

EXPLORE



Alternative Season 3 2019-20 programme

Explore 'Alternative' Season 3 Programme 2019-20

If you're new to Explore you might've guessed that things are a little bit different at the moment, and this programme is aimed towards our existing members rather than new joiners. If you'd like to join Explore please get in touch or join our mailing list to find out more about over the coming months.

If you are already an Explore member, then welcome to our 'Alternative' Season Three Programme. As you'll know the global changes have had a dramatic impact on our organisation and our members, but we're still here and we're glad you are too. We've put together a range of sessions and courses for you to enjoy from home whilst we all work towards getting back together. It's not quite business as usual, but we will get there together.

Every season, we have a subtle theme and this time it is **'Flattening the Learning Curve'**.

We have all seen aspects of our lives change recently and this has involved finding new ways to work, think and be. These new challenges may even have tested 'our love of learning' at times as the processes we have relied on over a lifetime have suddenly recalibrated. For many it has been a very steep learning curve, as we have looked to new technologies for some areas of our lives and tried to remember old techniques for others. In this 'Alternative' Explore programme we hope to combine some familiar faces and good ol' fashioned pursuit of knowledge with some new methods of learning, teaching, communication and sharing. We will all learn some new tricks along the way - we'll find some things aren't as scary as we thought and it will get easier as we progress, together.

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How will these sessions be delivered? Members will already have received some information about accessing sessions, but if you are unsure please see the links below and then [get in touch](#) and we will try to help you through. There are three main types of delivery method:

* **Live Zoom Sessions** - these sessions are online sessions using Zoom to create a live classroom environment with a tutor and 'audience'/members actively attending the session. This allows an immediacy of interaction akin to being in the same room (but often with audience member microphones 'muted' during tutor presentation) Details of individual Zoom sessions/courses (invite links and relevant codes) will be sent to members via the members' mailout in advance of the start date. If you need assistance setting up Zoom on you computer/tablet click [HERE](#). For these sessions you will see



* **Video Session**—these sessions are pre-recorded and can be watched online at your leisure via a weblink. These sessions will be distributed/accessed via the members' mailouts.

* **'Paper-based' and Email Resources** — these sessions will be distributed by email in the form of written activities, texts and direction, initially provided as a document via the members mailouts, to be enjoyed by members and where appropriate followed up with email correspondence with the tutors and/or group.

Plus: Explore Coffee Mornings with Zoom —these aren't taught sessions but they go a little way towards the coffee breaks and chatter that makes Explore the community special. We certainly miss Peter M. serving the coffee, but whilst we're waiting to get back to our Explore home we can still enjoy a cuppa and a catch up between sessions.

We will also send additional details for each course/tutor via the members bulletin in advance of sessions.

POSTSCRIPT: As we've been working to a tight deadline (and finding our feet whilst we do it) we are unfortunately unable to include some sessions still in the pipeline — these sessions have been agreed in principle but still need a few key details ironing out. We will update the programme and announce details of any further sessions confirmed.

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Before the crisis, our programme team had worked hard putting together a full season of face-to-face lectures, courses, workshops and events — as the crisis developed we knew this programme would need to be suspended and we set about finding a new way forward until plans could be put back in place. Our thanks, respect and appreciation go out to our programme team and contacts for all their hard work.

Thank you to the programming team and everyone else not listed who helped organise the original Season 3:

Art History and Design: Helen Watson and Margaret Adams

Narratives (Literature, Cinema and Music) : Rita Prabhu and Angela Young

Perspectives (Science & Mathematics): Christine Burrridge, Pamela Denham, Sally Standart

Culture & Society (History and Archaeology): Joy Rutter and Kath Smith

Philosophy: Trish Hutson

With direction from Rachel Lister, Bronwen Calvert & Malcolm Grady.

We are also grateful to [Ampersand Inventions](#) for our office, room hire and support at Commercial Union House, as well as [B&D Studios](#) for additional room hire and support. We'll be back home soon.

'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)

Monday

Philosophy Course: Provocations

Tutor: Ian Ground

Venue: Here, there, everywhere... This session will be delivered **live via Zoom** *

Course Start Date: Monday 27th April 10.30 to 12.00

Duration: 6x Sessions



In this course, Ian will lead discussions on a variety of philosophical topics chosen to provoke.

We will begin with a short “provocation” – usually a short online video, often from Ted Talk or a recent text – and see where our group discussion takes us. Topics will include the nature of time, of trust and of hard choices.

More details about each session (including any advance preparation or suggestions) will be sent via the members mailout.

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

Course Starts on Monday 27th April and finishes Monday 8th June (no session 25th May).

Each week the session will be held from 10:30 – 12:00 noon

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Mondays? Just In Your Own Time

Art History Recommendations

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Venue: Wherever you are, whenever you like - these will be delivered via the **members' mailouts**

Course Start Date: Monday 27th April



With so much information flying around at the moment it can be hard to know where to start when it comes to enjoying visual art remotely, but thankfully we have our regular art history tutor on hand with his weekly recommendations, curated especially for Explore.

Each week we will distribute Peter's 'pick of the paintpots' via the members' bulletin; a selection of documentaries, virtual exhibition tours and other accessible resources to enjoy from home.

Recommendations starts from Monday 27th April but can be enjoyed at your leisure.

Monday

History Course: 'Advancing in another direction' Key Battles and Events of WWII

Tutor: John Sadler

Venue: Here, there, everywhere... This session will be delivered **live via Zoom** *
(plus additional resources distributed via members' mailout)

Course Start Date: Monday 18th May 19.00 to 20.30

Duration: 7 x Sessions



This year marks the 80th anniversary of some of the most dramatic and important events of the 20th century – the German invasion of Norway, then of Holland, Belgium and France, leading to the epic of Dunkirk, the formation of the Home Guard, the Battle of Britain and the beginnings of the Desert War – Operation 'Compass'.

This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the end of the War, the final stages of the Ardennes Battle, the Bridge at Remagen, the Crossing of the Rhine, Relief of Belsen and the final fall of Berlin – then the Nuremburg Trials and the birth of a new chapter in international law. This course will look at the origins of the war, the Phoney War and the Blitzkrieg of 1940, then the desert War, the Invasion of Russia (with a focus on the War in Western Europe and North Africa, the entry of the USA into the war, invasions of Sicily and Italy, the planning for Operation 'Overlord' and D-day, the liberation of Europe and the final fall of Hitler's 1,000 year Reich.)

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

Course Starts on Monday 18th May and finishes Monday 29th June.

Each week the session will be held from 19.00-20.30

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday

Literature Course: Three Short Stories

Tutor: Clare Jackson

Venue: Here, there, everywhere... This session will be delivered **live via Zoom** *

Course Start Date: Tuesday 9th June 14.00 to 15.30

Duration: 3 x Sessions



In these sessions we will be considering three short stories with a central focus on the material and materialism.

What is the function of the objects described within these writings? How might the original audiences of these texts interpret their message? As 21st Century readers, how much may our interpretation differ, and why?

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

Course Starts on Tuesday 9th June and finishes Tuesday 23rd June.

Each week the session will be held from 14:00 – 15:30

**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

Tuesday? Just In Your Own Time

Mathematics Activity:

Tutor: Peter Pool and Maria Goulding

Venue & Times: Wherever you are, whenever you like - This session will be delivered via the **members' mailouts**

Course Start Date: Tuesday 28th April



Do you know your parabolic from your cubic? No? Well, you don't need to. Real maths is always a learning curve. It's about working out what to do when you don't immediately see what to do. That is the essence of puzzles and explorations in maths.

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 and Maria will help with the working out too, if you need it! They'll be offering members weekly Maths puzzles, distributed by email each week with hints available and answers to follow.

Look out for activities from Maria and Peter in your Explore members' mailouts.

Course starts on Tuesday 28th April and finishes 2nd June but is not live/can be enjoyed anytime.

Wednesday? Or Just In Your Own Time

Literature Course: Realisations and Revelations: Poems of Discovery

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Venue and Times: Wherever you are, whenever you like - This session will be delivered via the **members' mailouts**

Course Start Date: Wednesday 6th May



Some of the most powerful poems capture moments where people discover something new. In this weekly online class we'll be looking at poems that capture a sense of realisation, wonder or revelation.

Over six weekly sessions we will carry out guided reading and discussion of a set of selected poems along with a few questions about each poem that you may want to consider.

Each week after you have done your independent reading and thinking about the discussion questions – at your own leisure, you can send your thoughts to Rachel [HERE](#)

After Rachel has read all your responses, she will produce summaries and further questions as the weeks unfold.

The all texts will be provided as usual via the weekly bulletin.

Course starts on Wednesday 6th May and finishes Wednesday 10th June but is not live/can be enjoyed anytime.

Thursday? Or Just In Your Own Time

Literature Course: Classic Short Stories and the Epiphany

Tutor: Bronwen Calvert

Venue and Times: Suggested dates below, but flexible - This session will be delivered via the **members' mailouts** and Literature email

Course Start Date: Thursday 30th April



For this online class, we will carry out guided reading and discussion of some classic short stories from the early twentieth century (all available free on the internet). The structure of the class will look like this:

We will spend **two weeks** on each text.

- Week A: your independent reading and thinking about the discussion questions – in your own time.
- Week B: you will be prompted to share your thoughts via email: **ExploreLitOnline@gmail.com**. At the end of the week, Bronwen will collate the responses which will then be circulated to all participants.
- Then we will start on the next text over another two weeks.

The course runs for eight weeks. Dip in and out as it suits you; read, reread, read more works by these writers and other writers...and share what you find.

All texts will be provided as usual via the weekly bulletin then comments shared via **ExploreLitOnline@gmail.com**.

Course starts on Thursday 30th April and finishes Thursday 18th June but is not live/can be enjoyed anytime.

Friday? Or Just In Your Own Time

Science Series: How Stars Work

Tutor: Gordon Moir

Venue & Times: Wherever you are, whenever you like - This session will be delivered via the **members' mailouts.**

Course Start Date: Friday 1st May



Stars are born, live and die.

Or more prosaically, they condense out of gas and dust clouds, maintain themselves against further gravitational collapse by generating energy by nuclear fusion and eventually run out of nuclear fuel and fade away or spectacularly explode.

Either way, the heavier elements they produce provide the material for carbon-based life.

The course will outline each of these phases using only basic physics and mathematics, through a series of four texts. Look out for articles from Gordon in your Explore members' mailouts.

Course starts on Friday 1st May and finishes Friday 22nd May but is not live/can be enjoyed anytime.

Friday? Or Just In Your Own Time

Political History Course: The Greater Britain: Visions of Britain and a global order in the later nineteenth century

Tutor: Nick Cott

Venue: Wherever you are, whenever you like. These sessions will be delivered via **video session**

Course Start Date: Friday 29th May

Duration: 5x Sessions



In the later nineteenth century concerns about the long-term viability of the British empire - economically and politically - were major topics of conversation at a political level and there was public discourse which was intended to sell a vision of the future to the public. At the heart of the debate for a Greater Britain lay the idea of imperial federalism, a union of English-speaking peoples, building a World Order in their image. It was an extension of the idea of the civilising mission of the British empire, with an imperialist view of the world and its societies. At home, it recommended good education about empire and inculcating imperialist values in political, social and cultural settings.

The course will be delivered online via Vimeo (through a web link) in 5 talks, looking at the contemporary ideas and opinions associated with imperialism federalism, often branded within a campaign for 'Greater Britain'. It will engage both with both contemporary global geopolitical matters and domestic issues in the British Isles.

Lecture 1 - The challenges of democracy and global competition

Lecture 2 - New knowledge and imperial thought

Lecture 3 - Federalism and the domestic debate

Lecture 4 - The major protagonists

Lecture 5 - Greater Britain and the United States

Course starts Friday 29th May and finishes Friday 26th June, but is not streamed live/can be enjoyed anytime.

Coffee Morning/Lunch with Friends of Explore

Venue: Here, there, everywhere... 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 our Alternative 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 members mailouts** so keep an eye out for occasional catch up/ chat sessions with Friends of Explore.



**LIVE ZOOM
SESSIONS**

The End of Alternative Season Three

Our next season will be on the way but until then take care and see you soon!

