

Talking about Our Generation and Still Protesting

In 2017 Su3a began an open group looking at the iconic decade of the 1960s. Since then numerous organisations such as Rotherham u3a, both Sheffield Universities and Weston Park Museum have taken this theme on board.

In March 2020 we linked up with Ignite Imaginations, <https://www.igniteimagination.org.uk>, a Sheffield-based arts charity whose aim is to connect communities through culture. Our idea was to create an inter-generational festival, exploring the different ways we found to protest in the 60s.

Despite Covid, we were determined to present the festival which was streamed between 13th and 16th May 2021. Over three days there were workshops on poetry, dancing, cooking and live music picked from the 'Summer of Love'. The event began with local bands and musicians presenting a showcase of protest songs curated by Brian Clark, who said, 'It was a rewarding and life-affirming exercise that gave me scope to explore simultaneously several of my areas of interest: Sheffield's music, protest and politics during the fabulous decade that was the Sixties'.

<https://youtu.be/55O12uWIXb4>

Serenade & Symphony, <https://taog.co.uk/exhibitions/audiotour/>, is an interactive audio walk exploring Sheffield's music scene in the 1960s. There are two versions of the walk, one to listen to at home and another that you can experience whilst walking around Sheffield city centre. This is compiled by Brian Clark, who will guide you virtually around iconic locations from the Applebaum bookshop to the Black Swan.

Jenny Fortune, author and member of the British Women's Liberation Movement, talked about her stage invasion at the 1970 Miss World Contest, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLO8p9F2EZs>.

There was a tribute to Peter Stringfellow and his legendary Mojo nightclub, https://youtu.be/gBtF1_jazvI.

To hear some of our members' amazing and inspiring memories on such topics as the sexual revolution, music and education, go to <https://taog.co.uk/exhibitions/u3a/>.

Denise West was asked if she would do something like this again, 'You bet', she said, 'there are things I did and would do again, thoroughly enjoying the experience. As our organisation promotes: you are never too old to learn new skills and have a great time doing it.'

Denise West, Sue Beardon, Brian Clark