

EXPLORE



Season 3
2021-22 programme

Explore Season 3 Programme 2021-22



Welcome to our Season Three Programme. As you'll know global and local changes have had a dramatic impact on our organisation's normal schedules, how we learn and interact. We're still here, busy and thriving and we're very happy to present our programme for the next season this year here at Explore.

If you're new to Explore, you will find that this season's programme is primarily focused on our existing members rather than new joiners—omitting our popular welcome days and public events. New joiners are still 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.

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 new hosts Brunswick Methodist Church for our current Face-to-Face lecture space.

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

Explore Season 3 Programme 2021-22

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 only available for a small number of 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: 9th May to 6th June

Reading Wittgenstein 2

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 rule-following, meaning and mind. 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 & Art History Sessions:

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

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

Time: 10.30-11.30*



Date	Tutor	Title
09 May	Malcolm Gee	Degas' Paris: Ballet, Bar, Brothel Pt 1 (<i>*Session runs 10.30-12.30</i>)
16 May	Victoria Lucas	'Recycle! Everyone's Doing It' - Glass recycling in Early Medieval England
23 May	Peter Quinn	Transient art in 21st Century: environment, change and modernity (<i>This session will now be 'Blended'</i>)
30 May	Narbi Price	Repainting the Pitmen - The Ashington Group and their influence on a contemporary painting practice Part 1 (<i>This session will now be 'Blended'</i>)
06 Jun	Peter Quinn	Lion and Unicorn, Festival of Britain 1951 (<i>This session will now be 'Blended'</i>)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Art Session: *13th June*

Stitching Stories: Narrating people, place and history through The Great Tapestry of Scotland

Tutor: Isla Forsyth

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

Time: 10.30-11.30



Isla Forsyth, from The Great Tapestry of Scotland Museum at Galashiels in the Scottish Borders, will present this special one-off Zoom session about the incredible artwork created by 1000 'stitchers' from all over Scotland.

We'll hear more about the piece and its creators, but also learn more about how we can document history with the eye and hand of the present.

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 & Art History Sessions:

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

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

Time: 10.30-11.30



Date	Tutor	Title
20 Jun	Peter Quinn	Winslow Homer visits Cullercoats (<i>This session will now be 'Blended'</i>)
27 Jun	Holly Argent	Women Artists of the North East Library with founder Holly Argent
04 Jul	David Rosier	Art and Culture and Society Study Day (Details on Page 10)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Art & Art History Sessions:

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

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

Time: 12.00-13.00*



Date	Tutor	Title
09 May	Malcolm Gee	Degas' Paris: Ballet, Bar, Brothel Part 2 (*Session runs 10.30-12.30)
16 May	Eleanora Montanari	Unwinding the Glass Beads: Production, Use & Life-histories
23 May	Peter Quinn	Expression - Ten Artworks to Debate and Discuss
30 May	Narbi Price	Repainting the Pitmen - The Ashington Group and their influence on a contemporary painting practice Part 2 (This session will now be 'Blended')
06 Jun	Peter Quinn	Pattern - Ten artworks to Debate and Discuss

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Art & Art History Sessions:

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

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

Time: 12.00-13.00



Date	Tutor	Title
20 Jun	Peter Quinn	Weight—Ten Artworks to Debate and Discuss
27 Jun	Alfons Bytautas	Alfons' printwork—How it is conceived & made and which artists have influenced his work as a printmaker
04 Jul	David Rosier	Art and Culture and Society Study Day (Details on Page 10)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Art and Culture & Society Study Day: 4th July

Tutor: David Rosier

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

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

Time: 10.30-15.30 Study Day



10.30-11.30 Symbols of Imperial Authority & Extravagance (Ming Dynasty 1368-1644) - Dragons, Phoenixes and other Mythical Creatures

This talk considers the deployment of mythical creatures as indicators of the highest status within the nobility and bureaucracy. Through the examination of surviving examples of textiles indicative of rank and status we will explore the symbolism of power. In contrast the talk will discuss a small group of rare textiles that celebrated key festivals within the Lunar Year and date from the late 16th Century. These textiles are rarely displayed and images come via access to one of the World's finest private collections.

12.00-13.00 The Emperor Yongle (1402-1424) - China's 'Globalist' Emperor

This lecture explores the achievements and legacy of the greatest emperor of the Ming Dynasty, and one of China's most visionary rulers. We will trace Yongle's brutal accession as emperor, the establishment of his total authority, through to his considerable contribution to China's Imperial legacy. In particular consideration will be given to his creation of Beijing as China's Imperial Capital with The Forbidden City at its core. In addition, the epic voyages of The Ming Treasure Fleets under Admiral Cheng Ho will be explored as well as Yongle's role as a Patron of Imperial contemporary art and the collection of Imperial Artefacts.

(See [Page 11](#) for details of Study Day afternoon sessions)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Art and Culture & Society Study Day: *4th July*

Tutor: David Rosier

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

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

Time: 10.30-15.30 Study Day



14.00-15.30 *Survival & Revival of China's Imperial Art and Antiquities Collection 18th-21st Century*

This talk will focus on the creation of the World's greatest collection of Oriental Art and Antiquities under the direct patronage and curation of the Qianlong Emperor (1735-1796). We will then trace the varied fortunes of this collection through the traumas of the 19th Century and mass looting by Western Colonial Powers through to the 20th century with the Japanese invasion followed by the Communist Revolution. Finally we will explore the reinvention of China's World Class Museums in the 21st Century which now showcase the Imperial Art Collection and other artefacts spanning 5000 years of Chinese History.

(See [Page 10](#) for details of Study Day Morning and Lunchtime Sessions)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Art History Course: 23rd May to 20th June

Glasgow, Exploring The Art & Visual Culture Of Scotland's Largest City

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face and Zoom EXCEPT**
13th June (Zoom Only)

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



A Five part Monday afternoon course looking at aspects of the city of Glasgow with an emphasis on the visual arts and culture

23 May – Glasgow 1: I belong to....

30 May – Glasgow 2: Tobacco

06 June - Glasgow 3: Boys and Girls

13 June - Glasgow 4: Deathwatch - film and photo - **Via ZOOM ONLY**

20 June - Glasgow 5: Smiles Better

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Monday

One-Off Art History Session: *27th June*

Recontextualising Greek Pottery: Four Vases from the Collection of Thomas Hope in Newcastle

Tutor: Sally Waite

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

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

Time: 14.00-15.30



We will explore four Greek pots, currently in the Shefton Collection in the Great North Museum, through the lens of object biography.

Sally will trace the movement of these pots through time and place showing how an ancient object's life story continues to the present day.

(You might also be interested in Sally's course on-site at The Great North Museum - See [Page 31](#) for details)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday



Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Monday 16th May

14.30 - 16.00

Brunswick MC 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 2021. We are especially looking forward to holding this AGM Face-to-Face at Brunswick MC as well as via Zoom, and hope many of our members can take part to discuss our activity and achievements.

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Monday

Culture & Society Course: *6th June to 4th July*

The Golden Age of Ireland

Tutor: David Burke

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30



The early medieval period is often seen as the Golden Age of Irish history. Its most famous saints and legends harken from this time, and it was an island home to great monastic centres of education the envy of Europe.

In this series, we will explore the unique and complex Irish legal system, the byzantine histories of the major dynasties, the myths of the great saints (such as Patrick), and the impact of the medieval Irish in Britain, France, and Central Europe.

Ireland may have been a most distant shore in the medieval world, but it was deeply connected to the wider intellectual and political trends of the time; the art, culture, and people of this age echo into the modern in ways you might not expect.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Science Course: 3rd to 24th May

Volcanoes of Europe

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

Time: 10.00 to 11.30



Whilst some of Europe's volcanoes are very familiar, e.g. Vesuvius and Etna (Italy), Santorini (Greece), Gran Canaria (Spain), and Iceland, there are many more that have a lower profile.

Are you aware that mainland Europe has seen recent volcanic activity in the Eifel region of Germany and the Auvergne in France?

This short course will visit the famous, infamous and obscure volcanoes of Europe. We will examine why their distribution varies, how they behave and the potential threats they pose in the future.

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

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

One-Off Literature Session: *3rd May*

A Concluding Look at Seamus Heaney's 'Human Chain'

Tutor: Pamela Woof

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

Venue: Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon

Time: 10.30 to 12.30

Tyne



Human Chain (2010) is Heaney's final verse collection. The volume's significance is deepened by Heaney's consciousness of the pressure of time and the nearness of mortality.

In this concluding session we will complete our study of this collection of poems begun earlier in the year, exploring further the vitality of its language and the richness of Heaney's literary legacy.

Details of the poems to be studied closely will be indicated nearer the session.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Culture & Society Course: *24th May to 21st June*

What did people really do for fun in 'Merry England'?

Tutor: Jo Bath

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



What was served at the feast, what music would you hear in an alehouse, and what jokes did they really think were funny (and do we agree?).

Enter a world of pet squirrels, maypoles and performing farters, when "carols" were banned in church and hazard was a dice game.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

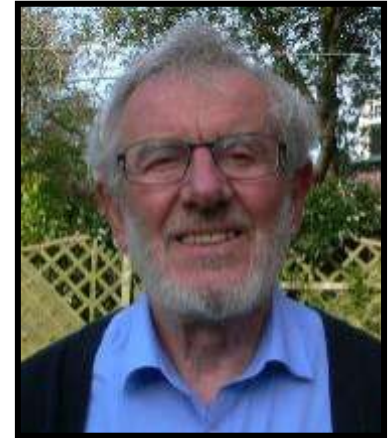
One-Off Science Session: *31st May*

Naked Eye Astronomy—The Limits of Human Unaided Vision

Tutor: Gordon Moir

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

Time: 10.00 to 11.30



In this session Gordon will take a closer look at the limits of stargazing without equipment, highlighting some of the wonderful things we can or can not view in the night sky without a telescope.

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**

Tuesday

Science Course: *7th June to 5th July*

A Series of Five Lectures on Genetics

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

Time: 10.30 to 11.30



Date	Tutor	Title
07 Jun	Shoba Armanath	Harnessing the immune system to fight autoimmunity
14 Jun	Katarzyna Pirog	Do skeletal cells sense their surroundings?
21 Jun	Sarah Rice	Our Genes & Our Joints: DNA errors in osteoarthritis
28 Jun	Miguel Garcia Dos Santos Xavier	A new paradigm for male infertility
05 Jul	Birthe Hilgen & Rob Atkinson	See the World with Fresh Eyes: Will Stem Cells cure blindness?

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Perspectives One-Off Sessions:

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

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

Time: 13.30-14.30



Date	Tutor	Title
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03 May	Mike Leddra	USA Volcanoes part 2
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Last time we looked at volcanoes in the western USA from the Cascades to Yellowstone. This time we turn our attention to the mid-Pacific. We'll look at the volcanoes that form the Windward Chain of the Hawaiian Islands. These eight volcanoes include the world's largest and tallest volcano, and two of the world's most active volcanoes. We'll explore their geological history from five million years to the present day, and investigate some of their most recent activity.

10 May	Nicolette Perry	The Dilston Physic Garden
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Hoping to reawaken a forgotten knowledge of how the plants around us can give us safe effective medicine, this talk will contribute to your understanding of plant medicine for the mind and brain. Taking a mini 'tour' of the Dilston Physic Garden, touching on the history of plant medicine, we'll focus on some important plant medicines that are shown by scientific research, in controlled clinical trials, to improve memory, mood and more. We'll also look at why the controlled clinical trial method may need a little shake-up in order to assess plant medicine effectively.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Perspectives One-Off Sessions:

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

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

Time: 13.30-14.30



Date	Tutor	Title
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17 May	Sasha Gartside	Depression: A Biological Illness
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Dr Sasha Gartside (Senior Lecturer, Newcastle University) studied pharmacology at Liverpool University and her PhD in Neuropharmacology, at Oxford. Her interest is in the neurobiology of depression and antidepressants and she will speak about what we understand about the biology of depression and the mechanism of action of antidepressants.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Literature Course: *7th to 21st June*

Ulysses at 100

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

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

Time: 13.00-14.30



Early this year (02.02.2022) saw the centenary of the publication of James Joyce's ground-breaking masterpiece, celebrated with fanfare in Dublin and around the world.

We'll explore the complex events surrounding Ulysses' original publication, the nature and significance of the – ongoing – celebrations, and some pressing critical issues in the book's contemporary reception. We'll look at a small selection of the novel's eighteen Episodes, chosen to illustrate the innovativeness and daring of Joyce's writing

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

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Science Course: *7th to 21st June*

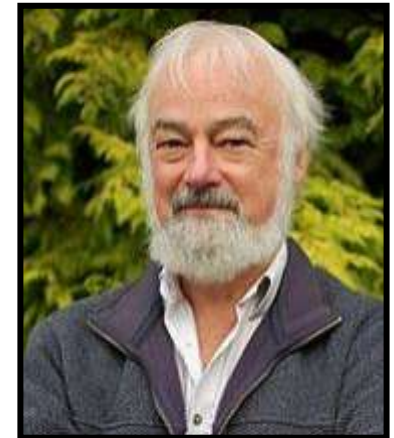
Evolution on Earth and Elsewhere

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



This short course consists of three sessions. The first involves questions about extraterrestrial life. The second examines the key features of evolution on Earth. The third considers which features of evolution here might also be expected to apply on other inhabited planets.

As well as considering evolution from the conventional perspective of adult body forms, which preserve most readily as fossils, we also take an 'evo-devo' perspective, involving the evolution of embryogenesis. This necessitates asking the question of whether development itself is likely to occur broadly in parallel on other planets to the way it occurs on Earth.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Music Course: *3rd to 31st May*

Exploring Music

Tutor: Mike Green

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30



In each of these sessions we will be exploring the life and work of some composers, who don't tend to get as much attention as others of their time. We will look at the musical and historical context in which they worked and consider their place in music history. There will be plenty of opportunity to listen to musical examples of their work. No formal musical knowledge is required.

03 May	Antonio Salieri
10 May	Jan Dismas Zelenka
17 May	Gerald Finzi
24 May	Moritz Moszkowski
31 May	Samuel Barber

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**

Tuesday

Culture & Society Walks: *31st May, 7th, 21st, 28th June, 5th July (No session 14th June)*
Evening Walks

Tutor: John Griffiths

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

Venue: Offsite walks

Time: 19.00-20.30



These walks will cover areas North & South of the River Tyne and Tynemouth to the East.

31 May - Jesmond

07 Jun - Felling

14 Jun - NO WALK

21 Jun - Restaurants of Newcastle

28 Jun - Under the Tyne

05 Jul - Tynemouth - development of a resort

They walks are scheduled to start at 7 pm at different meeting points. Details can be found [HERE](#)

Please note: walks are planned to last around 90 minutes. Unfortunately good weather cannot be guaranteed so please bring a waterproof or umbrella.



Wednesday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

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

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

Time: 10.30-12.00*



Date	Tutor	Title
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04 May	Chloe Duckworth	The Great British Dig
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Chloe recently took part as a presenter in the television programme "The Great British Dig" which is about visiting local communities and excavating archaeological remains in their own back gardens and shared spaces. The focus of the talk is essentially **a step-by-step guide to researching your local area and digging a small trench in your back garden**. It looks at everything from online resources to how to interpret changes in soil colour and identify common finds. She also have access to some of the finds from the show, which she will bring along. The talk will include a review of two of the local digs featured, Benwell and South Shields. (Chloe is currently writing [a book](#) on the subject due to be published soon.)

11 May	Nick Cott*	The Development of Class in Nineteenth Century Britain' *PLEASE
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NOTE THIS SESSIONS IS 10.30-12.30 This longer session will be split into two parts with a short comfort break at an appropriate time. The first part of the session will look at the development of the middle class in the 19th Century, followed in the second part with a look at the development of the working class.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

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

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

Time: 10.30-12.00*



Date	Tutor	Title
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18 May	Anthea Lang	Royal Visitors to Tyneside
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To celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, this talk will take a look at Royal visitors from the 13th century to date.

25 May	Gordon Moir	Why Brockley Whins
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This talk deals with the development of local railway lines, 1830-50, to provide a through route from London to Edinburgh, and on which, for a short time, the backwater of Brockley Whins became crucial

08 Jun	Malcolm Grady*	Newspapers Cartoons in a Political/Historical Context — PLEASE
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NOTE THIS SESSIONS IS 10.30-12.30

06 Jul	John Griffiths	Newcastle Between the Wars
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Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

One-off Literature Session: *1st June*

John Cheever - 'The Country Husband'

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00



John Cheever (1912-1982) was one of the greatest writers of the short story in English and a regular contributor to The New Yorker, in which he published over 100 pieces of short fiction from 1935 to 1981.

In this session we will consider the piece that appeared on the pages of the magazine in the edition of November 20th 1954, 'The Country Husband' - one of his richest and darkest evocations of the complex perils of modern suburban life.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Mathematics Course: *11th to 25th May*

Is the World How We Imagine It?

Tutor: Sam James

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

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

Time: 11.00 to 12.00



For a subject that is about explaining the nature of our world Physics is full off very abstract ideas.

We will take a look at some of the fundamental forces of nature to see how our understanding Gravity and Electromagnetism started out with similar stories but ended up being very different.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Off-Site Culture & Society Sessions: 15th to 29th June

Finding Children in Ancient Greece: Shefton Collection At The Great North Museum

Tutor: Sally Waite, Emma Gooch & Olivia Turner

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

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

Time: 10.30-12.30



These special sessions will be led by Sally Waite, Dr Emma Gooch and Dr Olivia Turner from the Project for Shefton Collection at the Great North Museum. Spaces are limited to allow for object handling by the group. **Each session will be independent of the others, so members can attend each or all of the dates.**

Each session will be based around an object or objects in the Shefton Collection, related to children which we will be exploring through handling and making.

We will be bringing in some new research from laboratory investigations of the objects and looking at methods of manufacture, contexts of use and deposition.

SPACES ARE LIMITED DUE TO CAPACITY SO WE ASK MEMBERS TO BOOK A PLACE IN ADVANCE - PLEASE SEE DETAILS IN MEMBER'S MAILOUTS TO BOOK

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Film Course: *22nd June to 6th July*

Cinema, Religion and Spirituality

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



Religious faith and spirituality have always been and continue to be areas of interest in cinema as filmmakers seek to explore their own spiritual beliefs as well as those of the wider society within which they are working. This series of presentations will include a wide range of important films by celebrated filmmakers that have engaged with matters of religion, spirituality and faith from a range of perspectives. Examples include the Biblical epic *King of Kings* (Nicholas Ray, 1961), which dramatises the life of Jesus Christ; Cold War science fiction film *The Day the Earth Stood Still* (Robert Wise, 1951); and crisis-of-faith drama *Winter Light* (Ingmar Bergman, 1963). Taken as a whole, these films underline both the compulsion of humankind to ask itself the eternal questions and the paradoxical power of a visual medium to capture the intangible.

22 Jun The Word Made Celluloid: Biblical Stories on the Big Screen

29 Jun Hollywood and the Transcendental Being - The 'Christ Figure film'

06 Jul Religious Faith and the Representation of Spirituality

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

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

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

Time: 12.30-13.30



Date	Tutor	Title
04 May	Rosie Serdiville	Potted Histories: connecting to heritage through stories and play Children from two Newcastle schools have put together an exhibition illustrating life in the West End of Newcastle in the period between the two world wars. Their work was based on a remarkable collection of photos held in Tyne & Wear Archives: a police identification book and the albums of public activities taken during the mayoralty of John Grantham. Rosie Serdiville will tell some of those stories and outline how the project was put together
18 May	Colm O'Brien	Why is there a Christian Cross in the Staffordshire Hoard
25 May	John Griffiths	Newcastle Allotments
06 Jul	Malcolm Grady	TBC

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Literature Course: *4th to 25th May (No class 11th May)*

Celebration in Verse

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

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

Time: 14.00-15.30



In this course we will be reflecting on poetry which celebrates: ourselves, the natural world, a turn of events, a place, the simple fact of being.

Together, we will be considering the subjects each poet chooses to celebrate, and how their use of form and sound enhances this sense of well-being.

Texts will be provided nearer the time via the Members' Bulletin.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday

Literature Course: *8th June to 6th July*

Reading Suburbia: Domesticity in American Literature

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



How has suburban life in America changed since the 1950s? How have writers captured shifting ideas about domestic life? For this course we will consider a range of texts that represent suburban spaces and tropes. We will discuss extracts from famous fictional portrayals by Richard Yates and John Cheever, as well as some non-fictional accounts (to be provided). We will then go on to explore Evan S. Connell's novella *Mrs Bridge* and Alison Lurie's *The War Between the Tates* as well as a range of verse, including poems by Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes and Sylvia Plath.

08 Jun Introduction (extracts from various writers) and start *Mrs Bridge*, Evan S. Connell

15 Jun *Mrs Bridge*, Evan S. Connell

22 Jun Poetry (Plath Angelou Hughes)

29 Jun *The War Between the Tates*, Alison Lurie

06 Jul *The War Between the Tates*

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Wednesday

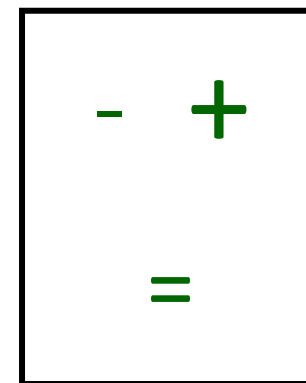
Maths Workshops: *11th, 18th & 25th May*

Member-led Maths Workshops (accompanying email-activity sessions)

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

Time: 14.30 to 15.10

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



To accompany Peter Pool's email/paper based course (See [Page 40](#)) these workshops offer an opportunity to work through the weekly Maths puzzles as a friendly and fun group.

The Maths puzzles are distributed via mailout on Thursdays (5th, 12th & 19th May) and the accompanying workshop will take place the following Wednesday *11th, 18th & 25th May* (solutions will also distributed in the subsequent mailout as in previous seasons)

PLEASE NOTE: These workshops will be hosted using different Zoom details to most other sessions so please look out for details in your members emails.

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



**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Thursday

Culture & Society Course: *5th & 12th May*

Joseph Campbell and the Hero's Journey

Tutor: Alex Gooch

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



Is there one universal pattern or structure (a 'monomyth') behind all tales of heroic quests, repeated throughout history in myths and folk tales from around the world? In his influential and controversial book 'The Hero with a Thousand Faces' Joseph Campbell not only claims that such a pattern exists, but also that it carries a universal ethical and metaphysical message.

In this course we will look at Campbell's ideas about the 'hero's journey', their huge impact in popular culture, and their philosophical background and implications. We will also look at some of the ways Campbell's work has been questioned, challenged and critiqued.

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Thursday

Culture & Society Course: *9th June to 7th July*

Britain in the Second World War—A Social History

Tutor: Neil Storey

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

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

Time: 10.30-12.00



This course offers a superbly illustrated exploration of life and the impact of war on the British Home Front with many fascinating insights into the North East of England, between the years 1939 and 1945.

Topics will include the Air Raid Precautions organisation, National Service, the threat of Invasion, propaganda, spy scares, air raids and the many wartimes roles of women.

Your lecturer Neil R. Storey has published extensively on the British Home front and frequently appears as guest historian on factual television and radio programmes.

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Thursday

Art Course: 5th, 12th and 26th May (NO CLASS on 19th May) and two additional outside sessions to be agreed with attendees

Practical Art & Craft Studio

Tutor: Margaret Adams & Theresa Poulton

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

Time: 11.00 to 13.00



Practical Art continues with F2F sessions at The Newcastle Arts Centre. There are three sessions booked for May. Two of the sessions will be drawing workshops led by the artist Theresa Poulton and will be based on what she calls figuration - drawing from the human figure. This is an ideal opportunity for anyone wanting to learn to draw figures. For the last session we continue working with your own chosen materials and processes. As always, you will need to provide your own materials. The theme of spring continues.

The remaining 2 session of this practical art course will be 'au plein air' weather permitting – dates and meeting points to be confirmed nearer the time.

The sessions are open to everyone, and members who are new to the art sessions are particularly welcome. You will be able to follow these sessions with a basic range of equipment.

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

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Thursday

Mathematics Series: *5th, 12th & 19th May*

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.

NOTE: There are also **member-led live Zoom** workshops (lunchtime 40 mins) on Wednesdays the week after the emailed session. Join us if you would like the solution explained. (See [Page 36](#) for more details)



Thursday

Literature Course: 5th & 12th May

Mary Wollstonecraft's *Letters Written during a Short Residence in Sweden, Norway and Denmark*

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30



Mary Wollstonecraft is best known today as pioneering feminist – the author of *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) – and as mother of Mary Shelley, author of *Frankenstein*. But one of her richest works is less well known - her travelogue, *Letters written during a Short Residence in Sweden, France and Denmark* (1796) - a milestone both in the history of travel writing and in the movement we now call 'Romanticism'.

In these two sessions we will consider where this account of the adventures of an independent female traveler in remote and sublime Northern landscapes sits in relation to Wollstonecraft's life and work – at the same time uncovering the extraordinary story of what led her to undertake this arduous journey in the first place - a mission involving silver bullion and an arms-running scam!

Advanced reading is not expected, and a pdf of selections of texts will be provided. However, those wishing to do some advance reading will find the text on [Project Gutenberg](#).

**Face-To-Face
Check Venue**

Thursday

Literature Course: *19th & 26th May*

Death and Desire in Victorian Poetry

Tutor: Claire Nally

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 programme we will be exploring some of the central themes and issues in the nineteenth century, thinking about how far crises of religious faith impacted on love and loss, how and why grief has become synonymous with the Victorians. We will be thinking about later Victorians and key movements in art and literature, alongside the stylistic and thematic shifts in the period in the later part of the century, and finally the social and sexual contexts of the time.

19 May **Mid-Century Morbidity**

Emily Brontë, 'The Philosopher' (1845), 'No Coward Soul is Mine' (1846)

Alfred Lord Tennyson, selections from In Memoriam (1850)

Robert Browning, 'Porphyria's Lover', 'My Last Duchess,' (1842)

26 May **Aesthetes and Decadence**

Oscar Wilde, 'Symphony in Yellow', (1889), 'Impression Du Matin' (1881), 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol' (1898)

Arthur Symons, 'The Absinthe Drinker' (1892/1896)

Alfred Lord Douglas, 'Two Loves' (1892)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Culture & Society Course: *9th June to 7th July*

Under the Volcano: Life and death in Pompeii & Herculaneum

Tutor: Alan Beale

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



Sessions will cover discovery and impact, home life, community life, food, gardening and sex, death and destruction. We will be looking closely at the discoveries from the two cities and examining our response in trying to evaluate the finds.

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Friday

Culture & Society Course: *10th June to 8th July*

Early Modern Europe: States, Commerce and Ideas

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 follows on from the last season, with a focus now on how some of the bigger picture developments impacted ordinary people and communities. It will draw on case studies across Europe and the views of historians.

10 Jun Governance of Early Modern Europe

17 Jun Impact of Religious Conflict

24 Jun The 'Consumer Revolution

01 Jul Wealth and Financial Institutions

08 Jul The Enlightenment

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

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Coffee Morning/Lunch with Friends of Explore

Venue/Format: This event will be delivered **via Zoom** *

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

Once we've settled into Season Three, we might want a coffee and a chat between sessions, a chance to catch up socially and keep in touch.

If you would like to join one of these chat sessions 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](#).



**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

The End of Explore Season Three

**Season One 2022-23 will start
in Autumn 2022**

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