A regular series of talks for anyone interested in culture, the arts and humanities. Come along, hear our inspiring and enthusiastic speakers and grab yourself some coffee and cake into the bargain.

**Vandemonian: Tasmanian Aborigines, Tigers and Devils**
Saturday October 11th 2014 11.00 am
Staff House, 1st Floor, Conference Room 1
Dr Cliff Forshaw
Senior Lecturer in English and Creative Writing, Department of English

"Vandemonian" refers to Van Diemen's Land, and Cliff's most recent book of poems pieces together a fragmentary history of Tasmania from the island's mythic beginnings, through its discovery by Europeans, and the subsequent destruction of native peoples and wildlife as it becomes a penal colony's own penal colony. Here are songs and ballads for Trucanini, the last full-blood Tasmanian Aborigine, and laments for the endangered Tasmanian Devil and the Tasmanian Tiger, officially declared extinct, but living on through folklore and unconfirmed sightings. Cliff will read poems and talk about how the book developed from a period as writer-in-residence in Tasmania.

**Vikings up North: The Legend of Ragnar Hairy-Breeches**
Saturday November 15th 2014 11.00 am
Staff House, 1st Floor, Conference Room 1
Dr Martin Arnold, Reader in Old Northern Studies, Department of English

In 866, the first Viking Great Army established itself at York and remained there for the next 80 years. The army was led by the five Ragnarssons – Ivar the Boneless, Sigurd Snake-in-the-Eye, Bjorn Ironside, Halfdan and Ubba. According to medieval Scandinavian legend, their motive was to avenge the killing of their father, Ragnar Hairy-Breeches, by the usurper King of York, Ella, by casting him into a snake-pit. This talk explores Ragnar's life and loves, his renown as a dragon-slayer, his archetypical Viking ending at York and the huge influence his 'Death-Song' had on the English literary scene a thousand years later.

**Plotting Murder: Suspects, Victims and Perpetrators in the work of Agatha Christie**
Saturday October 25th 2014 11.00 am
Staff House, 1st Floor, Conference Room 1
Dr Sabine Vanacker, Lecturer, Department of English

With Agatha Christie we enter the realm of the hyperbole: the Queen of Crime, the Golden Age of detective fiction, the oeuvre that outsells everything apart from the Bible. Christie's novels frequently expose the true nature of hidden family relationships: maids turn out to be daughters-in-law, apparent enemies are unmasked as secretly married. Christie's veiled, disguised social and family networks express our subconscious fear of the stranger within, but they do so in the 'safe' environment of the classical whodunit. After a brief introduction to Golden Age classical detective fiction, the lecture will focus on Christie's techniques for plotting her murders – which may explain why we can never remember who did it (!) – and on the 'endless spread of guilt', among suspects, perpetrators and victims.

**Poetry for the City? Philip Larkin and Others**
Saturday December 6th 2014 11.00 am
Staff House, 1st Floor, Conference Room 1
Dr Daniel Weston, Lecturer in Twentieth-Century English Literature, Department of English

D.H Lawrence and his legacy
Saturday December 13th 2014 11.00 am
Staff House, 1st Floor, Conference Room 1
Dr Bethan Jones, Senior Lecturer in Modern and Contemporary Literature, Department of English

* These sessions are part of the North and South Project; a collaboration with the University of Hull and the University of Southampton. Led by Professor Katharine Cockin, this project seeks to identify and investigate stereotypical and other representations of the North and South. With a dual focus on the port cities of Hull and Southampton from 1832 to 1947, it will draw upon a variety of sources including literary texts, local newspapers and archival materials.

Places are limited so booking is essential. To book a place or request further details, please call us on 01482 466321/466585 or email us at opencampus@hull.ac.uk

For more information on the OpenCampus Programme visit our website - www.hull.ac.uk/opencampus

In collaboration with CultureNet, the creative space of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences.

**www.culturenet.co.uk**