

Interview with Joanna and Sue: May 2020

How did you feel about trying a class via Zoom?

Joanna: I hadn't used Zoom before, but I was really excited.

Sue: I was pretty familiar with Zoom so I was comfortable with the idea of using it to attend a class.

How were you notified that a class was taking place?

Joanna: I got an email from the tutor inviting me to the class and giving me a link to click to access the class.

Sue: You get an email a few days before the class with a link to click, but you don't get a reminder. Just like going to a class at the Guildhouse, you still have to remember to click the link to the class at the right time, but that's fine. Some people said they had trouble seeing the time of the class but I think it's just that there is quite a lot of detail in the automated Zoom email so you have to look carefully for the information you need. It's quite easy when you know where to look!

Was it easy to use the Zoom software?

Joanna: Yes, you get used to it very quickly, it's not scary at all and everyone in the class helps each other to work out which buttons to click to get the best experience on their screen. I just downloaded Zoom on my ipad, clicked on the link and we were all together in the class, that was it. It was very simple.

Sue: I think it's very easy. Some browsers make you download software before you can participate in Zoom and some don't.

How long was the class?

Joanna: An hour and a half - it was great, we could get stuff done and the time just flies! And we can carry on with our projects at the next class.

Sue: An hour and a half, I found this about the right length of time.

How did you find the experience of doing your class online?

Joanna: I really, really enjoyed it, I thought it was great! The instructions from the tutor are really good, very clear to see on the screen, you can hear what everyone is saying, you can hold up your drawing so the tutor can see how you are progressing and she can give you directions on what to correct or how to proceed. You can ask questions just as if you were in the room with your class!

Sue: I really enjoyed it. It's not quite like being in the normal class but it's still very, very good I think - particularly with the "lecture and slides" style of the class I did. There was a bit of participation from the students too but probably not as much as usual. Also, with a Zoom class, you don't have to be visible to the other students if you don't want to be, you could just be on audio.

What did you like best about it?

Joanna: I liked the connectivity with the people in the class, you totally feel like you are all there in the room. You can see everyone and it's just like being in a classroom. It's just lovely to be together with everyone and do the class together.

Sue: I was impressed that it was delivered just like a normal class really.

Is there anything you didn't like about it?

Joanna: Nothing! I can't find fault with anything.

Sue: No, but something to be aware of is that you need to make sure you are comfortable and that your screen is in a place where you can see it clearly. I found I couldn't see the slides all that well but that was because I was sitting in direct sunlight! I'll know not to do that next time.

Would you recommend this type of class to other PGH students?

Joanna: Absolutely! It can even be done when you are not in Rugby - I'm in Wales at the moment and it's great fun to still be able to do my class with my friends, it's so social. Even students who don't normally embrace technology have really loved the experience.

Sue: Yes, I would.