

NORTHUMBRIAN CAMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday, October 4, 2023
Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle upon Tyne.
MINUTES

Documentation was sent to members on email in advance (and made available on the website at <https://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/2023-AGM.php>).

1. Apologies for absence

NCA President welcomed members to the AGM and thanked them for attending.

Apologies were received from Liz Atkins, Peter Atkins, Jay Bosanquet, Ian Fells, Nick James, Ian Lawley, Alan Townsend, Candida Whitman-Fells, and Andrew Young.

2. Minutes of previous AGM, October 7, 2022.

Minutes of the previous meeting had been approved by the committee, but the AGM papers were posted in error on the website. This has now been corrected) <https://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/resources/NCA%20AGM%202022%20Minutes.pdf>). Comments on them should be directed to the Honorary Secretary, Gilbert Cockton (gilbertcockton@gmail.com).

3. Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising that were not dealt with under subsequent Agenda items.

4. President's Report

Heather Cordell drew attention to her report and other officers' reports distributed before the AGM. Please refer to these at:

<https://www.northumbrian-cambridge.co.uk/2023-AGM.php>

The minutes should be read alongside these minutes, since they include detail referred to here.

Heather thanked Rob Tindall for his service on the NCA Executive Committee. Rob is stepping down after the AGM. Heather invited members to volunteer to join our committee. Anyone interested can discuss the role with her.

Heather is discussing a possible joint meeting of the NCA and the Cambridge Society of Edinburgh. She attended the Alumni Groups Leadership Conference in Cambridge on September 24th. Other alumni groups are making effective use of social media. The NCA will establish a presence on Facebook and LinkedIn. Ian Lawley will lead on this.

4. Hon. Secretary's Report.

Gilbert Cockton summarized the content of his report. The freshers' reception went well with four second year students returning to offer advice, support and a welcome to this year's freshers. The Lit & Phil has proved to be an effective venue.

5. Membership Secretary's Report.

We remembered longstanding NCA members who have died since the last AGM: Janet Townsend, Stephen Lawson, and Mick Bond are all missed.

Sue Austin reported that, in accordance with GDPR requirements, we have removed alumni who have not paid their subscriptions from the NCA membership list. Members have been informed of this by email. Some have paid their subscriptions (to the correct bank account). Several have resigned. Other members have relocated or are deceased. 93 alumni overall have left the membership list. We now have around 75 active members who are paying their subscriptions each year.

Members who receive NCA communications by post will receive one final reminder if they have not yet paid their subscriptions and completed a GDPR form. New members complete a GDPR form as part of the joining process.

It would be good to recruit new members. 108 students have agreed to be on our list following freshers' receptions since 2019. We will stay in touch with them and hope that some will become NCA members if they return to the region after graduation.

6. Hon. Treasurer's Report.

There has been a slight increase in fund balance over the year. Some members have not successfully changed bank details, but steady progress is being made here. The new (free) Lloyds account is easier to manage, especially with its online capabilities.

Break even judgements remain challenging, with venues advising on costs later than before and expecting confirmation of (minimum) numbers earlier. Even so, we have managed event finances well, with no loss above £80.

7. Auditor's Report.

We are awaiting audit of the NCA accounts for 2022-23. Members will be updated on this as part of a future email communication.

8. Election of Officers and Executive Committee.

All officers and ex-officio members have indicated their willingness to continue as Executive Committee members. The President asked members to approve the continuation of the existing committee. This was passed nem. con.

9. Any Other Business.

There was no A.O.B., so all present retired for the buffet

Professor Heather Cordell, President

Emeritus Professor Gilbert Cockton, Hon. Secretary