

NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday, September 17, 2021

Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Activities over the past 12 months were severely curtailed by restrictions during the COVID pandemic. Nevertheless, we have been able to organise three online activities, two walks, and the Freshers' Party. Detailed reports of these can be found in the NCA newsletters and on the NCA website:

<http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/what-we-do.php>

1. Activities since the 2020 AGM (held online)

The 2021 Freshers' Party was our first face-to-face indoor activity since the Annual Dinner in March 2020. Our only meeting after this in 2020 was a Zoom quiz held on Wednesday December 9. 22 members and partners participated.

This year, an online talk was given on Thursday February 25 by Margaret Bozic MBE on *Ruth Dodds and Tyneside in the 1920s*. A second talk was given on Wednesday 31st March by Chris Loughran on *The Work of the HALO Trust*. Alumni from Yorkshire and Edinburgh associations were invited to join us.

Our first face-to-face meetings were outdoors on Friday June 18, with two walks along the Ouseburn, Newcastle led by Peter Cleland and Gilbert Cockton. The Freshers' Party was held on September 13th at the Lit & Phil in Newcastle.

2. Activities for the remainder of 2021

The following meetings are planned for the remainder of 2021.

Friday September 17	AGM & Annual Lecture, RGS Newcastle
Late October/early November	Autumn Concert, Sage, Gateshead
Friday December 3	Christmas Lunch, County Hotel, Newcastle
Saturday December 11	Festive Afternoon Tea & Film, Tyneside Cinema

Venues are booked for the December dates. Information and booking forms will be placed on the website and sent by email. For members who do not receive email communications, paper copies will be sent by post. It may not be possible to arrange the Autumn Concert meeting, but if we can, then forms for this will be distributed as for the December meetings.

3. Activities for the first half of 2022

The following meetings are currently planned for 2022 (originally planned for 2020 and then rescheduled to 2021). Please note that the February and June meetings may not go ahead as planned. The committee will keep these meetings under review and make alternative arrangements as appropriate. Further meetings will be scheduled for after the summer.

Early February <i>Date and venue TBC</i>	Winter Outing <i>planned for Life Science Centre Newcastle, Friday 4th/11th</i>
Wednesday, March 16	Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club, Newcastle
Saturday, April 23	Spring Outing, Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens
Saturday, May 14	Spring Walk, Raby Castle, County Durham
Saturday, June 11 <i>Date and venue TBC</i>	Summer Outing, <i>currently planned as a visit to Farne Islands and Seahouses</i>

4. Possible Additional Activities

The two walks were enjoyed by those who joined them. We are considering adding an informal programme of walks in the future. We will also consider continuing to hold online events if members would like this. Access to online talks hosted by Cambridge University is also possible.

5. Newsletter

The next of our twice-yearly newsletters is due out in January 2022. 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).

6. Electronic Mailing

Almost all NCA members now receive event flyers, newsletters and other communications electronically, which saves considerable time and money for the committee. If you have an email address and are willing to receive your NCA mail this way, please inform Gilbert Cockton (gilbertcockton@gmail.com).

7. Website

The website is primarily for timely information about upcoming and recent NCA activities. There is an average of around two visitors per day, so further improvements and extensions are not planned, as the ‘footfall’ does not warrant this.

Prospective NCA members can be directed to <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/contact-us.php>

Committee details are at: <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/who-to-contact.php>

Information on upcoming activities is on the home page, www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk. Information on past activities is at <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/what-we-do.php>

Abridged information can be found on the Cambridge Alumni site (<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>)

Em.Prof. Gilbert Cockton, Hon. Secretary 14.9.21