

Northumbrian Cambridge Association

Newsletter

President: Dr William Telford

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Andrena Telford



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I hope you have had a very merry Christmas and that you are looking forward with anticipation to a bright New Year. We have had some excellent get-togethers in the autumn. The Freshers 'Party' in September was followed by the AGM and an outstanding Annual Lecture by Professor Gary Gerstle on 'The 2016 (American) Election in its Historical Perspective' - particularly relevant just a few weeks before the actual event. We were happy to see a number of sixth formers from the Royal Grammar School in the audience and they were keen questioners of the speaker at the end of his talk. Our second musical event at the Sage, featuring the award-winning Black Dyke Band, provided a delightful evening for the 17 members and guests who attended, and our Christmas Lunch and Festive Afternoon Tea and Film were both much enjoyed. A new venture this year, following on from the Freshers 'Party', was a follow-up get-together with a number of the students who returned to the region from Cambridge for Christmas. Since we are now able to offer associate membership of NCA to the students for the duration of their degree programme, hopefully we can build on these relationships to attract a new cohort of more recent graduates to join the Association.

We have a stimulating programme for the year ahead. Beginning in February, we have planned a visit to the brand new, state-of-the-art Northumbria Police Station at Forth Banks, where, we are assured, they have "the best cells in the country". This is followed by our annual dinner on March 15, when we return to the Northern Counties Club for another fine dinner and some reminiscences of student life in Cambridge from members of the committee. Our Spring Walk takes us to Belsay Hall, just north west of Newcastle, for a walk round the Quarry Garden, a visit to the Castle and a choice of walks, and in April our Hon. Treasurer is organising an exciting visit to a 'Richard III' day in Barnard Castle. Our Summer Outing will also be a novel one: we plan to visit the Wetlands Centre in Washington, for an introduction to many of the exotic species of wildfowl that make it their home. For more, and for details of dates and times see the Calendar of Events on page 3.

Over the last six months, we have gained a new member (Elizabeth Mooney, Newnham, 2016), as well as three new committee members, Peter and Liz Atkins, and our new Treasurer, Colin Dunnighan. We welcome them most warmly. We have sadly lost two of our oldest members, Harry Cockerill and one-time Hon. Secretary, Jack Lindsay, as well as another much valued member and former Hon. Secretary, Dr Peter Willis, tributes to all of whom follow later in the Newsletter.

I hope you will find much to enjoy both in the Newsletter and in the programme for 2017 and I look forward to meeting you at future events.

Best wishes,
Bill Telford

Dr William Telford (Christ's, 1972-77)



OUR NEW TREASURER

Colin Dunnighan BA(Hons) MPhil (Cantab) PgC

In an earlier life Colin was a senior police officer whose career was cut short by serious injuries sustained in an accident. He was then employed as a primary researcher on a Royal Commission for Criminal Justice project consisting of an ergonomic review of the criminal justice process, with a particular emphasis on miscarriages of justice. In due course this led to a move into academia where he held positions at a number of UK universities. His research interests centred on criminal intelligence systems, serious and organised crime networks, and ethics within the criminal justice system. Now fully retired, he is an active member of his local Rotary Club and, when time allows, continues to research the operation of TB sanatoriums in the early part of the twentieth century ("Don't ask why!" he says). Colin is married to Hilary and lives in Barnard Castle.

FRESHERS EVENTS



The annual party for students from the North East going up to Cambridge for the first time was held on September 19 at Sintons Law Firm in Newcastle. The event is a chance for freshers to meet each other and also members of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association. Ten North East students came to the party, along with two guests, and were met by the President and Hon. Secretary, committee members Ros and Vinny Holden, and NCA member Tim Gray, who kindly arranged the venue. A proposal to offer free NCA associate membership to the students during their undergraduate years, along with the society's Newsletters and an invitation to events, was agreed at the AGM. A follow-up get-together was arranged for December 14 at Revolution on Collingwood Street, and we were very glad to welcome back three of the freshers who had attended the September event, and who were able to tell us all about their first term at Cambridge. Hopefully, by introducing North East students to NCA while they are at university, we might begin to boost the number of younger graduates in the association.

CONCERT AT THE SAGE



When 17 of us gathered at the Sage, Gateshead, on November 19, we found ourselves in the middle of a brass band extravaganza. We were there to hear the famous Black Dyke Band, but our concert was only part of a whole weekend of concerts and competitions. Even while we enjoyed our pre-concert meal in the Sage Brasserie, we were serenaded by a brass band in the open atrium. The concert itself was splendid, offering a variety of music and featuring the multi-talented Australian musician, James Morrison. We discovered a musician of our own, when NCA member John Saunders seated himself at the piano in the restaurant and got a round of applause from other diners for his impromptu performance.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Once again, our Christmas Lunch (December 2, 2016) was held in the Strauss Room of the County Hotel in Newcastle and was attended by 24 members and guests. The room was elegantly decorated and the 3-course lunch was beautifully cooked by the hotel chefs. President Bill Telford welcomed everyone and summarised future excursions to be enjoyed in 2017, before we all tucked in. The hotel staff were very attentive, and we were well looked after (though we rather missed the kamikaze balloons from last year!). All in all, it was a very convivial occasion, and we have booked already to return on December 1st next year.

FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA AND FILM

The Tyneside Cinema welcomed nineteen members and friends back to the Digital Lounge for one of their splendid afternoon teas and a showing of our chosen film, this time around "You've Got Mail", a delightful romantic comedy featuring Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan. It was a treat to see scenes of Christmas in New York and a sparkling script by Nora Ephron enchanted us all. With a glowing digital fire, a glass of prosecco to warm us, and two helpful staff members to look after us, it was a delightful way to spend an afternoon and helped to put us all in the mood for Christmas.

AGM AND ANNUAL LECTURE



The Annual General Meeting of the Association took place on September 30 at the Royal Grammar School in Newcastle, and was followed by the usual delicious buffet provided by Boldon Farmhouse Pantry (with wines from Michael Jobling). The buffet preceded this year's splendid Annual Lecture, given by Professor Gary Gerstle, the Paul Mellon Professor of American History at Cambridge. Professor Gerstle was doubly welcome because he stepped in at the last minute to take the place of Professor Tony Badger, who was prevented from coming north for medical reasons. Professor Gerstle nobly carried on to address the proposed lecture topic, 'The 2016 (American) Election in Historical Perspective' and delivered a fascinating insight into the process that was taking place as he spoke. (It would have been a bonus if we could have *after* November 8!)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS (2017)

Northumbria Police, Forth Banks Station, Newcastle.

Saturday, February 11, 2017

This is a recently opened, purpose-built operational centre said to contain "the best cells in the country"! Built on the site of the Goods Warehouse and Kings House on Forth Banks, it is the base for 600 Northumbria Police officers and staff working in Newcastle and Gateshead, and is the result of three years of building and a £36m investment. Our behind-the-scenes tour will introduce us to modern high-tech methods of policing in the North East and to a state-of-the-art facility. Lunch will follow at the Thai Mantra Dining Restaurant.

Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club, Newcastle.

Wednesday, March 15, 2017

For our annual dinner 2017 we return to a venue that has proved to be very popular with members. The Northern Counties Club, situated in the centre of Newcastle, a short distance from the Monument Metro Station, offers comfortable accommodation, excellent service and splendid food. This year our speakers will be two members of the committee, Professors Heather Cordell and Peter Atkins, reminiscing about their years at Cambridge. And of course there will be the traditional quiz!

Richard III Day, Barnard Castle.

Saturday, April 22, 2017

A new entry into our programme, this promises to be an exciting day, with an introductory talk and guided tour of St Mary's Church, which benefitted greatly from Richard III's patronage. A buffet lunch in the church will be followed by a visit to Barnard Castle and talks by an English Heritage Guide and Richard III enthusiast, Kim Harding. We end with a visit to Blagraves House, once owned by the widow of Miles Forest, who was reputed to have been involved in the disappearance of the Princes in the Tower.

Spring Walk, Belsay.

Saturday, May 20, 2017

The combination of a garden tour and a walk seems to suit our members very well, and so this year we will be heading for Belsay Hall in the Northumberland countryside. English Heritage takes care of the 14th century castle, with its later additions, and the Hall, which was built in the early 19th century in neo-classical style. Building stone for the Hall was quarried from the grounds of the castle and a quarry garden created. Our visit will begin with a walk through the quarry garden to the castle and back, followed by lunch in the Hall's Victorian Tearoom, and then a choice of a shorter (Cragwood) or longer (Bolan Lake to Shaftoe Crags) walk (or a visit to the Hall).

Summer Outing, Wetland Centre, Washington.

Saturday, June 10, 2017

Formerly known as the Washington Wildfowl Centre, this is the place to encounter at close quarters all kinds of exotic wildfowl. With a knowledgeable guide to take us round, a lunch and an opportunity to stroll round the site thereafter, this promises to provide great photo opportunities, as well as a fascinating and informative visit.

Freshers' Party, Sinton's, Newcastle.

Monday, September 18, 2017

Once again, we will be welcoming freshers from the North East just before they go up to Cambridge. This time we will be inviting last year's first year students, whose recent experience of the town, the university and the colleges will be an invaluable resource for the new students. Tim Gray and Sintons have kindly offered to host the party once more, and the freshers, as well as having the opportunity to meet fellow undergraduates, will be introduced to the Northumbrian Cambridge Association.

AGM and Annual Lecture

Royal Grammar School, Newcastle.

Friday, September 29, 2017

The AGM and Annual Lecture will take place again at the Royal Grammar School, with a buffet supplied once again by Boldon Farmhouse Pantry. This year's speaker will be Professor Paul Cartledge, the distinguished British ancient historian, and Fellow of Clare College, who, from 2008 to 2014, was the A. G. Leventis Professor of Greek Culture at the University of Cambridge. His topic will be 'Back to the future? 10 Things You Really Ought to Know about Democracy in Ancient Greece'.

Musical Event, Sage, Gateshead.

To be confirmed. We await the appearance of the Sage programme later in the year. The event will be organised by committee member, Heather Cordell, who sings with the Northern Sinfonia Choir and is well acquainted with the Sage.

Christmas Lunch, County Hotel, Newcastle.

Friday, December 1, 2017

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 and good company in the lovely Strauss Room.

Festive Afternoon Tea & Film, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle.

Saturday, December 9, 2017

Another tradition which has established itself over the past four years 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!

REMINDERS

We are still keen to sign up as many members as possible to receive event flyers, newsletters, and other communications electronically. This method of communicating saves a great deal of time and a substantial outlay of the society's money. If you have an email address and are willing to receive your NCA mail this way, please email the Secretary at: aeandwr.telford@btinternet.com.

We would love to have contributions to the Newsletter from members, whether photographs, personal reminiscences or current points of view. The next Newsletter will appear in July 2017. If you have a contribution you can offer, please send it to us by June 15. The address for the editors is: Bill & Andrena Telford, Ladywell Cottage, 24 West Road, Ponteland, Northumberland NE20 9SX; Tel.: 01661-825437; Email: aeandwr.telford@btinternet.com

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is on March 8. If you would like any items added to the agenda for this, please notify the Hon. Secretary, Andrena Telford (address above), beforehand, and if you would like to serve on the Committee, please approach us before the September 29 AGM. A remits document for Committee members is available on the website or by post on request.

Thanks to Bill Telford for all photographs in this issue.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

It is a great pleasure to welcome two new members to the executive committee of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association, husband and wife Peter and Liz Atkins. Peter read Geography at Downing College from 1968 to 1971 and then continued with doctoral research at Cambridge from 1971 to 1974. This was followed by short spells at Leicester University and University College Swansea, and then by 34 years at Durham University, from where he retired in 2014 as Professor of Geography. Peter's specialism is the historical geography of food and he is a past President of the International Commission for Research on European Food History. Liz worked in the Churchill Archives Centre at Churchill College from 1970 to 1974. She graduated in the History of Art from Northumbria University and has published on the origins of the Laing Gallery in Newcastle. She was a teacher for many years before retiring in 2012.



MONEY MATTERS

The failure of members to renew their subscriptions to the Association has been of concern to the committee for some time. With approximately half the membership not paying, this means a loss to the society of about £500 annually. At £5.00 a year per person, the cost of membership is extremely low, and very good value in terms of the service provided (organisation of events, management of finances, newsletters and postage, committee time and travel, etc.). In order to regularise this, and to allow closer monitoring of subscriptions, the committee now proposes that all subscriptions will be due, at the latest, by **March 1** annually. This means that **your next subscription will be due by March 1, 2017.**

Payment can be made by cheque (made out to Northumbrian Cambridge Association, not NCA, please), by standing order (most desirable, since you do not have to remember to renew it every year thereafter), or by bank transfer (HSBC sort code 40 34 18; account number 60618446. Please include identification e.g. SUB/[YOUR SURNAME]). Cheques should be mailed to the Treasurer, Colin Dunnighan, at Bridge End View, Bridge End, Barnard Castle, County Durham, DL12 9BE (Email: colin.dunnighan@gmail.com). If you normally pay by standing order, may we ask you to alter your standing order so that payment is made on March 1, or inform the Treasurer when he might expect it. Please make sure to keep subscription and excursion payments separate.

IN MEMORIAM: Peter Willis



We were saddened to learn of the death in August of Dr Peter Willis, an active member and former Hon. Secretary of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association. Peter had a distinguished career both as a practicing architect and as an academic. A graduate of King's College, Newcastle, he went on to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where he did research, under Sir Niklaus Pevsner, on the 18th century landscape designer, Charles Bridgeman. Further research led to the reward of a Ph.D. by Cambridge in 1962. His professional life thereafter combined both architectural work and a readership in the history of architecture at Newcastle University, a post he held until his retirement in 1990. Thereafter, he expanded his interests in theology and music, with degrees from Durham in both fields. His work in the field of architecture was recognized by his (invited) membership of the principal architectural societies and societies of antiquaries. Our own association knew him as an active and genial person, a good companion at many NCA events and an efficient and hard-working Hon. Secretary. He will be sadly missed by his many friends in the Northumbrian Cambridge Association.

[Above: Peter and Jenny at the AGM Buffet, 20165.]

PASSINGS

Sadly, we must report the recent deaths of two of our oldest members. Harry Cockerill (Magdalene, 1945-48) died on Thursday, December 8. A Service of Thanksgiving was held on Tuesday, 20th December, at St. George's Church, Jesmond. We send our condolences to his daughter, Annie Stewart, who kindly passed the information on to us.

Jack Lindsay (Trinity, 1952-55) died on December 27. Jack was not only an active member of the Association but was also a former Secretary. He attended the Christmas Lunch in 2015, when we celebrated his 84th birthday. A man of many interests (music, cooking, bread and coffee making, hifi, etc.), Jack was, among other things, responsible for musical recitals held at St Cuthbert's Church, Allendale (we advertised one of these recently), which inspired us to add a musical event to our own annual NCA programme. His funeral was held at St Cuthbert's Church, Allendale, on Saturday, January 7, and was attended by the President and Hon. Secretary, along with Professor Ian Fells and Mrs Hazel Fells. Our deepest sympathy goes out to Jack's family for their loss.

We remember both members with affection.

All photographs in this issue by Bill Telford. More photos of events can be seen on the NCA website (<http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk>), which has recently been updated. Our activities are also featured on the Cambridge Alumni website: <https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/get-involved/find-a-group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>.