

## Season Four Programme Details

**Don't worry about getting bored over the Summer Break, here's our Member-led Summer Season Four details, organised by Friends of Explore!**

Please contact the relevant email linked to each session to help plan for numbers and to provide additional information about the session as required.



### **From Rock and Tempest: A Visit to a Historic Wooden Lightship – Led by Quentin Mitchell**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Meet at 14.00 Royal Northumberland Yacht Club, South Harbour, Port of Blyth**

The LV 50 is a wooden lightship built in 1879. She served on exposed stations like the Seven Stones off Scilly and is still afloat in Blyth as the headquarters of the Royal Northumberland Yacht Club. The Friends of LV50 organise tours of the ship which has won a National Historic Ship award. Their presentation includes the history of Trinity House light vessels and the tough lives of the men who manned them.

The second part of the visit covers interesting aspects of the harbour's development and a social history of the yachting scene (which surprisingly includes both a German spy as well as a connection to Mussolini), and how a Blyth based submarine may have changed the course of history - twice

The entry/cost per head (to LV50) will be covered by a very kind donation from Jack Pennie.

Please contact Quentin Mitchell regarding this session.



**An urban walk from Newcastle to Wallsend following the line of the Roman Wall  
– Led by Ray Shepherd**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2025 - Meet 10.30am in the courtyard at Newcastle Arts Centre, 67 Westgate Road, NE1 1SG**

This walk is approximately 5 miles with various points of interest along the way. The walk will start at the Mile castle located in the Art Centre on Westgate Road and end at the Segedunam Roman Fort at Wallsend (where members could also visit if they'd like). Getting home is easy via the Metro from Wallsend (3 min walk from the end point)

Please contact Raymond Shepherd regarding this session.



**A South Shields River Walk – Led by Malcolm Grady**

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2025 - Meet 13.00 in the Market Place, South Shields NE33 1JF (between Ferry Landing & Metro)**

Join Malcolm for this river walk along the south side of the Tyne, tracing its maritime history.

The walk is all on public roads/walkways and will last about 1.5 to 2 hours.

Please contact Malcolm Grady regarding this session.



**'A Tour & History of Brunswick Methodist Church – Led by David Stabler  
Thursday 7th August 2025 – Meet 11.00 at Café, Brunswick Methodist Church**

Members might be familiar with the venue as a teaching and meeting space, but there's a lot more to Brunswick Methodist Church than what we see at Explore. From John Wesley and the anti-slavery, abolitionist movement to a contemporary hub for numerous organisations working in and with the community, come along to find out the fascinating history of our Explore base, guided by David Stabler, District Property Secretary based at the church. This tour will include two sets of 4-steps which cannot be avoided (no alternative accessible route.)

Please contact [the office](#) regarding this session.



**'Anthea's Ambles – Summerhill, Dickens & Bewick' – Led by Anthea Lang  
Various Dates & Times (Four individual walks) August/September 2025**

Anthea's ambles are back. All four of these walks include coffee stops and gentle strolls and last no more than 90 minutes.

**1. 'A Summerhill Saunter' Monday 11th August - Meet 14.00 at the tank outside the Discovery Museum**

Enjoy a peaceful walk around a real Newcastle backwater. Even if you think you know your city, you might be surprised as to what you find on this walk.

**2. 'Discovering Dickens' Tuesday 19th August - Meet 10.30 outside the Central Station Hotel**

Charles Dickens visited Newcastle on 6 occasions. Discover where he went, what he did and what he thought about Newcastle.

**3. 'Thomas's Trail' Wednesday 27th August - Meet 10.30 at Basil Hume's statue, Bewick Street**

Thomas Bewick set new standards in wood engraving. Explore where he lived and worked and find out some surprising facts along the way.

**4. 'A Summerhill Saunter' (additional date) Monday 1st September - Meet 14.00 at the tank outside the Discovery Museum**

Please contact Anthea Lang regarding these sessions.



## **Yorkshire Sculpture Park Visit – Led by Margaret Adams**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – Meeting & Travel Arrangements TBC (to be arranged directly with the group)**

Take a trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park and enjoy a range of contemporary and modern art exhibitions and installations in this beautiful setting. Whatever the weather YSP has plenty of interesting work to enjoy, inside and out, including multi-media artist and sculptor William Kentridge, ceramicist Felicity Ayleiff, and the immersive work of Laura Ellen Bacon whose pieces are made from willow and other naturally grown materials, in addition to the works of Henry Moore and Damien Hirst. There is an entry fee – see details on the [YSP website HERE](#).

Travel plans will be confirmed directly with the group, but we estimate leaving Newcastle at approximately 8.30/9.00am to arrive at the Sculpture Park at approximately 10.00/10.30. (These estimates would allow time for travel by rail or road but can vary depending on preferred arrangements)

Depending on numbers we hope to contribute to the cost of travel, by a very kind donation from Jack Pennie.

Please contact Margaret Adams regarding this session.



## **Tyne Theatre & Opera House Behind the Scenes Tour**

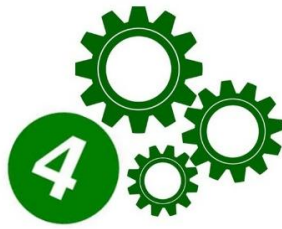
**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025 – Meet 10.30 Tyne Theatre 1867 Cafe Bar, 117 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 4AG**

Enjoy a truly behind the scenes tour of this historical site; stand on the stage, see the machinery (including the thunder roll!), see the dressing rooms and discover the history of this fascinating venue funded by Joseph Cowen as a 'theatre for the people'.

Visitors with restricted mobility will have limited access as the tour includes lots of steps and comfortable shoes are recommended.

The entry/cost per head (to Tyne Theatre) will be covered by a very kind donation from Jack Pennie.

Please contact Anthea Lang regarding this session.



**Please contact the specified session leaders for queries regarding individual sessions as instructed above, however you can also contact Jo Champion (Friends of Explore Co-ordinator) with any other queries regarding the Season Four programme at [jocampion49@gmail.com](mailto:jocampion49@gmail.com)**