

Northumbrian Cambridge Association

Newsletter

President: Dr William Telford

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Andrena Telford



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It has been an active and varied eight months since I was elected President of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association, with much to enjoy and build upon. Since our last newsletter in January we have had a visit to the Great North Museum (including a guided tour of the Shefton collection and an introduction to the library of the Society of Antiquaries), our annual dinner at the Northern Counties Club, a tour of the walled garden at Wallington, conducted by one of the gardeners and followed by a buffet lunch and a country walk, and a splendid visit to Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum. We can look forward to further interesting events in the autumn, including the Freshers' Party for local students going up to Cambridge for the first time, our AGM and Annual Lecture (to be given by Professor Tony Badger, formerly of Newcastle University and retired Master of Clare College, Cambridge), another concert at the Sage, our annual Christmas Lunch at the Mercure County Hotel in Newcastle and our by now well-established Festive Afternoon Tea and Film at the Tyneside Cinema.

Over the period we have been saddened by the deaths of some of our members (Nicholas Kindersley, Jeremy Handley and Christopher Beadle), see below, but we have also welcomed some new members to the Association, and have renewed links with others who have been absent for a while but now find themselves able to attend events. Another promising element has been the development of closer ties with the Cambridge University Alumni and Development Office, which now promotes our newsletter and our website and publicises our events through theirs (<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/get-involved/find-a-group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>). As a result of this, we will have two visitors to our September Freshers' Party, Jane Cotton and Catherine Biggs of the Alumni Advisory Board, who are keen to see something of the interaction between alumni and students at first hand. We look forward to meeting them.

Our concerns for the future include, not only the provision of a stimulating programme for the existing membership but also the encouragement of new members, in particular (looking to the future of the Association) younger ones. To this end, the committee is planning to incorporate into the programme more informal activities and events which hopefully will attract more recent graduates and young families.

Until we meet again in the autumn, I wish you all a very happy summer.



Bill Telford

Dr William R. Telford

(Christ's, 1972-77)

ANNUAL LECTURE

Over the years, the Northumbrian Cambridge Association has benefitted from the expertise of many eminent Cambridge University dons. This year we are delighted to welcome back to Newcastle Professor Tony Badger, former lecturer in the History Department of Newcastle University, recently retired as Paul Mellon Professor of American History at Cambridge and Master of Clare College, but with a current part-time attachment to Northumbria University. His published works include *Prosperity Road: The New Deal, Tobacco, and North Carolina* (Chapel Hill 1980), *North Carolina and the New Deal* (Raleigh, 1981), *The New Deal: The Depression Years 1933-1940* (London and New York, 1989), *New Deal/New South* (University of Arkansas Press 2007) and *FDR: The First Hundred Days* (Hill and Wang 2008). Tony is still active as an American historian, and, on this occasion, his subject will be 'The 2016 (American) Election in Historical Perspective' - a particularly appropriate topic for us as the Presidential campaign leads up to its climax in November.



GREAT NORTH MUSEUM VISIT

Our first event of 2016 was a visit to the Great North Museum in Newcastle. Many, if not most of our membership, will have visited the museum, either in its previous incarnation as the Hancock Museum or in its present refurbished and updated form. On this occasion, however, we were treated to a special tour of the Shefton Collection of Greek Art and Archaeology, to which our retired President, James Wright, was able to add some amusing and appreciative personal reminiscences of Professor Shefton.



We were then admitted to the library of the Natural History Society of Northumbria and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne. Both Societies have major collections and archives unique to the North East, but also of national importance and it was a privilege to view them.



GARDEN VISIT AND SPRING WALK

Building on the success of our combined garden visit and spring walk last year, when we had a guided tour of Howick Hall Gardens, followed by a variety of walks (shorter walks inside the grounds of Howick and a longer expedition along the coast), a similar pattern was arranged for this year. Based on Wallington Hall, we had an enjoyable and informative tour of the beautiful walled garden with one of the National



Trust's gardeners (whose knowledge of trees and plants was truly impressive), followed by a light buffet lunch in the Clocktower Restaurant. Our plan for one group to do the Riverside Walk thereafter was foiled by closure of the path due to storm damage, but the circular walk to Broomhouse Farm provided a pleasant alternative.



ANNUAL DINNER 2016

This year's annual dinner was held again at the Northern Counties Club in Hope Street, Newcastle. Once more we were treated to an excellent meal in beautiful surroundings and in congenial company. It was good to welcome a second generation to the event, when Professor Ian Fells and Mrs Hazel Fells (both longtime members) brought along their son and his wife. The meal



was followed by personal reminiscences of Cambridge by the President and the Secretary, entitled *Cambridge Town and Gown: Seeing Double*. Dr William Telford set the scene of Cambridge in the 1970s and his own experience as a postgraduate student there, while Dr Andrena Telford balanced this with her experience of working in Cambridge and getting to know Cambridge people. The talks were followed by the annual quiz, in this case a test of our members' knowledge of which college famous people past and present belonged to. The winning table was rewarded, appropriately, with a box of 'Famous Names' chocolates.



WHAT THE ROMANS DID FOR NCA

Most of us are fortunate to live within easy reach of Hadrian's Wall, and have no doubt previously explored its forts and milecastles and walked along the wall itself. But, as we learned during our summer outing to Vindolanda and the Roman Army Museum, there is always more to discover. With the knowledgeable and entertaining commentary of Blue Badge Guide, Heather McFall, we were treated to a wonderful and imaginative portrait of Vindolanda fort and its accompanying civilian town through their successive incarnations, and learned of the most recent discoveries and explorations. Fortified by lunch at the Twice Brewed Inn, we drove the short distance along the military road to the Roman Army Museum, which has in recent years undergone a transformation and now presents a state of the art introduction to army life on Hadrian's Wall, including a vivid new 3D film called "Edge of Empire", following the life of a young Roman Army recruit from the time when he arrives at the wall. We were lucky in having lovely early summer weather for our visits – something the Roman soldiers may rarely have enjoyed!



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

[Freshers' Party](#)

Monday, September 19, 17.30-19.00

Sintons Law, Barrack Road, Newcastle NE4 6DB.

[AGM, Buffet and Annual Lecture](#)

Friday, September 30, 18.00 ff.

Royal Grammar School, Eskdale Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne & Wear, NE2 4DX

Speaker: Professor Tony Badger, retired Paul Mellon Professor of American History at Cambridge and former Master of Clare College.

Topic: "The 2016 (American) Election in Historical Perspective"

[Dinner & Concert at the Sage, Gateshead](#)

Saturday, November 19, 17.15/19.00

"World of Brass in Concert with Black Dyke Band"

The famous, award winning brass band in concert - with a pre-concert dinner in the Sage Brasserie

[Christmas Lunch](#)

Friday, December 2, 12.00-14.30

Mercure County Hotel, Neville Street, Newcastle, Tyne & Wear, NE1 5DF

Our third year in the lovely Strauss Room for a delicious Christmas lunch.

[Festive Afternoon Tea and Film](#)

Saturday, December 10, 15.00-18.00

Tyneside Cinema, 10 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, Tyne and Wear, NE1 6QG

As before, we'll have a suitable Christmassy film for this increasingly popular event!

SNEAK PREVIEWS

Things are already starting to shape up for 2107. There's a strong possibility that our February event will be a visit to the new **Northumbria Police Headquarters**. Housed in the old Kings Building on Forth Banks, the up to date facility has 50 custody cells. Hopefully we'll be allowed out!

NCA member Colin Dunnighan has notified us of a **Richard III Day** at Barnard Castle on April 22, 2017. It sounds like an exciting occasion, and we are eagerly awaiting further details from Colin.

MUSICAL EVENT

Following the success of last year's RAF concert, celebrating the anniversary of the Battle of Britain, we have once again reserved tickets for a concert at the Sage. "World of Brass in Concert with Black Dyke Band" sees a return to the Sage of the European Champions, with guest virtuoso soloist, James Morrison.

The Black Dyke Brass Band is the most recorded band in the world, with over 300 recordings and growing every year. It is also the most successful contesting band in the world having won the European Championships eleven times, most recently in 2005, the British Open no fewer than 29 times (most recently 2006) and the National Championships of Great Britain 22 times (most recently 2008 and 2009). Black Dyke was also the first band to achieve the 'Grand Slam' in 1985 by winning the Yorkshire regional, European, British Open and National Championship contests, along with being voted BBC's Best Band of the Year.

We have reserved 15 tickets for this event, and have also made a booking for a not too rushed pre-concert meal at the Sage Brasserie, for 17.15. Tickets for the excellent seats we have booked will cost £25.00 and we are assured that a 2-course meal will not exceed £20.00.



GEOGRAPHERS GALORE

NCA is pleased to announce that it has four new members from Durham University – and three of them are geographers. We've just been musing on the collective term for geographers: a gallery (bit too arty)? a glut (no, can't have too many)? a grove (geographic feature)? a group (too mundane)? a gang (sounds threatening)? At any rate we're very happy to welcome Professors Alan and Janet Townsend, and Professor Peter and Mrs Liz Atkins, the first three of whom were members (now retired) of the Geography Department at Durham University. Also to be warmly welcomed as new members are Julian Bates (Caius) and Peter Cleland (Selwyn).

PASSINGS

We are sad to note the passing of three of our long-standing members: Christopher Beadle (Pembroke, 1954-7), see below, Nicholas Kindersley (Kings, 1957-61), whom a number of you will have known, and Jeremy Handley (Selwyn, 1951-54), who, with his wife Bea, was a regular and active participant in NCA events, where their cheerful company added a great deal to each occasion. Unfortunately Jeremy was taken ill while he and Bea were on holiday, and he subsequently died in Bristol Royal Infirmary. We have extended our deepest sympathy to Bea and hope to still see her at future events.

IN MEMORIAM: CHRISTOPHER BEADLE

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our Honorary Treasurer, Christopher Beadle, who passed away on June 19. His funeral was held on July 6 and was attended by a number of NCA members, including the President and Secretary, representing the committee who had worked with Christopher and the membership. Our thoughts are with his family and in particular his partner Colin.

Christopher had a full and adventurous life. Born in Jesmond, he was the son of academic parents and was educated in Corbridge and at Gordonstoun in Scotland. His parents subsequently took up academic posts in Uganda and school holidays for Christopher and his brother were spent in Africa. After leaving school, as his National Service, he joined the Royal Air Force and became a pilot, flying jets over Europe. He went on to Pembroke College, Cambridge, where he read Physics, Chemistry and Economics. There followed a career in developing scientific instruments, which led to extensive travels in Russia, China and Japan. A career break saw him working on the design and development of specialist water pumps for irrigation in Aden, Yemen and Somalia. Returning to Newcastle, he joined the firm of Joyce Loebel in Gateshead, becoming Managing Director, a position he held until his retirement in the early 1990s.

Following his retirement, he immediately signed up for British Voluntary Service Overseas and spent time in primitive conditions in Papua New Guinea, the Sudan, Tristan Da Cunha and northern Russia, advising small businesses and charities.

A modest and unassuming man, Christopher had many other interests including cooking, gardening, walking and music. He and his partner of 40 years, Colin Ferguson, travelled widely together, visiting numerous European countries, the United States, Turkey, Morocco, Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and Georgia. They trekked in the Himalayas and it is typical that Christopher spent his 80th birthday in a tent high up in the Caucasian mountains.

Closer to home, Christopher was an active supporter of the Community Foundation and was involved with youth activities through the Sage Gateshead. He kept up his links with his old college in Cambridge and, as we know, was a pillar of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association. We will miss him greatly.



Thanks to Bill Telford for all photographs in this issue.

BECOME A CONTRIBUTOR!

We're still keen to have contributions to this newsletter from members, whether it be current news, points of view or personal reminiscences. The next newsletter will appear in January 2017. If you have a contribution you can offer, please send it to us by December 15.

MONEY MATTERS

We'd like to remind members that many annual subscriptions are still outstanding, with less than 50% of the membership having paid to date, thus creating a loss to the society's funds. It's only £5.00, so if you are one of the defaulters, please send your cheque to the Hon. Secretary (address below). If you would prefer to pay by BACS directly into the NCA bank account, the details are as follows: HSBC account no. 60618446; sort code 40-34-18.

Please make sure to identify the purpose of your payment in the Reference box by inserting your surname + Subscription or Sub. Please keep subscription payments and payments for event bookings quite separate, since it is impossible for either the Treasurer or the bank to tell what your payments are for unless you identify each one.

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. Also, don't forget to check out the NCA website at: www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk.

COMMITTEE NOTICE

Our AGM is on Friday, September 30, 2016, and the next meetings of the executive committee are scheduled for Wednesday, September 21, and Wednesday, November 16, 2016. If you would like any items added to the agenda for any of these, please notify the Secretary (address below) beforehand, and if you would like to serve on the Committee, please approach us before the September 21 committee meeting. A remits document for Committee members is available.

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