

EXPLORE



FREE Week One
From Monday 15th
January 2018

Season 2
2017-18 programme

EXPLORE

FREE Taster Event

Tuesday

9th January 2018

11.00 to 13.00

4th Floor

Commercial Union House

Mini lectures from our expert tutors—click [HERE](#) to book your FREE place.



Explore Season 2 Programme 2017-18

If you're new to Explore why not come along and try the programme?

There are two options:

- Attend our FREE taster with mini lectures from our expert tutors—find out more by clicking [HERE](#)
- Book your free session in Week One starting Monday 15th January 2018 by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com Click [HERE](#) to see the Week One programme. Download your FREE voucher [here](#).

You need to join Explore in order to attend our full programme after your free taster session. Click [here](#) for details of how to join Explore! If you're not a full-member you can also sign up to our [Explore Evenings](#) classes—find more details further on in the [programme](#).

Most of our sessions require no advance booking—just turn up. However, for study groups, practical art and some walks, we do need to manage attendances. These sessions (only) have specific booking instructions in this programme.

If you are disabled and would require a helper in order to take part in Explore, the helper can attend without charge.

Explore Season 2 Programme 2017-18

Each season our programme has a theme, so from January it chimes the theme of '**Changing Times**'

Our team of programmers have subtly woven the theme into each lecture-strand, from industrial & cultural revolutions to re-emerging polemics, from counting augmented beats to how we perceive eras & lifetimes. Not forgetting plenty of physics & astronomy fun with the development of space-time theories.

So gather round people where ever you roam and enjoy our Season Two 2017-18 Programme!

Congratulations to the programming team -

Art History and Design: Helen Watson

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

Perspectives (Science and Mathematics): Christine Burrige and Joy Rutter

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

Philosophy: Joy Rutter

with direction from Bronwen Calvert & Colm O'Brien.

We are also grateful to [Ampersand Inventions](#) for our accommodation at Commercial Union House.

'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)

Explore Evenings

NEW Interested in Explore but not available during the day?

[Explore Evenings](#) is specially designed for YOU.



Including:

Monday evening : [John Sadler—'The Cold War: what was it for?'](#)



Tuesday evening : [Mike Green - Changing Times](#) 'Times may Change Me'



Cost—£65 per course for non Explore members—payable by cheque at the first session.

Find out more about [Explore Evenings](#) online and keep reading the programme for more details.

Monday

Philosophy Course: Mondays *22nd January to 5th March*

Moral Thinking

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

This course will introduce Explore members to key ideas in philosophical thinking about ethics and morality.

The emphasis will be on challenging our preconceptions and demonstrating that moral thinking is not a body of doctrine but a kind of activity.



Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.45 to 11.45



Date	Tutor	Title
15 Jan	Peter Quinn	Changing Times: Tatlin's Tower, the Monument to the Third International
22 Jan	Peter Quinn	Changing Times: Jasper Johns, painting and print
29 Jan	Gordon Reavley	Modernism & Reassurance: new objectivity in Germany
05 Feb	Martin Roberts	The 'amiable Mr Spence': Sermons and gardens in mid-eighteenth century Co. Durham
12 Feb	David Rosier	The Tradition of Imperial Chinese Art and Antiquity Collections: Owning the World
19 Feb	Malcolm Gee	David to Delacroix: French art in revolutionary times
26 Feb	Peter Quinn	The Bewick Sketchbook: a long lost treasure reassessed
05 Mar	Maria Goulding	Songlines: women's Aboriginal art in its cultural context
12 Mar	Rachel Barclay	Change and Continuity: Japanese art of the Meiji era
19 Mar	Dorothy Osler	Setting North Country Quilts in the Art History of North East England

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30



Date	Tutor	Title
15 Jan	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art: <i>Las Meninas</i> (1656), Velasquez
22 Jan	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art: Diana and Actaeon (1556-9) Titian
29 Jan	Gordon Reavley	The Shock of the Old: British Realism in the interwar years
05 Feb	Martin Roberts	Thomas Wharton's Old Park: Letters from 18th Century poets for a lost house & landscape
12 Feb	David Rosier	The Tradition of Imperial Chinese Art and Antiquity Collections: Owning the World (cont.)
19 Feb	Malcolm Gee	Gillray to Cruikshank: English satire and the French revolution
26 Feb	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art: Black on Maroon (1958), Mark Rothko
05 Mar	David Lowther	Thomas Hardwicke: A Soldier's View of India 1780-1830
12 Mar	Rachel Barclay	East meets West: Japanese ceramics of the Meiji era
19 Mar	Maria Goulding	The National Art Archive: what it tells us about the new art education movement in the 20th century

Monday

Art History Course:

Artists in the Sixties

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,



14.00 to 15.30

As a follow-up to last season's Monday afternoons, a close look at some of the artists who contributed to the art of the nineteen sixties.

Date	Title
15 Jan	Bridget Riley
22 Jan	Antony Caro
29 Jan	Yoko Ono
05 Feb	Bernd and Hilla Becher
12 Feb	Jannis Kounellis and Arte Povera
19 Feb	Richard Diebenkorn
26 Feb	Lee Friedlander

Monday

Art History Course:

Artists on Their Work

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,



14.00 to 15.30

Artists in the second year of their Master of Fine Art course at Newcastle University, the UK's most highly ranked Fine Art Department, talk about their creative practice.

Date	Title
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12 Mar	Peter Hanmer, Liz Green
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19 Mar	Paul Jex, Shaney Barton, Gillian Shreeve
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Monday

[Explore Evenings](#)—cost £65 per course to non Explore members

History Course: *22nd January to 12th March*

The Cold War: what was it for?

Tutor: [John Sadler](#)

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne
19.00 to 20.30



Non-members, please register interest in this course by emailing programme@weareexplore.org.uk and pay by cheque at the first session.

Remember the war that never was?

For half a century Britain maintained its armed forces at World war Two levels to meet the threat of Armageddon. **In the wake of Nazi Germany's final collapse both east and west competed to snap up the Reich's rocket scientists,** like Werner von Braun whose past crimes against humanity were overlooked in the nuclear race, the competition to build weapons that would truly produce the war to end all wars - **mutually assured destruction ("MAD"), the chorus** for over two generations. Churchill spoke of the Iron Curtain descending over Eastern Europe, Einstein prophesied **that while nukes might be the weapons of WWIII, the next world war would be fought with spears.** Mankind's capacity to unleash weapons of such terrible potency that would lead to his own extinction and the ruin of the planet had reached perfection.

It was the war nobody could win. Where it was fought out, the competing blocs manoeuvred around proxies; in Korea, Malaya, the Middle East, Cuba, the two Germanys, Borneo and Vietnam.



Tuesday

Classics : *from 9th January to 13th March*

Latin at the [Lit & Phil](#)

Tutor: Alan Beale & Adrian Spooner

Venue: Lecture room & Loftus room, Lit & Phil

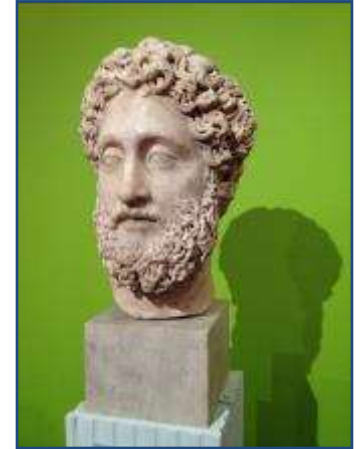
10.30 to 12.00

Explore members are cordially invited to join our Latin classes for £1 per session (donation towards room hire). We have 2 levels:

Intermediate will be using *Reading Virgil* by Peter Jones.

Advanced will be reading Virgil *Aeneid* 4

We hope to introduce sessions for beginners once these two groups are ready to be combined.



Tuesday

Science Course : *from 16th January to 13th February*

General Relativity

Tutor: Sam James

Venue: Blue Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House 39 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne:



10.30 to 12.00

Gravity is a mysterious force of nature. While we are familiar with its actions in everyday life it took Einstein a full 10 years to further develop his Special Theory of Relativity to incorporate gravity. All these years of work, however, came from one moment of revelation. Einstein himself described this as "the most beautiful idea I ever had" and it led to his General theory of Relativity. We will explore how curving the fabric of space and time can keep planets orbiting

History Course : *from 20th February to 20th March*

Everyday Life in Ancient Egypt

Tutor: Olive Hogg

Venue: Blue Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House 39 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

Forget the pharaohs, ignore the nobles and the high priests. Come and find out how the rest of the population lived. What did they eat? what were their problems? this course will give you some idea of what it was like to live in Egypt a long time ago.



Tuesday



Narratives series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
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16 Jan	Elayne Chaplin	Dissecting the Rabbit: the cultural significance of Bugs Bunny
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23 Jan	Rachel Lister	'Sudden Collapses': change in the novels of Julia Darling
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This session will give you the chance to discuss two novels by the much-admired local poet Julia Darling. We will discuss how she addresses the theme of change in a variety of ways, focusing especially on her portrayal of changes in the city of Newcastle. Extracts from *Crocodile Soup* and *The Taxi Driver's Daughter* will be provided and prior knowledge of Darling's work is not necessary.

30 Jan	Pamela Woof	Poetry and Parents: aspects of <i>Hamlet</i>
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Hamlet, a revenge play, a thriller, a ghost story; two kings, two fathers, two sons, two women, two henchmen, two brothers, two friends, even two uncles; nine dead. The most famous family drama in the world. Constant stage action, yet an inner life of unprecedented depth. The five soliloquies and the grave-digger scene in Act V will bring the whole play to mind.

06 Feb	Guy Mankowski	Are we living in a Post Truth World?
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With the rise of Donald Trump, Brexit, and the competing narratives during last year's junior doctors' strike we have all become accustomed to living in a world in which 'the truth' seems harder than ever to define. In this talk the author of bestselling whistle-blower novel *An Honest Deceit* discusses how fiction can establish what is real and what is not, in a world in which the truth has never been harder to establish.

Tuesday



Narratives series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne

10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
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13 Feb	Marie Addyman	The Garden of Eden: the written tradition prior to Milton
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What did Eden look like? Where was it situated? In the 200 years before Milton's *Paradise Lost*, this topic exercised the ingenuity of poets, geographers, historians, philosophers as well as theologians. Some of their ideas will be explored in this session.

Please note: this session will run at a slightly different time to usual, 10.30-12.30

20 Feb	Michael Ayton	Kazuo Ishiguro
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Venice. Music, the close of day, wistful regret: a poignant story from Ishiguro's celebrated *Nocturnes* (2009).

Click [here](#) to read the story online.

27 Feb	Martin Wheeler	Morbid psychology and the divided self: the (re)discovery of the unconscious in E.T.A. Hoffmann's 'The Sandman' and R.L. Stevenson's <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> .
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In the 19th century Romanticism and Science led a double assault on the Enlightenment idea of the **transparent unified self**, and ETA Hoffmann's 'The Sandman' (1816) and RL Stevenson's *Jekyll and Hyde* (1886) changed the iconography of their genre forever. In this session, through textual close reading of narrative strategies and an exploration of historical context, and taking in such thinkers as Sigmund Freud, Carl Jung and Eduard von Hartmann, we shall explore two unforgettable examples of pre-Freudian literary meditation on the subject of the unconscious self.

Tuesday



Narratives series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
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06 Mar	Chris Phipps	The Big Score - Jazz on the Screen
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"There are few great jazz movies - but there are many movies made great by jazz" (Steve Voce). This session will follow the story of screen legends ranging from Brando to Sinatra to Caine, whose signature roles are inseparable from the complementary scoring of jazz musicians including Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Lalo Schifrin and Quincy Jones. Beyond the incredible music there is a story of emancipation as what was dismissed as fringe race music went wide-screen.

13 Mar	Brian Burton	Heaney, Hughes and the Natural World
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20 Mar	Brian Roberts	The History of Jazz Part Two - 1940-2018
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Tuesday



Narratives series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
16 Jan	Elayne Chaplin	Art and Animation: the short films of Jan Swankmajer
23 Jan	Rachel Lister	'Little Disturbances': The Short Fiction of Grace Paley

In this session we will discuss two short stories by Grace Paley, a celebrated writer and political campaigner. We will look in detail at the metatextual elements of her writing and draw from some of her commentary on the challenges of using the short story form. The stories will be 'Wants', which is available online [here](#) and and 'A Conversation with my Father'. The short text for this will be supplied nearer the time via the weekly bulletin.

30 Jan	Pamela Woof	Poetry and Parents: modern poetry
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Explorations of feeling in a variety of short poems; to include works by Sylvia Plath, Philip Larkin, Seamus Heaney, Tony Harrison.

06 Feb	Guy Mankowski	Are we living in a Post Truth World? <i>continued from first session</i>
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13 Feb	(Extended morning session)	
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20 Feb	Michael Ayton	The remarkable poetry of John Ashbery
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An overview of the work of one of America's most exciting, original and challenging contemporary poets, who died in September.

Tuesday



Narratives series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
27 Feb	Martin Wheeler	Morbid psychology and divided self <i>continued from first session</i>
06 Mar	Chris Phipps	Jazz on the Screen <i>continued from first session</i>
13 Mar	Brian Burton	Heaney, Hughes and the Natural World <i>continued from first session</i>
20 Mar	Brian Roberts	The History of Jazz Part Two - 1940-2018 <i>continued from first session</i>

Tuesday

Literature Course:

One-off Literature Specials

Tutor: Martin Wheeler

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 16.00

Date Title

16 Jan Great literature and great music: a perfect complementarity or the heresy of paraphrase?

Lennox Berkeley described the setting to music of established poetry as “a risky undertaking”. In this session we shall read a number of powerful literary texts and consider some arresting examples of how 20th century composers as diverse as Samuel Barber, Benjamin Britten, Judith Weir, John Adams and Rufus Wainwright have deployed a variety of musical forces in their attempt to meet the challenges of articulating both the nuances and drama of their narratives and the movement and cadences and structure of the text itself. No technical musical knowledge is required – the session is about reading and listening and a personal response to text and music and voice.

23 Jan **A ‘cunning piece wrought perspective’ or a ‘Procrustean bed’ The beginnings of the English sonnet.**

The Renaissance in England saw an explosion in sonnet writing, a difficult form which nevertheless continues **to exert its power; the first line of Shakespeare’s Sonnet 18 is arguably the most well known line of poetry** in the English language. But many other contemporary authors wrote sonnets too, and in this session we shall be exploring the rich historical background of the form, as well as reading diverse and fascinating examples of the work of several authors writing in the 16th and 17th centuries.



Tuesday

Science Course: *from 16th January to 13th February*

Geology of the Solar System

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

Venue: B&D studios, 3rd floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



An introduction to recent discoveries about the geology of the Solar System and of the Earth.

What can the spectacular discoveries by rovers travelling the surface of Mars tell us about global warming? What is The Moon made of, and where did it come from? What are asteroids and did one really kill all of the dinosaurs? Jupiter's moon Europa is a smooth ball of ice, does it support liquid water and life?

Each week we will explore a part of the Solar System and learn what it can tell us about the Earth's origin and future. Suitable for beginners.

Tuesday

Film Course:

Under the microscope—analysing the Hollywood film text

Tutor: Elayne Chaplin

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 16.00

Date	Title
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30 Jan	Context: production, history and culture
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06 Feb	Narrative and the complexity of authorship
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13 Feb	Sequence analysis
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Tuesday

History Course: *20th February to 20th March*

Adventures in Paradise

Tutor: John Griffiths

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00-15.30



British intervention in China in the 19th – 20th century may not have shown us at our best but did produce some extraordinary characters. This course will introduce us to some of the biggest rascals and most extraordinary escapades, including such men as:

Edmund Backhouse, scion of Darlington Quaker grandees, faker, forger, fraudster who managed to cheat two governments at once.

Morris 'Two Gun' Cohen, bodyguard for Sun Yat-sen, arms smuggler, general fixer for the Chinese Nationalist leadership.

Bertram Lenox Simpson, journalist who made his name with a scandalous memoir of the 1900 Siege of Beijing, worked for different warlords, met a bad end.

Frank 'One Arm' Sutton, Royal Engineer officer, gold prospector, mercenary, would-be fascist leader.

Tuesday

Literature Course:

Neglected Classics

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



These sessions will explore three novels and a novella that have achieved the label of 'classic' but that have received little attention from today's literary critics. We will start with *The Odd Women* by George Gissing, a much-admired but little-read novelist, and move on to Colette's novella *Gigi*. We will also consider Mary McCarthy's seminal novel *The Group*. We will finish with *Young Hearts Crying*, a celebrated novel by Richard Yates that has lived in the shadow of *Revolutionary Road*.

Date	Title
20 Feb	<i>The Odd Women</i> —George Gissing
27 Feb	<i>The Odd Women</i> —George Gissing and <i>Gigi</i> —Colette
06 Mar	<i>The Group</i> —Mary McCarthy
13 Mar	<i>Young Hearts Crying</i> —Richard Yates Part One
20 Mar	<i>Young Hearts Crying</i> —Richard Yates Part Two

Tuesday



[Explore Evenings](#) —cost £65 per course to non Explore members

Music Course:

Changing Times—**'Times may change me'**

Tutor: Mike Green

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

18.00 to 19.30

Non-members, please register interest in this course by emailing programme@weareexplore.org.uk and pay by cheque at the first session.

In these eight sessions we will explore musical works, trends, developments and characters from Western music **history over the past 400 years or so, linked by the idea of 'changing times.'**

There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and listening to musical examples. No formal musical knowledge is required.

Date	Title
23 Jan	Music for Percussion
06 Feb	Mensural Notation
13 Feb	The Tyranny of the Barline
20 Feb	The Evolution of Listening
27 Feb	Poème Symphonique
06 Mar	'The Times They Are A Changin'
13 Mar	The Chapel Royal
20 Mar	Rock of Ages



Wednesday

Science Course: *from 17th January to 7th March (no session 31st January)*

Stars and their life cycles

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

Venue : Media Room, Newcastle Arts Centre, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00



A dark night sky full of stars is an awesome sight – but what are the stars made of and how far away are they?

In this course we will consider how astronomers have answered these questions and in doing so proved that the Sun itself is a star. We will also discuss the life cycles of the stars from their birth in vast clouds of dust and gas to their deaths ending as exotic remnants - white dwarfs, neutron stars and black holes.

One-off Weekday Literature Special: 14th March

The haunting landscapes of the Western Front in literature

Tutor: Ann-Marie Einhaus

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

First World War landscape paintings, such as those of Paul Nash, are some of the most powerful portrayals of the **devastating effect of the First World War on the environment. Nash's paintings convey a sense of horror and haunting** by the war torn Western Front and make us think of those who had to live in such devastation. But visual artists were **not the only eyewitness to respond powerfully to what they saw on the Western Front. This talk takes Nash's famous** paintings as a starting point to explore engagement with the landscapes of war in the work of a range of First World War writers, focusing particularly on prose narratives.

Wednesday

Literature Course: 17th & 24th January and 7th & 14th February (no session 31st Jan)

Boccaccio, short stories from *The Decameron*

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00



In the summer of 1348, following the devastating visitation of the Black Death upon Florence, a group of seven young women and three young men from the city assemble in a number of delightful, set-apart locations. To pass the time agreeably, over the course of ten of the following fourteen days they tell each other stories on various themes, each relating one story a day.

This is the frame for Boccaccio's great collection of stories of love, adventure and fortune *The Decameron*, whose texture and qualities – romantic yet down-to-earth, scathingly satirical yet warmly comic – so strongly inspired Chaucer, Shakespeare and Keats. In looking at a selection of tales from the collection, we'll consider important questions such as the stories' antecedents (including Boccaccio's own earlier writings), their different levels of meaning and the significance of their frame, and their author's views on prose fiction and the relationship of his work with Dante's.

Wednesday

One-off Weekday Literature/Music Special: *21st February*

Copious credit, crushing comeuppance: The Don Juan myth in literature and music

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 13.30



Originating in folktale and entering literature via an early seventeenth-century drama by a Spanish monk, the figure of the famous seducer and libertine has inspired countless later portrayals, some relentlessly negative, some **very much more ambivalent**. **E. T. A. Hoffmann's famous story drawing on Mozart's great opera *Don Giovanni* fostered accounts of Don Juan as a Faust-figure striving after an impossible ideal, inspiring Nikolaus Lenau's dramatic fragment which in turn inspired Richard Strauss's tone-poem *Don Juan*. Byron's celebrated – non-wicked – Don Juan lies behind powerful treatments by Pushkin and Baudelaire.**

In reading, and listening to, a number of these works, we'll consider such questions as:

what lay behind the nineteenth-century shift in representations of Don Juan?;

was the philosopher Kierkegaard right to suggest that only via music can the Don Juan 'theme' be fully realised?;

and how have female writers and critics understood Don Juan and the women who are his victims?

Wednesday

History Course: *from 21st February to 21st March*

The Region and the Sea: The Maritime Heritage of North East England

Tutor: Tony Barrow

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00



North East England is a region of contrasts renowned for the magnificence of its coastal scenery and the heritage of its industrial past. From Berwick in the north to Whitby in the south almost every age has left its trace of human contact with the sea and exerted a powerful influence on the economic growth and cultural identity of the region. Ports, resorts, seafaring, fishing heritage, naval history, maritime industry, industrial archaeology, commerce and trade are amongst its defining historical themes.

This course sets out to explore some of these key themes as a way of raising awareness and providing a context in which these elements of regional (and family) history might be better appreciated and understood.

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
17 Jan	Robin Johnson	A Personal View of Modern Applied Mathematics and Its Philosophy with Examples In this talk Robin will present his view about the nature of applied mathematics; we will briefly compare this with pure mathematics, physics, numerical methods and experiments, and discuss in what ways they overlap and provide support – and sometimes conflict! The emphasis will be on the branch of applied mathematics called fluid mechanics. After an outline of the history of theoretical fluid mechanics, we'll look at some problems and mathematical ideas, and will end with a slightly more extensive description of my most recent work: some aspects of the motion of our oceans, emphasising the role that classical applied mathematics can play.
24 Jan	Chris Burridge	A Story of Volcanoes
31 Jan	Lesley Dunlop	50 Years of Tectonic Plates Until about 420 million years ago the land we now know as Scotland was separated from England by a large ocean, the Iapetus Ocean. As the ocean closed and the continents collided rocks were altered, mountain ranges higher than any on Earth today were built and volcanoes erupted vast quantities of ash and pyroclastic debris. In northern England and southern Scotland we can still see evidence of this dramatic event in the rocks exposed today. We'll follow the timeline of events to the death of the Iapetus Ocean and the geological joining of England and Scotland. Through the rocks and landscapes of the border counties, we'll explore the geological evidence and the exciting features that tell the story will be revealed.

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
07 Feb	Sam James	Artificial Intelligence

We examine our attempts to recreate intelligence in computers. How is it even conceivable that a computer, **who's very nature is to perform a rigid set of calculations, would be able to adapt to unknown situations.** Even if a computer is able to adapt itself to unforeseen situations is it possible to say it is self-aware? Should we be worried of a future of depressed toasters and phones that beg us not to get rid of them?

14 Feb	Chris Burrige	Introduction to Citizen Science Challenge
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In this session, Chris will introduce the 'Citizen Science' project (which is part of British Science Week coming up later in the Season) and will explain how Explore members can take part in an exciting environmental challenge. No wellies required! Come along to find out more about the challenge, how you can take part and what impact we can have on the advancement of environmental and technological research, now and in the future.

21 Feb	Richard Bevan	Diving in the deep blue sea: how whales, seals and seabirds catch their food
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The seas represent a bountiful food source and many whales, seals & seabirds exploit these resources. Diving for your food poses many problems for air-breathing animals however; the biggest problem being the lack of oxygen when submerged. To maximise their time underwater, these air-breathing diving animals have adapted. **We'll highlight some of these adaptations, from the largest blue whale to the smallest water shrew.**

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
28 Feb	Mathew Wilcox	Alginates and Obesity: From Concept to Consumption
		Dr Wilcox will discuss his work with alginate and its potential role in the management of obesity. Alginates, an extract of brown seaweed, have been shown to reduce fat that is digested through the gut and therefore taken in through the diet, with the potential to help overweight or obese people who cannot achieve the recommended level of physical activity or have difficulty maintaining calorie reduced diets. The research is still ongoing alongside the project's commercialisation with the aim of getting the science to the people who may benefit from it.
07 Mar	Maria Goulding	Great Women Scientists: Ruth Carson, writer and environmentalist
		Celebrating International Women's Day tomorrow, we look at someone who is not celebrated enough for her contribution to current thinking.
14 Mar	Sally Standart	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder—A New Name for an Ancient Problem
		It has been described for centuries and given many names, PTSD is talked about a lot in the media but often not discussed accurately. This session gives overview of its diagnosis and how relevant that is to treatment options will be given. At present it is being taken more seriously in psychiatry and there have been huge developments in the last 20 years in the treatment of this puzzling disorder.
21 Mar	Rachael Wiseman and Clare MacCumhaill	In Parenthesis
		In Parenthesis" explores the contribution to 20 th Century philosophy of a remarkable group of philosophers who met as young women at Oxford University. Iris Murdoch, Elizabeth Anscombe, Philippa Foot, and Mary Midgley met and became friends at Oxford University during WWII. During their studies they met at lunch, in the common room, and at each other's lodgings to discuss philosophy.

Wednesday

History/Classics Course: *from 17th January to 14th February*

Caesar's War in Gaul

Tutor: Alan Beale

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30

Date Title

The seven books Caesar wrote about his conquest of the Gallic tribes are full of incident, danger and the brutality **of ancient warfare. Written in an engaging style, notable for its lucidity and brevity, Caesar's 'commentaries' (notebooks or memoranda) were in Cicero's view too good to be just a source for future historians.**

The first session will be an introduction to Gaul, Caesar and the historical background. Sessions 2-4 will each **discuss two books and the final session will read Book 7 and Hirtius' addition (Book 8). We will conclude with the crossing of the Rubicon.**

Suggested reading:

Caesar, The Gallic War, translated by Carolyn Hammond, OUP 1996

Caesar, The Conquest of Gaul, translated by S.A.Handford, revised with a new introduction by Jane Gardner, Penguin 1982

Julius Caesar, The Battle for Gaul, translated by Anne & Peter Wiseman, Russel Sharp 1980



Wednesday



History Course: *from 21st February to 21st March*

The Rise and Fall of the Post War Consensus

Tutor: Nick Cott

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,

Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30

This course will survey some of the major aspects of the social democratic consensus in British politics from its foundations in the 1945 Labour government, through its development in governments of the 1950s and 1960s. It will examine the increasing strain upon the consensus in the 1970s which ended in its collapse with the onset of the Thatcher government in 1979.

Wednesday

Practical Art & Craft Studio:

Sessions dates 17th, 24th, and 31st January, 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th February and 7th March

Venue: B&D Studios, 3rd floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

13.30 to 15.30

Continuing our Art and Craft Studio, to run for 8 weeks on a Wednesday afternoon

There will not be a tutor at each session but we will use the funding available to buy in tutors as and when we need them. There are skills amongst members that we can also draw on and we plan to start the season doing some work with ceramics.

Margaret Adams will coordinate this group.



Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
18 Jan	Colm O'Brien	A Lost Estate of the Lindisfarne Monastery
25 Jan	Neil Storey	Newcastle in the First World War: The Story of the Town and Its People 1914-1918
01 Feb	Ivan Hill	Masculinity & War: Diaries & Letters of Soldiers who Fought in the South African War (1899-1922)
08 Feb	Nick Cott	The Political Career of Sir John Simon, 1900-1935
15 Feb	Gordon Reavley	Disney, Class Struggle and How Communists Tried to Capture Mickey Mouse
22 Feb	Anthea Lang	Visitors to Newcastle: Who Came and What they Thought Of It
01 Mar	Malcolm Grady	'Times they are A Changin'
08 Mar	John Griffiths	Newcastle's First Great Exhibition
15 Mar	Marta Alberti	Vindolanda: A Frontier in Transition—The 2013-2017 SMC
22 Mar	John Sadler	The Hungarian Uprising 1956

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Changing Times'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
18 Jan	Sophie Hueglin	Hexham—Abbey and Sele Under Investigation
25 Jan	John Sadler	The Cuban Missile Crisis
01 Feb	John Griffiths	The Pythagoreans: A History of Vegetarianism in the North East
08 Feb	Richard Annis	Durham and Dunbar: Identifying Scottish Soldiers at Palace Green
15 Feb	Craig Barclay	A Good Reputation Endures Forever: The Chinese Labour Corps on the Western Front
22 Feb	David Harker	Their Joe Wilson and Ours
01 Mar	Anthea Lang	JB Priestley and the North East: His 1934 Journey
08 Mar	Malcolm Grady	2.00 a.m.
15 Mar	Paul Gailiunas	Women in the Early Years of the Lit & Phil
22 Mar	Rebecca Cessford	What Lies Beneath? Exploring the Use of Pre-antibiotic Clinical Radiographs in the Study of Tuberculosis

Thursday

Science Course: *from 18th January to 15th February*

Plant Biology

Tutor: Gavin Hardy

Venue: Green Room, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



Plants play a vital role in our lives - without them we wouldn't exist. Come and learn about what they are - hundreds of thousands of species exist (but you're not going to be expected to recognise them all) - how they live their lives, and how science has revealed this to us.

History Course: *from 22nd February to 22nd March*

Bede

Tutor: **Colm O'Brien**

Venue: Green Room, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30



We would know little about the early stages of the English kingdoms if we did not have Bede's *Ecclesiastical History*. But I'm not intent on giving an outline history course; rather, I wish to unpick some of the ways in which Bede constructed his history and some of his underlying ideas to try and get to the core of what sort of a writer and historian he was.

To prepare: read it. I'll be using Bertram Colgrave's translation in the Oxford World Classics series, edited by McClure and Collins – ISBN 978-0-19-953723-5 (paperback): an erudite addition to your Christmas list.

Thursday

Literature Course:

Contemporary Nature Writing

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

Venue: White Room, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30 This course operates on a booking system—please see details below.

There has been a resurgence of 'nature writing' in the twenty-first century, including new works & those that have been rediscovered. Many writers make creative use of aspects of the natural world in works that combine the factual, the biographical and the contemplative. We will read a (necessarily short!) selection of works from the UK and the USA.

Date Title

25 Jan **Robert Macfarlane, 'Ghost Species'** - click [here](#) for a link to the text

01 Feb Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk* (2014)

08 Feb Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk* (2014) *continued*

15 Feb NO CLASS

22 Feb A selection of twentieth- and twenty-first century nature poems [Edward Thomas, Ted Hughes, Kathleen Jamie, Alice Oswald] Please click [here](#) for links to the selected poems.

01 Mar Cheryl Strayed, *Wild* (2012)

08 Mar Cheryl Strayed, *Wild* (2012) *continued*

15 Mar Nan Shepherd, *The Living Mountain* (originally published 1977; republished 2011)

This is a seminar-style course of 7 sessions. This is likely to be a popular course so you are asked to register for a place to help us make appropriate arrangements. To book a place on this course, please e-mail explorelitprog@gmail.com (NOT THE EXPLORE OFFICE, PLEASE) and write Bronwen Calvert Booking in the header. Please also note that this booking is dependent on a confirmation of registration for the FULL Explore programme before 15th January 2018. See next page for further details and suggested further reading.



Thursday

Literature Course:

Contemporary Nature Writing

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

Venue: White Room, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30 This course operates on a booking system—please see details below.



Bookings will be taken from Monday 11th – Friday 22nd December inclusive.

If you book on the Explore Programme after 15th January and wish to register on the course please contact us at explorelitprog@gmail.com to find out if a place is available **and write 'Bronwen Calvert Booking'** in the subject line.

You might also like to read the following works, available online:

Robert Macfarlane, 'Why we need nature writing' in *The New Statesman*—click [here](#) for link.

Rebecca Solnit, 'In Praise of Darkness and Light' on *Tomdispatch* click [here](#) for link.

Thursday

Philosophy Course: *18th January, 1st March and 15th March*

[NewPhilSoc](#) Philosophy in Literature

Tutor: Lucille Valentine

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

18.00 to 19.30

These sessions, led by Lucille Valentine of the Newcastle Philosophical Society, will take passages of prose, poetry and drama as a starting point for a discussion on a philosophical topic. Lovers of literature, lovers of meaning, anyone who values words, thought or a good discussion come will enjoy these shared meetings.

History Course: *25th January, 8th, 22nd February and 8th, 22nd March*

[Bernician Studies Group](#) Early Medieval History in the North-East

Tutor: **Colm O'Brien** and [Max Adams](#)

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

19.00 to 20.30



This independent Study Group meets fortnightly in Commercial Union House (CUH).

Current work includes investigating 'Cocwudu'- a possible ancient woodland between Wansbeck and Coquet; further magnetometry surveys in north-east England; and our continuing project researching the Early Mediaeval monastic sites we have identified in Donegal.

Explore members are welcome to join the CUH sessions reporting on and discussing this work and other topics of interest. [For insurance reasons, only members of the BSG itself can participate in fieldwork.]

Friday

History Course : *from 19th January to 16th February*

Sketches of Women Tutor: Max Adams

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne
11.00 to 13.00

Max has been writing a series of linked essays on lesser known women, and aspects of their lives & experience, for a new book. In this course he shares some insights into how we can construct meaningful narratives about women from a past overwhelmingly dominated by male perspectives. Combining history, archaeology and a fresh look at female roles in economy and society, Max brings to light some fascinating women's lives from the late Roman period to the Enlightenment (Please note, there is no session on 2nd February and there is a double session, 11.00-15.00, on February 16th.)



History Course : *from 23rd February to 23rd March*

The Seasons and their Influence on History

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne
11.00 to 12.30

From the spring drought in France in 1789 which hastened the onset of the French Revolution to the winter of 1812 which sealed the fate of Napoleon in Russia to the summer of 1945 when a clear sunny day was the death of Hiroshima, these 5 sessions will explore how history was affected and indeed changed by the nature of our seasons.



23 Feb	The four seasons and their influence on history
02 Mar	Winter
09 Mar	Spring
16 Mar	Summer
23 Mar	Autumn

Friday

Weekday Literature special (One-off class) : *2nd March*

An Introduction to the Writing of Wallace Stevens

Tutor: Pamela Woof

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 13.30

A twentieth-century American; unusually for a poet, a working and successful director in the insurance business who never came to Europe. His imagination made use of what there was, day by day in Hartford, Connecticut. His poems are meditations on what could be felt, seen, heard, touched, remembered and experienced.

Perhaps his awareness on a winter's day in January might be of 'Nothing that is not there and the nothing that is'; and on a different day in a different mood in a dawn of sun and spring, a new bird's scrawny cry might be like 'A new knowledge of reality'. A poet who puts us in touch with both the world and the mind; and one who offers his own characteristic American verbal music.

Saturday

One Off History Session:

Martin Luther King in Newcastle: The African American Freedom Struggle and Race Relations in the North East of England

Tutor : Brian Ward

Saturday 20th January 10.30 to 12.00

Venue : Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Professor Brian Ward will speak about his latest book *Martin Luther King in Newcastle: The African American Freedom Struggle and Race Relations in the North East of England* putting into context **King's visit to the city on the 13th November 1967 when he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Civil Law by the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.**



[North East Ancient Egypt Society](#)

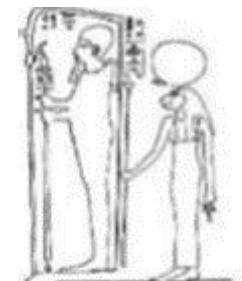
Amasis, a true philhellene? reconsidering evidence from Memphis

Tutor : Claus Jurman

Saturday 27th January 13.30 to 15.30

Venue : The Lit & Phil, 23 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1SE

Claus will discuss an unpublished terracotta statue from Memphis in archaic Greek style with a **cartouche of Amasis of Dynasty 26. It raises questions about Amasis's connections with Greece and reputation as a 'philhellene'.** Claus is an expert on Late Period Egypt and will present some of his recent research.



Saturday

Practical Art Class :

Fashion Embroidery: embellished brooch class

Tutor : Melanie Kyles

Saturday 3rd February 10.30 to 13.30

Venue : Fashion Lab, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Saturday



Art Course :

Last Year at Marienbad (1961) ***L'Annee derniere a Marienbad***

Tutor : [Peter Quinn](#)

Saturday 24th February 10.30 to 13.30

Venue : Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

A chance to have a closer look at the influential French film, directed by Alain Resnais from a screenplay by Alain Robbe-Grillet.

It has been described as 'Not just a defining work of the French New Wave, but one of the great, lasting mysteries of modern art'.

Saturday

History Course:

Brexit: One Year to Go

Tutors : Malcolm Grady

Saturday 3rd March 10.30 to 13.00

Venue : Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle

The countdown to Brexit is now well underway with just twelve months left. This session will examine the latest position on leaving the EU from regional, national, European and international perspectives in a critical, interactive and hopefully interesting way. Where will we be in relation to Brexiteers and Remainers, deal or no deal, hard or soft Brexit and, of course, the Northern Ireland border?

So much to discuss! Maybe bring your sleeping bags....we could be all night!



Practical Art Course: Printmaking Workshop

Tutor : Margaret Adams

Saturday 10th March 10.30 to 13.30

Venue : B&D Studios, 3rd floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle

Margaret is continuing with her workshops giving members the opportunity to explore a range of etching and relief printmaking techniques. Previously the prints have used hand-held rollers, however in this workshop you will have the opportunity to make prints using a flat-bed press which has been hired from Northern Print. You will work on quality paper and fabric and while some members will be bringing previously prepared collagraphs or their own plates, Margaret will guide anyone new to printmaking through simple Lino cutting techniques. All you need is a few ideas and perhaps images to work from. Please Note: There may be a small charge towards the cost of materials and press hire.



Please email the office at weareexplore@gmail.com if you plan to attend to help estimate numbers.

Saturday

Science Day—part of [British Science Week](#)



Engineering Newcastle: We Did It!

Tutor : Steve Barrett & Friends

Saturday 17th March 11.00-13.00

Venue : Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle

A special science event with a focus on engineering open to members and also FREE to the public as part of British Science Week.

History Course

Lost Towns of the British Isles

Tutor : John Griffiths

Saturday 24th March 10.30-13.00

Venue : Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle



Britain is dotted with ghost towns. Starved by lost trade, buried in shifting sands, consumed by the waves. This session examines some well-known and some less well known examples.

THE END

Season 3 will start on Monday 23rd April 2018