



Season Four Programme Details

Don't worry about getting bored over the Summer Break, here's our Member-led Summer Season Four details, organised by

Friends of Explore!

Please contact the relevant email linked to each session to help plan for numbers and to provide additional information about the session as required.



South Shields Circular Walk – Led by Elsie Denham

Thursday 11th July 2019 – Meet 11.00am at South Shields Ferry Landing

We'll meet at the South Shields Ferry Landing, opposite the Word for a walk lasting approximately four miles with dropping out points on route. The walk is on good paths or pavements, with some short flights of stairs up and down. We will walk along the river and seashore, take the art trail, some historical sites and good views along the river and out to sea. We will then return via South Marine park. There is free all-day parking, coffee and toilets available at the Customs House, or there is free but time limited parking at the Word.

Please contact Elsie Denham regarding this session – elsie.denham@gmail.com



Bamburgh Castle & Visit to 'Bole Hole' Archaeology Dig with Graem Young – Led by Kath Smith

Tuesday 23rd July 2019 – Meet 13.00 at Bamburgh Castle Carpark

Graeme Young spoke at Explore earlier this year and we have the opportunity to visit him working at the Bole/Bowl Hole excavation site at the medieval cemetery by Bamburgh Castle. The site is thought to be a royal burial ground and the research being done there is unearthing fascinating insights into how inhabitants of the area lived and died, where they came from and where they went next! Provided it is arranged as a group, there is some flexibility about meeting arrangements for the visit so please make sure to contact Kath to confirm plans. There will be a be charge to enter the Castle Grounds however we may be able to negotiate a reduced rate depending on numbers. (The entrance fee for the castle is £11.25. However, if the group is about 15 then the price is reduced to £9 per person. There is also a small charge for the carpark.) The visit would include a talk and a tour of the dig by Graeme Young assisted by Lauren who is the outreach person for the project. If some people would like to visit the Finds Department then small numbers would be able to do so, perhaps 5-6 at a time, should you want a little hands-on experience. Please contact Kath asap so that she can advice the site of estimated numbers. If you have any transport difficulties she will try to co-ordinate car shares where ever possible.

Please contact Kath Smith regarding this session – kath_smith@msn.com



**Reading Group – 'The Book of Memory' (Fiction) – Led by Maria Goulding
24th & 31st July 2019 – 14.00-15.30 at Commercial Union House**

The texts covered in the Reading Groups sessions cover novellas, short stories and non-fiction discursive writing. Members read ahead and in the session we will read aloud and discuss. These two sessions focus on 'The Book of Memory' by Petina Gappah

Please contact **Maria Goulding** regarding this session – mgoulding@hotmail.co.uk



**Art Documentary Discussions – Led by John Bundock
Monday 29th July, 5th & 19th August 2019
10.45 (see times below) at Commercial Union House**

John Bundock will lead these open discussion groups based on various art documentaries. More details will be circulated directly so please contact John for full details about each documentary and look out for details circulated to members. The documentaries being discussed in each session are detailed below:

29th July (10.45-12.15) - Constable: A Country Rebel

5th August (10.45-12.30) - 'The Arundel Altarpiece' and Sandro Botticelli's 'Mystic Nativity'

19th August (10.45-13.15) - Gauguin: The Full Story

Please contact **John Bundock** regarding this session – anneandjohn.bundock@gmail.com



**Reading Group – 'A Month in the Country' (Fiction) – Led by Maria Goulding
7th August 2019 – 14.00-15.30 at Commercial Union House**

The texts covered in the Reading Groups sessions cover novellas, short stories and non-fiction discursive writing. Members read ahead and in the session we will read aloud and discuss. This session focusses on 'A Month in the Country' by J.L. Carr

Please contact **Maria Goulding** regarding this session – mgoulding@hotmail.co.uk



**What on earth is happening in higher education?– Led by Simon Pallett
8th August 2019 – 11.00-12.30 at Commercial Union House**

I retire on 31 July after over 30 years work in higher education, and will draw on my experience as a senior manager of learning and teaching at Newcastle University to lead a discussion on "What on earth is happening in higher education?" Recent years have seen massive changes in higher education, especially in its scale, how it is financed, its regulation and its relationship with government. It is also constantly in the news, although rarely for positive reasons. Some of the changes will be well known to Explore members, but there are deeper undercurrents at work, which this session will explore. I appreciate that for most Explore members any experiences of higher education will be in the fairly distant past, but this does affect our grandchildren and also has an impact on the country as a whole.

Please contact **Simon Pallett** regarding this session – simonpallett@waitrose.com



**Visit to Dilston Castle and Chapel, Guided by John Nicholls – Led by Jan Widmer
14th August 2019 – Meet 12.45 (for 13.00 start)**

This session is already near capacity for bookings however please still email Jan if you would be interested as there's a possibility of arranging a second group or reserve list.

This is an opportunity to visit a site only open to groups by prearrangement. Dilston Hall, now demolished, was the home of the ill-fated 3rd Earl of Derwentwater who was executed for his part in the 1715 Jacobite uprising. The original castle and chapel, overlooking Devil's Water south of Corbridge, still remain and have been recently restored, the chapel having been returned to its Eighteenth Century glory. John Nicholls, President of the Northumbrian Jacobite Society, which supports and holds the tenancy of the site, will give us a guided tour of the castle and chapel. There are also displays of artefacts discovered during excavation work and original exhibits dating from the 1715 Rising. The cost will be £7, which includes refreshments, and there is parking on site. Our group is limited to just 12 members so book early to avoid disappointment!

IMPORTANT The Castle and Chapel site is within the boundaries of Cambian Dilston College, a residential college for young adults with learning difficulties. For this reason, it is not possible just to turn up on the day, so anyone interested please contact Jan Widmer.

Please contact **Jan Widmer** regarding this session - janwidmer11@gmail.com



**Reading Group – 'The Girls of Slender Means' (Fiction) – Led by Maria Goulding
21st August 2019 – 14.00-15.30 at Commercial Union House**

The texts covered in the Reading Groups sessions cover novellas, short stories and non-fiction discursive writing. Members read ahead and in the session we will read aloud and discuss. This session focusses on 'The Girls of Slender Means' by Murial Spark

Please contact **Maria Goulding** regarding this session – mgoulding@hotmail.co.uk



**Reading Group – 'The Stopping Places' (Non-Fiction) – Led by Maria Goulding
28th August 2019 – 14.00-15.30 at Commercial Union House**

The texts covered in the Reading Groups sessions cover novellas, short stories and non-fiction discursive writing. Members read ahead and in the session we will read aloud and discuss.

This session focusses on 'The Stopping Places' by Damian le Bas, a highly regarded non-fiction account of travelling communities, particularly le Bas's grandmother.

Please contact **Maria Goulding** regarding this session – mgoulding@hotmail.co.uk



**Buddhist Art (Curator Talk & Gallery) Oriental Museum – Led by Helen Watson
29th August 2019 – Meet at 11.00**

Helen has organised a visit to Durham University Oriental Museum and a talk by curator Rachel Barclay (who gave spoke at Explore in Season 3) Rachel will spend about 45 mins showing us the exhibits in the museum relating to Buddhist Art and be available thereafter for any questions. After the guided visit members can view the rest of the museum. The museum entry fee is £1.50 for adults and 75p for over 60s. The University Botanical Garden is close by or lunch in Durham could be an option. Car sharing may be possible but there is also good public transport available from Newcastle.

Please contact Helen Watson regarding this session - hmswatson2@gmail.com



**Warkworth Walk – Explore Walkers, Led by David Staples
Sunday 1st September 2019 – Meet 11.00am at Old Bridge**

We'll meet at the Old Bridge so please arrive in time to start off at 11.00. As with the term-time walks coordinated by Harry Rose, you do not need to book a place and anyone is welcome to turn up on the day. If you do have any questions or queries you can contact Harry or David (who is leading this walk) via his email later in this programme.

Please contact Harry Rose (or David) regarding this session – harry.rose@talktalk.net



Exploring Art Discussion Group – Led by Jack Massey
Monday 2nd September 2019
10.45-12.45 at Commercial Union House

This session will be facilitated by Jack Massey (the slot was previously programmed as a final documentary session with John Bundock) The session will involve the exploration and discussion of works of art by the group in an informal setting.

The success of these ever-popular sessions will depend on Members providing images of art works for discussion. Consequently, during the weeks running up to the session, members are asked to think about (one or more) works of art that they feel would provide a good basis of discussion and to send a digital copy to Jack at the address below, who will then organise the session based on what is provided.

Please contact Jack Massey regarding this session – jackmassey87@gmail.com



Guided Tour of Berwick and JMW Turner Exhibition – Led by David Staples
3rd September 2019 – Meet 11.00 at Berwick upon Tweed Railway Station

The visit will start with a guided tour round the wall and town of Berwick led by a local historian. This will last around 2 hours. Lunch will be available at a range of cafes and restaurants in Berwick town centre. Following lunch, visitors will be able to visit the Turner exhibition at the Granary, which is situated alongside the town wall. The exhibition is free.

For those who might be interested, an alternative visit can be made to the Barracks which includes the Kings' Own Scottish Borderers Museum, and/or the Berwick section of the Burrell Collection of art (normal admission charges apply, which are reasonably low). Those requiring more information might wish to look at berwickfriends.org.uk.

There is more to Berwick than can be appreciated in a single day visit, and participants may be inspired to return, following this visit. There is a large free car park in the town centre alongside the wall, and rail prices are inexpensive if purchased in advance.

Please contact David Staples regarding this session – david-staples@sky.com



Reading Group – 'The Dead' & Beyond (Short Stories) – Led by Maria Goulding
Date 4th, 11th & 18th September 2019 – 14.00-15.30 at Commercial Union House

The texts covered in the Reading Groups sessions cover novellas, short stories and non-fiction discursive writing. Members read ahead and in the session we will read aloud and discuss. The first session will start with 'The Dead' from James Joyce's *The Dubliners* then the group will decide which stories to look at next from various available collections.

Please contact **Maria Goulding** regarding this session – mgoulding@hotmail.co.uk



The Future of Work– Led by Simon Pallett
5th September 2019 – 11.00-12.30 at Commercial Union House

Despite the irony of the fact that I retire at the end of July and that this session is largely for a retired audience, I am going to lead a discussion on the future of work. We hear a great deal about the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the rise of artificial intelligence and the replacement of human labour by machines. Of course technological change has been having an impact on employment for many centuries, without reducing the aggregate amount of labour needed.

The key question is whether it is going to be different this time and whether there will in future be a shortage of work and a consequent change to how we live and how we earn our keep. How will the world of work be for our children and grandchildren? Although I have emphasised technological change in this blurb, there are other important changes in the nature of work which the session will also explore.

Please contact **Simon Pallett** regarding this session – simonpallett@waitrose.com



Concrete Dreams: Brutalism and the North East with John Grundy
16th September 2019 – 14.00-15.00 at Commercial Union House

This isn't strictly an Explore event, it is part of the Heritage Open Day event organised by the building managers (with support from Explore programmer Chris Burrige) and we thought many of you would be particularly interested. Explore patron John Grundy is giving a talk about Brutalist architecture and visitors will be in the building to see what wonderful things happen in this fantastic building. It would be great to have some Explore members in the audience to enjoy and support the event. The event is free but must be booked on [Eventbrite - Heritage Open Day: Concrete Dreams](#)



Please contact the session leaders for queries regarding individual sessions, however you can also contact Jo Campion (Friends of Explore Co-ordinator) with any other queries regarding the Season Four programme – jocampion49@gmail.com