REPORT TO SENATE FROM PUBLIC LECTURES COMMITTEE

Public Lectures and Lunchtime Concerts: October 2013 – May 2014

The INSIGHTS Public Lecture series has maintained its profile and appeal, attracting leading academics, and public and cultural figures to the University and region. The committee aims at excellence, relevance and diversity, and to present a series of lectures that cover a wide range of disciplines which frequently include key contemporary issues, particularly those that affect our daily lives.

The Insights team, Martin Farr, Frances Spalding, and Umbereen Rafiq, continue to seek new collaborative event opportunities across the region and beyond, while continuing to focus on offering a topical and diverse lecture programme to build upon the University’s engagement activities. 2013-14 was another successful year for both the Insights Public Lectures and Live in the King’s Hall Lunchtime Concert programmes.

Publicity and communication
The team continues to meets every week and attends each lecture, maintains good links with local print and broadcast media. The programme cards are distributed widely across campus and the city. The postal and email databases continue to grow with over 650 new sign-ups over the last 12 months. The talks are promoted widely with the support of the committee members who champion talks to colleagues and students and the student representatives help to publicise events through the Students’ Union and to student societies.

Attendance figures and 2013-14
The total attendance for 2013-14 Public Lecture programme was 10,610, with an average audience of 258 over forty-two lectures. The average audience figure remains consistently high – evidence that the programme and speakers continue to have a strong appeal. The gender split is improving, with female speakers making up 40% of the programme; this is something the chairs are committed to ensuring is built on.

University speakers included Linda Anderson, John Wilson, Tina Gharavi and Eric Cross highlighting high-profile work by our own staff, and leading authorities in the fields of literature, business, media and music. Highlights included the annual lectures by: Sir Hew Strachan, Ellen Bialystok, Richard Blackett and Ian Young. Two of the biggest successes in the programme were the lectures by Charles Moore and Patricia Wiltshire (both in the same week) , which attracted audiences of 400 and 500 people respectively. Speakers frequently express their surprise at the range, diversity, and scale of Newcastle’s public lectures programme.

The programme of Lunchtime Concerts, coordinated by Olivia Cameron, received a total audience of 5,140 over the academic year, with an average audience of 257 over twenty concerts – this is an increase of over 50 more people per concert than the previous year. Concert highlights include Sarah Beth Briggs, Bride Jackson and The Arbour, James Birkett and Bradley Johnson and Martin Roscoe.

Updates, progress and feedback
The INSIGHTS and Live programme collaborated on a joint event, to encourage more cross over events, in a lecture-recital with Eric Cross with James Geer and Ronald Woodley, which worked very well, and is a format we will repeat.
We continue to ensure the INSIGHTS programme represents the key societal challenge themes with lectures on Social Renewal, Ageing and Sustainability. The Insights programme will include a lecture by early-career researchers from one faculty each semester.

Live in the King’s Hall concerts made contact with teachers at Arthur’s Hill Primary School in the New Year who expressed an interested in bringing one class of 30 pupils (years 1-3) to the concerts each week. For many of the children this will be their first experience of live and classical music. Many of the regular concert attendees have commented on their delight at seeing such well-behaved school children at the concerts. Olivia Cameron and Umbereen Rafiq visited the school in July with a photographer and specially made badges to meet and thank the children for attending concerts – a good relationship with the school is being fostered and classes will continue coming to concerts in the new academic year.

Feedback for both programmes continues to be positive and supportive, in writing and often in person at the end of lectures and concerts. We take on board all comments and suggestions to ensure we continue to provide and offer a broad, appealing and engaging series of events for all.

Looking ahead, the team is intending to give additional focus to relevant anniversaries and, wherever possible, to work collaboratively with academics and research teams across the university in the identification of speakers who are either leading authorities in their field or highly topical in their specialist subject. Insights also continues to attract a core audience through its links with organisations in the city and through its celebration of local history and local heroes. We hope to work more closely with Alumni Relations Team and to find ways of working together to strengthen and build relationships with our alumni.

Dr Martin Farr
Chair of Public Lectures Committee

Professor Frances Spalding
Vice-Chair of Public Lectures Committee

Miss Umbereen Rafiq
Secretary to Public Lectures Committee

1 December 2014
# APPENDIX 1

**Insights Public Lectures and Live in King’s Hall audience figures 2013-14**

## 1. LECTURES FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker(s) and Title</th>
<th>Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 9 October</strong></td>
<td>GURCHARAN DAS, Professor of Literature and Creative Writing, University of East Anglia</td>
<td>280</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 10 October</strong></td>
<td>SIR HEW STRACHAN, Fellow of Old Souls College, Oxford</td>
<td>450</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 17 October</strong></td>
<td>PROFESSOR LINDA ANDERSON, Professor of Modern English and American Literature</td>
<td>100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 22 October</strong></td>
<td>CHRIS FOOTE-WOOD, Journalist, Broadcaster, Author; North East Councillor</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 29 October</strong></td>
<td>PROFESSOR JOHN WILSON, Director, Newcastle University Business School</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 7 November</strong></td>
<td>PROFESSOR ERIC CROSS with JAMES GEER &amp; RONALD WOODLEY, Dean of Cultural Affairs, Newcastle University</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday 12 November</strong></td>
<td>CHARLES MOORE, Writer and Broadcaster</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 14 November</strong></td>
<td>DR PATRICIA WILTSHER, Ecologist, Botanist and Palynologist, Department of Geography and Environment, University of Aberdeen</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday 20 November</strong></td>
<td>CELEBRATING STUDENT RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXPEDITIONS 2013</td>
<td>230</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 5 December</strong></td>
<td>PROFESSOR CHRIS WILLIAMS, School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University</td>
<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Thursday 6 February
PROFESSOR ELLEN BIALYSTOK
Department of Psychology, York University, Toronto 390

Tuesday 11 February
RICHARD BLACKETT
Andrew Jackson Professor of American History, Vanderbilt University, Tennessee 360

Tuesday 18 February
JOHN GODDARD OBE
Emeritus Professor of Regional Development Studies, Newcastle University 150

Thursday 20 February
DON PATERSON
Professor of Poetry, University of St Andrews 320

Tuesday 4 March
SIR LAWRENCE FREEDMAN
Professor of War Studies, King’s College London 250

Thursday 6 March
DR TINA GHARAVI
Senior Lecturer in Digital Media, Newcastle University 100

Tuesday 11 March
NICHOLAS JONES
Former BBC industrial and political correspondent 370

Thursday 13 March
RICHARD OVERY
Professor of History, University of Exeter 300

Thursday 27 March
DR HELEN YALLOP
King’s College London 220

Tuesday 18 March
MIRANDA SEYMOUR
Novelist and biographer 225

Thursday 9 May
Lord Patten Lecture on Social Renewal
PROFESSOR JOHN BREWER
Professor of Post Conflict Studies, Queen’s University Belfast 115

Thursday 1 May
SARAH CHURCHWELL
Professor of American Literature and Public Understanding of the Humanities, University of East Anglia 250
Thursday 1 May
NEW VOICES ON SOCIAL RENEWAL 75

Thursday 8 May
KATHY DAVIS
Senior Research Fellow, VU University, Amsterdam 215

Thursday 22 May
SIR PETER HALL
Bartlett Professor of Planning and Regeneration, University College London 360

Total 6,590

2. LECTURES/CONCERTS FUNDED BY ENDOWMENTS

Tuesday 15 October
Wynne-Jones Memorial Lecture
CAROLYN BERTOZZI
University of California, Berkeley 280

Tuesday 24 October
Sophia Lecture
CAMILA BATMANGHELIDJH
Founder and Chief Executive of Kids Company 310

Thursday 5 November
Jacobson Lecture
PROFESSOR SIR PETER RUBIN
Professor of Therapeutics and Consultant Physician at Queen’s Medical Centre, Nottingham 350

Thursday 13 February
Cameron-Gifford Lecture
DAME HELEN GHOSH
Director-General of the National Trust 300

Tuesday 25 February
Albert Latner Memorial Lecture in Clinical Biochemistry
IAN YOUNG
Professor of Medicine and Director of the Centre for Public Health, Queen’s University Belfast 410

Thursday 27 February
Fickling Lecture on Development’s in Children’s Literature
FRANK COTTRELL BOYCE
Novelist and screenwriter 275

Thursday 20 March
R W Mann Lecture
PROFESSOR DAVID BEN-TOVIM
Flinders University and Medical Centre, South Australia 100
Friday 28 March
Rutherford Morrison Lecture
SURGEON CAPTAIN MARK MIDWINTER
Royal Navy 75

Tuesday 13 and Wednesday 14 May
Riddell Memorial Lectures
PROFESSOR BARONESS FINLAY OF LLANNAFF
Consultant in Palliative Care Medicine, Velindre NHS Trust, Cardiff and 290
Vice-President of Marie Curie Cancer Care 330

Total 2,720

3. CHILDRENS LECTURES

John H Holmes Memorial Lectures for 10-14 year olds – THE GLOBAL HOME: SUSTAINABLE LIVING

Given by Staff from the Newcastle Institute for Research on Sustainability at Newcastle University

Tuesday 22 January 170
Wednesday 23 January 110
Thursday 24 January 90

Total 370

4. LECTURES IN COLLABORATION WITH ORGANISATIONS

Saturday 26 October
Part of BBC Radio 3’s Free Thinking Festival of Ideas at The Sage Gateshead 300
PROFESSOR DAME SALLY DAVIES
Chief Medical Officer and Scientific Advisor at the DfE

Wednesday 30 October
Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne Lecture
DR DAVID CLARKE
Former Keeper of Archaeology at the National Museums of Scotland 150

Tuesday 26 November
British Scholar Society Lecture
PROFESSOR JUDITH M BROWN
Emeritus Beit Professor of Commonwealth History, University of Oxford and Professorial Fellow, Balliol College 200
Thursday 28 November
Tyneside Geographical Lecture
MIKE HULME
Professor of Climate Change, Department of Geography, King’s College London

Total 930

Total attendance at public lectures 2013-14 10,610
Average attendance per lecture (42 lectures) 253
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Performers</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 3 October</td>
<td>Sarah Beth Briggs (piano)</td>
<td>320</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 10 October</td>
<td>Sandra Kerr &amp; Friends</td>
<td>210</td>
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</table>
| Thursday 17 October | Roller Trio  
James Mainwaring (tenor saxophone & electronics)  
Luke Wynter (guitar)  
Luke Reddin-Williams (drums) | 170  |
| Thursday 24 October | Trio Volant  
Thomas Evans (clarinet)  
Imogen Coe (oboe)  
Christopher James (bassoon) | 200  |
| Thursday 31 October | Leah Studdart (gothic harp)                                                  | 200  |
| Thursday 7 November | James Geer (tenor)  
Ronald Woodley (piano)                                                        | 220  |
| Thursday 14 November| Juliette Bausor (flute)  
Alasdair Beatson (piano)                                                        | 260  |
| Thursday 21 November| VAMM  
Catriona Macdonald (fiddle)  
Patsy Reid (fiddle and viola)  
Marit Fäit (låtmandola) | 240  |
| Thursday 28 November| Biscoe & Co  
Chris Biscoe (saxophones, clarinets, flute)  
John Pope (double bass)  
Roger Turner (percussion) | 190  |
| Thursday 12 December| The Heavy Cavelry and Cambrai band                                           | 250  |
| Thursday 6 February | Bridie Jackson and The Arbour  
Bride Jackson (vocals, guitar, piano)  
Jenny Nendrick (cello)  
Rachel Cross (violin, vocals)  
Carol Bowden (percussion, vocals) | 410  |
| Thursday 13 February| James Birkett (guitar)  
Bradley Johnson (guitar)                                                      | 350  |
| Thursday 20 February| Rapunzel & Sedayne: Early Green's the Wood  
Rachel McCarron (voice, banjo, percussion, digital loops)  
Sean Bredin (voice, fiddle, gew-gaws, analogue loops) | 280  |
| Thursday 27 February| Duo Trobaritz present The Language of Love  
Faye Newton (soprano)  
Hazel Brooks (vielle) | 260  |
**Thursday 6 March**  
Hoffmeister Trio  
Lesley Holliday (flute)  
Dan Watts (flute)  
Gareth Deats (cello)

**Thursday 13 March**  
Ruth Jenkins-Röbertsson (soprano)  
Will Vann (piano)

**Friday 14 March**  
Emily Hoile (harp)

**Thursday 20 March**  
Martin Roscoe (piano)

**Thursday 27 March**  
Fidelio Trio  
Darragh Morgan (violin)  
Robin Michael (cello)  
Mary Duella (piano)

**Thursday 1 May**  
Voices of Hope  
Simon Fidler (director)

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**Total attendance at lunchtime concerts 2013-14**  
5,140

**Average concert attendance (20 concerts)**  
257