

Autumn – Winter 2026



Talks, concerts & events

Open to
everyone



Welcome to events at Newcastle University

A programme of free public lectures, concerts,
and cultural events for everyone who wants to
learn and discover.

Discover some of our Autumn – Winter event
highlights below.



24 September

Radical housing

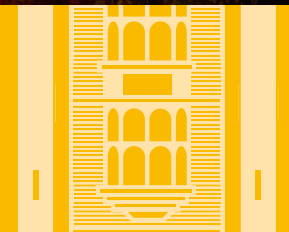
Explore a range of alternative
housing models addressing
questions of design, construction,
ownership, management, and
ways of living.



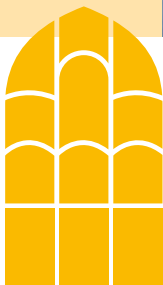
1 October

Rivkala and band

Award-winning Mancunian
showgirl Rivkala and her
esteemed Newcastle band
combine influences of jazz,
funk, soul, and klezmer under
the warm glow of her beloved
lamp Lucille at her imaginary
cabaret bar, 'Crushed Velvet'.



For full event details
scan the QR code or visit
ncl.ac.uk/events



24 November

On Time: The physics that makes the universe tick

Professor Jim Al-Khalili explores
the nature of time and asks if our
deepening understanding of the
laws of physics has brought us
any closer to the answers.



3 December

Rebel English Academy: Mohammed Hanif

In a rare public appearance,
Booker-longlisted Mohammed
Hanif discusses his new novel
'Rebel English Academy', in
conversation with Preti Taneja.



27 January

How to see the invisible universe

In this interactive lecture for
10 – 14-year-olds, academics
from Newcastle University's
School of Mathematics, Statistics
and Physics explore new ways
to see our universe.

September – October 2026

Thursday 24 September, 6.00 – 7.30pm  

Farrell Centre

Radical housing

Lewis Jones and Helen Jarvis, Newcastle University

 Farrell Centre

Thursday 1 October, 1.15 – 2.00pm 

LIVE in the King's Hall

Rivkala and band

Rivkala (vox), Faye MacCalman (saxophone and clarinet), Ben Lawrence (piano), Katy Trigger (bass), and Mark Johnson (drums)

 King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Tuesday 6 October, 5.30 – 6.30pm  

INSIGHTS Black History Month Lecture

Beyond recognition: Structural racism and the health of the Black community

Dr Gwenetta Curry, University of Edinburgh

 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Gwenetta Curry (6 Oct)



Da Vinci Quartet (8 Oct)

Wednesday 7 October, 6.30 – 7.30pm  

Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts

Tina Gharavi's Night and Day: Adapting Virginia Woolf's novel for the cinema screen

Tina Gharavi, director and Meg Thomson, producer, chaired by Kirsten MacLeod

 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Thursday 8 October, 1.15 – 2.00pm 

LIVE in the King's Hall

Da Vinci Quartet

Iona Brown and Jane Nossek (violins), Mike Gerrard (viola), and Gabriel Waite (cello)

 King's Hall, Armstrong Building

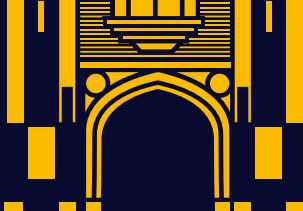
Tuesday 13 October, 5.30 – 6.30pm  

INSIGHTS Public Lecture

Outsider Animals: How the creatures at the margins of our lives have the most to teach us

Professor Marlene Zuk, biologist and author

 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building



Thursday 15 October, 1.15 – 2.00pm

LIVE in the King's Hall

Human voice as an instrument

Mouthful: Bex Mather, Dave Camlin, Katherine Zeserson, and Sharon Durant (vocals)

King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Friday 16 October, 12.00 – 5.00pm

NCL in Action

A picture of health

Featuring leading Newcastle University academics, expert alumni, and a keynote lecture from Professor Chris Whitty

The Catalyst

Tuesday 20 October, 5.30 – 6.30pm

INSIGHTS Public Lecture

What's gone wrong with British politics and what to do?

Dominic Cummings, former chief adviser to the Prime Minister

Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Chris Whitty (16 Oct)



Thursday 22 October, 1.15 – 2.00pm

LIVE in the King's Hall

John Cage's Sonatas and Interludes for Prepared Piano, and 4'33"

Adam Johnson (prepared piano)

King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Wednesday 28 October, 6.00 – 7.00pm

Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne

Visible invisibles: Women in Roman archaeology

Dr Tatiana Ivleva and Dr Rebecca Jones, archaeologists

Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Thursday 29 October, 1.15 – 2.00pm

LIVE in the King's Hall

Traditional music from Scotland, Europe, the Balkans and beyond

Morag Brown (fiddle, five-string fiddle) and Lewis Powell-Reid (accordion, guitar)

King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Thursday 29 October, 6.00 – 7.30pm

Farrell Centre

The art of retrofit

Panel discussion looking at creative approaches to refurbishing and reimagining existing housing

Fine Art Lecture Theatre, King Edward VII Building



November 2026

Wednesday 4 November, 5.30 – 6.30pm  

INSIGHTS Public Lecture

The Response: A story of fire and flood
in Britain's new world of extremes

David Shukman, journalist and former science editor
of BBC News

 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Wednesday 11 November, 6.30 – 7.30pm  

**Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts and the Poetry
Book Society (PBS)**

PBS autumn showcase: Grace Nichols and
Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe

In conversation with Tara Bergin

 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Thursday 12 November, 1.15 – 2.00pm 

LIVE in the King's Hall

Old Newcastle music with new
Newcastle friends

Lawrence Zazzo (counter tenor), Ana López Suero (flute),
Hilary Metzger (cello), and John Treherne (harpsichord)

 King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Thursday 12 November, 4.00 – 8.00pm
(talk starts at 6.00pm)  

Children's Cancer North

Revolutionary research into childhood cancer

Panel talk with leading paediatric oncology researchers,
plus interactive activities and lab tour opportunities

 Herschel Building

Saturday 14 November, 7.30 – 9.30pm   

**Newcastle upon Tyne Bach Choir and
Newcastle Baroque perform works by J. S. Bach**

Eric Cross (conductor)

 King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Sunday 15 November, 4.00 – 6.15pm   

**Newcastle University Symphony Orchestra perform
works by Humperdinck, Dvořák, and Sibelius**

Christopher Tarrant (conductor)

 King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Monday 16 November, 4.00 – 5.30pm  

History Seminar Series

Who owns Rome? Ancient republics and
their afterlives

Dr Jamie Gianoutsos, Mount St. Mary's University

 Boiler House, Newcastle University

Tuesday 17 November, 5.45 – 6.45pm  

NCL in Action

Will AI save global healthcare or break it?

Dr Lewis Potter, Dr Colin Rees, Laura Parker and Tarek Nseir,
Newcastle University academics and alumni experts

 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Thursday 19 November, 12.00 – 1.30pm   

NCL in Action

Climate and eco-distress: The mental health
crisis we're not talking about

Professor Mark Freeston, Newcastle University

 Online

November 2026 – January 2027

Thursday 19 November, 1.15 – 2.00pm 
LIVE in the King's Hall
No Living Voice: Improvised performance
Adam Soper (electric guitars, electronics, composition)
 King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Tuesday 24 November, 5.30 – 6.30pm  
INSIGHTS Public Lecture
On Time: The physics that makes the universe tick
Professor Jim Al-Khalili, physicist and author
 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Thursday 3 December, 6.00 – 7.30pm  
Farrell Centre
Manifesto for housing
Sheila Spencer, Labour Housing Group; Laura Broderick, Good Homes Alliance and Emma Ormerod, Newcastle University
 Farrell Centre

Thursday 3 December, 6.30 – 7.30pm  
Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts
Rebel English Academy: Mohammed Hanif
In conversation with Preti Taneja
 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Manifesto for housing (3 Dec)



Monday 7 December onwards 
Interim Recitals
Interim Recitals by final-year undergraduate Music students will take place during December and are open to all. Please visit ncl.ac.uk/live-music towards the end of November for more details.
 Newcastle University campus

Tuesday 8 December, 5.30 – 6.30pm  
British Academy Lecture
Universities: Just another business or there to serve the common good?
Professor Simon Marginson, University of Oxford
 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

Thursday 10 December, 1.15 – 2.00pm 
LIVE in the King's Hall
A (slightly) Christmassy Concert
Prince Bishops Brass: Anthony Thompson (trumpet), Chris Lewis (trumpet), Chris Senior (French horn), Stuart Gray (trombone), and Stephen Boyd (tuba)
 King's Hall, Armstrong Building

Wednesday 27 January, 5.15 – 6.15pm  
Holmes Lecture for Children (10 – 14-year-olds)
How to see the invisible universe
Academics from Newcastle University's School of Mathematics, Statistics and Physics
 Curtis Auditorium, Herschel Building

What's on offer



INSIGHTS Public Lectures

Our award-winning public lecture series covers a wide range of topics delivered by public figures and eminent scholars. Lectures last for approximately one hour, including time for questions. All our events are free and open to all, but pre-booking is required. Bookings for lectures open at 10.00am one week before the event.

ncl.ac.uk/public-lectures
public.lectures@ncl.ac.uk
0191 208 6136

INSIGHTS

LIVE in the King's Hall

Join Newcastle University for a series of free concerts. Lunchtime Concerts are held in the King's Hall, Armstrong Building, and last around 45 minutes. Admission is free, and booking is not required.

Student performances take place most Thursdays from 4.00pm to 5.30pm and are open to everyone.

ncl.ac.uk/live-music
live.music@ncl.ac.uk
0191 208 8463

LIVE MUSIC

Newcastle Centre for the Literary Arts

The Newcastle Centre for Literary Arts (NCLA) is home to creative writing, literary events, teaching and research at Newcastle University and across the North East. NCLA delivers a programme of events throughout the year, working with world-leading writers and academics, publishers, artists and cultural organisations.

ncl.ac.uk/ncla
ncenla@ncl.ac.uk
0191 208 6136



From Newcastle Podcast

From Newcastle is a fortnightly podcast featuring the latest developments in health, science and culture and the creative arts from Newcastle University.

Search '**From Newcastle**' to listen now, wherever you find your podcasts.

podcasts.ncl.ac.uk/fromnewcastle



**From
Newcastle.**

Farrell Centre

The Farrell Centre's mission is to widen the debate around the crucial roles that architecture and planning play in the contemporary world in ways that are engaging, innovative and challenging. The Centre is admission free and offers a variety of experiences for visitors of all ages.

farrellcentre.org.uk
hello@farrellcentre.org.uk
0191 208 0071

**Farrell
Centre**

Insights North East

Insights North East (INE) is a collaborative hub for place-based policy insights, based at Newcastle University. Bringing together what's often kept separate: rigorous academic research, the practical wisdom of frontline practitioners and decision-makers, and the lived experience of communities.

insightsnortheast.co.uk
enquiries@insightsnortheast.co.uk
0191 208 8893

INSIGHTS 
North East

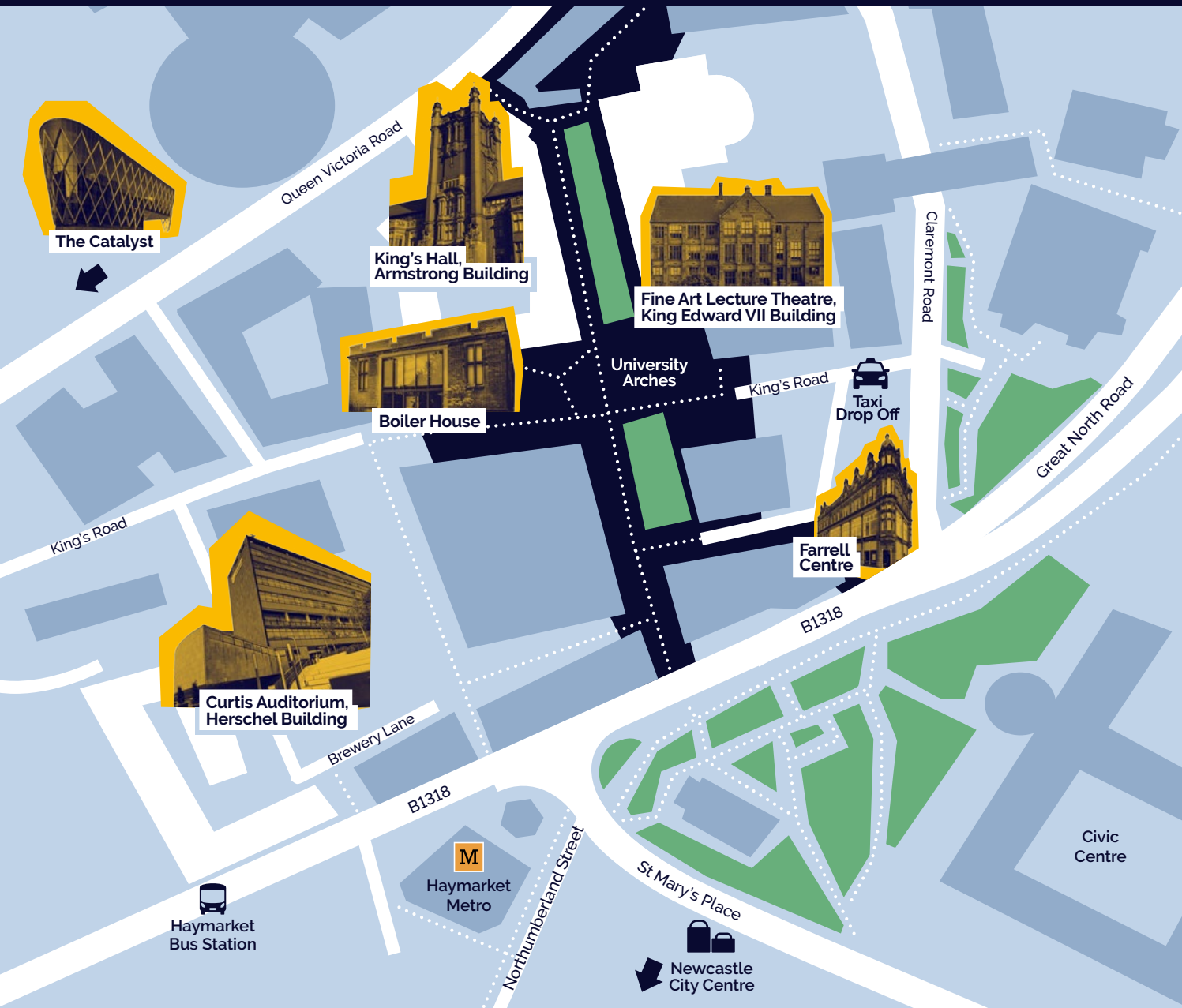
NCL in Action

NCL in Action is an annual University-wide engagement programme that connects our staff, students, alumni, partners and the public under a common cause. The 2026/27 programme, 'A picture of health', offers a forward-looking exploration of global health's new chapter. The future of health is in our hands; let's make it a clean bill.

ncl.ac.uk/ncl-in-action
nuaevents@ncl.ac.uk

How to find us

ncl.ac.uk/maps



What's on at Newcastle University

At Newcastle University, we believe knowledge, skills and ideas should be shared with everyone who wants to learn and discover.

That's why we offer an inspiring programme of events, from public lectures and concerts to panel discussions, literary talks and much more.

Our events take place across our campus, all within walking distance of Newcastle city centre. Many events are free to attend, too.

Explore our programme, discover what's on and join us at Newcastle University. We look forward to welcoming you.

ncl.ac.uk/events

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