

EXPLORE



Season 1 2014-15 programme

Explore Season 1 programme 2014-15

The Season 1 programme follows on the theme of 'Boundaries'.

Congratulations to John Bundock and Joy Rutter on another excellent programme! We are also grateful to [Ampersand Inventions](#) and [B&D Studios](#) for our accommodation at Commercial Union House.

Most of our sessions require no advance booking—just turn up. However, for reading groups, practical art and some walks, we do need to manage attendances. These sessions (only) have specific booking instructions in this programme. Details of how to join Explore are available on our website: www.weareexplore.org.uk

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)



Week of		6 th Oct	13 th Oct	20 th Oct	27 th Oct	3 rd Nov	10 th Nov	17 th Nov	24 th Nov	1 st Dec	8 th Dec
Mon	morning	Art series on the theme of 'Boundaries'									
	morning	Ian Ground 'Philosophy through fiction'							Marie Addyman 'Setting Machiavelli to school'		
	lunch	Art series on the theme of 'Boundaries'									
	afternoon		Peter Quinn 'Pre-Raphaelite Art II' (no session 3rd or 10th November)								
	evening			John Sadler 'The Longest Frontier - Anglo-Scottish Borderland 1296 - 1603'							
Tues	morning	Latin at the Lit & Phil (starts from 23rd September with no session 21st October)									
	morning	Literature series on the theme of 'Boundaries'									
	lunch	Literature series on the theme of 'Boundaries'									
	afternoon	Alan Beale 'Afterlives I : Virgil - Poet, Prophet and Magician'					Mike Leddra 'Time Matters'				
	evening			Mike Green 'Regeneration & Progress in Music'							
	evening	Bea Groves To infinity and beyond; 'Breaking the barriers of Speed, Sound, Light and Time'					Miguel Gomes 'The Grail Hero in Medieval European Literature: From Chretien to Malory'				
Wed	morning	Gordon Moir 'Cosmology'					Fred Stevenson 'The Art of the Infinite'				
	morning	John Griffiths 'Imperial China'									
	morning	Michael Ayton 'Much Ado about Nothing and Twelfth Night'									
	lunch	'Perspectives' series on the topic of 'Boundaries'									
	afternoon						Gavin Hardy 'The Temple of Flora: An Introduction to Plant Biology'				
	afternoon	Rachel Lister 'Irish writing 2' (no session 29th October)									
	evening	The Wednesday lecture 'Life, the Universe and Everything'									
Thurs	morning	'Culture & Society' series on the theme of 'Boundaries'									
	lunch	'Culture & Society' series on the theme of 'Boundaries'									
	afternoon	Bronwen Calvert 'Virginia Woolf' (no session 30th October)									
	afternoon						Holly Havens 'Introduction to Phenomenology'				
	evening	Colm O'Brien 'Anglo-Saxon Archaeology' /Bernician Studies Group (see full programme for dates)									
	Fri	morning						Pamela Woof	Richard Moore		
morning		Max Adams 'Beating the Bounds'					Malcolm Grady 'The Victorians in Pursuit of Pleasure'				
afternoon				Lizzie Rowe 'Drawn by Art'							
Sat	morning	Elayne Chaplin 'Film Noir'	Gavin Hardy 'Art of the Botanist'	Peter Quinn 'Romanticism'	Bea Groves 'Boundaries of Gender'	Michael Ayton 'Prometheus'	Peter Quinn 'Neo-Romantic Art'	North East Ancient Egypt Society Annual Study Day	John Griffiths 'Urban Boundaries'	Bronwen Calvert & Rachel Lister 'The Modern Short Story'	Marie Addyman 'Christmas Plant Folklore'
	morning								Margaret Adams 'Practical Art'		

Monday



Philosophy Course

Philosophy through Fiction

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

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

10.30 to 12.00

Though science fiction and “speculative fiction” often exploit philosophical issues, it is rare to find the genre making an active and valuable contribution to philosophical inquiry at a high level. An exception is multi-award winner Ted Chiang whose stories and novelettes explore conceptual boundaries concerning the relation of language to cognition, of aesthetic experience to justice, the nature of progress in science, free-will, the extended mind, the problem of evil and more. Chiang’s work is a real and successful attempt to philosophise through entertaining fiction. In this course, we will tackle a Ted Chiang story every week (pre-reading required), discussing our responses and exploring the philosophical context and insights of the text. The course will be highly participative so come along prepared to share your ideas and think anew.

Please note that students wishing to attend this course should purchase a copy of the *Stories of Your Life and Others* (2002) which is available online for around £6. If this financially difficult, please advise the tutor who will make available, on a temporary basis, a pdf of the anthology

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 06 Oct | Liking What You See: A Documentary (please read this story before the session) |
| 13 Oct | Seventy-Two Letters |
| 20 Oct | The Story of your Life |
| 27 Oct | Hell is the Absence of God |
| 03 Nov | Division by Zero |
| 10 Nov | The Evolution of Human Science |
| 17 Nov | TBC/Concluding Discussions |

Monday

Literature / Philosophy Course

‘Setting the Murderous Machiavel to School’

Tutor: Marie Addyman

Venue: Blue Room (7), 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

10.30 to 12.30

We will look at Machiavelli's *The Prince* and then at two interpretations in Elizabethan and Jacobean drama.

Recommended Reading :

24 Nov The Prince by Machiavelli (Penguin)

01 Dec Henry V

08 Dec The White Devil by Webster

If members want to do any further reading on Machiavelli, then Q. Skinner, *Machiavelli: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford, 1981) would help; also I have an English political tract based on Machiavelli (written by a bishop!) from which we'll cull extracts.

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of Boundaries

Open sessions

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

10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
6 Oct	Peter Quinn	The Roman Wall Pilgrimage of 1849: history and Empire in Northumberland
13 Oct	Marie-Therese Mayne	'One Step Nearer Pictures'. The art of James Abbot McNeill Whistler
20 Oct	Paul Barlow	What does van Eyck's Arnolfini marriage painting really mean?
27 Oct	John Millard	Newcastle Illustrations and Cartoons by Ralph Hedley and others
03 Nov	Mick Sharp	Saul Bass: Golden Arm 2
10 Nov	John Millard	Bulletti, Lough and some sculptors on Tyneside
17 Nov	Peter Quinn	Walker Evans (1903-75): <i>American Photographs</i>
24 Nov	Paul Barlow	The many faces of the Mona Lisa: from perfect wife to femme fatale
01 Dec	Malcolm Gee	Matisse and the decorative
8 Dec	Peter Quinn	House and Home: between the public and the private in the work of Rachel Whitehead (b. 1963) and Mona Hatoum (b. 1952)

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of Boundaries

Open sessions

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
6 Oct	Peter Quinn	William Martin (1772-1851), the Anti-Newtonian Philosopher of Grey Street
13 Oct	Marie-Therese Mayne	Pushing Boundaries: Art that looks beyond the picture frame
20 Oct	Anna Goulding	The impact of participatory art on older people: what the literature tells us
27 Oct	John Millard	How St Nicholas became Newcastle Cathedral
03 Nov	Mick Sharp	Made for display: a look at 19th and 20th century ornamental typefaces
10 Nov	John Millard	Impressions of work in the North East
17 Nov	Peter Quinn	Robert Frank (b. 1942): <i>The Americans</i>
24 Nov	Narbi Price	Photorealism in painting
01 Dec	Malcolm Gee	Sculpture—Architecture—Life: Kurt Schwitters from Metzbau to Merzbarn
8 Dec	Peter Quinn	<i>Nae Halfway House</i> : exuberance, expression, and masculinity in 20th Century Scottish Painting (including Bellany, Davie, McLean and Howson)

Monday

Art History Course:

Pre-Raphaelitism and the Birth of the Arts and Crafts Movement

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date	Title
------	-------

13 Oct	Work. The artist, the woman artist, and the modern world of work.
--------	---

20 Oct	Art, Religion and Empire in the work of Pre-Raphaelite artists
--------	--

27 Oct	Thinking about William Morris: from Pre-Raphaelite to Arts and Crafts
--------	---

17 Nov	Oxford Friends, Burne Jones, Morris and the Medieval revival
--------	--

24 Nov	Art for Industry? Carlyle, Pugin, Ruskin and the Industrialisation debate
--------	---

1 Dec	The Firm and the Emergence of the Arts and Crafts Movement
-------	--

8 Dec	Nowhere. The News. “and if others see it as I have seen it, then it may be called a vision rather than a dream” (Morris)
-------	--

In the latter part of the Nineteenth Century the artists associated with the PRB developed their art in widely differing ways. We will study the later work of Ford Madox Brown, including his Manchester Murals. Dante Gabriel Rossetti and Edward Burne Jones produced highly wrought depictions of female models. Holman Hunt sought authenticity and clarity in Biblical lands. William Morris used his enthusiasm for the medieval to create symbol objects and decorations in a luxury business that would inform his developing political philosophy.



Monday

History Course: *from 20th October to 1st December*

The Longest Frontier: Anglo-Scottish borderland 1296—1603

Tutor: John Sadler

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



18.00 to 19.30

John Sadler's course will trace the theme of 'Frontiers' not just in the British perspective though this will be the backbone of the course. We will also investigate other frontiers both past and present, predominantly those in conflict zones and seek to identify what common factors exist and what lessons, if any, have been learnt from history!

Tuesday

Classics from 23rd September to 2nd December

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 the Cambridge Latin Course is almost ready to move onto reading real Latin*, the other is reading Virgil's Aeneid using 'Reading Virgil: Aeneid I & II' (Cambridge Intermediate Latin Readers) by Peter Jones.

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 last term.

* See http://www.cambridgescp.com/Upage.php?p=clc^oa_intro^oa_book4 if you wish to see the level at which this group is working.

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of Boundaries

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
07 Oct	Richard Moore	The Old Curiosity Shop: Dickens and the world of popular entertainment
14 Oct	Pamela Woof	The later poetry of Seamus Heaney A selection from the later poems in <i>Station Island</i> and poems from the succeeding volumes including the final collection <i>The Human Chain</i> (2010). Texts will be provided,
21 Oct	Richard Moore	East is East: EM Forster's <i>A Passage to India</i> and the boundaries of Self
28 Oct	Michael Ayton	Falling into Limitation: William Blake's <i>The Book of Urizen</i> [PRH] A text of the poem, plus a useful outline, can be found at: http://facstaff.uww.edu/hoganj/contents.htm#uricont Please do also look at a facsimile edition presenting text and images together: http://www.blakearchive.org/exist/blake/archive/work.xq?workid=urizen An edition for Kindle is available at: http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/b/blake/william/urizen/
04 Nov	Bronwen Calvert	Beyond the 'Whipple Line': women's writing of the 1950s

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of Boundaries

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 continued

Date	Tutor	Title
11 Nov	Marie Addyman	<p>‘The boundaries between life and death’: ghosts, vampires, alter-egos: three stories [PRR]</p> <p>M. R. James ‘Oh whistle and I’ll come to you my lad’</p> <p>In <i>The Penguin Complete Ghost Stories of M.R. James</i></p> <p>T. Gautier ‘<i>The Beautiful Vampire</i>’</p> <p>In I. Calvino [ed], <i>Fantastic Tales: Visionary and Everyday</i>, Penguin</p> <p>J.L. Borges ‘The Mirror of Ink’ in <i>The Mirror of Ink</i>, Penguin</p> <p>Over the centuries many stories, dramas and poems, sometimes building on folk lore, suggest that the ultimate taboo is to attempt to break the boundary between life and death. This has generated many forms of fantastic literature based on transgressive characters: ghosts, vampires, alter-egos. The two sessions will look at a necessarily small selection of these, concluding at lunchtime with Marlowe's handling of the old story of Faustus.</p>
18 Nov	Roger Hogg	<p>Philip Larkin’s <i>The Less Deceived</i></p> <p>This session will look at a selection of poems from this 1955 collection. Please bring along a copy of the book if you have one. Online link http://www.poemhunter.com/philip-larkin/poems/</p>
25 Nov	Kathleen Kenny	<p>Pushing the boundaries of imagination in contemporary poetry [Texts will be provided at class.]</p>

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of Boundaries

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 continued

Date	Tutor	Title
02 Dec	Martin Wheeler	'Fin de siècle, fin du globe': HG Wells' <i>The Time Machine</i> [PRH] [http://www.bartleby.com/1000/]
09 Dec	Bronwen Calvert	Breaking Boundaries?: The development of the 21st century television action heroine

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of Boundaries

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

Date	Tutor	Title
07 Oct	Richard Moore	Evelyn Waugh, <i>A Handful of Dust</i>
14 Oct	Pamela Woof	Sonnets I: Shakespeare: why we still read, and need, these short poems after 400 years [PRH] Please bring a text of Shakespeare's sonnets if you have one. Prior reading will be helpful but is not essential
21 Oct	Richard Moore	'Oh that this too too solid flesh would melt': Body and Soul in Auden and Isherwood's <i>The Ascent of F6: a Tragedy in Two Acts</i> .
28 Oct	Michael Ayton	Dylan Thomas: Master of the Lyric
04 Nov	Bronwen Calvert	Jane Gardam, 'The People of Privilege Hill' [PRR] PDF available. Go to the Booktrust website: http://www.booktrust.org.uk/books/adults/short-stories/stories/ and click on the link under the author's name.
11 Nov	Marie Addyman	Marlowe's <i>Dr Faustus</i> : Faustus' mortal sin [Edition to be clarified nearer the date.]

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of Boundaries

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
18 Nov	Elayne Chaplin	At the edge of reason: Daphne Du Maurier's 'The Birds' [PRH] CLASS 1.5 hours Text available on line: http://mrschroederhhs.weebly.com/uploads/1/3/3/4/13345850/the_birds_by_daphne_du_maurier.pdf
25 Nov	Kathleen Kenny	Creative Writing Hour: Imagination in poetry
02 Dec	Martin Wheeler	HG Wells and the outlook for Homo Sapiens [PRR] Education, Catastrophe and Human Possibility in HG Wells 'A Human Adventure': http://www.online-literature.com/wellshg/englishman-looks-at-the-world/28/ 'A Crystal Egg': http://etext.virginia.edu/etcbin/toccernew2?id=WelCrys.sgm&images=images/modeng&data=/texts/english/modeng/parsed&tag=public&part=1&division=div1
09 Dec	Bronwen Calvert	James Tiptree, Jr 'The Girl Who Was Plugged In' PRR Text available online www.f.waseda.jp/sisdoli/Tiptree_Girl_Plugged_In.pdf

Tuesday

History Course *from 7th October to 4th November*

Afterlives I: Virgil—Poet, Prophet & Magician

Tutor: Alan Beale

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

15.00 to 16.30

In his afterlife Virgil has veered from venomous (removal of his poems cures a dream of snakes) to venerated (even as proto-Christian). Our course round Virgil's birthday (October 15) will explore some of the rich tradition inspired by the poet.



Geology Course *from 11th November to 9th December*

Time Matters

Tutor: Mike Leddra

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

15.00 to 16.30

We will be exploring the origins and development of some of geology's foundations to see how they originated, how they have changed and whether they are still valid today. No prior geological knowledge is required for this course just a good imagination and some lateral thinking.



Tuesday

Crossing Musical Boundaries

Tutor: Mike Green

Venue: CUH Quiet area in Main Room, Floor 3

18.00 to 19.30

Date	Title
7 Oct	Carl Philipp Emmanuel Bach (1741-1788) - From Baroque to Classical
14 Oct	Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915) - Sight, Sound and Symbolism
21 Oct	Benny Goodman (1909-1986) - The King of Swing goes Classical
28 Oct	Henry Purcell—(1659-1695) - Sacred and Profane
4 Nov	John Williams (1932-) - Music for the Silver Screen
11 Nov	Cecil Sharp (1859-1924) - Bringing folk music into the concert hall
18 Nov	Thomas Weelkes (1576-1623) - Madrigals and Magnificats

A series exploring the career, historical and musical context of musicians whose work has crossed artistic boundaries.



Science Course *from 7th October to 4th November*

To Infinity and Beyond: Breaking the Barriers of Speed, Sound, Light and Time

Tutor: [Bea Groves](#)

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

18.00 to 19.30

The human race has an intriguing need to push past implied or existent boundaries. To 'go where no one has gone before' seems one of our innate qualities. This course celebrates the boundary-breaking nature of human achievement by looking at the struggle to transcend physical barriers, including (but not only) sound, light, time— and space!



Tuesday

History Course *from 11th November to 9th December*

The Grail Hero in Medieval European Literature: From Chrétien to Malory

Tutor: Miguel Angel Gomes

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

18.00 to 19.30



From Chrétien de Troyes' Perceval to Malory's Galahad, this course will explore the world(s) of the Grail search emphasising the French, German and British quests narratives . We will follow the Grail hero's 'journey' through medieval Europe, as we analyse, in the words of Emma Jung, the transformation of a "popular fairy tale of a simpleton into a mystical religious quest"

Wednesday

History Course *from 8th October to 5th November*

Imperial China

Tutor: John Griffiths

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

10.30 to 12.00

Aspects of the history of Imperial China from the First Emperor to the 1911 revolution, treated thematically rather than chronologically. Themes include China and the Outside World; Philosophy and Religion; the Mandate of Heaven; and Science, Technology and Invention.



Science Course *from 12th November to 10th December*

The Art of the Infinite

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

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

10.30 to 12.00

All science and technology, at root, is based on mathematical concepts and ideas. Despite its importance to our modern world most of the population have an irrational fear of mathematics and ever since school have tried to avoid it as much as possible. In this course we will try to dispel these fears and show that mathematics is simply another language – the language of nature.



Wednesday

Science Course *from 8th October to 5th November*

The Universe

Tutor: Gordon Moir

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

10.30 to 12.00



Wednesday

Literature Course

Two Scintillating Comedies: Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing* and *Twelfth Night*

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30 to 12.30

Date	Title
------	-------

08 Oct	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
--------	-------------------------------

15 Oct	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
--------	-------------------------------

22 Oct	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
--------	----------------------

29 Oct	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
--------	----------------------



Pungent, romantic, deftly plotted, tough-minded, hilarious – these brilliant comedies have it all. Behind the charm, wit and suspense of *Much Ado* (upcoming at Tyneside Cinema in early March 2015 in a live screening from Stratford) lie serious meditations on court politics, shame and honour, while in will-they-won't-they lovers Beatrice and Benedick Shakespeare has given us two of the great comic characters of English drama. *Twelfth Night* is also among Shakespeare's richest comedies, exploring the nature of romantic passion and the psychology of excess, along with issues of gender and identity, all embodied in a magical, musical dramatic milieu in which laughter blends with sadness and poignant self-discovery.

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of Boundaries

Open sessions

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



12.30 to 13.30

Titles to include

08 Oct	Ian Ground	‘Liking what you see; the ethical boundaries of discrimination’
15 Oct	Mike Leddra	Geological boundaries
22 Oct	Miguel Angel Gomes	Pushing the boundaries of Medieval Iberia: The legacy of Alfonso X, ‘the wise king’
29 Oct	Gordon Moir	Crossing Cultural Boundaries; Chinese Astronomy
05 Nov	Anthea Lang	Elisabethville—a little piece of Belgium on English soil
12 Nov	Maria Goulding	The Geometry of Paper Folding
19 Nov	Fred Stevenson	The Final Frontier—Does the Universe have a Boundary?
26 Nov	Andy Lane	Ancient Shores:- the boundaries of long-gone oceans Twice in the last 250 million years our region has been submerged by oceans. We examine two very different scenarios from the evidence in the rocks.
03 Dec	Prof Nicol Ferrier	Aspects of research on Bipolar Disorder
10 Dec	Carolyn Gibbeson	Building Boundaries: an examination of former asylums as historic buildings

Wednesday



Literature Course:

Irish Writing 2

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date	Title
------	-------

08 Oct	Molly Keane, <i>Good Behaviour</i>
--------	------------------------------------

15 Oct	Molly Keane, <i>Good Behaviour</i> and Elizabeth Bowen, 'Summer Night'
--------	--

22 Oct	William Trevor, <i>The Secret of Lucy Gault</i>
--------	---

05 Nov	William Trevor, <i>The Secret of Lucy Gault</i> , and <i>The Dressmaker's Child</i> .
--------	---

12 Nov	From <i>The Granta Book of the Irish Short Story</i> Edna O'Brien, 'Sister Imelda'
--------	---

& James Joyce *The Sisters* http://www.online-literature.com/james_joyce/965/

19 Nov	From <i>The Granta Book of the Irish Short Story</i> Frank O'Connor 'The Mad Lomasneys'
--------	--

& James Joyce *Eveline* http://www.online-literature.com/james_joyce/959/

26 Nov	W. B. Yeats, 'Leda and the Swan' http://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poem/leda-and-swan
--------	--

Louis MacNiece, 'Woods' <http://www.blueridgejournal.com/poems/lm-woods.htm>.

Derek Mahon, 'Glengormley' <http://www.bu.edu/agni/poetry/print/2002/56-mahon.html>

Seamus Heaney 'Requiem for the Croppies' <http://people.ucalgary.ca/~memcshef/Page3.html>

Study a selection of 20th-century texts that capture life in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. We will be studying novels, novellas, short stories and poems from a range of Irish cultures. 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 12th November to 10th December*

The Temple of Flora: an Introduction to Plant Biology

Tutor: Gavin Hardy

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

14.00 to 15.30

Plants are absolutely fascinating organisms - come and learn what they are, how they work, where they live, and how they can be used. A complete picture of the wonderful world of plants.

Lecture series:

Life, The Universe and Everything

<http://thewednesdaylecture.co.uk/>

Tutor: Various

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

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. See website link above for the current programme.

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of Boundaries

Open sessions

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



10.30 to 12.00

Titles to include

09 Oct	Alan Beale	'Crossing the Ultimate Boundary: the Living and the Dead in Ancient Rome'
16 Oct	John Griffiths	Muero con mi Patria! Francisco Solano Lopez and the War of the Triple Alliance, 1864-70
23 Oct	Miguel Angel Gomes	Movement within and between spaces: Encountering the divine and the supernatural in Norse mythology
30 Oct	Bea Groves	AI: from Turing to the Terminator - recent theory and research around artificial intelligence, taking in the philosophy of mind and the cultural importance of 'the robots'.
06 Nov	Max Adams	On the edge or in the middle? Iona, Columba and Northumbria
13 Nov	Malcolm Grady	Boundaries of Shame, the Irish Famine
20 Nov	Colm O'Brien	Boundaries, Kingdoms and Territories: a case study from the early middle ages
27 Nov	Mike Leddra	Breaking the boundaries—getting old warhorses back in the air
04 Dec	Mike Greatbatch	Blurring the Boundaries: The Fenham Estates Company and the Development of the Garden Suburb, c1890-1940
11 Dec	John Sadler	A New Frontier—The Berlin Wall and after

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of Boundaries

Open sessions

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



12.30 to 13.30

Titles to include

09 Oct	John Griffiths	‘A Carnoal on the Water’: the London frost fair of 1684
16 Oct	Miguel Angel Gomes	Liminality and Anglo-Saxon literature: Christianity and paganism in The Old English Dialogues of Solomon and Saturn
23 Oct	David Noble-Rollin	Bird Territories
30 Oct	Lindsay Allason-Jones	Hadrian’s Wall: boundary, frontier or just a line in a map?
06 Nov	Max Adams	This World and the Next; Death, Burial and Memorial
13 Nov	Ian Ground	What boundaries are imposed by the language we speak?
20 Nov	Bea Groves	Immortality and it’s implications. Is living forever all it’s cracked up to be? - this session will take a broad and entertaining look at issues around ‘living forever’.
27 Nov	Malcolm Grady	19th century political boundaries—Gladstone v Disraeli
04 Dec	Grace McCombie	‘Great’ Buildings of Newcastle and Gateshead
11 Dec	Mike Greatbatch	A Peculiar Distorted Township: Poor Law Administration and Practice in Byker Township, c1820-1850

Thursday

Literature Course:

Virginia Woolf: Fiction and Non-Fiction

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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



14.00 to 15.30

Date	Title
------	-------

23 Oct	Short Stories: 'The Mark on the Wall' [http://www.bartleby.com/85/ or http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/woolf/monday/monday.html and 'Mrs Dalloway in Bond Street' [http://www.gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200781.txt]
06 Nov	Essays on fiction: 'Mr Bennet and Mrs Brown' [http://www.columbia.edu/~em36/MrBennettAndMrsBrown.pdf] (Hogarth Press edition) 'Modern Fiction' [http://ebooks.adelaide.edu.au/w/woolf/virginia/w91c/chapter13.html]
13 Nov	Novel: <i>To the Lighthouse</i>
20 Nov	Novel: <i>To the Lighthouse</i>
27 Nov	Non-fiction: <i>A Room of One's Own</i>
04 Dec	Non-fiction: <i>A Room of One's Own</i>
11 Dec	Short stories—'Slater's Pins Have No Points' [http://www.gutenberg.net.au/ebooks02/0200781.txt]

This course will give an introduction to some of Woolf's key works, and we'll look at aspects of her style in the short story, novel, essay and non-fiction. All the short stories are also available in the collection: Virginia Woolf, *A Haunted House: the Complete Shorter Fiction*, edited by Susan Dick (Vintage).

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

Philosophy Course: *from 13th November to 11th December*

Introduction to Phenomenology Tutor: Holly Havens

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

14.00 to 15.30



According to the *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy* 'Phenomenology is the study of "phenomena": appearances of things, or things as they appear in our experience, or the ways we experience things, thus the meanings things have in our experience.' This season we will explore this area of philosophy with Holly Havens of Durham University.

History Course: *16th, 30th October, 13th, 27th November, 11th December*

Recent developments in Anglo-Saxon Archaeology Tutor: Colm O'Brien

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

19.00 to 20.30



This is a set for keeping in touch. There are recent publications with new information and ideas on such matters as settlement patterns, burial chronologies, design on metalwork, to mention just a few. I propose to focus each session on a journal article or monograph, to look at the details or arguments presented and see how it fits in the wider setting.

Thursday

History Course

Bernician Studies Group

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

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

18.30 to 20.30

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.

Date	Title
-------------	--------------

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 9 Oct | <p>Review of BSG Project Work - Members of Bernician Studies Group</p> <p>Since 2012, BSG has been engaged on research into early Christian landscapes on the Inishowen peninsula of County Donegal in the Irish Republic. This evening we will review of the results of the third (2014) season of BSG fieldwork on Inishowen and take stock of the project and we will have some preliminary discussion on initiatives planned for Northumberland.</p> |
| 23 Oct | <p>Supporting the Bishop's Great Chase: a case study from Boldon Book—Colm O'Brien</p> <p>The earliest surviving manuscript of the survey of the estates of the Bishop of Durham prepared in 1183, which we know as Boldon Book, is on display in South Shields Museum until the end of October. The aim of this session is to offer some insight into the information contained in the Boldon Book and how it is arranged. Colm O'Brien is an Explore tutor and co-founder of BSG. He has research interests in, and has published on, the structure and organisation of early medieval estates.</p> |
| 6 Nov | <p>Researching Place Names in Northumberland - Professor Diana Whaley</p> <p>Professor Whaley, who has recently retired from her post in the School of English in Newcastle University, is an authority on the Old English and Old Icelandic languages. With colleagues from Glasgow, she is beginning a project to research place names in Northumberland and southern Scotland and is inviting members of BSG to participate in this work.</p> |



Thursday

History Course

Bernician Studies Group continued

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

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

18.30 to 20.30

Date Title

20 Nov Research on Bernician Burials - Celia Orsini

Celia Orsini is a doctoral student from the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne studying burial practices in Bernicia. For the duration of her research in England, she is attached to the University of Durham where she is co-supervised by Dr Sarah Semple. On this occasion, she presents findings from her Bernician research.

4 Dec Norman Impacts on Landscapes in Northumbria — Dr Sabrina Pietrobono

Dr Pietrobono, who studied at the Sapienza University of Rome, holds a Marie Curie Research Fellowship for which she has been based in Newcastle University. She has now completed this project, in which she undertook a comparative study of Norman impacts on landscapes in areas in central Italy and in Northumberland and Durham and she will speak this evening on her Northumbrian findings. Dr Pietrobono has attended previous meetings of BSG as an academic visitor and she participated in this year's Inishowen fieldwork.



Friday



Landscape History Course *from 10th October to 7th November*

Beating the bounds: Travelling Britain's edges on foot, by sea and by motorbike

Tutor: [Max Adams](#)

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

11.00 to 13.00

Max Adams has been travelling the edges of Britain: from Essex's creeks and the Lley Peninsula of North Wales, to the islands of the Atlantic coast and the marches of West Mercia. In this course he asks what we can learn from boundaries old and new, cultural and physical. Do we, the British, know ourselves? Will we still be British by the end of the year?

History Course *from 14th November to 12th December*

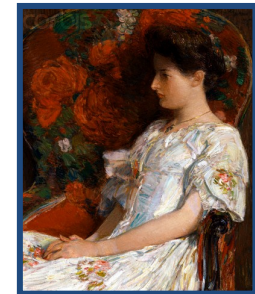
The Victorians in Pursuit of Pleasure

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

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

10.30 to 12.00

The pursuit of pleasure, on a personal level, a family level, a community level, a national level and a festive level in Victorian times.



Friday

Weekday Literature special (One-off class) 14th November

The Originality and Richness of the Poetry of Yeats

Tutor: Pamela Woof

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

10.30 to 13.30

What shall I do with this absurdity --

O heart, O troubled heart - - - ?

Early and late, Yeats asked the questions that we all ask, and in youth and older age he had different answers. He wrote in traditional rhyming verse, yet seemed modern, a contemporary of Eliot. Ireland past and present was constantly in his thought and fascinated his English readers. We shall consider a selection of his poems that will reveal the changing greatness of his writing and range from the Celtic twilight of Innisfree to the cold Horseman of Ben Bulbin. The titles of the specific poems to be studied will be provided nearer the date of the class. Prior reading will be helpful but not essential.

Weekday Literature special (One-off class) 21st November

Border Ballads: A Region in Poetry and Song

Tutor: Richard Moore

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

10.30 to 13.30

Think of the richness of the Northumbrian and Southern Scottish heritage and you will soon be drawn to remembrance of the Border Ballads, both the poetry and the song. In this session we shall trace the roots of the ballads in historical actuality and examine their main themes and structural features. We shall also hear excerpts of some of the vocal music which sets the verses to often poignant and sometimes invigorating tunes. Come and learn a bit more of the background while augmenting your knowledge of classics such as "The Banks of Yarrow", "The Lament of the Border Widow" and "Chevy Chase".



Friday

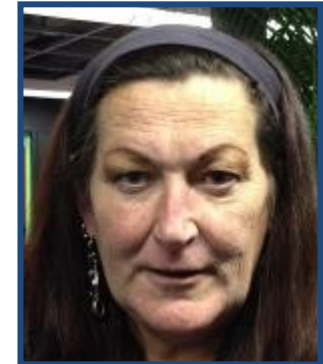
Practical Art Course

Drawn by Art

Tutor: Lizzie Rowe

Dates: Fridays **24, 31 Oct; 7,14, 21 Nov 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.

Saturday

Film Studies:

Film Noir: Crimes of passion in post WW2 Hollywood

Tutor: Elayne Chaplin

Saturday 11th October 10.00 to 13.00

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

Wise-cracking private eyes, glamorous femmes fatale, blackmail, corruption and murder: this is the world of American Film Noir. With extracts from such classic films as *The Maltese Falcon*, *Double Indemnity* and *Murder My Sweet*, this session will examine the style, themes and literary origins of a distinctive group of movies made during the 1940s and 1950s, and will discuss the appeal of Hollywood's 'darker side'.



Science:

The Art of the Botanist

Tutor: Gavin Hardy

Saturday 18th October 10.00 to 13.00

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



Books for botanist are often superb works of art as well as scientific documents. In this course we will take a look at some of the finest, from the highly-illustrated account from the fabulous Codex Vindobonensis of 512 AD (which incorporates illustrations from Crateuas's Herbal of the first century BC), through woodcut herbals, to the great illustrated works of the 18th and 19th centuries (and to date).

Saturday

Art History:

Romanticism in the visual arts

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Saturday 25th October 10.00 to 13.00

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

In the late Eighteenth Century visual artists became fascinated with the expression of emotion, the depiction of the natural world and an assortment of hitherto neglected narratives from non-classical sources. A new artistic persona was fashioned: the man of feeling. An age of Revolution and scientific discovery encouraged a spirit of independence and a series of challenges to the Art Academies. This morning's session will place in context the work of English artists such as Blake, Fuseli, Turner, Constable, Palmer and their continental contemporaries such as Delacroix, Gericault, Messerschmidt and Friedrich



Science:

The Boundaries of Gender

Tutor: Bea Groves

Saturday 1st November 10.00 to 13.00

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

Taken from the point of view of a transgender person, this event looks at what defines and obscures the concept of gender in our society. The day not only gives a broad but challenging approach to gender issues, but also explodes some of the myths that shroud the transgender experience.



Saturday

Literature and Music:

The Prometheus Myth in Poetry and Music

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Saturday 8th November 10.00 to 13.00

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

True friend of humankind, or distant demiurge? Embodiment of divine creative power, or champion of suffering humanity resisting political oppression? The figure of Prometheus stealing fire from heaven has been a source of endless fascination for writers and composers since Classical times. We'll look at the myth's treatment in the work of Aeschylus, Goethe, Shelley, Schubert, Hugo Wolf and Luigi Nono among others, focusing in particular on how literary and musical forms of artistic representation may coalesce to create powerful new meanings.

No prior knowledge is assumed, and all texts (and sounds!) will be provided.



Art History:

Neo-Romantic Art in Britain 1935-55

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Saturday 15th November 10.00 to 13.00

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

Beginning in the mid-nineteen thirties a significant number of British artists began making landscape art based upon a revival of interest in Romantic art, re-working Modernist concerns as they did so. The label Neo-Romantic was first used in 1935 to refer to Paul Nash's photographs. Landscape art by John Piper and Graham Sutherland in particular established the form before the outbreak of the Second World War. Post-war artists such as Craxton, Minton and Collins emphasised the quest for a rural retreat while exploring psychological and mythological themes. Whilst Neo-Romantic art has been the focus of research and museum exhibitions (beginning with the Barbican Art Gallery in 1987) it remains sadly consigned to the margins of British art history.

Artists include: Piper, Nash, Sutherland, Moore, Collins, Minton, Ayrton, Colquhoun, MacBryde, Hurry, Brandt.



Saturday

History:

North East Ancient Egypt Society (NEAES) Annual Study Day

Tutors: various

Saturday 22nd November 10.00 to 16.30

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

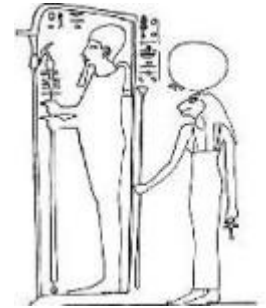
Speakers:

Judith Bunbury (University of Cambridge) 'Making mud pies—the human dialogue with climate in Ancient Egypt'

Colin Reader (Manchester Ancient Egypt Society) 'Egypt: Gift of the Landscape'

Ian Shaw (Liverpool University) tbc

Elizabeth Bloxham (University College London) 'Ancient Egypt Quarries'



History:

Urban Boundaries and the Landscape

Tutors: John Griffiths

Saturday 29th November 10.00 to 13.00

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

Examining both the effects on the landscape of 'urban fringe' activities of all kinds, and the effects that formal boundary lines might have in affecting the way towns develop.



Saturday



Practical Art:

Painting a Poem

Tutor: Cecilia Holmes

Saturday 29th November 10.30 to 13.30

Venue: Black room, 4th floor, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne

We are pleased to welcome back Cecilia who started practical art sessions in old Explore and whose teaching is highly regarded by all who have worked with her. Her classes are relaxed and friendly and suitable both for newcomers and the more experienced. Her suggestion for this session is that you bring a poem or song and make a visual response to it with whatever art materials you wish to use.

Please bring your own materials.

Practical Art:

Tone, Distance and Light in the City

Tutor: Narbi Price

Saturday 6th December 10.30 to 13.00

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

This is the first practical art session that Narbi has done for Explore but he is familiar with our set up as he paints in the building. The session will look at the urban landscape, aerial perspective and tonal recession working from a dynamic view within CU House using charcoal and working with both positive and negative mark-making techniques. We will look at using the darkest of materials to depict a feeling of light and space.

Suggested materials include cartridge paper (at least A2), charcoal, compressed charcoal, plastic eraser, putty rubber, fixative, masking tape and tissues.

Again the session is suitable for both beginners and the more experienced. Please bring your own materials. If you do not have all of the items on the list, others will probably have and we are happy to share.

Saturday

Literature:

Who Invented the Modern Short Story?

Tutors: Bronwen Calvert and Rachel Lister

Saturday 6th December 10.00 to 13.00

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

This class will examine the genesis of the modern short story, looking in detail at three examples (which should be read beforehand).

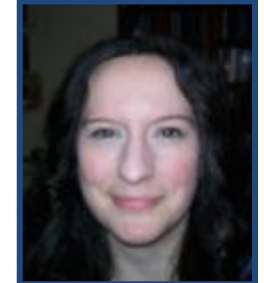
Texts are:

Nathaniel Hawthorne, 'Young Goodman Brown' (<http://www.eldritchpress.org/nh/ygb.html>)

Anton Chekhov, 'The Kiss'

Katherine Mansfield, 'Bliss'

(both available online via <http://www.short-stories.co.uk/> - and they are in numerous collections).



Science:

Pushing the Boundaries: the Folklore of Christmas Plants

Tutors: Marie Addyman

Saturday 13th December

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

10.30–12.00 'Pushing the Boundaries: The voyages of exploration and the search for spices'

12.30–14.00 'The Folklore of Christmas Plants'

