



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 detailed for each session to help estimate numbers, ensure you're up to date with plans and to provide/receive information about the session.



Indian Miniatures and Exhibitions at the Hatton– Led by Helen Watson

Monday 16th July 2018 – Meet at 11.30 at the Hatton Gallery Entrance (new entrance, by Northern Stage)

Helen Watson has arranged a visit to view the Indian Miniature Paintings collection at the Hatton Gallery. (The group will meet at 11.30 for an arranged viewing from 11.45.) This will also be a good opportunity to visit the venue's new exhibitions including 'Louisa Hodgson: A New Perspective', 'The Making of an Englishman: Fred Uhlman, a Retrospective' and 'Machines and Myths: Sculptures and Drawings by Michael Lyons'

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



Reading Group – Graham Swift's *Mothering Sunday* – Led by Maria Goulding

Wednesday 18th July 2018 – 14.00-15.30, 4th Floor Commercial Union House

The texts covered in the Reading Group 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 Graham Swift's novella *Mothering Sunday*.

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



Philosophy in Literature/NPS with Lucille Valentine – Coordinated by Joy Rutter

Thursday 19th July 2018 – 18.00-19.30, 4th Floor Commercial Union House

Lucille Valentine will continue leading the NPS Philosophy in Literature sessions, starting with one of Anton Chekov's short stories '*On Official Duty*' written in 1899. If you don't have access to a hard copy there are several online versions, for example [HERE](#)

Please check dates & details directly for future sessions as those published are only provisional at the time of publication.

Please contact **Joy Rutter** regarding this session – thisisexplore@gmail.com



Art in the Great Exhibition of the North with Peter Quinn & The Bewick Society – Led by Peter Quinn

Saturday 21st July 2018 – Meet at 14.00 at Great North Museum: Hancock Main Entrance

Peter Quinn has invited Explore members to join his Bewick Society tour of the 'Which Way North' exhibition at the Hancock, as part of the Great Exhibition of the North. The exhibition draws together art and objects that reflect a history of the North's pioneering spirit and is inspired by 'The Blazing World', a pioneering piece of Science Fiction published in 1668 by Margaret Cavendish, Duchess of Newcastle. The walk will last approximately 2 hours.

Please contact **Peter Quinn** regarding this session – peterjquinn@blueyonder.co.uk



The Scottish Soldiers in Durham Exhibition – Led by Rosemary Zakrzewski

Wednesday 25th July 2018 – Meeting arrangements TBC/Various depending on individual transport options.

Earlier this year we had a Thursday lecture on the Scottish soldiers who were taken prisoner at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650, and who were marched to prison in Durham Castle and Cathedral. The remains of some of them were discovered under part of Palace Green Library in 2013. An exhibition called 'Bodies of Evidence' recently opened in Palace Green Library, illustrating their story and how the archaeologists worked out the meaning of what it was they excavated in 2013.

Rosemary is inviting Explorers to come to Durham and visit the exhibition. We can also take in the other archaeological exhibition in Palace Green and/or visit the Open Treasure museum in the Cathedral cloister, which is now complete – with a new presentation of the relics of St Cuthbert, and where there is at present a temporary exhibition called Miners: Pitmen, Pride and Prayer. We could also visit Crook Hall, a manor with parts dating back to the 14th century, but with 17th and 18th century extensions, and which has a lovely garden.

Rosemary suggests Explorers come by train to Durham arriving at 10.14 (the train leaves Newcastle Central at 10.02), and she will meet you at the station. We can walk to the city centre or go there by bus. We can arrange a meeting time and place for those coming by car. After the Palace Green exhibition, we can have coffee right above where the Scottish soldiers were found, then people can choose whether to go to the Cathedral museum or spend an hour or so pottering around or visiting other exhibitions. After that we will walk to Crook Hall, have lunch in one of its cafes and visit the beautiful house and garden before returning to the station by about 3.30 – 3.45 pm (trains run at 15.46 and 16.01).

If you would prefer to omit some of the day's activities, just let Rosemary know and she can rearrange things accordingly.

There are some expenses:

Train: £6.90 return (£5.30 return with a railcard)

Bodies of Evidence: £7.50 (£6.50 for those over 60 or for each person if there are 10 of us)

Open Treasure: £7.50

Crook Hall: £8.00 (£7.50 for those over 60)

Please contact **Rosemary Zakrzewski** regarding this session – rosalizak@gmail.com



South Shields Circular Walk – Led by Elsie Denham

Sunday 29th July 2018 – Meet at 11.00 at the South Shields Ferry Landing

Approximately 4 miles, with dropping out and coffee stops available en route.

Start at 11 am from the South Shields ferry landing (opposite The Word). Free all-day car parking (and coffee, toilets) available at The Customs House (parking at The Word is free but time limited). The walk is on good footpaths or pavements, with some short flights of steps up and down. We'll walk along the river and seashore, taking in the art trail, some historical sites and good views along the river and out to sea, returning via historic South Marine Park. Just turn up or contact Elsie for queries.

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



National Art Education Archive & Yorkshire Sculpture Park Trip – Led by Maria Goulding

Tuesday 31st July 2018 – Meeting times to be confirmed directly

Following the Season Three session on the National Art Education Archive Maria has arranged a visit to the NAEA at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. The Education Officer, Tony Chisholm, will be pleased to give a talk and introduction to the collections in the National Arts Education Archive plus an introduction to the "Art, Games & Play" exhibition. We can travel by minibus - in the past the cost has been £15 per person. **Please email Maria asap** to reserve a place and to confirm travel & meeting arrangements.

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



Reading Group – Colm Toibin *The Testament of Mary* – Led by Maria Goulding

Wednesday 1st August 2018 – 14.00-15.30 at Commercial Union House

The texts covered in the Reading Group 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 Colm Toibin's novella *The Testament of Mary*.

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



Art Documentary Discussions – Led by John Bundock

Monday 6th August 2018 – 11.00-12.30 at Commercial Union House

John Bundock has suggested an open discussion group based on various art documentaries available for members to view on the BBC. This first session will look at Peirro Della Francesca.

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



West Newcastle Picture History Library Visit & Film – Led by Sue Ward

Monday 6th August 2018 – 10.30 at West End Library, Condercum Road, Benwell

The session will start with a showing of a new film *Riverside Voices: War and Peace on the Tyne*. Commissioned by St James' Heritage & Environment Group, funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and directed by local film-maker Adrin Neatrour, this film mixes new film material and interviews with archive film and photography to tell the story of the industry that once dominated this area.

There will then be an opportunity to explore the West Newcastle Picture History Collection, one of Newcastle's lesser known collections of photographs and documents. West Newcastle Picture History Collection holds a treasure trove of over 19,000 photographs of West Newcastle from the 1880s to the present day. A short talk will be followed by time to browse the collection.

Getting there: The library is at the bottom of Condercum Road and the postcode is NE4 9JH.

Buses 30, 31, 32 pass the door. By car; there is a car park at the library but it is often full. Instead, you can park at the Lidl supermarket opposite (if you park in the end nearest the junction with Condercum Road you will not need to walk far)

The session is free, but donations towards the two groups' next joint book, a history of Scotswood in maps and photos, will be welcome.

Please contact **Sue Ward** regarding this session – sue.ward@phonecoop.coop



Reading Group – Short Stories – Led by Maria Goulding

Wednesdays 8th, 22nd & 29th August and 5th September 2018 – 14.00-15.30

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

These 'Short Story' sessions focus on pieces from the following collections:

- Lorrie Moore *The Collected Stories* (used in Rachel Lister's class in Season 3)
- Grace Paley *The Collected Stories* (used in Rachel Lister's class in Season 3)
- The Penguin Book of the British Short Story: from P.G.Wodehouse to Zadie Smith (used in the summer Season 4 last year)

These meetings are expected to take place in the White Room on the 4th Floor of Commercial Union House, however the session on the 5th September will possibly be on the 3rd Floor/B&D Studios. Please contact **Maria Goulding** regarding this session – mgoulding@hotmail.co.uk



Aesop Fables Reading Session with Peter Quinn & The Bewick Society

Monday 13th August 2018 – 11.00-13.00 at Commercial Union House

Peter Quinn has suggested a combined Explore/Bewick Society reading session with Aesop Fables as part of a celebration of the book illustrated by Thomas Bewick.

Please contact **Peter Quinn** regarding this session – peterjquinn@blueyonder.co.uk



Memoryscapes Workshop with Kay Rogage – Coordinated by Chris Burrridge

Thursday 16th August 2018 – 11.00-14.00, Commercial Union House

This workshop is organised by the Memoryscapes Team at Northumbria University, who have invited the whole of Commercial Union House to take part.

The aim of the workshop is to develop ideas and themes relating to content, narratives, places and audiences that can be aligned to produce heritage-led immersive experiences so the team can begin to understand what will work, what won't, and in what ways.

This workshop revolves around group challenges that draw on the **collective expertise of participants** to sketch out connections between heritage, place and experiences. Tyne and Wear Museums (TWAM) are lending us some of their 'Boxes of Delight' so you can get your hands on, and be inspired by real artefacts as we explore how to build immersive memoryscapes. This will be a mixed group from CUH and the team are keen to welcome Explore members' experience of place/culture/heritage and local history along with your insights and ideas.

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Please register your place directly with [Eventbrite](#) (links direct to event details) This is important as the workshop is being run by Memoryscapes Team so any additional details will be coming directly from them. If you have any other questions you can contact **Chris Burridge** regarding this session – 15sciprog@gmail.com



Philosophy in Literature/NPS with Lucille Valentine – Coordinated by Joy Rutter

Thursday 16th August 2018 – 18.00-19.30, 4th Floor Commercial Union House

Lucille Valentine will continue leading the NPS Philosophy in Literature sessions and the chosen texts will be confirmed by Lucille and Joy directly.

Please contact **Joy Rutter** regarding this session – thisisexplore@gmail.com



**Pitmen Painters: Resurfacing– Artist Talk and Exhibition Tour with Narbi Price
Woodhorn Museum, Ashington – Led by Helen Watson**

19th August 2018 – Meet at 13.30 outside The Cutter Building (inside Woodhorn Museum site)

Following last years' tour of Woodhorn's permanent collection at Woodhorn, Narbi Price is conducting an artist talk and tour of the 'Pitmen Painters: Resurfacing' exhibitions. The event covers two related exhibitions; 'Pitmen Unseen' which brings together original, unseen Ashington Group paintings from private collections and 'Narbi Price: The Ashington Paintings' a new exhibition of the artist's work made in response to the Ashington Groups methods.

The talk/tour is a free, public event however Woodhorn Museum does now charge admission instead of parking. You can find details of their admission fees at www.experiencewoodhorn.com/admission. **Spaces are limited so please contact Helen asap** to book as she needs to register numbers with the museum.

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



Art Documentary Discussions – Led by John Bundock

Monday 20th August 2018 – 11.00-12.45 at Commercial Union House

John Bundock has suggested an open discussion group based on various art documentaries available for members to view on the BBC. This second session will look at Francisco Goya.

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



Penshaw Monument Walk – Led by Geoff Cullen

Sunday 26th August 2018 – Meet at 11.00 Meeting place TBC

Please contact **Harry Rose** regarding this session – harry.rose@talktalk.net



Cheeseburn Sculpture Gardens Visit – Led by Helen Watson

Monday 27th August 2018 – Meet at 11.30 at House Entrance (or as arranged)

Helen Watson is coordinating a visit to Cheeseburn Sculpture Gardens, to see the artworks installed in the grounds of this stunning venue. There is a small café so we can wander the grounds and have some lunch. Fingers crossed for good weather as the sunshine will make it a particularly pleasant trip. Car shares can be organised if required so please get in touch if this is a good option.

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



Art Documentary Discussions – Led by John Bundock

Tuesday 28th August 2018 – 11.00-13.00 at Commercial Union House

John Bundock has suggested an open discussion group based on various art documentaries available for members to view on the BBC. This third session will look at The Art of Cornwall.

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



Tanfield Railway Trip – Led by Kate Astley

Thursday 30th August 2018 - Meet at 11.00am in car park at Andrew's House

Tanfield Railway was built in 1725, a whole century before the Stockton Darlington railway, and as such is the World's oldest railway. Today the railway has been renovated by dedicated volunteers and we have booked a date for a journey on the vintage steam train and Victorian carriages for the six-mile round trip through the countryside and wooded valley. We can stop and alight at one of the stations on route and make use of the picnic area and either catch the next train back or cross Causey Arch (the World's oldest railway bridge) and take the Waggonway Walk to the next station and catch the next train from there. There will be an opportunity before the journey to take a close look at the steam engines being restored in the Marley Hill engine shed.

Friends and family welcome.

Prices are Senior Citizen £8 Adult £10 Child £6 Under 5s Free

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(...continued) If there is sufficient interest we can hire our own carriage for up to 24 people for £100, making a considerable saving. There are other possible deals depending on the level of interest. Please book with Kate Astley if you are interested and she will provide a leaflet with further details. There is a shop and a cafe but if the weather allows it would be nice to pack a picnic.

The railway is situated between Gateshead and Stanley. From Newcastle take the A692 west towards Consett to Sunniside. Then straight ahead at the first traffic lights and pass the pedestrian lights, and at the next lights turn left onto the A6076. Follow this road for 1 mile and the main entrance (at Andrew's House) is on the right. The sat nav setting is NE16 5ET.

We will meet in the car park at Andrew's House, at 11.00 am, leaving time to look at the engines before catching the 11.50 am train to East Tanfield.
For a map see www.tanfield-railway.co.uk

Please contact **Kate Astley** regarding this session – kate.astley@icloud.com



Reading Group – Non-Fiction Discursive Writing – Led by Maria Goulding

Wednesdays 12th & 26th September 2018 – 14.00-15.30 Commercial Union House

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

The texts for these 'Non-Fiction Discursive Writing' Sessions are yet to be decided but will be confirmed directly and will be available on-line (eg Selections from The Guardian's Long Reads or the Saturday Review)

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



Chopwell Woods Walk – Led by Jan Widmer

Sunday 30th September 2018 – Meet at 11.00 at Carpark

Please contact **Harry Rose** regarding this session – harry.rose@talktalk.net



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 –
jo.campion@blueyonder.co.uk