

Education Committee Report – Committee Chairman Michael Tiney

Last year we were pleased to report the development of an interactive, online version of the CertFAA course. Although prompted by necessity, during the pandemic lockdown, this additional tutoring method has proved very popular, extending the course to a more geographically diverse range of candidates.

During 2021, there have been three iterations of the course: 2 online-only courses completed in April and August, with a total of 19 successful candidates.

The current course has 2 groups of students, one attending seminars in a traditional classroom and a larger group joining online sessions. The 16 students all will sit the final exam next week.

Since its inception in 2007, 341 candidates have successfully completed the course, of which 99 have attained the highest grade. Demand for places remains high: there is a sizeable waiting list for places and already 2 courses are scheduled for the first half of next year.

The Committee would like to thank David Hall and Brian Parsons, for their continuing commitment to supporting the Association's education activities and, particularly, for rising to the challenge and ensuring learning could continue during the pandemic.

Other education events had been discussed and were planned to take place during the past 2 years, but had to be shelved. However, in May, Dr Parsons delivered an online lecture on London funeral traditions and changes apparent over time. This was very well received and, fortunately, Brian has offered to repeat the event in future.

The Committee hope to be able to offer further interesting education activities in 2022, doubtless including online sessions. With such a large home region, the Association has recognized the advantage of Zoom, to increase accessibility of events to members across the whole region.