

EXPLORE



Season 2

2014-15 programme

Explore Season 2 Programme 2014-15

The Season 2 programme follows on the theme of 'A Different View'.

Congratulations to the programming team - Mike Leddra, Jack Massey, Rita Prabhu, Joy Rutter, Helen Watson and Angela Young — with direction from Bronwen Calvert & Colm O'Brien. We are also grateful to [Ampersand Inventions](#) and [B&D Studios](#) for our accommodation at Commercial Union House.

You need to join Explore in order to attend the sessions. Free taster sessions are available if you are new to the programme. Details of how to join Explore are available on our website: www.weareexplore.org.uk 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

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

'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 taster event

Saturday 10th January 2015

13.00 to 16.00

Bewick Hall, Newcastle City Library

FREE to all. No need to book.

Mini lectures from Explore tutors including

- Bea Groves
- Mike Leddra
- Colm O'Brien

Drop in and introduce your friends to Explore.



Week of		12th Jan	19th Jan	26th Jan	2nd Feb	9th Feb	16th Feb	23rd Feb	2nd Mar	9th Mar	16th Mar	Key	
Mon	morning	Morning art series on the theme of 'A Different View'											Art History
	morning	Ian Ground 'We need to talk about TED'							Marie Addyman 'The English Reformation'				
	lunch	Lunchtime art series on the theme of 'A Different View'											Philosophy
	afternoon		Peter Quinn 'Arts and Crafts ' (no session 16th Feb)										
	evening		John Sadler 'Aftermath; Legacies of the Great War in Britain and Europe 1919- 1945'										
Tues	morning	Latin at the Lit & Phil											History
	morning	Morning literature series on the theme of 'A Different View'											
	lunch	Lunchtime literature series on the theme of 'A Different View'											
	afternoon	John Griffiths 'The Road to Subtopia'						Mike Leddra 'Time Matters part 2'					
	evening	Mike Green 'Exploring Music - A Different View'											Latin
	evening				Bea Groves 'The Science the World Forgot'								
Wed	morning	Fred Stevenson 'Understanding the Stars'						Tony Barrow 'Controversies in History'					Literature
	morning	Michael Ayton 'Irish Short Fiction'						Maria Goulding & Peter Pool 'Investigating and problem solving in Mathematics'					
	lunch	'Perspectives' series on the theme of 'A Different View'											
	afternoon							Gavin Hardy 'An Introduction to Plant Biology part 2'					
	afternoon		Rachel Lister 'Stories of the Noughties' - study group (no session 18th Feb)										Science
	evening	The Wednesday lecture 'Life, the Universe and Everything'											
Thurs	morning	Morning history & archaeology series on the theme of 'A Different View'											Music
	lunch	Lunchtime history & archaeology series on the theme of 'A Different View'											
	afternoon	Bronwen Calvert 'Fiction by Virago : Key Writers' - study group (no session 19th Feb)											
	evening	Colm O'Brien & Max Adams - Bernician Studies Group/Miguel Angel Gomes 'Reading Old English : an introduction'											
Fri	morning	Max Adams 'Talking Pictures'								Pamela Woof		Richard Moore	Practical Art
	morning									Michael Bavidge 'Ageing : philosophical thoughts'			
	afternoon				Lizzie Rowe 'Drawn by Art'						Elayne Chaplin 'Hitchcock films'		
Sat	morning	Cecilia Holmes 'Practical Art'	North East Ancient Egypt Society	Myra Giesen 'Encountering Bodies'	John Sadler 'The Old Jihadis'	Malcolm Grady 'Victorian Taste'	Peter Quinn 'Book Illustration'	Michael Ayton 'Trouvères'		Narbi Price 'Practical Art'	John Griffiths 'Lost Towns of the British Isles'	Film	

Monday



Philosophy Course

We need to talk about TED

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

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

10.30 to 12.00

TED (Technology, Entertainment and Design) is a nonprofit organisation devoted to spreading ideas, usually in the form of short, accessible and powerful talks, not longer than 18 minutes. Topics range from business through science, medicine and technology to politics and philosophy. In this course, we will view a TED talk every week and then discuss and debate in the group. The tutor will provide guidance in the form of background and further connections but this is a course in which your responses to the TED talks matter most.

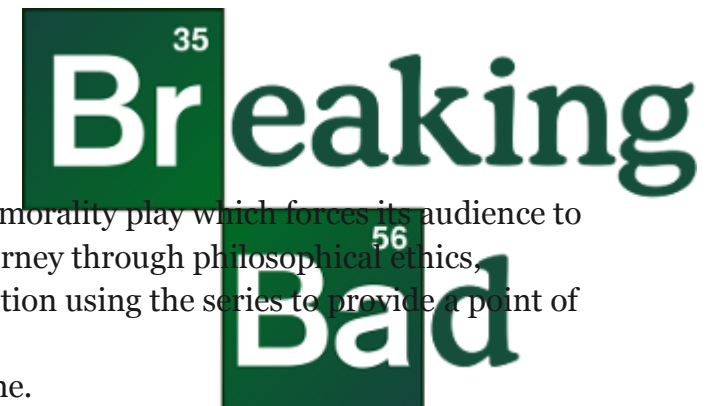
12 Jan	Why Privacy Matters	Glenn Greenwald
19 Jan	What we don't understand about Trust	Onora O'Neil
26 Jan	A roadmap to end ageing	Aubrey de Grey
02 Feb	Our shared human condition—Consciousness	John Searle
09 Feb	Is there a real you?	Julian Baggini
16 Feb	Are We Alone in the Universe?	Seth Shostak
23 Feb	Why does the Universe exist?	Ted Holt

Season 3 preview

Breaking Bad/Making Good dates the

Widely regarded as one of the best television series ever made, *Breaking Bad* is a modern morality play which forces its audience to confront fundamental questions in ethics and morality. This course will take you on a journey through philosophical ethics, exploring topics including ethical theory, authenticity, moral luck, vice, virtue and redemption using the series to provide a point of reference and a source of illumination for our discussions.

It will be important to have seen the series so we hope this advance notice will give you time.



Monday

History Course *from 2nd to 16th March*

The English Reformation

Tutor: Marie Addyman

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

10.30 to 12.30

The English Reformation was a seismic shock to the political and cultural life of English society in the sixteenth century. Over these three weeks we will aim to understand some of the key events and issues by breaking it down as follows:

- 02 Mar Henry VIII: the Political and Economic Reformation
- 09 Mar Edward VI: the Religious Reformation (and the Marian reaction)
- 16 Mar The Elizabethan Settlement

Reading list:

If you want to do some preliminary reading, look at A.G. Dickens' classic, *The English Reformation* (1964; various reprints).

For a modern overview of the whole European scene, see D. MacCulloch's long and detailed *Reformation: Europe's House Divided* (2003; Penguin, 2004).

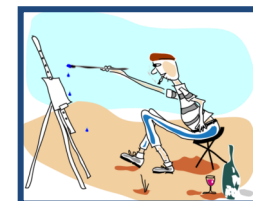
There is also a VSI by Peter Marshall, *The Reformation* (2009).

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'A Different View'

Open sessions

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



10.45 to 11.45

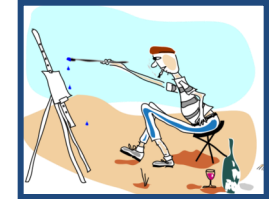
Date	Tutor	Title
12 Jan	Peter Quinn	Crossing the Street, Scottish Art and Modernism (Cursitter, Mc Cance, Cowie)
19 Jan	Mick Sharp	Interesting Typography from the Special Collection in the Robinson Library
26 Jan	Sarah Bradbury	BALTIC and beyond
02 Feb	John Millard	Artists' Clubs in Victorian Newcastle
09 Feb	Peter Quinn	Marc Chagall (1887-1985)
16 Feb	Malcolm Gee	A German cartoon view of World War 1: 'Vadding in Frankreich' by Heinrich Zille
23 Feb	Anthea Lang	William Wailes and his Windows
02 Mar	Silvia Mendoza Vera	A Different View of Spanish Modernism
09 Mar	Paul Barlow	Changing Images of Rome
16 Mar	Peter Quinn	William Hogarth (1697-1764)

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'A Different View'

Open sessions

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
12 Jan	Peter Quinn	Walking and Art
19 Jan	Mick Sharp	The Typefaces of Eric Gill
26 Jan	Hazel Barron-Cooper	Hatton Gallery Collection and Forthcoming Exhibitions
02 Feb	John Millard	What do Curators do all day?
09 Feb	Peter Quinn	Edward Burra (1905-1946)
16 Feb	Malcolm Gee	Socialist Realism- Soviet Art c 1930-1950
23 Feb	Neil Moat	Light without Morris: Alternative Perspectives on Victorian Glass
02 Mar	Silvia Mendoza Vera	A Different View of Modernism: Antonio Gaudi
09 Mar	Paul Barlow	Representations of Rome in the North East
16 Mar	Peter Quinn	The Rake's Progress

Monday

Art History Course:

Arts and Crafts

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30

Date	Title
19 Jan	Whistler versus Ruskin
26 Jan	House Beautiful, Aestheticism, Art Nouveau and the Machine
02 Feb	Arts and Crafts Movement
09 Feb	International Arts and Crafts
16 Feb	NO CLASS
23 Feb	Rural Retreat—the English House and the Suburb
02 Mar	Early Twentieth Century Modernists
09 Mar	Morris Today

Following our close look at the impact of William Morris, this course of lectures continues our survey of the connections between fine arts, the idea of craft, new theories of design and the impact of the changing world of modernity and technology. The lectures will focus on the late nineteenth century taste for the Aesthetic, the development of an international arts and craft movement and its links to the beginnings of twentieth century modern design. No experience of earlier Monday afternoon courses is necessary.



Monday

Newcastle University Fine Art Student presentations

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Monday 16th February

14.00 to 15.00

Young Artists in Dialogue

Speakers: Phoebe Mcelhatton, Katie Wiseman and Holly Wheeler

Chaired by Ian Ground, Teaching Fellow Department of Fine Art, Newcastle University

We understand the value of art not just by studying its products or its history but, too, by seeing how it is made.

But what is the process of making art like for young artists?

Join us for this session in which three Newcastle University Fine Art Students discuss their ideas, creative practice and the joys and perils of being a contemporary fine art student.

History Course: *from 19th January to 2nd March*

Aftermath; Legacies of the Great War in Britain and Europe 1919- 1945

Tutor: John Sadler

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

18.00 to 19.30

If the final shot of the Great War was, as is sometimes fashionably claimed, the first shot of the Second World War, this course examines how the resonances of war sounded through the main protagonist nations during the inter-war years. We'll be looking at the development of democracy in Britain, the uncertainties of France, fascism in Germany, Italy and Spain and the Communist state in Russia; how these forces collided to make the next war inevitable.

NB The title of this course has changed since the publication of the Season 2 leaflet.



Tuesday

Classics from 6th January to 24th February for the intermediate group and to 10th March for the advanced.

Latin at the Lit & Phil

Tutor: Alan Beale & Adrian Spooner

Venue: Lecture room & Loftus room, Lit & Phil—note access involves climbing external steps

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: one using Cambridge Latin Anthology (Cambridge University Press) and the other is reading Horace Odes Book 1.

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

The photo is of the class field trip to Chesters fort at Hadrian's wall.



Tuesday

Literature on the theme of 'A Different View'

Open sessions

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Key:

PRR Prior reading required.

PRH Prior reading helpful



10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
13 Jan	Elizabeth Hammill	A Mother Goose Odyssey An Insight into the Creation of an International Nursery Rhyme Collection - from the initiator and co-founder of Seven Stories National Centre for Children's Books
20 Jan	Michael Ayton	Alternative British Poetries: Some Contemporary Voices
27 Jan	Kathleen Kenny	Other Poetry Maps - Two Jamaican/British poets, Jean 'Binta' Breeze and Kei Miller. Some poetry texts for discussion will be from <i>Third World Girl</i> , the selected poems of Jean 'Binta' Breeze and <i>The Cartographer Tries to Map a Way</i> , by the 2014 Forward Prize winner, Kei Miller.
03 Feb	Martin Wheeler	H G Wells' novel <i>The Island of Doctor Moreau</i> (1896) - PRR This novel, like others of his scientific romances, functions on a mythopoeic level that transcends its originary moment. Engaging with the Darwinian revolution that brought religion into conflict with the revelations of scientific enquiry, a pessimistic, at times terrifying, story about the biological instability of humankind and the abuse of scientific endeavour, which shocked the critics on its publication.
10 Feb	Bronwen Calvert	Sisters Grimmer: women's rewriting of traditional fairy tales Extracts for discussion will be sent to students in advance of the session as usual

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Key:

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10.30 to 12.00 continued

Date	Tutor	Title	
17 Feb	Richard Moore	Shakespeare's <i>Troilus and Cressida</i>	PRH
		This session will show a different view of the Trojan War - Shakespeare treats the whole thing with a sometimes bitter satirical intent - it's an antidote to the usual heroics. Bringing a copy of <i>Troilus and Cressida</i> with you would be helpful.	
24 Feb	Marie Addyman	'All memory has to be re-imagined' (Bachelard, <i>The Poetics of Space</i>).	
		Modern writers, following their predecessors from antiquity onwards, are interested in defining how memory works. In particular they address the relationship between memory and imagination, reviving in the process the old concept of memory as a spatial rather than a temporal process. As is so often the case, poets have been there before the theorists. We will look at: Raleigh's 'My Body in the Walls Captived' and R S Thomas' 'A Day in Autumn' PRH	
		Both are well anthologized so please bring copies with you.	
03 Mar	Miguel Angel Gomes	From Manuscript to Graphic Novel: Recreating the Germanic (Super) hero	
		We will explore how Germanic heroes and Gods (i.e. Beowulf, Thor) have been reimagined for new generations of readers through the medium of the Graphic novel.	
10 Mar	Pamela Woof	Poems from the last three collections by Seamus Heaney	

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Key:

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10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
17 Mar	Martin Wheeler	HG Wells: The Island of Dr Moreau

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of 'A Different View'

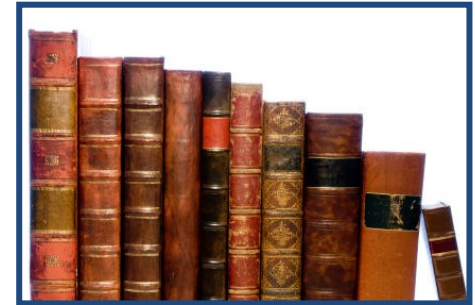
Open sessions

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Key:

PRR Prior reading required.

PRH Prior reading helpful



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
13 Jan	Elizabeth Hammill	A Mother Goose Odyssey (contd)
		Creating an International Nursery Rhyme Collection - from the initiator and co-founder of Seven Stories National Centre for Children's Books
20 Jan	Michael Ayton	Oscar Wilde, <i>The Fisherman and His Soul</i> PRR
		The text is available at – http://www.ucc.ie/celt/online/E850003-015/text001.html http://www2.hn.psu.edu/faculty/jmanis/oscar-wilde/House-Pomegranates6x9.pdf
		If students could also read Hans Christian Andersen's story <i>The Little Mermaid</i> as background that'd be great, but it isn't essential! * For translations of this text see: http://www.andersen.sdu.dk/vaerk/hersholt/TheLittleMermaid_e.html or http://hca.gilead.org.il/li_merma.html
27 Jan	Kathleen Kenny	Poetry writing session using the idea of poetry 'maps' as a starting point.
03 Feb	Martin Wheeler	H G Wells' short story 'Aepyornis Island' (1894) - PRR
		Part Robinson Crusoe, part Jurassic Park, Wells addresses in it many of the issues raised in The Island of Doctor Moreau, but in a humorous register that manages altogether to eschew the bleak horror of that novel. The story can be found online at https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/wells/hg/w45cb/chapter6.html

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of 'A Different View'

Open sessions

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Key:

PRR Prior reading required.

PRH Prior reading helpful



12.30 to 13.30 continued

Date	Tutor	Title
10 Feb	Bronwen Calvert	Three versions of Cinderella 'Yeh Shen' (China), 'Rushen Coatie' (Scotland) and the Perrault version translated by Angela Carter (France) - PRR
		PDFs available for 'Yeh Shen' and 'Rushen Coatie' here: http://www.lowvilleacademy.org/webpages/MBlow/cinderella.cfm?subpage=868111 (note: there is an error in the last line of 'Yeh Shen' – stones not tones). Text of the Carter/Perrault here: http://www.theguardian.com/books/2009/oct/11/fairytales-cinderella-perrault
17 Feb	Richard Moore	Tom Stoppard's <i>The Real Inspector Hound</i> and the Golden Age of Crime Fiction - PRH
		Stoppard parodies the Golden Age of Crime Fiction thus providing a different view of it from a satirical perspective. If possible, please bring a copy of the play to this session. It would make the session more interesting for the participants if they have either read the play or seen it. But if you haven't done either, this will not preclude you as background to plot and ideas etc. will be provided.
24 Feb	Marie Addyman	Continuing with the topic 'All memory has to be re-imagined' (Bachelard, <i>The Poetics of Space</i>)
		We shall engage with some of the more accessible concepts in modern theory, starting from extracts which will be provided online nearer the session, together with some recommended reading.

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of 'A Different View'

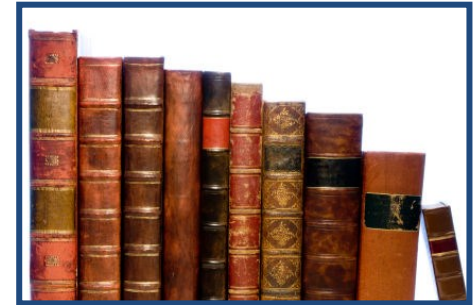
Open sessions

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Key:

PRR Prior reading required.

PRH Prior reading helpful



12.30 to 13.30 continued

Date	Tutor	Title
03 Mar	Miguel Angel Gomes	Medievalism, Neo-medievalism & contemporary culture: Comic books and the Middle Ages This talk will try to answer the question of whether we can, or should, draw upon comic books when discussing (or teaching) historical fiction and medieval literature in the 21 st Century.
10 Mar	Pamela Woof	Shakespeare II - More sonnets
17 Mar	Martin Wheeler	HG Wells: AEpyornis Island The text for this short story can be found at https://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/wells/hg/w45cb/chapter6.html

Tuesday

History Course *from 13th January to 10th February*

The Road to Subtopia: a History of English Suburbia

Tutor: John Griffiths

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

15.00 to 16.30

Bland, sprawling mediocrity or vibrant and varied townscapes? This course examines the historic, ideological and design impulses that have affected the development of England's suburbia, the uncelebrated place where most of us live.



Geology Course *from 17th February to 17th March*

Time Matters: Geology's contribution to Scientific Thought, Part 2

Tutor: Mike Leddra

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

15.00 to 16.30

This term will be continuing our look at the origins of many of the ideas we use in geology and the twists and turns, characters and influences that lead to their development. Although this is a follow-on from the Autumn terms course you do not need to have attended that course, or indeed know any geology to be able to join in.



Tuesday

Music Course

Exploring Music—A Different View

Tutor: Mike Green

Venue: CUH Quiet area in Main Room, Floor 3



18.00 to 19.30

Date	Title
13 Jan	Erik Satie (1866-1925)
20 Jan	Gustav Holst (1874-1934)
27 Jan	Jean “Django” Reinhardt (1910-1953)
03 Feb	Carl Maria von Weber (1786-1826)
10 Feb	Percy Grainger (1882 - 1961)
17 Feb	Arvo Pärt (b.1935)
24 Feb	Frank Zappa (1940-1993)

Exploring the life and works of great musicians and composers whose individual approach broke convention and altered the course of music history.

These sessions combine presentation, listening and discussion to discover the life, works and historical context of the relevant figures, and are designed to appeal to anyone with an interest in music. No prior knowledge of the topic is necessary.

Tuesday

Science Course *from 27th January to 24th February*

The Science the World Forgot

Tutor: Bea Groves

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



18.00 to 19.30

Nikola Tesla, Alfred Russel Wallace, Claude Shannon, Rachel Carson, and Ada Lovelace... all renowned in their time, but now largely neglected in the history of science and forgotten in the minds of the public. This course will give an opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with their work and the background to their achievements. Have fun learning something new about something old!

Wednesday

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

Understanding the Stars

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

Venue: ***Media Room, Newcastle Arts Centre ***

10.30 to 12.00



A dark night sky full of stars is an awesome sight – but what are stars? what are they composed of? and how far away are they? In this course we will consider how astronomers have answered these questions. We will also discuss the life cycles of the stars - from their birth in huge clouds of gas and dust (nebulae), how they generate prodigious amounts of energy throughout their lives and how they end as white dwarfs, neutron stars or the elusive black hole.

Wednesday

Literature Course

Irish Short Fiction

Lyrical, Dark, Shocking, Funny: Irish Short Stories from the 2010 Granta Anthology

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30 to 12.30

Date Title

14 Jan	John McGahern, 'The Key'
	Michael McLaverty, 'The Road to the Shore'
21 Jan	Mary Lavin, 'Lilacs'
	Éilís Ní Dhuibhne, 'Midwife to the Fairies'
28 Jan	Maeve Brennan, 'An Attack of Hunger'
	Colm Tóibín, 'A Priest in the Family'
04 Feb	Aidan Mathews, 'Train Tracks'
	Claire Keegan, 'Men and Women'

Irish short fiction is among the most exciting and imaginative in the world. We'll look at fine examples of the art by some distinguished practitioners e.g. Mary Lavin, John McGahern and Colm Tóibín, taken from *The Granta Book of the Irish Short Story*, edited by Anne Enright, widely hailed as a rich, absorbing and cliché-challenging collection.



Wednesday

Science Course *from 18th February to 18th March*

Investigating and Problem Solving in Mathematics

Tutor: Maria Goulding & Peter Pool

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

10.30 to 12.00

These sessions are about ***mathematical thinking***, and ***not*** about knowing a large amount of formal mathematics. The problems, puzzles, games etc. that we will present can all be accessed with mathematical knowledge that is simple but not trivial. The challenge will be in applying that knowledge. We hope there will be something to capture the interest of everyone who enjoys mental stimulation. We believe there is great enjoyment to be had from discussing mathematical ideas, sharing approaches to problems and seeing other people's strategies, as well as finding a solution.

Each week we will start with one or two problems addressing different sorts of mathematical thinking such as

- being systematic
- making connections
- having insights
- being persistent
- proving/ disproving
- generalising
- tolerating uncertainty
- reasoning

We will work ourselves in to each problem together or individually and then participants can choose what they want to pursue in greater depth. Throughout and at the end of each session we will draw together to discuss our thinking and review progress.



Wednesday

History Course *from 18th February to 18th March*

Controversies in History

Tutor: Tony Barrow

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

The course explores the nature of history as a subject and the various influences on historical writing through the medium of selected case studies of well known historical controversies in social, economic and political history.

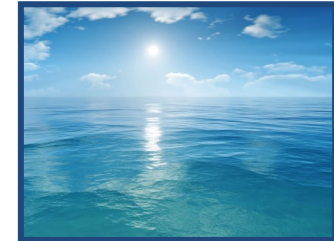


Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'A Different View'

Open sessions

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
14 Jan	Fred Stevenson	Observing the Non-Visible Universe
21 Jan	Myra Giesen	Protecting Heritage through Citizen Science
28 Jan	Maria Goulding/Peter Pool	Mathematical Thinking: A Taster
04 Feb	Gavin Hardy	Genesis of a science: The birth of botany in Ancient Greece
11 Feb	Bea Groves	Why Windows? And why it's so ubiquitous
18 Feb	Bea Groves	Where are all the little green men? On SETI and extra-terrestrial life
25 Feb	Gordon Moir	What Galileo saw
04 Mar	Tony Barrow	Incendiary Letters and Iniquitous Practices: 18th Century Smuggling in the North East
11 Mar	Gavin Hardy	The Most Interesting Plants on the Planet
18 Mar	Mike Leddra	Up, up and away: Aeroplanes in World War One

Wednesday

Literature Course:

Stories of the Noughties

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date Title

The following stories will be discussed from *Interpreter of Maladies* by Jhumpa Lahiri:

21 Jan 'A Temporary Matter', 'Interpreter of Maladies' and 'A Real Durwan'

28 Jan 'The Treatment of Bibi Halder', 'Mrs Sen's', 'This Blessed House' and 'The Third and Final Continent'

The following stories will be discussed from *What Becomes* by A L Kennedy:

04 Feb 'What Becomes', 'Wasps' and 'Confectioner's Gold'

11 Feb 'Whole Family with Young Children Devastated', 'Marriage', 'Another' and 'Story of my Life'.

18 Feb NO CLASS

The following stories will be discussed from *Lying Under the Apple Tree* by Alice Munro:

25 Feb 'My Mother's Dream' and 'The Love of a Good Woman'

04 Mar 'The Bear Came over the Mountain' and 'Lying under the Apple Tree'

11 Mar 'Chance', 'Soon' and 'Silence'

Explore the development of the short story since the 21st century with three collections from a range of cultural contexts. We will be focusing on stories by Jhumpa Lahiri and A. L. Kennedy, as well as later stories and a recent story cycle by Alice Munro.

This is a seminar-style course of 7 sessions and **you are asked to make a firm commitment of your wish to attend by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com**. This is likely to be a very popular course so, if you find having expressed an interest that you aren't able to attend, please let us know so we can assess numbers accurately.



Wednesday



Science course *from 18th February to 18th March*

An Introduction to Plant Biology: Part 2

Tutor: Gavin Hardy

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

14.00 to 15.30

Gavin continues his exploration of the fascinating world of plant biology. Come and learn what plants are, how they work, where they live, and how they can be used. A complete picture of the wonderful world of plants.

Lecture series:

[The Wednesday Lecture](#)

Tutor: Various

Venue: Floor 6, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne and other venues—for full programme details go to <http://breezcreatives.com/the-wednesday-lecture?page=3 %3B%E2%80%A6>

17.30 with lecture from 18.00

This excellent series of lectures is free for all to attend. It is not necessary to be a member of Explore.

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'A Different View'

Open sessions

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
15 Jan	John Sadler	Waterloo 1815 – 200 years on.
22 Jan	Marie Addyman	Humours, stars and signatures: medicine before the microscope
29 Jan	Ian Ground	Why Your Brain is not a Physical Object
05 Feb	John Griffiths	Life in the Medieval Chinese City
12 Feb	Sue Wood	Stannington Sanatorium: the story of the first children's TB sanatorium in the UK
19 Feb	Gavin Hardy	Surviving Despite the Physician: the use of plants in medicine in Ancient Greece
26 Feb	Ralf Russow	TBC
05 Mar	Miguel Angel Gomes	Saturn the Roman God: an Anglo-Saxon perspective.
12 Mar	Malcolm Grady	'Bloody Foreigners or Welcome Visitors': 19th century views on immigration
19 Mar	Alan Beale	Athletics: a different view (or two) from the ancient Greeks.

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'A Different View'

Open sessions

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
15 Jan	John Sadler	What if Napoleon had Won?
22 Jan	Marie Addyman	Natural magic: Renaissance ideas about extraordinary (and sometimes ordinary) natural phenomena
29 Jan	Miguel Angel Gomes	The Old English Dialogues of Solomon and Saturn
05 Feb	John Griffiths	Pont of Punch
12 Feb	Sue Wood	Northumberland at War: WWI archives held by Northumberland Archives.
19 Feb	Gavin Hardy	The Use of Plants in Ancient Greek Medicine, continued
26 Feb	Ralf Russow	TBC
05 Mar	Ian Ground	Do People Matter?
12 Mar	Malcolm Grady	Victorian Gossip
19 Mar	Alan Beale	Euripides' Bacchae: a different view (or two) of religion.

Thursday

Literature Course:

Fiction by Virago: Key Writers

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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



14.00 to 15.30

Date	Title
15 Jan	Antonia White <i>Frost in May</i>
22 Jan	Margaret Atwood <i>The Edible Woman</i>
29 Jan	Margaret Atwood <i>The Edible Woman</i> contd
05 Feb	Michele Roberts <i>Daughters of the House</i>
12 Feb	Michele Roberts <i>Daughters of the House</i> contd
19 Feb	NO CLASS
26 Feb	Sarah Waters <i>Fingersmith</i>
05 Mar	Sarah Waters <i>Fingersmith</i> contd

This course will trace the history of Virago Publishing, looking at four key modern and contemporary authors from Virago's forty-year publishing history. We'll examine these works to see how well they fit with Virago's aims as a 'feminist publishing company', and of course we'll discuss their literary merits and place in women's literary history.

This is a seminar-style course of 7 sessions and **you are asked to make a firm commitment of your wish to attend by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com** . This is likely to be a very popular course so, if you find having expressed an interest that you aren't able to attend, please let us know so we can assess numbers accurately.

Thursday

History Course *15th, 29th January, 5th, 26th Feb, 12th March*

Bernician Studies Group

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

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

19.00 to 20.30 **NOTE amended start time**

This is best described as a free-floating seminar group within Explore with a focus on the Early Medieval period in Britain and Ireland, in which the tutors do little formal teaching. It works best if you have some knowledge of the period: you are better placed to contribute; but this is not an absolute pre-requisite. Either of the tutors would be happy to advise if you think you might like to try it out.



History Course *22nd January, 12th, 19th February, 5th, 19th March*

Reading Old English: An Introduction

Tutor: Miguel Angel Gomes

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

19.00 to 20.30 **NOTE amended start time**

This course will help students taking their initial steps in the learning of Old English as well as those with a basic understanding of the language of the Anglo-Saxons. Orthography, pronunciation, inflexions and syntax in Old English texts will be considered and explained alongside Modern English versions of such documents. Addressed to the beginner, the course will include practical sessions in which students will translate a selection of sentences/paragraphs from the Anglo-Saxon Corpus into today's English.



Friday

Literature / Art Course *from 16th January to 13th February*

Talking Pictures: Image and Narrative in Time and Space

Tutor: [Max Adams](#)

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

11.00 to 13.00

Max Adams leads an exploration of the way in which images and words work with each other to create the stories which we tell about ourselves and the world, past, present and future. Taking some well-known images and a few famous words as the starting point, we explore, over five sessions, how we can use the language and meaning of image and text to explore our own ideas of creativity and story-telling. Those participants who bring any form of image-maker, from the humble crayon or stick of charcoal to the latest swanky camera, will be able to test new ideas and share them with the class.



Friday



Philosophy Course *from 6th to 20th March*

Ageing: a Philosopher's View

Tutor: Michael Bavidge

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.00

Philosophers have had lots to say about death, but not a lot about ageing - perhaps because they prefer dramas and sharp distinctions to gradual changes. From early childhood we locate ourselves in terms of age, in relation to siblings, parents, grandparents, friends, and eventually to our own children and grandchildren. We grow up and we grow old. We are aware of our own finitude and the fragility and transience of experiences.

Scientific advances have led to a marked increase in life expectancy and to the medicalizing of the processes of ageing. The fact that more people live for much longer puts a strain on public services, on social structures and on individuals who are challenged to live to some purpose when what makes lives valuable seems to slip beyond control.

The themes for the three sessions will be 'Living in time', 'Living an animal life' and 'Life's endings. We will draw on the reflections of thinkers from Aristotle, Cicero and Seneca to Atul Gawande, the 2014 Reith lecturer. We will consider whether we agree with the American philosopher Thomas Nagel's prediction that 'a bad end is in store for us all'. It won't be as grim as it sounds.

Friday

Weekday Literature special (One-off class) 6th March

Wordsworth and Coleridge and the Rôle of Trees in their Poetry

Tutor: Pamela Woof

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

10.30 to 13.30

Approaching its trees takes us into the heart of Romantic poetry. Passages and poems will be read and considered for their significance: oak, ash, lime, yew, hawthorn and more are variously mourned and celebrated and speak to us of both the poets and their times. The titles of the specific poems to be studied will be provided nearer the date of the class. Prior reading will be helpful but is not essential.



Weekday Literature special (One-off class) 20th March

The Theatre of the Absurd

Tutor: Richard Moore

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

10.30 to 13.30

This session will look at *The Balcony* by Jean Genet, *Rhinoceros* and *The Bald Prima Donna* by Ionesco, *One Way Pendulum* by N.F. Simpson and *The Fire Raisers* by Max Frisch. There is no need to have read them and no prior knowledge is assumed - the study will be user-friendly for people at all levels of knowledge. Copies of all of them are not required but it would help if people could bring the two Ionesco plays and (especially) *One Way Pendulum*. Summaries of the plays will be provided nearer the time.



Friday

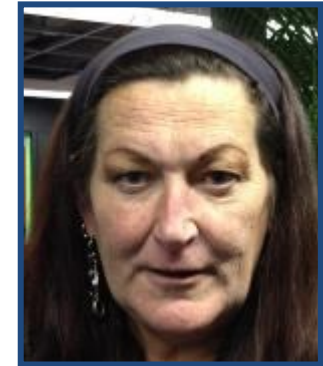
Practical Art Course

Drawn by Art

Tutor: Lizzie Rowe

Dates: Fridays 30 Jan, 6,13,20,27 Feb 14.00 to 15.30

Venue: Black Room (8), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



A friendly, informal class suitable for all levels of experience. Working from a still life provided by the tutor or from your own material, see what you can create to be proud of. We will be using any medium suitable for drawing and sketching **except oils**. Please bring your own materials.

This is likely to be a very popular class and spaces are limited.

Please email weareexplore@gmail.com or contact the Explore Office direct to book a place on this class.

Friday

Film Studies

Films of Hitchcock

Tutor: Elayne Chaplin

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



14.00 to 16.30 Green room, 4th floor

06 Mar Masterworks of cinema: the authorship of Alfred Hitchcock

Alfred Hitchcock, the master of suspense is one of cinema's greatest directors. In a career that spanned from the silent era to the early 1970s and from Europe to America, he directed over 50 feature-films that are stylistically inventive and thematically consistent. This session will explore some of the reasons for Hitchcock's success, with reference to narrative, character and filmic suspense.

10.30 to 13.00 Room 3, 3rd floor

13 Mar How to read a film: introduction to sequence analysis, with reference to Hitchcock's *Rear Window*

In this session, we'll be exploring one of Hitchcock's masterworks, *Rear Window*, looking at the portrayal and the psychology of the cinematic gaze. There'll also be an opportunity to develop close-reading skills, with the textual analysis of key scenes.

Saturday



Practical Art:

Topic to be confirmed

Tutor: Cecilia Holmes

Saturday 17th January 10.30 to 13.30

Venue: Black Room (8), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

This workshop is designed to include members with all levels of drawing and painting skills from the least confident to the most experienced. You will have the opportunity to work independently, guided by the tutor. Please bring your own materials.

As this is likely to be a very popular class and spaces are limited, please email weareexplore@gmail.com or contact the **Explore Office direct** to book a place on this class.

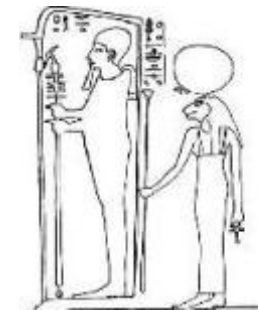
History:

North East Ancient Egypt Society (NEAES)

Tutors: various

Saturday 24th January 10.00 to 16.30

Venue: Green Room (6), Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



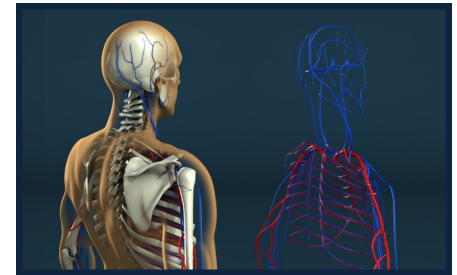
Saturday

Encountering Bodies: Exploring contemporary issues surrounding the human body

Tutor: Myra Giesen

Saturday 31st January 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne



This session will cover a wide range of issues in contemporary society surrounding the human body after the point of death. It will specifically address how the human body is treated in and through display, exhibition, memorialisation, burial, and disposal.

How do we deal with the ethics of displaying bodies in museums (as with the prehistoric human remains in the Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury) and in art (as with the 'Body Worlds' exhibits)?

Is it right to dig up and move Richard III or to view the bones and death sites of genocide victims as a form of tourism? What are the issues raised by their display in news media and social networking?

These questions and more will be discussed on the day, with opportunities for Explore members to join in the debate.

Session goers are encouraged to visit the *BODY WORLDS Vital - The Exhibition of Real Human Bodies* exhibition (http://www.life.org.uk/whats-on/body-worlds#.VHboC_mPmKs) at the Centre for Life, Newcastle before it closes on 04 January 2015, in preparation for the session.

Additionally, please read about the Avebury reburial request <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/advice/advice-by-topic/heritage-science/archaeological-science/avebury-reburial-results/>.

Saturday



History:

The Old Jihadis – the North-East Response to Fascism 1934 – 1939 and the International Brigades 1936 – 1938

Tutor: John Sadler

Saturday 7th February 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

In this course we'll look at those who went off to fight in foreign wars in the 1930s, especially the Spanish Civil War and how the survivors were regarded and treated when they returned. We'll set this into the context of the struggle between right and left in Britain, particularly the north-east connection.

History:

Victorian taste - a cultural study of what the Victorians liked and desired

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

Saturday 14th February 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

This session will look at, amongst other things, art and architecture (using North East examples), poetry and literature, food and drink, fads and fashion, morals and sexual attitudes as well as an insight into the Victorian attitude to St. Valentine's Day!

Saturday

Art History:

Book Illustration

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

Saturday 21st February 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

A survey course looking at the art of book illustration. Graphic artists we shall cover include Dürer, Bewick, Cruikshank, Tenniel, Beardsley, the Bickerstaffs, Bawden, Ardizzone and Spiegelmann.



Literature and Music:

The Trouvères

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Saturday 28th February 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Exquisite Grace, Stinging Wit, Surging Narrative: Poetry and Songs of the Trouvères

The trouvères are the northern French equivalent of the troubadours, whose beautiful songs created and performed between around 1100 and 1300 lit the flame of subsequent European poetry. What sort of poems did the trouvères write, what kind of music did they compose, and how did their practice influence later poetry and music? How, also, did they treat and interpret the themes of courtly love and military valour? We'll explore these questions by reading and listening to a range of trouvère poetry and musical works. Translations will be provided for all texts and no prior knowledge is necessary or assumed.



Saturday

Practical Art:

Painting 101—How Paintings Work

Tutor: Narbi Price

Saturday 14th March 10.30 to 13.00

Venue: Black Room (8), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

This session, the first of two, could be of interest to those who already paint, to those who are thinking about starting and to those who are more interested in learning how paintings are made. Fundamental to understanding and producing successful paintings is a good working knowledge of the materials used - the session will look at making paintings from the ground up and address common problems and pitfalls. Covering surfaces, brushes, mediums, the paint itself, the 'rules' of good painting practice and the practicalities of a safe, productive studio practice, this session will also address the realities of using high quality materials on a budget. The second class will follow in Season 3.

Materials will be provided for those who wish to try out the techniques and a small charge will be made to cover their cost. As this is likely to be a very popular class and spaces are limited, please email weareexplore@gmail.com or contact the Explore Office direct to book a place on this class.

History:

Lost Towns of the British Isles

Tutor: John Griffiths

Saturday 21st March 10.00 to 13.00

Venue: Green Room (6), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

Britain is dotted with ghost towns. Starved by lost trade, buried in shifting sands, consumed by the waves. This session examines some well known and some less well known examples.

