

# ARCHES



The Magazine of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne



Issue 6 | Spring 2005

**Educating All Over the World  
Towards Sustainable Energy  
Transforming Horizons  
Reunion 2005**

## Welcome to the latest issue of *Arches* magazine



**In the past few months Newcastle University has been a beneficiary of two very major awards, both of which have been characterized by the University working as the lead partner in productive partnership with other regional organizations.**

The award of £9 million in January 2005 to establish two centres for excellence for the study of music and healthcare in the North East, will help the region to build on the international reputation it already boasts in these areas. The government money will be used to train hundreds of future musicians and health professionals using the very latest materials and methods, and by forging stronger links between the region's universities and organizations like NHS hospitals, primary care trusts and The Sage Gateshead.

In the same month, we were delighted to receive news that our application for £8.75 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund in support of our plans to create a Great North Museum on campus had been successful. The Great North Museum will bring together the world-renowned natural history collections and archaeological treasures currently housed in the Hancock Museum and the University's Museum of Antiquities and Shefton Museum of Greek Art and Archaeology into one flagship venue for the city and region. Under the proposals, the Hatton Gallery will also be integrated into the management structure of this major new venture. The University is leading the £25.75m project, which has the backing of Tyne and Wear Museums, Newcastle City Council, the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, and the Natural History Society of Northumbria.

Our vision for where we would like to develop as an institution based upon our strong reputation in a wide variety of fields has, for the first time, been expressed in a single document that defines our priorities for philanthropic fundraising. I do hope you find the article on *Transforming Horizons* interesting and I would encourage you to read about these plans in greater detail online at [www.ncl.ac.uk/daro/transforminghorizons.html](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/daro/transforminghorizons.html). In partnership with our global community of alumni and supporters, this University truly has the potential to contribute, through knowledge and learning, to a brighter future for us all.

Finally, readers may like to know that two members of staff who will be familiar to alumni are moving on to pastures new this spring. Chris Cox, Director of Development and Joel Burden, Alumni Development Officer and Editor of *Arches* are both leaving Newcastle. Though we are sorry to say goodbye, we wish them well in exciting new endeavours and look forward to introducing their successors in the next issue.

I very much hope that you will enjoy reading more about all of these things in this latest issue of *Arches*.

With very best wishes

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

Professor Christopher Edwards  
Vice-Chancellor

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### Profile

Jack Mapanje, Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing at the University.

## LORD PATTEN'S UNIVERSITY CHALLENGE

At the end of January, the University's Chancellor, Chris Patten, was formally introduced into the House of Lords. In an interview with *The Independent's* education correspondent, Lucy Hodges, he tells how he has appointed himself higher education's champion and has vowed to lead the fight for increased funding.

**Chris Patten bustles in from the House of Lords, where he has been receiving an induction. He is now a fully fledged peer, toggled out in ermine for special occasions. But that is nothing new for him. As Chancellor of Newcastle and Oxford Universities, he has to wear even more sumptuous gear, including a train carried by a page boy.**

The former governor of Hong Kong, European Commissioner, and Environment Secretary is busy developing a new specialism – higher education, which has to be good news for the sector. Patten, now 60, is a natural communicator who enjoys controversy and relishes the limelight. He intends to spend a quarter of his time on his new role.

He first became interested in higher education, he says, as governor of Hong Kong in the 1990s, when he was chancellor of every university on the island. 'I should think I could go in *The Guinness Book of Records* for giving out more degrees than anyone else,' he says.

Now, as a peer and Chancellor of Newcastle and Oxford universities, he is taking the opportunity to bang the drum for higher education. 'I want, in the House of Lords and more generally, to be an advocate for British higher education and for European higher education and research,' he says. European universities are underfunded, badly maintained and receive little support for research. Spending on research and development is just over one half that of the United States. Lord Patten would like to see the creation of a European science and research agency to drum up more funding.

Huge sums of money go on the Common Agricultural Policy and regional development, much of it supporting yesterday's industries.



*The Chancellor presiding at the Honorary Degrees Congregations in 2004 with recipients Dr Miriam Stoppard (MB BS 1951, MD 1966) and Mr Antony Gormley OBE.*

That is why he wants a shift in resources towards spending on research, technology and education to make Europe more internationally competitive.

In Hong Kong, the universities were being expanded as the island moved from a low to a hi-tech economy. The cleverest graduates were needed to improve the skills base. But the governor became convinced that this was not enough of a rationale for higher education. 'There is an economic argument but it is sometimes exaggerated,' he says.

'Universities are an important part of a plural liberal society. We should stress the role of universities in producing an educated, informed and conscientious citizenry. We should be more

prepared to argue the case for research driven by curiosity, not just by economics.'

Such talk is almost heretical today. The Blair government, as much as Thatcher's in the 1980s, has been at pains to emphasize the economic purpose behind higher education: it makes individuals richer and it makes the nation richer.

Patten is given to quoting Plato on the subject. When a pupil asked him the worth of what he was about to learn, Plato declared 'Give him a coin and send him away'. Patten would clearly like to do the same to Gordon Brown and Tony Blair. Like Plato, neither the politicians nor the universities should be shy of talking about the public good in higher education, Patten believes.



Chris Patten on the occasion of his installation as Chancellor of Newcastle University with members of his family in 1999.

'It is sad that the liberal argument for universities has largely gone by the board,' he says. 'It is sad that, on the whole, universities have not taken a more active role in arguing their case and dominating the debate on the future of higher education.'

He attributes some of that to the feebleness of spokesmen who think that the only way to persuade the government to cough up money is to talk about the economic benefit of universities. But the fact is that there is no direct relationship between investment in higher education and subsequent GDP growth.

A product of a Catholic direct grant school (Patten attended St Benedict's in Ealing), he believes that universities have to do more to attract disadvantaged students. To that extent he agrees with the government. But he believes that Newcastle and Oxford are doing all they can. 'In Newcastle all too few kids stay on at school,' he says. 'There is a poverty of ambition. How can the universities make up for that? They don't need to be bullied and pushed by government or

Whitehall agencies. We all know that the Office for Fair Access was set up to persuade Labour MPs to support top-up fees. I am in favour of doing as much as possible to expand access but I am not in favour of it if it means sacrificing standards.'

In particular, Patten takes exception to the new benchmarks on access which mean that Newcastle, Oxford and other leading universities have to meet much higher targets for the number of students they take from disadvantaged communities. 'I think that the benchmarks are pretty absurd and rather insulting to universities that are doing a huge amount,' he says.

Lord Patten chooses his words carefully, but says what he thinks and speaks with passion. Tony Blair could find himself with a new thorn in his side. Top-up fees should have been set higher, says Patten, at around £5,000 rather than £3,000, although in a liberal society you should really leave it to the universities.

When he is not arguing on behalf of higher education, this most liberal of Conservatives is

writing books. His current work is on the relationship between Britain, Europe and America, and will be published by Penguin in the autumn. He has just finished a 3,000-word chunk on Blair and Iraq. His next book will be on the limits of national sovereignty and the extent to which nation states have to co-operate to solve today's problems.

Newcastle and Oxford Universities should be counting their blessings. They have a chancellor who knows much about a lot of things, who will charm them and give them good publicity. What more could they want? 🐉

*This article was published in The Independent education section on Thursday, 3 February 2005. It is reproduced here with kind permission from the author, Lucy Hodges, and The Independent newspaper.*

*• The Rt Hon Lord Patten of Barnes CH was formally introduced into the House of Lords on 19 January 2005, having been created Baron Patten of Barnes.*

## £9M AWARD TO FUND CENTRES FOR EXCELLENCE

**Two centres for excellence for the study of music and healthcare are to be established following a joint bid for government funds co-ordinated by the University.**

Nine million pounds has been awarded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) to train hundreds of future musicians and health professionals in North East England by employing the very latest materials and methods and by forging stronger links between the region's universities and organizations like NHS hospitals, primary care trusts and The Sage Gateshead.

The two North East Centres for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETLs) were among 74 successful bids to the HEFCE. They were backed by a consortium involving the six universities for the North East and other partner organizations, with Newcastle University as the lead partner for

both bids. Bidders had to demonstrate existing excellence in teaching and learning practices and how these would be developed further in order to attract the funding.

Each Centre for Excellence will receive £4.5m over the next five years, and £2m of each award is intended for capital projects. Both Centres will be 'virtual' in that they will have various outlets operating throughout the North East rather than one central site.

Students training in healthcare professions will study at The Collaborative Centre for Excellence in Healthcare Professional Education, whereas music students will benefit from the CETL for Inclusivity in Contemporary Musical Culture.

Professor Ella Ritchie, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Teaching and Learning at the University, said: 'The Centres for Excellence will greatly enhance students' learning experiences so that they will emerge from university with an even wider portfolio of experience and deeper understanding of their subject area, which can only benefit the jobs market and their future employers.'



*Music students in front of the Sage Gateshead, one of the partners in the music CETL. (l-r) Elliott Rush, Callum Stewart, Paul Burns and Peter Morris.*

## MUSEUMS' LOTTERY WISH IS GRANTED



*An artist's impression of one of the new galleries after the planned development of the interior of the Hancock Museum.*

The University's plans to create a flagship museum for the North East of England have come a step closer to reality with the announcement that the Heritage Lottery Fund is awarding £8.75 million towards the cost of the project.

The University is the lead partner in the £25.75m Great North Museum project, which involves extending and totally refurbishing the interior of the existing Hancock Museum to bring together the world-renowned natural history collections and archaeological treasures currently housed in the Hancock and the University's Museum of Antiquities and Shefton Museum of Greek Art and Archaeology. Under the proposals, the Hatton Gallery will also be integrated into the management structure of this major new venture.

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Christopher Edwards, said: 'Part of this University's mission is to play a leading role in the economic, cultural and social development of the North East. This award is a major boost to our efforts.'

The HLF announcement was welcomed by the project's partners – Tyne and Wear Museums, Newcastle City Council, the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne, and the Natural History Society of Northumbria.

Alec Coles, director of Tyne and Wear Museums, said: 'This is fantastic news for the region and for the museums concerned. The Hancock and the two University museums hold some of the most important collections in the country. They have been crying out for investment, and this decision is the key'.

The University and the City Council have each pledged £3 million to the project, and the HLF funding is also set to unlock a further £7 million from the regional development agency, One North East and the European Regional Development Fund. A major fundraising campaign is now underway to secure the remaining £4 million that will ensure the Great North Museum is ready to open its doors to the public early in 2009.



*Dr Ed Okello with tea.*

## TEA MAY IMPROVE MEMORY

**Sufferers of a debilitating mental illness, whose symptoms include loss of memory, have been given hope with the findings of a University research project.**

Laboratory tests showed that green and black tea inhibit the activity of certain enzymes in the brain which are associated with memory and Alzheimer's Disease. Green tea was found to be the most effective as it continued to have its inhibitive effect for a week, whereas black tea's enzyme-inhibiting properties lasted for only one day.

The research may lead to the development of a new treatment – possibly a concentrated medicinal tea for people with Alzheimer's Disease.

There is no cure for Alzheimer's but it is possible to slow the development of the disease. Many of the drugs currently available have unpleasant side effects and the medical profession is keen to find alternatives. The Newcastle University researchers are now seeking funding to carry out further tests on green tea, which they hope will include clinical trials.

Lead researcher, Dr Ed Okello, executive director of the Medicinal Plant Research Centre, said: 'Our findings are particularly exciting as tea is already a very popular drink, it is inexpensive, and there do not seem to be any adverse side effects when it is consumed. It would be wonderful if our work could help improve the quality of life for millions of sufferers and their carers. Still, we expect it will be several years until we are able to produce anything marketable.'

## DIETS GET HEALTHIER OVER TIME

**Adults eat around twice the amount of fruit and vegetables and less fat and sugar than they did as children, according to a study by University nutritionists.**

The research team examined the food consumption of 200 schoolchildren aged 11-12 years old, then revisited the same people 20-years later, when they were in their early thirties.

While people were eating more healthily, the research team also found many people still perceive barriers to healthy eating, such as partners, children and parents. Yet, strangely, these factors also had a positive effect on some people.

For example, men and women who saw their parents' influence as positive consumed more fruit and vegetables as adolescents. Furthermore, a third of people, mainly men, felt their partners had a positive influence on their diet, although ten per cent, mainly women, indicated their partners' influence was negative.



*Dr Amelia Lake, with healthy food.*

The lead author of the study, Dr Amelia Lake, a registered dietician and researcher with the Human Nutrition Research Centre, said the findings suggested that although general healthy eating messages were getting through to most people, they also needed to be more carefully targeted to reach individuals who believe their lifestyle still prevents them from eating well.

She said: 'Diet needs to be taken more seriously. Home has a major impact on what children and adults eat, schools and workplaces and health care professionals have a role to play. These results suggest that general health messages are not necessarily enough when a variety of factors are working to prevent people from eating healthily.'

## STUDENT MOUNTAINEERS' FLASH OF GENIUS

**Mountain rescuers praised the quick thinking of five members of the Newcastle University Mountaineering Club, who became stranded during a climbing expedition in North Wales.**

John Chadwick, Ben Michie, Andy Gregory, Chris Meikle and Michael Booth were climbing the Y Lliwedd rock face, on Snowdon, when the weather closed in without warning.

Finding themselves in thick fog, the group, who are all experienced climbers, decided the visibility was too poor to enable them to complete the climb, so they secured themselves on a ledge, and used mobile phones and camera flashes to summon help.

'We thought we knew the route', said Chris, in an interview after their rescue, 'but we decided not to risk it and called mountain rescue with our location and status.'

But, with darkness falling rapidly, the mountain rescue team were struggling to pinpoint the climbers' exact position, so John, a medical student, and Andy, a PhD student, began using the flashes from their digital cameras, enabling the rescuers to spot them in the dark.

Ian Henderson, the secretary of the Llanberis Mountain Rescue Team, said: 'They were firing the camera flash at regular intervals. We were able to see the white flash through the gloom.'

Rescuers then abseiled down the vertical face to reach the group, and hauled them up to the ridge. Mr Henderson added: 'The guide books advise climbers to avoid Y Lliwedd only in exceptionally bad conditions, and conditions were not terrible. The climbers may have underestimated the time it took to complete the ascent, but acted perfectly sensibly by alerting us.'

*Saved in a flash... mountaineering students left to right John Chadwick, Andy Gregory, Michael Booth, Ben Michie, Chris Meikle.*



## ROWERS HOPE TO EMULATE OLYMPIAN'S MIDAS TOUCH!

**Olympic gold medal-winning rower, Ed Coode (BSc Hons Marine Biology 1997), gave a boost to Newcastle University Boat Club when he launched a fundraising campaign to help raise enough money for the Club to employ a full-time coach.**

Ed, who rowed for Newcastle in the Northumbrian Water University Boat Race in his final year, said: 'Being a member of the Boat Club when I was at University really helped me on the way to realising my ambition of becoming a top-class rower. Winning the Olympic final was absolutely a dream come true.'

'I've been really encouraged by the commitment and enthusiasm of the current members of the Boat Club, so I'm very happy to have this opportunity now to give something back by supporting their fundraising efforts. I hope that I might be the first in a long line of Olympic champions to hone their talents at Newcastle University!' he added.

Boat Club president, Susie Nicholas, said: 'Since winning the Olympic gold medal in Athens, Ed Coode's name is synonymous with success. It's absolutely fantastic to have his support for the Boat Club and we are thrilled that he has agreed to put his name to our campaign.'

Director of Physical Recreation and Sport at Newcastle University, Graham Rayner, said: 'Employing a full-time coach costs in excess of £30,000 per year, to say nothing of the additional costs that we would need to help the coach achieve their, and the Club's, ambitions. Not only would having a full-time coach benefit our most talented young rowers, it would also enable the Boat Club to bring on more junior coaches, which in turn would mean more chances for students to get involved in rowing. Ed's support for the Club is a great step forward.'

*Ed Coode with a Newcastle University Boat Club boat named in his honour.*



## ALUMNI ARE EDUCATING ALL OVER THE WORLD

Newcastle alumni are doing amazing things all around the world. In this issue we've decided to take a look at some of the different ways in which alumni are getting involved in educational provision. In the following four stories we have talked to graduates who have used their diverse skills and enthusiasms to encourage education in dramatically different contexts and media, ranging from satellite technology in India and online resource provision in the UK, through to building schools in Africa and training Burmese teachers in the refugee displacement camps along the Thai/Burmese border.



*Gina with children attending the nursery school.*

**'Seeing the children progress and improve in ability and confidence makes all the hard work worthwhile. The children are so sweet and excitable, they are my whole incentive to keep going.'**

*Gina with school staff in front of the new building.*



### BUILDING SCHOOLS IN MALAWI

**The enterprise and determination of a recent graduate has been rewarded with the opening of a thriving nursery school in Malawi.**

In 2001 Georgina (Gina) Rose (BSc Hons Ecological Resource Management 1999) travelled to Malawi to spend three months working in a local village primary school. Whilst working, Gina discovered that a local schoolteacher had also established a small nursery school in the village. Chikhulupiro Nursery School was a small school being run on a voluntary basis, with most of the teaching taking place in a small room behind the teacher's house. Despite the lack of resources, Gina embraced the opportunity to help the youngest inhabitants of the village. 'The children were a real joy to work with,' she explained. 'I will never forget how it felt to teach the children to hold a crayon and draw their first picture.'

In November 2001, as nursery staff held a 'thank-you' lunch for Gina, she decided that her next goal would be to raise funds to build a properly equipped school so that all the village children could get the start in life they deserved. On returning to the UK she began fundraising and in just six months she had raised over £11,000. However, that was by no means the end of Gina's involvement. In June 2002 she returned to Malawi to take up her post as Project Manager where she managed the construction and decoration of the nursery as well as overseeing the recruitment of all staff involved.

After six months the project was complete; final touches had been added to the buildings and four enthusiastic teachers had been appointed. On 4 October 2002 over 60 local families came to register their children at the school. A week later the official opening ceremony took place, with children performing songs and nursery rhymes to an array of invited guests. Gina had seen her dream come true.

'Seeing the children progress and improve in ability and confidence makes all the hard work worthwhile. The children are so sweet and excitable, they are my whole incentive to keep going,' she explained.

The Nursery is now going from strength to strength with ten full-time members of staff employed and over 60 children having graduated. Now back in the UK, Gina continues to fundraise for the school and was awarded the 2003 Rotary International Community and Vocational Service Award for her work. Despite the hard work and the weeks away from home, she is still passionate about her project. 🐾

## ALUMNI ARE EDUCATING ALL OVER THE WORLD

### ACCESS TO ARCHAEOLOGY

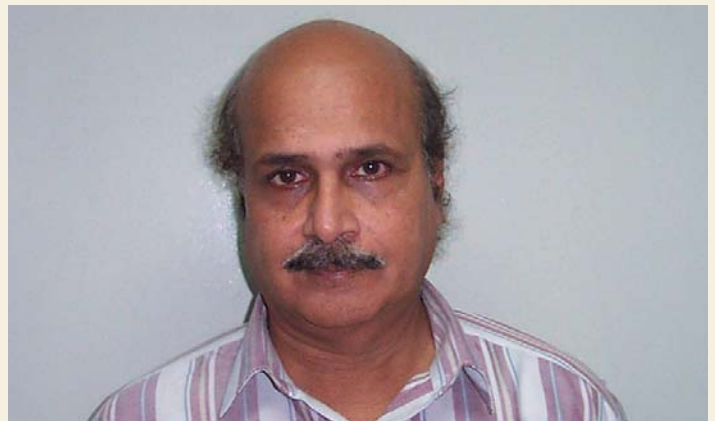
**Enterprising postgraduate students, Marc Johnstone and Jessica Kemp, have successfully set up a web-development company utilizing their skills in IT and knowledge of archaeology. Heritage Media uses internet and multimedia technology to communicate Britain's heritage and archaeology in an interactive and educational way.**

The idea for the company came while half-way through studying for an MSc in Internet Archaeology at Newcastle University. Jessica said 'We both had a genuine desire to make archaeological sites more accessible to the public, and felt that IT solutions were the way forward in both the short and long term.' Recent internet projects for heritage sites such as the Castle Keep and Black Gate in Newcastle and Fulwell Windmill in Sunderland, together with ingenious touch-screen kiosks located on site, have helped them achieve their aim of enabling virtually inaccessible locations and buildings to be visited by the disabled, the elderly and schools parties.

Heritage Media utilizes 360° panoramic photography to allow users to view a given room or building from any chosen angle and creates a real sense of presence. Local television presenter and historian John Grundy has been recruited to narrate the digital audio that accompanies the 'bubble world' imagery. As constant efforts are made to improve and update each site when new information is found it is not difficult to see why Heritage Media is an award-winning company.

Jessica and Marc have maintained strong links with the University, helping to create web access to the fascinating Stan Beckensall archive of Northumberland Rock Art, and set up the Postgraduate Forum, an e-journal that helps postgraduates and final-year undergraduates publicize written work relating to their degree in Historical Studies. Their current project to create a virtual tour of the University campus is due for completion early this year. 🐉

[www.heritagemediuk.com](http://www.heritagemediuk.com)



*Dr Viswanathan Krishnan*

### A SPACE AGE EDUCATIONALIST

**Mechanical engineering graduate Dr Viswanathan Krishnan (PhD 1978) is playing a leading role in utilizing satellite technology to provide a twenty-first century solution to the problems of illiteracy in his native country of India.**

Dr Krishnan works as Associate Director of the ISRO Inertial System Unit at the Indian Government's Department of Space. In 2004 his organization successfully launched a satellite named EDUSAT and placed it in geostationary orbit (36,000 km circular). The satellite is exclusively used for educational purposes to eradicate illiteracy in India and to enhance the quality of education.

Dr Krishnan said: 'Using the transponders on board, we can send educational programmes in different languages which can be received at a large number of villages so that high quality education can be imparted. Of course, it is a highly ambitious project.'

He continued: 'One of the complex technologies we have mastered is the dynamically tuned gyro. The expertise I gained at Newcastle University in this critical area has proved very useful in the development of the dynamically tuned gyro within this space satellite project. It is used with a high degree of success in all our launch vehicles and spacecraft. I have also led a team that has successfully developed momentum wheels and reaction wheels which are used in Indian geostationary satellites and Indian remote sensing satellites.'

Dr Krishnan's achievements come as no surprise to his former tutor Emeritus Professor Len Maunder. 'Viswanathan was an outstanding researcher, an excellent theorist, designer and experimentalist. In his work here, he was able to demonstrate fast precession of a gyroscope under gravity, well known to theorists but not as far as I know previously shown experimentally,' Professor Maunder recalled. 🐉

[www.isro.org/Edusat](http://www.isro.org/Edusat)



left: Thein Lwin 1st left (back), Nan Lung 4th left (front) Mary Wootten 2nd right (front) and trainee teachers.

Above and below: Kavenni camp children.

## TEACHER TRAINING FOR BURMESE TEACHERS

**What were three Newcastle University alumni, Mary Wootten, neé Collerton (BA Hons Geography 1964), Dr Thein Lwin (MEd 1997, PhD 2001), and Nan Lung (MEd 2002), doing at a Thai Army post on the Thai-Burma border in October 2004?**

Escorted by a Shan Army liaison officer, they were visiting trainee teachers working in a displaced persons village on the Burmese side of the border. Thein Lwin and Nan Lung are both political exiles from Burma and cannot enter their native country, but the students they teach were allowed across the border escorted by the Shan Army. Living as refugees from the repressive military regime in Burma, they are working to train teachers for the refugee camps along the Burma border and for the internally displaced person areas inside Burma.

It all started with a 'Training the Trainers' course written and taught by Mary and Steve Wootten, which, translated into Burmese, forms the basis of the initial teacher-training programme. For Mary, involvement on a voluntary basis grew with her retirement from a position as Lecturer in Education at the Centre for International Studies at Newcastle University in 2002. Here she had been Thein Lwin's MEd supervisor.

Teacher Training for Burmese Teachers (TTBT) is a non-profit making organization independent of any political or religious organization or single ethnic

group. It aims to improve the quality of education in refugee camps, in internally displaced persons areas and in remote regions of Burma.

To date its students have represented a range of ethnic groups including Burman, Chin, Kachin, Karen, Karenni, Lahu, Mon, Rakhine, Shan and Tavoy. The students and teaching staff on the project include Buddhists, Muslims, Christians and the non-religious. The mixture of gender, nationality, ethnicity and religion is a fundamental principle of the organization which aims to prepare individuals for a return to a democratic Burma.

The programme includes initial teacher training, advanced training, and Reading and Writing For Critical Thinking (RWCT) workshops. Since its inception, 93 teachers have graduated from the teacher training, and 110 teachers have completed the RWCT training. The organization runs entirely on the in-country work of Thein Lwin and Nan Lung, supported by the voluntary work of international educators. It is totally dependent on the financial support of a few donors.

The achievements of Thein Lwin, Nan Lung and their organization are formidable, especially given the difficulties of obtaining funding while operating in exile and the implications of this on recruiting students, bringing them to Chiang Mai, keeping them safe, teaching, housing and feeding them, and supporting them when they return to their communities along the border. The trainee teachers are mostly very young, typically having just finished Grade 10, and they face the prospect of teaching in difficult surroundings with no expectation of payment. 🐼

**If you would like to know more you can contact Mary and Steve Wootten on: [thewoottens@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:thewoottens@tiscali.co.uk) or you can visit the TTBT website on [www.educationburma.org](http://www.educationburma.org). You can also contribute to the Project via the British charity, Prospect Burma, saying that your contribution is specifically to support the work of Dr Thein Lwin.**

[www.prospectburma.org](http://www.prospectburma.org)



## TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE ENERGY

Academics working across the University of Newcastle upon Tyne are investigating a diverse range of issues and problems associated with sustainable energy to produce some groundbreaking research findings.

**In recent months Newcastle has been hitting the headlines with a number of projects addressing the need to identify new sources of sustainable energy, as fossil fuel supplies begin to be exhausted and environmental concerns over carbon emissions in the atmosphere demand a shift of emphasis within the energy sector towards cleaner fuels.**

The opening of the award-winning Devonshire Building as home to the new Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability (IRES) has heralded a flurry of research at the University focused around providing sustainable solutions to environmental problems through interdisciplinary studies of the urban, rural and marine environments.

### GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

One example which has been bearing fruit is in the area of geothermal energy. Exploratory drilling work led by Professors Paul Younger of IRES and David Manning of the School of Civil Engineering and Geosciences has led to the discovery of a viable source of underground hot water on the site of the redundant Lafarge Cement works at Eastgate, in Weardale, County Durham. The discovery is set to lead to the development of the first renewable energy 'model village' in the UK, and is expected to make Eastgate the focus of international attention.

Professors Younger and Manning carried out the work for the Weardale Task Force, which was set up to revive the dale's economy following the closure of the Lafarge works in 2002. They identified the drilling site, on the Slitt Vein, near Cambokeels mine (where in the late 1980s water was encountered with a chemical composition suggesting it had previously been hot) and sank a borehole to a depth of 1,000 metres.

The water currently standing in the borehole is sufficiently warm to have the potential to be used for space heating. The composition, temperature and flow data now available indicate the resource is likely to prove consistent with a 'hot springs' development where low volumes of warm saline water are typically used. The way is now open to consider further well development to facilitate even greater use of the hot water.

Professor Younger commented 'By any standards, the exploration programme has been a great success, proving the existence of a geothermal resource at least as promising as the best ever previously identified in the UK.'

### HYDROGEN CARS

Elsewhere a joint team of scientists from the Universities of Newcastle upon Tyne and Liverpool have made a world-first discovery which is a step towards using environmentally friendly hydrogen to power our cars.



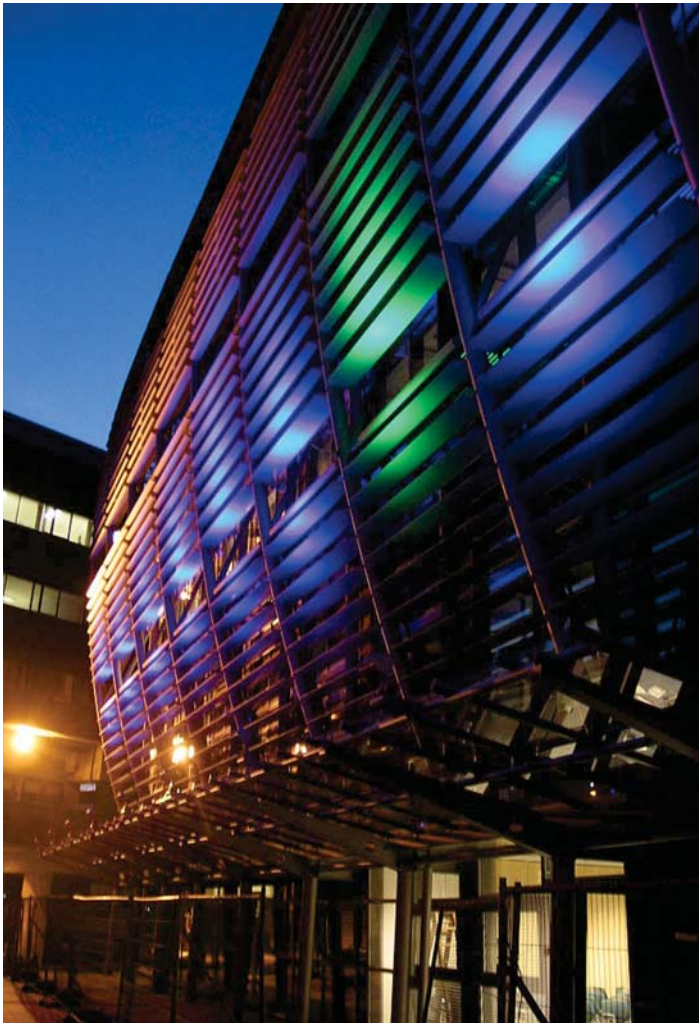
*Dr Ashleigh Fletcher, one of the hydrogen car research team members.*

Hydrogen has been investigated for a long time as a replacement for petrol, amid worries over the long-term availability of fossil fuels. It is also an environmentally friendly alternative, as it produces only water rather than the 'greenhouse gas', carbon dioxide. However, scientists and others have been baffled for a long time about how to store the substance – which is a gas and so contains less energy in a given volume than the liquid petrol – safely and efficiently.

At the present time, no existing hydrogen storage technology meets the challenging performance required to make hydrogen-powered automobiles competitive with traditional vehicles. New and innovative ideas are needed.

However, the joint team have found a safe way of storing and releasing hydrogen to produce energy. They do this using nanoporous materials, which have tiny pores that are one hundred-thousandth (100,000th) the thickness of a sheet of paper. The method involves injecting the gas at high pressure into the tiny pores in the specially-designed materials to give a dense form of hydrogen. They then reduce the pressure within the material in order to store the captured hydrogen safely. Heat can be applied to release the hydrogen as the energy on which a car could potentially run.

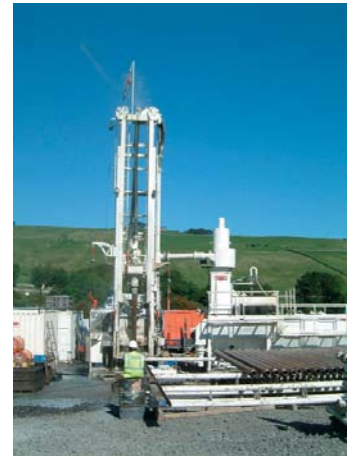
Professor Mark Thomas of the University's Northern Carbon Research Laboratories in the School of Natural Sciences, said: 'This is a proof of principle that we can trap hydrogen gas in a porous material and release it when required. However, if developed further, this method would have the potential to be applied to powering cars or any generator supplying power. Although hydrogen-powered cars are likely to be decades away, our discovery brings this concept a step towards becoming reality.'



The award-winning Devonshire Building, home to the Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability.



Thumbs up to rig drilling in Eastgate, (l-r): Professor David Manning; Professor Paul Younger; John Hamilton OBE, Chairman of the Weardale Task Force; and Daniel Dufton of PB Power Ltd.



Rig drilling a 995m-deep exploration borehole in Eastgate, Weardale.

**'Using our natural resources carefully and striking a balance by replacing what we consume concerns every individual'**

Professor Tony O'Donnell, Director of the Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability

## CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Other exciting projects include ongoing research into techniques for carbon sequestration. This is a process through which carbon is extracted from the atmosphere so it can be safely deposited through burial. The most promising developments involve deep injection into spent oil fields and un-mined coal seams, ironically drawing upon the very geochemical skills gained by University staff engaged in fossil fuel research over the last few decades. Although research is at an early stage, the potential impact of a viable carbon sequestration process on the Earth's carbon polluted atmosphere could be huge.

## HSBC PARTNERSHIP

Newcastle's commitment to environmental-related research was recognized in the announcement in December 2004 that the University's IRES together

with the University of East Anglia will benefit from a three-year, £650,000 collaboration with HSBC Bank named the 'HSBC Partnership in Environmental Innovation'. The partnership is a global programme to research climate change and other major forms of environmental damage, society's awareness of the issues, and to develop technologies to overcome some of the problems identified. The HSBC meanwhile has become the world's first major bank to announce its own move towards carbon neutrality with the aim of ameliorating the direct impact it has on the environment, with its buildings, air travel, and so on.

Professor Paul Younger, who has been elected to the new HSBC Chair in Environmental Technologies and Geothermal Energy at Newcastle said: 'The partnership differs from many academic exercises in that it is about doing as well as about learning and research. We aim to understand change in order to change understanding, promoting

effective means for renewable energy generation and conservation, and developing sustainable means for addressing the legacies of older forms of energy generation. We intend to build further affiliations to share good practice ideas and engage with the public on ways to think rationally about the way in which they use energy.'

Professor Tony O'Donnell, Director of IRES, added: 'We want to find new ways of tackling these problems. If we are going to be successful we can't do it just through science and technology. We need to involve people and society more in the development of new technologies which are acceptable to society.'

## TRANSFORMING HORIZONS

'WHAT ARE THE CRITICAL ISSUES OF TODAY AND THE HORIZON ISSUES OF TOMORROW THAT CONCERN YOU MOST? IN WHICH AREAS OF SOCIETY DO YOU FEEL CHANGE IS MOST NEEDED TO BENEFIT CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS?'

PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS, VICE-CHANCELLOR

The questions in the quote from the Vice-Chancellor are the ones that really matter to all of us, as they help define our core values and what we stand for. On a recent visit to the USA, the Vice-Chancellor had the opportunity to explore exactly these issues with Professor Rick Smalley, the Nobel Prize-winning scientist at Rice University in Texas. Professor Smalley has defined a list of the ten issues that constitute the greatest challenges to mankind:

ENERGY  
WATER  
FOOD  
ENVIRONMENT  
POVERTY  
TERRORISM AND WAR  
DISEASE  
EDUCATION  
DEMOCRACY  
POPULATION.

Professor Edwards said: 'I am sure that you will agree that these are critical issues that affect all of us and where change for the better is vital to all of our futures. Two things strike me looking at the ten; the first is the requirement for interdisciplinary approaches towards solutions, given the heavily interlinked nature of the issues; the second is the extent to which areas of internationally recognized activity led by colleagues at Newcastle University have a definite role to play.'

At Newcastle we have identified five broad themes where our expertise could have a transformational effect on the big issues of the day. We have defined these as:

TRANSFORMING THE ENVIRONMENT  
TRANSFORMING HEALTH  
TRANSFORMING CULTURE  
TRANSFORMING BUSINESS  
TRANSFORMING LIVES.

Why five, and not Rick Smalley's ten? Well the reality is that all ten issues find homes under at least one of these five headings. We want to move away from single-order approaches to what are interlinked problems. That approach has failed too often in the past.

TRANSFORMING HORIZONS is a new document available as a printed brochure or online at [www.ncl.ac.uk/daro/transforminghorizons.html](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/daro/transforminghorizons.html). It summarizes the University's track record and aspirations under the five transforming headings, and identifies the priority projects in each area where the University is seeking philanthropic and partnership support to help it move forwards.





The University has been assisted in identifying these priority projects and developing the *Transforming Horizons* document by its Development Council, chaired by Sir Terence Harrison (BSc 1955, DEng 1991).

Sir Terence said: 'The University has genuine expertise in areas of work that are vital to all of us. Whatever the level of your previous involvement with the University, I urge you to begin or to deepen that relationship. By engaging with the best minds on campus and working in partnership we can offer vital support to accelerate progress in areas of society where we want to make a difference. Speaking personally I have found the journey thus far both rewarding and stimulating. I do hope you will want to join me and many others along that route.'


**TRANSFORMING THE ENVIRONMENT** – outlines new approaches to key international environmental problems that are set to benefit from Newcastle's distinctive inter-disciplinary work within a world-class Institute for Research on Environment and Sustainability.

**TRANSFORMING HEALTH** – focuses on the far-reaching benefits for society of improved understanding of Human Sciences and the benefit for worldwide sufferers of complex medical conditions of current and emerging breakthroughs within Newcastle's internationally recognized Faculty of Medical Sciences.

**TRANSFORMING CULTURE** – summarizes the University's place at the heart of the North East's cultural renaissance, its role in stimulating regional development and broadening cultural awareness, and the direct impact of its humanities and public policy research on our understanding of major national and international issues.

**TRANSFORMING BUSINESS** – outlines how the University leverages the research and technological expertise across its faculties together with the sector-specific knowledge of its Business School with regional, national and international partners to help shape, drive and transform the modern knowledge economy.

**TRANSFORMING LIVES** – summarizes the University's determination to continue to make a university education available to all students with the necessary ability and motivation, irrespective of circumstances, for the benefit both of the individual and society.

Professor Edwards concluded: 'We are making excellent progress in all five areas. However, as in all things, the greater the level of support and participation we enjoy from partners and friends, the greater will be the rewards for all involved. We look forward to exploring shared values and interests with you as we work together to transform horizons.' 

**If you would like to receive a hard copy of the Transforming Horizons brochure please e-mail us at [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk) or call us on 0191 222 7250. Alternatively, you can print a pdf version at: [www.ncl.ac.uk/daro/transforminghorizons.pdf](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/daro/transforminghorizons.pdf)**

## TRANSFORMING HORIZONS

### WHAT ARE OUR PRIORITY PROJECTS?

#### TRANSFORMING THE ENVIRONMENT

- A Chair in Governance Systems for Natural Resources to lead on the integration of scientific, economic, social and political approaches to a sustainable future.
- Energy from the Earth to accelerate our capacity to exploit new and renewable forms of energy from the land (energy crops) and the subsurface (geothermal energy), with the aim of transforming livelihoods for communities in the North East and beyond.
- Environmental Research Fellowships linked to the University's work on critical national and international environmental issues.
- Marine Environment. New partnerships to deliver cutting-edge research on the effect of mankind's interventions at sea on marine biodiversity.
- Agriculture and the Rural Economy. Research fellowships and imaginative capital development to attract the best students and researchers into a rejuvenated discipline, and to help transform agricultural practice and land usage planning.

#### TRANSFORMING LIVES

- Scholarships for 'PARTNERS' and other UK students to ensure that all can apply to the University on a 'needs-blind' basis, knowing that the University and its supporters will be able to assist students who qualify on academic grounds, irrespective of their circumstances.
- International Scholarships to ensure that the business, social and academic leaders of tomorrow are attracted to Newcastle to fulfil their academic potential and to engage in the vibrant multi-cultural experience the University offers. This includes scholarships in conjunction with the Department for International Development and the British Council for international students from developing countries, typically for students undertaking one-year Masters courses.

#### TRANSFORMING BUSINESS



- Business School. A new home for the University's burgeoning Business School, to be located at the heart of the campus, providing the nucleus for a world-class integrated academic and business environment.
- Project Management and Engineering. Further partnerships to develop Newcastle's growing expertise in high quality training for the project leaders of tomorrow.
- Corporate Scholarships to ensure that the University and potential employers continue to attract the best UK and international students, tied in with opportunities for work placements and other links with sponsoring companies.

#### TRANSFORMING HEALTH

- Research Institutes. New partnerships to maximize the benefit to patients of our newly focused Institutes in Ageing and Health, Cancer Research, Cell and Molecular Biosciences, Human Genetics, and Neuroscience.
- Research Fellowships linked to the new Clinical Research Facility to attract the very best young clinical academics worldwide to Newcastle.
- A new Atrium at the heart of the Medical Faculty. The most innovative solutions to the most complex medical conditions come when the best minds have the space and time to meet in an environment conducive to the sharing of interdisciplinary ideas both within and beyond the campus. The Atrium would provide a top-quality meeting environment for interaction between leading academic staff across the full range of medical disciplines, together with postgraduate students and external partner organizations.
- Stem cell research to support Newcastle's pioneering early work in conjunction with the Centre for Life in creating stem cell lines from unfertilized human eggs, for the potential mid- to long-term benefit of generations of sufferers of mankind's most debilitating and degenerative conditions.

#### TRANSFORMING CULTURE

- Research Institutes. Support for a range of research programmes and seminars within the University's new Institutes (for the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities, and for Public Policy and Practice), linked to new programmes with regional, national and international partners.



- Cultural Quarter. The development of specific elements of the Cultural Quarter, including the Great North Museum.
- Children's Literature. To support an emerging partnership with the North East's nationally unique Seven Stories, the Centre for Children's Books focusing on how children learn and communicate through literature.

## Team Newcastle Bids for the Enterprise World Cup

Caroline Theobald, Director of the Bridge Club Ltd, accompanied a team of Newcastle students as UK student enterprise champions to the student enterprise 'World Cup' in Barcelona.

The team were supported by the work of the Enterprise Centre and were part-funded by an award from the Alumni Projects Fund.



Members of the University's SIFE team celebrate their success.

**In June 2004, 10 student members of the newly formed University SIFE (Student in Free Enterprise) team competed against Cambridge, Warwick and York Universities (among others) to win the UK's National SIFE Award. Their reward for being National University Enterprise Champions was to compete in SIFE's annual 'Enterprise Olympics', against university teams from around the world.**

Raising sufficient sponsorship money to pay for flights, hotel accommodation, branding and PR for the team and their business advisers was no small task, particularly as the USA-initiated SIFE programme is new to the UK and therefore an unknown quantity in terms of potential sponsor-benefits. As this was the first year that the Newcastle University had submitted a team, they were also unsure what to expect from the Global Final and the profile and opportunities it might bring the individual members of the team, the University and the North East Region. The team was therefore extremely grateful to secure a maximum grant of £1,000 from the Alumni Project Fund to cover travel costs and expenses.

The SIFE team flew to Barcelona, wearing sponsored Newcastle University Team UK polo-shirts, on 22 September taking with them a personal endorsement from UK Prime Minister, Tony Blair. On arrival (and wearing their University and UK branding) they were a magnet for the finalists from the other 37 participating countries. This was only the beginning of a three-day global ceremony at which the Newcastle Team scored top points for popularity and professionalism: 'The Team from Newcastle representing the UK did a fantastic job and won the hearts and minds of many, both through the quality of their presentation and work, but also because they interacted with the other countries present. They were great ambassadors for the UK!' said Sally Hopson, Retail MD, North Division ASDA UK.

The SIFE Global Final presented a tremendous personal and professional development opportunity to all the students taking part. For the first time the organizers held a recruitment fair for participating students and presentations from the 37 finalists (from a pool of 1,700 entrants from

42 countries) were judged by Chairman and CEOs from the world's largest companies. Harry Schwaan, founder and CEO of Schwaan Foods explained that these judges had taken the time to participate because: 'These young people are our future leaders. SIFE provides them with an opportunity to get to know each other and explore culture differences which can only lead to greater world harmony.'

Countries represented spanned from East to West and North to South. Communist China and former communist countries like Albania and Belarus jostled for position with African Nation States and teams representing the developed economies of the USA, Australasia and Western Europe. It was an extraordinary celebration of endeavour and energy with each university team fielding examples of profitable and social enterprise to enrich and sustain their local communities. Eventual global winners were Australia with the USA coming second and Nigeria third. UK winners Newcastle achieved seventh place overall. 

## Convocation and Alumni Reunion Weekend 2005 Saturday 23 July

The University welcomes alumni, staff and guests to join us for our annual Convocation and Alumni Reunion Weekend. This year's reunion is timed to coincide with the visit of the 2005 Tall Ships Race to Newcastle (see insert box), which will be one of the biggest events in the city in recent years. Newcastle is the only port of call on mainland Britain for the 2005 Tall Ships Race, and the participants will begin to arrive during the weekend.

Highlights of the Reunion Weekend 2005 programme include:

### Reunion Weekend Lecture

David Shaw Lecture Theatre, Medical School

9.15 am-10.30 am

Professor Hugh Berrington

*Personality Politics and Four Prime Ministers:*

*Chamberlain, Churchill, Thatcher and Blair*

Professor Berrington has been cherished as a lecturer by more than 30 years worth of politics graduates. In the year of a general election and on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the teaching of politics at Newcastle, join with us for what promises to be a tour de force.

### Coffee

Boardroom, Medical School

10.30 am-11.00 am

### Convocation

David Shaw Lecture Theatre, Medical School

11.00 am-1.00 pm

The meeting of Convocation, which will be chaired by Jack Jeffery CBE (BSc 1953, MSc 1960), is the annual meeting at which alumni receive a report from the Vice-Chancellor on the state of the University. Convocation is an important forum that provides you with an opportunity to hear at first hand about the current state of the University and exciting plans for its future.

This year Convocation has an important role to play with the election of the alumni and alumni branch representatives to serve on Alumni Consultative Group, together with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Alumni Association. Please refer to the insert box for further details on these elections. All alumni are warmly invited to attend, but should book in advance to ensure an invitation to the Convocation lunch.

### Annual Convocation Lunch

Boardroom, Medical School

1.00 pm-2.30 pm

This lunch is for alumni who have attended the meeting of Convocation. The lunch will be hosted by the Vice-Chancellor and the Chair of the Alumni Association. It provides an opportunity for the University to thank its alumni supporters. There is no charge to attend, which is by invitation.

### Introducing the Great North Museum

David Shaw Lecture Theatre, Medical School

2.30 pm-3.30 pm

The University is the lead partner in the £25.75m Great North Museum project, which involves extending and totally refurbishing the interior of the existing Hancock Museum to bring together the world renowned natural history collections and archaeological treasures currently housed in the Hancock and the University's Museum of Antiquities and Shefton Museum of Greek Art and Archaeology. Come and find out more about the plans from the people leading the project and share in their excitement about a project that looks set to make the University campus one of the top visitor destinations in the North of England.

In conjunction with this presentation, all three existing campus museums will be open for free visits by alumni throughout the afternoon.

### Celebrating Marine Technology

School of Marine Technology,

Armstrong Building 2.30 pm-5.00 pm

This summer is an exciting time to visit the School of Marine Technology and meet old friends and colleagues. The School, formed three years ago by merging Marine Technology and Marine Science, is celebrating one hundred years of teaching Naval Architecture in Newcastle. The Cavitation Tunnel has

been operational for fifty years. 2005 is the year of SeaBritain, and a highlight is the Tall Ships Race, with Newcastle the only port of call on mainland Britain for the 2005 Race. To celebrate all these events the School is opening its doors for tours and visits by marine and other alumni through the afternoon. Come and see the expanded School, and find out why Newcastle has remained one of the finest Marine schools for a century.

### Convocation Lecture

Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

5.30 pm-6.45 pm

Speaker to be confirmed

Convocation lecture is free to attend for all alumni, staff and members of the public, but tickets must be booked in advance via the Development and Alumni Relations Office. Contact DARO on +44 (0) 191 222 7250 or e-mail: alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

### Annual Reunion Drinks Reception and Dinner

St. James' Park 7.00 pm-1.00 am

This year the Reunion Dinner will be held at St. James' Park, the home of Newcastle United FC. The three-course menu includes a jazz band, a pre-dinner drinks reception and two complementary bottles of wine on each table.

- Roast pepper and tomato soup with garlic croutons.
- Roast saddle of lamb with apricot and mint studding – redcurrant jus.  
(vegetarian option: Feta and Sweet Onion Relish Cannelloni in a Compote of Tomato and Mint)
- Apple tart tatin with crème Anglaise and cinnamon ice cream.
- Coffee and mints.

Tickets cost £28 per person. Reunion groups can book tables to sit together. Places are limited so please book early.



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.



Champagne, Strawberries and Jazz Reception 2004.

## Politics 50th Birthday Anniversary Reunion

A major reunion is being organized by the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology in conjunction with Convocation and Alumni Reunion Weekend 2005 to celebrate 50 years of the teaching of politics at the University. Politics students and staff from all years in the past half-century are encouraged to return for a very special celebration. There will be a number of specific events for the politics reunion alongside the main programme starting with an event on the evening of Friday 22 July. If you studied politics but have not already received a separate mailing with the politics programme and booking form, then please contact DARO on +44 (0) 191 222 7250 or e-mail: [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk)



## 2005 Tall Ships Race

25–28 July

NewcastleGateshead hosted the largest ever of The Tall Ships' Races in 1993 – but expectations are higher still for 2005.

A magnificent fleet of over 100 tall ships will drop anchor against one of the finest waterfronts in Europe to be greeted by a city transformed, a vibrant kaleidoscope of culture and leisure surrounded by breathtaking unspoilt countryside and beaches. Ships will begin arriving over the weekend of Reunion Weekend, with the main focus of activity in the days to follow. The Races are expected to attract more than 3000 young people from more than 20 countries to participate as crew.

The whole event is free of charge, culminating in a dazzling music and entertainment extravaganza on the evening of Wednesday 27 July and unforgettable Parade of Sail next day, with over one million people expected to wish a fond farewell to the ships and their crews. Start planning to be there now and bring your friends and family. Make sure you don't miss out. Visit [www.visitnewcastle Gateshead.com/tallships2005](http://www.visitnewcastle Gateshead.com/tallships2005)

## Booking

A booking form is enclosed for alumni readers of *Arches*. To request additional booking forms please telephone +44 (0) 191 222 7250 or visit our website at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events/reunion](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events/reunion) where you can book online. Final details, including tickets, venue details, campus maps and parking information will be sent from mid-June to those booking in advance.

## Additional Information

### Contact Your Friends Online

If you want to contact friends from your time at Newcastle to see if they are attending, why not sign up for and search our online directory, NUGrad? Over 5,000 alumni are already signed up for the directory at [www.ncl.ac.uk/NUgrad](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/NUgrad). Alternatively, the Development and Alumni Relations Office (DARO) holds a database of 62,000 contactable alumni and will be happy to forward messages on your behalf.

### Disabled Access

Disabled access provision is not uniform across campus. Please contact DARO for advice on disabled access issues on +44 (0) 191 222 7250 or e-mail: [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk).

### Accommodation

Special rates have been negotiated at several hotels in and around Newcastle for alumni requiring accommodation for the nights of Friday 22 and Saturday 23 July. Accommodation is also available in University Halls of Residence for those interested in the full 'trip down memory lane' experience. Check out our website for full details of all accommodation options at [www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events/reunion](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events/reunion).

Alternatively, to request a full list to be sent to you please contact the Office on +44 (0) 191 222 7250 or e-mail: [alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk).

### University Memorabilia Shop

Alumni returning for Reunion Weekend 2005 can benefit from a special 15 per cent discount on all merchandise purchased at the Memorabilia Shop. The shop will be open between 10.00 am and 5.00pm on Saturday 23 July.

## 1940s

**Harold DRESNER** has recently published *The Tools of Her Trade: The Success Guide for Women that Men Read Too!*, which is described as a guide to the 'soft skill of Image Management'. Dr Dresner practised in private and public health after qualifying as a dental surgeon, but always maintained an interest in marketing and business. He gained the qualification of the Chartered Institute of Marketing and regularly writes on the subject. He currently lives in Israel with his wife and four children.

## 1960s

**Barry BARTON (Diploma in Hydrology 1967; PhD Stochastic Hydrology 1971)** is a member of the Institution of Civil Engineers Panel for Historical Engineering Works. He published a book on *Water Towers of Britain* in 2003.

**Colin CRIMP (BSc Naval Architecture 1969)** is currently assisting the Department of Trade and Industry in dismantling of nuclear submarines in North West Russia, amongst other things.

**George MACKAY (BSc Agricultural Botany 1966)** and his wife welcomed their first grandchild, Robyn Anise Mackay to the world in 2003 and described it as a fantastic event in their lives.

**John NEWTON (BSc Botany 1964)** went to Edinburgh University after graduating, where he studied for a Diploma in Plant Taxonomy. He then went to Jamaica as a plant breeder/geneticist at the Banana Board and registered with the University of the West Indies for a PhD which he received in 1971. He now owns a 170-acre farm in Cornwall, and continues to work as an agricultural consultant.

**Ek Tieng LEE (Diploma Public Health Engineering 1965)** has been the group Managing Director of the Government of Singapore Investment Corporation since 1989. He was appointed Deputy Chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore from 1998 to 2000, having served as its Managing Director since 1989. Prior to his retirement from the Civil Service in 1999, Mr Lee was the Head of the Civil Service, and Permanent Secretary, Prime Minister's Office from 1994 until 1999. As well as holding numerous senior Public appointments, Mr Lee has been awarded the Meritorious Service Award for his work in Pollution Control and Environmental Health; the Clean Rivers Commemorative Gold Medal from the Prime Minister in 1987, and the Distinguished Service Order in 2000 by the Singaporean Government for his sterling contributions to the country. He is married with two sons.

**Keith SYERS (BSc Soil Science 1960)** recently moved from Naresuan University in Phitsanulok, Thailand where he held the positions of Professor of Natural Resources and Vice-President for International Relations, to become Dean of the School of Science at Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai in North Thailand.

## 1970s

**Martyn BATCHELOR (Diploma in Landscape Design 1971)** worked as a landscape architect from 1972 until 1974 for the City of Newcastle upon Tyne. Between 1974 and 1993 he was the Principal Landscape Architect for the Borough of South Tyneside, and from 1993 to 2003 he worked as a land removal manager for South Tyneside.

**Margaret BARTON (BA French 1971)** is now retired from being a fire fighter after 13 years' service. She is now Priest-in-Charge of the Corby Glen Group.

**Peter COX (BSc Electrical & Electronic Engineering 1978)** is still in the Navy, now giving advice after many years beneath the surface in boats.

**Martin ELLIOT (MB BS 1973; MD 1983)** was recently appointed Professor of Paediatric Cardiothoracic Surgery at University College London

**Peter FLETCHER (BSc Civil Engineering 1975)** is a Chartered Engineer, a Member of the Institution of Civil Engineers, and a Companion of the British Computer Society. He currently leads the Project Management Team for Enterprise IS at WS Atkins – a 14,000 strong support services company.

**Ian MCKEITH (MB BS 1977; MD 1993)** was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMD SCI) in 2004.

**William RANKIN (BSc Geology 1971)** was appointed Regional Director for Asia-Pacific with the Engineering firm Mott MacDonald in January 2002.

**Andrew ROBERTSON (BA Architectural Studies 1976)** recently left local government, after 22 years, to start his own architectural practice with his wife.

**David SANDERSON (BSc Agriculture 1975)** diversified his farming business to provide a Pet and Equine Crematorium for the individual cremation of animals.

**Stephen THOMPSON (BSc Chemistry 1974; PhD Microbiological Chemistry 1978)** returned to Newcastle in 1984 and worked on the role of glycosylation in the spread of cancer. In 1995 he left to run his own pub in Rookhope, Weardale. He closed the pub in 2000 after his divorce and is now working as a Senior Research

Associate in the School of Clinical and Laboratory Sciences at Newcastle.

**Julian WARNER (BA English 1977)** has recently published *Humanizing Information Technology* (Scarecrow 2004). He is also a lecturer in information science at Queen's University Belfast.

**Patricia WEEKS (MSc Occupational Hygiene 1976)** now has three children after many years unable to have any! She has continued dancing, with Sandgate in Newcastle, then Hampshire Garland in Southampton and Taepas Tump in Maidenhead. She has danced and taught all over the UK and abroad.

## 1980s

**Ian AITCHISON (BSc Agricultural Mechanisation Management 1989)** returned to the Royal Navy having been called up for operations in the Gulf. He then returned to London in November 2003 to start his current position with the world's largest shipping company, although he still maintains his agricultural connections via his family.

**Kenneth COGHILL (BPhil Education 1980; MSc Psychology 1984; PhD Psychology 1992)** was a member of the report authoring team in a recent North Tyneside Handyperson Scheme Report entitled *Exploring Older People's Involvement in Planning, Policy and Research*.

**Andrew FLETCHER (BA Accounting & Financial Analysis 1986)** qualified as a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1989, after which he began working for Price Waterhouse in Newcastle, and then London. He then went on to work for EMI Music Worldwide which saw him working in all areas of the company's operations and enabled him to travel extensively. After leaving EMI he joined The Rank Group PLC as an Internal Consultant, and then moved on to the position of Deputy Finance Director for Odeon Cinemas. In 1996 he moved to Viacom-Showtime to take up the position of Vice President of Finance where he financially managed the start-up and growth of a pay television platform in the Middle East. He then went on to become Chief Financial Officer for the Sportsworld Media Group plc in 1998, taking it from floatation to the FTSE 250 during his time there. In 2002 he was offered the chance to progress into general management and so moved to Digital Rum Limited, the European leader in mobile commerce, to take up the position of Chief Executive Officer. This three-year role saw him refocus the business and prepare it for a successful sale. Andy accepted a new position as Commercial Director of ESP Global in late 2004. ESP is a leader in marketing and promotions within the newspaper industry.

**Stuart HILL (BA Combined Studies 1987)** was recently awarded the Ottakar's Children's Prize 2005 for his first novel, *The Cry of The Iceberg* (ISBN 1904442560)

**Andrew NAYLOR (MB BS 1985)** works as a General Practitioner in the Isle of Harris in the Western Isles of Scotland having married a local Isle of Lewis girl. They have a 13-year-old daughter.

**Claire NIGHTINGALE (BDS 1989)** was appointed to a consultant post in February 2004, and her second child Francesca was born in October 2003.

**Stuart PREST (BSc Agriculture 1984)** is married with four children; he still plays cricket and enjoys the occasional beer. He farms 1100 acres, with 270 acres of potatoes.

**Josephine SCRIVEN (BSc Speech 1980)** is currently living in Cheltenham and working part-time as a speech and language therapist, with a specialism in voice. She is also doing a research diploma, and spends her spare time singing with a local choral society.

**Robert SULLIVAN (BSc Agriculture 1989)** joined ADAS, a research-based consultancy to rural and land-based industries, after leaving university. He then moved to Strutt and Parker in October 2002 as a Senior Farm Business Consultant, responsible for delivering the farm consultants department's agronomy and business management in Northern England.

## 1990s

**Kate ALEXANDER (BA Archaeology 1997)** is really enjoying being a business analyst for British Airways. They are a super employer and the travel benefits are amazing!

**Mark BARFOOT (BSc Chemistry 1995)** formed The Roundgarden Ltd, a company with charitable aims, providing horticultural therapy and placements in gardening activities in June 2004. He also became a chairman of 'Drummed Up', a West African style drumming group based in the West End of Newcastle.

**Peter BEMENT (BSc Geology 1990)** has been settled in Shrewsbury, Shropshire since 2002, where he first found work as a furniture restorer. He later formed his own company which specialises in furniture making and restoration.

**Alison BROWN (BA Social Policy 1999)** married her husband Rich in February 2003. Since November 2003 the couple have been serving the City of God Church in Accra, Ghana. The church is part of the

New Frontier family of churches. They are currently working voluntarily for the church helping to set up and start a church school.

**Gill DAVENPORT (BA Geography 1990)** has recently upped sticks and moved to France for the challenge and the weather, with her husband and her two children, aged seven and eight.

**Clare De LOTBINIERE née MACKINLAY (BA Social Studies 1996)** married **Andrew DE LOTBINIERE (BSc Psychology 1996)** in 1999. The couple now live in London and have a daughter called Polly. Life seems OK at the moment!

**Lyndsey DICKINSON (BA German 1999)** moved to Cologne, Germany after graduating, to teach English as a foreign language for a couple of years. She then moved to San Sebastian in Spain's Basque Country in 2001, where she has been living ever since.

**Nicola DIXON (BA Combined Studies 1992)** is an artist and designer working primarily in the sailing industry. She has exhibited in England, America and the Caribbean, and designs and publishes greetings cards on the Isle of Man.

**Nicholas DORSETT (BSc Agriculture 1990)** decided to leave his stressful job in the UK and moved with his family to their present home Le Lilas Blanc – the white lilac. They spent most of last year renovating the house and making the gite, and this year have opened the new business. So far they have been very busy!

**Darren HARDY (BSc Computing Science 1992; MSc Software Engineering 1997)** went on to complete a Masters degree in Chicago after graduation. After completing the course he worked for a software company in San Diego for six years, and is now about to set up his own online business.

**David HUNTER (BSc Countryside Management 1992)** recently moved to take up the post of Rural Policy Manager for the North West Redevelopment Agency, where he is working on a rural recovery plan for the North West as well as managing the Agency's Rural Strategic Projects on Renewable Energy and Speciality Food Planning.

**Adam JENNINGS (BSc Biochemistry 1998)** is now a doctor, firmly ensconced in Birmingham working on research on the Hepatitis C virus. Unfortunately he won't be using himself as a test subject, but would welcome any willing volunteers! He would love to hear from anybody who remembers him, to share tales of drunkenness and debauchery.

**Richard JONES (BA Government & European Union Studies 1996)** is engaged to a wonderful French lass, and is getting married this year.

**Henry LANG (BSc Geography 1999)** is still based in London, working for a youth agency called Angel. He has recently moved house and is hoping to move out to Australia to work in the next couple of years.

**Ian MORGAN (BSc Surveying & Mapping Science 1995)** and **Diana MERIGOLD (BSc Mathematics 1995)** are now both working and living in Queenstown, New Zealand, having been citizens of New Zealand since 2001.

**Mary NEESON (MB BS 1993)** is now married after various house jobs. She moved to Buckinghamshire and qualified as a GP, and then gave up working to have children. She now has four boys – Michael, James, Colin and Dominic. The family moved back to the North East in June 2002 and are happily settled in Hexham.

**Andrew PORTAS (BA French 1993)** worked in Senegal, West Africa for two years as a TEFL teacher after graduation. He then went on to do a PGCE at Homerton College, Cambridge and a Maitrise at Universite de Paris VIII. He has been teaching French since and became an Advanced Skills teacher in 2000.

**Graham RACHER (BSc Surveying 1991)** is still working for UBS Global Asset Management and travelling when he can. Last July he tracked gorillas in Bwindi National Park in Uganda and spent February last year at the Shamwari game reserve in South Africa as a student with the Eco Africa Experience.

**Christopher SIER (PhD 1998)** joined the Police Service after completing his PhD. He was promoted to Sergeant but left shortly afterward. He then joined an investment bank based in London and worked there for two years before leaving to study for an MBA at Oxford. He is currently a management consultant.

**Sarah SIMPSON (BA Classical Studies 1993)** spent the first nine years after graduating working for the university gallery at Northumbria University, which she describes as fascinating. She is now working for a firm of interior designers in Newcastle.

**Ian STEPHENSON (BA Town & Country Planning 1991; MLitt Archaeology 2001)** is a writer of military history books. He has had three books published so far and is working on a number of other books for different publishers.

**Jane THOMPSON (BSc Surveying 1990)** took a job in surveying for three years after graduating. She then took a year out to complete a PGCE teacher training course, and went on to work in the same school for nine years. She got married two years ago and has been a supply teacher for just over a year.

**Jaime-Ann TWEEDIE (BSc Physiological Sciences 1998; MPhil Physiological Sciences 2000)** has just qualified as a doctor after being one of the first to complete the four-year degree course at Warwick Medical School. She is very happy with her choice of career and believes that her first degree at Newcastle made her entry into medicine possible.

**John WALSHAW (BSc Agriculture 1993)** is getting married to Nicola in August and will be moving to Staindrop near Barnard Castle, where Nicola is Head Gardener at Raby Castle.

## 2000s

**Laura BAXTER (MA Museum Studies 2002)** really enjoyed her MA course in 2002, and upon graduation gained employment locally at Bede's World in Jarrow as an Education Officer, which she believes was a valuable experience.

**William BLAKE (BSc Ecological Resource Management 2002)** spent 16 months in Australia working mainly as a science journalist after leaving Newcastle. As a result he is now at Imperial College London studying for an MSc in Science Media Production.

**Katherine ELLIS (LLB 2001)** left Newcastle to go to bar school in London. Thereafter she obtained pupillage at a top London set of Chambers specializing in divorces of the rich and famous!

**John FORSYTH (BA Ancient History 2000)** is currently serving as a British Army Captain. He has completed operational tours of Iraq and Kosovo, as well as six months warfighting. He has trained in Canada, Germany and the UK, and spent two years as Tank Troup Leader. He is now a Reconnaissance Specialist.

**Benjamin HAIGH (LLM International Trade 2002)** went on to complete his legal practice course after leaving Newcastle, and did so with distinction. He was also awarded the Solicitors Family Law Association prize for the Best Family Law Student at Northumbria University, where he is currently reading for an MA.

**Lisa HARVEY-SMITH (MPhys Astronomy & Astrophysics 2002)** is currently a PhD student at Jodrell Bank Observatory doing research into star-

forming regions. She plays for a football team in the North West regional football league division three, and would like to hear from old friends.

**Clifford JONES (BA Ancient History 2002)** founded Action Archaeology, a West Cumbrian community archaeology and historical research group that was recently awarded a large Heritage Lottery Fund grant for a survey in Eskdale Cumbria. He is also Company Director and Senior Policy Adviser to United Utilities.

**Lucy JONES (BA Combined Studies 2000)** completed an MSc in Development Economics last year and is currently working in Malawi as an Economist for the government, after being recruited by the Overseas Development Institute for their two-year fellowship scheme.

**Nicola KENNELLY (PhD Clinical Psychology 2002)** is now working with children, young people and their families in South Cumbria. She lives in the Lake District and is enjoying family life with her two children, Molly and Sam.

**Harriet MANNING (BA Music 2001; MA Popular Music 2004)** plans to return to Newcastle University, having received an offer of funding for a three-year PhD course in the School of Arts and Cultures.

**Marc MCALISTER (BA Combined Studies 2002)** started working as a broker in the City, and is now moving to Hong Kong on secondment.

**Edward PAKENHAM (BA European Business Management 2003)** went to Mexico after graduation to gain work experience and continue his Spanish studies. He found work within Nestle and studied a masters module in International Business Operations, describing it as a 'brilliant experience'.

**Joby RIMMER (BA German 2003)** is in his first term at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst, and is due to pass out in April 2005. He is hoping to join 9th/12th Landers.

**George SORIAL (BSc Pharmacology 2002)** has been running an overseas property estate agency based in South Yorkshire since August 2003.

**Rupert THORP (BA Business Management 2002)** has completed the London marathon and raised over £3000 for charity. He has also now been working for over two years in Clapham for QAS.

**Kate WINTERFLOOD née BULLMAN (BA Social Policy 2001)** married **David WINTERFLOOD (BSc Physiological Sciences 1999)** on the 12 June 2004 at Newbald Parish Church in East Yorkshire.

## ALUMNI REUNION IN TOKYO

You don't have to come back to Newcastle to have a reunion! Alumni volunteer leader, Kazue Fujino (MA Linguistics for TESOL 1995) arranged a small reunion of classmates in Tokyo, Japan, during the final weekend of October 2004.

Kazue met fellow alumni Rosalind Tay Choon Neo (MA Media Technology for TEFL 1995) and Satoshi Atobe (MA Media Technology for TEFL 1995) when all three were studying for masters degrees at Newcastle. She said: 'We three celebrated our reunion after about a decade over a wonderful dinner at a Tokyo restaurant.'

The reunion came about because Rosalind's school in Malaysia has a student exchange arrangement with a high school in Tokyo. Ultimately the link led to an invitation for Rosalind and her principal to visit Japan, creating the opportunity for the reunion. 🐉



*l-r Rosalind Tay Choon Neo, Rosalind, Kazue Fujino and Satoshi Atobe*

## VICE-CHANCELLOR IN SINGAPORE

On 23 February 2005 the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Christopher Edwards, hosted a dinner at the Regent Hotel in Singapore for a select group of alumni who had achieved success in a range of professional fields within Singapore. The University's long tradition of providing education to Singaporean students coming to the UK has created a situation in which Newcastle alumni are now achieving very senior positions in a number of industry sectors. As well as several CEOs and MDs within the marine sector, the University has also graduated key players within the biosciences, law, medicine, dentistry and business, among other sectors.

The dinner was an occasion to celebrate the success enjoyed by Newcastle alumni, but also to share thinking and seek advice on exciting plans to develop Newcastle's activities and involvement in Singapore in the years ahead. It was arranged with the generous assistance of Kenneth Chong (BSc Hons Bacteriology 1983) who is supporting the University in developing its plans.

The Vice-Chancellor and a number of alumni were also lunch guests of Lim Boon Heng (BSc Hons Naval Architecture 1970, Hon DCL 1996), who as a long-serving Minister within the Singapore Government has been a shining example of the success enjoyed by our graduates in Singapore. 🐉



*Above: Dr. Beverly Goh (MSc Tropical Coastal Management 1988), of the National Institute of Education; and Joyce Ooi (BSc Computing Science 1981), of the United Overseas Bank Limited.*

*Right: Dr Eileen Lim (MB BS 1972); Professor Christopher Edwards, Vice-Chancellor; Choo Chiau Beng (BSc 1970, MSc 1971), Keppel Offshore Marine; and Chan Kia Pheng (LLB 1990), Kattar Wong & Partners.*



*Left: The Vice-Chancellor with Dr Koo Seng Long (MB BS 1986), Owner of the Newcastle Clinic Singapore.*





### Jack Mapanje is Senior Lecturer in Creative Writing in the School of English Literature, Language and Linguistics.

Jack Mapanje, his wife Mercy and their children came to the UK 14 years ago, after his release from Mikuyu Maximum Detention Centre in Malawi. More than three years previously, on 25 September 1987, for no apparent reason, he had been arrested and detained at the pleasure of Life President Hastings Banda. Even the secret police who arrested him seemed genuinely puzzled about why they were detaining him.

Mapanje recalls the moment vividly: 'There was a huge oval table. At the head of it was the Inspector General and the rest of the table was filled with the Chief Commissioners of Police from the whole country. The Inspector General said to me 'Before we take you to where His Excellency wants you to be, we should ask you first of all who you are, and secondly, why do you think we should arrest you?' It was madness, more Kafka than you could ever think of. He was actually asking the prisoner why he should be detained. I didn't say anything. I couldn't say anything. The man was so embarrassed he didn't know what to do.'

That bizarre, stilted episode was the turning point in Mapanje's life. On the orders of Dr Hastings Banda, the young poet and academic spent the next three years, seven months, 16 days and 12 hours under a brutal prison regime that he finds difficult to describe.

He was released in 1991 after a worldwide campaign to free him, championed by writers from James Kelman to Harold Pinter. The Edinburgh Book Festival, Scottish Branches of Amnesty International, and the imprisoned writer's charity PEN also played a large part. Since settling in the UK, Mapanje has written a number of works detailing the often horrific experiences he went through in Mikuyu. In his poetry, Mapanje gives an insight into his life in prison, and although images of suffering and torture permeate the work, humour and a sense of human triumph also characterize it.

Although the trauma that he experienced whilst imprisoned undoubtedly changed Mapanje's life, he describes his imprisonment as a turning point in another sense. 'This was the tragedy about my little life,' he explains. 'They imprisoned me because I was too successful, too prominent. I eventually got out of prison because I had friends abroad and there had been a huge outcry at my detention. But, in a sense, the people who imprisoned me succeeded. They stopped my career mid-track.'

Mapanje's rise had indeed been meteoric. From a poor village in Southern Malawi, his father left his family when he was still in the womb. His mother had to convert him from Anglicanism to Catholicism to get him into school and brew millet beer to support him there. After studying at Malawi University and at London's Institute of Education he published a collection of poems entitled *Of Chameleons and Gods* which openly attacked the stupidities of the Malawian regime. The book went on to win the Rotterdam International Poetry Award, and the world started to take notice of him. Whilst taking his PhD at University College London he co-edited books on contemporary African poetry and began to broadcast on the BBC World Service as one of the judges of its poetry prize for Africa.

He returned to Malawi to become Head of the Linguistics Department at Malawi University and was made African Chairman of the Commonwealth Poetry Prize shortly after. However, after being released from detention work was more difficult to come by. Having lost what he feels could have been his most productive years, his appointment at Newcastle is in fact his first permanent post since arriving in Britain.

As well as teaching creative writing at Newcastle, Mapanje also plans to finish his prison memoir. 'I want to tell my story so the kids can read it,' he explains. 'On the other hand, I don't want to tell them all the horror. I'm struggling to make it an interesting story.' 🐉

**Jack Mapanje**



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