

EXPLORE



Season 3

2014-15 programme

Explore Season 3 Programme 2014-15

The Season 3 programme follows on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'.

Congratulations to the programming team - Christine Burrridge, Maria Goulding, Jack Massey, Rita Prabhu, Joy Rutter, Kath Smith, 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. If you would require financial assistance in order to take part in the Explore programme, you are encouraged to apply to the [S.Y. Killingley Memorial Trust](#).

'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 @The Grand Ampersand Hotel

THE LATE SHOWS

Saturday 16th May 2015

19.00 to 23.00

Green Room, 4th floor

Commercial Union House



FREE to all. No need to book.

Mini lectures from Explore tutors including Bronwen Calvert, Miguel Angel Gomes, Maria Goulding, Bea Groves, Olive Hogg and Mike Leddra.

Drop in and introduce your friends to Explore.

Explore Season 3 2014-15 Overview

4

Week of		20th April	27th April	4th May	11th May	18th May	25th May	1st June	8th June	15th June	22nd June
Mon	morning	Morning art series on the theme of ' The Greats and the Giants' (not 4th or 25th May)									
	morning	Ian Ground 'Breaking Bad / Making Good' (not 4th or 25th May)									
	lunch	Lunchtime art series on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants' (not 4th or 25th May)									
	afternoon	Peter Quinn 'Local Art & Culture' (not 4th, 18th or 25th May)									
	afternoon					Fine Art					
	evening	John Sadler 'The Napoleonic Wars and the 100 Days' (not 4th or 25th May)									
Tues	morning	Latin at the Lit & Phil									
	morning	Morning literature series on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'									
	lunch	Lunchtime literature series on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'									
	afternoon		Michael Leddra 'Dikes and Sills and so much more'					Derek Teasdale 'Darwin & Geology'			
	evening	Mike Green 'Exploring Music - The Greats & the Giants'									
	evening					Tony Barrow		John Griffiths 'Suburban Walks'			
Wed	morning	Fred Stevenson 'The Art of the Infinite'						Elayne Chaplin 'Cinema & the Gothic'			
	morning	Michael Ayton 'Introducing Joyce's <i>Ulysses</i> '									
	lunch	'Perspectives' series on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'									
	afternoon	Myra Giesen 'Mortuary Archaeology'					Alan Beale 'Latin Love Poetry'				
	afternoon	Rachel Lister 'Short Stories Fortnightly' - study group (alternate weeks)									
	evening	North East Ancient Egypt Society - Olive Hogg & Ned Ramm 'Basic Egyptian Hieroglyphics' (until 1st July, not 27th May)									
	evening	The Wednesday lecture									
Thurs	morning	'Culture & Society' series on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'									
	lunch	'Culture & Society' series on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'									
	afternoon		Bronwen Calvert 'The Long Novel: <i>The Luminaries</i> ' - study group (not 28th May)								
	afternoon				Alexander Malt 'Political Philosophies'						
	evening	Colm O'Brien & Max Adams - Bernician Studies Group/Bea Groves 'History in Fact & Fiction'									
Fri	morning	David Noble-Rollin 'Migration & Birdsong'			Pamela Woof	Max Adams 'Early Christians in Britain: Arimathea to Augustine'					Richard Moore
	afternoon				Lizzie Rowe 'Creating a Portrait' Practical Art						
Saturday		Narbi Price 'Painting 101 - How Paintings Work Part 1' Practical Art	Marie Addyman 'Early Medicine & Natural Magic'	Peter Quinn 'Renaissance Art: Meaning & Context'	Tony Barrow 'The Port of Alnmouth' History Walk		Bea Groves 'The Protestant Work Ethic'	Margaret Adams 'Monoprinting & Collagraphs' Practical Art	John Griffiths 'The Great North Road'	Andy Lane 'The Stones in the Street' History Walk	Katie Hindle 'Colour, Shape, Image: Introduction to Collage' Practical Art
							Michael Ayton 'The Faust Legend'				

Key

Art

Philosophy

History

Literature

Science

Monday

Philosophy Course from 20th April to 22nd June (**not 4th or 25th May, or 15th June**)

Breaking Bad / Making Good

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

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

10.30 to 12.00



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.



Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'

Open sessions

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



10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
20 Apr	Peter Quinn	Picasso
27 Apr	Jack Coates	Freeing up on Style: a local artist talks about his work
04 May	NO SESSION	
11 May	Peter Quinn	Alfred Steiglitz 1864-1946, Photographer and Gallerist
18 May	Marie-Therese Mayne	Royal Portraits
25 May	NO SESSION	
01 Jun	Sarah Lawrence	Stories from the Archive – Highlights from The Illustration Collections at Seven Stories, National Centre for Children's Books
08 Jun	Malcolm Gee	Paul Klee, in his time
15 Jun	Peter Quinn	Andy Warhol
22 Jun	Paul Barlow	Rembrandt Paintings

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'

Open sessions

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
20 Apr	Peter Quinn	1900: International Art Exhibition in Paris
27 Apr	Susan Dobson	Mountains in Mind: Inspirations and Transformations
04 May	NO SESSION	
11 May	Peter Quinn	American Modernists: Dove, Hartley, Marin, Demuth, Strand and O'Keeffe
18 May	Marie-Therese Maine	Cezanne and his circle
25 May	NO SESSION	
01 Jun	Craig Barclay	The Chinese Collection of Durham University Oriental Museum
08 Jun	Malcolm Gee	Max Ernst and the collage principle
15 Jun	Peter Quinn	European Pop
22 Jun	Alfons Bytautas	Rembrandt and the secrets of etching

Monday

Art History Course:

Thomas Bewick (1753-1828): print, publishing and nature in Georgian Newcastle

Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date	Title
20 Apr	Reputation
27 Apr	Publishing
11 May	Nature
01 Jun	Romantic
08 Jun	The Fable
15 Jun	The Workshop
22 Jun	Politics



Thomas Bewick's art has long attracted admirers from far and wide. In his own lifetime (1753-1828) Bewick was recognised as an important illustrator. Subsequently he was hailed as "a truly original genius" (Howitt) and said to possess "magnificent artistic virtue" (Ruskin). His books are collector's items today. His art is of interest to those keen on the local history of the North East of England. It is also admired as a key contribution to the study of British birds and wildlife. His "Memoir" gives us a unique insight into the thoughts and feelings of an artist alive during a fascinating period of history.

Monday

Newcastle University Fine Art Student Presentations *18th May*

Speakers: Holly Wheeler, Alex Searle and Helen Shaddock

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

14.00 to 15.30

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 20th April to 15th June (not 4th May or 25th May)*

The Napoleonic Wars and the Hundred Days

Tutor: John Sadler

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

18.00 to 19.30



This year marks the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Waterloo, a day which arguably made Britain the 'Superpower' of the nineteenth century. Yet prior to the battle, Napoleon Bonaparte had stood as the colossus of European politics. The most prolific conqueror since Alexander, a man who by his genius and ruthlessness had re-shaped the map of Europe, often regarded as the greatest general of all time, he met his nemesis, who might claim the same title, on the ridge of Mont St. Jean on 18th June 1815.

It was the most resounding clash of titans since Caesar and Pompey.

Tuesday

Classics from 14th April to 26th May for intermediate group and advanced groups.

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 'The Greats and the Giants'

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
21 Apr	Marie Addyman	'Madness? Or just another point of view?' Using a selection of late Victorian poems, highlighting Emily Dickinson and Lewis Carroll, to consider the relationship between madness and eccentricity.
28 Apr	Barry Stone	From Little Acorns grow..... Barry Stone is the author of <i>Barking at Winston</i> and <i>Winston and the Canny Lass</i> . In these sessions we'll look at how to develop an idea as the starting point for the writing of a novel. Suitable for novice scribes and those with some writing experience.
05 May	Pamela Woof	Celebrating Tony Harrison, Newcastle poet
12 May	Michael Ayton	Varieties of the Sonnet – from Petrarch to Tony Harrison – texts will be provided
19 May	Bronwen Calvert	Sylvia Plath's Early Poetry: Form and Influence - texts/ examples will be provided
26 May	Ralf Russow	Giants: Ruebezahl et al: Giants in German Folklore, Fairy Tales and Mythology
02 Jun	Kathleen Kenny	The Great Contenders? How might today's women poets secure future renown or lay claim to the term 'literary giant'? Looking at the work of Carol Ann Duffy <i>Rapture</i> ; Sinéad Morrissey <i>Parallax</i> and Sharon Olds <i>Stag's Leap</i> . Copies of poems will be supplied.

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'

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
09 Jun	Richard Moore	Jonathan Swift's <i>Gulliver's Travels</i> : 'Brobdingnag' This will cover the book where Gulliver meets and lives among the Giants, covering the satire and relating the section to the politics of the time.
16 Jun	Martin Wheeler	Mr H.G. Wells and the Giants: The Food of the Gods, Utopia and the Attack of the Fifty Foot Woman A session highlighting Wells' belief in the power of education, which in turn reflects on his own personality and life.
23 Jun	Elayne Chaplin	Stars, Glamour and Sex Appeal Femininity, masculinity and (dysfunctional) relationships in classical Hollywood Cinema.

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'

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
21 Apr	Marie Addyman	'Falling off Walls and Horses': the Dangerous World of Through the Looking Glass. This session concentrates on the Humpty Dumpty and the White Knight chapters, in order to look at language and meaning. Martin Gardner's <i>Annotated Alice</i> (in Penguin) would be a very useful edition to have read beforehand and if possible to bring to the session.
28 Apr	Barry Stone	From Little Acorns grow..... (Contd) Members are advised to bring notepads and pens for some creative writing.
05 May	Pamela Woof	Thomas Gray, <i>Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard</i> and other poems
12 May	Michael Ayton	'Notes from the House Spirits' by Lucy Wood, a Short Story Writer Making Waves http://booktrustadmin.artlogic.net/usr/resources/1173/houseofspirits_woodlucy.pdf
19 May	Bronwen Calvert	Short story by Sylvia Plath, 'Johnny Panic and the Bible of Dreams' – in the collection of the same name or online at http://www.101bananas.com/library2/johnnypanic2.html (please read in advance and bring a copy to the session).
26 May	Ralf Russow	Greats: Life and Works of Karl May (1842-1912) Popular German writer noted for his adventure novels set in the American Old West and similar books set in the Orient and Middle East.

Tuesday

Literature on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'

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
02 Jun	Kathleen Kenny	The Great Contenders? - Creating Our Own Giants: Where to Start? Using one or two suggested jumping off points the session will explore both imaginative and literal understandings of this concept.
09 Jun	Richard Moore	Verdi's <i>Macbeth</i> in Relation to the Opera of the Same Name by Verdi. This session will look at how a great play is turned into a great opera by another cultural giant and examine what is gained and lost. Musical excerpts will be used to illustrate points
16 Jun	Martin Wheeler	Wrestling the Hippopotamus H.G.Wells' ideas on the function of literature and his public spat with Henry James.
23 Jun	Elayne Chaplin	Stars, Glamour and Sex Appeal Femininity, masculinity and (dysfunctional) relationships in Classical Hollywood Cinema (contd.).

Tuesday

Geology Course *from 28th April to 26th May*

Dikes and Sills and so much more including fieldwork at Howick bay

Tutor: Mike Leddra

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



14.00 to 15.30

Four classroom sessions looking at these geological features will bracket a fieldwork day.

19 May Fieldwork day **11.00 to 15.00** on site at Howick Bay

We will visit Howick Bay, a section of the Northumberland coast where we can see exposed to view rock formations that geologists have used to demonstrate earth processes and interpret the geological history of the Earth.

History Course *from 2nd to 23rd June*

Darwin & Geology

Tutor: Derek Teasdale

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



14.00 to 15.30

This course explores how the controversies that raged during the early years of geology as a science influenced the young Charles Darwin on the Voyage of the Beagle. How old is the Earth? What are fossils and species?

Darwin's understanding of geology and his keen observational skills combined to allow him to develop his theory of evolution.

Tuesday

Music Course *from 21st April to 2nd June*

Exploring Music—'The Greats and the Giants'

Tutor: Mike Green

Venue: CUH Quiet Area in Main Room, Floor 3

18.00 to 19.30



Date	Title
21 Apr	Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643)
28 Apr	Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
05 May	Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)
12 May	Irving Berlin (1888-1989)
19 May	Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873-1943)
26 May	Pyotr Tchaikovsky (1840-1893)
02 Jun	William Walton (1902-1983)

This season we explore the life and works of seven important figures from Western music history who can be considered as giants of their time and field.

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

History Walk *12th May*

Seaton Sluice—a history walk

Tutor: Tony Barrow

Venue: meet at 18.00 outside the Melton Constable Public House (parking & bus stop nearby)

18.00 to 20.00

Tony Barrow's very popular courses 'Settlement Shipping and Industry' and 'Beside the Seaside' looked at the influence of the sea on the economy and identity of our region. These walks are an opportunity to walk some of the ground covered then, and to see what traces remain of their past.



History Walks *26th May to 23rd June*

Suburban walks

Tutor: John Griffiths

Venue: various offsite

19.00 to 20.30

Following last season's 'Road to Subtopia' course, these five evening walks will examine differing kinds of suburban townscapes and their origins. We will be visiting the medieval suburbs of Durham (a city which, like New York, comprised 'five boroughs'), nineteenth-century suburbs in North Shields, Low Fell, and Ashbrooke (Sunderland), and contemporary developments in Gosforth.



Wednesday

Science Course *from 22nd April to 20th May*

The Art of the Infinite

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

Venue: Green Room

10.30 to 12.00

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.

It is not necessary to have attended the previous course of this name.



Film Course *from 3rd to 17th June*

Cinema & the Gothic

Tutor: Elayne Chaplin

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

10.30 to 12.30

03 Jun	Bram Stokers <i>Dracula</i>
10 Jun	Mary Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i>
17 Jun	Edgar Allan Poe tbc

Wednesday

Literature Course

Introducing Joyce's *Ulysses* in Four Bite-Size Pieces

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Venue: Room 3, 3rd Floor, Commercial Union House



10.30 to 12.00

Date Title

22 Apr Chapter 1 'Telemachus'

29 Apr Chapter 6 'Hades'

06 May Chapter 11 'Sirens'

13 May Chapter 17 'Ithaca'

Anti-novel, fantasia, compendium, epic – Joyce's *Ulysses* is a radical, challenging work certainly. But it's also a humorous, humane and moving novel, and it absolutely need not be intimidating. These sessions will provide a key and a way in, along with a detailed examination of four of the book's eighteen chapters. Above all, we'll enjoy Joyce's exhilarating, virtuoso language. Please read the chapters as listed above, before each of the four sessions and if you'd like to read more, even better!

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'

Open sessions

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
22 Apr	Derek Teasdale	200 Years of Progress: William Smith and the Birth of Geology
29 Apr	Chris Hudson	William Harvey: King of Hearts
06 May	Maria Goulding	Women in Maths and Science
13 May	Tim Dean	Northumbria Bird Atlas 2015
20 May	Andrew Davis	Can Biology replace Social Science and explain Human Behaviour?
27 May	Ian Simmons	The Centre for Life – a Centre for World Class Science
03 Jun	Ian Ground	Wittgenstein
10 Jun	Dr Chris Petkov	Social Communication, Language and the Amazing Brain
17 Jun	Lesley Dunlop	A Geodiversity Charter
24 Jun	Tom Bates	Chemistry – Surviving in the 21st Century

Wednesday

History Course *from 22nd April to 20th May*

Mortuary Archaeology

Tutor: Myra Giesen

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

14.00 to 15.30

Mortuary archaeology is not just about the dead; studying how people treated the deceased and commemorated them tells us just as much about the living. We will consider the methods and techniques of mortuary archaeology as well the interpretive theories and models used to reconstruct social significance of past mortuary practices, and case studies will be used to focus on the interpretation of rank and status, ritual and symbolism, and the ethical and legal aspects of exhumation and repatriation.

History Course *from 27th May to 24th June*

Latin Love Poetry 1: Gallus, Catullus, Sulpicia and Tibullus

Tutor: Alan Beale

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

14.00 to 15.30

Latin elegiac and lyric verse treats love in a variety of ways, from the seething passions of youth to the resignation of experience; relationships and affairs are often turbulent and always interesting. This course is designed to introduce the distinctive voices of the early Latin love poets and to be followed by a course on Horace, Propertius and Ovid.



Wednesday

Literature Course:

Short Stories Fortnightly

Tutor: Rachel Lister

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date Title

22 Apr 'The Yellow Wallpaper', Charlotte Perkins Gilman

<https://www.google.co.uk/#q=yellow+wallpaper+online+gilman>

06 May 'Roman Fever', Edith Wharton <http://classiclitt.about.com/library/bl-etexts/ewharton/bl-ewhar-roman.htm>

'Autres Temps', Edith Wharton <http://www.online-literature.com/wharton/3921/>

20 May Two Ghost Stories: 'At the End of the Passage', Rudyard Kipling

<https://www.lang.nagoya-u.ac.jp/~matsuoka/ghost-stories-kipling.html>

'The Demon Lover', Elizabeth Bowen

http://www.nexuslearning.net/books/elements_of_lit_course6/20th%20CenturyCollection%2013/Demon%20Lover.htm

03 Jun 'The Fly', Katherine Mansfield <http://www.inlex.org/stories/mansfield/thefly.html>

'Psychology', Katherine Mansfield <http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/mansfield/bliss/psychology.html>

17 Jun 'He' Katherine Anne Porter http://homepage.smc.edu/cramer_timothy/he.htm

'Lily Daw and the Three Ladies', Eudora Welty <http://www.nytimes.com/books/first/w/welty-stories.html>

This is a seminar-style course of 5 sessions. This is likely to be a very popular course so you are asked to make a firm commitment to attend. Room capacity makes it necessary to adopt a booking system for places.

To book a place on this course, please e-mail weareexplore@gmail.com and write 'Rachel Lister Booking' in the header. Bookings will be taken from Monday 30th March until Monday 20th April inclusive. Please note that only bookings received by e-mail will be considered.

Bookings will be acknowledged and confirmation of being booked on to the course will be sent by e-mail.



Wednesday



North East Ancient Egypt Society course *from 22nd April to 1st July (not 27th May)*

Basic Egyptian Hieroglyphics

Tutor: Olive Hogg & Ned Ramm

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

17.30 to 19.00

This course is offered in partnership with the North East Ancient Egypt Society and will be led by their experts. Booking is not required, but those wishing to join should ensure that Explore has notice of their interest by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com with 'NEAES course' in the subject line before 20th April.

Lecture series:

The Wednesday Lecture

Tutor: Various

Venue: Floor 6, Commercial Union House, Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne and other venues—see programme

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 'The Greats and the Giants'

Open sessions

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



10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
23 Apr	Malcolm Grady	Prince Albert and the Great Exhibition of 1851
30 Apr	Lindsay Allason-Jones	On the Shoulders of Giants: Early Toilers in the Field of Roman Wall Studies
07 May	Malcolm Grady	Great Victorian Parliamentary Scandals
14 May	Elizabeth Hammill	Mother Goose on the Loose From oral tradition to print to apps. How well is the grand dame of nursery rhyme surviving in our digital age?
21 May	Sarah Campbell	In the Name of Dead Generations: Ireland's Independence Movement 1798-1998
28 May	Anthea Lang	Victorian design for a 21st century: Edward Kemp and Saltwell Park
04 Jun	John Sadler	Churchill in World War II
11 Jun	Ian Forbes	Blacketts and Beaumonts The untold story of the family who ran Britain's most successful lead mining business
18 Jun	Dick Graham	A Giant Industry: A History of Lead Production from the North Pennines
25 Jun	John Griffiths	Shanghai Lily and the Lincheng Incident

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'The Greats and the Giants'

Open sessions

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
23 Apr	Max Adams	Where have the Giants Gone?
30 Apr	John Griffiths	Percy Parr's Newcastle
07 May	Pat Halcro	Ledger Stone Number 98: 17th century Newcastle and the Intrigues of a Family
14 May	Bea Groves	Will the Real Alan Turing Please Stand Up?
21 May	Alan Beale	Lucretius, Great on the Shoulders of the Giant Epicurus
28 May	Myra Giesen	Pre-Contact Native American Indians
04 Jun	John Sadler	Churchill—Man and Myth
11 Jun	Bea Groves	Michael Collins: Hero or Villain?
18 Jun	Myra Giesen	The Irish Giant—Charles Byrne
25 Jun	Sally Waite	Representing Ritual: Museum-based Archaeology and Questions of Context

Thursday

Literature Course: *from 30th April to 18th June (not 28th May)*

The Long Novel: *The Luminaries*

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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



14.00 to 15.30

You don't need to read the whole novel before this course begins. We will use a week-by-week reading schedule as follows. Please note that pagination is correct for both hardback and paperback editions:

Date	Title
30 Apr	Read to p.146
07 May	Read to p.147 (Midnight Dawns in Scorpio) to p.284
14 May	Read to p.285 (Venus in Capricorn) to p.398 (end of Part 1)
21 May	Read to p.363 (Ecliptic) to p.483
28 May	NO SESSION
04 Jun	Read to p.484 (A Month Without a Moon) to p.585
11 Jun	Read to p.586 (Mars in Aquarius) to p.689
18 Jun	Read to p.690 (The House of Many Wishes) to the end

There is a tendency for contemporary novels to be lengthy and detailed – perhaps not all that different from the three-volume novel of the past. We will devote one course to a close reading and discussion of Eleanor Catton's Booker winner, considering the demands and characteristics of the long novel. This is a seminar-style course of 7 sessions. This is likely to be a very popular course so you are asked to make a firm commitment to attend. Room capacity makes it necessary to adopt a booking system for places. **To book a place on this course, please e-mail weareexplore@gmail.com and write 'Bronwen Calvert Booking' in the header. Bookings will be taken from Monday 30th March until Monday 20th April inclusive.** Please note that only bookings received by e-mail will be considered. Bookings will be acknowledged and confirmation of being booked on to the course will be sent by e-mail.

Thursday

Philosophy Course: *from 7th May to 4th June*

Political Philosophies

Tutor: Alexander Malt

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

14.00 to 15.30

Alex Malt, a post-graduate researcher and tutor at Durham University, where he teaches economics and linguistics as well as philosophy, is joining us for the first time this season. In this course we will examine how political philosophers have answered questions such as 'why ought we obey our rulers?' and 'what is social justice?'. We will discuss thinkers such as Machiavelli, Locke, Marx, Rawls, and Nozick.

Thursday

History Course *23rd April, 7th May, 21st May, 4th June & 18th June*

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 independent study group meets fortnightly in Commercial Union House. Current work includes investigating 'Cocwudu' - a possible ancient woodland between Wansbeck and Coquet; further magnetometry work around Heavenfield; and our continuing project researching the Early Mediaeval monastic sites we have identified in Donegal. Explore members are welcome to join the CUH sessions reporting on and discussing this work and other topics of interest.

(For insurance reasons, only members of the BSG itself can participate in fieldwork.)

For the first session of the season Dr. Sabrina Pietrobono will speak on her work, from her recently-completed Marie Curie Science Fellowship, on Norman influences on Northumbrian landscapes.

History Course *30th April, 14th May, 28th May, 11th June & 25th June*

History in Fact & Fiction

Tutor: Bea Groves

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

19.00 to 20.30

Since many of us seem to get our knowledge of history from film and television, this short course will take an entertaining look at how the media's version of history complements (or totally distorts!) the reality of historical events. From William Wallace to Rourke's Drift to the 'Gunfight at the OK Corral', this will give you a chance to differentiate fiction from fact!



Friday



Science course *from 24th April to 8th May*

Migration & Birdsong

Tutor: David Noble-Rollins

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

11.00 to 13.00

April and May are an exciting time of change for birds. The summer visitors are arriving from Africa, the last winter visitors are leaving for the Arctic and the resident birds have established their breeding territories. This course will explore both aspects with an introductory lecture and two field meetings to look at migration on the coast and spring song in Gosforth Park Nature Reserve.

Weekday Literature Special (One-off Class) *15th May*

Approaches to the Poetry of Shelley

Tutor: Pamela Woof

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

10.30 to 13.30

Was Shelley, in Matthew Arnold's phrase, 'a beautiful and ineffectual angel' or, in his own words, a true poet, one of the 'unacknowledged legislators of the world'?

Friday

History Course *from 22nd May to 19th June*

Early Christians in Britain: Arimathea to Augustine

Tutor: [Max Adams](#)

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

11.00 to 13.00



This course will cover evidence for Roman Christianity, look at some controversies, and ask whether our received wisdom of the mission of 597AD and its dramatic aftermath is what really happened.

Weekday Literature special (One-off class) *26th June*

The World of Jane Austen

Tutor: Richard Moore

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

10.30 to 13.30



This will cover various areas in relation to the novels, in particular: Dandies, Bucks and Blades; the Regency Theatre and the theme of acting in the novels; the cult of sensibility; social change and a society in transition. The session will include recordings of Jane Austen's favourite songs and excerpts from her correspondence about (for instance) social class and religion and what the novels tend to leave out - e.g. the Regency underclass and her alleged romance with Tom Lefroy - including his later part in response to an Irish rebellion of 1803!

Friday

Practical Art Course

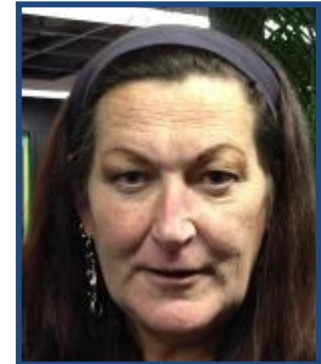
Creating a Portrait

Tutor: Lizzie Rowe

Dates: Fridays 8th May to 5th June

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

14.00 to 15.30



A friendly, informal class suitable for all levels of experience. We will learn how to approach making a portrait from life. Even if you have never drawn or painted before, you can try out some of the basic steps required to capture a likeness. We will be using any medium suitable for drawing and sketching except oils.

Please bring your own materials. You may be asked to contribute a small charge to offer the sitter an honorarium

As spaces are limited, please book a place on this class by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com or contacting the Explore Office direct.

Friday

Practical Art Course

How Paintings Work, Part 2

Tutor: Narbi Price

Dates: 19th June

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

13.30—16.30

This session will cover preparing paint and using it on primed board.

No prior experience is necessary to take part in this class and you do not need to have attended the first part.

As spaces are limited, please book a place on this class by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com or contacting the Explore Office direct. A small charge will be requested to contribute the cost of materials.

Saturday

Practical Art:

Practical Art Course: Painting 101-How Paintings Work, Part 1

Tutor: Narbi Price

Saturday 25th April 10.30 to 13.30

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 just interested in learning how paintings are made. Fundamental to understanding and producing successful paintings is a good working knowledge of the materials used - the sessions 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, these sessions will also address the realities of using high quality materials on a budget. Materials will be provided for those who wish to try out the techniques and a small charge will be made to cover their cost. It is planned to run a second part and the scheduling of this will be discussed and agreed with those who book for Part 1.

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:

Medical practice and natural magic in Tudor England

Tutor: Marie Addyman

Saturday 2nd May 10.30 to 13.30

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

The first part of this session will look at the underlying principles of Tudor medicine, including humour theory. After a brief coffee break, we will ask what was meant by natural magic in the sixteenth century and what kind of beliefs it involved.



Saturday

Art History:

Renaissance Art: Thinking about Meaning and Context

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Saturday 9th May 10.00 to 13.00

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



What does it mean for us today to look at and admire a work of the 15th Century?

We will refer to Baxandall, M., 1988. *Painting and Experience in Fifteenth-Century Italy: A Primer in the Social History of Pictorial Style*, 2 edition. ed. Oxford Paperbacks, Oxford Oxfordshire ; New York.

History Walk:

The Port of Alnmouth

Tutor: Tony Barrow

Saturday 16th May 14.00 to 16.00

Venue: meet at 14.00 at the northern end of Alnmouth beach car park

Tony Barrow's very popular courses 'Settlement Shipping and Industry' and 'Beside the Seaside' looked at the influence of the sea on the economy and identity of our region. These walks are an opportunity to walk some of the ground covered then, and to see what traces remain of their past.



Saturday

Philosophy:

The Protestant Work Ethic

Tutor: Beatrix Groves

Saturday 30th May 10.00 to 13.00

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

What is the difference between work, labour and employment? Should we work, or is it OK to let the State take care of us? And where does our modern concept of work come from?

This provocative session will look at the origins of the Protestant Work Ethic, and discuss its nature in the present day.



Practical Art:

On your Marks.....Explore! A drawing/printmaking workshop for everyone

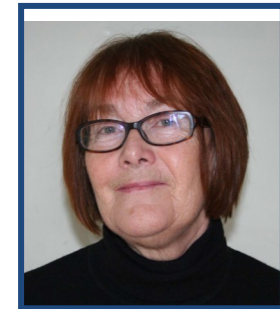
Tutor: Margaret Adams

Saturday 6th June 10.30 to 13.30

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

Drawing is the act of taking in and giving out: the marks that we make are the results. The approach that we bring; the energy we apply, the materials that we use all contribute to the results. Margaret Adams is running a workshop using simple mono-printmaking techniques that will help you to explore and extend your drawing and mark making skills. The workshop is for every level of ability and experience – for anyone who wishes to develop a more confident approach to drawing. A wide range of materials will be provided with a small charge to cover the costs. Please bring your own ideas to work from such as drawings or images and wear old clothes.

Places will be limited and therefore booking is necessary. **Please email weareexplore@gmail.com or contact the Explore Office direct.**



Saturday

Literature and Music:

The Faust Legend in Literature and Music

Tutor: Michael Ayton

Saturday 6th June 10.00 to 13.00

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



Ever since its first attested literary appearance in a sixteenth-century German chapbook, the story of Faust selling his soul to the Devil in exchange for worldly power and pleasure has captivated the minds of artists of all kinds. By means of carefully chosen illustrative passages, we'll look at how writers as diverse as Marlowe, Goethe and Carol Ann Duffy, and composers including Schubert, Liszt and Stravinsky, have treated the story. We'll also consider how and why the powerful figure whom one scholar has called an 'icon of modern culture' has continued to exert a strong fascination up to the present day, in the popular imagination and across continents. All texts (and diabolical sounds!) will be supplied and no prior knowledge is necessary or assumed.

History:

The Great North Road

Tutor: John Griffiths

Saturday 13th June 10.00 to 13.00

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



The Great North Road has for two millennia formed the main north-south route in Britain, linking London to York, Newcastle and Edinburgh. This session will examine how the road has changed over time - in its users, the routes taken, and its structures, as well as its impact on the communities and landscapes it passes through.

Saturday

History Walk:

The Stones in the Street

Tutor: Andy Lane

Saturday 20th June 14.00 to 17.00

Venue: Meet at 14.00 under the arch of St Peter's Metro station, just north of Wearmouth Bridge



Join tutor Andy Lane for a walk to examine the stones in the streets of Sunderland, and hear how they reflect the history and the geology of our area. This will be an urban walk, at no time far from a Metro station.

Practical Art:

Colour, Shape, Image: Introduction to Collage as Art Form

Tutor: Katie Hindle

Saturday 27th June 10.30 to 13.30

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

In this session we will learn about the art of collage and the process of creating original artwork out of the wealth of material that surrounds us in modern culture. We will look at some of the most inspiring collage artists and movements, from cubism to the contemporary, before exploring the process of creating a collage. This is a fun, informal session with a focus on experimentation, with lots of materials, techniques and creative exercises to try. Materials will be provided but if you have anything you would specifically like to use in your work, please bring it along.

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.