

Northumbrian Cambridge Association Newsletter

President: Dr William Telford

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Andrena Telford



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

May I begin by wishing everyone a very happy, healthy and successful New Year. I hope that you will find much to enjoy in the programme your committee is organising for you in the coming year and I look forward to meeting up with you at our various events.

Our autumn season was full of enjoyable gatherings, beginning with our welcome to the Freshers going up to Cambridge from the North East. Hosted by committee members and long-standing member, Tim Gray, this lively event gives new Cambridge students an opportunity to meet fellow Freshers, sometimes from the same college or on the same degree course. This was succeeded by our AGM and Annual Lecture, in which we were treated to a fascinating view of Stalin the music lover, by Professor Marina Frolova-Walker of Clare College, Cambridge. Music of a very different kind was enjoyed by members who attended the Sixties Gold Final Tour concert at the Sage, which featured a number of the original bands (and band members) from the Sixties, a period that some of us remember all too well!

Our Christmas events went with a swing. The annual Christmas lunch was held once again at the County Hotel, but since numbers have grown over the year, we have now been promoted from Strauss to Mozart! The wood-panelled Mozart Suite has the advantage of its own bar and so we were able to mingle and chat there before moving on to the dining area for another splendid lunch. We were very happy to welcome as our guest, Aisling O'Neill from the Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations office, who updated us on the activities of CUDAR. We are most grateful for the support CUDAR gives to our association, including publishing our newsletter on their website and advertising our activities, and it was nice to meet Aisling in person.

The Festive Afternoon Tea and Film at the Tyneside Cinema closed our activities for the year in fine style. Fortified with prosecco and the Tyneside's fabulous afternoon tea treats, we settled down to watch the film, *The Man Who Invented Christmas*. With Dan Stevens of *Downton Abbey* fame in the title role, and a supporting cast including Christopher Plummer as a memorable Scrooge, the story of how *A Christmas Carol* came to be written kept us all entranced.

There are many more treats in store in the coming months, including a tour of the venerable Lit and Phil in Newcastle, a visit to Chillingham Castle (and a close-up view of its wild white cattle), guided tours of the Bowes Museum's special collections and a nostalgic cruise down the Tyne, with all its memories of a maritime past. Our annual dinner will be held again at the Northern Counties Club, a popular venue with our members, and there will be reminiscences galore. A calendar of events is included in the newsletter. Do please feel free to sign up as soon as possible, via the flyers included with this mailing. Your support over the past years has been much appreciated, and we look forward to its continuance.



With best wishes,
Bill Telford

Dr William Telford
Christ's College, 1972-77

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Please don't forget your annual **membership subscription**, which is due on March 1. If you have not already done so, you can make your payment of £10.00 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, Mrs Susan Austin, 116 Queens Road, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 3AU. 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 she might expect it. Please make sure to keep subscription and excursion payments separate.

Also, if you have not yet signed a form giving NCA permission to hold data relating to the administration of your membership, as required by the new **General Data Protection Regulation** of May 25, 2018, please do so soon. You can find a copy of our privacy and data protection policy and the form for signing on our website (northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk) or you can request a paper copy from the Hon. Secretary, Dr Andrena Telford (postal/email addresses on page 4 of this newsletter).

WELCOMING THE 2018-19 FRESHERS

Our Freshers Welcome Party was held on September 17 at Mincoff Solicitors' office in Jesmond, and we do want to thank the company for hosting us for the second year in a row. We were delighted to have 16 freshers and one second year student arrive, along with 4 parents. NCA was represented by 5 committee members and Tim Gray, who organised the venue. The President said a few words introducing the Northumbrian Cambridge Association and Isabella Hogan (2nd year, Archaeology, King's) described her experience of her first year at Cambridge. Gilbert Cockton added his own memories of Cambridge when he himself was an undergraduate and



provided some useful advice. The occasion was a valuable opportunity for new students to get to know one another, and the event went with such a swing that it was difficult to usher everyone out at the end!

AGM AND ANNUAL LECTURE

The Annual General Meeting of the association took place at the Royal Grammar School on Friday, September 28. The continuing officers and committee members were duly elected, and the President welcomed Susan Austin as our new Treasurer. He also expressed the society's thanks to Dr Ray Brown, who had filled in as Treasurer for the year just ended. The meeting was followed by Boldon Farmhouse Pantry's usual splendid buffet. Our



guest speaker for the Annual Lecture, Professor Marina Frolova-Walker, holds a Chair in Music History at Cambridge, and is a Fellow and Director of Music at Clare College. She gave a fascinating illustrated talk entitled, "Stalin's Playlist", drawing on her work on Russian music and nationalism, culture and politics. Our thanks go to the Royal Grammar School and to Jill Graham for facilitating the event.

SWINGING SIXTIES EVENT

Our musical event this year, the Sixties Gold Final Tour Concert at the Sage, Gateshead, on November 6, lived up to its advertised description as "A Wonderfully Nostalgic Event – Relive the Sixties with the Original Artists!" Featuring the Searchers, the Merseybeats, the Fortunes, Vanity Fare, Steve Ellis and the immortal P.J. Proby, the programme included many of the 50 UK Top 30 Hits they had collectively accumulated. Not all of the original band members were there, but enough were present on stage to bring back memories of youth to the



twenty-two members and guests who joined in the fun. We had a meal together beforehand in the Sage Brasserie, and were pleased to discover that our table was held for the evening, which allowed interval drinks and reminiscences to be enjoyed in comfort.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Forty-four members and guests gathered in the Mozart Suite of the County Hotel for our traditional Christmas Lunch. The President welcomed everyone, in particular our newest members and our new Treasurer, Susan Austin, and introduced the members of the committee. He gave a special welcome to Aisling O'Neill from the Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations office, who had travelled up from Cambridge for the occasion. He introduced the coming year's programme and the calendar of events which was laid out on each table.

Aisling thanked the society and the committee for the invitation to the lunch and for their work throughout the year, and went on to give an interesting talk on the activities of CUDAR. She highlighted the fact that this had been a record-breaking year for Development and Alumni Relations, with the 'Dear World....Yours Cambridge' campaign raising £1.3 billion, which would be put towards key projects such as the new Cavendish Laboratory, the recently announced Hawking Legacy programme, and enhanced student support. A most successful Alumni Festival had been held in September, with almost 1600 alumni and guests returning to Cambridge for a weekend of tours, lectures and college events (NOTE: the 2019 Festival will take place between 27 and 29 September and an invitation is extended to all alumni). Global Cambridge had visited India, China, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Singapore, Ireland, Wales, the US and London in the course of the year, with over 1,200 alumni/ae attending events and much positive feedback received. Germany and Canada are in view for 2019. Sporting triumphs have featured in 2018, notably in rowing and women's rugby, and we are invited to join other alumni/ae on the PS Elizabethan at Putney on Sunday, April 7, for the 2019 boat race. The President thanked Aisling for joining us, for keeping us up to date, and for the support CUDAR continues to give us.



Before the lunch concluded, the President and Hon. Secretary invoked the Christmas spirit with a reading from Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Wales", and concluded by wishing everyone an enjoyable Christmas and a very Happy New Year.



FRESHERS' REUNION

As a follow up to the September Freshers' Party, a get-together took place shortly before Christmas at Revolution in Newcastle. This time the President and members of the committee were joined by four of the Freshers who had attended the September event (apologies were received from others), and it was good to hear how their first term had gone.



FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEA & FILM

This year represented our sixth visit to the Tyneside Cinema for a Festive Afternoon Tea and Film (of our choice) in the comfort of the cinema's digital lounge. On December 15, twenty-two members and guests enjoyed the generous buffet and relaxed with the 2017 film, *The Man Who Invented Christmas*. With a stellar cast and wonderful settings, the film purports to trace the evolution of the sometimes obstreperous characters who appear in Dickens's most popular work, *A Christmas Carol*. It may not have been entirely historical, but it certainly proved to be entertaining, and those attending voted the event a great success. Plans are in place for the showing of yet another Christmas classic in December 2019. Watch this space!



LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Our Membership Secretary, Judy Vigurs, represented NCA at an Alumni Groups Leadership Conference, held in July at the Moeller Centre, Churchill College. Judy writes: "It was a beautiful day and there was ample time to meet members of other associations and renew acquaintances. Bruce Mortimer of CUDAR referred to the 2018 survey of the more than 420 alumni groups, which is helping CUDAR improve its services to alumni, and introduced the new senior Pro-VC Graham Virgo, who raised an important theme for the whole conference: that of widening participation." Judy's full report on the event is available from the Hon. Secretary (address on page 4).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019

Winter Outing, Lit & Phil/University Training College, Stephenson Quarter, Newcastle upon Tyne.

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Following on from last year's Winter Outing to the Institute of Mining and Engineering and the Stephenson Engineering Boiler Shop on South Street, we are once again revisiting one of Newcastle's most remarkable areas. We shall begin with a visit to the historic Lit & Phil, the largest independent library outside of London, where we will be given a guided tour. From there, we shall walk the short distance to the exciting Stephenson Quarter, presently being developed by the Clouston Group. We will have a tour of the recently opened University Training College, and this will be followed by lunch at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, courtesy of David Clouston.

Annual Dinner, Northern Counties Club, Newcastle.

Wednesday, March 13, 2019

For our annual dinner 2019 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 after-dinner speakers will again be members of the Committee (our new Treasurer, Sue Austin, and Colin Dunnighan) who will reminisce about their years at Cambridge. And, of course, there will be the traditional quiz!

Spring Outing, Bowes Museum, Barnard Castle.

Saturday, April 27, 2019

After morning coffee at 10.00 am, and a greeting from the Friends of the Bowes Museum, we will be treated to guided tours of the Museum's ceramics and fashion and textile collections. The tours will be followed by lunch at the Museum and time for members and guests to explore the Museum on their own, as well as to see the famous silver swan performance at 2 pm.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2019 (continued)

Spring Walk, Chillingham Castle & Wild Cattle.

Sunday, June 2, 2019

Our spring walk this year will be to Chillingham Castle in Northumberland, famous for its centuries-old wild cattle. After a ranger tour to see the wild cattle, and lunch in the Castle's Victorian Tea Room, there will be a choice of two walks, a shorter walk that will include the Italian Garden, and a longer walk (max. two hours) within the estate. Members who choose the short walk may also opt to visit the Castle.

Summer Outing, Tyne River Cruise.

Sunday, June 16, 2019

Our Summer Outing on Sunday, June 16, will be a river cruise down the Tyne to Tynemouth and back, with lunch on board the ship, and a commentary en route. An opportunity for a relaxing afternoon on the river, and to catch up with NCA friends, it's something not to be missed!

Freshers' Party, Mincoffs Solicitors, Newcastle.

Monday, September 16, 2019

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 NCA.

AGM and Annual Lecture, Royal Grammar School, Newcastle.

Friday, September 27, 2019

The AGM, buffet and Annual Lecture will take place again at the Royal Grammar School. Professor Tony Badger, Emeritus Paul Mellon Professor of History at Cambridge and Master of Clare College, and now holder of a Chair in American History at Northumbria University, will give the lecture ("The Kennedys and the Gores").

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

Sunday, November 24, 2019, 8 pm.

Join us for dinner and an evening of music, song and spoken word, with 'The Pitmen Poets', celebrating the triumphs, tragedy, humour and hard times of North-East England's coal mining tradition.

Christmas Lunch, County Hotel, Newcastle.

Friday, December 6, 2019

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 Mozart Suite.

Pre-Christmas Freshers' Reunion, Revolution, Newcastle.

Wednesday, December 11, 2019, 17.00-19.00.

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.

Festive Afternoon Tea & Film, Tyneside Cinema, Newcastle.

Saturday, December 14, 2019

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, this year, the classic Samuel Goldwyn romantic comedy, 'The Bishop's Wife' (1947), what better way to spend a winter afternoon in the run-up to Christmas!

MEMBERS REMEMBER

From Wendy Bond:

What we got up to in Cambridge - Sixty Years Ago!

Ours was known by our elders as the Golden Generation - we had grown strong during WW2 on excellent rations, started school under the Butler Education Act, won scholarships and bursaries paid willingly by enthusiastic county councils. Some were taught at school by redoubtable single women left high and dry by WW1 and too young for the first round of female voting, others by splendid old scholars. Some were toughened up by enterprising gap-year work, while most of the men had been matured by National Service - and by the time we reached our colleges, we had hitch-hiked round much of post-War Europe making friends and discovering that in the lands that had been overrun by armies and the towns bombed to rubble, people were joyfully coming together to build a better life for all in the Common Market.

So we were ready to join as founding members, the Cambridge European Group (CUEG), to see how Britain could be included. Even within our allotted 3 years, CUEG managed two major activities - Spieltag, planned as a day of fun and games and international food for the general public and fellow students - it rained, solidly, all day! - and the remarkable Cambridge European Seminar held in Jesus College in April 1961.

This latter event consisted of six days of lectures, study groups and detailed discussion, involving 142 people from 17 European universities and 14 British universities, working on: the British Attitude to Europe since the War, the Commonwealth & Europe, the Common Market & EFTA, From Economic to Political Union, Institutional Problems of Integration, Integration & Social Problems, Europe &

Coexistence and more, based on reports prepared by national groups and six distinguished visiting lecturers. The Seminar was largely organised by the student committee on which I served, but chaired by many noted senior personalities. Copies of the detailed report available!

Mick and I then left for another continent - Africa, but our estimation of the value of the European Project remains as high as ever. I see there is now a European Centre in POLIS at the University, and a European Society CUES.



UNLIKELY REDHEAD

Intrepid member Rev. Roger Mills, who took part again in the Great North Run in September, to raise money for Christian Aid, writes: "The day's weather sent mixed messages - a pleasantly cooling shower just on start-time, but followed by unbroken sunshine and unwelcome (and unforecast) heat. The attached photo doesn't prove that I finished the Run (it features the final mile in South Shields), but shows the improbable Christian-Aid-red hairdo which prevented sunburn as well as marked the 20th anniversary. Staggering over the line in 2 hr 10 won't cause Sir Mo any anxiety for future years, but keeps me just inside the first 1/3 of finishers." We congratulate Roger on his achievement, if not the wig!



NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome three new members to the Northumbrian Cambridge Association:

David Herbert (Queen's, 1983-86, MA in Natural Sciences)

David's interests include jazz piano, walking, wildlife, camping, the outdoors, gardening and good food.

Michael Lewis (Trinity, 1975-1978, Engineering) is currently running the family farm. His other interests are in science, history and politics.

Jane Lewis (Newnham, 1974-1977, Classics & Law) lists as her leisure interests music (classical—listening and playing), bellringing, gardening and walking.

THOSE LAZY-HAZY-CRAZY DAYS.....

Committee member Peter Atkins sent us this nostalgic scene and explained: "This 1968 photograph has just been rediscovered after many decades. Peter in the purple shirt is lounging with fellow Downing geographers in the grounds of Girton College. His presence in a ladies-only college perhaps suggests that he and friends weren't only thinking of ox-bow lakes. The picture was revealed along with some other embarrassing images at a recent reunion of the 1968-ers for the 50th anniversary of their Cambridge matriculation. Such a lot has changed at Downing in that half century. There are several splendid new buildings paid for by the inventor of the Cambridge Diet and trees have been planted in the quadrangle, something unthinkable in 1968."



NCA WEBSITE

Please remember to consult our NCA website, which can be found at <<http://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk>>. The website describes our association and gives information about its events and activities, along with downloadable booking forms. You can find information on our Committee and its members, copies of our newsletters and AGM Minutes and an Archive of past events and meetings, along with photographs. There is a How to Join section, to which you can direct anyone who wishes to join us. The Website is managed by the President and by Committee member, Gilbert Cockton, and any queries or suggestions should be directed to them. A University of Cambridge Alumni group page managed by CUDAR also advertises the Association and our events and activities. Find it at <<https://www.alumni.cam.ac.uk/group/northumbrian-cambridge-association>>.

REMINDERS

The next **Newsletter** will appear in July 2019. If you have a contribution you can offer, please send it to us by June 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.

The next **committee meeting** will take place on March 6. If you have any matters you would like to raise, please get in touch in advance of time with the Hon. Secretary (address as above).