

CONVERGE CATCH - UP



Hello everyone! This Converge catch-up marks the end of an incredibly busy Academic Year for Converge and of course the start of summer. There's a lot going on that you can get involved with in Newcastle and Gateshead this summer, so this catch up will be all about introducing new things about Converge, celebrating wonderful achievements and discovering new opportunities.

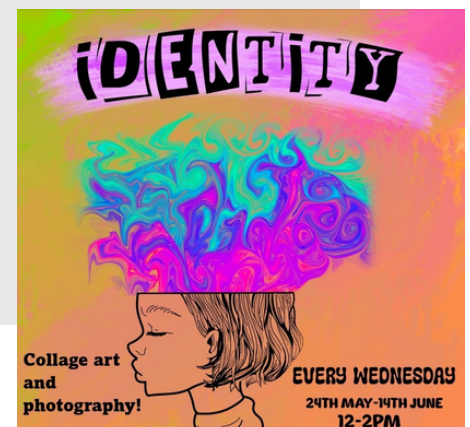
Our Semester Run Down

This semester has been a really busy one for us at Converge and we wanted to share with you a little about the different courses that went on!

Identity - This course was the first of its kind for us and looked specifically at 'the experiences of neuro-divergent women and how we perceive ourselves and our identities in society.'

Academic Theatre - A course designed to give you the full Northumbria University experience, introducing you to academic discussion and performance. - Unfortunately cut short due to tutor illness.

Zineasons - series of zine production workshops, themed round the four seasons, focussing on printing and binding techniques.





Special Thanks



Steve Nash

As an organisation we would also like to say a very big thank you and a **happy retirement** to Steve Nash. Steve has been the Chair of our Board since we began, bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the role. He has been an integral part of our team, helping drive and create Converge at Northumbria to what we are today. You will be missed Steve and we will forever be grateful for all of your support.



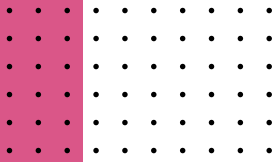
Freya Kelly

We would also like to say a special well done and a huge thank you to Freya Kelly from the BA Theatre and performance course who has officially completed a year long placement with us as a student in residence! If you've been taking part in some of our courses this past year, you might have seen Freya's friendly face. She's been a huge help both in our courses and behind the scenes. Having Freya here for the full Academic Year almost doubled our capacity and she'll be a big miss! So thank you Freya!



Emily McWilliams

Another warm thank you goes to our Emily McWilliams, who has recently completed a placement with us as part of her MA. Not only did Emily help us behind the scenes with social media and website design, BUT she also designed and ran 'Identity', the first course of it's kind here at Converge at Northumbria. Thank you Emily!



Prospectus

Converge at York St John's 2023/24 Prospectus is now complete and available to download/view from the landing page of their website:

See if you can spot our feature!

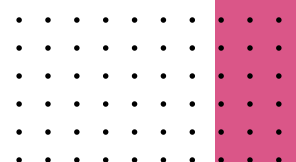
<https://www.yorks.ac.uk/converge/>

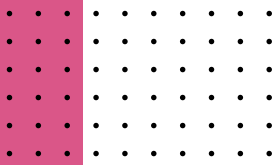
Our Team

As many of you know we have a small but dedicated team behind Converge at Northumbria, consisting of Ally Hunter-Byron and Cat Catizone. Going into the end of the academic year is always a great time to reflect and take stock of all that has been achieved and as an organisation and as a board, we didn't feel that our old titles really captured our roles within the University. So we'd like to introduce you to our new staff roles...

- Ally Hunter-Byron **Converge Director at Northumbria University**
- Cat Catizone **Engagement Coordinator, Converge at Northumbria**

Come September, Cat will be taking on more responsibility for our student engagement. Both with student volunteers and enrolment and this will allow Ally more time to focus on the overall development and direction of Converge at Northumbria.

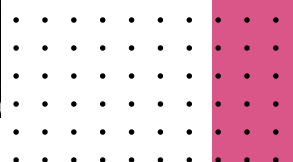
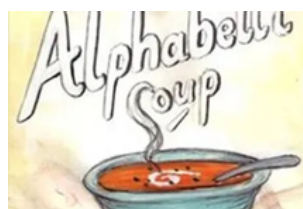




What's On?

There are lots of cultural events to sink your teeth into this summer in the North East! Here are a few of the things that you can get involved in:

- NE1 On The Screen, **July 24th to September 3rd.** - Pull up a deck chair in Old Eldon Square and enjoy free blockbuster films, live sport and entertainment from 24 July - 3 September 2023.
- Newcastle Fringe Festival, Tues 18th - Sat 29th July. - Ten jam-packed days of showcasing the very best performing arts from Newcastle and beyond!
- Durham Fringe Festival, **July 26th to July 30th.** - Durham Fringe Festival is an exciting theatre festival taking place across the city!
- Feast by the Sea, **Sat 22 Jul 2023 11:00 am - Sun 13 Aug 2023 11:00 am.** - The Spanish City Plaza in Whitley Bay, will be transformed into an amazing Feast by the Sea where visitors can explore some of the region's best street food!
- Lilidorei , **Open Now** - Are you planning a fun-filled summer? Have the ultimate summer day out in Lilidorei by testing your bravery on the world's largest play structure!
- 10 years of Alphabetti, **TUES 15TH AUGUST – SAT 2ND SEPTEMBER** - Happy birthday to us, so let's celebrate with Soup! Over three weeks we'll be welcoming back 46 different artists to perform...
- The Baltic Behind-the-scenes Tour, **Sundays 11am** - Free, Discover areas of the building which are normally out of bounds in this free exclusive, behind the scenes explore at Baltic.
- For more events check out - <https://newcastlegateshead.com/events/seasonal/summer?page=1>





Special Shout Out



Yvonne Hinckesmen

We also want to say a huge well done to our very own Yvonne Hinckesmen, who had the opportunity to perform at Newcastle Theatre Royal alongside The Royal Shakespeare Company!

Check out her blog about the experience. - <https://bigriverbakery.myshopify.com/blogs/news/suds-to-stage-my-journey-with-the-big-river-bakery-by-volunteer-yvonne-hinckesman>

Our Partners

Learn a little bit more about Converge's partners and what they're getting up to this month. 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.yorks.ac.uk/converge/>
- **Northumbria Student's Union** - <https://mysnu.co.uk/>
- **Eliot Smith Dance Company** - <https://www.eliotsmithdance.com/>

