

# The Philosophical & Literary Society



Courses, Talks and Workshops  
Epiphany Term 2020

~ HEXHAM ~

# WELCOME

You walk through the Market Square. Turn the corner onto Hallstile Bank. See the hanging sign above the duck-egg blue door. Turn the handle, climb the stairs...

Welcome to The Hexham Phil & Lit

But what is this place, I hear you ask? Well, The Phil & Lit is an institute for lifelong learning; a library and study space; a meeting hub for like-minded people; a place to work, be creative, to learn and to discuss. We can be all manner of things to all manner of people.

We offer courses, workshops, lectures and events covering a diverse array of topics such as Philosophy, Literature, Creative Writing, Religion, Psychology, Music, Art History and Mindfulness.

Members of The Phil & Lit can use the library as their own shared office, for work or pleasure, and are able to borrow books and journals from the library. Members and non-members can attend any of our classes or take part in discussion groups.

We share a love of knowledge and learning here at The Phil & Lit, and our aim is to share that with Hexham and beyond.

So whether you want to supplement your formal education; to explore a new hobby; reawaken seemingly lost skills; get involved in a debate; meet new people; or simply want to get out of the house a bit more, look inside and see what The Phil & Lit can offer you...

Hope to see you soon

Darren Harper and Becca Roberts

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Email: [info@philandlit.org](mailto:info@philandlit.org)

Website: [philandlit.org](http://philandlit.org)

The Phil & Lit, 7 Hallstile Bank, Hexham, NE46 3PG

# The World of Musical Instruments

[one day course]

## **Subject**

Musical Appreciation

## **Tutor**

Dr Tamsin Jones

## **Date**

Saturday 11th January 2020

10am - 4.30pm

## **Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £42

Non-Members: £50

## **Level**

Any

## **Description**

Musical instruments come in all shapes and sizes, from tiny finger cymbals to mighty organs taking up entire sections of cathedrals. In this course, you will learn the major ways of categorising instruments and will develop an understanding of how instruments make sound, and how musicians make music by controlling these sounds.

You will learn how instruments are made and how advances in technology over the centuries have led to the invention and improvement of musical instruments. The course will examine ways in which instruments are developing in the present day and how they might evolve in the future. The course will also examine how instruments are combined to form bands, orchestras and ensembles and will look at the many ways in which they can be played. If you ever wondered why there are so many violins in an orchestra but only one piccolo or whatever a “prepared piano” might be, then this is a great opportunity to find out!

The course will also look at how everyday objects can be put to musical use, and there will be an opportunity to try out some instruments. After all, it is never too late to learn an instrument and it is a very satisfying hobby that can open up the door to wonderful new friendships and experiences.

# Poetry Workshop

[one day course]

## Subject

Creative Writing

## Tutor

Andy Hopkins

## Date

Saturday 18th January 2020

10am - 4:30pm

## Fees

Phil & Lit Members: £42

Non-Members: £50

## Level

Beginners onwards

## Description

As well as taking the group through a series of creative writing activities, Andy Hopkins will also guide students through editing techniques and introduce the variety of publications that might take your poems. Whether you are putting the finishing touches to your next collection or have yet to get a poem into print, come along and create a series of poems in an encouraging environment. "I have worked with poets on their third collections and beyond - and I'm happy to work with poets on their first poem. Honoured, in fact."

## Outline

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 10:00 - 11:15 | Rules that Create: Poetry can take any form, but some rules hinder us and others encourage cliche. We look closely at some contemporary poetry and work out what our own rules might be. And start writing.  |
| 11:30 - 12:45 | Exploring Editing: As well as generating some more poetry, we will look closely at how crucial the editing process is. We will also look at different ways of using editing as a creative tool, using strategies from across the last hundred years. |
| 13:45 - 15:00 | Bypassing your Blockers: We will work on a variety of stimuli to help your creative subconscious come to the fore: to write the way you actually feel and experience the world - not the way that you think you should.                              |
| 15:15 - 16:30 | How Soon Is Now?: As well as writing, we will look at contemporary presses, including a range of journals, magazines, publishers and websites. This is designed to help poets choose where to send their work next.                                  |

# Tai Chi: Exercise and Philosophise With the Ancient Art of Tai Chi Chuan

[three week course]

## Subject

Movement / Mindfulness

## Tutor

Amanda Barrell

## Dates

Saturday 25th January 1pm - 4pm

Saturday 29th February 1pm - 4pm

Saturday 21st March 2pm - 5pm

## Fees

Phil & Lit Members: £17 per session / £42 full course

Non-Members: £20 per session / £50 full course

## Level

Beginners to intermediate

## Description

Although this ancient Chinese art is a practical survival guide in many ways, it is steeped in legend and symbolism. Through these initial half day courses we will explore the basic concepts of practice, so that you can apply it to your everyday life and also gradually learn the Traditional Yang Style Long Form as an ongoing project. Each session is both separate and part of the series, so you can come to one or all to gain great value and benefit.

There are many symbols within the Form that mean different things to different people and some universal symbols innate or learned. By making your own story 'fit' the sequence, or 'Form', you can work with the metamorphic motifs to learn about yourself and therefore never forget the sequence of moves you have learned.

There is no need for special clothing, equipment or to have any previous knowledge. All the movement is standing or sitting, suitable for all ages and abilities.

## Outline

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Week One</b>   | <b>The Allegorical Journey Emerges: Origins &amp; History</b><br>Innocence, trial and error. We move with the freedom of young animals, a sensory sweetshop of new experiences.   |
| <b>Week Two</b>   | <b>The Allegory Unfolds: The 10 Essential Points of Yang Cheng-fu</b><br>We enter a world of learning, play and rules. We realise constraints, test boundaries and trust. We become self-aware and respect the sometimes hard lessons of nature when we 'play with snakes and try to fly too soon'. |
| <b>Week Three</b> | <b>The Journey Continues: Symbolism of Movement</b><br>We accept the Snakes and meet the Tiger. A battle ground of decision and control. Coping with the physical and mental facts of life as we prepare for the next stage of development...   |

# Fine Art Drawing: Traditional Art School Style

[eight week course]

## Subject

Art / Drawing

## Tutor

Ceri Allen

## Dates

Wednesdays 29th January - 18th March 2020

1pm - 4pm

## Fees

Phil & Lit Members: £11 per session / £77 full course

Non-Members: £14 per session / £90 full course

## Level

Beginners to intermediate

## Description

This course is based on a Traditional Art School approach with emphasis on developing skills in the essentials of drawing. Students will investigate Form, Tone, Colour and Perspective, along with a variety of different media.

## Outline

|               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Week 1</b> | Form and Tone               |
| <b>Week 2</b> | Introduction to Perspective |
| <b>Week 3</b> | Exploring Line              |
| <b>Week 4</b> | Drawing project             |
| <b>Week 5</b> | Introducing Colour Media    |
| <b>Week 6</b> | The Human Form              |
| <b>Week 7</b> | Townscape drawing project   |
| <b>Week 8</b> | Pen, Ink and other Media    |

## Useful materials for students to bring

White cartridge paper (and some coloured paper)

A3 size sketch book

Drawing pencils (2B - 6B)

Graphite sticks / charcoal

Erasers and putty rubber

Bull dog clips / masking tape

Portfolio to protect work

As the course progresses, inks, ink pens, brushes and pastels may be useful

**We have a small supply of easels/drawing boards but if you have your own, please bring them along. We will have a small supply of materials and extra paper available to purchase if required.**

# Book Talk - ‘O Man of Clay’

## by Eliza Mood

[evening event]

### **Subject**

Literature / Current Affairs

### **Tutor**

Eliza Mood

### **Date**

Thursday 30th January 2020

7.30pm - 9pm

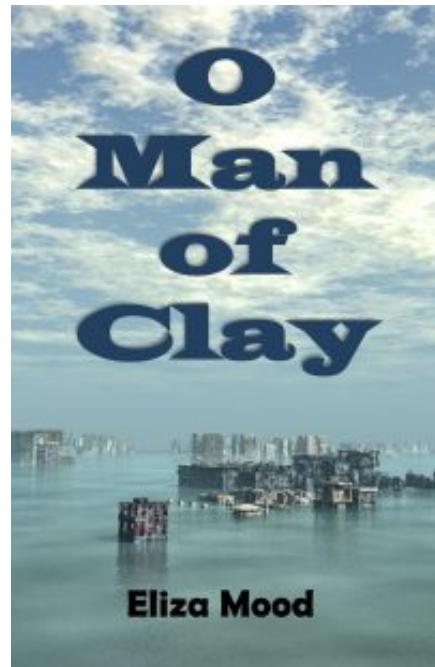
### **Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £5

Non-Members: £7

### **Level**

Any



### **Description**

Eliza Mood, author and climate activist, presents a talk on her recent publication, ‘O Man of Clay’- a novel set in a post-disaster world. “My book is a fable about climate change. Most of the world’s major cities have been inundated, with a tsunami wiping out the houses, shops and schools along the Hartlepool shore. The story, set over only a handful of days, flashes between the past and near future of the protagonists...”

### **About the Author**

Born in Northumberland in 1957, Eliza began writing poems and stories for school magazines and plays for class performance. After winning a place on a poetry-writing course at the Arvon Foundation, she began writing in earnest. Reading English at Cambridge, she amassed various notebooks of scribblings and later, as a teacher in Northumberland and Durham, honed her playwriting skills. She undertook research on oral storytelling in the classroom at the University of Durham, exploring children’s retellings of myths and traditional tales.

As a lecturer at the University of Cumbria, she continued writing and began to publish in poetry journals in 2003. Eliza self-published her first novel, ‘Giving up Architecture’, in 2006, assisted by Seaglass Books. Her most recent publication, ‘O Man Of Clay’, was published by Stairwell Books in December 2019.

# Writing an ‘Issue’ Driven Novel

## [half-day course]

**Subject**

Creative Writing / Current Affairs

**Tutor**

Eliza Mood

**Date**

Friday 31st January 2020

10am - 1pm

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £21

Non-Members: £25

**Level**

Beginners to experienced

**Description**

Participation and input will be welcome from those who are either beginning a project or those who have been wrestling with fictionalising ideas and issues successfully, or less than successfully, in any genre for any number of years.

Looking at the serious stuff from the edge; the out-of-the way; through the voice of the unheard, unseen, the odd or skewed angle. Be prepared to talk a bit, read a bit, listen, hear, think – the good things. We’ll do some exercises separately and others together.

If possible, bring along a brief, apparently inconsequential, news item; tucked away or likely to be overlooked, involving at least one human being and that you suspect might conceal or be connected to a can of worms. We can open it together.

# Reading and Writing Music

## [one day course]

**Subject**

Musical Skills / Appreciation

**Tutor**

Dr Tamsin Jones

**Date**

Saturday 1st February 2020  
10am - 4:30pm

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £42

Non-Members: £50

**Level**

Beginner to intermediate

**Description**

“Doe, a deer, a female deer”, “F-A-C-E” and “Every Good Boy Deserves Football”? Perhaps these cryptic phrases evoke memories of recorder classes at junior school? Or perhaps they strengthen the impression that musicians inhabit a strange and bewildering universe?

In this course, Dr Tamsin Jones will explain easy ways of learning how to read and write music. You will find out how to extract the essential information from sheet music, lead sheets, hymn books and guitar songbooks and turn the notation from cryptography to practical tools of music-making.

The course is suitable for complete beginners, but will also offer much to interest hobbyist musicians involved in such activities as choirs, pop bands, karaoke and playing musical instruments at home.

**Tutor Biography**

Dr Tamsin Jones is a professional musician and composer. Tamsin graduated with a First Class Honours Degree from the University of Newcastle before going on to complete her PhD with the University of Birmingham. Having developed her composition style over many years, experimenting with everything from hardcore minimalism to rock, her music has now been performed in many countries around the world. Tamsin now teaches at the University of Newcastle where she is also studying for her second PhD.

# What's Interesting About Boredom?

## [half day course]

**Subject**

Psychology

**Tutor**

Dr Martyn Dyer-Smith

**Date**

Saturday 8th February 2020

11am - 2pm [half hour lunch break]

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £21

Non-Members: £25

**Level**

Any

**Description**

Creativity looks interesting, and boredom ... boring. But the two are linked. The novelist, Graham Greene, played Russian roulette with his revolver to get his mojo working.

Boredom 'ought' to be the opposite of Stress, but they share clinical symptoms: bizarre. It was found, in a series of experiments, that there was a 40-fold difference in individual susceptibility to boredom. But is it an Emotion or a Thought? Time goes on and on and on when we are bored but, proverbially, flies when one is having fun. If Time is money then boredom is like being flush with cash, but with nothing to buy.

**Tutor Biography**

Formerly a world-wide marine navigator, Dr Dyer-Smith achieved his PhD from Strathclyde University in 1995. Having initially researched Human Error, from 1986-89, at the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations, London, he then went on to teach and to research at universities from Washington DC to Warsaw, ending that career as Head of Psychology at Northumbria University, Carlisle and visiting professor at Stavanger University, Norway.

# The Philosophy of Religion

## [six week course]

**Subject**

Philosophy / Religion

**Tutor**

Darren Harper

**Date**

Tuesdays 4th February - 17th March 2020 [N.B. No session on 18th February]

7pm - 8:30pm

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £5 per session / £27 full course

Non-Members: £7 per session / £30 full course

**Level**

Any

**Description**

The course consists of lectures and debate on the philosophy of religion. It aims to provide a grounding in the central questions about religion which have concerned philosophers for two and a half thousand years. The questions discussed on the course will include: *Can the existence of God be proved? Is belief in God compatible with the amount of suffering in the world?*

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| <b>Week One</b>   | Religious belief and the philosophy of religion      |
| <b>Week Two</b>   | Natural theology                                     |
| <b>Week Three</b> | Challenges to theism                                 |
| <b>Week Four</b>  | Alternative approaches to the philosophy of religion |
| <b>Week Five</b>  | Divine actions and the beyond                        |
| <b>Week Six</b>   | Philosophy of religion in an age of terror           |

# Michael Bavidge: Presence in a Shared World

[evening book talk]

## Subject

Philosophy / Language

## Tutor

Michael Bavidge

## Date

Friday 21st February 2020

7:30pm - 9pm

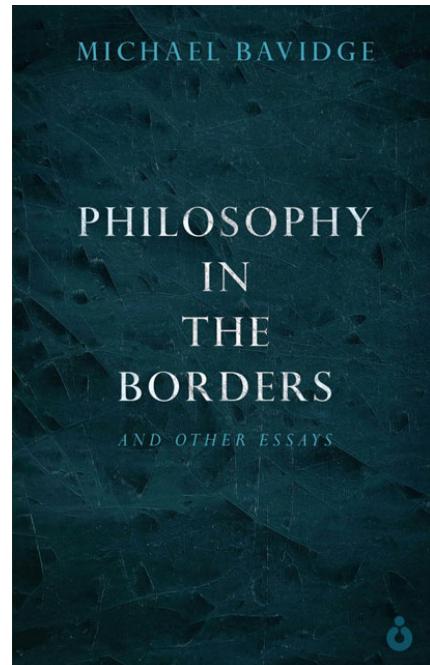
## Fees

Phil & Lit Members: £5

Non-Members: £7

## Level

Any



## Description

In language we voice our engagement with the world, express our relationships with each other, formulate theories and weave imaginary worlds. We have to acquire language, grow into the moral life, and come to know other people. We will discuss the main theme from my book 'Philosophy in the Borders' - our presence in a shared world.

## Author Biography

Michael Bavidge is a lecturer in Philosophical Studies at Newcastle University. He has previously authored papers on the phenomenology of ageing, the animal mind, cognitive impairment and moral philosophy as well as an array of other topics. Michael's book, 'Philosophy in the Borders and Other Essays', was published in May 2019.

"The borders I have in mind are not lines of demarcation (not walls, checkpoints or lines on maps). They are stretches of territory - spaces of transition, trade and uncertainty - between more self-contained and settled regions... Philosophy itself is a sort of critical reflection that takes place in these disputed areas."

# Is Religion Still Relevant?

## [one day course]

**Subject**

Religion / Philosophy

**Tutor**

Dr Aidan Gillespie

**Date**

Saturday 22nd February 2020

10am - 4:30pm

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £42

Non-Members: £50

**Level**

Any

**Description**

Religion is a contentious term and can be understood in numerous ways. Seeking to understand if religion has any place in British society, this course will develop learners' understanding of the ways in which religion has been articulated and conceptualised. Philosophy, sociology, spirituality and education perspectives will all be used and we will draw on learners' own views and stories. Material will be presented in an accessible way and will be developed through paired and small group work. An interactive lecture with thought-provoking discussion.

**Tutor Biography**

Dr Aidan Gillespie is a Senior Lecturer in the Social Work, Education and Community Wellbeing team at Northumbria University. Formally a Senior Lecturer in Primary Education at Canterbury Christchurch University, Aidan had already had a successful career as a primary school teacher. Now as Initial Teacher Education subject leader for Religious Education, he designs and teaches modules focused on the role of religion in state education in the UK and the way in which religion, society and values intersect. With a research focus on spirituality, Aidan has a deep interest in the intersection between spirituality and professional identity.

# The Influence of Photography on Art

[five week course]

**Subject**

Photography / Art

**Tutor**

Simon Green

**Date**

Fridays 28th February - 27th March  
6pm - 8pm

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £10 per session / £42 full course  
Non-Members: £12 per session / £50 full course

**Level**

Beginners to intermediate

**Description**

The camera may have been invented in 1816, however the influence of photographic techniques can be traced as far back as 1430. This course will look at photography's influence on art and photography's gradual acceptance into the art world as a medium in its own right. We will explore various styles, techniques and influences by looking at the work of influential photographers / artists.

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Week One</b>   | David Hockney     |
| <b>Week Two</b>   | Jeff Wall         |
| <b>Week Three</b> | Andreas Gursky    |
| <b>Week Four</b>  | William Eggleston |
| <b>Week Five</b>  | Conclusion        |

[Suggested reading: Hockney on Photography / Hockey on Art]

# Japanese Culture and Customs

## [one day course]

**Subject**

Culture / Travel

**Tutor**

Dr Tamsin Jones

**Date**

Saturday 7th March 2020

10am - 4.30pm

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £42

Non-Members: £50

**Level**

Any

**Description**

The culture of Japan is fascinating because of its blend of ancient traditions and leading-edge technologies. Japanese comics, music and dramas are exerting a powerful influence on youth culture through the internet, while the timeless appeal of temples, teahouses and geisha ceremonies are attracting tourists to the country in record numbers.

This course will identify and examine the characteristic features of Japanese culture and explain them in reference to the country's history and geography. Students will learn about the country's unique two-religion system, how it is that the Japanese are able to cope with natural and other disasters that would cripple many other societies and about many other intriguing facets of Japan from its cuisine to sumo wrestling and extreme game shows.

There will also be an opportunity to sample real Japanese food and drink.

**Tutor Biography**

Tamsin Jones spent six years working in Hiroshima Prefecture, teaching English and Music, occasionally mixing it with the notorious Kure traffic police, appearing on local TV and pursuing a dubious career as a folk-rock-punk singer and guitarist!

# Poetry Workshop: Painting With Words

[half day course]

**Subject**

Creative Writing

**Tutor**

Krista Johnston

**Date**

Saturday 14th March 2020

11am - 2pm [half hour lunch break]

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £21

Non-Members: £25

**Level**

Beginners to intermediate

**Description**

This course will introduce you to the practice of 'ekphrasis', showing you how to use the visual arts as a constant source of poetic inspiration. We will analyse the words of Sylvia Plath and William Carlos Williams to understand the power of this exercise. Students will be given a variety of visual prompts throughout, as well as opportunities for workshopping and feedback. With a combination of informative lecture, group work and individual feedback, this course will provide invaluable techniques to help students to draw inspiration from the world around them and to create and refine their poetry.

# Art History Lecture Pair:

## Fascinating Faces - British Portraiture

## Satirical Portraits - The Art of British Caricature

### [daytime lecture]

**Subject**

Art History

**Tutor**

Dr David Cross

**Date**

Friday 27th March 2020

11am - 2pm [N.B. Lunch break from 12 - 1pm]

**Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £17

Non-Members: £20

**Level**

Any

**Description**

#### **Fascinating Faces: British Portraiture**

Great characters of history have always held a fascination for British people, perhaps because there seems to be a dearth of great men and women in our own times. Visitors thirst for portraits in our two national portrait galleries whilst biographies proliferate and fly off the shelves. Europeans believe we are obsessed by portraiture, which captures the appearance, character and period dress of key individuals. Though most portraits, until the 18<sup>th</sup> century, were commissioned from visiting foreign artists, gradually a British school arose, bolstered by the example and ambition of Reynolds. This lecture will explore the diversity of British portraiture from the 16th century to the present.

#### **Satirical Portraits: the Art of British Caricature**

The golden age of British caricature was the 18th century, when Gillray and Rowlandson honed their skills of observation, catching the quirks and foibles of kings and politicians. However, caricature was not a British invention, having its roots in Italy with the grotesques of Leonardo and the generic satirical drawings of the Carraci. This lecture explores these Italian origins and then gives a chronological survey of British caricature which includes the less familiar 18th century work of Newton and Bunbury and then, in the 19th century, that of Ape and Spy and the pages of Punch, gradually through to the 20th century of Bairnsfather and Searle, culminating in the corrosive work of Scarfe.

# Japanese in Just a Day!

## [one day course]

### **Subject**

Languages / Culture

### **Tutor**

Dr Tamsin Jones

### **Date**

Saturday 28th March 2020

10am - 4.30pm

### **Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £42

Non-Members: £50

### **Level**

Beginner

### **Description**

You can learn a lot of basic Japanese in just a day! Although Japanese is typically regarded as a very challenging language to learn, it does in fact work according to simple and ingenious principles and it is possible to pick up the basic greetings and essentials for getting by in almost no time.

This course will cover the daily greetings and pleasantries that will delight your Japanese hosts on a trip to Japan and will offer the most crucial words required to get by, as well as the grammatical tools for putting them together. Thanks to the wonderful device of “katakana eigo” you will also learn how to say something in Japanese even when you don’t know how to say it in Japanese!

The principles behind the Japanese writing system will be explained and you will learn how to write your own name in real Japanese script.

### **Tutor Biography**

Tamsin Jones spent six years working in Hiroshima Prefecture, teaching English and Music. She has passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level N2 and has taught Japanese to many private and corporate clients.

# The Reading List

[half day course]

## **Subject**

Study Skills

## **Tutor**

Anne Jones

## **Date**

Saturday 4th April 2020

10am - 12.30pm

## **Fees**

Phil & Lit Members: £26

Non-Members: £30

## **Level**

Any. Particularly suitable for university students.

## **Description**

You could save time and achieve more with less stress. Discover how to approach your reading stack like an expert:

- Time saving strategies
- Easy ways to boost recall
- Manage reading projects efficiently from start to completion

Students; bring one of your textbooks and start on your list immediately!

Whether you are studying for exams or a degree; training for a job; reading for a personal interest; or just want to make sure you hit that Goodreads book target; this course will give you the tools and teach you the techniques to plan efficiently, read quickly and learn effectively.

## **Tutor Biography**

Anne is the six time winner of the World Speed Reading Championships and, in connection with this, has been interviewed by the BBC, Sky, ITV and a wide range of local and national publications, including the Wall Street Journal. She has created mind maps for a great number of Hodder & Staughton study guides as well as for an edition of Edward de Bono's CoRT Thinking Skills Program for Schools. Anne has a wealth of experience, having worked with audiences in the UK, EU and the USA, running courses and workshops in speed reading, mind mapping and other study skills.

# The Philosophy Forum

## PHILOSOPHICAL DISCUSSION GROUP

The Philosophy Forum, a Hexham based Philosophy Group, discusses controversial issues in a relaxed and non-academic environment.

Believing that Philosophy should not solely be the realm of academics, with togas and dusty tomes, it introduces topics relevant to the modern world, before applying philosophical argument to discuss the issues at hand.

No background in Philosophy is necessary. You will meet other open-minded individuals who are fellow lovers of wisdom and are enthusiastic about exploring new ideas.

| Topic              | Date                        | Time             |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Racism</b>      | Thursday 23rd January 2020  | 8pm until 9.30pm |
| <b>Sexism</b>      | Thursday 20th February 2020 | 8pm until 9.30pm |
| <b>Immigration</b> | Thursday 19th March 2020    | 8pm until 9.30pm |

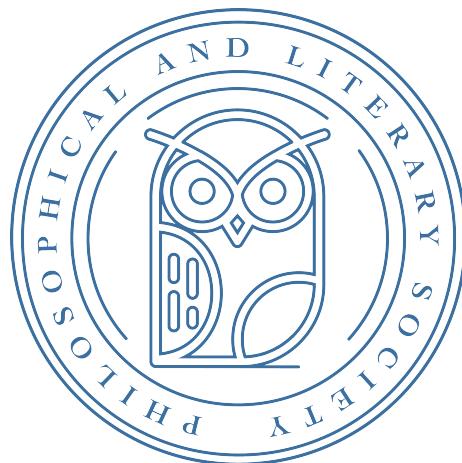
**N.B.** The group *usually* meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

### ADMISSION

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Members     | £5 |
| Non-members | £7 |

# Membership of The Phil & Lit

Epiphany 2020



The benefits:

- Discounts on all courses, talks and workshops.
- A collection of approximately 2,000 books - many of which can be borrowed.
- A wide selection of DVDs - all of which can be borrowed.
- Access to a range of philosophical and literary journals.
- A pleasant environment to read, write, research or relax in our library.
- Free Wi-Fi.
- Monthly email newsletters to keep you updated on our courses.

## MEMBERSHIP

| Membership Type | Particulars                     | Fees [per annum] |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Membership      | May borrow 4 books at one time. | £45              |

## OPENING HOURS

| Days       | Times      |
|------------|------------|
| Mondays    | 10am - 1pm |
| Tuesdays   | 10am - 4pm |
| Wednesdays | Closed     |
| Thursdays  | 10am - 1pm |
| Fridays    | 10am - 1pm |

**N.B. These are the general library opening times; up to date times can be found on the website. They are subject to change, due to daytime courses and staff availability.**

The library is open during term-time only. Epiphany term dates are Monday 13th January until Friday 3rd April 2020. Trinity term will commence Monday 20th April 2020.

# Exhibiting Artist

RACHEL HOPE



After graduating with an art diploma from college in her home town of Wakefield in Yorkshire, Rachel began developing her individual style, which she confesses is “a little creepy and strange”. As a keen birdwatcher, she has always been fascinated with nature and has used it as a constant muse in her work.

## Artist Statement:

Many of my paintings are inspired by observing birds and their juxtaposition with a myriad of other species inhabiting the tangled hedgerows, river banks, trees and forests here in Northumberland. I like to take these mental snapshots back to the studio and let them evolve into half-imagined fantastical worlds. For this I use oils on either canvas or board, acrylic paint and pastel on paper, or collage.

I am fascinated by secret lives that exist in parallel universes, the micro and the macro, and the dynamics and interactions between these entities that are in plain sight of, but often overlooked by, the human species. The theatre could be the hedge bottom or a high tree top...a gentle spotlight that illuminates the drama, and the protagonists, unconcerned, play out their roles.



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