

EXPLORE



**FREE Week One
starting 5th October**

**FREE Taster Event
Saturday
19th September**

**Season 1
2015-16 programme**

Explore Season 1 Programme 2015-16

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

If you're new to Explore why not come and try the programme?

There are three options:

Our FREE taster event on Saturday 19th September — see Page 3

Attend any or all sessions in FREE Week One starting Monday 5th October — click [HERE](#) to see the Week One programme.

Arrange a FREE taster session by emailing weareexplore@gmail.com

You need to join Explore in order to attend the sessions. 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.

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](#).

EXPLORE

Come and Try Explore at our FREE, Drop In, Taster Event

**When:**

Saturday 19th September 2015

Time: 13.00 to 16.00

Where:

Bewick Hall

City Library

Newcastle upon Tyne

Our expert tutors will be giving mini lectures on a variety of topics. Come along and bring your friends.

EXPLORE

Max Adams: Book Launch *In the Land of Giants*



All welcome to attend Max's book launch party—come along and have a glass of bubbly courtesy of publisher 'Head of Zeus'.

Thursday 8th October 2015

19.00 to 21.00

[Ampersand Inventions](#)

4th floor, Commercial Union House

Explore Season 1 Programme 2015-16

Congratulations to the programming team -

Christine Burridge, Maria Goulding, Mike Leddra, 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](#) for our accommodation at Commercial Union House.

N.B. Many of our tutors teach at local universities and are awaiting confirmation of their academic commitments so minor details of the programme may change before the start of this season.

‘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 Season 1 2015-16 Overview

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Week of	5th Oct	12th Oct	19th Oct	26th Oct	2nd Nov	9th Nov	16th Nov	23rd Nov	30th Nov	7th Dec	
Mon	morning	Ian Ground 'We need to talk about TED'							Malcolm Grady 'Strange Encounters'		
	morning	Morning art series on the theme of 'Encounters'									
	lunch	Lunchtime art series on the theme of 'Encounters'									
	afternoon		Peter Quinn 'Local Art & Culture: Art in the 19th Century in the North East of England'								
	evening			John Sadler 'The Second World War - Causes & Consequences'							
Tues	morning	Latin at the Lit & Phil									
	morning	Morning literature series on the theme of 'Encounters'									
	lunch	Lunchtime literature series on the theme of 'Encounters'									
	afternoon		Martin Wheeler		Marie Addyman 'Inhabiting Space & Place'						
	afternoon	Bea Groves 'Experiments that Changed the World'					Michael Leddra 'Mountains'				
	afternoon	Study Group 'Eighteenth Century Newcastle through Primary Sources' (various dates)									
	evening	Mike Green 'Musical Encounters'									
Wed	morning		Michael Ayton 'Homer's Odyssey'					Michael Ayton	Elayne Chaplin 'Film Studies'		
	morning				John Griffiths 'London'						
	morning						Fred Stevenson 'The First Three Minutes'				
	lunch	Science series on the theme of 'Encounters'									
	afternoon	Alan Beale 'Roman Love Poetry'					Narbi Price 'The Alchemical Stuff of Colour'				
	evening	The Wednesday lecture									
Thurs	morning	Morning history & archaeology series on the theme of 'Encounters'									
	lunch	Lunchtime history & archaeology series on the theme of 'Encounters'									
	afternoon		Bronwen Calvert 'Points of View: Exploring Narrative Voice in Fiction' study group								
	afternoon	Colm O'Brien 'Latin for Local History'					Andrew Woodard 'Language & Philosophy'				
	evening	Book Launch	Miguel Angel Gomes 'Lore & Literature of the Vikings' / Bernician Studies Group (alternate weeks)								
Fri	morning	Mike Greatbatch 'Fenham: Continuity & Change 1700-1940'						Perspectives (to be confirmed)			
	morning					Richard Moore		Pamela Woof			
	afternoon					Lizzie Rowe 'Creating a Portrait' Practical Art					
Saturday		Silvia Mendoza Vera 'Illustration Workshop'	Janet Atkinson 'Brownfield Sites and Planning'	John Griffiths 'Evolution of the Pit Village'	Margaret Adams 'Printmaking'		Peter Quinn 'Max Beckmann Triptychs'	NEAES Study Day 10.00 to 16.30 Lit & Phil	Rachel Lister 'The Novels of Marilynne Robinson'	Rachel Lister 'Reading Edith Wharton's Minor Works'	Malcolm Grady 'Victorian Shades of Grey'
		Sarah Campbell 'Northern Ireland Conflict'			Bea Groves 'The Genius of George Orwell'						

Key

Philosophy

Culture & Society

Art

Narratives

Perspectives

Monday

Philosophy Course: *from 5th October to 16th November*

We Need to Talk about TED

Tutor: [Ian Ground](#)

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

10.30 to 12.00



Each week Ian Ground will introduce one of the ‘TED’ talks in which experts speak on ‘Ideas Worth Spreading’ and the group will then take up the topic. Every week a fresh challenge with no prior reading required; and a challenging and lively discussion guaranteed.

History Course: *from 23rd November to 7th December*

Strange Encounters

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

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

10.30 to 12.00

The famous events of history often involve intriguing personal encounters – some of them get into the official record, some do not. There are many which throw a fascinating light on the past when given the proper context. Malcolm Grady will guide members through a selection of encounters of a special kind.

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'Encounters'

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



10.45 to 11.45

Date	Tutor	Title
05 Oct	Peter Quinn	Making Sense of Modern Art
12 Oct	John Millard	Meet Henry Hetherington Emmerson, Artist in Victorian Newcastle
19 Oct	Hugh Dixon	Buildings About You (1)
26 Oct	Gordon Reavley	Impressionist Paris during and after the 1871 Commune
02 Nov	Malcolm Gee	Braque and Picasso: 1907-1914
09 Nov	Peter Quinn	Walter Sickert (1860-1942)
16 Nov	Russell Baston	'The Decisive Moment' - Temporality in Photography
23 Nov	Silvia Mendoza Vera	The Art of Al-Andalus
30 Nov	David Rosier	Chinese Imperial Court Costume—Qing Dynasty 1644-1911 'A Journey through the Imperial Wardrobe' Lecture 1 'Ruling from the Dragon Throne'
07 Dec	Peter Quinn	Henry Moore (1898-1986)

Monday

Art History and Design on the theme of 'Encounters'

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
05 Oct	Peter Quinn	Making Sense of Contemporary Art
12 Oct	John Millard	Meet some Fine Art and Music Impresarios in Victorian Newcastle
19 Oct	Hugh Dixon	Buildings about You (2)
26 Oct	Gordon Reavley	Degas' Ballet Paintings: An Alternative Reading
02 Nov	Malcolm Gee	Encounters at the Café du Dome – German responses to modern art in Paris 1903-1914 and beyond
09 Nov	Peter Quinn	The Camden Town Murders
16 Nov	Russell Baston	'Approaches to Photographing the Landscape': looking at a variety of landscape and photographers' interpretations of them
23 Nov	Margaret Adams	James Turrell
30 Nov	David Rosier	Chinese Imperial Court Costume—Qing Dynasty 1644-1911 'A Journey through the Imperial Wardrobe' Lecture 2 'Ultimate Power Dressing'
07 Dec	Peter Quinn	Barbara Hepworth (1903-1975)

Monday

Art History Course:

Local Art and Culture—Art in the 19th century in the North East of England

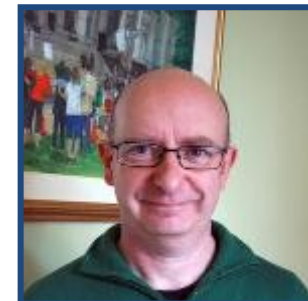
Tutor: [Peter Quinn](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date Title

12 Oct	Image, art and ambition in the local art world
19 Oct	Streets, castles and walls, picturing the region.
26 Oct	Local Academy and the Polytechnic
09 Nov	William Bell Scott: progress, modernity and history
16 Nov	Art School Days: the government schools
23 Nov	Staying at Home with the Men of the Bewick Club
30 Nov	Collections, museums and monuments



Monday

History Course: *from 19th October to 30th November*

The Second World War—Causes & Consequences

Tutor: John Sadler

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

19.00 to 20.30



This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the ending of WWII, the most destructive conflict in human history. Those who served or lived through the war years, for most of us—our parents' generation—are rapidly fading away. This course aims to offer both a narrative history of the war plus a reflection on the decades after, what were the long term outcomes, what indeed have we learnt, and how much might we have already forgotten. This is not just the war as history but as the formation of our modern society.

Tuesday

Classics from 22nd September for intermediate 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

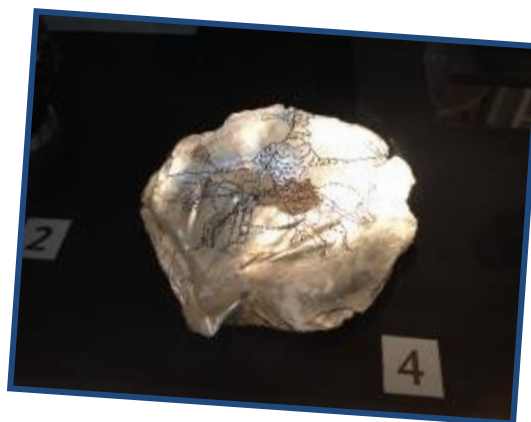
Explore members are cordially invited to join our Latin classes for £1 per session (donation towards room hire). We have 2 levels:

Intermediate using the *Cambridge Latin Anthology*

Advanced using *Tacitus Annals Book IV*.

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

The photos are from the class field trip to the 'Roman Empire: Power and People' exhibition at Segedunum.



Tuesday

Narratives on the theme of 'Encounters'

Open sessions

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



10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
06 Oct	Michael Ayton	<p>Approaching the Short Story (1): Things to Look For, and Frameworks for Looking</p> <p>Assuming a short story contains human subjects (some don't!), we can examine their characters, motivations and feelings, and how these are presented. But what else should we be looking at, or for, and why? And what types of critical spectacles might we don to do the looking?</p>
13 Oct	Ian Ground	<p>Understanding Narration I</p> <p>Story telling is central to our traditions of art across many media. But do stories – narrations – always require narrators? And what kind of narrators are there? This session will introduce some central philosophical concepts in the understanding of the structure of narration.</p>
20 Oct	Marie Addyman	<p>What goes on in the woods? The role of the forest in modern and traditional fairy tales</p> <p>If possible participants are encouraged to look out for Sara Maitland's <i>Gossip from the Forest: the Tangled Roots of our Forests and Fairytales</i> (ISBN 9781847084293) but come prepared to discuss anything you may have read which would contribute to the session.</p>

Tuesday

Narratives on the theme of 'Encounters'

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



10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
27 Oct	Richard Moore	Opening the Treasury A look at how we encounter and engage with a drama experience, both generically and looking especially at <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> , <i>Macbeth</i> and <i>The Shadow of a Gunman</i> .
03 Nov	Elayne Chaplin	Encounters with the moving image: silent cinema from the Lumière brothers to Charlie Chaplin.
10 Nov	Bronwen Calvert	Encounters with Poetry We'll examine and discuss different examples of poetic form. Absolutely no experience required.
17 Nov	Pamela Woof	Brief encounters with Lord Byron The man and the poems enchanted not only England but most of Europe. His relish for the absurd in human experience is a constant delight. We shall consider passages from <i>Childe Harold</i> III and IV, some of his love poems and some passages from <i>Don Juan</i> .
24 Nov	Malcolm Yorke	Biography: The Higher Cannibalism The biography raises various questions of ethics, law, tone, tact and relationship to subject and audience. These questions will be raised, though probably not necessarily answered. The speaker has published fifteen biographies, mostly on twentieth century British artists and writers such as Eric Gill & Mervin Peake.

Tuesday

Narratives on the theme of 'Encounters'

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



10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
01 Dec	Martin Wheeler	Introduction to the Novel
		Since its inception the novel has existed in a constant state of flux, exercising a highly complex and ever-changing relationship with its reader. In a whistle-stop and entirely random tour of the work of various writers we shall think about how we as readers might engage with the basic nuts and bolts of a novel, its narrative and plot, its language, themes and characterisation.
08 Dec	Ralf Russow	tbc

Tuesday

Narratives on the theme of 'Encounters'

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
06 Oct	Michael Ayton	<p>Approaching the Short Story (2): Katherine Mansfield's 'The Little Governess'</p> <p>This is a brief but pungent story about a young woman in a foreign country, written in Paris during World War I. It is freely available as a web-page and as a PDF download:</p> <p>http://www.katherinemansfieldsociety.org/assets/KM-Stories/THE-LITTLE-GOVERNESS1915.pdf</p>
13 Oct	Ian Ground	<p>Understanding Narration II</p> <p>Using central philosophical concepts in the understanding of the structure of narration, we will explore some examples from film, literature and the visual arts, with the aim of showing the centrality of storytelling in our imaginative engagements with the world and ourselves.</p>
20 Oct	Marie Addyman	<p>'The Girl, the Wolf and her Grandmother'</p> <p>If possible participants are encouraged to look out for any collection of fairy tales edited by Jack Zipes but come prepared to discuss anything you may have read which would contribute to the session. A handout will be provided.</p>

Tuesday

Narratives on the theme of 'Encounters'

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
27 Oct	Richard Moore	<p>Authorial Visions</p> <p>A look at <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i> and <i>Suddenly Last Summer</i>, particularly in relation to the dramatist's own life experience - tracing the plays from the inception to the finished product, showing how biography and creativity intertwine.</p>
03 Nov	Elayne Chaplin	Encounters with the moving image: silent cinema from the Lumière brothers to Charlie Chaplin.
10 Nov	Bronwen Calvert	<p>Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes Go Head to Head</p> <p>The poems to be looked at will be: 'Sow' and 'Mirror' by Plath, 'View of a Pig' and 'Wodwo' by Hughes. All texts are available in anthologies and online poetry sites. Weblinks to the poems will be provided nearer the time.</p>
17 Nov	Pamela Woof	<p>The poetry of John Donne.</p> <p>Donne's poetry is often fierce and harsh; it has little softness and sweetness but it has power. We shall consider a selection from the love poems, the Songs and Sonnets, and look also at some of the great tortured Holy Sonnets written by Donne, Dean of St. Paul's, a man who was different from his younger self and yet the same.</p>

Tuesday

Narratives on the theme of 'Encounters'

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



12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
24 Nov	Michael Ayton	Come and Meet the Text Doctor! Are you worried or unsure about any aspect of your writing, such as grammar, punctuation, layout and presentation, or bibliography? Help is at hand! Whatever it is you might write, this friendly, informal session offers a chance to learn how a professional editor thinks and works and get answers to common writing-related questions.
01 Dec	Martin Wheeler	Following on from the morning session we shall look in detail at aspects of the novel using extracts from Joseph Conrad's <i>Heart of Darkness</i> .
08 Dec	Ralf Russow	tbc

Tuesday

Interdisciplinary Course: *from 13th to 20th October*

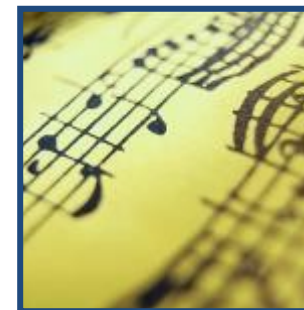
“Each singing what belongs to him or her and to none else”: music, narrative and the human voice

Tutor: Martin Wheeler

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

14.00 to 16.00

In this non-technical course for the general listener, these two sessions will explore through listening to recordings and free discussion, some of the ways in which composers since the 15th century have sought to articulate the inexhaustible narratives of human experience through the use of the human voice as a musical instrument.



Tuesday

Interdisciplinary Course: *from 3rd to 24th November*

Inhabiting Space and Place

Tutor: Marie Addyman

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

14.00 to 16.00

We are witnessing a global interest in the concept of place which encompasses the points of view of geographers, philosophers, novelists and poets, and what in the past would have been called travel writers. There is a debate about the differences between place and space and the different ways either term can be broken down - concepts which this course will aim to address. The four sessions will focus on selected chapters from the following recommended texts.

Date	Title
03 Nov	Discussion of the theoretical ideas involved; followed by discussion of G. Bachelard's <i>The Poetics of Space</i> (recommended chapters).
10 Nov	W. Sebald, <i>The Rings of Saturn</i> and V. Luiselli, <i>Sidewalks</i> (selected chapters from each).
17 Nov	K Jamie, <i>Sightlines</i> (selected chapters) and poems
24 Nov	T Janssen, <i>The Summer Book</i> (novel) and conclusion.

Tuesday

Science Course: *from 6th October to 3rd November*

Experiments that Changed the World

Tutor: Bea Groves

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



14.00 to 15.30

This short course will look at a series of revolutionary scientific experiments that changed our whole view of the world about us. Ranging from the Michelson-Morley 'failure', the psychology of car crashes, and the Manhattan Project, to the discovery of the Higgs Boson, we shall gain an insight into the extraordinary world of science in an enjoyable and informative manner.

Science Course: *from 10th November to 8th December*

Mountains

Tutor: Michael Leddra

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

14.00 to 15.30



Mountains form one of the most important and obvious geological features all over the world, but how are they formed? We will be looking at mountain ranges of various ages to see what the ticks tell us about their history and future.

Tuesday

History: *occasional dates to be confirmed*

Eighteenth Century Newcastle Study Group

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

17.00 to 18.30

This is a joint venture between Joseph Cowen LLC and [The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne](#) (SANT). It is making use of two of SANT's valuable resources, the Poll Book and the volume of 1771 Tyne Flood Papers, a 500-page bound file of documents relating to the flood, subscriptions to a relief fund, and compensation paid. A digitised copy has been prepared by Dr Ria Snowdon for Professor Berry, with financial assistance from the School of History, Classics and Archaeology, at Newcastle University. This is now accessible on the SANT website—[Flood Papers](#), along with the 1784 [Poll Book](#). Both, however, need indexing and transcribing, and further research done around them.

Members of the group are transcribing and making accessible these original sources, and in the process learning much about the city. Meetings will take place in Commercial Union House on various dates to be decided by the group. The plan is that members will be able to work on the documents on-line, meeting at regular intervals to discuss their work, talk about the information gained in the study, and have occasional speakers on topics of interest. The group is still quite new and is open to members of SANT and Explore.

Tuesday

Music Course:

Musical Encounters

Tutor: Mike Green

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

18.00 to 19.30



Date	Title
06 Oct	The Suite
13 Oct	The Concerto
20 Oct	The Secular Song
27 Oct	The Sonata
03 Nov	Sacred Vocal Music
10 Nov	The Symphony

This season we will be getting to know some of the most important genres of classical music by exploring their characteristics, origins and development over the past few hundred years. There will be lots of opportunity to hear examples by some of the important composers in the development of each genre. No formal musical knowledge is required for these sessions.

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.

Wednesday



Literature Course: *from 14th October to 4th November*

Calling to Us Down the Centuries: Homer's *Odyssey*, the Ultimate Transhistorical Epic

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30 to 12.00

The great epic poem that we know as the *Odyssey*, telling of the Greek hero Odysseus' return from the Trojan War, has captured the imagination of writers, artists and composers across many centuries, countries and cultures. Looking at the original ancient Greek poem in English translation, we'll examine the reasons for this deep-lying appeal. We'll focus, equally, on creative re-visionings of the poem and its meanings by writers as diverse as Ezra Pound, Margaret Atwood, Louise Glück, Constantine Cavafy and Jorie Graham. We'll also consider some powerful musical responses to the work by composers including Claudio Monteverdi and Gabriel Fauré. Click here http://s3.spanglefish.com/s/29767/documents/tutor-lecture-notes/michael-ayton/calling-to-us-down-the-centuries-homers-odyssey_reading-list.pdf for the reading list for this course.

Literature One-off class *18th November*

A Seamless Art: Lyric Poetry and Music in the Late Middle Ages

Tutor: Michael Ayton

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

10.30 to 13.30

Only in the late C14, so it's often said, did poetry and music in the West start to diverge – before that time they'd been conjoined rather than separate arts. In this seminar we'll look at the art of important poet-musicians of the period immediately prior to the 'divergence', especially Guillaume de Machaut in France and Francesco Landini in Italy, and examine how the major so-called 'fixed forms' used by Machaut and other composers continued to exert an influence on subsequent lyric poetry. We'll look also at some of the few examples of lyric art surviving from the C14 in England, in particular the poignant love song/poem *Bryd one brere* (c.1300). All texts (and magical sounds!) will be provided, and no prior knowledge is necessary or assumed.

Wednesday

History Course: *from 28th October to 9th December*

London

Tutor: John Griffiths

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

10.30 to 12.00



This course will look at the history of Britain's capital city. From Roman river crossing point to world city, economic powerhouse and cultural catalyst, it continues to justify Samuel Johnson's verdict: "when a man is tired of London, he is tired of life; for there is in London all that life can afford".

Film Studies Course: *from 25th November to 9th December*

Encounters with Film: Text, Context, Reading

Tutor: Elayne Chaplin

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

10.30 to 12.30

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|--------|---|
| 25 Nov | Encounters with European art cinema - reading the poetic film |
| 02 Dec | Politics and film - the 'dark art' of propaganda |
| 09 Dec | When Hollywood encountered Orson Welles - the saga of <i>Citizen Kane</i> |

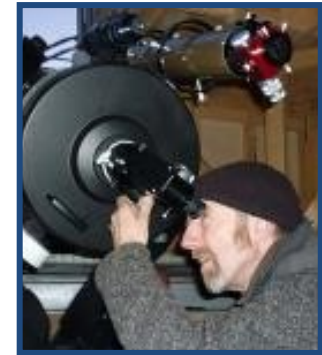
Wednesday

Science Course: *from 11th November to 9th December*

The First Three Minutes

Tutor: Fred Stevenson

Venue: Newcastle Arts Centre, Media Room



10.30 to 12.00

In this course we will present the latest ideas concerning the big-bang theory, particle physics and the early universe.

Both observations and the various theories used to explain them will be discussed. We will describe in some detail just how far currently known physics can take us to an understanding of the origin of the universe. No previous knowledge of astronomy, physics or maths is required - just a willingness to find out more.

Wednesday

Perspectives series on the theme of 'Encounters'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
07 Oct	Moir Hill	tbc
14 Oct	Vivek Nityananda	How Animals Use their Senses to Gain Information about the World
21 Oct	Andy Lane	Clash of the Tectonic Titans—and My Favourite Orogeny!
28 Oct	Beth Clark	How can we make sense of the wealth of information available to us? A case study investigating consumers' willingness-to-pay for farm animal welfare.
04 Nov	Amy Gau	Intelligent Vehicles
11 Nov	Andrew Davis	Neuroscience and Learning: Philosophical Objections to so-called Brain-based Learning.
18 Nov	Chris Stokes	Glaciers and Climate Change: The View from Space
25 Nov	Maria Goulding	Women in Maths and Science: Part II
02 Dec	Tom Snell	Fracking and Induced Earthquakes: Real versus perceived risk
09 Dec	Lyndsey Craven	Mitochondrial Donation to Prevent Transmission of Mitochondrial DNA Disease.

Wednesday

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

Roman Love Poetry 2: Propertius, Horace and Ovid

Tutor: Alan Beale

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

14.00 to 15.30



From Propertius' daring use of language to Ovid's outrageous wit, we will find three distinctive voices treating the topic of love, all of which have been influential in later times.

Please note that some of the texts studied as part of this course contain explicit language.

Wednesday

Science Course: *from 11th November to 9th December*

The Alchemical Stuff of Colour

Tutor: [Narbi Price](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30



We will look at the range of strange and wonderful substances that have been used to make paint and pigment from prehistory onwards. The sessions will also touch upon many cross-disciplinary concerns, chemistry, philosophy, history among them and draw links between the effects that the development of paint technology has had on that of art.

Lecture series:

[The Wednesday Lecture](#)

Tutor: Various, curated by [Breeze Creatives](#)

Venue: see programme on website

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 'Encounters'

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

10.30 to 12.00

Date	Tutor	Title
08 Oct	John Sadler	The Home Guard Auxiliars 1940-1944
15 Oct	John Griffiths	Paris of the Orient or Whore of Asia? Shanghai between the Wars
22 Oct	Gordon Reavley	If it's Free You're the Product: Surveillance and how it came to this
29 Oct	John Sadler	The Home Guard in Northumberland
05 Nov	Anthea Lang	Love and Lust: Encounters at Gibside
12 Nov	Gary Bankhead	The Durham River Wear Assemblage: pilgrimage, power and trade in late-medieval Durham
19 Nov	Colm O'Brien	The Arrival of the English: Ethnogenesis and Ethnic Cleansing?
26 Nov	Mike Greatbatch	St Ann's (Newcastle) and the impact of World War One
03 Dec	John Sadler	The Holocaust – 70 years on: what have we learned?
10Dec	Malcolm Grady	Encounters with Father Christmas

Thursday

Culture & Society series on the theme of 'Encounters'

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

12.30 to 13.30

Date	Tutor	Title
08 Oct	Colm O'Brien	Aethelberht and Augustine: a Kentish Encounter of King and Bishop in AD 597
15 Oct	Sanita Nezirovic	Encounters with the Past: Bioarchaeology of our Ancestors
22 Oct	Max Adams	Cuthbert and Horatio: Collingwood and his better known friend
29 Oct	Frances McIntosh	John Clayton: Excavator, Conservator and Collector
05 Nov	Malcolm Grady	An Encounter with Terrorism – The Gunpowder Plot
12 Nov	John Griffiths	'China' Morrison: The Morpeth Missionary
19 Nov	Liz O'Donnell	Mr Bevin's Raffle
26 Nov	Judith Summerson	The Return of the Red Kite
03 Dec	John Sadler	The Holocaust – 70 years on: what have we learned? (continued)
10Dec	Brian Young	The Stones of Durham: Building a Cathedral

Thursday

Literature Course:

Points of View: Exploring Narrative Voice in Fiction

Tutor: [Bronwen Calvert](#)

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

14.00 to 15.30

Date Title

22 Oct Edgar Allan Poe 'The Tell-Tale Heart'

29 Oct NO CLASS

05 Nov Henry James *The Turn of the Screw*

12 Nov Daphne du Maurier *My Cousin Rachel*

19 Nov Daphne du Maurier *My Cousin Rachel* continued

26 Nov Mark Haddon *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

03 Dec Ali Smith *How to be Both*

10 Dec Ali Smith *How to be Both* continued

Taking a cross-section of works showing different examples of first-person narration, we examine how a writer creates a distinctive 'voice'.

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 explorelitprog@gmail.com and write 'Bronwen Calvert Booking' in the header. Bookings will be taken from 7th September until 30th September 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

History Course: *from 8th October to 6th November (NB There is no class on 29th October.)*

Latin for Local History

Tutor: Colm O'Brien

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

14.00 to 15.30



Those who engage in local history research eventually find, if they delve far enough back, that they reach a time at which primary sources are no longer in English, but in Latin. This is an absolute barrier to many. This is a shame, for it is possible to break through. My aim is to bring forward some source texts from northern England and to give guidance in reading them. I will pitch this for those who have some hazy memories of Latin learned long ago at school. If you have no Latin but would like to join in, come along and we'll see how we can get it to work for you. I will be working from printed versions of texts: this is not a course on palaeography.

NEW Philosophy Course: *from 12th November to 10th December*

Language and Philosophy

Tutor: Andrew Woodard

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

14.00 to 15.30



Andrew is part of the Durham University's 'Mind Language and Metaphysics' research cluster. He specialises in the philosophy of language and linguistics, which will be the subject of his course. An increasingly popular view of the uniquely human capacity for language assumes that it evolved recently (not more than 200,000 years ago) and suddenly, a sudden leap in our evolutionary history which took us from having an intelligence similar to what we see in other upper primates like chimpanzees to having the one we have. What then is language, such that it appeared on the scene so suddenly? Click [here](#) to learn more.

Thursday

History Course:

Lore and Literature of the Vikings

Tutor: Miguel Angel Gomes

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

19.00 to 20.30

The Vikings may have been deservedly unpopular in their day, but they exert a fascination at this safe distance. Miguel will in this course help us find what their literature can teach us about their beliefs and their lives.

- 15 Oct The Viking Wars
- 29 Oct In Search of the Viking Gods
- 12 Nov In Search of the Viking Gods *continued*
- 26 Nov The Sagas of the Icelanders
- 10 Dec The Heroes of Norse Literature



History Course: 22nd October, 5th, 19th November & 3rd December

Bernician Studies Group

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

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

18.30 to 20.30

This independent study group meets fortnightly during Explore seasons 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 Ireland. 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.)



Friday

History Course from 9th October to 6th November

Fenham: Continuity and Change 1700-1940

Tutor: Mike Greatbatch

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

10.30 to 12.00

Date Title

09 Oct Introduction & Mapping the History of Fenham.

16 Oct Fenham Hall and its Legacy .

23 Oct Site Visit: Look inside Fenham Hall (now student accommodation) and St James & St Basil's Church—Fenham's monument to the Great War.

30 Oct Fenham Economy Transformed: Workers & Residents.

06 Nov Fenham and the First World War.

13 Nov Visit: City Library Archive to look at rare maps, plans, manuscripts and other primary source material.



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

Tom Stoppard

Tutor: Richard Moore

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

10.30 to 13.30

We shall look at four plays: *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, *The Invention of Love*, *The Real Inspector Hound* and *Arcadia*. It would help if class members had copies or at least knew something about these works but plot details will be provided.



Friday

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

Tennyson and the 'Unquiet Heart'; a Victorian individual in an age of cheerful progressive thinkers.

Tutor: Pamela Woof

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

10.30 to 13.30

Directions and indirections fill Tennyson's poetry; opposites and contradictions present themselves as he encounters love, faith in God, death and grieving, courage and war, indeed the human condition. We can consider only a selection of works by this prolific Poet Laureate. Among them will be: 'Mariana', 'The Kraken', 'The Lady of Shalott', 'The Lotus-Eaters', 'Ulysses' and selected poems from *In Memoriam*

Practical Art Course

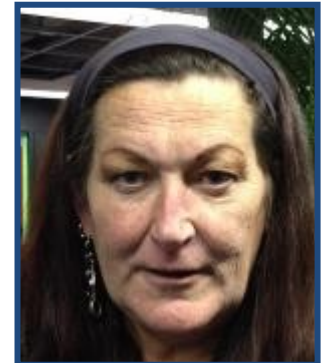
Creating a Portrait

Tutor: [Lizzie Rowe](#)

Dates: Fridays 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th November and 4th December

Venue: Black Room, 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 directly**.

Saturday

Practical Art Course:

Illustration Workshop

Tutor: Silvia Mendoza Vera

Saturday 10th October 10.30 to 13.30

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

This workshop will be suitable for all levels of experience and members with different drawing skills. Any medium suitable for illustration will be used (e.g. charcoal, ink, water colours, pastels, collage, tempera...) but not oils. Students need to bring their own materials, although the tutor will provide some. The aim of this workshop is to get students to analyse and illustrate a text given by the tutor so that every person will produce a different interpretation of the gap bridged between text and image. This session will be an opportunity to explore illustration concepts of colour and composition, as well as several techniques, which will help both more and less experienced members to develop their artistic skills and to let themselves be carried away by their imagination as they work creatively.

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

History Course:

The Northern Ireland Conflict & the Sources

Tutor: Sarah Campbell

Saturday 10th October 10.00 to 12.30

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

Sarah Campbell's talk in Season 3 of the past year, on the Irish Independence Movement, aroused such interest that she has agreed to return in October. She will bring some of the historical source material used in her lecture and lead a study session using them.

Saturday

Science Course:

Brownfield Sites and Planning

Tutor: Janet Atkinson

Saturday 17th October 10.00 to 12.30

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

Brownfield sites – what are they exactly? Are they the answer to planning problems? How desirable are they for house building? What problems do they pose for developers and what opportunities? Environmental scientist Janet Atkinson's session will give an insight into this very topical matter.

History Course:

The Evolution of the Pit Village

Tutor: John Griffiths

Saturday 24th October 10.00 to 13.00

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



The pit village is one of the most characteristic settlement types of North East England. This session will look at the development of mining settlements from early modern times to the 20th century, looking at their shape and form, and the often-vibrant social life they contained.

Saturday

Practical Art Course:

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

Tutor: Margaret Adams

Saturday 31st October 10.30 to 13.30

Venue: Black Room , 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 directly.



Science Course:

The Genius of George Orwell

Tutor: Bea Groves

Saturday 31st October 10.00 to 13.00

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

George Orwell was a public schoolboy who fought in the Spanish Civil War and became the socialist conscience of a nation. His novels and extensive articles form the heart of a sharp-edged critique of British society and its inadequacies. But there's more to Orwell than just fiction! This session will take a look at the man, his position in the body-politic of society and extraordinary relevance of his work today.



Saturday

Art History Course:

Max Beckmann Triptychs

Tutor: Peter Quinn

Saturday 14th November 10.00 to 13.00

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



During his long career Max Beckmann (1884-1950) painted nine complete triptychs. Beckmann's art was in turn expressionistic, literary, historical and personal. In a visionary lecture in London in 1938 he described William Blake coming to him in a dream: "And I woke, and found myself in Holland amidst the utter chaos of the world." Colourful, densely populated, idiosyncratic the triptychs (three-panel paintings) repay careful consideration as they chart the artist's preoccupations during the crisis years of his exile from Germany (he was declared degenerate by the Nazis), his isolation in Amsterdam during the Second World War and his final years in post-war USA.

Saturday

History Course:

[North East Ancient Egypt Society](#) Study Day

Dazzling Sundisk: Life & Death of Amenhotep III

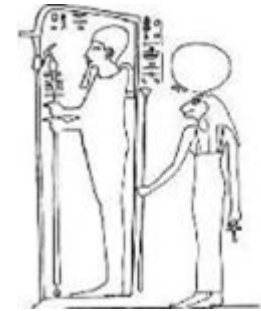
Tutors: Rainer Stadelmann, Hourig Sourouzian & Angus Graham

Saturday 21st November 10.00 to 16.30

Venue: Literary and Philosophical Society, 23 Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne

Bookings: Explore members can attend free by e [mailing neaesoc@googlemail.com](mailto:mailing_neaesoc@googlemail.com) in advance.

This will be a popular event so please book as soon as possible.



Hourig and Rainer have been directing work at Kom el Hetan, the mortuary temple complex of Amenhotep III and Angus has been recreating the ancient landscape. They will discuss their findings and results.

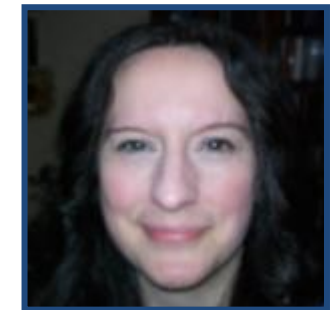
Literature Course:

Encounters in Iowa: the Novels of Marilynne Robinson

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Saturday 28th November 10.30 to 13.30

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



This session will apply our theme of encounters to the fictional works of novelist Marilynne Robinson. It will explore the range of cross-cultural encounters that occur across her work, focusing particularly on her treatment of class and religion. The session will include analysis all four of Robinson's novels but will pay particular attention to her Iowa trilogy, comprising *Gilead*, *Home* and *Lila*.

Saturday

Literature Course:

New Encounters: Reading Edith Wharton's Minor Works

Tutor: Rachel Lister

Saturday 5th December, 10.30 to 13.30

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

This session will provide the chance to explore a range of themes across some of Edith Wharton's lesser known fictional works. It will focus specifically on extracts from novels such as *Twilight Sleep*, *Old New York*, *The Mother's Recompense* as well as her unfinished novel, *The Buccaneers*. Extracts will be provided in advance.

History Course:

Victorian Shades of Grey

Tutor: Malcolm Grady

Saturday 12th December 10.00 to 13.00

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

Victorian shades of grey – may well turn out to be a lot more colourful than that. We could be moving quite a distance from the respectable drawing rooms of those bewhiskered worthies.