Wednesday 31 October Note: 6pm start
Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne Lecture
The Great Wall story – the way I have discovered it
William Lindesay OBE, conservationist
Captive by the sight of the symbol of the Great Wall in his Oxford School Atlas of the 1960s, William Lindesay was reminded of its allure during an ultra-marathon along Hadrian’s Wall in 1984. He went to China in 1986 with the aim of becoming the first foreigner to travel on foot along the Wall’s ruins from desert to sea – and has stayed there ever since to explore it in its widest sense.

Thursday 1 November
Brexit and populism: a sociological perspective
Professor Mike Savage, London School of Economics and Political Science
A powerful language of inequality informs the Brexit/Trump phenomenon, with language of ‘left behinds’, ‘elites’, ‘racial inequalities’, and class. This lecture offers a more nuanced sociological perspective, seeking to unravel the longer-term processes, ambivalences and complexities.

Thursday 6 November
Defence Lecture
The Royal Air Force – a centennial appraisal
Air Chief Marshal Sir Richard Johns, former Chief of the Air Staff
To mark its centenary, this lecture will evaluate the contribution of the RAF to wars both hot and cold, and increasing operational commitments notwithstanding a decline in its combat power. Since the events of 9/11 the RAF has been asked consistently to punch above its weight when in reality it has had to punch above its budgets in a strategic environment clouded by uncertainty.

Tuesday 13 November
Health divides: where you live can kill you
Professor Clare Barron, Newcastle University
Americans live three years less than their counterparts in Sweden, Northerners in England live two years less than Southerners, and men in Stockton-on-Tees town centre live 15 years less than those in the suburbs. This talk examines these international, regional and local health divides, demonstrating how and why geography is a matter of life and death.

Thursday 18 October
‘If I survive’ Frederick Douglass family’s ‘struggle for liberty’
Professor Celeste-Marie Bernier, University of Edinburgh
In 1846, the world-renowned activist-author Frederick Douglass had his freedom purchased with funds from Newcastle’s own Anna Richardson as he conducted a transatlantic speaking tour. His first task, as with so many self-emancipated and liberated people was to reconnect with his family. This talk draws from never before seen photographs and letters to understand Douglass, his children, and their conjointed family struggle for both survival and freedom.

Tuesday 23 October
Lecture in association with Book Trust
Staring into space with Lauren Child
‘Sometimes we need to stare into space’, Lauren Child argues. Join the UK Waterstones Children’s Laureate to explore how staring into space promotes creative thinking, letting us problem solve, understand who we are, and how we relate to others and the world we live in.

Tuesday 27 November
New voices on arts, humanities and social sciences
Hear three early-career researchers from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Newcastle University, who explore new ideas through their research.

Wednesday 28 November Note: 5.30–7.00pm
Celebrating Student Research Scholarships and Expeditions 2018
Presentations by students showcasing the achievements of their diverse summer research scholarships and expeditions. These challenging projects reflect the broad range of academic interests across all three of the University’s faculties.

www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures
Tuesday 4 December
The reality of climate change: increasing extreme weather hazards
Professor Hayley Fowler, Newcastle University
Evidence shows climate change poses serious risks to lives and livelihoods around the world, particularly from increases in extreme events, but what can we expect from future climate? Is the Paris Agreement enough? The lecture will explore changes to extreme rainfall and flooding around the world, drawing on local and international case studies and historical information to examine why we can expect more heatwaves, droughts and flooding events in the future, and how we can learn from the past.

Thursday 6 December
Was there ever an American Empire?
Professor Antony Hopkins, University of Texas at Austin
This talk challenges conventional accounts of the place of the United States in the international order during the last three centuries: the United States did not become fully independent in 1783, acquired an empire that has been forgotten, and became known as an empire only after its real empire had been abandoned.

Tuesday 11 December
Cameron-Gifford Lecture
Food, fuel, fibre, flowers or fun: what do we want from land and can we achieve it?
Emeritus Professor Chris Pollock, Aberystwyth University
Since the Middle Ages, land has been used in a wide variety of ways to generate an economic return. In the UK this has also delivered a range of other outputs that are of value to society; however, due to a range of factors this model is no longer sustainable at the environmental, social and economic level. If new models are needed, how should they be developed?

Thursday 13 December
Santa, sprouts and angels: the popular imagery of Christmas
Dr Gail-Nina Anderson, historian of visual culture
In a society that generates ephemeral imagery for every occasion, Christmas offers the richest opportunity to track its creation and development in relationship to the beliefs and practices of the season. Since the advent of Christmas cards the central motif of the Nativity has been visibly challenged by personal, commercial, comical, media-generated and pagan imagery. This lecture offers a survey of the shifting visual folklore of our seasonal greetings.

JOHN H HOLMES MEMORIAL LECTURES FOR 10- TO 14-YEAR-OLDS

Elements
Marking the International Year of the Periodic Table, the 2019 Holmes Lectures will be given by chemistry staff from the Faculty of Science, Agriculture and Engineering at Newcastle University, and will take place in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building.

Wednesday 16 January 2019, 5.00–6.00pm
The elements of health

Wednesday 23 January 2019, 5.00–6.00pm
Details to be announced on our website soon
To register for free places, please e-mail the Public Lectures office: public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk, or telephone: 0191 208 6093

Newcastle University welcomes you to its Autumn 2018 Insights programme. Given by public figures and eminent scholars, the lectures cover a wide range of topics, are free and open to all. All seats are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Unless otherwise stated, lectures begin at 5.30pm, last about an hour plus time for questions, and are held in the Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building.

Audio recordings of some lectures are available on our website at www.ncl.ac.uk/events/public-lectures after the lecture has taken place. Additions or changes to the programme will also be published on our website. You can also follow us on Twitter @ncllectures.

If you wish to confirm dates/speakers, please contact us on 0191 208 6093 or e-mail public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk
To join our mailing list, please complete the online registration form.

The information contained in this card can be provided in alternative formats on request – please contact the Public Lectures office by telephone or e-mail as above.