

NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION Newsletter

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

A New Committee Member

Ian Lawley (see back page) was elected to the NCA Executive Committee at the 2021 AGM.



We can still add a non-ex-officio member to the committee. If you are interested, please email heather.cordell@newcastle.ac.uk.

Cambridge Calling

Committee member Colin Dunnighan and his wife Hilary were in Cambridge before Christmas. Now that we are again able to travel and meet, perhaps their photograph below will tempt you back to your Alma Mater.



Programme Regained

After a mixed programme of online events and walks in the first half of 2021, we ran a full programme of indoor meetings after the summer. Reports of these meetings are in this newsletter's centre pages.

We look forward to a full programme for 2022. With the expectation that we can return to our previous pattern of events, planned NCA meetings for the first half of 2022 are:

Saturday February 26, 2022

Winter Outing, Heritage Centre at Bellingham

Wednesday March 16, 2022

Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club, Newcastle

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Spring Outing, Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens, Ponteland

Saturday May 14, 2022

Spring Walk, Raby Castle, County Durham

Saturday June 18, 2022

Summer Outing, Brancepeth Castle

The booking form for Bellingham is on the website and has been emailed/posted to members. Other booking forms will be emailed/posted to members and added to the website (www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk) as they become available. Please note that the date for the Brancepeth Castle outing has changed since we first announced it.

In the autumn, we will host a Freshers' Party, followed by our AGM and Annual Lecture. Dates for these and the remaining 2022 events (Christmas Lunch, Festive Tea, and Autumn Concert) will be published on our website and in the July newsletter.

September Events

On Monday 13 September 2021, we welcomed 39 undergraduate and postgraduate freshers and 7 guests to the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne. There was a diverse group of freshers from across the northeast region (plus a few from outside who wanted to attend a face-to-event!).



Two current students gave short talks on their Cambridge experiences. Ailsa Critten (Girton 2019, Music, above right) and Sam Carling (Christ's 2020, Natural Sciences, above left) had had very different first year experiences due to COVID. Both provided helpful advice on settling in and making the most of their time at Cambridge, including joining the university's Northern Society!

The evening was very convivial. Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations provided a 'Party in a Box' of small gifts for the freshers and student presenters, Cambridge cups, napkins, and table flags to 'make it real' before going up.

It was clear at the event and from subsequent feedback that the NCA had provided an encouraging start to being a Cambridge student.



The 2021 AGM and Annual Lecture, four days after the Freshers' reception, was our first face to face meeting for NCA members since the Annual Dinner in March 2020. The lecture was given by Dr David Gosling, who presented a fascinating and very topical lecture, *Violence and hope on Pakistan's border: an educational encounter*. This provided an enlightening antidote to much media portrayal of the situation in Afghanistan/Pakistan. Dr. Gosling had revised his talk to address current omissions in the media. The sheer complexity of the historical and current context became clear, with many distinctions between groups.

Dr. Gosling began by describing tribal structures in Afghanistan and along its largely open and porous border with Pakistan. Differences in religion and culture in the border regions were noted. He then covered the history of Afghanistan since the 1950s, focusing on the 1955 constitution, USSR intervention (1979-89), the progressive establishment of Taliban rule, and the western response after 9/11.

Following Taliban spill-over into the tribal borderlands of Pakistan, a combination of Pakistan army activity and US drone strikes provoked a furious backlash by Taliban groups against civilian targets in and around Peshawar, including death threats against Dr. Gosling. In his lecture, Dr. Gosling described his positive response to these death threats.

Between 2006 and 2010, Dr Gosling lived in Peshawar, the provincial capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, where he was principal of Edwardes College, a prestigious higher education college, affiliated with the University of Peshawar. In his book *Frontier of Fear*:

Confronting the Taliban on Pakistan's Border, David Gosling describes his time at Edwardes College and the challenges and changes of his tenure. Already the first co-educational college in the province, Dr. Gosling significantly increased its proportion of female students and staff. Dr. Gosling extensively illustrated his time at Edwardes College with photos.

The People's Requiem

A dozen NCA members met at the Sage on 28 November 2021 for this stunning performance of Verdi's Requiem - a return to large-scale music making billed as the *People's Requiem* in memory of those who died in the Covid-19 pandemic. We were immersed in the wonderful sound produced by 250 musicians and singers from the Royal Northern Sinfonia, the Chorus of the Royal Northern Sinfonia (including your own NCA President, Heather Cordell), and across the north east community. It was a truly uplifting, dramatic and memorable rendering of this dramatic Requiem and very special to attend a live choral concert after the cultural desert induced by the pandemic.

Christmas Lunch

After a two-year pandemic pause, we were delighted to return to the County Hotel for our largest gathering since the Annual Dinner in March 2020. This fine Grade 2 listed Victorian hotel has preserved many of its original features. We dined in the beautiful County Suite, exclusively ours, together with its own bar, for the duration of the lunch. An excellent lunch was enjoyed by all, followed by a hearty rendition of some Christmas carols.



Festive Tea and Film

On a blustery Saturday afternoon around 15 intrepid members and guests assembled at the Tyneside Cinema for an afternoon of nostalgia.

We were treated to a splendid afternoon tea and Prosecco and then watched the film *Meet me in St Louis*. This starred Judy Garland at the age of 21 in one of her early roles.

The story moved at a leisurely pace through a year in the life of the Smith family in 1903. Everyone enjoyed the film. No-one was seen dropping off to sleep!

We had a little more to eat and drink after the film and then set off for home in much better weather than when we arrived.



Annual NCA Subscriptions — Reminder

Annual membership subscriptions are due on March 1st. Please pay £10 by: (i) cheque; (ii) standing order; or (iii) bank transfer. For (i), please post cheques made out to *Northumbrian Cambridge Association* (not NCA please) to our Treasurer, Mrs. Susan Austin, 116 Queens Road, Whitley Bay, NE26 3AU. For (ii), there is a standing order form on the NCA website (*How to Join* page). Please arrange payments for March 1st each year. For (iii), please pay HSBC Sort Code 40 34 18, account # 60618446, and include identification e.g., Subs/your surname.

Please keep payments for your subscription and events separate.

New to Our Committee

Ian Lawley (History, Peterhouse 1971-74) took a special paper on Josiah Wedgwood and the Staffordshire Pottery Industry, little knowing how relevant it would be to his future career. During his postgraduate teaching diploma, he met his future wife, Kate, while on teaching practice. A field trip to the Ironbridge Gorge Museum made museums more attractive than teaching. He secured a job there and worked to develop the Coalbrookdale Museum of Iron.

With Kate and daughters Rebecca and Rosamond, Ian moved to Hartlepool to become Keeper of Maritime History. They next moved to The Potteries, where they lived for 35 years, with Ian working as Keeper of Social History at The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery, then Assistant Director and eventually Director, responsible for four museums (including the world's best Staffordshire ceramics collection), a Victorian pottery factory and the sole surviving steam-powered potters' mill.

Ian's role broadened to include arts development, field archaeology, events, co-ordinating Stoke-on-Trent's cultural strategy, trans-national partnerships, and 'Arts for Health'.

After one reorganisation too many, Ian went freelance, providing consultancy to museums and arts organisations in the West Midlands. He was also an arts fundraiser for North Staffordshire University Hospital NHS Trust, securing funding for and then managing a major community history project, *If Wards Could Talk*, with a programme of oral history, community events, displays, a play for schools, social media activity, a film, a book, and an exhibition.

Alongside other board and committee roles, Ian was a trustee of the Friends of the Potteries Museums & Art Gallery. While Chair (2012-2019), Ian headed two successful fundraising campaigns, raising £825,000, to keep Josiah Wedgwood's First Day's Vase in the UK and to purchase the Leekfrith Iron Age gold torcs.

Ian and Kate moved to the Northeast early in 2020 to be more active grandparents closer to their family, arriving just in time for the first lock-down!

Members' News

Sadly, we must report the deaths of David Hide (Trinity 1950-53) and also our oldest member, Dr. Betty Schofield, whose daughter Sue Lawson has shared the memories below.



Dr. Betty Schofield at an NCA Annual Dinner

At Newnham (1938-41, Medicine) Betty lived in Clough Hall, sang in the Bach Choir, and would play music for two pianos with a student over her corridor (both left their doors open). The war years saw her on nightly fire duty on the Fitzwilliam Museum roof, and gardening in the Newnham Allotment.

In 1941 women students could not graduate but that did not obstruct a medical career of over 50 years. A working mother throughout, Betty finally received her degree in person at 90, with great ceremony during a family weekend with children, grandchildren, and great-grandchild.

Betty met her husband Brian (Emmanuel 1938-41) at Cambridge Medical School and married in 1944. She worked in Kent, Jesmond (locums in all-women practice), and then the Blood Transfusion Service. In 1969, Betty moved with Brian to Calgary and three concurrent part-time jobs. Betty retired at 75 from the last in a contraception clinic. As a founder of a women's hiking and cross-country skiing group, she spent Thursdays in the Rockies.

Returning to England in 1999, Betty joined first the Walbottle Walkers and, after Brian's death in 2001, the Tyneside Ramblers. Until she broke her hip a fortnight before her 100th birthday in 2020, she could still walk 4 miles. After the accident, she walked with equipment, and most days would walk once, twice, or thrice round Jesmond Old Cemetery.