



HEMALL

HEMINGFORDS' ADULT LIFELONG LEARNING



CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2020

Hallo to you all and I sincerely hope that you have been coping well with all the problems of the last few months and have avoided any nasty viruses. So much has happened since the last HEMALL newsletter a year ago that I must bring you up to date and tell you of any future plans.

We very nearly managed to complete our two Spring courses before the beginning of lockdown in late March. Marina Burrell was highly entertaining on the subject of *Famous Russian Women* and we were delighted to welcome back Mike Muncaster to complete our series of courses on American history. Thus we can confirm a real success story for our first year of independence!

Sadly, since then we have been able to run only one course when Jane Williams gave a ZOOM course on *King Arthur, the History and the Myth*. Those who signed up really enjoyed the course and found Jane to be an experienced and entertaining tutor. However only nine households signed up which meant that the course ran at a considerable loss. That in itself is not a problem as we were well into profit after four very successful courses in the previous academic year. The real problem is that only a few of our group like to use ZOOM which is very understandable. We all appreciate the social contact of getting together once or twice a week.

We had booked Mike Muncaster to return after Christmas on a Monday afternoon to tell us about Elizabethan England. Unfortunately Mike does not use ZOOM and there is no way that the Reading Room will be able to open until much later in 2021 when social distancing restrictions are removed. Thus I am very sorry to tell you that there will be no HEMALL meetings for the foreseeable future.

However, having ceased to belong to the WEA we are now part of the Cambridgeshire Alliance of Lifelong Learners (CALL) who have a website listing a whole range of ZOOM meetings which might provide some interest between now and the time we can be out and about again. The website address so you can access them directly is www.call-ed.org.uk. As an example, there is a course entitled *London through Literature* starting in the New Year.

It just remains for me to wish you all a "Very Merry Christmas" and a happy and healthy 2021!

Very best wishes

Maureen