

ARCHES

The Magazine of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne

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Issue 5 | Autumn 2004

Making Art in the Middle East

Challenges of an Ageing Society

Gaining the Competitive Advantage

UNIVERSITY OF
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE



Welcome to the latest issue of *Arches* magazine



At the heart of Newcastle University's mission is the ambition to be a world-class research-intensive institution. We have a proud research record here at Newcastle and a history within the North-East region that boasts inventions of truly international significance – just imagine a world without Joseph Swann's electric light bulb!

It is therefore particularly gratifying to observe that our work in science and technology continues to push back the frontiers of knowledge and understanding, and to catch the imagination of the world in the process. In August, Newcastle made international headlines on an unprecedented scale with the decision of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to grant a licence to our Newcastle Human Embryonic Stem Cell Group to undertake cloning of human embryos, or 'somatic cell nuclear transfer' as it is known scientifically.

The Group was established two years ago, in an innovative joint venture involving the University. Its remit is to explore the potential offered by stem cells in order to understand and develop possible new therapies for many serious and debilitating diseases. In early 2003 it became one of the first two groups in the UK to derive human ES (embryonic stem) cells from spare IVF embryos, leading to the licence application to HFEA in February 2004.

This is the first time in the UK that such a licence has been granted. The work that can now go forward could help scientists understand how diseases develop and may lead to the development of new treatments for a range of diseases including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and diabetes. The decision puts the UK at the forefront of global research in this very promising area of medicine and confirms our region's status as one of the world's emerging centres for biomedical research.

Our work in this area is just one example of the cutting-edge research taking place at Newcastle, much of it benefiting from our establishment of a series of new interdisciplinary University Research Institutes and Research Centres. Reading this issue of *Arches* you will discover other exciting examples of our work in areas such as Ageing and Health, Organic Farming and Nanotechnology. If you would like to find out more about work being undertaken in these and other areas then you may be interested to explore our research website at www.ncl.ac.uk/research.

I do hope you enjoy reading this latest issue of *Arches* magazine.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Christopher Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Professor Christopher Edwards
Vice-Chancellor

ARCHES News

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Classical Architecture
Down Your Street



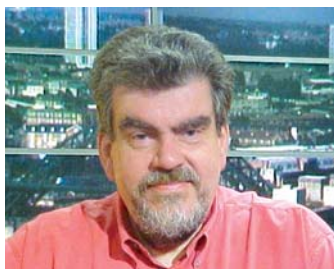
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Catch up with the latest news from old friends and acquaintances.

DIDN'T GET TO ATHENS? VISIT YOUR LOCAL HIGH STREET INSTEAD

The influence of the ancient Greeks in Great Britain is much stronger than many people might imagine – and it often crops up in the most unlikely places!



Ancient meets modern: Football lamps now all but obscure the Corinthian capitals on these columns which adorn The Raby pub, on Shields Road, in the outskirts of the city.



Lindsay Allason-Jones at the Theatre Royal on Grey Street, in Newcastle upon Tyne. The Theatre is one of the best examples of the style known as 'Tyneside classical'.

Unlike the Romans, the ancient Greeks never came to Britain, but their influence can be found around almost every corner, as experts from the University's Shefton Museum have been finding out. Trademark towering Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns and pediments, decorative scrolls and acanthus leaves adorn everything from grand buildings like the Theatre Royal, which stands on Newcastle upon Tyne's famous Grey Street, to pubs, shopping arcades, banks and post offices.

'I have been absolutely stunned by both the quality and quantity of the classically-inspired architecture as well as the amazing Greek details that decorate the most unlikely buildings when you really start to look for them', says Director of Archaeological Museums, Lindsay Allason-Jones, who along with Education Officer, Andrew Parkin, and architecture student, Giles Shorter, has spent the last three years exploring 52 towns and cities in the North-East of England for examples of the classical Greek influence.

The idea for the study came about when the Joint Association of Classics Teachers approached the staff of the University's Shefton Museum to ask for ideas that would help make the compulsory Greek Civilization element of the schools' National Curriculum at Key Stage 2 more popular.

'The problem was not one of resources, but of teachers and children feeling that the ancient Greeks weren't very relevant to today's society', says Andrew Parkin. 'So we decided to put the Greek collections in the Shefton Museum into context by showing how Greek styles of architecture have influenced the appearance of the towns we live in.'

Together, Lindsay, Andrew and Giles have photographed and recorded hundreds of buildings throughout the North-East. The information they have gathered will soon be made available as an internet-based teaching resource for Key Stage 2 pupils, providing illustrated walking tours around the architectural highlights of each of the towns included in the study.

Lindsay Allason-Jones is keen to see the project rolled out across the whole of the UK, pointing to other cities well-known for their neo-classical architecture, such as Bath, Cheltenham and Glasgow. 'This is something everyone can get involved in', she said. 'All you need to do is take a few minutes to look more closely at the buildings down your local high street.'

www.ncl.ac.uk/shefton-museum



Ed Coode, second from left, and his team mates celebrate their gold medal with a rousing rendition of the National Anthem!

ED STRIKES GOLD!

Marine Biology graduate and former University Boat Club member Ed Coode (BSc 1997) struck gold in Athens in the coxless fours Olympic rowing event.

In a thrilling race watched by millions worldwide, Ed and his team mates, four-times Olympic champion, Matthew Pinsent, James Cracknell and Steve Williams snatched gold medal position in the Olympic coxless fours event by the narrowest of margins. A photo finish showed their advantage to be a mere 0.08 seconds over the Canadian four!

Ed, who was brought into the four at short notice when team member Alex Partridge was forced to withdraw after suffering a collapsed lung, was clearly delighted to claim his first Olympic gold medal, describing the finish as 'fantastic'.

He also paid tribute to his absent team mate, telling the BBC: 'Alex is the fifth man in this boat, ever since Henley. He has encouraged us all the way and he is the strongest guy out of all of us.' 🇬🇧



Dr Karen Corrigan and Will Allen, who were on the conference organizing committee.

WORLD DIALECT EXPLOSION IS A TALKING POINT

The world's dialects are multiplying faster than ever before, according to University linguists who hosted Europe's premier conference in language and society.

Previous research has shown the old dialects – such as Yorkshire and Geordie in Britain – are disappearing due to increased social mobility. But Dr Karen Corrigan, a linguist at the University, and colleagues pointed out that immigrants to places like Europe, the US and Australia are creating completely new dialects when they learn the language of their host country by mixing it with aspects of their native tongue. The number of dialects is expected to increase even more rapidly over the next few years as asylum seekers from countries ranging from Bosnia to Iraq continue to seek refuge with other nations.

The Newcastle University team, from the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics, worked with the Universities of Northumbria, Durham and Sunderland, and Newcastle Gateshead Convention Bureau, to bring Sociolinguistics Symposium 15 to North-East England. The conference attracted leading experts from all over the globe.

Dr Corrigan, one of the conference organizers, said: 'Language has always developed over time but at the moment it is changing much faster than ever before as a result of increased opportunities for social and geographical mobility'.

Judy Pearsall, a publishing manager at the Oxford University Press agreed, adding: 'Our research at Oxford Dictionaries suggests that global media, particularly TV, play a large part in popularizing particular dialect vocabulary or forms of expression'. 🇬🇧

www.ncl.ac.uk/elll



Professor Jimmy Steele.

TEETH STUDIES HIGHLIGHT DENTAL CONCERNS

Research carried out by dental experts suggests celebrities who spend thousands of pounds perfecting their smile are making image-conscious young adults worry about the health of their teeth.

Even though statistics show younger generations enjoy better oral health than ever, a Newcastle University study has revealed they are more likely to complain about problems with their teeth and gums than older men and women.

Lead researcher, Professor Jimmy Steele, of the School of Dental Sciences, worked with the University of Adelaide in Australia. He said: 'There is a strong psychological element to health and well-being, and despite the fact that oral health has been steadily improving over the years, young adults are more likely to believe they have unhealthy teeth and gums because they compare themselves with the high standards set in the celebrity world'.

In a separate study, Professor Steele and co-researcher, Dr Mark Pearce, found that adult lifestyle, not childhood bad habits such as eating sweets, had the biggest influence on the health of teeth and gums in later life. Smokers were more likely to have poor oral health than non-smokers for example.

The research utilized data from the Thousand Families Study, a pioneering public health project which has gathered information from a cross-section of men and women born in Newcastle in 1947. Dr Pearce, of the School of Clinical Medical Sciences and Director of the Thousand Families Study, said: 'These findings demonstrate that it is just as important for adults to look after their teeth and gums as children, and that good oral healthcare habits shouldn't stop when people leave their family home'.

www.ncl.ac.uk/dental

THE ANGEL THAT'S SMALLER THAN A PINHEAD

Two of the UK's biggest landmarks now count among its smallest, thanks to the creative use of the latest miniaturization technology by University scientists and engineers.

A team based at the University's nanotechnology research laboratories have produced versions of the North-East's Angel of the North sculpture and the Tyne Bridge which are smaller than a pinhead and invisible to the naked eye.

A combination of chemistry, physics and mechanical engineering techniques were used to make the tiny structures. Both are created out of silicon, the material used to make microchips. They are around 400 microns wide and their details can only be seen through a microscope.

The technology used to develop the bridge and the angel could be used to make miniaturized antennae for next-generation mobile phones. These so-called chip antennae will significantly reduce the power consumption and cost of production of mobile communication devices.

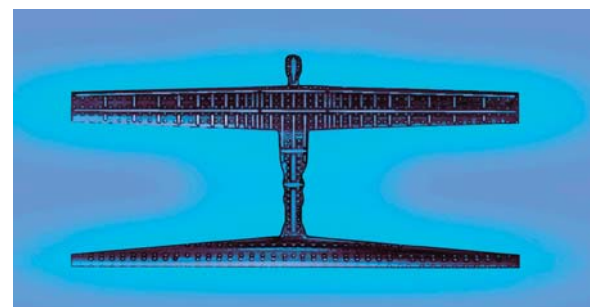
The scientists, who are based at INEX (Innovation in Nanotechnology Exploitation), the engineering and commercialization arm of the Institute for Nanoscale Science and Technology at the University, undertook the project to showcase their expertise in an emerging technological field, micro electro mechanical systems (MEMS), in an interesting way.

The business director of INEX, Richard Carter, said: 'Newcastle is already known for creating some of the UK's largest structures during the heyday of its manufacturing industry, and now the region is building a global reputation for making some of the smallest. The North-East is a UK leader for this type of advanced technology and we are working hard to make sure that we remain on top of the market, which should ultimately boost the region's economy and create more jobs.'

The techniques are now being used by INEX to develop a number of applications on behalf of industry.

www.inex.org.uk

The Angel of the North, in miniature.



SCIENTISTS WIN LICENCE TO CONDUCT PIONEERING STEM CELL RESEARCH

Newcastle scientists have been granted permission to carry out pioneering research to create stem cells from unfertilized human eggs.

This is the first time in the UK that such a licence has been granted and it could help scientists understand how diseases develop and may lead to the development of new treatments for a range of diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes. The decision puts the UK at the forefront of global research in this very promising area of medicine and confirms the North-East region's status as one of the world's emerging centres for biomedical research.

News that the licence had been granted made front page headlines in several UK newspapers and there were articles in hundreds of foreign media outlets including the *New York Times*, *Washington Post* and Chinese TV.

The Newcastle Human Embryonic Stem Cell Group, a joint venture involving the University's Institute of Human Genetics and the NHS, is based at the Centre for Life in Newcastle, a 'biotechnology village' established four years ago. The Group is now launching a funding appeal to accelerate research and is seeking private sector partners to help the UK stay ahead of international competition.

The research, licensed by the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, requires the nucleus from a skin cell to be removed and placed into an unfertilized egg. This egg is then stimulated to divide until a group of cells form. Stem cells are then isolated from this group and have the potential to grow into any cell type in the body. They could be directed to grow into, say,

liver cells to cure liver disease, nerve cells to allow patients with spinal injury to walk again or nerve cells to overcome the misery of Alzheimer's disease.

Dr Miodrag Stojkovic, who is leading the University team, said: 'Newcastle is now the national front runner in this area of research but pressure is mounting in the United States for its scientists to be allowed to do this work. If we are to stay at the cutting edge, we must get further financial backing or, as has happened before, the UK will lose out.' 🐉

www.ncl.ac.uk/ihg

Research team members Professor Alison Murdoch, of the Newcastle NHS Fertility Centre, and Dr Miodrag Stojkovic, a Reader in Stem Cell Biology and Embryology at the University's Institute of Human Genetics.



TRADITIONAL FISHING DESTROYS CORALS

Traditional fishing techniques are destroying some of the world's finest coral reefs and causing them to be covered by algae, possibly for good.



The crown-of-thorns starfish feeding on corals. Photography: Richard Seaman www.richard-seaman.com

Until now commercial fishing was believed to pose the greatest risk to reefs, which are found in more than 100 countries and cover almost 300,000 square kilometres. However, biologists with the School of Marine Sciences and Technology have found that even comparatively minor disruption caused by subsistence fishing in Fijian reefs can bring disastrous consequences. The findings of the two-year research study, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council, have major implications for global marine conservation management strategies.

The scientists, who worked with colleagues at Oxford University, spent two years studying the impact of traditional fishing in 13 Fijian islands, where locals used tools such as spears and hook-and-line. The research team found even light levels of fishing caused populations of the coral-consuming crown-of-thorns starfish to grow since the activity removed the starfish's predators, such as wrasses and triggerfish, from the sea. The heavier the fishing activity, the more

starfish there were and the greater the amount of algae covering the reef.

Although experts say the world's coral reefs are disappearing as fast as its rainforests, until now little has been known about how fishing disturbs the reefs' ecosystems. Project leader, Dr Nick Polunin, said: 'Scientists previously thought diverse ecosystems such as coral reefs would be relatively resilient to the impacts of predator removal. This study suggests this may not be the case and that even low levels of fishing may cause ecosystem meltdown.'

Dr Polunin, who is President of the International Society for Reef Studies, is now leading an international project funded by the Leverhulme Trust which will explore how global warming is destroying coral reefs, which support over 25 per cent of all known marine species. 🐉

www.ncl.ac.uk/marine




PAINTING BUTTERFLIES

Douglas Hammersley (BA Fine Art 1950), an alumnus and former staff member has put his artistic skills to great use during retirement. His beautiful illustrated book of butterflies has drawn the ultimate endorsement from naturalist Sir David Attenborough, who wrote: 'I know of no finer butterfly paintings. A book to treasure.'

Douglas said: 'I began drawing and painting butterflies on my retirement from a career as a medical artist. For 32 years between 1950 and 1982, I worked as an illustrator and graphic designer in the service of medical education, primarily at King's College and Newcastle University. During those years, I produced many hundreds of drawings for surgical textbooks, and artwork for teaching displays, medical films and television. Through this work I came to recognize the beauty of living structures, the marvellous design of the human body and its component parts. What better way of continuing this study of living forms than turning to butterflies, surely some of the most beautiful designs in all creation'.


Over 20 years Douglas photographed some 60 species of predominantly British butterfly in their native habitats and produced over 300 colour illustrations working from his photographs. Although it had not been Douglas' intention at the outset that his labour of love would result in a book, the eagerness with which butterfly enthusiasts have snapped up scarce copies of the first edition hardback has now led to a second edition paperback being produced (ISBN 1-85776-995-3).

Since completing the book Douglas has amassed a new collection of photographs of 340 species of moths, but feels the task of converting all these into watercolour paintings would be much too daunting. 

NEWCASTLE GRADUATE BRINGS THE GAMES HOME

Jules Lancastle (BSc Agri-Business Management 1995) has found a way of combining her love of sport with her interest in the world of big business. Jules is Director and Founder of Activity Mix, a company that arranges corporate sports tournaments. Over 30 companies including IBM, Deloitte, and Accenture currently participate in events across Scotland, though Jules hopes to make the concept multinational by bringing the event back to her old University town later this year.

Whilst studying at Newcastle, Jules was a keen sportswoman, and founding member of the Women's Rugby Club. 'We set it up in 1991', she recalls, 'and we called ourselves the Newcastle University Nubile Sisters – the NUNS for short. We had a black and white team strip and our logo was a nun's wimple!' After graduation, she continued to play rugby and became involved in the development of a youth section at her local club. As a result, she began to explore different ways of getting the corporate community involved with amateur sports groups, and so the idea of Activity Mix was born. In every tournament, each corporate team is linked to community clubs and facilities. Employees are then encouraged to get actively involved with the clubs that they encounter, and Activity Mix provides a number of ways for people to join, support and fund the clubs that they work with over the year.

The Newcastle event is Jules' next big project, and she couldn't be happier to be returning to her old stomping ground. 'We've made arrangements to use Cochrane Park's sports facilities, so it'll be a real walk down memory lane when we run some of the events', she explains. Companies from all over the North-East are now getting involved; if you would like to do the same please visit the website at www.activitymix.com 

Butterflies
Top: Painted Lady
Bottom: Chalk-Hill Blue



SACHA FIGHTS BACK

For most students, the first year of University is a time of freedom, excitement and fun. For Sacha Bonsor (BA History 1997) the experience was quite different. Whilst studying for her first set of University exams at Newcastle, Sacha suffered a life-threatening brain haemorrhage. Initially doctors believed that the usually fit and healthy 20 year old was suffering from Gastroenteritis, however as her symptoms gradually worsened, she returned to hospital and was diagnosed as having a rare malformation of the brain which had resulted in a brain haemorrhage.

Within a month of being diagnosed Sacha was able to leave hospital, however the nightmare wasn't over. After she had recovered, came the news that she was likely to suffer another 'bleed', but nobody could tell her when, or how serious it would be. All she knew was that it would probably kill her, or at least paralyse her – it could be in one year or 50, and all she could do was wait.

There was one alternative, five surgeons in the world had the skill to operate on her brain stem, but the operation was so difficult they also risked killing her. Sacha had a decision to make, she could live with a potentially life-threatening time bomb ticking inside her head, or she could take her life into her own hands. At 26, Sacha chose, and had the operation. After 10 months in recovery she was given the all-clear, and her life could begin again. 'I felt I had been lucky enough to be given a second chance to shed a worn out and dirty layer, and to approach the magnitude of life anew with vigour and spirit. I wanted to share it,' she explained.

And it seems that she truly has done. After finishing her course, she moved to London to work as a producer for Talk Radio. Two years later she relocated to New York, where she worked for the United Nations – firstly as a Producer for their radio station, and then as an Information Officer for the Security Council. Now back in the UK she is a freelance journalist with her own, weekly column in the *Saturday Telegraph Magazine*, and has just published *Dipped into Oblivion* (ISBN 184413229-3) a critically acclaimed account of her experience of facing death and finding life. 🐾

CONVERTING A HOBBY INTO A BUSINESS

Six alumni who got to know each other through membership of the Canoe and Canoe Polo Athletic Union clubs enjoyed their hobby so much they turned it into a successful business.

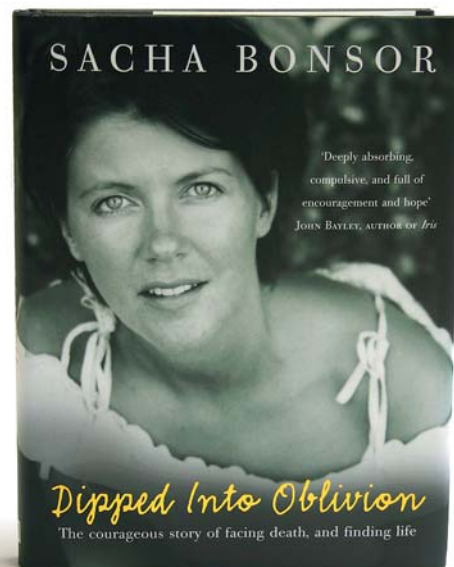
Rich Clarke (BSc Geography, Surveying & Mapping Science 1999), Jamie Ellis (MEng Civil and Environmental Engineering 1999), Andy Evans (BSc Surveying and Mapping Science 1996), Andy Laird (MEng Civil and Environmental Engineering 1999), Dan Peel (MEng Civil Engineering 1998) and Matt Simpson (MEng Civil and Environmental Engineering 2000) got to know each other through weekends away boating with the University's canoe club, and as a team have made canoeing expeditions as far afield as Canada, Chile, Nepal, New Zealand, Peru, Uganda and Zambia.

That shared experience, together with their engineering know-how, has given them the confidence to set up their consultancy business Engineering Paddler Designs Ltd (EPD). Matt Simpson said: 'We are all very keen and dedicated canoeists who through our combination of first-hand paddling experience and knowledge of engineering and associated issues, have found ourselves in a position to offer advice and engineering guidance to clients and other more general engineering consultancies on the development of facilities for white water recreation'.

The business has just won its first major contract as part of a consortium bid to produce a feasibility report for a proposed white water facility in Stockport, and it is also involved in consultancy in Australia, Germany and Scotland.

Matt added: 'We very much see EPD as the culmination and combination of our academic and sporting skills, both developed during our time at Newcastle University'. 🐾

www.e-p-designs.co.uk



INVESTIGATING ORGANIC FARMING



We all know the score, we've heard the warnings: Britain is a nation of unhealthy people. Our food is over-processed, full of toxins, additives, preservatives, colourings and flavourings, and we're eating more and more of it. We're apparently getting fatter, lazier and unhealthier by the day, so it's hardly surprising that more than half of the British population attempted to redress the balance by going organic last year.

It seems obvious why organic food should be better for us. It offers a purer diet, devoid of the artificial additives and chemicals that our bodies can't process, it is grown and stored without the use of potentially harmful pesticides and fertilizers, and on top of all that it's good for the environment and biodiversity. But is organic food truly better for you?

Last summer the Food Standards Agency (FSA) published a paper on organic food which stated that there currently was not enough information to say for sure that organic food is any better or worse than conventionally produced food in terms of food safety and nutritional quality. Moreover, the FSA publicly stated that any member of the food industry who made such claims would therefore be misleading the consumer.

So what is the health-conscious individual supposed to do? Is there any point in bumping up your shopping bill by up to 40 per cent to buy organic? Is it healthier? And equally importantly, does it taste better?


Staff at Newcastle University are hoping to provide some answers to these questions as part of a new £12 million EU project investigating why the taste and nutritional value of our food is decreasing, and how and why organic farming can be a solution to these problems. Professor Carlo Leifert, project leader of the Nafferton Ecological Farming Group at the University explains: 'We need to find out what is behind reports which have proved that the taste and nutritional value of our foods is deteriorating. There are more and

more indications that moving to natural production systems, such as organic farming, can improve food quality. This project will attempt to find out why this is the case, and how we can further improve on these production systems.'

The Europe-wide project is called QualityLowInputFood (QLIF) and aims to improve quality, safety and productivity along the European organic food chains. Scientists are currently growing test crops which include cabbages, lettuces, carrots, potatoes and wheat at Nafferton Farm, in Northumberland. The crops are grown under a variety of conditions so that the research team can compare factors such as taste and nutritional quality between the vegetables grown organically and those grown using chemicals. Other aspects of the project will focus on improving quality and safety, and reducing the cost of production in organic farming systems. The project will encompass the whole food chain from farm to fork for protected crops like tomatoes, field vegetables and cereal, as well as pork, dairy and poultry.

Like all farming, organic systems have both benefits and dangers. Potential areas of concern include harmful bacteria produced by inadequate composting, the production of aflatoxins and other carcinogens, and problems caused by poor storage. This project will address these concerns by undertaking a full study into the actual and perceived problems associated with this type of farming, as well as the benefits. In addition to the scientific investigations, the team will be measuring consumer attitudes towards and

expectations of organic produce, as well as developing new technology to improve the quality of organic foods.

For some people, the notion of an organic lifestyle has more to do with myth and ideals than science and reality. The QLIF project will attempt to redress the balance, and finally answer that all important question – does it taste better? 

Alumni Vegetables!

If you're interested in going organic and live in the Newcastle area, you might like to sign up for our brand new Organic Vegetable Service. Staff at Nafferton Farm are doing their bit to keep alumni healthy and happy by selling them fresh organic vegetables at affordable prices. The scheme is open to all alumni and couldn't be easier to use; simply sign up to the mailing list, order your vegetables from the selection provided, and then collect them from the University (or Nafferton if it is more convenient). Josie Scott, Farm Secretary at Nafferton, will even provide you with one of her favourite recipes to help you make the most of your veggies. To join the mailing list, or for more information, please contact Josie Scott at j.m.scott@ncl.ac.uk.

For more information on the QLIF project please visit: www.qlif.org

Useful Links:

www.soilassociation.org
www.food.gov.uk
www.organicfood.co.uk

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION – EVERYTHING YOU WANTED TO KNOW BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK



Mark Scrimshaw (BA History 1976), Chair of the Alumni, brings readers up to date with the latest plans and developments.

Firstly, what is it?

In essence it's an exclusive club which you can't actually join, and can't leave either! Every graduate or student who studied for more than a term at the University at every level is an automatic member, and many of our members don't even know it!

So how do we tackle the problems this creates. The first step is the new membership card which is being issued to every member of whom we're aware. It provides access to some of the membership benefits, and directs members to the website where more details of activities are presented. Naturally, some of the benefits are more realistically achieved if you've stayed in the North-East, but as membership grows and becomes more active, we'll hope to extend the benefits package so that members across the country, indeed the world, will be able to access more of them. Your ideas on these benefits could be enormously helpful.

Okay, all well and good, but what does the AA actually do?

Simply, it represents the alumni to the University, and through the Alumni Consultative Group (ACG) it attempts to filter the collective wisdom of graduates into providing expert advice to the University on its plans, aims and objectives. Through the annual reunion weekend, we bring together groups of alumni in a glorious couple of days of functions and fun, from attending Convocation to acquainting yourself with the latest developments on campus and in the city, including the Tall Ships

Race in 2005! And via The Alumni Fund, we spend the generous amounts of money raised from your pockets by our dedicated team of current undergraduates who bang away on phones for nights on end each autumn. Currently we've made the decision, in the light of the financial problems faced by all students and our desire to increase the number of young people from the region attending Newcastle University, that all students from the region who qualify for a government maintenance grant will receive a £500 scholarship from the Alumni Fund. This will be paid after Christmas, and will, we hope, address those issues head on and show we're determined to make a difference.

So who does the AA and ACG represent – and how did they get there?

A vexed point. For years, the nomination process has not been especially open, and participation has been difficult for those unable to attend the annual meeting of Convocation. Clearly, this system could not continue, and so under a new system passed at Convocation this year, all ACG members will be elected. Most of them via *Arches* – and you'll be seeing nomination forms and getting more information elsewhere with this issue and later – but also via our active branches which do so much to keep the name of the University flourishing. In this way, ACG will be more truly representative, will really be able to speak on behalf of a huge membership behind it, and will be more useful to both alumni and the University.

It's the start of a new process, so bear with us if there are teething problems. Let us know if you've ideas for improvement. Get engaged and involved, let's have a good election with interesting and committed candidates putting themselves forward. Tell anyone you know who's an alumnus or alumna to get involved too in supporting your University, for instance, by registering on the Graduate Connections Network, enabling undergraduates to take advantage of our professional experience, discuss careers, ask advice. Another terrifically worthwhile AA project.

In short, we're trying to make the Alumni Association more relevant for a new purpose, more focused and precise, a club you'd join even if you weren't already a member. We welcome your input as we move ahead, so keep reading this fine magazine to find out more about our first elections.

Thanks

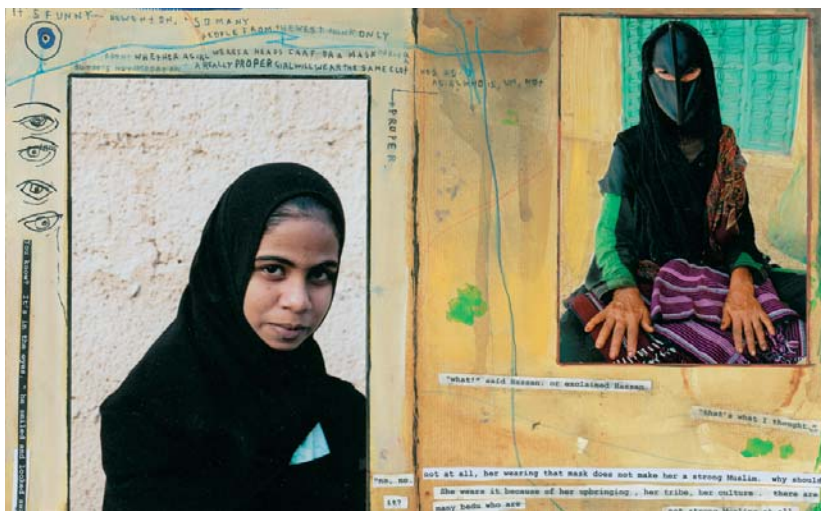
A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Scrimshaw". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

Mark Scrimshaw
Chair of the Alumni

www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni

MAKING ART IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Joel Burden spoke to a young Newcastle alumnus who has returned from a remarkable artistic odyssey through the Middle East with a collection of images that challenges our perceptions of a much misunderstood part of the World.



Henry Hemming (BA History 2002) is not a typical twenty-four year old graduate. Where other classmates were preoccupied with getting onto the career ladder after graduation, Henry instead bought a truck named Yasmine and set off with his school friend Al Braithwaite on a year-long overland journey that would take them through Istanbul, Teheran, Dubai, Musqat, Sana'a, Jeddah, Amman, Cairo, Damascus and Beirut, before arriving in Baghdad a few weeks after the fall of Saddam Hussein. Their journey was played out against a background of the build-up to and execution of war in Iraq. Along the way, they made photographs, paintings, installations, collages, drawings and recordings, seeking through this work to uncover a different side to the Middle East to that suggested by familiar images from our television screens.

The starting point of the artists' project is explained in the preface to the book they have made with two friends who joined them for sections of the trip, Stephen Stapleton and fellow Newcastle graduate, Georgie Weedon (BA Combined Studies 2002), and which is entitled

Offscreen: Four Young Artists in the Middle East, published by Booth-Clibborn Editions, one of the UK's leading art publishers (ISBN 1-86154-271-2).

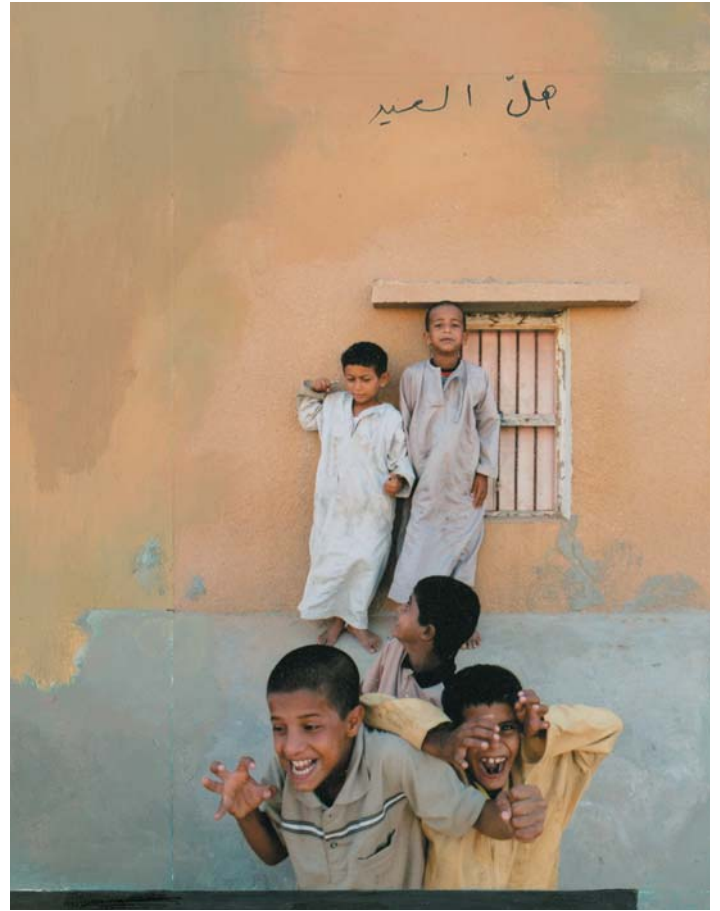
'For all of us the words Middle and East conjure images. Like everyone else we'd read the newspapers, seen it on the telly, and the pictures we saw were all terrorism, desert, oil and fear. And we had distant, hard-to-place images of Ali Baba, flying carpets and funny-looking waterpipes being smoked by men wearing red felt hats. We were distant, and this was the premise, we had to get closer, to get beyond the caricatures, to see what happened when the broadcast finished, to get ourselves offscreen.'

Yet, when the pair set out they didn't have a contract for a book, or indeed, a clear itinerary for the trip. The journey simply evolved, shaped very often by the local interactions they experienced along the way. 'I didn't want to prepare myself too much or do lots of reading before I set off', Henry told me. 'It was important to come to these places fresh and without too many preconceptions. In a sense, the project was appealing precisely because

I hadn't visited the Middle East before, didn't speak the languages, and wasn't tremendously well-versed in Muslim culture within the UK.'

It is this type of philosophy that explains why someone who always planned to be an artist ended up applying to study history at Newcastle (and gaining a first). 'I felt it was important to widen my experience and believed this would enable me eventually to bring more to my art', he explained, adding that he looked back on his time editing *Nomad* magazine at the Union Society as the experience he had relished the most at university.

Working with and alongside local artists was integral to the project and often helped open doors for the four artists. Wherever they arrived they would set to making art outside, and found that people would quickly gravitate towards them and take interest in what they were doing. 'We would seek out the art institutions and galleries, making contact with local artists in this way. We'd always find that the art broke down the barriers. Everywhere people were incredibly generous, helpful and hospitable.'



Through contact with local artistic communities, together with assistance from the British Council, the artists succeeded in raising much needed funds for their trip by putting on shows in Iran, Oman and

Jordan, and selling some of their work. Their show in Teheran constituted only the third occasion since the Iranian revolution in 1979 when a group of foreigners had shown work in Iran. The country impressed them as a place that artistically is incredibly vibrant. Henry recalled: 'It was a great privilege for us to exhibit at the Seyhoun, and our show generated a lot of media publicity in Iran. We discovered much shared purpose working with local artists, even when the contexts of our art were sometimes different. Putting on the shows was a fascinating experience. Obviously it was important for us to sell our work locally, it was a factor in determining what we chose to produce and to display.'

Towards the end of the trip Al and Henry visited Baghdad, taking photographs of US marines at a Fourth of July party at one of Saddam's former palaces, and of Iraqis going about everyday life in the streets. It was, for once, an incredibly dangerous place to be in the Middle East. That strange elision of camaraderie and hostility that coloured the post-conflict capital of Iraq is beautifully captured in a joyful picture and its accompanying caption.

The photograph shows a group of young men joking around in Al Arabi Square in Baghdad, a decapitated statue of Saddam in the background. Beneath, the explanatory text reads: 'I started to draw and was surrounded by fifty men, laughing, loud, play-fighting, and it was great, everyone was laughing, people were posing, I took some photos. Then one man told me I was in danger and that I should go now. There was something about the way he said it, and I went. A kilometre away, at exactly the same time, a young British journalist called Richard Wild was shot dead hailing a taxi.'

Back in the UK, Henry has been busy compiling and promoting the *Offscreen* book, yet has found time to take on a number of educational projects with young kids focused around images and perceptions of the Middle East. There is also a new project with Al Braithwaite in the pipeline. Henry didn't want to tell me what it is at this stage, but I wouldn't hold your breath for anything too ordinary. 🐉

www.offscreenbook.com

CHALLENGES OF AN AGEING SOCIETY

Professor Jim Edwardson of the School of Neurology, Neurobiology and Psychiatry explains how the University's Institute for Ageing and Health is engaging with the medical challenges of an ageing society.

Ageing of the world's population is one of the most remarkable achievements of the last hundred years. It is also a challenge that will impact on most aspects of society in the twenty-first century. We need to address a range of key questions. Why do we age and what determines healthy ageing? Why do aged cells and tissues become vulnerable to the pathological changes that lead to chronic ill-health and disability, and what can we do to slow the onset of or prevent such disorders? How can we use new and developing technologies to support independent living and improve quality of life? What are the socio-economic consequences of greatly increased numbers of older people? How can we ensure that the voices, views, skills and experiences of older people are used to the benefit of everyone?

Answers to these questions require interdisciplinary research involving biological, clinical and social gerontologists. The Institute for Ageing and Health (IAH) was set up in 1994 to provide this framework and has grown rapidly. It currently consists of 13 research groups, ranging from studies on the molecular mechanisms of ageing, through teams involved with the major clinical disorders of later life, to groups focused on social issues such as the housing needs of older people.

These research teams draw on expertise from all three Faculties and local NHS Trusts. The most well-established are at the international forefront of their fields. For example, Newcastle has contributed more to our clinical and pathological understanding of age-related dementia than any other centre in the world. The first recognition that Alzheimer's disease is the commonest cause of dementia in older people goes back to the pioneering work of Tomlinson and Roth in Newcastle. Post-mortem

research on neurochemical changes in the brain, undertaken here, underpinned the current symptomatic treatments available for dementia. In recent years the Brain Ageing and Dementia Group has received over £6 million from the Medical Research Council for its work on dementia with Lewy bodies and also vascular dementia, conditions which, with Alzheimer's disease, account for about 90 per cent of late-onset dementia. Work from IAH has had major impact at international level on the diagnosis and management of these disorders.

The Falls and Syncope Group has demonstrated the importance of 'neurovascular instability' – failure to regulate the blood supply to the brain properly – in people experiencing recurrent falls, and shown the high prevalence of such disorders in dementia. Newcastle's Falls and Syncope Service has been replicated in leading hospitals throughout the world and interventions based on this approach produce dramatic savings through the reduction of falls and consequent need for acute care.

Research on basic mechanisms of ageing is established in state-of-the-art laboratories at Newcastle General Hospital, funded by the Wellcome Trust. Professor Tom Kirkwood, who leads this group, first proposed the so-called 'disposable soma' theory of ageing, which is now generally accepted. Ageing involves the random accumulation of molecular and cellular damage which eventually impairs organ systems. Since multiple processes are involved, an integrated systems biology approach is required to understand the complex inter-relationships involved. Computational 'e-science' approaches have been developed with support from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council and Medical Research Council, and will be used to integrate information from molecular,

physiological and clinical studies to model ageing processes and identify nutritional, life-style and other interventions that will maximize healthy ageing.

The Institute has strong regional partnerships. The North-East Centre for Age-Related Eye Research (North-East CARE) is a recent collaboration with Durham University, to promote research on conditions such as cataract, glaucoma and macular degeneration, and repair to the surface of the eye using corneal stem cells. The Centre for Design Research at Northumbria University has been a strong partner in the setting up of a Regional Network for Assistive Technology, working with other university, NHS, commercial and voluntary sector groups across the region. Most important of all, the IAH works in partnership with older people. It belongs to the North-East Regional Forum on Ageing, which brings together elders and a wide range of agencies, concerned that their voice is effective in key issues, including research.

Since its origins as an 'institute-without-walls' in 1994, the IAH has developed roots, with a 'Campus for Ageing and Health' on the Newcastle General Hospital site. The Medical Research Council Building, the IAH Wolfson Research Centre, the NHS Centre for the Health of the Elderly, and the Henry Wellcome Laboratory for Biogerontology together constitute a unique resource for research on ageing. A new University Centre for Functional Imaging will be completed in 2006 and contribute greatly to clinical studies. Transfer of acute medical services to the Royal Victoria Infirmary is providing room for further expansion. Planned developments include innovative research and service facilities which will ensure that the IAH stays at the forefront of improving the health and wellbeing of older people in the decades ahead. 



Views of the Henry Wellcome Laboratories for Biogerontology opened in 2003 (above).



Outstanding a. conspicuous, eminent esp. by excellence

GAINING THE COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

As new research reveals that a 'good degree' from a 'good university' is no longer enough to satisfy employers hungry to secure the cream of each new crop of young graduates, *Arches* takes a look at two groups of Newcastle University students who are making sure they stand out from the crowd.

The growing numbers of students entering higher education, combined with ever-rising A level grades and more students than ever achieving upper-second-class degrees, is causing major headaches for graduate recruiters.

A recent survey of members of the Association of Graduate Recruiters (traditionally national and international blue chip organizations) suggests that an average of 40 or so applications are submitted for every graduate vacancy, with some organizations reporting up to 250 applications per vacancy.

The news that recruiters are becoming ever more demanding of graduate applicants comes as little surprise to Nick Keeley, Director of the University's Careers Service, who has observed the development of this trend over many



years. 'The list of employer demands is growing as they seek to recruit the 'best' graduates: teamwork, communication, problem solving, leadership, interpersonal skills and so on are no longer enough', he said.

More recent additions to the shopping list are business acumen, enterprise and creativity. And it's not enough to just 'talk the talk'. Candidates need to provide cast-iron evidence of these skills in a range of activities both in and outside of their studies. 'Getting yourself elected as president of a society or captain of a team might help to secure an interview, but graduate recruiters are trained to probe what you have actually achieved in that role', says Nick. 'So, it's not just a question of having a title – you could be a humble member of a group or a casual worker in a restaurant, yet have made a really big impact by suggesting new ideas and making something happen. That's what really impresses employers.' 🐾



The Mbarara Project team, left to right, Andy Fawcett, Bushra Naseer, Will Shaw and Nick Chamberlain.



Formula Student Championships: Kate Davie in the Newcastle team car.

AFRICAN ADVENTURE

The desire to make a difference took a team of 12 civil engineering students to the small town of Mbarara, in South Western Uganda during their summer vacation, where they put their academic and practical skills to good use helping local builders and craftspeople build a new community education centre. Mbarara lies in an extremely under-developed area, ravaged by HIV and Aids, a vicious and sustained civil war and extreme poverty.

The team organized the trip in partnership with registered charity Lasallian Developing World Projects. They also financed the trip themselves, through fundraising events and sponsorship: to date they have raised over £20,000.

While planning and working on the project, the team constantly faced new challenges. 'Having never done anything like this, we were on a steep learning curve!', said team member, Nick Chamberlain. 'Currency fluctuations and a sharp rise in steel and timber prices led to a very late design change to keep the project on budget. Money was very tight and had to be well accounted for, so we had to keep a very close eye on expenditure and continually reassess parts of the project', added Nick, who eventually hopes to work on disaster relief for international charity, RedR, and other projects in the developing world.

The centre will take five years to complete. Successive teams of undergraduate engineers from the University will have the chance to travel to Uganda each summer to work on subsequent phases. When it is completed, the centre will serve 35,000 members of the local youth population, providing advice and training on a wide range of subjects from health matters to education.

Travelling to Africa for the first time left a lasting impression on Nick. 'Uganda is an amazing country and we all thoroughly enjoyed our time there', he said. 'We were sad to leave, but we very nearly finished the project and there was enough money left to keep our local labourers on to complete the work.' 🐘

DRIVING AMBITION

Competing against novice engineers from around the globe at the Formula Student Championships in July proved the ultimate test for a team of mechanical engineering students who designed and built a single-seater racing car as part of their degree course.

The team raised £12,000 in sponsorship to create the 600cc single-seater Formula-style car, which took two years to design and build.

Team leader, Kate Davie, who graduated in July with a first-class degree, said: 'I found out about the competition before I came to the University. I thought it would be a really interesting thing to do. By taking part, we have all gained some valuable hands-on experience which complements our academic training. I have learnt a lot about project management, which I can take into the workplace with me. It's also been really good fun.'

Lieutenant Colonel Ian Parsons, a visiting lecturer on secondment to the University from the British Army, said: 'The whole project was aimed at developing the wider competences of a professional engineer, such as financial management, project management, team building and working to a tight schedule. It encourages innovation and development of the skills which employers want from graduate engineers. Graduates who take part in Formula Student are sought after because they not only arrive at the workplace with a degree, they have also achieved a high level of success when applying their academic and theoretical skills.' 🏎️

ARCHES Alumni Events

Professor Christopher Edwards, Vice-Chancellor, with Dato Ishak at the Kuala Lumpur reception.



Professor Tony Roskilly with Mr Choo Chiao Beng at Keppel Offshore & Marine in Singapore.



Alumni at the receptions in Singapore (right) and Kuala Lumpur (below).



VICE-CHANCELLOR MEETS ALUMNI IN SINGAPORE AND MALAYSIA

In February 2004 a delegation from the University including Professor Christopher Edwards, Vice-Chancellor, and Professors Atilla Incecik and Tony Roskilly from the School of Marine Sciences and Technology, visited Singapore, which is promoting itself as the hub of the marine industry for South-East Asia. The Newcastle delegation was able to meet a number of alumni occupying senior positions within the marine industry, as well as raise the profile amongst alumni of the new MSc in Marine Technology (International) course being taught in-country in Singapore.

The Vice-Chancellor's visits included a warm welcome at Keppel Offshore & Marine by Chairman and Managing Director, Mr Choo Chiao Beng (BSc Naval Architecture 1970, MSc Naval Architecture 1971), who has employed a large number of Newcastle educated graduates on his management staff. The University's long-standing marine connection with Singapore began with the late Chua Chor Teck (BSc Naval Architecture 1968) who became a father figure to the fledgling marine industry in Singapore, and whose contribution was honoured by the Vice-Chancellor at the Chua Chor Teck Memorial Fund Industry Forum during his visit.

Around 60 alumni attended a reception organized by the Singapore Branch of the Alumni Association at the Pines Club in Singapore, where the guest of honour was Government Minister, Dr Lim Boon Heng (BSc Naval Architecture 1970, Hon DCL 1996).

Following the visit to Singapore, the Vice-Chancellor travelled to Kuala Lumpur where there was a further alumni reception attended by around 50 alumni and guests from Malaysia. The reception marked the elevation of Dato' (Dr) Mohamed Ishak bin Haji Mohamed Ariff (Dip Town & Country Planning 1964, Dip Landscape Design 1973, Hon DCL 1993) to the position of Honorary Life President of the Malaysian Branch of the Alumni Association. The University is pleased to be able to provide some more active support for the branch through the office of its representative in Malaysia, David Forman (BA Politics 1976). Anyone interested in becoming involved in branch activity should contact David by e-mail at: newcastlekl@po.jaring.my or by phone on ++ (603) 7782 5866.

50 YEARS AS ARCHITECTS

On 1 July last year 26 architects and their partners shared a very full day of activities in Newcastle and Gateshead. After gathering at the School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape for coffee, chat and photographs, they enjoyed talks at the St Mary's Visitor Centre before walking past the emerging SAGE Gateshead Music Centre and the Gateshead Millennium Bridge to the BALTIC: Centre for Contemporary Art for a reunion lunch overlooking a riverside much changed since 1953 (when several attending

were last on Tyneside). Many more changes were noted from the coach during an after-lunch drive through the city centre and the suburbs, ending up at the University for tea in the Council Chamber, where they were joined by architects currently working in Newcastle. Thanks are due to the many who helped to make the day a success, in particular the Development and Alumni Relations Office team. The small balance left in our accounts has been gifted to the University's Alumni Fund.

Alan Moody (BA 1953)

CONVOCATION AND ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND 2004

Alumni travelled from as far afield as Bangladesh and California to join together for the annual Convocation and Alumni Reunion Weekend on 18–20 June 2004. Amongst a varied programme of activity the champagne, strawberries and jazz reception in the newly opened Devonshire Building was deemed a great success, whilst attendance for the marvellous Convocation Lecture given by Baroness Mary Warnock was very high. The weekend was rounded off with a splendid visit to the gardens at Blagdon Hall, home of the former Chancellor of the University, Viscount Ridley.

The meeting of Convocation agreed key changes to the structure of the Alumni Association and Alumni Consultative Group (ACG). Congratulations to Wendy Dawley (BA 1997), Ian Forster (BA 1955, DipEd 1956), Louise Needham (BA 2002) and Gareth Trainer (BSc 2000) who were all elected to ACG, and to Roger Harvey (BSc 1972) who was elected Vice-Chair of the Alumni.

Convocation and Alumni Reunion Weekend 2005 will be held on 22-24 July 2005 to tie in with the Tall Ships Race visit to Newcastle. Additionally, the weekend will be held in conjunction with a major celebration of the 50th anniversary of the teaching of Politics at the University. If you are a politics graduate of any era please put the date in your diary now!



Viscount Ridley (centre) and alumni enjoying lunch at Blagdon Hall.



Aileen Bradley (BA Politics 1979), Antony Jones (BA Politics 1980) and Chairman of Convocation, Jack Jeffery (BSc Chemistry & Bacteriology 1953, MSc 1960) in the new Devonshire Building.



Robert McCrae (BSc Geology 1976, MSc 1979, PhD 1982), Anthony Walton (BSc Electrical Engineering 1974, MSc Electrical Engineering 1976), Bill Oliver (BSc Mechanical Engineering 1976), Bob Theaker (BSc Electrical Engineering 1975).



Ian Forster (BA Geography 1955, DipEd 1956), Chairman of the North of England Branch; Paul Mitchell, Deputy Registrar; Mrs Jane Mitchell; Roger Harvey (BSc Psychology 1972), Vice-Chair of Alumni; and Judith Penny (BA Geography 1967).

ALUMNI ENTERPRISE FORUM

On 20 March 2004 a special one-day forum was held for alumni thinking about starting up a business. The event, which was organized jointly with the University of Durham, included a series of workshops and lectures led by successful North-East entrepreneurs, a number of them

alumni of the two universities themselves. The aim was to provide delegates with essential, practical advice on business start-up and the opportunity to network. Feedback from the event was extremely positive and a number of delegates have been helped by the University's Enterprise Centre to progress their plans further following the event.

www.ncl.ac.uk/cad/enterprise



Workshop exercise at the Alumni Enterprise Forum.

1940s

Rowland COWLEY (MB BS 1947) established an Eye Clinic at Jachie Kumasi in Ghana, two years ago.

Leonard Maurice FRANKS (MB BS 1942; MD 1954) was elected Fellow of the College of American Pathologists in 1957, and was a Fellow and founding member of the Royal College of Pathologists in 1962. After graduation he worked as a pathologist all over the world from Italy to British Columbia. He was Secretary General of the International Federation for Cell Biology from 1972–1984, has published numerous works on Prostate and Bladder Cancer, Ageing, and Cell Biology, and has lectured all over the world. He is now retired and living in London.

1950s

St John Perrot STIMSON (Diploma in Landscape Design 1955) retired from architecture and landscape design in 1984 to create 'The Museum of the Home' in Pembroke. After 20 years, at the age of 75 he is to retire again, and the museum collection will no longer be open to the public.

Sir Neville TROTTER (BCom 1952) started his public life as a member of Newcastle City Council before becoming a Member of Parliament for Tynemouth. After 23 years he retired and was installed as High Sheriff for the County of Tyne and Wear in April of this year. **Bill MEIKLE (LLB 1958)**, who worked as a partner in a leading Newcastle law firm, has acted as Under Sheriff for the county for many years.



Sir Neville Trotter (left) and Bill Meikle (right) with their wives.

1960s

Elizabeth BARRACLOUGH (MSc Computing 1965) recently retired as Director of Computing Services at Newcastle University. She is a member of Allendale District Council and Keswick Town Council, and was elected as Mayor of Keswick for 2004–2005

Christopher BRADLEY (LLB 1969) retired as Head of Legal Services at South Tyneside Council in January 2004 after 33 years in the legal departments of local government, including Sunderland,

Houghton-Le-Spring, and South Tyneside. Before his retirement, he was Returning Officer for elections for 12 years, managed three general, two European, and eight local council elections.

Ashley DAWE (BSc Pure Science 1966) has been teaching Mathematics at Uppingham School since 1972

Dennis DOE (BA Politics & Economics 1962) is in his nineteenth year as local councillor. Last year he was Mayor of the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames - The Premier Royal Borough of the four in England and Wales!

Nigel GEE (BSc Naval Architecture 1969) has recently been elected as President of The Royal Institution of Naval Architects.

John GRIFFITHS (BArch 1962) retired from the world of architecture, and now spends his time running an estate on the Welsh border, and running steam trains through the woodland of the estate. He is also Assistant Provincial Grand Master for the Masonic Province of Staffordshire and a Grand Officer of the United Grand Lodge.

Richard ILES (BA Economics & Social Studies 1967) managed several bus companies in Kenya and Malawi for 10 years after graduation. He then became an independent consultant specializing in the management of public transport in developing countries. He has worked on assignments in more than 20 countries across the globe and is currently writing a book on the subject which is expected to be published in the next year.

James MACKENZIE (BA English & Spanish 1969; PGCE 1970) had his first book, *Journey to the Hidden Kingdom* – a guide to the children's books of Newcastle, North Tyneside and Northumberland, published in February this year.

Virginia MEMBREY (BA Social Studies 1962; Certificate in Applied Social Studies 1963; MA Development Studies 1963) has been a Quaker Chaplain at Shepton Mallet Prison for the last four years. It is an all-male prison, and she has found the work both rewarding and challenging.

Ann RITTER née GORDON (BDS 1969) recently completed an 80 kilometre sponsored walk along the Great Wall of China.

Ronald TATE (BA Land Use Studies; Town & Country Planning 1969) will become President of the Royal Town Planning Institute in 2005.

David TONKS (BSc Chemistry 1964) retired from Credit Lyonnais in 2000. He now works as an IT project manager on a contract basis. His experience over the years has included telecommunications, voice, data and networking in a banking environment.

1970s

Christopher COTTEE (BSc Psychology 1975) was ordained in 1980 and has been a vicar in Watford since 1991. He is married with two sons.

Peter CROPPER (BA German 1979) writes a regular monthly column for the Lancashire Post Today. His first book, *From Great Broughton to Great Britain: Peter Gorley - Rugby League Forward* has just been published and his first novel is in the pipeline.

Richard CROZIER (BA Music 1971; PGCE 1972) has worked as a class music teacher, instrumental teacher, local education authority adviser, Ofsted inspector, and is now working in London at the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, where he is responsible for running professional development courses for music teachers.

Kevin ELLIOTT (BA Music 1975) works teaching and writing educational music and songs for school shows. He also plays jazz keyboard.

Frederick HARDY (BSc Plant Biology 1974; PhD Plant Biology 1978; MSc Computing Science 1986; MLitt Classics 1998) recently published an *Atlas of the Seaweeds of Great Britain and Ireland* and continues to carry out research on the seaweeds of the East Coast and of Ghana. He also writes books on ancient botany and various seaweeds for Routledge.

Roger HARVEY (LLB 1974) recently won the Cadenza prize for short fiction. He also leads creative writing residential courses at Castle of Park in Aberdeenshire, and his poems, stories, and books continue to be published worldwide.

Kenneth HODCROFT (BSc Chemical Engineering 1976) is Director of Dove Energy Ltd and Increased Oil Recovery Ltd. He is also Chairman of Hartlepool United FC.

Charles KNOTT (BSc Mathematics & Statistics 1976) is Chairman and Chief Executive of Quest International. After graduation he joined National Starch as a commercial director of Laing-National in Manchester. He then worked in a series of positions in Germany, the Netherlands, UK and USA, before

relocating to Singapore in 1995 to head National's Asia-Pacific operations as Corporate Vice-President. He was invited to join the Board of ICI as an executive director earlier this year.

Nicholas LLOYD (MA Fine Art 1975) recently participated in the Lake Vyrnwy International Sculpture Symposium in Wales. He was a contributing member of the committee which hopes to develop an international iron casting symposium in 2006. Nicholas is a Subject Leader in Sculpture at the University of Wolverhampton.

Andrew MORTIMER (MB BS 1973; MD 1986) is currently serving a second term of office on the Council of the Royal College of Anaesthetists in London. He chairs the Finance and Examination Committees, in addition to the numerous duties he has as a College Councillor.

Warwick PARTINGTON (BSc Agricultural Mechanisation 1977) is Chief Executive of Media Training Masterclasses Ltd. The business is doing well and now has several major overseas contracts in Europe and the USA. In addition, last December he spent a week in Reykjavik speaking at the International Society of Incentive and Travel Executives.

David ROBINSON (BSc Zoology 1970; PhD Agricultural & Environmental Sciences 2001) is Head of Broadcasting at the Open University and is responsible for all Open University broadcast projects run jointly with the BBC. He is still active in biological teaching and research and will return to the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering at the University in 2006.

Nigel SKEFFINGTON (BSc Agricultural Zoology 1979) recently sold his software business and has now decided to take an early rest from work.

Diane SMEED (BA English 1977) worked for many years as a teacher of English and for nine years as a Head of Department. She then decided to teach Modern Foreign Languages, and soon hopes to teach English as a foreign language to adults.

Robin SMITH (BA Architecture 1970; BArch 1973) is now a leading consultant in local government management, having been Chief Executive of two local authorities (Copeland in Cumbria, Havant in Hampshire). Prior to that, he was Chief Architect and Chief Planning Officer to Hertsmere Borough Council in Hertfordshire. He specializes in major regeneration schemes, predominantly in the East End of London.

Valerie WEEDON née HOLLINGS (BSc Speech 1970) is married to **Colin WEEDON (BSc Chemistry 1970)**. The couple recently

took early retirement and are enjoying life to the full, dividing time between Berkshire and the Lake District. They would be pleased to hear from anyone who remembers them at valerie.weedon@btinternet.com or colin.weedon@btinternet.com

John WILSON (BA German 1979) has spent 21 years playing in the Merseyside Quiz Leagues, including five as Chair and three as General Secretary. His first quiz experience was on the 1977 Newcastle University Challenge team and he is the current reigning (2003) British Quiz Champion.

1980s

Giles ANDRE (BSc Geography & Surveying 1986) moved from managing the Geodetic Branch of the Defence Geographic and Imagery Intelligence Agency (DGIA) in August 2002 to attend the Advanced Command and Staff course for a year at the Joint Services Command and Staff College in Shrivenham. He then spent a few months in DGIA Headquarters before starting his current job as Head of the NATO & Eastern European Branch in January 2004, where he is now responsible for collecting geographic material and managing international relations across Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Edward BANCROFT (BA Philosophy 1983) was involved in a motorcycle accident in 1995 which led to the amputation of his left leg nine days before he was due to play the Pirate King in a performance of *The Pirates of Penzance*. He is currently organizing another performance for May 2005 (10 years on) for charity in aid of Adopt-a-Minefield and needs Sheffield-based participants. For more information visit www.stumped.co.uk

Jessica BEATON (BA Economics & Economic History 1985) has recently returned to full-time employment after 10 years of working part time. She loves her new job as a travel and facilities officer for AIRCOM International, and has done well in her first six months.

Helen BENNETT (BA Philosophy 1983) worked in the City for 18 years, firstly as a stockbroker, and then at the Stock Exchange itself. She resigned in 2002, took a one-year sabbatical, and now works in the local hospital helping to improve services for cancer patients.

Helen BEVAN née YATES-MERCER (BSc Mathematics 1988) is married with a baby daughter called Eleanor who was born in November 2003. She spent six years with Schröders working in the

Unit Trust Department then in the Tax Department.

Susan BURCHILL (PhD Dermatology 1986) runs a children's cancer research laboratory in the Cancer Research UK Clinical Centre in Leeds. She is a Reader in adolescent and paediatric cancer research, and also still enjoys running, walking, climbing, and skiing.

Christopher BUTLER (BSc Mining 1983; MSc Rock Mechanics 1985) is taking time out to raise his autistic son, and says that it is more fun than any research or job he has ever done!

Edward DAYNES (BA Accounting & Financial Analysis 1988) is Chairman of the Kinlochleven Land Development Trust as well as a Partner at the Clachaig Inn in Glencoe, Scotland.

Samantha DHARIWAL née QUAYLE (BSc General 1988; PGCE 1989) is now living in Marlow with her husband Dal, having worked in Germany for eight years. She is a teacher, and gave birth to her daughter in October 2002.

Caroline GILL née DUDLEY-SMITH (BA Classical Studies 1982) recently took part in the Arts Disability Wales Project, and as a result has had six pieces of creative writing selected for inclusion in the project anthology, which is entitled *Hidden Dragons*. She also read one piece at the book launch at the Hay Festival 2004.

Jill GREEN née RHODES (BSc Chemical & Process Engineering 1984) has worked for engineering firm KBR since 1990. She is now a principal process engineer based in Sutton, and is married to a chemical engineer with two young children.

John JOHNSON (LDS 1982) is Director and Head of Public Affairs in Brussels for APCO-Europe. He is married with twin daughters.

Judy KIDSON née PARIS (BSc Agriculture 1986) having recently completed a City and Guilds level 4 Certificate in Further Education, now teaches Horticulture to students from day care centres with physical disabilities and behavioural problems. She has three children aged 14, 12 and nine.

Peter LAW-JONES (BA English Language & Literature 1987) is a budding ethnographer and sociologist. He is about to begin research for a PhD entitled: *Policing the Clergy: Mission, Sexuality and Ministerial Formation in the Church of England*. He is also a grandfather.

John LOWDON (BSc Physiological Sciences 1984) began work as a medical

laboratory scientific officer before taking up a career in analytical chemistry with GlaxoSmithKline. He studied for an MSc at the University of Northumbria and now enjoys work as a laboratory manager.

John McCAFFERTY (BSc Biochemistry 1986) worked in Newcastle for nine years before starting a PGCE at the University of Northumbria. He taught Maths in Sleaford, Lincolnshire for three years and then had a year out in Paris. He is now teaching at Rossall in Lancashire and married Alexandra in 2000. He has two children, Mark, three and Kathryn, one.

Paul MILLER (BSc Agriculture 1986) is a partner on a small dairy farm. He has had two visits to East Africa in recent years which he believes puts any problems in British agriculture into perspective.

Janice OSBORN née WALKER (BA German 1982) is married to Neil OSBORN (BA Town & Country Planning 1983), and is living in the country and working part-time as a tax inspector. She has two children, aged 12 and eight. She plays a full-time role in the community with various school activities and the WI, of which she is Secretary. Neil runs a successful town planning consultancy, which is based in Bedford but has three regional sub-offices. In their spare time the family are restoring an old farmhouse in Cambridgeshire as well as several old Citroens!

Julie RICHARDSON (BA Combined Studies 1988) married Andrew Cheetham in 1994 and their daughter Xanthe was born in 2002. She is currently working part time and is about to go on maternity leave as their second daughter is due in September.

Lucinda SADLER née HAYDOCK (MB BS 1987) moved away from the North-East after 20 years, in 2002, when she married Paul. She now lives in a small village in Hampshire with Paul, her two step-daughters and her daughter Emily who was born in March 2004. She works part time as a GP in Romsey.

Michelle WHITTON née ELGEY (BSc Speech 1985) is a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, assisting those with Cerebral Palsy. Her husband Andy is a local GP, and her son William was born in 2003. She also works for a variety of charitable organizations and medico-legal companies.

Beverley WINKLER née LEIGH (BA German 1982) works as a Freelance Editor and Indexer. After leaving university she worked for a year at the Barbican Library in London, and then

went on to gain a Postgraduate Diploma in Librarianship from Birmingham Polytechnic. She then went into publishing and worked for Aslib, BSL, Letts, and the Economist Intelligence Unit as a full-time editor.

1990s

Ian BADE (BEng Electrical & Electronic Engineering 1994) founded a company called Morbione in 2001, that specializes in developing and selling mobile IT-solutions within transport, distribution and field forces. The company is represented in Norway and Sweden, and counts Coca-Cola Sweden as a customer.

Daniel BALL (BDS 1997) married Cara BALL née McWHIRTER (BDS 1997) who gave birth to twins (a boy and a girl) in August 2003. They now live in Cornwall and Daniel is currently studying a Master's degree in Clinical Dentistry at King's College, London via long-distance learning. Cara also completed a Master's in Community Dentistry in 2004 via the same scheme. Daniel has just been appointed a Vocational Dental Practitioner Trainer.

Nicholas BEVINGTON (Graduate Certificate in Secondary Education 1997) is now on his third teaching job in London as a Deputy Head.

Adrian BROWN (MB BS 1994) is Chairman of the charity Maternity Worldwide.

Angus BRUCE JONES (BEng Marine Technology with Marine Engineering 1999) left the UK after graduation and worked for four years as a Marine Engineer in Australia, Antigua and across the Mediterranean. He left the sea in 2003 and now runs a specialist freight funding company, which ships yachts and motorboats worldwide.

William BUTLER-ADAMS (MEng Mechanical Engineering) is married and working for Brompton Bicycle Ltd, Brompton UK. He is also a Chartered Engineer.

Edward CHESTER (MSc Microelectronics 1996; PhD Electrical & Electronic Engineering 2002) was the Flight Operations Team Manager for the recent Beagle-2 Mars mission which unfortunately failed. Having flown a spacecraft to Mars (remotely!), he finds it hard to imagine being a student in Newcastle just two years ago. Another space mission he created whilst at Newcastle, leading an undergraduate team, now looks set for launch in 2005.

Zoe COGGON née ADAMS (PhD Chemistry 1999) gave birth to her first baby in August 2004.

Claire DOW née McCOMBIE (BMedSci 1997; MB BS 1998) is currently in her third year of five as Registrar in Geriatrics for the Royal London Hospital NHS Trust. She is undertaking research into the views of older people on hospital and has been married to Steven Dow for three years.

Ian EMERSON (BSc Agriculture & Biological Sciences 1998) has led two expeditions to Mount Everest Base, and achieved three successful ascents of Mount Kenya, and one of Mount Kilimanjaro. He helped a Cystic Fibrosis sufferer to climb Mount Kenya in 1999, and is involved in ongoing fundraising to support Kenyan Street Children.

Claire ENGLAND née SANDERCOCK (BSc Marine Biology 1995) married James England in May 2000. They had a little girl called Charlotte Holly in March 2002, and Laura Grace came along in July of 2003. She is now a full-time mother and thinks it is fantastic.

Isabel FISH née BOOTH (BA Combined Studies 1993) and **Matthew FISH (BEng Electrical & Electronic Engineering 1993)** had a baby boy called Daniel in December of 2002; Isabel is taking a career break to be a full-time mum and is loving every minute of it! Matthew is working in Cambridge for an online publisher.

Alice FOX (BSc Geography 1997) works part time for the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, has two young children, and has recently started a small business making and selling fabric artwork and cards.

Siri FREDRIKSON (UG Occasional Student 1996) works as a guidance counsellor and educational adviser at the University of Bergen. On 5 March 2004, Siri and her husband were thrilled to welcome their little baby boy Erlend into this world.

Michael FRYER (BA History 1996) is working at the Department of Peace Studies at the University of Bradford. His job title is Conflict Resolution Training and Development Officer, and his recent work has involved working with groups on both sides of the conflict in Sri Lanka, the military in Ghana, and local community groups and schools. He describes it as a great job and considers himself extremely lucky to be involved in such a fascinating area of work.

Elizabeth GEESON (BSc Animal Science 1999) has continued to show her dogs with a great deal of success, including owning and showing the top Long-haired Dachshund bitch 2003. She also became one of the youngest people ever to judge at Crufts when she judged there earlier this year.

Hilary GILMORE (BA English Literature 1997) works as a Fundraising and Development Consultant in London. Her son, **Hugo GILMORE (BA History 1991)** is working as the Middle East Correspondent for the *Sunday Telegraph* based in Israel. He is also a Freelance Documentary Maker and several of his films have been shown on the BBC and Channel Four. His recent film 'Behind the Fence' was nominated for an Amnesty Award.

Aiden GLENDINNING (BA Combined Studies 1992) has been living in Laos since 1995; he is married to a Lao lady and has two children. He works as an editor, writer and communications adviser to international development agencies and non-government organizations. He also writes historical books on Laos and educational reference books on South-East Asia.

Elizabeth GLENDINNING née KENNEDY (BSc Agriculture 1993) has now fully restocked her farm after the foot and mouth disease crisis. She and her husband John have two daughters called Lily and Lixie who were born in 2001 and 2003 respectively.

Andrew GOWER (MB BS 1991) was appointed Orthopaedic Consultant for the County Durham and Darlington Accute Trust in January 2004, with a special interest in foot and ankle surgery.

Steven HARDING (LLB 1995) is currently Head of Public Affairs at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Daniel HARTLEY (LLB 1997) is working as an editor on feature films.

Andrea HARWOOD née STEWART (BA French 1998) has been married for one year. Since graduation, she has spent four years living and working in West Africa doing aid and development work. Since leaving Newcastle she has also gained two further degrees.

Scott HENSHAW (BSc Mathematics 1995) is living in a Lincolnshire village and working for a homeless charity in Nottingham. He is married to Marianne and they are expecting their first baby this year.

Anna HIPWELL née MOSELEY (BA Classics 1994) has been living in the Netherlands since 2003. She now has two children; Tom is two and a half, and Saskia is seven weeks old. She is currently on leave from HSBC for two years.

Simon HOLT (BSc Agricultural & Food Marketing 1995) decided during his course that he wanted to have a pub with a small brewery attached. After graduating he worked for a small North West

'gastropub' group after which he became a tenant of a pub outside Leeds. He bought the 'Baltic Fleet' in 1997 and quickly developed a reputation for good food and good beer! The brewery in the cellar opened in January 2001 and has since won several prizes from CAMRA (The Campaign for Real Ale). Simon is planning one or two pubs for the future, and perhaps a vineyard.

Allison IRELAND née WOOF (BA Social Policy 1995) is currently studying for a Certificate in Education at New College Durham, after deciding to leave industry. She is also working at a young offenders institute delivering IT and life-skills courses.

Christopher ISHERWOOD (MEng Mechanical & Manufacturing Engineering 1996) came third in the Transatlantic Yacht Race in 1999. He completed an MBA at Cranfield University in 2002, and then went on to become Senior Manager in a textiles firm in 2003.

Owen JENKINS (BSc Geography & Surveying 1990) worked in oil exploitation in Burma, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates until 1993. He worked as a difficult access structural surveyor for one year, and then joined the police force for four years. He left with a knee injury in 1998 and went on to work in the United Arab Emirates for a digital mapping company. He is now Operations Manager in the Highways Department at Gloucestershire County Council and has a nine year old son called Azimuth.

Adam JENNINGS (BSc Biochemistry 1998) is currently living with his partner Helen, who is a teacher, in Worcester. He is continuing his research into paediatric liver disease following his PhD from the University of Birmingham.

Lander JIMENEZ-OCIO (BEng Civil & Environmental Engineering 1997; MSc Environmental Engineering 2000) married **Marcelle MARDON (BA Architecture 1997; BArch 2002)** on August 1 2003.

Joel KIMBER (BSc Marine Biology 1999) is currently researching Elasmobranch (shark e-ray) Ecology and the individual variations of electro-receptive behaviour.

Roger MALONE (BSc Marine Biology 1996) recently joined HMS Scott, a Plymouth-based survey ship, working around the world.

Lydia McCASLIN née SAADIAN (BSc Medical Microbiology 1999) is due to qualify as a solicitor in March 2005 and married **James McCASLIN (MB BS 2001)** in September 2004. James is a Senior House Officer at the Royal Victoria Infirmary and the couple live in Jesmond.

Richard MERRIMAN (BEng Civil Engineering 1994) has been working in Malaysia for two years as a construction manager for an engineering company.

Joanne MOODIE (BA Music 1998) is currently teaching music in a successful department and is Head of Year 10 and 11.

Martin MULLIN (BA History 1996) is now working for Hodder Headline, a book publisher based in London, and completed his MBA in 2001. In February 2004 Martin and his partner Margaret also became the very proud parents of Gemma Catherine.

Alexander MURRAY (BA German 1996) is married to **Trudi MURRAY née RAMSDEN (BA English Language & Literature 1996)** and the couple have three children: Felix, Lucas, and one on the way. They live in Hampton near Hampton Court Palace, where Alexander is happily growing chilli peppers and playing guitar. He is still working for Berry Bros & Rudd, Wine Merchants.

Felicity NATH (BSc Biochemistry 1998) is currently working for Shell as a financial accountant, and is hoping to work abroad in the next 18 months with the same company.

John NELSON (PhD Civil Engineering 1991) was promoted to a personal chair in Public Transport Systems in the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences at Newcastle University in August 2004.

Matthew POLLARD (BA English Language & Literature 1996) is currently teaching English at Latymer Upper School in London. He is living with his girlfriend Jennie, and is saving for a year to go travelling – or to buy a Porsche Boxter!

Martin RAMSDEN (BSc Physiological Sciences 1996) completed a Doctorate at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, and is now working with world-famous neuroscientist Dr Karen Ashe at the University of Minnesota searching for a cure to Alzheimer's Disease.

Colin REDICAN (BSc Geophysics 1997) has served on the RAF's Nimrod MR2 Patrol aircraft since June 2000, and has served over both Afghanistan and Iraq. He is currently stationed at RAF Kinloss, in Scotland and lives on the Moray coast with his wife who he married in 2002.

Georgina ROSE (BSc Ecological Resource Management 1999) spent four months in Malawi in 2001. She realized whilst there that she wanted to help the local community of Thondwe Village so she decided to build a nursery school for 60 Malawian children. She began fundraising in 2002 and in May of that year travelled back to Malawi with the £11,000 raised.

Georgina was in charge of construction, decoration, and the appointment of staff and the project took six months to build. She continues to fundraise for the school and visits each year. Visit the nursery website at www.thenurserymalawi.co.uk.

Kevin RUSCOE (BSc Computing Science 1990) and his wife set sail in their yacht in early August and expect to arrive in New Zealand in about 18 months time.

Richard SHAW (BA Town Planning 1998; DTP 2001; MSc Transportation Planning and Policy 2002) is engaged, and is due to marry **Karen GEESON (BA Town Planning 1998)** in December 2004.

Kate SPURDELL née NUTLAND (BA Psychology 1991) completed a PGCE in the Lake District after leaving Newcastle. She then returned for a brief teaching career, and to marry **Neil SPURDELL (BSc Mathematics 1991; PGCE 1992)**. After moving to Wiltshire she had four children at an alarming rate, and is currently in a state of recovery! Neil said: 'I've had ten years of marriage and four children to show for my life after Newcastle. As a consequence I've been driven out to work and am now Deputy of a Comprehensive School in Cheltenham for disabled children'.

Lucy SWINSON née ASPEY (MSc Physics 1997) left Newcastle to complete a PGCE at Keele University, and then went on to teach in a secondary school for a short period of time. In 2000 she did an MSc in Ergonomics at Loughborough University and is now working as a human factors consultant for Atkins Consultants.

Charles THOMSON (BSc Agriculture 1992) is an equity derivative broker working in London. He is married to Sophie and is living in Clapham.

Georgina TOMLIN (BSc Physiological Sciences 1997) is about to take a career break and travel to Thailand, Nepal and Australia. She works as a dietician in intensive care units, and lives in Oxford.

Harold TREGONING (BSc Food Marketing 1997) is an insurance broker with Hamilton & Partners Ltd, specializing in equine property, bloodstock and all other relevant insurances.

Paula TURLEY (BA Combined Studies 1992) moved to Huddersfield to study to become a careers adviser; she joined Northamptonshire Careers Service and finally qualified in 1994. She is now Senior Manager with Connexions Service in Northamptonshire.

Ewan TURNER (BSc Genetics 1991) is currently going through the promotion process to police sergeant with the Merseyside Police Force.

Nicholas WHITEHEAD (BSc Marine Biology 1996) recently married Dr Rachel Suckling at Greystoke Castle in Cumbria. They are currently living in Cockermouth, Cumbria.

Siobhan WHITEHEAD née WILSON (BSc Genetics 1998) gave birth to a little girl called Tara Katherine Whitehead on 11 October 2002.

Jo WILKINSON (BA Religious Studies 1998; MPhil Religious Studies 2001; PhD 2004) is currently working on a book about John the Baptist based upon research conducted for her MPhil and PhD at Newcastle.

Clive WILLIAMSON (BEng Agricultural Engineering 1991) has recently started a white water kayaking company which takes clients to Morocco, Turkey, Nepal, Chile, Tasmania, and Zambia.

Jeremy WYNNE (BDS 1991) spent over 11 years as a Dental Officer in the Royal Air Force, enjoying several tours in the UK and overseas tours in the Falkland Islands, Hong Kong, with NATO forces in Holland, and on exchange with his Majesty the Sultan of Brunei Royal Air Force.

2000s

Melanie BARRETT (BA Fine Art 2003) has almost completed her Master's degree in Painting at Wimbledon School of Art, and is planning to move back to Newcastle soon.

Gemma BIRD (BA History 2002) left her job as a broadcast assistant at the BBC due to lack of opportunities for career progression, and has now moved into the investment banking sector.

Victoria CONWAY née ASHBURNER (MSc Language Pathology 2001) has a son called Joseph John, who was born in December 2002. He is now old enough for her to be able to study early language development first hand!

Alasdair DALZEL-JOB (BSc Biology of Plants & Animals 2002; MSc Clean Technology 2003) got a job with the Environment Agency at Thornaby, near Middlesbrough after graduation. He moved to live in Scarton near Catterick and is engaged to Emily Hutchinson.

Harriet DENNISON (BSc Environmental Biology 2001) completed an MSc in Ecology at Lancaster University after leaving Newcastle. She is also involved with a local bat group as an injured bat carer and has recently started working for Yorkshire Wildlife Trust.

Matthew DORE (BSc Biomedical Sciences 2003) is studying Medicine at Aberdeen University and is currently captain of an intermural football team called the 'Marischal Allstars' made up of second year medics. 'Marischal' comes from the fact that they all study anatomy at Marischal College; the 'allstars' bit is simply just appropriate!

Charlotte DUNSTAN (BA English Literature 2002) is studying for an MA in Environment, Development and Policy at Sussex University. After graduation she went backpacking for a year, and is now writing her dissertation and living in Brighton.

Nicole FARRELL (BA Politics 2001) travelled for one year in South-East Asia, Australia and New Zealand following graduation. She is now working in the Intelligence Unit for Merseyside police.

Shirley HALLAM (Med 2002) has recently retired as manager of the North Tyneside Ethnic Minority Traveller and Refugee Achievement Service. She is currently a tutor for the homework club at the Whitley Bay Islamic Cultural Centre, where she works with students between the ages of five and 16.

Philippa HAWORTH (BA Town Planning 2000; DTP 2002) is working in London as she has just qualified as a town planner and is working as a planning consultant in a property company.

Steven JACKMAN (BA Economics 2000) is taking a sabbatical year out to live and work in Australia, leaving in November 2004.

Rakshit JAGDALE (MBA 2002) recently launched an Indian single malt export whisky in Scotland which he plans to sell to Indian restaurants after an authentic Indian experience. Rakshit came up with the idea of exporting 'Amrut' whisky which is produced in the family's distillery in Bangalore, whilst studying at Newcastle. The drink was launched in Scotland in August but the family also have plans to introduce it to Spain, Italy and France in the near future.

Louise MILLER (BA European Business Management 2001) is a policy manager for Derby CVS, a charity that exists to support, develop, promote and represent voluntary and community organizations in Derby. She is engaged and is getting married to her boyfriend in July next year. Their long-term plan is to emigrate to France.

Elizabeth MORRIS (BSc Medicinal Chemistry 2002) is now a full-time mum to Sarah Isabel who was born in July 2003. She is getting married soon and

then might think about getting a job!

Timothy PLATT (BA Combined Studies 2001) has been racing for the British Skibike Team for the past three years. Their highest place so far has been sixteenth at the World Championships in 2003.

Sarah SANCTUARY née BREWES (BSc Applied Biology 2000; PGCE 2001; PGCSE 2002) has just returned from teaching at the British International School in Jakarta, Indonesia, and started her new job as a biology teacher in Bedford in September. She married **Paul SANCTUARY (BSc Computing Science 2001)** on 29 May 2004.

Michael SEATON (BA English Literature 2001) is a senior account executive at Geronimo Public Relations, the UK's leading public sector PR consultancy.

Jemma SUTCH (BA English Literature 2003) finished a ski season in April 2004, and is now concentrating on gaining experience in the media sector, more specifically in broadcasting production. She is currently working as a facilities assistant for Metro Goldwyn Mayer.

Katherine SYRED (MB BS 2000) is a specialist registrar in Cardiff doing an MSc in Medical Education in an attempt to improve the profile of the misunderstood but interesting field of pathology. She is also a keen sailor and participated in a youth voyage with the Tall Ships Youth Trust this summer.

Jennifer TENNANT (BA Linguistics 2001) is now studying for an MSc in Speech and Language Therapy at Reading University

David TUCKER (BSc Medical Microbiology 2000) worked and trained for the Emergency Ambulance Service for two years after graduation. During that time he applied to study medicine, and was accepted at Bristol University. He has just completed his second year there and still works for the Ambulance Service on a part-time basis.

Hilary TURNER (MA Fine Art 2002) has set up Tyneside-based Musa Fine Art Specialists with fellow fine art graduate **Carol METCALFE**. The company aims to provide the best of original North-East art, and to enable artists to remain in the region and earn a decent living. The company also received the Arts and Media Achievement Award 2004 from Newcastle University, and the Northumbria University Overall Business Viability Award.

Sarah WELTON (BSc Applied Biology 2002) started a Veterinary Medicine and Surgery degree at Edinburgh University after leaving Newcastle. She has just finished her third year and has two more to go!



Arches Editorial Board
Development and Alumni Relations Office
University of Newcastle upon Tyne
6 Kensington Terrace
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 7RU

Telephone: + 44 (0) 191 222 7250
Fax: + 44 (0) 191 222 5905
E-mail: alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk
www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni

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