

# EXPLORE



*Week One Starts  
Monday 13th  
January 2020*

Season 2  
2019-20 programme

# Explore Season 2 Programme 2019-20

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

There are two options:

- Attend our FREE taster event with mini lectures from our expert tutors—find out more by clicking [HERE](#)
- Book your free session in Week One starting Monday 13th January 2020 by emailing [weareexplore@gmail.com](mailto: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!

Our [Explore Extra](#) courses and Saturday sessions are open to non-members —find more details, including how to sign up, 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.

## Explore Season 2 Programme 2019-20

In a seemingly chaotic world, it is often worth stepping back to observe the bigger picture, to take stock of what has come before and look ahead to what may lie beyond. In our Season Two programme we consider broadened histories, cautious futures and how these timelines interplay within our present societies, technologies and philosophies. From multiverses to ancient verses, evolution to revolution, our Season **Two programme takes a good look at our world and outwith, along the theme of 'The Long View'.**

Congratulations to the programming team -

Art History and Design: Helen Watson and Margaret Adams

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

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

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

Philosophy: Joy Rutter

With direction from Rachel Lister & Malcolm Grady.

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

Quick Links to the programme starting: [Monday](#) [Tuesday](#) [Wednesday](#) [Thursday](#) [Friday](#) [Saturday](#)

*'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

## FREE Taster Event

Monday

7th January 2020

11.00 to 13.00

4th Floor

Commercial Union House

Lectures from our expert  
tutors: click [HERE](#) to book  
your FREE place!



# Explore Extra



Interested in Explore but not available during the working week? [Explore Extra](#) has courses specially designed for YOU! Including:

Monday evening : John Sadler

[From Troy to Helmand—A Short History of Warfare](#)

For more course details please see [page 13](#) of the programme.

Cost—£65 per course for non Explore members



Tuesday evening : Mike Green

[Exploring Music—Long View](#)

For more course details please see [page 22](#) of the programme.

Cost—£65 per course for non Explore members



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

Explore Members:

This course is already included in your Explore membership so is free to attend without booking.



## Monday

Philosophy One Off: *13th January*

### **What Can 'What Ifs' Teach Us?**

Tutor: Ian Ground

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne  
10.30 to 12.00



What if the South had won the American Civil War? What if the Beatles had broken up in 1966? What if the UK's EU Referendum had gone the other way? Is 'What if' History a serious tool of analysis, a clever game or a pointless inquiry and what we do learn about the nature of historical explanation?

For **Tom Rossetter's** Philosophy course starting Monday 20th January please see [Page 7](#)

Philosophy Course: *17th February to 16th March*

The Tech Fix

Tutor: Ian Ground

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne  
10.30 to 12.00

Technology offers solutions to human problems but at the same time it presents new and often very difficult predicaments. Yet we remain addicted to technological development.

**This course will explore these different meanings of the "technological fix". After an introductory session on philosophical perspectives on the meaning of technology, these course will examine 4 sets of ethical and conceptual issues arising from the development of new technologies.**

## Monday



Philosophy Course: *20th January to 10th February*

One Contentious Rock: controversy and consensus in Earth Science from the late 19th century to the present

Tutor: Tom Rossetter

Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne  
10.30 to 12.00

As we begin the third decade of our century, it is interesting to reflect on the vast body of knowledge we have acquired about our planet and its history. We know that the Earth is around 4.54 billion years old; that the core is composed of iron and nickel, the mantle of silicate rocks; that the crust is divided into large plates which move around at a rate of about 3-5 cm each year. These and other facts about the Earth have a long and controversial history. And as old questions are answered, new ones arise, stimulating new controversies.

These lectures will trace the history of these debates over the last 150 years. The course is composed of two parts, divided by the discovery of plate tectonics – the grand unifying geological theory which created as many controversial puzzles as it solved. The first two lectures will look at the late-nineteenth-century controversy over the age of the Earth, the contracting Earth hypothesis, the rejection of continental drift, its eventual acceptance, and the development of plate tectonics during the 1960s and 70s. The final two lectures will focus on post-plate tectonics debates over such issues as the nature of mantle convection, the existence of deep mantle plumes, the onset of plate tectonics, and the relationship between plate tectonics and biological evolution – important and fascinating questions which are stimulating controversy to this day.

## Monday

### Art History and Design on the theme of 'The Long View'

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

10.45 to 11.45



Date	Tutor	Title
13 Jan	Peter Quinn	The Long View, Jazz and Art
20 Jan	Phyllida Shaw	<b>An Artist's War</b> <b>Morris Meredith Williams' First World War sketchbooks and his letters to his wife Alice, who was a sculptor.</b>
27 Jan	Malcolm Gee	French History Paintings: Poussin to Ingres
03 Feb	Peter Quinn	Joseph Crawhall II (1821-1896)
10 Feb	Margaret Adams	Women of the Surrealist Movement
17 Feb	Mike Hope	Art Deco: An International Style?
24 Feb	Gillian Dye	The Power of Lace  Lace is not just doilies and frilly knickers. From its first appearance in the mid-1500s to the present day, Gill will use portraits and other illustrations to show how lace has wielded a power that is totally out of all proportion to what is no more than a network of fragile threads.
02 Mar	Peter Quinn	In the Garden with Hieronymus Bosch (1450-1516)
09 Mar	Theresa Poulton	From Geometric Abstract to Working in the Community: my life as an artist (A Celebration of Women in Art linked to International Women's Day)
16 Mar	Jill Harrison	Giotto: Giotto's family enterprise



## Monday

### **Art History and Design on the theme of 'The Long View'**

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
13 Jan	Peter Quinn	Thinking About Art: Red
20 Jan	Phyllida Shaw	Alice Meredith Williams: her life as an artist
27 Jan	Malcolm Gee	French History Painting: Poussin to Ingres (continued)
03 Feb	Peter Quinn	Thinking About Art: White
10 Feb	Joy Rutter & Jack Pennie	A Future for Explore
17 Feb	Mike Hope	Art Deco in the North East
24 Feb	<a href="#">Melanie Kyles</a>	Craftivism and Communication

One of the defining and eternal qualities of embroidery over the years is its ability to express, communicate and reflect the current environment. Revealing unedited stories of women throughout history, this talk explores communication from witty symbolism to outright craftivism through stitch.

02 Mar	Peter Quinn	Thinking About Art: Blue
09 Mar	Louise Mackenzie	Lab Based Research into Microbial Organisms as a Practicing Artist (A Celebration of <b>Women in Art linked to International Women's Day</b> )
16 Mar	Jill Harrison	<b>Damned &amp; dishonoured: Giotto's images of sacred &amp; secular infamy</b>

## Monday

Art History Course: *13th February to 2nd March (no session 24th February)*

The Seventies

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30



A decade of social upheaval, historic tensions and technological change, the seventies are key to our understanding of the world today. These sessions explore the art produced and exhibited in the Nineteen Seventies.

- 13 Jan Introduction: when were the seventies?
- 20 Jan Stripes and grids: art in museums
- 27 Jan Future Days: German painting, history and art
- 03 Feb **Guess who's coming to dinner? Gender and race in the art world**
- 10 Feb Global Groove: video and network art
- 17 Feb **England's Dreaming**
- 02 Mar **Collapsing New Buildings: it's the end of the century**

Peter will also teach a Saturday session this season—see [here](#)

## Monday

Art One-Off Session: *24th February*

Young Artists and their Work

Chair: Ian Ground

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

14.00 to 15.30



Undergraduate / post-graduate art students at **Newcastle University**, the UK's most highly ranked Fine Art Department, talk about their creative practice, chaired by Ian Ground.

## Monday

### Free Public Event

#### **International Women's Day Event** *9th March*

#### [A Celebration of Women in Art](#)

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

10.45-11.45 From Geometric Abstract to Working in the Community: My Role as an Artist

Speaker: Theresa Poulton

Theresa is a practising artist living and working in the North East. She has taught and run workshops in India: worked on collaborative projects between Durham University and Gem Arts. She is currently developing workshops for Syrian and Sudanese refugees as well as running drawing projects for Newcastle University and the arts community. Theresa will talk about her role as an artist with the community.

12.30-13.30 Lab Based Research into Microbial Organisms as a Practising Artist Speaker: Louise McKenzie

Louise is an artist based in the North East. She is a member of the Cultural Negotiation of Science Group: an associate of Genetic Medicine. Louise was among the 10 artists chosen to resubmit her work to the 10th anniversary Lumiere festival. Louise will talk about her practice and will describe how her recent experience working in a genetics lab with microbial organisms as tools for genetic/artistic research has led her to reconsider the biological body. Her work involves investigations into the emotional weight of lab-based research into synthetic DNA.

14.00-15.30 Women in Art Speaker: Victoria Horne

Victoria is a senior lecturer in Art History at Northumbria University specialising in the cultural and intellectual history of Anglo- American Feminism. She is currently researching cultural attitudes towards reading and in particular the depiction of women in artworks. Victoria is currently developing a programme based on second-wave feminism and recent developments in feminist inflected perspectives in art and aesthetics. Today, she will talk about her research into the depiction of women reading in artworks.

Book your FREE ticket now on [Eventbrite](#) (No need to book if you're an Explore member.)

## Monday

Explore Extra—cost £65 per course to non Explore members

History Course: *20th January to 9th March*

[From Troy to Helmand—A Short History of Warfare](#)

Tutor: [John Sadler](#)

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

19.00 to 20.30



This course will trace the history of conflict from the Bronze Age and Siege of Troy to Gulf War II. An account of **man's obsession with the glorification of war and fetishisation of weapons, from chariots to Challenger Two we'll look at weapons and gear, at strategy and tactics, from high command to humble spear carrier – the 'poor bloody infantry', the men who led and all those who followed, an odyssey of battle.**

John Sadler has been teaching military history since 1995 and is currently the author of over forty books on the subject. He is a constant battlefield tour guide for military, schools and general interest groups.

Non-members—How to Book:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using this link: [Explore Lifelong Learning John Sadler](#)

If you have any issues booking please contact us at [weareexplore@gmail.com](mailto:weareexplore@gmail.com)

Explore Members:

This course is already included in your Explore membership so is free to attend without booking.



## Tuesday

Classics : *14th January to 17th March*

Latin at the [Lit & Phil](#)

Tutor: Alan Beale & Adrian Spooner

Venue: Lecture room & Loftus room, Lit & Phil

10.30 to 12.00

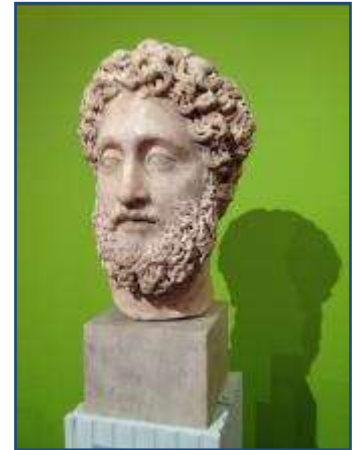
Explore members are cordially invited to join the Lit & Phil Latin classes for £1 per session (donation towards room hire). There are 2 groups:

Group A reading selections from *Tacitus: Agricola, Germania, Annals, Histories* and *Dialogus*

Group B reading selections from *Ovid Amores Book 1* and *Petronius Satirica*

A-Level or O-Level (however dimly remembered) or a reading knowledge of Latin will be needed. These classes are run by the Lit & Phil. For more details of the sessions contact the [Lit & Phil](#) or [Alan Beale](#) directly.

There is also a weekly Beginners Latin class starting Friday 17th January until 20th March. Please contact the [Lit & Phil](#) directly for more details and to book.





## Tuesday

History Course: *14th January to \*12th February (no session 4th Feb)*

Beside the Seaside: The British Coastal Resort

Tutor: John Griffiths

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

10.30-12.00



Since the eighteenth century at least, British people have been taking their leisure by the sea. We will look at the development of the seaside resort, why and how they grew, what they contained, and what people did when they got there. Like all industrial towns - and resorts are industrial towns - they have changed with the times, seeing boom, decline, and - in some cases - reinvention. \*Please note: there is NO SESSION on Tuesday 4th February but an additional/final session on WEDNESDAY 12th Feb)

History Course: *18th February to 17th March*

The Amarna Age in Ancient Egypt

Tutor: Olive Hogg

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

10.30-12.00



The civilization that is known as 'Ancient Egypt' lasted for well over two THOUSAND years. The part of that which is called the 'Amarna' period lasted for only about TWENTY years - a very small time in comparison. And yet, for many people, it is the most fascinating time of all. The so-called 'heretic' pharaoh Akhenaten and his wife, Nefertiti, are names that many people are familiar with, and everybody has heard of Tutankhamun. In five talks our speaker will try to give some ideas about how this period developed, what happened during those few years and why it disappeared from history for a very long time.

## Tuesday

### **Narratives series on the theme of 'The Long View'**

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

10.45 to 11.45



Date	Tutor	Title
14 Jan	Mike Green	<b>Beethoven's Ninth Symphony</b>
21 Jan	Pamela Woof	Approaching T.S. Eliot's <i>Four Quartets</i>
		The poems rise and fall and rise again as the poet, exploring his own mind and heart, as well as England in the 1940s, catches along the way glimpses of that elusive dimension, timelessness. Like the greatest art and music, the appeal of <i>Four Quartets</i> is immediate and lasting. Some texts will be provided but participants are encouraged to bring along to the session any copies that they can access.
28 Jan	Michael Ayton	<i>Sir Orfeo</i>
		This famous Middle English poem magically combines fairy-tale and Orphic themes. A full text can be found online <a href="#">here</a> :
04 Feb	Roger Mitchell	Realism in Cinema
		<b>In these two interlinked sessions we will explore the way 'realism' is conveyed through the medium of film. Our exploration will encompass a wide range of film texts selected from the history of world cinemas and through these it is possible to see how 'realism' is constructed or suggested through certain stylistic choices. A slippery concept that changes over time and depends upon context, it is possible to see that there are many 'realisms' rather than just one...</b>

## Tuesday

### **Narratives series on the theme of 'The Long View'**

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

Newcastle upon Tyne

10.45 to 11.45



Date	Tutor	Title
11 Feb	Rachel Lister	<b>"Grabbed me from the start"</b> - The Best First Pages in Literature?
		How do writers draw us into their fictional world? What do we look for when we begin reading a novel? These sessions will ask how writers command our attention and secure our commitment in their opening pages. We will compare some of the most compelling opening paragraphs in novels from a range of eras and contexts, discussing why particular lines, ideas and images continue to inspire readers.
18 Feb	Explore Volunteers	A Future for Explore
25 Feb	Marie Addyman	<b>Seamus Heaney's Norse Ireland (*Please note this session will run 10.30-12.30)</b>
		Following our discussion of the resonances of Heaney's translation of Beowulf, we shall look at the poems he wrote exploring the Norse roots of his heritage, and the light it throws on the Troubles in Ireland. Poems from the early collections Door into the Dark and North will be our main focus, but we'll also consider his later return to some of the themes and images from Norse culture which continued to inspire him.
03 Mar	Clare Jackson	<b>The Farmer's Bride and Vessel</b>
		<b>In the poem 'The Farmer's Bride' and short story 'Vessel', Charlotte Mew and Jon McGregor respectively portray relationships where choices are made and denied. In this session we will be considering how the authors use imagery, structures, the spoken and the unspoken in representing their characters' decisions.</b>

Tuesday

**Narratives series on the theme of 'The Long View'**

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

10.45 to 11.45



Date	Tutor	Title
10 Mar	Claire Nally	<b>Travel Memoirs and the 'Good Death'</b> Extracts from Caitlin Doughty, <i>From Here to Eternity</i> (2017) Doughty's book is a travelogue of dying in different cultures. This discussion of her writing will look at the intersection of globalized death cultures, the <b>rise of alternative and eco death practices, the 'good death' and 'death positive' movements, and more broadly, tourism.</b>
17 Mar	Kiriaki Massoura	<b>Fifty years of Margaret Atwood's literary delight: from <i>The Edible Woman</i> (1969) to <i>The Testaments</i> (2019)</b>

## Tuesday

### Narratives series on the theme of 'The Long View'

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

12.30 to 13.30



Date	Tutor	Title
14 Jan	Mike Green	Fauré's Requiem
21 Jan	Pamela Woof	Approaching T.S. Eliot's <i>Four Quartets</i> (continued)
28 Jan	Michael Ayton	<i>Sir Orfeo</i> (continued)
04 Feb	Roger Mitchell	Realism in Cinema (continued)
11 Feb	(Marie Addyman)	Seamus Heaney session—10.30-12.30. See Page 17)
18 Feb	Roger Mitchell	Tyneside in Fiction Film

Through a number of excerpts taken from a range of fiction films made since 1950 we will explore how this **region has been represented on the big screen. Whilst Mike Hodges's 1971 crime thriller Get Carter is probably the most celebrated example of a mainstream film that has used Tyneside as the narrative setting for its gritty, downbeat drama, it wasn't the first or the last fiction film to do so.**

25 Feb	Rachel Lister	"Grabbed me from the start" - The Best First Pages in Literature? (continued)
03 Mar	Clare Jackson	'The Farmer's Bride' and 'Vessel' (continued)
10 Mar	Claire Nally	Travel Memoirs and the 'Good Death' (continued)

Extracts from Kevin Toolis, *My Father's Wake* (2017). Whilst reflecting on the various journeys the author undergoes (from island to mainland, and from Ireland to England) this travel memoir looks at the death of **Toolis's father to reflect upon broader themes of emigration, home, displacement, folklore and rural Ireland.** Through this book, we will address the idea of the Irish wake, and associated practices around death, and address how far these stand in for a broader experience of community and solidarity.

17 Mar	Kiriaki Massoura	Fifty years of Margaret Atwood's literary delight: ... (continued)
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## Tuesday

Literature Course: *28th January to 11th February*

The Virtuous Sidekick

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

14.00 to 15.30



**The 'sidekick', the good friend or companion of a text's main character, is a recurring figure in storytelling from the earliest literature to the present day. His or her functions within a text may be numerous, but a central problem for each author is how to make this character three-dimensional in their own right.**

**In these sessions we will be considering some recurring features of 'the virtuous sidekick', and how authors resolve or otherwise the creative challenges this character can present.**



## Tuesday

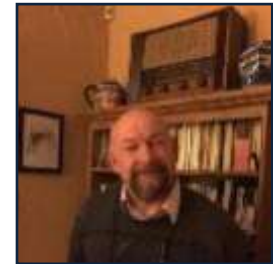
Film Course: *3rd to 17th March*

Film Studies: What is New Wave?

Tutor: Roger Mitchell

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

14.00 to 16.00



In these three interlinked sessions we will explore a number of important and highly influential film movements which have left a lasting impression on world cinemas.

Through the revolutionary work of filmmakers such as Vittorio De Sica, Jean-Luc Godard and Wong Kar-wai it is possible to see how the prevailing codes and conventions of mainstream cinema can be rejected and/or subverted and so, in the **process, construct something 'new', 'authentic' and ostensibly more 'real' than what has preceded it.**

The structure of the course will be as follows:

03 Mar    Onto the streets with Italian Neo-Realism

10 Mar    The personal is political with the French New Wave

17 Mar    Loneliness, alienation and urban milieux in the East Asian New Wave(s)

## Tuesday

Science Course: *14th January to 11th February*

The Heroic Age of Geology

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

14.00 to 15.30

Geology as a formal subject originated in the 17th and 18th centuries. In what is known as its Heroic Age, great figures (and greater egos) made amazing discoveries about geological processes, the development of life and the antiquity of Earth. As knowledge increased, it became obvious that the Christian Bible could not be an accurate description of Creation. This presented a threat to the power and prestige of the church, which reacted strongly. Learn about the great figures of this fascinating period. Derek will also teach a Saturday session this season—see [here](#)



History Course: *18th February to 17th March*

Magic and Maleficia in England 1500-1700

Tutor: Jo Bath

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

14.00 to 15.30

This course takes in the weird and wonderful magical beliefs of early modern England, with a focus on the north east. We will start by considering how magic was thought to happen, and how cunning folk used it to make a living, before turning our attention to the disturbing realities of the witch trials - why did neighbour accuse neighbour of witchcraft, and what exactly did they think the witches were up to? Finally we will consider those occasions where the influence of witchcraft beliefs from foreign lands led to panic and mass accusation. Learn how to make a witch bottle, why witches wear a pointy hat, and how to remove the influence of the fairies, as well as meeting a cast of characters from the Witchfinder General to the Queen of the Fairies, Mrs Pepper to Vinegar Tom.



## Tuesday

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

[Exploring Music—Long View](#)

Tutor: Mike Green

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

18.00 to 19.30

In these eight sessions we will explore some significant musical characters, developments and devices, taking as a start-point the idea of 'the long view'. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and listening to musical examples. No formal musical knowledge is required.

21 Jan	The Other Bachs
28 Jan	<b>Debussy's Preludes</b>
04 Feb	Danse Macabre
11 Feb	Carl Maria von Weber
18 Feb	<u><b>NO CLASS</b></u>
25 Feb	Josquin des Prez
03 Mar	Carl Orff
10 Mar	Ferencz Liszt
17 Mar	Pelleas et Melisande

Non-members—How to Book:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using this link: [Explore Lifelong Learning - Mike Green](#)

If you have any issues booking please contact us at [weareexplore@gmail.com](mailto:weareexplore@gmail.com)

Explore Members: This course is already included in your Explore membership so is free to attend without booking.



## Wednesday



Science Course: *15th January to 12th February (no session 22nd January)*

Measuring the Universe

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

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

10.30 to 12.00

For Directions to Newcastle Arts Centre please see their website [HERE](#)

Please note there is an additional session on 12th February 14.00-15.30 in the Green Room.

The scale of the universe has been covered many times in my Explore courses - but rarely is there enough time to go in to the details of how we actually measure the distances to the various types of astronomical objects. This course will be the opportunity to do just that and also help us to brush up on some of our basic maths skills! We will consider distance scales from the Earth itself to the Moon, planets, stars and galaxies. At even greater 'cosmological distances' things are further complicated by the fact light travels at a finite speed so that as we look out into space we simultaneously look back in time. How is this effect taken into account? Come along to the course to find out!

Our home planet the Earth will be put into its true cosmic perspective. The current record holder of 'most distant object ever observed' will be discussed as well as the future prospects for going further with the next generation of space and ground based telescopes.

I think we could start with the famous Douglas Adams quote: *'Space is big. You just won't believe how vastly, hugely, mind-bogglingly big it is. I mean, you may think it's a long way down the road to the chemist's, but that's just peanuts to space.'* DA ***Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy***

Fred will also teach a Saturday session this season—see [here](#)

## Wednesday

Mid-Week Literature Course: *19th February to 11th March*

### **Shakespeare's Sonnets: A Wonder Wrapped in Many Mysteries**

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30-12.00



When, in 1609, Thomas Thorpe presented to the world Shake-**Speares Sonnets. Never before Imprinted. (which wasn't entirely true), he couldn't have foreseen the far-**reaching effect his publication would ultimately have, not least because, initially as for a century and a half, it had little effect of any kind.

Nowadays we count the poems this quarto contained among the most miraculous in the language, and also, often, **among the most enigmatic. The cruel facts of mortality and time's unstoppable march, and the power of erotic love,** were of course familiar poetic themes, but Shakespeare gives them a wholly new urgency and disruptive, sometimes disturbing, force, while bodying them forth in verse of profound lyrical, often melancholic, beauty.

And then there are the questions, which extend far beyond the obvious biographical ones of who the (so-called) 'Fair Youth', 'Dark Lady' and 'Rival Poet' might have been. **Are the 154 poems intended as a sequence? Over how long a period, and how quickly, were they written? How autobiographical are they, and how much of a window – if any – do they open on Shakespeare's sexuality? Why did publisher rather than poet write the book's famous dedication, and what do its enigmatic phrases mean? And what about that 'Dark' Lady? – what might 'dark/darkness' mean here?**

**We can't of course, definitively answer these questions, which might never be answered, but we will have great fun trying – and enjoying the miracle.**

## Wednesday

One-off Narratives Session: *18th March*

Harrison Birtwistle, Peter Zinovieff and *The Mask (and the myth) of Orpheus*

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30-13.30



**Late last autumn, Harrison Birtwistle's gargantuan 'lyric tragedy' *The Mask of Orpheus* (1973-83) received what was only its second fully staged performance, at the ENO in London.** The opera requires massive resources to perform, including two conductors and technology for reproducing its many electronic sounds which combine with those of a (stringless) orchestral ensemble.

**One of a number of works embodying Birtwistle's fascination with the Orpheus myth, it involves a libretto by Peter Zinovieff that combines astounding invention and fascinating suggestiveness.** Each of the three main characters (Orpheus, Eurydice and Aristaeus) is represented (often simultaneously) in three forms, as Person (by a singer), as **Hero (by a mime) and as Myth (by a singing puppet), while six mimed 'allegories' enact other, related Greek myths that further illuminate the main myth.**

With the aid of recorded sound and on-screen illustrations, we'll explore how the amalgam of Zinovieff's text and **Birtwistle's remarkable music sheds light on the myth of Orpheus, explores the power and status of ritual (which the recent staging controversially downplayed), and comments on the function of time and memory, and on the (tragic?) nature of modernity.**



## Wednesday

Science Course: *19th February to 18th March*

The Language of Mathematics

Tutor: Sam James

Venue Green Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

11.00-12.00



Mathematicians have to study very abstract ideas in very great detail, but how much does the word we use affect our understanding of those ideas? Do we even need words?

The motto among mathematicians is why write a sentence when a symbol will do! So often it seems that we are using abstract notation to study abstract ideas. In reality good notation can simplify a problem and suggest a solution.

**How do you add numbers when you're using Roman numerals?**

## Wednesday

### **Perspectives series on the theme of 'The Long View'**

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
15 Jan	Alba Iglesias Vilches	Microbes, Drugs & Antimicrobial Resistance
		Microbes live in complex environments, sharing resources with many more organisms. To protect their resources and assure their survival, they must produce compounds that challenge other species, and simultaneously evolve to avoid being killed by the compounds produced by those other species. In this lecture, we will travel around the Earth exploring different ecosystems to discover where new antibiotics and other drugs can be found. We will talk about antimicrobial resistance, how it appears, how it affects us and how to fight it.
22 Jan	Pamela Denham	From the Galapagos to Antarctica
		Personal reflections of two visits, with occasional references to things we have learnt on Explore science courses.
29 Jan	Ashley Price	Sepsis and Influenza
05 Feb	Joy Rutter & Jack Pennie	A Future for Explore
12 Feb	Sally Standart	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder in the Intensive Care Unit
19 Feb	Paul Watson	Data Science & Artificial Intelligence: opportunities & threats
26 Feb	Richard Stephenson	Chinese Astronomy
04 Mar	Robin Johnson	To Infinity & Beyond
11 Mar	Lu Wang	Organ Transplantation
18 Mar	Susan Bissett	How dental & medical practitioners can work together to improve treatment for patients with gum disease and diabetes.

## Wednesday

Practical Art & Craft Studio: *15th January to 4th March*

Venue: 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 organise 2 sessions on silk painting during the season.

Margaret Adams coordinates this group.

Margaret will also teach a Saturday session this season—see [here](#).

## Wednesday



Mid-Week Literature Course: 22nd January to 11th March (no session 19th February)

Literature on Film: The Art of Adaption

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

14.00 to 15.30

What makes for a successful adaptation of a celebrated novel? How should screenwriters and directors approach the art of adaptation? In this course we will discuss these questions in relation to cinematic versions of four novels. In the first week we will consider Scorsese's adaptation of Wharton's *The Age of Innocence* as an introduction to the process. For the remainder of the course, we will focus on the relevant novel for one week and its adaptation in the next. We will use arguments from Linda Hutcheon's critical work, *A Theory of Adaptation* as a starting-point for discussion. When (re) reading the novels, you might consider their cinematic qualities and identify the particular challenges each text presents to filmmakers.

- 22 Jan Introduction to the theory of adaptation and discussion of Edith Wharton and Martin Scorsese's 'The Age of Innocence.'
- 29 Jan Michael Cunningham *The Hours*
- 05 Feb Stephen Daldry's film *The Hours*
- 12 Feb Ian McEwan *On Chesil Beach*
- 19 Feb NO CLASS
- 26 Feb Dominic Cook's film *On Chesil Beach*
- 04 Mar Toni Morrison *Beloved*
- 11 Mar Jonathan Demme's *Beloved*

## Wednesday

Science Course: *4th to 18th March*

Astrobiology: The Evolution of Alien Life

Tutor: Wallace Arthur

Venue Green Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00-15.30



**This course starts by disputing the incorrect premise that we can't even begin to speculate about life elsewhere in the Universe, because we are starting from a sample size of one – a single inhabited planet, namely Earth. The reason this premise is wrong is that life on Earth involves millions of growing twigs of the evolutionary tree, all 'doing their own thing'. So, arguably, our sample size is in the millions. In reality, the truth is somewhere in between these extreme views. This course looks at what we can say about probable and improbable evolution elsewhere on the basis of life on our own planet.**

Classics Course: *19th February to 18th March*

Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War

Tutor: Alan Beale

Venue Blue Room, 4<sup>th</sup> floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00-15.30



Perhaps the greatest historian of the ancient world, Thucydides narrates the events of the war between Athens and Sparta fought in his own lifetime. His description of the plague Athens suffered, the catastrophic Sicilian expedition and the Melian Dialogue are among the highlights to enjoy, but there is much more in his richly rewarding history.

## Thursday

### **Culture & Society series on the theme of 'The Long View'**

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

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
16 Jan	Mike Leddra	Facing the Abyss: Two Decisive Battles for Britain
23 Jan	David Petts	New Light on Early Medieval Lindisfarne
30 Jan	John Sadler	The Siege of Troy
06 Feb	Nick Cott	Liberals in Coalitions: An Historical Assessment
13 Feb	Tim Barmby	Some Views on Long Views
20 Feb	Joanne Smith Finley	Fear, Trauma and State Violence in Xinjiang, China: Uyghur Islam in a Time of Religious <b>"De-extremification" and Mass Internment</b>
27 Feb	Rosie Serdiville & Silvie Fisch	Enemy Aliens in the North East
05 Mar	Malcolm Grady	The Tyne Piers
12 Mar	John Griffiths	The Brown Dog Riots and the Anti-Viv: animal rights activism in Edwardian Battersea
19 Mar	Multiple/TBC	PhD to Public



## Thursday

### **Culture & Society series on the theme of 'The Long View'**

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
16 Jan	Katrina Porteous	Can she bait a line? Fisherwomen on the NE coast, 1300-1950
23 Jan	<b>Colm O'Brien</b>	What have we learned from the Staffordshire Hoard?
30 Jan	Malcolm Grady	The Long View: 1970 – where were you?
06 Feb	John Sadler	<b>Boudicca's Rebellion</b>
13 Feb	Amanda Bailey	North East Child Poverty Commission
20 Feb	Explore Volunteers	A Future for Explore
27 Feb	John Griffiths	Vistas and Views in Urban Design
05 Mar	Sarah Campbell	50 Years of Civil Rights in Northern Ireland
12 Mar	Adam Morton	Henrietta Maria and Catherine of Braganza: Queens Consorts of Britain
19 Mar	Anthea Lang	<b>Mr Newall's Telescope</b>

## Thursday

Culture & Society Course: *20th February to 19th March*

Exploring Contexts of British Rock Art

Tutor: Kate Sharpe

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

14.00-15.30

**After the success of Dr Sharpe's introductory course on British and Irish Rock Art we are glad to be able to welcome her back for a further exploration.** These sessions will delve deeper into the mysterious motifs that decorate northern landscapes.

Lectures 1-3 will take a more detailed look at key themes, and lectures 4 and 5 will each focus on a specific regional group. We will attempt to understand both how prehistoric people engaged with the landscapes in which they lived and died, and how we today, can engage with and value this rich legacy.

20 Feb Rock art in the landscape: connecting through place

27 Feb Rock art in burials: decoration for the dead

05 Mar Rock art in museums: cups in captivity?

12 Mar East of Eden: the monumental rock art of the Eden Valley, Cumbria

19 Mar An animated landscape? Kilmartin Valley, Argyll and Bute.

## Thursday

Literature Course: *23rd January to 12th March (no session 20th February)*

The Literary Essay

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30



This course operates on a booking system—Please read this carefully

This is a seminar-style course of 7 sessions with a half-term break. 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](mailto: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 13th January 2020.

Bookings will be taken from Friday 20th December onwards.

If you book on the Explore Programme after 13th January 2020 and wish to register on the course please contact us at [explorelitprog@gmail.com](mailto:explorelitprog@gmail.com) to find out if a place is available.

## Thursday

Literature Course: *23rd January to 12th March (no session 20th February)*

The Literary Essay

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30

This course operates on a booking system—please see details on previous page.

**In this course we'll read a selection of essays by a variety of authors. We will consider how to examine the essay as a literary work, and will look at the techniques writers use to create an argument, evoke sympathy, combine the personal and the universal, and much more. Full list of readings with online links can be found below or online [HERE](#).**



Date	Title
23 Jan	Marilynne Robinson 'On finding the right word' (2017): <a href="#">HERE</a> (you can read this online – one article per month) and Philip Larkin, 'The Pleasure Principle': <a href="#">HERE</a>
30 Jan	Virginia Woolf, 'Street Haunting' (1930): <a href="#">HERE</a> and 'Thoughts on Peace in an Air Raid' (1940): <a href="#">HERE</a>
06 Feb	Alice Walker, 'In Search of our Mothers' Gardens' (1972): pdf (from printed text) <a href="#">HERE</a>
13 Feb	Rebecca Solnit 'Men explain things to me' (2008): <a href="#">HERE</a> and 'Woolf's Darkness: Embracing the inexplicable' (2014) <a href="#">HERE</a>
20 Feb	NO CLASS
27 Feb	Bertrand Russell 'In praise of idleness' (1932): <a href="#">HERE</a> (you can read this in 'guest view' – one article per month)
05 Mar	George Orwell, 'Politics and the English Language' (1946): <a href="#">HERE</a> or <a href="#">HERE</a>
12 Mar	Annie Dillard, 'Total Eclipse' (1982): <a href="#">HERE</a> or <a href="#">HERE</a>

## Thursday

Archaeology Course: *23rd Jan, 6th & 20th Feb, 5th & 19th Mar*

[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



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: *17th January to 28th February*

The British Empire—Part 2

Tutor: Nick Cott

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

10.30 to 12.00

This course (following Pt 1 in Season One) will focus on two themes: *experience of the empire* and *the end of empire*. To examine the first, there will be talks on different groups of people, how they lived and their relationships to the empire's cultural, economic and political structures. We will then look at two case studies of Britain's withdrawal from empire.

17 Jan Introduction to experience of the British empire / Slavery in the empire.

24 Jan Gender in the British empire: Historians and the gender debate.

31 Jan Sex in the British empire: Sex workers and prostitutes.

07 Feb Settlement in the British empire: A case study of New Zealand.

14 Feb Land ownership in the British empire: A case Study of Kenya.

21 Feb The end of the early British empire in the American colonies.

28 Feb Decolonisation of India.



History Course: *6th March to 20th March*

Understanding History Through Photographs

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

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

10.30 to 12.00

The lectures will explore how we can learn more about the personal and physical environment of the past two centuries relating to war, social conditions and industrial development.



## Friday

One-Off Literature Session: *31st January*

The Poetry of Science

Tutor: Katrina Porteous

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

11.30 to 13.30



Katrina Porteous will present and discuss excerpts from her latest poetry collection from Bloodaxe, *Edge*.

This presentation combines words, electronic music and real space images to explore other worlds: our nearest star, the Sun; moons of the solar system which could potentially host primitive life; and the strange quantum worlds underlying the whole universe. Katrina will talk about the process of researching and writing these poems, collaborating with scientists and with the composer, Peter Zinovieff.

**We'll discuss some of the science behind the pieces and, using examples from Katrina's and other poets' work, the relationship between poetry, science and music. In particular we'll think about what unusual angles poetry might bring to an understanding of science, and what common ground poetry and science might share.**

*Edge* is Katrina's third poetry book from Bloodaxe, following two earlier collections, *The Lost Music* and *Two Countries*, concerned with the landscapes and communities of North-East England. The title sequence, *Edge*, was broadcast as a Poetry Please Special on BBC Radio 4.

## Friday

One-Off Literature Session: *21st February*

The Odes of John Keats

Tutor: Pamela Woof

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

10.30 to 13.30

The Odes, written in Keats' 25th and last year, are among literature's greatest lyrics. The ordinary well-known subjects and words present a bird and its song - the nightingale, an antique vase, being lazy, autumn, day-dreaming; the poems leap into thoughts that we share, while at the same time there hovers over them layer upon layer of imaginative and delicate suggestion. It is this aura of the almost ungraspable, hints of feeling, that we shall try to catch as we consider these near-perfect compositions.

Further details of the odes we shall consider in detail will be available nearer the time.

Some texts will be provided but participants are encouraged to bring along to the session any copies that they can access.



## Saturday

### Free Public Event

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January

Witches & Cunning Folk in the North East (REPEAT of October 2019 session)

Speaker: [Dr. Jo Bath](#)

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

11.00-13.00



Not so long ago, plenty of men and women offered their services as "cunning folk", able to give magical help when other avenues had failed. Find out about these people, and how they used spoken and written charms, and objects from shirts to ducks! But belief in magic is a dangerous thing, and many women - and one or two men - found themselves accused of "maleficia", black magic.

We will have a chance to look at, and discuss, some original seventeenth century accusations to see how neighbour came to suspect neighbour - and what happened when a Witchfinder came to town.

Book your FREE ticket now on [Eventbrite](#) (No need to book if you're an Explore member.)

## Saturday

### Free Public Event

Saturday 14th March

[Our Diverse Planet - Coral: Past, Present and Future](#)

Speakers: Derek Teasdale, John Bythell & Adriana Humanes

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

11.00-13.00



In this special session we welcome three speakers to present three talks about the evolving areas of geology, biology and ecology involved in the study of the Coral Reef.

Speaker: Derek Teasdale 'Past'

Speaker: Prof. John Bythell 'Present'

Speaker: Dr Adriana Humanes 'Future: assisting corals to survive climate change'

Book your FREE ticket now on [Eventbrite](#) (No need to book if you're an Explore member.)

You might also be interested in another public event [A Celebration of Women in Art](#) on Monday 9th March in recognition of **International Women's Day**. You can find out more about this event on [Page 12](#), including how to reserve your free place.

## Saturday

PLEASE NOTE: THE NEAS Study Day IS NOT PART OF OUR EXPLORE EXTRA OFFER AND CAN ONLY BE ATTENDED BY MEMBERS OF EXPLORE OR NEAES, OR BY PAYMENT TO NEAES ON THE DAY.

### [North East Ancient Egypt Society](#)

Tutor : Daniel Elcoat

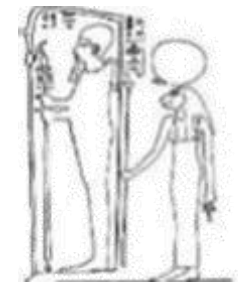
Saturday 25th January 14.00-16.00

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

Free to Explore and NEAES members

Non Members and Visitors £5.00

Concession £3.00



For information about public events at Explore please see our [Events Page](#) online, join our [Mailing List](#) and follow us on [social media](#).

You can also find out more about our Saturday Explore Extra Sessions next in this programme.

# Explore Extra—Saturday Sessions

## Interested in Explore but can't attend during the week?



Take a look at our Saturday sessions coming up in Season Two

We're pleased to offer exciting and insightful Saturday talks and classes, which non-members can attend for £10.00 per session (from week 2 onwards). There may be some additional material costs for practical art sessions as detailed in the programme.

Book your place via [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk) by clicking on the TITLE of the relevant session in the following pages.

*Explore members can attend our Saturday sessions as part of their membership at no extra cost and without needing to book (except for the practical art sessions).*



## Saturday



### Practical Art Session

[Floral Monogram Embroidery](#) (Beginner/Intermediate)

Tutor : [Melanie Kyles](#)

Saturday 25th January 10.30-13.30

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

**Embroidered florals are classic for a reason. In this workshop, you'll learn a series of floral and leafy crewelwork stitches, which you can then apply to a simple monogram design. This is a lovely relaxed and creative session, and you can even upgrade to a sustainably sourced cotton tote bag if you'd like to wear your design fresh from the workshop!**

### Philosophy Session

[Tao Te Ching](#)

Tutor : Alex Gooch

Saturday 1st February 10.30-13.00

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

The *Tao Te Ching* or 'Book of the Way and its Power' is at the same time a handbook of statecraft, a guide to the good life, a manual for spiritual practice, and an account of the ultimate nature of the world. Written in China more than 2000 years ago, the *Tao Te Ching* is a notoriously ambiguous and puzzling book, but the world-view which emerges from its 81 brief chapters has been enormously influential. Emperors, philosophers, mystics, poets and painters, among many others, have been drawn to the *Tao Te Ching* and found its message relevant. This message, emphasising 'non-action' and 'un-learning', is radically different from most modern Western thinking, and yet the *Tao Te Ching* has been translated into English at least 250 times and continues to be read across the Western world.

In this session, after an introduction to the background and main themes of the *Tao Te Ching*, we will read and discuss some of the most well-known, influential, and powerful passages from the text.

## Saturday

### History Session

#### [A Working Class Biography: William Parker of Ouseburn 1790 to 1858](#)

Tutor : Mike Greatbatch

Saturday 8th February 10.30-13.00

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

William Parker was a leading advocate of the 'The People's Charter' in the 1830s and later championed the rights of pensioners and the poor in general. In this session we will look at how Parker, a labourer and widower supporting three daughters, challenged the prevailing stereotype of the unskilled worker and demonstrated an ideological commitment to justice and equality until his death in 1858.



### Film Session

#### [Ingmar Bergman, \*The Seventh Seal\* \(1957\)](#)

Tutor : Peter Quinn

Saturday 15th February 10.30-13.30

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



*Set in the time of the Black Death, Ingmar Bergman's **The Seventh Seal**(1957) centres on a pensive knight, Antonius Block (Max von Sydow), who returns to Sweden after fighting in the Crusades. Death (Bengt Ekerot) comes to claim him, but Block forestalls his demise by challenging Death to a game of chess – **Block wishes to find answers to some of life's big questions and performs at least one meaningful deed before he dies.** BFI website*

In this session, artist Peter Quinn discusses the film and its importance within cinema and visual history throughout the 20th Century.

## Saturday

### History Session

#### [The Street Names of Newcastle](#)

Tutor : John Griffiths

Saturday 22nd February 10.30-13.00

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



The names of our streets are a kind of 'history on the go', giving hints about the origins of streets, what was carried out on them, who built them on whose land, and what they say about social attitudes at the time of naming. Newcastle and neighbouring towns have a rich collection of names illustrating an equally rich history, from medieval times to the present day.

### Science Session

#### [Our Universe and Others—The Multiverse](#)

Tutor : Fred Stevenson

Saturday 29th February 10.30-13.00

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



We live in a vast and expanding universe - at least 28 billion light years across - but does it go on forever?

If not, or indeed even if it does, could there be other universes with their own 'big-bangs' beyond our own, maybe disconnected from it via other hidden dimensions. Admittedly speculative these somewhat crazy ideas are currently being seriously considered by physicists and cosmologists in order to try and understand some of our own universe's deepest mysteries. In this Saturday session we will have a look at the evidence for the Multiverse and make our own minds up about how crazy this concept really is!

## Saturday

### Science Session

#### [The Latest Climate Change Science](#)

Tutor : Derek Teasdale

Saturday 7th March 10.30-13.00

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

We are in the midst of a climate emergency, but it can be difficult to keep up with the current state of knowledge. The huge scientific resources being thrown at global warming mean that climate science is one of the fastest changing areas of research. **Join Derek Teasdale for a review of the last year's progress, and to catch a glimpse of our future.**



### Practical Art Session

#### [Exploring & Developing Paint Techniques Using Acrylics](#)

Tutor : Margaret Adams

Saturday 14th March 10.30-13.30

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

This workshop will give you the opportunity to experiment with acrylic paints, exploring how to mix paint with a range of media to try out methods of producing translucency, varying thickness and drying times. You will be able to investigate colour and colour relationships. You will then have the opportunity to produce an acrylic painting on canvas working on your own composition.

Canvases will be provided and a range of paints and media. A range of brushes and painting knives will be available but feel free to bring any of your favourite materials & equipment. There may be a small charge for some of the materials provided. This workshop is designed for anyone interested in either developing painting skills or dipping your toes into acrylic painting. Please bring preparatory drawing and any other visual materials to help complete your final painting.





## Saturday

Saturday 14th March

### [Our Diverse Planet - Coral: Past, Present and Future](#)

Speakers: Derek Teasdale, John Bythell & Adriana Humanes

This is a public event and full details can be found on [Page 42](#)

Science Session

### [Halley's Comet: A Biography - Current Research](#)

Tutor : Tom Rossetter

Saturday 21st March 10.30-13.00

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

Comets, those strange bodies that orbit our sun in eccentric ellipses, have been a constant object of scientific, religious, and numerous other kinds of fascination for millennia. By far the most famous comet is that named after the English astronomer Edmond Halley, who, after studying data from previous sightings, successfully predicted its return in 1758. **This lecture traces the history of Halley's Comet from its first (probable) sighting in 467 BC to its last in 1986, paying particular attention to the 17th & 18th centuries. We'll start with the comet's prehistory, before it acquired its modern name, then turn to the details of Halley's calculations and the significance of the comet's return during the 18th Century, paying special attention to differences between English scholars who focussed predominantly on its theological significance and French Enlightenment thinkers who precisified Halley's prediction and drew more naturalistic conclusions. We'll then turn to the 19th & 20th Century discussions which, I argue, exhibit surprising similarities with earlier prophetic and symbolic interpretations.**

THE END

Season Three 2019-20 will start on Monday 20th April 2020