

Courses and Activities during 2020/21

When everything went into the first lockdown a year ago it was difficult to imagine how we would be able to keep courses and activities going, never mind increasing and diversifying.

I want to acknowledge that, however hard we tried, it was sadly not possible to include those members who are not on line or who, for a number of reasons are unable to use zoom. At the same time, it was exciting to see how many of you, tutors and participants, decided to take the plunge and are now zoom active, if not total converted. In total around 50 to 60% of members have participated in zoom activities.

Our courses and activities programme in 2020/21 is a huge tribute to many and it would be difficult and time consuming to mention everyone by name. I would just like to name two people for their outstanding contributions over the last year. Pam McGregor who was our Director of Studies and whose enthusiasm and fighting spirit never wavered; the more difficult things became, the more determined Pam was. Her belief in the fact that we would be able to use Zoom effectively was backed up by David Clarke who provided the technical 'know how' and, with his team, got us set up. So, during the the lockdowns and months in-between there were Zoom and email courses and activities for members to participate in and enjoy. Between 17 and 20 in Q4 last year, 45 in Q1 at the beginning of this year, and now 12 that were particularly sought after are being repeated in a new Q2. And soon a magnificent Summer Programme, organised by Carol Stewart will be published.. And the good news is that, all being well, we will finally be able to include activities for members who are unable to join in on Zoom.

The Third Age Trust has issued copious guidelines for committees, tutors, activity leaders and participants which we are in the process to share with the relevant groups. Thankfully much of it is common sense!

Coordinators, tutors and hosts are to be congratulated and thanked most sincerely for their commitment and belief in our u3a. You have made a very difficult time in our members' lives easier to cope with. Thank you.

Ursula Steiger