EXPLORE

Starts
Monday 5th
October 2026

Season 1
2026-27 Programme

Explore Season 1 Programme 2026-27

Welcome to our Season One Programme

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. Look out for our special FREE Public Lecture in September and a Taster session on our first day of the season - all welcome! You'll find more details in this programme and online.

Special thanks to the programming team & to everyone else not listed who has helped to organise another fantastic season here at Explore:

Art History & Design: Helen Watson

Narratives (incl. Literature, Cinema & Music): Rita Prabhu

Perspectives (incl. Science & Mathematics): Pamela Denham & Karen Gammack

Culture & Society (incl. History & Archaeology): Kath Smith, Lesley Pringle & Joan Oliver

Philosophy: Trish Hutson

With direction from Anthea Lang & Malcolm Grady

We are also grateful to our hosts at Brunswick Methodist Church, Hatton Gallery & GNM:Hancock for our Face-to-Face lecture rooms, workshop & practical art spaces.

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

Before Season One Starts…

JCLLC Legacy Lecture

Free Public Lecture

Baroness Hale of Richmond

‘With the Law on Our Side’

Tuesday 22nd September 2026

18.00-19.00 Face to Face & Zoom

For the 2026 Joseph Cowen Legacy Lecture, we are honoured to welcome Lady Hale, former President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, to talk about her recent book ‘With the Law on Our Side: How the Law Works for Everyone and How We Can Make it Work Better’

BOOK YOUR FREE TICKET VIA EVENTBRITE

Face to Face Tickets Here or Zoom Tickets Here

BLENDED (F2F & Zoom)

Start of Season One…

EXPLORE

FREE Taster Event

Monday 5th October from **10.30**

Enjoy talks from expert tutors, meet the organisation and find out more.

We are happy to invite all to our special Taster Event, a welcoming opportunity to try sessions alongside our friendly members at the start of our new season.

Brunswick Methodist Hall
Brunswick Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7BJ
(Located behind Monument Waterstones & Fenwicks/Northumberland St)

Book your FREE place online HERE via Eventbrite

Explore Season 1 Programme 2026-27

How are sessions delivered? Members will receive additional information about accessing different sessions, but if you're unsure get in touch and we'll try to help.

Face-To-Face Check Venue

Face-to-Face Sessions Our face-to-face sessions usually take place at Brunswick Methodist Church in central Newcastle, however we do occasionally hold sessions off-site e.g. at GNM: Hancock, Hatton Gallery or outdoors. Most sessions do not need to be booked however we do occasionally request members to register interest in advance (for example practical art classes or walks) to manage materials or group sizes.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

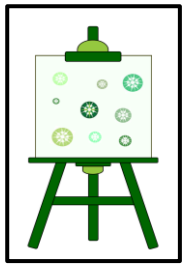
Live Zoom Sessions These sessions are online using Zoom to create a live classroom environment remotely with a tutor and 'audience'/members actively attending the session. This allows an immediacy of interaction akin to being in the same room (but usually with audience member microphones 'muted' during tutor presentation) Zoom details (invite links with relevant codes) will be sent to members in advance of the sessions. If you need assistance setting up Zoom on your computer/tablet click HERE.

BLENDED (F2F & Zoom)

Blended Sessions - where appropriate we may combine methods and stream a live Face-to-Face session via Zoom as well. This is not available for all sessions due to the nature of sessions and available resources.

We will also send any additional resources via the weekly bulletin in advance

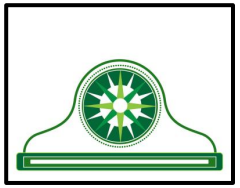
Monday



One-Off Culture & Society and Art History Sessions:

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

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



On **Monday 5th October** we welcome visitors to our Taster Event and welcome our members back to enjoy a whole new season at Explore.

Time	Tutor	Title
10.30-11.30	Malcolm Grady	The Nearly Revolution: 100 Years Since the General Strike
12.00-13.00	Lloyd Langley	How to Look at Buildings
14.00-15.00	Anthea Lang	"A Stupendous Thing" - The Columbian Exposition of 1893

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

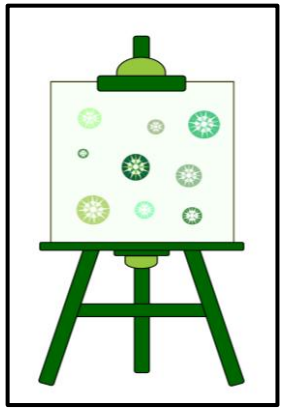
Monday

One-Off Art History Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face** (*except 26th Oct)

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

Time: 10.30 to 11.30



Date	Tutor	Title
12 Oct	Emily-Jayne Knights	Representations of Older Women in Greek Art
19 Oct	Ady Davis	Ushaw College
26 Oct	Henry Martin	*Zoom Only – See Page 9
02 Nov	Jill Harrison	We Go to the Gallery - Who What & Why?

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face** (*except 7th Dec)

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
09 Nov	Malcolm Grady	Revolution: The Mauretania on the Tyne – A Technical Approach
16 Nov	Brian Tanner	Music and Money in 18th Century London
23 Nov	Maks Loth-Hill	The Warsaw Uprising
30 Nov	Michael Johnson	Footitt's Impressions of Newcastle and Northumberland
07 Dec	Susan Major	*Zoom Only – See Page 9

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

Philosophy Course: 2nd to 30th November

Provocations

Tutor: Ian Ground

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

Time: 10.30-12.00

In this discussion-based series, we will take 4 "provocations" over 5 sessions from a variety of sources with topics covering issues in ethics, philosophy of mind and aesthetics.

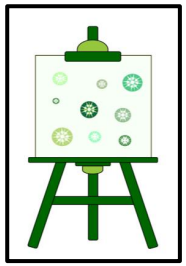
We will circulate relevant resources via the members' weekly bulletin for participants to view before the session; this might be a video, article or essay around a particular idea, argument or theme. It might take an hour or two and it would be a good idea to jot down a note or two for questions and discussion in the session.

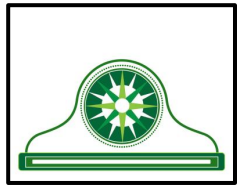
The final spare session gives us some space to extend the discussion as needed and we look forward to our discussions of some fascinating topics.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Monday





One-Off Art History and Culture & Society Sessions:

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

Date & Time	Tutor	Title
26 Oct		
10.30–11.30	Henry Martin	Eugene Burnand
12.00-13.00	Henry Martin	Life as a Contemporary Artist in France
07 Dec		
10.30-11.30	Susan Major	Women on the Move - Working Class Railway Excursions in the Early Victorian Period
12.00-13.00	Gillian Murphy	The Women's Library

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

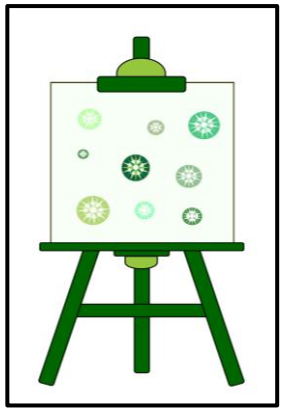
Monday

One-Off Art History Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face** (*except 26th Oct)

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

Time: 12.00 to 13.00



Date	Tutor	Title
12 Oct	Lloyd Langley	Looking at Buildings – 18th Century Newcastle
19 Oct	Olive Hogg	Ancient Egyptian Art 2: Architecture
26 Oct	Henry Martin	*Zoom Only – See Page 9
02 Nov	Jill Harrison	Followers of Fashion: Fifteenth Century Female Portraits

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face** (*except 7th Dec)

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

Time: 12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
09 Nov	Malcolm Grady	Local Heroes - The Influencers of Past and Present
16 Nov	John Griffiths	'A Carnival on the Water': The London Frost Fair of 1688
23 Nov	Fiona Heaton	The Cook Sisters
30 Nov	Anthea Lang	'Lance, Joe & Gertie' - 200 Years of Garden Design
07 Dec	Gillian Murphy	*Zoom Only – See Page 9

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Monday

One-Off Culture & Society Sessions:

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face** (*except 7th Dec)

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.00* or 15.30

Date	Tutor	Title
12 Oct	Louise Dearden	Dickens in the Spotlight: Theatre, History & Hidden Voices
19 Oct	Genevieve Johnson-Smith	Black Activism in the North East in the 19th Century (*14.00-15.00)
26 Oct	Jo Bath	Dragons, Stone Snakes & Fairy Bread: Interpretations of Fossils Before Modern Science
02 Nov	Paul Stott	Whatever Happened to our Shipbuilding Industry?

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Monday

Art History Course: 9th November to 7th December

The Art of the Americas

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: 14.00-15.30

The course aims to take a thematic approach to the art produced in North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean. While the history of art making on the continent is long, we will focus upon the modern period when new national boundaries, expanding cities and new media and technology re-shape the communities of the continent. Among the artists we will study during the course will be familiar names such as Frida Kahlo, Phillip Guston, Robert Frank and Ana Mendiata. Less familiar perhaps will be the work of artists such as Djanira, Doris Salcedo, Wifredo Lam, Manuel Álvarez Bravo and Emily Carr.

09 Nov - Americas

16 Nov - Land

23 Nov - Cities

30 Nov - Things

07 Dec - Futurama

BLENDED (F2F & Zoom)

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Monday

Culture & Society Course: 2nd to 30th November

From Famine to Prosperity – Ireland c 1800 to Present

Tutor: David Burke

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 impossible 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.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Tuesday

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

Strategic Minerals

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00

Many wars have been fought to gain access to gold, silver, industrial metals, oil and gas.

Emerging technologies in the fields of renewable energy, batteries, electrification and advanced computing are critically dependent on a new subset of relatively scarce materials and elements.

Join Derek Teasdale to examine these new strategic minerals and explore how the race to ensure access to them is shaping current geopolitics.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Tuesday

One-off Science Session: *10th November*

Space: The Back and Beyond

Tutor: Kirsty Lindsay

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

Time: 10.30 to 11.30

In this session we welcome Dr Kirsty Lindsay, Associate Professor in Physiotherapy, Department of Sport Exercise & Rehabilitation at Northumbria University.

Low back pain is the leading cause of disability worldwide, with 80% of people experiencing at least one episode of back pain in their life. Back pain is also hard to treat. Unlike our arms and legs, the deep muscles of our spine are only mildly under our control, so exercising them, and rehabilitating them is a challenge.

Space can be used as an accelerator model of aging, whereby changes seen in a 6-month mission to ISS are roughly the same as the changes seen over 10 years on Earth; this means we can use spaceflight to test out new ideas for Earth, helping everyone be healthier and happier.

At Northumbria University they are developing new ways of exercising the deep muscle in the spine, not only in space, but on Earth too. Zoom in to find out more about this research from the comfort of your home, no spacesuit required.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Tuesday

Science Course: *17th November to 1st December*

Recent Developments in Astronomy and Cosmology

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00

Recent developments in cosmology including the latest Moon missions, the Rubin observatory and the Euclid space mission and an update from the James Webb Space Telescope.

In this 3-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 Nasa's Artemis II mission to the dark side of the Moon.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Tuesday

Narratives Course: *6th to 20th October*

Wagner's Twilight of the Gods: An Apocalypse Like No Other

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.30

Last, longest, and in many ways darkest of the operas making up Wagner's *Ring* tetralogy, *Götterdämmerung* (Twilight of the Gods) exerts a fascination that time has done nothing to diminish. The first of the operas to be conceived but the last to be composed, it draws significantly on the medieval German *Nibelungenlied* in terms of action and atmosphere, but also embodies material from Eddic lays and the *Völsunga saga*, and ends with a mighty musical depiction of apocalypse that echoes the *Ragnarök* (Doom of the Powers) of Norse mythology.

In examining this tremendous work in relation to these sources, we'll address the urgent questions surrounding its ending that have always struck audiences. With the ring back with the Rhine Daughters, why do the gods have to die? Why does Brünnhilde immolate herself? Does Alberich survive the final conflagration? And above all: did Wagner expect his audiences to leave the *Ring* with an optimistic or pessimistic view of the prospects for the future of humanity?

Come and explore!

No prior knowledge is required; all texts, and resplendent sounds, will be provided.

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Tuesday

Practical Art & Craft Studio: *6th October to 3rd November*

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

Venue: Hatton Gallery Art Room, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8QB

Time: 13.30 to 15.30

This Season we will continue with our Practical Art classes, over 5 weeks in the Art Room at the Hatton Gallery. These sessions will be introduced and critiqued by Jenny Alderson and there will be supportive input in the middle session. Peer-led sessions allow the group to work on their pieces independently but with the friendly support of the group, and there is a great deal of flexibility in how the theme is interpreted and incorporated into your work.

The theme for this term will be Seascapes – more details will be circulated before the sessions.

06 Oct - Introduction by Jenny

13 Oct - Peer led

20 Oct – Jenny to offer advice & support

27 Oct - Peer led

03 Nov - Critique led by Jenny

All members welcome! No experience required.
Get in touch with any questions or come and have a go!

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Narratives Series: *20th & 27th October*

'A' is for Apple: A Guilt-Free Introduction to Milton's Paradise Lost

Tutor: Frank Wilson

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

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30

For over two centuries John Milton's epic poem was considered an essential experience for the cultured reader of literature. But from the sublime language of its opening Invocation, to the density of literary allusions and daunting length, Paradise Lost (1667) has rather intimidated generations of modern readers. Yet this classic work remains a dynamic and compelling text which speaks directly to many of the issues which resonate in our own time, including; what is the proper balance between independence and duty to others; how do we discern reliable knowledge from the unreliable; and what – if any – are the differences between the genders.

This short course will offer an inviting way into the epic. Through discussion of key passages, we will encounter the text's major themes, explore its cultural contexts, and grapple together with some of its more searching questions.

20 Oct - Milton's Epic and the Search for a Hero

27 Oct - Milton's Eden: Free Will and the Problem of Love

Classes will concentrate on extracts from Paradise Lost which will be provided in advance. Sessions will be self-contained, so members can enjoy either or both.

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Tuesday

Art History Series: *10th to 24th November*

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: 13.30 to 15.30 (Sessions start 13.30 & 14.20 - see note below)

Each 'double-bill' includes two sessions within the slot and the speaker will negotiate a break with the group directly. The first talk of each session is Blended, the second is Face-to-Face only.

10 Nov 1.) Egon Schiele's Final Years - The Late Work of the Austrian Painter (1890-1918) **(Blended)**

2.) 10 Artworks to Debate and Discuss: Suffering and expression in Art **(F2F)**

17 Nov 1.) Gwen John (1876-1939) 'It's an affair of volumes ... the object is of no importance.' **(Blended)**

2.) 10 Artworks to Debate and Discuss: A Corner of a Room **(F2F)**

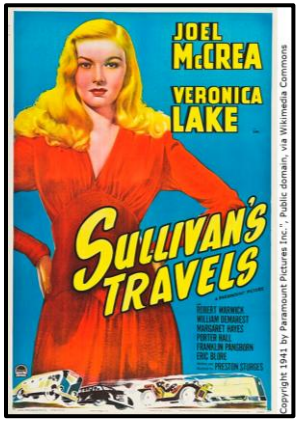
24 Nov 1.) Surrealist Games: The How and Why of Playing Games with Surrealist Artists & Poets **(Blended)**

2.) 10 Artworks to Debate and Discuss: Fun and Games **(F2F)**

BLENDED (F2F & Zoom)

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Tuesday



Face-to-Face Film Special: *1st December*

Sullivan's Travels (U.S.A, 1941)

Tutor: Peter Quinn

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

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

Time: 13.15 to 15.15

In this session, Peter will discuss the classic comedy movie about the lengths a film-maker will go to inform and improve his work… Written by Preston Sturges and featuring Joel McCrea, Veronica Lake & Robert Warwick.

'Preston Sturges achieves the perfect balance between playful and serious in his celebrated masterwork about a comedy film director (Joel McCrea) who goes on the road in search of more socially significant material for his next film, O Brother, Where Are Thou?'
BFI's The Greatest Films of All Time (BFI.org.uk)

The movie can be purchased to view online via various online screening platforms.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Tuesday

Narratives Series: *10th to 24th November*

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30

In this series, Michael will introduce and explain a selection of interesting musical pieces, providing historical and cultural grounding to help us listen and understand the works in greater depth.

10 Nov The Sacred Cantatas of J. S. Bach: An Introduction

Obliged to produce music for religious services week in week out, Bach wrote these magnificent 200-plus vocal concertos because he had to. To us today, they display artistic force and beauty that few at the time could have appreciated. We'll listen to two of these unintentional masterpieces, investigating the different musical forms they embody, the different resources they employ, and Bach's aims in constructing music for every season of the church year.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Tuesday

Narratives Series: *10th to 24th November*

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

Time: 18.00 to 19.30

17 Nov ‘The pinnacle of human expression’: Beethoven’s Late String Quartets

Beethoven’s late quartets are frequently described in quasi-religious language speaking of grace and transcendence, yet these intense, inwardly-searching works by a composer now almost totally deaf also body forth the extremes of purely human feeling: resignation, humour, irony, yearning, anger, intimacy. We’ll ponder this paradox while listening to a complete performance of the B-flat quartet Opus 130, including the Grand Fugue, which Stravinsky called ‘an absolutely contemporary piece of music that will be contemporary forever’.

24 Nov György Kurtág, *Messages of the Late Miss R. V. Troussova*

The great Hungarian composer György Kurtág celebrated his 100th birthday in February. Intense, elliptical, fragmented, yet strangely radiant, his music regularly thrills audiences, including at the Glasshouse earlier this year. We’ll listen to a pungent solo song cycle of his from 1976–80, featuring an extraordinary array of vocal techniques and effects, along with a colourful chamber ensemble including a favourite instrument of the composer, the cimbalom.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

Wednesday

Culture & Society Series: *7th to 28th October*

The Age of Pantomime Politics?

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00

Given the spectacle of the political churn in the U.K. since Brexit, are we living in an age of pantomime politics?

The growth of mistrust in our political class, the rise of expectations from the electorate and the influence of social media have combined to create an atmosphere of uncertainty in our political future.

This series of lectures will address key social, political and economic issues of the day.

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Wednesday

Philosophy & Classics Series: *4th to 18th November*

The History of Rome from the Kings to the Emperors

Tutor: Jordan Bayley

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00

This short course will explore the history of Rome from its foundation in 753 BC to the start of the Roman Empire in 27 BC.

It will look at how Rome changed over the years, and will cover the main events of Roman history, including the battles and figures that shaped the Mediterranean world.

04 Nov	The Roman Kingdom (753-509BC)
11 Nov	The Early and Middle Republic (509-133BC)
18 Nov	The Late Republic (133-27BC)

This course will be suitable for those who are new to the subject of Roman history as well as those who have some grounding in the topic.

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Wednesday

Narratives Series: *25th November to 9th December*

What are 'Screwball Comedies?

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

'Screwball Comedies' are fast-talking, romantic farces that first emerged in Hollywood in the mid-1930s at the height of the Great Depression. Combining silliness and sophistication, they mixed escapism with a light social critique, lampooning the upper-classes (and their excessive wealth) as well as the rigid social standards of the time. Importantly, they also helped shape the cultural image of the independent "new woman," informed by women's expanded roles in public life in the aftermath of suffrage.

25 Nov Midnight (Mitchell Leisen, 1939) With a script co-written by Billy Wilder, the film stars Claudette Colbert as an out-of-work American showgirl who finds herself stranded in Paris and ends up posing as Hungarian royalty to assist in a complex game of romantic deception ...

02 Dec Bringing Up Baby (Howard Hawks, 1938) This film tells the story of a mild-mannered palaeontologist (Cary Grant) who gets caught up in a series of predicaments with an assertive, free-spirited heiress (Katherine Hepburn) and a leopard named Baby...

09 Dec The Lady Eve (Preston Sturges, 1941) With a script that managed to circumvent the strict censorship of the time, the film stars Barbara Stanwyck as a con-artist who targets a socially awkward brewery heir played by Henry Fonda...

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Wednesday

Narratives Course: *7th October to 11th November (No session 28th Oct)*

Midland Writings: Three Genres

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.30

The Midlands are a part of England often perceived vaguely, spaces of uncertain boundaries and unclear identities. In this course, we bring this area into focus through three genres of writing. We will analyse Jon McGregor's powerful and compassionate 2017 novel set in Derbyshire's Peak District, *Reservoir 13*. Contrasting with this, we will study the style, and purpose, of a memoir of a Midland childhood in Nigel Slater's thought-provoking and brilliantly structured 2003 work *Toast: The Story of A Boy's Hunger*. Finally, we will be considering the remarkable and radiantly delivered poetry of Liz Berry. Together, we shall hear what three voices have to say from East and West Midland settings.

07 Oct - Jon McGregor's *Reservoir 13* (Chapters 1-6)

14 Oct - Jon McGregor's *Reservoir 13* (Chapters 7-End)

21 Oct - Nigel Slater's *Toast: The Story of A Boy's Hunger* (Opening chapter up to & incl. 'Smoke')

28 Oct – **NO CLASS**

04 Nov – Continue *Toast: The Story of A Boy's Hunger ('Players No.6 (Tipped)'–End)*

11 Nov - Poetry of Liz Berry Oh Sweethearts, The Black Delph Bride & The Birmingham Roller

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

Wednesday

Perspectives Series : 11th November to 9th December

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face** (*except 2nd Dec)

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.00/15.30

In this series we welcome a range of distinguished experts to speak about an area of the sciences, teaching us more about critical research, emerging ideas and inspiring developments in the worlds of science and technology.

Date	Tutor	Title
11 Nov	Paul Vickers	Data Sonification

Paul is Emeritus Professor of Computer Science and Sonification at Northumbria University and will explain more about data sonification, the process of translating and presenting data as sound, including some of the practicalities and ethical issues. Examples of data sonification include Geiger counters which allow us to hear radioactivity, and heart & vital signs monitors used by clinicians.

18 Nov	Michael Jeffries	Re-wilding

Michael is a Visiting Fellow of Ecology at Northumbria University and his talk will look at rewilding, a topic in conservation that often gets people arguing. He will present both sides of the argument and explain why it is such a contentious subject.

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Wednesday

Perspectives Series : 11th November to 9th December

Format: These sessions will be delivered **Face-to-Face** (*except 2nd Dec)

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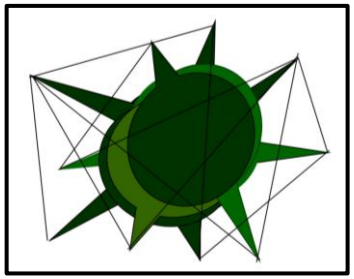
Time: 14.00 to 15.00/15.30

In this series we welcome a range of distinguished experts to speak about an area of the sciences,teaching teaching us more about critical research, emerging ideas and inspiring developments in the worlds of science and technology.

Date	Tutor	Title
25 Nov	Wallace Arthur	Evolution & Animal Intelligence (14.00-15.30) Wallace is an evolutionary biologist with a PhD from Nottingham University and is now Emeritus Professor of Zoology at the National University of Ireland, Galway. Wallace is a regular contributor at Explore and his lectures are always fascinating. This talk will build on the topics covered last year including the evolution of animal intelligence (but don't worry if you missed those sessions, you'll still enjoy these).
02 Dec	Jiten Parmar	*Zoom Only - See Page 29
09 Dec	Claire Murphy-Morgan	Cyber Psychology: Digital Healthcare Claire is a senior research assistant at the Psychology & Communication Technology (PaCT) Lab at Northumbria University. Her Cyber Psychology lecture will look at how the move to Digital Healthcare is having an impact.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Wednesday



Perspectives Series/Session : *2nd December*

Maxillary Facial Surgery

Tutor: Jitman Parmar

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

Time: 14.00 to 15.00

In this series we welcome a range of distinguished experts to speak about an area of the sciences, teaching us more about critical research, emerging ideas and inspiring developments in the worlds of science and technology. You can read about the other Face-to-Face sessions on Pages 27 & 28.

Jiten is a Yorkshire Trained Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, having completed his medical degree at the University of Leeds and his higher surgical training in the Yorkshire region. He has been a consultant since 2016 and has won multiple local and national awards for innovation, 3D planning, teaching and training.

Jiten currently works at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust and has a specialist interest in orbital (eye socket) surgery, skull base reconstruction and 3D custom implants. He received national and international praise for performing the UK's first transorbital resection of a brain tumour in February 2025, through innovation with biomedical engineers and collaborative work with local neurosurgeons.

In this Zoom session Jiten will talk about his work.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

Thursday

Narratives Series : *8th & 15th October*

The Genius of Bob Dylan

Tutor: Mike Fraser

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

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

Time: 10.30-12.30

08 Oct 1941-1970 - "I was so much older then"
Mike will consider some key Dylan songs to illustrate the development of his career from folk singer in Greenwich Village to the maelstrom of Rock stardom, followed by the retreat to family life and music-making in Woodstock. Whether you're a Bobcat or somebody wondering what the fuss is all about, come along to join the discussion, but please do not shout Judas.

15 Oct 1970 to the present - "Keep on Keeping on"
Since the sixties Dylan's career has involved extraordinary creative peaks and lows. Mike will consider his development from 'Country Bob' to his wonderful late career renaissance. Along the way Dylan has created both works of genius and a few which can only be described as dire. Mike will discuss the Blind Willie McTells and ignore the Wiggle Wiggles. He will also address the controversies; 'Christian Bob', 'Plagiarist Bob', 'Sinatra Bob' and of course 'Nobel Laureate Bob'. Are there more 'Bobs' to come? Mike has no idea, but he will address why Dylan transforms his back catalogue at almost every concert. (Both sessions can be enjoyed independently so there is no need to have attended Part 1 to enjoy Part 2)

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

Thursday

Culture & Society Course: *29th October to 19th November*

What the Dickens?

Tutor: Anthea Lang & Malcolm Grady

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00

Dickens often referenced social conditions in his novels.

In this course we explore some of Dickens' themes and compare them to the life many experienced in Victorian England.

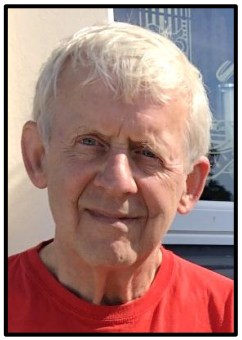
Was Dickens merely a contemporary narrator or was he a hidden reformer?

Come along and judge for yourself.

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Thursday



Culture & Society Series: 26th November to 10th December

Introducing World History

Tutor: David Saunders

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

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

Time: 10.30 to 12.00

Having talked about local history previously, David now goes to the other end of the geographical spectrum. His three sessions will address the following questions…

26 Nov What is 'World History'? And what advantages might it offer?

03 Dec What are some of the biggest human 'Encounters' it involves? (especially 'Environmental Encounters', i.e. how human beings have interacted with earth, air, fire, and water)

10 Dec What are some of the human 'Identities' it has generated? (e.g. hunter-gatherer, farmer, factory worker, intellectual).

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Thursday

Narratives Series : 8th October to 5th November

Writing About Food

Tutor: Bronwen Calvert

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

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

Time: 14.00-15.30

Each of the works in this course centres in some way on food and eating. From memoir and practical recipes to autobiographical fiction and short story, we'll look at some of the ways writers use imagery and tastes to inform their creations**.**

08 Oct	Rebecca May Johnson, 'The Recipe' (2022) Nina Mingya Powles, 'Tofu Heart' (2020)
15 Oct	Isak Dinesen (Karen Blixen), 'Babette's Feast' from Anecdotes of Destiny (1958)
22 Oct	Two stories: Evelyn Waugh, 'The Manager of the Kremlin' (1930) Italo Calvino, 'Under the Jaguar Sun' (1982; translated by William Weaver)
29 Oct	Nora Ephron, *Heartburn* (1983) – any edition
05 Nov	Two pieces by Colette: 'My Mother and the Forbidden Fruit' (1922; translated by Una Vicenzo Troubridge and Enid McLeod) 'The Other Wife' (1924; translated by Margaret Crosland)

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

PDFs will be provided for all short pieces via the members' weekly bulletin.

Thursday

Narratives Course: *19th November to 3rd December*

A.S. Byatt (1994) – The Matisse Stories

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

Time: 14.30 to 16.00

In this series we'll look at one short story and two short novellas, each inspired by a Matisse. We'll look at each short story and consider the artwork alongside each other.

19 Nov	'Medusa's Ankles'
26 Nov	'Art Work'
03 Dec	'The Chinese Lobster'

It would be helpful if you could read each story before the relevant session and they can be all be found in A.S. Byatt (1994) - The Matisse Stories London: Vintage, available in paperback and on kindle.

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Thursday

One-off Narratives Session: *10th December*

Introducing the Poetry of C.P. Cavafy (1863-1933)

Tutor: Tim Crocker

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

Time: 14.30 to 16.00

A unique voice of journeys among the myths and histories of his native Alexandria, Cavafy is considered one of the foremost Greek poets of the modern era, and the inspiration behind the English novelist Lawrence Durrell's Alexandria Quartet (1957-60).

His work also remarkable for his treatment of the theme of love in a man who loved other men.

A pdf will be supplied in advance of the session via the members' weekly bulletin.

Tim will be using Edmund Keeley and Philip Sherrard's 1975 translation: C. P. Cavafy: Collected Poems, Revised Ed (2024) George Savidis (Editor), Edmund Keeley (Translator), Philip Sherrard (Translator) Princeton: Princeton University Press

LIVE ZOOM SESSIONS

**If you need any help downloading & using Zoom there is an information sheet HERE*

Friday

Culture & Society Course: 9th October to 6th November

A Social History of Early Modern English Language

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

Between 1500 and 1700, the number of words available to an English speaker more than doubled.

A single span of twenty years brought William Shakespeare, the King James Bible, and the first dictionary.

In this course we'll listen in on thieves, merchants and printers, poets and Puritans, and dive into the Inkhorn Controversy and the nonsensical Universal Character.

Face-To-Face

Check Venue

Friday

Culture & Society Course: *13th November to 11th December*

Reform Without Revolution: British Democracy, 1832-1932

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: 10.30-12.00

Between 1832 and 1932, Britain was transformed from a state in which fewer than one in thirty adults could vote into a mass democracy with universal suffrage. Yet this transformation was rarely intentional. Time and again, the politicians who extended the franchise did so not necessarily to achieve democracy but rather to manage pressure, neutralise opponents, or to preserve the essentials of the existing order. The result was a political system that changed enormously and yet remained, in many respects, remarkably continuous.

This series traces that paradox across a century of reform. It asks not just who got the vote and when, but what difference it actually made: to the way parliament operated, to the relationship between government & governed, to the policies the state pursued, and to the parties that competed for power. It also asks who remained excluded - women, the Irish, the poorest - and what that tells us about the limits of British democracy. Each talk takes a pivotal moment of political crisis as its starting point, using it to open outward into bigger questions about power, representation and democratic change.

13 Nov	The Great Reform Act and Its Limits, 1829–1841
20 Nov	Party, Franchise and Electoral Culture, 1841–1885
27 Nov	Parliament, Cabinet and the Constitution, 1867–1911
04 Dec	Suffrage, War and the Franchise Revolution, 1884–1918
11 Dec	Mass Politics and Its Limits, 1918–1932

BLENDED
(F2F & Zoom)

Friends of Explore Christmas Party

Friday 11th December

Our social team, Friends of Explore, are always up for a get-together but this season includes our favourite party of the year; the Explore Christmas Party! Come along for friendly conversation, a cosy lunch and plenty of good cheer.

We'll announce more details via the Members' weekly bulletins so keep an eye out for more news from Friends of Explore.

If you would like to help out with the Friends team or have any suggestions for a meet-up please email friendsofexplore@gmail.com

And if you'd appreciate a friendly natter over a cuppa (face to face or via Zoom) get in touch.

Face-To-Face
Check Venue

LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS

The End of Explore Season One

Season Two 2026-27 will start
Monday 11th January 2027

JOIN

Would you like to join Explore?

Contact us, join or find out more about our Annual or Termly memberships via the link above

TEACH

Are you a researcher, artist, practitioner or tutor who would like to speak at Explore?

Contact our programme team via the link above

DONATE

Did you know that Explore is a member-led, volunteer-run charity?

Find out more and donate via the link above