

EXPLORE



Season 3 2023-24 programme

As Season Three Starts...

EXPLORE

FREE Taster Event

Monday 22nd April 2024

10.30-13.00 (includes a break for refreshments)

Enjoy some interesting talks,
meet some of our members &
find out more about 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!](#)

Explore Season 3 Programme 2023-24



Welcome to our Season Three Programme. True to our values of lifelong learning, our organisation has adapted to social 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, part of this special and celebratory 10th Year at Explore.

New joiners are always 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, Lesley Pringle & Joan Oliver

Philosophy: Trish Hutson

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 3 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



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

Monday 20th May

14.00 - 15.30

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 2023. 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)**

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 to 11.30



Date	Tutor	Title
22 Apr	Veronica & Rosie Peace	John Peace - North-East Painter, 1933-2017
29 Apr	No Session	
06 May	No Session—Bank Holiday	
13 May	Anthea Lang	Modern Stained Glass
20 May	Susan Wood	German Expressionist Landscapes

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Monday

Philosophy Course: 22nd April to 3rd June (No session 6th & 27th May)

'The Only True Voyage...' Metaphysics & the Philosophy of the Mind

Tutor: Ian Ground

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



Advance Reading "[An Immense World](#): How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us"

Ed Yong's 2023 book takes us on what Marcel Proust called "the only true voyage . . . not to visit strange lands, but to possess other eyes." It provides an elegant, accessible and compelling survey of work on the sensory worlds of other creatures and fertile ground for philosophical reflection on fascinating issues in metaphysics and the philosophy of mind.

In this course, we will discuss 3 chapters, which highlight the more striking and unfamiliar cases.

Chapter 1: Smells and Tastes Chapter 7: Surface Vibrations Chapter 12: Uniting the Senses

Participants should acquire a copy of the book from their preferred bookseller (eg [Hive](#), [WorldofBooks](#), [Waterstones](#), [Blackwells](#), [Amazon](#)) It would be very good to read the whole book before the course starts (you may find it hard to put down!) but at a minimum, participants should ideally read the Introduction before the course starts and then a chapter before the relevant meeting.

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 to 12.00



Date	Tutor	Title
27 May	No Session - Bank Holiday	
03 Jun	Jo Bath	Shaggy Dog Stories: Man's Best Friend Through the Ages
10 Jun	Neil Storey	TBC
17 Jun	Kate Sharpe	The Lady of the Lakes: Clare Isobel Fell
24 Jun	John Griffiths	Freehold Land Societies: The forgotten generators of Victorian suburbia

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 to 13.00



Date	Tutor	Title
22 Apr	Andrew Parkin	Pigmentation of Roman Altars
29 Apr	Emily Learmont	Zoom Only - See Page 10
06 May	No Session—Bank Holiday	
13 May	Amina Wright	The Faith Museum, Bishop Auckland
20 May	Susan Wood	How to Recognise Expressionist Works

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Art History One-Off: 29th April

William Bell Scott's Screen: A Pre-Raphaelite Romance

Tutor: Emily Learmont

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

Time: 12.30 to 13.30



In this session, we will learn about this fascinating piece and its history, 'The King Quair', a beautiful and ornately gilded folding screen and the subject of Emily's 2023 book published by the National Galleries of Scotland.

Inspired by a 15th Century poem attributed to James I of Scotland (featuring his imprisonment at Windsor Castle and relationship with his future wife and queen) the intricately decorated and embellished screen has a fascinating history as an object itself.

Emily Learmont is a Collaborative Doctoral Partnership candidate at the University of Edinburgh and National Galleries of Scotland researching the Edinburgh-born artist, William Bell Scott (1811–1890). She studied Fine Art at the Glasgow School of Art and the Royal Academy Schools, and History of Art, Theory & Display at the University of Edinburgh where she is also now a Teaching Fellow at the Centre for Open Learning. She has exhibited at the Royal Academy and Royal Scottish Academy and has written articles for The British Art Journal. She is also a gallery educator for the National Galleries of Scotland.

**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 to 13.30



Date	Tutor	Title
27 May	No Session—Bank Holiday	
03 Jun	Margaret Bozic	A History of Quakers in Newcastle
10 Jun	Malcolm Grady	TBC
17 Jun	John Griffiths	The Golden Age of Railway Posters
24 Jun	David Saunders	Newcastle's Russian Consuls (1833-1922)

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 to 15.30



Date	Tutor	Title
22 Apr	David Silk	Novum Castrum Super Tynam: An Imagined Stroll Through Medieval Newcastle
29 Apr	Malcolm Grady	TBC
06 May	No Session—Bank Holiday	
13 May	Anthea Lang	Lord Armstrong: The Man and his Legacy (Blended)
20 May	AGM - See Page 5	

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Art History Course: 3rd to 24th June

After Morris

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



A four part look at the legacy of William Morris in art and design.

03 Jun The Movement

10 Jun Rural Retreat

17 Jun House Aesthetic

24 Jun Art Nouveau

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Monday

Culture & Society Course: *22nd April to 3rd June (No session 6th & 27th May)*

An Historical Tour of Ireland

Tutor: David Burke

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30



In this series, we will take a journey around key locations in Ireland, examining placename lore, folklore, archaeology, politics, and history. Rather than a snapshot in time, we will explore each location from its foundation to the present.

Wandering through Dubhlinn of the Norse to Dublin of the Rebellion, Norman Galway of the Tribes to the Cromwellian occupation, Armagh of Patrick to the Troubled City, please do join this tour of Ireland, land of saints and sinners, scholars and soldiers, and everything in between.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Science One-Off Session: *23rd April*

The Languedoc: Terroir & The Geology of French Wines

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



An exploration of the Languedoc region of France and how it influences the local wine.

This session was originally part of Derek's Season Two course on the broader geographical area but needed to be postponed. Each session was standalone covering a different wine region so this session will inform new attendees about this particular region.

All welcome!

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Science Course: *30th April to 28th May*

The Geology of the North East Coast

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



Everyone likes a trip to the seaside!

In this course we return to the theme of nice places to take a day-trip to - this time they will be on the coast, starting near Berwick and working southwards to Saltburn.

You can leave your bucket and spade at home, but come along to explore the geology of the beautiful North East coast.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Philosophy & Classics Course: *30th April to 14th May*

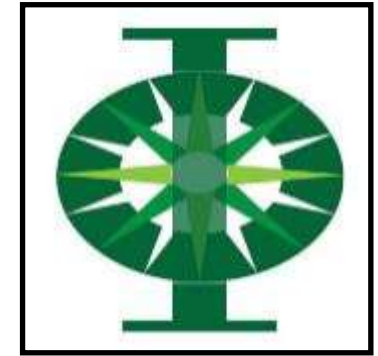
Herodotus - The Father of History? (Mary Midgley Bequest)

Tutor: Jordan Bayley

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

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

Time: 11.00-12.00



This short course will explore the life, work, and legacy of Herodotus. It will look at the writing and the content of the Histories, how Herodotus came to be known as both the 'Father of History' and the 'Father of Lies' and will account for some of the ways that he has remained relevant up to the modern day.

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.

30 Apr Who was Herodotus and the Histories Books 1-5

07 May The Histories Books 6-9

14 May From Gyges to gold-digging ants: How Herodotus has stayed relevant

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

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Tuesday

Science Course: *11th to 25th June*

Recent Developments in Astronomy & Cosmology

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



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

11 Jun Solar System Exploration Update

In this session we'll get an update of recent progress, with an emphasis on Pluto and the Kuiper Belt, the most distant objects in the solar system.

18 Jun The James Webb Space Telescope Goes from Strength to Strength

In this session we will consider the James Webb Telescope's most recent observations of distant galaxies and what they can tell us about the history of the universe.

25 Jun Local Durham Astronomer Thomas Wright and the Discovery of the Milky Way Galaxy

In this session we will look at how we came to understand the galaxy within which we live, including recent results pertaining to the central supermassive black hole.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Art History Series: 28th May to 11th June

Tutor: Peter Quinn

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

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

Time: 13.00 to 15.15



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

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|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 28 May | 1.) Portrait Painting Extraordinary, Newcastle 1879 (Blended)
2.) Ten Portraits to debate and discuss (F2F) |
| 04 Jun | 1.) Georges Seurat, Bathers at Asnières, 1884
2.) Ten figurative paintings to debate and discuss (F2F) |
| 11 Jun | 1.) Ana Mendiata (1948-1985), sculpture and the body
2.) Ten time based works to discuss and debate (F2F) |

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

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

Tuesday

One-Off Film Session: *18th June*

Face-to-Face Film - The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943)

Tutor: Peter Quinn

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

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

Time: 13.00 to 15.00



In this session, Peter will discuss the 1943 classic that Churchill tried to ban (but failed due to the championing of democracy and dissenting views, even in wartime, by the Minister of Information).

Once described as "England's greatest film ever", this Powell and Pressburger war-time satire starred Deborah Kerr and Roger Livesey.

Popular, despite official disapproval, it examines what it means to be English in a time of national crisis.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Art Course: *23rd April & 21st May (Part of 5 Sessions*)*

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

Venue: Art Room, Hatton Gallery, Newcastle University

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



*See also *Thursdays 2nd to 16th May (group-led)* on [Page 36](#)

These sessions will be introduced and critiqued by Jenny Alderson, artist and museum & gallery educator. This season we will be exploring how we can use texture in our artworks.

We will look at artists who use texture in their work, try collage and other media and techniques, and focus on the textural qualities of different materials.

All members welcome! No experience required. Come and have a go!

**Tuesday 23rd April & 21st May (Hatton Gallery) from 13.30 to 15.30*

Thursday 2nd, 9th & 16th May at Newcastle Art Centre from 11.00 to 13.00

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Tuesday

Art & Art History Series Course: *30th April to 14th May*

Contemporary British Painting Artists' Talks

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.00



In this series of online talks we welcome three different artists from the [Contemporary British Painting](#) group, an esteemed and artist-led organisation which explores and promotes current trends in British Painting through exhibitions, talks, publications and other events & activities.

Date	Tutor	Title
30 Apr	Ruth Philo	Painting: A Geography of Colour
		Ruth is a painter based in Sudbury, Suffolk, her work is abstract and largely concerned with colour and surface. In this presentation Ruth will talk about her exploration of colour, based on her recent project and artist residencies. She will look at various pigments, paint making, links between colour & wellbeing and conversations that she has had with other painters about their personal connections with colour which can be heard on her podcast 'A Geography of Colour'.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

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

Tuesday

Art & Art History Series Course: *30th April to 14th May*

Contemporary British Painting Artists' Talks

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.00



Date	Tutor	Title
07 May	Gordon Dalton	Painting Solastalgia: Depicting the Changing North East Coast through Contemporary Landscape Painting

The North East coast and its communities have been shaped and heavily influenced by both natural & industrial developments, both bearing their scars and benefits. Gordon will discuss his painting practice and current PhD research into the cause & effects of solastalgia on four sites along the coast in North Yorkshire & Teesside. The concept of solastalgia is described as "the homesickness we feel while still at home. It's the pain and longing we feel as we realize the world immediately around us is changing, with our love for that world serving as a catalyst for action on its behalf."

14 May	Joanna Whittle	Engaging Archives
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Joanna's paintings explore transient rituals concealed within landscapes, creating rich, seductive small-scale paintings, drawing viewers into an uneasy, unpeopled world. The temporary structures depicted sink into flooded land, fragile ruins of the recent past with lights illuminated and the unsettling sense of a recently departed presence. Her shrine works, often painted on to copper, explore themes of memorial; unseen & repeated rituals conducted as acts of mourning. We'll talk about engaging with archives & collections as part of her practice as a painter & ceramicist, discuss projects with the Welbeck Estate, National Fairground & Circus Archive, plus collaborations with academics, showmen & other artists.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Philosophy Series: *18th & 25th June*

'Walking Cheerfully': a Brief History of Quakerism in Britain

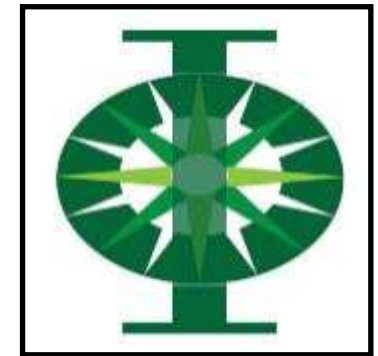
Tutor: Clare Jackson

(Mary Midgley Bequest)

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

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.00



Quakerism arose from the turmoil of 17th Century England and was a radical Christian movement even for those times. Quakers placed above all other teachings the importance of personal spiritual experience: not Church, nor Scripture, but the 'Light within'. To hold such beliefs was both liberating and dangerous.

Since those first days, the Quakers have met in silent worship, have focused on the testimonies of Truth, Equality, Simplicity and Peace – and have got into serious trouble on occasion. Over the centuries Quakerism has evolved into a liberal and much theologically wider set of beliefs.

These lectures will attempt to outline those beginnings and trace the movement towards Quakerism in Britain as it is today.

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

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Music Course: 23rd April to 21st May

An A to Z of Music

Tutor: Mike Green

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

Time: 19.00 to 20.30*



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, having covered A to E in Season 2 and now continuing through the alphabet in subsequent seasons. Each session is stand-alone so can be enjoyed for itself - there will be plenty of musical examples to listen to and no formal musical knowledge is necessary.

23 Apr	F
30 Apr	G
07 May	H
14 May	I
21 May	J

****Please note these sessions are at a later time than previous seasons***

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Culture & Society Walks: *28th May to 25th June*

Five Townscapes - Evening Walks

Tutor: John Griffiths

Venue/Location: Various

Time: Meet 19.00 (Approximately 90 minutes to 2 hours)



In this series of evening walks, John will guide us through a different townscape each week highlighting new sights and historical sites you might otherwise never know about.

- 28 May Gateshead & Mount Pleasant - Meet Gateshead Metro, return Gateshead Stadium Metro
- 04 Jun Sandyford & Jesmond Vale - Meet Jesmond Metro
- 11 Jun Byker - Meet Byker Metro
- 18 Jun South Gosforth - Meet South Gosforth Metro
- 25 Jun Cullercoats & Whitley Bay - Meet Cullercoats Metro, return Whitley Bay Metro

Please [email the office](#) if you plan to attend to help estimate numbers, or if you have any questions about route/accessibility.



Wednesday

Culture & Society Course: *24th April to 15th May*

Delving Beyond the Display: Gods and Goddesses

Tutor: Sally Waite and Emma Gooch

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

Venue: Council Room, 2nd Floor, Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30 to 12.30



These four interactive sessions explore life through the rituals involved in the ancient Greek world, using objects from the Shefton Collection of Greek Art and Archaeology. They will provide participants with the opportunity to handle and learn about objects that are not currently on display, and to produce creative responses to the handling experience, led by Dr Sally Waite and Dr Emma Gooch, specialists in Greek Art and Archaeology from Newcastle University.

Inspired by the 'Gods and Goddesses' display case in the Shefton Gallery of the museum, each of the sessions focuses on an object or small group of objects related to divinities and rituals held in the Shefton Collection. Each session will include an introductory presentation about the objects and their collections history, opportunities for handling the objects, and an optional creative activity inspired by them. Absolutely no artistic talent or prior knowledge is required!

The course can be attended as a whole, or each session on a one-off basis.

To manage capacity for these sessions, we ask members to [register interest](#) in advance.

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Wednesday

Narratives Course: *24th April to 8th May*

He (Always) Has More: The Brilliant, Startling, Searching Poetry of John Donne

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



Some Early Modern poets – Spenser, for instance – seem to us firmly rooted in their own time. Others point forward, their sensibility thoroughly modern-seeming, and none more so than John Donne. Love-poet, philosopher, satirist, religious poet, priest – Donne speaks to us in all his voices as if he were in the same room. Please come and enjoy a range of his marvellous poetry – no previous experience required!

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

Philosophy Series: 22nd & 29th May

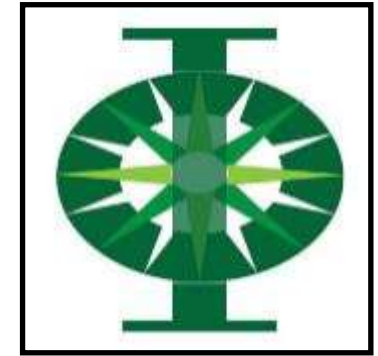
Happiness & Meaning - One-Off Philosophy Talks (Mary Midgley Bequest)

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



22 May Philosophy for Life: A Philosopher's Guide to Happiness

What is happiness? Is it nothing more than feeling good, which underpins the philosophy of utilitarianism? Is it merely the temporary cessation of suffering? Or is it to fully flourish; to live the best life we can live? In this talk we will explore these questions in the esteemed company of J. S. Mill, Arthur Schopenhauer, the Buddha, and Aristotle.

29 May Global Philosophy: Exploring the Chhandogya Upanishad

Is there a deeper meaning of life? What is the essence of our existence? In this interactive talk we delve into the Chhandogya Upanishad, a cornerstone of Vedic philosophy. Join us as we embark on a symbolic journey into the forest for the Vanaprastha stage of life, exploring the nature of reality, the self (Atman), and the ultimate reality (Brahman).

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

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

One-off Culture & Society Session: *5th June*

A Visit to the Library Collections at GNM: Hancock

Tutor: Rebecca Knight

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

Venue: 2nd Floor, Great North Museum: Hancock, Barras Bridge, Newcastle upon Tyne

Time: 10.30 to 11.30



Following a short talk, librarian Rebecca Knight will introduce the three collections housed at the GNM: Hancock Library; Newcastle University, Natural History Society of Northumbria and Society of Antiquaries Newcastle upon Tyne.

Rebecca will also put some items out on display and there'll be an opportunity to browse.

As spaces are limited at this sessions, members are requested to [contact the office](#) to reserve a place in advance.

You can find more details about the venue including access information [HERE](#).

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Literature Course: *12th to 26th June*

The Fantastic Filmic Worlds of Karel Zeman (1910 – 1989)

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



A pioneer in the fields of animation and special effects, Zeman was not only one of the most significant Czech filmmakers of the 20th century, but was admired by the likes of Picasso, Chaplin and Dalí. His award-winning work & techniques, particularly his combination of live-action footage with animation, are still highly regarded and studied at film schools throughout the world. Incorporating a consistent anti-war theme into his films, Zeman's aesthetics have inspired and influenced numerous filmmakers.

- 12 Jun Invention for Destruction (1958) Credited with inventing the steampunk genre, it evokes several works by Jules Verne and tells the story of a gang of pirates who attempt to obtain a secret weapon for an evil Count who wants to attain world domination.
- 19 Jun The Fabulous Baron Munchausen (1962) An absurdist comic-fantasy based on a real person who compulsively exaggerated his own military prowess, making him a figure of fun among the German nobility. In this film, Zeman evokes engravings of French artist Gustave Doré.
- 26 Jun A Jester's Tale (1964) A bold black comedy following the adventures of a ploughboy and a mercenary, press-ganged into service on the battlefields of the devastating Thirty Years' War of 1618-1648. A startlingly inventive film, it is a satire on war, human nature and of the way we perceive history itself.

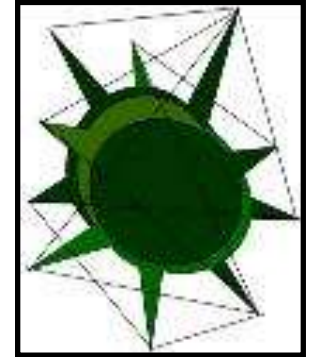
Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

One-off Science Series: 29th May to 26th June

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.00



Date	Tutor	Title
29 May	Helen Wilson	Urban Kittiwakes
06 Jun	Jim Gillon	Zero Carbon Heat in Gateshead - Heat Networks, Minewater & Deeper Geothermal

In this talk, we will cover the development of Gateshead's District Energy Network, and how it is trying to reach zero carbon by 2030. We will talk about what a heat network is, how we have harnessed renewable heat from mines and urban solar parks, and our ambitions to extend the network to homes and businesses in Gateshead. We will also discuss the pros and cons of types of green heat - heat pumps, heat networks, hydrogen - for us as energy suppliers, as well as for home owners.

12 Jun	TBC	TBC
19 Jun	Martin Kitching	Dolphins, Seabirds & the North East Cetacean Project

How a citizen science project that began in 2009, with four birdwatchers on a boat, found itself with a 12000+ member Facebook group mapping cetacean and seabird distribution in NE England. What have we learnt, what's changing in our marine environment, and what's likely to happen in the future?

26 Jun	Ross Weddle	Trees in a Forest
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**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Wednesday

Literature Course: *24th April to 15th May*

The Civilian's View: Short Stories from World War Two

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

Time: 14.30 to 16.00



The literature of wartime is frequently associated with the battleground. What of civilian life?

In this course, we will be considering short stories written in or shortly after the Second World War from the perspective of non-combatants.

What are their responses to this extraordinary period in history? What are their experiences? How do a range of authors shape their writing to present their characters' personal conflicts - and positive choices - against this immense backdrop?

24 Apr 'Safety Zone' and 'The Little Willow'

01 May 'Miss Anstruther's Letters' and 'Year of Decision'

08 May 'The Prisoner'

15 May 'Monsieur Rose'

These stories are published in ***The Second Persephone Book of Short Stories***
Persephone Book Paperback (25 Apr 2019)

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

One-Off Culture & Society Session: *2nd & 16th May*

Life & Labour in Byker Township c. 1760-1841

Tutor: Mike Greatbatch

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

Venue: Various - Brunswick Methodist Church & Newcastle City Library

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



02 May Talk at Brunswick Methodist Church

Join Mike for a survey of the early industries in Byker and the associated settlements and workers.

16 May Archive Visit at Newcastle City Library, Level 6

In this session we'll look at original archive maps, plans, documents and images relating to Byker c1760-1850

There is also a possibility of an additional guided walk on Thursday 27th June - more details will be circulated via the members' weekly bulletin nearer the time.



**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Thursday

Culture & Society Course: *9th, 23rd & 30th May (No session 16th May)*

Eat, Drink and Be Merry - Victorian Attitudes & Daily Life

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



These lectures will explore the sometimes hidden sides of daily life in the time of Victoria using primary and secondary sources.

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 09 May | Attitudes to Food in Victorian Times |
| 23 May | Attitudes to Drink in Victorian Times |
| 30 May | Attitudes to Sex in Victorian Times |

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Literature Short Course: *6th to 20th June*

A Selection from Melville's Piazza Tales

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



Though best known for his epic masterpiece *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville also created some of the most original and challenging shorter fictions of the 19th century.

Melville's early novels, *Typee* (1846) and *Omoo* (1847) were very popular, but *Moby Dick* (1851) that extraordinary experimental leviathan regarded by many today as the great American novel, bewildered readers of his own time. Sales of its successor *Pierre* (1852) did not even cover his advance. And thus it was that, short of money and hoping to restore his place in public taste, for his next venture the writer of epic turned to the smaller canvas of magazine fiction. The tales written for Putnam's Monthly, later collected as *The Piazza Tales* (1856) would be amongst his most original and challenging.

We will read three: 'The Piazza' (of a house with a view) 'Benito Cereno' (what an American sealer found when it came across a Spanish slave ship) and 'The Encantadas' (a mysterious set of sketches about the 'enchanted' isles: the Galapagos.)

The Piazza Tales can be accessed for free at [Project Gutenberg](https://www.projectgutenberg.org/). For a modern annotated edition, you might prefer *Herman Melville (2016) Billy Budd, Bartleby and Other Stories with additional text by Peter Coviello*.

Please Note: *These texts, written before the abolition of slavery, employ language of their time, including some terms that are offensive today.*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

Art Course: *2nd to 16th May (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 other session times)



*See also *Tuesday 23rd April & 21st May (tutor-led)* on [Page 21](#)

The first and final sessions of this season's Art & Craft Studio will be introduced and critiqued by Jenny Alderson, artist and museum & gallery educator. The sessions in between will be group-led, with direction provided by Jenny, to develop ideas, techniques and pieces in an independent setting.

This season we will be exploring how we can use texture in our artworks. We will look at artists who use texture in their work, try collage and other media and techniques, and focus on the textural qualities of different materials.

All members welcome! No experience required. Come and have a go!

**Tuesday 23rd April & 21st May (Hatton Gallery) from 13.30 to 15.30*

Thursday 2nd, 9th & 16th May at Newcastle Art Centre from 11.00 to 13.00

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Thursday

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

Transformations Through Place

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 discuss how authors use specific localities to underpin the stories they tell. These are texts in which the settings exert a particular effect on characters, altering their ideas, experiences, relationships and more.

- 25 Apr Sarah Moss, *Ghost Wall* (2018)
- 02 May Moss concluded; Benjamin Myers, *The Perfect Golden Circle* (2022)
- 09 May Benjamin Myers, *The Perfect Golden Circle* (2022) concluded
- 16 May Elizabeth von Arnim, *The Enchanted April* (1922)
- 23 May Elizabeth von Arnim, *The Enchanted April* (1922) - concluded

All these texts are available in paperback, and you can use any edition for this course.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Literature One Off Sessions: 30th May to 27th June (No session 13th Jun)

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



Date	Tutor	Title
30 May	Karen Dodsworth	A Dip into Victorian Britain: Sarah Waters' Novels
		Waters is best known for her Neo-Victorian novels and in this session we'll explore the main themes and ideas in her first book, <i>Tipping the Velvet</i> , as well as her later stories <i>Affinity</i> and <i>Fingersmith</i> .
06 Jun	Rachel Lister	Concentrated Visions: Elizabeth Bowen's Short Stories
		Elizabeth Bowen wrote that the short story 'is at an advantage over the novel, and can claim its nearer kinship to poetry, because it must be more concentrated, can be more visionary, and is not weighed down (as the novel is bound to be) by facts, explanation, or analysis.' In this session we will consider Bowen's theory by looking at her use of the short-story form to depict charged moments of vision. We will consider a range of her works, including her war stories of the 1940s and her much-celebrated ghost stories.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

Literature One Off Sessions: 30th May to 27th June (No session 13th Jun)

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



Date	Tutor	Title
20 Jun	Claire Nally	Emma Donoghue's <i>The Wonder</i> 'fasting girls' and post-Famine Ireland Through various extracts from the novel, this session will investigate the contexts of Catholicism, family, trauma, and secrecy, as well as the geographical and cultural landscape of post-Famine Ireland. It will also look at some of the text's narrative strategies, and consider how this example of historical fiction navigates ideas of truth, misunderstandings, and misdirection.
27 Jun	Tim Crocker	Elizabeth Gaskell's 'The Manchester Marriage' Elizabeth Gaskell was one of fiction's wisest (and subtlest) voices. In this session we will take a look at the short story she wrote for a special Christmas number of Charles Dickens' Household Words magazine, 1858. 'The Manchester Marriage' can be accessed at Project Gutenberg A House to Let (multiple stories) Alternatively, for a modern annotated edition, <i>Elizabeth Gaskell 'Cousin Phillis and Other Stories (2010) Ed. Heather Glen, Oxford: Oxford University Press</i> is recommended.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Friday

Culture & Society Course: 26th April to 24th May

Chloroform, Cocaine & Cordials - The 19th Century Drug Revolution

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, come back with us to the time when Fenlanders grew their own opium and Coca-Cola contained plenty of cocaine.

We'll explore the long and barely-believable story of the anaesthetic: a tale of self-experiment, wild parties, hypnotism and accidental fire breathing.

Next up, cocaine, morphine, and all those other -ine medicines. Why did Bayer reject aspirin but promote heroin? Why was the first ever intravenous injection morphine in sherry?

Finally, we turn to quack remedies, and learn that Lily the Pink was a real woman, whose efficacious "vegetable compound" was 40% proof alcohol (and the rest was purgatives)!

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Friday

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

British Society, 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 examine aspects of British society during the early twentieth century. It will survey a range of social and cultural topics, showing much about how society was organised and changed in a period greatly influenced by international conflict and social change.

By showing how people lived in the period, this course will hope to inform members about foundations built during the period for later developments in the twentieth century and beyond.

31 May	Social Structure
07 Jun	Culture
14 Jun	Religion
21 Jun	Leisure & Sport
28 Jun	Consumption & Human Behaviour

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

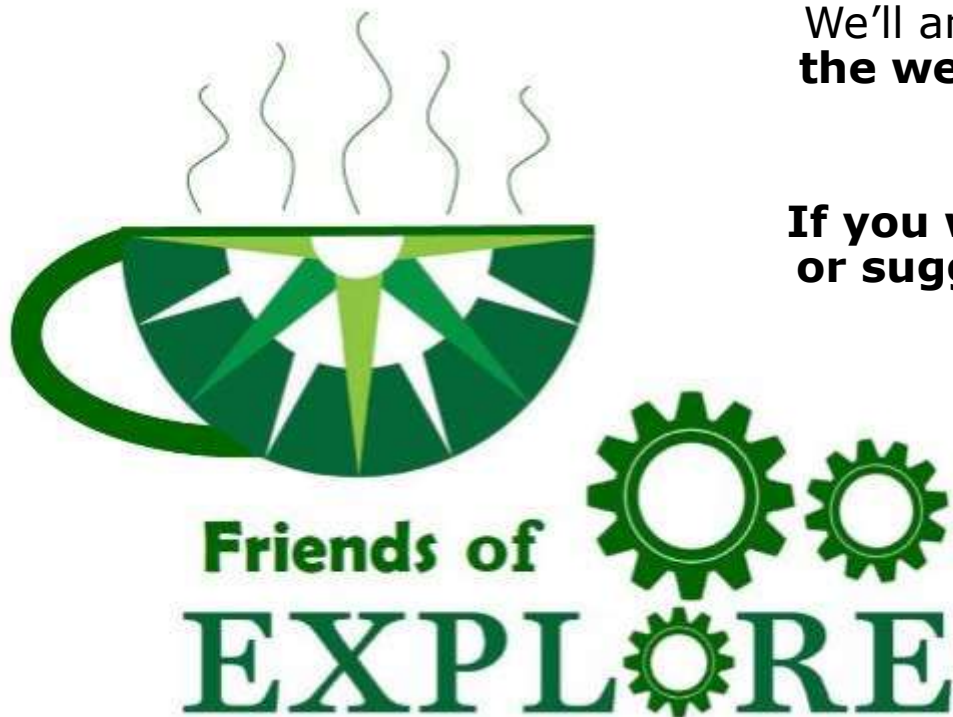
Coffee Morning, Lunch or a Catch Up with Friends of Explore

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



Face-To-Face
Check Venue

LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS

The End of Explore Season Three

**Season One 2024-25 will start
Monday 23rd September 2024**

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