

Northumbrian Cambridge Association *Newsletter*

President: Dr William Telford

Hon. Secretary: Dr. Andrena Telford



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

2018 may have got off to a rather dreary start weather-wise (unlike this unexpectedly glorious summer), but the spirits of our members were undaunted as they turned out for a varied and informative series of events in the first half of the year. It is very encouraging to see the numbers of participants increasing year on year, and particularly pleasant to see members who have had to take a break for assorted reasons re-joining us on our outings. There have been four major outings so far, a winter visit to the Newcastle Mining Institute and Robert Stephenson Engine Works in February, a spring outing to the Stockton and Darlington Railway Museum at Shildon, a guided tour of the formal gardens at Cragside, followed by a walk on the estate paths, and a fascinating visit to Togston East Lodge (courtesy of its owner and architect, Professor Roger Stonehouse) followed by a lunch at the renowned Old Boathouse in Amble and a walk along the sea front and through the sand dunes. In addition, we got together for our annual dinner at the Northern Counties Club in Newcastle in March.

Our committee has been very active over the last six months, and arrangements are well in hand for the autumn and winter activities, details of which are given in this newsletter and the accompanying flyers. As always, we are keen to recruit new members of all ages, but in particular younger ones, and we will be making contact with new Freshers and those with whom we've had contact in previous years through our Freshers events in September and December. We rely on the Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations team to notify us of young people from the North East going up to Cambridge in October, but if you yourselves know of any such (children? grandchildren? friends' offspring?) we'd be delighted if you could let us know. Last year the Freshers attendees tripled in number, and we're anxious to attract as many as possible to the September 17 get-together and thereafter to follow up with newsletters and notice of events.

We have had some changes in the composition and roles of the committee. Dr Ray Brown took over as Treasurer

from Colin Dunnighan, on a temporary basis until this September, and he will be succeeded by Susan Austin, following confirmation at the AGM. Dr Gilbert Cockton has taken on the revamping and oversight of our website, and we are grateful for all his work on it. Do have a look at the changes, which I think you will agree gives it a much more contemporary look and makes it considerably more workable. We would be very happy to have more members volunteer to be on the committee, so if you would be interested in serving in this capacity, please get in touch with me before the September AGM when your name can be put forward. In the meantime, I offer my warm thanks to the committee members who have contributed to the smooth running of the organisation and an enjoyable series of activities.

As many of you will know, new regulations have recently come into effect in relation to the preservation of privacy of information, which affects members of organisations such as ours. The committee of the Association has taken into consideration the details of these Privacy and Data Protection Regulations and has produced its own statement, which you will find on page 4 of this newsletter. Included with the newsletter is a form for return to the Secretary, signifying your consent to the holding of your information for the stated purposes. Please do take the time to sign and return the form; it will ensure that we can continue to contact you with membership information and notice of the various events in the course of the year.

I hope you will find much to interest you in the autumn/winter programme and I look forward to seeing you at our forthcoming events.

With best wishes to all our members and friends for a very enjoyable summer,

Bill Telford

Dr William Telford
Christ's, 1972-77



MINING INSTITUTE & STEPHENSON ENGINE WORKS

(February 10, 2018)

On a chilly but sunny February morning 26 members and guests gathered at the North of England Institute of Mining and Mechanical Engineers on Neville Street in Newcastle. We were welcomed by Simon Brooks, who gave us a history of coal-mining in Newcastle and introduced us to the Mining Institute building and its splendid library. We then walked the short distance to what was once the boiler shop of the Robert



Stephenson Engineering Works. This is now in use as a dining and event space, but Daveid Phillips was able to point out elements that remained from its industrial past, before leading us to the site in the Stephenson Square development where archaeological work is being conducted on the engineering works foundations. The visit concluded with an excellent lunch in the Balmoral Room of the Royal Station Hotel.



ANNUAL DINNER: NORTHERN COUNTIES CLUB

(March 14, 2018)

Once again the Northern Counties Club in Hope Street, Newcastle, was the venue for our annual dinner. It should be noted that the Committee had considered another venue for this year, but the Northern Counties Club has proved to be very popular with our members, and so we had no hesitation in returning. On this occasion, in addition to the usual splendid meal, two of our committee members, Judy Vigurs and



Gilbert Cockton treated us to their reminiscences of Cambridge days, and toasts were proposed by James Wright (to the Northumbrian Cambridge Association) and Teresa Saunders (to Cambridge University). This year's quiz, in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the first votes for women in the UK, centred on notable Cambridge women graduates. The President welcomed new member,

Jenny Lewis, and introduced the programme of events for the coming year, as well as thanking the staff of the Northern Counties Club for providing an elegant setting, an excellent meal and splendid service.



SPRING OUTING: STOCKTON AND DARLINGTON RAILWAY DAY

(April 14, 2018)

This outing was a new venture for NCA, and proved to be very popular, with 36 members and guests signing up for it. We were welcomed at the Collection building in Shildon by NCA organiser for the day, Alan Townsend, and by Trish Pemberton, Chair of the Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway and now, we are happy to say, an NCA member. We were given a tour of the railway museum and a fascinating slide show by archaeologist Niall Hammond of Archaeo-Environment on the 1825 opening of the first steam passenger railway. Following a buffet lunch, we embarked on a walk following the line of the Brusselton Incline and marked out in places



by lines of stone sleepers. We were fortunate to be accompanied by Jane Hackworth-Young, a direct descendant of Timothy Hackworth (1786-1850), who was the first locomotive superintendent



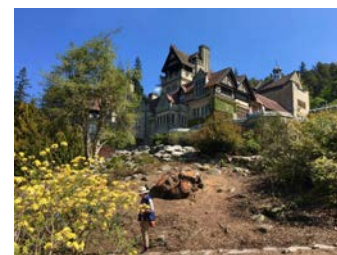
of the Stockton and Darlington Railway and active in the development of the earliest steam locomotives. It was a lively and informative day, and some of our members were so entranced that they joined the Friends of the Stockton & Darlington Railway!



SPRING GARDEN TOUR AND WALK: CRAGSIDE

(Saturday, May 18, 2018)

Guided tours of gardens are becoming a regular feature of our annual programme, and this year we were delighted by a tour of the formal gardens at Cragside, led by Head Gardener Rachel Ryvar, who, despite being not long in post, gave us the benefit of her considerable knowledge. The tour continued from the gardens to the Iron Bridge, up through the Rockery, down to the Pinetum and finally along the Debdon Burn and up to the Estate Drive. After lunch at the Visitor Centre, we split into two groups, with one



group following the shorter Basin Tank walk and another the longer Gun Walk. Those who chose not to follow either

enjoyed a leisurely lunch and time to relax at the Visitor Centre, while the walkers rewarded themselves with a National Trust afternoon tea on their return. Beautiful spring weather added to the pleasure of a lovely day.

July 2018

SUMMER OUTING:

TOGSTON HALL EAST LODGE, AMBLE

(June 9, 2018)

Professor Roger Stonehouse, distinguished architect, author of "The Architecture of the British Library at St Pancras" and NCA member, had issued an invitation to visit the home he had designed at Togston Hall East Lodge, near Amble,



Northumberland. He probably did not anticipate that 35 people would turn up for it, but he and his wife Adrienne rose nobly to the occasion and entertained us with warmth and generosity. Roger gave a brief talk on the history of the conversion of the Lodge, and we were then able to explore, admire and enjoy both house and garden.



Roger designed the Lodge himself, converting it into a modern building which is an admirable blend of traditional Northumbrian and contemporary style. It was very pleasant to stroll in the lovely garden, with its 30

imaginative sculptures, its attractive plantings and its charming summer house. The short drive into Amble brought us to the recently developed Harbour area, where we had an excellent lunch at the award-winning restaurant, the Old Boathouse, during which Gilbert Cockton, Professor of Design at Northumbria University, summarised for us the thinking and planning behind the Harbour Village.



There was time to explore the retail pods and the lobster hatchery before a sizeable group, led by the President and Secretary, set off on a walk along the harbour front and

through the dunes and back through the older part of town. Once again we were blessed with fine weather and the day was brought to a perfect conclusion with ice cream at the famous Spurelli's ice cream parlour.



CALENDAR OF FUTURE EVENTS

Freshers' Party, Mincoffs Solicitors, Newcastle.

Monday, September 17, 2018

Once 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 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.

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

Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Our concert at the Sage this year should be a wonderfully nostalgic event for the over 60s and a revelation for those too young to remember those heady days. The Sixties Gold Final Tour will reunite some of the original artists of the Sixties, including the Searchers, the Merseybeats and P. J. Proby, among others, singing some of their most popular hits. Twenty-two tickets have been booked for members and guests (available on a first come/first served basis) and the concert will be preceded by a meal at the Sage Brasserie for those who wish to join us.

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 (this year, 'The Man Who Invented Christmas', 2017), 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.

SEE MORE!

Photographs in this issue are by Bill Telford, unless otherwise credited. More photos of events can be seen on the NCA website, which has been recently updated (www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk). 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: BARBARA KAY

We are sorry to share the news of the recent death of longstanding NCA member, Mrs Barbara Kay. Barbara, who was a week short of her 95th birthday, passed away peacefully on July 10th at Byker Hall. A graduate of Newnham (1941-44), Barbara was a keen rower and coxed the joint Newnham and Girton 1st Eight to victory against Oxford in 1944 – an event she described in a contribution to our January 2016 newsletter. She was also Secretary of the Philosophical Society and was a poetry enthusiast, belonging for many years to the Poetry Group of the Newcastle University Women's Club. Her particular admiration was for the poetry of Edward Thomas and A.E. Housman. Described by a friend as “very sparky and thoughtful”, her presence was a lively addition to NCA events and she will be very much missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to her family.



Barbara at an NCA Christmas lunch

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 £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, Dr Ray Brown, 5 The Terrace, Eglington, Alnwick, Northumberland NE66 2UA. 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 2019. 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 19. If you would like any items added to the agenda for this, please notify the Hon. Secretary, Andrena Telford, beforehand. If you would be willing to serve on the Committee, please get in touch with the President before the AGM on September 28. The committee remits can be found on the NCA website.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

An interesting snippet from the Minutes of Oct. 8, 1951:

“News Letter: Various suggestions were made for the issue of a letter to members, but in view of the high cost involved it was decided to defer this until after the annual dinner when it might be possible to obtain a wider opinion on the desirability, or otherwise, of this project.”

Our present newsletter grew out of the President's Reports produced annually by James Wright, and now appears twice a year, hopefully to the satisfaction of our members. Despite higher printing costs, the overall expenditure has been much reduced owing to the number now sent out electronically.

NEW MEMBERS

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

Nick James gained an M.A. in Electrical Sciences at St John's College (1972-1975). He is currently Treasurer of Newcastle Law Society and his interests include golf, theatre, walking, cinema, travel, food and wine.

Candida Whitmill-Fells lectured at Pembroke College. Her interests include energy, the environment, walking, golf, music and the theatre. Candida is married to NCA Honorary Member, Professor Ian Fells.

NCA Privacy and Data Protection Policy

As you will know, the law on privacy and data protection changed on May 25, 2018, when the General Data Protection Regulation started to apply.

For your membership of the NCA, you receive (by post, or by email, if you have supplied us with your address) our twice-yearly newsletter, membership subscription reminders, the agenda and accompanying documentation for our annual AGM, and flyers for our events.

The information we hold about you is related specifically to these, is limited to that provided by you, in your membership application form, or on the (ephemeral) booking forms we ask you to submit for the specific events we run throughout the year. This information is transferred on to our computerised records, is held securely, and consists principally of our membership list. This contains your name, address, telephone number, email address, college, subject, years at Cambridge, membership renewal status and method of payment. We use your personal data solely to manage your membership, to inform you of events and to make arrangements for the association's activities.

It is not our policy to share this information with anyone else, other than (occasionally) with the Cambridge University Development and Alumni Relations office (CUDAR) with whom we are affiliated, and with whom we have reciprocal relations. We do not share your information with any third party for commercial or marketing purposes.

We will continue to hold this information securely until you request us not to do so, will change your information only when you instruct us, and will continue to send you notice of events until you ask us not to. If you wish the newsletter electronically, we will continue to invite you to supply us with your email address for this purpose.

If you have any questions, comments or requests relating to this policy, then please address them to our Honorary Secretary, Dr Andrena Telford, Ladywell Cottage, 24 West Road, Ponteland, NE20 9SX; tel: 01661 825437; email: aeandwr.telford@btinternet.com.

Our privacy and data protection policy can be seen on the NCA website at northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk, and that of CUDAR at alumni.cam.ac.uk/privacy-policy-and-cookies.