

CONVERGE CATCH - UP



Welcome back, and happy holidays! We hope everyone has a wonderful winter break. This has been the start of an incredibly busy year for Converge with lots going on so far, and even more to come.

There's lots going on in the North East this winter that you can get involved in!

Our Semester Run Down

The semester so far has been packed with many exciting things!

'Movement, Digital, and Environment' - Eliot Smith Dance

This course focused on the rivers of Newcastle and ways of expressing them through contemporary dance, as well as learning about issues of pollution in the city.

Wellbeing Wednesday Drop-In Sessions

We ran trial sessions every other week, giving Northumbria uni students a chance to spend some time doing arts and crafts to relax and have space for creativity in their lives. Sessions included worry dolls, self portraits, and more!

Pop-Up Catch Club - Social Singing

An evening at The Magic Hat Café learning old catch songs and singing them all together, as part of the National Being Human Festival.

Movement, Digital & Environment

The theme of the course is 'The Rivers of Newcastle' and will explore movement, digital and the environment to create an interdisciplinary dance film. This exciting project aims to provide a healthy opportunity for people in the community to be active; be creative; and is a confidence-building experience.

25th Oct - 29th Nov
Wednesdays 4:30pm- 6.30pm

For more information, or to enrol please contact converge@northumbria.ac.uk

Northumbria University Newcastle | ELIOT SMITH DANCE | Community Foundation Newcastle



The Festival of Belonging - Course: Belonging

This course has just begun, and is a long term national project until March, joint with other organisations! This multi-disciplinary project has involved each organisation responding to a poem in their own way using various different art forms - in true Converge fashion, our method has of course been theatre! Watch this space and keep an eye out for when they're posted to have a look!



Converge Connected

This semester we have also seen another Converge Connected course conclude - the 'Zoom to Stage' ran by our very own Cat Catizone has now finished, where students developed and performed monologues and built theatre skills.



For those wanting to get involved online or by post, there will be even more Converge Connected courses.

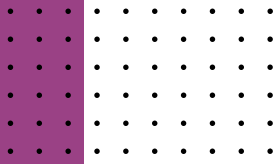
Our Team

We've had a lot of new students this year, so for those who haven't met them, here is an introduction to our small but mighty team! It is led by the brilliant Ally Hunter-Byron – Converge Director at Northumbria University – and supported by our fantastic Engagement Coordinator, Cat Catizone. These two individuals keep Converge at Northumbria up and running year-round with the support of our dedicated board.

This year, Ally has been working on the development and expansion of Converge, and Cat has been in charge of engagement with both volunteers and students, making sure they're all set for a thrilling semester ahead!

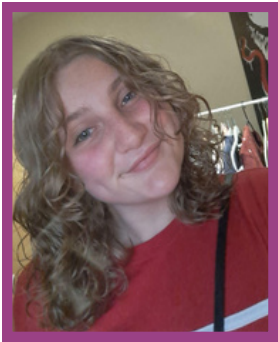
We would also like to give a special thanks to all of the student volunteers that have been helping out this semester, and to the staff board for all of their dedication!





The Team

Speaking of student volunteers, this semester we have been joined by a few additions - some new, and some who may be familiar.



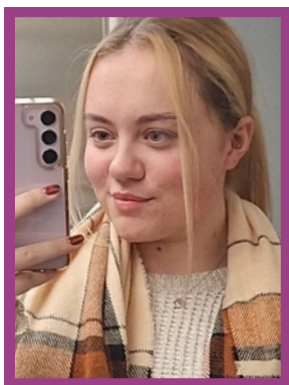
Freya Kelly

We would like to welcome back the amazing Freya Kelly, who, after first spending a year on placement with us, is back and better than ever as part of the team! Keep your eyes peeled, as Freya will be running a theatre course later in the year!



Isobel Randall-Evans

We would also like to welcome Izzy to our team, who is joining us for a year-long internship. If you've been taking part in our courses, you might have seen her around! Later this year, Izzy will be running a music course on handbells, so stay tuned!



Abbie Clifford

Another warm welcome goes to Abbie, who is taking part in a placement with Converge and will be helping out with the courses this year! Starting off strong with supporting our upcoming 'Belonging' course, we can't wait to have her on board.

Prospectus

Converge at York St John's 2023/24

The prospectus for York St John's Converge is now live to download and view from their website:

<https://www.yorksja.ac.uk/converge>

See if you can spot the section on Converge at Northumbria!



What's On

There's lots of festive events on this time of year in the North East that you can get involved in!

- **Craft, Chat & A Cuppa** - At the Land of Oak & Iron, there are weekly, sociable meetings every Tuesday at 9:30am for £3.50
- **Alphabetti Theatre** - Come attend various shows and performances put on by the local Alphabetti Theatre, such as the fantasy/comedy 'Roll For Initiative: The Wizards Tower' from 23rd-27th Jan
- **Project Art Works** - hosting workshops from now until 25th Feb at 10am, held at the Baltic Centre for *free*



- **Therapy Dogs** - Northumbria University are hosting visits from Therapy Dogs for a few hours, every month at 11am in the Students Union. Upcoming dates are the 31st Jan, 28th Feb, and 20th March
- **Planetarium** - Great North Museum: Hancock are hosting shows all about space from now until March 7th from £2.95



- **GIFT Fest (Gateshead International Festival of Theatre)** Friday 3 May - Sunday 5 May. Programme coming in February 2024 will see GIFT return with a festival of extraordinary events all across Gateshead town centre and beyond.

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- **Moving Parts** - From the 30th March - 7th April, there's a puppetry festival in Newcastle at both indoor and outdoor venues, with tickets from £4 - £12, boasting a variety of workshops and shows, plus a free exhibition down Northumberland Street



- **Public Tree Planting** - Northeast Wildlife Trust are holding events throughout January and February to increase tree coverage throughout the North East, available to be booked for free

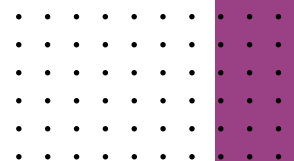


- **Jesmond Food Market** - Every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month from 10:00-3, there is a Food Market on Armstrong Bridge featuring amazing independent food vendors

- **Baltic Centre Activities** - visit the Baltic for various workshops and events, such as the free Sculpture Making Workshop on the 20th Jan, or the Swap & Share Books activity on the 4th Feb



- **Newcastle Community Theatre** - Visit this community space for screenings such as a relaxed screening of Ratatouille on the 19th Jan from £2.50, to increase access to cinema to the neurodiverse, or The Grand Budapest Hotel on the 21st Jan from £5.50.





Our Partners

Learn some more about Converge's partners and what they're getting up to. Visit their websites below for activities you can get involved in!

- **Alphabetti Theatre** - <https://www.alphabettitheatre.co.uk/>
- **Chili Studios** - <https://www.chillistudios.co.uk/>
- **NTAS** - <https://northtynesideartstudio.org.uk/>
- **Recoco** - <https://www.recoverycoco.com/>
- **Live Theatre** - <https://www.live.org.uk/>
- **Theatre Royal** - <https://www.theatreroyal.co.uk/>
- **Northumbria Student Union** - <https://mysnu.co.uk/>
- **Converge York St John** - <https://www.yorksja.ac.uk/converge/>
- **Northumbria Student's Union** - <https://mysnu.co.uk/>
- **Eliot Smith Dance Company** - <https://www.eliotsmithdance.com/>

