



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 members & 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. If sent to the office, your email (including email address) will be forwarded to the group organiser so they can contact you directly if needed regarding the session. Please also advise before the event starts if you have any issues that the group leader should be aware of (eg relevant emergency medications).

(We still have a few extra events still to announce so look out for more details throughout the summer too...)



The Secret Parade Medieval Tile Workshops – Led by Nancy Isherwood Monday 6th & Thursday 9th July 2026 – Meet at 10.30 Brunswick MC Hall

Artist Chris Folwell is coordinating these special tilemaking workshops, inviting groups to make special character tiles ahead of the Novum festival. The tiles will be used to mark a special trail around the city, marking 'paths less trodden to reveal the medieval city beneath modern day Newcastle'. The tiles produced in the workshops will make Brunswick Place their home, and form part of a 'Secret Parade' of miniature figures in full medieval pageantry, reflecting both who has been on the site historically and who is here now. They will be part of the secret trail this summer and remain in place afterwards as part of Explore's city centre home.

Please contact Nancy via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**'Treasure: Hidden, Lost, Found' Tour with Andrew Parkin – Led by Kath Smith
Wednesday 15th July 2026 – Meet 11.00 outside Exhibition space, GNM: Hancock
Museum, 1st Floor (rear of building)**

Andrew Parkin, Keeper of Archaeology at GNM: Hancock will give us a personal tour of the archaeological finds in the fascinating 'Treasure' exhibition; Roman coins, Viking Age silver, and a buried stash of Tudor coins, all hidden for centuries and found in the North of England.

Featuring extraordinary finds from the British Museum, National Museum of Scotland, Vindolanda, and the Great North Museum: Hancock's own collection, this is your chance to discuss what makes an item valuable, who owns the past, and why buried history matters. (This session is limited to 15 people)

Please contact Kath via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**'Drawing with Scissors' Matisse Exhibition, Preston Park Museum - Led by Jan Eckford
Monday 27th July 2026 – Meet 11.30 in Museum Foyer**

Enjoy a self-guided visit to the Matisse exhibition 'Drawing with Scissors' at Preston Park Museum, in Stockton. There are possible car shares or various public transport options available (the museum is a 12 minute walk from Eaglescliffe Railway station and various bus routes nearby).

Please contact Jan via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**Anthea's Ambles: Whitburn Wander – Led by Anthea Lang
Tuesday 28th July 2026 – Meet 10.30 at Bents Road Car Park**

Enjoy a leisure stroll around Whitburn's leafy areas, see the sea and marvel at some fabulous architecture. We'll end with a coffee & loo stop before heading back to our starting point.

Meet in Bents Road Car Park (small fee payable to park). Nearly opposite is Cornthwaite Park car park (signs show Bowling Club but anyone can park there) which is free but limited spaces. If coming by bus, ask to be put off at Cornthwaite park on the numbers E1, E2 & E6 all leaving from Shields Metro (Interchange centre). We'll end in the same spot.

Please contact Anthea via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**Behind the Scenes Guided Tour of the Lit & Phil – Led by Anthea Lang
Thursday 30th July 2026 – Meet at 11.00 entrance hall (inside building)**

Expert city guide Pat Lowery will give us a tour around this very special building, the biggest independent library outside of London and a jewel in the North East's crown. Still a quiet haven for independent research and learning, the library has over 250 years of history to explore, so come along and revel in looking beyond the bookshelves.

Please contact Anthea via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**Laing Gallery Café Catch up with Friends – Led by Jo Campion & Liz Powell
Friday 31st July 2026 – Meet 11.00 at Laing Art Gallery Cafe**

A simple natter and a catch up in the beautiful surroundings of the Laing Art Gallery café, surrounded by beautiful stained glass panels, paintings and sculptures.

Jo and Liz will be there so just turn up, no need to book (but if there's anything you'd want to know beforehand you can also [email the office](mailto:weareexplore@gmail.com))



**Ad Gefrin/Yeavinger Festival of Archaeology - Independent +help from Jane Alderson
Friday 31st July 2026 (alternative dates available) Event Open 10.00-16.00**

'We were planning a visit to Ad Gefrin, but lo and behold this event has been announced and we think it fits the bill; everything we were arranging and a whole lot more! If you'd like to go please book your tickets directly asap, then you can also let Jane know if you would like to meet up there or perhaps arrange car shares.

Jane has planned to be there for the Friday, but there are two options for the daytime events (Friday 31st July & Saturday 1st August) if that suits you better. There is also an evening event on the Friday that you might enjoy too! There's more details on the [Ad Gefrin Trust website](https://www.adgefrin.org.uk/), and you can also book tickets [HERE](https://www.adgefrin.org.uk/)

You can attend the event independently of course, but if you let Jane know you're going she can try to coordinate a meet up or possible car shares. You can contact Jane Alderson via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**Newcastle Town Walls Tour w/ Lloyd Langley – Led by Helen Watson & Jan Eckford
Wednesday 5th August 2026 – Meet at 11.00 outside Brunswick MC**

Enjoy a guided walk discovering a section of the Newcastle Town Walls, with social history expert Lloyd Langley. The walk is suitable for anyone interested in Local History and will last approximately 1 hour (but may vary according to conditions) The route will start at Brunswick Place and end near Bath Lane, where members can disperse or return to BMC. Walks are free but numbers are limited to 10 pre-booked spaces.

Please contact Helen via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**'Everyday Elegance' Exhibition with Dr Tullia Fraser – Led by Helen Watson
Friday 7th August 2026 – Meet 11.00 at Durham Oriental Museum Entrance**

Dr Tullia Fraser, assistant curator of the Huang Kam Chak Yee Collection, will give us a personal guided tour of the 'Everyday Elegance' exhibition, which explores the daily lives of ordinary women who lived in urban communities in China during the Late Qing period (1800-1912). The show marks the public debut of the Huang Kam Chak Yee Collection, and includes wooden cake moulds, gilt lacquer boxes, silver hair pins and beautifully intricate embroidered clothing. These functional, elegant and revealing items, tell us how women lived; what they did for work and for leisure, how they dressed and what they ate, and how they expressed their individuality. Car shares are encouraged (please let Helen know if you can offer a lift or need one) however the museum is a bus ride or approx. 40mins walk from Durham Station.

Please contact Helen via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**Anthea's Ambles: Summerhill Stroll – Led by Anthea Lang
Tuesday 11th August 2026 – Meet 10.30 at the tank outside 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.

Please contact Anthea via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



'Looking at 18th Century Buildings' Walk with Lloyd Langley – Led by Helen Watson & Jan Eckford

Wednesday 12th August 2026 – Meet at 11.00 outside Brunswick MC

Enjoy a guided walk discovering a section of 18th century Newcastle, with social history expert Lloyd Langley. The walk is suitable for anyone interested in Local History and will last approximately 1 hour (but may vary according to conditions) The route will start at Brunswick Place and end near Grey's Monument, where members can disperse or return to BMC. The walk is free but numbers are limited to 10 pre-booked spaces.

Please contact Helen via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



'Looking at 19th Century Buildings' Walk with Lloyd Langley – Led by Helen Watson & Jan Eckford

Wednesday 19th August 2026 – Meet at 11.00 outside Brunswick MC

Enjoy a guided walk discovering a section of 19th century Newcastle, with social history expert Lloyd Langley. The route will start at Brunswick Place with a closer look at Brunswick Chapel and its non-conformist architecture before taking in some familiar streets with surprising secrets, passing the statue of our namesake Joseph Cowen (don't forget to wave!) before returning back to BMC with a glimpse of gothic. The walk is suitable for anyone interested in Local History and will last approximately 1 hour (but may vary according to conditions) The walk is free but numbers are limited to 10 pre-booked spaces.

Please contact Helen via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



GNM: Hancock Café Catch up with Friends – Led by Jane Alderson & Gloria Grice
Friday 21st August 2026 – Meet 11.00 at GNM: Hancock Cafe

A simple natter and a catch up in the fascinating surroundings of the GNM: Hancock Museum café; enjoy a quiet cuppa with Friends, a safe distance from a world of wildlife, Roman soldiers, Egyptian mummies, Greek mythmakers and a dinosaur.

Jane and Gloria will be there so just turn up, no need to book (but if there's anything you'd want to know beforehand you can also [email the office](mailto:weareexplore@gmail.com))



'Looking at Buildings, Newcastle 1900-1939' Walk with Lloyd Langley – Led by Helen Watson & Jan Eckford
Wednesday 26th August 2026 – Meet at 11.00 outside Brunswick MC

Enjoy a guided walk discovering pre-war Newcastle, with social history expert Lloyd Langley. The route will start at Brunswick Place and consider the contrasting architecture nearby, before observing how parts of our city streets changed in style and substance during the early 20th Century, finally returning back towards Northumberland Street and BMC. The walk is suitable for anyone interested in Local History and will last approximately 1 hour (but may vary according to conditions) The walk is free but numbers are limited to 10 pre-booked spaces.

Please contact Helen via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



Anthea's Ambles: Suffragette Saunter – Led by Anthea Lang
Tuesday 1st September 2026 – Meet 14.30 at Boer War Memorial, Haymarket

Newcastle was the third most militant city for the Suffragette movement. Find out how women of the day fought for the right to have the vote and the ways in which the government tried to stop them. We may either have a coffee stop en-route or at the end (the walk will finish at Central Station) depending on people's preferences.

Please note the later start for this walk by Anthea.

Please contact Anthea via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



Dunston Staithes Tour with TWBPT – Led by Karen Gammack
Thursday 3rd September 2026 – Meet at 10.30 West end of Staithes

Dunston Staithes on the South Side of the Tyne is believed to be the largest timber structure in Europe. It was opened in 1893 by the North Eastern Railway Company and at its height, 5.5m tonnes of coal a year was taken by rail from the Durham coalfields and loaded from the staithes onto ships waiting on the river, which transported coal around the British Isles and Internationally. More recently it has become a popular nature and birdwatching spot, as the mudflats and salt marshes surrounding the structure provide a sheltered haven for wildlife, including curlews, lapwings, otters and even seals. Come along to enjoy a guided tour of the Staithes, learn more about the structure and its history and maybe even spot some feathers and fur in the surrounding landscape.

TWBPT advise that the visit is suitable for all and that there is wheelchair accessible entry for bottom and top deck via Saltmarsh Gardens. Please note that there are steps between the two decks however so this might vary the route.

There is parking opposite at Dunston Excelsior Club, NE11 9DR. For bus routes visit [Travel North East](#) (you might want to consider buses from Gateshead Metro Interchange if more convenient)

Meet at the West end of the Staithes ready to start at 10.30am. There is a £3 charge payable on the day to TWBPT – this goes towards the ongoing restoration and care of the structure.

Please contact Karen via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**Joan Eardley 'The Sea at Catterline', Berwick Granary Art Gallery - Led by Jan Eckford
Wednesday 9th September 2026 – Meet 12.15 in Granary Building Coffee Shop**

Come along for a self-guided look around the Joan Eardley exhibition opening at the Granary Gallery in Berwick-upon-Tweed. Everyone is welcome, but anyone interested in joining the Explore Season One Practical Art & Craft Studio sessions (starting in October) might particularly enjoy viewing and chatting about these beautiful seascapes.

Please contact Jan via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



**Land of Oak & Iron Walk & Catch up with Friends – Led by Jan Widmer & Jenny Peace
Thursday 10th September 2026 – Meet 11.00 at Entrance to Land of Oak & Iron**

Stretch your legs in the beautiful Derwent Valley, with a short walk (3 km) along River Derwent and around lake, with views of Crowley's iron works site and weir. Then enjoy refreshments afterwards, back at the Land of Oak and Iron Heritage Centre Cafe.

There are buses from Eldon Square and Central Station, No 45 & 47 (which also go via Metro Centre if you're looking for a connecting route) or alternatively a short drive from the A1 via A694. There's a large car park at Land of Oak & Iron, but it can get busy.

Pease contact Jan & Jenny via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



John Griffiths Gateshead Walk – Led by Joan Oliver
Monday 21st September 2026 – Meet at 14.00 at Heworth Interchange

Join John Griffiths for a late summer guided walk around Heworth, Pelaw and Bill Quay, to learn more about the local area and its history. The walk will return from Pelaw Metro.

Please contact Joan Oliver & Rita Prabhu via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



John Griffiths North Shields Walk – Led by Joan Oliver
Monday 28th September 2026 – Meet at 14.00 at North Shields Metro

John's second walk and talk will guide us around North Shields, in this afternoon circular walk taking in historic sites and current sights of the area. (The route will involve a climb)

Please contact Joan Oliver & Rita Prabhu via weareexplore@gmail.com regarding this session.



(We still have a few extra events still to announce so look out for more details throughout the summer too...)



Please contact the specified session leaders (via the office initially) for queries regarding individual sessions as instructed above.