



Starting
Monday 26th
April 2021

Season 3 2020-21 programme

Explore Season 3 Programme 2020-21

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Welcome to our Season Three Programme. As you'll know the global changes have had a dramatic impact on our organisation's normal schedules, how we learn and interact. We're still here though and we're very happy to present our programme for the third season this year here at Explore.

If you're new to Explore, you will find that this season's programme is primarily focussed on our existing members rather than new joiners—omitting our popular welcome days and public events. If you would like to join Explore please get in touch or join our mailing list to find out more over the coming months.

Looking Forward, Looking Back, Looking Up

This season we are pleased to present a variety of courses and sessions which, whilst not focused on one agreed theme, reflect a time of recognition, anticipation and reopening. We cover varied topics around expansion and exploration, delving into new research around past events and considering how experience can open up new ideas and fresh understanding. We'll look to the limits of space and consider the boundaries we face as society, the ties that bind and the seams that split. And as we look forward to Spring and ever brightening horizons, we also welcome a new member of the team (as our regular administrator takes a break for maternity) and hope you enjoy our new Season here at Explore Lifelong Learning.

Welcome to our Explore 2020-21 Season 3 Programme.

Explore Season 3 Programme 2020-21

How will sessions be delivered? Members will receive additional information about accessing different sessions, but if you're unsure please read all the details provided, then <u>get in touch</u> and we'll try to help. There are various types of delivery method and some sessions use more than one format in combination:

* Live Zoom Sessions - these sessions are online sessions using Zoom to create a live classroom environment remotely with a tutor and 'audience'/members actively attending the session. This allows an immediacy of interaction akin to being in the same room (but often with audience member microphones 'muted' during tutor presentation) Details of individual Zoom sessions/courses (invite links and relevant codes) will be sent to members via the members' mailout in advance of the sessions. If you need assistance setting up Zoom on your computer/tablet click HERE. For these sessions you will see this green box in the programme. Some sessions might be a live Zoom of a Face-to-Face session at CU House.

* Face-to-Face Sessions - At the time of publication, there is a strong likelihood that Face-to-Face sessions will not run and all sessions will remain Remote Access only this season, however we will inform members if the situation changes. IF there are sessions later in the season that can proceed 'Face-to-Face' we will then highlight them with this purple icon, however we do expect the majority of sessions to continue as remote access only. We have included the following details for information only. These sessions are planned to take place at Commercial Union House as a Face-to-Face session, provided that the situation allows. In order to allow for social distancing and room capacity, places must be booked online in advance. If circumstances do not allow the session to proceed on-site, it will shift to a remote Zoom session only.

* 'Paper-based' Offline Resources — these sessions will be distributed by email in the form of written activities, texts and direction, initially provided as a document via the members mailouts, to be enjoyed by members and where appropriate followed up with email correspondence with the tutors and/or group. Look for this envelope/mail icon in the programme.

Will also send any additional resources via the members bulletin in advance of sessions.

Explore Season 3 Programme 2020-21

Thank you to the programming team and everyone else not listed who helped to organise the programme this Season:

Art History and Design: Helen Watson and Margaret Adams

Narratives (Literature, Cinema and Music): Rita Prabhu and Angela Young

Perspectives (Science & Mathematics): Pamela Denham and Sally Standart

Culture & Society (History and Archaeology): Joy Rutter and Kath Smith

Philosophy: Trish Hutson

With direction from Rachel Lister & Malcolm Grady.

Thanks also to Rob Campion for our programme cover image.

We are also grateful to <u>Ampersand Inventions</u> for our office, room hire and support at Commercial Union House, as well as <u>B&D Studios</u> for additional room hire and support.

'It is not knowledge, but the act of learning, not the possession but the act of getting there, which grants the greatest enjoyment.' Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855)

Philosophy Course: 26th April to 24th May (no break in sessions for Bank Hol.)

Provocations: First Moves in Metaphysics

Tutor: Ian Ground

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 10.30-12.00

'Metaphysics is the finding of bad reasons for what we believe upon instinct; but to find these reasons is no less an instinct' F.H. Bradley's aphorism succinctly captures our ambivalent attitude towards the kind of fundamental thought about reality, known as metaphysics. On the one hand metaphysics can seem like a mistaken attempt to do fundamental science without the hard work. On the other hand, it is clear that fundamental science gets enmeshed in metaphysical issues and cannot resolve them on its own. In this course, we will dip our toes in the deep waters of metaphysics with some introductions to the debates over causality, what there is (ontology) and the nature of time.

26-Apr	The Concept of Metaphysics
03-May	Causes and Freedom (Suggested advance viewing <u>HERE</u>)

10-May Ontology

17-May Time (Suggested advance viewing HERE)

24-May Is Metaphysics Possible?

Further preparatory resources may be supplied in the weekly bulletin.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Art History Course: 26th April to 24th May (**no** break in sessions for Bank Hol.)

Vienna: Visual Arts, Photography, Film & Design

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.30



A Five part Monday afternoon course looking at aspects of the city of Vienna with an emphasis on the visual arts, photography, film and design.

26-Apr	Empire: European treasure house
03-May	Secession: making the city modern.
10-May	On the couch, Vienna in early 20th Century: Freud, Schoenberg and Schiele.
17-May	Chasing The Third Man: Zithers, Ferris wheels, cuckoo clocks and sewers.
24-Mav	Vienna Action: performance, art and architecture.

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Art History Course: 14th to 28th June

From La Caricature to Simplicissmus via Punch c.1830-1900. Sociopolitical caricature in the popular Press in nineteenth-century Europe.

Tutor: Malcolm Gee

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.30



A combination of social, economic, political and technical factors led to a massive expansion of newspaper production in the nineteenth century. A particular sector of the industry consisted of publications that used images to make political and social comment, while amusing their readership.

These sessions will discuss examples from France, Britain and Germany in turn, focusing on specific titles and artists closely associated with them: Charivari in Paris – Daumier; Punch (the 'London Charivari') - John Leech and John Tenniel; Simplicissimus in Munich - Thomas Theodor Heine.

Key questions I will consider are: what was the general character of this publication? What role did these artists play in it? What distinguished their approach to caricature? And in relation to some selected examples, what are they about, and what makes them effective, and funny?

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

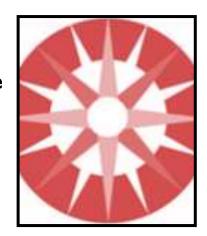
History Course: 10th May to 7th June (no break in sessions for Bank Hol.)

A Survey of Early Irish Law: Amail ar in can Fenechas... 'As the Law of the Freemen sings...'

Tutor: David Burke

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 18.00-19.30



This course will explore the nature, origins, and development of Early Irish Law. This complex legal system was based on social status and restorative justice, and was enforced throughout Ireland (to varying degrees) from the earliest recorded history into the early modern period. These laws offer a comprehensive native legal system unequalled in post-Roman western Europe, providing a unique insight into native concepts of property, gender roles, divorce, the position of the Church, and personal and familial status.

The early Irish had many many laws, including how to regulate beekeeping to the proper number of nuts one could harvest from a private forest, the demands placed on kings by the laws, and a prohibition against killing non-combatants in times of war.

We will investigate these laws in their own context, how they influenced and were influenced by Christianity, and (quite frankly) how strange they could be.

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Science Course: 1st to 29th June

The Short Story of NE Coal

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 10.30-12.00



The North East's wealth came from its geology - for hundreds of years coal mining was the heart of the North East's economy.

This introduction will explore why there is coal in the NE, how it was won, and what its legacy is today.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Mathematics Series: 11th to 25th May

Mathematical Thinking Through Puzzles and Problems

Tutor: Peter Pool

Venue & Times: Paper-based Activity/Offline - These sessions will be delivered

weekly via members' mailouts



Some people are almost proud of saying that they 'can't do maths', but might feel insulted if someone suggested they didn't know how to think. We all do lots of mathematical thinking in our heads everyday as we dodge traffic, plan timetables, estimate costs, look for the best way to do practical things etc. There are also a growing number of people who enjoy solving maths puzzles and problems, judging by the space given to that in newspapers.

For this course you don't need high level maths, just a willingness to have a go with what you already know. Peter will offer members sets of Maths puzzles to be sent out by email over three consecutive weeks. Hints will be provided and answers will be supplied during the following weeks.

We hope you will have some fun tackling these puzzles & problems.

Look out for these activities from Peter in your Explore members' mail outs.



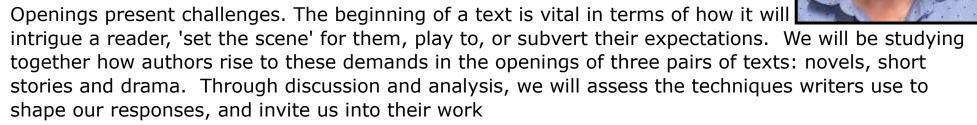
Literature Course: 27th April to 11th May

Openings

Tutor: Clare Jackson

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.30



27-Apr Two Short Stories - Dickens: Mrs Lirriper's Lodgings & Jackie Kay: Physics and Chemistry See additional details HERE

04-May Two Plays - Oscar Wilde: Lady Windermere's Fan & D.H. Lawrence: The Widowing of Mrs Holroyd See additional details HERE

11-May Two Novels - Virginia Woolf: Jacob's Room & Alice Walker: The Color Purple (N.B. Disturbing content). See additional details HERE

Note :Extracted Texts for all the above will be provided nearer the time via the Bulletin

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members mailout.

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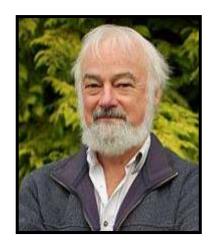
Science Course: 18th & 25th May

Animal Miscellanea

Tutor: Wallace Arthur

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.30



This short course, consisting of just two sessions of 90 minutes each, focuses on some fascinating facts about animals.

The emphasis will be on both animals and phenomena that are at the less well-known end of the spectrum. So, we won't be dealing with creatures that often appear on natural history documentaries, like dolphins and elephants. Rather, we'll be focusing on those that usually don't. And we won't be focusing on obvious phenomena, like the dramatic pigmentation patterns of some butterflies, or the speed of the fastest animals on Earth. Rather, we'll focus on less obvious, but arguably more interesting, things.

So, exactly which animals and which phenomena will the course cover? Sorry, no spoilers!

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members' mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Literature Course: 8th to 29th June

Images of Saint Petersburg in Romantic, Silver-Age and Modernist

Russian Literature

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.30

Since its foundation by Tsar Peter I in 1703, Russia's 'second city' Saint Petersburg has been mythologised in powerful and sometimes competing ways – from its

inscription as a modern, cultured, Western-oriented city in contrast to Moscow the traditional heart of Old Russia, to its (ambivalent) representation as a city built on water and its portrayal as a place of delusive dreams, even nightmares. We'll explore these changing meanings through the work of several of its greatest resident writers: Alexander Pushkin, whose unclassifiable poem *The Bronze Horseman* is far from a simple paean to Peter's city; Nikolai Gogol, whose *Petersburg Tales* represent the city as a place where appearances often lie, and Dostoevsky for whom it appears an unnatural construction; the Symbolist poet Alexander Blok, with his phantasmagoric depictions of its feeling-haunted places and spaces; and the Acmeist poets Anna Akhmatova and Osip Mandelshtam who render it more concretely in both its Petersburg and – under the press of political persecution – Leningrad versions. We'll consider finally Vladimir Nabokov's famous autobiography *Speak, Memory*, which elegantly and sometimes hilariously invokes the great houses and countryside of its author's pre-Revolutionary childhood.

Note: For details of each session and links to the relevant texts please see <u>HERE</u>
Extracted Texts for all the above will be provided nearer the time via the Bulletin

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Music Course: 27th April to 25th May

Exploring Music: Composers

Tutor: Mike Green

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 18.00-19.30



In each of these sessions we will be exploring the life and work of particular composer, focussing on a musical genre in which they had a significant impact. There will be plenty of opportunity to listen to musical examples. No formal musical knowledge is required.

27-Apr	Schubert and the Lied
04-May	Rossini and the Aria
11-May	Dvorak and the String Quartet
18-May	Chopin and the Prelude
25-May	Grainger - Marches and Dances

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Mathematics and Society Course: 28th April to 12th May

Waves

Tutor: Sam James

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 11.00-12.00



Waves have such a familiar undulating shape it is easy to forget that all the information we receive about the universe comes in the form of a wave.

The sound we hear and the light we see as well digitally encoded information piped into our homes are all waves.

Knowing something about the nature of waves not only allows us to understand how these things work but also spot some interesting consequences on the world around us.

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

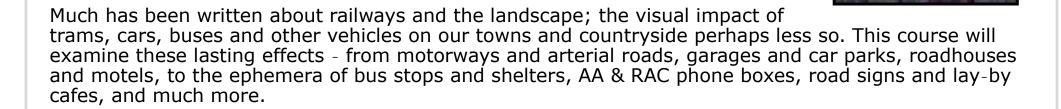
History Course: 2nd to 30th June

The Landscape of Motor Vehicles

Tutor: John Griffiths

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 10.30-12.00



As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

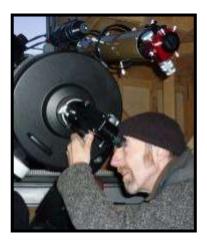
Science Course: 2nd to 30th June

Latest Developments in Astronomy and Cosmology

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 12.30-13.30



- 02-Jun Our nearest star the Sun. Latest developments in understanding the Sun from both space probes and Earth based observations.
- 09-Jun The red planet Mars. With a new rover vehicle hoping to land in a few weeks' time (Feb 18th) and a veritable fleet of other probes orbiting the planet we will have a look at the most recent discoveries pertaining to this intriguing planet.
- 16-Jun Exoplanets and the search for life elsewhere. Latest news on exoplanet discoveries (planets orbiting stars other than the Sun) and what this means in terms of the probability of life existing elsewhere.
- 23-Jun The life cycles of stars. A summary of the various stages in the life cycles of the stars concentrating on heavy/massive stars and how they end their lives as supernova explosions.
- 30-Jun Galaxies and the largest structures in the universe.

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members' mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Literature Course: 28th April to 26th May

Borders and Boundaries

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.15* OR 15.45-17.00*

*If you would like to attend Rachel's sessions please email Explorelitprog@gmail.com before the course starts. This will help us estimate numbers for the class and confirm times to help balance group sizes for discussions.



This course will give us an opportunity to consider how writers explore a wide range of boundaries and the many ways that we might overcome them. We will discuss a variety of short stories, poems and a 'long short story', stretching from the nineteenth century to the present day. We will explore how each writer represents boundaries relating to society and identity, spatial and temporal boundaries and the liminal places between 'the real' and 'the imaginary'.

28 Apr Jhumpa Lahiri, The Boundary, and Mavid Gallant, 'Florida'

05-May Love poems: Thomas Hardy, 'The Voice', Margaret Atwood, 'Variations on the Word Love,'

Carol Ann Duffy, 'Echo' and W. H. Auden. 'The More Loving One

12-May D. H. Lawrence, 'The Rocking-Horse Winner' and extracts from novels.

19-May Maya Angelou - 'Kin,' 'Caged Bird' and 'On the Pulse of Morning'

26-May Herman Melville - 'Bartleby, the Scrivener'

Note: Extracted Texts for all the above will be provided nearer the time via the Bulletin

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Art and Craft Course: 2nd to 30th June (No session 16th June)

Practical Art & Craft Studio

Tutor: Margaret Adams

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.30



We will continue with our practical sessions this season focusing on the built environment. We will explore and develop our understanding of how to show perspective and research styles of architecture, developing drawing skills and painting techniques. As our previous sessions we will work from shared and self-chosen sources and video demonstrations.

As always, the course is designed for all levels. Beginners are especially welcome.

You will need to provide your own materials but will have ample notice of what may be required. You will be able to follow these sessions with a basic range of equipment.

Please email Helen & Margaret at ExploreArtJCLLC@gmail.com if you are interested. (This will help to plan the sessions.)

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Literature Course: 20th & 27th May

A Painter's Eye? An Introduction to the Short Stories by Anton Chekhov

Tutor: Tim Crocker

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 10.30-12.00



Raymond Carver declared 'Chekhov is the greatest short story writer that ever lived' – but critics have not always found it easy to identify quite what it is that sets his work apart. David Magarshack noted, 'reading them, one gets the impression of holding life itself like a fluttering bird in one's hand.' The dust jacket of his 1960s Penguin edition reached to the world of painting for comparisons, likening Chekhov's stories to the work of the Pointillistes: 'Piece by piece, episode by episode, character by character he constructs in prose a survey of the human condition.'

But how is this done? And to what extent is the process 'painterly'? And what was the significance of Chekhov's intimate friendship with a real painter – Isaac Levitan - to his writing? These are the questions we will be seeking to answer in these sessions. We will also take the opportunity to consider some of Levitan's wonderful landscape paintings.

20-May 'The Huntsman' (1885) and 'The Grasshopper' (1891),

27-May 'Gusev' (1890) and 'The House with the Mezzanine' (1896)

Note: Extracted Texts for all the above will be provided nearer the time via the

History Course: 3rd June to 1st July

Great Battles 451-1898

Tutor: John Sadler

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 10.30-12.00



Through these five sessions we will look at five key battles from across the globe, including how recent research has changed understanding of historical events. Please read the additional details for each session <u>HERE</u>.

03-Jun Catalaunian Plain 451 AD

10-Jun **Agincourt 1415**

17-Jun **Culloden 1746**

24-Jun **Balaklava 1854**

*If you need any help downloading or using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Archaeology Course: 29th April to 27th May

Pliny the Younger and His Letters

Tutor: Alan Beale

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.30



A series of talks exploring key periods in Hiberno-British history and reflecting on how events in one nation had unexpected consequences in the other.

We will examine familiar topics but in a broader context to better understand the deep and complex relationships between the various people of these Isles. The title of this series of talks is taken from the oldest known indigenous term for these islands together as a collective - the Islands of the Ocean - found in the 7th century Life of Columba by Adomnan of Iona.

29-Apr From Rome to the Vikings

06-May The Norman Isles

13-May New Divisions - Ireland and the Tudor world

20-May The Wars of the Three Kingdoms and the Two Kings

27-May From Union to Independence.

Narratives Course: 3rd June to 1st July

Contemporary Voices: Five Short Stories

Tutor: Bronwen Calvert

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 14.00-15.15* OR 15.45-17.00*

*If you would like to attend Bronwen's sessions please email Explorelitprog@gmail.com before the course starts. This will help us estimate numbers for the class and confirm times to help balance group sizes for discussions

We'll read a selection of short stories by writers of different nationalities and backgrounds. These works respond to and reflect on aspects of our contemporary world, sometimes in challenging ways. Reading this varied selection, we'll find insights and new perspectives that challenge dominant narratives.

03-Jun Kamila Shamsie, <u>'Our Dead, Your Dead'</u> (2011)

10-Jun Helen Oyeyemi, <u>'If A Book is Locked There's Probably A Good Reason For That Don't You think'</u>

17-Jun Ken Liu, <u>'Paper Menagerie'</u> (2012)

24-Jun (M. 6) Jun (M. 6) Jun

24-Jun Brian S Heap, 'Mafootoo' (2020)

01-Jul Souvankham Thammavongsa, <u>'How to Pronounce Knife'</u> (2017)

Note: Extracted Texts for all the above will be provided nearer the time via the Bulletin

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members' mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Friday

History Course: 30th April to 28th May

Newcastle and Northumberland in the First World War

Tutor: Neil Storey

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 10.30-12.00



A social history of the city and county from the outbreak of war in 1914 to the Armistice in 1918. We will explore patriotism, recruitment, soldier's experiences, life on the home front from Zeppelins to Munitionettes and consider the huge impact of the conflict on local families and communities.

All lectures will be well illustrated with photographs and period documents to help bring this subject to life, Neil Storey is an award winning historian, he has lectured and published on the First and the Second World Wars for over twenty-five years and frequently features as guest expert on radio and television factual programmes and documentaries.

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members' mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE



Friday

History Course: 4th June to 2nd July

'The Strange Death of Liberal England' Revisited: The decline of the Liberal

party, c. 1886 to 1935

Tutor: Nick Cott

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered live via Zoom

Time: 10.30-12.00



This course will examine the ideas and debates in the well-trodden field of research about the end of the Liberal party as a major political force by the middle of the twentieth century. It will look at the chronology of the decline focusing on the major issues in this development, starting with the split of the party over Irish Home Rule, then moving on to examine the turbulence of the Edwardian era, the impact of the First World War. For the inter-war period, it will examine the impact of the emergence of Labour and a revitalised Conservative party, the internal civil war (Liberal internal factionalism) and the impact of involvement in coalition governments. The course will recognise that decline was not a linear progression, not least as there were periods of Liberal success and recovery to examine, and it will question whether decline was inevitable. It will encourage debate around the views, and value, of George Dangerfield and his famous book, 'The Strange Death of Liberal England', which may be familiar to some of you, and the views of other historians, past and current, about Liberal party prospects and decline.

In format, this course will contain 5 sessions of 90 minutes with a mixture of formal presentation and seminar-style discussion

As with all sessions, any details needed in advance will be sent out via the members' mailout.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

LIVE ZOOM

Coffee Morning/Lunch with Friends of Explore

Venue/Format: This event will be delivered **via Zoom** *

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE

Once we've settled into Season Three, we might want a coffee and a chat between sessions, a chance to catch up socially and keep in touch.

If you would like to join one of these chat sessions please email friendsofexplore@gmail.com

We'll announce more details **via the members' mailouts** so keep an eye out for occasional catch up/
chat sessions with <u>Friends of Explore</u>.



The End of Explore Season Three For an overview of Season Three click **HERE**

Season One will start Autumn 2021

Did you know that we're a CHARITY? Find out more and donate via the link below:

