

NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

President: Prof. Heather Cordell

Hon. Secretary: Em.Prof. Gilbert Cockton

COVID's Metamorphosis

Wednesday March 11 2020 was a most special evening at the Northern Counties Club in Newcastle upon Tyne. Not only was it our association's 90th anniversary dinner but also it was the last time we met as a group in person. Since then, all committee business has been conducted via email and Zoom video conferencing. All face-to-face meetings had to be cancelled as we entered and exited various levels of lockdown. Members have been unable to meet in large groups. We have not been able to host our annual Freshers' Party and Reunion.

We each face different challenges in adjusting to the pandemic. Many of us must shelter and minimise contact. Others are still at work, both from home and as key workers in our workplaces. Some of us still have children at home and are juggling home schooling, work, and childcare. Until we can meet outside of our homes in large groups, the committee will explore online activities that keep members in touch with each other. Once small gatherings are allowed outdoors, we will also explore the possibility of walks and other activities.

Our one activity for members since the Annual Dinner was an online quiz on Wednesday December 9th. 22 members and partners signed up for this event and 18 were able to join the Zoom call. It was good to see members again and we plan to continue online activities such as quizzes and talks. We ask all members to suggest possible activities. Zumba and charades have already been suggested. Please email your suggestions to Colin Dunnighan (colin.dunnighan@gmail.com).

Current Plans for 2021

Given the current Tier 4 lockdown, the February winter meeting will not go ahead. Our Annual Dinner planned for March 17 2021 will most probably not happen.

The remaining planned meetings for 2021 are:

Saturday April 17, 2021

Spring Outing, Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens

Saturday May 15, 2021

Spring Walk, Raby Castle, County Durham

Saturday June 20, 2021

Summer Outing, Farne Islands

Friday October 1, 2021

AGM & Annual Lecture, RGS Newcastle

Late October/early November, 2021

Autumn Concert, Sage, Gateshead

Friday December 3, 2021

Christmas Lunch, County Hotel, Newcastle

Saturday December 11, 2021

Festive Afternoon Tea & Film,

Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle

Booking forms for each meeting will be placed on the website and distributed via email and post once we know that it will be going ahead.

In addition, we hope to be able to host our annual Freshers' Party in September and Reunion in December.



Thank You Bill & Andrena

The pandemic has been disappointing in many ways. One shared regret for the Northumbrian Cambridge Association is that we have been unable to properly thank Bill and Andrena Telford for their outstanding contributions as President and Honorary Secretary. They have transformed our association through their sustained hard work. Our Association is in excellent health thanks to their hard work and dedication.



The Lives and Souls of NCA Annual Dinners

When Mick Bond offered the toast to the Northumbrian Cambridge Association at the 2019 Annual Dinner, he contrasted the current state of our association with that when Bill became President in 2015 supported by Andrena, who was already Honorary Secretary. It is thanks to them that we now have such a full calendar of events each year and excellent communications via the newsletter, website, and emails. Across all of these, we have all benefitted extensively from Bill and Andrena's careful and imaginative attention to detail. Every event has been convivial, informative, and infused with Bill and Andrena's enthusiasm.

Bill's five years as President followed on from long involvement in the executive committee of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association, having served from 1993 to 2000 and then from 2011 to 15. Andrena has served for an amazing 17 years since 2003, with a decade as Honorary Secretary. They have also been active volunteers in other associations.



Record Keeping at Chillingham, June 2019

Both Bill and Andrena have been council members of the John Buchan Society. Andrena has been President of the National Council of Women of Great Britain since 2017. Their contributions to the Northumbrian Cambridge Association are most impressive given their other responsibilities.

Bill and Andrena were wonderful hosts for Committee Meetings at their Ponteland home. Their enthusiasm for the association was infectious. We look forward to thanking them properly for their outstanding long service, and also welcoming them to future events as continuing members.



Enjoying the Festive Season, 2019

And Thank You Too Judy

Judy Vigurs has also stood down after a decade on the NCA committee. Judy has served most ably as Membership Secretary since 2015. We thank her for her strong contributions to the good health of the association.

Your New Committee

With Bill, Andrena and Judy stepping down, we needed a new President, Honorary Secretary and Membership Secretary. Three existing committee members agreed to be considered for these roles:

President: Heather Cordell

Honorary Secretary: Gilbert Cockton

Membership Secretary: Sue Austin

We would need two new committee members and were fortunate that two members, Rob Tindall and Andrew Young, had expressed interest in joining the committee. Three existing committee members would continue: Peter Cleland, Colin Dunnighan, and Arnold Fairless.



Rob Tindall

Our new committee members bring much experience to NCA management. Since his time at St. John's. (1961–65 B.A. Agriculture followed by Diploma in Agriculture) *Rob Tindall's* career included: Head of Agricultural Science at Lord Wandsworth College, Hampshire; Deputy Head (Further Education) Bellingham County Secondary School; Adviser in Further Education Angus County Council and Tayside Region; and Assistant then Deputy Director of Education in Tayside, responsible for further education colleges, careers and special measures. He took voluntary redundancy in 1993. Rob is vice chairman of Warden Parish Council. His current interests include local history and gardening. He is married to Margaret with 3 children, 5 grandchildren and a great granddaughter.



Andrew Young

Andrew Young attended Bridlington grammar school in East Yorkshire. He read Law at Jesus, going up in 1972. He joined the Civil Service but did not enjoy the Insolvency Branch of the Department of Trade where he began accountancy qualifications. He then moved into NHS management, completing the Institute of Health Service Managers' diploma in 1982.

Working initially for the Northern Regional Health Authority (HA) at Walkergate in Newcastle he rose to be Deputy Chief Executive (CE) of Co. Durham & Darlington HA and finally CE of Durham County Primary Care Trust, during which period he chaired several region-wide health strategy groups and was and closely involved in the reprovision of Winterton Hospital, Sedgefield and new acute new hospital projects in Durham city and Bishop Auckland.

Following retirement from full-time employment, Andrew became the first chair of the newly independent board of Durham University Students' Union and was also: appointed by Ministers as a board member of the National Tenants' Voice; vice-chair of a Teesside housing association; ultimately vice-chair of Co. Durham & Darlington NHS Foundation Trust, as well as chair of its Audit Committee.

Outside of work, Andrew played in goal for Darlington 1st hockey team, but now snooker is as far as it goes, apart from skiing and walking. He also enjoys archaeology, worldwide travel and spending time at his holiday home in the French Pyrenees. Andrew has two sons and two granddaughters.

The 2020 AGM

The AGM was held via email. All nominations for NCA committee roles were accepted. A record of the online AGM is available on the website.

Gilbert keeps his role as webmaster and is also now responsible for this newsletter. This combines all NCA communications roles. Similarly, Sue keeps her role as Treasurer. Combining this with Membership Secretary further streamlines NCA operations.

Further Committee Roles

As a result of these merged roles, we now have only the minimum five ex-officio committee members and can consider a few further members. If you are interested in joining the executive committee, please email EnquiriesNCA@gmail.com.

NCA Online



The main NCA website can be found at <http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/>. Information is also available at the Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations (CUDAR) website, www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/. Information specific to NCA can be found at www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association

Members are encouraged to visit our main website, www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/. If the home page does not appear as opposite on your mobile phone, scroll to the bottom and select *View full site*.

The home page contains an overview and the main current news. The *What We Do* page gives access to Newsletters, AGM records and the meeting archive. The *Who to Contact* Page gives contact details for the committee and details of their specific responsibilities.

The *How to Join* page gives access to all forms related to membership (joining, renewing, standing order for subscriptions, data storage consent). There is also a query form that members can use to quickly contact the committee. Suggestions for online activities, small group activities (once permitted), and website content can be made using this form as an alternative to emailing EnquiriesNCA@gmail.com.

Members' News

Eric Cooley's daughter has passed on the sad news of her father's death. Eric read Mechanical Sciences at Clare from 1945 to 1948. Andrena Telford has kindly sent a letter of condolence on behalf of the Northumbrian Cambridge Association.

Your annual **Membership Subscription** is due on March 1. You can pay your £10.00 by cheque (made out to Northumbrian Cambridge Association, not NCA, please), by standing order, or by bank transfer (HSBC sort code 40 34 18; account number 60618446). Please include identification e.g. SUB/[YOUR SURNAME]]. Cheques should be posted to our Treasurer, Mrs Susan Austin, 116 Queens Road, Whitley Bay, NE26 3AU. For standing orders, please arrange payment for March 1.