



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014

This is the last of fourteen Reports which I shall have penned, since I announced at the Annual General Meeting that I would not accept nomination for any further term as President. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to preside over the affairs of the Association, and, in particular, to work regularly with so many able and agreeable Officers and Committee Members, who do so much on our behalf. Groups such as ours struggle to survive in an increasingly frenetic world, and it is to the credit of my colleagues on the Executive Committee that, although we still look for more support, we seem to be more vigorous than in the past, with more activities and more members, especially younger ones, an online presence, and a regular Newsletter.

The year began with a visit to the BBC Studios on 22 February. The *Look North* Studio will never look quite so orderly again to those who have observed the clutter just out of camera! Two groups enjoyed very informative tours and the opportunity to record a brief drama. Thanks are due to Ros Lawley and Vinny Holden, who organised the event.



The Annual Dinner was organised by Judy Vigurs and was held at the Biscuit Factory in Newcastle. The opportunity to view the paintings and other works in the Gallery beforehand was much appreciated, and the occasion was a great success both gastronomically and socially.



The Spring Walk, from Weldon Bridge, organised by Nick Jackson, was much enjoyed by the participants. The walk took the group along the river Coquet to the picturesque ruins of Brinkburn Priory.

The Summer Meeting, at Seaton Delaval, was well supported and much enjoyed. Andrena and Bill Telford had arranged private tours of the Hall, a talk from one of the gardeners, and a viewing (only from the exterior, because of restoration work being done) of the Church, with interesting commentary from some of those involved in caring for it. A good number then proceeded to Seaton Sluice, and lunch at the Waterford Arms.



The Freshers' party was, as usual, a lively and, indeed, inspiring occasion, when one saw the quality of the young people going up to Cambridge from an enormously wide range of backgrounds and schools. We thank Tim Gray both for providing an ideal venue at Sinton's,

and being an active participant in welcoming the guests.

The Annual General Meeting was at its now traditional home of the Royal Grammar School, under the aegis of Michael Gaunt, with excellent food and wine from Boldon Farmhouse Pantry and Michael Jobling. Our lecturer was Sarah Coakley, Norris Hulse Professor of Divinity and Fellow of Murray Edwards College. She stretched our minds with a sophisticated account of her highly original work on the implications for ethics and theology of recent



developments in the mathematical study of evolutionary processes, precisely the kind of inter-disciplinary investigation which a collegiate university is especially well placed to foster. The long discussion which followed bore testimony to our appreciation.

The Christmas Lunch and the Festive Afternoon Tea at the Tyneside Cinema are now an established part of the programme for which we owe thanks to Andrena and Bill Telford. The venue for our Christmas Lunch was the County Hotel, where both



the ambience and the food were much enjoyed. *Miracle on 34<sup>th</sup> Street*, with the late Sir Richard Attenborough, was the choice of film at the Tyneside, and was a suitably heart-warming accompaniment to the indulgence of the tea.

## FUTURE EVENTS

March – June, 2015

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 6.30

Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club,  
11 Hood Street, Newcastle upon Tyne,  
NE1 6LH

Invitations for this event have already  
been sent out. If you would like to come,  
please contact the Secretary:

Dr Andrena Telford, 24 West Road,  
Ponteland, NE20 9SX

Tel. 01661-825437

email: andrena.telford@btinternet.com

Saturday, May 16, 2015

Spring Walk, based on Howick Hall  
Gardens, Northumberland

Organiser: Nick Jackson

Saturday, June 20, 2015

Summer Meeting, Woodhorn Colliery &  
Northumberland Archives

Organiser: Judy Vigurs

Details of the above events, and  
application forms for tickets, will be  
circulated nearer to the time. Do come  
and support your Association! Dates  
have yet to be confirmed for the Freshers  
Meeting, the AGM/Annual Lecture and  
the Christmas events. Notice of these  
will be given in the next Newsletter, due  
out in August. We also hope to introduce  
a visit to a musical event in the autumn,  
and details of this will be will be  
included.

Don't forget to check out the website  
of the Association, where you can  
find details of upcoming events, the  
committee and other relevant  
information. Our website manager,  
Bill Telford, continues to post  
photographs of NCA events on the  
website, and you are also welcome  
to submit to him for inclusion items  
that might be of interest to fellow  
members.

URL: <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk>  
Contact: Bill Telford  
Telephone: 01661-825437  
Email: w.r.telford@dur.ac.uk

I have already expressed my  
appreciation of all that my colleagues on  
the Executive Committee do for the  
Association, but I should make special  
mention of Nadine Strettle-Brown, who  
has been our Membership Secretary.  
Following the birth of her daughter, Isla,  
in June, she has decided that two small  
children and a job make it impossible for  
her to carry on, but she has continued to  
help us while we make other  
arrangements. We thank her for her past  
contribution and look forward to seeing  
her at future meetings.

The Executive Committee will bring a  
nomination for President to the next AGM.  
I thank the members of the Association for  
their friendship and support during my  
term of office and look forward to  
providing similar support to my successor.

With best wishes,

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### NEW MEMBER

The Association welcomes another  
new arrival to the ranks of future  
members. Ros Lawley and Vinny  
Holden, both members of our  
committee, have a baby daughter,  
Amelie Maria, born November 29.  
Amelie made her first appearance at  
the Association's visit to the Victoria  
Tunnel.



### NOTICES:

Membership subscriptions are now due, and a notice to this effect accompanies this newsletter. Your prompt response to this would be much appreciated. Since the membership fee has remained at £5.00 per person per annum for a very long time, while the administrative costs of the Association have grown, a proposal for a small increase on the annual amount will be raised at the AGM in the autumn.

The Committee's next meeting is on March 3, 2015. If you have any matters you would like to raise, or suggestions you would like to make, they would be very welcome. Please get in touch with the Secretary, Andrena Telford, before that date and the item will be added to the agenda.

Note: Future mailings will be from Judy Vigurs and Christopher Beadle, who have taken on the roles formerly handled by the Membership Secretary.

Photographs courtesy of Bill Telford.

## CAMBRIDGE NEWS:

### New Technology Centre

A new technology centre is to be built  
at the Cambridge Science Park. The  
venture, representing a joint  
investment by Trinity College and the  
Department of Business, Innovation  
and Skills, is intended to provide teams  
and start-up companies with flexible  
and affordable space, education,  
mentoring and finance.

### Fast-Tracking Development of New Treatments for Dementia

Alzheimer's Research UK, the world's  
largest dedicated dementia research  
charity, has announced a £30 million  
Drug Discovery Alliance, launching  
three flagship Drug Discovery  
Institutes at the Universities of  
Cambridge, Oxford and UCL  
(University College London). The  
Drug Discovery Institutes will see 90  
new research scientists employed in  
state-of-the-art facilities to fast-track  
the development of new treatments for  
Alzheimer's and other dementias.

### VISIT TO VICTORIA TUNNEL

Another successful event for NCA  
members took place on February 7,  
when two groups had a fascinating  
tour of the Victoria Tunnel, a 19th  
century coal waggonway which ran  
from the Town Moor to the Tyne.  
The tunnel was used during WWII as  
an air raid shelter.

