

EXPLORE



*Starting
Monday 24th
April 2023*

Season 3
2022-23 programme

Explore Season 3 Programme 2022-23



Welcome to our Season Three 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 over the coming months. You can find out more 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 and Design: Helen Watson & Hazel Mitrani

Narratives (Literature, Cinema and Music) : Rita Prabhu

Perspectives (Science & Mathematics): Pamela Denham

Culture & Society (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 3 Programme 2022-23

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 - where sessions can proceed 'Face-to-Face' we will highlight them with this purple icon. In order to allow for room capacity, places must be booked online in advance if requested. In light of recent events, if circumstances do not allow the session to proceed face-to-face, where possible it will shift to a remote Zoom session. If the session needs to be cancelled members will be informed via members' mailouts.

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

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
24 Apr	Martin Roberts	How to Look at Buildings (Blended) Reading the Landscape: Buildings - A general observational guide to how to look at buildings, especially from outside, and what they can tell us.
01 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	
08 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	
15 May	Michele Allen	'The Weight of the World in Ants' The artist describes a multimedia project which includes photography, text, video archival research and a degree of activism. The work focuses on a tiny fragment of ancient woodland in the centre of an industrial estate, thinking about the wood as a witness at a time of climate crisis and species loss.
22 May	Anthea Lang	The Wonderful Windows of William Wailes (Blended)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

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: 10.30-12.00



Date	Tutor	Title
29 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	
05 Jun	John Griffiths	Japanese Earthquake of 1923
12 Jun*	Paul Dryburgh	Beyond 2022: Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury (ZOOM ONLY) This Session will run 10.30-11.30
19 Jun	Malcolm Grady	The Role of June in History
26 Jun	Ian McArdle	The Germans on the Somme (Blended)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Philosophy Course: *5th to 26th June*

Provocations: **Why Anything?**

Tutor: Ian Ground

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

Time: 10.00 to 12.00



In Wittgenstein's *Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus* (6.44) he writes "It is not how the world is that is mystical, but rather that it is." The question of why there is something rather than nothing, why the universe, anything, should exist at all, is regarded by some as the deepest question we can possibly ask. For others, the very idea that this is a question that can be coherently asked, let alone answered, is empty, self-defeating and even silly. But whatever its status as a question, it provides a focal point for thinking about a gamut of useful philosophical concepts.

In this short course, we'll use some provocative resources, principally Parfit's essay, to explore a range of responses to the question and touch on issues of necessity and possibility, the nature of natural law explanation, the power and limits of reason and evidence, philosophy, and science. In thinking about this question, we can be assured of making no substantial progress at all. It is instructive to discover how much fun that can be. The main resource is getting to grips with [Derek Parfit's 'Why Anything? Why This?'](#), written in his characteristically lucid but intricate style. You will have to work at following it, so read it a few pages at a time. It helps to make notes, draw diagrams, pictures...

A full listing with links to the relevant online resources will be made available to members before sessions start.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Monday

One-Off Art History Sessions:

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

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

Time: 12.00-13.00



Date	Tutor	Title
24 Apr	Martin Roberts	Slipping Down the Ladder: The Decline of Weardale's Great House (Blended) Following Martin's 'How to Look at Buildings' morning session, an example of putting some of those observational skills in practice.
01 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	
08 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	
15 May	Lloyd Langley	Newcastle City Walls
22 May	Anthea Lang	Saltwell Park and William Wailes (Blended)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face (some exceptions/Zoom)**

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

Time: 12.30-13.30



Date	Tutor	Title
29 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	
05 Jun	Eric Tourigny	The Archaeology of Pets
12 Jun*	David Faulkner	Newcastles of the World (ZOOM ONLY) This session will run 12.00-13.00
19 Jun	John Griffiths	'The Austerity Games' - London Olympics 1948
26 Jun	Malcolm Grady	'Using Art as an Historical Source'

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

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
24 Apr	Anthea Lang	'What's in a Name': The Story of Some Newcastle Street Names
01 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	
08 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	
15 May	Daniel Riddell	German and Scandinavian Merchants in Newcastle 1840-1920
22 May	Kendra Packham & Hillary Burlock	Eighteenth Century Political Participation and Electoral Culture
29 May	Bank Holiday - No Session	

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Art History Course: *5th to 26th June*

What is Modern Art?

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



In these four sessions, Peter will present a primer for those puzzled by the -isms, personalities and quarrels of Twentieth Century Art.

05 Jun Cubes

12 Jun Strange (***Zoom Only**)

19 Jun Abstract

26 Jun Kitsch

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Monday

Culture & Society Course: *15th May to 19th June (no session 29th May)*

Kingdoms of the Franks and the Foundations of Europe

Tutor: David Burke

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30



With the slow retreat of the Roman Empire, a new power emerged in the north-west of Europe - the Franks. The first royal dynasty, the Merovingians, was the epitome of a dysfunctional family, their leaders committing murder, betrayal, incest, and fratricide all in the effort to become the sole King of the Franks.

In due course, they were swept away by the glory of the Carolingians, the first Holy Roman Emperors, champions of Christianity, and founders of the largest European empire since the fall of Rome.

From their obscure beginnings under Clovis to the total domination of Europe by Charlemagne in the early middle ages, we will explore the fascinating emergence of not just France but key aspects of European culture.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Science Course: *25th April to 23rd May*

Summertime Geology Trips for Beginners

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

Time: 10.00 to 11.30



Each week we will cover two or three special geological sites in the North East, chosen to be a great introduction to the region's rock types and geological history.

The aim is to provide participants with:

- * a brief guide to the geology of the North East
- * resources where further information can be obtained;
- * a list of potential localities to visit over the summer.

Derek Teasdale has thirty years of experience of leading geological field-trips in the North East, and has led well over one hundred trips! Join us to find out where the best places to start are.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

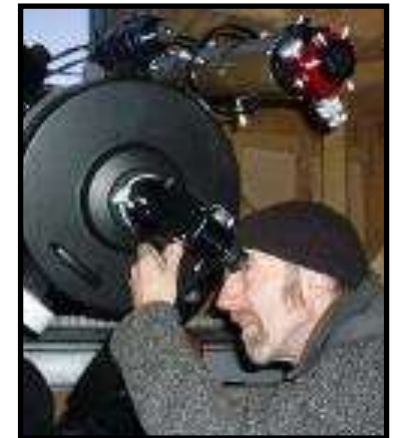
Science Course: *30th May to 13th June*

Developments in Cosmology

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

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

Time: 10.00 to 11.30



In this 3 week series of talks we will be looking at a variety of different topics in astronomy and cosmology.

30 May - Eclipses of the Sun and Moon

06 Jun - Recent Developments from the James Webb Space Telescope

13 Jun - Olbers' Paradox: Why is the Sky Dark at Night?

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Science One-Off: *20th June*

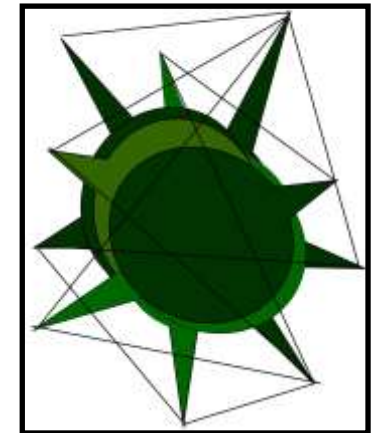
Investigating Cortical Hyperexcitability in Neurodegenerative Diseases:

Tutor: Fiona LeBeau

A New Theory

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

Time: 10.30 to 11.30



Evidence suggests that changes in the brain may occur years before the onset of neurodegenerative disease.

This talk will discuss some possible early changes in brain activity that might be occurring and consider whether they could be targets for new treatments in the future.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

One-Off Arts and Crafts Visit: *27th June*

A Visit to the New 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



The Farrell Centre is a new platform for debating the future of architecture and planning, ensuring that everyone can have a say in this 'conversation'.

We will have a talk by the director of the centre followed by a short tour of the building and refreshments.

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](#) if let us know if you might need to use the lift.

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

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Culture & Society Course: *25th April to 16th May*

Perspectives on the Past - A Historical Miscellany

Tutor: Anthea Lang & Malcolm Grady

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

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

Time: 13.00-14.00 & 14.15-15.15



These two-part sessions provide a fresh look at history through a variety of topics which will hopefully make you look at them in a new way.

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 25 Apr | Overground, Underground: Exploring landscape design and landscape discoveries |
| 02 May | Mapping the Past: Cartography and exploration as shown in art |
| 09 May | Indulgent delights: Food and drink |
| 16 May | History through Literature: Fiction and poetry |

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

One-Off Art History Sessions: 30th May

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

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



Date	Tutor	Title
13.00-14.00	Melanie Stephenson	<p>“A Great Little Man’: Richard George Hatton</p> <p>A portrait of the artist and educator, Richard George Hatton (1864-1926), first professor of Fine Art, Armstrong College, University of Durham.</p>
14.30-15.30	Narbi Price	<p>Coal Town—The Work of Mik Critchlow (Blended)</p> <p>Following Critchlow’s recent and untimely death earlier this year, artist Narbi Price will offer an overview of his work, exploring the collection’s importance to social documentary and photography in its own right, and appreciating his representations of life and lives in an industrial town.</p>

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

One-Off Art History Sessions:

Tutor: Peter Quinn

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

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

Time: 13.00-14.00



Date	Title
06 Jun	Marc Chagall (1887-1985) (Blended)
13 Jun	Phillip Guston (1913-80) 'I paint what I want to see.' (Blended)
20 Jun	Edward Burra (1905-1976) Watercolourist (Blended)
27 Jun	F2F Film Session - <i>The Party and the Guests</i> (1966) *Session Runs 13.00-15.30 Directed by Jan Němec, this cinematic allegory of socialist regimes was banned in Czechoslovakia from 1966 to 1968. The story starts with a group (four men, three women) having a picnic in a field. As the celebrations progress, it soon becomes apparent that one of the picnickers has discreetly left the party... After a short release during the Prague Spring, it was banned again, this time 'forever' [in fact twenty years].

For details of Peter's afternoon one-off talks see [Page 23](#)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

One-Off Culture & Society Session: *23rd May*

The Drink Trade in Ouseburn c1800 - 1920

Tutor: Mike Greatbatch

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

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

Time: 14.00-15.30



Developed in response to the growing numbers of industrial workers, the pubs and beer houses of the Ouseburn were often small family businesses and home to a rich array of cultural and social activities.

This talk will identify some of the characters and activities associated with the local drink trade whilst explaining their importance to this once densely packed industrial suburb.

See [Page 36](#) for the details of the Walk that follows this talk later in the season.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Mathematics & Society Course: 25th April to 23rd May*

People of Science

Tutor: Sam James

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

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

Time: 13.30—14.30



Join our regular tutor Dr Sam James to learn more about some of the scientific figures who have made our lives, world and understanding of history what they are today.

More details TBC

** The session on Tuesday 16th May will be a special collaboration with Jo Bath as part of our One-Off Science Series. You can read more details on [Page 22](#).*

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

One-Off Science Sessions: *25th April to 23rd May*

Science and Maths - A Series of One-off Talks

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

Time: 14.45-15.45



Date	Tutor	Title
25 Apr	Mike Gibson	From Coastlines to Chaos: The Incredibly Simple Maths Behind the Most Beautiful Shapes in the Universe!
		Since their "discovery" in the 1960s, fractals, which include the shapes of coastlines, trees, mountains and even the human brain, have mesmerised and inspired mathematicians, scientists and artists alike. In this session we will explore some of the really simple maths that gives rise to such apparently complex and beautiful objects.
02 May	David Cushing	Magical Mathematics
		David will demonstrate the maths behind the magic and perform some of his favourite card tricks. If you're lucky he will also explain the probability and coding theory that makes everything work (just don't tell the magic circle)
09 May	Mike Gibson	Good Vibrations: The Maths and Physics of Musical Harmony
		Why do some musical notes sound good together and others sound awful? We will explore some of the simple yet curious maths and physics of sound and attempt to explain the idea of harmony from the perspective of a non-musician.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

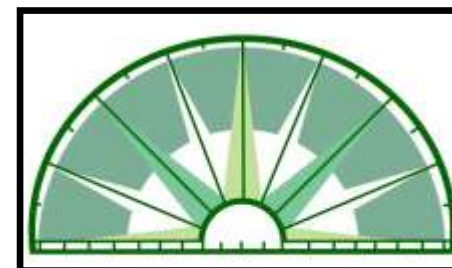
Tuesday

One-Off Science Sessions: 25th April to 23rd May

Mathematics - A Series of One-off Talks

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

Time: 14.45-15.45



Date	Tutor	Title
16 May	Jo Bath & Sam James	An Enlightening Look at Isaac Newton Whether you are interested in alchemy, optics, coins, codes, gravity, life in Stuart England, or just the feuds of a man who couldn't get along with anyone, Isaac Newton has something for you. This session is a unique collaboration between a historian and a physicist, taking in both Newton's groundbreaking scientific theories, and the personalities, circumstances and arguments that lay behind them.
23 May	Mike Gibson	A Boy Named Sue: A Visual Exploration of Conditional Probability and Bayesian Reasoning A woman has two children. One of them is called Sue. What is the probability that the other child is a boy? This question is far harder to answer than you might think! Through simple visualisations, we will attempt to answer this and other questions related to "conditional probability", which have profound real-world applications ranging from medicine to law.

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

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Tuesday

One-Off Art History Sessions:

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

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

Time: 14.15-15.15



Please note the earlier start times for these sessions, following Peter's lunchtime talks detailed on [Page 18](#).

Date	Title
06 Jun	Discussion: Transfiguration. Ten examples to debate and discuss
13 Jun	Discussion: Everyday. Ten examples to debate and discuss.
20 Jun	Distortion: ten examples to debate and discuss
27 Jun	Film Session - <i>The Party and the Guests</i> (1966) Continued (See Page 18)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Music Course: *25th April to 23rd May*

Exploring Music: The Seasons - Summer

Tutor: Mike Green

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30



This will be the second of three seasons exploring the influence the changing seasons of the year, both calendar and liturgical, have had on composers through the centuries.

As this season includes the coronation of King Charles III, we will dedicate one session to an exploration of music composed for previous coronations.

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

25 Apr April Showers

02 May Now is the Month of Maying

09 May Coronation Music

16 May Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity

23 May Sounds of Summer

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Culture & Society Walks: *30th May to 27th June*

Five Townscape Evening Walks

Tutor: John Griffiths

Venue/Location: Various

Time: Meet 19.00



- | | |
|--------|---|
| 30 May | Lemington: Historic industrial village and innovative post-WWI housing estate designed by WA Harvey, architect-planner of Bourneville. Meet Lemington Centre. Parking nearby, and the centre is served by buses 22 from town and Stagecoach 6/7 from the Metro Centre. |
| 06 Jun | Central Gosforth: How Bulman Village, a string of cottages along the Great North Road, grew to become the thriving suburb of Gosforth. Meet South Gosforth Metro, north bound platform. |
| 13 Jun | Shipcote and Bensham: Gateshead's nineteenth century western fringes, home to the founder of the Salvation Army and birthplace of the Tyneside flat. Meet Gateshead Metro ticket concourse. |
| 20 Jun | Shieldfield and environs: An overlooked part of inner Newcastle, Shieldfield was the location of a civil war fort, the birthplace of Lord Armstrong and boasts, among other interesting features, a rare pillar box. Meet Manors Metro concourse. |
| 27 Jun | Tynemouth: How Tynemouth developed from its monastic-military origins to become a seaside resort. Meet Tynemouth Metro main concourse (clockwise). |



Wednesday

Philosophy One-Off: *17th May*

Philosophy of Art: Clive Bell & R.G. Collingwood

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 12.30



'What is a work of art?' and 'What makes a work of art successful?' are two of the core questions in the branch of Aesthetics.

In this double session on the philosophy of art we will explore Clive Bell's theory of significant form as well as R.G. Collingwood's concept of the expression of emotion, to assist us in responding to these important questions.

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

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Narratives Course: *24th May to 7th June*

The 'Banished Immortal' and the 'Sage of Poetry': Li Po and Tu Fu , poets with a Message for Us

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

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

Time: 10.30-12.00



Li Po (701–62) and Tu Fu (712–70) rank second to none among Classical Chinese poets, but are also world-class poets by any definition. This course will approach them as such, while at the same time offering a very brief introduction to Chinese poetry in general.

Why link these two great Tang Dynasty poets? Because not only could they scarcely be more different, but taken together they form a striking complementarity that was noted as such from earliest times, the 'Li-Tu' phenomenon whose meaning is still debated today. Li Po is all extravagance, infusing traditional, even antique, verse forms with an intensity all his own, inhabiting other lives & times with rare feeling. But he's also *the* great poet of subjective identification with natural environments, a theme often connected in with exuberant drinking and encapsulated in the legend that he drowned while drunkenly trying to embrace the moon. Tu Fu's poetry, by contrast, is more intricately rooted in the circumstances of his extraordinary life, much of it lived out in ill health and extreme penury, against the background of a devastating civil war whose consequences he explores with immense human empathy and often-lacerating directness & moral force. He's also a brilliant technical innovator, taxing translators but thrilling readers with lyrics of breathtaking inventiveness.

Come enjoy these two poets who communicate powerfully to & for our times. All translations (we'll look at a range) will be provided, and no prior knowledge whatsoever is required.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Literature Course: 14th to 28th June

Hollywood on Hollywood

Tutor: Roger Mitchell

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

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

Time: 10.30-12.30



In these three sessions we will analyse a trio of classic fiction films which, whilst being produced under the aegis of the major Hollywood film studios, use satire and comedy to identify and expose issues relating to the nature of the Hollywood film industry and its culture.

We begin with Sullivan's Travels (Preston Sturges, 1941) – arguably the film that started it all - in which a successful comedy director (Joel McCrea) goes on a road trip and discovers a very different America to the one that exists within the privileged confines of the Hollywood dream factory.

In our second film, the film noir Sunset Boulevard (Billy Wilder, 1950), a struggling screenwriter (William Holden) is drawn into the fantasy world of a forgotten silent film star (Gloria Swanson) who plans to make a triumphant return to the big screen.

Our final film is The Player (Robert Altman, 1992), a comedy thriller that tells the story of a film executive (Tim Robbins) who kills an aspiring screenwriter he believes is sending him death threats for not accepting his script...

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

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Culture & Society Course: *7th to 28th June*

Objects & Experiences: Engaging Further with the Shefton Collection in the 21st

Tutor: Sally Waite

Century

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

Venue: Great North Museum, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30-12.30



Following our one-off session in Season Two, this series delves deeper into the Shefton Collection and provides the opportunity to explore objects and themes in greater depth.

As in the previous series of talks, each will be a standalone session. There will be a formal introduction to the topic, Q & A followed by some related creative activities.

More information including details of each individual session can be found [HERE](#).

No artistic skill required!

Meet in the Shefton Gallery on the first floor of the Great North Museum.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Culture & Society Course: *31st May to 28th June*

Exploring the Paranormal

Tutor: Neil Storey

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



British Ghosts, Vampires and Mystical Beasts in fact, fiction and fable.

Join award winning historian and author Neil R. Storey for an exploration of some of Britain's most infamous hauntings, myths and legends of the darker creatures of the night throughout history.

Our quest for the origins of these stories will range from monastic chronicles to the modern fascination in the paranormal and cryptozoology, from the Lambton Worm to the Croglin Vampire and we shall ponder are all of these stories purely myth or are there more than grains of truth to be found?

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Literature Short Course: 26th April to 10th May

An Introduction to the Fiction of Ivy Compton-Burnett

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

Time: 14.00-15.30



Ivy Compton-Burnett (1884-69) has been woefully neglected for a number of years, but now thanks to a series of reissues from Pushkin Press, it is possible once again to explore the work of one of the finest exponents of the novel of manners, with an ear for dialogue that has seen her compared with Jane Austen and Oscar Wilde.

Over the three sessions of this course we will read *Manservant and Maidservant* (1947) - a novel from midway in her career which provides a good example of her distinctive style – and her remarkable take on the English country house - upstairs and downstairs.

It would be helpful if you could read the first two chapters of the novel detailed below before the first Session: Ivy Compton-Burnett (1947/2022) *Manservant and Maidservant* London: Pushkin Press

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

Literature Course: 24th May to 28th June (No session 31st May)

New York Stories

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



For this course, you need to purchase or borrow one book, available only in hardback: *New York Stories*, published by Everyman and edited by Diana Secker Tesdell.

The collection offers a wide variety of short stories depicting life in New York. We will discuss the contrasts and resonances within the collection and consider the different uses of the short-story form across the twentieth and into the twenty-first century.

24 May	Edith Wharton, 'A Cup of Cold Water' and Willa Cather, 'Paul's Case'
31 May	NO CLASS
07 Jun	John Cheever, 'O City of Broken Dreams' and Truman Capote, 'Master Misery'
14 Jun	James Baldwin, 'Sonny's Blues' and Jack Kerouac, 'New York Nite Club'
21 Jun	Shirley Jackson, 'Pillar of Salt' and Katherine Anne Porter, 'Theft'
28 Jun	Edwidge Danticat, 'New York Day Women' and Amy Hempel, 'Reference #388475848-5'

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday



**Joseph Cowen
Lifelong Learning Centre**
A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Thursday 25th May

10.30-12.00

Brunswick Methodist Church Hall

Joseph Cowen LLC CIO AGM

Join us for the Joseph Cowen LLC CIO Annual General Meeting, to discuss the organisation's position currently and in relation to the financial year ending August 2022. We are especially looking forward to getting together in person at Brunswick MC as well as via Zoom, and hope many of our members can attend to discuss our activity and achievements.

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

**BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)**

Thursday

Art Course: *Thursday 1st June, 15th & 29th June (Part of 5 Sessions*)*

Practical Art & Craft Studio - Group Led Sessions

Venue/Format: Newcastle Art Centre (Studio A) Westgate Road, Newcastle

Time: 11.00 to 13.00



*See also *Friday 9th & 23rd June (tutor-led)* on [Page 42](#)

Continuing our Art and Craft Studio, to run for 5 weeks (please note different days) from 11.00 to 13.00pm at Newcastle Arts Centre.

The first, third and fifth sessions are on Thursday mornings and are group-led. The second and fourth are on Friday mornings and will welcome invited artist Jenny Alderson, artist, museum & gallery educator to introduce and critique a new project.

Jenny will lead a practical, multimedia art project in which we experiment with a range of materials and methods to explore a subject, taking inspiration from the exhibition *Hinterland* Exhibition at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

Jenny worked with us in Season 1 on textiles, but this season's project will be broader with the choice of media being used down to you. This could be painting, pastil, collage, textile work - whatever appeals to you!

Everyone welcome! No experience required. Come and have a go!

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Culture & Society Course: *27th April to 18th May*

Death in Ancient Greece and Rome

Tutor: Alan Beale

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.30



'Stop, traveller, and read' as the dead appeal to passing strangers...

From burial customs, epitaphs, philosophy and literature this course will explore attitudes and beliefs concerning death and dying in the Greco-Roman world.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

One-Off Culture & Society Session: *1st June*

Lost Pubs & Beer Houses of the Ouseburn - A Walking Tour

Tutor: Mike Greatbatch

Venue/Location: Meet at Tanners' Arms, Ouseburn (See Below)

Time: 10.30-12.00



Following the preceding talk (**The Drink Trade in Ouseburn c1800 - 1920** See [Page 19](#)) we will take a guided walk around the Ouseburn valley, learning more about the lost pubs and beer houses of one of the most historically fascinating and beautiful areas of Newcastle.

Meet outside the Tanners' Arms public house, New Bridge Street/Crawhall Road. Buses from town (alight opposite St Dominic's Church) include the 12, 39, 40, 62 and 63.

May end at a public house that serves sandwiches...



Thursday

Literature Course: 27th April to 4th May then 25th May to 8th June

Representing Summer

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'll consider how writers evoke the sights, sounds and experiences of summer in works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

- | | | |
|--------|---|---------------------|
| 27 Apr | Tove Jansson, 'The Island' (1961) and Nina Mingya Powles, 'Small Bodies of Water' (2021) | |
| 04 May | Summer Poetry | (Non-Fiction Texts) |
| 11 May | NO CLASS | |
| 18 May | NO CLASS | |
| 25 May | <i>A Month in the Country</i> - J L Carr (1980) | |
| 01 Jun | <i>A Month in the Country</i> - J L Carr (concluded) and Katherine Mansfield 'At the Bay' (1921) - in <i>Selected Stories</i> (OUP) | |
| 08 Jun | Shirley Jackson, 'The Summer People' (1950) | |

PDFs will be provided for all short pieces. JL Carr's *A Month in the Country* is a (very) short novel which should be widely available second-hand/in libraries.

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Thursday

Literature Session & Course: *11th May then 15th to 29th June*

Shorter Prose: Three Studies in Seclusion and Society – Part 1 & Part 2

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

Time: 14.30-16.00



This course comprises of an initial session (Part 1) followed later in the season by three more (Part 2)

11th May (Part 1) In this session we will consider the sympathetic and haunting short story 'The Library Window' by Margaret Oliphant, together with Hugh Walpole's humane and (seemingly) lighter text 'Bachelors'. Texts will be provided nearer the time via the Bulletin

15–29th Jun (Part 2) We will then reflect together on Sarah Moss' short, multi-voiced and compassionate novel *The Fell*. (*Ideally we'll all use the same edition, paperback published by Picador 2022*)

What is seclusion? When does it become isolation? How does society both generate and respond to it? What happens when a whole society has a greater seclusion imposed on it by external factors? How do authors represent the experience of seclusion, and the society which contributes to it?

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

Literature One-Off: *18th May*

How Should We Read John Clare?

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

Time: 14.30-16.00



An agricultural labourer with only an elementary education, John Clare (1793-1864) was initially patronized as a 'peasant poet' by the literary establishment, but his poetry extends well beyond his publisher's typecasting, encompassing some of the most intense evocations of the natural world – and particularly of birdlife – in the English language.

In this one-off session, we will seek to get a feel for his unusual, sometimes idiosyncratic genius – and also ask how we should approach some of his most moving – but problematic – poems, written during the last decades of his life, when he had been committed to an asylum.

No prior reading is expected. A pdf of the poems to be discussed will be circulated in advance of the session via the Members' Bulletin.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Friday

Culture & Society Course: *28th April to 26th May*

Domestic Life in Seventeenth Century England

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



Join tutor Jo and venture into the ordinary early modern home and learn about the daily lives of its inhabitants.

Learn how to light your room, stay warm, clean your teeth, look fashionable, keep track of time and money, and much more...

In this course, we'll explore history with plenty of sources from inventories to recipes, plus a smattering of replica objects too.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Friday

Culture & Society Course: *2nd to 30th June*

Government and Party Politics in Britain, c. 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 examine British government and politics through the period, from the Edwardian era, through the First World War and into the inter-war. We will look at key changes to the electorate and impact (not least with the enfranchisement of women), and challenges to the party system with the rise of the Labour party. We will examine some of the key political issues and party politics and examine the politics of social reform and the challenges to economic policy.

The topics for the weeks may be subject to change but the likely schedule is as follows:

02 Jun - Intervention - The politics of 'National Efficiency' and of the War

09 Jun - The Conservative party - From crisis to ascendancy

16 Jun - The Liberal party - From triumph to disintegration

23 Jun - The rise of the Labour party and the Labour movement

30 Jun - Electoral reform and women

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Friday

Art Course: *Friday 9th & 23rd June (Part of 5 Sessions*)*

Practical Art & Craft Studio - Invited Artist/Tutor Led

Tutor: Jenny Alderson

Venue/Format: Newcastle Art Centre (Studio A) Westgate Road, Newcastle

Time: 11.00 to 13.00



**See also Thursday 1st June, 15th & 29th June (group-led) on [Page 35](#)*

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Face-To-Face
Check Venue

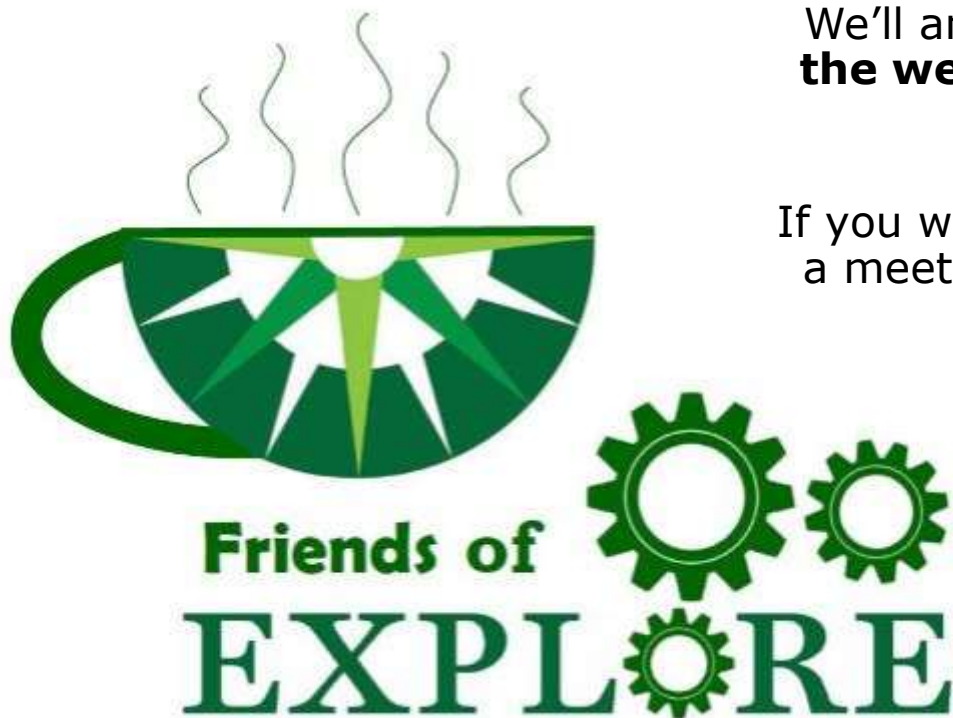
Coffee Morning, Lunch or a Catch Up with Friends of Explore

Once we've settled into Season Three, we might want a 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 Three

**Season One 2023-24 will start
Monday 2nd October 2023**

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

[DONATE](#)