

MINUTES OF NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION (NCA)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Wednesday October 1, 2025

Lit and Phil, Newcastle upon Tyne

NOTE: all references to reports in the AGM Papers are to the email attachment sent to NCA Members on September 29th, which is archived as

https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/files/documents/2025_agm_papers.pdf

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Wendy Bond, Ray Brown, Ian Lawley, and Rob Tindall.

2. Minutes of previous AGM, October 2, 2024

These were accepted as an accurate record.

3. Matters arising

None were noted that would not be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

4. President's Report

The NCA President, Heather Cordell, read out, with some elaborations, her report in the AGM papers, focussing on the year's events.

5. Hon. Secretary's Report

The NCA Secretary, Gilbert Cockton, summarised his report in the AGM papers, focusing on communications with NCA members.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

The NCA Membership Secretary, Susan Austin covered her report in the AGM papers, focusing on membership numbers, especially the recruitment of nine new members following our 95th Annual Dinner. Payment of membership subscriptions was disappointing, with only half of NCA members having paid on time by the March 1st deadline this year. Members will be reminded by email of the need to maintain their subscriptions to allow us to keep their details on file and send NCA communications.

7. Hon. Treasurer's Report

The NCA Treasurer, Susan Austin covered her report in the AGM papers, noting the impact of unpaid subscriptions. We have a small annual surplus. Our finances remain healthy.

George Hopper asked about liability insurance. Sue replied that we have appropriate insurance cover for an organisation of our size and nature.

8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee, change to constitution

It was noted that all members of the current Executive Committee were willing to stand for another year. The reappointment of all current committee members for another year was proposed by Heather Cordell and seconded by Alan Townsend and Michael Lewis, with Alan adding that with was with great gratitude for the committee's work; all present voted in favour.

The appointment of Beatrice Ollerenshaw as an additional Executive Committee member was proposed by Heather Cordell and seconded by John Mathers and Jennifer Mathers; all present voted in favour of the appointment.

A vote was taken on the proposal to change the constitution, proposed by Heather Cordell and seconded by Michael Lewis, as per the AGM papers, i.e.,

Replace

“Heather, Gilbert and Sue are ex-officio members respectively as President, Secretaty and Treasurer. The Northumbrian Cambridge Association (NCA) Executive Committee has at least five, and up to seven, further non ex-officio members”

with

“Heather, Gilbert and Sue are ex-officio members respectively as President, Secretary and Treasurer. The Northumbrian Cambridge Association (NCA) Executive Committee has at least two, and up to nine, further non ex-officio members”

All present voted in favour of this change to the constitution.

9. Any other business

Alan Townsend asked about changes to the Annual Programme. Heather Cordell explained that we were reducing the more onerous events as regards organisation in terms of managing venues, bookings and payments, and also where there was insufficient demand, as for the 2025 Festive Film and Tea.

Currently, the envisaged programme will be one excursion, one meet up (e.g., at a Gallery), one or more walks, an annual dinner, a summer barbecue and the Christmas lunch. We have considered moving the AGM to alongside one of these events, but with the turnout for the evening's Annual Lecture, we may well continue with holding the AGM as a separate event.