

Arches



The timeless work
of John Gilroy
Launch of the
Great North Museum
Join us for Reunite!09



Development and Alumni Relations Office
Newcastle University
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
Website: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni

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Contributors: Dan Howarth (editor); James Johnston; Tania Angelopoulos; Louise Swan; Sam Parker (& others) at *The Courier*; and Karen Bidewell, Sarah Cossom and Louella Houldcroft in the Press Office.

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Foreword

Mark Scrimshaw,

Chair of the Alumni Association



'We are human because we recount stories and myths; the past is what differentiates us from animals.'

*Ryszard Kapuściński
(1932–2007)*

This issue of *Arches* deals firmly with stories and the past, but also the possibilities of the future.

The long awaited opening of the Great North Museum is sure to provide the clearest examples of what differentiates man from beast, with its juxtaposition of the history of human civilization with the evolution of our animal and plant kingdoms.

Elsewhere in the magazine, we celebrate the achievements of Neil Astley and Simon Thirsk's Bloodaxe Books, which has revolutionised poetry publishing in its 30 years of existence.

Other highlights include a review of Diversity Week in March, which celebrated the many identities that make Newcastle such a great place to live, work and study; and a look at the life and work of John Gilroy, the artist behind the seminal Guinness ads, on the 111th anniversary of his birth.

And be sure to pay us a visit for the biggest alumni event of the year, Reunite! on 19–20 June. Details of the programme and a booking form are on p27.

This year's Convocation will be the last with Jack Jeffery as Chairman, and I'd like to thank Jack on behalf of us all for his commitment over the past few years. For details of the selection of the new Chair of Convocation, see p25.

Enjoy this issue of *Arches*, and I hope to see you on 20 June.

Mark Scrimshaw (BA History 1976)

News

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

Newcastle becomes a global university



An artist's impression of NUMed, Newcastle University's new medical campus in Singapore

Two new campuses in Singapore and Malaysia are set to deliver Newcastle University's expertise in medicine and marine technology to our friends in Southeast Asia.

Newcastle University Medicine Malaysia (NUMed) will deliver and award degrees in medicine and biomedical science, and is set to open its doors in 2011.

The campus is located in Bandar Nusajaya, in South Johor's Iskandar Development Region, strategically positioned within the growth triangle of Malaysia, Singapore and Indonesia. It is the first tenant of Malaysia's EduCity initiative, which is expected to attract other high-profile universities from across the world.

NUMed's first intake of students will commence their MB BS studies in Newcastle this year, before transferring to Malaysia when the campus opens in 2011.

The Marine International campus, NUMI, is

less than 20 miles away at Ngee Ann Polytechnic, one of Singapore's leading universities. Launched in September 2008, NUMI is Newcastle's first overseas venture to be in full operation, with a full-capacity intake of 62 students in its first year. It offers degrees in Naval Architecture with Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture with Off-Shore Engineering – a first for a Singaporean institution.

Both campuses offer students the opportunity to take Newcastle degrees without travelling to the UK, and at a fraction of the cost.

Professor Reg Jordan, of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, said: 'We are delighted to be part of this exciting initiative. Our new campus in Malaysia will widen access to affordable UK education, extend Newcastle's global footprint and help to meet the University's mission to translate the outcomes of its academic endeavours for the benefit of society'.

Bird populations devastated by drop in cranefly

Warm summers are dramatically reducing populations of cranefly – a problem that is having a severe impact on the bird populations which rely on them for food.

New research by a team of bird experts, including Newcastle University's Dr Mark Whittingham, spells out for the first time how climate change may affect upland bird species like the Golden Plover – perhaps pushing it towards local extinction by the end of the century.

Higher temperatures in late summer are killing cranefly larvae, resulting in a drop of up to 95 per cent of adults emerging the following spring. As cranefly provide a crucial food source for a wide range of upland birds, this means starvation and death for many chicks.

'The population of Golden Plovers in our study will probably be extinct in around 100 years if temperature predictions are correct and the birds cannot adapt to feed on other prey sources,' explains Dr Whittingham, who worked on the study with scientists from RSPB Scotland and Aberystwyth and Manchester universities.

'Our study models the impact of climate change on the ecology of the animal. In this case we show that higher August temperatures, as predicted from climate change models, are correlated with lower numbers of cranefly – which are needed in abundance for Golden Plover chicks to grow and survive'.



Maths could provide tsunami warnings



Future research may help predict the size and location of tsunami

A new mathematical formula that could help predict the location and velocity of tsunami has been calculated by scientists at Newcastle University.

Research led by Professor Robin Johnson, of the School of Mathematics and Statistics, was prompted by the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami disaster that devastated coastal communities in Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand.

In this instance, an earthquake in the depths of the ocean triggered a long surface wave that resulted in six massive wave fronts, one after the other.

Of these waves, it was the third and largest one that caused the most devastation, hitting the beaches with terrifying speed. Reaching a height of 20m, it lifted a train from its tracks as it travelled along the Sri Lankan coastline, killing almost 1,000 people.

Professor Johnson and his colleague Professor Adrian Constantin, based

at the University of Vienna, Austria, suggest that by studying the behaviour of these long water waves, we may be able to predict where they might hit and how devastating they might be.

'We found that the number and height of the tsunami waves hitting the shoreline depends critically on the shape of the initial surface wave in deep water,' explained Professor Johnson.

'From this it is possible to work out whether a "trough" or a "peak" is the leading wave.

'In the case of a trough then the familiar sight of the tide suddenly going out is the precursor to an approaching tsunami.'

'If a peak is the leading wave, there is no warning except a fast-approaching wall of water.'

'This could potentially provide vital information for areas facing an impending disaster.'

Eating tomatoes may protect your skin

Tomatoes could be the new weapon in the fight against sunburn and wrinkles, new research from Newcastle and Manchester Universities suggests.

Volunteers who ate tomato paste were found to have 33 per cent more protection against sunburn than a control group. The effect is the equivalent to wearing factor 1.3 sunscreen.

Scientists think the antioxidant lycopene can neutralise harmful molecules produced in skin exposed to the sun's ultra-violet rays. Lycopene is the bright red pigment found in a number of red fruit and vegetables, but previous research has shown that its highest levels are contained in cooked tomatoes.

With summer approaching, an extra helping of tomatoes may help protect the skin against the damaging effects of the sun. But Professor Mark Birch-Machin warns that tomatoes alone are, of course, not enough: 'Eating tomatoes will not make you invincible in the sun, but they may be a useful addition to sun protection along with sunscreens, shade and clothing'.

The team is now looking to start a new, longer-term study into the protective effects of lycopene on the skin.

The humble tomato may help protect your skin from the sun, according to research recently published



The North East knowledge economy



As the world continues to wrestle with the financial crisis, Newcastle University has unveiled a 10-step plan to help boost the regional economy.

The plan, which was announced in January, will benefit local businesses of all sizes, people who have lost their jobs, and families on tight budgets.

Over £10 million has been earmarked to help tackle the recession, including funds for improvements to campus buildings and facilities; subsidised course fees and support for businesses; and free entertainment and learning opportunities.

'More so than ever in these financially difficult times, we believe the University has a vital role to play in our region's economy,' said Professor Paul Younger, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement. 'A great deal of uncertainty still prevails over the global economy, and many people are finding it difficult to plan for the future.'

'This package of measures is intended to help more local businesses, families and individuals weather the effects of the downturn.'

Within weeks of the 10-step plan being announced, the University had invited tenders for the refurbishment of its sports facilities, improvements to campus lighting, and an upgrade to its information systems and services, worth a total of £1.5 million.

And more than 260 North East companies took part in an open day to see how they could benefit from the initiative, with many more seeking information since the event.

Emma Adcock, an account manager at Silver Bullet Marketing who attended the open day, was delighted with the plan. 'It's both altruistic and timely,' she said.

'The practicality and immediacy of the opportunities presented by the 10-step initiative are refreshing and empowering, and provide actual help rather than token gestures.'

Newcastle University's 10 steps for the North East are:

1. Make it easier for local businesses to win University contracts
2. Secure hundreds of construction jobs by maintaining our £200 million programme of campus improvements
3. Bring forward other significant projects, such as lecture theatre and lab refurbishment
4. Accelerate the programme of maintenance and improvement works on our outdoor estate
5. Invest in energy efficiency measures across campus
6. Offer £5,000 vouchers to local businesses, which can be redeemed against training and specialist advice from the University
7. Subsidised course fees to help retrain those made redundant
8. Reduce average payment times to all suppliers by nine days
9. Expansion of the Careers Service's successful Newcastle Work Experience scheme, which gives small businesses access to bright students
10. Expanded provision of free cultural and educational activities to help families on a tight budget, such as free entry to the Great North Museum



He was the visionary behind one of the most iconic brands of the twentieth century, but there's much more to the work of John Gilroy than Guinness-guzzling animals. *Arches* looks at the life and times of one of the advertising world's best-loved artists, on the 111th anniversary of his birth.

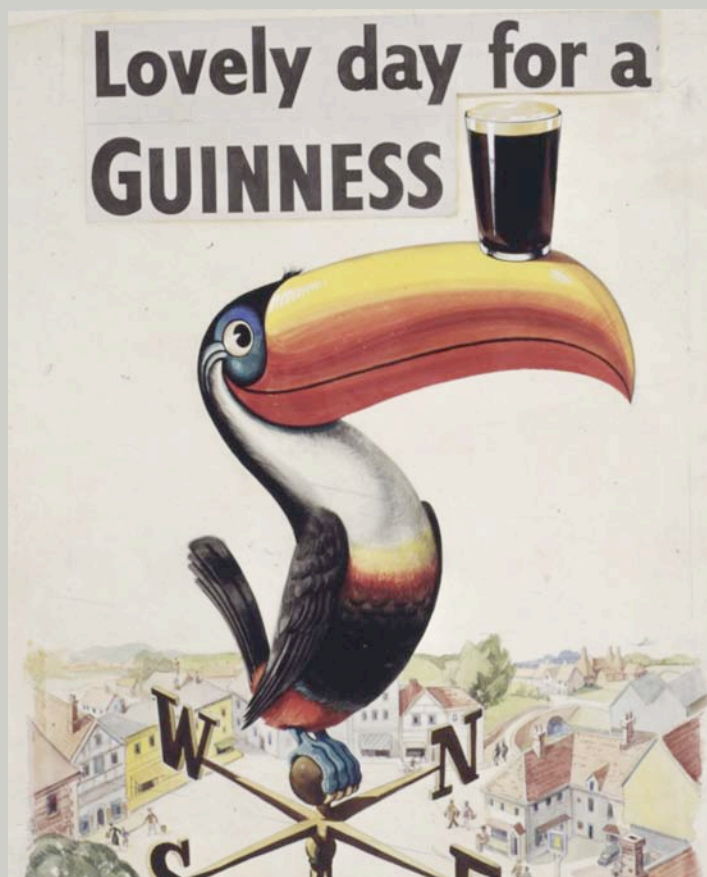
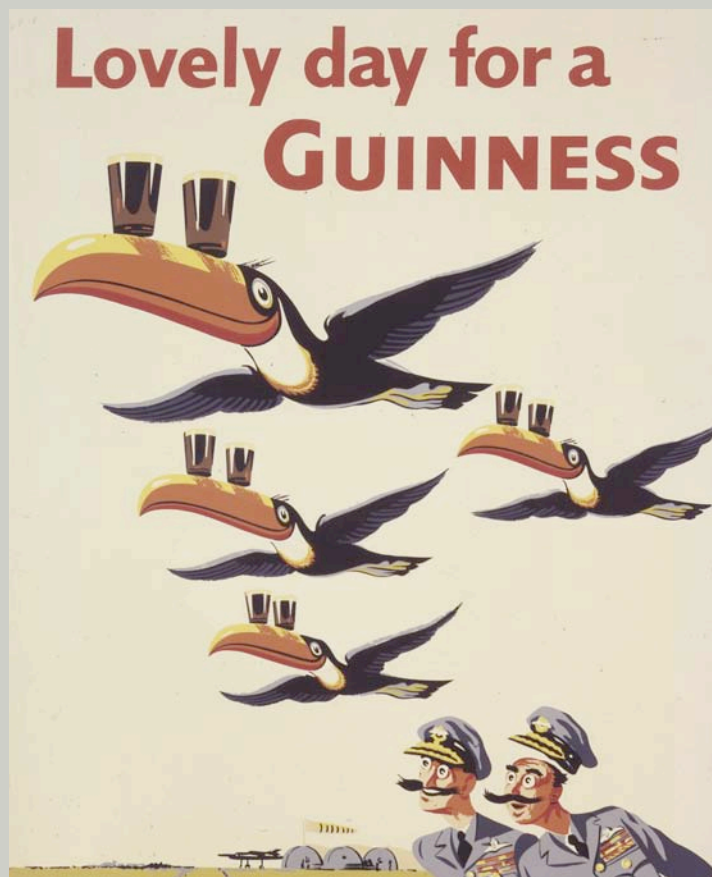
LOVELY DAY FOR A GILROY

If the canvas is a window to an artist's soul, then Gilroy's looked out onto a playground – full of colour, fun and laughter.

John Gilroy (Hon MA 1975) is undoubtedly most famous for the adverts he created for Guinness from the 1930s to the 1960s, depicting strongmen and zoo animals with a taste for the popular Irish stout. But perhaps less well known are his intricate portraits of figures including members of the Royal Family, Winston Churchill and the Pope, amongst hundreds of other creations in a career spanning seven decades.

Gilroy was born in Whitley Bay, North Tyneside, on 30 May 1898. His father was a landscape painter and technical draughtsman, and the young John followed in his footsteps from an early age, learning the art of cartoons from *Punch* magazine. By the age of 15, Gilroy was a cartoonist for the *Evening Chronicle*, and sketched entertainers who trod the boards on Newcastle's theatre circuit.

Below left: John Gilroy's toucan became synonymous with Guinness from the 1950s onwards. *Below right:* a mock up of Gilroy's iconic 'Toucan on a Weathervane' (1955)





In 1912, he won a scholarship to Armstrong College Art School – now Newcastle University's School of Fine Art – and studied under Professor K G Hatten, before joining the armed forces on the outbreak of the First World War. After serving in France, Italy and Palestine with the Royal Field Artillery, Gilroy resumed his studies at the Royal College of Art (RCA) in London, where he stayed for two years after graduation in 1923 to teach drawing.

It was in 1925 that Gilroy began working for Benson's, the London agency with whom he would develop his distinctive style, and make his mark on the advertising landscape. His earliest work for Skipper Sardines and Virol led to campaigns for Bovril, Macleans and Colman's mustard. And when Benson's won the Guinness account in 1928, Gilroy began an association with the brand that would last the rest of his life, producing over 100 press advertisements and 50 poster designs in the 35 years that followed.

For Guinness, this was their first foray into the realms of advertising. In business circles at the time, many considered it an act of desperation to advertise a product – including the head of the Guinness family, Lord Iveagh. But it was a huge hit with the public, and indeed the

'Gilroy created advertising that made people smile and love the brand. He did it in a way which, for the first time, had a consistent look and feel, and laid the foundations for decades of fantastic advertising for Guinness.'

John Roscoe, Diageo's Marketing Director for Guinness

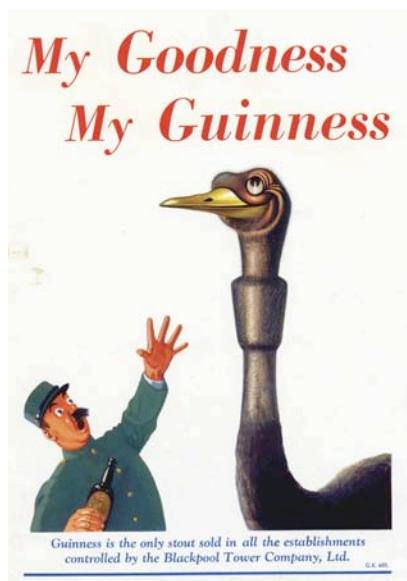
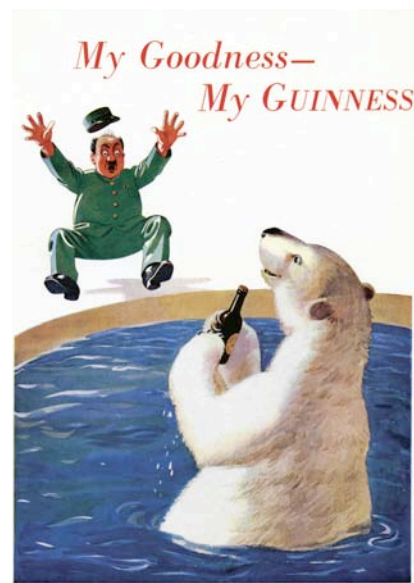
slogan 'Guinness is good for you' came from asking London punters why they preferred the drink to other brands.

Gilroy's most notable work for Guinness included the 'Guinness for Strength' campaigns featuring the girder carrier (1934) and the woodcutter (1937). And his first animal, a stout-sipping sea lion, appeared in 1935, with the immortal tagline: 'My Goodness, My Guinness'.

Over the next 26 years, Gilroy would produce a veritable Noah's Ark of creatures – a crocodile, polar bear, ostrich and gnu to name just a few – along with their long suffering zookeeper, a caricature of the artist himself. And then in 1955, Gilroy produced 'Toucan on a Weathervane', arguably his most iconic Guinness creation.

Exerting an influence that exists to this day in advertising, Gilroy once said of his work: 'The man in the street has no time for contemplation. My posters are, therefore, a kind of aesthetic meal-in-a-minute'.

Celebrating its 250th anniversary this year, Guinness – now part of global drinks company Diageo – remains indebted to the artist. John Roscoe, Diageo's Marketing Director for Guinness, says: 'Gilroy created advertising that made people smile and love the brand.'



Opposite page: John Gilroy working on the Guinness girder carrier in the Benson's studio

Clockwise from top: Sea lions were Gilroy's first animal subjects (1935), followed by a polar bear and emu, terrorising their unfortunate zookeeper, who bears striking similarity to the artist himself

'He did it in a way which, for the first time, had a consistent look and feel, and laid the foundations for decades of fantastic advertising for Guinness.'

By the late 1920s, Gilroy was married, and had a son, John. Aside from his advertising work, he developed a reputation as a painter of portraits and landscapes, and exhibited his first painting, *Gwen*, at the RCA in 1930. One of his first portrait commissions was to paint the future Edward VIII, then patron of his local golf club.

Turning freelance in the 1940s, Gilroy produced commercial work for the Ministry of Defence's wartime campaigns, and improved morale in the forces by painting murals at Royal Air Force bases, whilst still painting and exhibiting at the RCA and across the country. In 1946, Gilroy unveiled a mural at the *Morritt Arms* in Teesdale, Co. Durham, owned by his close friend, Major Morritt. Themed on Dickensian characters, the figures turned out to be caricatures of local people and hotel staff, in true Gilroy style. The mural still stands to this day in the hotel's Dickens Bar.

From the age of 51, Gilroy designed greetings cards for Royles, latterly as their Art Director. At the same time, Gilroy would invite notable guests to his studio on London's Holland Park Road, to paint their portraits. He counted

Pope John XXIII, Edward Heath, and many senior members of the Royal Family amongst his illustrious list of clients.

Gilroy finally graduated from Newcastle University in 1975 – receiving an Honorary MA – and was appointed a Freeman of the City of London in 1981. He died in Guildford on 11 April 1986, and is buried in Gloucestershire near the home of his family.

The Gilroy family is still incredibly proud of his work, and hopeful that it will remain in the public eye. 'He had a great sense of fun and amazing creative skill, says Gilroy's daughter-in-law, Fiona. He could capture a likeness in minutes – often with a well-worn pencil on the back of an old envelope, which he just happened to have in his pocket.

'We still miss him. He was much loved by all his family.'

The History of Advertising Trust (HAT) held an exhibition of John Gilroy's life and work in 1998, and has published a book, *Gilroy is good for you*. HAT also keeps an extensive archive of his work. Very many thanks to June at HAT for giving us access to this rich resource. For more information on HAT, visit: www.hatads.org.uk



The cutting edge of poetry

From humble beginnings, Bloodaxe Books has become the UK's foremost publisher of contemporary poetry. By challenging the status quo of traditional literature, Newcastle graduates Neil Astley and Simon Thirsk have built a stage for marginalised voices – always striving for innovation, whilst remaining true to their liberal roots.

Dan Howarth chats to the men who have transformed the face of poetry in Britain.

30 years ago, Neil Astley (BA English Literature 1978; Hon D Litt 1996) founded Bloodaxe with a vision of publishing poets from diverse backgrounds, and delivering their work to a wider audience.

'To an extent, the whole 30 years can be seen as a journey of dispelling the sense that poetry had alienated people,' says Simon Thirsk (BA Philosophy 1979), the Chairman of Bloodaxe who joined Neil in 1982.

Back then, very few women were published poets, and the majority of the population was ignored in favour of work from affluent white men. Bloodaxe was the first press to change this, publishing male and female poets from working class and ethnic backgrounds, and cultures from around the world.

'There was lots of exciting work around, but a clear disparity between what was being written and what was being published,' says Neil. 'We wanted to address that.'

In 1986, the Russian poet, Irina Ratushinskaya, was incarcerated in a Soviet prison camp for writing poetry deemed 'a danger to the state'. But by publishing *No, I'm Not Afraid*, a collection of manuscripts smuggled out from Ratushinskaya's cell, Bloodaxe played a key role in securing her release.

'She scratched poetry into bars of soap, and other prisoners would memorise them before being released,' recalls Simon. 'She would also write on tiny scraps of bible paper, and pass them to her husband in a kiss, or wrapped inside a ballpoint pen.'

The book kick-started an international campaign to free the Russian dissident, and Simon penned a television play for

BBC2, starring Sean Bean, which further raised awareness. She was released seven months later, giving her first reading in Newcastle and – to Neil and Simon’s dismay – having a reception with Margaret Thatcher.

Other dissidents on Bloodaxe’s roster include Yang Lian, the ‘Misty’ poet who rallied against China’s Cultural Revolution in the 1980s; and Jack Mapanje, who was imprisoned in Malawi and now lectures at Newcastle University.

Amongst Bloodaxe’s most successful poets are a great number of women. At the age of 30, Jen Hadfield was the youngest ever winner of the prestigious T S Eliot Prize for Poetry, which she received last year for her second collection, *Nigh-No-Place*. And Elizabeth Alexander was Barack Obama’s inaugural poet when he was sworn in as US President in January.

But Bloodaxe doesn’t have a quota to fill, nor do Neil and Simon see themselves as champions for political correctness. ‘We just publish work we think is good,’ says Neil. ‘And over 30 years, it’s turned out to be 50/50 men and women, with a big chunk of writers from an Asian or Afro-Caribbean background. Which is the way it should be to a certain extent, because all these people make up our population.’

In addition to its national and international poets, Bloodaxe continues to publish the work of poets in the North East. Names such as Anne Stevenson, Tony Harrison and Gillian Allnutt adorn the Bloodaxe bookshelf, alongside late greats like Barry MacSweeney and Basil Bunting. And Bloodaxe’s latest new poet, Paul Batchelor, is also a PhD student at the University. His debut collection, *The Sinking Road*, is reviewed on page 22.

Bloodaxe still has strong ties with Newcastle University, and the two have co-published several books, including the Newcastle/Bloodaxe Poetry Lectures, which invite contemporary authors to speak about the craft of poetry. In 1996, the University recognised Neil’s pioneering work with an honorary doctorate.

To celebrate its thirtieth birthday last year, Bloodaxe published the world’s first poetry DVD-book, *In Person: 30 Poets*. Filmed by award-winning filmmaker Pamela Robertson-Pearce, each of the anthology’s 30 poets perform their work intimately in front of the camera.

With performance poets such as John Agard and Benjamin Zephaniah in the anthology, *In Person* is a unique chance to experience poetry as the author fully intends it. ‘You can get a certain appreciation of a poem by reading it on a page,’ explains Neil. ‘But through performance, you get a clearer idea of the tone and narrative, and you can feel the space around the poem and its emotional context’.

‘We’re always looking at ways of getting poetry out to more readers, more effectively,’ adds Simon.

Indeed, Bloodaxe has led a revolution in how poetry is published. It was the first press to design poetry books like novels with colourful artwork on its covers – a practice now widespread in the industry – and has produced a series of crossover books to encourage people’s interest in poetry.

Anthologies such as *Staying Alive* and its sequel *Being Alive* were an attempt to connect with a broader readership. ‘We produced *Staying Alive* as a taster for people interested in other areas of the arts, like theatre, film and drama,’ says Neil. ‘Not just because poetry’s relevant to

the world they live in, but because it’s integral to the human condition. And just like you can connect with a great novel or film, you can also connect with a great poem’.

In the run-up to publishing *Staying Alive*, Bloodaxe put excerpts from poems on billboards around Newcastle’s Metro system. And after selling 20,000 copies in the first fortnight, it was clear the investment had paid off. The book has gone on to sell nearly 200,000 copies in Britain and America.

But the lack of money in poetry publishing makes extravagant marketing impossible, especially considering that Bloodaxe’s publishing is subsidised by the Arts Council. ‘We have to justify all the funds we apply for, and show we give taxpayers value for their money. Rightly so too,’ says Simon. ‘And we believe we give them fantastic value’.

After 30 years, Neil still works 75 hours a week at his office in Northumberland’s Tarsset Valley, reviewing and editing manuscripts, and typesetting and designing four books a month. Simon now lives in North Wales, running the business side of Bloodaxe from the sales and finance office in Bala.

‘It’s hard work, but we find it very pleasurable,’ says Simon. ‘We’re very lucky to be doing something we love.’

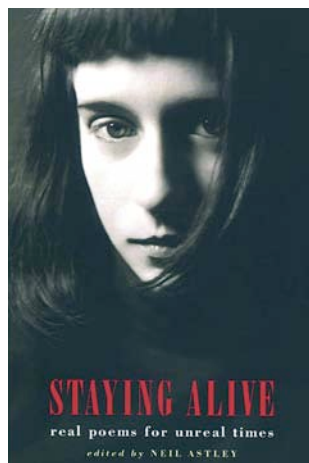
‘The world of poetry is full of interesting and thoughtful people. Our mission is to encourage as many people as possible to try it.’

For more information on Bloodaxe Books, visit: www.bloodaxebooks.com
And for a more in depth interview with Neil and Simon, visit Arches Online at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/arches

Opposite page (L-R): Simon Thirsk and Neil Astley Below: Cover jackets from Bloodaxe books

‘The world of poetry is full of interesting and thoughtful people. Our mission is to encourage as many people as possible to try it.’

Simon Thirsk



CAPTURING THE SPIRIT OF DIVERSITY

From 2–6 March 2009, the University held its first Diversity Week – a celebration of the many cultures, people and identities that make Newcastle University such a vibrant place to study, work and visit. James Johnston reflects on what diversity means and why the University is supporting difference.

Over the past year, committee meetings have been abuzz with talk about public engagement and the question of what the University's role is in both the region and the wider higher education sector. There have been many interesting answers, and not just from the realms of academia. As part of this discussion, many groups across campus have begun to look at who and what the University community is.

Newcastle has been responsible for educating thousands of undergraduate and postgraduate students of different nationalities and backgrounds, and nurturing staff through their careers at academic and support levels. Without doubt, this University is a melting pot of different cultural attitudes and backgrounds.

The very nature of 'going to university' has been an opportunity for youngsters to stretch their wings in the real world – a rite of passage where the University has helped open-up minds and develop personalities in preparation for future careers. The Vice-Chancellor talks confidently about knowledge for life, and in our encounters with alumni it is clear that Newcastle has played an influential role for many, and continues to inspire curiosity about what it is like to study and work here.

With over 18,000 students and around 5,000 staff, Newcastle is a significant organisation. Therefore diversity defines the make up of the University's community. Successful organisations – the management theorists tell us – are based on understanding the detail behind this. Diversity is about recognising difference and enabling those who come to University to be themselves. And for those who work here, it is about thriving in an open culture where people have legitimacy regardless of their race, gender, age, faith, sexual orientation or disability.

Diversity Week 2009 provided an opportunity to discuss issues such as access to education for students from all sorts of backgrounds, work-life balance and parenting; and listen to key note lectures on equality issues. And of course, diversity is equally important to our alumni community, which numbers 124,861 people across the world.

For the University to embrace equality and diversity as an issue is of course a legislative necessity in terms of employment law.

But Diversity Week was not about political correctness gone mad. It was a concerted effort to take stock of where we are as an organisation, and how we can celebrate

successes and tackle challenges to ensure we provide a safe and open environment for students, staff and alumni alike.

In the words of Rudyard Kipling: 'All the people like us are We, and everyone else is They'.

James Johnston is the Development Manager for the Faculty of Medical Sciences, based in the Development and Alumni Relations Office. You can e-mail him at james.johnston@ncl.ac.uk



As part of Diversity Week 2009, staff, students and alumni were invited to get creative with their thoughts on what diversity means to them.

A photo competition asked for entries that captured 'the spirit of diversity', with a first prize of £150 in vouchers for photographic equipment, and two runners-up prizes of £50 vouchers. The winning entry was from Dr Peter Kellett, a senior lecturer in Architecture in the University's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape.

Peter said: 'When we talk about diversity there is a danger that we dwell too much on difference, and fail to pick up on similarities. When I decided to try to represent diversity amongst our research students, I wanted to bring out their shared characteristics too – that collective sense of community and shared endeavour. I think their enjoyment and sense of fun is evident in the picture.'

The runners-up were Alexander Wilson, photo editor at *The Courier* and second-year Town Planning student, for his image of

camaraderie in the University's rugby team; and Adam Jones, who works in HR at the University, for his vibrant image of interwoven cultures on campus.

There was also a creative writing competition, which asked writers to submit prose and poetry on the theme of disability. See the *Arches Online* website for the winning submissions.

Keep an eye on our website for details of next year's Diversity Week, as soon as they become available.

Left: Peter Kellett's winning photo depicts his diverse, yet closely-knit, group of students.
Top right: Runner-up entries from Adam Jones, and below right: Alex Wilson



GREAT EXPECTATIONS

A life-size T-Rex, Egyptian mummies, and a spear that conquered Ancient Greece. These are just some of the treasures on show at the Great North Museum, which is open to the public free of charge from 23 May.

After five years of careful planning and construction, the Great North Museum is finally taking its place as the cultural centrepiece of the University campus.

The £26 million project brings together collections from the Hancock Museum, Hatton Gallery, Museum of Antiquities, and Shefton Museum for the first time – placing natural history and art collections alongside priceless archaeological artefacts and interactive exhibits.

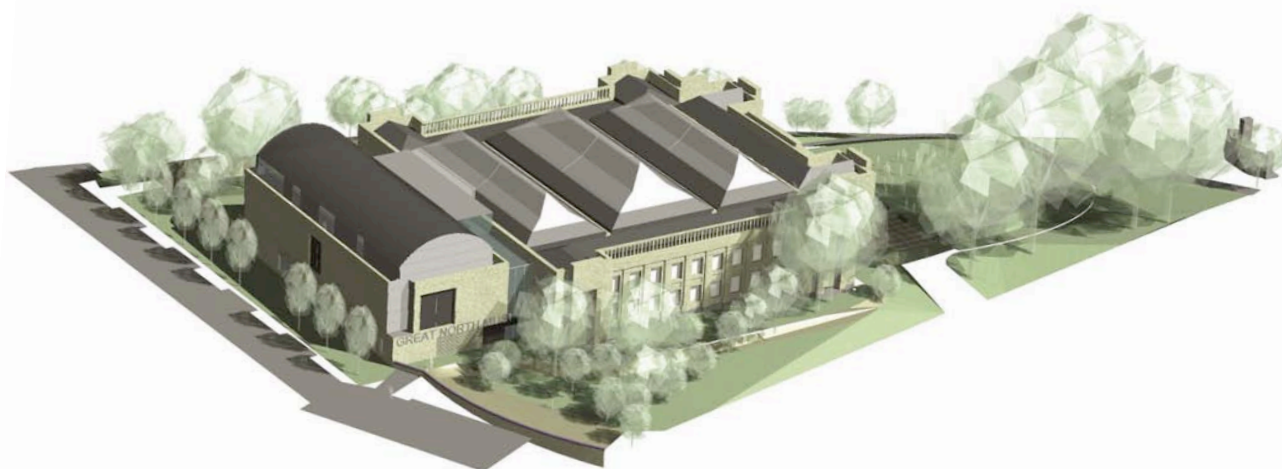
Comprising two venues on campus, the Great North Museum: Hancock and the Hatton Gallery, the Museum is set to welcome an estimated 300,000 visitors per year.

The main part of the Museum is located at the historic Hancock Museum, on Claremont Road, which overlooks the city centre. Here, thousands of years of civilization will be chronicled alongside a deep exploration into the history of the natural world.

Within the walls of the refurbished and extended Hancock building are 11 new galleries, celebrating the wonders of the natural world, and the many cultures that have inhabited it. The ground floor explores the diversity and evolution of our animal and plant kingdoms, along with archaeological finds charting the history of the North East and an interactive model of Hadrian's Wall.

On entering the Great North Museum: Hancock, visitors will be taken on a journey through the landscape of time, beginning long before the dinosaurs and culminating in medieval Newcastle. On the first floor, the extraordinary collections of the former Hancock and Shefton Museums will be on show, exploring the ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece and Rome. More collections will delve into the

Below: An architect's impression of the Great North Museum





Above: A life-size replica of a T-Rex skeleton, one of the Museum's new residents

wonders of other modern world cultures, and special exhibitions will feature in the new wing, at the rear of the building. For a small charge, visitors will also be able to enter the planetarium, which will feature spectacular shows about astronomy and the night sky.

Among the Museum's permanent residents are a life-size cast of an African elephant; the Egyptian mummy Bakt-hor-Nekt; a full-size replica of a T-Rex skeleton; and Sparkie, Newcastle's famous talking budgie, who was stuffed after his death in 1962 and is now the subject of a new opera by Michael Nyman.

Although the Museum has been radically updated, its historic features are carefully preserved.

Steve McLean, the Museum's project manager, said: 'People will recognise the famous Hancock façade but the refurbished interior and impressive extension are all brand new'.

Indeed, renovation of the building was kept in line with its Grade II* listed status with elements such as lime and horse hair mixed into the plaster, and roof tiles made from pure lead.

One of the Museum's first visitors was Minister of Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism, Barbara Follett, who was given a sneak preview of the Hancock site in March. She hailed the museum as 'mind blowing' and a 'perfect example' of culture-led regeneration.

'It's a daring concept to take an old building and expand it into something very

modern, but which still honours its past,' said Mrs Follett. 'And by bringing collections together in the way it has, the Great North Museum will create a fascinating educational and fun visitor experience.'

The Hatton Gallery remains in its original location in the Quadrangle, only a few hundred yards deeper in the University campus, and has stayed open while work on the Hancock building has progressed.

Its permanent collection comprises over 3,500 artworks – including paintings, sculpture, drawings and installations – dating from the Fourteenth Century to the present day. Francis Bacon's 'Study for Figure VI' (1956) forms part of the collection, as does Kurt Schwitters' Merzbarn wall (1948) which is the only surviving installation by this leading European modernist.

The Museum also has an offsite resource centre and storage facility, containing over half a million items, which schools, students and members of the public can book to visit in the company of a curator. And there is dedicated space inside the Great North Museum: Hancock for school visits and researchers, as well as a number of cafés and other amenities.

Designed by renowned architect and Newcastle University graduate, Sir Terry Farrell (BArch 1961; Hon DCL 2000), the Museum was made possible with £8.75 million of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The University and Newcastle City Council have also made



Above: (l-r) Alec Coles, Director of Tyne & Wear Museums; Barbara Follett, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism; Professor Paul Younger, Newcastle University's Pro-Vice Chancellor for Engagement; Cllr Ged Bell, Chair of Tyne & Wear Joint Museums Committee

major financial contributions, and other generous supporters include the European Regional Development Fund; One North East; the Northern Rock, Garfield Weston and Clore Duffield Foundations; and a host of other organisations and private donors.

The project is led by Newcastle University in partnership with Tyne & Wear Museums, Newcastle City Council, the Natural History Society of Northumbria and the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne.

Professor Paul Younger, the University's Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Engagement, said: 'The natural history and archaeology collections which have now been brought together in the Great North Museum are the fruit of over 200 years of world-wide endeavour by North East collectors. Thorough documentation of these collections in comprehensive archives gives them great intellectual value.'

'As well as a stunning addition to Newcastle's growing array of iconic cultural centres, we now have a world-class resource that will support academic study for years to come.'

The Great North Museum: Hancock will be open to the public from Saturday 23 May. Admission is free, and opening times are 10am–5pm Monday to Saturday, and 2–5pm on Sunday. For more information, visit: www.greatnorthmuseum.org

Two minutes with... Patrick Chinnery



I wish my students realised that...

learning is much more fun when you actively engage in the process, rather than passively absorbing the facts required to pass exams.

If I wasn't an academic... I'd be a full-time NHS Consultant Neurologist.

I trained as a neurologist, and I love working with people.

My favourite thing about my job...

is when we make a discovery in the lab which could directly help a patient under my care, or help develop a new treatment. I love the immense variety and constant intellectual challenge. It often feels like a serious hobby that I'm paid to do.

Although I'm not too keen on...

red tape. I find it very frustrating when unnecessary bureaucracy stands in the way of progress. This is becoming much more of a problem in medical research.

Not many people know I have a passion for... playing the flute – especially music of the Baroque era.

My favourite view in the North East...

is probably looking west towards the Cumbrian mountains I'm afraid!

A vice I'm willing to admit... is the flute

I bought for my fortieth birthday. It was very expensive and far too good for an amateur like me.

My personal philosophy is... you can achieve anything if you really want to.

At 11am on a Sunday, you will generally find me... running in Northumberland, or nearing the top of a Cumbrian mountain with my wife and four children.

Patrick Chinnery (BMedSci 1989; MB BS 1992) is Professor of Neurogenetics in the Faculty of Medical Sciences, and the University's public orator designate. Amongst many other things, he's currently working to develop a treatment for Leber's Optic Neuropathy, a hereditary disease that leads to blindness.

MEMORIES OF NEWCASTLE

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



Rag Week in full swing, complete with fund-raising elephant, 1951

Wor Elefant – Rag parade

1951 Professor Derek Geldart
(BSc Mechanical Engineering 1954)

'The Rag Week' held every autumn term was a huge event, intended to raise funds for charity. The mechanical engineers constructed a full-size elephant out of plywood on a wooden frame.

'Its stomach was partly cut away to reveal a red light bulb flashing on and off during the parade up Northumberland Street, carried on the back of a flat-top lorry.

'“Wor Elefant”, with its articulated legs, was surmounted by a turbaned mahout, a charming, clever, hard-working student by the name of Muckerji, the only Indian in our year.'

Newcastle launches alumni travel programme



Our first tour to Turkey will include a cruise along the Aegean coast on board a classic gulet

This year, we're pleased to announce the launch of our new travel programme, available exclusively to our alumni and guests. Designed for us by IMA Travel, the UK's leading alumni holiday specialist, the programme is a chance for graduates from all years and disciplines to travel to exotic locations in the company of a University expert.

From 16–27 June, we're offering an exciting small group tour to Turkey, led by Newcastle's own Senior Lecturer in Ancient History, Jerry Paterson. It promises to be a stimulating and educational experience in like-minded company, and will also raise funds for important University projects, with 10 per cent of the ticket price being given to us as a donation.

Details of this year's tour are given below, with more information on our website at:
www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/odyssey

An Aegean Odyssey 16 – 27 June 2009

This special tour explores the very best of Ottoman and Classical Turkey in one unique journey, starting in Istanbul – capital of the fabulously wealthy Byzantine Empire – and continuing by way of legendary Troy and Ephesus to the Aegean coast for a cruise on a stunning classic gulet.

We explore the mosques, churches and palaces of fascinating Istanbul then travel past the Hellespont to the remains of Troy, where new excavations have revealed a new side to the city and its vast defences.

We shall visit the site, then explore the other major classical sites of the Aegean such as Assos, Pergamum, Smyrna and Miletus, so many of which trace their foundation to heroes returning from the Trojan Wars.

Reaching the sea, we visit Ephesus, one of the best preserved Roman cities in

the world, and join our own classic yachts to cruise along the Aegean Coast. These bays and inlets preserve some of the world's most picturesque classical sites, their ruined theatres and temples now standing among olive and myrtle groves.

Our yachts were built in Halicarnassus to a Byzantine design, but are fitted with the most modern conveniences – private bathrooms with every double / twin cabin; our own chefs to prepare the excellent Turkish cuisine and our own stewards to wait on our every need. It's a perfect way to relax, to learn and to absorb the ambience of the epic past.

Tour Cost: £1,495 sharing
Full details are available from IMA Travel.
www.imatravel.com
Tel: 020 8940 4114
13 The Avenue, Richmond, TW9 2AL
Licensed by CAA with ATOL 2903

GOING SOLO

Business enterprise news from Newcastle University

Golden business opportunities for recent graduates

If you've graduated from Newcastle since 1999, you could boost your career progress by taking part in our GOLD Network.

Designed exclusively for graduates of the last decade, the GOLD Network hosts business and social networking events in interesting venues, with insightful speakers and often a generous supply of free food and drink.

Launched in Newcastle in 2006, the GOLD Network has been rolled out to London, and as far afield as Oslo, Athens and Beijing.

Our last event at the Brewery in London featured a panel of business experts, including leading career strategist and author, John Lees. A review of the event is on page 26.

Your free and automatic membership of the GOLD Network gives you access to a number of events throughout the year, where you can acquire

new skills, make vital business contacts, and reconnect with old friends. You will also meet high profile speakers and industry professionals, education advisors and mentors who'll provide you with hints and tips in support of your personal or professional objectives.

To find out about upcoming GOLD Network events, keep an eye on our website at:

www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/gold or update us with your e-mail address by contacting the office, or visiting NUGrad at:

www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/nugrad

If you'd like to launch a branch in your area, contact our Alumni Relations Manager, Tania Angelopoulos, at: tania.angelopoulos@ncl.ac.uk

GOLD Networkers at the 'Live Local, Think Global' event at BALTIC in Newcastle, July 2008



Business brains on campus

A group of entrepreneurs have taken up residence with the University's Careers Service, offering invaluable advice to students and graduates who are thinking about launching their own business

The Entrepreneurs in Residence scheme provides access to some of the business world's greatest minds, offering one-to-one practical advice on business ideas and issues, as well as the chance to meet other high-flying professionals in various industries.

Claire Adamson, Business Start-Up Officer at the Careers Service, explains: 'In the current economic climate, access to advice from people who have faced their own difficulties, overcome them and are better off for the experience is more valuable than ever.'

'Each Entrepreneur in Residence has a well established reputation, and substantial first-hand experience of starting and growing a successful venture,' Claire says. 'They have a passion for developing people's skills and ideas.'

Each entrepreneur is invited to take up a 12 month residency with the Careers Service, and one of the incumbents is 3D X-ray pioneer, Max Robinson.

'Working with people who have innovative ideas and helping them to become reality is really rewarding and inspiring,' says Max, whose work with various organisations and spin-out companies has helped bridge the divide between business and academia.

'The Entrepreneur in Residence scheme at Newcastle University provides me with this opportunity, which I think is a proactive and forward thinking initiative.'

If you are a student or graduate of Newcastle University with a business idea, or an entrepreneur who would like to get involved with the project, please contact Claire Adamson on 0044 (0)191 222 3446 or claire.adamson@ncl.ac.uk

The Hotlist

Our alumni business community stretches across the world, offering diverse services and products from digital media and accountancy, to African safaris and plump turkeys.

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

If you would like to feature your business in the Hotlist, e-mail the editor at thehotlist@ncl.ac.uk



The Fridge Ltd

Harry Lang (BSc Geography 2000)

The fridge specialises in on and off-line advertising campaigns, viral media, web development, guerrilla and ambient campaigns for the online gaming industry. Its award-winning design team has created activity for several big name gaming operators and casino brands.

www.fridgeuk.com

ello@fridgeuk.com



Rackam Woffenden Brown

Mike Brown (BSc Agricultural and Food Marketing 1986)

Rackam Woffenden Brown is an accountancy practice that operates throughout North and East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire. It specialises in providing business advisory and tax compliance services to owner – managed businesses and limited companies – offering audit, accountancy, payroll, personal tax, bookkeeping and VAT services, together with proactive tax planning advice.

mike@woffenden.com



Delikatours

Julien Wright (MBA 1998)

Delikatours offers unique culinary adventures in the heart of France's wine regions. The gourmet trips, ideal for couples or small groups, combine boutique accommodation and a fascinating vineyard agenda with spectacular haute cuisine at Michelin-star restaurants and local brasseries, as well as other unforgettable experiences such as 'truffle hunting'. Delikatours also provides guests with privately chauffeured transportation and a bilingual gourmet guide.

julien.wright@delikatours.com

www.delikatours.com



DebtorChecker

Darrin Thomas (MSc Computing Science 1993)

DebtorChecker is an online credit reference agency that allows businesses to share information on their bad debtors. Through this service, suppliers are able to gauge the reliability of a prospective customer, and avoid those who are unlikely to pay their bills – adding weight to a business's debt collecting procedure. The service does not affect a debtor's credit rating, but the debtor is listed until debts are clear – encouraging a culture of prompt payments.

darrin.thomas@debtorchecker.co.uk

www.debtorchecker.co.uk



BRED TO BE WILD

Kelly Turkeys

Derek Kelly (BSc Agriculture 1950)

Kelly Turkeys is dedicated to the breeding and rearing of farm fresh turkeys for superior eating quality – resulting in the highly acclaimed Kelly Bronze Turkey, winner of numerous awards and plaudits from chefs and food writers. Kelly Turkeys also produces chicken and beef for those special occasions.

Philip@kellyturkeys.com

www.kellyturkeys.com



Cintra

Carsten Staehr (MBA 2006)

Cintra is an employment solutions consultancy that specialises in HR, payroll and timekeeping systems. Since 1981, Cintra has provided reliable tailor-made solutions to businesses across the UK, allowing its clients to outsource what matters and control what counts. Get in touch to see how Cintra could help your business.

carsten@cintra.co.uk

www.cintra.co.uk



Wild Things Safaris

Hannah Cowin (BSc Geography 1997)

Based in Tanzania, East Africa, Wild Things Safaris specialises in private, tailor-made safaris, individually designed to suit the tastes and budgets of its customers. Covering the whole of Tanzania's rich and diverse natural environment – from the world-famous Serengeti National Park to the exotic spice island of Zanzibar – Wild Things prides itself on both its unique and exciting client service and also its work supporting local communities in Tanzania.

han@lemonia.org

www.wildthingsafaris.com

Quick.tv

Quick.tv

Matt Moran (BA Business Management 2007)

Quick.tv is a powerful online video platform that combines an industry leading toolset, advanced analytics and scalable hosting to allow professional video producers to make the most of their online video campaigns. We host, you control, your viewers engage.

matt.moran@quick.tv

www.quick.tv

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

Latest news from the independent voice of Newcastle students

Editorial



It's been a year of change so far over here at *Courier* HQ. Firstly, we've overhauled our design to resemble something more of a broadsheet, following the tabloid style of previous years. Secondly, we've grown a few pages – well, eight to be exact!

We now have more comment, more features, a regular letters page and an extra page of both sport and music. There are some exciting new features too, including a regular tutor interview, an improved careers page and our own regular weekly columnist, the Gentleman Ghost...

From a personal point of view, the year has been the most tremendous fun and an awesome challenge. We ended last year with an investigation into the treatment of students by a prominent local letting agency – an undertaking with many potential pitfalls that we managed to successfully navigate to produce a piece of quality journalism of which we are rightly proud – if a little exhausted by the end of it all!

There have been many other notable stories as well, so here is a selection of some of the more memorable ones so far which I hope you will enjoy.

All the best,

Sam Parker
Editor of *The Courier*

'Perfect' Stan Calvert success

With the overall points score finishing 61–51, the University triumphed over Northumbria on a day which will live long in the memories of those involved.

Despite losing the rugby by Gateshead Stadium, the trophy was presented to a delighted Jimmy Greene, AU President, and celebrations ensued across the city.

Greene described the victory as 'an amazing success' and issued a 'massive congratulations' to Team Newcastle.

'Not only have we thumped Northumbria for two years running,' said Greene afterwards, 'we have again proven that Newcastle University sport is flourishing.'

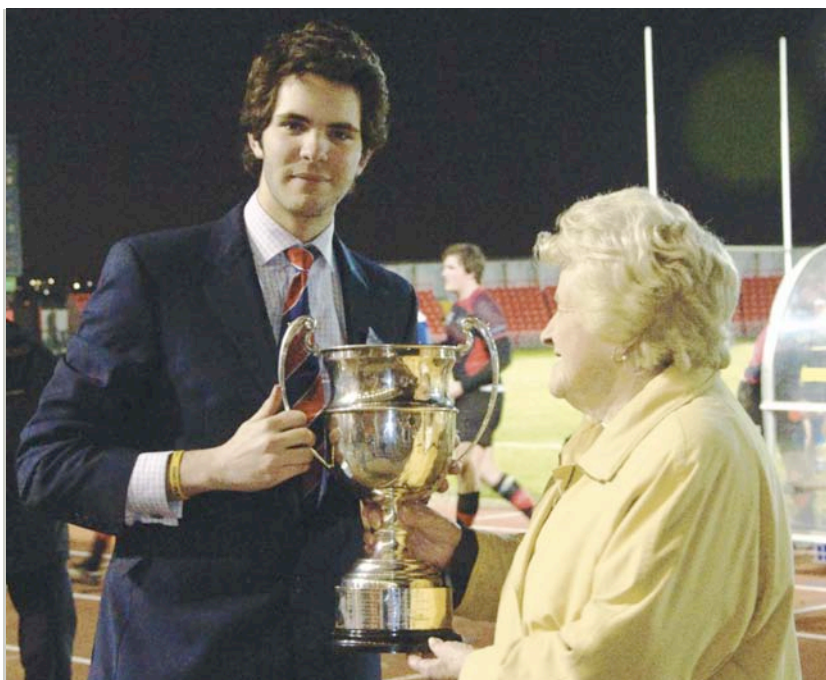
There were major successes across a number of sports for Newcastle, including a clean sweep for the hockey club, who gained all 12 points for the team, including a thrilling 4–3 comeback from the men's firsts.

There was also a big influx of points from swimming, squash, rugby league, badminton and mountain biking, and the men's cricket club got the day off to a promising start with victory for their first and second teams.

A jubilant Greene described the day as: 'a melting pot of tension, passion and old rivalries that erupted into euphoria – quite simply perfection'.

By Dave Coverdale and Jamie Gavin

Mrs Calvert (right) presents the Stan Calvert trophy to Jimmy Greene



Finally, a successful milk round...

Newcastle University has continued in its proud tradition of being at the forefront of scientific discovery by announcing that cows who are given a name produce more milk than cows who have not.

Media outlets as diverse as CBBC, the *Daily Mail* and the leading current affairs website in Ghana have scrambled to report on the finding which claims that by giving a cow a name and treating her as an individual, farmers can increase their annual milk yield by almost 500 pints.

'Just as people respond better to the personal touch, cows also feel happier and more relaxed if they are given a bit more one-to-one attention,' explained Dr Douglas, who works in the School of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development at Newcastle University.

Dairy farmer Dennis Gibb, who owns Eachwick Red House Farm outside

Newcastle, agreed with the findings.

'They aren't just our livelihood – they're part of the family,' said Dennis. 'We love our cows here, and every one of them has a name. Collectively, we refer to them as 'our ladies' but each one has her own personality.'

Dr Douglas questioned 516 UK dairy farmers and found that those who gave their cows names had a 258-litre higher milk yield than those who did not.

Sixty six per cent of farmers said they 'knew all the cows in the herd', and 48 per cent agreed that positive human contact was more likely to produce cows with a good milking temperament.

Almost 10 per cent said that a fear of humans resulted in a poor milking temperament. Which is presumably a finding that Newcastle University couldn't be moo proud of!

By Sam Parker



Pulp pull-out merges with *The Courier*



***The Courier* and its companion entertainments pull-out, *Pulp*, have finally tied the knot. Although the age difference between them is vast – *The Courier* is 61 while *Pulp* is only five – the two have finally decided to admit that they've become inseparable and officially merge. *Pulp* will take *The Courier's* name and is now officially the 'Culture' section of Newcastle University's student newspaper.**

Current editor of both publications, Sam Parker, explained the decision. 'In the beginning, *Pulp* was a separate publication, but no one was picking it up. A few years ago, one of my predecessors decided to give *Pulp* a home as a pull-out in *The Courier*.

'But it quickly became established that *Pulp* was the pull-out that no-one pulled-out. People read the two as a whole anyway. So over Christmas, we decided it would be best for *The Courier* and *Pulp* to make their relationship official.

'It's made us a lot more flexible and freed up lots of space for new articles.'

The move caps a year of change for *The Courier*, in which the sports, comment, music and features sections have all increased in size.

By Marina King

Bookmark

Books from the Newcastle University alumni community, reviewed by our resident bibliophile and courtly critic, Biblos.

Henry With An Eye

John Skinner (BA German 1971)



Genre: Children's fiction
Published: 2008 (Faraway Press)
ISBN: 0954602218

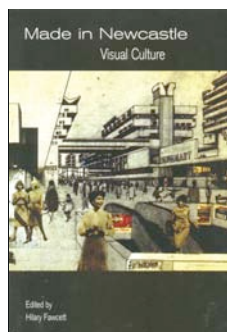
After moving to Switzerland with his family in the 1980s, John Skinner began writing stories to keep his children familiar with their mother tongue. What came about were a series of enchanting books for kids, including *Tales of Grin: The Magic opening Chord* (2004) and *Henry with an Eye*.

Inspired by the jungle-themed paintings of Henri Rousseau, young Henry Witherspoon begins to paint. But his unique talent for bringing his creations to life has disastrous consequences for his family and the world around him.

With a cast of weird and wonderful characters, *Henry with an Eye* is an enthralling read – mixing humour, tragedy and excitement – which will fascinate kids of all ages. I'll never look at paintings in the same way again.

Made in Newcastle: Visual Culture

Edited by Hilary Fawcett (BA Fine Art 1971; MA English Literature 1979)



Genre: Non-fiction
Published: 2007 (Northumbria University Press) **ISBN:** 1904794262

As the northernmost bastion of urban life in North East England, Newcastle has always had a quirky character which makes it unlike any other city in the UK. In *Made in Newcastle*, Hilary Fawcett presents a collection of essays which chronicle the visual history of the North East in the last 50 years.

From fashion and identity in the 1960s, to the changing urban landscape of the city and its Quayside, the book is a treasure trove of insightful material from some of the North East's leading thinkers on visual culture. It also covers the region's cinematic repertoire, from *Get Carter* to *Shooting Magpies*, and its appreciation of the big screen, from big theatres such as the Tyneside Cinema, to the underground Star and Shadow.

If you're interested in how the region's cultural renaissance has developed visually, then this book is well worth a read.

The Sinking Road

Paul Batchelor (PhD English Literature)



Genre: Poetry
Published: 2008 (Bloodaxe)
ISBN: 1852248076

The Sinking Road is a first collection of poems by Newcastle University PhD student, Paul Batchelor. Skilfully crafted and with striking variation in form, Paul's poems transcend history and mythology, taking us on a journey through time – via Ashington and post-war Germany – in imaginative and colourful language. Shortlisted for various newcomer prizes last year, *The Sinking Road* is an intimate and curious work. An unmissable collection.

Mr Tambourine Man

Graham Whalan (MSc 1974)



Genre: Fiction
Published: 2008 (Roundtuit)
ISBN: 1904499236

42 years after returning from a life-changing adventure in France, Nigel Broadbent has a chance encounter with an old friend who brings back memories of that fateful summer. Set against a backdrop of road trips and hippies in the swinging sixties, *Mr Tambourine Man* is a tale of friendship, adventure and romance, which chronicles a teenage boy's accession into manhood. A thoughtful story with timeless themes we can all relate to.

Time to **return?**

You are always welcome to return to university life at Newcastle. We offer a 10% alumni tuition fee discount on most of our postgraduate courses, full or partial funding is available for many of our Master's programmes and we regularly recruit people to fully-funded PhD studentships.

Please contact us for more information or come to our next postgraduate event which is the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Postgraduate Information Evening on **Wednesday 10 June.**



www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate

Enquire online at www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries

or call **0191 222 5594**

Classnotes

If you would like your news to be printed in the next issue of *Arches*, please contact DARO

either by phone on 0044 (0)191 222 7250 or by e-mail at: alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

1960s

Professor Peter CRESSWELL (BSc Chemistry 1966) has been appointed as Eugene Higgins Professor of Immunobiology at Yale University. Having spent most of his career unravelling some of the mysteries of the human immune system, Professor Cresswell has earned numerous honours for his work, including the 1995 Rose Payne Distinguished Scientist Award from the American Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics. He currently serves on the scientific advisory boards of the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology and the National University of Singapore's Immunology Program.

Mr Robert EATON (BA Land Use Studies 1965; Diploma in Landscape Design 1966) is looking for his old friend, Marjorie LEES (BA 1966), who studied French, German and Norwegian in the 60s. If anyone knows of Marjorie's whereabouts, please contact the Alumni Office on 0191 222 7250 or e-mail: alumni-office@ncl.ac.uk

Professor Cedric S RAINE (BSc Zoology 1962; PhD Neuropathology 1967; DSc 1975) retired from an illustrious career in research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, at New York's Yeshiva University, in March 2008 and is now Professor Emeritus at the institution. He continues as Editor-in-Chief of the renowned *Journal of Neuroimmunology*. Professor Raine's latest book, *Multiple Sclerosis: A Comprehensive Text*, which he co-edited, is the latest word in the field of MS research.

Dr Adrian WINBOW (MB BS 1969) is taking an MBA in Health Service Management at Greenwich School of Management, and is set to graduate in September 2009.

1970s

Chrissie GITTINS (BA General Arts 1975) has published a new collection of poetry for adults, entitled *I'll Dress One Night As You*, available from Salt Publishing.

Eivind GROSTAD (BSc Marine Engineering and Naval Architecture) won the 2008 Lloyd's List Lifetime Achievement Award, for his 'unswerving commitment to the maritime industries'. Eivind is senior vice-president and regional manager Middle East and India at Norwegian shipping firm, Det Norske Veritas, where he has worked since graduation.

Professor Jonathan Nwigwe (PhD Plant Science 1970) made his first revisit to Newcastle University with his wife since graduating in 1970. Professor Nwigwe was delighted to be back on campus, and hopes to make contact with his former supervisor, Fred Blackburn.

Mr Eric Owen PARRY (BA Architectural Studies 1973) and Mr Richard John MURPHY (BA Architectural Studies 1976) have both recently become Royal Academicians. Eric, who founded London-based Eric Parry Architects in 1992, was elected to the RA in December 2006. And Richard, founder of Edinburgh-based Richard Murphy Architects, is a Royal Scottish Academician. Richard was also awarded an OBE in 2007.

Professor Anthony PUGSLEY (BSc Bacteriology and Genetics 1970; DPhil 1973) has been elected to a Fellowship in the American Academy of Microbiology. Anthony is Head of the Molecular Genetics Unit at the Institut Pasteur in Paris.

Dr Roy SANDBACH (PhD Electrochemistry 1978) has been appointed Visiting Professor of Innovation Management at the University of the Arts London. His appointment to a Professorship at St Martins college reflects what he sees as an enlightened and positive attitude from the University to the relationship between the arts, design and science. He was honoured alongside the film director, Stephen Poliakoff, at the degree ceremony.

Dr Bernard L WEISS (BSc Electrical Engineering 1971; PhD 1975; DEng 2005) has been Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Surrey since 2004, having joined as a lecturer in 1979. His illustrious career has brought numerous awards and honours, including the IEE J Langham Thompson Prize in 1992, the 150th Anniversary Medal of Warsaw University of Technology in 1993, a DSc from the University of Surrey in 1999, and the IEE Achievement Medal in 2004. He was also elected as a Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in 2005.

1980s

Maggie CLEAVER (BA English Literature 1985) has taught English Literature at A Level and HEFC since 1986. She stays in touch with a dear friend from her course, Pam, who went on to work in the press office of British Gas. Maggie says: 'Pam and I marvel at all the wonderful things past students have been doing. We still think fondly of our happy days at the University'.

Peter John EXLEY (BA Architecture 1985), Director of Architecture at Chicago-based ArchitectureFun, has been recognised in two award programmes for his firm's design of the Evanston Public Library Teen Loft. The project has been awarded the Interior Architecture 2008 award from AIA Chicago, and the Interior Design 2008 award from the American Library Association and the International Interior Design Association.

Caroline GILL née DUDLEY-SMITH, (BA Classical Studies 1982) won first prize in the Petra Kenney Poetry Competition 2007 for a sestina called '*The Figure at the Phoenix Mine*'.

Dr Rhodes H MAKUNDI (MSc Applied Entomology 1984; PhD 1996) is a Research Professor and Director of the Pest Management Centre at Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania. He has also edited a book entitled *Management of Selected Crop Pests in Tanzania*, published in 2006.

Professor Caroline SAUNDERS (PhD Agriculture 1984) has received the New Zealand CBE (ONZM) for research in Agriculture. Having previously worked at Newcastle University, Caroline is now Associate Professor of Agriculture at Lincoln University, New Zealand.

1990s

Paul DOHERTY (BEng Marine Technology 1995) is currently living in Los Angeles and working as Director of Technical Operations at Crystal Cruises. In recent years he has held the positions of surveyor with Lloyd's Register and corporate ship build engineer for Carnival UK.

Mr Mukhtar HASHEMI (MSc Hydroinformatics 1995) reports a successful reunion for Iranian alumni on 24 September at Amir Kabir University Café, Tehran – the first in eight years. Fifty Newcastle graduates attended with their families, and many stayed beyond midnight to reminisce about their student days.

Dr Alf HATTON (MPhil, Museum Studies 1995) took part in the Baltic Museology Programme in June 2008 in Estonia, along with a colleague from New Zealand. Both Dr Hatton and his colleague are also Durham alumni.

Professor Saiful ISLAM (MSc Applied Entomology 1990) has just celebrated 25 years of teaching at the University of Rajshahi in Bangladesh, where he completed his first degree in 1978. Saiful was awarded the Alec Milne Prize for Best Student during his studies at Newcastle, and completed a PhD at Reading in 1995. He became a Professor at the University of Rajshahi in 1998, where he lectures in zoology, microbiology, biostatistics and genetics, and molecular biology. He continues to publish his work in publications such as the *Journal of Experimental Biology* (211: 2008) and the *Medical Journal of Entomology* (43: 2006).

2000s

Professor Jerry S KUMA (PhD Civil Engineering 2002) has been appointed Dean of the Faculty of Mineral Resources Technology at the Tarkwa School of Mines, in Ghana.

Professor Mark SHUCKSMITH (MSc Agricultural Economics 1977; PhD) was awarded an OBE in the New Year Honours List. He is currently Professor of Planning at Newcastle University.

Sophie THOMAS (BA Linguistics 1999) now lives in Oxford, and works as a business support manager in children's social care. She's also a practising gestalt therapist for The Listening Centre, an Oxford-based charity. She's keen to get back in touch with old friends, and you can find her on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/SoTwinkle

Dr Lee A WILKINSON (PhD Education 2004) is a core faculty member in the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University, Florida. He has recently authored two articles on children with Asperger's syndrome and autism, and has published in both the UK and US. Lee is a member of the American Psychological Association and holds Chartered Psychologist status with the British Psychological Society.

Obituaries

- Professor Sir James Baddiley
- Dr Gurmukh Singh Bedi (PhD Agricultural Engineering 1953)
- Harry Faulkner-Brown (Honorary DCL 1998)
- Dr Tom Graham
- Martyn John Ibbotson (BSc Agriculture 1968)
- Jason Keene (BSc Agricultural and Environmental Science 1995)
- JAG Tindall
- Dr Fiona Jameson née Lehmann (MB BS 1958)

Election of Chair of Convocation

By Dr John Hogan, registrar

Mr Jack Jeffery has come to the end of his second period in office as Chairman of Convocation and, in accordance with the University Statutes, Convocation will be invited to elect a Chairman of Convocation from amongst its own members to serve for five years.

Mr Jeffery has consulted University officers and the Alumni Consultative Group (ACG) and will be making a recommendation. Members of Convocation may nominate other members of Convocation if they so wish.

In the event of two more nominations being made to the meeting of Convocation, we will hold an election.

In order to minimise costs, we have produced a web page which includes a document setting out the role of the Chair of Convocation and, in the event of an election, will be used to provide information on the candidates as well as containing the ballot form. You can find this page at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/convocation

Events

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

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

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

Alumni reunions: lost and found

Geology Class of 1976: Geology alumni are celebrating 33 years of graduation on 6 June this year. The organisers would like to get in touch with: Mike Wood, Edward (Jed) Armstrong, Greg Johnson, Trevor Cromwell, Mike Issaias, Pam Penketh, Paul Watkins and Wilson Irving. If you know of the whereabouts of any of these graduates, please contact Maria, our Events Officer, at: m.szpitun@ncl.ac.uk



Event reviews

London GOLD Network. Graduates of the last decade were treated to an evening of career inspiration and free drinks at our 'Make Your Career Fly' event, at the Brewery in London on 25 February. A panel of speakers shared their tips for success, including graduates Peter King (BSc Computing Science and Mathematics 1978) and Charles Baybutt (BA Business and Economics 2004); and alumni had the chance to mix with old and new friends. See our website for a full review and photos.

Year of '53 Prize 2009. Final-year medical students and members of the MB BS class of 1953 met on campus on 11 February to award this year's Year of '53 Prize. The student deemed to have contributed most to the camaraderie of this year's class was Simon Harrison, from Teesside, who was presented with a cheque for £500 by Dr Geoff Marsh. The award is funded by generous donations from the class of 1953. A full review and photos are available on our website.

Events Diary 2009

Forthcoming Events:

19–20 June 2009 – Reunite! 2009.

The highlight of our alumni events calendar. Join us on campus for special reunions, a lecture by eminent environmentalist Professor Norman Myers, a Northumbrian-themed evening of culinary indulgence, and much more. Don't miss out on the festivities! See facing page for our full itinerary, or visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunite

24 June 2009 – Retired staff party at the Great North Museum: Hancock

By invitation only. For more details, contact Louise Swan at: louise.swan@ncl.ac.uk

Summer 2009 in New York City. The New York branch of the Alumni Association have planned a fantastic series of nights out for alumni in the Big Apple over the summer. Catch the sunset at the Peninsula Hotel's rooftop bar, Salon de Ning, on 2 June. Sample a variety of whiskeys at New York's oldest tavern, the Bridge Café, on 7 July. And enjoy some speciality cocktails at the city's famous Death & Company on 4 August. For more info and to book your place, e-mail: Cinthi Pillai at: newcastlenewyork@hotmail.com

Contact us

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

You can also visit our website at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/events

Reunite!09

19–20 June 2009 at Newcastle University

Join us on 19–20 June 2009 for a weekend packed full of activities, as we roll out the red carpet, and invite our alumni back for the highlight of our events calendar.

This year's theme is Environment and Sustainability, and we're delighted to welcome renowned environmentalist, Professor Norman Myers, to deliver our Convocation Lecture.

We'll be reuniting you with a legendary Friday night on the Toon, and serving up a feast of Northumbrian-themed food, drinks and entertainment on Saturday evening. We also have various schools and years celebrating their own milestones, including Geography, Medical Sciences, and the Class of 1969.

See below for the full programme, and book your place by completing and returning the attached form. More information is available on our website, where you can also book online, at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunite

Friday 19 June

Walton Trophy alumni golf tournament

Close House, Heddon on the Wall,
Northumberland

1:30pm/tee-off: 2pm

A round of golf at one of the North East's finest courses, followed by a two-course dinner in the mansion. The format is Pairs Stableford, and guests are welcome, although only Newcastle graduates can compete for the Walton Trophy. Tickets are £50 per pair, with all proceeds to the Elite Athletes Fund.

Friday night social

In and around Newcastle

From 8pm

Relive your student days with a night on the Toon. Let us know where you'd like to go, and we'll see what we can do.

Saturday 20 June

Convocation

Research Beehive, Old Library Building

11am–12:30pm

Our fifty-second meeting of Convocation, hosted by Chairman Jack Jeffery (BSc 1953, MSc 1960) for the final time before his retirement, and Vice-Chancellor Chris Brink.

Convocation Lunch

The Courtyard Restaurant, Old Library Building

12:30–1:30pm

Lunch and refreshments for those who have attended Convocation.

Convocation Lecture – Norman Myers

Research Beehive

1:30–3pm

A lecture on the environment and sustainability by Professor Norman Myers one of the UK's leading scientists. The lecture is entitled: *'The Citizen is Willing, But Society Won't Deliver: The Problem of Institutional Roadblocks'*.

Tour of the Great North Museum

Great North Museum: Hancock,

Claremont Road

3–5pm

Take a journey through time with a guided tour of our brand new museum. Tickets are £5 per person, with all proceeds to the Museum.

Other afternoon activities

Across campus

Spend the afternoon with your school or graduation year, or taking in some football. Geography is celebrating its eightieth anniversary, and it's a ruby celebration for the Year of 1969, and golden for the MB BS Class of 1959. Also from 12pm, London-based Newcastle Old Boys FC will be taking on their northern rivals at Brunton Park, Gosforth.

Northumbrian evening

Great North Museum: Hancock

From 7pm

The main event of the weekend is a mélange of Northumbrian-themed food, drinks and music at the Great North Museum. Tickets are £30 per person, including a hot buffet and complimentary wine at your table. There will be live entertainment from student musicians, as well as folk/jazz double-act, Landermason.



Accommodation

Our friends at Hospitality Guaranteed have set up a handy website, which will enable you to book a hotel or B&B that will suit your needs with ease. Please see our website for more information or call 01429 839 288 quoting 'alumni'. Alternatively, you can spend the weekend in Castle Leazes halls of residence for £25 per person per night. Contact Lynn Burnip by phone on 0191 222 8306 or e-mail at: lynn.burnip@ncl.ac.uk

Booking

Please complete and return the attached booking form to the address given at the bottom. To request additional booking forms, please telephone 0044 (0) 191 222 7250 or visit our website at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunite where you can also book online. Final details, including tickets, venue details, campus maps and parking information, will be sent from mid-May to those booking in advance.

Reunite!09

19–20 June 2009 at **Newcastle** University

Join us on
19–20 June
for Reunite!09
our annual weekend
of alumni celebrations

For details of the full programme and to book your place,
visit: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunite

REUNION
SUSTAINABILITY
FRIENDS
KNOWLEDGE
NEWCASTLE
NORTHUMBERLAND
MUSIC
ENVIRONMENT
GOLF
CASTLE
LEAZES
DONORS
FOOD
WINE
FUN
ANNUAL
FUND
1969
MEDICAL
SCIENCES

Reunite!09

19–20 June 2009 at **Newcastle University**

Event Booking

Friday 19 June

Walton Trophy Golf Tournament

Call Denis Murphy on 0044 (0)191 222 5349 for a booking form, or download one from our website at: www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunite

Friday night social

Would you like to join us for drinks and food in town at 8pm? If so, where would you like to go?

Saturday 20 June

Convocation	Free		
Convocation lunch	Free		
Convocation lecture	Free		

Please state which afternoon activity you would like to take part in:

Great North Museum	£5		
Northumbrian evening	£30		

Do you require a parking space? Yes No (£2 per car) Vehicle Reg. No.

Please indicate if you would prefer a vegetarian option Yes No

Total cost for all events £

Method of Payment

Credit/Debit Card Please charge my Visa MasterCard Switch to the sum of £

Name of Cardholder		<input type="text"/>
Card number	<input type="text"/>	Security No.* <small>*We require the last three digits on the reverse of your card</small>
Start Date	<input type="text"/>	
Expiry Date	<input type="text"/>	Issue Number (Switch) <input type="text"/>
Signature <input type="text"/>		

Cheque

I enclose a cheque for £ (made payable to Newcastle University)

Reunite!09

19–20 June 2009 at **Newcastle** University

Personal details

Title	Surname	Maiden name
First name(s)		
Address		
Daytime telephone		
Fax		
E-mail		

Please give details of the first degree you received from Newcastle

Degree	Grad. Year
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Guests

Title	First Name	Surname	Newcastle Degree & Grad. Year (if applicable)

Please give details of any dietary or mobility needs

CONTINUED OVERLEAF

Please return this form either by post to:
Development and Alumni Relations Office
Newcastle University, FREEPOST NEA4761
Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1BR

By fax on: 0044 (0) 191 222 5905

Or you can fill it in online at:
www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/reunite