

A variety of exciting Spring courses are available at Stranmillis University College beginning in May 2009

Stranmillis University College has one of the most idyllic settings of any educational institution in Europe. The 46-acre estate of woodland, lake and historic gardens was once a deer park and contains a Victorian mansion and the remains of an Irish ring-fort and a Plantation castle. It is also home to a rich variety of animals and birdlife. Now this campus is open to the wider public through our new Lifelong Learning Programme, coordinated by historian Dr Éamon Phoenix.

Enrolment:

To enrol or obtain further information please contact:

Katie Miller,
Lifelong Learning, Main Building,
Stranmillis University College
Tel 02890 384261
(Credit and Debit Cards accepted)
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Outdoor Sketching in May: a practical course based on the fragrant Spring landscape of the Stranmillis Conservation Area.

Mrs Harriet Ennis (Subject to confirmation)

Fee: £35.00

(concessionary rate £30.00) plus £10.00 for materials

Tuesdays 10.00 am to 12.30 pm, commencing 12 May at Main Building, Stranmillis University College

Why not take some time out this Spring and savour the pleasures of outdoor sketching in the beautiful, secret grounds of Stranmillis where woodland, lake and meadow meet. This is a practical course designed to introduce participants to the joys of sketching 'on the spot'. You will use a variety of graphic media to record your personal responses to built heritage, lake and wildlife. You will be expected to work outside so bring a raincoat along with the following 'survival kit':

Sketchbook (A3 or A4)
Pencils (2B, 4B and 6B)
A sharpener and an eraser
Folding stool Digital camera is optional
Other materials are provided

We guarantee that this 'faster' experience will mark the start of a lifelong exploration of the natural world!

Hidden History: Stranmillis Through the Ages: a fascinating journey of exploration into the rich heritage of the Stranmillis Conservation Area

Dr Éamon Phoenix and panel of lecturers

Fee: £35.00

5 weekly sessions. Tuesdays at 10.00am – 12.30pm, commencing 5 May (first meeting, Main Building, Stranmillis University College)

The course opens with a guided tour of the sylvan Stranmillis estate with its 10th century ring-fort, Plantation Castle and Victorian mansion. Subsequent sessions take in Friar's Bush- Belfast's oldest Christian site with its grim 'Plaguey Hill' from famine times; the rich natural history of the Stranmillis estate; the Lagan Canal and the nearby Cranmore House (1660) with its alleged links to King William 111. Reading: *Two Acres of Irish History: Friar's Bush and Belfast 1570-1918*, Éamon Phoenix. (UHF, 2001).

Irish Nature Observed: Stranmillis Conservation Area

Dr Julian Greenwood

Fee: £35.00

5 weekly 2 hour sessions Mondays 10.00 am to 12.30 pm commencing 11 May (first meeting, Main Building, Stranmillis University College)

Led by an expert naturalist, this mainly outdoors course aims to introduce students to Irish habitats and wildlife. A key element of the course will be a series of excursions in and around the Stranmillis Conservation Area, once a Deer Park with its unspoiled landscape of woodland, glacial lakes and its visible population of badgers, squirrels, foxes and birdlife. Sessions will consider the twin concepts of biodiversity and sustainability.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear and waterproof.

Rising to Partition: Ireland 1916-25:

Dr Éamon Phoenix

Fee: £35.00

5 weekly 2 hour sessions Monday evenings, 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, commencing 12 May, Stranmillis University College, CSR6 Central Building (parking as directed by Security)

A survey of the 'Irish Revolution' from the Easter Rising to the Partition of Ireland and the Civil War. Topics considered include the causes of '1916' its impact on the Ulster Question; the rise of Sinn Féin and Ulster Unionism; the Anglo-Irish War; Partition; 'Belfast's Unholy War' (1920-22); the 1921 Treaty and the roles played by de Valera, Collins and Craig; the Craig-Collins Pacts of 1922; and the Boundary Commission. Sessions will be illustrated by audio-visual material and key historical documents. Reading: *Ireland Since the Famine*. F S L Lyons. (Fontana/Collins)

Cabinet Confidential: New Light on Northern Ireland's History, 1921-78

Dr Éamon Phoenix

Fee: £35.00

5 weekly 2 hour sessions Thursdays 7.00 pm to 9.00 pm, commencing 7 May, Stranmillis University College CSR6, Central Building (parking as directed by Security)

Led by an expert on Irish and British State Papers, this course will view the early and recent history of Partition and Northern Ireland using the previously secret files of the governments in Stormont, Dublin and London. Topics covered include the establishment of the two Irish states in 1920-22, relations between James Craig and Michael Collins in the 1920s, De Valera and the North, the Civil Rights movement, the fall of Stormont (1972) and Brian Faulkner and the 1974 Power-sharing Executive. Reading: *A History of Northern Ireland*. Patrick Buckland. (Gill and Macmillan)