



**The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service**

SEFF NEWSLETTER

Supporting Victims & Survivors, Strengthening Communities



April 2021 Issue 176

The main SEFF Office, Lisnaskea is open but manned by reduced staffing levels during COVID Monday - Friday, 9am - 5pm for general office business

If you require support or help with completing Welfare forms Tina/Norman will be available to assist with this service over the phone during COVID lockdown.

Please contact the office if you need assistance and your details will be passed to Tina/Norman, and you will receive a call about your query.

Dear Member,

At the point of writing this front page contribution there is fresh optimism that we've taken a significant stride in recent times towards the opening up again of our Country and of emerging from the restricted living we've had for 12 months now. Many people have experienced hardship on a range of levels over the last year and we must also acknowledge who have worked to fight the pandemic, to protect life and to also keep our economy and society functioning.

In this month's N'letter our front page contains news of the sad departure of Karen, who has been with us for almost 11 years as a Finance Officer. Karen is well known to the Fermanagh membership in particular and others beyond the County and many will want to join with me in wishing her every success and happiness as she embarks on a new journey taking up a Finance role within The Lough Erne Golf Resort. We do hope to see Karen back with us as a member.

In marking Northern Ireland's centenary we will have a special show broadcast on our SEFF Lisnaskea (Community FB page) on Monday 3rd May 2021 @ 8pm, please do join the show being once again held in partnership with Rockytop Productions, Ballinamallard. (Including music and song, sport, all forms of culture and much more)



Goodbye,

Well I never thought that I would be writing this, but the time has come for me to say goodbye to you all. I am destined for pastures new and by the time you will be reading this I will be in my new job as an account's assistant at the Lough Erne Resort. I am looking forward to this new chapter in my life but at the same time I am sad to be going, it's a case of now or never.

When I joined SEFF just over 11 years ago I knew that first day that I felt this was my forever work home, I had worked in a couple of jobs before joining SEFF and none made me as whole as SEFF did, it had a great ethos and I didn't feel that I was working I felt that I was there to help our members. When you join SEFF it isn't a job it's a vocation and you really have to care, I loved going to events and it gave me an opportunity to meet with most of you, and although you would be technically working, well all I can say is that it didn't seem like work at all.

Over the years I have met some amazing people across County Fermanagh and then as SEFF has expanded into other areas this last few years, sadly I haven't got to know so many from those wider areas in person, contact has been mainly by telephone. COVID has been a challenging year and in a way, I'm glad to be saying goodbye during lockdown because if the local members were coming into the office to say goodbye to me there would be a few tears.

I wish SEFF all the best for the future, keep up the good work, I would ask you to encourage younger members to join. Poor Kenny has listened to me bleating on for years about the youth, but as I know from our Church, etc that the youth/young people are the future, and in these challenging times we need to invest in them.

I want to say a special goodbye to my two side-kicks Mandy and Joy, we have been together this last 11 & 9 years and I think we have now got into the swing of working together and then I up and leave. Also not forgetting Kenny at the helm and all the staff that have joined SEFF in the last few years, it's been great to have new faces and getting to know the new staff and I credit them with the sterling work they do.

Hopefully after these lockdown restrictions are lifted and we get back to some semblance of normality I will meet some of you at future events but as a member of SEFF not as staff, I will remain a member of SEFF so it's Au Revoir and not goodbye.



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**SEFF Community
SEFF Victims
and Survivors**

Recent SEFF Lockdown Activities

You will see from the pictures opposite that some of our members have been busy over the period of lockdown with various activities on offer through the organisation including Polliwogs Ceramic Mug Painting, Easter Wreath making and through the distribution of gardening packs.

We were delighted to be able to offer some filler activities to help people put their time to good use.

Over the January to March 2021 period we also continued to distribute grocery hampers amongst the membership, this has now come to an end and as lockdown eases we hope to be able to offer alternative types of support with the gathering of small groups. We hope to be able commence our Walkers and Talkers and classes with restricted numbers, we will be in touch via text message with any updates on service delivery/upcoming activities.



SEFF's Northern Ireland Centenary Drive-in Event

We are making plans to hold an event to mark the Northern Ireland Centenary on **Friday 25th June 2021 at 7pm** in Crawford's Sawmill Yard, Lisbellaw

The theme of the evening will be the 'Northern Ireland Centenary'

We will provide refreshments for each car so please bring your flask.

To register your interest in attending please contact the office on 028 677 23884, selecting option 1.



Volunteer Week Drive in BBQ & Celebration Event



Tuesday 1st - Monday 7th June 2021 is Volunteer week and so we would like to mark this occasion as we have so many volunteers within SEFF who do a tremendous amount of work.

On **Friday 4th June 2021 at 7pm** we are holding a Volunteer recognition event in the form of a Drive In at Crawford's Sawmill Yard, Lisbellaw. We will have a BBQ for all in attendance along with some light entertainment and contributions from volunteers within our membership.

We would also like to make an appeal for any members who have a talent or skill which they would be happy to perform on the night eg. Singing, dancing, playing a musical instrument, telling some jokes etc. We are keen to use talent within our own membership if possible.

This event is not only open to our army of volunteers but also the wider membership as a way of saying thank you to all those volunteers who work so hard behind the scenes. The organisation just would not function without you. If you are interested in attending it is essential that register your interest by phoning the office on 028 677 23884, selecting option 1.



SEFF's Walkers and Talkers

We have received advice that as of Friday 30th April 2021 walking groups can now recommence & so we are delighted to say we are organising the following dates & venues for a fortnightly walk (with restricted numbers).

We ask that you **MUST** phone the office on 028677 23884 option 1 to register your interest as we are limited to numbers within the group. Dates as below:

Wednesday 12th May 2021 at 10.30am: Killyfole Lake (meet in car park)

Wednesday 26th May 2021 at 10.30am: Round 'O' (meet in car park)

Please note that during these walks participants must adhere to social distancing guidelines.



SEFF calls for 'Gift of Time' to be offered by members in West Tyrone and Lagan Valley

Over the coming weeks SEFF is seeking to develop Befriending services for West Tyrone and East Region area (covering Lisburn, Greater Belfast etc)

We wish to hear from individuals based in the West Tyrone and Lagan Valley/Greater Belfast areas who would be willing to train and act as Befriender volunteers in enabling services to be delivered for the benefit of victims/survivors from these areas.

Please contact Joy Aiken on: 028 677 23884, selecting option 1 if you are interested in learning more about this.

Virtual Coffee Morning Series: Meet the Staff Team within SEFF's Family

As you know we recently held a number of Coffee Mornings with the theme Inspirational Young People within the SEFF family, we are now promoting a new series for you all to get engaged with: Meet the Staff team within SEFF's Family. We are very aware that in recent times there are a lot of new faces within the team and because of Covid in many cases member's have been unable to meet new personnel and have only had the opportunity to engage over the phone.

Through this series of Coffee Mornings we want people to get to know the staff team, to hear a little bit about themselves but also to share information about their roles and remit.

Dates and times of the Coffee Mornings are as follows, these will continue to be delivered via Zoom and we hope that by the end of these sessions we will be able to revert to face to face coffee mornings hosted within the SEFF offices. In the meantime we would strongly encourage you to engage in the series and put faces to the names :-)

DATE AND TIME	STAFF TEAM
Thurs 22nd April 2021 at 11am	The Clinical Team (Mairead Millmore, Jenny Ferguson & Lisa Finnikin)
Thurs 13th May 2021 at 11am	The Advocacy Team (Pete Murtagh, Advocacy Manager and 2 further team reps)
Thurs 27th May 2021 at 11am	SEFF's Befriending Team (Volunteers)
Thurs 10th June 2021 at 11am	Health & Wellbeing Team (Doreen Mullan & Esther Hurst)
Thurs 24th June 2021 at 11am	LIVES Project (GB) - Iona Gallagher (Advocacy) and Gina Aujla (Health & Wellbeing)

SEFF Community Allotments

Over recent months SEFF have acquired resources to carry out a significant amount of work to the Allotments site based on the Brookeborough road.

Substantive drainage and remedial works have taken place making the site a sustainable resource for the medium-longer term.

Over the coming weeks a further eight plots will be developed as well as the positioning of a mobile unit complete with toilet facility which will ensure that the site's accessibility is further improved for allotment holders and others who will be able to avail of the space and natural environment offered.

We hope to have a special launch of the upgraded site in late June 2021, further details to follow.

In advance of this SEFF Management wishes to thank the team of Volunteers (predominantly Army veterans) who have worked so hard in preparing the site, supported by Contractor Rodney Noble.

**Shawcross Evidence Session -
Shocking and bordering on the Farcical**

The Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee session which involved evidence given by William Shawcross was shocking and borderline farcical.

It is nothing short of scandalous that William Shawcross was actively dissuaded from meeting with victims groups who support the innocents of Qadhafi-sponsored Provisional IRA Terrorism yet it was viewed appropriate that he meet with the political wing of The Provisional IRA - Sinn Fein who have many senior representatives who were active leaders within its' terror campaign and may even have been directly involved in the deals with the Libyan administration around the securing of semtex and other killing material.

Who advised Mr Shawcross not to speak to victims or the core groups who have supported them for two decades and more in pursuing these issues? It is nothing short of patronising that the reason given for non-engagement was that "expectations would be raised".

Mr Shawcross doesn't know the cultural environment we operate within very well, victims and survivors have come to realise nothing is certain, they are far from naïve.

We requested an engagement session with Mr Shawcross which was not facilitated and nor were we reached out to by him despite the fact that we are the largest consortia of organisations supporting the innocents of terrorism. We should never have been in a position to beg him for a meeting, the process should have demanded that he speak to us, that respect be given of our credibility and the constituency of people whom we support.

This is a common thread of Government, the Criminal Justice system and indeed our Churches, little proactive engagement happens from their part, we almost always have to initiate contact and that situation is deplorable, it illustrates arrogance, lack of respect and predetermined agendas - victims marginalised is the culture - not victim centred.

The language chosen by Mr Shawcross and related throughout the hearing would indicate that his brief was to 'hush up' this issue from the perspective of the U.K. Government. Increasingly it looks probable that this is down to two core reasons - the U.K. State's economic and security interests but also its' cowardice around the potential unearthing of material which could be embarrassing and damaging to the leadership of Provisional Sinn Fein.

Once again innocent victims/survivors of terrorism are being used as cannon fodder. We will regroup along with others and will determine next step options open to us - there are legal issues to explore concerning the interest accumulated on frozen Libyan assets and decisions taken by Government around the expending of these monies.

Furthermore, the UK Government holds the key to unlock the process through the use of its' veto on The UN Security Council, no Libyan frozen assets should be released until there is an agreement around the compensating of those impacted by their former leaders International campaign of terror, exercised in the UK by his sub-contractors, The Provisional IRA.

The U.K. Government needs to realise something once and for all - the victims haven't gone away you know. Your prevaricating has meant many have gone to their graves never seeing accountability served in these issues but there remains victims and their representatives who will continue to insist that you do the right thing, and that you are to sacrifice justice, truth and accountability in an effort to continue a fraudulent appeasement process of terrorism.

The UK State is fast becoming a cold house for innocent victims/survivors of terrorism; public policy is not led by the overarching need for justice to prevail, those who have laid down their lives for the State have been treated shamefully and, in many ways, the terrorism inflicted upon them continues to be inflicted through a State that is unwilling to stand by and for the rights of innocents.

*Yours,
Kenny Donaldson
Spokesman for Innocent Victims United*

(IVU is an umbrella organisation of 24 groups supporting over 12,500 individual victims/survivors)
South Fermanagh

Since that session, IVU then gave Evidence to the Select committee.

We asserted that a secret deal was done by the then Blair Government in an effort to close off this issue.

The reasons: Political, Economic and also related to the Peace Process. We will continue to press for accountability of this issue, there is no rationale of any substance that can be put forward by the UK Government for not using income stream coming from tax revenues on frozen Libyan assets held in London, the government has no excuse for further delay in starting a compensation process.

Any monies used now in advance of a final deal with Libya should be recovered later. For a deal to be done, London must be prepared to use its veto at the UN Security Council and prevent a release of frozen assets unless an accommodation can be reached.

Developments welcomed on TPDPS (AKA Victims Pension Scheme) but case will continue for the Bereaved - SEFF

Kenny Donaldson, SEFF's Director of Services stated: "We welcome recent confirmation contained in correspondence sent by The Executive Office to the High Court that Stormont Ministers are undertaking to work on behalf of their respective departments in ensuring that payments will be made to successful applicants".

"The key part within the correspondence was the acknowledgement that "the payment is an entitlement as indicated by the court, and regardless of whether it comes from Westminster or from our block grant, it will be paid when it is due".

"This will be met positively by many victims and survivors impacted by permanent disablement brought about through their exposure to terrorism and other Troubles related events".

"It is important that the Scheme opens as soon as there is a robust process in place for managing applications submitted. We reiterate our position which is long held, that terrorists or other perpetrators of criminal based actions must not be recipients of this Scheme, if that were to happen then it would compromise the Scheme's integrity".

Mr Donaldson added: "We also continue to assert the need for an appropriate reparations scheme to be developed acknowledging the bereaved of 'The Troubles.' The level of compensation (or in some cases non compensation paid) at the time of brutal murders was derisory and shameful - that wrong must be put right, and we will continue to campaign intensively in this regard".

"The Republic of Ireland State must also get its' act finally together and introduce comparable provision for Irish citizens living in its' jurisdiction who were impacted by 'Troubles related events' within the Republic, it is unacceptable that such individuals should be retreated differently - there must be equality of treatment for all those impacted, irrespective of where they happen to live," concluded Mr Donaldson.

Next steps:

SEFF continues to sit on the Sectoral Implementation Group concerning the development of the TPDPS, we are represented via Norman Kirkpatrick (Welfare/Appeals Officer) and Dr Philip McGarry (Chairman of SEFF's H +WB oversight committee) offers support in our interactions with the President of the Board; Justice Gerry McAlinden.

It is anticipated that the Scheme will open in July/Augusts 2021 SEFF has recruited additional Welfare officers who will be available to guide those wishing to apply through the process. They will be honest and transparent and will advise if they feel you would not meet the eligibility criteria for the Scheme.

We will be in touch over the coming weeks with details of further steps and in the May Newsletter we will be featuring the new staff appointed to help support you through the process.

Image on Right is of -

Asharq Media - "After a While" Programme

Kenny debating with Saeed Rashwan, Head of Al Wahda Bank during the Gaddafi years and candidate to the Head of the Libyan Central Bank.

Mr Al Wahda confirmed within the interview that the matter of compensation has been resolved and he indicated that a "diplomatic deal had been reached".





SEFF new revised flyers

Here are a selection of our updated service flyers for SEFF, although there are still four others that we are awaiting the arrival of.

Top L - LIVES Project

Middle L - Advocacy

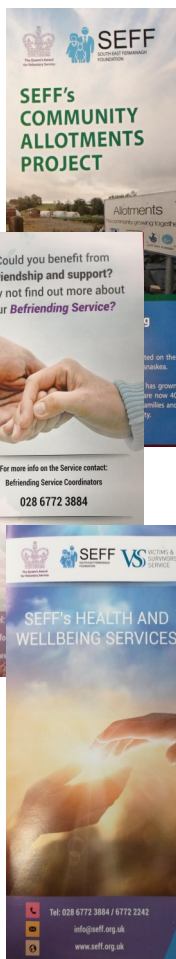
Bottom L - SEFF overall services

Top R - SEFF Community Allotments Project

Middle R - Befriending Services

Bottom R - SEFF's Health & Wellbeing services

Flyers still to come are CLASP (Health & Wellbeing Caseworker) SWITCH/Welfare & Benefits, Youth services and SEFF Memorial Quilts Project.



BLUE LIGHT CARD

About Blue Light Card

ONLINE SAVINGS

Whether you're looking for a weekend getaway, fashion fix, or state-of-the art device; save online with thousands of retailers!

YOUR BLUE LIGHT CARD

Personalised to each member, your Blue Light Card costs just £4.99 for 2-years access to our amazing range of discounts online and on the high street!

HIGH STREET SAVINGS

Shop and save on the go at hundreds of high street retailers, restaurants and cinema with our handy mobile app!

PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR NHS, SOCIAL CARE, EMERGENCY SERVICES AND ARMED FORCES

Blue Light Card provides those in the NHS, emergency services, social care sector and armed forces with discounts online and in-store. Blue Light Card also works with small and large companies across the UK to get involved in supporting the blue light community through offering our members discounts through Blue Light Card.

RANGE OF DISCOUNTS

We're home of a range of official discounts from large national retailers to local businesses in a wide range of categories including holidays, cars, days out, fashion, gifts, insurance, phones and much more! See how you can save today!

To sign up go to the Bluelight Discount card
https://www.bluelightcard.co.uk/about_blue_light_card.php

About Defence Discount Service

WHO QUALIFIES?

Serving Armed Forces - Reserve Forces - Spouses/Partners of serving personnel - HM Armed Forces Veterans (ex serving) - MoD Civil Servants - Bereaved Family Members - War/Service Widow(er)s - Cadet Forces (over 16) - NATO Personnel in the UK.

PROUD TO SUPPORT OUR ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY

Defence Discount Service provides those in the Armed Forces, Veterans and the Defence Community with discounts both online and in store. The Defence Discount Service also allows small and large companies to get involved with offering a discount and encourage companies in local areas to offer discounts to the Armed Forces Community.

ONLINE DISCOUNTS

There are hundreds of online discounts to help those in the Armed Forces, Veterans and the Defence Community save. We are the home of many official discounts from large national retailers and have a wide range of offers from things such as holidays, cars, days out, fashion, gifts, insurance, phones and many other items. The website is free to sign up to and to use the online discounts.

THE DEFENCE PRIVILEGE CARD

The Defence Privilege Card is the official recognition card that can be used on the high street in order to obtain a discount. It allows those not currently serving in the Armed Forces to obtain discounts and gives them a card to show that they were in the Armed Forces or are currently in the Defence Community, as a spouse/partner of someone currently serving for example. Each Defence Privilege Card is personalised for the member and it costs £4.99 for a 5 year membership.

To sign up for the Defence Discount Card

https://www.defencediscountservice.co.uk/about_defence_discount_service.php



SEFF Carer's Virtual Workshop



them to take care of themselves.

We have recently been in contact with people who are on our carer's register. We were able to provide them with a carer's pack which contained items that encouraged

This year we have again been successful in receiving a resource from the WHSCT carer's team and we are hoping to deliver a number of virtual support sessions to carer's within the membership, the first session will take place on **Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 11am** (via zoom), speaker to be confirmed.

We recognise that the register we have may not include ALL carer's within the organisation and so if you are a carer and would be interested in participating in the above sessions please do get in touch by phoning the office on 028 677 23884, option 1.



"SEFF Calling Services"

Hello SEFF members,

I trust that we are all well as we reach the end of April 2021. It has been a tough few months as we come out of lockdown and hopefully move into the month of May and some sort of normality, where we are able to at long last visit the hairdressers and beauticians. Going to the hairdressers was something that we have taken for granted for years and never in a million years did we ever dream that something so familiar and routine to us all would be totally inaccessible. The same could also be said for enjoying a nice meal out or have a good night at the end of a weeks' work. One other area of our lives impacted by lockdown was being able to attend church which for a lot of us has been a crucial part of our lives since childhood and a place of solace to go to when life has been difficult.

These are certainly strange times for all of us, young and old. However we are a resilient stoical people and tend to make the most of what we have got. The COVID vaccine programme has had a good uptake and quite a few have now had their second vaccination. It has given people more confidence as they get back into some sort of routine again. Confidence that they have now some shield against getting COVID and the complications it can bring with it.

It is lovely to witness some beautiful sunny days even if it is a little colder at night. SEFF Calling will still continue to offer to anyone who would like to avail of it, our weekly phone call on either Monday, Wednesday Thursday Friday. We do understand that the past few months have been lonely and difficult for many and the transition from lockdown into more venues opening up to us can probably be more daunting than we thought. So, we are still here for those who for whatever reason would like a weekly call. If you would like a wee chat then please leave your name with Joy or Mandy at the Lisnaskea office and they will pass it on to the SEFF Calling Service. So until our next Newsletter in May, take care and enjoy our new found freedom, (hopefully with lots of much needed warm sunny weather).

Anna, Rita and Marty
SEFF Calling Services



Complementary Therapies

We are delighted to be back delivering Complementary Therapies, they are commencing over the next few weeks and we have a number of spaces available so if interested please contact Jenny or Esther on 028 677 23884, selecting option 1 but be quick!

We are currently taking names against treatments, please see options below. The treatments on offer are as follows (5 sessions) of:

- **Massage, Reflexology** (Therapist: Sandra Johnston)
- **Aromatherapy / Indian Head Massage** (Therapist: Gordon Hayhurst)
- **Reflexology / Hopi Ear Candle / Foot Care** (Therapist: Ruth Watson)
- **Physiotherapy** (Therapist: Nicola McCullagh-Daley)
- **Health Kinesiology** (Therapist: Marilyn Robinson)

Please contact the office to register your interest on 028 677 23884 & ask for a Health & Wellbeing Caseworker or

Jenny Ferguson (Clinical Administrator)

****£25 contribution for 5 sessions - which MUST be paid 7 days in advance of treatment start date.**

BEFRIENDING



Hi All,

As always, the Befriending Volunteers have been kept busy in the background helping those in need during this unusual time and again we thank our volunteers who selflessly give so much of their time and personal safety to help others. We have continued to provide transport for the most essential hospital appointments, by permission from our funders, VSS, but under very strict regulations.

We continue to help our Befriendees and other SEFF members in need, by dropping off hampers, lunches, essential shopping and prescriptions, but we are unfortunately still restricted from visiting people in their homes, which has always been such a big part of our service. We are hoping to hear that we can resume house visits and some sort of new normal level of service so we will keep you updated as soon as we are given the go ahead from our funders. We do know from phone calls that there are a lot of lonely people out there, missing chatting to someone and missing one to one contact so fingers crossed we see an end to all these restrictions soon.

SEFF is all about helping others and the Befriending Service is part of that, we are lucky to have such a broad range of services within SEFF to rely on and links with outside agencies that we can signpost people to so never be afraid to ask for help for yourself or someone you know. If we can't help, we can make enquiries and try to find someone that can.

The Befriending Team

RENEWING SEFF Membership 2021/22

Thank you to those of you who have already renewed your membership with SEFF for 2021 to 2022. But don't worry for those of you who have yet to do so; we are still accepting membership renewals beyond the 1st of April membership year.

We would appreciate, where possible, that as many of you renew your membership through the **Standing Order** process so that you don't need to be reminded each year to pay your fees. If you cannot do **STANDING ORDER** through your bank, we accept payments for subscriptions by either cheque or cash. We would also appreciate your consent to gift aid if you are a tax payer.

If you want to set up a **standing order** please call the office and we will give you the bank details for SEFF needed to set up a standing order through your bank. **Regrettably we cannot do card payments over the phone or in the office. Membership fees are as follows: £10 per adult Post primary school age (12 - 16 yrs old) is £5 each and under 11's are free.**

June will be the last month that we will send out SEFF newsletters to all those current 2020/21 members. We will then be implementing the updated 2021/22 membership database when distributing the July 2021 SEFF newsletter.

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

We have been updating our membership forms to include member's GP information, and your GDPR permission which is required for SEFF to hold your data on our systems.

Also if any of your details have changed ie: marital status, address/mobile/postcodes etc, please call the office to update these!

Shout out for volunteers

Good afternoon everyone - we are looking for a couple of willing volunteers, and if you have an interest in finances or fundraising then we would love to hear from you to help us with a couple of projects. The volunteer(s) must be good with technology, and able to use excel and word, and someone with an interest in finances, or practical experience would be ideal.

We have a project that we would love your help with:
Xero Project -To assist our Finance Team with uploading documents - long-term volunteer role @ 1-2 day(s) per week

If you are interested then please do not hesitate to get in touch with us for more information or to discuss.

Call the SEFF office on: 028 677 23884, selecting option 1

SEFF Newsletter via Email



With spiralling postage costs we are asking those of you who are regular users of I.T technology if you would be willing to receive the monthly newsletter by email rather than the post.

If you wish to receive your monthly SEFF Newsletter with CLASP & AfIV supplements by email then please contact the office and leave your name and current email address so we can add you to the list.

We appreciate your help in cutting costs but also supporting us with our efforts to improve our environmental practices.

Tel: 028 677 23884 or email info@seff.org.uk

SEFF Activities

We anticipate that restrictions will continue to ease and that we'll soon be able to resume some face to face activities in groups. In the meantime we will continue to connect with members via Zoom & similar platforms.

If you have any ideas on virtual activities/courses you would be interested in taking part in, then please do let us know as we are open to suggestions.

While we are still under some kind of restrictions we feel it's important that we continue to connect with people.

Your suggestions would be most welcome so please lift the phone and speak to us.