

AWARD-WINNING ALLIANCE FRANÇAISE LECTURE SPONSORED BY THE FBC

On the 27th of November 2002, the Alliance Française de Newcastle upon Tyne invited John Ardagh, the eminent freelance journalist and writer on European Affairs, to give a fascinating public lecture at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the University's 'Insights' Public Lecture series entitled 'The Attitudes of the French towards Europe and the Rest of the World'. The event was sponsored jointly by the French Business Council and the Open University, and was attended by an audience which filled the Curtis Auditorium to near capacity.

John Ardagh's wide-ranging talk in English covered the development of France's relationships since the second world war with its present-day associates in world affairs, Germany, Britain and the United States.

It is pleasing to note that the lecture won the Newcastle Alliance Française an award for Best Partnership Project at the Annual General Meeting of the Alliance Française in the UK on 10 May 2003 in London. On this occasion, Alain Marqueur, Director of International Relations at the Alliance Française in Paris, commented that he would like to see more events of this kind within the Alliance!

The Alliance Française in Newcastle welcomes suggestions for another joint activity with the French Business Council on the occasion of the celebrations of the centenary of the 'Entente Cordiale' in 2004.