

NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday October 1, 2025

Lit and Phil, Newcastle upon Tyne

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of previous AGM, October 2, 2024
3. Matters arising
4. President's Report
5. Hon. Secretary's Report
6. Membership Secretary's Report
7. Hon. Treasurer's Report
8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee – see below
9. Any other business – see below

Prof. Heather Cordell, President

Em.Prof. Gilbert Cockton, Hon. Secretary

Biography of nominee for election to Executive Committee: Beatrice Ollerenshaw

I read Classics at King's (1976-79) and stayed on for a PGCE (1979-80). After that I taught for about 8 years in Leeds, Coventry and then Newcastle; I left teaching to work at Newcastle University in schools' liaison which was then in its infancy. This was followed by a role as Faculty Assistant Registrar (which in those days was a central unit, not devolved to faculties) for the Faculties of Agriculture and Biological Sciences and of Arts. This included support for teaching, departmental and faculty management, and resource planning. During this period, quality assurance entered the higher education agenda and, with a background in teaching, I specialised in that, managing subject-based review visits (as they then were) to the faculties I supported. I moved to Durham to lead quality assurance there (among other responsibilities), becoming Deputy Academic Registrar. After that I moved to Sunderland as Director of Academic Services (which became the current Academic Registrar post) covering student appeals and complaints, programme support, postgraduate taught programmes, graduation ceremonies and timetabling as well as quality assurance. I left there in 2017 and did consultancy in a range of universities for two years, retiring fully in 2020. My interests include reading, theatre, bridge, travel, cooking, gardening and (slowly and badly) learning Russian.

Proposal to amend description of and membership numbers on Executive Committee

Replace

“Heather, Gilbert and Sue are ex-officio members respectively as President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Northumbrian Cambridge Association (NCA) Executive Committee has at least five, and up to seven, further non ex-officio members”

with

“Heather, Gilbert and Sue are ex-officio members respectively as President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Northumbrian Cambridge Association (NCA) Executive Committee has at least two, and up to nine, further non ex-officio members”

MINUTES OF NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION (NCA)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday October 2, 2024

Lit and Phil, Newcastle upon Tyne

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Nick James, Jenny Lewis, Andrew Young, Gilbert Cockton, and Colin Dunnighan.

2. Minutes of previous AGM, October 4, 2023

These were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

None were noted that would not be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. President's Report

The NCA President, Heather Cordell, read out, with some elaborations, her report that is available online at <https://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/2024-AGM.php>

Given the difficulty that we have had in recruiting possible successors to the current NCA President, Secretary and Treasurer positions, it was noted that one possibility would be to make these joint/shared roles, so that more than one person could hold the role simultaneously, thus sharing out the burden. If that would be something that would be of interest to anyone, they were requested to contact the current committee.

5. Hon. Secretary's Report

The NCA President, Heather Cordell, read out the report from NCA Secretary Gilbert Cockton that is available online at <https://www.northumbriancambridge.co.uk/2024-AGM.php>

6. Membership Secretary's Report

The NCA Membership Secretary, Susan Austin, read out, with some elaborations, her report that is available online at <https://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/2024-AGM.php>

Members were urged to consider looking out for any potential new recruits to the NCA and doing whatever they could to publicise the society. Any suggestions of how to improve our publicity and advertising should be passed on to the current

committee. A suggestion was made of clarifying in the advertising that guests of NCA members were always welcome at NCA events.

7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

The NCA Treasurer, Susan Austin, read out, with some elaborations, her report that is available online at <https://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/2024-AGM.php> It was noted that the Hon Auditor position was currently vacant. Michael Lewis volunteered to take over this position, on the understanding that he would probably not be available to look over the accounts until the November of each year. It was noted that the Association is in a sound financial position and most events were costed on a break-even basis, with a few exceptions such as the Freshers' Welcome Event.

8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee

It was noted that all members of the current Executive Committee were willing to stand for another year. The reappointment of all current committee members for another year was proposed by Teresa Saunders and seconded by Bill Telford; all present voted in favour.

The appointment of Allan Colver as an additional Executive Committee member was proposed by Heather Cordell and seconded by Peter Cleland; all present voted in favour of the appointment.

The appointment of Michael Lewis as Hon Auditor was proposed by Heather Cordell and seconded by Jane Lewis; all present voted in favour of the appointment.

9. Any other business

It was noted that the next NCA Event would be a trip to the Glasshouse to watch the film "Psycho" with a live orchestra on 31st October; the deadline to join the block booking has passed, but anyone that wants to come can always book their own tickets (if there are still tickets left) and join us for coffee or snacks beforehand. Members were urged to watch out for announcements about the Christmas Lunch on 29th November (for which the booking period would be very short) and the Festive Tea and Film on 14th December.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that in the past year (since October 2024) we have continued our usual full programme of in-person events, all of which have been announced via email or through Cambridge University's Development and Alumni Relations office website:

<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>

(see Group Events Tab). Note that we still plan to discontinue/archive our own separate website in the near future.

These events have included by-now familiar activities such as the Christmas Lunch, Spring/Summer walks/excursions to places of interest and a late Summer Barbecue in the garden of the NCA President. Of particular note was our 95th Anniversary Dinner on 27th March in the Medieval Banquet Hall at Blackfriars, which attracted around 40 attendees including several who were new to NCA.

We were very sorry to hear of the recent death of NCA member (and former NCA president) Ian Fells on 20th August 2025, just a few weeks short of his 93rd birthday. The Blackfriars Anniversary Dinner was his last public event.

I am pleased to say that Beatrice Ollerenshaw has agreed to stand for election at this AGM as a general (ex-officio) member of the Executive Committee. The other current Committee members are all willing to continue for another year, but most (including the President, Secretary and Treasurer) are keen to stand down within the next year or two. Please consider whether you could volunteer to take on one of these important roles!

Professor Heather Cordell

26.09.25

SECRETARY'S REPORT

My main responsibility for this year has been online communications, sending emails to members, providing content for our Cambridge Alumni Group page (<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>), and basic work on our NCA website, which we will be retiring this year. All persistent online communications will be via the Cambridge Alumni Group page, supported and augmented by emails to NCA members as appropriate.

Ian Lawley (ian.lawley@tiscali.co.uk) is doing a sterling job as NCA newsletter editor. Please support him by providing relevant content for the January and July issues. We welcome all news related to Cambridge University and related events that you have attended.

Heather has looked after Executive Committee minutes this year, for which I thank her as my retired life becomes increasingly busy.

Support for alumni groups is somewhat dynamic currently, with changes in staffing and policies, which has resulted in the suspension of Freshers' events pending the outcomes of a review of these activities. However, support for our online content is timely and very supportive.

Emeritus Professor Gilbert Cockton

28.09.25

Northumbrian Cambridge Association

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 1 October 2025

Membership Secretary's report

Current membership stands at 80, including seven Honorary members and one Associate member. Associate members are partners of deceased NCA members who have regularly attended our events, and to whom it is our policy to offer NCA membership and continued access to events. We have 75 members on our email list and five on the postal list.

We offer free Associate membership to students attending our Freshers' Welcome Party, and now have over 90 students on our list. It is hoped that they will spread an awareness of the Association's activities and that they may become full members should they return to the area in the future.

This, however, has proved to be the last Freshers' Welcome party, since CUDAR are refreshing their approach and no longer supporting such events. Although this will no longer be a source of contact and potential new members, we shall look for other opportunities to connect with undergraduates.

We are sad to report the death in October 2024 of Dr Margaret Wilkinson and in August 2025 of Professor Ian Fells, both longstanding members and former Presidents of the Association.

One member has resigned due to age and two have moved away.

We are delighted, however, to welcome nine new members this year, several deciding to join us after attending the Annual Dinner in March.

This year has seen a 'net gain' in membership which is very encouraging.

Less encouraging is the fact that almost half of our subscribing membership has not paid this year, despite email reminders. Our Constitution states that members who do not pay for two successive years will be removed from membership: 1 March 2026 may be a day of reckoning!

Susan Austin

Membership Secretary

October 2025

Northumbrian Cambridge Association

Annual General Meeting – Wednesday 1 October 2025

Treasurer's Report

This report accompanies the financial statements for the year ended 31 July 2025.

As agreed at last year's AGM, our new Honorary Auditor will review the accounts in November 2025.

Subscription income was in line the previous year.

Bookings for events have maintained numbers with an attendance of 20-25 and the Freshers' welcome party was again well attended, with an outlay of £215.

The small deficit for the 2024 AGM of £19, much reduced from previous years, reflects the Executive Committee's decision to rationalise the room booking and opt for a more flexible catering supplier.

There was a small surplus on the Christmas Lunch, and a slightly larger one on the Annual Dinner due to final cost being less than originally anticipated. The apparent surplus on the Festive Tea is cancelled out by the deposit paid in the previous financial year. Other events either broke even or were paid for on an individual basis.

A deposit of £144.75 has been paid for the 2025 Christmas Lunch at the County Hotel.

Administrative expenses are in line with earlier years, with the addition of bank service charges instituted in March, which will now be a regular expense.

The outturn for the year is a surplus of £67.66 and the Association is in a sound financial position.

Susan Austin

Treasurer

October 2025

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT			2024/25		2023/24
	Income	Expenditure	Net	Notes	Net
Subscriptions	350.00		350.00		380.00
Freshers' events: Welcome party & Reunion		215.54	-215.54		-310.44
Annual Lecture & AGM 2024	500.00	519.00	-19.00		-312.07
Christmas Lunch 2024	864.00	696.90	167.10	1	2.35
Festive Tea & Film 2024	300.00	187.50	112.50	2	350.00
Annual Dinner 2025	2295.00	2215.25	79.75		7.60
Summer Outing: Ad Gefrin	380.00	380.00	0.00		60.00
Late Summer BBQ	180.00	178.59	1.41		81.26
Christmas Lunch 2025	0.00	144.75	-144.75	3	-144.75
Printing & Postage		8.50	-8.50		0.00
Website subscription & domain		145.35	-145.35		-115.90
Insurance		85.37	-85.37		-85.37
Bank charges		24.59	-24.59		-
Sundry expenses			-		-19.98
Totals	4869.00	4801.34	67.66		-294.80

Notes

1 Deposit of £144.75 paid in previous year; true surplus = £22.35

2 Breakeven position as deposit of £112.50 paid in previous year

3 Deposit paid in advance for 2025 event

**NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
BALANCE SHEET AT 31 JULY 2025**

	£	2023/24 £
Opening balance at 1 August 2024	2,700.55	2,995.35
Surplus/deficit for year	67.66	-294.80
Closing balance at 31 July 2025	<u>2,768.21</u>	<u>2,700.55</u>
BANK RECONCILIATION		
Balance per bank statement 31.7.25	2,768.21	2,700.55
Balance per cash book at 31.7.25	<u>2,768.21</u>	<u>2,700.55</u>