

EXPLORE



Season 1 2022-23 programme

Before Season One Starts...

EXPLORE

FREE Taster Event

Friday 23rd September 2022

11.00-12.30

Enjoy talks from expert tutors and
meet the organisation

Brunswick MC Hall

Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7BJ

(Located behind Monument Waterstones & Fenwicks/Northumberland St)



Book your FREE place online [HERE on Eventbrite!](https://www.eventbrite.com/organisers/weareexplore-5488242822)

Before Season One Starts...

Gordon Brown Memorial Lecture



Wednesday 14th September 2022

18.00 via Zoom*

Lindsay Allason-Jones

**'People, Religion & Change in
the Hinterland of Hadrian's Wall'**

BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET VIA EVENTBRITE [HERE](#)

Leading authority Lindsay Allason-Jones looks at the area south of Hadrian's Wall to demonstrate how recent excavations are beginning to reveal the social landscape wrought by the Roman invasion. The talk uses recent work on the sculpture from the region to shed light on the changes experienced by the inhabitants of the area, whether military or civilian, in their religious and cultural lives.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Explore Season 1 Programme 2022-23

Welcome to our Season One Programme. True to our values of lifelong learning, our organisation has adapted to recent changes with flexibility and enthusiasm - we've relocated to 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 & Margaret Adams

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

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

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

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 space.

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

Explore Season 1 Programme 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 poss. Blended TBC)**

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

Time: 10.30-11.30



Please see [this Extra Note](#) regarding changes to Art History and Culture & Society One-Off Talks

Date	Tutor	Title
03 Oct	Malcolm Grady	Tales from an Exhibition: The Story of the Curation of an Exhibition for Tyne and Wear Museums
10 Oct	Victoria Horne & PhD Students	Feminist Art Magazines
17 Oct	Sarah Lawrence	What Equal Arts does, how the Bewick project fits into that, and what we're thinking of doing next
24 Oct	Jill Harrison	Giotto's Religious Paintings
(31 Oct	Zoom only session—See Page 7)	

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Monday

One-Off Art History Sessions: 31st October

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



Time	Tutor	Title
10.30-11.30	Alexandra Makin	Medieval Embroidery
12.00-13.00	Bryony Coombs	Illuminated Manuscripts

(Details of Malcolm Grady's afternoon Face-to-Face Session on this date will be detailed on [Page 12](#))

**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



Please see [this Extra Note](#) regarding changes to Art History and Culture & Society One-Off Talks

Date	Tutor	Title
07 Nov	Sue Wood	Coming out of Lockdown: Northumberland Archives Projects 2022
14 Nov	Harriot Palin & Jerome Ruddick	PhD to Public
21 Nov	Don O'Meara	What do Science Advisors Do All Day?
28 Nov	Daniel Riddell	Baltic Merchants of Newcastle
05 Dec	Malcolm Grady	The Imagery of Christmas

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Philosophy Course: *7th November to 5th December*

Reading Wittgenstein 3

Tutor: Ian Ground

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



Wittgenstein's *Philosophical Investigations* is acknowledged as one of the very greatest philosophical works of our culture. It is, in many respects, an enjoyable read, free from jargon and technicalities, full of striking remarks, strange stories, and rich examples. But at the same time, it can seem oracular, deeply puzzling and even frustrating.

In this course, we will continue our close reading of the text, moving beyond the early remarks to tackle Wittgenstein's investigations into the private language consideration and his reflections on the meaning of psychological concepts. We will do our best to follow Wittgenstein's advice and go, in philosophy, slowly and not spare the trouble of thinking for ourselves. Newcomers are welcome as the first session will present a recapitulation of the earlier themes.

Participants are advised to have a copy of the text. The more recent translation by Hacker is preferred but the original Anscombe is fine too.

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 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



Please see [this Extra Note](#) regarding changes to Art History and Culture & Society One-Off Talks

Date	Tutor	Title
03 Oct	Sophie Moore	Icons and Iconoclasm in Byzantium
10 Oct	Victoria Horne & PhD Students	Feminist Art Magazines
17 Oct	Jenny Alderson	What Colour Is Normal? Using Colour as a Lens to Explore Societal Norms and Stereotypes
24 Oct	Jill Harrison	Patronage in Renaissance Art
(31 Oct	Zoom only session—Zoom only session—See Page 7)	

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: 12.30-13.30



Please see [this Extra Note](#) regarding changes to Art History and Culture & Society One-Off Talks

Date	Tutor	Title
07 Nov	Anthea Lang	Richard Collinson—Arctic Explorer
14 Nov	Emma Gooch	Exploring the Shefton Collection through the Eyes of a Child: Finding Ancient Greek Children in Archaeology and Museum Collections
21 Nov	Max Adams	The Museum of the Wood Age
28 Nov	John Griffiths	The Development of Northumberland Street as a Retail Centre
05 Dec	Anthea Lang	Mr Newall's Telescope

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



Please see [this Extra Note](#) regarding changes to Art History and Culture & Society One-Off Talks

Date	Tutor	Title
03 Oct	Gary Bankhead	Textile Manufacture, Taxation & Trade in Late- and Post- Medieval Durham City.
10 Oct	Mike Greatbatch	A Crowded District—the Chapelry of St Ann's 1840-1900
17 Oct	John Sadler	Culloden and the '45'
24 Oct	Michael Barke	Mapping Newcastle
31 Oct	Malcolm Grady	Times They Are A'Changin' - Revisted

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Monday

Art History Course: *7th November to 5th December*

Venice Revisited

Tutor: Peter Quinn

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

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



This Five-week course draws on the art, photography and film of Venice.
A revisit and update since our last series on Venice in March 2017

07 Nov – Biennale

14 Nov – Republic

21 Nov – Don't Look Now

28 Nov – Carnival

05 Dec – Stones

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Monday

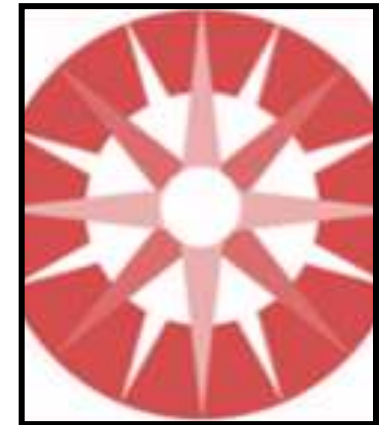
Culture & Society Course: *3rd to 31st October*

A History of Ireland 2 - The Age of Conquest: the Normans to the Stuarts

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 long, drawn-out process of the conquest of Ireland.

From the rise and fall of the Norman Lords, "more Irish than the Irish themselves", to the Wylde Yrishe causing dissent at Oxford, from tentative Tudor colonisation to the calculated Stuart Plantation of Ulster, it is in this period that we find the roots of the modern Troubles, Anglo-Irish relations, and many identities of the peoples of Ireland.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Science Course: *4th October to 1st November*

The Geology of the Caribbean Sea

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

Time: 10.00 to 11.30



The Caribbean offers the travelling geologist beauty and diversity.

Our journey will begin in the north on the verdant islands of Cuba, Hispaniola and Jamaica. We will then work south along the volcanic arc, stopping at Montserrat and Martinique, before exploring Barbados. Our journey continues along the oil-rich coast of Venezuela and ends on the isthmus of Panama.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Science Course: *8th November to 6th December*

Recent Developments in Astronomy and Cosmology

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

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

Time: 10.30 to 11.30



In this 5 week series of talks we will be looking at a variety of different topics in astronomy and cosmology. We will include an update on space missions currently exploring the solar system - including the Mars rovers Curiosity and Perseverance, as well as ongoing missions to several asteroids.

The most exciting development of the past year must be the long awaited launch of the James Webb Space Telescope - as I write this in mid-2022 the telescope has been perfectly focused and the various instruments are being extensively tested. This instrument could revolutionise astronomy in the same way that the Hubble Space Telescope has done over the past 30 years. Hopefully by the Autumn there will be many interesting observations to report.

Also in the news recently was the publication of the first image of the supermassive black-hole at the centre of our galaxy - this achievement has been one of the 'holy grails of astronomy' for many years - we will discuss the importance of this image and how it relates to the study of stars and galaxies, as well as helping to refine our fundamental theory of gravity.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Culture & Society Course: *4th October to 1st November*

A History of Alcohol, from Sumeria to the Seventeenth Century

Tutor: Jo Bath

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

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



Explore how, where and when people got drunk, from the Roman symposium and the Saxon meadhall to the Tudor alehouse.

We'll meet the beer goddesses of ancient Mesopotamia, Roman wine-snobs, drunken monks and dishonest alewives, and learn how to play kottabos, make cock ale, and behave at the Egyptian festival of drunkenness, while looking at sources from poetry to pub signs and the only architectural plan which survives from the middle ages.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

One-Off Science Session: *8th November*

Common Sense Farming in 2022

Tutor: Charlie Bennett

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

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

Time: 13.30 to 14.30



A talk demonstrating how a farm can be sustainable for the environment and for food production.

Charlie and Charlotte Bennett took control of a family farm in 2019. Since then they have been striving to put back old habitats, create new ones and have a sustainable farm for food production.

For more information click on this link www.middleton-north.co.uk

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Mathematics & Society Course: *15th November to 6th December*

Bendy Space-time

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



In 1905 Albert Einstein changed the way we look at our universe in many ways. One of the biggest problems of the day was the unchangeable speed of light. Einstein's solution was to allow an exchange between an interval of time and a distance in space. This unification of space and time was ground breaking and its implications almost magical!

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Science Course: *8th November to 6th December*

Evolution: Is Darwinism Enough?

Tutor: Wallace Arthur

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

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

Time: 15.00-16.00



The early Earth was a completely lifeless place. Today there are millions of species, one of which is our own – Homo sapiens. How did all these species arise, apparently out of nothing?

Humans have been thinking about this question for thousands of years. The early answers lay in the realms of superstition and religion. One of these is provided by the book of Genesis in the Christian and Hebrew bible. But in the last couple of centuries, we also have answers that lie in the realm of science. Some of these have been insufficiently detailed to be of use. Others have had more detail but turned out to be wrong. Just one has been sufficiently detailed to be useful, and has been widely accepted as correct – Darwinism. But is Darwinian natural selection really enough to explain the origin of all species?

In this short course we scrutinize this question, and possible answers to it.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Music Course: 4th October to 15th November (No session 18th & 25th Oct)

Exploring Music: A Feast For the Senses

Tutor: Mike Green

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30



In these sessions we will be exploring five compositions inspired by works of art. We will look at the life and work of the composers and discuss their musical and historical context. There will be plenty of opportunity to listen to musical examples. No formal musical knowledge is required.

04 Oct La Mer

11 Oct Isle of the Dead

01 Nov Pictures at an Exhibition

08 Nov Trittico Botticelliano

15 Nov The Rake's Progress

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**

Wednesday

Literature Course: 5th to 19th October

Classical Chinese Poetry: An Introduction

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



Classical Chinese poetry represents the largest and longest continuous tradition in world literature, its finest poems unsurpassed in their imaginative force and beauty. Nevertheless, faced with an unfamiliar script and the sheer superabundance of texts, readers can struggle for a way in. This course aims to provide just that, with no prior knowledge or reading required.

Beginning with the remarkable *Shih Ching* anthology whose origins are lost in time's mists, we'll consider the famously enigmatic *Tao Te Ching* (compiled C4 BCE) before turning to a magnificent series of individual poets starting with T'ao Ch'ien (365–427 CE) and encompassing the great T'ang writers Wang Wei, Li Po and Tu Fu as well as later Sung poets like Wang An-shih and Su Tong-p'o, much of whose poetry is intimately connected with landscape and the natural world – an eco-poetry many centuries *avant la lettre*! In reading these wonderful poems in a variety of English versions, we'll consider different approaches to translation as a vital part of the poems' modern reception, as well as exploring how ancient Chinese poetry has intertexted excitingly with modern poetry, especially that of the US 20th century.

No prior reading required. Reference texts will be provided nearer the time.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Literature Course: 26th October to 9th November

How Meaning is Constructed in Films

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



The aim of these three sessions is to consider how meaning is created in three very different types of British film. Among other things, we will study the use of setting, lighting, camera-work, editing and sound and assess how these elements both individually and collectively convey a film's narrative.

We will begin with social realism and analyse the film *Fish Tank* (Andrea Arnold, 2009), a coming-of-age drama about a young female who is desperate to escape from the housing estate where she lives.

The second session will concern historical dramas and will concentrate on the Oscar-winning film *The King's Speech* (Tom Hooper, 2010), which recounts the story of how King George VI was helped by a speech therapist to overcome a severe speech impediment.

The Third session will concern action films and will focus on the James Bond film *Skyfall* (Sam Mendes, 2012).

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

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Literature Course: *5th October to 9th November (No session 26th Oct)*

Reading Poetry: Places and Spaces

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

Venue: Via Zoom & Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle

Time: 14.00 to 15.30

upon Tyne



How do poets capture a sense of place or space within a few lines or verses?

This course will offer the chance to do some comparative readings of a wide range of poems that aim to represent a particular kind of place or space.

We will consider how poets use a variety of forms and techniques to capture experiences in different places: on the road; in houses and rooms; in the classroom; travelling by train and in the suburbs of England.

We will cover works from poets such as Philip Larkin, John Betjeman, Gwendolyn Brooks, Ted Hughes, Derek Mahon, Robert Frost, Carol Ann Duffy and Louise Erdrich.

Texts will be supplied nearer the time.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

One-off Literature Session: *26th October*

'The Street of Crocodiles' – An Introduction to the writing of Bruno Schulz

Tutor: Tim Crocker

Format: This sessions will be delivered **Zoom Only**

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



The Polish Jewish writer Bruno Schulz (1892-1942) is sometimes compared with his near contemporary Franz Kafka, but his surreal stories have a wit and pathos all their own, and the short story, 'The Street of Crocodiles' (1934) is a good introduction to his work.

He was also an artist and illustrator and we would also consider some examples of his drawings during the presentation. Sadly, he was a victim of the Holocaust, murdered whilst confined in the Drohobych ghetto.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

Literature Course: 16th November to 7th December

Choices

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

Time: 14.00-15.30



What shapes our choices? How much control do we have over them? In these sessions, we shall be considering texts from a range of genres – prose, the short story, poetry (both serious and light-hearted) and non-fiction – each of which considers the question of choice. What function does this theme have within the text? How is it explored and portrayed? What do the choices the authors themselves make as writers tell us about their values and society?

16 Nov - *Quicksand* - Nella Larsen (1928). Suggested edition: Penguin Classics, paperback, 2002, with Introduction and notes by Thadious M. Davis.

23 Nov - *Quicksand* - Nella Larsen (1928) – (cont'd)

30 Nov - *If at First You Don't Succeed, Try, Try Again* Zen Cho (2018). NB This is a **very** long short story! It can be found [HERE](#)

07 Dec - *The Choosing* Liz Lochhead (1972) - this poem can be found [HERE](#) *The Ruined Maid* Thomas Hardy (1866): actually a comic poem, found [HERE](#) *If only my mother had told me how to bake and boil...* Julian Barnes (2002): a piece of journalism which can be found [HERE](#)

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

Art Course: *6th October to 3rd November*

Practical Art & Craft Studio - Textile Art

Tutor: Various

Venue/Format: These sessions will be held in **Newcastle Art Centre Studio A**

Time: 11.00 to 13.00



The first session (6th October) by an **invited art tutor, Jenny Alderson**. She will introduce the session by showing some examples of artworks and objects with some contextualization, then lead a practical making session. She will introduce us to creating an abstract piece with a chosen colour palette, which may be usable or displayed as an artwork.

We will be using offcut or secondhand/repurposed materials. Some material will be supplied but members are invited to bring their own materials as well.

Members will work on their pieces over the next few weeks and Jenny will return later in the season to review and comment on progress, advising on next steps.

The workshop is designed to include everyone interested in either developing design and sewing skills or dipping your toes into art and craft for the first time.

This is a perfect opportunity for Explore members to be creative without worrying about their ability to draw and paint. We are a fun and friendly group who are always welcoming new members.

Please email exploreprog@gmail.com if you are interested in attending. This will help plan the sessions.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

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

Reading Ovid's Metamorphoses in English

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 12.00



Probably the most influential and well-known poem by Ovid (43BC-AD17) is the long 'epic' *Metamorphoses*.

Written in 15 'books' (or papyrus scrolls) this is a wickedly witty, yet also moving poem with a host of mythological stories, many familiar (Narcissus, Pyramus and Thisbe for example) others not so (Cyparissus for example). Although it is easy to focus on individual stories as if the poem were a mythological compendium, yet it has a some degree of unity from a roughly chronological narrative (from the creation to Rome and Augustus) and especially from the central theme of changes.

Reading three 'books' each week we will explore the poem, looking at the genre, the way in which the myths are incorporated into the narrative and how each metamorphosis is described. Most of all, Ovid's 'wonderful speeches and stories' (Robert Lowell) are here to be enjoyed.

There are a number of easily available translations, but recommended for this course:
Ovid Metamorphoses, Translated by David Raeburn, Penguin 2004

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

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

Taking the Waters—A History of British Spas

Tutor: John Griffiths

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



We will be looking at the history of spas in Britain, from Roman baths, pre-Christian and medieval holy wells to the development of fashionable bathing places from the seventeenth century. We'll look at their peak of popularity in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, how they dealt with competition from seaside resorts, and how they have adapted to modern times.

Examples will range from famous centres like Bath and Harrogate to small regional resorts like Dinsdale on Teesside and the inpropitiously-named border spa of Deadwater.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Mathematics Series: *20th, 27th October & 3rd November*

Mathematical Thinking Through Puzzles and Problems

Tutor: Peter Pool

Venue & Times: Paper-based Activity/Offline - These sessions will be delivered weekly via **members' only mailouts**



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

For this course you don't need high level maths, just a willingness to have a go with what you already know. This learning curve will be plenty of fun and Peter will be offering members weekly maths puzzles, distributed by email each week with hints available and answers to follow.

Look out for these activities from Peter in your Explore members mailouts. We hope you will have some fun tackling these puzzles & problems.



Thursday

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

Critical Encounters

Tutor: Tim Crocker

Venue/Format: These sessions will be delivered **live via Zoom (poss. Blended Time: 14.00-15.30 TBC)**



A connected series of discrete sessions about seminal moments in criticism, when one writer or critic's reading of another signals a major insight or change – sometimes particular to themselves, sometimes encapsulating a much wider cultural shift.

So we might have a session on Wordsworth reading Thomas Gray (signaling a whole new approach to poetry we now call Romanticism), then session 2 on Virginia Woolf's scathing demolition of Arnold Bennett in a manifesto of her own brand of modernism before finishing with D.H. Lawrence reading Thomas Hardy – an exercise which says a lot more about Lawrence himself than Hardy, but is a fascinating insight into a writer in the process of thinking.

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

Literature Course: 10th November to 8th December

Looking at the world from a different angle: three contemporary novels

Tutor: Bronwen Calvert

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face (See note re Zoom*)**

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



In this course we'll look at three recent novels, each presenting the world from new or different perspectives. We'll read and analyse these texts and consider how the writers use particular techniques to accentuate newness or strangeness in their fictional worlds.

Please note that it will be most helpful if you can read the whole of each novel before we begin to discuss it. All novels are available in paperback.

10 Nov - Susanna Clarke, *Piranesi*

17 Nov - Clarke concludes; begin Elif Shafak, *The Island of Missing Trees*

24 Nov - Shafak concludes

01 Dec - Yaa Gyasi, *Transcendent Kingdom*

08 Dec - Gyasi concludes and end of course discussion

***Bronwen will run three supplementary Zoom sessions on Wednesday 16th November, 30th November & 7th December (10.30-12.00) as detailed in the members' mailout.**

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Friday

Culture & Society Course: *7th October to 4th November*

'Pax Britannica' British Foreign Policy in the Long Nineteenth Century

Tutor: Nick Cott

from 1789-1914

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 Britain's international role both in political & diplomatic terms, amid a growing empire. We will examine the ideology of imperialism and consider both the challenges & opportunities that existed for British foreign policy, offering some views about the origins of Britain's international decline. It will examine the extent to which British power was limited by other powers & jurisdictions and the reaction. We'll examine some of the key figures of the period, including Canning, Palmerston and Disraeli, who fashioned views about Britain's imperial role, and the views of Castlereagh, Wellington, Aberdeen and Gladstone, who were set against it. We'll consider the divergence of views about Britain's global (as opposed to European power status) and the chronology from 1789 and the Revolutionary wars until the outbreak of the First World War in 1914.

07 Oct Introduction / Legacies and revolutions

14 Oct The classical period of 19th century foreign policy Part 1

21 Oct The classical period of 19th century foreign policy Part 2

28 Oct Foreign policy in the age of the New Imperialism

04 Nov The progress towards war

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Friday

Art History Double-Bill Sessions:

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

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

Time: 10.30-12.30



This new Friday slot is an experiment/trial to see if more members can enjoy Art talks on a different day than our usual Monday sessions. 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
11 Nov	Stephen Moonie	1.) Neo-Avante Garde: Jasper Johns (F2F Only) 2.) Neo-Avante Garde: Robert Rauschenberg (F2F Only)
18 Nov	Peter Quinn	1.) Cezanne, Modern Painter (Blended) 2.) Thinking about Art: Still Life (F2F Only)
25 Nov	Peter Quinn	1.) NFTs: What are they & Why Do I Need To Know? (Blended) 2.) Thinking about Art: Landscape (F2F)
02 Dec	Peter Quinn	1.) Lynette Yiadom-Boakye & Figurative Painting (B) 2.) Thinking about Art: Portrait (F2F)
09 Dec	Peter Quinn	Face-to-Face Friday Film Morning: 'Andrei Rublev', Andrei Tarkovsky, 1966

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Friday

Culture & Society Course: *11th November to 9th December*

Ancient Identities Today

Tutor: Kate Sharpe

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



(Please read Katie's full text [HERE](#)) Representations of historical figures and events reflect the concerns of the societies who created them rather than current archaeological and historical research. History lessons taught in the 1950s and 1960s may not always equip those now in their 60s and 70s to make accurate historical analogies between past and present issues! Often, the past is presented in binary, divisive ways and claims concerning historical identity and origins have been used to support a number of stances, some with devastating results.

How should we be educating children to move away from fixed perspectives and stereotypes, to provide more nuanced versions of the past and encourage more critical thinking and tolerance of difference? How might we challenge those entrenched adult understandings of the past that are used to support divisive political views, and present more balanced accounts and multiple perspectives?

We will take a close look at a specific period, from the Iron Age to the end of the Roman Period in Britain (c. 800 BC – AD 400) and consider how the period has been presented over the last . How do our impressions of the past influence our understanding of current political issues such as invasions, empires, borders, identities, and nationalism? Whose side are you on?

What did the Romans really do for Britannia? Was Boudica a heroine or a mad barbarian?

And what does Star Wars have to do with any of this?

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Coffee Morning/Lunch with Friends of Explore

Venue/Format: These event can be delivered **via Zoom** or **Face-to-Face**

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

Once we've settled into Season One, we might want a coffee and a chat between sessions, face to face or via Zoom.

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

We'll announce more details **via the weekly bulletins** so keep an eye out for occasional catch up/chat sessions with [Friends of Explore](#).



Face-To-Face
Check Venue

LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS

The End of Explore Season One

**Season Two 2022-23 will start
in January 2023**

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