

Internet Trolls - can we tame them?

DiPs at *The Blue Mugge* pub Mon 28th November 2016

Notes based on wikipedia

1. The words 'internet' (recent, last 30 years, and 'trolls' very recent in the sense we are discussing (last 4 years – from Keynote speech, 2012 “Don’t Feed the Trolls”?).
2. The pace of change not just in technology but also global political and social change is now bewilderingly fast? This is a big issue anyway for us all - and especially older adults?
3. Going round, those who wish, comment on any 'trolls' we know - family and friends? Without being indiscreet or too personal - can they be 'tamed'? Are there any issues not mentioned above or below which should be added to our agenda this evening?
4. More generally, how serious and important is the issue? Is it getting worse?
5. What can be done? By governments and internationally? Education and training? Socially and culturally?
6. The anonymity of the internet, e-mail and social media: this is a big issue which merits its own discussion? Many when writing anonymously feel more able to be rude, insulting, threatening and even violently abusive?
7. Should 'trolls' be monitored in ways similar to newspaper letter-writers? In other words, anonymity allowed in the interests of free speech but monitored to prevent abuse of that freedom?
8. Linked issue - there have always been 'bullies' but internet and social media lift this to a new scale - bullying is now taking place in ways previously unimaginable? How do we best prevent this scale of bullying?
9. Consider the gender issues – there are more male bullies and internet predators/paedophiles than female...? If so, Why? Is this 'natural' and inevitable?
10. Forget the doom and gloom and share the wonderful advantages of the internet and social media: more knowledge and information at our fingertips than ever before, including our own little 'network of networks' - the Mugge, Trout, Park, > DiPs, PiPs, etc > Day and Residential events, with 'readers' national and international...

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