

**COUNCIL: 2 JUNE 2025****REPORTED BUSINESS****1. Dates of Meetings of Council, 2025-26**

The dates of the meetings are as follows:

Monday 13 October 2025 12.00-15.30

Monday 8 December 2025 14.30-18.00 (followed by dinner)

Monday 19 January 2026 12.00-15.30

Monday 13 April 2026 – joint EB away day

Monday 1 June 2026 12.00-15.30

Monday 6 July 2026 14.30-18.00 (followed by dinner)

**2. Newcastle University Students' Union Sabbatical Officers, 2025-26**

The elected sabbatical officers for the next academic year are as follows:

Ilsa Hartley	(MA in Curating Art)	President
Lily Allan	(BA Media, Communication and Cultural Studies)	Wellbeing & Communities Officer
Gina Tindale	(BA English Literature)	Academic Officer
Libby Griffiths	(BA Journalism, Media and Culture)	Student Media Officer
Alex Duggan	(BSc Zoology with Placement Year)	Sports Officer
James Geary	(BSc Mathematics)	Opportunities Officer

**3. Deaths**

5 February 2025

R.I. (Bob) Moore. Emeritus Professor of Medieval History. Born 8 May 1941, he came to Newcastle in 1994, after thirty years at Sheffield University, where he was remarkable for leading curriculum reform, which he continued here, and was briefly Head of Department. He retired early, in 2003. He had had two visiting professorships in the USA (Chicago 1989, Berkeley 2004), was a Corresponding Fellow of the Medieval Academy of America from 2002, and the 2004 Creighton Lecturer (the Creighton series being 'one of the great lectures in history in the British Isles'). He was General Editor and originator of the Blackwell History of the World series, and founding editor of Blackwell's earlier series New Perspectives on the Past. Besides World History, his research focussed on eleventh- and twelfth-century Europe, and European dissent, especially so-called heresy and what have been termed Catharism and Cathars from around 1000, and popular religion. His works have been hugely influential. His most famous, *The Formation of a Persecuting Society: Power and Deviance in Western Europe, 950-1250* (1st edition 1987, 2nd 2006) features in the History curriculum of more than one university, though *The Origins of European Dissent* (1977) and *The First European Revolution, c. 970-1215* (2000) each have claims to be his best book. His eventual conclusions about the Cathars were advanced at the most popular level in *The War on Heresy: Faith and Power in Medieval Europe* (2012).

The themes that he tackled all had contemporary resonance, his research 'underpinned by a deep political concern for the present', and fuelled by 'an ideal ... of freedom from arbitrary and bullying authority'. It attracted great esteem, though his conclusions about the 'dynamic persecutor' and the Cathars went down very badly in some quarters. In 2009 he was termed probably the most celebrated British medieval historian outside the UK, notably in North America. A volume of papers about his work appeared in 2006, and there is to be a long memoir in *Speculum* (the journal of the Medieval Academy of America) in 2025 or 2026, drawing on many contributors. He was remarkable for his

strategic vision, generosity of spirit and willingness to help, support and advise, to learn from and acknowledge and collaborate with others, and for his fairness, and modesty.

- 19 February 2025      Max Hammerton. Max was appointed Head of Department of Psychology in 1973. He will be remembered for his passion for military history and for poetry, but also for his noteworthy teaching style. He helped with undergraduate teaching until his late 80s and became Emeritus Professor on his retirement from Psychology in 1989.
- 22 February 2025      Roger Pain. Roger was first appointed at Newcastle University as a Lecturer in 1965, when he was tasked with setting up the new Biochemistry degree. He was a popular and enthusiastic teacher, noted for his demonstration of conformational entropy by throwing the contents of a box of Quality Street over the assembled students. He served as Head of Department in the 1980s and 1990s. After retiring from Newcastle in 1992, he was made Professor Emeritus of Biochemistry and he moved to Ljubljana, Slovenia where he continued working at the Jožef Stefan Institute for over two decades, supporting a new generation of Slovene scientists.
- 2 March 2025          Evelyne Sermagor. Evelyne joined the University in December 1995 as Senior Lecturer in Neurophysiology. She received a Personal Readership in Developmental Neuroscience in 2011 and was promoted to Personal Chair of Retinal Neuroscience in 2018.
- 7 March 2025          Wendy Craig. Wendy joined the University in May 1997 as Clerical/Computer Assistant in the Department of Medicine. She was appointed IT Officer in the Institute of Cellular Medicine in December 2008, Information Security Officer (Medical Sciences) in March 2016, latterly based in the Executive and Governance Office, a post she held until her retirement in 2024.
- 18 March 2025          Lorna Rozner. Dr Lorna Rozner graduated with an MB BS in 1947 and a Diploma in Public Health in 1951. In 2010 she became an Honorary Fellow of the University and was an active and committed member of our alumni community, as one of the founding members of the Graduates' Association.
- 21 March 2025          John Ollerenshaw. Dr John Ollerenshaw was appointed Lecturer in Crop Botany in the Department of Plant Science in the School of Agriculture in 1972 and promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1985. Following the merger of the Departments of Agricultural Biology, Agricultural Engineering and Soil Science to become the Department of Agricultural and Environmental Science, John was appointed Head of the Department in 1989, a post he held until his retirement in 2005.
- 19 April 2025          Albert Wraith. Albert was appointed Lecturer in Extraction Metallurgy in the Department of Metallurgy in 1961 and was promoted to Senior Lecturer in 1970. In 1977, He undertook a part-time Consultancy position for the British Steel Corporation alongside his role within the Department for Metallurgy and Engineering Materials. In Spring 1985 and Spring 1986, Albert took up a Visiting Fellowship and Research Fellowship at McGill University, Montreal. Through the International Advisory Panel of the Chinese Provincial Universities Development Project, Albert visited Shanghai Technical University to assist in strengthening the teaching and research programme in the field of modelling of refining processes in 1989. In 1989, the Department of Mechanical Engineering and the Department of Metallurgy and Engineering Materials merged to become the Department of Mechanical, Materials and Manufacturing Engineering. Albert continued as Senior Lecturer until his retirement in 1997. He retired to Exeter and, still following his quest to understand the fundamental of the origins of quality-lowering defects in modern Steels using modern imaging techniques, was awarded a Royal Society research grant with Tata Steel (Port Talbot) and the University of Swansea.
- 1 May 2025              Rod Bramald. Rod joined the School of Education in Joseph Cowan House shortly before the 1990 celebrations of a 100 years of teacher training at Newcastle. In 1999 he undertook a semester long "job swap" with a peer academic at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. He retired in the early 2000s but continued to do some work with the University for a couple of further years.