Dene before turning back. We were lucky to have excellent weather with clear views in all directions.

Summer visit

The Auckland Project

Saturday 1 July 2023

The Auckland Project brings together a number of major heritage attractions in Bishop Auckland. To begin our visit we gathered in the Auckland Tower where members of staff welcomed us and NCA Committee member, Andrew Young, who had organised the summer meeHng, outlined the day's programme. We then climbed to the top of the 29 metre tower, designed by Niall McLaughlin to echo a great wooden siege engine drawn up against the Castle's fortifications, from where we could look over the surrounding countryside. Andrew advised us to split into separate groups when visiting the newly opened Spanish Gallery and the Mining



Art Gallery. The first houses a stunning collection of 16th and 17th-century Spanish artworks and is the UK's first gallery dedicated to the art, history and culture of Spain. The Mining Art Gallery provides an artistic record of the mining industry and its place in the history of County Durham. Its collection includes more than 420 works by prominent local artists. Both galleries have strikingly well-designed interiors, a range of exhibits in different media and helpful staff on hand to answer questions and draw attention to points of interest.

After lunch in the Bishop's Kitchen, we made our way around the refurbished Auckland Castle interiors. Each room has been meticulously curated to foreground different periods in the palace's history and the roles of its incumbents across English history. A visiting exhibition from the National Gallery on representations of Sin in Art provided a further attraction.

Somewhat exhausted by the many splendours on display we skipped the planned walk in the deer park and gardens. Many of us are keen to return to complete our visit and take another look at the many stunning interiors, art and exhibits



Martin Luther King in Newcastle upon Tyne, 1967

NCA Annual Lecture October 4, 2023

**Guest Speaker: Professor Brian Ward
(Northumbria University)**

This year's annual lecture reveals the circumstances surrounding Martin Luther King Jr's remarkable trip to Newcastle upon Tyne in November 1967 – his last trip outside the United States before his murder in April 1968 and the only time he visited anywhere in the UK outside London. Along the way, we will encounter bureaucratic incompetence, mistaken identity, and a catering crisis, unravel the mysteries of the local security arrangements, and see how King's visit fitted into a long, largely forgotten history that connects the North East of England to the African American freedom struggle in the US.

Brian Ward is Professor in American Studies at Northumbria University. Having started his career in the North East teaching at the Universities of Durham and Newcastle, Brian went on to hold chairs at the Universities of Florida and Manchester. His ten books include *Just My Soul Responding: Rhythm and Blues, Black Consciousness, and Race Relations* (1998) winner of an American Book Award and the Organization of American Historians' James A. Rawley Prize for the best book on US Race Relations, and *A&R Pioneers: Architects of American Roots Music on Record* (2018: co-authored with Patrick Huber) which won the Belmont Prize for the best book on country music. He is also author of *Martin Luther King in Newcastle upon Tyne: The African American Freedom Struggle and Race Relations in the North East of England*, praised as "The most detailed historical account of race relations in the North East yet written."



Brian is currently completing *She Loves Y'All: The Beatles and the American South* for publication in late 2024.

Coming events

Saturday 5th August 2023

Summer Walk - Two walks are planned. One starts at 10.00 from near Ilford Road Metro Station and will be led by Gilbert Cockton. The second starts at 10.30 from Armstrong Bridge and is led by Peter Cleland

Saturday 9th September 2023

Late summer barbecue - NCA President Heather Cordell is opening her garden for a barbecue

Wednesday October 4th 2023

AGM and annual lecture - to be held at the Literary & Philosophical Society, Newcastle

Friday December 1st 2023

Christmas lunch - County Hotel, Newcastle

Saturday December 9th 2023

Festive film and tea - *It's a Wonderful Life* at the Tyneside Cinema

Wednesday March 13th 2024

NCA Annual Dinner - at the Northern Counties Club, Newcastle

The NCA website has full details of all events

<https://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk>