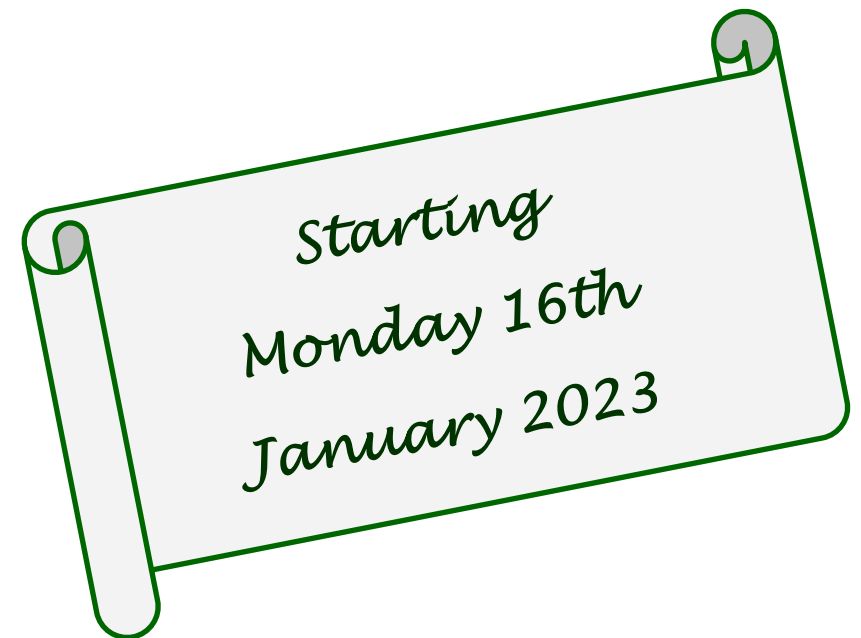


# EXPLORE



## Season 2 2022-23 programme

**Before Season Two Starts...**

# EXPLORE

## FREE Taster Event

Monday 9th January 2023

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/organizers/weareexplore)

## Explore Season 2 Programme 2022-23



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

**New joiners are very welcome, so if you would like to join Explore please [get in touch](#) or join our [mailing list](#) to find out more 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 & Angela Young

Perspectives (Science & Mathematics): Pamela Denham

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 2 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

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

### Provocations

**Tutor:** Ian Ground

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

**Time:** 10.30 to 12.00



The Royal Institute of Philosophy, The Philosophical Society of England and Ted Talks all host lively series of lectures from professional philosophers but aimed a more general public.

In this series, we will view a lecture before each session and then open for discussion, first in breakout groups and then as a whole group.

It will take about an hour to view each lecture before the Explore session so please make time to do that. Topics will include aesthetics, ethics, artificial intelligence and the dreams of animals.

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

*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 Blended)**

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

**Time:** 10.30-11.30



*Following our recent variable timetabling trial of Art History and Culture & Society talks in Season One (see the [Extra Note](#) previously circulated) we have continued to vary some schedules for Season Two.*

Date	Tutor	Title
16 Jan	Amy Dover	Drawing Animals in Our Disappearing World Amy will speak about her work as an artist and illustrator. The focus of her career has been the impact of humans on the animal world. Through her art work, she draws attention to the risk of extinction faced by many animal species in this country and abroad.
23 Jan	Malcolm Gee	Cezanne and the Old Masters ( <b>Blended</b> )
30 Jan	David Rosier	Decoding Chinese Symbolism & Iconography - Imperial & Commercial Artworks: Qin - Ming Dynasty 221BCE-1644CE
06 Feb	Ian McArdle	L.S. Lowry ( <b>Blended</b> )
13 Feb	Peter Quinn	Goya Drawings ( <b>Blended</b> )

**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



*Following our recent variable timetabling trial of Art History and Culture & Society talks in Season One (see the [Extra Note](#) previously circulated) we have continued to vary some schedules for Season Two.*

Date	Tutor	Title
20 Feb	Anthea Lang	The Land Owner, The Actress & The Museum: The story of John & Josephine Bowes and the Bowes Museum
27 Feb	Malcolm Grady	Politics: An Exercise in Democracy
06 Mar	Craig Thomas and Chris Law PhD to Public	
13 Mar	(Zoom Sessions—See <a href="#">Page 8</a> )	
20 Mar	Kate Sharpe	Blurred Lines & Grey Areas: Encounters with cup marks and 'found rock art' in northern England

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

## Monday

**One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:** 13th March

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



Time	Tutor	Title
10.30-11.30	Beth Elliot	Manorial Documents
12.00-13.00	Alexandra Makin	Textiles and Archaeology

*(Details of Peter Quinn's afternoon session on this date are detailed on [Page 12](#). The course is usually blended however the 13th March session will be Zoom Only.)*

**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



*Following our recent variable timetabling trial of Art History and Culture & Society talks in Season One (see the [Extra Note](#) previously circulated) we have continued to vary some schedules for Season Two.*

Date	Tutor	Title
16 Jan	Brian Ord	Impossible Interiors & Exteriors Brian's recent works originate as small scale hand worked collage, appropriated from a variety of sources then photographed & digitally printed directly onto canvas before being reworked using resin & paint. We'll discuss the evolution of these & where they may be going.
23 Jan	Malcolm Gee	Cezanne and the avant-gardes c.1880-1914 <b>(Blended)</b>
30 Jan	David Rosier	Chinese Symbolism & Iconography - Imperial & Commercial Artworks Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) & The Republican Period (1912-1949)
06 Feb	Ian McArdle	The Reverend & the Railway: The Creator of Thomas the Tank Engine <b>(Blended)</b>
13 Feb	Peter Quinn	The Sketch: Ten Drawings to Discuss and Debate

**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



*Following our recent variable timetabling trial of Art History and Culture & Society talks in Season One (see the [Extra Note](#) previously circulated) we have continued to vary some schedules for Season Two.*

Date	Tutor	Title
20 Feb	Colm O'Brien	A Beginner's Guide to Minoan Archaeology
27 Feb	John Griffiths	The Pope Who Came to Newcastle
06 Mar	David Heslop	The Ledgerstones of St Nicholas' Cathedral
13 Mar	(Zoom Sessions—See <a href="#">Page 8</a> )	
20 Mar	Malcolm Grady	A Light-hearted Look at Life Through Poetry in the Modern Era

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

## 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:** 14.00-15.30



*Following our recent variable timetabling trial of Art History and Culture & Society talks in Season One (see the [Extra Note](#) previously circulated) we have continued to vary some schedules for Season Two.*

Date	Tutor	Title
16 Jan	John Griffiths	The Iwakura Mission & Tyneside's Role in the Modernisation of Japan
23 Jan	Mike Barke	Volunteering at the Great North Museum: Finding some Treasures!
30 Jan	David Rosier	Origins, Evolution and Creation of Imperial silk
06 Feb	David Watkins & Deborah Beecroft	The Percy Family
13 Feb	Graeme Young	Bowl Hole Cemetery: An Update

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

## Monday

**Art History Course:** *20th February to 20th March*

**Amsterdam - Drawing On The Art, Photography And Film**

**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



This Five-week course draws on the art, photography and film of Amsterdam.

- 20 Feb      Amsterdam 1 - Canals and Bicycles
- 27 Feb      Amsterdam 2 - Golden Age: Hals and Rembrandt van Rijn
- 06 Mar      Amsterdam 3 - Black Book: war, exiles and resistance
- 13 Mar      Amsterdam 4 - CoBrA (**\*Zoom Only**)
- 20 Mar      Amsterdam 5 - Contemporary art and museums

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

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

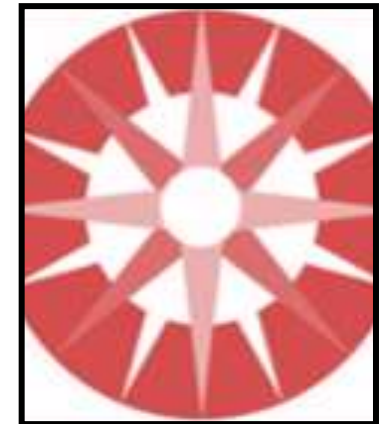
## Monday

**Culture & Society Course:** *6th February to 6th March*  
**From Famine to Prosperity—Ireland c.1800-Present**

**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 emergence of modern Ireland from the trauma of the Famine, through the scars of the battles for independence, to reconciliation and reform.

The legacies of Famine and the long path to independence loom large in the Irish psyche, but the 21st Century has seen the emergence of a more confident, progressive, outward-looking Irish state than many would have considered possible at its foundation.

This is the story of how, in just a few generations, Ireland went from a poverty-stricken nation to a global 'tech-hub'.

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Tuesday

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

### Climate Change in the Himalayas

**Tutor:** Derek Teasdale

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

**Time:** 10.00 to 11.30



The Earth's Polar regions seem to be highly sensitive to climate change.

The Himalayas, which are sometimes referred to as the Third Pole, are also changing rapidly.

Glaciers have receded, creating unstable lakes which are prone to catastrophic drainage. Snow and ice loss on the high peaks has altered the hydrology of the great river systems which they feed.

But despite these challenges the region remains one of the most beautiful wildernesses on the planet.

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**



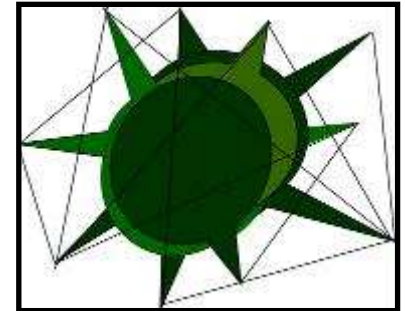
## Tuesday

**One-Off Science Sessions:** *21st February to 21st March*

### Neuroscience - A Series of One-off Talks

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

**Time:** 10.30 to 11.30



21 Feb Prof Stuart Baker    **Neural pathways to make you stronger**

The desire to move originates in the brain, but commands must be transmitted down to the spinal cord if this is to result in action. In this talk, we will explore how one evolutionarily primitive pathway between brain and spinal cord functions, and the important role it plays when someone starts strength training at the gym. This will lead us to consider how people recover from damage after stroke, and what we can do to improve recovery.

28 Feb Dr Laura Young    **Imaging Neurons In the Living Human Eye**

Advanced imaging technologies now allow us to capture images of a person's retina at a cellular level, as though watching it under a microscope. This talk will describe how this is possible and how the technology is being used to better understand human vision.

07 Mar Prof Adrian Rees    **Hearing Sounds That Do and Don't Exist**

Our hearing depends on some remarkable biological machinery. This talk will outline the mechanisms involved in the perception of sound and discuss possible reasons why some people experience tinnitus – a sound with no external source.

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

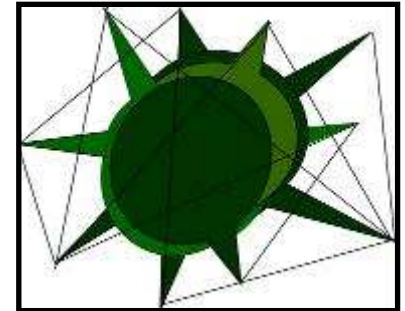
## Tuesday

**One-Off Science Sessions:** *21st February to 21st March*

### **Neuroscience - A Series of One-off Talks**

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

**Time:** 10.30 to 11.30



14 Mar Dr Fiona LeBeau **Investigating Cortical Hyperexcitability in Neurodegenerative Diseases: A new therapeutic target?**

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.

21 Mar Dr Tom Smulders **Brain Evolution: why (and when) the study of other species can help us understand the human brain**

Animals, ranging from roundworms to rhesus macaques, are routinely used in neuroscience research with the express goal of increasing our understanding of the human brain. Based on our understanding of brain evolution, I will discuss the pros and cons of using different species for different neuroscientific questions.

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Tuesday

**Art Course:** *21st February and 21st March (Part of Art Studio Sessions)*

### **Practical Art & Craft Studio - Invited Artist Sessions**

**Tutor:** Jenny Alderson

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

**Time:** 10.45 to 12.45



Continuing our Art and Craft Studio sessions held over five weeks, the first and fifth/final sessions will welcome back invited local artist Jenny Alderson. These 'invited artist' sessions will be held on Tuesdays (the remaining untutored sessions will continue on Thursdays) between 11.00-13.00 at Newcastle Arts Centre. (See [Page 35](#))

These sessions will be introduced and critiqued by Jenny Alderson, artist and museum & gallery educator. She 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 *Carolina Caycedo: Land of Friends* at Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art, we will focus on the Tyne river catchment, its history and our personal relationships to it to produce our artworks.

Jenny worked with us in Season 1 on textiles, but this will be broader, with the 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**

## Tuesday

### 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:** 13.00-14.00



*Following our recent variable timetabling trial of Art History and Culture & Society talks in Season One (see the [Extra Note](#) previously circulated) we have continued to vary some schedules for Season Two.*

Date	Tutor	Title
21 Feb	Peter Quinn	Giacometti: Portraits and Landscape <b>(Blended)</b>
28 Feb	Michele Allen	The Weight of Ants in the World  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.
07 Mar	Rachel Lancaster	Paint and Moving Image
14 Mar	Peter Quinn	Home and Hearth: George Shaw and Thomas Bewick <b>(Blended)</b>
21 Mar	Peter Quinn	F2F Film Session - The Music Box (1932) *Session Runs 13.00-15.30  Directed by James Parrott, produced by Hal Roach and distributed by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, starring Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

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

## Tuesday

**Mathematics & Society Course:** *21st February to 21st March*

### Five Pieces of Physics

**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



Are you ready to explore the fascinating world of physics?

Join us for a series of five talks designed to expand your understanding of the science behind the universe.

We'll cover everything from the basics of Newtonian mechanics to the complexities of quantum mechanics and relativity. Along the way, you'll learn about the forces that shape the world around us and the behaviors that govern our lives.

Get ready to explore the physics of the universe!

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

## Tuesday

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

### **Witches and Ghosts**

**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



In this course we look at two strands of medieval and early modern belief in England (mostly) - ghosts, and witchcraft.

The medieval ghost comes in two forms; purgatorial spirit or Germanic walking dead - but how would you tell the difference and what should you do if you meet one? How does the Reformation change things? Then we will turn to the belief in magic, considering the real cunning folk you might turn to find lost property or remove a curse; and finally, those who were thought to have the power to cause illness and death.

We'll round off with a look at England's most extreme witch-hunts, from Pendle to East Anglia.

**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:** 14.30-15.30



*Following our recent variable timetabling trial of Art History and Culture & Society talks in Season One (see the [Extra Note](#) previously circulated) we have continued to vary some schedules for Season Two.*

Date	Tutor	Title
21 Feb	Peter Quinn	Portrait Heads: Ten Examples to Debate and Discuss
28 Feb	Lloyd Langley	William Bell Scott
07 Mar	Michael Mulvihill	RAF Fylingdales & the Four Minute Warning: 60 Years of Nuclear Anxiety
14 Mar	Peter Quinn	Book Art: Ten Examples to Debate and Discuss
21 Mar	Peter Quinn	Film Session - The Music Box (1932) Cont. (See <a href="#">Page 17</a> )

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

## Tuesday

**Science Course:** *21st February to 21st March*

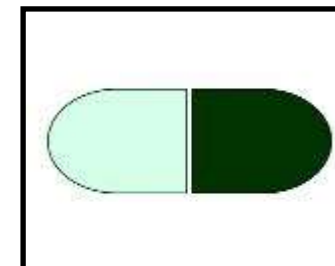
**Science & Medicine - A Series of One-Off Talks**

**Tutor:** Various

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

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

**Time:** 14.50-15.50



In this series of one-off sessions, we welcome highly esteemed experts to discuss their work and research on a range of subjects in the medical field.

Date	Tutor	Title
21 Feb	Mike Gibson	Fun with 2D Glasses: Practical Activities in Special Relativity Demystifying time dilation and length contraction and seeing that there is no paradox in two observers each regarding the other as slower and shorter.
28 Feb	Bill Gibbon	IT in Education: Past, Present, Future? Although long retired, at heart Bill is still a primary school teacher, but his career eventually took him to national policy development. Bill will share aspects of his career path in education from being a student teacher at Northern Counties College in the 1970s to advising ministers in Whitehall in the noughties. His focus was the deployment of computers and information technology in schools, perhaps leading to the obvious question - "Should schools ban mobile phones?"

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

## Tuesday

**Science Course:** 21st February to 21st March

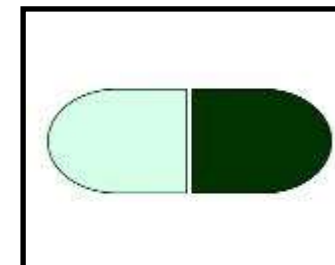
**Science & Medicine - A Series of One-Off Talks**

**Tutor:** Various

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

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

**Time:** 14.50-15.50



Date	Tutor	Title
07 Mar	Miles Witham	Clinical Trials for Older People - Why Inclusion Matters Older people are those most likely to be affected by health conditions, yet are often excluded from the clinical trials that tell us whether treatments are effective. This talk will cover why older people are excluded, why this matters for older people and for those caring for older people, and what we can do to make things better.
14 Mar	Mark Walker	Genetic Predisposition to Common Diseases - Lessons from Diabetes
21 Mar	Lee Higham	Phosphorus: Sympathy for the Devil's Element? The 13th element to be discovered has a fearsome if well deserved reputation, but like many things in science this is only part of its fascinating story. We'll cover its 1669 discovery, its role as active participant in important economic, political & social landmark events and end with examples of present day research that show surprises in store from this the greatest of all elements.

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

## Tuesday

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

**Exploring Music: The Seasons - Spring**

**Tutor:** Mike Green

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

**Time:** 18.00 to 19.30



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

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

17 Jan Epiphany

24 Jan Spring Song

31 Jan Lent and Passiontide

07 Feb A Spring in the Step

14 Feb Easter

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Wednesday

**One-Off Culture & Society Session:** *15th February*

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

**Tutor:** Sally Waite

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

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

**Time:** 10.30-12.30



This session will offer an interactive tour of the Shefton Gallery in the Great North Museum.

After a brief introduction to the Shefton Collection, participants will spend some time in the gallery selecting objects that particularly appeal to them. We will then have a group discussion in the Council Room of the Great North Museum aimed at developing a co-produced programme of sessions (planned for Explore's Summer season) exploring objects from the Collection alongside related creative activities. No artistic skill required!

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

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

## Wednesday

**Narratives Course:** 8th February to 1st March

**Word, Music, Dance, Ritual: Orpheus Revivified**

**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



Mantua, 24 February 1607. As his employers' signature trumpet-tune dies out, the powerful allegorical figure La Musica steps forward, his song subtly associating the Gonzaga line with the legendary hero Orpheus, whose song charmed Hades. The words are by poet Alessandro Striggio the music by court composer Claudio Monteverdi. *L'Orfeo* isn't the first opera, but over the following two hours its stunning music unfolds a new art form of previously unrealised force and potential.

London, 21 May 1986. Harrison Birtwistle's gargantuan 'lyric tragedy' *The Mask of Orpheus* is premiered at the Coliseum. Its libretto by Peter Zinovieff combines astonishing invention & suggestiveness. Each main character (Orpheus, Eurydice, Aristaeus) is represented in three forms, as Person (by a singer), as Hero (by a mime) and as Myth (by a singing puppet), while six mimed 'allegories' enact other, related Greek myths illuminating the main myth. It requires huge resources, two conductors and technology for reproducing its many electronic sounds.

We'll explore how Striggio's poetry encourages & meshes with the strophic & dance-related forms of Monteverdi's music, and how Zinovieff and Birtwistle's remarkable collaboration explores the power & status of ritual, highlighting the functions of time and memory and the tragic nature of modernity. We'll consider, too, the recent adaptation of *L'Orfeo* by Opera North & South Asian Arts-uk involving Indian music and instrumentation, with a thrilling performance available now as a livestream.

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

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



## Wednesday

**One-Off Culture & Society Study Day: 8th March**

**Life & Labour in Saint Ann's parish, c 1760 to 1860**

**Tutor:** Mike Greatbatch

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

**Venue:** St Ann's Church, Breamish St/City Road, Newcastle upon Tyne

**Time:** 10.30-15.30



This off-site study day will incorporate both a seated talk at St Ann's Church and a walking tour around the nearby area within its parish. Attendees are encouraged to bring a packed lunch but light refreshments will be available at St Ann's on arrival and at lunchtime. *(To help estimate attendance numbers, please email [thisisexplore@gmail.com](mailto:thisisexplore@gmail.com) if you plan to attend.)*

- 10.30-11.00 Arrive St Ann's (tea/coffee)
- 11.15-12.15 Lecture
- 12.30-13.30 Lunch (participants bring their own; tea/coffee available)
- 14.00-15.30 Walking tour (end near a bus stop)



**Note re Directions:** St. Ann's Church is technically on Breamish Street however there is also access via a gate on City Road. Q Buses stop near Quayside and City Road, but many others also stop on Newbridge Street (St Dominic's/Crawhall Road) which is just a short walk down the hill to St Ann's Church.

**Face-To-Face  
Check Venue**

## Wednesday

**Literature Course:** *8th to 22nd March*

**How Meaning is Constructed in Hollywood 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 award-winning Hollywood films, in the process addressing the notion of what makes mainstream types of film so important to the viewing experience.

We will begin with the influential romantic comedy *When Harry Met Sally* (Rob Reiner, 1989). The second session will engage with the thriller *Enemy of the State* (Tony Scott, 1998), which, although made at the end of the 20th century, now seems quite prescient of the post 9/11 times in which we now live - in particular concerning the activities of covert government agencies and their apparent unaccountability (among other things). Last, but by means not least, we will consider *Little Miss Sunshine* (Valerie Ferris/Jonathan Dayton, 2006), a road movie that has considerable relevance within American culture and its geography.

During these three sessions 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.

*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:** *15th February to 22nd March (no session 8th Mar)*

### Passion in Politics

**Tutor:** Anthea Lang & Malcolm Grady

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

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



Over 5 weeks, we'll be taking a look at a selection of politicians - their lives, their politics and their passions ... whatever they might be!

15 Feb Gladstone

22 Feb Charles Steward Parnell

01 Mar David Lloyd George

08 Mar **NO CLASS**

15 Mar Ellen Wilkinson

22 Mar Harold Macmillan

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

## Wednesday

**Literature Course:** *18th January to 15th February*

**Telling Tales: Reliable Narrators?**

**Tutor:** Rachel Lister

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

**Time:** 14.00 to 15.30



D. H. Lawrence once warned readers, 'Never trust the teller, trust the tale.'

Yet some of the most popular characters in literature take on the dual roles of teller and character.

In this course we will discuss narratives told from the perspective either of one single character or the narrative's community. We will consider issues of reliability, perspective and voice.

18 Jan - Kazuo Ishiguro's *An Artist of the Floating World*

25 Jan - Kazuo Ishiguro's *An Artist of the Floating World* – (cont.)

01 Feb - Anne Tyler's *A Patchwork Planet*

08 Feb - Anne Tyler's *A Patchwork Planet* - (cont.)

15 Feb - John Cheever's *Goodbye, My Brother* and *Reunion*

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Wednesday

**One-off Literature Session:** *22nd February*

**The Love poems of John Donne**

**Tutor:** Tim Crocker

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

**Time:** 14.00 to 15.30



An introduction to one of the most innovative and charismatic voices in English poetry - Shakespeare's contemporary – John Donne.

**Texts of all poems will be provided nearer the time**

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Wednesday

**Literature Course:** *1st to 22nd March*

### Music in Literature

**Tutor:** Clare Jackson

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

**Time:** 14.00-15.30



Music runs throughout literature. In these sessions, we shall be focusing together on poems and short stories in which writers make music their starting point, inspiration or basis for wider comment. How is music used to characterise and to generate plot? How is music used symbolically? Or as a means to social and personal reflection? What 'music' do the authors themselves generate in their writing?

- 01 Mar Poetry - Thomas Wyatt '*My Lute Awake*' & George Herbert '*Easter*'
- 08 Mar Short Stories - Elizabeth Strout's '*The Piano Player*' from Oliver Kitteridge & James Joyce's '*A Mother*' from Dubliners
- 15 Mar Poetry - DH Lawrence's '*Piano*', Langston Hughes' '*The Weary Blues*' & Roxane Beth Johnson's '*Blues for Almost Forgotten Music*'
- 22 Mar Short Stories - Katherine Mansfield's '*Mr Reginald Peacock's Day*' & Maya Angelou's '*The Reunion*'

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

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

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**



## Thursday

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

**Athenian Democracy: An Ideal System of Government?**

**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



In this course we will examine the constitution of classical Athens, its critics and supporters.

Inevitably there will be comparison with modern representative democracies.

Pericles' words in Thucydides (*Histories* 2.37) like much else has a contemporary resonance:

'[Athens] is governed not for the few, but for the many; that's why it is called a democracy.'

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

## Thursday

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

### **Five British Cities**

**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 look at the history and development of five UK cities:

- Bristol: Long the largest port in the west of England, whose history has propelled it back into the headlines
- Hull: More heavily bombed in WWII than any other UK city, and 2017 City of Culture
- Manchester: 'The Shock City of the Industrial Revolution'
- Edinburgh: The once and possibly future capital of an independent Scotland
- York: A Roman, Viking and medieval centre of power which regained influence through railways and chocolate

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

## Thursday

**Art Course:** *21st Feb & 21st March (tutor-led) **and** 2nd to 16th March (group-led)*

**Practical Art & Craft Studio**

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

**Time:** 11.00 to 13.00



Continuing our Art and Craft Studio sessions held over five weeks, the first and fifth/final sessions will welcome back invited local artist Jenny Alderson (who worked with us in Season One) to introduce and critique the sessions. Those sessions will be held on Tuesdays between 11.00-13.00 at Newcastle Arts Centre (See [Page 17](#))

The remaining untutored sessions (2nd, 3rd & 4th Sessions) will continue to be held on Thursdays.

The sessions will be broader than Season 1, with the media being used down to you. This could be painting, pastil, collage, textile work - whatever appeals to you!

The sessions will have a theme (to be decided) as a focus of our work.

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

Please email [exploreprog@gmail.com](mailto:exploreprog@gmail.com) if you are interested in attending as this will help plan the sessions.

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

## Thursday

**Literature Short Course:** *19th January to 2nd February*

**The Balzac of Grey Street - Four stories by Eça de Queiroz**

**Tutor:** Tim Crocker

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

**Time:** 10.30 to 12.00



Eça de Queiroz was one of the most important realist writers of the nineteenth century – a Portuguese Thackeray or Tolstoy – valued by Emile Zola more highly even than Balzac. A career diplomat, he was also stationed 5 years at the consulate at 53 Grey St, Newcastle!

Though most significant for his long novels, he also wrote novellas and short stories, and in this course we will read four short works that provide a good introduction to the range of his writing and themes:

19 Jan 'The Idiosyncrasies of a Young Blonde Woman' (1873, short story)

26 Jan 'The Mandarin' (1880, novella)

02 Feb 'The Hanged Man' (1895, short story) & 'José Matías' (1897, short story)

These are available in a fine translation by Margaret Jull Costa (1993/2009) published Dedalus European Classics which is available in kindle: Eça de Queiroz, Jose Maria. The Mandarin and other stories (Dedalus European Classics) translated Margaret Jull Costa

**LIVE ZOOM  
SESSIONS**

## Thursday

**Literature Course:** 23rd February to 23rd March

**Contemporary Japanese Fiction – Writing and Translation**

**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



Recent translations of Japanese fiction into English take us from detailed accounts of everyday life to dystopian futures. We'll read a selection of novels and short stories published within the last few years, and we'll also look at the translation process through an excerpt from Polly Barton's *Fifty Sounds*.

23 Feb - Polly Barton, 'Connection Fever' (PDF will be provided) & Yoko Tawada, from *Scattered all over the Earth* (2022), translated by Margaret Mitsutani - (PDF will be provided)

02 Mar - Tomoka Shibasaki, *Spring Garden* (2017), translated by Polly Barton

09 Mar - Finish Shibasaki discussion then Misumi Kubo's short story, 'On the Left Bank of the Flu' (PDF will be provided)

16 Mar - Sayaka Murata, *Convenience Store Woman* (2018), translated by Ginny Tapley Takemori

23 Mar - Finish Sayaka Murata and closing discussion

**The novels on this course are quite short, so please read the whole novel before our discussion. Links (with PDFs) to shorter pieces will be circulated ahead of the sessions.**

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

## Friday

**Culture & Society Course:** *20th January to 17th February*

**British Stone Circles: Conception, Construction, Community**

**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



Five sessions covering various aspects of British stone circles, including current theories and recent discoveries relating to:

- The genesis of megalith building, quarrying and construction
- Regional diversity
- Societal aspects
- Use and re-use
- Folklore
- Presentation and preservation

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

## Friday

**Culture & Society Course:** *24th February to 24th March*

**Government and Party Politics in Britain, c. 1870-1900**

**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 look at a period of political change in British politics as it evolved in the direction of democracy. We'll be looking at the underpinning institutions, the constitution and the state, as well as the development of party politics and government. The series will give space to examining electoral reform (with major developments in this period) and we'll look at prevailing political thought.

We'll be looking at the issues thematically in our weekly schedule although there will be some overlap between talks.

24 Feb	The constitution and the state
03 Mar	Party politics and government (Part 1)
10 Mar	Party politics and government (Part 2)
17 Mar	Electoral reform
24 Mar	Political thought

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

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



## 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 Two, 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](mailto: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 Two**

**Season THREE 2022-23 will start  
Monday 24th April 2023**

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