

EXPLORE



Season 3
2017-18 programme

EXPLORE

FREE Taster Event

Wednesday

25th April 2018

12.30 to 15.30

4th Floor

Commercial Union House

Science and maths lectures
from our expert tutors—click
[HERE](#) to book your **FREE** place.



Explore Season 3 Programme 2017-18

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

There are two options:

- **Attend our FREE taster with mini lectures from our expert tutors—find out more by clicking [HERE](#)**
- **Book your free session in Week One starting Monday 23rd April 2018 by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com Click [HERE](#) to see the Week One programme. Download your FREE voucher [here](#).**

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

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

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

Explore Season 3 Programme 2017-18

Each season our programme has a theme, so from April we've seeded the theme of '**Common Ground**'

Our team of programmers have subtly planted this into each lecture-strand, from the physical earth under our feet to the wider universe and who & what else we might be sharing it with. From prevailing philosophies and ideas that have divided cultures, to stories and histories that unite even the most disparate of minds. So let's meet in the middle to explore the universal, the comprehensive and the simple everyday and enjoy our Season Three 2017-18 Programme!

Congratulations to the programming team -

Art History and Design: Helen Watson

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

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

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

Philosophy: Joy Rutter

with direction from Bronwen Calvert & Colm O'Brien.

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

'It is not knowledge, but the act of learning, not the possession but the act of getting there, which grants the greatest enjoyment.'

Carl Friedrich Gauss (1777-1855)

Explore Extra

NEW Interested in Explore but not available during the day?

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



Including:

Monday evening : John Sadler

The War of Three Kingdoms: The Civil Wars 1639-1660

For more course details please see [Page 10](#) of the programme.



Tuesday evening : Mike Green

Exploring Common Ground in Music

For more course details please see [Page 21](#) of the programme.



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

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

Monday

Philosophy Course: Mondays 23rd April to 25th June (Except bank hols.)

Reading Park Town: Oxford Women Philosophers

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

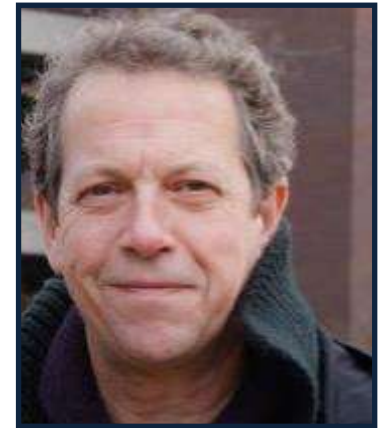
Venue: White Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

In this course we will read and discuss shorter pieces and extracts from the work of the "Park Town" group of Oxford women philosophers: Iris Murdoch, Elizabeth Anscombe, Mary Warnock, Philippa Foot, and Mary Midgley.

As no single course could do justice to this large and diverse body of work, we will focus on topics in ethics and the philosophy of mind.

Students should be prepared to read material in preparation for classes.



Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'Common Ground'

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



10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
23 Apr	Peter Quinn	Common Ground: Jacob Lawrence
30 Apr	Michael Johnson	Sunderland Cottage
07 May	NO SESSION	
14 May	Stephen Moonie	Dutch Genre
21 May	Peter Quinn	Common Ground: Martin Parr, Photographing Britain
28 May	NO SESSION	
04 Jun	Malcolm Gee	Painters on the Oise—Pissarro and Cezanne in Pointoise and Auvers in the 1870's
11 Jun	Chris Wadsworth	Pursuing Percy—My Discovery of a Genius
18 Jun	Judith Stevenson	Common Ground: Isobel Bishop and the Fourteenth Street School
25 Jun	Peter Quinn	Mexico Discoveries

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'Common Ground'

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
23 Apr	Peter Quinn	Thinking About Art: Rodin's Burgher of Calais
30 Apr	Michael Johnson	Shaker Design and Craft
07 May	NO SESSION	
14 May	Stephen Moonie	Courbet's Realism
21 May	Peter Quinn	Thinking About Art: The King and Queen
28 May	NO SESSION	
04 Jun	Malcolm Gee	Painters and Provence: Cezanne, Braque, Derain, Dufy
11 Jun	Chris Wadsworth	The Reluctant Exhibitionist—'I can not paint for monetary gain'
18 Jun	Judith Stevenson	Common Ground: Themes in American Art of the 1930s
25 Jun	Peter Quinn	Thinking About Art: Common Ground, Throwing Slate, Andy Galsworthy

Monday

Art History Course: Exhibitions

To mark and prepare for the Great Exhibition of the North, a series on Exhibitions

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date Title

23 Apr The Local Exhibition

30 Apr The Crystal Palace

07 May NO SESSION

14 May Paris and the Modern Exhibition

21 May 1900 Secession and Empire

28 May NO SESSION

04 Jun Exhibitions and Conflict, Paris 1937

11 Jun What is a Museum?

18 Jun (Alternative Speak - See Details Below)

25 Jun Expo Now, the Mega Exhibition in the Globalised Contemporary World



To go with this series, on **Monday 18th June 14.00-15.00**, there will be a talk detailing **The Plans and Programme for the Great Exhibition of the North 2018** by **Ellie Geddes**, stakeholder and Engagement Manager.

The Exhibition will launch on 22nd June and run until 9th September.

Monday

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



History Course: *23rd April to 25th June (Excluding Bank Holidays)*

The War of Three Kingdoms: The Civil Wars 1639-1660

Tutor: [John Sadler](#)

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

19.00 to 20.30

During the course of the Civil Wars in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland a higher percentage of the population died than during the Great War 1914 – 1918 – a catastrophe unequalled in our history. Yet at the end of it the world had shifted. Even though Charles II came back in 1660 and it appeared to be business of kingship as usual, there'd be no more Divine Right, 'kings would remember they had necks'. This would be the most important struggle in our constitutional history and by the end of it the gentlemen amateurs who'd blundered to war in 1642 would have been replaced by the most efficient and experienced army in Europe.

This is a series of eight lectures which will seek to illuminate every aspect of the period with an optional 'bonus' field trip of a guided Civil War tour of Newcastle with swords, guns & morphology!

Non-members, please register interest in this course by emailing programme@weareexplore.org.uk and either contact us for BACS details or pay by cheque at the first session.



Tuesday

Classics : *from 24th April*

Latin at the [Lit & Phil](#)

Tutor: Alan Beale & Adrian Spooner

Venue: Lecture room & Loftus room, Lit & Phil

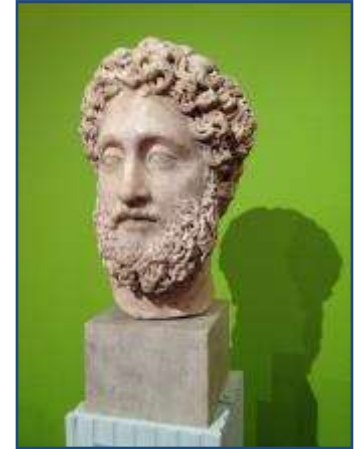
10.30 to 12.00

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

Intermediate

Advanced

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



Tuesday



Narratives series on the theme of 'Common Ground'

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

10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
24 Apr	Chris Phipps	Ambridge Rocks! The Story of 'The Archers' and Other Classic Radio & Television Themes This session reveals the remarkable story of composer Arthur Wood who unwittingly created the serial's unforgettable signature tune. In addition Chris pays homage to the giants of English Light Music, including Eric Coates and Robert Farnon, who created those unforgettable radio and TV screen melodies you can't just put a title to!
01 May	Clare Jackson	The Grounding of English Language Battles over the ground we stand on today shaped the English language. In these sessions, we will be considering the impact of Anglo Saxon, Norse, Latin and French on English, and their enduring influence on our vocabulary and attitudes to power.
08 May	Marie Addyman	Miximetaphormosis We accept metaphor as the basis of poetry and as a fundamental element in all creative writing. But our everyday speech is inseparable from metaphoric language, so there are as many ways of understanding metaphor as there are of using it. This session will take examples from both poets and theorists in an attempt to explore some of the possibilities of this most fascinating and challenging pattern of speech.

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Common Ground'

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



10.45 to 11.45

Notes on Reading/links to online texts

- | | | |
|--------|----------------|--|
| 15 May | Claire Nally | Our Common Ground with Women Writers: Kate Chopin's <i>The Awakening</i> (1899) |
| | | The texts studied in the morning and following lunchtime session reveal how historical writers from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries wrote about women's experiences and equality. The first session will focus on Kate Chopin's <i>The Awakening</i> to look and think about the contexts of women in the late nineteenth century, especially with reference to the 'New Woman' and domesticity. We will think about how Chopin represents race, and how different models of sexuality are explored in the text. Finally, we will address medical discourses of the period, and how they sought to define women and their behaviour. |
| 22 May | Bryccan Carey | Oludah Equiano's Interesting Narrative |
| | | First published in 1789, Equiano's personal account of slavery, his journey of advancement and his experiences of immigration made it the first influential slave narrative and a best seller by 1792. The work sought to create common ground over race and the abolition of slavery. |
| 29 May | Michael Ayton | Eduard Mörike, <i>Mozart's Journey to Prague</i> |
| | | This wonderful novella re-creating the composer's stagecoach trip to Prague to present <i>Don Giovanni</i> has charmed readers ever since its publication in 1855. |
| | | Free online translation available at: http://www.raptusassociation.org/mozart.html |
| 05 Jun | Elayne Chaplin | From Miss Travers to Miss Poppins |
| | | In this session, we'll be examining the style & themes of <i>Mary Poppins</i> (1964), looking at the characterisation of the career woman at the heart of PL Travers's books and Disney's film. |

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Narratives series on the theme of 'Common Ground'

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



10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
12 Jun	Guy Mankowski	The Importance of Narrative
		Sensational films like <i>I, Daniel Blake</i> , TV series like <i>National Treasures</i> and ongoing news stories that grip our attention all prove the importance of narrative. Not only in terms of raising our awareness of the world we live in but also in providing gripping stories that we can escape into. In this session, drawing from research and contemporary examples author Guy Mankowski will address what it is about narrative that makes it so important?
19 Jun	Rachel Lister	'Stretching to the Extreme': Dorothy Richardson's <i>Journey to Paradise</i>
		When Virginia Woolf first read Dorothy Richardson's fiction, she credited her with inventing 'a new kind of sentence' that was capable of 'stretching' language 'to the extreme'. In this session we will look at Richardson's short fiction. We will examine two very short stories in the light of Woolf's commentary and consider the common ground between the writers. The two stories are from her collection <i>Journey to Paradise</i> : 'The Garden' and 'Seen from Paradise'.
26 Jun	Jean Conteh	Finding Common Ground through 'African' Literature
		Jean will tackle the questions of why it matters that we listen to different voices through literature, particularly in the troubled world we live in today. She will introduce the work of some African writers who she has been reading recently. We will read through some extracts so that the voices can be heard. This is a follow on from the talk Jean gave last year on voices in African literature, but you do not need to have gone to that talk to enjoy these sessions.

Tuesday



Narratives series on the theme of 'Common Ground'

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

12.30 to 13.30

~~Date~~ ~~Time~~ ~~Topic~~ ~~Text~~
Notes on reading/links to online texts

- | | | |
|--------|---------------|---|
| 24 Apr | Chris Phipps | Ambridge Rocks! (continued) |
| 01 May | Clare Jackson | The Grounding of English Language (continued) |
| 08 May | Marie Addyman | Miximetaphormosis (continued) |
| 15 May | Claire Nally | Our Common Ground with Women Writers: Susan Glaspell's 'A Jury of Her Peers' (1917)
We will continue our work on women's writing, by looking at Susan Glaspell's short story and considering the way in which symbolism in this text links to broader concerns in society: law and justice; the domestic environment; female solidarity and community; and the interaction of men and women in the text. |
| 22 May | Bryccan Carey | Olaudah Equiano's Interesting Narrative (continued) |
| 29 May | Michael Ayton | The Poetry of Norman Nicholson
The work of this under-sung poet has a moving directness and force, drawn from the vernacular accents of his native Millom in Cumbria. |

Tuesday



Narratives series on the theme of 'Common Ground'

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12.30 to 13.30

Notes on reading/links to online texts

05 Jun Elayne Chaplin From Mr Disney to Mr Banks

In this session, we'll be looking at Disney's depiction of the paternal figure and the father-child relationship, with particular reference to *Saving Mr Banks* (2013), and the ways that this film offers a transformative narrative in relation to Disney's onscreen father-figures.

12 Jun Guy Mankowski The Importance of Narrative (continued)

19 Jun Rachel Lister 'A Daunting Secret': The Short Fiction of Mavis Gallant

Michael Ondaatje referred to Gallant's stories in this way, because he feels her work remains a secret among writers, who feel both connected to and intimidated by her fiction. The *New Yorker* published 116 of her stories: we will look at one of these, 'The End of the World', and explore why Gallant remains much admired in critical circles but relatively unknown to many readers.

Text will be provided before the session and it would be helpful to read the story in advance.

26 Jun Jean Conteh Finding Common Ground through 'African' Literature (continued)

Tuesday

Science Course : *from 8th May to 5th June*

Birdwatching: Basics and Beyond

Tutor: Keith Bowey

Venue: B&D studios, 3rd floor, Commercial Union House 39 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



10.30 to 12.00

'Birdwatching ... Basics and Beyond' is a short 'beginners and a bit more' course on the wildlife theme which unites almost everybody, an interest in birds. In the garden, at the bus stop, overhead or 'in our heads', who doesn't watch birds at some time or another?

Found on all continents, birds have a universal appeal; they are all around us and they are relatively easily observed and so, they are observed - "*I bird watch therefore I am*" (with apologies to Descartes).

This five-week course, plus one field trip*, aims to engage the less experienced birdwatcher - or the absolute beginner - who want to learn more, with a range of topics and techniques designed to help them better enjoy and understand birdwatching, and birds.

***Birdwatching Field Trip** - *Friday 1st June* click [here](#) to find out more.

Tuesday

Film Course: *24th April, 1st & 8th May*

Under the Microscope - Analysing the Hollywood Film Text

Tutor: Elayne Chaplin

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

14.00 to 16.00



The Gangster Movie and Male-centred Melodrama

In these three sessions, we'll be taking a detailed look at one landmark gangster film (to be announced), focusing on the emotionality of the male protagonist, and the shared features of gangster movies from different national cinemas.

Literature Course: *15th May & 22nd May*

DH Lawrence - *Sons and Lovers*

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

14.00 to 16.00

Sons and Lovers is an uneasy book. It reflects Lawrence's ambiguities concerning his background and relationships, it had a mixed critical reception and it continues to divide opinion today. In these sessions, we will be considering Lawrence's shifting perspectives within the novel, and the debates surrounding the text as a whole.

Tuesday

History Course: *from 29th May to 26th June*

Society and Culture in Early Modern Europe

Tutor: Nick Cott

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

14.00 to 16.00



The early modern period (1500 to 1800) is one of the most dynamic periods of European history, starting with the upheavals of the Reformation, and ending with the Enlightenment. This course reflects on the period as one of transition between the old customs of the medieval age and major intellectual, social, religious and cultural changes. It will look at major changes and continuities with a focus, in particular, on individual lives, communities of interest, the organisation of people and place.

This five week course will focus on 'Individual Lives', on the everyday existence of people and different sections of society'. The five topics will be:

Date	Title
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29 May	Personal faith and religion
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5 June	Population, households and families
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12 June	Work in early modern times
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19 June	Poverty in early modern times
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26 June	The lives of the elite
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Tuesday

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

Music Course: Exploring Common Ground in Music

Tutor: Mike Green

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

18.00 to 19.30

Date Title

01 May	Les Six
08 May	Ground Beef
15 May	Basse Danse
22 May	The Mighty Handful
29 May	Modest Mussorgsky, Breaking New Ground
05 Jun	Common Time
12 Jun	Anton Dvorak on Foreign Ground
19 Jun	Ground Bass

In these eight sessions we will explore musical works, trends, developments and characters from Western music history over the past 400 years or so, linked by the idea of “Common Ground.”

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

Non-members, please register interest in this course by emailing programme@weareexplore.org.uk and either contact us for BACS details or pay by cheque at the first session.



Tuesday

History Walks: *from 29th May to 26th June*

Understanding Towns 2018

Tutor: John Griffiths

19.00 to 20.30

Please register interest at thisisexplore@gmail.com so we can estimate numbers for meeting.



29 May: 2 4 6 8 Motorway

We'll be walking the length of Newcastle's Central Motorway, an enormous megastructure just east of the city centre, examining its origins and route, its impact on the city, and evidence for the city that might have been.

Meet: Swan House Roundabout (outside Fat Buddha restaurant) **19.00** The walk will end near Haymarket metro.

5 June: Love is a Battlefield

...as Pat Benatar wrote, though it's unlikely that she knew that one suggested reason for the name of this Newcastle district is that dog fights were held there. It's an overlooked part of the city, stuck between the city centre and the hipster paradise that is the Ouseburn, but an area full of interest: keelmen, 5% philanthropy, early suburban villas, Newcastle's only active priory, Get Carter and more.

Meet: Manors Metro 19.00

12 June: Suburbia

Pet Shop Boys' Neil Tennant is no stranger to Newcastle suburbia, being raised in Brunton Park, but we'll be looking around some of the older parts of Jesmond, and seeking evidence for its pre-suburban past.

Meet: Jesmond metro 19.00. The walk will end near West Jesmond metro.

Tuesday

History Walks: *from 29th May to 26th June*

Understanding Towns 2018

Tutor: John Griffiths

19.00 to 20.30



Please register interest at thisisexplore@gmail.com so we can

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Tuesday 19 June : Hebburn is a Place on Earth

... in South Tyneside, to be more exact, and a town that has seen more than its fair share of industrial development: coal, chemicals, shipbuilding, electrical equipment being the most important. We'll see Hebburn Hall, home of the Carr Ellison coal owners, as well as the industrial settlements of Hebburn Quay and Hebburn New Town.

Meet: Hebburn metro 19.00. Members catching the metro at Felling or Tyne Dock should note that it is Three Stops to Hebburn.

Tuesday 26 June: Down Down (Deeper and Down)

...excavating some of the history of mining in the Gosforth area and its impact on the current townscape. We'll find mining villages and colliery sites, mineshafts and tombstones, and stand above where an underground ball was held for miners and their wives in 1829 (amply lit by lanterns and candles, so they weren't Dancing in the Dark).

Meet: Fawdon metro 19.00. This fairly long walk will end by South Gosforth metro

Wednesday

Science Course: *from 25th April to 23rd May*

Topics in Cosmology

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

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

10.30 to 12.00



Throughout history human beings have asked fundamental questions about the nature of the universe. Did it have an origin? And if so will it end?

Cosmology is the science that aims to answer these questions.

In this short course we will look at some of the misconceptions people have concerning our so-called standard model of cosmology the 'big-bang theory'. We shall look at the farthest objects currently observable and see what they can tell us about the origin of the universe and hence of ourselves.

Wednesday

Mid-Week Literature Course: *from 30th May to 20th June*

The Arabian Nights

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30-12.00



The stirring and poignant tales making up the collection known colloquially as *The Arabian Nights*, in which Scheherezade through her story-telling nightly postpones the intention of the Sultan Schahriar to strangle her the next morning as he has done all his preceding wives, have entered our consciousness and language like no other stories before or since. The collection entered English literary history in the form of *The Arabian Nights' Entertainments* of 1704–17, itself a translation of the work of a French orientalist.

As well as focusing directly on the classic stories of Sindbad, Aladdin, Ali Baba and others, we'll trace the complex origins of all the stories in successive waves of Persian and Egyptian oral and written material, and consider also their far-reaching legacy in music and pictorial art as well as in later fiction.

Wednesday

One-off Narratives Special: 27th June

Eduard Mörike and Hugo Wolf: An Artistic Marriage Made in Heaven.

(Poetry by Mörike, in conjunction with Hugo Wolf's miraculous settings of Mörike texts.)

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30 to 13.30



The life of the Lutheran pastor Eduard Mörike (1804–75) from Swabia in southern Germany was outwardly unassuming, but masked a sensibility which created a body of lyric poetry possessing rare beauty and poignancy as well as remarkable delicacy and humour.

The character of the great Austrian-Slovenian song-composer Hugo Wolf (1860–1903) could scarcely be more different from Mörike's, yet his profound imaginative response to Mörike's poetry in his *Mörike-Lieder* of 1888 not only mark the song-collection as one of the most powerful and beautiful ever created, but demonstrate an affinity with the great romantic poet's feeling-life that is unique in the history of song.

In examining this remarkable artistic symbiosis, we'll focus equally on the poetry and on the music. Full texts and English translations will be provided, along with in-class renderings of the music on online videos and CDs.

Wednesday

Art Course: *from 25th April to 23rd May*

Work in Art: A series exploring work and its depictions in art, using a broad chronological approach up to the present day, and bringing in the social, political and economic context of the concept of labour.

Tutor: Gordon Reavley

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

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Title
25 Apr	An Overview of the concept and depiction of work
02 May	Portraying Work: From the earliest examples to the late 18th Century
09 May	Picturing Pride and Misery in Work: 19th and early 20th Century depictions of work
16 May	Women at Work: Domestic servants, home work and domestic goddesses
23 May	Post-Work: The radical idea of a world without jobs. With so many working non-jobs, zero hour contracts, casualisation and of course unemployment, what would a world without work actually look like?

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Common Ground

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
25 Apr	David Manning	Carbon Capture in Urban Soils as a Passive Climate Mitigation Tool
		The formation of pedogenic carbonate minerals is well known and they can be distinguished from geological carbonates. Photosynthesis results in soil carbonate with strongly negative $\delta^{13}\text{C}$ values, and these can be recognised in soil carbonates from urban soils. Plant growth on such soils act as a pump taking atmospheric CO_2 into the root system, ultimately resulting in CO_2 and carbonate in solution. The key issue is the source of calcium to form calcite, derived from demolition waste and the process occurs at brownfield sites; through appropriate management practices, these can be transformed into Carbon Capture Gardens.
02 May		
09 May	Wallace Arthur	Animal evolution, Charles Darwin and the Science of 'Evo-Devo'
		In this talk, Wallace will give a broad overview of animal evolution and outline Darwin's explanation of the process in terms of natural selection before explaining the recent approach to evolution that is usually known by its nickname, 'evo-devo', because its full name – evolutionary developmental biology – is something of a mouthful. He will outline the origin of this approach in an earlier one, namely comparative embryology, and will examine the nature of the current relationship between evo-devo and neo-Darwinism. At issue here is whether evolutionary theory is in the grips of a paradigm shift – or not.

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Perspectives series on the theme of 'Common Ground

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12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
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16 May	Maria Goulding	Rita Levi Montalcini
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Montalcini was awarded the 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine jointly with her colleague Stanley Cohen for her work on Nerve Growth Factor. Before her death (aged 103 in 2012) she was the oldest living Nobel Laureate. This session will cover her life and scientific achievements before looking at current knowledge and ongoing research into the plasticity of the brain.

23 May	Chris Burridge	Science at Sea: Polar Exploration and Science Ships
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30 May	Alan Currie	Why Exercise is Good for Your Mental Health But Being an Athlete Isn't
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The mental health benefits of physical activity are becoming established. Activity sustains good mental function and improves the health and well-being of those who suffer mental illness. Professor Currie will review these benefits and the reasons behind them. Elite athletes do not seem to share these health benefits and in fact experience mental health difficulties with at least the same prevalence as the general population. In addition, many athletes do not yet have access to the same high quality mental health care as they would expect for a physical injury.

06 Jun	Clare Watson	Foundations of Culture in Biology
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This session gives an overview of culture from a scientific perspective. In addition to the primary genetic inheritance system, culture has been referred to as the secondary, social inheritance system. What we learn in one generation can be passed to the next socially. Culture has played an essential role in our success as a species, enabling humans to live in a wide variety of environments and to spread across the globe. But what were the evolutionary origins of culture?

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12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
13 Jun	Andy Lane	Geology of the River Wear
		The River Wear is about 60 miles from source to mouth and crosses some 350 million years of geological history. It is a veritable geological text book, providing many classic examples of rock type and structure. Not only that, but the river's geology underpins some magnificent scenery and the region's past and present economic development, the coal industry being the prime example. More recent geological processes have shaped the river's mouth, enabling over time a major port to be built – a fitting venue for this year's Tall Ships race.
20 Jun	Lianna King	The Micropollutant Metaldehyde
		The EU legal consent limit for any individual pesticide in drinking water is 0.1µg/L . The micropollutant metaldehyde is constantly being detected above the legal consent limit. It is not effectively removed through conventional treatment processes such as granular activated carbon, and although developments within advanced oxidation processes do obtain high removal efficiencies, it's very costly. Water companies at present are heavily dependent upon external stakeholders within their catchments to ensure metaldehyde does not contaminate water sources, which doesn't offer them much resilience. However, some water companies have found that some of their slow sand filters are able to effectively remove metaldehyde. However, little is known about the biodegradation process, so is hindering development in this area. If developed, could this be the answer to the metaldehyde issue?
27 Jun	tbc	

Wednesday

Practical Art & Craft Studio:

From 25th April to 13th June

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



13.30 to 15.30

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

There will not be a tutor at each session but we will use the available funding to buy in tutors as and when we need them. There are skills amongst members that we can also draw on including printing, silk painting and ceramics. This Season we will continue work on depicting the built environment around Newcastle , and prepare for an exhibition in June of our work this year.

Margaret Adams will coordinate this group.

Wednesday

Mathematics Course: *from 25th April to 23rd May*

Maths: Problem Solving and Explorations

Tutor: Peter Pool and Maria Goulding

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

14.00 to 15.30



Some people are almost proud of saying that they 'can't do maths', when in fact we all do lots of maths in our heads everyday as we dodge traffic, estimate costs, look for the best way to do practical things etc. There is also a growing number of people who enjoy solving maths puzzles and problems, judging by the space given in newspapers to that.

This course is an opportunity to solve maths problems and explore aspects of maths. The mathematical knowledge required is not much more than primary school level. It is *thinking skill* that is needed to solve unfamiliar problems, using only basic knowledge, or to decide which way to go in an investigation.

You can work alone or with others, and you can enjoy sharing ideas and solutions with the group. We hope you will come along and have some fun!

Wednesday

Mid-Week Literature Course: *from 9th May to 13th June**

Grace Paley and Lorrie Moore: The Postmodern Short Story

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

14.00 to 15.30



This module will give us the chance to explore the work of two celebrated short-story writers in detail. Both Paley and Moore have been credited with re-inventing the short story form and using it as a vehicle for humour and pathos. We will begin with Paley, move on to Moore and use the last week for direct comparisons. You need purchase only two texts: *The Collected Stories of Grace Paley* and *The Collected Stories of Lorrie Moore*. Details of specific story titles will be provided nearer the time.

Date	Title
09-May	'Seriously Funny': 'Four Calling Birds, Three French Hens' (Moore) and 'The Loudest Voice' (Paley)
16-May	Post-modern Love Stories: 'What You Want to Do Fine ', 'Yard Sale' (Moore) and 'An Interest in Life' (Paley)
23-May	Meta Stories – 'How to Become a Writer' (Moore) and 'Love' (Paley)
30-May	*<u>NO CLASS</u>
06-Jun	The Long Short Story: 'People Like That Are the Only People Here: Canonical Babbling in Peed Onk' and 'Terrific Mother' (both Moore)
13-Jun	Members' Choice

Wednesday



History Course: *from 30th May to 27th June*

From Parthenon and Pantheon to Newcastle

Tutor: Alan Beale

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

14.00 to 15.30

An introduction to Classical architecture and its influence on the North East.

The first two sessions will examine a range of Greek buildings and the Greek orders of architecture, Doric , Ionic and Corinthian.

Sessions three and four will introduce Roman buildings, the Roman Doric, Tuscan and Composite Orders, and in particular the use of concrete for arches, vaults and domes.

The final session will look at how our built environment has engaged with classical architecture.

An evening walk around Newcastle's classical architecture is also possible.

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Common Ground

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

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
26 Apr	David Rosier	The Evolution of China from Imperial Capitals to Global Supercities
03 May	John Sadler	Drawing the line—the battle of Carham
10 May	NO SESSION— JCLLC AGM	
17 May	Malcolm Grady	Common Ground: the field
24 May	Gordon Reavley	1968 and all that...what if?
31 May	Nick Cott	The political career of Alfred Mond: 1906 to 1928
07 Jun	Sue Wood	The Manorial Register Project
14 Jun	Diana Whaley	Common Ground: naming the Northumberland landscape
21 Jun	Malcolm Grady	Common Ground: the seaside
28 Jun	John Griffiths	Squatters and Plotlanders: informal settlements in England

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Common Ground

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
26 Apr	David Rosier	The Evolution of China from Imperial Capitals to Global Supercities
03 May	Adrian Green	A University for the North of England: Durham College in the 1650s
10 May	NO SESSION— JCLLC AGM	
17 May	Colm O'Brien	Common Land and Customary Rights in Medieval History
24 May	Anthea Lang	JB Priestley and the North East: his 1934 journey
31 May	John Sadler	Fury of the Norsemen: the battle of Corbridge 918
07 Jun	Malcolm Grady	Common Ground: the bed
14 Jun	Andrew Watts	Groundwork's Contribution to Urban Regeneration
21 Jun	John Griffiths	No Man's Land: neutral zones and unclaimed territories
28 Jun	Sue Ward & Chris Walton	Errington's Folly: the collapse of Hexham Bridge 1782

Thursday



Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

AGM

Date: Thursday 10th May 2018 10.30 to 13.30

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

The Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre (JCLLC) is the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) which runs the Explore programme.

Please come along to the [JCLLC AGM](#) to discuss developments and contribute to the important decision-making process for the organisation.

You can find out more about the Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre CIO on our website at www.josephcowen.org.uk

Thursday

Science Course: *from 26th April to 10th May*

Other Worlds: Our Quest for Alien Life

Tutor: Chris Hudson

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

14.00 to 15.30

Do you believe in ET? How fiction and films have portrayed extra-terrestrial life gives insights into how science advances. Addressing anew some of the questions asked in the past helps understand science as an accessible and vibrant part of our culture rather than some remote set of unchanging right answers. Is science simply facts, or a cascade of curiosity?

Date	Title
26 Apr	Fictional facts: how developing science has informed popular fiction, and how wider culture helps direct science.
3 May	Exoplanets and extremophiles: how science can suggest boundaries for life.
10 May	Putting numbers to the Drake equation: how the questions science can usefully ask change over time

Science Course: *from 24th May to 21st June*

Volcanoes: A Short Introduction

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

14.00 to 15.30

Despite being familiar, spectacular and potentially very dangerous, volcanoes remain enigmatic and difficult to predict.

Join Derek Teasdale as we explore the fiery geology of Pompeii, Tenerife and the Cheviot Hills!



Thursday

Literature Course:

New Visions: Speculative Fiction and the Short Story

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30



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

This is a seminar-style course of 7 sessions. This is likely to be a popular course so you are asked to register for a place to help us make appropriate arrangements.

To book a place on this course, please e-mail explorelitprog@gmail.com (NOT THE EXPLORE OFFICE, PLEASE) and write 'Bronwen Calvert Booking' in the header.

Please also note that this booking is dependent on a confirmation of registration for the FULL Explore programme before 23rd Apr 2018.

Bookings will be taken from Monday 26th Mar – Sunday 8th Apr inclusive.

If you book on the Explore Programme after 23rd April and wish to register on the course please contact us at explorelitprog@gmail.com to find out if a place is available.

Thursday

Literature Course: From 3rd May to 14th June*

New Visions: Speculative Fiction and the Short Story

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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

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



The late Ursula K. Le Guin often spoke about writers of speculative fiction (science fiction and fantasy) as 'excluded from literature', and it is true that these genre fictions are often considered escapist and trivial. However, these writers consistently examine far-reaching and important topics, and force readers to reconsider our comfortable assumptions. We'll read six key texts, each of which poses questions and upsets expectations.

All of these stories are available free via the links provided. All except the Russ story can also be found in the collection *The Very Best of Fantasy and Science Fiction*, ed. Van Gelder, available from the usual online secondhand bookshops. (Watch that you buy through a UK seller, otherwise the postage charges may be high!)

Date	Title
03-May	Ray Bradbury, ' All Summer in a Day ' (1954)
10-May	Shirley Jackson, ' One Ordinary Day, with Peanuts ' (1955)
17-May	Daniel Keyes, ' Flowers for Algernon ' (1959)
24-May	James Tiptree Jr, ' The Women Men Don't See ' (1976)
31-May	*NO CLASS
07-Jun	Joanna Russ, ' When it Changed ' (1972)
14-Jun	Ursula Le Guin, ' Solitude ' (1994)

Thursday

Philosophy Course: *26th April, 24th May and 21st June*

[NewPhilSoc](#) Philosophy in Literature

Tutor: Lucille Valentine

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

18.00 to 19.30

These meetings, led by Lucille Valentine of NPS, take a short literary text as the starting point for a discussion on matters of philosophy.

The sessions are open to both Explore members and members of NPS.

Archaeology Course: *3rd, 17th & 31st May and 14th & 28th June*

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

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

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

19.00 to 20.30

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

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

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



Thursday

Additional Event: *Wednesday 16th to Friday 18th May*

Organiser: Dr Alex Lockwood

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



Explore members are also invited to attend the Shift & Signal conference, a commission by Dr Alex Lockwood and taking place at Ampersand Studios and other venues nearby. The conference aims to encourage attendees to imagine and discuss our adaptations to current crises such as social inequality, climate change, and species extinction. The full event programme can be found [HERE](#)

Please note: the Shift & Signal Conference is not an Explore event and is not formally part of our programme, however as the event is taking place 'on our doorstep' and during our Season Three schedule the organisers are keen to welcome Explore members.

Friday

History Course : *from 27th April to 1st June (no session 25th May)*

Pleasures Abound - The Art of Communication in 18th & 19th Century Britain

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

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

10.30 to 12.00



The five sessions will explore how people communicated with one another through such media as the letter, the newspaper, the telegraph, the telephone, the club, the coffee shop, the pub, the street corner, the painting, the photograph and the speech using a mix of original written sources, sources, visuals and presentations. The sessions will also explore how the words and language that people used changed with time, class and location.

Science Session

Field Session and Walk : *1st June*

Tutor: Keith Bowey

Venue: to be confirmed

13.00 to 16.00



Please register interest at thisisexplore@gmail.com so we can estimate numbers for meeting.

We don't have to go far to enjoy the pleasures that birds give us; this easy-going field trip will give us the chance to put some of what we have learned into practice, while discovering that there may be more than we thought going on close at hand.

Friday

Weekday Literature special (One-off class) : 27th April

Seamus Heaney, A Poet of our Contemporary World

Tutor: Pamela Woof

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

10.30 to 13.30

Seamus Heaney, from farmer's son to Nobel Laureate; the poet of childhood, of country ways, of bogs and bog-burials, of the 'Troubles' in Northern Ireland, of the Catholic faith and the loss of it, of the consolation of art and the imagination. Heaney (died 2013), for all his concern with memory, was a poet of our contemporary world: cars, air-flights, politics, Europe, America. His poems are widely read and loved.

We shall consider a selection of them from various aspects, and register his development through a full life, keeping in mind his own pointer to what

the necessary poetry always does, which is
to touch the base of our sympathetic nature,
while taking in at the same time the
unsympathetic reality of the world to which
that nature is constantly exposed.

(From Heaney's Nobel Lecture 1995)

Saturday

History Walk

Newcastle Below The Surface: An Archaeologist's View

Tutor : Colm O'Brien

Saturday 28th April 10.30 to 13.00

Venue : Meet in foyer/ground floor of Commercial Union House



Please register interest at thisisexplore@gmail.com so we can estimate numbers for meeting.

Beneath the hustle and bustle of Newcastle city centre, between the Metro tunnels, below the streets and restaurant basements and along the quayside, lie fascinating traces of eras gone by. As an archaeologist Colm will bring some of this buried history to light.

In this walk, we will view this familiar city from an entirely new perspective. We will be walking along some busy but regular pathways (so no hard-hats or work-boots required) but please come with clothing suitable for weather on the day and exercise normal care and attention for a walk around public streets.

Saturday

Literature Session:

Nature in Poetry and Prose

Tutor : Bronwen Calvert

Saturday 5th May 10.30-12.30

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



In this session we'll look at some of the techniques contemporary writers use to describe the natural world. With close reading examples from poetry and prose we will examine aspects of language, narrative, form, voice (and more). Extracts of prose and links for poems are available to download and print in advance.

Kathleen Jamie, 'Springs' (2011), 'Here lies our land' (2013):

<http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/poetry/poets/kathleen-jamie>

Katrina Porteous, 'Blackberries' (2000):

http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/15530842.Poem_of_the_Day_Blackberries_by_Katrina_Porteous/

Anthony Doerr, 'Butterflies on a Wheel' (2008):

<https://granta.com/butterflies-on-a-wheel/>

Amy Liptrot, extract from *The Outrun* (2016) [with a rather interesting short title!]:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jan/17/amy-liptrot-outrun-i-swam-in-the-cold-ocean-orkney-alcoholism>

Saturday

Practical Art Session

Embroidering Unconventional Materials

Tutor : Melanie Kyles

Saturday 12th May 10.30-13.30

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

A workshop where participants will learn techniques of embroidering on unconventional materials and will embroider on images of old Newcastle. The session will include a brief overview of artists embroidering onto unconventional materials, and explanation of technique to effectively embroider onto non-woven materials. Melanie will guide members in enhancing the images they have chosen using a variety of threads and beads and the embroidered images of vintage Newcastle will be completed during the three hour session.

There will be a small charge for materials.

Philosophy Session

Fellow Creatures: Our Attitudes to Animals

Tutor : Michael Bavidge

Saturday 19th May 10.30-13.00

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



Saturday

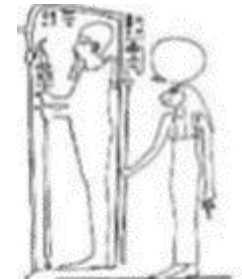
North East Ancient Egypt Society

Tel Timai and its Terracotta Figures

Tutor : James Bennett

Saturday 19th May 14.00 to 16.00

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



The terracotta figurines from the Graeco-Roman period give interesting insights into personal beliefs and religious practices. James will be discussing their role in everyday cults including a pair of acrobat figures.

Science Session

Feet First

Tutor : David Stainsby

Saturday 26th May 10.30 to 12.00

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



With all the spring walks this season, David brings some well deserved attention to our hardworking feet!

Often overlooked, the mechanics of the foot and the skeletal structure define our position in evolutionary history - this session will offer an expert insight.

Saturday

Film Session

La Règle du Jeu

Tutor : [Peter Quinn](#)

Saturday 9th June 10.30 to 13.30

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



Directed by Jean Renoir (1894-1979) the son of the great painter and ranked number four in the Sight and Sound Top One Hundred Films, the brilliantly satirical *La Règle du Jeu* (1939) depicted a morally bankrupt France. It opened a few months before the Second World War began, provoked riots, was cut and suppressed. A country house drama with an upstairs-downstairs cast of characters:

'While *La Règle du jeu* presents itself as a contrivance, a game with emotions, a toying with reality and illusion, it is also a self-portrait of rare depth.' Roy Armes, *French Cinema*, 1985

Saturday

Literature Session:

A Literary Treasure - The Exeter Book

Tutor : Miguel Angel Gomes

Saturday 16th June 10.30 to 13.00

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



The Exeter Book is the oldest and best-preserved Anglo-Saxon manuscript we have. Leofric, first bishop of Exeter, placed it in the cathedral library in 1072 and it can still be seen there. The book is a century older, and some of the poems in it far older than that. As well as the famous riddles, it contains elegies and religious poetry.

Dr Gomes will introduce us to the manuscript, the traditions of Old English verse, and some of the poetry – he'll maybe even set us a riddle!

History Walk:

A Walk Around Hexham

Tutors : John Griffiths

Saturday 16th June - Afternoon

Times & Meeting Point tbc

Please register interest at thisisexplore@gmail.com so we can estimate numbers for meeting.



Hexham is an ancient town, growing up around the monastery founded in 674 CE, and its long history has often been violent. But we will hope for a peaceful afternoon while being led around modern Hexham, learning to understand it better and enjoy it even more.

Saturday

Practical Art Session

Lino-cutting

Tutor : Margaret Adams

Saturday 23rd June 10.30 to 13.30

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



Philosophy Session

Politics, Eros and the 'Noble Lie': The Philosophy of Leo Strauss

Tutor : Alexander Gooch

Saturday 23rd June 10.30 to 13.00

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

The philosopher Leo Strauss is a relatively unknown figure in the UK but famous (or perhaps infamous) in North America as the founder of a philosophical school which had a powerful influence on the George W Bush White House. Key Bush advisors such as Paul Wolfowitz and Richard Perle were self-declared Straussians, and Strauss himself is generally thought of as the intellectual godfather of the 'neo-conservative' movement and as an advocate of the politician's right, and duty, to lie to the public.

In this session we will go back to Strauss's own writings, to see what lies behind this reputation. What we find in Strauss's work is a penetrating (and also problematic) analysis of the nature of philosophy itself, its crucial importance, but also its potential dangers. Through Strauss's writings, we will be faced with such questions as: why do we seek truth, and what exactly is it that we are seeking? Do individuals and communities actually depend on 'myths', which the truth-seeking philosopher must reject? Are philosophers in fact dangerous to the very societies that support them?

Saturday



History Session:

The Making of the Modern Conservative Party

Tutors : Nick Cott

Saturday 30th June 10.30 to 13.30

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

This workshop session will involve examining the ingredients of the making of the modern Conservative party in the later nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It will focus on some of the critical political figures, as well as developing ideologies and strategies, which can be seen in the context of the creation of the modern party and its enduring success. It will look at some of the key milestones, spanning periods of both electoral success and disappointment for the party. As this is a workshop, members attending will have a chance to discuss extracts from specific primary and secondary source materials supplied in the session to evidence the key issues.

THE END

Season 1 will start on Monday 1st October 2018
with our Week One when you can try your FREE taster session!