

EXPLORE



*Starting
Monday 2nd
October 2023*

Season 1
2023-24 programme

**Before Season One Starts...
Gordon Brown Memorial Lecture**



Free Public Lecture

**Tuesday 12th September 2023
18.00-19.00 Face to Face & Zoom**

Michael Chaplin

**'All at Sea: The Travels & Travails of a Tyne Sailor'
Plus sea-shanty sung by Jim Mageean**

BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET VIA EVENTBRITE

[Face to Face Tickets Here](#) or [Zoom Tickets Here](#)

In the 2023 Gordon Brown Memorial Lecture, writer Michael Chaplin will take us on an epic journey spanning 2,000 years and the Seven Seas of the world, with one common thread; the ships in this story all began or ended their voyages in the River Tyne.

**BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)**

Before Season One Starts...

EXPLORE

FREE Taster Event

Thursday 14th September 2023

11.00-12.30

Enjoy talks from expert tutors and
meet the organisation

Brunswick MC Hall

Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7BJ



Book your FREE place online [HERE on Eventbrite!](https://www.eventbrite.com/organizers/weareexplore)

Explore Season 1 Programme 2023-24

Welcome to our Season One Programme. True to our values of lifelong learning, our organisation has adapted to recent changes with flexibility and enthusiasm - we've settled into a new City Centre venue and now offer remote learning options as well as traditional Face-to-Face sessions. We're busy, thriving and very happy to present our programme for the next season this year here at Explore.

New joiners are very welcome, so if you would like to join Explore please [get in touch](#) or join our [mailing list](#) to find out more. You can find details in this programme and on our [website](#) too!

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

Art History & Design: Helen Watson & Hazel Mitrani

Narratives (Literature, Cinema and Music) : Rita Prabhu

Science & Mathematics: Pamela Denham

Culture & Society (incl. History & Archaeology): Kath Smith, Joy Rutter, Marie Browne, Lesley

Philosophy: Trish Hutson

Pringle & Joan Oliver

With direction from Anthea Lang & Malcolm Grady.

We are grateful to our hosts Brunswick Methodist Church and Newcastle Arts Centre for our current Face-to-Face lecture space.

***'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)**

Explore Season 1 Programme 2023-24

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 [get in touch](#) 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

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 usually with audience member microphones 'muted' during tutor presentation) Zoom details (invite links & relevant codes) will be sent to members in advance of the sessions. If you need assistance setting up Zoom on your computer/tablet click [HERE](#).

Face-To-Face Check Venue

Face-to-Face Sessions - our face-to-face sessions usually take place at Brunswick Methodist Church in central Newcastle, however we do occasionally hold sessions off-site or at Newcastle Arts Centre. Most sessions do not need to be booked however we do occasionally request members to register interest in advance (for example practical art classes or walks) to manage materials or group sizes.

BLENDED (F2F & Zoom)

Blended Sessions - Where appropriate we may combine methods and stream a live Face-to-Face session via Zoom as well. This is not available for all sessions due to the nature of sessions and available resources.



'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 weekly bulletin, 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.

We will also send any additional resources via the weekly bulletin in advance

Monday

Philosophy Course: *2nd to 30th October*

A Short Introduction to Philosophy

Tutor: Ian Ground

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



What can I know? How should I live? What am I?

These three questions are the heart of the ongoing conversation across millennia we call philosophy.

This short course will offer an introduction for those new to the subject and interested to find out more and as a refresher and reset course for those with more experience in the subject.

All inquiring minds are welcome.

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

**If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Monday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face (some Blended TBC)**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-12.00



Date	Tutor	Title
02 Oct	John Griffiths	Urban Jollifications
09 Oct	Anthea Lang	Celebrating People: Stories behind some of Newcastle's Plaques (Blended)
16 Oct	Harry Pearson	The Battle of Bylands: 1322
23 Oct	David Saunders	An Appealing Eerie Happenstance: Links between North-East England and Russia in the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries
30 Oct	John Castling	Rediscovering Auckland Castle: Recent excavations at the Bishop of Durham's Palace

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Art History Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face (some Blended TBC)**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-11.30



Date	Tutor	Title
06 Nov	Chris Wadsworth	Charles Oakley (1925-2008) Part One 'The Mysterious Mr Oakley', was head of fine art at Newcastle University and Johannes Vermeer (1632-1675) one of the greatest painters of all time. There is a strong connection with Charles Oakley! The topic will be spread over two sessions throwing Chicago modern architecture (Frank Lloyd Wright and Mies van der Rohe) into the pot as well. All of them are linked by an American called Fred. Quite an exciting story!
13 Nov	Lloyd Langley	Looking at buildings: 18th century Newcastle A personal look at surviving 18th century buildings in Newcastle, illustrated with photographs.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Art History Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face (some Blended TBC)**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-11.30



Date	Tutor	Title
20 Nov	David Faulkner	More than Just an Angel: The Life & Work of Antony Gormley (Blended) David was one of the "models" for the memorable "Domain Field" exhibition at Baltic twenty years ago. The presentation touches on his experience as a part of the exhibition but is also about Gormley's other work, both in the region (the Angel of the North and more) and internationally, including current installations.
27 Nov	Melanie Stephenson	A "Store of Treasures" - The Hatton Collection The beginnings of the Hatton Collection, its early years and acquisitions at the turn of the 20th century.
04 Dec	Jill Harrison	'Commemoration of myself' - The power of early Renaissance Patrons

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face (some Blended TBC)**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 12.30-13.30



Date	Tutor	Title
02 Oct	Ian McArdle	Rupert Bear (Blended)
09 Oct	Alison Menzies	A Conspicuous Situation: Building the Lit & Phil
16 Oct	John Griffiths	Eldon Square
23 Oct	Meg Kobza	Fashioning the Georgian Masquerade: Dress, Display and Debauchery
30 Oct	Malcolm Grady	The Month of October in History

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Art History Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face (some poss. Blended TBC)**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 12.00-13.00



Date	Tutor	Title
06 Nov	Chris Wadsworth	Charles Oakley (1925-2008) Part Two (Cont. See Page 8)
13 Nov	Lloyd Langley	Looking at buildings: 19th century Newcastle A personal look at surviving 19th century buildings in Newcastle, illustrated with photographs.
20 Nov	Annabelle Blackett	Pre-historic Art Forms and their Influence on my Contemporary Practice
27 Nov	Anthea Lang	Victorian Revival of Stained Glass (Blended) Despite its long use in churches, the practice of stained rather than painted glass had largely died out by the 19 th century when a complete revival of this method of decorating windows took place. This is a look at some of those designers and manufacturers, both locally based and further afield who provided some of the most vibrant decoration to adorn both existing and new churches and chapels.
04 Dec	Jill Harrison	Pelicans & Pomegranates: Strange Signs and Symbols in Renaissance Art

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Art History Course: *2nd to 30th October*

Re-thinking the Pre-Raphaelites

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face*** and **live via Zoom**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



The Pre-Raphaelites continue to be regularly exhibited and researched adding new perspectives to their art. This series is part of a sequence of 're-thinking' sessions, looking again at topics we may have covered some time ago.

02 Oct	Secret Seven
09 Oct	Rebels
16 Oct	Sisters
23 Oct	Nature
30 Oct	Local

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Monday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face (some poss. Blended TBC)**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 14.00-15.30



Date	Tutor	Title
06 Nov	Kendra Packham & Hillary Burlock	Eighteenth Century Political Participation and Electoral Culture
13 Nov	John Adams	Climate Change: The background, and how we as individuals can influence Big Oil and Big Finance
20 Nov	Jo Bath	The Rise & Fall of the Powdered Wig
27 Nov	Neil Storey	Bram Stoker - An exploration of the life and inspirations of Bram Stoker, author of Dracula, including his Northumberland family roots.
04 Dec	Malcolm Grady	The Month of October in History

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Culture & Society Course: *23rd October to 27th November (no session 20th Nov)*

After Rome: Between the Romans and the Normans

Tutor: David Burke

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30



Abandoned by Rome, told to look to their own defences by the Emperor, the Romano-Britons turned to various mercenaries to help defend their lands against raiders and invaders. Within a few generations, these peoples had become the dominant political group in much of Britain.

Taking influences from Christian Rome, the Irish, and their own mythologies, they created a new and distinct culture.

Beyond the borders of these new peoples were Irish colonisers in Wales, the emergence of the Welsh identity itself, the union of Gael and Pict in the far north.

It was an era of great kings, the struggles between Christianity and paganism, of the foundational myth of the English people.

This was Britain after Rome.

**If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Science Course: *3rd to 31st October*

The Geology of Mars

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

Time: 10.00 to 11.30



After Earth, Mars may be the most hospitable planet for life in the Solar System, so despite being further away than Venus, it has attracted much scientific attention in recent years. This short course explores the latest findings & stunning imagery coming from our near neighbour.

03 Oct Background

We'll start with a comparison of the geology of Venus, Earth and Mars. From a geological perspective they are very similar, even if their current surface conditions are very different. What do we know about their evolution as planets? A traveller's guide to Mars.

10 Oct A Historical Perspective on the Exploration of Mars.

Next we'll look at the search for life and successful missions and failures. Why have so many missions failed? We'll consider landing in a thin atmosphere, Martian weather, issues with dust etc.

17 Oct & 24-Oct Current NASA / ESA Missions and their Findings.

In this session we'll cover InSight (Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport), Mars Atmosphere and Volatile Evolution (MAVEN), Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, Mars Science Laboratory (Curiosity), Mars Express and Mars Odyssey

31 Oct The future Colonisation of Mars.

What will it take for humanity to establish a permanent base on Mars? We'll conclude by looking at plans for visiting The Moon in the next few years, thinking about the Moon as a stepping stone on the way to Mars, Elon Musk's ambition to get to Mars and SpaceX's incredible progress.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Philosophy Series: 24th & 31st October

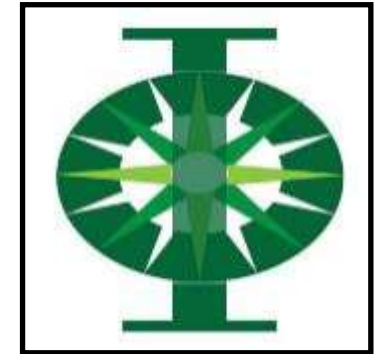
One-Off Philosophy Talks (Mary Midgley Bequest)

Tutor: Darren Harper

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



24 Oct **What is Stoicism?**

Stoicism is often misunderstood as languishing through life without complaint. In this talk, we will see how ancient thinkers such as Socrates and Zeno of Citium confronted one of the key questions of the ancient world: 'How should we live?' and supplied us with pragmatic ways in which to flourish.

31 Oct **George Dickie and the Institutional Theory of Art**

'What is a work of art?' and 'Is art egalitarian, or is it inherently elitist?' are just two of the questions we will explore in this session on the philosophy of art. George Dickie and the Institutional Theory of Art will help us in our understanding and exploration of these, and other, important questions.

This session is supported by the legacy of Mary Midgley (1919-2018)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Science One-Off: 7th November

Music & Brain Health: Can Playing a Musical Instrument Benefit Our Thinking Skills

Tutor: Ryan Gray

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

Time: 10.30 to 11.30



How might singing or playing a musical instrument affect the brain over time? Does musicality, or musical engagement, affect our thinking and problem solving skills? How might this change over time?

Understanding the effect of arts participation on cognitive ability, flexibility & longevity, especially at a time when arts funding & education is at risk, is key to properly valuing the impact of musical experience in society on a much broader scale.

Ryan Gray, researcher from Herriot-Watt University specialising in music and Neuroscience, will introduce us to a new project exploring the relationship between musical instrument engagement and singing experience, and the effects these activities have on thinking skills in older age.

(You can also participate in the research project [HERE](#))

**If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

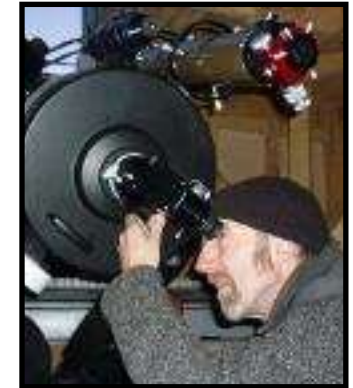
Science Course: *14th November to 5th December*

Recent Developments in Cosmology

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

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

Time: 10.30 to 11.30



In this series we will be considering a variety of topics of current interest in astronomy and cosmology.

We will begin by giving an update on the various space missions currently exploring the solar system - including the Mars rovers Curiosity and Perseverance, the Juno mission at Jupiter and its moons, as well as the missions to several asteroids.

I have previously shown some of the exciting new images from the long awaited James Webb Space Telescope, and next I will endeavour to give a summary of the latest results and discoveries and how they fit into our current understanding of the wider universe.

In the light of the first image of the supermassive black hole at the centre of our galaxy we will review the history of our understanding of our galaxy - the Milky Way - and look at the latest research allowing us to see its structure better than ever before.

We will also look at some of the latest images of other, more distant galaxies from telescopes around the world.

**If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Art Course: 7th November & 5th December (Part of 5 Sessions*)

Practical Art & Craft Studio - Artist Led Sessions with Jenny Alderson

Venue/Format: Art Room, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University

Time: 13.30 to 15.30 (*See below for Thursday session times)



*See also *Thursdays 16th to 23rd November (tutor-led)* on [Page 32](#)

Our Art and Craft Studio will run for 5 weeks. The programme will be led by Jenny Alderson, a local artist who has worked with us over the past year. Each season of 2023-24 will have a theme, e.g. colour, structure and pattern.

Jenny will introduce the theme our first session at the **Hatton Gallery Art Room**. She will give us a brief introduction, drawing attention to the artists and artworks to inspire us. She will then encourage us to use the art resources of the Hatton art room to start our practical activity.

The weeks 2-4 will be at the Newcastle Art Centre and Jenny will provide us with prompts for each of these sessions with suggestions on activities and materials to use.

The final week will be at the Hatton Gallery when we will be again joined by Jenny who will lead a discussion critiquing our work.

These art sessions are open to all Explore member. No prior art experience is necessary. We will happily welcome anyone wanting to join us for the first time.

**Tuesday 7 Nov & 5 Dec at the Art Room in the Hatton Gallery from 13.30 to 15.30*

Thursday 16, 23 & 30 Nov at the Newcastle Art Centre from 11.00 to 13.00

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Culture & Society Course: *3rd to 17th October*

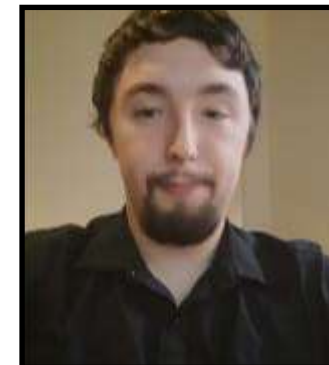
Tyneside and Italian Unification, 1848-61

Tutor: Daniel Riddell

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 14.00-15.30



A blue plaque in Tynemouth draws attention to the presence of the Italian freedom fighter Guiseppe Garibaldi on Tyneside in 1854. While heavily overselling this business trip to the Tyne, as captain of a coal ship, as an act of political internationalism, it correctly highlights the engagement of the Northeast with wider European freedom movements in the 19th century, including Italian unification.

This short course will provide a brief overview of this, covering the connection between bricks, bombs and biscuits.

03 Oct	Roman Republic and No Popery
10 Oct	Radicals and Rifles
17 Oct	Garibaldimania and the Thousand

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

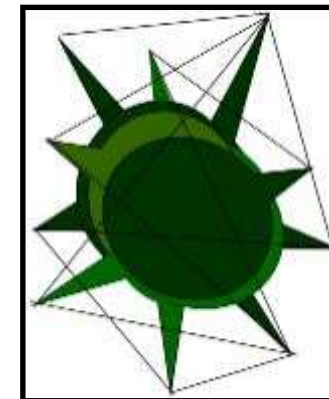
Science One-Off: *7th November*

Covid in Newcastle: A Photographic Record

Tutor: Tom Warburton

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Time: 14.00-15.30



Prior to his retirement Tom was a senior director at Newcastle City Council. As such he was closely involved with the city's response to the Covid-19 epidemic and oversaw several of the council's responses.

He therefore had unique access to some of the things that were going on to keep residents safe. As a keen amateur photographer he started taking his camera into work and trying to record what he could.

Once the lockdowns were lifted, he was able to widen this to record something of other organisations responses including, with tightly controlled access, the Hospital Trust.

Over the next two years this built into a unique record of Newcastle's response to Covid and has now been published as a photo book with proceeds going to charity.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

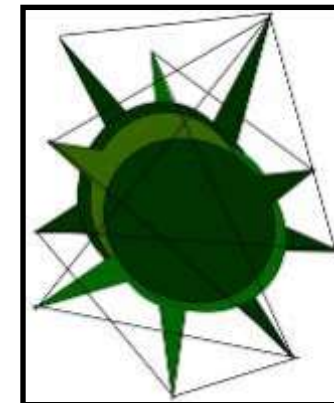
Science One-Off: *14th November*

The 2021 Teesside Crab Deaths: Why did they happen? Why should we care?

Tutor: Dr John Bothwell

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Time: 14.00-15.30



In the autumn of 2021, a large number of dying and distressed crabs were washed ashore along the coastlines of County Durham and Teesside. Initially dismissed as a toxic algal bloom, a re-investigation suggested more complex causes.

At the time of writing, it remains unclear whether the deaths were the result of legacy pollution from Teesside, a novel shellfish disease, or some as-yet-unknown factor.

One of the academics involved in the re-investigation, Dr John Bothwell, phycologist at Durham University and author of 'Seaweeds of the World' (Princeton University Press) will explain the science with which the deaths are being investigated.

He will also explain why the deaths matter, looking forward to think about how the fates of Northumbrian shellfish are forcing us to think about the UK's relationship with the seas and sediments that surround us.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

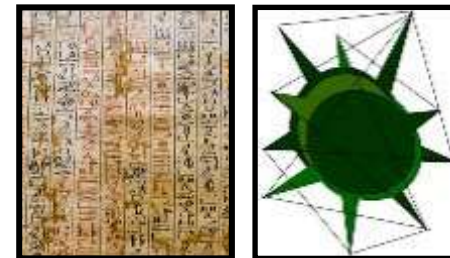
Tuesday

Science & Culture & Society Series:

One-Off Talks on the Theme of Power Generation

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Time: 14.00-15.30



Date	Tutor	Title
21 Nov	Henrietta Heald	<p>The Parsons Phenomenon: A Revolution in Power</p> <p>How Charles Parsons's invention of the compound steam turbine and its production on a vast scale changed the course of industrial history. This is the story of Parsons himself, his close associates and family, particularly his wife & daughter, Katharine & Rachel, who in 1919 founded the Women's Engineering Society.</p>
28 Nov	Dr Tony Unwin	<p>Offshore Renewable Energy Catapult in Blyth, Northumberland</p> <p>An introduction of the huge coal-fired power stations of the late 1950s through to the 1970s; the major change in the late 1980s which saw the industry being privatised & broken up into separate companies with multi-national ownership, the advent of cheap, quick-to-build new gas-fired power stations; and the 'greening' of the industry in the final years of the 20th century.</p>
05 Dec	Dr Tom McGovern	<p>Electricity Supply Industry in the North East</p> <p>The early days of the electricity supply industry in the North East and the personalities involved. The early period saw great manufactories established, creating many of the products needed for the power stations and the ancillaries of the new industry.</p>

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Music Course: *3rd October to 14th November (No Class 24th & 31st Oct)*

Exploring Music Through the Season of the Year

Tutor: Mike Green

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30



As we move through from autumn into winter we will take the opportunity to explore music that was influenced by the changing patterns and events of the year, both calendar and liturgical.

03 Oct	Black History Month
10 Oct	Autumn
17 Oct	The Seasons
24 Oct	NO CLASS
31 Oct	NO CLASS
07 Nov	Fireworks
14 Nov	Advent

There will be plenty of musical examples to listen to and no formal musical knowledge is necessary.

**If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

Literature Short Course: 22nd November to 6th December

Is it about a bicycle? A reading of Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman*

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

Time: 10.00-11.30



Brian O'Nolan (1911-66) was one of the most significant and mercurial figures in 20th century Irish literature, and a man of many masks. As 'Myles Na Gopaleen' (or na gCopanleen when writing it in Irish) he was the author of a brilliantly satirical column in *The Irish Times*, under which guise he also wrote the Irish language novel, *An Béal Bocht* (*The Poor Mouth*). But he is best known for the novels he wrote in English using the pseudonym 'Flann O'Brien'.

The Third Policeman (written 1939-40) is one of his most intriguing works, a strange combination of dreamscape and comic nonsense world, part Lewis Carroll, part Franz Kafka, part James Joyce... and yet with a voice all its own.

It would be helpful if you could read the first two chapters of the novel before the first Session. Text: Flann O'Brien (2007) *The Third Policeman* New York: Harper Perennial. This is available in paperback and kindle and also on Audible.

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

Literature Course: 4th October to 15th November (No session 1st & 8th Nov)

Literary Landscapes

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



How do modern American writers use the environment to inform us about particular themes, characters and contexts? In this course we will be discussing the representations of a range of landscapes in twentieth-century prose and poetry. We will begin with Edith Wharton's New-England novella 'Ethan Frome', move on to Tobias Wolff's short story, 'Hunters in the Snow' and conclude with Annie Proulx's *The Shipping News*.

04 Oct	Edith Warton's <i>Ethan Frome</i>
11 Oct	Edith Warton's <i>Ethan Frome</i> (cont.) and Tobias Wolff's short story, 'Hunters in the Snow'
18 Oct	Annie Proulx's <i>Shipping News</i>
25 Oct	NO CLASS
01 Nov	NO CLASS
08 Nov	Annie Proulx's <i>Shipping News</i> (cont.)
15 Nov	Selected Poetry

*If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

Literature One-Off: *1st November*

The Intolerable Agitation of Soul - Edgar Allan Poe's 'The Fall of the House of Usher'

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

Time: 14.00-15.30



Pioneer of the short story, inventor of detective fiction, father of American gothic, horror writer supreme... Edgar Allan Poe (1809-49) has his fair share of literary foundation myths. But his best stories transcend genre.

In this session we'll conduct a close reading of one of the richest, 'The Fall of the House of Usher' (1839).

It would be helpful if you could read the story beforehand - a pdf copy will be circulated. All Poe's writing is available in a variety of editions in paperback and kindle, and also on Project Gutenberg.

**If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

Literature Course: 22nd November to 6th December

A Look at Romance in British Cinema

Tutor: Roger Mitchell

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 13.30-15.30



In these three sessions we will be looking at how romance is employed in three very different British films.

We will start with *Letter to Brezhnev* (Chris Bernard, 1985), a social-realist film set in Liverpool, which depicts the resilience of a young woman who is determined to escape the devastating effects of Margaret Thatcher's economic policies.

Our second film will be *Atonement* (Joe Wright, 2007), which has been widely hailed as a masterpiece and recounts a crime and its consequences over the course of six decades, beginning in the 1930s.

Our final film will be *Becoming Jane* (Julian Jarrold, 2007), a controversial biographical period drama based on the early life of Jane Austen. Importantly, the film depicts a number of pivotal events in Austen's life - which were largely unknown until relatively recently - and how these affected both her and her work.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Culture & Society Series: *5th & 12th October*

Wherrymen & Chain Horse Lads

Tutor: Mike Greatbatch

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne & Walk (See Below)

Time: 10.30-12.00



05 Oct River Work and Carting Trades, Quayside & Ouseburn

Join Mike Greatbatch for a 90-minute lecture on the men and boys employed in water and transport c1800-1950.

12 Oct Guided Visit to an original 1890s Stables and sites associated with historic transport in the Ouseburn

Meet outside the Tanners' Arms public house, New Bridge Street. Buses from Eldon Square alight at St Dominic's Church; Metro alight at Manors and walk east along New Bridge Street. We might also visit the 'new' stables at bottom of Stepney Bank, by way of contrast with the old one.



Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

One-Off Philosophy Session: *12th October*

Criminology & Crime Control from 1750 to the Present (Mary Midgley

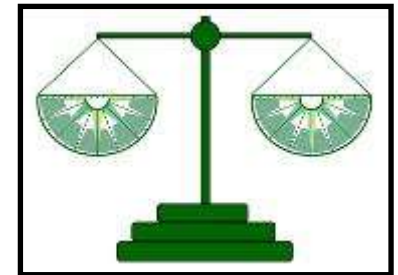
Tutor: John Shepherd

Bequest)

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-12.30



How have criminologists attempted to understand and control crime throughout modern history?

During the Enlightenment philosophers, lawyers, and reformers challenged the harsh sentences and tortures by which medieval and early modern rulers punished sinners and criminals. In this period 'classical' criminology appealed to common humanity to deter and, hopefully rehabilitate offenders but what if the criminal resisted reformation?

In the 19th and 20th centuries biological, sociological, and psychological theories would try to explain the 'born criminal', the juvenile delinquent and the insane or psychopathic offender.

More recently, attempts have been made to predict and pre-empt crime before it is even committed.

In following this development, we will explore the changing boundaries of crime and 'normal' behaviour and ask, where do we draw the line between safety and surveillance?

This session is supported by the legacy of Mary Midgley (1919-2018)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Philosophy & Classics Course: *19th October to 2nd November*

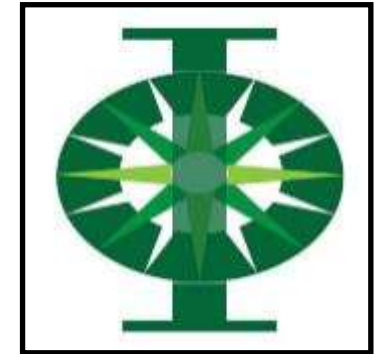
An Introduction to Greek Philosophy (Mary Midgley Bequest)

Tutor: Jordan Bayley

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-11.30



This short course will explore the birth and development of Greek philosophy from the early Pre-Socratic philosophers to the advent of Stoicism. It will also explore the impact Greek philosophers had, on both ancient and modern thought.

This course will be suitable for those who are new to the subject of Greek philosophy as well as those who have some grounding in the topic. All are welcome.

19 Oct	The Pre-Socratics: Thales (c.626/3BC) to Diogenes (c.460 BC)
26 Oct	Philosophy in the Greek Golden Age: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle
02 Nov	Philosophy Post-Aristotle: Epicurus (341 BC) to Epictetus (c.50 AD)

This session is supported by the legacy of Mary Midgley (1919-2018)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Art Course: 16th to 30th November (Part of 5 Sessions*)

Practical Art & Craft Studio - Group Led Sessions

Venue/Format: Newcastle Arts Centre, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 11.00 to 13.00 (*See below for Tuesday session times)



*See also *Tuesday 7th November & 5th December (tutor-led)* on [Page 19](#)

Our Art and Craft Studio will run for 5 weeks. The programme will be led by Jenny Alderson, a local artist who has worked with us over the past year. Each season of 2023-24 will have a theme, e.g. colour, structure and pattern.

Jenny will introduce the theme our first session at the Hatton Gallery Art Room. She will give us a brief introduction, drawing attention to the artists and artworks to inspire us. She will then encourage us to use the art resources of the Hatton art room to start our practical activity.

The weeks 2-4 will be at the **Newcastle Art Centre** and Jenny will provide us with prompts for each of these sessions with suggestions on activities and materials to use.

The final week will be at the Hatton Gallery when we will be again joined by Jenny who will lead a discussion critiquing our work.

These art sessions are open to all Explore member. No prior art experience is necessary. We will happily welcome anyone wanting to join us for the first time.

**Tuesday 7 Nov & 5 Dec at the Art Room in the Hatton Gallery from 13.30 to 15.30*

Thursday 16, 23 & 30 Nov at the Newcastle Art Centre from 11.00 to 13.00

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Culture & Society Course: *9th November to 7th December*

China in the 1920s

Tutor: John Griffiths

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-12.00



The 1920s were a turbulent decade in China. The country was still in the process of adapting to life as a republic, following the ousting of the last imperial dynasty in 1911-12, and the twenties were a period of turmoil and contradictions. Attempts at modernisation were undermined by endemic civil war; political movements competed to capture the future of China; imperialism was challenged, but was resurgent again by the end of the decade. It was a period that has left its mark on China today.

There is a more detailed outline of each session [HERE](#)

09 Nov	Failed State?
16 Nov	Nationalist Resurgence
23 Nov	Red Dawn
30 Nov	Imperialism. Resistance and Resurgence
07 Dec	Culture and Society

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Narratives Course: *23rd November to 7th December*

Exciting Short Fiction from 6½ Continents

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Format: These sessions will be delivered **via Zoom**

Time: 10.30-12.00



The stories we'll look at reflect a diverse range of countries and cultures from across the globe. Some are by celebrated figures like Ursula Le Guin, Haruki Murakami and Mavis Gallant, some by lesser-known but acclaimed writers. Written over the last half-century or so, together they showcase a huge variety of approaches to this constantly self-renewing fictional form.

But why six *and a half* continents, you might be asking. All will be explained ...

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|--------|--|
| 23 Nov | Mavis Gallant's In the Tunnel , Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o's Minutes of Glory and Radwa Ashour's The Man Sitting in the Park is Waiting |
| 30 Nov | David Malouf's Great Day , Haruki Murakami's The Ice Man and László Krasnahorkai's I Don't Need Anything From Here |
| 07 Dec | João Guimarães Rosa's The Third Bank of the River , Ursula Le Guin's Sur and Layla Baalbaki's The Cat |

**If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

Literature Course: *5th to 26th October*

Celebrating Margaret Oliphant

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

Time: 14.30-16.00



Margaret Oliphant was a published author before she was 22, and wrote over 120 works in her lifetime. Her writing was complimented as being compelling without resorting to sensationalism.

Virginia Woolf, however, later stated that Oliphant 'sold her brain, her very admirable brain, prostituted her culture and enslaved her intellectual liberty in order that she might earn her living and educate her children'.

Oliphant's writing is both conservative and satirical; she embraces the attitudes of her times whilst also criticising them. What is our view of this intriguing, prolific author? Is it time to celebrate Margaret Oliphant?

Note : Texts will be provided nearer the time via the Bulletin

**If you need any help downloading and using Zoom there is an information sheet [HERE](#)*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

Literature Course: 9th November to 7th December

Form and Theme in Poetry 5

Tutor: Bronwen Calvert

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



We join the new Explore year with a selection of poems from a variety of times, places & perspectives. Each week we'll read and discuss a few poems on a single theme, and look at formal features of each poem such as rhyme and rhythm, imagery and tone. How do different poets approach similar themes?

- | | | |
|--------|------------|---|
| 09 Nov | Birds | Dean Atta's April Evening in Cyprus (2016) John Clare's The Skylark (1835)
Emily Dickinson's 'Hope' is the Thing with Feathers (c. 1861, published 1891) |
| 16 Nov | Family | Kwame Dawes' A Way of Seeing (1996) Seamus Heaney's Digging (1966) Hannah Lowe's 'Genealogy' (2014) |
| 23 Nov | Music | Elizabeth Bishop's I Am In Need of Music (1928) Amy Lowell's Listening (1912)
Louis MacNeice's Bagpipe Music (1938) |
| 30 Nov | Work | Thomas Hood's The Song of the Shirt (1843) Philip Larkin's Toads (1953; published 1955) Marge Piercy's 'The Secretary Chant' (1973) |
| 07 Dec | Boundaries | Tony Harrison's Them and [uz] I and II' (1978) Simon Armitage's 'Poundland' (2017) Mary Oliver's 'Breakage' (2023) |

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Friday

One-Off Film Sessions: *6th October*

Face-to-Face Friday Film Morning - Spirit of the Beehive

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-12.30



In this one-off Film session Peter Quinn will introduce and discuss Director Victor Erice's 1973 'Spirit of the Beehive'.

'Full of spellbinding imagery, Victor Erice's debut doubles as an allegory on the Franco dictatorship and one of cinema's most poignant dramatisations of an introverted child's wide-eyed wonder and terror.' [Sam Wigley, 10 Great Films about Childhood BFI.](#)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Friday

One-Off Art History Sessions: 13th October to 3rd November

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face and Blended**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-12.30



In each 'double-bill' the tutor will cover two talks within the 2-hour slot, and will negotiate breaktime with the group directly.

Date	Tutor	Title
13 Oct	Peter Quinn	1.) Henri Cartier-Bresson (Blended) 2.) Snap! Thinking About Photography: 10 Examples to Debate & Discuss (F2F)
20 Oct	Peter Quinn	1.) Martin Parr (Blended) 2.) Smile! Thinking About Photography: 10 Examples to Debate & Discuss (F2F)
27 Oct	Peter Quinn	1.) Chris Killip (Blended) 2.) Real. Thinking About Photography: 10 Examples to Debate & Discuss (F2F)
03 Nov	Stephen Moonie	1.) Annette Michelson's Art Criticism (Blend) 2.) The Journal Art-Language's Polemic Against John Berger's Ways of Seeing (Blended)

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Friday

Culture & Society Course: 6th October to 3rd November

An Introduction to Medieval Medicine

Tutor: Jo Bath

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



Suppose you fell ill, in the year 1400.

Who could you go to for help, how would they explain the problem, and what treatments would they recommend?

What was it like in hospital?

What *is* the balance of your humours, and why does it matter what star sign you are?

We'll look at a wide range of sources from saintly portraits to urine wheels, floor plans to prescriptions, trial records to textbooks, to figure out whether you'd be better off just staying in bed!

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Friday

Culture & Society Course: *10th November to 8th December*

British Politics and Identities, 1900-1939

Tutor: Nick Cott

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face** and **live via Zoom**

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



This series will explore how British politics interacted with the theme of identities within the United Kingdom during this period. It will show that British politics was very much involved with, and shaped by, the various identities of the nations of the UK, despite the supposed prevalence of Britishness as a unifying element which cut across these identities. It will give insight into how politics was shaped by the nations of the UK and also minority communities. It will also show that how identities were handled by politicians was shaped by external, as well as internal factors to the United Kingdom, not least due to views about imperialism and Britain's place in the world.

The weekly topics focus on a number of key examples associated with the theme for detailed consideration.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 10 Nov | Britishness and politics in the United Kingdom |
| 17 Nov | Scotland and the politics of the United Kingdom |
| 24 Nov | Wales and the politics of the United Kingdom |
| 01 Dec | Ireland and the politics of the United Kingdom |
| 08 Dec | Minority communities in the United Kingdom |

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)



Explore JCLLC 10th Birthday Party

**Friday 20th October 2023
13.00—15.45**

Explore Members and Course Tutors past and present are warmly invited to celebrate the start of our 10th Year as an independent, member-led organisation.

Come and enjoy good company, music, food and fizz (and cake of course!)
as we celebrate our first decade together.

RSVP to [Friends of Explore HERE](#)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Coffee Morning, Lunch or a Catch Up with Friends of Explore

Once we've settled into this season, we might want another get-together, perhaps a group meal or a walk, or a quiet coffee and a chat between sessions.

If you'd like to help organise a social event, or would appreciate a friendly natter over a cuppa (face to face or via Zoom) get in touch.

We'll announce more details of any social events **via the weekly bulletins** so keep an eye out for events and news from [Friends of Explore](#).

If you would like to join us or have any suggestions for a meet-up please email friendsofexplore@gmail.com



Face-To-Face
Check Venue

LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS

The End of Explore Season One

**Season Two 2023-24 will start
Monday 15th January 2024**

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



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