



Aura Committee Progress Report

Introduction

This report contains details of committee progression, including events and projects organised and future plans for continuing the roles of the committee. The report is split into 4 sections around the 4 positions that organise committee led events and activities – these being *Charity, Outreach, Social and Education and Engagement*.

Charity

The first Charity fundraising activity was the March 2021 Walking Challenge. This was a collective effort by students in Aura CDT and the EEI to walk from Land's End to John O'Groats by the end of the month. By using the app 'World Walking', we were able to complete this challenge virtually as social distancing measures were still in place.

Overall, 32 people from both institutes took part. The challenge was completed much quicker than first anticipated, managing to reach John O'Groats by the 22nd March. The feedback from all involved was great, both helping towards our fundraising efforts as well as encouraging people to get out and about more, keeping active during the lockdown.

This was the first activity to fundraise for our charities of the year (The Deep and Action Aid). Our goal for the academic year is to raise a total of £1000 shared between the two charities. So far, we have raised £125 for Action Aid and £285 for The Deep. These fundraising pages will be open for the remainder of the year to carry on raising money by taking part in other activities.

The next charity activity will be discussed at the next committee meeting (21/04/21). Current ideas include a sunflower growing competition where small participation fees will be taken from those involved as a donation. Once lockdown restrictions are lessened, we are aiming to do various activities and charity events in person.

Outreach

For outreach we are planning a podcast series where students will speak about their research interests. The current plan is for the podcast to be available on the AURA CDT website and also within an RSS feed so that it is accessible on iPhones/Android.

A meeting is arranged for later this week (12/04/2021) to organise those in the cohort who have volunteered to take part. This meeting will be to discuss roles and begin planning. Prior to launching the podcast some individuals will undertake media training to ensure it sounds and looks as professional as possible.

The next steps are to allocate roles, design artwork for the logo and header, determine specific topics covered, and vote on a name for the series. The aim is to have the first episode out by the end of June.

12/04/2021

Social

Socials are organised every two weeks. So far three have occurred, all virtually following COVID-19 restrictions. These were as follows:

- Games Night – Played virtual Bingo, a scavenger hunt and the generation game.
- Quiz Night – Worked in two breakout groups, completed different rounds on kahoot (Hull round, Picture place round, animal round) and a music round.
- Virtual pub crawl – Pub crawl of old town in Hull, this was a laid back event with no set arrival time allowing people to come and go as they please (also it should be noted that as a 'pub' crawl it was made clear that drinking was not compulsory). At each 'Pub' Maisy issued a bar photo for everyone to set as their background, with every location having a different event.

Prior to the social, Maisy asked the cohorts if anyone would like to run or suggest any activities to complete at a pub location. Gemma nominated her partner to do some magic and Victoria introduced us to a geoguesser game for which we split into three teams and completed. We also did a category game and Pictionary using paint and share screen option on teams.

As lockdown eases we hope to do in person social events, Maisy is looking into doing some outdoor sports as we can do that now with more than 6 as well as some outdoor activities like paintballing or high/low ropes. Until then we will continue to do virtual events.

Outside socials Maisy has organised a book club. Currently there are five members however is open for anyone to join at any time. Each member nominated a book and once finished is passed on to the next member. This has proved to be a great conversation starter and the hope is that more people will get involved in this over the next few months.

Looking forward there is a hope to collaborate with the Charity sec to complete the sunflower competition, as this would be a good opportunity for socialising. There are also ideas around a baking club – similar to that of the book club – to broaden the range of socials, *catering* to wider interests in the cohort.

Education and Engagement

Another more formative activity is the 'Grub club'. This is a fortnightly presentation conducted by members of the cohorts on a particular interest they have. So far, 7 have been done covering a wide range of topics from Japanese language to lace patterning to computational fluid dynamics. Attendance at the Grub clubs have been good (last week there was 11), and there is a plan to continue the talks, potentially recruiting some external speakers to present.

Conclusion

So far, all activities have been hosted virtually. As restrictions lift we will be conducting more 'in person' meet ups and events, this will hopefully encourage those who are less inclined to attend activities virtually – and develop better cohesion between the cohorts. The next committee meeting (21/04/2021) will be to discuss plans and ideas around socials, charity events and outreach activities for the month of May.

12/04/2021



Photo from the quiz night social.