Maintaining Learning in Lockdown

Continuing Learning Group
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The first lockdown came at the end of the Spring Term 2020 so we put our heads together during the Easter break and decided to try and keep going using Zoom as our meeting place until campus re-opened.
We have a plan!

When it became clear that there would be no live lectures on campus during the summer term we decided to try and keep going by utilising a mix of Zoom sessions, recordings and archived materials.

The first week of the summer term we invited our members to a get together on Zoom to introduce the technology, smooth out any issues with connecting and say 'hello'
Most of us had never heard of Zoom before
We held our first live lecture on 29th April 2020. None of us had used it before but it seemed to work pretty well.
We used recorded lectures made available on the Lancaster University You Tube Channel

• Mike Berners Lee-There is no Planet B

• Dr Sarah Perry-Curiosity Cabinet

• ...and we raided other universities offerings:
  • Prof Karen Douglas-Secrets and Lies: The Psychology of Conspiracy Theories
  • Dr Ralph Percy-Lions of the North: The Percys and Alnwick Castle
We teamed up with the librarian for author events and had a book to read each term followed by a discussion.
We held a launch event for one of our members who had published her memoirs.
Staying Connected

• We kept in touch over the summer break by having informal meet ups and shared some drawing activity and Zoom training to make us more familiar with the technology and try to improve the experience if people were finding it difficult to hear clearly.
We used Zoom and Teams to participate in events

- We took part in Festival of Social Sciences by attending a lecture on Alternative Explanations of Disability in Africa and the C4AR Town and Gown events.

- Some of us developed our use of Zoom to host an international music event and raised over £3000 for local charities.
We support research

We kept in touch with researchers and are about to help a surgeon take his project to the next phase as new funding has been awarded.