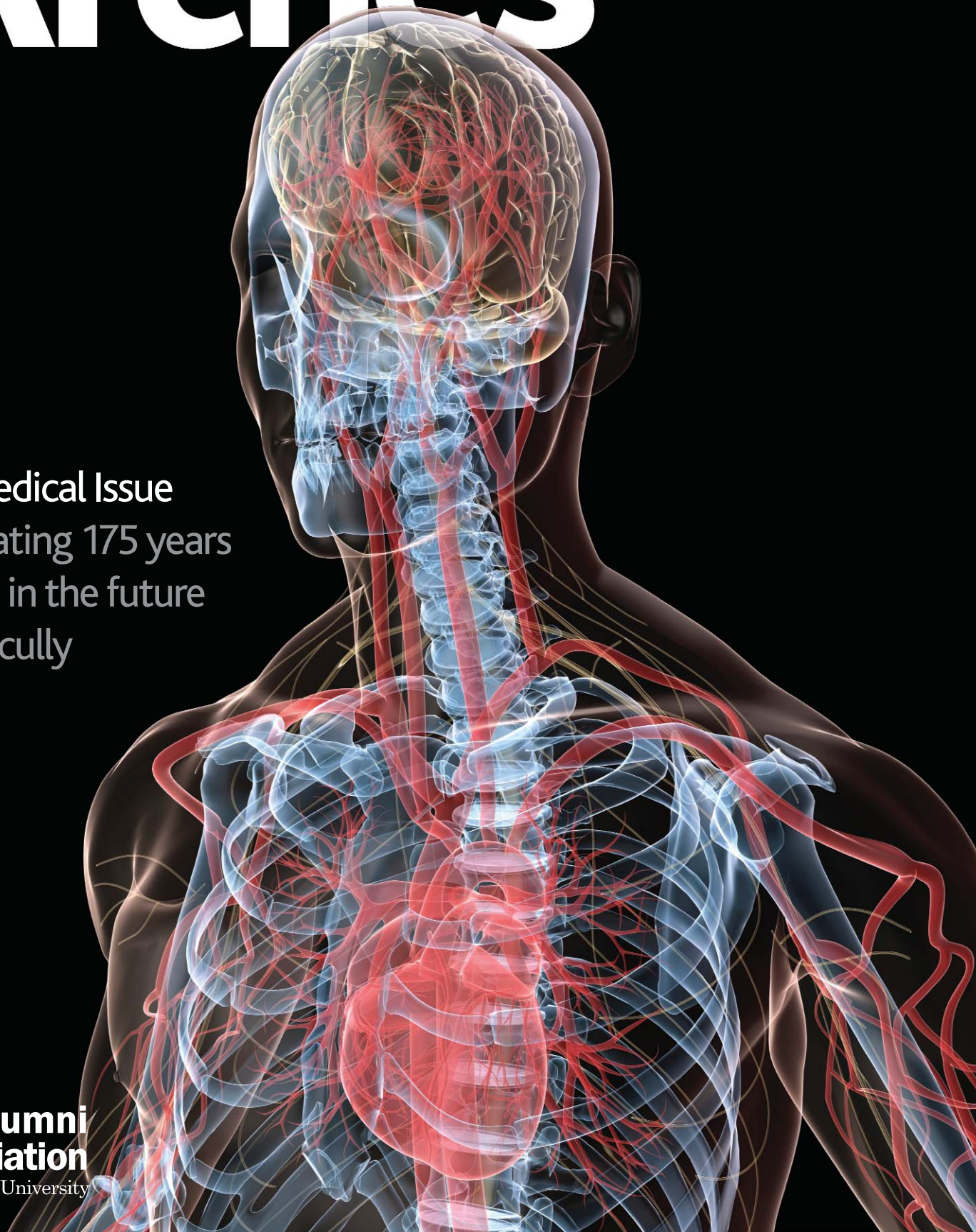


# Arches

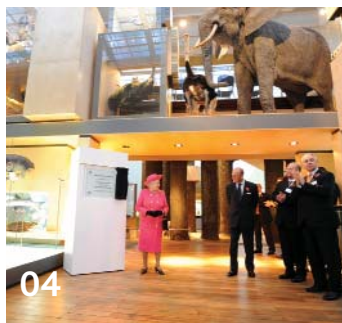


The Medical Issue  
Celebrating 175 years  
Health in the future  
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# Contents



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## 04 – 06 News

Keep up to date with the latest news, straight from campus

## Arches Feature 07–09

### Health challenges in the next 25 years

Three Medical School professors look at how we can face the challenges of cancer, dementia and alcoholism over the next 25 years

## Arches Feature 10–11

### A quiet revolution

James Johnston examines the pivotal role of women in medicine, and its development since the male-dominated 1800s

## Arches Feature 12–13

### 175 years of medicine at Newcastle

*Arches* looks back at the breakthroughs and events that have led Newcastle to become one of the UK's foremost medical schools

## Arches Feature 14–15

### He who will charm for a thousand years

A tribute to our former Chancellor, Chris Patten, who stepped down last summer

## Arches Interview 16–17

### Serious about Stripes

*Arches* chats to Irish artist and graduate Sean Scully, widely renowned as the world's greatest living abstract painter





## Arches Feature

### 18–19

#### In the footsteps of the Antiquarians

Jerry Paterson visits Classical Turkey, and looks ahead to our alumni holidays programme for 2010

### 20

#### Memories of Newcastle

Share old photos and memories of your student days with us

### 24–25

#### The Courier

Highlights from the University's award-winning student newspaper

### 28

#### Bookmark

Reviews of books from the alumni community

### 31

#### Classnotes

Catch up with the latest news from old friends, classmates and fellow graduates

### 35

#### Events

Reviews of Reunite! 2009 and our conference in Singapore, plus details of our forthcoming Convocation Weekend

## Foreword

### Dr Miriam Stoppard

(MB BS 1961; MD 1966; Hon DCL 2004)



The 2009–10 academic year is an important one for Newcastle as it celebrates the one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the first lectures at the College of Medicine and Surgery in Newcastle. This is a wonderful opportunity for the University to reflect

on its unique origins in medical education and this issue of *Arches* celebrates the progress that the Medical School has continued to make in training doctors and pushing forward medical research. This touches us all, from Agrics to Fine Art alumni, sharing as we do an interest in the future health and wellbeing of all people.

As a female medical graduate, I'm in awe of the transformation in medical education and thrilled by the preponderance of female students who now outnumber men 55:45. As the article on the rise of women reveals, the next generation of medical professionals will be a much more diverse group suiting the increasing diversity of society and the delivery of healthcare in the next 25 years.

The Medical School looks forward to an exciting year of events culminating in this year's Convocation Weekend on 19 June 2010, bringing to a close the one hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary, which welcomes all alumni back to our wonderful city of Newcastle.

Yours

Dr Miriam Stoppard

# News

For more information about any of these features, and to keep up to date with the very latest news from Newcastle University, visit: [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni)

## Stem Cell treatment helps save patient's sight

**A have-a-go hero who was blinded in one eye in a chemical attack has got his sight back thanks to Newcastle experts using stem cell treatment.**

Russell Turnbull is one of eight patients with impaired vision who have been treated successfully with their own stem cells, in a technique developed by scientists and eye surgeons at the North East England Stem Cell Institute (NESCI) in partnership with the eye department at Newcastle's Royal Victoria Infirmary.

Russell, who is now 38, was on the bus returning from a night out in Newcastle in 1994, when he overheard a heated argument between two men, which spilled into a fight.

When he intervened to break up the scuffle, one of the men squirted ammonia into Russell's right eye, causing massive damage to the cornea. This left him with severely impaired vision, a condition known as Limbal Stem Cell Deficiency (LSCD).

LSCD is a painful, blinding disease that

requires long-term, costly treatment with frequent clinic visits and intensive hospital admissions. After 12 years of living in constant pain and with poor vision, Russell took part in trials to find a new treatment for the condition.

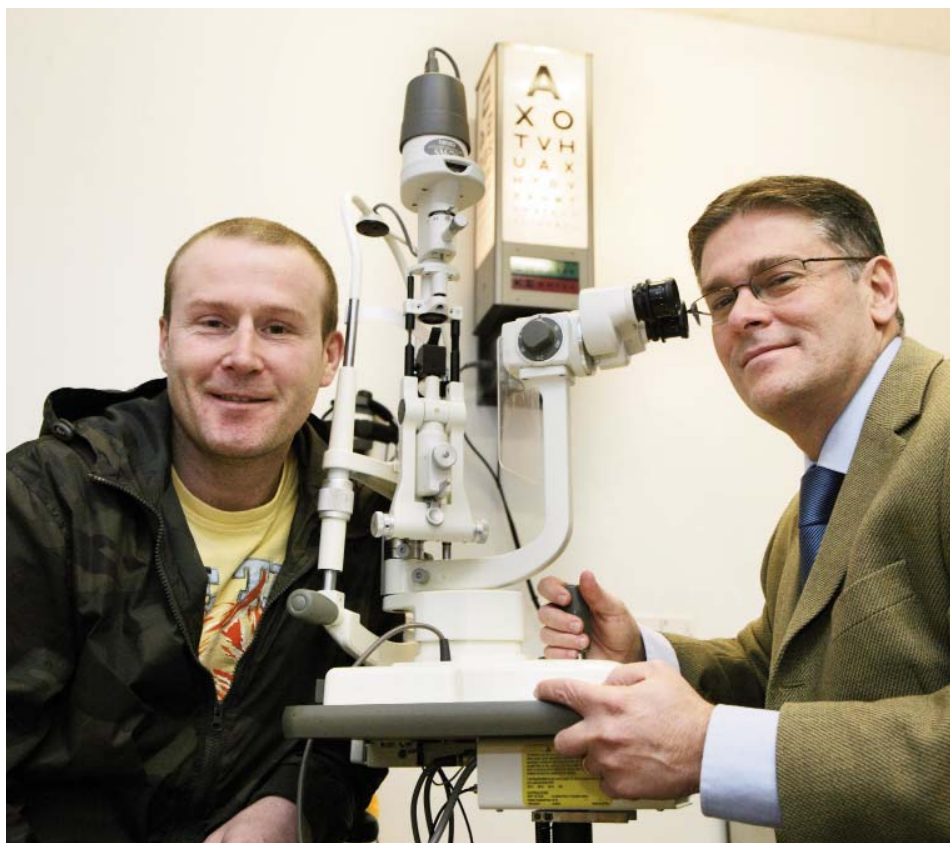
The team at NESCI and the RVI took a tiny amount of stem cells from his good eye and grew them in a lab. They were then implanted in the damaged eye, where they began to function as normal, restoring Russell's sight.

The technique avoids the need for drugs to suppress immunity and means there is no chance of the implanted cells being rejected. It is also the first in the world that does not use animal products to help grow the stem cells in the lab.

Professor Majlinda Lako, who co-led the project, said: 'This research shows promise to help hundreds of people regain their sight. These exciting results offer a new treatment and hope for people with LSCD.'

A larger study involving 24 new patients is currently underway with funding from the UK's Medical Research Council.

The treatment has transformed Russell's life. 'My eye is almost as good as it was before the accident', he said. 'I have my life back thanks to the operation.'



*Russell (left) and consultant eye surgeon, Francisco Figueiredo of NESCI, who co-led the project*

# Royal opening for the Great North Museum

**Her Majesty The Queen officially opened the Great North Museum on 6 November 2009, during a visit to the North East with the Duke of Edinburgh.**

Greeted on the steps of the Museum by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Chris Brink, and other senior University figures, the Royal couple toured the Museum and met members of the Great North Museum partnership, the project team, and a group of pupils from Woodlawn School working on discovery activities in the Fossil Stories gallery.

Wearing a pink outfit, The Queen then unveiled a plaque to commemorate the visit before Students' Union President, Andriana Georgiou, presented her with a gold replica of the Aemilia ring, which she had admired in the Hadrian's Wall gallery during the early part of the tour. The original, which dates to the second century AD, is thought to be the earliest Christian artefact to be found in Britain.

As she departed from the Museum, The Queen was presented with a posy by Gemma McLean, aged 9, and Lauren McLean, 8.

Professor Paul Younger, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement and Chair of the Great North Museum Board, said: 'This is a tremendous honour for the Museum and the entire partnership behind it. The Great North Museum has already established a special place in the estimation of visitors from near and far, and it now receives the highest accolade in being opened by Her Majesty The Queen.'

The £26 million Museum has already attracted more than 500,000 visitors since it opened its doors to the public in May last year.

*Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh officially opened the Great North Museum in November*



## King's Gate now open for business



**The University's student and academic services have moved to a new home on campus, which opened in October.**

Perched on Barras Bridge, overlooking the Civic Centre, King's Gate houses the University's student and academic services, senior management, and various academic functions – including the Development and Alumni Relations Office – for the first time under one roof.

The name was chosen by Professor Henrike Lähnemann, of the School of Modern Languages, as a nod to King's College – the University's name until 1963, when it became independent from Durham University – and to symbolise the new gateway to the city, and students' entry into academia.

'Gates are highly symbolic places – passageways between the "outside" and "inside" that reveal how an institution views itself', explains Professor Lähnemann. 'The old tradition of court being held in the town gates also gives added meaning to the administrative activities that will take place there.'

However, before the name became official, the University had to seek permission from Buckingham Palace as the use of titles such as 'King' needs royal approval from Her Majesty The Queen.



# New Chancellor honours his personal heroes

**The University's new Chancellor, Sir Liam Donaldson, was inaugurated in King's Hall on 7 December as part of a ceremony in which he also conferred honorary degrees upon four 'inspirational' people, including footballer Alan Shearer.**

Sir Liam, who replaced Lord Patten of Barnes as Chancellor in August, currently serves as the UK's Chief Medical Officer, but has announced his intention to step down in May after a record 12 years – meaning he can fulfil his role as Chancellor with 'more time and fewer distractions'.

'I lived and worked on Tyneside in a formative period of my life and career', said Sir Liam. 'Nothing could give me greater pride than taking up the post of Chancellor in such a great city and in a university fit for the challenges of the twenty-first century.'

In his first official duty as Chancellor, Sir Liam conferred honorary degrees on four individuals who have inspired him. Amongst the

recipients were Karen Davis, President of The Commonwealth Fund; surgeon, Professor the Lord Darzi of Denham KBE; Alan Shearer OBE, BBC presenter and England and Newcastle United footballer; and Fergus Walsh, BBC medical correspondent.

'The four Honorary Graduates represent different facets of my career and interests – medicine, international health, public communication and sport', Sir Liam added. 'Each is an outstanding figure in their field.'

Lord Darzi received an Honorary Doctor of Medicine (Hon MD), while Karen Davis, Alan Shearer and Fergus Walsh were awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor of Civil Law (Hon DCL).

Alan Shearer follows in the footsteps of the late Sir Bobby Robson, who was awarded an Honorary DCL in 2003. He has also recently accepted a patronage of North East cancer charity, the Sir Bobby Robson Foundation.



## Are you the next Usain Bolt?

**The answer could be in your saliva**

**Why is it that you train for hours but others can still run faster than you? That's what scientists at Newcastle University are trying to answer in a ground-breaking study involving runners in the BUPA Great North Run.**

The research team contacted runners asking if they would provide a saliva sample to see whether their DNA is linked to race performance.

DNA – the genetic code we inherit from our parents – is important for our physical ability and previous work has shown that variations in the protein-building blocks of muscle can influence performance.

Now Newcastle University researchers want to examine energy production over long distances.

They think that subtle differences in the DNA that is the blueprint for the energy-producing parts of the muscle – called mitochondria – influence physical fitness.

Professor Patrick Chinnery says: 'The aim of this study is to find out whether our physical fitness is influenced by DNA – the genetic code we inherit from our parents.'

'By comparing how many hours of training people have done against the genetic make-up of the energy-burning parts of their cells we hope to work out if there's a link. The results of this research could revolutionise the way people train in the future.'



# HEALTH CHALLENGES

## IN THE NEXT 25 YEARS

**With a global population whose average age is constantly rising, the issue of morbidity – living in a state of poor health, with pain or disability – causes us as much concern as mortality. At Newcastle University, researchers at our Institute for Ageing and Health, led by Professor Tom Kirkwood, and elsewhere on campus, are looking at how we can prolong our lifespan and secure its quality. The question of how we can age healthily has never been more relevant.**

Here, some of our top academics look at cancer, dementia and alcoholism – three of the greatest threats to our health in the next 25 years, and what we can do to prevent them.



## Cancer

Professor Ruth Plummer  
Northern Institute for Cancer Research

**Cancer is a major cause of illness, hospital admission and death in the UK, and is more common with increasing age. Its incidence is rising, and will continue to do so as we live longer due to improvements in the treatment of heart disease and stroke.**

It is also one of the most frightening diagnoses we make for patients and families to come to terms with; an image reinforced by press images of patients 'battling' the disease. On top of this, there is a popular expectation that cure rather than disease control should be the aim of all cancer research, which is not a burden placed on many clinical specialities.

The last 25 years have seen great improvements in the treatment of cancer, especially in the form of systemic (drug) treatment, which is a relatively new branch of medicine – the first chemotherapy drugs having been developed from toxins used in the World Wars. There has been an enormous increase in the number and range of drugs available to treat this disease in recent years and outcomes have improved so that we now regard many cancers as chronic diseases, rather than terminal illnesses.

Over the next 25 years there will be major changes in the way we diagnose, categorise and treat tumours. Modern research techniques are allowing a move towards the molecular profiling of individual patients' cancers based on the genetic or cellular changes which drive the tumour. Treatments are starting to be based on these factors as well as tumour location – smarter treatment improving the chance of response.

Novel imaging techniques will mean that diagnoses are made earlier and will allow the evaluation of drug delivery and effect on the tumour. Molecular profiling of the tumour will become part of the routine diagnostic process, rather than a research tool. Drugs such as trastuzumab (Herceptin) are already used only in patients with the appropriate molecular marker.

An improved understanding of the biology of cancer will allow us to identify new targets and develop better treatments.

Newcastle University has a world-class cancer drug development team, based in the Northern Institute for Cancer Research (NICR), which has already taken one drug from target identification, through chemical optimisation and

then into clinical trials. This is the first of an exciting new class of drugs, called a PARP inhibitor.

Crucial research, showing that these drugs target tumour cells alone in familial breast and ovarian cancer was also carried out in NICR. And Newcastle leads a national study into these inherited tumours, while ongoing research tries to identify other groups of patients who might benefit from such targeted treatment.

The NICR Imaging research group comprises chemists, imaging scientists and clinicians, and again is allowing the University to be at the leading edge of this push to develop drugs which truly target the tumour; and also use imaging in clinical trials to improve treatment delivery, whether of drugs or radiotherapy.

We know that lifestyle choices affect the chances of developing cancer, and in the next 25 years we will see the effects of the decrease in cigarette smoking with a reduction in many cancer types. Work in the epidemiology of cancers in facilities such as the Institute of Health and Society is critical, so we can reduce the incidence of new tumours despite our ageing population.

There is great excitement in the world of cancer research, with recent major advances and the expectation of greater steps forward in the next 25 years. The facilities in Newcastle University for 'bench to bedside' cancer research, across faculties and in partnership with the NHS Trust, allows synergy and integration for ground-breaking research – a position we aim to maintain over the next 25 years.

*An image from a mammogram showing the onset of breast cancer*



## Dementia

Professor Ian McKeith  
Institute for Ageing and Health

**There are approximately 25 million people in the world with dementia. This is expected to rise to 63 million by 2030, and 114 million by 2050.**

Dementia already presents a huge challenge to society, never mind 25 years hence. It is the single most costly diagnosis, outstripping cancer, heart disease or stroke.

Dementia costs our economy £17 billion a year, and by 2030 the number of people in the UK with dementia will double to 1.4 million, with the costs trebling to over £50 billion. A recent National Audit Office report highlighted the shortcomings in the current provision of dementia services in the UK, and the government has responded this year with a 'Dementia Strategy', which aims to ensure that improvements are made across three key areas: improved awareness, earlier diagnosis and intervention, and a higher quality of care.

The strategy is intended to promote a greater understanding of the causes and consequences of dementia, and ought to be a catalyst for a change in the way that people with dementia are viewed and cared for. What can we realistically expect to happen?

Most people will find themselves with one or more family members, friends or neighbours with dementia – many of whom will require substantial care and support in their own homes. Residential or nursing home care will probably be increasingly restricted to providing care for the socially isolated, the behaviourally disturbed or the wealthy.

One doesn't need to be a sociologist or a soothsayer to speculate on the consequences of this increased visibility and





burden of dementia in a society that holds a generally negative view of ageing. Unsurprisingly then, there is a rising pressure to 'do something' about dementia. We have to embrace these positive forces, which are a reaction to the general nihilism that has typically surrounded the topic until now.

Certainly we should encourage the young and middle aged in our society to build healthy brains by living healthy lifestyles. Getting a good education and keeping physically and mentally active may offer some limited protection against the onset of dementia but it gives no guarantees. 'Use it or lose it' is true, but only up to a point.

The best prospect that we have of defeating dementia is by arresting its progress with a medical intervention. We have to invest in both basic science and clinical trials if we are to come up with an effective treatment in time.

Bear in mind that a little bit of memory loss will come to most of us as part of our normal ageing, but we won't all get dementia. So having developed the new anti-dementia treatment we will need to decide who gets it, when they will start it, and who pays for it. These will be some of the biggest health and social questions around 25 years from now.

*By 2030, experts predict there will be 1.4 million people with dementia in the UK*



## Alcoholism

Professor Eileen Kaner  
Institute of Health and Society

### **The problems caused by heavy drinking go far beyond alcohol dependence, or alcoholism.**

Heavy drinking is responsible for a wide range of health and social problems across all parts of the population. Worldwide, heavy drinking causes four per cent of the total disease burden and three per cent of all deaths. In the UK, it's the third greatest risk to health after smoking and hypertension.

Deaths from liver cirrhosis are an important indicator of harm due to alcohol. In the UK, cirrhosis mortality rates have risen steeply over the past 30 years, particularly in Scottish men, who have seen a 104 per cent increase; but also in men from England and Wales, whose risk of death has risen by 69 per cent. The corresponding increases in women were 46 per cent in Scotland and 44 per cent in England and Wales.

This rise in alcohol-related deaths is significant because figures for other European countries reduced by 30 per cent over the same time period.

In 2004, the first national alcohol needs assessment for England reported that 38 per cent of men and 16 per cent of women aged between 16–64 years were at risk of harm due to their drinking. This means that 8.2 million people – around one in four of the adult population – are adversely affected by alcohol consumption.

However, the full impact of alcohol on health is difficult to quantify because of many hidden effects such as poor parenting, absenteeism from work, increased levels of violence, accidents and suicide. Many of these problems affect individuals other than the drinker, such as children, other family members and victims of alcohol-related crime and disorder.

Indeed, it is estimated that heavy drinking costs the UK around £25 billion each year. Much of this cost is incurred by health, social care and criminal justice services.

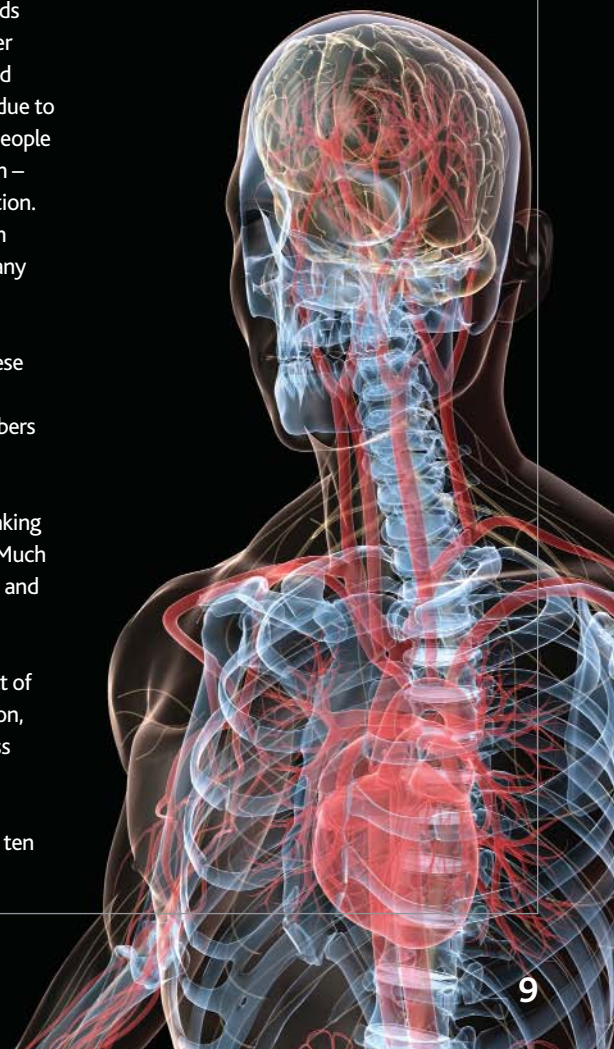
Public health research at Newcastle University has helped to identify the impact of heavy drinking on people's health. In addition, we're investigating ways of tackling it across the UK.

A review by my team and I has found that brief interventions – as short as five to ten minutes – are effective in helping people

reduce their weekly drinking. A possible reason for this positive effect is that many people are not aware of precisely how much they are drinking or that alcohol is affecting their health.

Current research is helping to translate this evidence into practice. Our work has been helped by a £5 million research grant from the Economic and Social Research Council for a new Centre for Translational Research in Public Health.

**For news on medical breakthroughs and research at Newcastle, as it happens, subscribe to our news feed at: [www.ncl.ac.uk/news](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/news)**



# A QUIET REVOLUTION

**In the last 30 years, there has been a dramatic increase in the number of women entering medical education. Now, the ratio of women in general practice is expected to rise over men, but we are far from equality in the high reaches of the medical profession. James Johnston and Professor Suzanne Cholerton examine the evidence.**

*Rosie the Reconstructive Surgeon: there has been a vast increase in the number of women entering the medical profession since WWII, but high-paid positions are still dominated by men*

It isn't surprising that the very early history of the medical school in Newcastle does not feature women. Their struggle for access to medical education was still only beginning to emerge when the first gatherings commenced at Bells Court in the 1830s. Even though a female monarch sat firmly on the throne and the College of Medicine expanded significantly in terms of student numbers, opportunities for women interested in medicine remained extremely limited.

Change, however, was very much on the horizon thanks to the efforts of pioneering individuals and the emergence of the Suffragette movement. Women began to challenge the preconceptions of their societal role and find opportunities outside the Victorian household. A woman's right to equal education therefore became the new frontier for women's rights.

The most renowned female doctor of this period was Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, who studied in the US and received her final degree in Paris in the 1860s. However it was not until 1882 that the first woman, Edith Shove, qualified in the UK – at London Medical School – and Newcastle was quick to respond.

Women were adept at taking advantage of medical schools who showed positive support for





their education, and Newcastle was an attractive provincial prospect for those looking to finish their studies. From the official acceptance of female students in 1896, we can trace the first Newcastle women who dedicated their professional careers to general practice, basing themselves in areas across the country with poor public health where gentleman practitioners feared to tread.

One of the first, Dr Grace Billings-Stewart, went on to set up the first practice in Cheltenham and became a champion for female medics at the British Medical Association (BMA). In her obituary, a friend recounts: 'For some time she was the only woman present at meetings. It needed some courage to go to dinners after meetings when women were in the extreme minority, but this never appeared to worry her. It was amusing to watch her light an after-dinner cigar with complete lack of concern for the surprised glances of newly arrived doctors'.

Dr Billings-Stewart went on to set up the first field hospital for returning soldiers in the Great War and came out of retirement to run the St John Ambulance in WWII.

Archive material from the College of Medicine reveals little about the discussions at Senate, the governing body, but we do know that women were discouraged from fraternising with

male counterparts or referring to friends by Christian names in public.

Nevertheless, women kept signing up to medicine. Increasingly endorsed by greater professionalism, the emergence of a structured health service and the post-war liberation of women, it became a highly attractive option. By 1953 the male-to-female ratio was 5:1, and this continued to grow year on year so that by 1990 over half of students in British medical schools were women. In a recent Department of Health report, Newcastle has one of the highest concentrations of female to male students (along with Edinburgh and Sheffield) at 55:45.

Now, as young medics consider the importance of work-life balance and family commitments, the flexibility of working hours in general practice is making it an even more attractive career choice for women. The BMA anticipates that by 2013, 70 per cent of GPs will be female. But no matter how flexible general practice will become, it's medical specialisms that provide women with the greatest challenge. Women are still not reaching the top echelons of their profession, and only amount to a quarter of consultants and four per cent of consultant surgeons in the UK, according to the Royal College of Physicians.

This is starkest when examining the pay gap between male and female doctors. Discounting factors such as experience and area of specialism, the BMA reported in November that female consultants typically earn £5,500 less – and female junior doctors £2,000 less – than their male counterparts. However, there is a continual growth in the numbers of women in academia, with 40 per cent of lecturers and 13 per cent at professorial level nationwide (figures from the Medical Schools Council).

This is very much the case at Newcastle. In September last year, the University received the Athena Swan Bronze Award for its work in supporting female academics across all three faculties. With a women to men ratio of 51:49 in academic posts in the Medical School, there is much to do to ensure both genders have an equal opportunity to progress to senior positions.

Women have laid strong roots in the medical profession. And although they're yet to reach the highest bows, it's clear that it's no longer just a man's world.

**James Johnston is Development Manager for the University's Faculty of Medical Sciences, and Professor Cholerton is Dean of Undergraduate Studies.**

## Timeline

### 1892

The British Medical Association allows women to become members. Elizabeth Garrett Anderson had until then been the only female member.

### 1894

The first female student (Edith Blanche Joel) appears on the student register at the College of Medicine, Newcastle, amongst 200 men. Edinburgh University agrees to open up the medical degree to female students after prolonged disputes.

### 1897

Official regulations are announced concerning the admission of women to Newcastle's College of Medicine. Riots break out in Cambridge whilst it debates the merits of making women full members of the University.

### 1898

First cohort of female medics graduates from Newcastle – Margaret Joyce, Grace Harwood Stewart, Claudia Anita Prout Rowse – at the same time as renowned surgeon Gray Turner.

### 1902

First woman graduates with MB BS after completing full medical training in Newcastle.

### 1906

Ethel Williams is one of the first female medical practitioners on Tyneside. An active suffragette, she holds a distinguished public service record and is the first woman to drive a car in the North of England.



*Female medical graduates (1908)*

### 1912

Female students now represented in each year group of the medical degree.

### 1949

*The Courier* of 6 October runs a story concerning the significant drop in female students after years of growth in the post war period. The reason is attributed to the University's focus on technical degrees: 'Females always tending towards the arts'.

**The University's Medical School is one of the oldest in the UK, and its 175 years have seen an array of developments that have revolutionised healthcare in the North East and beyond.** Below is a timeline of key events from 1834 to the present day, with an introduction by Professor Michael Whitaker, the Medical School's Dean of development.

# 175 YEARS OF MEDICINE AT NEWCASTLE

## 1834

On 1 October, the Newcastle upon Tyne School of Medicine and Surgery begins teaching at the Worshipful Company of Barber-Surgeons in Manors, east of the City Centre. This was a result of years of hard work by local doctors and surgeons, led by John Fife who had secured 'handsome donations'.



## 1854

Early graduate John Snow discovers the link between water and cholera that had long devastated the UK population. Snow became an apprentice surgeon in 1827, at the age of 14.

## 1856

After merging with Durham University in 1852, the now College of Medicine produces its first Licentiate in Midwifery (LM). The first Bachelor of Medicine (MB) graduates two years later, and the first Doctor of Medicine (MD) in 1861.

## 1862

60 Medical students.

## 1870

The college becomes formally recognised as Durham University College of Medicine. By 1879, it's the largest provincial school of medicine in the country.

## 1924

Frederick Pybus, a graduate and surgeon at the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI), publishes a paper in medical journal, *The Lancet*, on his attempts to cure diabetes by pancreatic transplantation. It's 42 years before the first transplant of a pancreas is performed successfully.

## 1927

245 medical students.

## 1934

The College of Medicine merges with Armstrong College (founded 1871) to create King's College, on the School's one hundredth anniversary.

## 1936

432 medical students.

## 1939

King George VI opens the then new Medical School on Queen Victoria Street, opposite the RVI.



## 1947

The 'Thousand Families Study' follows children born in Newcastle in May and June 1947. Findings include that, by the age of 15, children from more affluent households are on average more than an inch taller and contract fewer infections than their poorer counterparts. It continues to provide valuable information even today. Follow-ups with the study participants at 50 have found a link between poor foetal growth and cardiovascular disease; and the effects of birth weight, breast feeding and childhood health on respiratory health in later life.



**When the Medical School first opened in 1834, surgery was still performed without anaesthesia or asepsis. It would be 25 years before doctors' training was formally accredited with the formation of the General Medical Council, and 40 years before the Public Health Act finally led to a decline in the fierce rates of infectious disease, particularly among the poor. The contrast between the practice and outcomes of medicine then and now is extreme.**

Since the current Medical School building opened in 1984, there have been many more changes in the way we teach and practice medicine. MRI and CT scans were developed in the 1970s, along with rational drug design. And sequencing the human genome began in 1990 at a cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. Now a Californian company offers to sequence your genome for \$5,000.

Excited by these developments, doctors doing clinical research spent much time at the bench and less at the bedside. The pendulum is now swinging the other way with an increasing realisation that much medical knowledge acquired so painstakingly and at such cost in the last quarter century has yet to be translated into benefit to patients. The next 25 years will see a renewed emphasis on the individual patient: personalised medicine that takes note of genetic makeup; regenerative medicine that uses a patient's own cells; and diet and exercise advice as an alternative to drugs.

Newcastle's Medical School is recognised as one of the best for teaching and research, and our research training programme for clinicians leads the way in the UK. A lot will change in the next 25 years and our expectation of excellence in all we do leads us to hope that we will continue to benefit patients, perhaps in ways now unimagined.

## 1962

Newcastle Medical School becomes the first in the country to offer an integrated curriculum, giving students early clinical exposure as part of their studies. The revolutionary MB BS course is based on an American model.

## 1963

Independence from Durham leads to the formation of Newcastle University.

## 1984

Her Royal Highness the Queen Mother opens the new Medical School at Framlington Place, its current location behind the Royal Victoria Infirmary.



## 1988

Researchers at Newcastle find a link between the occurrence of Alzheimer's disease and exposure to aluminium in water supplies. Results show that Alzheimer's sufferers tend to absorb more aluminium into their blood than others.

## 1999

A computer system developed at Newcastle University by Ian Purves (MB BS 1985, MD 1998) becomes the world's first national prescribing system for doctors, following adoption by the government.

## 2001

Professor Mark Birch-Machin discovers a link between sunlight and damage to DNA that is found in mitochondria, a cell's energy supply.

Annual intake of students reaches 290.

A partnership with Durham University is re-established with the first intake of Medical students at Queen's Campus in Stockton, Teesside.

## 2004

Newcastle is designated as one of six UK Science Cities in recognition of the city's remarkable achievements in science and technology. Building work is currently underway to transform part of the city into Science Central, which will be a hub of activity for scientific research and industry, bringing a huge economic boost to the region.

## 2005

Researchers in the University's Institute of Human Genetics create the world's first cloned human blastocyst, from which embryonic stem cells can be harvested. These cells could provide a key to treating some of our most debilitating illnesses.

## 2008

Work begins on an £18 million centre to study bacteria, which aims to answer fundamental questions about bacterial cells – including MRSA and Clostridium Difficile – how they develop and how they can be controlled.



## 2009

Work continues on the new NUMed medical campus in Malaysia (pictured), and the first intake of Malaysian students arrive in Newcastle before it opens in 2011.



# HE WHO WILL CHARM FOR A THOUSAND YEARS

Last summer, Chris Patten (Hon DCL 1999) stepped down as Chancellor of Newcastle University after 10 years in the black and gold gown. *Arches* looks back over his extraordinary career, and pays tribute to one of Britain's greatest statesmen.



**In a life of many offices, there can be few The Right Honourable Lord Patten of Barnes has obtained by being a father. His eldest daughter Kate (BA Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American Studies 1996) arrived in Newcastle in 1993 and, over the following three years, he and his wife Lavender became acquainted with the University and our then Vice-Chancellor, James Wright.**

Lord Patten accepted the Chancellorship of the University, along with an honorary doctorate, in 1999, after returning from Hong Kong where he oversaw its handover to China as the last British Governor.

The Chancellor of a University is its titular figurehead, and duties include presiding at ceremonies and conferring degrees, as well as chairing official meetings. In Chris Patten's case, he has also been a mentor to three Vice-Chancellors at Newcastle – James Wright, Sir Christopher Edwards, and Chris Brink – served as our chief ambassador in four continents, and championed the cause of higher education in the public arena.

Born on the Lancastrian coast in 1944 to a family of Irish descent, Chris Patten went to a Catholic school in London, before studying modern history at Balliol College, Oxford. He joined the Conservative Party's Research Department in 1966 and quickly rose through the ranks, becoming its youngest ever Director in 1974.

In 1979, he was elected as Member of Parliament for Bath. He became Overseas Development Minister in 1986, and entered the Tory cabinet as Secretary of State for the Environment in 1989, before being appointed Chairman of the Conservative Party in 1990.

When Hong Kong entered its final years of British sovereignty in the 1990s, Chris Patten was

appointed Governor, and assumed responsibility for its handover to China in 1997. His final act as Governor was to send home a telegram, at 1600 GMT on 30 June that year, simply stating 'I HAVE RELINQUISHED THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS GOVERNMENT. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN. PATTEN'. And few will forget his tearful speech at the handover ceremony, before his return home.

In 1998, he turned his attention to the sectarian troubles in Northern Ireland, becoming the Chairman of the government's Independent Commission on Policing – better known as the 'Patten Commission'. As a devout Catholic as well as a British subject, he was perfectly placed to take on the role without alienating the opposing Unionists or Nationalists.

He was appointed European Commissioner for External Affairs in 1999, a role which took him to many more of the world's troubled spots. But despite his high degree of diplomacy, his efforts were not always welcome. A trip to Sri Lanka in 2003 saw him greeted with the disconcerting spectacle of himself being burned in effigy.

In such situations, Chris Patten deployed a skill he had honed in Hong Kong and Northern Ireland: equanimity in the face of adversity. Many years in the political firing line had left him with a thick skin.

Indeed, when he left Hong Kong a few years previously, the Chinese ruling clique were not card-carrying members of the Chris Patten fan club. The Chinese media called him a 'dirty trickster', a 'serpent', and 'The Triple Violator' – insults which undoubtedly lose some of their meaning in translation. And the director of the Chinese government office in Hong Kong referred to him as 'a criminal for a thousand years'. However, on his departure, he was presented with a beautiful piece

of calligraphy by pro-democracy campaigner, Szeto Wah, in which he had used a few deft strokes to transform the slur into 'he who will charm and intoxicate for a thousand years'.

Most commentators would agree with Wah's sentiment that Chris Patten discharged his duties with dignity and honour. Her Majesty the Queen certainly did, and made him a Companion of Honour shortly after his return to the UK.

As Chancellor of Newcastle University, he relished every interaction with students, as the 13,200 alumni who shook his hand on the stage in King's Hall will no doubt attest. Indeed, if he felt a brief chat with an individual graduate was right for the occasion, then the rest of the degree ceremony could wait.

To mark his retirement, and in accordance with tradition, the University commissioned a portrait of Lord Patten that now hangs in King's Hall alongside those of other former Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors. The portrait was painted by James Lloyd, who won the Ondaatje Prize for portraiture in 2008.

Reflecting on his time in office, Chris Patten said: 'To be associated with academic life – with those who teach and learn and push back the boundaries of scholarship – is a great privilege.

'I am hugely grateful to Newcastle for allowing me to wear its great black and gold robe – hot as it is on a July afternoon – for the last 10 years.'

**Last July, Chris Patten gave a lecture entitled *'Ten Years in a Gown: some reflections on a decade of change in and outside the University'*. You can listen to a recording online at: <http://bit.ly/5L8VST>**

## Tributes from colleagues



**Above:** Chris Patten with his family at his inauguration as Chancellor in 1999

**Opposite:** This portrait of Chris Patten, by James Lloyd, hangs in King's Hall alongside other former Chancellors and Vice-Chancellors

**'Chris Patten is not who he is because he is a Chancellor, or Peer of the realm. He is a Chancellor and a Peer because of who he is'.** Professor Chris Brink, Vice-Chancellor.

**'His qualities of fairness and intelligence, coupled with his vast experience, were exactly what the University needed'.** Jack Jeffery, Chairman of Convocation (1999–2009).

**'We are fortunate to have had as our Chancellor one of the most distinguished politicians, diplomats and intellectuals of our time'.** Olivia Grant, Chairman of Council and Pro-Chancellor.

**'In a world where politicians are under attack and there is major public cynicism about politics, Chris is a shining example of integrity'.** Sir Christopher Edwards, Vice-Chancellor (2001–07).

**'Chris has had time for all the people who make the University what it is, not just those who might consider themselves important. And in so doing, he has enriched the human quality of our community'.** James Wright, Vice-Chancellor (1992–2000).



*Sean Scully in his studio, producing Night Coming (2004)*

## Serious about stripes

**Often dubbed the world's greatest living abstract painter, Sean Scully (BA Fine Art 1971) has claimed the humble stripe as his own artistic statement. For the nomadic Irishman, it wields more power than his second love: politics. He tells Dan Howarth about his chequered youth, his life overseas, and why he'd never teach 'cheeky' art students in England...**

When Sean Scully chose to make his mark on the world, it was the brush and canvas – rather than the brash canvass – that would be his tool of choice. Torn between art and politics, he opted for a path through which he felt he could make a greater difference. 'I believe in politics, it's very important. But I'd liken it to a skin graft that eventually falls off', says Scully. 'What's underneath is more powerful. It's cultural values that control the way a society thinks and acts, and art is implicitly involved in the development of those values'.





Sean Scully  
**Wall of Light Red Summer, 2003**  
Oil on linen  
75 x 85" (190.5 x 215.9 cm)  
Public Collection: Abbot Hall Art Gallery, Kendal,  
Cumbria, England  
Purchased with the aid of grants from The Art  
Fund, the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, Judith  
Bailey, Friends, Patrons and Benefactors of the  
Lakeland Arts Trust and private donations, 2005



Sean Scully  
**Cut Ground Orange, 2009**  
Oil on linen  
83.9 x 120.3" (213 x 305.5 cm)  
Private Collection



Sean Scully  
**Cut Grey Ground 08, 2008**  
Oil on aluminium  
110 x 160" (279.5 x 406.5 cm)  
Private Collection

Now 64, Scully has work in the permanent collections of some of the world's most prestigious museums, from the Guggenheim in New York, to London's Tate Gallery. His paintings might not reform health care, but they certainly have a place in the economy.

Given the context, asking Scully 'why stripes?' feels like a feeble question. Perhaps like asking his favourite colour. But he seems happy to spell out the basics: 'Stripes are a signifier of modernism. They're the basic building blocks of the world'.

The colours, he explains, are metaphors for the world. The milky green of young leaves. The crimson red of congealed blood. And every stroke is painfully serious. 'I like to make fun of fun', he states, a wry smile barely apparent.

Indeed, there's nothing flowery about Sean Scully, and his surly air comes with the territory. He's a self-made man, and everything he's achieved has been done through unfaltering hard work.

Born in Dublin in 1945, Scully and his family moved to England when he was four years old. Growing up in the grim streets of post-war London, he got in trouble with the police for brawling and burglary. He worked as a labourer, a plasterer, typesetter and messenger, and spent time as a 15 year-old apprentice travelling from Penge West Station – immortalised by the French painter Camille Pissarro in 1871. It was this painting that first stirred Scully's artistic ambitions.

Determined to go to art school, but without much tutelage in the fine arts, Scully would spend his lunchtimes visiting galleries. As he told the *Daily Telegraph*, at age 18 he found Van Gogh's Chair hanging in the Tate Gallery. 'I would roar down the road on my little Vespa, and spend 20 minutes of my 30-minute lunch break looking at this painting', he remembers. 'I'd eat my lunch on the scooter, and weave all over the road on my way back to work'.

Soon, Scully enrolled at Croydon College of Art in London, but struggled with the transition into further education. 'In the beginning, it was very difficult to enter into the technique of study, and its sensibility', he admits. 'It was a psychological journey, and the problem was within myself.

'But I was motivated not to waste my time and take the opportunity for granted, and I gradually got better. When I entered art school I was desperate, so I'm extraordinarily grateful to the night school system that helped me to succeed.'

After Croydon, Scully came to Newcastle to study Fine Art, and lived with his grandfather, a coal miner, at Hallgarth Street in Durham – next to the Victoria Inn where they'd often enjoy a pint. During his time at University, he had some life-affirming experiences – seeing an 'earthstopping' production of Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* at the Theatre Royal; discovering the works of Jean-Paul Sartre and Jean-Luc Godard; and following the mighty Newcastle United.

Working from a small studio near campus, Scully started to make paintings, and a couple of pieces were featured in newspapers. Visiting Milan recently, he found one hanging in the British Council Collection. But he wasn't nostalgic: 'It was kind of foreign to me', he admits. 'I was a different person then. An uptight, extremely ambitious young guy, who couldn't paint then what I can paint now'.

Scully graduated with first class honours in 1971, and moved to the US soon afterwards. He saw it as a vital place to be, and held his first solo show in New York in 1977. He became a naturalized citizen in 1984.

Now he shares his time between New York; Munich, Germany; and Barcelona, Spain, where he's just opened a new studio. 'I'm interested in the cultural dynamics of those places', he says. 'Spain is very soulful and poetic and sensual; Germany is intellectual and philosophical; and America is of course still in the making, it's a culture of violent rupture and change'.

Until 2007, Scully was a Professor at Munich's Akademie der Bildenden Künste, where he taught a class for five years. 'I would never teach cheeky art students in England', he roars. 'The responsibility to turn up and create solidarity is too liberalised. The professorial system in Germany is much more intimate'.

Now, Scully is back in the studio, after opening a retrospective of his work at the Ulster Museum in Belfast – its first major exhibition since reopening after a £17.2 million refurb.

And his reaction to being called the world's greatest living abstract painter? He dismisses it humbly. 'Great artists are made over time by consensus. But nobody is going to be all things to all people, and nor should they be.

'You have to have the strength of character to survive contentedly surrounded by a small number of people who support you. It's the sort of survival that allows you to work with a sense of happiness, belief and peace.'

**Western Turkey and its Aegean coastline is as rich in history as it is in beauty. Last summer, Newcastle lecturer Jerry Paterson led a group of alumni as they explored the wonders of this ancient world, whilst cruising aboard a luxury Ottoman yacht. And now he's planning something even more ambitious for 2010. Jerry looks back on his Aegean odyssey.**

It doesn't get much better than this – at least for an Ancient Historian! Last June, I led a small party of Newcastle alumni on the 'Orfeus', a fine Turkish gulet moored in the tiny harbour of Lasos on Turkey's western coast.

Across the harbour rises the hill of the classical town of Lasos. A short walk up along the dusty road past a couple of cafes, a fish shop, and a barber's shop, by the rarely-manned watchman's hut, we find ourselves in an olive grove which was the central agora – market place – of the ancient town. Among the trees is an enormous inscription running the length of the agora, recording the endowment for the rebuilding of the public arcade.

Climbing the hill, we pass a Greek theatre, and visit the excavations of some of the fine town houses with their splendid views. On the way back our excellent guide, Suleiman – inevitably dubbed by us as 'the Magnificent' – suddenly bends down and picks up a Byzantine coin. It is extraordinary how this chance find of a tiny piece of bronze, with the figures of saints still clearly visible, can roll back in the mind's eye the thousand years since its production.

## In the footsteps of the **ANTIQUARIANS**





For me this sort of magical experience has been repeated countless times over the years in Western Turkey. This was one of the richest areas of the classical world, which exploited the agricultural opportunities of the region and the harvest of the seas. As a result it was heavily populated.

Of course, there are the big cities, the ancient administrative centres, such as Pergamum and Ephesus. Their imposing remains attract the crowds of tourists from the cruise ships. But Turkey is littered with smaller sites, in their way just as rich, and certainly more evocative.

These are small towns and communities which rarely figure in the grand history of the ancient world, but we know about them from mentions in works, such as the accounts of the geographer, Strabo. Their remains lie on every hill and among every wooded valley along this coast.

The local landowning gentry of these places was inspired by an almost Victorian sense of civic pride and responsibility, and was as keen as the town councils of the great cities to ensure that their home towns were endowed with imposing public buildings.

Take for example Euromus, a tiny town hidden away in a valley, over the hill from Lasos. Here, amid olive trees, are the remains of one of the most imposing classical temples you will find anywhere on Earth; and on the columns are carved plaques which celebrate the fact that many of them were paid for by Menecrates, a state doctor and local magistrate, and his daughter Tryphaena.

Travel south of Euromus and climb up a dusty, crumbling road into the mountains and you come to the site of Labraunda, with its breathtaking views. This was a sacred sanctuary, but again, what really causes me to catch my breath, is an inscription. Here in good Greek lettering is the name Mausolos, who financed the building on this site. This is the local Carian ruler in the fourth century B.C., whose wife (and as it happens, sister), Artemisia, sponsored in his memory the building of the great tomb, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus – one of the wonders of the ancient world.

But there is another reason why so many of these sites stir up such emotions in the breast of anyone interested in the past. Because modern development has come so recently to this area of Turkey, many of these sites remain much as they were when antiquarians from Western Europe first visited them in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Standing on the hill at Priene, a small Greek city, overlooking the Maeander valley – with its

## Alumni Holidays in 2010

### In the wake of Freya Stark

Turkey  
12–26 June 2010

### In the footsteps of Gertrude Bell

Syria  
21–28 September 2010

Alumni Holidays are exclusively for Newcastle alumni, their family and friends. Visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/holidays](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/holidays) for more details.

*Opposite page: Ruins of the ancient city of Pergamon, in western Turkey*

*Below (from top): Excavated Roman houses in Ephesus; cruising at sunset on the Orfeus, a luxury Turkish gulet; and Jerry (right) with local guide, Suleiman*



tumbles of columns, walls, and paved streets amid the fir trees – you are faced with a scene almost identical to that seen by Richard Chandler, who in 1764 was sent out with the architect, Nicholas Revett, by the London Society of Dilettanti, to make records of the remains.

In summer 2010, I am returning to Turkey with another group of Newcastle alumni, as part of an expanded programme of two trips which follow the travels of two of the most remarkable women travellers of the twentieth century – Freya Stark and Gertrude Bell.

After years of travel and exploration in Iran and Egypt, Freya Stark turned her attention in the 1950s to retracing the campaigns of Alexander the Great through Asia Minor. The result was a series of outstanding travel books, of which the most evocative, *The Lycian Shore*, recounts her voyage in the tiny yacht, Elfin, around the coast of South West Turkey.

This is the journey we will recreate in our own Turkish yacht from 12–26 June, 2010, visiting such places as the port of Cnidus where we moor in the ancient harbour surrounded by the buildings of the Hellenistic city, and later travelling in a flat-bottomed boat through the reed beds of the mouth of the Dalyan river to visit the classical city of Caunus and the rock-cut tombs on the cliffs above the river.

Then from 21–28 September, David Price Williams, an expert on Near Eastern archaeology, will accompany a group retracing the footsteps of Gertrude Bell. The so-called 'Queen of the Desert', who as a traveller and diplomat, played a key role in the creation of modern Iraq, travelled extensively photographing Near Eastern sites. She came from the North East of England and her papers and archive of photos are held in the University Library. You can view them online at: [www.gerty.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.gerty.ncl.ac.uk)

Syria is a remarkable country and this short visit will be an outstanding introduction to its breathtaking sites, such as Palmyra, the Roman city in the desert, or, Krak des Chevaliers, perhaps the finest crusader castle anywhere.

I really hope you can join us.

**For more details on both trips, please visit: [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/holidays](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/holidays) or contact the tour operator, IMA Travel, on 44 (0)20 8940 4114. You can see more photos from the 2009 trip at: <http://bit.ly/4uhny0>**

**Jerry Paterson is a senior lecturer in Ancient History at Newcastle University.**



## Two minutes with... Paul Younger

Professor Paul Younger FEng (BSc Geology 1984; PhD Civil Engineering 1990) is the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement and the Public Orator.

He is renowned worldwide for his pioneering research and outreach programme of community-based projects to remedy the serious threat to the environment caused by water pollution from abandoned mines – work which won a Queen's Anniversary Prize for the University in 2005.

### I wish my students realised that...

the whole point of academic training is to learn to think critically, not to accept things at face value, nor to simply memorise facts.

### If I wasn't an academic...

I'd be a development engineer, preferably working on clean water or energy projects in a poor area of South America.

### My favourite thing about my job...

is all the many and varied interactions I have with such a wide variety of people. I often go home inspired by what I've learnt from those I've met each day.

### Although I don't like...

giving people bad news, especially when it directly affects their own future.

### Not many people know I have a

**passion for...** other languages and the cultures that go with them, especially Spanish, Gàidhlig and – of course – the Geordie dialect. I'm particularly fond of humorous Geordie and Irish songs of the music hall era, and of the mad capers of Rapper Sword Dancers, especially our very own Kingsmen – although my own lack of gross motor control means I'm

better as a spectator rather than risking decapitating others!

### My idea of absolute vulgarity is...

Las Vegas, and every sad place that aspires to emulate it.

### A vice I'm willing to admit...

I'm a total biblioholic – I can't resist a good book!

### My favourite view in the North East...

is the sunset over the foothills of the Durham Dales, which is the view I enjoy from the back of my house, looking west across the buried fjord of the Team Valley to the woods around Beamish, and onwards and upwards to Pontop Pike and the surrounding hills which hold forth the promise of the wild uplands beyond.

### My personal philosophy is...

God is love, so love God and love your neighbour as yourself.

### At 11 am on a Sunday, you will

**generally find me...** walking over from mass at St Joseph's RC Church, Birtley, to chat with my friends and neighbours in the Parish Centre.

## MEMORIES OF NEWCASTLE

**What's your most enduring memory of your days at Newcastle? Whether it is propping up the Mens Bar, grafting in the library, or harassing cows on the Town Moor, we all have a story to tell. Send your tales and photographs to [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk) and we'll do our best to print them.**



*The Newcastle Kingsmen performing the traditional rapper sword dance*

### Sharp dance moves – the Newcastle Kingsmen

In November last year, the Newcastle Kingsmen Sword Dancers celebrated their sixtieth anniversary with over 70 members and alumni from every decade of the team's existence. Born out of the King's College Morris Men in 1949, a group of students picked up the traditional Northumbrian art of rapper sword dancing, and performed it across the city. Five men, linked by holding the ends of flexible metal strips – or 'swords' – perform an intricate sequence of moves that weave the swords without them being released, with the exception of the presentation overhead of a 'star' (see picture). Over the decades, the Kingsmen have added more dances to their repertoire, and membership is now a mix of students, alumni and locals. Each May Day, after dancing at dawn on the Town Moor, the Kingsmen dance in the Old Quad at lunchtime. On the wall beside the entrance to the Old Library Building are now three plaques commemorating the thirtieth, fiftieth and sixtieth anniversaries of the team.

**If you're one of the Kingsmen of old, or a King's College Morris Man, please get in touch with us at: [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk)**



# Fundraising News

## Celebrations in the Medical School

Since October, the Faculty of Medical Sciences has been celebrating the one hundred and seventy-fifth birthday of the Medical School with a series of events open to staff, students, alumni and donors.

The autumn saw the unveiling of Damien Hirst's Pharmacy at BALTIC on the Quayside, an innovative partnership set up to engage the wider public in the history of the Medical School and its role in transforming the health of the region.

A range of interactive exhibits has been developed for children and the young at heart in BALTIC's learning suite, enabling visitors to design their perfect cell and create a strand of DNA made up of their experiences. The exhibition will continue until March and has attracted record visitor numbers.

Over 150 guests, including many medical alumni, flocked to BALTIC on 13 December to see the unveiling of the winning photographs in the Pictures of Health Photography Competition. Run in conjunction with the *Journal* newspaper, over 30 entries and 700 public nominations were received and seven winning photographs were shortlisted to feature in an exhibition that runs simultaneously in hospitals across the region

*Looking Good: Doug Moody won the Pictures of Health photo competition with this picture of his son, Lennox, whose life was saved by a liver transplant when he was five months old*



along with submissions from medical students who have recently returned from their electives over the summer.

Professor Chris Day, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Faculty, said: 'By bringing art and medicine together, visitors are made to think about medical treatments and what they mean to their own healthcare. A lot of the work we're doing at the Medical School is about helping people make healthier life choices and exploring preventative medicine rather than relying on drug-related treatment, and this exhibition, we hope, will stimulate that debate in the North East.'

On 3 March, Professor Day will give a public lecture on the history of the Medical School, and a week later Lord Walton of Detchant, former Dean and Professor of Neurology, will host a drinks reception at the House of Lords to celebrate medical achievements with a little Geordie camaraderie thrown in.

Celebrations will come to a grand close on Saturday 19 June 2010 when the Medical School hosts the Dean's Dinner at the Great North Museum in the evening. This will form part of the University's annual Convocation Weekend.

## The 1834 Fund

Running alongside its anniversary, the Medical School has launched the 1834 Fund to raise philanthropic funding support for intercalating medical students and research scholarships at postgraduate level.

The campaign kicked off with a major benefaction from William and Bessie Randerson who left over £800,000 to support research studentships and fellowships in the Medical School. The Year of 1969 MB BS Group has also reached its target of raising enough to fund one scholarship in memory of the late Dr Ed Eastham. The Year of 1959 MB BS has commenced fundraising and a number of significant donations and pledges have been secured from the Rothschild Foundation and alumni to support five scholarships.

Funding will ensure the Medical School can support its brightest students and open up career pathways, particularly in clinical medicine. Over the next few months, the 1834 Fund will be moving into a new phase with medical students involved in a phone campaign to medical graduates in the run up to Easter and fundraising will continue into the autumn. All donations will also count towards the matched funding scheme, so giving now will enable donors to maximise the contribution of their gift.

The Medical School continues to make a very real difference, so please consider making a donation in the run up to our two hundredth anniversary.

To find out more about the 1834 Fund, please visit: [www.ncl.ac.uk/1834](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/1834)

THE  
1834 FUND

SUPPORTING  
NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY  
MEDICAL SCHOOL

## Newcastle Apprentice on to a winner

Newcastle University Careers Service is celebrating after winning an award at the prestigious Awards for Excellence ceremony held by the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS) in Twickenham in September.

The Careers Service picked up the AGCAS Entrepreneurship Award for its business skills challenge, Newcastle University Apprentice.

The project replicated the format of BBC One show, *The Apprentice*, with students undertaking challenging tasks and competing for cash prizes. They were also invited into the boardroom for feedback and top tips from business professionals and high-profile entrepreneurs. Nick Keeley, Director of the Careers Service, said: 'University careers services have an increasingly important role to promote enterprise and support budding entrepreneurs and here at Newcastle we take this role very seriously as a key function of the Careers Service. As such we are thrilled and proud to have received the AGCAS Entrepreneurship Award.'

'We are all the more delighted since the prime mover of the Newcastle Apprentice was Sarah Grant, one of our student enterprise interns, who really stepped up to the mark by spearheading this scheme during her internship with us.'

**Newcastle University Careers Service was also shortlisted for a further two awards in Marketing and Employability.**



## Mad about work experience

The Careers Service not only caters to its student market – it can help its alumni too, particularly those looking to bring fresh perspective and raw talent into organisations they work for. Alexis Forsyth finds out how the Careers Service helped John Lawler (BEng 1999), whose travel company, Madventurer, is quickly becoming one of the UK's leading gap year operators.

Madventurer, a travel company which helps students make the most of their gap year at destinations across the globe, is the brainchild of Newcastle graduate, John Lawler.

Almost a decade after leaving behind his student days at the University, John signed up with the Careers Service's Newcastle Work Experience (NWE) scheme, a summer and term-time project-based placement programme which enables small and medium sized enterprises in the North East to tap into the talents of undergraduate and postgraduate students.

'Madventurer started out as a society at the University and grew into a business from that', explains John. 'So this programme brought us back to our roots and back to our student market.'

After a thorough application and selection process carried out by the Careers Service, John welcomed MA student Sarah Bugg to his team, where she became responsible for managing a UK-wide network of university reps.

'Working with the Careers Service was fantastic', says John. 'It was a quick turnaround – from expressing an interest in the scheme to getting Sarah onboard, who did such a great job when she was here.'

Testament to the success of the company's involvement with NWE, Madventurer also picked up a trophy at the National Council for Work Experience Awards.

So what would John advise an employer considering getting involved in the scheme? 'Just dive in!' he says. 'It's very worthwhile, particularly if you sell anything to the student market – it's invaluable to have that student input into your business.'

**If you are an employer and interested in hosting a student work experience placement, or want to find out more about the Careers Service's subsidised graduate placement programme, Graduate Apprentices, log on to: [www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/employers/placements](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers/employers/placements) for more information.**

*John was made a tribal chief for the work he carried out in a village in Ghana*



# The Hotlist

Our alumni business community stretches across the world, offering everything from bespoke makeovers and classic tailoring, to lithographic prints, legal services and

international work placements. The Hotlist is our pick of businesses run by members of the alumni community – why not take advantage of the services on offer?

**If you would like to feature your business in the Hotlist, e-mail the editor at [thehotlist@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:thehotlist@ncl.ac.uk)**

Newcastle University cannot take responsibility for any of the services or products purveyed by the businesses featured here.



**Demeter Ltd**  
Utility services  
**Andy Smedley (BSc Agricultural Engineering 1990)**

Demeter helps organisations save money by saving water, working nationally across all business sectors. Its services – including remote consumption monitoring, water use audits, leak detection and repair, and pipe replacement – have already saved its clients over £1 million. Demeter's new 'internet water use tracking service, Dataflow, allows customers to keep tabs on water consumption through a range of analytics and reports. To see how Dataflow can you help your organisation track water consumption and costs, log on to: [www.santechnologies.co.uk](http://www.santechnologies.co.uk) with username: demeter and password: savewater.  
[www.demeterltd.co.uk](http://www.demeterltd.co.uk)



**Idid.**  
International education and training  
**Kate Gordon (BA European Business Management 2002)**

idid. creates and promotes international learning experiences to give students, graduates and young professionals the opportunity to take on responsibility within an overseas company. idid.'s tailored professional internship programmes enable participants to put their academic knowledge into practice, gain professional skills in a real working environment, and help enhance their career prospects whilst also assisting host companies to develop their international trade opportunities.

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**Hole Editions**  
Lithograph printing and publishing  
**Lee Turner (Master of Fine Art 1998)**

Hole Editions is an independent printer and publisher of original hand printed fine art lithographs, collaborating with artists on a publish or contract basis. Based in Newcastle, Hole Editions was established in 2005 after Lee Turner returned from America's renowned Tamarind Institute with a Master Printer qualification. Please visit the website to see the full inventory. [www.holeeditions.co.uk](http://www.holeeditions.co.uk)



**Licensing Legal Solicitors**  
Law  
**Richard Williams (LLB 1993)**

Licensing Legal is a niche law firm servicing the licensed and leisure trade in the UK. The firm acts for a number of high profile national and regional operators, ranging from corner shops, regional brewers, national nightclub chains, police forces and PLC hotel groups. The firm is based in Manchester and is top-rated for licensing by Chambers & Partners' *A Client's Guide to the Legal Profession*. [www.licensinglegal.co.uk](http://www.licensinglegal.co.uk)



**Lolo Staveley**  
Bespoke style and make-up  
**Rachel Staveley (BA Classical Studies 2004)**

Lolo Staveley is a one-stop solution for frustrated shopaholics and those lacking style confidence. With a range of style and makeover services designed to take the stress out of looking and feeling fabulous, Lolo Staveley's bespoke packages focus on developing a client's personal style whilst taking into consideration

their shape, colouring and existing clothes and make-up. One-on-one appointments and group bookings available. [www.lolostaveley.com](http://www.lolostaveley.com)



**Norton & Townsend**  
Bespoke tailoring for men  
**Austen Pickles (Economics and Business Management 1992)**

Norton & Townsend is a bespoke gentleman's tailors with a nationwide visiting service and showrooms in Spitalfields, London and Salts Mill, Saltaire, in West Yorkshire. Priding itself on service, quality, reliability and integrity, Norton & Townsend offers its clients a selection of almost 4,000 fabrics, each available in any combination of fit, style and design.

[www.nortonandtowntsend.co.uk](http://www.nortonandtowntsend.co.uk)



**S J D Accountancy**  
Chartered Tax Advisers and Accountants

**SJD Accountancy**  
Chartered tax advisers and accountants  
**Graeme Bennett (BA Hons Combined Studies 1977, MBA 1995)**

Based in Dean Street, Newcastle, SJD (North East) Ltd provides accountancy and taxation services to business consultants, many of whom operate in the IT industry. SJD also has offices in Leeds and Manchester, covering the rest of the North of England. Clients are owner-managed limited companies who need advice in areas such as the Intermediaries Legislation (IR35) and Income Shifting (section 660). SJD also offers a same-day online limited company set-up service.

[www.sjdaccountancy.com](http://www.sjdaccountancy.com)  
Email: [graeme@sjdnorth.com](mailto:graeme@sjdnorth.com)



Latest news from the independent voice  
of Newcastle students

## Editorial



Welcome to my first *Courier* section of *Arches*! I'm now halfway through my year as Editor and I'm thoroughly enjoying the responsibility of producing a weekly product with such history and tradition here at Newcastle University.

Now in its sixty-second year, *The Courier* as a newspaper continues to grow in length, readership and popularity; and as Editor, there is no better feeling than seeing students picking up and reading their copy as soon as it comes out on a Monday morning.

We may have missed out on the shortlist for student newspaper of the year in the 2009 Guardian Student Media Awards, but the paper continues to improve and it is my aim to make sure we are in contention to win an award in 2010.

The new broadsheet style *Courier* that was introduced last year and the merger of the *Pulp* pull-out into the main newspaper both proved to be huge successes and this is something that I have continued this year, as well as introducing a number of new sections; namely 'Comment', 'Life and Style' and 'TV and Radio'.

This term has also seen the launch of the brand new and much needed website, *The Courier Online*, and this edition of *Arches* takes a look at some of the features available on the exciting new site.

Also on these pages, we review the recent success of Team Newcastle, take a look back at last term's record Union elections and have a look at what is new at the Union Society this year.

Dave Coverdale  
Editor of *The Courier*



## Another excellent year for sport

Sport at Newcastle University continues to go from strength to strength with the final 2008–9 British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) league table confirming Team Newcastle's place in the top 10 for the third consecutive year.

Newcastle finished the season in tenth position, the same as in 2007–08, with a total points tally of 1,761.5. This was just six points short of Cambridge in ninth place and only 27 shy of eighth-placed Oxford, as well as being over 500 points more than local rivals Northumbria who were back in nineteenth position.

For the twenty-ninth year in a row, Loughborough topped the standings with their points tally of 5,436 – over 2,000 more than their nearest rivals Bath and Leeds Metropolitan.

Performance Sport Manager, Fraser Kennedy said: 'Maintaining our top ten position is significant. Sport now plays a greater role than ever in student recruitment, as well as in the marketing of the University and our links with alumni, so it is essential that Newcastle continues to strive for excellence in sport.'

'Our position in the BUCS league also places us in sixth position in terms of our Russell Group comparators, and it will help the University's performance in other national league tables.'

Overall, it was a memorable year for Team Newcastle with the undoubted highlight coming in February 2009 when the Stan Calvert Cup against Northumbria was retained.

The season also ended in fitting fashion as Newcastle beat Durham University three races to one to claim their first ever University Boat Race in its thirteenth year (pictured).

Now, with the 2009–10 campaign in full swing, Team Newcastle will be looking to build on their superb recent success and maintain their position alongside the biggest university sporting institutions in the country.



## Freshers' Week kicks year off in style

**Newcastle University Fresher's Week 2009 promised a lot and delivered even more. With 3,500 wristbands completely selling out for the first time in FYC history, students from all over the world got the best introduction to Newcastle they could have possibly hoped for.**

Once cars were unloaded, bags unpacked and smart cards received, first years headed down to the Union for the huge 'Beach Party Blowout' to kick their week off in style.

Hawaiian shorts, flip flops and garlands were the order of the night as freshers revelled amongst the 20 tonnes of sand that filled the Basement, as well as the outdoor silent disco – another first for Newcastle Freshers' Week.

The summery theme continued outside the Union the following day, as the late September sun provided a fitting back drop to the dodge ball tournament, live DJs and bouncy castle on show.

It was a festival-like atmosphere and this was the way it stayed for the majority of the week. There were a vast array of daytime activities for

freshers to get stuck into and help them settle into their new surroundings, including cocktail making, pole dancing and skiing, as well as trips to the Quayside, Durham and the Angel of the North.

And the nights only got bigger, with students getting their dancing shoes on to a ceilidh before dancing in a different fashion at Pandemonium the following night to the sound of chart-topping dance act Chicane.

The week's events were then brought to a close in fitting fashion as Freshtival saw the Union turn into a mini-Glastonbury. Viva City, Bombay Bicycle Club and North East favourites Maximo Park took over the main stage, while the other outdoor stages added to a night freshers will never forget.

The week proved a huge success for all concerned, not least the four student organisers Alex Elwick, Ned Walker, Sally Willan and Becky Turner, who more than made sure Newcastle University kept its reputation of hosting the best Freshers' Week in the country.

## New website up and running

**This term has seen the launch of *The Courier Online* – the brand new website of *The Courier*.**

The new site mirrors the style of popular national newspaper sites such as Times Online and Guardian.co.uk and has received great reviews since its launch at the end of September.

*The Courier Online* is working closely with the student radio station, NSR, and the student TV station, NUTV, to produce audio and video clips to accompany the online stories and articles.

This proved a huge success in Freshers' Week with daily podcasts and video blogs featuring interviews with the headline DJs and bands as well as many of the new students.

The new website also includes exclusive online features as well as the stories that feature in the paper, and full electronic versions of each edition of *The Courier* are available online for those not able to pick up a copy on campus.

There are a number of photo galleries on the site showing exclusive shots of events and gigs at the Union and in the city, as well as photos of University and Intra Mural sports games, with plans in place to allow readers to buy archive photographs.

Other features include editor and section editor blogs, a live Twitter feed, audio vox pops and daily polls. Registered users will be able to feedback and comment on stories and will receive weekly free news feeds via email, so if you want to keep in the know at your old university register today at: [www.thecourieronline.co.uk](http://www.thecourieronline.co.uk)

## Awards recognise achievement

**This summer saw the inaugural ncl+ Student Achievement awards take place at The Assembly Rooms in Newcastle.**

The awards celebrated the achievements of students from all disciplines across the University for their involvement in various extracurricular activities, societies and charity work.

The event was organised by ncl+, a foundation jointly supported by the Union Society and the University itself, which seeks to encourage and promote personal enterprise and community engagement in the student body.

There were over 130 entries from students within eleven categories, including the surprise category, the 'Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Personal Achievement', which went to Jodie Symington for her fund-raising and awareness-raising efforts for the Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Jodie, who suffers from Cystic Fibrosis herself, impressed the Vice-Chancellor with her expedition to Everest Base camp and for completing the Everest marathon.



*Jodie receives her award from academic registrar, Cathryn Harvey*

# What is Convocation?

**In June each year, at the annual meeting of Convocation, the University's head honchos meet with alumni to discuss progress and plans for the future. Convocation is chaired by a Newcastle graduate and it gives alumni a say in how the University is run. This year's outgoing Chairman is Jack Jeffery (BSc Chemistry and Bacteriology 1953, MSc Applied Science 1960), who stepped down last July after 10 years in the role. Our new Chairman is Antony Jones (BA Politics 1980), a businessman and former President of the Union Society. Arches chats to Jack about the role of Convocation, and the best bits from his tenure.**

*Convocation 08 (opposite) – Jack Jeffery (left) with Professor Tom Kirkwood (centre) and Vice-Chancellor Chris Brink, after Convocation 2008*

*Convocation 09 (below) – Left to right: Jack Jeffery at Convocation 2009 with Professor Paul Younger, Convocation lecturer Professor Norman Myers, and Vice-Chancellor Chris Brink*

**What does Convocation mean to the University?** It's one of the statutory bodies of the University, along with Council, Court and Senate. The Chair of Convocation, under statute, is also a member of Court, so it's an opportunity to use that machinery to get the views of alumni considered in the various decision-making bodies of the University. It has become a tradition that each year, the Vice-Chancellor reports on the state of the University, policies followed, challenges faced and met and so forth, and so it's a mechanism for the exchange of views between the Vice-Chancellor, Registrar, and alumni.

**Is it important to keep traditions like this alive?** It's essential. Last July, for example, we elected Sir Liam Donaldson as Chancellor, so that's a pretty important formal role. The Vice-Chancellor asked me to chair the working party that made recommendations for the Chancellorship, so alumni are involved at every stage of the decision-making process. Convocation has been in place for over 50 years and each year we encourage graduates from far and wide to come along and take part.

**What are your highlights from the last 10 years?** Oh, there are lots of them. The annual Convocation Lecture is an important part of the University calendar, and we've had speakers like Lord Attenborough, Lord Judd, Baroness O'Neill, and our own academics talking about issues that affect our lives and our future. It's also been a







pleasure to see the launch and growth of the Alumni Association, and work with its various Chairs. For me, the Alumni Association is the operational arm of Convocation, so it's great to see so many new graduates getting involved.

**Do you have any hopes for the future, under the new Chairman, Antony Jones?** I'd like to see the Alumni Association continue to grow and thrive, and play a key role in University decision-making through Convocation. I've known Antony for many years, and I'm delighted he's been elected. He's got a lot of drive, energy and ideas, and I'm sure he's going to be a great Chairman.

**You're a busy man, but you're staying involved with the University through Court and other activities. How do you find the time?** Well there's an anecdote that may explain that. When I was first working for the coal board, I was running a pilot plant and needed to have some adjustments made. I asked the foreman fitter who I could get to do the work and he said 'Anyone in the fitting shop could do it, but make sure you ask someone who's busy because he'd find the time to do it. If you ask someone who's doing nothing, he'll have a hundred reasons to continue doing nothing!' I've found this to be a good guide.

**Jack graduated from the University with a BSc in Chemistry and Bacteriology in 1953, before earning an MSc in Applied Science in 1960. Following a career in the water industry, he is now Chairman and a member of the Board of Directors of a number of organisations. In recognition of his support of the University, Jack was awarded an Honorary Fellowship in 2005.**

Jack's memoir, *A Pudding Full of Plums* (published 2006, Memoir Club), is available online and at selected bookshops.

### Statutory bodies of the University

#### Convocation:

The annual meeting of Newcastle alumni – a chance for graduates to have a say in how the University is managed and to hear news first hand from the Vice-Chancellor.

#### Council:

The executive governing body of the University, dealing with management, finances, and reviewing its work. It has 24 members and meets six times a year.

#### Court:

Helps the University fulfil its role in the North East and beyond by providing a communication channel with the outside world. It meets twice a year, and its 60 members include well-known members of the national and local community, businesses, and University staff.

#### Senate:

The University's governing body in all academic matters. Its 41 members include students, academics and other staff members, and it usually meets six times per year.

# Were you at Henderson Hall?

Former Henderson resident Chris Foote Wood (1959–61) is writing a book about Henderson Hall. He wants your reminiscences and old photographs...

For many of us, staying at Henderson Hall, particularly for more than one year, was life-enhancing and character-forming. Wouldn't it be great if those memories could be recorded, kept and shared in a book which would also chronicle the history of Henderson?

What was it like living in Henderson when you were there? What were the fees and charges? Do you recall any amusing, dramatic or enlightening incidents? Who were the prominent students at HH, and did you play an active role yourself in JCR, Hall Balls, Film Soc, Plays, Reviews, Smokers, Sport? And how did you get on with the Warden and Sub-Wardens?

For me, Basil Edward Quartermain Smith (Warden 1957–81) was not only the heart and soul of Henderson, he had a huge impact on me as guide and mentor. I would love to have your memories of Basil and the other Wardens (Dr A A Hall 1932–44, Major Vernon Brown 1944–57, Miss J G Middleton 1981–86, Dr Peter Philips 1986–2006) and Sub-Wardens. If you would like a copy of the book when published, let me know.

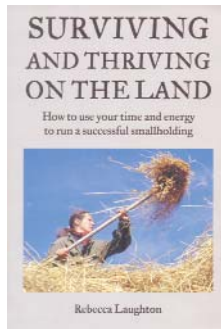
**Chris Foote Wood is an author and publisher. You can contact him by post at: 'Wor Hoos', 28 Cockton Hill Road, Bishop Auckland, Co Durham DL14 6AH; telephone: 01388 605181; and fax: 01388 450450.**

**Photographs can be sent by post in print or on CD (prints will be returned), or by email to: [footewood@btconnect.com](mailto:footewood@btconnect.com)**



# Bookmark

## Books from the Newcastle University alumni community. Reviews by Sarah Cossom and Lorna Taylor.



### Surviving and Thriving on the Land

Rebecca Laughton (BSc Geography 1996)

Genre: Non-fiction

Published: 2008 (Green Books)

ISBN: 9781900322287

It's not easy to write a book for potential smallholders with just the right balance of encouragement, information and a healthy dose of realism to keep those flighty feet firmly on the ground.

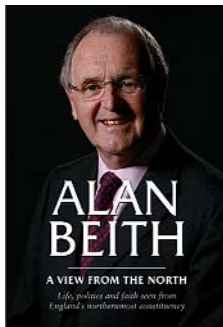
Rebecca Laughton's experiences of the different ways of earning a living from the land take her across Europe where she really gets to the heart of what makes a successful venture, be it in an eco-community or a family-run farm.

This book covers everything from what tools to buy to how to find a sensible balance between work and rest in an easy to read, accessible style which

makes the reader confront some hard truths about this kind of lifestyle.

For some, it may be a perfect way of life, but whatever route the people featured in the book choose, no one has got there without a lot of hard grind, and it's acknowledging the rough and the smooth that makes this book such a valuable companion for anyone considering taking a leap into self-sufficiency.

By Sarah Cossom



### A View from the North

Rt. Hon. Sir Alan Beith MP (Honorary DCL 1998)

Genre: Autobiography

Published: 2008 (Northumbria University Press)

ISBN: 1904794270

Sir Alan, who began his career as Lecturer of Politics in the then new Politics Department at Newcastle, shares in this book his experiences of UK politics in the last 36 years, as well as his attitudes towards religion and how it helped him deal with personal highs and lows, and, as implied by the title, his view of the north.

A Methodist from Macclesfield, Sir Alan shows his commitment to his faith and to the north of England, which are themes throughout the book.

However this is not just an autobiography: *A View from the North* provides insight into the life of an MP, from all the tasks that make up an MP's job to his thoughts on recent issues such as the expenses

scandal, and the intelligence services, sharing some experiences gained from 14 years on the Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee.

And for those with an interest in party politics, the book also documents the history of the Liberal Democrat party. Sir Alan, who was involved in the negotiations to form the new party, covers the last days of the Liberal Party, through the Alliance with the SDP to the birth and increasing success of the Liberal Democrats.

By Lorna Taylor



## Time to **return?**

You are always welcome to return to university life at Newcastle. We offer a 10% alumni tuition fee discount on most of our postgraduate courses and full or partial funding is available for many of our Master's programmes and research degrees.

Please contact us for more information or come to one of our events:

- **Friday 19 February**  
University Postgraduate Study Fair
- **Wednesday 9 June**  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Information Evening



[www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate)

Enquire online at [www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries)

or call 0191 208 3333



# Snapshots

News in pictures from campus and across the alumni community.



## Smile, you're a Newcastle graduate

Our roving student photo-editor, Alexander Wilson, was on hand at graduation in December to take snaps of our brand new alumni. All photos are on our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/nualum](http://www.facebook.com/nualum) – so please log in and tag at will! All photos are available in high resolution free of charge, so drop us an e-mail at: [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk) if you'd like a copy.



## London alumni team needs footballers

Newcastle Old Boys FC, based in Barnes in South West London, is looking for local Newcastle graduates to join its squad. Set up eight years ago by Rob Lusher (LLB 1998) and pals, the team trains in Battersea on Wednesday evenings and plays matches on Saturday afternoons. The clubhouse is Dukes House, opposite Barnes Bridge Station. 'We like to think we're not too far off University first team standard,' says Rob. 'The footy is taken reasonably seriously on match days, but the clubhouse overlooks the river so it's good for a beer after the game.'

If you'd like to join the team, give Rob a call on **07984 470 240**, or e-mail him at [rlusher@cclaw.co.uk](mailto:rlusher@cclaw.co.uk)



## Rockers with pedigree

Greyhound are a rock band long in the making. After graduation, Jack Arthurs (BA English Language and Literature 1992) and Andy O'Shaughnessy (MB BS 1995; MSc Health Sciences 2002) said goodnight to their band, Apple Tragedy, and left the North East. But now they're back with a new line-up and a cracking debut album, *The Art of Seeing*. You can pick up a copy at JG Windows in Newcastle's Central Arcade (priced £9.99), and read an interview with Jack on our website at: <http://bit.ly/6tu87Y>

## Ann thanks purse returner

Ann Craven (BA English Language and Literature 1972) would like to thank whoever found her lost purse in Jesmond on 6 January, and handed it in, fully intact, to the Robinson Library. 'They must have spotted my alumni card and handed it straight in', Ann beams. 'Reception there contacted me and I hastened along to collect it. Sadly they didn't have the chance to get the person's name. Being an alumna has more advantages than those advertised!'

# Classnotes

If you would like your news to be printed in the next issue of *Arches*, please contact DARO either by phone on 0044 (0) 191 222 7250 or by e-mail at: [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk)


Or visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/nualum](http://www.facebook.com/nualum) where you can find old friends and tell us about your news.

## 1960s

Graham CLARKE (BSc Naval Architecture 1969) became the first Newcastle graduate to be installed as Prime Warden of the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights, at a ceremony in May 2009.

Ivan DUNN (BA Social Studies 1966; Dip Ed 1967) and Jackie THOMAS (BA Modern Languages 1966) celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary in December in Ilkley, Yorkshire, where they've lived for the last 30 years (*not baht 'at I hope – Ed.*).

Elizabeth SANDIE (BA English Literature 1968) has written a book on the late poet, U.A. Fanthorpe, entitled *Acts of Resistance: The Poetry of U.A. Fanthorpe* (Peterloo Poets 2009). Copies are available directly from Elizabeth for £9 (inc. p&p) at [elizabeth.sandie@btinternet.com](mailto:elizabeth.sandie@btinternet.com)

 Martin WHITE (BA English Language and Literature 1969) would like to make contact with Dr Frank WILSON and Dr Roger WILLIAMS (both MB BS 1971) whom he knew in Henderson Hall. Please contact Martin through the alumni office, or via our Facebook page at: [www.facebook.com/nualum](http://www.facebook.com/nualum)

## 1970s


Professor Loai ALSHAMAONY (MSc Biochemistry 1973, PhD 1975) has been appointed Professor of Biochemistry at Misr University for Science and Technology's Pharmacy College in Cairo, Egypt. He was previously Professor of Biochemistry at Baghdad University's Pharmacy College, Iraq. Loai was very glad to get back in touch with his former supervisor, Professor M. Goodfellow, who is still at Newcastle University.

Dr Stephen BANKS (BSc Plant Biology 1976) was elected a fellow of the Institute of Biology on 19 March 2009. After leaving Newcastle, Stephen studied for an MSc in Pure and Applied Plant Taxonomy at the University of Reading, graduating with distinction in 1977, before completing a PhD in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Nottingham in 1982.

Peter CROPPER (BA German 1979) has written his first novel, *Bowing Out* (Authorhouse 2009), which follows a disaffected teacher's quest for redemption. The book is available directly from Peter priced at £11 (inc p&p). E-mail: [josephinecropper@healthyhorizons.gb.com](mailto:josephinecropper@healthyhorizons.gb.com)

Professor Michael ELLIS (BSc Agriculture 1974, PhD 1985) has received the highest faculty honour awarded by the University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences – the Paul A. Funk Recognition Award for 2009. Michael taught at Newcastle University from 1978–1992, when he joined the faculty at Illinois, USA.

Julian WARNER (BA English 1977) has published another book, *Human Information Retrieval* (Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2010). He is a lecturer in information science at Queen's University Belfast and can be contacted at: [j.warner@qub.ac.uk](mailto:j.warner@qub.ac.uk)


 John WILSON (BA German Studies 1979) and his classmates organised a 30-year reunion a few months ago, and 'had a brilliant time'. If you missed out, make your presence known!


## 1980s

Joe CARLEBACH (BA Politics and Social Administration 1983) has been named as a trustee of the Arthritis Research Campaign. Joe is a businessman, entrepreneur, and active supporter of many charities and good causes, including the University's Faculty of Medical Sciences. He's also a Conservative candidate in the London 2010 elections.

Debbie MYERS (BSc Biochemistry and Genetics 1983) has taken up a new post at Manchester Metropolitan University as a Senior Lecturer in Primary Sciences.


## 1990s

 Emma ASHLEY (LLB 1995) moved to Australia last year, and has enrolled on a distance-learning Master's in Healthcare Industry Management at Curtin University, Perth. Though she says: 'It won't be the same as three years in Newcastle as an undergrad. I had a blast!'

 Peter COLLINSON (BSc Applied Chemistry 1996) is cycling 420km through the Sinai Desert in Egypt – in memory of a close friend from university who died last year – to raise much-needed money to fight heart disease. Full details and donation link at: <http://bit.ly/5Nihm9>

Craig DEARDEN-PHILLIPS (BA Politics 1990) was awarded an MBE in the Queen's 2009 Birthday Honours list. Craig is the founder and Chief Executive of Speaking Up, a charity that aims to give a voice to people with learning difficulties

Ottar KVINDESLAND (BSc Computing Science 1990) is taking a Master of Management degree at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) in Trondheim. He's currently developing green energy systems for a startup company in Sandnes, Norway, where he is a programme manager.

 Claudia LINQUANTI-SUE (BSc Marine Biology 1998) walked 60 miles in three days in November to raise money and awareness for breast cancer prevention, education, research and treatment programmes. The Breast Cancer 3-Day events benefit Susan G. Komen for the Cure and National Philanthropic Trust. See: <http://bit.ly/6fNIHa>

**Philip MASSEY (BA Geography 1990)** returned to the UK from Spain after 10 years working and living in Madrid and married Eliesabeth Codd, a Durham University graduate, in Surrey in July 2008. Their son, Alfred William Orgill Massey, was safely born on April 5 2009 to proud parents. The family are now living in Surrey.

After leaving Newcastle, **John MIDDLETON (BSc Medicinal Chemistry 1994, MPhil Microbial Chemistry 1998)** joined what became Citigroup UK as an Underwriter. He later returned to Newcastle to study Law 'over the road' at Northumbria University. Qualifying as a solicitor in 2007, John now holds the position of Legal Counsel at SABIC UK Petrochemicals, on Teesside. He lives in Durham city and is married with two children and a Labrador.

**Professor ZAINI Ujang (MSc Environmental Engineering 1991, PhD 1996)** has received Malaysia's most prestigious honour, the Merdeka Award – in its scholastic achievement category – for his contributions to various environmental initiatives dealing with water

supply, sewage, river rehabilitation and industrial ecology in the country. Zaini is Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), and calls the environment his 'greatest passion'. He plans to use his prize money to set up the UTM Merdeka Endowment Fund, which will support his university's work in environmental sustainability.

## 2000s

**Melvin BYRES (BA Business Management 2008)** has returned to the place of his childhood – the Far East – to launch an educational consultancy with an old friend and business partner. Now in its second year, Yinghao College International Department (YCID) provides British curriculum secondary schools in southern China to meet the overwhelming demand for international education. Melvin would be delighted to hear from any other Newcastle alumni – particularly those in China, those involved in international education and anyone looking to fill positions during the organisation's ongoing expansion. E-mail: melvin@ycid.net

**Ghaleb KEILANI (MSc Restorative Dentistry 2002)** has represented Newcastle University in Syria since 2003, and says 'my student days were the best of my life, and I miss everyone there'. He now runs a dental polyclinic in Damascus.

**Victoria MCCUMISKY (BA English Literature 2005)** has spent the last three years in London, where she has followed her dreams of becoming an actress. She's worked in theatre, film and television – recently appearing in BBC drama, *Spooks*, and in an ad on Channel 4. Her agent is Fletcher Jacob, info@fletcherjacob.co.uk

**Dr Zhen YE (LLM 2000)** has been appointed as Senior Visiting Professor at the Institute of Cultural Studies, Peking University, China, following his move to the University of Hull last year. Dr Ye is well known in China for his regular newspaper columns on the country's creative industries, and business advisory roles in this area.

## Find us online

The Alumni  
Association  
of Newcastle University

You can now catch up with us and your fellow alumni on **Facebook**, **LinkedIn** and **Twitter**.



[www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/linkedin](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/linkedin)



[www.facebook.com/nualum](http://www.facebook.com/nualum)



[www.twitter.com/nualumni](http://www.twitter.com/nualumni)

Find old friends, tell us about your news and memories, make business contacts, view and upload photos, and hear about upcoming events wherever you are in the world.

YOUR UNIVERSITY, FOR LIFE



# Classnotes: the medics

Since 1834, Newcastle has been producing some of the world's finest medical graduates, with many a story to tell. Here's a glimpse into the world of two of our distinguished medics, **Miriam Stoppard** and **Ian Nesbitt**.

We're building an archive of Medical School memories, and we'd love to hear about your student days. Please visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/1834](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/1834) for more information, or reminisce with us at [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk)



## **Ian Nesbitt** (MB BS 1991)

**When Ian's not working as a Consultant Anaesthetist at the Freeman Hospital's Intensive Care Unit in Newcastle, you can find him treating casualties in some of the world's most perilous war zones.**

After graduation, Ian had already signed up to the Territorial Army before moving into to anaesthesia in Newcastle. His first call to duty was in 2002 in Kosovo, leading a troop of medics who provided field operations for casualties. He has since had assignments in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Whilst on helicopter retrieval as Lieutenant Colonel, Ian never quite knows what trauma will confront him or who is involved – whether members of the Taliban, civilians or allied casualties. Medicine on the front line is focused on saving lives without prejudice for which side a patient is on.

Ian took an interest in expedition medicine during his student days, and recommends it to current medical students.

He appreciates the contrasts his career presents: 'It provides me with the opportunity to experience the sheer volume of trauma you can deal with in one day as well as the purer form of medicine.'



## **Miriam Stoppard** (MB BS 1961; MD 1966; Hon DCL 2004)

**From the wards of the Royal Victoria Infirmary, to the bright lights of the TV studio, Miriam Stoppard has become one of the UK's best loved doctors and most trusted voices on the health of women and children.**

Born in 1937, Miriam grew up in Fenham. Her father worked as a nurse in the city's hospitals, and her parents were keen for her to become a doctor. She gained entrance to the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in London, before returning to King's College (now Newcastle University) to complete her studies in 1961. Miriam went on to work at the city's RVI hospital where she held roles as a house surgeon (1961), a house physician (1962), and Senior House Officer (1962–63), and gained an MD in 1966.

In the 1970s and 80s, Miriam became a familiar face on national television with shows such as *Don't Ask Me*, *Baby and Co* and *So You Want to Stop Smoking?* Her ITV programme, *Where There's Life...*, clocked up a peak-time viewing figure in excess of 10 million for eight successive years.

With more than 60 published books translated into 37 different languages, Miriam has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide.

Her books *Conception, Pregnancy and Birth* and *Complete Baby and Childcare* have long been firm favourites with parents of young babies and children – resulting in Miriam being voted 'Best known and most trusted baby guru' by Bounty Mums opinion research in 2005.

Today, Miriam continues to provide invaluable advice and opinion on both children's and women's health topics as both columnist for the Daily Mirror newspaper and the resident health expert on Channel Five's *The Wright Stuff*.

Speaking of her memories as a trainee and young medic in Newcastle, Miriam said: 'In terms of my medical career I owe Newcastle, the RVI and my professors everything. It was at the RVI that I put in all the ground work for the MRCP exam, though I was working in Bristol by the time I actually got it at my third try. And it was to my home university that I presented my MD thesis, even though I had done the research at Bristol Royal Infirmary. I'm born and bred a Geordie girl and Geordie medicine is deep in my bones.'

# CONVOCATION WEEKEND

18-19 JUNE 2010



Join us on  
18-19 June 2010  
for our annual weekend  
of alumni celebrations

For details of the full programme and to book your place, visit:  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/CW](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/CW)

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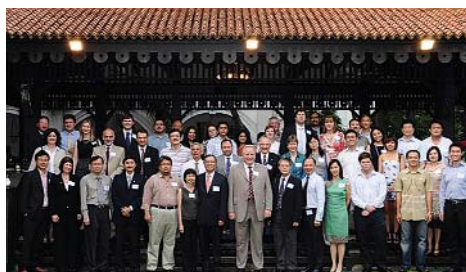
# Events

The Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) organises a number of alumni events and reunions each year, and all graduates are encouraged to attend where possible.

For our full events programme, and reviews and photos from previous events, please visit our website at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events) Please keep us informed of any change to your

postal or e-mail addresses, using the contact details at the bottom of the page, so we can ensure that your event invitations arrive with you in plenty of time.

## Event reviews



**Tour of South East Asia** On 15–17 May 2009, Newcastle University hosted its first conference in Singapore, accompanied by tours to its new medical and marine campuses in Malaysia and Singapore. Staff from Newcastle University – including Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement, Professor Paul Younger; and representatives from the Business School, School of Marine Science and Technology, Medical School and Development and Alumni Relations Office – were joined by Newcastle alumni, supporters and partner businesses, including Keppel Offshore & Marine. For a full review and photos, visit [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events/recent](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events/recent)

**Reunite! 2009** Graduates from across the world returned to campus on 20 June for our annual alumni celebrations. The festivities began with the Walton Salver golf tournament at Close House – won for the third consecutive year by Mike Booth (MEd 1990) – before returning to campus for a range of different activities. The Vice-Chancellor gave his annual address to Convocation, before Professor Norman Myers delivered a fascinating lecture on barriers to solving environmental issues. Geographers celebrated 80 years at Newcastle, and the annual alumni football match was contested between London-based Newcastle Old Boys FC and their North East rivals, Garnett Bohemian FC. The weekend culminated in a night of Northumbrian-themed food and entertainment at the Great North Museum.

## Events Diary 2010

### 28 February:

#### Stan Calvert Cup 2010

Newcastle University faces Northumbria in the seventeenth Stan Calvert Cup – over a thousand competitors in 60 fixtures and 22 different sports.

Join us at the main event from 4:30pm at Gateshead International Stadium. Tickets are available at Newcastle Sports Centre and the Union Society, as well as on the gate, priced at £4. See [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events) for more details.

### 3 March:

#### Insights Public Lecture by Professor Chris Day, 175 years of the Medical School in Newcastle – Past, Present and Future Success.

Public lecture open to all from 5:30pm, in the Medical School's David Shaw Lecture Theatre, on campus. More info: [www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures)

### 6 March:

#### Newcastle University Cross Country, Past vs Present.

Current students square up against alumni in this race across the Town Moor. Contact Kris Axon for more information: [Kristopher.axon@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:Kristopher.axon@ncl.ac.uk)

### 11 March:

#### House of Lords MB BS Alumni Reception.

Hosted by Lord Walton of Detchant (MB BS 1945; MD 1952; DSc 1972; Hon DCL 1988), by invitation only, London.

### April, date to be confirmed:

GOLD Network Event in London.

### 29 April:

#### Alumni Event at RINA, London.

### Date to be confirmed:

#### Walton Salver 2010.

Newcastle alumni golf tournament and sports day.

### 18 June:

#### Annual Donor reception.

On campus, by invitation only.

### 18–19 June:

#### Convocation 2010.

Open to all graduates, on campus.

### 19 June:

#### 175 years of the Medical School reunion.

### August, date to be confirmed:

#### GOLD Network Event in Newcastle.

## Contact us

If you need any further information on any of our events, have any suggestions for future events, or would like to recommend a venue, please contact our Events Officer, Maria Szpitan, by e-mail at: [m.szpitan@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:m.szpitan@ncl.ac.uk) or by phone on: 0044 (0)191 222 3638.

You can also visit our website at: [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events)





# Life is precious.

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For 175 years, Newcastle University has produced some of the world's most talented and passionate doctors. From the bench to the bedside, the work of our graduates has helped transform healthcare in the North East of England and beyond.

Through the 1834 Fund, we're raising money to invest in our next generation of doctors, clinicians and scientists. Scholarships will be available to the brightest and most promising students, regardless of background. You can make an immediate difference by donating to the 1834 Fund, or remembering the Medical School in your Will.

Please complete and return the attached form, or visit our website at

[www.ncl.ac.uk/1834/fund](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/1834/fund)

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# Donation Form

**Please fill in the form and return to:**

Development and Alumni Relations Office  
Newcastle University  
King's Gate  
Newcastle upon Tyne  
NE1 7RU

Tel: + 44 (0) 191 222 7250  
Fax: + 44 (0) 191 222 5905

**[www.ncl.ac.uk/development](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/development)**

**Please send me further information about:**

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- leaving a gift to the 1834 Fund in my Will
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- leaving a gift to the University in my Will
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**If you would like to make a donation now to the University please fill in the details overleaf**

Thank you for supporting  
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