

GLOSSOP GUILD NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2021

Dear Member,

A big greeting to you all as we move slowly toward a loosening of the Covid restrictions. The Pandemic has severely curtailed the way we live our lives, and all of us have sorely missed regular mixing with family and friends; being able to talk to them and be close to them; going out for a meal; going out for entertainment; or just to sit in a Café and relax; and don't forget going to Bradbury House to take part in courses run by Glossop Guild where we can renew our acquaintance with friends we have made over the years.

When the Pandemic took hold and restrictions were imposed, we worked with our Tutors to continue to offer good quality Courses for our membership, using Zoom. We have since provided 3 terms of Zoom courses, and most sessions have attracted well over 40 attendees, with very positive engagement and feedback from members. I would like to thank the Guild Committee, and our Tutors, who have worked hard to bring such a varied and interesting programme to attendees, and to do it so professionally.

We all hope that Covid restrictions are largely lifted by the end of June as planned. With that in mind the Guild Committee consulted with all our Members in February about returning to venue based courses, and whether to continue to use Zoom. Many thanks to the many of you who responded- your views have helped us to shape the Autumn programme now being developed.

The key outcome was that a clear majority of members want a mix of Zoom and Venue based sessions, and that is what we are planning for our Autumn Term - with about 20 sessions on Zoom and 20 sessions in a meeting venue. Other key aspects from the responses were:

- Some members are understandably not keen on evening sessions at venues during the dark winter months.
- Zoom has proven to be popular, and has given members a new way to access Guild courses, especially useful for those less able, or less local.
- Zoom cannot replace the positive social benefits of being part of a group, with tea/coffee break chats especially missed!

Our plans for a Guild Spring 2022 Term will also be developed as the year progresses, much as we hope our lives will return to normal.

In terms of payment for Courses we will once again offer members a "Zoom Season Pass", covering all the Zoom Courses in our Autumn term. Venue based Courses (eg at Bradbury House) are more costly to put on than Zoom, as we have to pay for the hiring of rooms and insurance etc., so as before, you will need to pay for each Course you wish to attend. Guild Membership (£10) will need to be renewed from May 2021 so you can book future courses at membership rates!

The Committee has made a decision that this year there will be no Summer Courses run by the Guild. Like many of you, the Committee hope after the anticipated easing of restrictions to take up the long awaited chance to spend time getting away on holiday, and seeing friends and family.

It has been our usual practice to hold the Guild Annual General Meeting (AGM) toward the end of April. We think it unlikely that we will be able to hold our AGM as a normal meeting in a building by then, so we have planned to amend our constitution so as to allow our AGM to be conducted by post & email. You should have received a notice seeking your agreement to that change to our constitution. If you have not yet done so, please reply to that notice with a simple Yes or No before 7 April. We then hope to conduct our AGM by post and email, to conclude by early May.

All the present Committee members will be standing again - but I would like to encourage and appeal to any member who wants to join the Committee to put forward their name. If you are interested, you will need to ask two other members to propose you - and for your name to go forward to Diana Cavanagh, the Guild Secretary. There is nothing mystical about being on the Committee. We are just a group of ordinary people trying their best to help organise Courses for peoples' enjoyment.

Finally I would all like to thank so many of you for joining up to so many of our Courses over the last year. It has been difficult for all of us, and I hope that the courses we have arranged have been at least one thing to look forward to over these difficult weeks.

Best wishes to you all and we hope to see you very soon.

Mike Webb Chair - Glossop Guild