



# About the Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre

## **Mission Statement**

The Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre (JCLLC) enriches lives by providing outstanding opportunities for lifelong learning for people in the North-East.

## **History**

The Joseph Cowen Centre was set up in 2013 following the closure of the North-East Centre for Lifelong Learning at Sunderland University. The strength of feeling about this loss led members to establish JCLLC, with the aim of preserving the award-winning model of the Explore programme within a new, independent, member-led structure. JCLLC was registered as a community interest company in August 2013, and began providing the Explore lifelong learning programme with 200 members on 15th October of the same year.

In 2018 JCLLC became a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

## **Aims**

We aim to:

- Provide the Explore lifelong learning programme which enables members to pursue existing interests and explore new areas of study.
- Support a community of learners where members can contribute their own knowledge and experience.
- Foster an environment where social interaction is a valuable part of learning.
- Promote the culture, history and natural and urban environment of the North East.
- Offer a financially and practically accessible programme of activities.

## **Governance**

JCLLC is registered with the Charity Commission and fulfils its statutory requirements. There are eight elected Trustees who may co-opt up to four others, and are responsible for strategic direction and management.

All members of the Explore programme are members of the CIO.

Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre CIO, Charity number 1174080  
Registered Address: c/o Essell Accountants, 29 Howard Street, North Shields  
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[www.josephcowen.org.uk](http://www.josephcowen.org.uk) Email: [josephcowencentre@gmail.com](mailto:josephcowencentre@gmail.com)

## **Our members**

JCLLC was established and is governed by its members and it is their passion and dedication that drives us. Our members play an active part in running the Explore programme: contributing their time, skills and experience.



*Ross Freeman 2015*

Most of our members are retired, and all value the opportunity to learn, meet people and be part of an exciting project.

## **Partnerships**

We seek to enhance the learning culture of the region through partnerships with other cultural and educational bodies, with the aim of sharing knowledge and expertise.

We have strong links with the Literary and Philosophical Society, the Centre for Ageing and Vitality, the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Baltic Centre for Contemporary Art.

## **Equal opportunities**

We are committed to equal opportunities and access for all, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, or income.

Our Newcastle city centre venue is accessible to people with mobility issues, including wheelchair users.

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# EXPLORE

## About the Explore programme

**Patrons: John Grundy & Lee Hall**



Explore Lifelong Learning provides a stimulating, entertaining and varied programme of expert led learning created to challenge your mind and deliver unique experiences. As well as expanding their minds, our members also expand their social circles through attending our dependable and reliable programme of events.

Your one stop learning shop!

- We run over 450 classes a year, led by highly regarded senior lecturers, writers and practising artists.
- Our diverse programme includes art history, practical art, archaeology, astronomy, classics, politics, literature, history, mathematics, music, philosophy, science and more.
- Our 2017-18 curriculum has so far covered topics as diverse as art in the Sixties, the history of astronomy, Ancient Greek comedies, criminal justice and Brexit.
- We are open throughout the day and early evening, Monday to Saturday.

### **Explore Membership**

Explore is open to all adults.

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No previous knowledge or qualifications are needed – just enthusiasm and an interest in learning new things. Our Newcastle city centre base provides a lively environment where students can exchange views and socialise.



**"Lifelong learning is fundamental to our endless curiosity to know and share knowledge. The Explore programme is unique, enriching, life-giving."**  
Max Adams, Writer, Royal Literary Fund Consultant Fellow, Explore Tutor (image credit Kona McPhee)

**"We must look after our minds as well as our bodies. Explore encourages me to accept new information and gently pushes my brain back into thinking mode."**

Harry Rose, Explore member



**"Explore is the backbone of my week – it amuses, intrigues, challenges and inspires - a thoroughly sociable way to broaden my horizons."**  
Angela Young, Explore member

**"I need structure, stimulation and social contact during the week. Explore provides all three in a distinctive and attractive setting."**

Maria Goulding, Explore tutor and member



### **Contact the Explore programme**

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