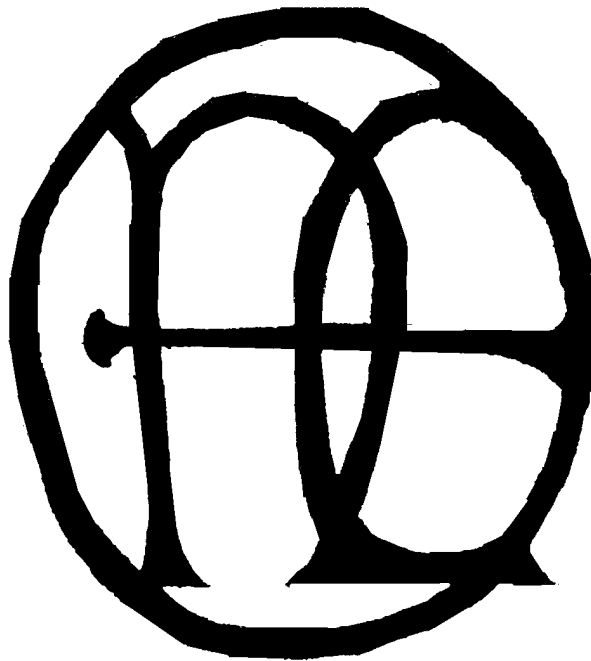


MANCENT

**The Manchester Continuing
Education Network**



Programme for Spring 2025 (Jan - April)

Welcome

Dear All,

Best wishes for 2025, which promises to be an eventful year - for the world in general and for MANCENT as well.

As you can see we once again have put together a varied programme including music (which is now on on Thursdays and on Mondays). Creina is continuing her novel discussion group with three further thought-provoking novels (they certainly kept me entertained over the last few weeks of travelling) and Michael is continuing his courses on the Ancient Near East.

We hope that between us we have found a lot of things to do to help you forget about the winter weather outside, and look forward to seeing you soon.

All the best and may 2025 be a good year for all of you.

Birgitta

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Classical World

ONLINE COURSE The Jewish War

Michael Tunnickliffe

In AD66 corruption and mismanagement by the Roman governor led to the outbreak of the Jewish War, which initially met with unexpected success until the Emperor Nero sent the seasoned general Vespasian and his son Titus to quell the revolt. By the end of the War in 73 Jerusalem and its Temple were in ruins, Masada was deserted and Vespasian was Emperor of Rome. We have one gripping eye-witness account from the Jewish priest turned soldier turned Roman quisling known to us as Flavius Josephus. We will follow his account of the tumultuous events as well as looking at the initial causes of the revolt and its consequences for Jewish, Christian and Roman history.

Recommended reading

Martin Hammond (trans) (2017) *Josephus: The Jewish War*, Oxford World Classics or

E Mary Smallwood (trans) (1981) *Josephus: The Jewish War*, Penguin Classics

Neil Faulkener (2002) *Apocalypse: The Great Jewish Revolt against Rome* Tempus

Martin Goodman, (2008) *Rome and Jerusalem*, Penguin

Day: Thursdays **Time:** 1.45 - 3.45pm

10 weeks, from 23rd January to 3rd April.

Half term break: 20th February

Online platform: Zoom

10-session course	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£70	8	24

Send bookings to:

Michael Tunnickliffe

5 St George's Way, Northwich CW9 8XG

email: mtunni@sky.com **telephone:** 01606 42116

ONLINE COURSE

News from Ancient Rome

Birgitta Hoffmann

In the last 30 years, the archaeology in the city of Rome has experienced a massive boom, with new excavations being caused by large infrastructure projects such as the new Metro line and the new bus parks for the Vatican, to renewed research surrounding the large churches such as the Lateran, the Vatican, but also small ones like Santa Maria Antiqua in the Forum. Widespread restoration work has changed our understanding of many of the monuments and their history. This series will present you with some of these results.

23rd January	Early Rome: new insights on how it all started
30th January	The forum: A view into the world of the Republic
6th February	The forum: what happened after Augustus
13th February	The Palatine I
27th February	The Palatine II
6th March	What happened on the Aventine
13th March	The field of Mars: piecing together the large monuments
20th March	Life in the suburbium
27th March	The Lateran complex from barracks to palace to church
3rd April	Old St Peter and the rise of a new religious centre in late antiquity

Day: Thursdays **Time:** 7 - 9pm
10 sessions starting on 23rd January to 3rd April.
Half term break 20th February

Online platform: Zoom

Lectures will be recorded and distributed to the participants at the beginning of the next week. This should allow participants from different time zones, or those working, to catch up with the lectures

10-week course	Individual lectures*	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£120	£12	8	50

You can book via the MANCENT booking form and pay with cheque or contact Birgitta Hoffmann for the BACS details or a PayPal invoice.

This course can also be bought via Eventbrite

Birgitta Hoffmann, 55 Broadwalk, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PL

email: latinteacher@btinternet.com **phone:** 07377 791562

ONLINE COURSE

Beyond the columns: closer look at Roman temples

Birgitta Hoffmann

Temples are probably the most easily recognized Roman building type. A staircase, leading up to columns, a triangular pediment and the shrine behind it. But how standardized are these buildings really, are there other forms of temples and what can they tell us about the cult they housed and their followers?

This course will look at temples from all over the empire and explore the differences and similarities.

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 24th January | How it all starts: Etruscan and Early Roman temples |
| 31st January | What is the difference between a Greek and Roman temple? |
| 7th February | The valley of the Gods: The temples of the Forum Romanum |
| 14th February | Temples without buildings:
sanctuaries with shaft deposition |
| 28th February | An obsession with water?
Shrines to the nymphs and river gods |
| 7th March | Spas and religions: Bath and other healing shrines in the Roman Empire |
| 14th March | The sanctuary towns of Gaul –
what is it with the theatres? |
| 21st March | Telling the Future:
Didyma and its temple town in the Roman period |
| 28th March | Going East: Baalbek and the temple towns of the East |
| 4th April | When the god is the emperor:
Temples of the Imperial Cult |

Day: Fridays

Time: 2 - 4pm

10 sessions starting on 24th January to 4th April.

Half term break 21st February

Online platform: Zoom

10-week course	Individual lectures*	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£120	£12	8	50

You can book via the MANCENT booking form and pay with cheque or contact Birgitta Hoffmann for the BACS details or a PayPal invoice. This course can also be bought via Eventbrite

Birgitta Hoffmann, 55 Broadwalk, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PL
email: latinteacher@btinternet.com **phone:** 07377 791562

ONLINE DAYSCHOOL

From Celsus to Galen – Roman writers on healers and medication and their archaeology

Birgitta Hoffmann

Discussions of Roman medicine are often dominated by famous healing centres such as the shrines of Asklepios in Pergamon and Kos. But beyond this is a much larger system of healers and knowledge that operated throughout the Empire, often away from impressive archaeological remains that offered treatments with salves, herbs and often dietary advice to help with everyday ailments.

This course will look at what we know about these healers and their crafts both through ancient sources and archaeology.

Date: Saturday 15th March

Time: 11am – 4pm

Online platform: Zoom

Dayschool	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£35	8	50

You can book via the MANCENT Booking form and pay with cheque or contact Birgitta Hoffmann for the BACS details or a PayPal invoice.

You can also book this course on Eventbrite

Contact:

Birgitta Hoffmann

55 Broadwalk, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PL

email: latinteacher@btinternet.com mobile: 07377 791562

World Archaeology

COURSE Ancient Mesopotamia

Michael Tunnicliffe

The land between the Tigris and Euphrates is one of the cradles of civilisation. Under the Sumerians cities grew up, writing was invented and literature created. In the 2nd millennium they were succeeded by Semitic peoples and the 1st millennium saw the rise of the great empires of Assyria and Babylon. They impacted the peoples of the Bible Lands, of Egypt and Anatolia and the names of their kings like Sennacherib and Nebuchadnezzar have never been forgotten. As well as the history of the region we will examine the literature, religious beliefs and culture of these people from modern day Iraq and see how they influenced later ideas long after their cities had crumbled into dust

Recommended reading

Mark van der Mieroop (ed) 2015 *A History of the Ancient Near East 3000-323BC*

Harriet Crawford 2004 *Sumer and the Sumerians*

Paul Kriwaczek 2012 *Mesopotamia and the Birth of Civilisation*

Irving Finkel 2008 *Babylon*

Day: Tuesdays **Time:** 10am - 12 noon
12 weeks, from 14th January to 8th April
Half term - 18th October

Venue:

Quaker Meeting House, 91 Station Road, Cheadle Hulme SK8 7BG

12-week course	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£96	8	24

Send bookings to:

Michael Tunnicliffe

5 St George's Way, Northwich CW9 8XG

email: mtunni@sky.com **telephone:** 01606 42116

ONLINE COURSE

Silkroad Studies: The People of the Steppes from Scythians to Sarmatians

Birgitta Hoffmann

An Introduction to the nomadic and semi-nomadic people north of the Silkroad

The Silkroad is often seen as a system of cities linked by trade routes, but in addition, there is a second zone to its North that is dominated by the (semi-)nomadic people of the steppes and grasslands. Highly mobile, they also provided a route of contact stretching between East and West and frequently interacted with the states to the South positively and negatively. This course will follow some of these tribes through their history.

23rd January	The Scythians of Siberia
30th January	Yuezhi
6th February	The Huns
13th February	The Jurchen and Liao – The conquerors of Northern China
27th February	The Scythians go west
6th March	Scythians and Greeks
13th March	Sarmatians
20th March	Avars
27th March	Chazars – the Southern trading partners of the Vikings?
3rd April	The Polovtsi, Qipcaq and Kumani – friends & foes of the Kiev Rus and Byzantium

Day: Thursdays **Time:** 2 -4pm
10 sessions starting on 23rd January to 3rd April.
Half term break on 20th February

Online platform: Zoom

Lectures will be recorded and distributed to the participants at the beginning of the next week. This should allow participants from different time zones, or those working, to catch up with the lectures.

10-week course	Individual lectures*	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£120	£12	8	50

You can book via the MANCENT booking form and pay with cheque or contact Birgitta Hoffmann for the BACS details or a PayPal invoice. This course can also be bought via Eventbrite

Birgitta Hoffmann, 55 Broadwalk, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PL
email: latinteacher@btinternet.com **phone:** 07377 791562

ONLINE DAYSCHOOL

Iron Age hillforts in France and Germany – from Manching to Alesia

Birgitta Hoffmann

Before the Romans came, the Latène culture of Gaul and Southern Germany had already developed their own version of a city. Named oppida after the name Caesar gave these sites, they could be extremely large sites, often on hills dominating the surrounding landscape topographically and more importantly economically. Most of these appear to have been linked through a dense network of trade links reaching into Italy and Eastern Europe.

This dayschool will look at these sites and how recent excavations have changed how we think these oppida functioned and how they survived.

Date: Saturday 18th January

Time: 11am – 4pm

Online platform: Zoom

Dayschool	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£35	8	50

You can book via the MANCENT booking form and pay with cheque or contact Birgitta Hoffmann for the BACS details or a PayPal invoice. This course can also be bought via Eventbrite

Birgitta Hoffmann, 55 Broadwalk, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PL
email: latinteacher@btinternet.com **phone:** 07377 791562

ONLINE DAYSCHOOL

The Archaeology of Ukraine: Scythians, Sarmatians, Romans and so much else

Birgitta Hoffmann

The steppes north of the Black Sea are some of the most fertile soils in Europe, well-watered they have attracted a lot of historical cultures from the Scythians to the Goths and Romans. Most of these cultures have left a impressive and rich heritage, which documents how different people over time exploited these areas.

This dayschool will look at the archaeology of this area, including the Crimea.

Date: Saturday 15th February **Time:** 11am – 4pm

Online platform: Zoom

Dayschool	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£35	8	50

You can book via the MANCENT booking form and pay with cheque or contact Birgitta Hoffmann for the BACS details or a PayPal invoice. This course can also be bought via Eventbrite

Birgitta Hoffmann, 55 Broadwalk, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PL
email: latinteacher@btinternet.com **phone:** 07377 791562

Latin

ONLINE COURSE Reading Latin: Ovid in Pontus – The poems of old age

Birgitta Hoffmann

This term we will be translating some of Ovid's late work, viz the poems that were written during his exile in Pontos.

Both the Tristia and the Ex Ponto have a very different atmosphere to the earlier poems, less lighthearted, less interested in "girls meet boys". But the mastery of the Latin language is still there and is still able to impress, perhaps more so, for having a wider range of subject matter.

The text we will study will be distributed at the beginning of January (but if you are interested in the complete texts they can be found online: Tristia and Ex Ponto)

Day: Mondays **Time:** 2 - 3.30pm
10 sessions from 20th January Half term: 17th February

Online platform: Zoom

10-session course	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£120	4	7

You can book via the MANCENT Booking form and pay with cheque or contact Birgitta Hoffmann for the BACS details or a PayPal invoice.

Birgitta Hoffmann
55 Broadwalk, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PL

ONLINE COURSE

Latin Prose Composition and Livy

Birgitta Hoffmann

In the Spring we will continue to translate Livy, *Ab urbe condita* Book 1 (You can find the text online on the Perseus database, but if you prefer text with commentary we suggest the Bloomsbury edition.

We will translate and discuss the text as well as alternating with exercises of translating English into Latin focusing on sentence structure and subclauses with and without subjunctive.

For the grammar exercises and English into Latin translations, we are using Andrew Leigh's *Latin Prose Composition*. Other learning materials will be provided, but a Latin/English dictionary will be useful, which can be found online.

Newcomers are always welcome but should ensure that they are familiar with Latin Grammar and vocabulary at roughly A-level or beyond. This course also does prose composition exercises (translations from English into Latin). Feel free to ask to come for a trial session, if you are unsure.

Day: Tuesdays **Time:** 6 - 7.30pm
10 sessions from 21st January. Half term break on 18th February
Half term: 29th October

Online platform: Zoom

10-session course	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£120	2	7

You can book via the MANCENT Booking form and pay with cheque or contact Birgitta Hoffmann for the BACS details or a PayPal invoice.

Birgitta Hoffmann
55 Broadwalk, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5PL
email: latinteacher@btinternet.com **mobile:** 07377 791 562

Literature

COURSE Novel Discussion Group

Creina Mansfield

We meet once a month. The format is open, with participants expressing their views about all aspects of the novels. We concentrate on twenty-first century texts. This season one might not be 'a novel' at all.

January 11th *Death and the Penguin* (2003) by Andrev Kurkov

February 8th *Killers of the Flower Moon* (2017) by David Gann

March 8th *The Fraud* (2023) by Zadie Smith

Day: Saturdays

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Venue:

Cross Street Chapel, Cross Street, Manchester M2 1NL

Per session	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£15	1	20

To book, please email creina.m@hotmail.com or phone 01625 511581.

Please complete the MANCENT booking form and send it with a cheque (made payable to: Creina Mansfield) to:

Creina Mansfield, Beech Court, Beech Hall Drive, Macclesfield, SK10 2EF

Music

ONLINE COURSE Mornings with a Masterpiece: Beethoven's 'middle period' Chamber Music

Rosemary Broadbent

The first decade of the 19th century was a tumultuous period. Europe was at war and Vienna was twice occupied by the French, once peacefully, and once after a terrifying bombardment. The geographical and political landscape would be changed forever.

It should come as no surprise that Beethoven's compositions of this period were similarly revolutionary. The later string quartets are justly famous and remained unparalleled for generations, but the seeds of those developments were sown by 1811. In this course, we shall investigate four chamber works from this time which were already far ahead of their field.

Three are string quartets, commissioned in 1806 by the Russian ambassador to Vienna, Count Rasumovsky and published as Opus 59. We shall also study Beethoven's longest and finest Piano Trio, Opus 97 in B flat, (1811) known as the 'Archduke Trio' after its dedicatee.

The quartets were described by a contemporary as 'very long and difficult' but also that they were attracting the attention of all connoisseurs.' All the more reason to investigate them together to penetrate their secrets and discover an emotional range from tempestuous energy to the utmost serenity.

The course will run twice, on Thursday mornings and then on Monday mornings.

Day: Thursdays or Mondays

Time: 10am - 12.30pm

Thursday 13th February

String Quartets Op. 59 no. 1 and 3

Thursday 20th February

String Quartet Op. 59 no. 2

Monday 3rd March

String Quartets Op. 59 no. 1 and 3

Monday 10th March

String Quartet Op. 59 no. 2

Online platform: Zoom

Each morning will consist of two one-hour lecture/discussions. There will be a twenty-minute break for coffee, during which the meeting will remain open for informal conversation.

Price per session	Price for 2 sessions	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£15	£27	5	24

Send bookings and enquiries to:

Rosemary Broadbent

26 Bowden Lane, Marple, Stockport SK6 6ND

email: rosemary.broadbent@st-hughs.oxon.org

Tel: 07801 491031

Cheques payable to Rosemary Broadbent. Details for bank transfer will be supplied on request.

Bookings close one week before each event.

For information on online and face-to-face talks visit:

<https://rosemarybroadbent.co.uk/speaking-workshops/>

Theology & Religious Studies

COURSE Isaiah 1-23

Michael Tunnicliffe

We begin a study of the Book of Isaiah that will cover the three terms in 2025. It is both a big book in size and also in influence. It is one of the chief books among the Jewish prophets and was used extensively for “proof texts” by early Christianity with its “messianic” passages. Other parts are much less well known such as the Oracles Against the Nations. It is also a controversial book with very different interpretations put on the texts, and debate about the date of the work and whether it is the product of a single author or of many. The course will explore 2-3 chapters per week and compare the interpretations of four scholars who take very different approaches to this fascinating work

Special requirements: Bring a Bible

Recommended reading:

Any up to date commentaries on Isaiah

Day: Tuesdays

Time: 1 - 3pm

10 sessions, from 21st January to 1st April

Half term break: 18th February

Venue:

Birch Community Centre, Brighton Grove, Manchester, M14 5JT

10-session course	Minimum No.	Maximum No.
£80	8	15

Send bookings to:

Michael Tunnicliffe

5 St George's Way, Northwich CW9 8XG

email: mtunni@sky.com **telephone:** 01606 42116

MANCENT: Terms and Conditions

As an agency our terms and conditions are those of our lecturers. We thus have a set of 'General terms and Conditions' that apply to all lecturers, as well as special terms specific to individual lecturers (these particularly concern booking procedures and cancellations). While the differences may be minimal, we recommend that you check the entry under the lecturer you are interested in and read them carefully.

General Terms and Conditions

Learning support

We aim to be fully inclusive. However, MANCENT lecturers use a wide variety of venues which offer markedly different options to students with special needs or mobility problems. On enrolment, please make sure you make your special needs known to us, so that we can advise on suitability and provide learning support if possible.

Mailing list and personal information

You will automatically be included in our mailing list (unless you specifically ask us not to), whenever you enrol on a course. This list is not shared with any other organisations and exists purely to be able to contact you. It will not be published. If your contact details change or you want to be removed from the list, please let us know. We will contact you by email if you have given us an email address,

unless you ask us to use the postal address.

Smoking and non-smoking areas

Due to the current legal requirements, most venues will be non-smoking. Students and tutors/lecturers are trusted to comply with the individual rules at the venues and when smoking in the designated areas, not to leave litter.

Complaints and exclusions

MANCENT is committed to ensuring that all participants, whether student or lecturer/tutor are treated with equal respect. All participants are, thus, reminded that they are bound by current legislation concerning harassment and discrimination.

For some courses, your tutor/lecturer will establish specific ground rules (e.g. confidentiality, health and safety issues), these form an agreement that all participants need to honour for the course to function effectively.

Should there be a complaint about the way the course is run or a member of the group, the first port of call should be the lecturer/tutor, and only afterwards the Course Director.

However, MANCENT does not act as an employer and the Course Director has thus no formal authority over the individual lecturer. The Course Director (after consultation with other tutors and students) reserves the right to

exclude persistent offenders (tutors and students alike) from the network for any of the following : abusive or threatening behaviour, undue disruption to the learning of others, damage or misuse of property belonging to the venue, the lecturer or other students.

Damage, loss and injury

MANCENT or its participating tutors/lecturers cannot be held responsible for any damage, loss or injury sustained by participants inside or outside the venue. This includes theft of (and from) and damage to vehicles, parked near the venue.

MANCENT: Terms and Conditions

Special Terms and Conditions for individual lecturers.

**Birgitta Hoffmann, Alan Sennett,
Michael Tunnicliffe, and Barry
Wood**

Enrolment procedures

Enrolment is continuously, from the point of publication of the brochure on a first come, first served basis. Courses will go ahead, if the minimum numbers are reached.

Enrolment must be accompanied by the booking fee. In cases of late enrolment the fees can be paid on the day of the first lecture, if the maximum number of the course has not been reached.

We accept cash or cheques, but not credit cards. It is not possible to register 'online'.

An enrolment confirmation letter/email will be send to you as soon as possible after receipt of your enrolment. Please bring this to the first meeting of the course. Details of your course venue will be given in this letter or can be found on the Website.

In special cases the course will be confirmed by telephone.

Fees and refunds

Class and lecture fees are based on the rate of the rent of room and equipment as well as possible class size and thus vary. Fees are shown against the details of all other activities.

Trial sessions have to be agreed with the lecturer beforehand and are limited to one session per course.

Please note, that due to changes in the law relating to Adult Education provision, we are not able to offer reduced fees to those on a state retirement pension.

If a course has to be cancelled because of low enrolment or for some other operational reason, a full refund will be given to those students, who have enrolled. In this case the students will be informed as soon as possible by the lecturer.

Refunds can be given, if notice is received three weeks before the booked

event. After this no refund can be given, unless the space can be filled otherwise. This is because by that point we will have made a financial commitment to book the venue and to run the course with a known number of students.

Other costs

On some courses you may be required to pay additional costs for items such as materials, books etc. Please ask about these, when (or before) you enrol.

How to contact us:

For general enquiries (including more copies of this brochure, or booking forms):

Birgitta Hoffmann
MANCENT Course Director
55 Broadwalk
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5PL

email: latinteacher@btinternet.com or mancent.courses@gmail.com
Phone: 07377 791562

Webpage (with updates): <http://www.mancent.org.uk>

For bookings or information on individual courses:
Please contact the lecturers listed for the course.

The Programme at a glance

	Morning	Afternoon	Evening
Monday	Music	Latin	
Tuesday	World Archaeology	Theology	Latin
Wednesday			
Thursday	Music	Classical World	Classical World
Friday		Classical World	
Saturday	Literature		

Dayschools in Spring 2025 Term

Date	Subject
Saturday 18th January	World Archaeology
Saturday 15th February	World Archaeology
Saturday 7th December	Classical World

For your notes