

Northumbrian Cambridge Association *Newsletter*

President: Dr William Telford

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Andrena Telford



PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Dear Members and Friends,

It's been a busy and stimulating year so far for the Association. We now have 11 get-togethers a year and a regular pattern has formed, beginning in February, when we avoid the inclement weather by taking part in an indoor event. This year it was a most unusual visit – to the Northumbria Police Facility at Forth Banks, where we were treated to a vivid description of police life in the 21st century and a visit to the cells where, fortunately, none of our members was detained. March has for some time been the month of our annual dinner, and for the past three years this has taken place in the Northern Counties Club, conveniently located in the centre of Newcastle, close to the Monument Metro station. April offered us another novel event, this time a visit to Barnard Castle for a Richard III Day, including an introduction, in St Mary's Church, to the controversial figure of Richard, a delightful lunch and a tour of Barnard Castle itself. May is the time for our Spring Walk, which this year saw us at Belsay, with a morning exploration of the Quarry Garden and castle, followed by lunch and a choice of two afternoon walks (a longer and a shorter one). Our summer outing in June was to the Washington Wetland Centre, which more than lived up to its name but which our members thoroughly enjoyed despite the weather.

We all take a break in July and August (phew!) and then pick up the pace in September, with our Freshers Party, which introduces local students going up to Cambridge to each other and to the society, and our AGM and Annual Lecture, held at the Royal Grammar School and always a much anticipated event. October/November brings a very enjoyable musical event (we've just booked for the third year in a row at the Sage, Gateshead, with a pre-concert dinner at the Sage Brasserie) and we finish off the year with our Christmas lunch, our return get-together with the Freshers at a bar/restaurant in town and our Festive Afternoon Tea and film at the Tyneside Cinema.

We're already thinking ahead to 2018 and have some exciting events in store, including a special outing for railway enthusiasts. It's been encouraging to see numbers maintained for each of the events, to spend time with the 'regulars' and to welcome back members who find themselves able to return to NCA outings. The year has also had its sadness, with the deaths of long-standing members, in particular Hazel Fells, who was a great supporter of the society and was membership secretary for many years. A tribute to Hazel appears later in this newsletter.

The task of organising the year's events and ensuring that they go smoothly, can be a time-consuming one and I would personally like to thank the committee for their support, their assistance and their hard work. I look forward to working with them again in the coming year. Above all, I look forward, hopefully, to seeing the association grow and flourish. We have given Associate Membership to local undergraduates at Cambridge for the duration of their studies and hope some at least of them will go on to become full members.

My best wishes for a happy summer.

Bill Telford

Dr William Telford, Christ's, 1972-77



ADDENDUM

A charming 19th century notice in the Castle Museum in the Black Gate, Newcastle, describes an organized trip to Bywell for the children from the Castle Garth School, who were accompanied by the Workhouse Band. The Reverends Brutton and Linnott reported that "after visiting the countryside they returned to Newcastle as Gratified Excursionists". We hope all our members who have participated in this year's events have returned home as Gratified Excursionists!

VISIT TO NORTHUMBRIA POLICE FORTH BANKS FACILITY (February 11, 2017)

On a February morning we visited the recently opened, state of the art Northumbria police facility on Forth Banks in Newcastle. Our group of twenty was the first to be conducted on a tour of the impressive building, which retains the original façade but has been completely rebuilt inside, and features a beautiful atrium combining modern and original Victorian features. Our guide was Acting Sergeant Rob Mills, and he gave us a fascinating introduction to the day-to-day work, the detection and arrest procedures, and the tools and equipment of today's police officer, illustrated by entertaining stories of his own experiences. We were conducted round the receiving area, the main operating desk, the modern cells, the exercise yard and the interview rooms. For those of us whose knowledge of police work comes largely from television dramas, it was a most enlightening hour and a half. Fortunately we were allowed a get-out-of-jail-free card, and then repaired to the Mantra Thai Restaurant for a delicious and restorative lunch.



ANNUAL DINNER, NORTHERN COUNTIES CLUB (March 15, 2017)

Once again our annual dinner was held in the elegant surroundings of the Northern Counties Club, Hood Street, Newcastle, with twenty-five members and guests in attendance. The food and service were of the usual excellent standard, and we were treated to reminiscences of their Cambridge days by two of our committee, Professor Heather Cordell (Jesus, 1987-91) and Professor Peter Atkins (Downing, 1968-74). There was another challenging quiz, this time 'Cambridge Twenty Questions', and the successful table was duly rewarded with chocolates in the form of mini



Easter eggs. Toasts were proposed by the President, by Professor Ian Fells and by Dr Margaret Wilkinson. Our oldest attendee, Dr Betty Schofield, who is in her 90s, accompanied her son-in-law, Stephen Lawson, to the dinner, and we're delighted to report that she has since become a member of the society! Betty studied Medicine at Newnham from 1938-41. Her interests are bridge, music, short walks, and reading.



RICHARD III DAY, BARNARD CASTLE (April 22, 2017)

This unusual venture was the brainwave of our Hon. Treasurer, Colin Dunnighan, who, with his wife Hilary, organised the day. We arrived at St Mary's Church, Barnard Castle, on Saturday morning for a welcoming cup of coffee. We were then treated to a talk by Kim Harding, chair of the Northern Dales Richard III group, who outlined Richard's benefactions to St Mary's and



pointed out the features of the church associated with him. After a buffet lunch in the church we walked to the castle where we were given an excellent guided tour by Gill Savage from English Heritage. En route back to the church, we

paused outside Blgrave's House, which dates from the 15th century and was owned by the widow of Miles Forest (who, along with John Dighton, was reputed to have disposed of the two young princes in the Tower of London). The day concluded with afternoon tea in the church and a vote of thanks to Colin and Hilary for a splendid day out.

SPRING WALK, BELSAY (May 20, 2017)

We were fortunate to have reasonable weather for the start of our Spring Walk, which began with a visit to Belsay, north of Newcastle, and a walk past the early 19th century neo-classic hall to the Quarry Garden and the old castle. We arrived at the castle in time to shelter from the sudden downpour that the heavens delivered, though some hardy souls ventured up on to the roof for views over the surrounding countryside! We



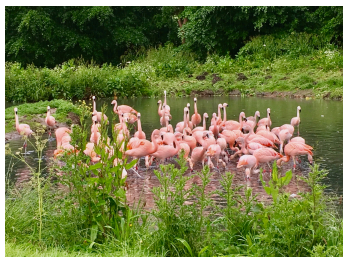
returned to the Hall's old kitchen for lunch and then separated into two groups, with an energetic cohort going off to walk from Bolam Lake to Shaftoe Crags and the Devil's Punchbowl, while the rest of us followed the Crag Wood Walk on the Belsay estate.

SUMMER MEETING: WASHINGTON WETLAND CENTRE (June 10, 2017)

'Wet' was the encapsulating word for our visit to the wildfowl park now known as the Washington Wetland Centre. Our group of nineteen gamely braved the persistent but fortunately light rain to tour the various lagoons and habitats that are home to an extraordinary variety of birds. Under the aegis of our guide, Kath, we visited various hides from which we could view the avian residents and visitors



in close-up. We enjoyed watching the otters being fed and admired the brilliant flock of Chilean flamingos which added much-needed colour to the grey day. Particularly charming were the little ducklings that pattered fearlessly around our feet and our viewing of the otters being fed was supplemented by a knowledgeable commentary from one of the wardens. Our visit concluded with a splendid buffet lunch in the Waterside Café.



Special thanks go to Peter and Liz Atkins, who organised the event, and special congratulations to Gilbert Cockton, who actually cycled to the event and splashed cheerfully around with us before cycling home again.

WELCOME EVENT FOR FRESHERS

Freshers' Party, Sintons, 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 also 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. Last year we had a follow-up get-together at Revolution, the bar/restaurant in Collingwood Street, and enjoyed hearing about the experiences of their first term. We plan to do the same again this year. If you know of any young people about to go up to Cambridge in October, do let us know and we'll contact them.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER 2017

(Note: Flyers and booking forms for the following events are being sent out with this newsletter.)

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 more 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.

Saturday, October 28, 2017

Our third annual musical event will take us once again to the Sage, Gateshead. This year committee member Heather Cordell has reserved 20 tickets for a concert by the world-famous Blues Band, who are on a tour celebrating 38 glorious years as Britain and Europe's leading exponents of one of the greatest musical traditions of all time. Formed in 1979 by Paul Jones, formerly of Manfred Mann, and with only one change of drummer in all that time, the five members of the band have blazed a trail of memorable concerts throughout the world, and whenever they appear the fans flock to hear them. It should be a splendid evening. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first served basis, so get your booking form in as soon as possible. As before we have also reserved a table in the Sage Brasserie for an optional pre-concert meal.

Christmas Lunch, County Hotel, Newcastle.

Friday, December 1, 2017

Christmas lunch at the County Hotel, just opposite Newcastle's Central Station, has become a fixture in our calendar – a testament to the food, the ambience and the efficient and welcoming service. At £21.00 for the meal, including a glass of wine, it's also very good value. Join us for a delicious meal and good company in the lovely Strauss Room. As always, guests are welcome.

Festive Afternoon Tea & Film, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle.

Saturday, December 9, 2017

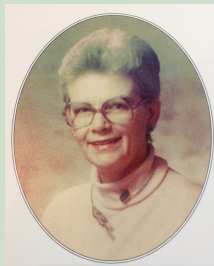
Another tradition which has established itself over the past four years is the Festive Afternoon Tea and Film at the Tyneside. With the Digital Lounge all to ourselves, a scrumptious afternoon tea and a film of our choice, what better way to spend a winter afternoon in the run-up to Christmas! This year the film is *Joyeux Noël* (2005), directed by Christian Carion. Nominated for an Oscar in the Best Foreign Language Film category in 2006, this is a fictionalised version of the World War I Christmas truce of December 1914, depicted through the eyes of French, British and German soldiers (French and German dialogue is sub-titled). Expertly directed, beautifully filmed, and with moving scenes, this is a rare cinematic species—a 'feel-good' (anti-) war film!

SEE MORE!

All photographs in this issue by Bill Telford (except that of Shaftoe Crags walk, gratia Heather Cordell). 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>.

IN MEMORIAM: HAZEL FELLS

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Hazel Fells (née Scott; Hughes Hall, 1956-7) on April 22nd, following a short illness contracted while on holiday with her husband and fellow NCA member, Professor Ian Fells. For many years Hazel was Membership Secretary of the Association and an incisive committee member. This was, however, only a small part of Hazel's contribution to society. A graduate in mathematics and geography at Oxford, but frustrated in her ambition to study architecture (women were not admitted to Oxford's School of Archaeology at the time) she turned her formidable talents to teaching (she lectured at Newcastle University for 10 years) and to the development of computer programming. Her mastery of the technology and of statistics led to her involvement with the Thousand Families Project, which since its inception in Newcastle in 1947 has demonstrated the impact of poor living conditions on the health and development of children. Married to Ian, whose own outstanding career in the field of energy needs no introduction, she withdrew from teaching to provide support for her husband and to raise their four sons, Nicholas, Jonathan, Alastair, and Crispin, but was far from retired from the promotion of science and technology, especially for women. In 1985 she put together an all-female team to compete in the DIY science show, *The Great Egg Race*, where their amateur engineering won them second place. Hazel's mathematical mind showed in her easy solution of crosswords, but she was adept in more aesthetic pursuits such as screen-printing and spinning, and was a keen cook and hostess, entertaining friends to impressive dinners at home in Newcastle. When she died at the age of 83, she was still demonstrating her energy and determination. We will all miss her and her unique blend of qualities, and extend our deepest sympathy for their loss to Ian, their sons and grandchildren, and other members of Hazel's family. The funeral in St George's Church, Jesmond, on May 15 was attended by the President and Hon. Secretary and a number of other members of the Association.



REMEMBERING CAMBRIDGE

Some memories from our Annual Dinner speakers about their time at Cambridge:

"Summer was a particularly nice time in Cambridge – I remember garden parties, punting on the Cam (including falling in on one occasion!) and May Balls. Jesus had a May Ball every other year (which coincided with my second year), so I was fortunate enough to attend May Balls in other colleges (Caius and Trinity) in my first and third years. Chapel was also quite a big part of my life – not just the services (particularly Evensong) but also as a venue for musical activities including concerts and chamber music. When I think back though, probably my strongest memory is of the friends I made in Cambridge. It's a special time of life, away from home for the first time, a time of gaining independence. I remember a lot of sitting around in people's rooms drinking coffee and putting the world to rights. Although I'm not in touch with all my friends from that time, I am still in touch with many, and it's nice how, when we meet, we can just pick up where we left off. So, overall, my strongest memory of Cambridge is of the people, as well as of the place itself." (Heather Cordell)

"Call me a swat or a nerd – and many have – but I loved the university library, the UL, and I spent a lot of time there. About 10 years after leaving Cambridge I went back to the library to check a reference and the man on the door said, 'Hello, I've not seen you for a while.' You'll recall the huge library tower, which Neville Chamberlain in opening the building in the 1930s called a 'magnificent erection'. If truth be told it actually looks like a crematorium and on that basis I think I'll have my ashes scattered in Official Publications, where I spent many hours. The principle is the same as the woman who wanted her ashes scattered in the Metro Centre because she knew she would be frequently visited by her friends." (Peter Atkins)

REMINDERS

Please don't forget your annual membership subscription, which was due on March 1. If you have not already done so, you can make your payment of £5.00 by cheque (made out to Northumbrian Cambridge Association, not NCA, please), by standing order (most desirable, since you don't 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.

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 January 2018. If you have a contribution you can offer, please send it to us by December 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

Also, if you could receive this newsletter in electronic form, it would be a saving to the society. Email us as above.

COMMITTEE

The next meeting of the Executive Committee is on September 20. If you would like any items added to the agenda for this, please notify the Hon. Secretary, Andrena Telford (address above), beforehand. We still have room on the committee for members; 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.