

EXPLORE



FREE Week One
From Monday 16th
January 2017

Season 2
2016-17 programme

Explore Season 2 Programme 2016-17

The Season 2 programme follows on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent.'

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

There are two options:

Attend any or all sessions in FREE Week One starting Monday 16th January 2017

Click [HERE](#) to see the Week One programme.

Or arrange a FREE taster session by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com

You need to join Explore in order to attend the sessions. Details of how to join Explore are available on our website: www.weareexplore.org.uk 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.

If you would require financial assistance in order to take part in the Explore programme, you are encouraged to apply to the [S.Y. Killingley Memorial Trust](#).

Explore Season 2 Programme 2016-17

Congratulations to the programming team -

Art History and Design: Jack Massey and Helen Watson

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

Perspectives (Science and Mathematics): Christine Burridge, Maria Goulding, Mike Leddra 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 Season 2 2016-17 Overview

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Key

Philosophy

Art

Culture &
Society

Narratives

Perspectives

Week of		16th Jan	23rd Jan	30th Jan	6th Feb	13th Feb	20th Feb	27th Feb	6th Mar	13th Mar	20th Mar
Mon	morning	Marie Addyman 'William Turner of Morpeth'			Ian Ground 'Philosophical Provocations II'						
	morning	Morning art series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'									
	lunch	Lunchtime art series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'									
	afternoon		Peter Quinn 'Venice'				Maria Goulding	Peter Quinn 'Venice'			
	evening	John Sadler 'The Russian Revolution'									
Tues	morning	Latin at the Lit & Phil									
	morning	Morning narratives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'									
	morning						John Griffiths 'Tales from the High Street'				
	lunch	Lunchtime narratives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'									
	afternoon	Tony Barrow 'War & Social Change in the 20th Century'					Derek Teasdale 'The Last Ice Age'				
	afternoon		Elayne Chaplin 'Auteurs & World Cinema'						Martin Wheeler 'King Lear'		
	evening	Mike Green 'Exploring Music'									
	evening				Palaeography			Palaeography			
Wed	morning	Sam James 'Relativity'					Fred Stevenson 'Gravity and Time'				
	morning		Michael Ayton 'Dante's Inferno'					Michael Ayton			
	lunch	Lunchtime perspectives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'									
	afternoon	Alan Beale 'Five Greek Tragedies'					David Lowther 'The British in India 1750-1857'				
Thurs	morning	Morning culture & society series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'									
	lunch	Lunchtime culture & society series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'									
	afternoon	Andrew Woodard 'Speaking our Minds'					Maria Goulding & Peter Pool 'Mathematical Problem Solving'				
	afternoon		Bronwen Calvert study group 'Antipodean Fiction'								
	evening	Bernician Studies Group (alternate weeks)									
Fri	morning	Max Adams 'Alfred the Great'						Malcolm Grady & Anthea Lang		Hermann Moisl 'Orality & Literacy'	
	morning				Pamela Woof						
	afternoon			Lizzie Rowe 'Creating a Portrait' Practical Art							
Saturday		Beatrix Groves 'Microsoft Windows'	Rachel Lister 'Chekhov'	Silvia Vera Mendoza 'Illustration'	Gavin Hardy 'The Plant Hunters'	John Sadler 'North East Volunteers in Spain'	Anthea Lang 'Formality to Flowerbeds'	Peter Quinn 'English Art & Modernism'	Malcolm Grady 'Referendum'	SCIENCE DAY	Rachel Lister 'Flash Fiction'
		North East Ancient Egypt Society							Margaret Adams Screenprinting		

Monday

History Course: *from 16th to 30th January*

William Turner of Morpeth, Naturalist & Physician

Tutor: Marie Addyman

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

10.30 to 12.30

William Turner (c.1508-1568) is now recognised as one of Northumberland's greatest sons. Living under four Tudor monarchs, often in difficult conditions, he provided first records of birds and fishes in England, and wrote the first analytical account of many medicinal plants, both European and native, in his tri-part *Herball* (1551-1568). He also wrote on mineral spas and wines, as well as contributing various religious tracts to the English Reformation.

16 Jan Life and times - politics and religion;

23 Jan Turner's natural history

31 Jan 'Physic' in Turner's time

Philosophy Course: *from 6th February to 20th March*

Provocations II - Some Philosophical Debates

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

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

10.30 to 12.00

Each week we will take one provocative piece of philosophical text, carefully curated from our tradition, and explore its context, meaning, implications and relevance to contemporary debates. Topics range across philosophy, the arts, physics and cognitive science. Though each class is stand alone, the sum will amount to a fascinating tour of contemporary trends.

Monday



Art History and Design on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
16 Jan	Peter Quinn	Grayson Perry
23 Jan	Sarah Richardson	David Bomberg & the Whitechapel Group
30 Jan	Henna Asikainen	Art of Miina Akkijyrkka
06 Feb	David Rosier	Emperor Qianlong (1735-1796) Son of Heaven, Man of the World : Ruling with Mandate of Heaven
13 Feb	Gordon Reavley	After the Bauhaus : Emigré architects in America
20 Feb	Peter Quinn	Robert Rauschenberg
27 Feb	Gavin Hardy	Colour Plate Illustrations : Fine Botanical Art of the 18th –20th centuries
06 Mar	John Sadler	'Painters of Battles'
13 Mar	Malcolm Gee	The 'Return to Order' in French Art 1917-1925
20 Mar	Peter Quinn	Alberto Giacometti

Monday



Art History and Design on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
16 Jan	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art : Weight
23 Jan	Andrew Burton	Working with Makers in India & Africa
30 Jan	Andrew Etherington	Norman Cornish & Me
06 Feb	David Rosier	Emperor Qianlong (1735-1796) Son of Heaven, Man of the World : Imperial Scholar & Fine Art Collector & Curator
13 Feb	Gordon Reavley	Poundbury : Prince Charles, the Marie Antoinette de Nos Jours
20 Feb	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art : Light
27 Feb	Henna Asikainen	Participatory Art
06 Mar	John Sadler	Landscapes of War
13 Mar	Malcolm Gee	(Anti) Art as Revolutionary Weapon : George Grosz & John Heartfield in Berlin
20 Mar	Peter Quinn	Thinking about Art : Protest

Monday

Art History Course:

Venice

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date	Title
23 Jan	Carnival
30 Jan	Republic
06 Feb	Titian
27 Feb	Tiepolo, Canaletti & Longhi : 18th century Venice
06 Mar	Stones of Venice : Ruskin & Turner
13 Mar	Biennale
20 Mar	Don't Look Now : Venice in Peril

History of Art one –off

Australian Art II (REPEAT)

Tutor: Maria Goulding

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

Monday 20th February 14.00 to 15.30

This is a repeat of a previous talk, for those who may be interested in attending the exhibition at the National Gallery, Australia's Impressionists, on until 26th March.



Monday

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

Ten days that Shook the World : the Russian Revolution 1917 – 1922

Tutor: [John Sadler](#)

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

19.00 to 20.30



This year (2017) marks the centenary of one of the most significant events of the 20th Century – the Russian Revolution. Across our sessions we'll look at a narrative of the impact and events of the era, together with an assessment of the cultural consequences and legacy. We'll focus on the key players but also on the wider involvement of the European powers after 1918, the effects of the Comintern and the origins of the Cold War.

Tuesday

Classics : *from 17th January to 21st 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 starting Aeneid book VI.

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

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

'Tales from the High Street' A History of Famous Shops

Tutor: John Griffiths

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

10.30 to 12.00

How we shopped and what we bought, looked at through the history of famous high street names such as Boots, Marks & Spencer, W H Smith, J Sainsbury - and their competitors.



Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
17 Jan	Maria Goulding	<p>Women in Folk Song</p> <p>In the previous session, women in traditional British folk song were largely depicted as experiencing love, courtship, seduction, betrayal and abandonment. In this session, we will consider songs in which women are depicted as strong and independent, standing up for themselves both in the home and the workplace.</p>
24 Jan	Pamela Woof	<p>1800 - 1802 - The Lyrical Ballads Wordsworth</p> <p>We shall concentrate on the following poems: 'Michael'; 'A slumber did my spirit seal'; 'She dwelt among the untrodden ways'; 'The two April mornings'; 'The fountain'; 'There was a boy' and 'Nutting'. A limited number of texts will be available at the session but participants are encouraged to bring their own if they have access to a copy. All the poems are readily available online.</p>
31 Jan	John Sadler	<p>Fact into fiction - crafting a novel from the historical narrative</p> <p>We will consider the process of translating historic narrative (his 2013 <i>Flodden 1513</i>) into historical fiction (<i>Blood Divide</i> 2014), how to develop and create character, keeping the historical framework, writing action and dialogue.</p>



Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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



10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
07 Feb	Bronwen Calvert	Virginia Woolf goes to Cambridge: <i>A Room of One's Own</i> , women's writing and literary tradition. Woolf was amazingly well-read by our standards, but always considered herself poorly educated. Her thoughts in <i>A Room of One's Own</i> are echoed in her novel <i>Orlando</i> , both written at about the same time (1928). We'll compare and contrast Woolf's ideas about tradition, education, writing and dissent.
14 Feb	Marie Addyman	The Modern Concept of 'Ecocriticism' Ecocriticism is the study of literature and the environment from an interdisciplinary point of view, where literature scholars analyse texts that illustrate environmental concerns and examine the various ways literature treats the subject of nature. It re-examines radically some of our older (and current) concepts of nature.
21 Feb	Michael Ayton	Bob Dylan – Powerful <i>Poet</i> of Dissent? Some of Dylan's song-lyrics have achieved huge fame, but are they strong poems without the music? Either way, do song-lyrics deserve Nobel prize-level recognition? Can a judgement here be more than subjective?

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

10.30 to 12.00



Date	Tutor	Title
28 Feb	Martin Wheeler	<p>'The object whereto all his actions tend': George Chapman's 'Ovids Banquet of Sence', Neoplatonic enlightenment and the art of the chat-up line.</p> <p>We shall be exploring what has been referred to as 'the most difficult poem in the English language', George Chapman's 'Ovids Banquet of Sence' (1595). In the first session we will reflect on some of its defining themes and images, while in the hour session that follows we shall discover how Renaissance botany can provide the clue to understanding Chapman's Ovid.</p>
07 Mar	Elayne Chaplin	From Silents to Talkies : how synchronous sound changed cinema
14 Mar	Richard Moore	<p>Worlds in Transition: Society 1918-1950 - reference to 'The Waste Land', <i>The Ascent of F6</i>, and <i>A Handful of Dust</i>. May also include reference to <i>Black Mischief</i>. This will cover breaks with tradition in literary form and style but also continuing traditional concerns, especially shown in Eliot.</p>
21 Mar	Keith Armstrong	<p><i>Freedom of the Streets: the life and work of Jack Common</i></p> <p>The session will focus on Common's Newcastle upbringing and how it influenced his life and writing including extracts from Common's autobiographical novels <i>Kiddar's Luck</i> and <i>The Ampersand</i>. In the second session we will look at Jack's love-hate relationship with the North East and his unique friendship with George Orwell.</p>

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
17 Jan	Joe Crane	Irish Music and Songs- the first 1000 years Music and song still current in the Irish tradition from early times until the 20th century from the Sean Nos Gaelic traditions of song to the harp and piping traditions and the late arrivals of the fiddle, flute and squeeze boxes.
24 Jan	Pamela Woof	1800 - 1802 The Lyrical Ballads Wordsworth (Contd)
31 Jan	Brian Roberts	A Feast of Jazz A selection of jazz music which includes a reference to food or drink in the title. This should make for a varied selection, from Louis Armstrong to Wynton Marsalis.
07 Feb	Bronwen Calvert	If Shakespeare had a sister... We will discuss the 'Shakespeare's sister' portion of Woolf's <i>A Room of One's Own</i> ; it is Chapter 3 in the printed text. Please read the chapter in advance. The full text of <i>A Room of One's Own</i> is available online here: https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91r/
14 Feb	Marie Addyman	The Modern Concept of 'Ecocriticism' (contd.)
21 Feb	Michael Ayton	Shelley, 'Poetical Essay on the Existing State of Things' Written when Shelley was eighteen, this striking radical poem expressing its author's outrage at the government, the Napoleonic war and the state of poverty in Britain, saw public light only late in 2015.



Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
28 Feb	Martin Wheeler	'The object whereto all his actions tend': George Chapman's 'Ouids Banquet of Sence', (contd.)
07 Mar	Elayne Chaplin	Hitchcock's <i>Blackmail</i> and subjective sound
14 Mar	Richard Moore	The Literature of High Society and the Bright Young Thing: With references to <i>Vile Bodies</i> , <i>A Handful of Dust</i> (again) and <i>The Pursuit of Love</i> .
21 Mar	Keith Armstrong	Freedom of the Streets : the Life and Work of Jack Common (contd.)

Tuesday

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

War & Social Change in the 20th Century

Tutor: Tony Barrow

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

14.00 to 15.30



This is a course about continuity and change and brings into conjunction two broad 'facts' about the history of Europe in the 20th century. The first is that all the people of Europe witnessed major changes affecting their lives. The second is that they suffered the experience and the impact of two hugely destructive world wars. The extent to which these 'facts' were in some way connected continues to exercise the pens of historians and their explanations provides a focus for the course.

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

Geology Shapes Us: The Last Ice Age

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

14.00 to 15.30



The Earth's climate see-saws between extremes, and so the cold periods inevitably end. We are currently between glaciations, and so enjoy a temperate climate. Perhaps our current warm period is a little too temperate? Even ignoring human intervention, what is a 'normal' climate?

Join Derek Teasdale for a five week course, introducing the Ice Ages.

Although the course is based on the latest scientific knowledge it should be suitable for and of interest to all.

Tuesday



Literature Course: *from 7th to 14th March*

King Lear and Tono-Bungay

Tutor: Martin Wheeler

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

14.00 to 16.00

Date	Title
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07 Mar	The aural made visual: Shakespeare's <i>King Lear</i> and Grigori Kozintsev.
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1971 saw the release of Soviet film-maker Grigori Kozintsev's film of Shakespeare's *King Lear*. With Kozintsev's direction, a translation by Boris Pasternak and music by Dmitri Shostakovich, it is considered by many to be an underrated masterpiece. Through close attention to Shakespeare's text and several key scenes from the film, we shall consider how Kozintsev's response to this icon of Western culture creatively engages with the defining themes of the play in a way that interrogates structures of power.

14 Mar	Atomic decay and the 'Condition of England': HG Wells' <i>Tono-Bungay</i> .
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It was lauded by the young DH Lawrence and invited contemporary critical comparison of its author with Tolstoy. HG Wells regarded his novel *Tono-Bungay* (1908/1909) as 'the finest and most finished novel upon the accepted lines that he has ever written or is ever likely to write'. In this session, we shall explore how, with its panoramic sweep of contemporary society and concern with the function of literary narrative, it is perhaps alone among Wells' works in synthesizing all aspects of his creative interests: the novelistic, the scientific, and the sociological.

Tuesday

Film Course:

Tradition & Dissent : Auteurs & World Cinema

Tutor: Elayne Chaplin

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

14.00 to 16.00 (*Except 7th Feb)



Date	Title
24 Jan	Kurosawa Akira (Japan)
31 Jan	Andrei Tarkovsky (Russia)
07 Feb	Werner Herzog (Germany) *Please note: this session will start earlier at 13.30 and finish at 15.30

In these sessions we'll be introducing the work of some distinctive directors, and exploring the way in which they have dissented from traditional cinematic forms in their work.

Tuesday

Music Course:

Exploring Music—Tradition & Dissent

Tutor: Mike Green

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

18.00 to 19.30

Date Title

17 Jan The Polonaise

24 Jan Sir Michael Tippett

31 Jan Music & Politics

07 Feb Jazz in 'classical' music

14 Feb John Cage

21 Feb The Ars Nova

In line with the Explore theme for this season of 'Tradition and Dissent' this course will be an exploration of some characters and trends in western music history which demonstrate different attitudes and approaches to tradition and convention. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and listening to musical examples.

No formal musical knowledge is required.

Tuesday

History Course: *from 31st January to 14th February and 28th February to 21st March*

Palaeography in Partnership with The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne and Heritage Lottery Fund

Tutor: Durham Record Office

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

18.00 to 20.00



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The work contributed by Explore members to the transcription of two Newcastle archives, the 'Flood Papers' and the 'Poll Book' has helped to make the project such a success that the Heritage Lottery Fund has made a substantial grant to widen its scope. This enables us to offer this course, which will focus particularly on working with 17th and 18th century documents and will be taught by an archivist from the Durham Record Office. It is open to all.

To assist planning, please register an interest by emailing Joy Rutter on thisisexplore@gmail.com

Wednesday

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

Introduction to the Theory of Relativity

Tutor: Sam James

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



10.30 to 12.00

The most famous equation ever derived is $E=mc^2$ which tells us that matter and energy are linked and explains how the stars can shine. But what is really surprising is that this link can be shown to be true by making only two very simple assumptions about the structure of the universe. In this course we explore the development of the Theory of Relativity from its beginnings in Renaissance Italy until the involvement of the first super star of physics Albert Einstein.

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

Gravity and Time

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

Venue: Media Room, Newcastle Arts Centre

10.30 to 12.00

In this course we will discuss many different facets of astronomy. Firstly, the movements of the stars, planets, and moon throughout the night and throughout the year will be explained. Learn how to identify and observe stars and planets using the naked eye, binoculars and telescopes. We will then consider the make up of the universe - from our nearest neighbour the Moon to the most distant galaxies ever observed. During the past ten years there has been a tremendous advance in our understanding of the universe thanks to an explosion in technology - both ground based, with many huge telescopes being built around the world, and space-based, with spacecraft visiting various planets, asteroids and comets throughout the solar system. In this course we will discuss the many exciting discoveries being made using these telescopes and spacecraft. No previous knowledge of astronomy or science is required.



Wednesday

Literature Course: *from 25th January to 15th February*

Dante's *Inferno*—a Fierce Blaze of Imagination

Tutor: Michael Ayton **10.30 to 12.00**

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



Ever since the early decades of the 14th century, Dante's *Inferno*, the first section of his tripartite epic poem 'The Divine Comedy' describing its author's journey through Hell, Purgatory and Heaven, has gripped and provoked readers with its astonishingly – and sometimes shockingly – imaginative depiction of infernal realms and of the sinners being punished within them. We'll focus in depth on a number of the most brilliant and arresting passages in the poem, using a variety of English translations to bring out the power and originality of Dante's poetry, which often seems strikingly modern in its directness and its multi-dimensionality. Don't worry if you haven't read Dante before – his genius will shine through and will amaze you!

Narratives Session: *1st March*

Psalms : Musical Settings, History & Reception

Tutor: Michael Ayton **10.30 to 12.00**

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

Psalms are as much songs as they are poems! From their early supposed association with the harp-playing biblical King David to the present day, the hundred and fifty or so Hebrew poems which today we know as 'psalms' have evoked a wealth of musical compositions and styles of musical performance to parallel the esteem they've won as poetry. Focusing in detail on a number of psalms of widely different kinds, we'll listen to musical settings ranging from ancient chant to contemporary works, so as to consider how the fusion of words and music may enhance the meaning and message of these ancient poems. We'll look also at the intriguing implications of composers setting what are often widely divergent translations of the Hebrew originals. All texts, and musical sounds, will be provided, and no prior knowledge or reading is necessary or assumed.

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
18 Jan	Hannah Earnshaw	An Introduction to Mars One: The Journey of a Lifetime
		It is entirely possible that Hannah Earnshaw might become one of the first people to walk and live on the surface of Mars. But why would anyone want to do that? And what are the challenges that need to be overcome to get there? This talk will be an introduction of Mars One and their mission plan to establish the first permanent human settlement beyond Earth, and what life might be like for those first explorers.
25 Jan	Daniel Erskine	Dementia: What pathology is telling us about its prevalence, cause & potential treatment.
		Dementia is one of the greatest challenges for medicine and science in the 21 st century. Despite its increasing prevalence, we know relatively little about why it occurs and how we should approach treatment. The majority of what we know so far is based upon observations of <i>post-mortem</i> human brains, and has led to the creation of the only drugs currently in use for treating the symptoms of dementia. In this talk, I will discuss our methods for studying the brain, how this is adding to our understanding of dementia, and the ways in which this knowledge could underpin improved diagnostics and treatments in the future.
01 Feb	James Stanfield	Teaching, Big Questions and the Internet
		What impact is the internet having on teaching and learning? Should we embrace it in the classroom or ban it altogether?

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
08 Feb	Sam James	Symmetry in the Universe
		We all find something very pleasing about things that have symmetry and a school child could say when something is symmetric. But for all the ease that we have in spotting and understanding symmetry it leads to some of the most complicated maths and the most powerful idea in physics. Maybe this is why we humans also find it such an interesting concept as without realising it the universe is in fact built on symmetry.
15 Feb	Dr Andrew McNeill	Typically, designers can take a somewhat paternalistic role in designing devices that will help an older person, regardless of how the user feels about the technology. In our approach we want to place the needs of the user at the centre by understanding their desires for such a system overall, their desires for privacy on such a system, and their intended use of the system.
22 Feb	Louis Golightly	Shale Gas & Oil, Fracking in the UK: What it Means for All of Us
		'Fracking' is controversial, although it is clearly government policy in England and Wales and looks set to be an important feature of our medium to long term energy supply. The talk will summarise the geological origins of shale gas and oil, the technology for exploiting them, the environmental and economic demand pressures underlying Fracking and the costs and benefits.
01 Mar	Graham McClelland	'Blood, sweat and RCTs: Research in the Prehospital Setting.'
		Prehospital research is a relatively new development for UK ambulance services. Paramedics are now pushing the boundaries of the care they deliver but generating high quality evidence in this area is challenging. This talk will describe the major areas of prehospital research and the presenters own work which focuses on prehospital stroke care.

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
8 Mar	Josephine Ellis	'This Land is Your Land' Land Use
		In the UK we generally adhere to two interconnected beliefs, which are in many ways enshrined in law: firstly, that land generally belongs to an owner and secondly, that land is a resource to be used at will by that owner. However, this model can be criticised on the basis that it is hard to incorporate environmental concerns within it. Furthermore, at a time when the price of land is increasing rapidly, the "land as owned resource" model could enshrine and heighten inequalities. Where do our perceptions of land occupation come from? and Would an alternative model necessarily lead towards better environmental outcomes? Would it be possible for our society to change its perceptions?
15 Mar	Christine Burridge	Plasticene
		No, not a mis-spelling but a wry peek at the advent of Plastiglomerates in 2006. A new geological rock form? And a new geological age?
22 Mar	Lisa-Marie Shillito	Geoarchaeology from Orkney to Anatolia and the Americas
		Geoarchaeology is perhaps not as well-known as other scientific methods in archaeology, such as the study of animal bones or the remains of plants. In geoarchaeology, we study not just the archaeological remains, but the soil and sediment in which these remains are found. Under the microscope, this dull brown stuff is full of information that is invisible to the naked eye. In this talk we will take a whirlwind tour through the world of geoarchaeology, and how it can be used to investigate ancient societies, from early prehistory of the Americas, to the world's first town in Anatolia, and finally a bit closer to home, looking at how the inhabitants of Neolithic Orkney managed their island landscape.

Wednesday

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

Five Greek Tragedies

Tutor: Alan Beale

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

14.00 to 15.30



We will explore five plays with major roles for women by the three great tragedians whose work survives. We will discuss our responses to the dramatic situations, the characters and the issues raised.

Recommended reading in:

Aeschylus, *The Oresteia* trans Robert Fagles, Penguin (for Agamemnon)

Sophocles, *The Three Theban Plays*, trans Robert Fagles, Penguin (for Antigone)

Sophocles, *Electra and other Plays* trans David Raeburn, Penguin (for Electra)

Looking at Medea, edited by David Stuttard (with translation) Bloomsbury

Euripides *Alcestis and other Plays*, trans John Davie, Penguin (for Hippolytus)

Wednesday

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

The British in India 1750—1857

Tutor: David Lowther

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

14.00 to 15.30



Perceptions of British rule in India usually focuses on the Raj period (1857 onwards). This short course will look at an earlier period, which was far more complex and should be better understood. It saw a huge amount of cross-cultural exchange, the effects of which could be felt right through the next century and even to the present.

The following is offered as a broad outline, which may be subject to some change:

22 Feb	The East India Company 1750-1806: Military expansion and cultural assimilation
01 Mar	The Orientalists: William Jones, the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and the 'rediscovery' of the East
08 Mar	Exploration and the Growth of Scientific Knowledge: The activities of Company naturalists
15 Mar	The Bengal Renaissance - Indian reactions to British culture
22 Mar	Reaction: The Rise of Cultural Nationalism and the Great Rebellion of 1857

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
19 Jan	Peter Stone	Cultural Property in Conflict and Peace
26 Jan	John Sadler	'Free John': John Lilburne and the Tradition of English Radicalism
02 Feb	Gordon Reavley	The Misery of Choice: How Early 20th Century Philosophers Predicted Black Friday
09 Feb	David Rosier	The Rise and Fall of Imperial Rule in the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)
16 Feb	Brian Ripley	Honey Bees: A Look at Their Life and Their Contribution to Ours
23 Feb	Colm O'Brien	Stonehenge and Mycenae: A Tradition Overthrown
02 Mar	Anthea Lang	'We do not count, neither shall we be counted' Women and The Vote
09 Mar	Susan Major	Victorian Railway Excursions and the Working Classes
16 Mar	John Griffiths	The May Fourth Movement: China's First Cultural Revolution
23 Mar	Sue Wood	Social Non-Conformity: Some 19th Century Cases of Patients of St. George's Hospital

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Tradition & Dissent'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
19 Jan	Les Turnbull	The Other Capability Brown: The Distinguished Engineer from Throckley
26 Jan	Sam James	A Dyslexic Tale: Difficulties and Strategies for Coping with the Condition
02 Feb	John Sadler	'Riotous Assembly' – the Hexham Protest and Massacre 1761
09 Feb	David Rosier	The Life of a Mandarin at the Imperial Qing Court: Ladder to the Clouds
16 Feb	John Griffiths	MacKenzie's Newcastle: a portrait of the city in 1827
23 Feb	Malcolm Grady	The Role of 'Tradition' in History
02 Mar	Malcolm Grady	The role of 'Dissent' in History
09 Mar	Nick Cott	The political career of Frederick 'Freddie' Guest: 1904 - 1930
16 Mar	Penelope Corfield	Drinking, Rioting, Singing and Voting: Forging the Electoral Culture of Georgian London
23 Mar	Sarah Campbell	Students of the World Unite? Northern Ireland's '68 Generation

Thursday

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

Speaking our Minds: Theories of Language Evolution

Tutor: Andrew Woodard

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

14.00 to 15.00



Why do humans, and only humans, hold conversations with each other?

Theories of language evolution have been propounded by scholars in many fields, from biology to philosophy and anthropology. Cognitive scientist Thom Scott-Phillips in his recent book, *Speaking Our Minds* proposes a substantial new contribution: we need to focus on the distinctive nature of the communication system that we employ rather than just thinking of human language as a system for coding and decoding signals, as much of the field has assumed thus far. This places pragmatics (the study of language in use) at centre stage of the evolution debate.

In five sessions based around ideas propounded in this highly readable book Andrew Woodard will take up the theme of human communication and explore the questions raised and solutions suggested.

Thursday

Literature Course:

Antipodean Fiction

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)



14.00 to 15.30

Date Title

- 26 Jan The European heritage: Katherine Mansfield, 'How Pearl Button was Kidnapped' from any Mansfield short story anthology and Janet Frame, 'A Night at the Opera'
<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2008/06/02/a-night-at-the-opera-fiction-janet-frame>
- 02 Feb Miles Franklin, *My Brilliant Career*
- 09 Feb Miles Franklin, *My Brilliant Career* (contd), and begin Joan Lindsay, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*
- 16 Feb Joan Lindsay, *Picnic at Hanging Rock* (contd)
- 23 Feb NO SESSION
- 02 Mar Peter Carey, *True History of the Kelly Gang*
- 09 Mar Peter Carey, *True History of the Kelly Gang* (contd)
- 16 Mar Short stories – the Maori heritage: Witi Ihimaera, 'Big Brother Little Sister'
<http://teaohou.natlib.govt.nz/journals/teaohou/issue/Mao75TeA/c5.html>
 and Patricia Grace, 'The Geranium' [www.gore-high.school.nz/DataStore/Pages/PAGE.../TheGeranium shortstory.doc](http://www.gore-high.school.nz/DataStore/Pages/PAGE.../TheGeranium%20shortstory.doc)
 and 'Butterflies' : <https://chipbruce.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/butterflies.pdf>

We will spend the winter in the Southern Hemisphere with some key works of Australian and New Zealand literature. **Please Read this carefully:** this is a seminar-style course of 7 sessions which is likely to be very popular so you are asked to make a firm commitment to attend. Room capacity makes it necessary to adopt a booking system for places. To book a place on this course, please e-mail explorelitprog@gmail.com and write 'Bronwen Calvert Booking' in the header. **Bookings will be taken from Monday, 12th Dec to Friday 16th Dec, inclusive.** Please note that only bookings received by e-mail will be considered. Acknowledgement and confirmation of your booking will be sent by e-mail. Enrolment will be strictly on a first come first served basis for up to 20 members.

Thursday

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

Mathematical Problem Solving

Tutor: Maria Goulding & Peter Pool

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

14.00 to 15.30

These sessions will be about ***mathematical thinking***, and ***not*** about knowing a large amount of formal mathematics. The problems, puzzles, games etc. that we will present can all be accessed with mathematical knowledge that is simple but not trivial. The challenge will be in applying that knowledge. We hope there will be something to capture the interest of everyone who enjoys mental stimulation. We believe there is great enjoyment to be had from discussing mathematical ideas, sharing approaches to problems and seeing other people's strategies, as well as finding solutions.

Archaeology Course: *26th January, 9th & 23rd February, 9th & 23rd 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. 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 20th January to 17th February*

Ælfred the Great

Tutor: Max Adams

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

11.00 to 13.00

Ælfred is the only English king to have gained the epithet 'Great'. Like Winston Churchill the West Saxon hero ensured history's enduring thanks by writing his own. He lived his whole life during the turmoil of the 9th century when Britain's states were constantly threatened with Scandinavian conquest and yet he was able to bring about something of a cultural renaissance among the Anglo-Saxons. In this course Max takes a long hard look at Ælfred's career and times to see if there is a chink in the armour of the perfect English king and if, as has often been claimed, Ælfred's legacy was a united England.

Literature Special Friday 10th February

Wordsworth

Tutor: Pamela Woof

Venue: Broadacre House, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 13.30

We shall concentrate on the following poems: 'To a Butterfly'; 'Stay near me' (Dorothy Wordsworth's Journal 14th March 1802); 'My heart leaps up'; 'Resolution and independence' 'Ode: There was a time'; 'Stepping westward'; 'The solitary reaper'; sonnets, various; Extempore effusion: James Hogg; Coleridge's poem: 'Dejection an ode'.

Each of these poems deserves close attention; but even a selection from them will illustrate Wordsworth's development from the radical experimental poems of 1798 to the greatness of his mature writing in the first decade of the nineteenth century. These are some of the most famous poems in our literature; re-reading them afresh enhances their power. Like all original creative people Wordsworth both observes tradition and departs from it.

Friday

History Special *3rd March*

'Sausages, a Ship & Suspicion!' Tensions on the WW1 Home Front

Tutor: Malcolm Grady & Anthea Lang

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

10.30 to 12.00



Earlier this year Malcolm and Anthea were invited to deliver a paper on their work on the First World War and the North East to **'Voices From the Home Front'**, a 3-day conference held at the National Archives, Kew, in September. Now they are presenting their paper as a gift to 'Explore' - so come and hear what might befall a German pork butcher on Tyneside!

Culture & Society *17th March*

Orality, Literacy and Cultural Complexity

Tutor: Hermann Moisl

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

10.30 to 12.00, 12.30 to 14.00, 14.30 to 16.00

This one-day course assesses the role of literacy in the development of complexity in human culture, where complexity is defined in terms of the relative degree of political, economic, and technological structure. It argues that literacy is a precondition for the development of cultural complexity because it greatly enhances our evolutionarily-determined cognitive capacity. The argument is in three parts:

Part 1 reviews current work in cognitive science which stresses interaction of the mind with the humanly-structured environment as the primary determinant of effective cognitive function.

Part 2 defines the nature of literacy and shows how it can be used as an environmental structuring medium.

Part 3 provides evidence for the link between literacy and cultural complexity by showing that there is a consistent correlation between the historical development of literacy in human cultures and their degree of complexity.

Friday

Practical Art Course *from 3rd February to 3rd March*

Creating a Portrait

Tutor: [Lizzie Rowe](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30



A friendly, informal class suitable for all levels of experience. We will learn how to approach making a portrait from life. Even if you have never drawn or painted before, you can try out some of the basic steps required to capture a likeness. We will be using any medium suitable for drawing and sketching **except oils**.

Please bring your own materials. You will be asked to contribute a small charge to offer the sitter an honorarium

As spaces are limited, please book a place on this class by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com or **contacting the Explore Office directly**.

Saturday

Science Session

The Rise and Rise of Microsoft Windows

Tutor : Beatrix Groves

Saturday 21st January 10.30 to 12.30

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



There is a little-known tale to be told of why so many of us use MS Windows on our PC's rather than other software. The telling of it will offer an interesting perspective on the fusion of technological innovation and socio-economic change.

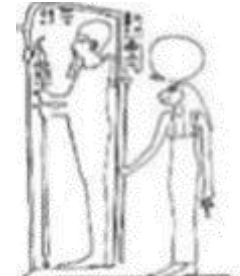
North East Ancient Egypt Society

Grasping Sand: The importance of Sand in Egyptian rituals

Tutor : Julie Misurielli

Saturday 21st January 1400 to 16.00

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



Egyptian temple rituals hide stories, myths and practical tasks.

This talk will unravel the meaning behind the use of sand in ritual and how the Egyptians regarded their most ubiquitous resource.

Saturday

Literature Session:

The Glint of Light on Broken Glass : Chekhov and the Art of Illumination

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Saturday 28th January 10.00 to 13.00

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

In this session we will consider how Chekhov revolutionised two literary forms: the drama and the short story. It will focus on his aim to show rather than tell and give an opportunity to explore his influence on later dramatists and short-story writers.



Practical Art Session :

Illustration : How to Illustrate a Poem

Tutor: Silvia Mendoza Vera

Saturday 4th February 10.30 to 13.30

Venue: Space 3, 3rd Floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

The aim of this workshop is to get students to analyse and illustrate a text given by the tutor so that every person will produce a different interpretation of the gap bridged between text and image. This session will be an opportunity to explore illustration concepts of colour and composition, as well as several techniques, which will help both more and less experienced members to develop their artistic skills and to let themselves be carried away by their imagination as they work creatively. This workshop will be suitable for all levels of experience and different drawing skills. Any medium suitable for illustration will be used (e.g. charcoal, ink, water colours, pastels, collage, tempera...) but not oils. Students need to bring their own materials.



As spaces are limited, please book a place on this class by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com or **contacting the Explore Office directly.**

Saturday

Science Session :

The Plant Hunters: Discoverers of Many Now Common Garden Species

Tutor: Gavin Hardy

Saturday 11th February 10.30 to 12.30

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

British Gardens - indeed, gardens worldwide - are filled with wonderful plants collected by plant hunters over the past few centuries. A particularly great effort in plant collecting started in the nineteenth century and reached its peak in the first half of the twentieth century with such 'great' names as Farrer, Kingdon Ward, Forrest, Ludlow and Sherriff introducing some of our favourite plants such as blue poppies from the Himalayas.



History Session:

North East Volunteers in Spain

Tutor: [John Sadler](#)

Saturday 18th February 10.30 to 12.30

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

Eighty years ago, Spain descended into a fratricidal civil war which would rage for three years and, as some would say, formed the first campaign of the Second World War. The weak Republican Government was challenged by a right wing coalition spearheaded by the Army of Africa and supported by both Hitler and Mussolini. Both France and Britain imposed an arms embargo which further hamstrung government forces, largely represented by untrained militias. Both sides perpetrated widespread atrocities. Many young men from this region joined the International Brigades that, full of idealistic volunteers were fling into the bloody fighting along the banks of the River Jarama. We aim to tell their stories.



Saturday

History Session:

History of Garden Design: From Formality to Flowerbeds

Tutor: Anthea Lang

Saturday 25th February 10.30 to 12.30

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

A look at garden design focussing on three 'greats' - Lance, Joe and Gertie whose influence can still be seen today. If you can't work out who they are, then come along to the session and find out!

Art History Session:

English Art & Modernism : Tradition & Radical Art in England 1900-50

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

Saturday 4th March 10.00 to 13.00

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



Saturday

Practical Art Session:

Printmaking Workshop

Tutor: Margaret Adams

Saturday 11th March 10.30 to 13.30

Venue: Space 3, Floor 3, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Getting back to basics for both experienced printmakers and those new to the practice, Margaret will demonstrate repeat patterning using lino onto fabric. Regular printmakers will have the opportunity to develop basic printmaking techniques, working with lino cutting, mono- printing, Collagraph etc. Everyone is welcome, including those who have no printmaking skills and Margaret will support you in producing your prints.



History Session:

'Referendum : 262 days later' Time for Consideration

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

Saturday 11th March 10.00 to 13.00

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



We haven't left yet. We don't know where we are going. We don't know what it will mean for us. Can you help? An opportunity to change the world! Not a bad way to spend the morning!

Saturday

SCIENCE DAY

Tutor: various

Saturday 18th March

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

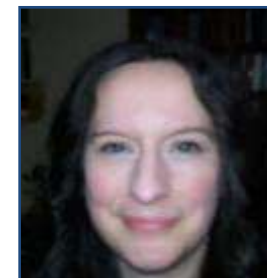
Literature Session:

Flash Fiction

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Saturday 25th March 10.00 to 13.00

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



More with Less - the Rise of Flash Fiction: In this session we will examine a form that has become very popular in recent years: the very short story. It will cover work by writers such as Ernest Hemingway, Raymond Carver and Lydia Davis.

THE END