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ALSTON HALL

Course Brochure

September to December 2015

**Lancashire**

County  
Council





# Welcome to Alston Hall

**Our brochure this season provides a rich diversity of courses to tempt you - from Bead weaving and Trug making to Astronomy and Mushroom foraging.**

If studying is not for you we also offer a wide programme which entertains as well as informs.

There is much to choose from and something for everyone.

Welcome to Alston Hall and we hope you enjoy your time with us.

*Many courses require special materials. Unless otherwise stated, materials are provided by the tutor and course fees have been adjusted to include these. In some cases you may be required to bring your own materials. Details about the materials required are included in the course information sheet which is provided when booking.*

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**To enrol please call 01772 784661**



*“Great place to learn  
and everyone was  
lovely”.*

## Bead weaving for beginners and improvers

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Friday 25 to Sunday  
27 September 2015

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Learn bead weaving and bead embroidery techniques to create a bracelet, brooch or pendant.

Discover how to bead bezels for cabochons and/or buttons.

**Costs:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50

**Tutor:** Sally Boehme

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## Christmas wreaths

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Saturday 5 December 2015  
10am – 1pm

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Create a unique Christmas wreath and table decoration using festive-themed materials and foliage from the grounds at Alston Hall. You are

Creative crafts

welcome to bring your own favourite materials.

**Cost:** £33

**Tutor:** Sue Jeffries

*Course fee includes a sandwich lunch.*

## English and continental laces

Monday 26 to Wednesday  
28 October 2015

Work on existing lace pieces or explore areas new to you, with support from a tutor with substantial experience of English and continental laces.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50

**Tutor:** Jane Webster

*Course starts with afternoon tea at 4pm.*



## Fabric printing: stripes and lines

Friday 25 to Sunday  
27 September 2015

Use simple and accessible fabric printing and stitching techniques to create exciting textile pieces combining bright colours with lines, stripes and bands.

**Costs:** Single en suite £295  
Non-resident £235

**Tutor:** Ruth Issett

*Course starts with afternoon tea.*

## Folded book art

Saturday 24 October 2015  
10am – 4pm

Learn the basic folds and simple modifications you can use to bring a beautiful unloved book back to life.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Linzi Cason

## Honiton lace

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 October 2015

Covers fillings, raised work and designing Honiton lace. Bring along your lace to be identified by the tutor who is the Keeper of Lace at Allhallows Museum. Suitable for learners of all levels.

**Costs:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50

**Tutor:** Pat Perryman

## Jacobeadery

Saturday 21 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

Jacobeadery is a combination of embroidery and beading with a Jacobean twist. Learn to make a circular fob in dupion silk. An instructional CD will be supplied.

**Costs:** £71.50  
**Tutor:** Manda Kent Burns

## Japanese embroidery

Friday 18 to Sunday  
20 September 2015

Friday 4 to Sunday  
6 December 2015

Beginners will learn the basic techniques of Japanese embroidery and stitch a traditional design featuring cherry blossoms, chrysanthemums and water. Experienced embroiderers can use the opportunity to stitch more sophisticated pieces.

**Costs:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50

**Tutor:** Midori Matsushima

## Linen, lace and colour blending

Monday 21 to Wednesday  
23 September 2015

Select a lace motif and learn techniques to hand appliqué or

embroider it onto a plain linen background. You can choose whether it will be a small wall hanging, cushion cover, pocket for a bag or small pouch.

**Costs:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50

**Tutor:** Sheena J Norquay

## Lino cutting: beginners

Saturday 5 September 2015  
10am – 4pm

Introduces the reduction and relief methods of linoleum printmaking. Consider different ways to print your blocks before creating a unique print using the relief method.

**Cost:** £66.50  
**Tutor:** Lyndsey Long

## Loom weaving

Sunday 6 to Friday  
11 September 2015

Develop your skills and confidence using table looms or rigid heddle looms. You can complete a small project, work on a particular weave structure or try weaving for the very first time. Suitable for learners of all levels.

**Cost:** Single en suite £637.50  
Non-resident £487.50

**Tutor:** Jane Flanagan

## Magical molding paste

Wednesday 18 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

Use light molding paste to create your own textured fabrics which can be painted, printed, stencilled or hand stitched. You can also make jewellery and buttons or medallions. Tools and materials will be provided but there may be an additional charge for certain materials.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Sue Chisnall-Sumner

## Mixed media sculpture workshop

Wednesday 23 September 2015  
10am – 4pm

Create your own sculpture using wire, wax and fabric. Learn how to make a wire structure that can be 2D or 3D, then create a surface to hand stitch and embellish with buttons, beads and trimmings.

**Cost:** £71.50  
**Tutor:** Priscilla Jones

## Mono printmaking: trees and the landscape

Saturday 28 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

Create original prints using techniques that don't require a press. Source images will be

provided but you can choose your own theme if you prefer. Suitable for learners of all levels.

**Cost:** £66.50  
**Tutor:** Janet Cardwell

## Nuno felting

Saturday 5 September 2015  
10am – 4pm

Create a scarf or wall hanging from textured nuno fabric. Nuno felt is created by using a fine woven cloth as a base to felt the fibres to. As the wool shrinks it takes the cloth with it resulting in a crinkly effect. The fabric created is lightweight and ideal for draping.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Gill Ferguson

## Picture framing

Saturday 28 and Sunday  
29 November 2015  
10am – 5pm

Learn how to assemble completed picture frames using the tools provided. Tuition will also be given on how to cut single and double mounts to enhance your favourite pictures. No DIY experience is necessary.

**Cost:** £140  
**Tutor:** Bill Davies

*Two linked days. Please enquire about availability for bed and breakfast.*

## Silver jewellery: beginners' workshop

Saturday 31 October 2015  
10am – 4pm

Provides an introduction to a range of simple jewellery making techniques. Create a unique piece

of jewellery to take home with you. Tools are provided and silver can be purchased on the day.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Angie Da Silva

## Silver jewellery: next step workshop

Saturday 28 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

For learners who have already attended a beginners course, or have a basic knowledge learnt elsewhere, and now want to progress to the next step. Tools are provided and silver can be purchased on the day.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Angie Da Silva

## Stained glass workshop

Monday 26 to Friday  
30 October 2015

Design and create your own stained glass project using either the traditional leading method or the more modern copper foiling technique.

Slides will be shown in the evenings illustrating both ancient and modern stained glass. There will be an additional charge for materials used. Suitable for learners of all levels.

**Cost:** Single en suite £562  
Non-resident £442

**Tutor:** Bill Davies  
*Course starts with lunch at 1pm.*



## Textile mixed media: Christmas bunting

Tuesday 8 December 2015  
10am – 4pm

Use a 'sizzix' die cutter to create a personalised string of festive bunting made from Christmas print fabrics, 'bondaweb' appliqué and felt.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Hilary McCumiskey

## Textile mixed media: Christmas lantern

Saturday 21 and Sunday  
22 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

Create a lantern by layering fabric and decorate it with organza flowers. Create apertures to allow light to shine through.

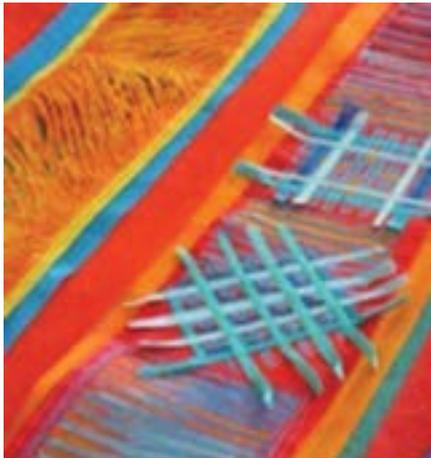
**Cost:** £123  
**Tutor:** Hilary McCumiskey

## Textile mixed media: exotic cushions

Tuesday 15 September 2015  
10am – 4pm

Use techniques including pin tucks, ruching, 'bubble wrap' and appliqué to produce a unique embellished cushion. Cushion pad will be provided for completion.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Hilary McCumiskey



## Textile mixed media: Italian inspirations

Tuesday 13 October 2015  
10am – 4pm

Produce a mixed media appliqué panel copied from a photograph, using silks, braids, beads and sequin embellishment.

Both hand and machine embroidery will be used.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Hilary McCumiskey

## Traditional willow work: Christmas structures

Saturday 5 December 2015  
10am – 4pm

Craft Christmas decorations using a basic shape of twisted, woven and

tied willow. Experiment with different colours and textures, including holly, ivy, tinsel and paints to make unique structures for gifts or to decorate your home.

**Cost:** £66.50  
**Tutor:** Stephen Thompson

## Traditional willow work: green willow baskets

Saturday 3 October 2015  
10am – 4pm

Weave useful baskets for carrying and storing produce. Learn techniques to secure the base of a basket, to split willow, to create patterns and how to twist and bend willow without snapping it.

**Cost:** £66.50  
**Tutor:** Stephen Thompson

## Trug making

Saturday 24 and  
Sunday 25 October 2015  
10am – 4pm

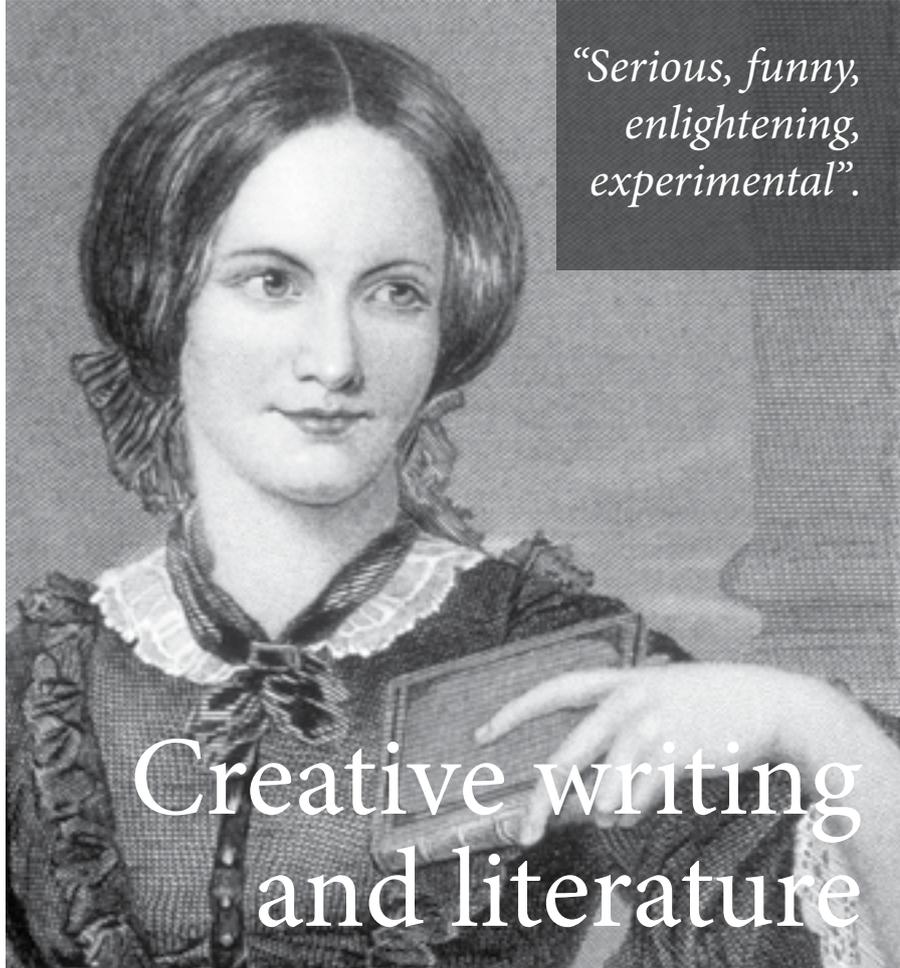
A trug is a very durable basket made from sweet chestnut and cricket bat willow fastened together using copper nails and tacks. Make a 'no 5 garden trug' using traditional hand tools and techniques. No previous woodworking experience is necessary.

**Cost:** £133

**Tutor:** Bill Sanders

*Two linked days. Please enquire about availability for bed and breakfast.*





*“Serious, funny,  
enlightening,  
experimental”.*

## Arthur Miller: a centenary celebration

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Sunday 8 to Tuesday 10  
November 2015

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Play reading course focusing on two works by prolific playwright Arthur Miller – All my sons and A view from a bridge.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50

**Tutor:** Jackie Wilkin

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## The Brontës

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Saturday 24 October 2015  
10am – 4pm

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An examination of the sisters' lives, before moving on to discuss Jane Eyre with particular reference to the role of women, romantic love, marriage and the Gothic tradition.

Saturday 31 October 2015  
10am – 4pm

Focuses on narrative technique, the natural world, love, death and religion in *Wuthering Heights*.

Includes a brief review of the portrayal of *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights* in film/TV adaptations and concludes with a discussion of the key themes of poems by Emily and Anne.

**Cost:** £61.50 per day  
**Tutor:** Dr Kathy Bullough

## Poetry: John Cooper Clarke

Wednesday 14 October 2015  
1.30pm – 4pm

Learn about John Cooper Clarke who was born in Salford in 1949. He was a performance poet who first became famous during the late 1970s in Manchester and built a

reputation as a 'punk poet' sharing the stage with some of the biggest bands of the day.

**Cost:** £24.50  
**Tutor:** Pam Roberts

*Coffee available from 1pm, finishes with tea and cakes.*

## Poetry: the Liverpool poets

Wednesday 14 October 2015  
10am – 12.30pm

Learn the characteristics of the work produced by the influential Liverpool Poets, who were working class poets who had a strong allegiance with 1960s pop music scene that gave rise to The Beatles.

**Cost:** £27.50  
**Tutor:** Pam Roberts

*Coffee available at 9.30am, ends with sandwich lunch.*

## Writing fiction with local and family sources

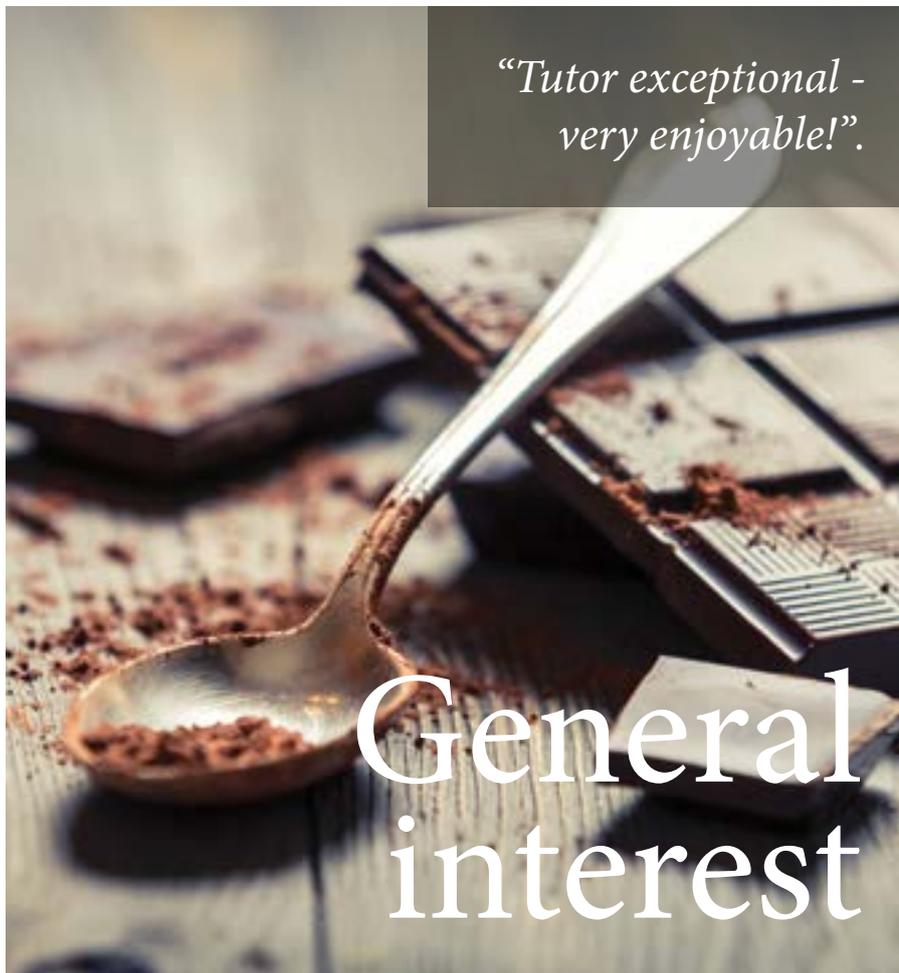
Friday 11 to Sunday 13  
September 2015

Research and develop fictional ideas. The emphasis will be on writing short stories with a local voice.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50  
**Tutor:** Stephen Wade







*“Tutor exceptional -  
very enjoyable!”.*

General  
interest

## Astronomy

### Astronomy for complete beginners

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A series of evening sessions  
6pm – 9.30pm

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Use a planisphere to find your way around the night sky. Learn how to find the planets and locate newly discovered objects such as comets. Practical classroom sessions will be combined with outdoor observation. This is a linked series of courses, but you can choose to attend individual sessions.

**Introducing the night sky: how to  
get started with astronomy**

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Tuesday 6 October 2015

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**Circles and lines in the sky:  
making sense of the sky.**

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Tuesday 3 November 2015

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Where are the planets: how to find planets and other objects in the sky

Tuesday 1 December 2015

**Cost:** £32.50 per session

**Tutor:** Barrie Walters

*Course fee includes hot drink and cakes.*

## Astronomy weekend

Friday 20 to Sunday  
22 November 2015

Learn some of the latest discoveries in the field of astronomy in an accessible and enjoyable way. Consider how you could begin to observe the universe yourself. If clear, the evenings will be spent observing the skies.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50

Non-resident: £211.50

**Tutor:** Prof. Ian Morison

*The astronomy evening dinner lecture is included in the cost of this course.*

## Food and drink

### Chocolate – its history and how to make simple gifts

Saturday 28 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

Discover the history of chocolate from the days of the Olmecs through to the present day and learn how the world of chocolate is changing today. You will have the opportunity to make truffles and other chocolate treats. Ingredients are included in the course fee.

**Cost:** £66.50

**Tutor:** Lesley Woods

### Indian cookery demonstration: Bhindi chicken

Saturday 31 October 2015  
10am – 1pm

A dry curry made with bhindi (okra) and chicken, mild whilst being flavoursome, and served with freshly made roti (chapatis).

**Cost:** £33.50

**Tutor:** Ali Amla

*Includes coffee on arrival and food tasting.*

### Indian cookery demonstration: lamb keema

Saturday 21 November 2015  
10am – 1pm

Minced lamb is cooked with spinach and served with freshly made roti.

**Cost:** £33.50

**Tutor:** Ali Amla

*Includes coffee on arrival and food tasting.*

## Mushroom foraging

Friday 18 September 2015  
 Saturday 19 September 2015  
 10am – 5pm each day

Learn how to identify wild, edible, poisonous and medicinal mushrooms. There will be some theory work as well as time spent foraging and sampling the edible mushrooms found on the outing. If you want to expand your knowledge further there is a two day option of this course.

**Cost:** £70 per day  
**Tutor:** Jesper Launder

*Refreshments and a sandwich lunch included. Two linked days. Bed and breakfast is available on Friday for £36 single en suite.*



## Travel and Tourism

### Ecotourism: Is this the best form of tourism?

Friday 6 November 2015  
 11am – 4pm

Tourism is one of the largest industries in the world and a major income for some countries. Examine the advantages and disadvantages of ecotourism, the responsible form of tourism that should respect both the local environment and the resident population.

**Cost:** £53  
**Tutor:** Peta Allingham

### Interpreting maps

Saturday 3 October 2015  
 10am – 4pm

Like statistics, the visual-spatial display of data through maps can influence the reader's interpretation.

Explore the many ways that maps can, and have, influenced decision making. No prior knowledge of maps or data manipulation is required.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Peta Allingham

## Culture

### MGM musicals of the 1940s

Friday 11 to Sunday 13  
 December 2015

The Hollywood musical was an integral part of the war effort, proving to be an effective morale booster. MGM studios enjoyed both box office success and critical acclaim at this time. The course considers the careers of some of their key musical stars and contributors.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
 Non-resident £211.50  
**Tutor:** David Redfern

# Portrait photography

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Saturday 3 October 2015  
10am – 4pm

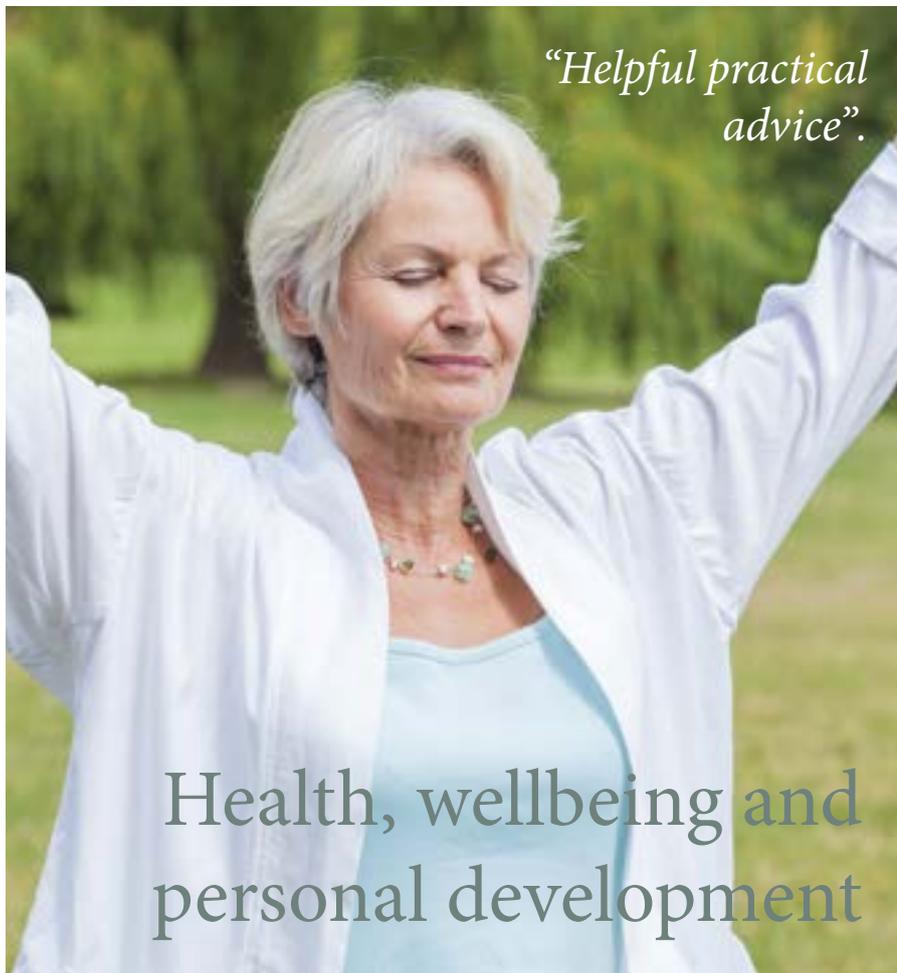
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Learn how to experiment with natural light portraiture before moving on to studio based portraiture using flash. Explore the basic camera settings and learn how to use light modifiers. The course is suitable for beginner and amateur photographers.

**Cost:** £71.50

**Tutor:** Colin Jarvis





*“Helpful practical  
advice”.*

# Health, wellbeing and personal development

## Alexander Technique

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Saturdays 7 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

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Learn to consciously direct the way you move instead of relying on habit. Become conscious of your ‘back ground’ muscular tension and help avoid strain, tension and fatigue.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Michael Hardwicke

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## Philosophy and mindfulness

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Saturday 7 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

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A beginners guide to the background and philosophy of this latest approach to health and wellbeing. You will also have the opportunity to try out some mindfulness techniques.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Ken Townsend

## Retirement planning courses

Tuesday 20 and Wednesday  
21 October 2015

Tuesday 1 and Wednesday  
2 December 2015

An in-depth look at retirement issues for those considering retirement or opportunities for voluntary redundancy, enabling you to make informed decisions. Discuss hopes and fears and more practical concerns such as finances, health and wellbeing and new opportunities.

**Cost:** £190  
**Tutor:** Bob Tidman

*Partners are particularly encouraged to attend and there is a reduced fee. Overnight accommodation is available and can be reserved at the time of booking your place on the course - £36 per person single en suite.*

## T'ai Chi day courses

**Saturdays:**  
12 September 2015  
3 October 2015  
7 November 2015  
12 December 2015  
11am – 4pm

An introduction to T'ai Chi for beginners and an opportunity to progress through a sequence of forms for those learners beyond beginners' level.

**Cost:** £53 per day  
**Tutor:** Ann Wells

## Fashion

### Colours to look your best

**Saturday 21 November 2015**  
10am – 4pm

Discover the best colours for your clothes, hair and makeup

and how you can use colour to increase your confidence. No prior knowledge is required. The session will incorporate both theory and practical work.

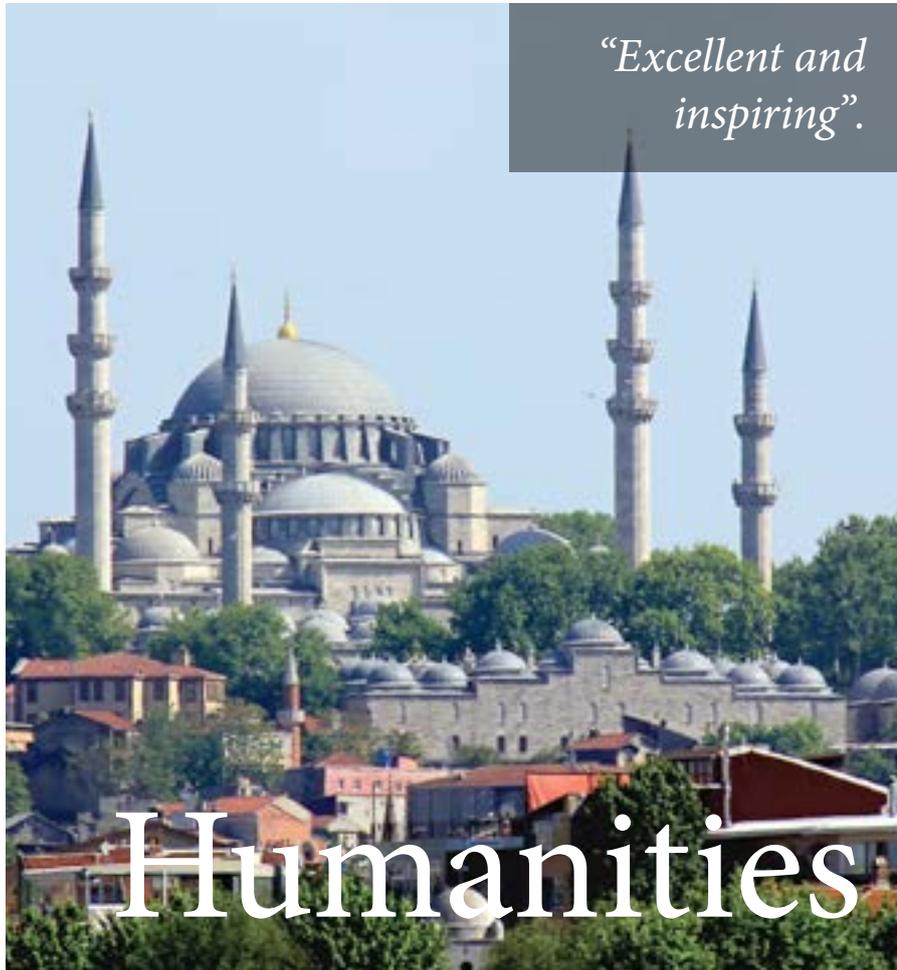
**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Judith Davitt

### Styles to look your best

**Sunday 22 November 2015**  
10am – 4pm

Discover your style personality and how to choose clothes that will make you feel confident and comfortable. Learn how to dress for your body shape and proportions and understand what fit and fabrics will flatter you most to create a look that works for you.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** Judith Davitt



*“Excellent and  
inspiring”.*

## History of Turkey: Romans and Byzantines

Friday 18 to Sunday 20  
September 2015

Explore the history of the 1,000 years  
before the arrival of the Muslim Turks.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50

**Tutor:** Michael Tunnicliffe

## Magna Carta and its northern context

Monday 9 November 2015  
10am – 4pm

Study the background to Magna  
Carta and the individuals mainly  
responsible for its production, many  
of whom were Northern Lords.

**Cost:** £61.50  
**Tutor:** John Trippier

# Humanities

## Military history: Blitzkrieg in the west

Wednesday 11 November 2015  
11am – 4pm

Discuss the 'Blitzkreig' (lightning war) which ended with the collapse of France in 1940.

**Cost:** £53  
**Tutor:** Cliff Lloyd

## The phoney war, September 1939 – May 1940

Thursday 22 October 2015  
11am – 4pm

Examine the considerable social changes brought about by war including evacuation, the blackout, rationing and conscription.

**Cost:** £53  
**Tutor:** Dr Michael Paris

## A shopping expedition in 19<sup>th</sup> century Preston

Friday 27 November 2015  
11am – 4pm

Walk the streets of 19<sup>th</sup> century Preston; visit the principal tradesmen and see what they have for sale. Fully illustrated with slides.

**Cost** £53  
**Tutor:** Stephen Sartin

## Victorian travellers

Discuss the travels and experiences of some of the Victorian travellers who were brave enough to travel further afield than the grand tourists of previous years.

Thursday 15 October 2015  
11am – 4pm

Victorian women including Isabella Bird, Mary Kingsley and Marianne North.

Thursday 5 November 2015  
11am – 4pm

Victorian men including Richard Francis Burton, Edward Lear and George Nathaniel Curzon.

**Cost:** £53 per day  
**Tutor:** Roger Mitchell

## Women of the War of the Roses

Thursday 19 November  
11am – 4pm

Learn about the two queens, Elizabeth Woodville and Margaret of Anjou, who played prominent parts and dictated events during the War of the Roses.

**Cost:** £53  
**Lecturer:** Lizzie Jones

## Events programme at Alston Hall

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These talks and events all include delicious, freshly prepared, home cooked food and our licensed bar is available throughout the evening or afternoon. Groups can be accommodated at these events.

### Christmas at Alston Hall

## Springtime on Mull, Iona and Staffa

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Sunday 6 December 2015

Discover springtime on the beautiful island of Mull including an ascent of Ben More and viewings of white tailed eagles. View the Abbey on Iona, the small island of Ulva, the Treshnish Islands and Fingal's cave on Staffa.

**Cost:** £27.50  
**Presenter:** Stuart Kellington

*Evening dinner lecture starting with a three-course festive meal at 6.30pm.*

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## Victorian magic lantern show

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Tuesday 8 December 2015  
Afternoon lecture

An authentic Victorian magic lantern show using an original magic lantern and glass slides up to 170 years old. Be transported back to Victorian England with a presentation that is funny, moving, informative and surprising.

**Cost:** £15  
**Presenter:** Andrew Gill

*Talk starts with coffee at 2pm and ends with tea, mince pies and homemade cakes.*

## Felicitations, salutations and palpitations

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Wednesday 9 December 2015

Betsy the daft scullery maid has put aside her mop and bucket to tell tales of festive folklore and superstitions. Some of her stories will have you intrigued and some will have you in stitches!

**Cost:** £21  
**Presenter:** Joanne Halliwell

*Starts with coffee at 2pm and ends with high tea at 4pm.*

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## In freezing December some warming good cheer

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Thursday 10 December 2015  
11am – 4pm

Nostalgic recollections of Christmases past and thought-provoking reflections on Christmases present. Poetry, prose, stories and music will provide plenty of laughter.

**Cost: £53**

**Presenter: Alan Crosby**

*Includes a two-course festive meal and mince pie and coffee before leaving.*

## Murder at Mistletoe Manor

Thursday 10 December 2015

A killer has sent the gift of murder to Mistletoe Manor this Christmas. There are five likely suspects, four of them innocent. Uncover the clues and solve the mystery while enjoying a festive three course dinner.

**Cost: £29**

*Performed by the After Dark Theatre Company. Please meet in the bar by 7pm ready to be seated for dinner at 7.30pm.*

## Festive canapés and cocktails

Saturday 12 December 2015  
10am – 4pm

Learn to create some mouth-watering canapés that are sophisticated yet quick and easy to make. Enjoy demonstrations on how to prepare and cure home-made Gravlax and how to create a selection of Christmas cocktails using sparkling wines.

**Cost: £63**

**Presenters: Adele Banister and Wouter Greven**

*Course fee includes a sandwich lunch and tasting of all food and drink.*

## Mother to the King: the first Lady Derby

Sunday 13 December 2015

Learn about Margaret Beaufort who

was descended from the prince John of Gaunt and became the first Countess of Derby. Discover how her family played a crucial role in the Wars of the Roses and her son was crowned as Henry VII.

**Cost: £27.50**

**Presenter: Lizzie Jones**

*Evening dinner lecture starting with three-course festive meal at 6.30pm.*

## Murdered by Indians, eaten by bears – Lancashire pioneers in the New World

Tuesday 15 December  
11am – 4pm

Follow the stories of the 17<sup>th</sup> century Lancashire people who went to begin a new life in the colonies of Massachusetts, Philadelphia, Virginia and Maryland. Follow their adventures, the reasons for

emigration and how they adapted to such different circumstances.

**Cost:** £53

**Presenter:** Lizzie Jones

*Includes a two-course festive meal and mince pie and coffee before leaving.*

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## Warble and Strum: acoustic duo

Friday 18 December 2015

Featuring an eclectic set of classic songs from all eras and styles, Warble & Strum are a totally live acoustic duo featuring Andi Robinson on vocals & percussion and Andy Smith (member of Alibi) on vocals and guitar.

**Cost:** £25

*Evening event starting with three-course festive meal at 7pm.*

## Alston Hall lecture series

Enjoy delicious homemade refreshments, a stroll around the grounds and a presentation by a knowledgeable, expert speaker.

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## Istanbul: a tale of three cities

Sunday 20 September

Trace the history and culture of Istanbul through images of many sites including the Aya Sofya, Blue Mosque, Basilica Cistern, Grand Bazaar and Topkapi Palace and enjoy views from the water of the Golden Horn, Bosphorus, Black Sea and the Princes' Islands.

**Cost:** £27.50

**Presenter:** Stuart Kellington

*Evening dinner lecture starting with three-course meal at 6.30pm.*

## Aurora Borealis and eclipses of the sun and moon

Friday 20 November 2015

An illustrated talk about two of the most awe-inspiring sights in the skies that we can ever see.

**Cost:** £27.50

**Presenter:** Professor Ian Morison

*Evening dinner lecture starting with three-course meal at 7pm. This lecture is included in the cost of the residential astronomy weekend.*

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## Alston Afternoon 'Tea and Talk'

## The Wars of the Roses

Friday 18 September 2015  
2pm – 4pm

500 years ago the Wars of the Roses played out like a real historical soap

opera. Find out about Richard III and his involvement in the war, as well as how it affected the future of the monarchy.

**Cost:** £18.50

**Speaker:** Tertia Dowdall

*Coffee available from 1.30pm lecture finishes with full afternoon tea.*

## The Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge

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Sunday 18 October 2015  
2pm – 4pm

The colleges of these two cities present an array of varying styles in architecture and this course will provide a comprehensive tour. Beginning in Cambridge in the 13<sup>th</sup> century and moving on to the present day.

**Cost:** £18.50

**Speaker:** Colin Dickinson

*Coffee available from 1.30pm lecture finishes with full afternoon tea.*

## Preston in battle: 1648 and 1715

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Friday 16 October 2015  
2pm – 4pm

Preston was central in two of history's epic battles. 1648 was the culmination of six years of civil war that would see England's first commonwealth and the death of the king. 1715 saw a battle between the Scottish and the English, which is claimed to be the last battle on English soil.

**Cost:** £18.50

**Speaker:** Tertia Dowdall

*Coffee available from 1.30pm lecture finishes with full afternoon tea.*

## The Gunpowder Treason

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Friday 6 November 2015  
2pm – 4pm

17<sup>th</sup> Century England was in religious and political turmoil and one band of men wanted to change the country. Discuss why they did not succeed.

**Cost:** £18.50

**Speaker:** Tertia Dowdall

*Coffee available from 1.30pm lecture finishes with full afternoon tea.*

## The park and gardens at Levens Hall

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Wednesday 25 November 2015  
2pm – 4pm

Discover Levens Hall, one of the north's finest stately homes. View images of the world-renowned topiary gardens and the significant parkland along the banks of the River Kent.

**Cost:** £18.50

**Presenter:** Stephen Halliwell

*Coffee available from 1.30pm, lecture finishes with full afternoon tea.*

## Historic halls and houses of Lancashire

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Friday 11 December 2015  
2pm – 4pm

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Take a virtual tour of some of the ancient halls and houses in Lancashire. Explore the magnificent buildings, the changing architecture and the surroundings in which they lie.

**Cost:** £18.50

**Speaker:** Tertia Dowdall

*Coffee available from 1.30pm lecture finishes with full afternoon tea.*

## Special event at Alston Hall

### Evening recital with jazz pianist and composer Marco Marconi.

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Saturday 7 November 2015.

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Enjoy a delicious home cooked three-course meal and spend an evening with international jazz pianist and composer Marco Marconi, an inspirational, upcoming talent on the international jazz scene.

**Cost:** £30

*This evening is included in the cost of Marco's residential music weekends.*

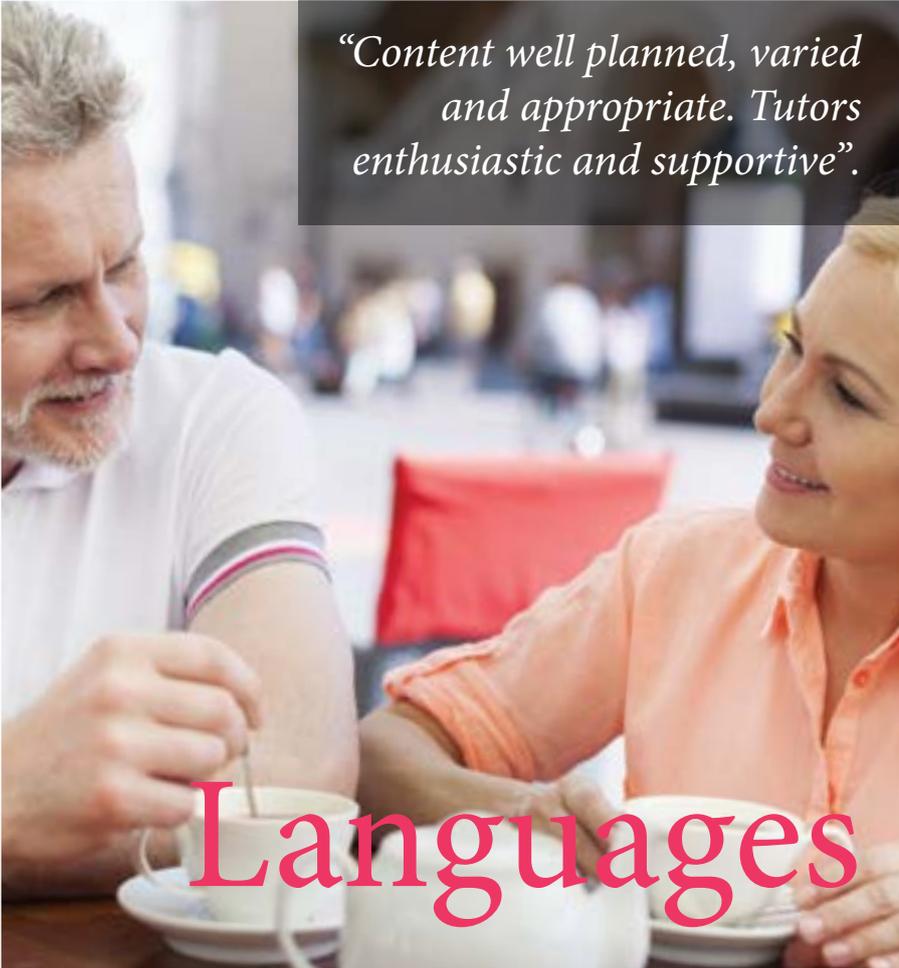
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*Evening starts with dinner at 7pm.  
Our fully licensed bar will be open from 6.30pm.*

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*Why not stay over at Alston Hall – enquire about our Bed and Breakfast availability.*





*“Content well planned, varied and appropriate. Tutors enthusiastic and supportive”.*

## French language weekend

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Friday 6 to Sunday 8  
November 2015

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## German language weekend

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Friday 4 to Sunday 6  
December 2015

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## Italian language weekend

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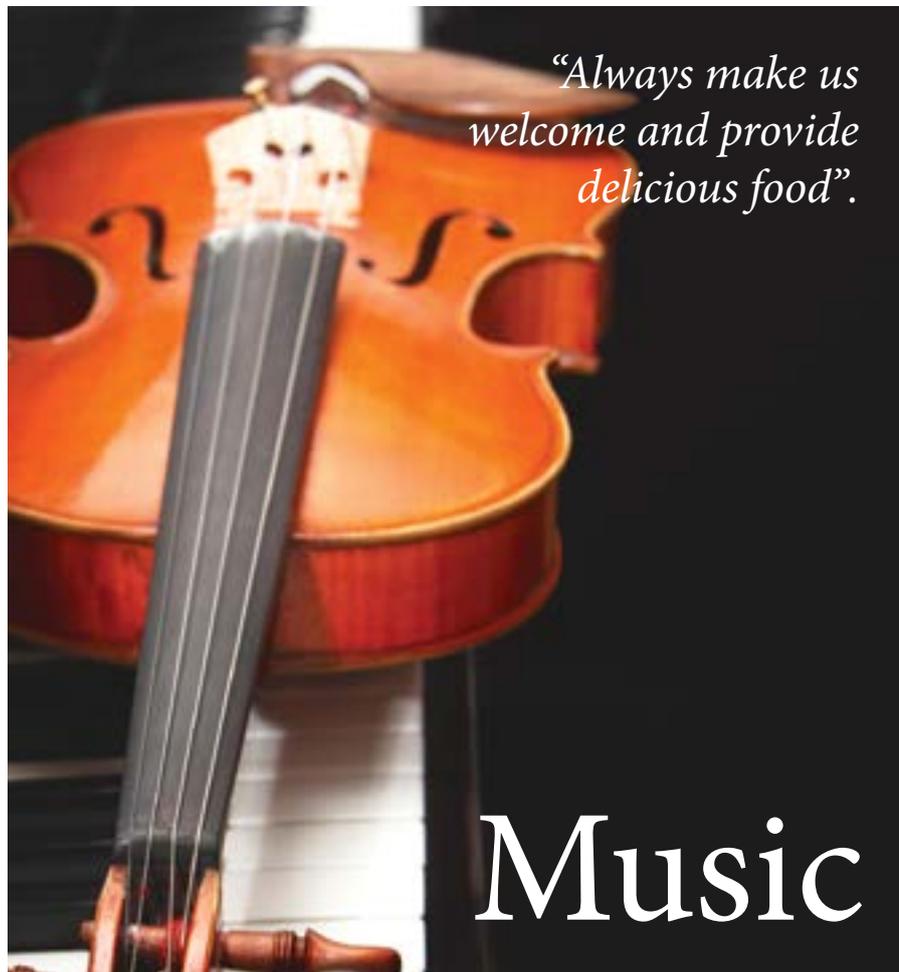
Friday 27 to Sunday 29  
November 2015

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Maintain your language skills and increase your confidence. Concentrate on conversation, communication and culture in your chosen language.

**Cost:**    **Single en suite £285**  
              **Non-resident £225**

# Languages



*“Always make us  
welcome and provide  
delicious food”.*

# Music

## Chamber music workshop

Monday 28 to Tuesday  
29 September 2015

A chance for experienced players to enjoy two days of intense study. Applications should be from preformed groups who will choose two works for special study.

**Costs:** Single en suite £215

Non-resident £185

**Tutor:** Louise Latham

## Choral singing weekend

Friday 2 to Sunday 4 October 2015

Focuses on two Christmas collections. There will be advice on how to achieve, or maintain, good vocal technique. Aimed at competent singers (soprano, alto, tenor, bass), with proficient sight-singing skills.

**Cost:** Single en suite £307.50

Non-resident £247.50

**Tutor:** Roger Wilkes

## Consort playing for recorders and viols

Friday 30 October to Sunday  
1 November 2015

### Recorder consort weekend

Concentrating on music from the Renaissance and early Baroque periods, playing will be mostly one-to-a-part, and mostly four or five-part consorts. Suitable for all recorder players except beginners. All sizes of recorder welcome.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50  
**Tutor:** Philip Gruar

### Viol consort weekend

Music will be chosen to suit the participants with a view to playing in three, four, five and six part groups. Suitable for all standards except beginners.

The Viol and recorder consort weekends will be running parallel, so there may be opportunities for crossover and forming mixed consorts for those who wish.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50  
**Tutor:** Elizabeth Dodd

## Jazz: ragtime piano

Friday 6 to Sunday  
8 November 2015

Award winning international jazz pianist and composer Marco Marconi analyses the different styles of famous ragtime pianists like Scott Joplin, Art Tatum, Jelly Roll Morton and many others. Suitable for intermediate standard upwards.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50  
**Tutor:** Marco Marconi

*Marco is giving a public recital on Saturday evening which is included in the course.*

## Sibelius: a tribute

Friday 25 to Sunday 27  
September 2015

Sibelius created a series of symphonies, infused with an essence of his Finnish homeland. Favourites Finlandia, Valse Triste and the Violin Concerto will also feature.

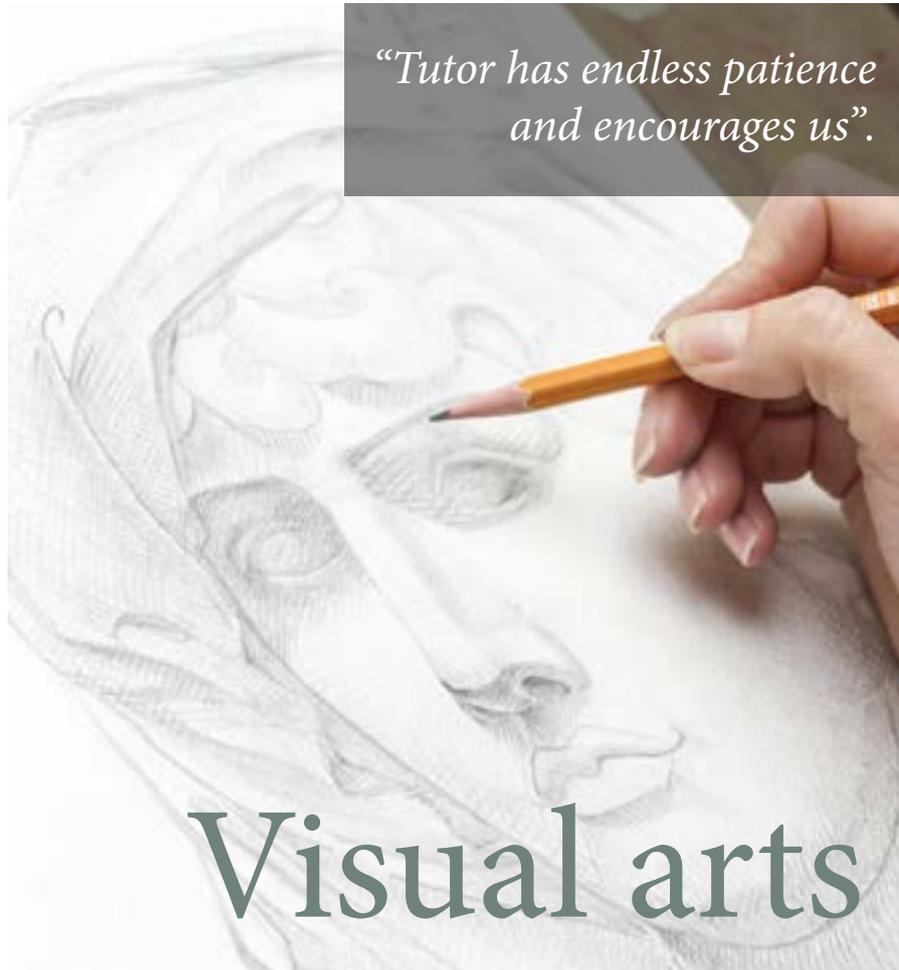
**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50  
Non-resident £211.50  
**Tutor:** Ian France

## String weekend with the Bridge Quartet

Friday 9 to Sunday 11 October 2015

Groups will choose two pieces to study. This is a course for experienced players in pre-formed string quartets.

**Cost:** Single en suite £285  
Non-resident £225  
**Tutor:** Bridge Quartet



*“Tutor has endless patience  
and encourages us”.*

Visual arts

## Botanical art: festive subjects

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Sunday 6 to Tuesday 8  
December 2015

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An opportunity to try out lots of different coloured pencil types, with instruction on how to build vibrant and intense colour as well as create restrained hues. Suitable for learners of all levels.

**Cost:** Single en suite £305  
Non-resident £245

**Tutor:** Susan Christopher Coulson  
*Course starts with lunch at 1pm.*

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## Botanical art: seasonal subjects

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Saturday 7 and Sunday 8  
November 2015  
10am – 4pm

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Improve your observational skills  
and explore in detail the tone and

texture of botanical subjects using pencil. The emphasis will be on individual tuition enabling you to work at your own pace.

**Cost:** £123

**Tutor:** Julie Small

*Two linked days. Please enquire about availability for bed and breakfast.*

## I've always wanted to draw and paint: drawing in proportion

Friday 25 September 2015  
10am – 4pm

Learn some simple approaches to drawing which will enable you to draw the things around you in a convincing and realistic manner. This course is aimed at total beginners and learners with basic drawing experience.

**Cost:** £61.50

**Tutor:** Graham Lowe

## Ribble Valley landscapes in acrylics

Saturday 3 and Sunday 4  
October 2015  
10am – 4pm

Plan, prepare and execute your own painting, taking inspiration from the beautiful autumn landscape of the Ribble Valley surrounding Alston Hall. Suitable for learners of all levels.

**Cost:** £123

**Tutor:** Rob Edmondson

*Two linked days. Please enquire about availability for bed and breakfast.*

## Sketching

Saturday 26 September 2015  
10am – 4pm

Official 'Urban Sketchers' correspondent, Caroline Johnson knows it is daunting starting and keeping a regular sketchbook.

Be motivated and inspired by the use of different materials and new approaches and ways of seeing.

**Cost:** £61.50

**Tutor:** Caroline Johnson

## Wildlife Illustration

Friday 23 to Sunday  
25 October 2015

Paint wildlife subjects using gouache techniques to create the textures of fur, skin or feathers. Bring your own photographs or chose subjects from a book. Suitable for learners of all levels.

**Cost:** Single en suite £271.50

Non-resident £211.50

**Tutor:** Simon Williams

## Courses in date order

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5 September 2015	Lino cutting: beginners	Lindsey Long	6
5 September 2015	Nuno felting	Gill Ferguson	7
6 September 2015	Loom weaving	Jane Flanagan	6
11 September 2015	Writing fiction with local and family sources	Stephen Wade	12
12 September 2015	T'ai Chi	Anne Wells	19
15 September 2015	Textile mixed media: exotic cushions	Hilary McCumiskey	9
18 September 2015	History of Turkey: Romans and Byzantines	Michael Tunnicliffe	20
18 September 2015	Japanese embroidery	Midori Matsushima	6
18 September 2015	Mushroom foraging	Jesper Launder	16
18 September 2015	The Wars of the Roses	Tertia Dowdall	24
19 September 2015	Mushroom foraging	Jesper Launder	16
20 September 2015	Istanbul: a tale of three cities	Steuart Kellington	24
21 September 2015	Linen, lace and colour blending	Sheena Norquay	6
23 September 2015	Mixed media sculpture workshop	Priscilla Jones	7
25 September 2015	Beadweaving for beginners and improvers	Sally Boehme	4
25 September 2015	I've always wanted to draw and paint: drawing in proportion	Graham Lowe	31
25 September 2015	Fabric printing: stripes and lines	Ruth Issett	5
25 September 2015	Sibelius: a tribute to a great composer	Ian France	29
26 September 2015	Sketching	Caroline Johnson	31
28 September 2015	Chamber music workshop	Louise Latham	28
2 October 2015	Choral singing weekend	Roger Wilkes	28
2 October 2015	Honiton lace	Pat Perryman	5
3 October 2015	Interpreting maps	Peta Allingham	16
3 October 2015	Portrait photography	Colin Jarvis	17
3 October 2015	Ribble Valley landscapes in acrylics	Rob Edmondson	31
3 October 2015	T'ai Chi	Anne Wells	19
3 October 2015	Traditional willow work: green willow baskets	Stephen Thompson	9

6 October 2015	Astronomy: introducing the night sky	Barrie Walters	14
9 October 2015	String weekend with the Bridge Quartet	Bridge Quartet (Lucy Wilding)	29
13 October 2015	Textile mixed media: Italian inspirations	Hilary McCumiskey	9
14 October 2015	Poetry: John Cooper Clarke	Pam Roberts	12
14 October 2015	Poetry: the Liverpool Poets	Pam Roberts	12
15 October 2015	Victorian travellers: Victorian women	Roger Mitchell	21
16 October 2015	Preston in battle:1648 and 1715	Tertia Dowdall	25
18 October 2015	The Colleges of Oxford and Cambridge	Colin Dickinson	25
20 October 2015	Retirement planning	Bob Tidman	19
22 October 2015	The phoney war, September 1939 - May 1940	Michael Paris	21
23 October 2015	Wildlife illustration	Simon Williams	31
24 October 2015	Folded book art	Linzi Cason	5
24 October 2015	The Brontes	Kathy Bullough	11
24 October 2015	Trug making	Bill Sanders	10
26 October 2015	English and continental lace	Jane Webster	5
26 October 2015	Stained glass workshop	Bill Davies	8
30 October 2015	Recorder consort weekend	Philip Gruar	29
30 October 2015	Viol consort weekend	Elizabeth Dodd	29
31 October 2015	Indian cookery demonstration: Bhindi chicken	Ali Amla	15
31 October 2015	Silver jewellery: beginners' workshop	Angie da Silva	7
31 October 2015	The Brontes	Kathy Bullough	11
3 November 2015	Astronomy: circles and lines in the sky	Barrie Walters	14
5 November 2015	Victorian travellers: Victorian men	Roger Mitchell	21
6 November 2015	Ecotourism: is this the best form of tourism?	Peta Allingham	16
6 November 2015	French language weekend	Various	27
6 November 2015	Jazz: ragtime piano	Marco Marconi	29
6 November 2015	The Gunpowder Treason	Tertia Dowdall	25
7 November 2015	Alexander technique	Michael Hardwicke	18
7 November 2015	Evening recitals with jazz pianist and composer Marco Marconi	Marco Marconi	26

7 November 2015	Philosophy and mindfulness	Ken Townsend	18
7 November 2015	Botanical art: seasonal subjects	Julie Small	30
7 November 2015	T'ai Chi	Anne Wells	19
8 November 2015	Arthur Miller: a centenary celebration	Jackie Wilkin	11
9 November 2015	Magna Carta and its northern context	John Trippier	20
11 November 2015	Military history: Blitzkrieg in the west	Cliff Lloyd	21
18 November 2015	Magical molding paste	Sue Chisnall Sumner	6
19 November 2015	Women of the War of the Roses	Lizzie Jones	21
20 November 2015	Astronomy weekend	Ian Morison	15
20 November 2015	Aurora Borealis and eclipses of the sun and moon	Ian Morison	24
21 November 2015	Colours to look your best	Judith Davitt	19
21 November 2015	Indian cookery demonstration: lamb keema	Ali Amla	15
21 November 2015	Jacobeadery	Manda Kent Burns	5
21 November 2015	Textile mixed media: Christmas lantern	Hilary McCumiskey	8
22 November 2015	Styles to look your best	Judith Davitt	19
25 November 2015	The park and gardens at Levens Hall	Stephen Haliwell	25
27 November 2015	A shopping expedition in 19th century Preston	Stephen Sartin	21
27 November 2015	Italian languages weekend	Various	27
28 November 2015	Chocolate - its history and how to make simple gifts	Lesley Woods	15
28 November 2015	Mono printmaking: trees and the landscape	Janet Cardwell	7
28 November 2015	Picture framing	Bill Davies	7
28 November 2015	Silver jewellery: next step workshop	Angie da Silva	8
1 December 2015	Astronomy: where are the planets	Barrie Walters	14
1 December 2015	Retirement planning	Bob Tidman	19
4 December 2015	German language weekend	Various	27
4 December 2015	Japanese embroidery	Midori Matsushima	6
5 December 2015	Christmas wreaths	Sue Jeffries	4
5 December 2015	Traditional willow work: Christmas structures	Stephen Thompson	9
6 December 2015	Botanical art: festive subjects	Susan Christopher Coulson	30
6 December 2015	Springtime on Mull, Staffa and Iona	Steuart Kellington	22

8 December 2015	Textile mixed media: Christmas bunting	Hilary McCumiskey	8
8 December 2015	Victorian magic lantern show	Andrew Gill	22
9 December 2015	Felicitations, salutations and palpitations	Joanne Haliwell	22
10 December 2015	In freezing December some warming good cheer	Alan Crosby	22
10 December 2015	Murder at Mistletoe Manor	After Dark Theatre Company	23
11 December 2015	Historic halls and houses of Lancashire	Tertia Dowdall	26
11 December 2015	MGM musicals of the 1940s	David Redfern	16
12 December 2015	Festive canapes and cocktails	Wouter Greven	23
12 December 2015	T'ai Chi	Anne Wells	19
13 December 2015	Mother to the King: the first Lady Derby	Lizzie Jones	23
15 December 2015	Murdered by Indians, eaten by bears	Lizzie Jones	23
18 December 2015	Warble & Strum: acoustic duo	Warble & Strum	24



## General information

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### How to book

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Our booking office is open from 8.30am – 5.30pm, seven days a week, with an answering machine in operation if lines are busy. Telephone 01772 784661. Email [alstonhall@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:alstonhall@lancashire.gov.uk)

You can ring us and pay by credit or debit card. You can also book by post with a cheque made payable to 'Lancashire County Council'. We would encourage you to book early to make sure of your place and to enable us to decide if the course is viable. We review courses before their start date and may need to postpone or cancel courses with low enrolments.

### What is included in the cost of my course?

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#### Residential courses

Tuition and full board are provided. Please see course information sheets for details of included refreshments. The cost per course is based on single en suite accommodation. We can offer a reduction of £7.50 per night, per person, to people willing to share a room. Tea and coffee making facilities and complimentary toiletries are available in every room. If your partner wants to stay but not attend a course they can share a twin room with a residential student at the special price of £100 full board for two nights – please enquire for prices for longer stays.

#### Day courses

This includes the tuition, tea/coffee on arrival and departure and a two-course buffet lunch (unless stated otherwise).

### Alston events

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Please see individual programmes for details of what the fee includes. Overnight accommodation may also be available if you wish to extend your stay or link our day activities together.

### How to pay

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#### Day courses

Full fees need to be paid for all day courses and events at the time of booking.

#### Residential courses

Please call us on 01772 784661 before making a residential booking to check we have appropriate

accommodation available for you. We require a minimum of a 50% deposit for residential courses, with the full balance to have been paid six weeks before the course start date. You can pay by Visa, Mastercard, cheque, postal order or cash. Instalment options are available. Please note if you wish to take up this option there will be a £10 administration fee and you must enrol in person to sign your instalment agreement. You then need to pay the balance six weeks before the course starts. If you do not pay the balance then we reserve the right to offer that place to another applicant. Please note that to reduce costs, we do not send reminders.

### If attending a residential course

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All residential courses start with an evening meal at 7pm on the first night unless stated otherwise. We suggest you check the course information sheets for the timings. You can register from 5pm on the evening of the start of the course.

### Non-residential learners on residential courses

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If you live locally and would prefer not to stay overnight at Alston Hall, you are welcome to attend our residential courses at a reduction of £30 per night.

Local bed and breakfast accommodation is usually available when all our bedrooms are taken. We can put you in touch with a number of establishments within the area and you can then book directly with them.

### Refunding costs of courses

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1. Lancashire Adult Learning will refund all fees paid by learners when:

- We cancel the course because we are unable to recruit enough learners to make the course economically viable

- We permanently change the course to a different time or place from that originally advertised so that it is no longer convenient to you
- We make a significant change to the course aims and objectives.

Any course fees and examination/accreditation fees you have paid will be refunded in full, or if you prefer we can transfer the fees to another of our courses.

2. We will refund course fees only when:

- A learner requests a refund at least two weeks before the beginning of a course.
- A learner requests a refund less than two weeks before the beginning of the course because of serious illness or hospitalisation (*\*evidence may be requested*)

The course fee will be refunded, less an administration charge of £20. If the course fee is less than £20, there will be no refund but no further

administration charge will be made.

3. We will not refund any fees when:
- A learner cancels an enrolment after the course has started
  - A learner changes his/her mind about a course
  - The course becomes inconvenient to the learner
  - A learner has missed some sessions, including as a result of illness.

## How we can help you

We will send you a course information sheet when you book. You can request this from us before you enrol. We welcome participation by learners with disabilities. We have a range of assistive technology available and there is wheelchair access to most parts of Alston Hall. Please call us to discuss any particular additional needs before your course. We cater for vegetarian, vegan, medically recommended and religious restrictive diets. Please notify us prior to the course.

We are grateful for permission to reproduce photographs from a variety of sources.

## Directions

### Public transport

The nearest train/bus station to Alston Hall is Preston which is approximately eight miles away. A taxi to will cost approximately £20.

Alternatively, the Stagecoach No 1 service passes the end of the lane at regular intervals; it is then a 30 minute walk to Alston Hall.

### M6 Junction 31a (Northbound)

At M6 Junction 31a - follow signs for the B6242 (B6243) to Longridge. At the third roundabout, turn left for Longridge (B6243). Drive through Grimsargh. After the village, you pass a church and a school on the right. About 200 metres on from the

church there is a cottage on the right. Turn right down the lane and right at the T-junction signposted Alston Hall. If you miss this turning there is another just after the White Bull Pub further along the road. Alston Hall is one mile on the right.

### M6 Junction 32 (Southbound)

Take A6 (Garstang) and turn right at the first major junction to the B5269 (Longridge). Follow this road through Goosnargh and Whittingham, turn right at the roundabout when you arrive in Longridge. Turn right at the mini-roundabout by the Old Oak Pub and pass So Plants on the left. Just before the White Bull Pub, turn left onto Alston Lane. Alston Hall is one mile on the right. (There is a second turning after the pub if you miss this one.) People coming along the M55 should leave at Broughton.



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ALSTON HALL

Tel: 01772 784661

Course Brochure

September to December 2015