

EXPLORE



**Season 3
2018-19 programme**

Explore Season 3 Programme 2018-19



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 29th April 2019 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 Extra](#) courses and Saturday sessions—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 2018-19

Our 2018-19 Season Three programme raises a cheer for forgotten contributions to society and looks again at history's most celebrated thinkers and events. We weave party politics with party games, toasting the science that keeps the world turning whilst calling time on risks that might make it fizz out! Join us for this feast of knowledge in our celebration themed programme.

Congratulations to the programming team -

Art History and Design: Helen Watson and Margaret Adams

Narratives (Literature, Cinema 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 Bronwen Calvert & 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 29th April 2019
10.45 to 13.30**

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

[History Course: Shakespeare and the War of the Roses 1453-1487](#)

For more course details please see [page 11](#) of the programme.

Cost—£65 per course for non Explore members



Tuesday evening : Mike Green

[Music Course: Exploring Celebration in Music](#)

For more course details please see [page 21](#) 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 Extra—Saturday Sessions

Non-members can now enjoy our Saturday programme too! You can find out more [here](#)

Monday

Philosophy Course: 29th April to 24th June* (No sessions on Bank Holidays and 20th May)

Talking About Art

Tutor: Ian Ground

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



* The final session is Monday 24th June as noted, however there is also a session (6th of 7 sessions) on Thursday 20th June 14.00-15.30.

10.30 to 12.00

What is art and why should it matter to us?

This course will explore the central questions surrounding our experience of arts across media including the visual arts, literature and music.

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'Celebration'

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



10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
29 Apr	<u>Peter Quinn</u>	Pierre Bonnard
06 May	NO SESSION	Bank Holiday Monday
13 May	Malcolm Gee	Celebrating the Eiffel Tower
20 May	Catrin Huber	Expanded Interiors: Bringing contemporary site-specific fine-art practice to Roman houses at Herculaneum and Pompeii
28 May	NO SESSION	Bank Holiday Monday
03 Jun	Rachel Barclay	Buddhist Art
10 Jun	<u>Peter Quinn</u>	Van Gogh in London
17 Jun	Gordon Reavley	High Art from Low Places: The East London Group
24 Jun	Gillian Wales	Tom McGuinness & Robert McManners
01 Jul	<u>Peter Quinn</u>	World Art: Asia

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'Celebration'

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
29 Apr	<u>Peter Quinn</u>	Thinking About Art: Reproduction
06 May	NO SESSION	Bank Holiday Monday
13 May	Malcolm Gee	Celebrating the Minotaure
20 May	Sabina Sallis	How like a Bee: aesthetics of sustainability
28 May	NO SESSION	Bank Holiday Monday
03 Jun	Rachel Barclay	Early Japanese Photography
10 Jun	<u>Peter Quinn</u>	Thinking About Art: Plinths
17 Jun	Gordon Reavley	High Art from Low Places: The Whitechapel Boys
24 Jun	Gillian Wales & Robert McManners	Norman Cornish
01 Jul	<u>Peter Quinn</u>	Thinking About Art: Frames

Monday

Art History Course: 29th April to 1st July

Scotland's Art

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30



'Scotland's Art' will attempt in 7 sessions to survey the rich variety of art produced north of the border in the period stretching from the Union of the English and Scottish parliaments in 1707 to the start of the First World war. Writing in 1986 Duncan Macmillan identified two key preoccupations shaping Scottish art: the 'relationship between seeing and knowing' and the search for a purer, simpler, unsophisticated expression of complex emotions. Beginning with Scots in Rome in the eighteenth century we will examine how art shaped and reflected the experience of a small country, neighbour to a much larger newly industrial power, in a time of unprecedented change. Suggested reading [HERE](#)

Date Title

29 Apr	Roman Holiday
06 May	NO SESSION - Bank Holiday Monday
13 May	NO SESSION - Alternative speaker
20 May	Ossian and Tartan
28 May	NO SESSION - Bank Holiday Monday
03 Jun	A Letter of Introduction
10 Jun	Glue Pots and Kale
17 Jun	Boys and Girls
24 Jun	Colour
01 Jul	Crossing the Street

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

Monday

One-Off History WALK - 20th May

Crime Walk—from the Medieval to the Modern

Tutor: Ivan Hill

Time: 11.30 to approximately 13.00



DURHAM

This walk was developed by Dr Ivan Hill and other Durham colleagues to take in places linked to the history of crime and punishment in Durham. What was crime and what was justice? Visit sites connected with prison reform; the roles of church, state and landowners; the relationship between crime and poverty and, of course, some ghoulish and entertaining stories about the places on the walk and the people associated with them. The walk is planned to end at the Dun Cow, where tea and coffee are available.

This is an urban walk with some steep slopes, but we will not hurry.

Please register your interest in this walk by emailing thisisexplore@gmail.com It is planned for about 15 people, but if numbers are too many for one walk Dr Hill is willing to arrange a repeat if a suitable date can be found.

We will meet at Elvet Bridge at 11.30am

Monday

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

History Course: 29th April, 13th & 20th May, 3rd June to 1st July (8 Sessions, No Bank Holidays)

Shakespeare and the War of the Roses 1453-1487

Tutor: John Sadler

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

19.00 to 20.30



Move over George Martin, the series of dynastic struggles which convulsed England from the middle to the end of the fifteenth century easily rivals anything from 'Game of Thrones' and indeed it was this which, in part at least, inspired the successful blockbuster fiction. Two rival branches of the same Plantagenet dynasty, Lancaster & York battled it out for a generation for who would rule. Much of the action and many of the significant players were northerners including Richard Neville, earl of Warwick, known for good reason as 'the Kingmaker'. It was an era of battles, of treachery, murder, betrayal and enough conspiracies to satisfy even the most ardent conspiracy buff. Long before Martin, Shakespeare started the ball rolling with his Henry VI, parts I, II & III and Richard III. Richard III, the last Plantagenet, has his loyal fans even to this day and the recent discovery of his body has re-ignited what is almost a national cult.

Non-members—How to Book:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using this link: [**Shakespeare and the War of the Roses 1453-1487**](#)

If you have any issues booking please contact us at weareexplore@gmail.com

Explore Members:

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

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



Tuesday

Classics : 30th April to 9th July (no class 7th May)

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). There are 2 groups:

Group A reading selections from *Tacitus*

Group B reading selections from *Livy* Book 21

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.

Perspectives Course: 14th May to 2nd July (no session 28th May)

Celebrating Our Local Geology

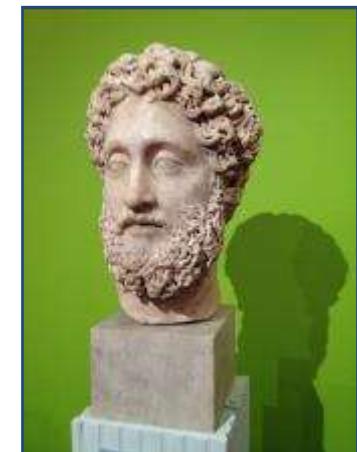
Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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

10.30-12.00

The geology of North East England is one of our greatest treasures.

This course will offer a gentle introduction to the scenery and rock-types that you can explore on day trips and excursions. Also see Derek's city walk this season [here](#)



Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Celebration'

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



Date	Tutor	Title
30 Apr	Roger Mitchell	Celebrating the Art of Film In these two interlinked sessions we will explore the way films are able to convey meaning through a combination of elements that collectively are often referred to as the 'language of film.' Among other things we will consider how both the camera and sound are used to not only communicate story information, but also to enhance the dramatic, emotional and thematic impact of a scene.
07 May	Rachel Lister	Parties in Literature How did writers from the twentieth century use social gatherings in their novels and stories to explore the tensions between the needs of the individual and the expectations of society? These two sessions will consider this question by analysing extracts from a range of texts that feature dinner parties, birthday celebrations and balls. We will explore extracts from a wide range of 20th-century texts, including Harold Pinter's 'The Birthday Party', Virginia Woolf's story sequence, 'Mrs. Dalloway's Party', Henry Green's 'Party Going', James Joyce's short story 'Clay' and Daphne Du Maurier's 'Rebecca'.
14 May	Helen Williams	Moveable Feasts: Celebrating Women's Work and Diaries in the Eighteenth Century This session will focus on Newcastle publisher, Ann Fisher, who printed diaries that were also literary anthologies.
21 May	Clare Jackson	The Short Story and the Symbol The short story is arguably one of the most economic prose forms in literature. Characterisation, plotting, atmosphere and themes have to be portrayed within the tight constraints of a brief narrative. In this session, we will be analysing the use of symbolism within <i>The Rain Horse</i> and <i>There Will Come Soft Rains</i> and how Ted Hughes and Ray Bradbury respectively use it for multiple purposes within each text.

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Celebration'

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

10.45 to 11.45*



Date	Tutor	Title
28 May	Michael Ayton	Cervantes, <i>The Dialogue of the Dogs</i> One of the great Spanish author's most remarkable 'Exemplary Tales'. Extracts from a translation will be provided for discussion purposes, nearer the time.
04 Jun	Marie Addyman*	Heaney's Dante; Dante's Virgil; Heaney's Dante's Virgil (*this session runs to different times/tbc) Following on our seminar on Heaney's translation of Virgil's <i>Aeneid VI</i> last season, we continue our exploration of his preoccupation with the underworld by examining how his poetry responded not only directly to Virgil but to how Dante had responded to Virgil. This also gives us a sense of the great value Heaney put on the individual poet as operating within a rich literary tradition.
11 Jun	Bronwen Calvert	Poems for Special Occasions In these two linked sessions we will read some examples of poems that have been written to order for a particular celebration or to mark an occasion. We will consider what challenges such a commission might pose for a poet, and how successful the resulting works are, as poems and as commemorations or celebrations. (List of poems to be provided before the session. Please bring copies with you to the sessions, but there is no need to read any of these in advance.)
18 Jun	Pamela Woof	Lord Byron's Don Juan The hero of Don Juan is its author, Lord Byron. The title character is a mere figure in the story. It is Byron's quicksilver mind that attracts the reader to range with him over sea and land, love and language, rhyme and reason. Reading this comic epic, even in bits and here and there, is a sparkling tonic.

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Celebration'

Venue: Green Room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street,
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10.45 to 11.45*

Date	Tutor	Title
25 Jun	Clare Nally	<p>Celebrating Comics: Why The Graphic Novel Is Important</p> <p>When we think of comics, we might think of disposable, popular culture. Stereotypically, we might identify comics as humorous, distracting content in newspapers and magazines. However, comics and graphic novels are heavily invested in some quite sophisticated ideas providing a satirical look at modern society. In these two sessions, we will look at some of the formal, visual techniques used by graphic novelists in relation to the following texts and subjects: A.) Alan Moore (et al) first published <i>The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen</i> as a comic series in 1999. Playing with ideas of literary adaptation, the gothic, and the New Woman, Moore's alternative world provides a fantastic introduction to the medium, and allows us to think about the ways in which the comic provides a source of cultural critique. B.) Bryan Talbot, <i>Grandville</i>—Published between 2009 and 2017, the <i>Grandville</i> series, by local artist Bryan Talbot, represents a high point in the graphic novel medium. Responding to the contemporary political climate, it is a work which addresses themes such as empire and racism; literary histories, art and popular culture; and anthropomorphism.</p>
02 Jul	Marie Addyman*	<p>The Gentle [and not-so-gentle] Art Of Parody (*this session will run to slightly different times/tbc)</p> <p>Parody has always been an intrinsic part of literature, and occasionally what we think of as "serious" literature is itself parody. Sometimes celebratory, sometimes cruel, when it works parody is insightful in its own gleeful way. This session will look at a variety of pieces, rejoicing in their scepticism and their homage.</p>

Tuesday

Narratives series on the theme of 'Celebration'

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



12.30 to 13.30*

Date	Tutor	Title
30 Apr	Roger Mitchell	Celebrating the Art of Film (continued)
07 May	Rachel Lister	Parties in Literature (continued)
14 May	Helen Williams	Moveable Feasts: Celebrating Women's Work and Diaries in the Eighteenth Century (contin'd) Analysing the way in which eighteenth century diarists recorded their lives and celebrations on the pages of Ann Fisher's works.
21 May	Clare Jackson	The Short Story and the Symbol (continued)
28 May	Michael Ayton	Robert Browning's 'Parleying' with Charles Avison The great Victorian poet's literary 'dialogue' with the distinguished eighteenth-century composer from ... Newcastle! Texts will be provided in class.
04 Jun	Marie Addyman*	Heaney's Dante; Dante's Virgil; Dante's Virgil (*this session will run to slightly different times/tbc)
11 Jun	Bronwen Calvert	Poems for Special Occasions (continued)
18 Jun	Pamela Woof	Byron's Don Juan (continued)
25 Jun	Clare Nally	Celebrating Comics: Why The Graphic Novel Is Important (continued)
02 Jul	Marie Addyman*	The Gentle [and not-so-gentle] Art Of Parody (*this session will run slightly different times/tbc) (*this session will run to slightly different times/tbc)

Tuesday

Literature Course: 30th Apr to 14th May

One Author, Many Forms

Tutor: Clare Jackson

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

14.00 to 15.30



Authors seek originality, yet must also adopt, adapt or challenge the conventions of their chosen genre every time they create a text. In these three sessions we will be considering a range of Dylan Thomas' writings, and how he works with form in poetry, drama and prose. How much does this seemingly unorthodox writer yield to standard literary practice?

Film Course: 21st May to 4th June

Film Studies: Celebrations & Story Development

Tutor: Roger Mitchell

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

14.00 to 16.00



Celebrations and their attendant social gatherings have been used throughout the history of cinema both for their sense of spectacle and for their dramatic potential. In this series, we will explore how a wide range of filmmakers have used celebrations as a means of developing their stories, often in ways that are unexpected not just for the characters concerned but also for the audience!

21 May The Festive Season & the Cusp of Change

28 May Communal Gatherings: Uncovering Secrets and Lies Pt 1

04 Jun Communal Gatherings: Uncovering Secrets and Lies Pt 2

Tuesday

Mid-Week One-Off Literature Special : 11th June

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night and Candlemas Festivities

Tutor: Rosamund Paice

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

14.00 to 16.00

This talk will take you back to 2 February 1602, a night of Candlemas feasting, and the night on which Twelfth Night was performed in the Middle Temple (one of the Four Inns of Court in London).

What does the topsy-turvy world of Shakespeare's play have to do with its legal setting and the traditions of Candlemas?

Come along to find out, and enjoy a bit of Shakespearean misrule!

Tuesday

History Course : 30th April to 28th May

Hunters & Gatherers: from Neanderthals to the Neolithic

Tutor: Stephanie Piper

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

This course will introduce participants to the archaeological evidence, defining characteristics, and key interpretations of hunter-gatherers in European prehistory. It will trace transformations in human society, subsistence, technology, and beliefs from the arrival of our species in Europe around 40,000 years ago, to the arrival of agriculture around 4,000 BC.

30 Apr	Our Neanderthal Neighbours
07 May	Life & Death in the Ice Age
14 May	Pioneers after the Ice
21 May	A Coastal Way of Life
28 May	Becoming Farmers

History Course: 4th June to 2nd July

The British Isles in the Long Nineteenth Century 1789-1914 (Part III 1880-1914)

Tutor: Nick Cott

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

14.00 to 15.30



This course will complete the assessment of cultural, social and political history of the period. It will examine the joint themes of decline and renewal as Britain tries to adapt to a changing era as Britain loses its pre-eminence as a global power and experiences strife at home. We will include the following topics: *Industry & Finance *The Big City *Urbanisation & Degeneration *Popular Culture & The Working-class *Politics & Division *The Empire & Imperialism.

Tuesday

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

Music course - Celebrations

Tutor: Mike Green

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



18.00 to 19.30

In these eight sessions we will be celebrating birthdays, weddings and anniversaries and the music which goes with them. Sessions will cover a range of musical styles. There will be plenty of opportunity for discussion and listening to musical examples. No formal musical knowledge is required.

Date	Title
07 May	Johannes Brahms
14 May	Wedding Day at Troldhaugen
21 May	The Anniversary Waltz
28 May	Suite in D for the Birthday of Prince Charles
04 Jun	Les Noces
11 Jun	Richard Strauss
18 Jun	Jacques Offenbach
25 Jun	Happy Birthday to You

Non-members—How to Book:

Please book your place via Eventbrite using this link: [**Music Course: Celebrations**](#)

If you have any issues booking please contact us at weareexplore@gmail.com

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



Tuesday

History WALKS : 28th May to 25th June

New Towns

Tutor: John Griffiths

19.00-20.30



What is a new town? Even many old towns were planned new towns once, and this course consists of walks round five in our region: medieval boroughs, new town extensions, a railway suburb and a 1960s utopia.

Walks begin at 19.00 and last for 1.5-2 hours. Some climbing of slopes/steps is required in some of the walks.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing thisisexplore@gmail.com to ensure no-one gets left behind!

28 May **Morpeth**—Meet at Castle Square (just south of the main bridge over the Wansbeck, by the Waterford Lodge hotel). This walk includes a short but steep ascent to a viewing point, but this could be omitted by anyone who might find it too difficult.

04 Jun **North Shields**—Meet at North Shields metro station. This walk includes a steep ascent which is an integral part of the walk.

11 Jun **Ashington**—Meet at Ashington bus station (just beyond the 'Rohan Kanhai' Wetherspoon's pub on Woodhorn Rd)

18 Jun **Benton & Forest Hall**—Meet at Benton metro station.

25 Jun **Killingworth**—Meet at Dial Cottage, Great Lime Road. Dial Cottage is the former home of George and Robert Stephenson. (Stagecoach bus 62 - nearest stop is Forest Hall, Great Lime Road/Glebe Road. The following stop is quite a long way past Dial Cottage)

Also see John's Saturday history session here

Wednesday

Perspectives Course: *1st to 15th May*

Three Scientists, Three Countries, One Moon

Tutor: Chris Hudson

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

10.30 to 12.00

During WWII, three scientists in three different nations were working in very different disciplines to very different purposes; Shannon, Turing, Von Braun. Yet their work came together in ways they could not have anticipated, each contributing to put a man on the Moon.

Learn more about each of them, and find how their discoveries combined.

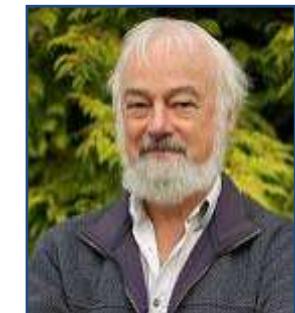
Perspectives Course: *5th June to 3rd July*

Embryos and Evolution

Tutor: Wallace Arthur

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

10.30 to 12.00



This course will consider the relationship between the two great creative processes of biology: evolution and embryogenesis. These two processes are deeply intertwined. The present-day pattern of embryogenesis in any species is both a result of evolution in the past and the starting point for evolution in the future. We will take a historical approach to examining the inter-relationship between evolution and embryogenesis, starting with the great comparative embryologists of the 19th Century, and ending with recent developments - 21st century 'evo-devo'. Before concluding, we will try to assess what are the main outstanding issues in this interdisciplinary field.

Wednesday

Mid-Week Literature Course: 8th to 29th May

Who was Petrarch (and what about his poetry)?

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30-12.00



The famous Italian writer we call 'Petrarch' was a very different figure for his contemporaries from the one he is for us today. Born in central Italy in 1304, Francesco Petrarca was crowned Poet Laureate in Rome at the age of 37 for the poem that he himself considered his main claim to fame, the unfinished epic *Africa*, written in Latin. Today by contrast, he's admired for the Italian-language poems that he himself described as 'trifles', the 317 sonnets and 49 other poems making up his *Canzoniere*.

In focusing on these strikingly beautiful and feeling-filled poems (in various English translations), we'll consider both their historical context and their enormous influence on later European and English lyric poetry. We'll also look at the wider biography of this remarkable and slightly enigmatic man who was a diplomat, classical scholar and prose writer as well as a poet, and who, for all the profound spiritual force of his poetry, was deeply concerned with worldly fame and its implications.

Wednesday

One-off Literature Special: 5th June

Mozart's *Così fan tutte*: insightful comedy, or cynical misogynist tosh?

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30-13.30



The music of Mozart's opera *Così fan tutte* (the title means: 'All women act like that') is by common agreement exquisite, but what should we think about the infamous text that the composer set to such beguiling strains? Lorenzo da Ponte's libretto wasn't created in a vacuum. On the contrary: it has its place in a line of dramatic works including libretti by the earlier eighteenth-century Italian dramatist Carlo Goldoni and others.

Verbal pre-echoes of the opera's title may be heard in operas by Haydn and Anfossi and, tellingly, in Mozart's own first collaboration with da Ponte, *Le nozze di Figaro* (The marriage of Figaro). The testing of fidelity is of course a common trope, but how seriously – if at all – was the suggestion of women's supposed frailty meant, and received, at the time, and how should we deal with it now? And where were composer and librettist in all this? – consummate professionals crafting an opera about opera, or old chums sharing some sort of inside joke?

Wednesday

One-off Literature Special: 12th June

The Eighteenth Century Theatre and *The Beggar's Opera*

Tutor: Katie Aske

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

10.30-12.30

The seminar will offer an introduction to the Restoration and eighteenth-century theatre, covering the rivalry between the London theatres, Lincoln Inn Fields and Theatre Royal, Drury Lane. It will also cover the growing popularity of the theatre, as well as some of the most popular plays and their performers. The theatre was a hugely successful form of popular entertainment in the period, and exciting plays and popular actors drew the masses to the box office.

We will finish with a discussion of ***The Beggar's Opera*** (1728) by John Gay, the most successful (and first) 'musical' of the period, and one of few that remains popular today.

Art History Course: 19th & 26th June

Art Conservation

Tutor: Charis Theodorakopoulos

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

10.30 to 12.00

A two week course on aspects of art conservation:

Week 1 - History & Science Synergies: Towards the optimisation of art conservation

Week 2 - Laser Applications: For the restoration of monuments and works of art

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Celebration'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
01 May	Louise Mair	Global Ambitions to Bend the Curve of Biodiversity Loss Since 2010, the international conservation community has been trying to achieve the ambitious target of halting extinctions and reversing species declines by 2020. Unsurprisingly, we are not on track to meet this target, and biodiversity continues to deteriorate. In amongst this doom and gloom, however, there are reasons to celebrate; we have prevented the extinction of a range of endangered species, we have increased the protected area estate, and we have developed new tools that will drive success into the future. In this talk, I will discuss how international conservation policy is evolving, how it affects action on the ground, and I will argue that there is reason to be hopeful for the future of biodiversity.
08 May	Ian Jobson	Worker Honey Bee Anatomy (What's the Difference Between a Been and A Beekeeper?) Ever wondered how the worker honey bee senses its environment, navigates around the local landscape and communicates with her sisters in the complete darkness of the hive? This talk will look at the anatomy of the honey bee and compare this, in a light-hearted way, with that of the beekeeper!
15 May	Phil Heron	A (Geophysical) Journey to the Centre of the Earth We stand on a surface that is moving about as quickly as your fingernails grow. The theory of plate tectonics describes this motion and explains activities like earthquakes and mountain ranges. Over the years, we have been able to illuminate deep below the surface to discover mega-structures and complex layering where the impact of plate tectonics is far reaching! We will take a geophysical journey to the centre of our dynamic Earth to explore how the planet's slowly moving surface dramatically influences (and can be influenced by) the evolving landscape deep beneath our feet.

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Celebration'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
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22 May No Session

29 May Vasile Ersek The Influence of Climate Change on Societal Progress

The extent to which climate change causes significant societal disruption remains controversial. An important example is the decline of the Akkadian Empire in northern Mesopotamia 4200 years ago, for which the existence of a coincident climate event is still uncertain. A new climate reconstruction from Iran identifies a drought which is coincident within decades with the period of abandonment of advanced urban settlements in northern Mesopotamia, strengthening the argument for association between societal and climatic change. The record demonstrates the abrupt onset of dust production in the region and ability to maintain this dry climate state for multiple centuries naturally.

05 Jun Derek Teasdale The Geological Periodic Table

2019 will be the 150th anniversary since Dmitri Mendeleev discovered the Periodic System and has been proclaimed the 'International Year of the Periodic Table of Chemical Elements'. Geologists have long recognised that the abundance of specific elements and their spatial distribution is not uniform in the Earth's crust. But why are some elements more common than others? And why do we find certain rock minerals at the Earth's surface and others deeper in the crust? The subject of geochemistry, which attempts to answer these questions, is underpinned by Mendeleev's great advance. This talk will offer a brief introduction to the Periodic Table and explain its relevance to Earth Science.

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Celebration'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
12 Jun	Catriona Sellick	3D printing: From Science Fiction to Your Living Room In the early half of the 20 th Century, science fiction writers envisaged a world where objects were produced by being drawn in thin air. In the latter half of the 20 th Century, this fiction became a reality. Now in the 21st Century, how has 3D printing technology changed the world we live in, and what might the future hold?
19 Jun	Maria Goulding	The Gendered Brain: The Current Debate Boys will be boys and girls will be girls. Or will they? This talk will examine critically recent scientific research and debates on both sides of this question.
26 Jun	Ruth Baldesera	2019: 130 years of C A Parsons providing power throughout the World In this talk, we will cover a brief history of Sir Charles Parsons, Lady Katharine Parsons, Rachel Parsons and Algernon Parsons and explain how Ruth's job as Quality Engineer at the former C A Parsons factory (now owned by Siemens) led her to do more research and a project with Lord Rosse at Birr Castle to create a lasting museum to Sir Charles for future generations. We'll hear more about Ruth's trips to Ireland (meeting Professor G Scaife, the ancestral home of Sir Charles Parsons and the science centre at Birr) and we'll find out why and how she paid her respects to this great Engineer and his family by restoring Parsons final resting place in Northumberland.
03 Jul	TBC	

Wednesday



Philosophy Course: 1st to 29th May

Science, Knowledge and Society:

An Introduction to the History and Philosophy of Science

Tutor: Harry Lewendon-Evans

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

14.00 to 15.30

Modern science has developed into one of the most powerful tools we have for understanding the world around us. But how did the science of today come about? What constitutes 'modern' science? What is its place and role within our wider society and culture?

In this course you will explore the roots and history of modern science, tracing its emergence in the Scientific Revolution in the 17th century, and challenging simplistic narratives of how it has evolved. Integrating historical analysis with philosophical reflection, you will engage critically with ideas about the aims, methods, and meaning of scientific practice.

Wednesday



Mid-Week Literature Course: 15th May to 3rd Jul (no session 29th May)

A Flash of Truth: Short Short Stories

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

14.00 to 15.30

Short-story theorists and writers frequently suggest that the form enables them to present or explore a 'truth' with an intensity or authenticity denied to longer forms. In this module we will use this idea for a starting-point for our reading of 'flash fiction', or 'short short stories' from two celebrated practitioners of the form, Lydia Davis and Amy Hempel. We will study stories from Hempel's collection *Reasons to Live* and Davis's *Collected Stories of Lydia Davis* and consider how both writers use this spare form to reflect profound 'truths'.

Date	Title
15 May	'Fat' Raymond Carver , 'San Francisco' (Amy Hempel) and 'Almost No Memory' (Lydia Davis)
22 May	Lydia Davis, from the <i>Collected Stories of Lydia Davis</i> : 'Television'; 'The House Behind'; 'What I Feel'; 'A Few Things Wrong with Me'; 'A Second Chance'; 'The Caterpillar'.
29 May	NO CLASS
05 Jun	Amy Hempel, from <i>Reasons to Live</i> : 'In a Tub'; 'Pool Night'; 'Going'; 'The Man in Bogotá'; 'Why I'm Here'
12 Jun	Family in the Short Short Story: Grace Paley: 'Mother' , available at: 'In This Country, But in Another Language, My Aunt Refuses to Marry the Men Everyone Wants Her To', to be provided; Davis: 'The Mother', 'Traveling with Mother', 'Mothers'; Hempel: 'Celia is Back'

Wednesday



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Date	Title
19 Jun	Friendship and Romance in Flash Fiction: Elizabeth Hay, 'Cézanne in a Soft Hat', to be provided; Davis, 'Blind Date'; 'The Sock'; Hempel, 'Tonight is a Favor to Holly'.
26 Jun	Micro-stories – titles to be confirmed
03 Jul	Members' choice

Rachel will also teach a Saturday history session [here](#)

Wednesday

Art Exhibition Visit 1st May

Leonardo Da Vinci 'A Life in Drawing'

Venue: Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, Burdon Road, Sunderland, SR1 1PP

15.00 to approx. 16.30

A visit has been arranged on Wednesday 1st May at 3.0pm to the exhibition, 'A Life in Drawing', at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens. This will be a guided visit with a short talk, a film then a viewing of the drawings. There are a limited number of places and booking is via the Explore office. A deposit of the entrance fee of £2.50 is required.

Practical Art & Craft Studio: 8th May to 26th 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. We also draw on the skills amongst members. We will be continuing work on the theme of 'The Seashore' and exploring and experimenting with different media (paints, pastels and ink)

Margaret Adams will coordinate and lead this group.

No need to book a place, just turn up.

More practical art [here](#) and [here](#)

Wednesday



Classics Course: *5th June to 3rd July*

Classical Beasts and Where to Find Them

Tutor: Alan Beale

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

14.00 to 15.30

From hybrid monsters of myth to familiar domestic animals, the beasts of antiquity appear in many different guises and in many different contexts, from literary texts to provincial sculpture.

This course aims to explore some of the rich variety of sources where we can find classical beasts.

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Celebrations'

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

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
02 May	Emma Watson	Hidden in Plain Sight: Revealing the forgotten monuments of Northern England
09 May	NO SESSION—AGM	
16 May	John Sadler	'Cry God for Harry' - Bows and the Bard, Agincourt 1415
23 May	Gordon Reavley	The Only Way is Essex: Anarchy by the Sea
30 May	Marie Addyman	Early Modern Medicine II
06 Jun	Malcolm Grady	'The Corner Kick' - Celebrating the North East artist Thomas Marie Madawaska Hemy
13 Jun	TBC	PhD to Public
20 Jun	John Griffiths	The N.E. Coast Exhibition
27 Jun	Chloe Duckworth	A Brief History of Glass
04 Jul	Marie Addyman	Early Modern Medicine III

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Celebrations'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
02 May	John Sadler	No Prince but a Percy: Hotspur and Hal
09 May	No Session—AGM	
16 May	Jack Hepworth	Celebrating Centenaries? Commemorations in British and Irish History since 2014
23 May	Ian Fitzgerald	Polish Immigrant Workers
30 May	Ron Beadle	Virtuous Circles: What Everyone Can Learn from the Circus
06 Jun	Mike Leddra	The Byker Pantry: It's Not a Food Bank!
13 Jun	Anthea Lang	Celebrating Cotesworth: A Georgian Entrepreneur
20 Jun	Kate E. Sharpe	Ancient Identities Today: Iron Age and Roman Heritage in Modern Britain
27 Jun	John Griffiths	The Great British Breakfast
04 Jul	Malcolm Grady	TBC

Thursday



Joseph Cowen Lifelong Learning Centre A Charitable Incorporated Organisation

AGM

Date: Thursday 9th May 2019 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

One-Off Culture & Society Session: 2nd May

Namedropper: An Unorthodox Biography from Five Decades in the Music Business

Tutor: Chris Phipps

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

14.00 to 15.30

Chris Phipps, a writer who has worked with so many stars and celebrities that he has become well renowned himself, will be speaking about his new autobiography '*Namedropper*' and discussing his experience working in the entertainment business through the 20th Century and into the 21st.

This new autobiography gives extensive coverage to pioneering music on radio and television in the 1970S, music icon encounters and controversial broadcasting such as "The Tube" and a wealth of unpublished photos.

Thursday

Literature Course: 9th May to 27th Jun (No session 20th May)

Literature Course: Folk Tales from around the World

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 29th April 2019.

Bookings will be taken from **Monday 1st April 2019**.

If you book on the Explore Programme after 29th April 2019 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: 9th May to 27th Jun (No session 20th May)

Folk tales continued

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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



14.00 to 15.30

This course will examine the connections between folk tales from different continents. We will read some unfamiliar tales, and will look at others that are common to various cultures.

We will use the website <https://www.worldoftales.com/> as a resource. All the tales listed below are available here.

Follow the links to find the stories for each week. **This course operates on a booking system—please see details on previous page.**

Date Title

09 May	'Cinderella' (Grimm and Lang versions), ' Cap o'Rushes ' (England) and ' The Golden Slipper ' (Ukrainian)
16 May	' Ouyan the Curlew ', ' Goonur the woman doctor ', ' Deereeree the wagtail, and the rainbow ', ' Wayambeh the turtle ' (Australia)
23 May	' The Cobbler Astrologer ' and ' The Perfidious Vizier ' (Arabic)
30 May	HALF TERM WEEK
06 Jun	' The Moon Maiden ' (Japan) and ' The Lady of the Moon (China)/ ' The Star Lovers ' (Japan) and ' Herd Boy and Weaving Maiden ' (China)
13 Jun	' Snow White ' (Grimm) and ' Gold Tree and Silver Tree ' (Celtic); ' East of the Sun and West of the Moon ' (Norwegian)
20 Jun	' The Celestial Sisters ' (Native American), ' The Origin of the Narwhal ' (Inuit), ' The Boy of the Red Twilight Sky ' (Canada First Nations)
27 Jun	' Hare and Lion ' (Tanzania), ' How the Jackal got his stripes ' (South Africa), ' The Woman with Two Skins ' (Nigeria)

More info next page!

Thursday

Literature Course: 9th May to 27th Jun (No session 20th May)

Folk tales continued

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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



In addition, if you want to read more:

- From the home page you can click on the country/region flags to find complete lists of any story collection.
- Click on any collection title link or on the individual book cover to see a list of stories from the book.

Feel free to bring your findings along to any session!

History Course: 9th & 23rd May, 6th & 20th June, 4th July

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

History Course: 16th to 30th May

The Transition to Industrial Society

Tutor: Prof. Tim Barmby

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

14.00 to 15.30



This short series of three lectures will seek to examine the social and economic changes which set the conditions for the transition to modern industrial society, it will attempt to develop a framework within which history can be used to think about the present.

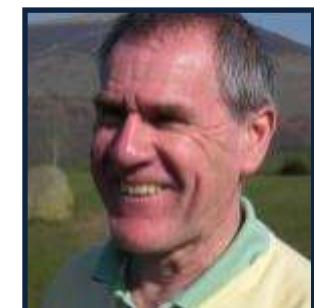
History Session: 4th July

The Port of Alnmouth

Tutor: Tony Barrow

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

14.00 to 15.30



Alnmouth is one of the oldest and most picturesque ports on the Northumberland coast, with evidence of settlement from prehistoric times. Its landscape still displays its medieval origins and its buildings reflect the commercial prosperity of its heyday as an 18th C grain port. This presentation offers an overview of Alnmouth and provides a context for a field walk around this fascinating old town.

(This classroom session will be followed by a walk around Alnmouth on the following Saturday, but will be of interest to all whether planning to join the walk or not.)

Friday

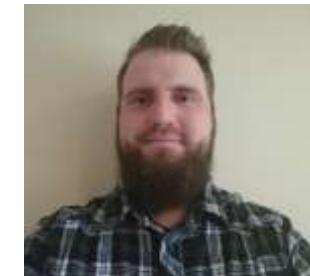
Culture & Society Course: 3rd to 31st May

**Reason and Revelation in the Century of Revolution:
themes in seventeenth-century philosophy of religion**

Tutor: Thomas Rossetter

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

11.30 - 13.00



What is the relationship between reason and faith? What role does God play in the natural world? Is God free or constrained in certain ways? These were some of the central questions that preoccupied philosophers of the seventeenth century. The purpose of this course is to explore these questions and the debates and controversies to which they gave rise, and to situate them in the context of the period. 17^c thinking was largely shaped by the Protestant Reformation, the religiously-motivated political revolutions that followed, and the newer Scientific Revolution; all these played important roles in shaping philosophers' views on the nature of God and on the relationship between God and humans. We shall discuss these ideas and debates with reference not only to such canonical names as Descartes and Locke but to thinkers prominent in their day but since marginalised, such as the Cambridge Platonists and Latitudinarians and to female philosophers such as Anne Conway, Margaret Cavendish, and Damaris Cudworth.

03 May: The relationship between reason and faith

10 May: Arguments for the existence of God

17 May: God's capacities: voluntarism and necessitarianism

24 May: Miracles and the laws of nature

31 May: Deism, materialism, and other controversial views

Friday

Culture & Society Course: *7th June to 5th July*

Celebrating the North East in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

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

10.30 to 12.00



Date	Title
07 Jun	Celebrating Taste—an exploration of the architectural features of Newcastle through a lens
14 Jun	Celebrating Achievement—an insight into individuals who made a difference in the North East
21 Jun	Celebrating Art & Culture—discovering our rich cultural environment in the 19th/20th Century
28 Jun	Celebrating Progress—examining the role of industrial entrepreneurs in the North East in the C.19th/20th
05 Jul	Celebrating Us—How we got here! An attempt at the analysis of survival in the 19th/20th Century

Saturday

PLEASE NOTE: THIS WALK IS NOT PART OF OUR EXPLORE EXTRA OFFER

One-Off History Session

WALK The Lost Rivers of Newcastle

Tutor : Derek Teasdale

Saturday 18th May 10.30-13.00

Meet next to the City Wall at the North end of Sowell St. (beside Chinese Arch)



Join a gentle walk down through the oldest parts of Newcastle city to explore the medieval town plan, and how it helps us uncover the hidden rivers that criss-cross the city. The geology underlying the city, and its streams, had an influence on the development of its Medieval street plan, which can still be traced. We will make a meandering progress towards the river Tyne, by following the back streets and lanes of the Medieval city.

Please confirm your attendance by emailing thisisexplore@gmail.com to ensure no-one gets left behind!

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.

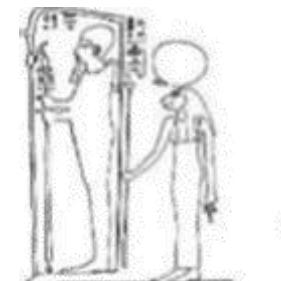
North East Ancient Egypt Society

The Two Brothers

Tutor : Roger Forshaw

Saturday 25th May 14.00-16.00

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



How science and archaeology has helped to shed light on a question that has puzzled Egyptologists for over a hundred years.

Free to Explore and NEAES members

Non Members and Visitors £5.00

Concession £3.00

Saturday

PLEASE NOTE: THIS WALK IS NOT PART OF OUR EXPLORE EXTRA OFFER

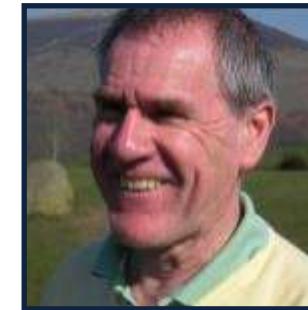
One-Off History Walk

WALK The Port of Alnmouth

Tutor : Tony Barrow

Saturday 6th July 14.00 to 15.30

Venue : Meet in the car park at the north end of the beach by 14.00.



Alnmouth is one of the oldest and most picturesque ports on the Northumberland coast, with evidence of settlement from prehistoric times. Its landscape still displays its medieval origins and its buildings reflect the commercial prosperity of its heyday as an 18th C grain port.

This will trace the ground discussed in the session on [Thursday 4th July](#), but can be enjoyed by anyone.

Please confirm your attendance by email thisisexplore@gmail.com to ensure no-one gets left behind!

Meet in the car park at the north end of the beach by 2 pm

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 Three



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](#) 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

History Session

The May 4th Movement

Tutor : John Griffiths

Saturday 4th May 10.30-13.00

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



The May Fourth movement was a political and cultural national rejuvenation movement in early twentieth century China, symbolised by the anti-imperialist demonstrations in Beijing on 4 May 1919. The movement shaped the development of modern China, and its ramifications can be traced in a series of events centred on Tiananmen Square between 1919 and 1989.

Practical Art Session

Printing on Fabric

Tutor : Margaret Adams

Saturday 11th May 10.30-13.30

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



Margaret will continue the fabric printmaking. This time we will be using either Japanese plywood or soft cut lino plates. We will work toward making reduction prints which involves cutting away sections to make changes of colour. We will be using a selection of fabrics to print onto.

There may be a small charge for materials—Explore members.

Saturday

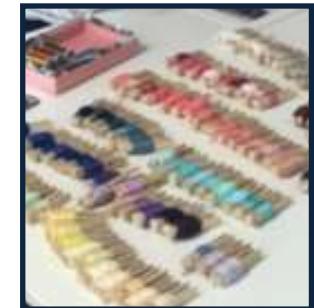
Practical Art Session

A Celebration of Fireworks

Tutor : Melanie Kyles

Saturday 25th May 10.30 to 13.30

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



From bamboo firecrackers believed to ward off evil spirits, to military celebrations, Guy Fawkes and American Independence Day, fireworks have a long and sparkling history spanning over more than 2000 years. Learn how to create your own 3D-embellished firework using beading techniques that play with light and movement, whilst learning the rich history of fireworks.

Explore members - the material charge will be £2 for the embroidery, plus £3 if they'd also like to keep the wooden embroidery hoop.

History Session

Ostia: The Port of Rome

Tutor : Rachel Lister

Saturday 1st June 10.30-13.00

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



Ostia is situated on the west coast of Italy and served for many years as the port of Imperial Rome. Today it is known as 'Ostia Antica' and it remains a fascinating archaeological site. In this session we will trace the history of Ostia and examine how its shifting relationship with the city of Rome shaped its identity. We will draw on evidence from ancient writers such as Pliny the Elder and Suetonius to consider how Ostia played a vital role in honing the public image of two Roman emperors, Claudius and Trajan. We will analyse the remains of houses, public baths and firefighters' barracks, to gain insight into the daily lives of citizens. The session will also offer the chance to examine archaeological evidence of religious experience in Ostia, in particular the cult of Mithras.

Saturday

History Session

Not Quite Vanity Fair: Waterloo and the 100 Days

Tutor : [John Sadler](#)

Saturday 8th June 10.30-13.00

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



In the spring of 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte, the man who wished to [and largely did] rule all of Europe had been caged on the island of Elba for under a year. He broke free and landed in the south of France with a thousand men. Against him now were the armies and generals who had previously fought for him – Ney promised Louis XVIII he'd bring 'the Ogre' back in a cage. He didn't: Ney could not resist the charisma, nor could anyone else, and so began the 100 days, one of the most dramatic episodes in European history which culminated in June with a series of great battles in Belgium: Ligny, Quatre Bras, Wavre & Waterloo, the day on which a century of rivalry between France and England was ended. Britannia already ruled the waves thanks to Nelson and from that day on for another century she'd almost rule the world. This didn't come cheap, the cost was very high and Waterloo was indeed 'a damned close run thing, the closest run thing you ever saw'.

Film Session

Orson Welles' Citizen Kane

Tutor : [Peter Quinn](#)

Saturday 22nd June 10.30-13.30

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

Orson Welles, Citizen Kane(1941) - Given extraordinary freedom by Hollywood studio RKO for his debut film, boy wonder Welles created a modernist masterpiece that is regularly voted the best ever made.



film

"Nothing can detract from the film's vivid Balzacian rendering of a dynamic society, its high-powered American virtuosity: the effect of Citizen Kane on the art of film has been incalculable."

(Charles Higham and Joel Greenberg, Hollywood in the Forties, 1968)' [BFI website](#).

Saturday

Perspectives Session

From Quarks to Quasars

Tutor : Fred Stevenson

Saturday 29th June 10.30-13.00

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



On this Saturday morning we hope to explore our current understanding of the so-called 'early universe'. In the big-bang theory the universe has a finite age and hence a beginning. We will firstly review the big-bang theory and the evidence that supports it and then go on to consider the question of how close to the beginning can we go until conditions within the universe at that time become too extreme and Physics 'as we know it' breaks down. If time allows we may also consider more speculative ideas such as - was there a before the big-bang, was there more than one big-bang and other so-called multi-verse scenarios. Quite a lot to cover in a morning but we will do our best!

THE END

Season One 2019-20 will start on Monday 30th September 2019.