

REPORT TO SENATE FROM PUBLIC LECTURES COMMITTEE

2022-2023 Academic Year

The INSIGHTS Public Lectures and LIVE Music Concerts series had a successful programme in the 2022-23 academic year, attracting over 9,600 people to lectures and concerts. Events in Spring 2023 were severely impacted by UCU industrial action resulting in a considerable reduction in the number of lectures delivered, although the average number of attendees per lectures has risen from the previous year. The series continues to have a broad appeal and draws leading academics and public and cultural figures to the University.

The Public Lectures programme was once again overseen by two co-chairs, Dr Martin Farr and Professor Sally Shortall. They worked alongside the Public Lectures and Events Team, Umbereen Moir and Stefanie Moorhead. The LIVE Lunchtime Concerts were coordinated by Olivia Cameron.

Viewing/attendance figures

- *INSIGHTS Lectures*

The total number of viewers/attendees for the 2022-23 INSIGHTS Public Lecture programme of 25 events was 4,894 [7-day online views + in person audiences] with an average of 196 attendees/viewers per event. Lecture highlights included talks by Professor Paul Watson, Newcastle University (522), War in Europe: The invasion of Ukraine one year on, Panel Discussion (324) and Dr Robert Dale, Newcastle University (284).

- *LIVE Concerts*

The programme of Lunchtime Concerts received a total of 4,175 attendees over the academic year, with an average of 232 attendees over 18 concerts. The concert audience includes music students who are required to attend the LIVE concerts as part of their studies. The concerts continue to be popular, with performances from Bradley Creswick's Western Swingfonia (300) and Noxwode Ensemble (320).

Publicity and communication

Printed programme cards are distributed across campus and the city and e-mail communications are sent weekly while the programme is running. In 2022-23 we received 719 new sign-ups (email and post). We have 5,891 contacts signed up to receive email updates, and 3,688 on our postal list. The postal mailing list has reduced in size over the past year as more people ask to receive information electronically, and we continue to encourage our supporters to go paperless.

Lectures continue to be recorded and released on YouTube, and as of February 2024 the INSIGHTS channel has over 1,650 subscribers (you do not need to be a subscriber to view events on YouTube).

2023-24 Academic Year (Mid-Year Update)

Between October 2023 and January 2024 INSIGHTS Lectures were attended by 1,927 people, and recordings of events were watched 1,271 times: giving an average audience of 200 per event (for 16 events). The most popular events were talks by Andrea Jeftanovic, Professor Saiful Islam and Andrew Seaton. Pre-booking remains for lectures via Eventbrite, with bookings opening one week before the event.

The LIVE Concerts do not require pre-booking and the Autumn 2023 season was attended by 2,280 people, with an average audience of 253 people (for 9 events). Concerts by The Wilderness Yet and Connect Four were the most popular with 295 and 300 people attending respectively.

Lectures and Concerts resumed in early February 2024 with a new season of events.

From Newcastle Podcast

The *From Newcastle* Podcast continues to perform well, since it was launched by the Public Lectures team in May 2021. Between October 2023 and January 2024 episodes attracted a total of 376 listeners. The podcast has a following in 115 countries around the world, with the most listeners in the UK, United States and Germany.

The current series, *From Newcastle. For Healthcare*, will be followed up by a special series in March 2024 to celebrate International Women's Day. Further details about the podcast can be found at: <https://podcasts.ncl.ac.uk/fromnewcastle/>

Newcastle Debates

Newcastle Debates is a series of events hosted by Newcastle University giving members of the public an opportunity to hear from and directly engage with the key figures responsible for shaping the future of our city and region. The series launched in February 2021 with a virtual debate on building a healthier future post-pandemic, with a second debate following in May 2021 on economic recovery after the pandemic.

'The North East Devolution Deal: Skills and Employment' – the seventh debate in the series, was held in November 2023. Panellists included **Professor René Koglbauer**, Dean of Lifelong Learning and Professional Practice, Newcastle University; **Liz Bromley**, Chief Executive Officer Newcastle College Group; **John McCabe**, Chief Executive, North East Chamber of Commerce and **Dr Henry Kippin**, Chief Executive, North of Tyne Combined Authority; Interim Chief Executive, North East Mayoral Combined Authority; Visiting Professor of Practice at Newcastle University. The debate attracted a live audience of 65 people and a total of 119 views on YouTube within 7 days.

As of January 2024, the Public Lectures team will move to be part of the wider Marketing team (still in the External Relations Directorate) which will allow greater opportunities for join-up and promoting events and podcasts.

APPENDIX 1

INSIGHTS Public Lectures and Live in King's Hall audience figures 2022-23

NOTES:

- For virtual audience figures we have included the live viewing numbers for information, and the views for 7 days from the time the event was live.
- Event dates marked with * took place in-person
- For in-person lectures, the 7 day viewing figures of the event recording are also included in the total attendance as audiences are continuing to watch online.

1. LECTURES FUNDED BY THE UNIVERSITY & ORGANISATIONS

Date	Speaker	In-Person Attendees	YouTube 7 Day Views	Total Audience
Thursday 6 October 2022	Professor Sarah Ansari, Royal Holloway, University of London	152	89	241
Tuesday 11 October 2022	Dr Katy Roelich, University of Leeds	131	54	185
Thursday 13 October 2022	Professor Susan Standring, King's College London	122	75	197
Tuesday 18 October 2022	Eduardo Mendoza, novelist	115	31	146
Thursday 20 October 2022	Professor Alan Matthews, Trinity College Dublin	76	41	117
Wednesday 26 October 2022	Dr Martin Goldberg, National Museum of Scotland	183	143	326
Thursday 27 October 2022	Professor Hakim Adi, University of Chichester	105	N/A	105
Tuesday 1 November 2022	Robert Tibbo, human rights lawyer	103	50	153
Tuesday 8 November 2022	Hadrian's Wall 1900 Panel Discussion	132	55	187
Thursday 10 November 2022	Dr Robert Dale, Newcastle University	202	82	284
Tuesday 15 November 2022	Faculty of Medical Science PhD Talks	81	91	172
Thursday 24 November 2022	Aleema Gray, public historian	42	Permission not given	42
Thursday 1 December 2022	Professor Steve Clifford, Newcastle University	107	34	141
Tuesday 7 February 2023	Defence Lecture: Major General Kristin Lund, retired United Nations Force Commander	161	66	227
Tuesday 28 February 2023	Professor Vijay Kunadian, Newcastle University	92	63	155
Tuesday 7 March 2023	Preti Taneja, Newcastle University	64	Permission not given	64
Thursday 9 March 2023	Dr Hannah Dawson, King's College London	144	Permission not given	144
Tuesday 14 March 2023	Dr Tom Matthews, King's College London	62	53	115
Thursday 23 March 2023	Professor Graham Parkes, University of Vienna	101	86	187
NEW DATE: Thursday 30 March 2023	Juliet Jacques, writer and journalist	79	Permission not given	79

NEW DATE: Tuesday 25 April 2023	Arthur Snell, author and political commentator	120	115	235
Thursday 27 April 2023	Roger Highfield, writer and science journalist	59	59	118
Thursday 4 May 2023	Professor Paul Watson, Newcastle University	152	370	522
Tuesday 16 May 2023	War in Europe: The invasion of Ukraine one year on, Panel Discussion	183	141	324
Thursday 18 May 2023	Barbara Strang Lecture: Professor Kate Burridge, Monash University (Virtual Event)	100	117	217
TOTAL				4,683

2. LECTURES & CONCERTS FUNDED BY ENDOWMENTS

Date	Speaker & Affiliation	In-Person Attendees	YouTube 7- Day Views
18 & 25 January 2023	Holmes Lectures for 10-14-year olds: Keeping healthy with sport and food	174	37

TOTAL [7-day] viewing figures / in-person audience + 7 day recording views for 2022-23	4,894
Average viewing figures / in-person audience + 7 day recording views for 25 events	196

5. LIVE IN THE KING'S HALL LUNCHTIME CONCERTS 2022-23

Date	Artist(s)	In-Person Attendees
29 September 2022	Ushaw Ensemble: Paul Edis, Andy May, Graham Hardy, Graeme Wilson, Emma Fisk, Rob Walker & Paul Susans	300
6 October 2022	Rebecca Speller & Imma Setiadi	285
13 October 2022	Zach Okonkwo, Jimmy Jefford, Daniel Vildosola, Harry Gould & Will Hobson	170
20 October 2022	Trio Northumbria: John Garner, Chrissie Slater & Gemma Kost	190
27 October 2022	David de la Haye, Graeme Wilson & Mark Carroll	200
3 November 2022	Matthew Welch, Aaron Germain & Jordan Glenn	200
17 November 2022	Katie Docherty, Dave Gray & Grace Smith	220
24 November 2022	Catherine Martin & Jan Waterfield	245
15 December 2022	Jo Harrop and Jamie McCredie	235
2 February 2023	The Canny Band: Sam Mabbett, Michael Biggins & Callum Convoy	275
9 February 2023	Jamie Cook	135
16 February 2023	Shane Lestideau	210
23 February 2023	Bradley Creswick, Archie Brown, Patrick Rafferty & Brendan Murphy	320
2 March 2023	Jason Huxtable & Steven Moore	210
9 March 2023	John Kitchen	245
16 March 2023	Noxwode Ensemble: Larry Zazzo, Conor Gricmanis, Rebecca Kohler Baratto, Miruam Nohl & John Green	280
23 March 2023	Janice Burns & Jo Doran	200
27 April 2023	Martin Roscoe	255

TOTAL attendees at LIVE Concerts 2022-23	4,175
Average in-person audience for 18 events	232