

# EXPLORE



*Starting  
Monday 15th  
January 2024*

**Season 2  
2023-24 programme**

**Before Season Two Starts...**

**For more Events view [HERE](#)**

# EXPLORE

## FREE Taster Event

Tuesday 9th January 2024

14.00-15.30

Enjoy talks from expert tutors and  
meet the organisation

**Brunswick Methodist Church Hall**

Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7BJ

*(Behind Monument Waterstones & Fenwicks/Northumberland St)*



Book your FREE place online [HERE on Eventbrite!](#)

# FREE Public Event

# EXPLORE

Thursday 7th March 2024 18.00-19.00

Professor Dame Louise Robinson DBE

'Dementia:

Focus on Care, Prevention & Cure'

See [Page 40](#) for more details

Book your FREE place via Eventbrite - Available Soon!

*This session is part of our 2024 International Women's Day event. See also [Page 9](#) and [Page 13](#).*



International  
Women's Day



# Explore Season 2 Programme 2023-24



**Welcome to our Season Two 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, Marie Browne, Lesley Pringle &

Philosophy: Trish Hutson

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 spaces.

***'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 2 Programme 2023-24

**How will sessions be delivered?** Members will receive additional information about accessing different sessions, but if you're unsure please [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:

## 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 very occasionally request members register interest in advance (for example practical art classes or walks) to manage materials or group sizes.

## 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](#).

## 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 appropriate for all sessions due to the nature of sessions and resources.

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

## Monday

**Philosophy Course:** 15th January to 12th February

### Moral Quandary

**Tutor:** Ian Ground

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

**Time:** 10.30 to 12.00



We face moral quandaries when we are unable to decide how to do what is morally right and avoid what is morally wrong.

Ethical Optimists hold that it is always possible to do what is right even if, here and now, we can't tell what the right thing is to do is. That is, our moral thinking is, at bottom, complete, coherent and consistent. Moral quandary is a function of ignorance.

Ethical Pessimists holds that even when we know all that we can know, it may still not be possible to do what is right. Our moral thinking is shot through with irresolvable tensions and contradictions. Moral quandary - and tragedy - is, sometimes, a function of these tensions.

Should we be Ethical Optimists or Ethical Pessimists? We will examine several apparent tensions in moral thinking: Moral Luck, Double Effect, Intentional Action and Side Effects, and the moral significance of causal and social proximity.

*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**

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

**Time:** 10.30-12.00



Date	Tutor	Title
15 Jan	Rachel Frame	"The Magna Project": Reinterpreting a Roman Milecastle
22 Jan	Colm O'Brien	Celebrations: St. Cuthbert Enters his New Cathedral, 1104
29 Jan	David Jones	Investigating a medieval settlement in Upper Coquetdale
05 Feb	Mike Barke	Thomas Sopwith: Celebrating a Victorian Polymath
12 Feb	Gareth Powells	Energy Transitions in Crisis

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Monday

### One-Off Art History Sessions:

**Format:** These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face and Blended (see below)**

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

**Time:** 10.30-11.30



Date	Tutor	Title
19 Feb	Chris Daunt	The Art and Craft of Wood Engraving

26 Feb	Malcolm Gee	Celebrating: Douanier Rousseau
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04 Mar	(Elizabeth Cumming Zoom Only - See <a href="#">Page 9</a> )	
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11 Mar	(Henry Martin Zoom Only - See <a href="#">Page 10</a> )	
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18 Mar	Anthea Lang	Arts and Crafts Stained Glass <b>(Blended)</b>
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Under the influence of figures such as Henry Holiday and Christopher Whall (and not forgetting Morris & Co!), stained glass developed from the quasi medieval of the 1840s to a new level where the architecture was an integral part of the stained glass design and where the craftsman was his own man.

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**



## Monday

### One-Off Art History Sessions: 4th March

#### The Art and Craft of Phoebe Anna Traquair

**Tutor:** Elizabeth Cumming

**Venue/Format:** This session will be delivered **live via Zoom**

**Time:** 10.30 to 11.30



The artist Phoebe Anna Traquair (1852-1936) was a key figure in the Scottish Arts & Crafts movement who also became an honorary member of the Royal Scottish Academy.

In this online talk her biographer Elizabeth Cumming explores the life and work of this largely forgotten artist's career from ambitious mural decorations in Edinburgh to large-scale embroideries, finely illuminated manuscripts and exquisite enamelled jewellery.

Her many crafts may be seen today in the National Museum of Scotland and her remarkable suite of embroideries *The Progress of a Soul* in the new Scottish Galleries at the National Gallery of Scotland.

***This session is part of our 2024 International Women's Day event.***

***Non-members are encouraged to attend, so please [Contact Us](#) to arrange a Free Taster session and more details. (See more IWD events on [Page 13](#) & [Page 40](#))***

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



International  
Women's Day

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Monday

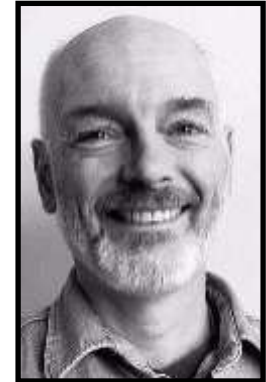
**One-Off Art History Sessions:** *11th March*

**Two Talks by Artist Henry Martin**

**Tutor:** Henry Martin

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

**Time:** 10.30 to 11.30 and 11.45 to 12.45



In this double-session we welcome artist Henry Martin to present two talks:

**10.30-11.30 Vincent Van Gogh's Advice for Other Artists**

**11.45-12.45 Henry Martin's Own Art Work (and what works for him)**

Henry Martin is an artist, writer and spiritual director. He has worked as an ordained Anglican priest in Dagenham and Salford and for seven years, as a Chaplain of Strangeways Prison. He currently lives in France and paints the local area. He is also a cartoonist and illustrator. Henry is inspired by Van Gogh and has written a book about the artist, *'Vincent and The Good Samaritan: The Wounded Painter's Journey'*.

*\*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 poss Blended TBC)**

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

**Time:** 12.30-13.30



Date	Tutor	Title
15 Jan	Ged Parker	Washington New Town: 60 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary
22 Jan	John Griffiths	'The most exciting Act' – 75 years of National Parks in the UK
29 Jan	Malcolm Grady	When Eileen Met Eric: The story of Eileen O'Shaughnessy & George Orwell
05 Feb	Anthea Lang	Celebrating green spaces: Newcastle & Gateshead
12 Feb	Hugh & Melinda Firth	Love, Loyalty and Deceit: Rosemary Firth, A Life in the Shadow of Eminent Men

**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
19 Feb	Jane Scott	How to Knit a Building: Using Knitted Fabrics in Biotechnologies for Architectural Application
26 Feb	Malcolm Gee	Celebrating: The British Political Cartoon
04 Mar	No session	
11 Mar	(Henry Martin Zoom Only - See <a href="#">Page 10</a> )	
18 Mar	Ayako Tani	Calligraphic Mark-Making with Glass

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Monday

**Art History and Culture & Society One-off:** *11th March*

### **The Pioneering Women of Early Medieval Textile Analysis**

**Tutor:** Alexandra Makin

**Venue/Format:** This session will be delivered **live via Zoom**

**Time:** 13.30 to 15.00



The study and analysis of textiles dating to the early medieval period in the British Isles (450–1100 CE) was pioneered by women. While the collection and early research of these fragile fabrics was undertaken by antiquarians in the 19th century, the dawn of the 20th century saw a shift from male to female interest in the subject and the development of more scientific approaches to analysis.

To celebrate International World Women's Day, this talk explores the development of early medieval textile analysis from its beginnings to the present day, highlighting the sometimes-unexpected ways these women came to be pioneers of the study of early medieval textiles in the British Isles.

***This session is part of our 2024 International Women's Day event.***

***Non-members are encouraged to attend, so please [Contact Us](#) to arrange a Free Taster session and more details. (See more IWD events on [Page 9](#) & [Page 40](#))***

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



International  
Women's Day

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**



## Monday

**Art History Course:** *15th January to 12th February*

### Re-Thinking Arts & Crafts

**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



Artists, work and ideas from the Arts & Crafts Movement continue to hold a place in the Nation's creative imagination. This series is part of a sequence of 're-thinking' sessions, looking again at topics we may have covered some time ago.

15 Jan	Becoming William
22 Jan	Oxford Chums
29 Jan	The Firm
05 Feb	Nowhere
12 Feb	After Morris

*\*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
19 Feb	David Saunders	The Geordie Master Spy: Rudolf Abel (1903 – 1971)
26 Feb	John Griffiths	Who Governs Britain? 1974 – The year of two elections
04 Mar	Sue Turnbull	My Life as a Digger
11 Mar	(Alexandra Makin Zoom Only - See <a href="#">Page 13</a> )	
18 Mar	Malcolm Grady	The Great Divide: Testing the North-South divide from a local as well as national perspective, with a focus on Newcastle and Sunderland.

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Monday

**Culture & Society Course:** *15th January to 19th February (No session 29th Jan)*

### **Irish Mythology and Folklore**

**Tutor:** David Burke

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

**Time:** 18.00 to 19.30



In this series we will explore the ancient native myths of Gaelic Ireland, inventive tales of the early Christian era, and the preservation of folklore.

This will be built on a mixture of narrative texts, historical contexts, and a gentle introduction into the Irish language. From the *aos si* of the Otherworld and the mythical first humans to inhabit Ireland to the preservation efforts of the Irish Folklore Commission, we will see how the myths and legends of Ireland continue to inspire and delight.

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Tuesday

**Science Course:** *16th January to 13th February*

### **Terroir and the Geology of French Wines**

**Tutor:** Derek Teasdale

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

**Time:** 10.30 to 12.00



Do you have a favourite French wine - Beaujolais, Burgundy, Bordeaux?

Or perhaps plain old Champagne?

What are the unique characteristics of a region or vineyard (the 'terroir') that help create a specific variety of wine?

This five week course will explore the regional geology of France and how it influences the local wines.

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

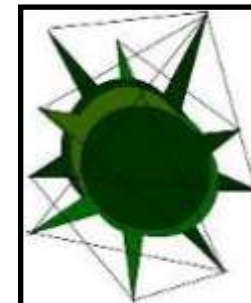
## Tuesday

**Science Sessions:** 20th February to 19th March

### Ageing Well

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

**Time:** 10.30-11.30



What do we mean by 'ageing well'? What can research teach us about physical, mental and societal aspects of life and health?

Date	Tutor	Title
20 Feb	Prof Lynne Corner	Innovation for Healthy Longevity (UK National Innovation Centre for Ageing)
27 Feb	Dr Greg Elder	The Importance of Sleep We spend approximately 1/3 of our lives asleep, so it must be important, and sleep is a surprisingly fascinating and complicated process. this talk will explain how sleep has a very close relationship with health and highlight research studies which show that good sleep is very important for our physical, psychological and brain health.
5 Mar	Prof Paul Watson	Transforming Healthcare through Data Science & AI Director of the UK & National Innovation Centre for Data and Professor of Computer Science at Newcastle University.
12 Mar	Dr Antoneta Granic	Nutrition for Skeletal Muscle Health with Ageing: The Latest News A roundup from AGE Research Fellow at the Biomedical Research Centre and Senior Research Associate at the Institute of Neuroscience, Newcastle University.
19 Mar	Dr Ellie Hayes	What Everybody Should Know About Exercise for Older Adults This session will look at the basics of the different types of exercise & why these are beneficial before providing evidence for the current guidelines, plus a small section surrounding myths of exercise for older adults.

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**



## Tuesday

**Art Course:** *16th January & 13th February (Part of 5 Sessions\*)*

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

**Venue:** 16th January - Newcastle Arts Centre, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne

13th February - Art Room, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University

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



\*See also *Thursdays 25th January to 8th February (group-led)* on [Page 34](#)

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 has a theme, eg colour, structure and pattern.

The theme for Season 2 will be Line & Form, inspired by **Paul Klee's *Pedagogical Sketchbook*** (the book where he famously writes of 'taking a dot for a walk' to become a line) as a jumping-off point.

Jenny will introduce the theme in the first session at Newcastle Arts Centre. She will give us a brief introduction, drawing attention to the artists and artworks which might inspire us.

The next 3 weeks will be on Thursdays at the Newcastle Art Centre and Jenny will provide us with prompts for each of these 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 sessions are open to any Explore member. No prior art experience is necessary. We will happily welcome any members wanting to join us for the first time.

*\*Tuesday 16th Jan (Arts Centre) & 13th Feb (Hatton Gallery) from 13.30 to 15.30  
Thursday 25th Jan, 1st & 8th Feb at the Newcastle Art Centre from 11.00 to 13.00*

**Face-To-Face  
Check Venue**

## Tuesday

**Literature Short Course:** *16th to 30th January*

**Earwitness - A Reading of Henry Green's *Living***

**Tutor:** Tim Crocker

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



Green, from a Birmingham manufacturing family, was an innovative, subtle novelist of manners, whose signature was an attentive ear for dialogue, generally that of the same sort of upper-class characters as Virginia Woolf or Evelyn Waugh. In *Living*, however, he splits his attention between the factory owners and the factory floor.

(With reference to the following edition: Henry Green, (2005) *Loving, Living, Party Going* with an introduction by Sebastian Faulks London: Vintage Classics)

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Tuesday

**Literature One-Off Session:** *6th February*

***The Fair Jilt* by Aphra Behn**

**Tutor:** Tim Crocker

**Venue/Format:** This session will be delivered **live via Zoom**

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



This one-off session will focus on a short prose fiction by Aphra Behn, *The Fair Jilt*, amongst the earliest such work by a woman in the English language.

Text will be provided nearer the time.

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Tuesday

**One-off Philosophy & Literature Session:** *13th Feb*

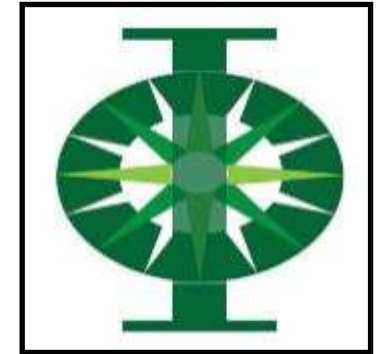
**Beauty and the Good in Iris Murdoch's *The Bell* (Mary Midgley Bequest)**

**Tutor:** Darren Harper

**Format:** This session will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



Murdoch's philosophy is often overlooked in favour of her novels.

In this talk we will explore how Murdoch successfully intertwines philosophy and literature on her novel *The Bell*.

Transcending the limitations of the philosophy of her time, Murdoch synthesises Plato's thought with elements of Existentialism to create a new philosophy for life, lived out by her characters to rich effect.

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

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Tuesday

**Music Course:** *16th January to 13th February*

**An A to Z of Music**

**Tutor:** Mike Green

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

**Time:** 18.00 to 19.30



Composers, instruments, works, technical terms and more from Aa to Zyklus, these sessions will cover a lot of ground, but there will still be plenty of time to enjoy musical examples. We will set out on a wide-ranging exploration of musical topics in alphabetical order, beginning with A to E in Season 1 before continuing through the alphabet in subsequent seasons.

16 Jan	A
23 Jan	B
30 Jan	C
06 Feb	D
13 Feb	E

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

**Culture & Society Course:** *17th to 31st January*

**Historical Change Viewed Through the Visual Image**

**Tutor:** Malcolm Grady

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

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

**Time:** 10.30-12.00



The theme of these three lectures is to explore how historical change is seen through the medium of the visual image.

- |        |                                                         |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 Jan | Political change through the medium of the visual image |
| 24 Jan | Social change through the medium of the visual image    |
| 31 Jan | Climate change through the medium of the visual image   |

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Wednesday

**Art & Architecture One-Off:** 7th February

**A Visit to the Farrell Centre, Newcastle University**

**Format:** This session will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

**Venue:** Farrell Centre, Eldon Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RD

**Time:** 10.30-12.00 (Meet 10.30 in the foyer)



Following a successful tour of the newly opened Farrell Centre last year, our 2nd visit to the Farrell Centre is to see the exhibition "The Architect Has Left the Building".

We will watch a film, perhaps discuss what we have seen and then have a tour round the rest of the exhibition with the option of refreshments to follow.

There is a second exhibition called "Direct Me" about the study of spatial knowledge and how we view our cities.

*This session has a maximum capacity of 25 so we will be asking members to book nearer the time and more details will be circulated via the members' bulletin. It will also help the organisers manage access & timings at the venue if we know how many in the group would prefer to use the lift for the visit, so please [email the office](#) it let us know if you might need to use the lift.*



**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

More details will be circulated in advance of the session via the members' mailout.

## Wednesday

**Culture & Society Course:** *14th to 28th February*

**Family History - Conundrums, Counting & Complications**

**Tutor:** Anthea Lang

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

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

**Time:** 10.30-12.00



Doing family history can be like opening Pandora's box – you never know quite what you will find.

Anthea has been exploring her own family history for 20 years and in this three week course discusses not just what she found but how she found it. She will also cover the background to the major family history resources such as censuses, civil registration and parish records.

- |        |                                                                           |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 14 Feb | Where Did All the Money Go - Some conundrums in family history            |
| 21 Feb | Making Sense of the Census - Why did the Victorians love to count         |
| 28 Feb | Hatches, Matches & Dispatches - Exploring civil and church record keeping |

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Wednesday

**Philosophy & Classics Course:** *6th to 20th March*

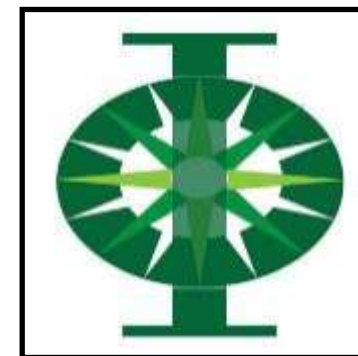
**How to Live: Philosophy in the Greek Golden Age (Mary Midgley Bequest)**

**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 some of the main themes across the Golden Age of Greek Philosophy as found in the works of Plato and Aristotle.

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 members are welcome.

06 Mar      What is a soul? Plato, Aristotle on what it means to exist

13 Mar      How to build a society. Plato, Aristotle, and the developments of political philosophy

20 Mar      How to live a good life. Plato, Aristotle, and the nature of morality

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

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Wednesday

**Literature Course:** 17th January to 14th February

**The One and the Many: Autonomy and Community**

**Tutor:** Rachel Lister

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



How do we define individuality and community? To what extent does our sense of self develop from within and how much does it rely on relationships with others? What roles do solitude and community play in our lives?

We will consider three texts by contemporary writers, who explore these weighty themes through their manipulation of narrative perspective, style and literary form. We will look at Jhumpa Lahiri's novella *Whereabouts*, Claire Keegan's novella *Small Things Like These*, and Kazuo Ishiguro's most recent novel, *Klara and the Sun*. Texts will be provided nearer the time via the Members' Bulletin

17-Jan - *Klara and the Sun* - Kazuo Ishiguro

24-Jan - *Klara and the Sun* - Kazuo Ishiguro (cont'd)

31-Jan - *Small Things Like These* - Claire Keegan

07-Feb - *Small Things Like These* (cont'd) & *Whereabouts* Jhumpa Lahiri

14-Feb - *Whereabouts* Jhumpa Lahiri (cont'd)

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Wednesday

**Literature Course:** 28th February to 20th March

**William Trevor *Last Stories***

**Tutor:** Clare Jackson

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



William Trevor's final collection of short stories, *Last Stories*, was published in 2018.

In this course we will be discussing the subtleties in Trevor's plotting, his approach to characterisation, and the common themes from a selection of these narratives. Together, we will be considering Trevor's style and use of structures, and, most importantly as always, our personal responses to these quietly powerful writings.

28 Feb	The Piano Teacher's Pupil & The Crippled Man
06 Mar	Giotto's Angels & Mrs Crasthorpe
13 Mar	At the Cafe Darria & An Idyll in Winter
20 Mar	The Unknown Girl & The Women

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Wednesday

**Culture & Society Course:** 17th January to 14th February

**Forgotten Stories from two World Wars - From the Angel of Mons to the**

**Tutor:** Neil Storey

**Nazi Spies of Northumberland**

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

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



Each week we will explore a different theme of lesser known stories including:

Scareships and Zeppelin air raids, the fight for women to serve in WW1, black propaganda, myths and legends of both wars, animals in wartime, crime in wartime, spies espionage, ordinary people and events.

The talks will cover the UK but there are some smashing Northumberland and North East stories to share.

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

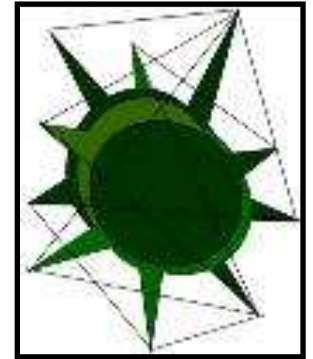


## Wednesday

**One-off Science Series:** 21st February to 20th March

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



Date	Tutor	Title
21 Feb	Wallace Arthur	Space telescopes, exoplanets, and extra-terrestrial life Where are we most likely to discover extraterrestrial life? Answer: on exoplanets, not in our own solar system. What technology is best equipped for examining exoplanets? Answer: space telescopes, not telescopes that sit on the surface of the Earth and have to look up through its obscuring atmosphere. In this talk, we'll examine the connections between these two things, and consider the likely nature and timing of humans' first discovery of life beyond the Earth.
28 Feb	Martin Kenny	Why Ships Sink (and Some Don't) Through real life examples exploring the reasons behind ship sinkings. Martin Kenny is Master Mariner Foreign-Going Unlimited, retired lecturer in Nautical Science, retired Lifeboat Coxswain, retired Stability Consultant Maersk Shipping and volunteer at The Old Low Light heritage centre.

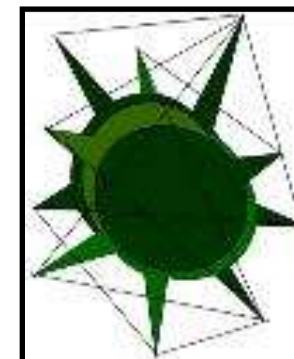
**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Wednesday

**One-off Science Series:** 21st February to 20th March

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



Date	Tutor	Title
06 Mar	Bernard Golding	<p>150 Years of Newcastle Chemistry: From Coal Mines to Rucaparib</p> <p>This lecture describes key chemical discoveries in Newcastle since the foundation of the College of Medicine in 1832. These landmarks include early studies of the causes of catastrophic fires in coal mines and the discovery of the anticancer drug Rubraca (rucaparib). Prof Golding was part of the team that discovered rucaparib, which is now available via the NHS to treat advanced ovarian cancer (which causes more than 200,000 deaths worldwide).</p>
13 Mar	John Bothwell	<p>What have seaweeds ever done for us? A look at the hidden half of the World's greenery</p> <p>Seaweeds rarely get the affection they deserve. The Roman poet Horace wrote that 'Without money, birth and virtue are more worthless than seaweed'. A common English name for them is wracks, from the same root as the word 'wreck'. But seaweeds aren't wrecks, nor are they worthless, washed up things. They are astonishingly diverse, vibrant and important. In this talk, Dr John Bothwell will show as their long past and bright future.</p>

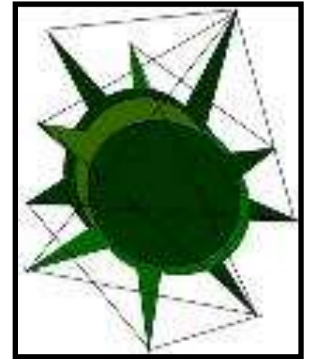
**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Wednesday

**One-off Science Series:** 21st February to 20th March

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



Date	Tutor	Title
20 Mar	Sam James	Can You Guarantee a Lotto Win?

The answer is "of course you can, you just need to buy enough tickets". However, in the last year a Mathematician has calculated the most efficient way of choosing the number you play to guarantee a win and therefore the smallest number of tickets you need. Unfortunately you're still not going to be guaranteed to make money, but how the problem was solved is an intriguing one.

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Thursday

**Literature Course:** *18th January to 1st February*

### **European Folk Tales on the Big Screen**

**Tutor:** Roger Mitchell

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

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

**Time:** 10.30 to 12.30



Folk tales have provided numerous filmmakers with inspiration ever since the advent of cinema. Offering seemingly limitless creative potential, these narratives can be played straight, but can also be turned into complex personal and political allegories.

The first film we will consider is the award-winning and highly influential *The White Reindeer* (Erik Blomberg, Finland, 1952). A timeless film set in the starkly beautiful and otherworldly fells of Finnish Lapland, it is based on pre-Christian Sámi mythology and effectively portrays issues relating to gender inequality, societal pressures and sexual anxiety.

The second film is *The Singing Ringing Tree* (Francesco Stefani, East Germany, 1957) which is a loose reworking of a tale by the Brothers Grimm. Now something of a cult classic, the film has a strong moral message that avoids the mawkishness and condescension of contemporary examples.

The final film will be *Three Wishes for Cinderella* (Václav Vorlíček, Czechoslovakia, 1973), a perennial favourite throughout Central and Eastern Europe, it is a socialist feminist retelling of the standard Czechoslovak version of one of the oldest and most flexible stories in world literature.

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Thursday

**Art Course:** 25th January to 8th February (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 16th January & 13th February (tutor-led)* on [Page 19](#)

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 has a theme, e g colour, structure and pattern.

The theme for Season 2 will be Line & Form, inspired by **Paul Klee's *Pedagogical Sketchbook*** (the book where he famously writes of 'taking a dot for a walk' to become a line) as a jumping-off point.

Jenny will introduce the theme in the first session at Newcastle Arts Centre. She will give us a brief introduction, drawing attention to the artists and artworks which might inspire us.

The next 3 weeks will be on Thursdays at the Newcastle Art Centre and Jenny will provide us with prompts for each of these 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 sessions are open to any Explore member. No prior art experience is necessary. We will happily welcome any members wanting to join us for the first time.

*\*Tuesday 16th Jan (Arts Centre) & 13th Feb (Hatton Gallery) from 13.30 to 15.30  
Thursday 25th Jan, 1st & 8th Feb at the Newcastle Art Centre from 11.00 to 13.00*

**Face-To-Face  
Check Venue**

## Thursday

**Culture & Society Course:** *22nd February to 21st March*

**China And Russia: Awkward Neighbours**

**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



Since China and Russia gained a common border in the seventeenth century, relations between the two Asian powers have frequently been difficult.

This course will look at Sino-Russian relations from the first arrival of Russian fur trappers on the banks of the Amur River, via many twists and turns, land-grabs and war, communist brotherhood and ideological enmity, to today's claimed "deep friendship" between Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin.

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Thursday

**Narratives Course:** *7th to 21st March*

### **Short Lyrics of William Blake**

**Tutor:** Michael Ayton

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

**Time:** 10.00-11.30



We'll look closely at a selection of Blake's shorter poems -- not just the *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, but also poems written before and outside of that famous collection. Most of the texts we'll look at form an integral part of the striking artwork that Blake produced via his own technique of 'illuminated printing', so the course will also provide a brief summary of Blake's method.

We'll draw out the roots of Blake's lyrics in earlier verse forms, including hymns. But above all, we'll trace the accent of a prophetic voice with a strong and challenging message for our times, addressing questions such as personal and political freedom, the nature of (and power relations in) sexual love, and -- profoundly relevant as warfare sadly rages in the Middle East and elsewhere -- the psychology of violence. No prior reading is necessary and all texts and images will be provided (in glowing colour!), so log on and enjoy a dynamic display of Blake's uniquely powerful Romantic art.

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**



## Thursday

**Philosophy Course:** 25th January to 8th February

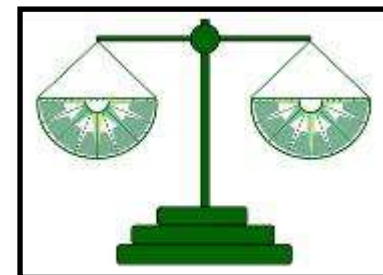
**History of Criminology: Science, Suspicion, and Surveillance from 1850 to the Present (Mary Midgley Bequest)**

**Tutor:** John Shepherd

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

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.00



*For a full outline of the course and individual sessions please read [HERE](#)*

Ever since the nineteenth century, governments, experts and the public have contemplated 'the problem of crime'. Crime shifted in this period from an individual sin or moral failure to become a general problem of society, to be explained by biology, psychiatry, sociology and other scientific disciplines.

In this course we will explore how criminologists in the past have attempted to understand (and control) crime and 'the criminal', beginning with the notion of the 'born criminal' in the 1900s and then turning to 20<sup>th</sup> century theories of the psychological or social roots of delinquency. We will also consider modern attempts to predict crime and their implication on surveillance for wider society. Throughout, we will examine the biases and prejudices of criminology and how they influenced the formulation of criminal 'types' and 'propensities'.

25 Jan	The 'Born Criminal'
01 Feb	Juvenile Delinquency – Individual or Society?
08 Feb	Finding Future Criminals

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

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

## Thursday

**Literature Course:** 15th February to 21st March (No Session 7th March)

### Writing from Nigeria

**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 will read a range of works from Nigeria, including Achebe's ground-breaking novel, Okigbo's modernist African poetry, and examples of contemporary Nigerian writing. All of these works give insights into a country that has experienced enormous changes through the 20th and into the 21st century.

- |        |                                                                                                                |
|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 Feb | Christopher Okigbo, selection of poems (published 1961-71) *                                                   |
| 22 Feb | <i>Things Fall Apart</i> - Chinua Achebe (1958; you can use any edition for this course)                       |
| 29 Feb | <i>Things Fall Apart</i> - Chinua Achebe ( <i>cont'd</i> )                                                     |
| 07 Mar | No Session                                                                                                     |
| 14 Mar | Chigozie Obioma, <u>'The Strange Story of the World'</u> (2019) *                                              |
| 21 Mar | Chimamanda Ngozie Adichie's <u>'Jumping Monkey Hill'</u> * (2006; in <i>The Thing Around Your Neck</i> , 2009) |

\*Further details & PDFs to be provided nearer the time via the Members' Bulletin

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**



International  
Women's Day

# EXPLORE

**FREE Public  
Event**

Thursday 7th March 18.00-19.00

**Prof. Dame Louise Robinson DBE**

## **'Dementia: Focus on Care, Prevention & Cure'**



Worldwide, one person is diagnosed with dementia every three seconds and numbers are predicted to double in the next 20 years due to our rapidly aging societies. The WHO has classed dementia as a global public health issue, with a focus on earlier diagnosis, better care and now prevention & risk reduction. In the UK, most dementia research funding is targeted towards finding the cause of, and a drug cure for, dementia. Yet, despite a funding imbalance between cure & care, research has told us much about what good quality dementia care looks like and how we can reduce our personal risk in later life. This talk will summarise current research in 3 key areas of dementia: care, cure and prevention.

*Prof. Dame Louise Robinson DBE (MBBS, 1985) is Regius Professor of Ageing at Newcastle University, director of the Newcastle University Institute for Ageing and leads the team developing pathways to good quality care for patients with dementia from GPs, as well as training the next generation of dementia researchers.*

**Book your FREE place via Eventbrite - [Face-to-Face](#) or [Zoom](#)!**

## Friday

**Culture & Society Course:** *19th January to 16th February*

**Britain and the World, 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 course will build on previous courses looking at this period but welcomes new members. We'll now move on to examine Britain's position in the world in an often dangerous and uncertain period, spanning the period of the highpoint of the empire and Britain's adaptation to decline due to conflict, including the First World War, loss of share of world markets and political and economic influence. It will also span a period of challenge to British power and we'll look at military affairs too.

We will see that Britain struggled to adjust to new circumstances and will show that the challenges faced were often met with responses associated with the old order and ways of doing things, shaped by insecurity and defensiveness. This struggle of adaptation was a feature of weakness although it will be seen that Britain still did have some latent strength and capacity which maintained its empire and world-power status through the period.

19 Jan	British foreign policy
26 Jan	Britain and its Armed Forces
02 Feb	Britain and the British Empire
09 Feb	Britain and the empire economy
16 Feb	Britain and the international economy

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

**BLENDED**  
**(F2F & Zoom)**

## Friday

**Culture & Society Course:** 23rd February to 22nd March

**Plague, Pregnancy & Possession: Adventures in 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



This season we'll take a deep dive into particular areas of medieval medicine, with lots of original source materials.

Just how devastating was the Black Death?

What help was available for the mentally ill or physically disabled?

Would you want to visit a medieval hospital, or attend a dissection?

How were men and women thought to be different and, crucially, how were babies made?

This course follows on from last season's introduction to medieval medicine, but can be enjoyed independently by all members.

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Friday

**One-Off Art History Sessions:** 19th January to 2nd February

**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
19 Jan	Peter Quinn	1.) Henri Cartier Bresson (Blended) 2.) Reportage: 10 Photographs to Debate & Discuss (F2F)
26 Jan	Peter Quinn	1.) Reg Butler (Blended) 2.) Monuments: 10 Sculptures to Debate & Discuss (F2F)
02 Feb	Peter Quinn	1.) Phyllida Barlow 1944-2023 (Blended) 2.) Made: 10 Sculptural Installations to Debate & Discuss (F2F)

See [Page 43](#) for Peter Quinn's One-Off Film session on 9th February

**BLENDED**  
**(F2F & Zoom)**

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**

## Friday

**One-Off Film Sessions:** 9th February

**Face-to-Face Friday Film - Fritz Lang's *Frau im Mond***

**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 session Peter will discuss *Frau im Mond* [Woman in the Moon] Directed by Fritz Lang, 1929, starring Willy Fritsch and Gerda Maurus.

Lang conceived of Woman in the Moon as the first "scientifically accurate" space flight film.

A rocket that is on its way to the moon is commandeered by a group of spies with the intent of stealing the valuable store of gold that is kept on the satellite.

The mission does not go to plan.....

**Face-To-Face**  
**Check Venue**



## Friday

**Art History One-Off:** *16th February*

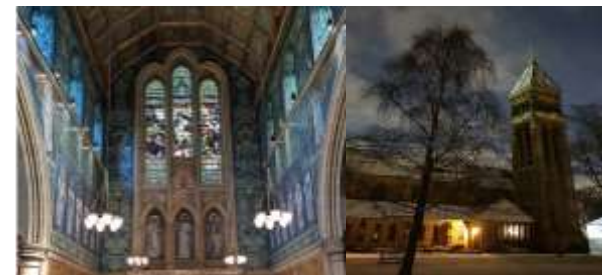
**A Visit to St George's Church, Jesmond**

**Tutor:** Barbara Peacock

**Format:** This session will be delivered **Face-to-Face**

**Venue:** St George's Church, St George's Close, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 2TF

**Time:** 10.30-11.30



Consecrated in 1888, St George's was funded by the wealth of shipbuilder Charles Mitchell, and his ability to afford the finest craftsmen of the time is reflected in the distinctive campanile, echoing St Mark's Basilica in Venice, and the magnificent interior that simply must be seen.

**We will meet at the church at 10:30 am.**

Some parking is available but it is also accessible by public transport - West Jesmond Metro station is the nearest. Also the Q3 bus from the Haymarket Bus station (outside M&S) goes past the church.



The visit is expected to last for 1 hour.

**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 requests or suggestions for a meet-up please email us at [friendsofexplore@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofexplore@gmail.com)**



Face-To-Face  
Check Venue

LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS

# **The End of Explore Season Two**

**Season Three 2023-24 will start  
Monday 22nd April 2024**

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



**DONATE**