

Northumbrian Cambridge Association *Newsletter*

President: Dr William Telford

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Andrena



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Friends,

It has undoubtedly been a busy autumn and winter for the Northumbrian Cambridge Association, with a number of exciting events behind us and more to look forward to in the New Year. September kicked off with our annual Freshers party, for students from the North East going up to Cambridge for the first time. This year we are delighted to report that 28 young people (including one of last year's Freshers) along with a number of parents arrived at our new venue, Mincoffs Solicitors in Jesmond, and the evening went with a swing. We are grateful to Mincoffs for hosting and to Tim Gray for organising the venue.

This was shortly followed by our AGM at the Royal Grammar School and the annual lecture, this year delivered by Professor Paul Cartledge, who gave us a fascinating insight into democracy in the Athenian world. Our musical event this year was a Blues Band concert at the Sage, preceded by a meal at the Sage Brasserie. Twenty members and guests enjoyed a lively evening, and a couple of fans were thrilled to meet the ever youthful Paul Jones.

Our Christmas celebrations were well attended, with our traditional Christmas lunch in the Strauss suite at the County Hotel, and our Festive Afternoon Tea and Film at the Tyneside Cinema. To round off the year, we had a reunion get-together at Revolution, Newcastle, with nine of the young people who had attended our Freshers' party, and it was a pleasure to catch up on their news and to hear their first impressions of Cambridge.

I'm pleased to report that we have a number of new members this year and, with the freshers, a larger number of associate members. Our Honorary Treasurer, Colin Dunnighan, has unfortunately had to retire from the post, though not, I am happy to say, from the committee. We thank him for his good offices and welcome Dr Ray Brown as his successor. We also welcome Professor Gilbert Cockton to the committee, and with the help of the existing committee members we look forward to an interesting programme of events in 2018.

In the meantime, may I wish you all both health and happiness in 2018.



Bill Telford

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

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A trawl through the Association's Minute Books has been full of interest and members may enjoy the flavour of these initial years of the society. The earliest available to us details the meeting held December 19, 1931 (sic; this should probably be 1930, since the following minutes are dated 10 July, 1931):

"A meeting of the Committee was held at Bishop Wood's house ...to discuss the programme for 1931.... It was agreed to hold the Second Annual Dinner at Tilley's on Apr 22nd and to ask one of the following as chief guest:- Lord Chalmers, Professor Trevelyan, E.F. Collingwood. The Secretary was authorized to advertise the year's programme in the Newcastle daily papers. It was agreed that Bishop Wood be asked to approach Lord Armstrong with a view to arranging a visit to Craggside in July.

"It was agreed that Lord Armstrong be asked to become President of the Society. Bishop Wood consented to continue acting as Chairman till June or July. It was decided that the business of the Annual Meeting would be transacted at Craggside on the summer visit."

An inserted newspaper cutting (ascribed to the Newcastle Journal, 23 April, 1931) following the Annual Dinner reported that Lord Armstrong was duly elected Chairman, that the society had 86 members and was "steadily growing", and that Earl Grey was busy in the House of Lords and had expressed his regret for his absence. The paper reported that: "Interspersed in the speeches was an excellent programme combining vocal and instrumental music. Mr. W.S. Robinson's fine baritone voice was heard to great advantage in songs by Quiller, Warlock and in Northumbrian folk-songs, whilst Professor Girdlestone, on the flute, gave artistic expression to the works of Mozart and Youille Smith. Mr. C.G. Wyatt Wailing accompanied at the piano in addition to being responsible for the efficient organization of the function."

In subsequent issues we hope to bring you more pen pictures from the archives of the origins and growth of the Association through the decades. Watch this space!

FRESHERS EVENTS

We enjoyed getting together with Freshers from the North East on two separate occasions: in September before they went up to Cambridge, and again in December, when they were able to share their first experience of university and Cambridge life.



Above: Membership Secretary Judy Vigurs with freshers at the party held at Mincoffs

Back from Cambridge, with second year student, Mark Schuster (foreground).

CONCERT AT THE SAGE

On Saturday, October 28, twenty members and guests attended an autumn concert at the Sage, Gateshead, with fourteen meeting for dinner beforehand at the Sage Brasserie. The concert was by the internationally acclaimed Blues Band, with Paul Jones, actor, singer, musician and radio presenter, and for those of us who remembered the 1960s, front man for Manfred Mann. Playing with Paul were Tom McGuinness, Dave Kelly, Gary Fletcher and Rob Townsend. Thanks go to Heather Cordell for buying the tickets and making the arrangements.



Committee member Liz Atkins with Paul Jones (above).



NCA members and guests enjoying a pre-concert dinner at the Sage Brasserie (left) and Christmas lunch at the County Hotel (right). Both events have become part of the NCA yearly traditions.



AGM AND ANNUAL LECTURE

Our AGM and Annual Lecture were held at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle, on September 29. 32 members and guests attended the Annual Lecture, along with 23 students from the RGS and their teachers. After a delicious buffet supplied by the Boldon Farmhouse Pantry (with wines from Michael Jobling), we were treated to an excellent lecture by Professor Paul Cartledge on the topic, "Back to the Future? 10 Things You Really Ought to Know about Democracy in Ancient Greece". A distinguished ancient historian and expert on Sparta, Professor Cartledge, a Fellow of Clare College, was elected to the A. G. Leventis Professorship of Greek Culture at Cambridge in 2008, from which he retired at the end of September 2014. His latest book, 'Democracy: A Life' (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2016) has been very well received.



NCA President Bill Telford with Professor Cartledge



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our Christmas lunch took place again at the County Hotel, Newcastle, on Friday, December 1. After drinks in the bar, we repaired to the beautiful Strauss Room for a splendid three-course lunch. 25 members and guests attended, including one new member. The staff were very attentive, and the cost, at £21.00, was good value. Christmas carols played throughout the meal and over coffee the President and Secretary gave a reading of Charles Dickens' "The Story of the Goblins Who Stole a Sexton", from 'The Pickwick Papers'.



FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA AND FILM

This year's film choice made a deep impression on the members and friends who gathered in the Digital Lounge at the Tyneside Cinema on December 9th. Entitled "Joyeux Noel", it is a dramatisation of the unofficial Christmas truce of December 1914, when German, French and Scottish troops voluntarily ceased hostilities and emerged from their trenches to celebrate Christmas together. The Tyneside's sumptuous afternoon tea was supplemented with a glass of prosecco and popcorn, and the Christmas tree and digital fire added to the festive atmosphere. As you can see your committee members joined in the festive spirit with some suitable headgear!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS (2018)

Winter Outing, North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers/Robert Stephenson's Engine Works, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Newcastle's Mining Institute, close to Newcastle's Railway Station, is the world's oldest professional mining organisation and was dedicated to training engineers to meet the needs of a rapidly expanding coal mining industry at home in the UK and abroad. Nearby, in South Street, is Robert Stephenson's Engine Works, the world's first purpose built locomotive works, now restored and enhanced as one of the city's most vibrant events spaces, the Boiler Shop. After morning coffee at 10.00 am at the Mining Institute, members will be given a guided tour of both buildings, followed by lunch at the Station Hotel.

Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club, Newcastle.

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

For our annual dinner 2018 we return to a venue which 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 an elegant venue, excellent service and splendid food. This year our speakers will again be two members of the Committee, this time Dr Ray Brown, our Treasurer, and Judy Vigurs, our Membership Secretary, reminiscing about their years at Cambridge. And, of course, there will be the traditional quiz!

Spring Outing, Stockton & Darlington Railway Day, c/o National Railway Museum, Shildon.

Saturday, April 14, 2018

After morning coffee at 10.00 am at the National Railway Museum, and a welcome from the Chair of the Friends of the S&DR, professional archaeologist, Niall Hammond, will give us a slide talk on the opening of the first steam passenger railway (1825) and after lunch at the NRM, we will have the opportunity to go on an accompanied walk on the Brusselton incline. A visit not to be missed!

Spring Walk, Craggside.

Saturday, May 19, 2018

Our spring walk this year will be to the National Trust's magnificent estate of Craggside. After coffee at the Visitor Centre at 10.00 am, we shall have a guided tour of the Formal Garden by Senior Gardener, Dale Stevens, followed by lunch. In the afternoon, two alternative walks will be on offer, each from the Visitor Centre, one a short one-hour walk, led by Bill and Andrena Telford (the Basin Tank Walk), the other a longer, two to two-and-a half hour walk (the Gun Walk), led by Heather Cordell and Ray Brown.

Summer Outing, Togston Hall, East Lodge, near Amble.

Saturday, June 9, 2018

This will be a very special summer outing for we have been invited to the home of one of our members, Professor Roger Stonehouse, and that will be followed by lunch at the award-winning seafood restaurant, the Old Boat House, Amble, an exploration of the Harbour area and an (optional) short walk guided by Bill and Andrena Telford and culminating in ice-cream at Spurelli's.

Freshers' Party, Mincoffs Solicitors, Newcastle.

Monday, September 17, 2018

Again we will be welcoming freshers from the North East just before they go up to Cambridge. As last year, Tim Gray and Mincoffs will be our hosts, and the freshers, as well as having the opportunity to meet fellow undergraduates, will be introduced to the Northumbrian Cambridge Association and its activities.

AGM and Annual Lecture, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle.

Friday, September 28, 2018

The AGM and Annual Lecture will take place again at the Royal Grammar School, with a buffet supplied by Boldon Farmhouse Pantry, and wines by Michael Jobling. Professor Marina Frolova-Walker, who holds a Chair in Music History at Cambridge, and is a Fellow and Director of Music of Clare College, will give the lecture. Her work on Russian music and nationalism, culture and politics is both scholarly and substantial. She is the author of *Russian Music and Nationalism: from Glinka to Stalin* (2008) and of *Stalin's Music Prize: Soviet Culture and Politics* (2016), and her lecture is entitled "Stalin's Playlist".

Pre-Concert Dinner and Musical Event, Sage, Gateshead.

October/November (tbc).

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 7, 2018

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 15, 2018

Another tradition which has now established itself 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!

Pre-Christmas Freshers' Reunion, Revolution, Newcastle.

Wednesday, December 12, 2018, 17.30-19.00.

An invitation will be sent out to freshers as usual, along with the offer of free associate membership. This will follow up the contacts made at the Welcome Party in September.



NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the Northumbrian Cambridge Association:

Susan Austin: Churchill (Archaeology & Anthropology, 1973-76)

Dr Heinz Fuchs: Sidney Sussex (PhD, Visiting Fellow, 1997)

Dr John Jackson (Trinity Hall, Natural Sciences, 1960-64)

Jenny Lewis (Girton, Geography, 1973-1976)

Patricia Pemberton (New Hall/Murray Edwards, History, Social Sciences, Education, 1974-78; MPhil, Social Anthropology, 1979-1980)

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER

A Johnian (History Part I, Education Part II), Gilbert Cockton taught History and Social Studies for a few years, developed educational software, and gained a PhD in Computer Science (Heriot-Watt). After research and academic positions (Heriot-Watt, Glasgow, Northumbria) and work in and for industry, he was a research chair at Sunderland. After a NESTA fellowship on value-centred design, he returned to Northumbria University as Professor of Design Theory, teaching Interaction Design and supervising research. He lives in Whitley Bay with his wife Ros. Their children work in Vienna and New York (another Johnian). Gilbert will be helping us to improve the NCA website, where his expertise will be much appreciated.



OUTREACH

NCA member Andrew Young has drawn our attention to the following message from the Development Office via his college, Jesus:

“Our Outreach and Widening Participation work involves a programme of school visits, residentials and taster days which encourage young people from all backgrounds to apply to top universities such as Cambridge, and supports pupils in Year 12 & 13 who apply. We're looking for recent alumni who grew up, or currently work, in one of our designated link areas (**Tyne and Wear**, the London boroughs of Brent, Ealing, and Westminster, and Peterborough) to get involved. Hearing from recent graduates can help school students to see that university degrees can lead to rewarding careers and inspire them to apply to top universities. If you would be interested in getting involved, please contact the Development Office <development@jesus.cam.ac.uk>.”

JOHN CANNON PUBLICATION

John Tait writes:

“Last week, in France, I visited Sue Cannon, daughter of our esteemed and long serving former secretary, the late John Cannon.

“She asked me to bring to the attention of the society John's final publication, ‘Schooling in England, 1660 to 1850’ which remained unfinished at John's death. Sue has put strenuous efforts over the last couple of years to produce a complete and coherent manuscript from John's draft and then find a publisher for the result. Recently the List and Index Society have finally published the result, which is available here: <http://www.listandindexsociety.org.uk/pubs2016.html>”.

IN MEMORIAM BILL RODGER

Elizabeth Rodger has notified us of the death of her father, Bill Rodger, in Darlington, after a valiant struggle against Parkinson's disease. His funeral took place at St Cuthbert's Church, Darlington DL1 5QG on Friday, 22nd September.

Former Hon. Secretary, Heather Russell, writes:

“Bill took over from Harold Kirby as Treasurer some months after I took over from Jack Lindsay as Secretary. We both served on the NCA Committee under Angus Macdonald as Chairman. He served long and faithfully as Treasurer; he travelled up from Darlington to attend committee meetings in Jesmond and often arrived exhausted and drained after contending with rush-hour traffic, but he never complained. Bill was always a courteous and gentle soul - a real gentleman. He neither pushed himself forward nor threw his weight about, being content to work quietly in the background.”

Some of our long-standing members will remember Bill very well and will join with us in sending our condolences to his family.

REMINDERS

We'd very much like to include more contributions from our members in the newsletter. Please send us your reminiscences, photographs, memorabilia, thoughts, or whatever else you'd like to share with your fellow Cambridge graduates. The next newsletter will appear in July, 2018, and contributions should arrive by mid-June at the latest. We're very pleased that so many of our members now receive all communications by email, including this newsletter, but we'd like to reduce the amount of paper and postage as much as possible. So if you have an email address and are willing to receive newsletters and notices this way, please email us your address to: aeandwr.telford@btinternet.com. The Northumbrian Cambridge Association website contains information about upcoming events, as well as photographs of the latest outings, a membership application form and details of the committee. Check it out at: www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk. You'll also find us on the Cambridge University Alumni website: <https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>.

NCA photographs by Bill Telford. More photos of events can be seen on the NCA website (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/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>.