

**NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Friday, September 25, 2020

Email-conducted instead of in person
at the Royal Grammar School

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Covid-19 restrictions permitting, forthcoming events, until the end of the year (2020) are as follows:

a) Autumn Concert, Sage, Gateshead (Nordic Fiddlers Bloc, Sunday, November 1, 2020, 8 pm; organiser, Heather Cordell).

Join us for a Nordic Fiddlers Bloc concert, featuring Olav Luksengård Mjelva (Norway), Anders Hall (Sweden) and Kevin Henderson (Shetland), at the Sage, the North's premier music centre, with dinner beforehand at the Bistro. The (discounted) cost of a ticket per person is £16.50 (normal price, £17.40). We have also made a booking for 6.00 at the Sage Brasserie for those who would like to join us for a meal beforehand. The flyer/booking form was sent out with the summer mailing, and the event is advertised on our CUDAR group page <<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>>. Members are asked to send their booking form to the NCA Treasurer, Mrs Susan Austin as soon as possible, and by Wednesday, October 21, at the latest.

b) Christmas Lunch, County Hotel, Newcastle (Wednesday, December 2, 2020, 12.00-15.00; organisers, Heather Cordell & Gilbert Cockton).

Christmas lunch at the County Hotel has become a fixture in our calendar – a testament to the food, the ambience and the efficient and welcoming service. Join us for a delicious meal, festive cheer and excellent company in the lovely County Suite. The cost of the meal will be £21.00 per person for three courses, with a glass of wine (or equivalent) included, as well as tea/coffee. The flyer/booking form was sent out with the summer mailing, and the event is advertised on our CUDAR group page. Members should return the booking forms to the NCA Treasurer, Mrs Susan Austin as soon as possible, and by Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at the latest.

c) Pre-Christmas Freshers' Reunion, Revolution (Wednesday, December 9, 2020; 17.00-19.00, organisers: Heather Cordell & Gilbert Cockton).

An invitation will be sent out to freshers as usual, following up the contacts made in previous years at the annual Welcome Parties.

d) Festive Afternoon Tea & Film, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle (Saturday, December 12, 2020, 15.00-18.00; organiser, Peter Cleland).

Another tradition which has now established itself is the Festive Afternoon Tea and Film at the Tyneside. With the Digital Lounge all to ourselves, a scrumptious afternoon tea and a film of our choice. What better way to spend a winter afternoon in the run-up to Christmas! This year's film will be *Meet Me in St Louis* (1944), the celebrated star vehicle for Judy Garland. Because of our regularity, we have been given a special discounted rate of £30.00 per person. The flyer/booking form was sent out with the summer mailing, and the event advertised on our CUDAR group page. The Tyneside is currently closed, but one can only hope that it will have re-opened and be Covid-secure by December. Members should return the booking forms to the NCA Treasurer, Mrs Susan Austin as soon as possible, and by Wednesday, December 4, 2020 at the latest.

Events planned for 2021 include those that were cancelled last year, and are as follows:

a) Winter Outing, Life Science Centre (Friday, February 5, 2021, 10.30-14.30; organiser, Heather Cordell).

Next year's winter outing, on Friday, February 5, will be to the Life Science Centre, Newcastle. The cost is £19.50 per person to include access to the museum (on one's own), a planetarium show (the time to be confirmed on the day) and a "meal deal" lunch (baked potato/chilli etc., the choice to be made from a couple of options on the day) plus a drink. We plan to meet around 9.45-10.00 for a coffee before the formal proceedings start. The flyer/booking form for this will be sent out before Christmas, with a booking deadline of January 12, 2021.

b) Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club, Newcastle (Wednesday, March 17, 2021; organisers, Heather Cordell & Gilbert Cockton).

Next year's annual dinner of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association has been booked for Wednesday, March 17, 2021. It will be held again in the splendid surroundings of the Northern Counties Club in the centre of Newcastle, and will be a black-tie affair as usual.

c) Spring Outing, Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens, Ponteland (Saturday, April 17, 2021; organiser(s), tbc).

Cancelled last year, our 2021 Spring Outing, on Saturday, April 17, will again be to the Zoological Gardens, part of the Kirkley Hall Campus of Northumberland College, just outside Ponteland, and there members will have an opportunity to learn about the zoo's conservation policy, to see the many exotic animals, and to participate in small group animal (petting) encounters! The programme, including lunch, has yet to be finalised, but the flyer/booking form will go out in the January mailing.

d) Spring Walk, Raby Castle, County Durham (Saturday, May 15, 2021; organisers/leaders, Heather Cordell, Gilbert Cockton).

Our cancelled visit to Raby Castle, and its Park and Gardens, in 2020, has been rebooked for Saturday, May 15, 2021. Arrangements similar to those announced in last year's flyer (pre-tour refreshments, guided tour of the Castle, soup and sandwich lunch in the canopied area outside the Stables café, and short and long walks around the perimeter of the Castle) will be finalised in light of the Castle's prevailing Covid-security measures, and the flyer/booking form will be sent out in the January mailing. It is expected that the cost will be around £24.00 per person.

e) Summer Outing, The Farne Islands (Sunday, June 20, 2021; organiser(s), tbc).

We have booked this outing again for next year, having had to cancel it this year. It will take place on Sunday, June 20, 2021. We plan to meet for lunch at 11.45 at the Olde Ship Inn in Seahouses (a menu will be circulated ahead of time so that we can notify the hotel of your choices). Following lunch, we will join a Serenity Cruises catamaran at 13.45 for a trip round the Farne Islands, with an hour's stop-off on Inner Farne to see the bird life nesting on the cliffs, the old lighthouse and St Cuthbert's Chapel. Members of the National Trust have free entry to the island; non-members will have to pay. We anticipate that the cost of the boat trip will be around £20 (2019 price).

Other:

Newsletter

The next of our twice-yearly newsletters is due out in January 2021. 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).

Electronic Mailing

Many of our members now receive event flyers, newsletters and other communications electronically, which saves a great deal of time and money on the part of the Association. If you have an email address and are willing to receive your NCA mail this way, please make sure you email the Hon. Secretary.

Website

As mentioned already, the website [www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk] is being regularly improved by our Website Manager, Gilbert Cockton. We encourage you to make it a regular source for information, along with our group page on the Cambridge Alumni site [<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>].

Dr Andrena E. Telford, Hon. Secretary

15.9.20