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KEYWORDS:

#77

Date	29th February 2020
Age	80s
Gender	Female
Job	Retired widowed grandmother
Location	Perthshire
Format	Conversation at garden gate

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

"Disorder is because youth don't know how to behave, but also youth are the hope for the future (that 'Swedish girl')"

Interview Questions

What's wrong with the world?

Reflections on the process

Would have been better to ask a sequence of clear questions and lean back to listen

Advice on anything we can do to improve this form or the process

We need to think about how we tackle the human nature question, the assumptions we make about who we are as humans.

Interview summary

Grew up in Oban, then went to live in Yorkshire 6 years ago after her beloved husband died, and had a rubbish time - came back up to Glen Lyon to live next to her daughter – is much happier here.

Kids. Youth. Misbehaving. Don't obey their parents. Looking back to golden days when you may have been thrashed by your dad but you obeyed him, respected him and loved him. Now everyone is out of control. *[Interviewer thinks: The world kept in place by familial violence?]*

Lack of order now, lack of care now. Longing for care.

'Swedish girl' who is different. Leadership from youth who care.

Date	10th March 2020
Age	40s
Job	Hairdresser
Gender	F
Location	Edinburgh
Format	In person

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Young people's bad attitudes, influenced by **social media** is the problem. Loss of connection with God (who is love) is the fundamental issue

Interview Questions

What's wrong with the world?

What do you see being done about it?

What should be done about it?

Reflections on the process

She was really stumped to begin with - had to stop cutting my hair, but was totally into the conversation and really wanted to think and answer.

She was so delighted to have the conversation - so interested. She said she often avoids conversations like that because she feels judged, but she didn't feel like I was judging her.

Interview Summary

What's wrong with the world?

That's a hard question! It's a sorry state

Do you mean that people are unhappy?

Yes. The suicide rates. young people are always on their phones and ipads. There's no rules - young people don't have any respect. My friend who runs a salon, when he used to get workers they were great - now he has to tell them every little thing - sweep up that hair, fill the watercooler or they don't do it. You're supposed to put ice and lemon in the water, but they don't bother.

Is it about people not taking care of one another?

Yes. Boys who come in here - they're always on their phones - when you try to talk to them, they don't want to talk.

I'm worried about my daughter - they all care so much what they look like and are wearing make-up when they're 10. Getting surgery. I tell her she's beautiful and perfect how she is. But they care so much about it and it makes them so unhappy.

What do you see being done about it?

Nothing. It's getting worse. It's going to keep getting worse

What should be done about it?

You know what I think is wrong? I'll have to whisper it - people in here will think I'm off my head. God. People have lost touch with God. And God is love. People's hearts are hard. They like it that way. But it's hard to forgive when your heart is hard. Hard to forgive yourself as well.

On climate change: When someone talks about climate change I think - they must be intelligent - I don't understand anything about it. I think it's to do with the weather.

#3

Date	25th March 2020
Age	8
Gender	Male
Job	N/A
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone call - Qs sent in advance

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

I want to keep the friendship that I have had with my family and stuff like that. We've been going on long walks and in the Easter Holidays we liked watching movies. There is no one ever on the roads – there is just **no cars and planes**- it's a little bit weird. Well I am **missing my friends** and I'm missing them coming to my doorstep and asking me to play and I've been missing my cousins.

Well this Coronavirus is a pretty big thing and that is taking over the world. Like you said in one of your eco lessons – Greenwashing. Plastic could end up in the ocean. Sneezing, cough in sleeves. Put tissues in the bin. Don't touch eyes and mouth. Clean stuff after use. Social distancing. I think social distancing is a pretty good thing that they are doing right now because if they didn't do it then we would catch the virus. **Greenwashing**- we could try and stay safe from products that look good from the environment. The packaging – if you look at the packaging. We could look at the label and see if it's not ok. Like how we looked up for greenwashing products."

Interview Questions

1. *What do you want to keep from this lockdown period, and what do you miss? Have you noticed anything different when you go outside? What are you looking forward to doing when things return to normal?*
2. *What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world?*
3. *How do you think we could tackle some of these challenges?"*

Reflections on the process

It was enjoyable again. It was sometimes difficult not to step in and allow time for the participant to think and process. It felt very important to allow the participant to think about solutions to these problems. This feels a very powerful thing for young people to do who can often feel powerless in all of this.

#4

Date	26th March 2020
Age	70s
Gender	Male
Job	Retired
Location	West Lothian
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

First reaction: 'I don't often think about big questions like this'

Biggest concern: Immigration - strong sense of unfairness about what non-white British receive as benefits

Other points: Wants to be listened to; feels that politicians don't listen; things aren't what they used to be; David Attenborough knows what he's talking about. Need freedom of speech, but he feels afraid to speak out with what he really thinks.

Interview Questions

Based on the three given questions. Not altered to take account of Covid 19.

Interview format

Introduced the topic by saying 'you know I'm really interested about climate change, and I know that's not a big issue for you, so I wanted to ask about...

Semi-structured style; tried to make it like a normal conversation. Thus not 'Question 1...' but 'I just wondered what you think about....?'

Hurried handwritten notes taken whilst talking

Reflections on the process

Huge relief for me that it wasn't actually difficult to have the conversation. I know the respondent but we have never talked about anything that matters to either of us. I found it difficult to just listen when immigration brought up and some racist opinions expressed; also when some 'facts' were produced which I think are questionable. I nodded and smiled to show I was interested and to keep the conversation going - felt awkward that it might be interpreted as agreeing with what he was saying especially about immigration/race. My whole life I've been challenging that, so it felt really awkward.

Felt I might need to be a bit more disciplined about sticking to the questions. Might be good if I started out by saying how long I thought the process might take, so the respondent has a bit of an idea ...?"

Interview summary

What are the biggest challenges?

'I don't often think about big questions like this'. Just gets on with life. Just a wee cog in a big wheel.

Issue is immigration and Muslims - people getting benefits and housing that he's worked all his life to get. Taking unfair advantage - hand sanitiser being charged at £10-12 a bottle. Parents of the bombers at Ariana Grande concert getting free housing. Should stop people coming into the country. **Doctors and lawyers coming in is OK, but not unskilled people who just live on benefits.** Mates who still drive talk to people in Europe and say immigrants want to come to UK as our benefit system is the best in the world. People are given too much - doesn't begrudge them a place to stay, but then they have no reason to work, and community charge is paid for them. Welfare system as a whole needs massive overhaul.

Why is it happening? Who benefits?

Politicians. Makes them look good. But in Germany they are now seeing the real problems caused by letting too many people in. **Politicians don't listen.** Even with Covid19 they are still only talking about indy-ref2. Said it was a once in a lifetime referendum but when they didn't get what they wanted they want another one.

I explained about Citizens 'Future of Scotland' Citizens Assembly and CAs in general - really interested. 'Could I go and talk?' 'Could I go and be listened to?' 'There are lots of ordinary people with good ideas which just need to be listened to' 'you don't think about things like this til someone asks you'

Didn't get onto Question 3 - but other musings came up.

Doesn't like the amount of building on green belt - 7-8,000 more houses planned around Whitburn. Services can't stand it. Sees deer in the field behind his house - which they're planning to build over. Doesn't like that

Times are changing: 'I ken people need houses like, **population rising**, sea levels rising. That David Attenborough knows what he's talking about' ; Wee **Swedish lassie** - got to take notice of what young ones are saying. 'What can you say? I used to walk to school, now everybody drives their kids by car'

It's about freedom of speech. These days he's afraid to say what he really thinks.

Said he wanted to carry on talking as had lots more to say, but had to get on with something else at the moment.

#5

Date	25th March 2020
Age	9
Gender	Male
Job	N/A
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Telephone call. Questions were sent out in advance

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

What I want to keep is the **roads being quiet**, it's really nice hearing the birds singing. I also really enjoy going on more **walks as a family**. You've had some time to learn piano and would like to keep that going. What I **miss is seeing friends** and school because I miss my friends. And also I miss all my sports clubs which are really fun. And also I miss all my other family and my new baby cousin. There are less planes too. Sometimes you don't see them in the day.

Well for climate change I would say bushfires, sea animals and plastic. Coronavirus and the shops being shut - We saw a beautiful spot on our river walk and there was

plastic everywhere. All the shops are closed so that is making it hard for people because they can't get their wages.

I think we should just try to use less plastic as you can and do litter picks. We're going to do one soon. And also when we went on our holiday last year – went to a European capital which was beautiful but there was plastic everywhere. Don't throw it in the oceans as you never know how bad it will be. Just use recyclable plastic. We should have more electric cars.

I think we can help people by shopping for them. Try and stay at home as much as you can to protect others. Make a routine and try and get used to it. The government could maybe set up a website for the people that could get affected the most with Covid19 and it can give loads of support and help them not to worry.

Heart and Earth have the same letters which means you should love the earth.

Interview Questions

- 1. What do you want to keep from this lockdown period, and what do you miss? Have you noticed anything different when you go outside? What are you looking forward to doing when things return to normal?*
- 2. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world?*
- 3. How do you think we could tackle some of these challenges?*

#6

Date	26th March 2020
Age	50s
Gender	M
Job	Environmental impact assessor
Location	Fife
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Cultural divides and tribalism cause the world's problems.

To solve this, we need to learn how to empathise with people apparently different from us. We need to learn and be more educated.

Interview Questions

What are the biggest problems facing the world? Why are they happening? What could be done about them?

Interview Summary

Big problems facing the world

Inequality and **greed** between **1st and 3rd world**

Climate change

Nationalism and war (Syria + Middle East)

Tribalism leads to warfare, refugee crisis - we need to think 'what would you do in their place?'

Why are they happening?

Religion - but more the culture of religion.

Tribalism leads to warfare, **refugee** crisis - what would you do in their place?

Nationalism hates 'the other' - killing people because they see them as different. You can see it in N Ireland and Rwanda. The same across all religions.

Not rooted in the religious itself but a flawed interpretation and misunderstanding.

EG Islam, a misunderstanding of the Quran, a religion of love and tolerance.

This exists in christianity with **extremes against homosexuality and abortion rights**.

They think they are right and everyone else is wrong - **Dogma**

Cultural divides, with one culture dominating another.

There is a core of **selfishness** in all of us - but actually, look at last week with COVID.

Trump is the epitome of greed and selfishness

What should be done?

Education, but not schooling, more UNDERSTANDING

Education to understand **empathy**, consequences, and that we are all the same.

Educated people better at school and after.

Educate more women.

Education in prisons so people can understand consequences.

Addiction groups can be good for empathy - sharing understanding of each other.

#7

Date 28th March 2020

Age 80s

Gender	Male
Job	Retired
Location	West Lothian
Format	Telephone

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

*Second time when I've started a conversation with a woman, and as soon as the questions seem 'big' she has handed it straight over to the man to answer them.
Gender issues? Level of education - never thought of 'big issues' before?*

Short termism of thinking - Apparently unable to think back to what he thought were big issues before Covid struck, or what might be good things which could happen out of it.

Total focus on Covid - the challenges its causing them, the fear of its implications - around deaths.

Frequent repetition that he's doing everything he's told eg about handwashing, but actually **doesn't seem to realise that he's not doing the right things over social distancing** - he's out visiting (bringing newspaper to a neighbour, which is where I caught him to chat), and his son and daughter visit him every evening coming into his house - as they would normally do.

Unable to think of anything positive about the current situation - only that most people are doing what they're told and not gathering; doesn't see anything like neighbours looking after each other that hear about

Were small positive seeds - see below under reflections on process, but I wasn't quick enough to pick up on them.

Interview Questions

Started with standard ones, but since answers and focus were all around Covid, had to move over into probing around responses and thoughts around that

Reflections on the process

Questions really hard to make land in a way which would generate a reflective response. Very difficult for me to establish a 'pause' during which further thoughts could surface from the participant. Some of that might be because it's a phone conversation and there aren't body language ways of showing you're listening.

He seemed to be offering very short answers and expecting endorsement of them. Lots of use of '... so it is' - very little space for thinking about what else it could be. Seemed to be expecting me to endorse his assessment that that is indeed the way it is.

There were two occasions when if I had been quicker I might have been able to steer towards a more positive conversation (i) providing for the homeless (which he dismissed as being just common humanity and moved quickly to condemn those who he'd heard had been coughing on homeless people) (ii) panic buying being because people just listen to all the negative stuff on the news."

Interview summary

Biggest challenge

Finding a cure for Covid 19. Fear about number of people who will die.

Anything good in what's happening?

That people are heeding the warnings - standing at a distance from each other in queues. But basically nothing good, 'news is all doom and gloom'.

What about things like homeless being moved off the streets and into hotels?

That's good, it's 'just common humanity' and 'good sense' - there's been bad behaviour of some people coughing on people that are sleeping rough. And you shouldn't cough, you should just do it onto a tissue or onto your sleeve.

Can you think of anything else that's changed for the good?

No - can't meet pals in the pub. In house all day, except when he comes out to bring a newspaper to a fellow pensioner, and then he goes home, washes hands and 'that's me for the day'. No visits from neighbours, but son and daughter visit him in the evening as usual. All of this is devastating. This is more devastating than the wars. Shelves are empty in the shops. Just panic buying. Why do you think people do panic buying? 'Just so it is' - lot of things they don't actually need. They do it because all the news is all the dark side of everything so that's what they hear, so they just think of themselves. Good neighbours helping each other out isn't happening in their village/small town (this despite the fact that I was able to talk to him because he was out bringing a newspaper to another pensioner; something that he always did in normal times and didn't recognise as being a good thing to do, and paradoxically something which actually breaks the social distancing regulations). You sound like you're quite frightened by all of this. I am. You can stand for hours outside the chemist, you're all in

line and you don't know who as coughed and sneezed in front of you. I put in my prescription last week and queued up and it still isn't available"

How could we make this listening project better?

It makes a difference doing this over the phone from face to face. Much harder to establish a meaningful 'listening mode' as opposed to having a chat.

Maybe we need to agree wording for setting up the interviews - by text or email - so some kind of common format is agreed?

#8

Date	30th March 2020
Age	70s
Gender	M
Job	Retired, former hotel owner
Location	East Lothian
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Wants to see some form of **global governance** eg UN having more powers and relocating to Europe. Very Europe-centric. Wants Scotland to join European superpower - market forces. Sees a lot of might in economic power.

Thinks **other people overindulge and are hoarders. If everyone could see how cruel the world is, they wouldn't do this.**

If people have to struggle, they are better at what they do, have better lives, appreciate more. Seems to think life is too easy for people now? ("Footballers were better when they learned to play with rag balls in the Gorbals, not paid millions")

"The Western World is finished if it doesn't become strong again"

Russia and China will be the superpowers of tomorrow.

China has bought all the gold and gold equals wealth equals power.

Might in economic power.

Interview Questions

"What are the biggest challenges facing the world?" "How are they affecting you locally?" "How could we do something about these issues?"

Reflections on the process

"The questions are so wide, if someone has a lot of disparate thoughts, they become very rangey in their response. Which uncovers a lot, but am unsure how much to dig in or lead them anywhere.

This was someone who I had preconceptions of and I was pleasantly surprised in some cases and in others found it difficult to bite my tongue.

Once he started talking, he jumped around a lot. More ideas kept on coming. How to get deeper than a list of random issues? Do I dig into what they are saying and divert them to keep to the point? Or is it all a point?

The conversations take a very long time and are really exhausting - I don't think I could do more than two a day.

Started off by saying "'I am too old, my opinions don't matter anymore'". Then talked about young people being inactive and on phones. Then warmed up and spoke more widely. By the end of the chat he seemed really happy to have been asked. He has now followed up (eek!)

Interview Summary

Govts need to control the world - we are all going in different directions.

Coronavirus shows how we can be taken out quickly. War isn't needed anymore, spending money on weapons is nonsense, there are different ways of killing people these days. We need to unite all countries in a global scenario.

He was annoyed about leaving the EU - wants Scottish independence so we can rejoin the EU. We need control of our own wealth.

UN is not working, needs to control more and have a global aspect. Should not have control centre in US (stupid people in charge of UK and US).

Very worried about China and Russia taking over as their economies are much stronger - China has all the gold. Mistrustful of the Chinese because they have copied everything here and made lots of money and now feel powerful.

Told a story about Chinese folk coming to his hotel 40 years ago and sketching everything in the bar 'because their govt liked them to do that'. Thought they will then have taken back and copied. This was a moment when I wanted to jump in and remind him of colonisation and culture appropriation by the British Empire - but didn't.

"The Western World has run its course"

"Gold is wealth is power" China has all the gold.

Europe needs to strengthen over the US, and go to war with China (not physically but intellectually?)

- Food chain/ agriculture can't cope - overpopulation - needs to be controlled. Covid shows how it could be done.
 - Everyone in the UK overindulges, while people in Asia eat handfuls of rice. Especially overindulgent in America (said around the same time as talking about his second home in Florida)
 - Global Warming - rising seas - was really affected by seeing a diagram of Arthur's Seat underwater
- People don't have faith in the UK anymore - they do in Luxembourg and Dubai and Florida.

What do we need to do about it?

Lots of focus on stopping paying for Nuclear and using this money.

Teaching people the right things to do - people have got to change

Everyone needs to be vegetarian or vegan (like him - after going to abattoir and also reading article about baby cows being taken away from mothers)

Everyone needs to be shown how cruel this world really is and act on that.

Faith - lack of faith these days, people used to go every Sunday and have Sunday best.

"We need to get back to basics."

"No more tax havens."

The wealthy 1% is a problem.

If I had won the lottery, I would not want to hoard it, I would share it.

#99

Date	30th March 2020
Age	74
Gender	F
Job	Retired social worker
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Concerns are climate, authoritarian regimes and inequalities - globally and locally.

Does not see a single root cause. Doesn't blame human nature - much more the way we've been able to look the other way and not see the problems that are there.

Mixture of feeling powerless at the present time, but also a sense that we can do things if we want to - looking back to the 1950s when the State did a lot of good things.

Some sense that positive change could come out of this, but not very dynamically or forcefully.

Interview Questions

Standard ones, but adding in 'what would you most want to keep out of the current situation?'

Reflections on the process

Getting easier to ask the questions. Need to consciously not get into a conversation, to create the space for more reflective thoughts to surface. Once I made a response, it became a conversation not an opportunity to listen. Definitely gained some interesting insights through a conversation approach, but not the same as just listening for whatever emerged - listening at a deeper level.

Would it help to advise people at the outset that it isn't a conversation or a chat, but that I'll be asking Qs and waiting for them to say whatever comes to mind as a response, taking as much time as they would like, but that I wouldn't be chatting...?"

Interview summary

Biggest challenges?

Climate, authoritarian governments around the world, inequalities

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How do they affect you?

The astonishing thing is that they hardly do; from the most privileged generation ever, living in a country which broadly adheres to liberal values

What are the root causes?

Not a single cause, but they are interrelated: 'economic growth, come what may'.

People knew about the problems with fossil fuels in the '60s but did nothing. Problems of inequality not addressed because it is politically possible to denigrate the poor.

Austerity politically possible because sufficient numbers were OK and could ignore the rest; helped by the control of media - but can't just blame media because they only print what they do because it sticks with / resonates with people; possible just to avert your eyes; in a city like Edinburgh the poorest (and non-white) live on the outskirts so if you live in the centre you can avoid ever seeing them. (She asked me at this point why I thought there weren't revolutions against inequality in parts of Africa. I shouldn't have answered her! - that's when the listening became more of a dialogue...)

What would we do if we were serious? 'Who is 'we'? if there were a half decent Labour party. Left always fights with itself. With Tony Blair and Gordon Brown there was a chance but they were seduced by the financial world of London and didn't do enough to regulate the banks. That was the beginning of austerity. Is now 'feeling completely powerless' - having always been an activist.

What is there that is good in the current situation?

Former Justice Sturridge speaking out against the potential for a more authoritarian state out of the way some police forces are behaving. A lot of **care and kindness** coming out. Sense of we are all in it together. Appreciation that the drastic under-funding of the NHS and community services in recent years means that when people want to volunteer it's not possible to make use of all the offers to volunteer. 'We can do things if we want to' - so much **positive in what was done in the 1950s coming out of the war** - building schools, free milk, orange juice etc - all got displaced by idea that this was 'Nanny State' - but it did good things."

#78

Date	31st March 2020
Age	In their 90s
Gender	Wife & Husband
Job	'Ian and Isobel' - Long retired elderly couple
Location	Promenade, Portobello
Format	Distanced on the prom

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

"Can gain a historical perspective from the very old

"It's a strange plague situation"

"But there's a huge amount of care"

Interview Questions

Hello! How are you finding things?

Reflections on the process

Even a few minutes can be revealing

Date 31/3/20

Advice on anything we can do to improve this form or the process

Don't be in a hurry because you've promised to interview someone else.

Don't start from your questions, start from what matters to them (in this case Coronavirus). Do then let them talk and listen.

Interview summary

Are you staying away from us because you are frightened you'll get us ill? Or because you fear you'll make us ill?

It's a strange **plague** situation. Who remembers about nuclear weapons when this is happening?

But there's a **huge amount of care**.

9 people have been contacting us to ask if we need anything, including a long lost relation from the other side of town and who's been in touch.

#79

Date	31st March 2020
Age	63
Gender	Male
Job	Builder/ decorator
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Walking at 2 metres apart along the city beach

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Even the **left wing has been captured by thinking we need billionaires to make wealth** to be taxed.

The idea that we have to collect tax to have something to spend seems to make sense but a sovereign nation that prints its own money can buy anything that's for sale in its own currency. They can print their own money. It's nothing to do with tax. It doesn't mean you shouldn't tax people, you need to tax them to make sure they don't get too powerful but not because you need their money.

But we don't need the tax to do stuff. The **state creates money by buying things, by spending into the economy**, e.g. by paying for a new hospital which means paying contractors and builders etc. and so providing a regular wage.

One of the keys is a **job guarantee** funded by the state. A decent wage with what jobs are needed/ created being **decided locally** based on money being made available for all to have a decently paid job. This allows the green new deal to happen. The jobs can be green regeneration projects. That's what's needed.

[The way the economy works in our society] "it is **traumatising growing up in this. Having this mindset of scarcity** that gives rise to fear. We could instead have an experience of abundance.

Interview Questions

"What is wrong with the world?

How are we kept in this state?

What do we do going forward?"

Reflections on the process

I have never given him enough time to just talk before. Just asking questions and listening can be so much better than having a conversation.

Advice on anything we can do to improve this form or the process

Ask questions and let them speak. Listen!

Interview summary

What is wrong?

Neoliberalism of the last 30 years has seen all the wealth being taken to the top, and the marginalising of the rest of us.

This came out of a 1970s economic mythology that misrepresented how economics worked. It was like an ideological coup in the universities, in politics, in society.

Even the left wing has been captured by thinking we need billionaires to make wealth to be taxed. That is neoliberal framing and is not how economics works.

It's been a systematic intentional project by the right. A take over of think tanks, academia, and government. The market totally relies on the state to support it and bail them out and to set the neoliberal rules. The myth of the small state totally suits their capturing of the state.

How are we kept in this state?

Main thing is the idea that the state has to tax to spend.

We are made to think that it is as if the state is a household. ("Have we fixed the roof when the sun shone?", "Labour has spent all the money", etc).

The idea that we have to collect tax to have something to spend seems to make sense but a sovereign nation that prints its own money can buy anything that's for sale in its own currency. They can print their own money. It's nothing to do with tax. It doesn't

mean you shouldn't tax people. You need to tax the rich to make sure they don't get too powerful but not because you need their money. The idea that we are reliant on the 'wealth creators' is not even true in its own terms. They are taking corporate welfare.

The 2008 Quantitative Easing put money into the reserves of the banks with the theory they'd lend it into the real economy of people making things. Instead they speculated on the currency markets and the unreal side of the economy. People producing stuff who provide what we need didn't get supported. Relying on bankers to do something against their interests didn't work.

What do we do going forward?

The centre of London is full of empty financial buildings the homeless could use.

The Government's creation of vast amounts of money in 2020 is better than 2008 because money is going to ordinary people. They could also suspend mortgage payments etc. It's the starving of everything (social provision of resources) because of austerity that's the problem

Modern Monetary theory explains how this system works. Instead of the neoliberal focus, we need to look at what we need.

One of the keys is a job guarantee funded by the state. A decent wage with what jobs are needed/ created being decided locally based on money being made available for all to have a decently paid job. This allows the green new deal to happen. The jobs can be green regeneration projects. That's what's needed.

There is no lack of money.

There are resources.

There are people needing jobs.

All that's lacking is a medium of exchange.

We need to tax companies to reduce their power. In some cases - fossil fuels - tax them out of existence.

But we don't need the tax to do stuff. The state creates money by buying things, by spending into the economy, e.g. by paying for a new hospital which means paying contractors and builders etc which means providing people with a regular wage.

'Recapturing the state' by Bill Mitchell gives a history of how our current state came about.

There's always a battle between labour and capital. In 1971 the \$ came off the gold standard. Prior to that - since Bretton Woods - there in theory had to be gold in a vault to stop exchange rate fluctuation. America was buying loads of stuff from Europe and getting \$ in exchange, e.g. for nice cheese. The French - De Gaulle - said we want your gold not your paper. Nixon was in power and they didn't have the gold to back the \$. So Nixon took the \$ off the gold standard. Money was no longer a commodity based on a limited resource (the amount of the gold in the world), and became purely a medium of exchange. This is modern money. It allows sovereign states who print their own money the freedom to print money to free up resources.

On one level money simply motivates action.

But you can also speculate with money.

People with assets get wealthier and wealthier because it is so much more profitable than working because of political choices to support those with assets.

Solution - threads forward

Tax

You don't need tax to do good things but you do need to tax to change the power balance in society. The wealthy use that power ruthlessly

Job guarantee

As I said, ensure jobs for all - a decent wage with what jobs are needed being decided and created locally, based on money being made available for all to have a decently paid job.

Deficit spending

When you pay tax to the Government they don't put it in a box to spend it. They destroy it because they don't need it. The point of tax is to take money out of the economy to deal with the fact they keep putting money in. Each £ is a demand for a product. Too much £ leads to inflation.

The limits on how much money is created is not to do with counting the amount of tax coming in. Talk of 'Responsible Govt' suggests that the tax and spend should be the

same - a balanced or surplus budget. Every time there has been a surplus or balanced budget then there is not enough money in the economy. It means the private economy is in debt. There is always then a recession.

We have to spend more than we tax. That's what creates a healthy economy.

A 'balanced budget' is an austerity approach. It favours those who are already wealthy and impoverishes the vast majority. It is used to justify the idea we can't afford decent wages etc.

That's where the job guarantee comes in. The neoliberals talk about a natural level of unemployment so people are desperate for jobs but won't revolt. Those who are unemployed have the job of keeping inflation down and act as a stock of Labour that can be used to create fear in employees, the fear that others might take their jobs.

It's all about trauma:

It is trauma. It is traumatising growing up in this. Having this mindset of scarcity that gives rise to fear. We could instead have an experience of abundance.

We're all protecting ourselves, atomised, hunkered down. These are all traumas. Injuries to our human being.

We are cooperative social beings. They are using this against our own interests.

You have to see what's going on. When Corbyn was asked how he would pay for the policies in the Labour manifesto, he would say that the billionaires should be taxed properly, perpetuating the neoliberal framing of needing wealthy people to tax in order to be able to "afford " to "spend" into (i.e. to INVEST) in the real economy.

The billionaires didn't earn it, they created a system in which they can steal it. They don't take risks, they are shielded.

There is a magic money tree (MMT) as Modern Monetary Theory explains.

What is the magic?

The magic of people wanting to have a meaningful job that makes the world a better place.

The unused resources.

The multiplier effect of creating wealth.

In contrast, the local youth club has closed down because the Council isn't given enough money and can't print money. Instead of keeping the youth club open and ensuring genuine grassroots well-being, closing it creates jobs for private prisons. It sucks the wealth to the top and creates trauma and undernourishment on the streets.

#9

Date	13 April 2020
Age	Mid 20s
Gender	M
Job	PhD Student
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone - ie audio only

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Clear distinction between pressing challenges for the world and pressing challenges for him personally - the two are distinct.

Disempowerment from the sense that anything that even the UK does is too small in comparison to what the US, China and India need to do. Governments essentially beyond influence. Lack of international coordination.

No reference spontaneously to 'human nature' - though in the end maybe that selfishness/self-interest would make people want to save the planet as the only way to save themselves.

Potential benefits include less commuting, seeing the possibility of more home working and what that could do for family life. Including for children and elderly parents."

Interview Questions

The usual - plus reflections on 'benefits' from lock-down

Reflections on the process

Very articulate, used to answering difficult questions, so no sense of breather between questions and space for further reflection - just on to the next one. So I found myself looping back at the end to prompt more about the benefits of the lock-down because I felt we'd gone through the questions so quickly - really only 20 mins...

Interview summary

Clear distinction between pressing challenges for the world (Climate Change) and pressing challenges for him personally (state of the academic job market)

Has taken action to change what he can (eg become vegetarian) but not with any sense that it will have a bearing on the big picture. Feels not enough governments taking things seriously. Unless USA, China and India start doing things differently individual actions even by individual EU countries won't add up to enough. No international coordination.

Where would we start? - assumed the question was a technical one and he's not a climate scientist - but offered **renewables, meat and dairy industry**, and levels of food waste. Basically the technology exists but there isn't enough drive behind it - oil rich companies and countries don't have the incentive to change. Big disconnect between what individuals think and want and what governments do.

Ultimately, not about human nature, but selfishness / self-interest may make people who are living unsustainably change as it will be the only way forward to save the planet.

There are many potential positives out of Covid. People see that more can be done from home. University residence requirements have meant that two of his friends who couldn't attend for health reasons have had to drop out - but now the remote participation is being made possible. By extension much less need to commute. Much better air quality with less driving around. **People could work from home and use the extra time in the day to do more with families and children**. Many children of professional / working families with both parents working don't see as much of their children as their children would like. Also if a 'working' adult was at home, they might be able to have an elderly parent with them. They'd be around if there was an emergency, but when not, just sharing a cup of coffee mid-morning with a family member might be exactly what the elderly one would prefer - rather than having to be in care, for example.

#80

Date 15th April 2020
Age Father of children at High School

Gender M
Job 'David R' - Manager
Location Edinburgh
Format Phone call, with me taking notes on my laptop

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Q1: "It's been nice not consuming but focusing on the essentials, spending time with friends and family, the core./ . . . People want cars, holidays, possessions . . . social media hugely amplifies it./ . . It would be nice to see everyone taking a breath and stop doing that"

Q2: "the challenges we've always had but it is getting so extreme now, the haves and the have nots"

Q3: "A competition of experience, turning experience into a thing, into an asset which drives up your capital."

Q4: "there's lots of altruism. There's always that, and its tapping into that and overcoming greed and fear and jealousy."

Interview Questions

The standard 3 questions, preceded by 'What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?'

Reflections on the process

Really illuminating answers. Being on the phone makes it much easier to just listen rather than feel the need to respond.

Interview transcript

What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?

A big thing for me, there's a lot of uncertainty and fears. During the day I'm not aware of that, but at night I'd have nightmares and stress.

There are all sorts of benefits because I've been furloughed. Its like a slightly odd holiday, all a little bit weird. Have appreciated not having the day to day stresses and

having to juggle work. I put a lot of those stresses on myself – combining work family exercise etc. We all do I guess. I don't have that higher level of stress that I always do.

I'm also meditating, listening to music, audiobooks, things that I wouldn't make enough time for. Just sit quietly for half an hour. Things that should happen and could happen but haven't. I overfill things with unnecessary stuff. I could still do that but having that breathing space allows me not to.

More generally

It's been great not having to earn money/ spend money because it doesn't achieve anything. It's been nice not consuming but focusing on the essentials, spending time with friends and family, the core

With the [kids] I'm so conscious of consumerism, the fast cars, clothes, the huge pressure from social media. . . . its' all about money, possessions, clothes. That is absolutely the sharp end of what we are all doing wrong. People want cars, holidays, possessions, but its hugely magnified in teenage boys. The social media hugely amplifies it. We had three channels of TV and some magazines when I was growing up but it wasn't shoved in your face continually.

The [kids] are on their phones all hours of the day – it's all YouTube, TicToc – they are seeing what others are having. It brings entertainment but also a nasty underlying feeling that these are people who have things, are doing things, I don't. When you expand that out to X number of people doing exactly the same thing. It would be nice to see everyone taking a breath and stop doing that.

We've had the climate and environmental crisis on the back of that. It's all been building hugely. Its' almost as if the virus has enabled us to take a pause and stop doing these things.

I don't think it's changed my focus, or my consciousness of the issues, I just wonder if it will make a change on a wider scale

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world?

I think the biggest challenges are the challenges we've always had but it is getting so extreme now, the haves and the have nots.

Because of social media we are continually seeing what we don't have. Tied into political systems where we have unfair societies, with environmental issues building on the back of us wanting more. We are building to a crescendo where we are going to have to take action.

In America lots of people felt left out, too many people don't have what they feel they should have.

The haves and have nots has been so magnified there is so much more anger and resentment around what we think is missing from our life. Overall there is so much wealth compared to any other time in history.

Why is this problem happening?

I'd like to think that people do value things differently and value things that matter after this, "I don't really need all this, and I really missed seeing friends and family, and will value NHS more, and people be less taken in by right wing politics".

Like to see people less interested in themselves, in having all these things, less valuing and judging yourself relative to others.

Crazy industry of people wanting to travel to places to have a selfy taken in a particular place. A competition of experience, turning experience into a thing, into an asset which drives up your capital. The influencers on social media have such high value because they've done all these things. I'd hate to think my kids were traveling round the world to have their photos on social media.

I'd want [my kids] to explore the world, find out what places and people were like. That's why I traveled. I was fascinated how unknown Scotland was. I spoke to some people in [x] and they'd never heard of Scotland and might vaguely have heard of Britain. That made it exciting, we were in some place where people had no consciousness that your bit of the world even existed. The world is a much smaller place than it was years ago.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do? (where would we start?)

If people were able to copy and imitate in the best ways: who has the best health service etc. On Instagram there's a run 5, donate 5, nominate 5, started for the NHS. You have to run 5k, take a screen shot to show you've done it, nominate 5 others to do it, give £5. [Almost all our] kids have done that. That's using the systems now in place for something positive. It's getting kids exercising, raising money

Things like that, and clapping for the NHS, shows that there's lots of altruism. There's always that, and its tapping into that and overcoming greed and fear and jealousy. I don't know how we do that, but there's the potential there.

#81

Date	15th April 2020
Age	Father of children at High School
Gender	M
Job	'Ken R' – programme director
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone call, with me taking notes on my laptop

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Q1: "A lot more people out and about strolling, getting nowhere, not furrowed frown behind the wheel texting that they're late. More real contact on the community level.

"I've always hated traveling to work. It's disgraceful we fly to London for meetings. So I think this will be the breakthrough for video."

"I am feeling incredibly privileged. It must be much harder if you are in a tiny flat. It must be incredibly hard if you are in a tense family situation, and don't have space to escape.

"We have half the number of civil servants to think about this just like we have half the ICU beds. I'm cynical about the state but there is not enough capacity to deal with this.

Q2: "This right people feel to overseas holidays and having all this stuff, the sad pilgrimage to the shopping centre every weekend. This pandemic has made me think more about it. I have been lazy, buying stuff that arrives in vans. Its habitual."

“Work was a life choice and all consuming. With the lockdown, we’re all enjoying meeting our children and sleeping. It’s another demonstration of the fact that there’s so much to life, and you only get one go, and it’s not all about material things.”

Q3: “Society’s expectations. It has been there since we were feudal. It’s about being brought up with this idea of success. We’re not as extreme as America but it is the model.”

Q4: “The first industrial revolution used carbon to advance, now Denmark, Germany etc are undertaking the green revolution. We need to see it as an opportunity not a burden.”

“We are witnessing the fastest change in this subject. We’re seeing a change in opinion that needs to lead to a change in behaviour. This pandemic may play a role in that, but I think that’s coming. It’s great, it’s the young holding us to account, when this generation makes it to positions of influence. . . but we need to see it coming quicker”

Interview Questions

The standard 3 questions, preceded by ‘What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?’

#10

Date	16th April 2020
Age	20s
Gender	F
Job	PhD Student
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone

The ‘Takeaways’ Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Issues are nationalism and populism

Disconnect from government - strong sense of frustration; strong sense of personal privilege in relation to others globally

Root causes

Chasing economic growth; sense that system can’t change, but maybe I can hit lucky; like a lottery

Where to start

Good things can come out of global pandemic; interdependence; shared humanity across all countries.

Overall

Disconnect between strong analysis of issues and cases and what can practically be done. Liked idea of peoples assemblies and citizens assemblies.

Interview Questions

Standard

Reflections on the process

Started off by sharing all three questions to give a sense of where the conversation would be going.

Feel like I'm getting better at not agreeing with what's being said, but letting the talker keep saying as much as they like

Interview summary

Biggest problems are nationalism and populism - lots else stems from that: hoarding of power, growing inequality - also contributes to climate change. What's important to leaders is not what's important to ordinary people. Has a Church background and interested in ecumenism - at root we should all have the same aims but we are divided by our country of birth which makes it seem like we have different priorities.

How does that affect you?

Deep sense of frustration. Doesn't like the way the UK portrays itself - eg even Britain at war with the virus; GB leading the way - why do we always feel we have to be leading the way? Creates a massive distrust of government - linked also to pessimism. Distrust of govt to the extent that people doubt figures about numbers of people dying. Feels very conscious also of her privilege vis a vis people in other parts of the world - the entitlement of feeling free to speak out and speak her mind as white British heterosexual woman.

Why is this happening? Pursuit of economic prosperity. Rampant individualism.

Sense that the system can't change, but I might get lucky within it. Creates sense of competition with others not seeing what we have in common.

Where to start?

The global pandemic is a good place to start. Something good could come of it, because we are all in it together. Class etc doesn't protect you. Interdependence of all - shared humanity across countries - not each on their own. Specifically: church leaders speaking out - call for global ceasefire. Also good for individuals to post what they are doing eg boycotting the Sun newspaper. Needs opposition politicians to oppose - not just for the sake of it, but also to call out government when not doing what is right. Too much which is just unhelpful rhetoric.

#11

Date	21st April 2020
Age	60's
Gender	F
Job	retired
Location	Aberdeenshire
Format	Video call

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Coronavirus has awoken a respect for society and would love to think afterwards there would be a fairer distribution of wealth and valuing of the front line. Although climate change is the key challenge, until it hits people hard in their pockets, they won't be interested

Interview Questions

Standard

Reflections on the process

Great discussion and interviewee enjoyed thinking about and articulating her views

Interview summary

What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period?

Solidarity of community, supporting each other, coming together to get through it. Respect for society, greater emphasis on public services supported by public funds – lack of this funding has discouraged people from these jobs/roles. Would love to think there would be a better distribution of wealth afterwards and valuing of the front line. Also, fear that economy will take 1st place again, but hope that people will see that we need to band together and lead simpler lives, taking care of the environment

What do you not want to keep?

Not being prepared as a nation, lack of forethought

Biggest challenges

Climate change – which is tied up with whole system, including distribution of wealth and political system, particularly disincentive for parties to work together and agree on common, long term policies. Would like to see a change in attitude towards environment but fear that until it hits people in their pockets they won't be interested. The whole economy is built on consumption.

What should be done?

Build our own manufacturing again so that we don't need to rely on imports. Also change attitudes - it's a whole mindset about how you live your life.

#12

Date	22nd April 2020
Age	65
Gender	F
Job	retired
Location	Aberdeenshire
Format	Video call
Questions	Standard

The 'Takeaways' - key observations, words/phrases, from interview

This is a vulnerable time, personally and collectively. Hopefully it can change us to be more compassionate in the long run, but not hopeful. The people with power and money are the ones who win over in the end

Reflections on the process

A moving dialogue – interviewee in tears at one point when spoke about fear of not seeing her children again (she is in the 'shielded' group)

Interview summary***What would you like to keep from this period?***

Clean air around the world! Spending more time (via video link) with daughter who is abroad. Not taking things for granted.

What would you not like to keep?

Uncertainty/feeling more vulnerable, fear of not seeing my children again, isolation, having to dodge people
Politicians and scientists are at the centre of the crisis, but need to bring in more people with different backgrounds

What are the biggest challenges?

Social/economic inequalities (between individuals and countries) – have always been there and don't think that will change.

Widespread ignorance – not understanding the other group, across the board eg the unemployment trap- no one is dealing with this. Those in the trap don't have alternative experience to draw on – they need the support of those not in the trap to help them see other possibilities

Those with the money and power win over

Huge lack of trust in politicians

What is needed?

Politicians to put aside their differences and work together. Same with climate change – need to go beyond individuals – need leaders. Its not all about money!

Everyone needs to get together – I want to make a difference but don't know how."

#82

Date	22nd April 2020
Age	Father of children at Primary School
Gender	M
Job	'John' – Communications and design worker
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone call, with me taking notes on my laptop

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Interviewees summary of the takeaways to the 4 questions:

Q1 - the virus and lockdown seemed to give us permission to show vulnerability to one another

Q2 - until we start addressing inequality I don't think anything else will make much sense

Q3 - the virus has highlighted our interconnectedness

Q4 - let's build on our increased awareness of interdependence"

Interview Questions The standard 3 questions, preceded by 'What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?'

Interview summary:

What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?

For years I've had this nagging voice in my head telling me to slow down, you're doing too much and everything is a rush. And finally it's been forced on us, it feels like we have slowed down and there is more time. There is more time to enjoy cooking, to sit and have a drink together and read a book. Things feel like much less of a rush

There are obvious deprivations which for us are inconsequential.

In some ways our quality of life has improved.

I love the fact I filled the car with petrol 5 weeks ago and we have half a tank left. We've been out in the car 4 or 5 times in the last 5 weeks. There is more time. Now we go out to walk the dogs, once a week to do a big shop. Where before we'd go out 5 or 6 times a week to spend more and buy less. There's a kind of instruction to go out once a day. We go out on foot or on our bikes. I go out with my kids on their bikes, something we wanted to do before but never achieved. Partly because we are thinking of ways to exercise that are fun and give us variety.

In the early days of the lock down I really missed traveling, even crossing the city to work, or to a beach at the weekend. But I don't miss that now, [though] I don't want that to be forever.

I feel like there's something in me, we're in a crisis situation whether it affects us badly or not. There's something in that that makes me appreciate things more. That applies to where we live. We were self-isolating for a couple of weeks because [xxx] had a temperature, to take the dog out for a pee, we just took the dog out to the lane, it

would take ten minutes. I found myself looking at walls and finding them really beautiful. My appreciation of my immediate locality has increased just because of that.

One of the things is that people are a lot more friendly, and so people that I knew to look at or nod hello to I now have proper conversations with. It feels like they're real conversations. There's now a permission to show vulnerability. We all know it's hard in different ways for different people. Instead of a superficial "I'm fine". . . we're opening up in a way that means something.

People are going through some really awful things but it's a unifying experience, and it's quite extraordinary because it's across the whole world. We're relatively untouched by it but we are touched and we are affected. There's nobody who's not affected in some way. That feels to me like it's a good thing that we're going through this together.

The whole mental well-being side of things. I don't think anyone is immune to that side of things either. Imagine you're some top executive and you're out in the world with exciting challenging meetings and travelling all the time. Suddenly you are at home and surrounded by a family that you maybe don't know that well. This charade of everyone being invulnerable. I'm sure everyone has had days where they felt emotionally wobbly. Control has been taken away from you. I think that's a massive thing.

Obviously the virus can affect anybody and is a scary and dangerous things to get. It's a disruption. Financially its affected people right across the board. Those suffering the most are those for whom food is major issue. You could be someone with a successful business that has suddenly tanked.

I think it will be a wake-up call, up to a point. When things begin to go back to some kind of normality, some things will have changed. People will realise they don't have to commute to their office and gain 6 or 10 hours a week just from that.

The question for me is how much will change. I think there's a chance to really change things quite dramatically but I don't know how that will come about because obviously our lives have been massively disrupted out of no choice or design. I still think there's an opportunity to go back in a different way but whether we take that opportunity . . .

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world?

There are so many challenges. Everyone is aware that emissions have gone down dramatically. I was cycling past [xxx] and I have never seen gorse so vibrant. You almost needed sunglasses to look at them. I wondered if it is because there have been less cars.

The climate and the planet, they are as urgent and I think the other – the inequality issue. The fact that some of us have lots more than we need and lots of people in the UK or anywhere have not enough. Until we start addressing that, I don't think anything else will make much sense.

Why is this underlying problem happening?

It is something that is highlighted by the virus, the interconnectedness. This thing started on the other side of the world and we've passed it along pretty quickly and we realise that we are connected.

I think one of the things that is really unhealthy in the way everything functions is this idea that it doesn't matter – we might buy something in the supermarket that is the cause of someone working like a slave on the other side of the world. We think it doesn't affect us but it does. Of course it affects them first and foremost, and there are fantastic organisations that really understand that other people matter and that supply chains need to be [addressed]

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

We've possibly begun already because we now understand that someone who stacks shelves in a supermarket, we rely on them and we maybe didn't appreciate that before. And we rely on the Amazon driver bringing a present for our kids birthday. And there's an increased understanding of interdependence."

#13

Date	23rd April 2020
Age	50s
Gender	M
Job	Life Coach
Location	Edinburgh

Format phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Much that's positive in experience of lock-down

Biggest problems: environmental destruction, can't live with a perpetually expanding economy; 'disconnect between our homes and jobs and the effect on the rest of the world' 'absolutely no need' to be eating animals

Market is 'untrammelled and unchecked'

Solution 'all starts with the individual' - be considerate to self and to neighbours; don't need to keep buying; 'we don't need shopping as a leisure activity'

Interview Questions

Started with positives of Covid lock-down. Worked well - he was working in his garden on sunny afternoon.

Reflections on the process

Good. Finding it easier to not get into a conversation and feel need to contribute - definitely by not commenting or contributing at more than a trivial level, more comes forth.

Interview summary

Life under Covid: working from home really good for him - more productive, shorter commute; commute really expensive (2 buses and a train each way). Doing more online: works a lot with addiction and recovery community and they are getting more people at meetings through being online and can also dip into meetings in other parts of the world and catch up with people he got to know while travelling. Also seeing new opportunities like collaborating with other teachers. Doing less - eg shopping only once a week; only one tank of petrol since lockdown - looking for a job with fewer hours and closer to home. Focus on 'being not doing'

Problems: Biggest is the environment. He's travelled and seen it globally from shale gas in Canada to Barrier Reef. Everywhere. 'We are out of control as a species'. Next is economy - can't live in a permanently growing state. Whenever there's a problem the state steps in, but then steps back afterwards. Seeing life under Covid highlights the problem of the way we are living 'this is fucking nuts'. Similarly the way there is no testing for staff in care homes - family member works in one.

Reason why: Market is untrammelled and unchecked. Pushes lifestyle 'choices' on us - with the implication 'if you don't have this...'. It's Capitalism. Is no viable alternative but we need checks on it all. Also much tied in with Media and popular culture - keeps telling you how you need to look and how you need to be and what you need to have. Finish up with not enough time to make own clothes and cook own food. He's darned own socks during lock down - hasn't done that in 40 years, since left Army. Things like that and gardening are therapeutic. Make do with what you have instead of following 'instinct' to go to Amazon. Much happier this way - he's enjoying things as they are at the moment. Maybe not if it went on for a very long time, but for now is good.

What could we do: Just signed a petition for a universal basic income. Something like that would be good. All should go vegan. Shouldn't be putting animals through that or the damage to environment of growing corn to feed animals and putting their slurry back on the land.

All starts with individual - be considerate of yourself, and of your neighbours. Be selective of what you purchase, you don't need to keep buying. He's realising we don't need shopping as a leisure activity. He's out an about more in lockdown than in normal life because usually on busy commute - after which he's too tired to go out. Concerned about it will all go back after lock-down ends.

Told him about G2G, citizens assemblies and not going back to business as usual. Very supportive and said would find others for me to talk to.

#14

Date	23rd April 2020
Age	31
Gender	M
Job	Outdoor ed teacher
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone
Questions	Standard

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Growth embedded in our collective psyche.

Belief in the ideology of liberal economics and endless growth permeates everywhere.

We need less division and more talking to one another with respect.

The deceit that we live in a great democracy needs to be challenged.

What are politicians even for? Revolving Door.
The media should be owned by normal people.

Reflections on the process

He had been interacting with pals from home online who are all 'Brexit-blind' and despise JC and Diane Abbott as individuals so hate Labour. This is shaping lots of his thoughts. Wants us to chat with them. I don't feel ready.

We are pals so I struggled not to agree too much. Felt like we were very much aligned but he had a different experience to me. He also knows me well so he knows what I believe.

My bubble is tight and I am struggling to reach out.

Struggling to dig in - responding by paraphrasing what they are saying.

Interview summary

Corona questions - A lesson in gratitude and what we value. Wants to keep closer connections, more time, valuing time, connection to nature and appreciating greenspaces. Wants to leave not being able to hug folk, and having a govt with a blatant disregard for its people, putting money over people. Standing up to this stuff means you lose time for the tangible things.

Biggest challenges - Socio-economic system that we have ingratiate ourselves to. Obsessed with making money in not worthwhile jobs. Essential jobs are not valued. Human, animal, environmental, care and justice not at the front of policy. Economic system leads to the Climate crisis, inequality and environmental destruction. Personally, not paid much for an unstable, worthy job. Friends often high levels of stress, anxiety and low pay for jobs concerned with caring for people and not about growth = harder with less stability. Harder to make a living. And affects mental and physical health.

Why is this happening? Growth embedded in our collective psyche. Even folk lower middle class believe in the growth model "the economy keeps growing and our lives improve"

Small amount of people control all the wealth.

Ideologies - meritocracy, making something of yourself, contribute to the ideology of being out for yourself and your family.

Richest folk control the media and most businesses. Legally bound by their stockholders to make profit, not beholden to the environment or communities.

Power, control, money, maintaining that status.

Belief in the ideology. Of liberal economics. Seen as the right way. It will bring everyone up and improve standards. Wilful disbelief in inequalities at the same time. Evil = disregard. ignore/ block out the negative aspects. It is a nice feeling to make money, make progress, can be intoxicating if a lot. They are fucked in the head and in the heart. They must be missing something to have that much disregard for peeps.

How to fix it - start with yourself - be happy and satisfied you are making a living doing something worthy. Be happy, have conviction and understanding in the grassroots.

Talking to people - communicating and building bridges with a wide variety of people. Have discussions about what people value.

Educate ourselves and learn about what has happened in history.

Protest, lobbying etc.

Less division and divisive rhetoric. Conversation meeting on a level not beginning with attack or defence. More conversation that is political discourse, media, identity politics (as in focused on individuals over policies)

Education - funding for different kinds of education. Not fair that only people who can pay get to do forest school. Part of this streamlining into the economy, respecting authority and not being able to question or critique things.

Get rid of the biased media, more fairness in reporting. What even are politicians for? Cronyism, revolving doors. The deceit that we live in a great democracy needs to be challenged.

#15 Eva starts here instead

Date	23rd April 2020
Age	25
Gender	F
Job	Arts administrator
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Corona + 3
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways' - key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Keep - People now have the time to think - they want to do good but are generally too busy. For once we can't control anything.

Leave - Blame culture and judging

Big problems - People don't care. That doesn't directly affect me so it doesn't matter. Human nature - unless it is right in front of them, they don't feel it is important and don't feel the impact.

Reasons - We are too busy! Adverts - subtly saying you have this problem and i will solve it for you. Mostly about timesaving. That can save me more time - we need time! A comforting thing - you get a benefit quite quickly. Looking at big picture stuff - it's not nice or comfortable. Much easier to not deal with stuff in front of you. I don't want to deal with the fact the world is going to explode.

I choose to be disengaged from politics. It's all about the individual. Identity politics (personalities over policies). Is it about the person or is it about the ideas? People are becoming celebrities

People being divided to the point where we don't see the humanity in each other. Animalistic war thing. You believe in something i don't believe in, then i can't possibly agree with you. I actively chose to be ignorant about politics because I've seen so many people fighting, families almost torn apart. A friend of mine almost didn't speak to her dad. Ending long term friendships over all of this.

I don't have those strong beliefs, that's where it becomes scary.

I've forgotten everything about you that i loved, i am just focussing on this one political thing and that is all that matters.

Solutions

Channel that energy into having a discussion, that doesn't need to be convincing someone what you believe."

#16

Date	23rd April 2020
Age	27
Gender	F
Job	Artist
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

We are not all in the same boat - but we are all sailing in the same storm.

She hopes covid teaches people that mental health is not a myth.

At the core of everything, we are just a bundle of emotions. We need to learn about our feelings and how to deal with them - when we don't, it causes trouble.

Reflections on the process

The corona question threw her. She couldn't think away from that.

Bridging to the main three questions was difficult.

Interview summary

Keep - personally, slowing down, appreciating smaller things. Not being busy or too hard on herself. Sense of community, mutual human gratitude.

Leave - state of feeling trapped (used to uncertainty as an artist)

Humans brush things under the rug either sugarcoat or fear mongering. Quick to blame a group or someone else. We divide ourselves. What does this mean for nex gen - this worries her.

Can create all the -isms (racism etc)

Like now, people are having fun by scaring people. She feels like she has been deluded that we will all come out of this better people.

Some people make her feel positive - like neighbours working in the NHS.

Conspiracy theories. People may start thinking mental health is no longer a myth. That we have to be kinder to yourself. More people have experienced what feeling low is like. Education around emotions and how we feel = at the core of everything, we are just a pile of emotions.

Illness has no bias, we are not immune and it reminds us how vulnerable we are.

Dealing with making things better

Travel - we were travelling too much before, we now know we don't need to do this for meetings etc.

Waste - being creative with food, being savvy with money, stop buying things we don't really need. Recognising what is necessary and what is a luxury. Luxuries can often damage the planet.

We need to remember this time and not doubt ourselves in the future or forget what actually happened. We have to learn from disasters. We are spoilt here, we need some perspective. We are not all in the same boat - but we are all sailing in the same storm. Sums up the world, we are not all experiencing the same things.

#17

Date 23rd April 2020
Age 9
Gender Male
Job Primary School pupil
Location Edinburgh

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

I hope that people take this as a lesson towards climate change because there hasn't been many cars and people have been getting around and to Edinburgh city centre without needing to drive.

Enjoying spending time with family and going for long runs and cycles in nature with mum and dad. Enjoying cycling in the road and how much safer it feels.

Hopefully people will only fly for really important events when the airlines are open again.

Really missing my friends and everything about school. My brother often moaned about school but now he really misses it. He is expressing the idea that we don't don't treasure what we have until it has gone."

Interview Questions

1. What do you want to keep from this lockdown period, and what do you miss? Have you noticed anything different when you go outside? What are you looking forward to doing when things return to normal?
2. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world?
3. How do you think we could tackle some of these challenges?

Interview Format

The interview was done over the phone and the questions were sent in advice and slightly tailored to make them more accessible for a younger participant.

Reflections on the process

It went really well and I think it benefits younger participants to have the questions sent beforehand. The participant had really thought a lot about the questions and had some really interesting reflections based on his own experiences - which he linked to wider

society. It is difficult not to step in at times, especially with a younger participant. I could look at re-wording some of the questions to allow them to think more about the solutions side of things.

#18

Date	24th April 2020
Age	70s
Gender	Male
Job	Retired art therapist
Location	Edinburgh
Format	One to one

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Coronavirus, personal grief

Climate change/ imminent climate catastrophe. Coronavirus silver-lining a 'holiday' for the natural world/environment. Has been so much less pollution.

Involvement in Quakers, current isolation.

Coronavirus challenge - part of problem close down/outlawed wet markets in China.

Problem from encroaching upon habitats of wildlife/eating wildlife.

'Holiday' for the natural world hope benefits can continue. Things both improve and get worse all the time. Hope we don't go back to business as usual.

Also would say have seen lots of cooperation between people in this time.

Interview Questions

1. What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?
2. As well as the coronavirus, what do you think are some of the biggest challenges that we as a human society are facing.
3. What are the ways I see myself taking part in a bigger global change..
4. With some of these big challenges, if we were serious about tackling the problem?
5. And if you were to give a message to future generations what would you say to them?

Reflections on the process

It was interesting to ask and to listen to the responses from someone I knew.

Interesting in the way answers differed from what I would have thought. From my side I

need to review some of the questions, particularly the 3rd.

Date	29th April 2020
Age	33
Gender	M
Job	Environmental mapping
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Keep: quieter roads. One of the biggest issues with transport is it having to happen at all. This might reduce that. There are many problems with people moving around.

Leave: Not able to see my mum - concerned about relatives and other people than socialising. A big part of society is interacting with other people.

Biggest challenges;

Valuing the wrong things. What can generate money now vs what is actually valuable. Being able to fly for 30 quid but only paying a carer 10 pounds an hour. There's no value placed on important work - quick fixes which do more harm than good. Unlike the Scandis - diff priority on things which are fundamental and valuable for society - education, wellbeing, health, care.

Why? Govt benefits of not dealing with stuff in the long term - wait for the next govt. Cheaper not to deal with expensive things. It's easier for our government to look after people who are wealthy than to deal with problems for next gen.

What's to be done? You need to have two levels of policy - elect a govt and a long-term commitment. A govt gets knocked out in 4 years time, we need some way of assessing long term goals. Somehow being held to account on your long-term strategy.

Reflections on the process

He seemed really sad and depressed about everything. Struggled to see positives. I wanted to end on a high note so brought in citizens assemblies.

Interview summary

Keep - Quieter roads. One of the biggest issues with transport is it having to happen at all, hoping Corona might reduce that. There are many problems with people moving around.

People are taking effort to be nice – though some people are too scared to acknowledge each other's presence.

Working from home, not commuting. Employers could now trust staff to work from home – saves them money.

But there may be people less inclined to use public transport. They might try and drive when this resolves itself.

Environmentally good but societally bad

Leave - screen time. Social distancing. Not able to see my mum - concerned about relatives and other people than socialising. A big part of society is interacting with other people.

Biggest challenges facing the world?

Refusal to acknowledge climate change is a real issue.

Refusal to prioritise in long term issues. I don't want a poor retirement in 20 years time.

Housing - people own multiple houses and others can't get on the property ladder.

Generational injustice - life is unaffordable for younger people. Rent so high, you can't save up for a deposit.

Valuing the wrong things - what can generate money right now vs what is actually valuable. Being able to fly for 30 quid but only paying a carer 10 pounds an hour. Quick fix rewards like holidays and trivial stuff.

Why is this happening?

Govt ignores stuff in the long term, leaves for next government. Cheaper not to deal with expensive long-term things.

Easier to look like you're successful if people already with money make more money, harder to deal with problems which will affect next generation.

Benefits for businesses - not taxed appropriately for doing things damaging for society or the environment.

For example; decommissioning costs of the oil industry will be covered by the govt. We are always after a fast buck - an easy solution now over long term.

How do we fix it?

You need to have two levels of governing - elect a govt, plus a long term commitment

If a govt gets knocked out every 4 years, we need some way of assessing long term goals. Somehow being held to account on your long term strategy. No one is held to account. NHS and carers have been needing more investment for years. Tories may use this crisis as an excuse not to fund NHS anymore.

Other countries do it without being revolutionary - How did they have the foresight to do all this and we didn't? For example Scandinavia - no long term govt but they have a longer attitude that this is a good thing to be doing. Diff priority on things which are fundamental and valuable for society - education, wellbeing, health, care.

1% on tax would make a massive difference - we are told we couldn't vote for extra money, but then charity for the NHS can raise millions of pounds - some people are willing to pay lots of money but others none.

A new way of voting? We have vote on proportional representation, got voted against. Coalition seemed sensible, but the Lib Dems now can't recover. In Germany, they compromise - might not get your dream outcome but it is a measured set of policies.

I never get to vote for a party who has won.

#88

Date	29th April 2020
Age	60s?
Gender	F
Job	'Anna' retired
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone call, with me taking notes on my laptop

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Q1: **"Generally people are showing the better side, which makes me think why were people showing their bad side?"**

Q2: **"How are we going to keep our welfare state going? It spreads more fairly the wealth of our nation – not just money but a roof over our head, food in your belly, education."**

Q3: **"It is manipulation and advertising where we are told that happiness = this"**

Q4: “We need to challenge the absolute right for businesses to grow in a way that is destructive of the rest of the population and the world and the climate. I think it’s come home that we are not invincible. It’s not just happening to people in the third world, it is happening to us”

Interview Questions

The standard 3 questions, preceded by ‘What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?’

Interview summary

Q1: *Coronavirus period:*

Positively:

“A big shift in our leaders as not point scoring and working cooperatively together. The whole furlough thing I wasn’t expecting Boris Johnson to support at that level.

“On our street we know each other’s names much more, there is swaps going on. I said I would gather things to take to the Food bank. People from my street were putting a massive amount of stuff in the box.

“Outside my window are finches and blackbirds. 20 years ago I used pesticide for the last time.

“Generally people are showing the better side, which makes me think why were people showing their bad side?”

Negatively

“Online crime. They tell me there are problems with the internet and they ask for my details. I am at that vulnerable age.”

“Old people’s homes haven’t focused on testing, treatment, doctors haven’t been going in, the resources have gone to hospitals. I don’t think Govt are doing this, but you can see that what starts off as neglect can become policy.”

“The sense of communal interest has not taken over, there is a darker side and I’m sure it is happening at a big business level too. While the Govt is making the right sounds”

“All it takes is powerful people saying we have to get people back to work and they may say we have to carry on using fossil fuels”

Q2: What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world?

“The danger is we don’t learn the lessons we need to learn. We could go much more cooperative and community-minded and world-minded, learning that we can change”

“The best people will speak the green talk and then justify it for themselves, saying “Restricting flight is unfair to poor people because now they can afford it”.

“Need to ask where is your money in what tax haven? Richard Branson outed himself early on by saying all his staff could go on holiday for a few months”

“I do worry about what is going to happen to our economy. We were worried about debt before but we are going to have a lot more debt now. How are we going to keep our welfare state going? It spreads more fairly the wealth of our nation – not just money but a roof over our head, food in your belly, education.

“The welfare state is not doing enough but, if you go back to Victorian times, Women didn’t have the vote. You used to have to go to church for charity, but now it’s a right”

Q3: Why is this problem happening?

“There are causes we can see and causes we can’t see

“Maybe we are learning lessons about mutual support. I hear programmes and people talk about flight free UK, and they say it’s not a bad thing that we’re not flying about. Flight travel has in a way become a human right. Some of it is nothing to do with those involved, it is manipulation and advertising where we are told that happiness = this.

“There is a lot of suffering, but also definitely a stronger feeling for social justice, in Scotland it has always scored higher than where I came from in England. Maybe it’s to do with how Scotland’s political, Church and educational system was set up.”

Q4: If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

Its empathy and sense of social justice

Nicola Sturgeon uses the words social justice quite a lot

Education is important and goes all the way up to Uni, our kids getting politically active

I don't think this street is anything special at all. In places that are poor people are aware of each other. Here people are talking and they filled the box for the food bank

We need resilience: we need to challenge the absolute right for businesses to grow in a way that is destructive of the rest of the population and the world and the climate.

I think it's come home that we are not invincible. It's not just happening to people in the third world, it is happening to us.

#89

Date	29th April 2020
Age	40s?
Gender	F
Job	'Margret T'
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone call, with me taking notes on my laptop

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

"Q1: "Maybe the people need to lead and Government follow. With the lockdown people led, there were only a third in the class."

"I see people exploring nature, and saying they've done it because they had to, but saying they'll carry on because it's so good for my wellbeing."

Q2: "Climate change, and within that people not taking responsibility for their actions. If they think "It's only my flight" people aren't taking our potentially more vulnerable situation seriously."

Q3: "People don't take responsibility because they're afraid that if they start taking action they'll have to take more. You might personally go down a road where you are deprived of things you think are important"

"This moment is important because we have been deprived of things we thought were important and we've survived it and what we thought was important suddenly aren't"

“This doesn’t affect everyone equally, but the fear of what is happening is the same for everyone. Nothing to say that the head of BP isn’t anxious, he has no control over coronavirus, and maybe can realise what it is like for others who have no control over what happens to them.”

Q4: “People were afraid of taking action on climate change, but if people are shopping locally and not wasting food, that the last bag is taken out of the veg box to make soup.”

Interview Questions

The standard 3 questions, preceded by the coronavirus period one

Interview summary

Q1: What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?

The slowness, I love how everything has slowed down. People have time to reflect which can be difficult for people, but also a bonus. What difference did it actually make my being so busy? It’s a breathing thing.

Maybe the people need to lead and Government follow. With the lockdown people led, there were only a third in the class

There’s a lot of worry that Govt will take power through the restrictions. At the moment I just want to keep my family safe, but that doesn’t mean I don’t want to change things.

A lot of people are being really sensible about self-isolating, they want their communities and bigger society to get through this. They’re doing it because they’ve chosen to keep people safe rather than out of fear of fines.

In Milan they’ve made lots of their streets into walkways and cycleways. If that’s the least we can do in Scotland that would be a brilliant thing.

I see people exploring nature, and saying they’ve done it because they had to, but saying they’ll carry on because it’s so good for my wellbeing.

People have seen there’s no point getting jetlag and flying to NY when you could use zoom. I also people saying they can’t wait to jet off.

The number of bumble bees – we haven't seen the temporality of the garden before this – we planted for the long haul. So lovely watching them each day.

Q2: What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world?

Climate change, and within that people not taking responsibility for their actions. If they think "It's only my flight" people aren't taking our potentially more vulnerable situation seriously.

Q3: Why is this underlying problem happening?

People don't take responsibility because they're afraid that if they start taking action they'll have to take more. You might personally go down a road where you are deprived of things you think are important

This moment is important because we have been deprived of things we thought were important and we've survived it and what we thought was important suddenly aren't

Two lists: 1. What I thought I couldn't survive without: so I don't have to order a book from Amazon; 2. What have we learnt to appreciate through this difficult time: hug from a friend or family. Sensory theatre is all about touch. People don't have to change everything straight away. Anything I order online I need to reflect on, because they make other people move around. So maybe sit in and read a book I already have

Also people don't take responsibility because then you'll share that with people and have to have difficult conversations that people are afraid of having. Kids are much better at having those conversations. The fear that it will affect relationships.

Grounds rule that no one does everything right but that everyone can have an impact through the actions they take

That ties into people not doing something about CC because of powerlessness. One company emitting so much – everyone in power and management in big businesses is sitting at home furloughed. They are not critical. All it would take would be one or two who could decide to make a huge change. I think we need both – all of us and people in high up positions. This can give people in high up positions a purpose in life.

This doesn't affect everyone equally, but the fear of what is happening is the same for everyone. Nothing to say that the head of BP isn't anxious, he has no control over coronavirus, and maybe can realise what it is like for others who have no control over what happens to them.

Somewhere like Syria with ongoing real hardship were saying they are so used to this happens

Q4: If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

We've been separated and so have learnt to communicate better. Loads of people are having that experience so that could be made into a communal experience. People were afraid of taking action on CC, but if people are shopping locally and not wasting food, that the last bag is taken out of the veg box to make soup. Some of the ideas about what we can do about CC, where do I go with that."

#20

Date 29th April 2020
Age 31
Gender Female
Location Dumfries

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

She cut her hand badly a while ago, and really appreciated how useful and amazing hands are. But when it healed she totally forgot about that. Now in the current situation, people are discovering what is most important but she is worried that they will forget.

Regarding inequality and the imbalance of power, which she thinks is one of the biggest problems, she said "Poor Richard Branson, he might have to remortgage his island". However she does not feel that inequality affects her personally.

She thinks that reforming the way parliament is set up and making voting more democratic would be a good start to shifting the balance of power and addressing inequality. She likes the idea of a citizens assembly.

Interview Questions

- 1. What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period - and what would you hope never to experience again?**
- 2. Aside from coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world? (how do they affect you & yours?)**
- 3. Why is this problem happening? (who benefits from it, and is anything being done about it?)**

4. If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do? (where would we start?)

Interview Format

I called her on the phone, explained the process and asked the four questions. I didn't add any of my own thoughts, but sometimes asked her to summarise when what she had just said when I hadn't had time to write it all down (as I was using pen and paper), and occasionally asked her to elaborate on a point.

Reflections on the process

I thought that it was interesting to hear someone's opinion without feeling the need to think of responses. She was happy to talk and didn't need much prompting.

Interview Summary

1. She is pleased that during the current crisis, people are reflecting on the things that make them happy, the small things that are important to them, which probably reflect their values. She really hopes this continues after. What she doesn't like is the fear that people have, she was worried it was going to get a bit 'us and them', which it has a bit, as people have forgotten about refugees etc. When there's an immediate threat, people focus on that. She thinks people's perceptions of risk are not good, they are afraid to help other people because they think it is too much of a risk to themselves, and not seeing that the benefits to both parties would outweigh that.
2. Inequality and injustice have always been big threats. She thinks these come from a lack of compassion, which is really a lack of imagination - being able to see the other person's side of things. She thinks that is the root of a lot of societal and environmental problems and will continue to pose a threat. She feels that it does not affect her too much as her family is white, middle class, pretty well off in terms of everything, but living in a bubble and missing out on the broader picture. There's other people who aren't doing fine, but she and her family might not necessarily know that, and they're poorer for that.
3. Inequality is because of imbalance of power, a small minority has the loudest voices and the most power. The people who benefit from it are the owners and shareholders of specific corporations. She feels that more is being done about this, but she doesn't know if this is really the case. She reads books about it, and feels that compared to 10 years ago more things are being done, people are getting more organised, but she feels she might have a biased view.

4. We need to reform our voting system, it fundamentally needs to change. People would say the BNP will get more seats; but the Greens would too, and it would be more democratic. She likes how the Scottish Parliament is physically set up, as the seats are designed so that people sit in a semi circle, it's not adversarial like the House of Commons with the benches facing each other. The Government's vision should be to do the best for all people in Britain, she doesn't know if this is the case, or if it's written down anywhere. She feels that a good start would be to change how parliament is set up, and how politicians vote - they would have to physically be there. She likes the idea of a citizens assembly."

#21

Date	29th April 2020
Age	29
Gender	F
Job	English teacher
Location	Glasgow
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Keep - time where I do things because i genuinely want to do them - not because i feel pressured to do them - including doing nothing or something

Leave - After having the luxury of being able to pop around the globe all the time, to have that taken away is really scary.

#1 Inequality. In resources and all things. There is enough time and money and land and food. It's just that some people have all of it. A failure of imagination. People that don't have things don't want them because they can't imagine what it might be like. If you can't dream it, then it can't ever be real.

Thats where art and literature is really useful - helps people imagine what it's like to be someone else and to be in a different life.

#2 I benefit from it. It is easy to let things slip by you. Partially because of not knowing - things being too vast, being lazy and being afraid. Because everyone needs to do it. It needs to be a collective effort at the same time. Needs to be a unified approach. Seems to be big to do much about.

#3 How can you change the minds of the people in power? As a kid, I thought, maybe they can read some books. Had a big effect on me. I was starting to think about how you can't just fight people, you have to change their minds. You need to make them understand.

Physically going places can be really helpful.

More importance should be placed on reading, on film, good tv - creation and consumption of media culture and art - about people that are different from you from a young age - and see that as a valuable part of education and a valuable thing to do. If you have access to what other people are like and how people live means you can empathise and imagine the way your life is going to be.

Physically experiencing stuff - exchanges in schools. Exchanges to other schools with other kids who live in a different social situation.

Better cheap transport that is accessible so that people can move around.

Wider representation of people in power - i am a fan of positive discrimination.

Get learning actual knowledge. It's letting yourself off the hook to not understand how things actually work - like flooding etc.

Ingest as many different types of history and stories as you can - read five history books rather than one. Get loads of different perspectives.

Interview summary

Keep

Time where i do things because i genuinely want to do them - not because i feel pressured to do them - including doing nothing or something, ie "I genuinely want to read this complex difficult dry article" - whereas normally I would feel obligated or pressured to do that. Often feel like a social or moral pressure to do stuff with my time. I feel guilty if I spend an hour lying on the floor listening to an album, as if I was wasting my time if I spend 3 hours making a self-indulgent collage. There's a feeling now that all of that is possible because now you have to kill the hours.

As an uptight person it's nice to be bored - it's valid to have a dance out of sheer happiness for half an hour because there's nobody in the house.

Leave

Being confined to one place with one person. I knew i never wanted that and now that i'm in it, i hate it. It's oppressive.

Not being able to see people that i love - really scary. Especially people in different countries. Will I ever get to go to those countries? After having the luxury of being able to pop around the globe all the time, to have that taken away is really scary.

Afraid for my body and other people's bodies. The threat of being super ill is scary. (this has been good - makes you want to look after your body - has quit smoking in lockdown - I would be so angry if I drown in my own phlegm out of the social anxiety thing of smoking)

Biggest Challenges

#1 Inequality. In resources and all things. There is enough time and money and land and food. It's just that some people have all of it. Affects the kids at school. They don't get enough to eat, no confidence, no aspirations. Life is difficult, they are difficult and they can't imagine being any different. What they deserve and what they can hope for. Then knowing posh people who are gutted if they don't become a barrister. We are in the same tiny country and how can it be so different?

Difference between men and women - what we think we deserve in relationships. Basic things in conversations - people used to having space to speak and some people do not.

A failure of imagination. People that don't have things don't want them because they can't imagine what it might be like, you don't even realise what it's like or what the jobs are called. And people with stuff, can't imagine not having it.

That's where art and literature is really useful - helps people imagine what it's like to be someone else and to be in a different life. If you can't dream it, then it can't ever be real. Only some people can access art and literature - can read it or decode it or have the time to do that. A lot of it is created by some people so the codes become even harder to decode, which compounds the current scenario that you're in.

When I was a kid, there was going to be war against Iraq. So many people went to march to say no, there was no public support, clearly it won't happen. Then it did. So, what can you even do? Just a few people have the power for this to happen. How can they do that? So morally corrupt. How can they not comprehend that is so wrong. So, it is obviously the system. How can you change their minds? As a kid, I thought, maybe they can read some books. Had a big effect on me. I was starting to think about how

you can't just fight people, you have to change their minds. You need to make them understand.

#2. Why is this happening, who benefits from it?

People benefit from inequality - I benefit from it. Sure I give some money to homeless people but I inherited a bunch of money from my gran and I will buy a house with it. It is easy to let things slip by you. Partially because of not knowing - things being too vast, being lazy and being afraid. Because everyone needs to do it. It needs to be a collective effort at the same time. Needs to be a unified approach. Seems to be big to do much about. People are far away from one another - there are lots of barriers. Rich people don't realise poor people are real - failure of imagination. Lack of empathy? There is not enough time in life to experience people's existences. Even then you can't really imagine what people's lives are like.

3. How do you begin to fix it?

Physically going places can be really helpful. Aristocracy is alive and well. They are real. They have so much money and power for no reason. Talking to people and realising they really exist.

More importance on reading, on film, good tv - creation and consumption of media culture and art - about people that are different from you from a young age - and see that as a valuable part of education and a valuable thing to do,

Physically experiencing stuff - exchanges in schools. Exchanges to other schools with other kids who live in a different social situation.

Better cheap transport that is accessible so that people can move around. Especially when you're young. People from the city don't know what it's like in the country.

Wider representation of people in power - i am a fan of positive discrimination. Which is intense but you need to put intense policy in place to make this happen. How has that happened? It's because of the expectation - they go to eton then oxford then politician because that's what their grandad did. The training that you're given all the way through your life. You are meant to be in charge.

If you have access to what other people are like and how people live means you can empathise and imagine the way your life is going to be.

Get learning actual knowledge. It's letting yourself off the hook to not understand how things actually work - like flooding etc.

Ingest as many different types of history and stories as you can - read five history books rather than one. Get loads of different perspectives.

#22

Date 1st May 2020
Age 40
Gender Female
Location Nottingham
Questions Standard
Format Zoom call, took short notes, semi structured (used questions but also asked to elaborate sometimes and asked related questions)

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Mortality and Capitalism. Privilege, Injustice, Structural violence, Meeting basic needs of housing and food, Collectivism, Collective Intelligence. Learn from history.

Reflections on the process

It was sometimes difficult to follow everything due to sound issues and french accent. However was able to understand the main issues and arguments expressed.

Interview Summary

An awareness of own privileges especially about the Covid-19 and that it is affecting people disproportionately. Thus, they had a deep awareness of a sense of injustice. Covid -19 has seen people working less (regarded generally as a good thing, no going back to long shifts, more sharing work), also they recognised an increased appetite for political discussion, previously any political discussion within peer group was suppressed in fear of upsetting the social situation.

The biggest challenges are to break the dominance of a western capitalist, neo-liberal world view that is hegemonic globally (my interpretation) but also embodied at the individual level. They thought this is what is the underlying problem to the injustices and structural violence.

I think the most interesting observation was when they linked the idea of accepting (or the general lack of acceptance among the people) of one's mortality to that of destruction and death that capitalism is causing. They argue that people do not want to see or accept the destruction that capitalism is causing, or indeed to bring about the destruction of capitalism itself, because people are unwilling to accept their own death mortality.

They also talked about the rights and injustices of animals.

Solutions were centred around collectivism, they are part of a housing coop, rights to universal income and food.

They also value the idea of collective intelligence.

#23

Date	2nd May 2020
Age	35
Gender	Male
Location	Nottingham
Format	Via zoom, I took short notes during interview

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Systemic, philosophical and analytical outlook, enabled by personal comfortable social/work situation.

Degrowth. Need for justice and fairness and accountability – lacking in French political system. Difference between consensus and compromise.

Reflections on the process

Interviewee was very articulate and open in sharing his views and perspectives. Had a detailed and extended way of expressing, sometimes I felt I was losing the thread of thought and interviewee was going off topic, I decided to be patient instead, and most of the time this worked nicely as interviewee brought it back to answer the question, resulting in what I thought as a richer response. Also there was one instance where I stopped myself from asking a question which when I thought about it challenged what the interviewee had just said. In the end the interviewee went on to address my thinking about my question anyway! So for me as an interviewer and 'engaged listener' that was interesting self observation.

Interview Summary

The biggest challenges were expressed as the idea around 'individualism' which he felt underpinned the above observation. The impact of the present economic growth system is having on the planet, and also a crisis of lack of accountability in Government (especially in France) and a general degradation of social democracy and

ways or organising. He said he was no fan of the UK Government or Boris Johnson, but felt they was handling the corona crisis in a better way than in France, which the system and people are much more reliant on central government, and when it fails, it fails the worse off and elderly. He felt the coronavirus has exposed these governmental problems a lot more. He sees that politicians seem to have no accountability and the idea of morals seems to be lacking through Government.

In terms of what needs to be done about it all, he talked initially about individual and collective action and vertical and horizontal ways of decision making. He used a metaphor to express his thoughts on this. Using one by Pierre Rabhi (French environmentalist) – There is a forest fire, and a small humming bird picks up a drop of water and carries it to the fire and lets it go. The other animals ask ‘what are you doing? That’s pointless’, the Humming bird responds that it may be a small action, but at least I am doing something and if everybody is doing something then it can make a difference. Interviewee dismissed this argument, saying instead of the Hummingbird doing what it thinks is right, it needs to speak with the other animals and ask what can we all do together, which maybe the bird can see where the fire is and tell the Elephant which can then go and create a Dam or fire break in the woodland to stop the fire spreading.

~

He also wanted to see more horizontal ways of organising that used consensus, rather than compromise because he thought compromise means that there are people who always feel they have lost out. Those who compromise in the rest of society are usually the poorest.

He also thought we need creative ways of understanding where we are heading in society, so people are able to glimpse into the future, e.g. if social distancing results in more rights/freedoms oppressed, then there needs to be a way of showing people, so then people can act to prevent it happening.

#24

Date	2nd May 2020
Age	60
Gender	F
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone interview; background, permission to share info sought; I knew interviewee. Notes on paper following standard questions

Reflections on the process

Easy to do; interviewee was keen to talk. She had been a nursing manager.
Sympathetic to environmental causes

Interview Summary

What would you like to keep from CV period, what would you never like to experience again?

She likes lack of air travel; bit more time to be thoughtful; more time for home baking; sense of helping in the community; doing something together as a human race; also noting nature.

She observed that the pandemic has highlighted inequalities in our society.

She hates not being able to meet friends and family and sharing meals together; being 6 feet away is not the same. Also worried that we will go back to 'normal' - dashing about in cars, not being so aware of the world

Aside from CV, biggest challenges facing the world?

Climate change; inequality. Living here, we are part of the 1% and can act like it doesn't matter as our wealth and resources will protect us but our children's children will feel the full effect in terms of food, air, sea and land. The refugee problems will get worse.

Why is the problem happening?

The mega-rich benefit (sort of); the less rich sort of benefit; We are in an unfair society and we will all suffer in the end. We need to change. There are little pockets of hope but people in powerful places tend to keep running the system in the same way. People often don't like change. We often act in certain ways because we don't want to miss out. We have learned to accept change more recently. We need to adapt more. Some important things have happened to make us ask more questions. Pursuit of wealth is not the answer. Government has shown it can be imaginative e.g. Furlow. Universal income could happen. US finds change which involves changing the system a big threat. UK has made some big cock ups. e.g. Underfunded NHS, lack of planning. Nurses not given a pay rise.

If we were serious about tackling this problem what would we do etc?

Government needs to lead. We need to be taxed properly. We say we are in this together but there is not fairness. This time is different from Thatcher's trickle down unfairness. There is still huge inequality. In Scotland there is a more sharing ethos and more help for refugees. The govt needs to change the way it does things but public

needs to change too. Need to stop expecting cheap clothes, cheap air travel and systems life on Amazon which result in poor working conditions.
Build ponds instead of shopping

#25

Date 3rd May 2020
Age 67
Gender Male
Location Edinburgh

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Concern about damage of overconsumption. Inequality in our society. Our system is broken.

Interview Format

Took a little while to get started and get the right form. The start was not relaxed as it should be . After that it was great.

Reflections on the process

The person I was interviewing was known to me and he holds deep opinions so once we started we sailed along.

Interview Summary

What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period and what would you hope to never experience again?

Keep the sense of solidarity and valuing the work of people who are not usually valued. e.g. bin men, care workers and teachers. Consciousness of nature in this amazing month and time for the allotment. Everything has slowed down which is good but Don't want to keep the feeling of isolation. No family contact. The distance is so hard. I am getting bored and finding it difficult to follow through on initial plans e.g. music and I cannot do things I like with others . Demotivation Dislike the mentality of turning people into heroes who will be ignored when when we go back to ""Normal""

Aside from Coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenge facing the world (How does it affect you and yours)

Materialism and overconsumption in our world. Lack of respect for the environment. Climate emergency is a huge challenge and has come about because of the drivers in our society in UK. We have a system that acts we have 2-3 planets. No respect for underlying equality and an inability to accept by some we are consuming too much. We act like we have an obligation want more. Our system is growth driven. We have to grow in order to be seen to prosper. It affects me as even though I am in the privileged 1% our children and future generations will not have the same privilege. Our society will need to change. There has been a lack of preparation for the climate challenge. There will be trauma . Lack of prep for coronavirus has demonstrated this.

Why is this problem happening?

This problem is happening because of corporate capitalism.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

Coming out of Corona as economic activity starts we should set objectives and not go back to how things were . It is not normal to have people sleeping on the streets. It is not normal to have houses (homes) as a way of making money. It is not normal to have children cut out of school. We should take the opportunity to go forward with community solidarity. These things will save the planet. The way out of Corona virus has been a socialist tactic like furlow, stopping blaming the unemployed was done before (Remember I Daniel Blake), planning for tests. If we are serious about tackling identified problems, Governments need to be involved in planning our lives not create conditions for market liberalism. So no bailing out the banks. Let's not be market led.

#26

Date	3rd May 2020
Age	35
Gender	Female
Location	France
Format	Via zoom, closely followed standard questions

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Global Trade, Access to food for the poor, Colonisation, Global Justice, Distrust of mainstream media – anxiety inducing. Happy in lockdown – away from the oppressive nature of the work environment and the quietness of the city.

Reflections on the process

First interview I had in the morning, took awhile for me to warm up. I was able to listen and deepen conversation. I find myself using the phrase 'what i'm hearing' then repeat back to them. I think this helps them either correct or elaborate more on what they have said.

Interview Summary

They were generally happy and comfortable in lockdown. Enjoying the quietness of the city and away from the daily oppressive nature of the normal working environment. They feel this induces a feeling of distrust in managers towards colleagues in which it's easier for them to exercise forms of oppression. Now being at home, the managers have to accept the circumstances and trust people are doing their jobs. They don't want to see the wall to wall coverage in the news media of covid-19. They limit their exposure to the news because it induces anxiety.

Main challenge is climate change and the impact on agriculture. It doesn't necessarily affect them physically, however it affects them emotionally, because they are agronomists, it focuses their minds on what is happening in the global south, especially in African countries such as Ethiopia which is where they are from. There is no social safety net in Ethiopia, people go hungry if crops fail, unlike in France northern countries. This is their concern.

They cite systemic injustices in world trade for creating this situation. They say colonisation still exists through the pressure on global farmers to convert land from subsistence farming to grow cash crops for export to other countries. Which sometimes means there is not enough food to feed the population. This system is a result of no accountability or responsibility of leaders. Even some NGOs are co-opted into this system or often argue among themselves.

They think there has to be a general realisation among all humans that we have a right to meet our basic needs.

It would help if we can recognise the fragility of life, nothing is permanent. The covid-19 situation is an opportunity to step back and reflect on this thought. However they believe we need to work together, rather than expect the state to deliver for us.

Date 3rd May 2020
Age 58
Gender F
Job Retired midwife
Location Edinburgh
Questions Standard Questions
Format Ask Questions & summarised the answers. Read the answers to the interviewee who made adjustments

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

"People will lose their jobs and this will lead to poverty.

Climate change and poverty are big issues

Interviewee could not think about solutions.

Reflections on the process

More difficult towards the end of the interview as the interviewee was trying to analyse the situation and think of solutions

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this Corona Virus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

The interviewee has become more involved in the church and likes the increased community support in the area. She feels more community involvement is needed. She likes the way relationships have changed. Some relationships have become more relaxed and open. She feels that her life has generally become less hectic. She likes feeling more at peace and having time to read a book. She has noticed that people are appreciating and helping each other more. For example, her sister has moved in with her daughter to look after her child so she can work. Her daughter is a single parent and works for the police force. She feels many people living in her locality are aware of how lucky they are and they are pleased to live in Scotland. They are anxious to help. The problems of living with Corona are different in poorer countries but also in England. She feels the first minister is adopting a better approach. She is firm and honest.

Don't want to experience these things again. . . . Sleeping badly and not being able to see her dad who is blind and in a care home. She has not seen him for 10 weeks. The care home is brilliant and has kept the family informed. She is worried her dad has become a bit confused. She thinks the care home is right in thinking that his confusion

is linked to missing family and other visitors. Although people phone, this is not the same. She knows she will see him soon

Aside from the Coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

People are not able to go to work. People will lose their jobs and this will lead to poverty. There will be more depression and maybe more suicides. This affects the whole family. Work and activity give purpose. She does not like the fact we cannot meet with family and friends. She thinks poverty and climate change are big issues. These would be her big concerns if it was not for CoronaVirus

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and is anything being done?

She did not feel she could answer this question

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

She did not feel she could answer this question

#27

Date	4th May 2020
Age	35
Gender	Male
Location	Guadeloupe
Questions	Standard
Format	Kept within script, made key notes.

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Require public behavioural change, Lack of an informed public, Unambitious politicians, no incentive to do the right thing.

Reflections on the process

I found this interview was more difficult to go deeper. I felt interviewee was not able to fully articulate how the challenges he cited affected him personally (either emotionally or materially), also when probing, there was limited reflection on connections to systemic issues. The responses were simple and straightforward e.g. we need to

change human behaviour and politicians need to do more. Which I thought was fair enough, as not everyone is into some big deep analysis of things.

Interview Summary

Finding it difficult being confined to home and restricted to simple activities. Also for most part during the lockdown, he has been deprived of his job. So he didn't want that to be repeated.

Things he would like to keep are seeing and hearing about how people are showing generosity and looking out for each other more. Also seeing how small business people are helping to meet people's basic needs. He used an example of a soup producer providing free soup to those that need it.

Greatest challenge facing his world is waste management on the island. He often sees large piles of waste building up in people's yards, it doesn't affect him directly, but it annoys and aggravates him. He's also concerned about the human health implications and the environmental impact.

This is happening because people do not have the awareness of damage it can cause. He also thinks it's not in the culture to avoid this type of waste. However he does make it clear it's not everyone. Even though this is on Guadalupe he thinks mainland France is also behind countries like Germany in waste management. Also thinks it is not a priority for local politicians on the island.

He is actually looking to start a business in recycling. One method of changing behaviour he is investigating is through financial incentives, such as a deposit return scheme. He's begun creating a business plan and received business training.

#28

Date	4th May 2020
Age	33
Gender	Female
Location	Aberdeen
Questions	Standard
Format	Kept to questions

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Collectivism over individualism, impact on mental health and economic system,
Economic Injustice, Poverty

Reflections on the process

Participant seemed very comfortable and was able to deepen responses. I felt quite empathetic at times, some personal stories resonated with me.

Interview Summary

Enjoys the quiet city, the stillness, less cars and feels more relaxed and less stressed. Also feels more space in her head. Feels everything has become more local, that's a positive thing. Wouldn't want to bring back being prevented from visiting the mountains.

Feels biggest challenge facing the world is the inequality in the distribution of wealth. And the economic system which creates stress in people, and it upsets her to see people living on the streets.

Currently feeling stressed because of the impact covid-19 will have on her job prospects when finishing. Similarly, she finished her undergrad degree just after the financial crisis in 2008, and struggled to get meaningful work, which also caused her mental health problems. All this indicates that the economic system is broken and only benefits a few people.

This is happening because decisions are made based on how it will affect the economy, instead being on how to meet people's basic needs. Also, there is a lack of morality in the economic system, especially among banks. They should be seen as a part/service to society. There is shifting of accountability and responsibility among leaders. Politicians consider business at the expense of society when making decisions.

What we can do is have more companies that are mindful of their role for society, and banks that favour supporting social and environmental projects.

Observes how countries are acting unilaterally and employing protectionist policies. E.g. Shell was offered tax breaks to ensure offices stay in Netherlands after Brexit, instead of going to UK.

Has noticed things are changing though and there is more opposition to what is going on. E.g. school strikes.

Would like to see more collective action from people, rather than things focused on individuals. Although she hasn't got enough time at the moment to get involved in organising but used to when back in the Netherlands.

Think the Scots. Govt generally do a good job and try to focus on human wellbeing, however they also focus on individual change too much.

#29

Date	4 May 2020
Age	60s
Gender	F
Job	Retired nurse
Location	Phone
Questions	standard
Format	phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

There have been definite pluses in stopping with COVID – enjoy the outdoors more and travelling has been so reduced! She's enjoying this quieter world and making contact with people in new ways. This period can teach us that we don't need so much and that we can travel less. Behaviour has been so much more friendly and positive – even among politicians! We can't solve the big problem of climate change if they can't work together!

Reflections on the process

Enjoyable speaking about these issues in more depth with someone I've known for years, but haven't spoken with that much. I feel closer to her now!

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period?

I'm getting out of the house more – just getting outside to enjoy the outdoors. Enjoying the wildlife etc - even saw a plane today! Some public spaces have been more quiet, so I've been able to get out and enjoy them. Have also discovered other places Cutting down on unnecessary travel – can use zoom etc. Want a better balance

I've become more self reliant with technology! Because normal services are for urgent things only, I've had to work out other ways of getting needs met. Haven't always been successful but there's more motivation now to work out what I can do online without automatically picking up the phone.

So many offerings online - have been enjoying learning and with people from around the world. Learning new things, sharing pictures, etc online with others. Being in contact with people in a different way – some people more. Been in contact with some people for the first time in ages

Poorly paid jobs that are being valued now – hope we take that forward as a society. Its been a good time for the planet too – hope we take this forward, more careful about how much we travel

There's been so many good things – shop staff are so friendly and helpful, even those outside! Human behaviour has been so positive in general

What do you hope never to have to experience again?

Not seeing my Dad, nor seeing other people that are shielding. Because I stay by myself, I'm used to occupying myself.

Apart from Coronavirus, what do you consider to be the biggest challenges we face as a nation?

Obviously the climate, the destruction of large areas of the planet. I'm glad nature is getting a break and we have to push for how we maintain this.

Why do you think these problems are happening? Who's benefiting? Is anything being done about them?

It's humans! Chopping down forests, destroying habitats etc

People making money- big business are out to make money and aren't bothered by what they destroy. Some people have an addiction to making more and more money.

We know what plastic is doing and business pretends it's being recycled. For people to have work is important, but if we keep on the current lines, we go to destruction.

Maybe we can care for each other in a better way

If we were serious about solving these problems, what would we do?

Using less plastic, no new coal mines, planting more trees rather than cutting them down, caring for oceans, travelling less (at work and personal life). Try to buy things without plastic. Get large companies to stop using plastic.

We have to think about what we really need and what's important. I ask myself this all the time. If we all make these efforts, maybe we can make change. I'm inspired by the young people, its' their future.

If our politicians can work together, and be more reasoned as they are now, this would help. They need to set an example – if they're calling each other names, then they can't expect others to work together and help each other. Just because you disagree with someone, you don't have to be abusive.

You need all countries aboard, including the big players. You do see the example when politicians sound off, then they think they can behave in certain ways.

#30

Date	4th May 2020
Age	Mid 20s
Gender	M
Job	Part time student, part time theatre roadie
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard questions
Format	Zoom

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Climate crisis, capitalism/infinite growth, appearance rather than action, no incentive to be moral when all incentive is financial/political, taxes, research, speed (no time!)

Reflections on the process

It was good, he's a good pal and is very thoughtful

Interview summary

Coronavirus

Good – working from home (better for some people's mental health, less commuting)

Bad – the government have a massive platform to look heroic and are gaslighting everyone

World issues

Environmental and social collapse. The two are very interlinked, and in some ways that's good as if we help one we can help the other, but in other ways multiple crises are harder to deal with and make each other worse. Far from me (privilege, it's not a day to day worry, danger is far off), but definitely of concern.

Why do these issues exist?

System is based on growth, and there's no counterbalance to that. Companies are incentivised to care about profit, not employees, so people are seen as money making machines. Those who benefit are safe from the dangers/able to protect themselves, so they don't care about the issues.

What's being done about it?

Mainly cosmetic by those in power. Private organisations only have to look good not be good, and political parties are motivated by what gets them re-elected, so focus on short term big splash things rather than long term less visible stuff. When we try to make things to tackle environmental and social issues fit the system (i.e. make tackling them profitable) we end up just gaming the thing to make it as profitable as possible rather than prioritising making it effective at tackling the issue. Governments and companies are afraid to take risks – change is much more likely to be unpopular than keeping things the same. They're looking for the easiest way to make people not object to their actions, and mostly that means not rocking the boat. People just don't want to think about big issues, they're too demoralising and we feel helpless.

How could we tackle these issues, if we were taking things seriously?

Pay taxes! If we stay within the current system we need huge financial incentives
If we do it in a more socialist way, we need huge injections of money
We've seen from coronavirus that a lot can change very fast, but also that individual action isn't enough to stop climate change. We need a total system overhaul.
System overhaul requires huge amounts of research into how to do this well.
Transitioning has a big environmental cost (e.g. extracting metals for batteries). It'll also really upset the balance of a very interconnected world. This has to be led by governments, though if what it takes to start on that is massive investment into private firms to incentivise them to do it too, that's what we have to do because we don't have time to not start now.

#31

Date 5th May 2020
Age 32
Gender M
Location Edinburgh

Reflections on the process

It was deeper than I expected. This guy thinks a lot.

Interview Summary

What would you like to keep from this CoronaVirus period- and what would like to never experience again?

Like to keep the reduction in noise pollution and less car travel. People in the city are aware of it and when we go back to "normality" he would like this to continue. Hopes the increased good will and sharing continues. Quality time and valuable conversations with family have increased even though it is by Zoom. Have been more careful that members get their turn. Not finishing each others sentences is easier. Never want to experience the distance and lack of connection again. We need to be round each other. It gives purpose. We need to be prepared and share resources world wide. Make this a human right. Influence should not be down to economic strength. This problem will happen again if we don't cooperate and coordinate. My work is designed around people being together in social spaces and I can't deliver work at the moment. I am in a small business. Saving economy has been more about big business. There is often talk about supporting small business but big business has a bigger voice. There is a lot of talk about helping small businesses but the reality does not deliver. Help is too bureaucratic. Need good will and trust. Support people first.

Aside from Coronavirus what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world & how do they affect you and yours?

Racism is the biggest problem. Racism is often at the bottom of things. There is not enough celebrating diversity and one another's cultures. Governments do not encourage this enough. Before we went down with Covid we were coming out of the EU. We have been closing doors. We are full of hypocrisy and racism. We live in a male driven culture which underlines so many of our problems this effects everybody. We need to change. This is hard because this pattern is historic. We often feel powerless to change things. Need to find a way to rise to the challenge

Why is this problem happening and who benefits and is there anything to be done about it?

There is too much of a sense of entitlement and a tendency once you get to where you want to be to pull the ladder up behind you. This is especially true in the US but in the UK too. It is like we are playing the lottery to win and forget the rest. It is like it is part of a game. The rich benefit.

If we were serious about the problem, what would we do where would you start?

Interviewee is hopeful about the generation below him. He is millennial generation soaked up fake news he thinks the generation below are questioning more e.g Greta T. He thinks Extinction Rebellion may have an important part to play. Can take the climate emergency onto a platform where it can grow. Needs to think more carefully about actions . Climbing onto the underground was a mistake . This was hitting public transport and stopping black people getting to work.

#32

Gender Female
Location Edinburgh
Format I talked to her on the phone, taking notes in a notebook.

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Climate change is the biggest problem but the political system the underlying cause, and in the end it all comes down to inequality. In the past people used to protest more than they do, and protest was more effective also.

Interview Questions

- 1. What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period - and what would you hope never to experience again?*
- 2. Aside from coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world? (how do they affect you & yours?)*
- 3. Why is this problem happening? (who benefits from it, and is anything being done about it?)*
- 4. If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do? (where would we start?)*

Reflections on the process

We work together so it was quite relaxed.

Interview Summary

1. What she would like to keep from the CV-19 crisis would be that people are out and about, cycling and walking. She has also spoken to friends a lot more, and has a friend who didn't like video chat before but now she is doing it all the time.

What she would not like to experience again is not being able to be in the same physical space as everyone, because she doesn't currently have physical contact with anyone. Her family live up north and she can't travel to see them. But she said she's not actually that bothered about not being able to go the pub anymore.

2. The biggest problem is climate change, but that comes from our political system, as politicians aren't engaging with it enough. The problems come from people not knowing how much power they've actually got and how to find out. She wasn't sure how much it would affect her and her friends/family, but feels that it's a societal concern, it's not about how it will affect individuals specifically.

3. In the UK we're not taught about the political system unless you take modern studies, and maybe not even then. The power structures and hierarchies aren't taught as standard, so people just have to pick it up, or learn from their parents, who may not know themselves. The people who benefit from it are those who are already in power, who quite often are privileged, because they have the time and the family connections. It all comes down to inequality. There's lots being done by specific groups, voluntary sector and community organisations, that help people at the individual level. But she didn't know if anything is being done at the societal level. There is the Community Empowerment Act but this still doesn't teach people how the political system works. You don't know what you don't know, and then you're not going to be able to do anything.

4. Where to start changing things would be to include how the political system works on the curriculum at high schools, as mandatory for all students. It doesn't even have to take up much time, maybe just one term of guidance classes, because it doesn't have to go into the ins and outs of party politics, could just be how the system works, this is where your taxes go, this is how you can get involved if you want to. From there it would depend on how many people started to engage. But the start would be actually telling people how it all works in the first place. Barbara also said that she didn't know if it was down to social media, or how things can be spun now, but it seems like in the past more people have come out to protest, for example: the poll tax. But also, it seems like now when people do come out to protest, nothing happens. When all the women across the world were out protesting against Donald Trump, nothing happened.

Date 6th May 2020
Age 68
Gender male
Location central belt small town

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

There aren't enough amenities for the growth in our cities. There was a change in management style 10 years ago which has been a huge problem, squeezing people dry. Growth leading to overcrowding and greed were the main problems

Reflections on the process

A bit clunky, but generally OK. Went through the questions - they led on quite naturally from one another

Interview Summary

1. What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period - and what would you hope never to experience again?

Like the pace of life - even though I've retired - everything's more relaxed - there's no rush to do anything, though possibly getting a bit bored about it now after 6 weeks. My son - not exactly a workaholic, but he's worked really hard - but he's starting to quite enjoy it - I think he might struggle when he has to go back

Less international travel - doesn't affect me too much. Bad for the environment.

Something not right to be able to fly so far for so little money - and it cost so much more by train. People are still doing it - so strange - regular flights from Dublin to London for 'business purposes' It'll be a wake up call about the potential dangers. Airline companies are likely to go bust, so it'll get sorted out. Some people's not sure how they can sell flights that cheap.

Getting things done around the house and garden - you're supposed to have more time when you're retired - things can drift. I've caught up on lots of DIY jobs over this time - not liked it.

Not so much talked about. Overcrowding of cities and towns. Worst places are in the centres of towns - and they're only getting more overcrowded. Just passed 6,000 houses in the local city and the increased like this on the way infrastructure isn't there to support that. More diseased like this on the way. Skeptical about 'growth' lots of people think it's healthy, but it can be damaging. Not people coming into the country,

but overcrowding. Gets taxes in. Sturgeon is a great believer in building more and more houses, but you can't get a doctor. There are 16,000 new houses being planned locally alone - but there's not enough space, doctors or water for us all. A friend who works for Scottish Water was saying there isn't enough water coming into our town to provide for all the new developments but they don't have to look at the water when they're getting planning permission

The big development locally. Local residents complained. Went to parliament who said they don't have to consider the infrastructure: they passed it and said we're building more houses so just shut up.

In Edinburgh you can't get round the bypass as it is so busy

Hate - not being about to do everyday things. Not able to do kayaking, not being about to keep fit and getting bored walking around the same places.

We holiday in the UK all the time in a motorhome. Other people won't be going away so much so there won't be so much space to roam in the future.

2. Aside from coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world? (how do they affect you & yours?)

Overcrowding - when I was young world population was 2-3billion - now it's 7 billion - I can see that growth over my lifetime. Wasn't hard to get a doctor's appointment - but now it's impossible. Overcrowding our cities won't work. I don't understand our politicians. Don't know what the answer is. Can't do the China thing of only having 1 child. But the influx into cities is being over encouraged. My (small rural town) area is becoming less lovely - people coming in from further afield.

Coronavirus has really hammered that home.

My kids' lives have been so different to mine. We're supposed to be more civilised/advanced but jobs are so hard to get, homes too (part of the vicious cycle) and pensions. Have we really progressed? I left school at 15, did an apprenticeship and had 7 jobs to choose from. I chose the one nearest to home, Bought a flat at 20 no problem, just on my apprentice wage. My son is on a good salary, didn't start work till he was 26/27, houses are extortionate now. Where's all the money going? I think it's going to higher levels of management and directors who get far too much money now. I was a manager - people got paid far too much. Universities are always saying how

poor they are. People are being too greedy and not leaving enough for the younger ones. Inequality has grown

3. Why is this problem happening? (who benefits from it, and is anything being done about it?)

Greed - poor management in a general sense. I worked at uni for 20 years - was great for 17 years and changed almost overnight. They brought in a new director and he brought in new hardmen and women. It wasn't like a uni any more - it was like a money making machine - spending huge amounts on newbuilds and refurbishments - and a nasty new layer of management. Council workers are the same - I have friends who retired early because they couldn't take the new layer of management. Don't know where it started - some kind of think tank. Uni had felt like a family. Uni not alone - local bus company too. New boss came in and upset everyone. Totally unnecessary style of management. I got quite into looking at management techniques. Went to seminars and talks that got me reading - changed my life as a manager. Henry Stewart 'Happy Manifesto'. TBH I was always a bit different - I managed a team of 10 in my way, not the way I was told. The great thing about this talk was it confirmed that I'd been right. A lot of confirmation in that. Also read Maverick by Ricardo... About Brazilian factories - hard to believe it's a true story.

Greed within the management style - they know they'll get paid a lot. None of them stays more than a few years and then they move on. Used to be if you worked somewhere a long time it was good, now they like it if you move a lot. But they leave trails of destruction. Senior management level and jump around.

It's difficult to address. It has to be top down. But are the top aware that this is happening? We used to ask ourselves that a lot. You'd think if they knew they'd surely do something. It creates such an unhappy workforce. I think it has to be brought to light. Encourage people to whistleblow about it. When people are in work they really don't want to do that. To my mind some of the stuff these people are doing is just as bad as sexual harassment - but there's not a movement around it. It doesn't help the whole economy. People don't work well for people they're afraid of. Nothing is more despicable than respect based on fear (Camus).

He did me a huge favour because I love retirement!

Overcrowding - growth - it can't go on forever. OK for a bit - but you can't just keep it up to infinity - you have to consolidate - if you're serious... but if you think you can move on.

Building more houses to get more taxes, but they're only looking at their term of office.

4. If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do? (where would we start?)

We would have done it long ago - we're not serious at all. Will coronavirus change this? I doubt it. I think it'll reduce air travel - but that's just organic - the companies will go bust. Overcrowding will go on. Need to look at the taxation system. People need to pay more tax - lots of people would be willing to. My sister lived in Germany - the health system is incredible. It's a mixture of public and private. It did cost more money - but the things she could get done just by picking up a phone. Amazing system. The NHS isn't really working. Probably a lot because of the answers to questions 1, 2 and 3. Directors being bullies fits the health service too. Bringing in directors who know nothing about what they're doing. Senior managers - in my lifetime - you were promoted to senior position because of your knowledge. Now they don't want people managing who know about what's going on. They want 'people managers' - meaning bullies. It's a huge problem in the health services. So much money being wasted on paying high wages to the wrong people.

Growth - I would take a serious look at that. Simplest would be to get a group of people who know what they're talking about round a table. Looking at stats - what has the growth been - housebuilding, population over the last 10 years - project that at the same rate = what's going to happen in 50 years time - is it sustainable? No one would say that - so why are we doing that now? Greed and quick money for quick taxes. So how do you slow it down? I don't see why we have to encourage people to move to places that don't have enough space already. Creating all sorts of havoc in the NHS, jobs, houses. Slow down growth. Doing it is tricky. Increasing taxes is part of that, but we're going to have to discuss it. Take more off the rich and less of the poor - and get income from elsewhere.

New management culture - is also difficult. Needs a think tank - but of people who actually know what they're talking about - not just another load of the same types. Go into these institutions and do a grassroots survey, talk to people - ask them if they're happy at work, with their managers. Maverick author did all that. It's the elephant in the room - not a lot of people are talking about the way it's changed in the last 7 years. It's worked its way through all parts of working society and you'll have heard it yourself - everyone says people are expecting so much more - squeezing people till they're dry. We're supposed to be civilised but we're doing downwards. Maybe we have nicer

houses - better sanitation etc, keep going on the growth curve we won't have that for long either.

#34

Date	6 May 2020
Age	Late 20s
Gender	M
Job	Creative
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Three standard ones, with pre-Q on Covid, and after Q on next steps
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Problems of Media bias - most people don't know about the issues, just getting on with their lives.

Globalisation is driving people apart, as plays into nationalism and populism - and attitudes reflected in some of the media.

Conventional economics assumes uninterrupted economic growth, which is part of what is causing climate change.

Citizens Assemblies could be good, but not for all issues.

Reflections on the process

First time to do an interview with someone I had no previous contact with.

Interview summary

From lock-down period - He's on furlough. Likes the healthy living, less pressure, less thinking - can just live day to day. Probably better relations with those he's sharing a house with. Not really possible to think about the future - in particular potential job moves. Can't plan just now. Had been planning to leave job, buy flat but that's all on hold. Good to be reminded of a simpler life - absence of pressure to think about career and what you're expected to do with your life. Was doing quite a creative job, but felt pressured in it.

Biggest challenges

The assumption of conventional economics that the economy has to continue to grow indefinitely - and that has consequences for climate change. That's always there in the back of his mind. Nice to see the world pausing and maybe thinking of trying

something else. Doesn't feel personally the immediate results of climate change. More immediate issue is the processes of government and right wing bias of the media - creating the failure of democracy. Doesn't lead to intelligent political debate, and stops people learning about the real situation. Media just reflects very short term opinions.

Had wanted to study this assumption about economic growth, as part of an economics degree, but was told it was philosophy not economics, and this fundamental premise was not to be questioned. As a result economics becomes all about money and debt and part of the system. Was seeking instead a job that would educate people against that.

Who is benefitting?

Those who already have a lot of money. They will benefit from Covid19 too - for them it will be an opportunity - and it will have the effect of further entrenching inequality.

If we were serious?

Tackle the Media - it is really difficult to get across a different point of view from the orthodoxy. Need a different left-wing media model which can support itself. The newspaper model based on advertising is failing - 'so crazy in a world which is splitting away from itself' - based on leaders like Donald Trump, who are 'so far away from being reasonable.

Reaction against globalisation is totally understandable - it has been in the vanguard of splitting people apart, but doesn't need to be could be about bringing people closer. There are many lonely people in our country. Nationalist ideas are bringing people together and that's a problem. Interesting that looking at the same facts, people can think totally different things and bring different meanings. Only need to look at the comment section of the Daily Mail. Doesn't personally get sucked into that kind of thing - has got a good community of friends - but its interesting to see what others think.

Idea of Citizen's Assemblies has resonance for him. Thinks it might work for specific issues, but it won't work for everything - eg like with Covid 19 when quick executive decisions are needed. Really important to understand different viewpoints and to get beyond polarising debates like over abortion or Brexit. But Climate is not just a one-off decision - its all the follow-on decisions afterwards - need to be clear how that would work. Was part of a Co-op in Edinburgh and experience of cooperative decision making wasn't great -often gets bogged down in protocol - and processes are always being challenged at the same time as the issue up for discussion.

Need to be able to communicate differently. Currently we only have a one message propaganda machine.

How would a CA deal with complications - the issues are very confusing. Could just finish up with a 'jumped up focus group'. If it did anything much it would be portrayed in the media as being too radical. The impact of CC will be 20-30 years and the issue is just too big. Increases the level of noise and confusion about it all. Need to get a way out which can be translated into common sense and get clearly disseminated. Most of the population are not exposed to the arguments and are just getting on with their lives.

#35

Date	7th May 2020
Age	30
Job	Social scientist
Gender	Female
Location	Aberdeen
Format	Zoom, took notes, semi-structured

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Coronavirus impacts on Mental health, Inequality, Climate Change, fair decision making, realism.

Reflections on the process

Participant seemed comfortable to answer questions and also open to my own questions to deepen conversation.

Interview Summary

Would like to keep the slower pace of life of coronavirus. Also welcomes the general acceptance that people have family life and that has been given more regard when it comes to prioritising aspects of life. Also, the coronavirus has revealed kindness and empathy among society.

Would not like to see the return of physical restriction in movement and general liberty. Also, it affected her seeing distress and anxiety in others who were shocked by the sudden and unexpected changes in society. Would not like to see a return of news saturation.

Greatest challenges are rising inequality, climate change and in the short term the expected global recession brought on by the coronavirus. The challenges brought on by this will be people being displaced, especially in equatorial regions and the impact of mass movement of people will have on other societies. Fearful how people will be received and any rise in politically right-wing tendencies, due to squeezes on resources and increasing polarisation.

The recession could also mean the rolling back of public services, which is a depressing prospect.

Reasons for challenges: CC due to the embeddedness of fossil fuels in everything and the economic growth paradigm. This provides us with convenient energy, but also disproportionately benefits the wealthy.

We require huge structural change, change to our way of life. Travelling a lot less, which means people will perceive a loss of freedom. But how these changes are differentiated and spread through society will be crucial. E.g. in Ireland farmers may be asked to stop farming cows, which may be hugely unpopular. Hard choices will be made. There will be grief.

We need change in every sector. Energy sector should be initially prioritised. Can use carbon budgets and decarbonise all products. Maybe higher taxes for the wealthy and rich. Need to finance public services.

Need to take care of people who are suffering from eco anxiety and also overcome the intergenerational inequalities, e.g. young people not being able to buy a house.

#36

Date	7 May 2020
Age	70s
Gender	F
Job	Retired
Location	Aberdeenshire
Questions	Standard
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Had a difficult time with the virus and still recovering. Increased sense of vulnerability but also preciousness of life and others. The biggest challenges have to do with the political system.

Reflections on the process

First person I spoke to who had the illness. Seemed helpful for her to speak through the event and see both sides of her experience – the challenges and the gifts

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period?

Amazing how many people got in touch – very touching. Everything seems sharper now. All the birds out, seeing so many more and little things I might not have noticed have become precious. Have more time to notice and because I'm tired spending time watching rather than being busy. You see the character in things.

Had been doing a poetry class and the teacher has been wonderful -has given me new poems to read. Things have more meaning now.

Started to do zoom meetings – forced myself to learn – quite an achievement. Seeing people I haven't seen for ages – everyone's face lit up

We're all at home – levels us up – this is reassuring

Want to keep the preciousness.

Community Whatsapp – help each other. Smile when we're out – we're smiling doing that more

Local shop delivers – has been very good in getting things in. Local Indian restaurant gives free meals in NHS, discounts for over 70s

What do you hope never to have to experience again?

Have had the disease (though not tested). I was frightened to go to the hospital. For 2 weeks, I was very scared/depressed. From the end of March - 5th April it got worse. No one wants to come near you though people got in touch. Just wanted to give up. Very breathless, couldn't stop crying. Had friend who had it – could ring her up to get reassurance

I feel like a criminal – feel like rebelling. I think a lot of people over 70 have had it. Begin to start to do things, but it's all so hard

I'm very independent but felt so vulnerable. Son and grandchildren were ringing

Apart from Coronavirus, what do you consider to be the biggest challenges we face as a nation?

Everyone is blind – the government should learn a lot. The leaders who are breaking the rules. Where is there integrity? Prince Charles even came up one day and diagnosed the next – I feel angry with him.

Want leaders we can rely on. So disillusioned with politicians. They still play politics rather than look to the good of the people

To feel valued and listened to as individuals

Why are all these planes landing in the UK? The powers that be are not making sure that we're safe.

Why do you think these problems are happening? Who's benefiting? Is anything being done about them?

You used to be able to have respect/admiration for politicians. Maybe we're finding out more about the dark side -they're just humans. They don't always tell the truth

They play a game with each other – they want to win. They feel they can do it better.

But I'm getting a headache. Seem to enjoy belittling one another

If we were serious about solving these problems, what would we do?

We would tell MPs how we feel. If there was a voice we could tell them how we feel.

The parties are similar – they want the good of the people, employment etc.

we want to see more cooperation

I would feel so vulnerable to speak up – would fear making a fool myself.

I used to go to Church and was told I was a miserable sinner!

I want to find my way through it all and be the best person I can be and have integrity.

I've started talking to people who have different viewpoints and I'm braver now about not just agreeing. I like to hear their perspective but also to state my own.

#37

Date	7 May 2020
Age	Late 50s
Gender	F
Job	University lecturer
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard
Format	Skype

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Communication and understanding of others

Biggest Challenges

Lack of communication between people and countries

Othering – between classes, countries

Environment – when this island starts sinking and the seas start rising, people who have no idea how privileged they are – what makes us think other countries will help us after we've treated them so atrociously?

Why is it happening?

Arrogance

Lack of education

Individualism

Neoliberalism which has led to globalisation – Margaret Thatcher 'There's no such thing as society'

People being brought up to believe they are special and having no resilience

The media is too harsh here – it sometimes does more harm than good.

Anti-intellectualism

How do we fix it?

Global Citizenship

Communication – understanding where people are coming from – we are all the same.

Soft power – global aid is about bargaining.

More transparency

Education, critical thinking

School exchanges

All people, not just the affluent, having different experiences and walking in others shoes – decent work experience, 6 months somewhere when they leave school similar to Poland for example.

Some kind of citizens' wages.

#83

Date 9th May 2020

Age 70s

Gender M

Job 'Jack K' - Retired

Location Edinburgh

Questions Standard but strong preamble explanation of project

Format By phone

Reflections on the process

Giving a strong explanation of the project (as not being about activism but about listening) was important

Interview summary

Interviewer: Introduced the project as not being about activism but about listening

Interviewee: Activism doesn't work – It's engaging in the fight. In my work, I don't encourage people to fight because it keeps the conflict alive and well. If you stop fighting and just listen it allows inherent wisdom to do what infinite wisdom can do, which is way beyond what we can do.

What do you want to keep from this coronavirus period, and what do you want to not have to experience again?

Hearing more of nature, experiencing more of nature, hearing the birds, having time to appreciate flowers (oh god I sound like a hippy), discovering hills and nature walks nearby I had no idea existed. I've appreciated clean air, relatively clear streets, saying hello to people I don't know, the dance as we socially distance, as we pass each other, the lack of planes in the sky, really hearing birds, and also a sense of nature, how quick it would be for nature to take back over

Interviewee

I've appreciated thinking about and contacting people who either I care about or feel they could do with the contact. Zooming more as a fairly acceptable form of contact

What I've missed, and this is getting stronger and stronger, is seeing friends and family, and hugs and physical contact. I've missed cafes.

I'm thinking of your question "what do you want to not have to experience again", Personally there isn't much I wouldn't want to experience again. Initially there was fear of other people, but I don't have that now. That was horrible. And I've been really aware of how this must be for people in much worse physical situations than I am. For example high rise living with young kids. I can't imagine what it would be like in that situation. Not having access to green spaces roundabout or living on the streets. And that's in this culture, but then there are lots of worse situations; in refugee camps, just lots of worse situations, just awful.

But personally speaking, I don't think there's anything, as long as we get back to some place where person to person contact can happen in an unfearful way. What I wouldn't want is to be physically unaware with other people

What was an eye opener for me was that we can move, within a week, from physical contact to “I don’t want to be anywhere near you”.

I haven’t reintroduced structure back into my life. I enjoying not having structure to begin with but am past that now. I’ve been tidying and ordering. I also want creative and constructive time. I also want to get back to contributing to the world. But the way I contribute, I can’t see how I can get back to that in any short order.

What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world? (how do they affect you & yours?)

Is human beings. Because it seems to me that everything that is wrong with the world is because of people, which is not to say that people are wrong. Climate Change is the biggest challenge, but I think people’s greed and selfishness are the biggest challenge. So personally, my biggest challenge is greed and selfishness.

I put myself first in ways that, based on fear. I think it would be fine to put myself first not based on fear. Its fear of lack, fear of lots of things. Putting myself first based on fear is like a black hole, I can never get enough of what stops me feeling fear. Putting myself first not based on fear feels more like the sun, like abundance, like a star, giving, not having to pull stuff towards me. {consequence?} Joy, fulfillment, presence, love.

{consequence of putting self first based on fear?} acquisition, economic growth in the way we do it, war, acquisitiveness, disregard of others.

Why is this problem happening? (who benefits from it, and is anything being done about it?)

Nobody benefits from it. I don’t know

What I’m musing over is what religions have put it down to.

{ Q: [interviewer asks about interviewee’s] experience}

This feels much more concrete, thank you

Universities used to be about education, knowledge, exploration, teaching, all that stuff, for its own sake. It seemed to me that Depts did seem to be developed because there was interest in that subject, even if it was a small Dept and a niche interest it was worth pursuing.

So what changed? It became all down to the bottom line - what made money. So it became a business in the worst way of businesses, which is that it is all about making as much money as possible to the exclusion of everything else. In terms of my lifetime, it seemed to me that getting a job or earning a living was about earning enough money to keep yourself or a family, but it was also tied into the social framework. If you had a shop it was all about stuff you sold that people wanted, and as long as you made a reasonable living from it then - job done. You weren't just doing it to make a living but you contributed . You found your place in society, your occupation in the societal framework, that you made enough for yourself and family. It was as much about occupation as income.

What pisses me off about Amazon is it's a race to the bottom in terms of costs. It would have done really well if it had kept its prices higher. It would still be a great service if it stopped screwing people. So that everyone who worked there got a reasonable wage. If the companies that served it also didn't get screwed . . . it is basically squeezing people for the lowest possible rate.

{Q: the internet?}

A real cornerstone of why the Internet was developed was for freedom of information, freedom of availability. Essentially anyone could have access to a wide wide range of information and a level playing field. And there are strong, strong forces that are continually wanting to disrupt that level playing field for commercial or political gain. So that would be the greed. I don't know if greed is the right word?

{ Q: what would be the right word?}

Gaining power in some way, gaining power politically or financially.

Another example of what I really don't like is the market economy, the stock market. Businesses doing what they do and doing it well and then floating on the stock market and then the business has to make money for investors who have no interest in the business itself.

{Q: only a small tweak needed to bring the system back?}

Feels like the nub of a particular difficulty, globalization is around that. To me globalisation only means that, whereas it could mean us working as a whole. The internet can link people of common minds, common interests, through the whole world, globalisation of business could do that as well. There's the overlay of using others for one's own end

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do? (where would we start?) How would we go about it.

The economic system. I understand so little about economics, but it does seem to really be a bad mechanism as far as I'm concerned.

{Q: and there's not a very big shift needed?}

It is a big shift now that we've got there.

This goes back to a few questions back.

The other tragedy as far as I was concerned is in how products are engineered. The disposable nature of things. If you bought a landrover you could replace every single part of it. I've got a robotic vacuum cleaner and you can basically replace any part of it. Whereas these days you absolutely can't. Sadly, electric cars are the worst of the lot. Built-in obsolescence is only done for more profit. It's not pride in the product and the ability to run it forever. A friend . . . had a job designing a car for a company. The basis of their job was to reduce the cost of producing the car by 5% or 10% a year. So as long as they could do that they had a job. They had to make the car cheaper and cheaper every year. In some ways that's good, but at some point you can't do that without sacrificing safety or something. Having that as the objective of your job seems appalling. They could still have reducing costs as a motivation, or improving the design, but you won't lose your job if you can't. UBI needs much more research, but it sounds incredibly promising in the right direction

Eva ends here.....

#38

Date	10th May 2020
Identifier	KD Alex
Questions	Standard 3 with Covid experience as an opener
Format	Face to face

Reflections on the process

Person I know well, so very much easier to be comfortable with silences. But decided to sit where not making eye contact. Interesting. Made handwritten notes typed up same day.

Interview summary

Covid

Positives: reduced traffic, noise pollution, all kinds of pollution, lack of crowding in shops, greater friendliness of people; end of rough sleeping, of austerity

Negatives: Doesn't like bars and restaurants being shut; that so many have money worries at this time; govt daily briefings which are just waffle and lies; loss of sporting events; ability to travel; see friends and family; confinement to home; would like to be able to see Dr in person; no farmers market

Problems - do we mean world or country?

Many of the problems are interrelated; growing surveillance, disinformation, and right wing populism - splitting countries apart in aggressive and narrow minded way.

Climate crisis is linked to disinformation and populism

Quality of education - huge disparities in educational resources and training; certain critical jobs are poorly paid; gap between poorest and highest paid is rising; the way people with money are able to manipulate the system if they have money. Tax avoidance is seen as good - why should Amazon have to pay more tax than they legally have to - that's what some people are saying.

Because I'm economically OK, the effect of all this is mainly mental - worry and concern about how this is all going. What will it be like in 20-30 years?

Why are these problems happening?

Problem of overpopulation - chasing diminishing resources and overcrowding - creates a higher chance of problems like plagues breaking out. Creates pressures of migration. Feels he will be insulated from the worst of this.

With scarcity of resources some people see opportunity for profit. Greed. Profit making itself is not bad - but it is when greed takes over. Politicians mainly want to be re-elected and to stay in power - they feed people's desires for new fridge/foreign holiday/car even when it's not 'needed'. A certain amount of this is human nature - you want to do what is best for you and your children - you want them to grow up in a nice environment etc.

‘Mad economics’ that flowers get grown in Kenya and Tanzania and flown to Amsterdam. Could be growing food for local consumption. In the past we didn’t have such huge food miles; ate food by what was in season; now have expectation that everything will be available all the year around - ideas fuelled by supermarkets and Amazon.

‘Disconnect between personal good and general/collective good’.

If we were serious...?

Make voting compulsory with a ‘none of the above’ box on the ballot form. Get rid of first past the post system. Get rid of the House of Lords or at least radically reform. Need a mainly elected second chamber. More proportional representation - as more likely to generate compromise as opposed to point scoring debate. US electoral system similarly needs changing.

We need to reform the education system - but that would be tricky and expensive.

Need people to take greater responsibility for decision making at local level. Tendency that we vote every few years and in between take no responsibility. Lots of people feel disengaged from politics. Partly this is because of the way politics are run. Edinburgh Council is a mystery to me.

Lots of problems with immigration, but people see the proximate issues and don’t understand the underlying ones. Believe people are coming in either to take jobs or take benefits - but Covid shows just how important they are to the NHS. No one turns the spotlight on the employers - just blame those who are taking the jobs. Why is it so easy for Dyson to move their whole operation to Singapore? And for Virgin to be in the Cayman Islands?

#39

Date	10th May 2020
Initials	D.C.
Age	40s
Gender	M
Job/ Sector	Painter
Format	Via Phone
Location	Remotely via phone, Interviewee in Edinburgh

Interview Questions

1. Thinking about COVID what do I appreciate about this period, and what do I not want to have to experience again?
2. Aside from coronavirus, what do you see as some of the biggest challenges of our time?
3. If we as a global society were serious about the problems how would we fix them?
4. If you were going to give a message to future generations what would you tell them?

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Appreciating nature, birds/wildlife.

Generally less mad activity/ less 'doings'. Some people having more time.

The sense of mutual aid that has sprung up. People valuing jobs (such as key worker jobs) that have not been valued by the labour market (have lower pay etc.)

For me personally I know I am quite privileged and not as affected by this as others. I wouldn't want to keep worrying a lot about other people, that this makes us all a lot more vulnerable from a health point of view.

Worrying that out of this situation might come something worse, rather than better.

Obviously Climate change. Everything feels connected, it all feels connected/ the same problem. This is a part of systems imbalance, and the neoliberal paradigm of focussing on markets, which spread over the past 30/40 years. We've been lucky not to experience these problems before.

I wish I knew.. Finding and connecting with others, who have a sense that something needs to change. I want things to be fairer.

Looking at different models such as Modern Monetary theory, which addresses the allocation of resources, labour and environmental concerns.

4. Respect the earth, respect yourself, listen to your body. Be aware and act accordingly.

Reflections on the process

Really detailed and valuable responses (because me and the interviewee had to keep rescheduling so they had the questions for a while in advance. Quite different from a more spontaneous interview, but really valuable). Talked for nearly an hour.

#40

Date 11th May 2020
Age 26
Job Newsagent
Gender Male
Location Edinburgh

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Young man doing his best to keep a family shop going and helping in his community

Interview Format

Easily agreed to talk about his thoughts but it took time to get the right phone number. He gave me the shop tel no to begin with. It would have been impossible to have the telephone interview there. Took notes and we talked a little about working at the small shop. Social distancing etc. Read his responses back to him when we finished.

Reflections on the process

Chatty but not at ease at pondering deeper questions. We kept the interview light and short.

Interview Summary

What would you like to keep from this CoronaVirus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

I have seen a lot of people helping each other out. Brilliant. Helping with shopping . Food banks and lots of kindness in the community.

Never want the football to be off again. Don't want to see scared people and people who freak out when they have to pass each other. Awkward social exchanges in the shops and on the road.

Aside from the Coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

Recession on the cards. Many of my friends on Furlow which will not go on. They are worried. I don't know where the government will get the money from are going to get the money from. My family has work with the shop and we are very busy. I am not able to build up my tan for the summer.

If we were serious about tackling the problem, What would we do?

Some people have a ridiculous amount of money. Our set up gives to the rich. We need to share more. Be in proportion. We should go down the Iceland route (i.e. not bail out the banks and big business.

#41 Eva starts

Date 11th May 2020
Age 49
Gender Female
Location Edinburgh
Format I called interviewee on the phone and took notes by hand.

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

From an economic point of view, the future is dark. The **positive** things we are experiencing from the CV-19 crisis **will not change us in the long term**, because the **economic consequences of the crisis will necessitate competitiveness**.

Interview Questions

- 1. What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period - and what would you hope never to experience again?*
- 2. Aside from coronavirus, WHAT do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world? (how do they affect you & yours?)*
- 3. WHY is this problem happening? (who benefits from it, and is anything being done about it?)*
- 4. If we were serious about tackling this problem, HOW would we? (where would we start?)*

Reflections on the process

This interview was interesting as interviewee is a friend of a colleague, and so two steps removed from me, and her views were from a business perspective. She said she enjoyed the conversation a lot!

Interview Summary

1. Would like to keep: The **simplicity of life, with less stimulation, makes thinking clearer, and you just have less choices**. Would not like to have to experience again: Strangely enough, the limited choice! Would be good if you could have the same

amount of choices, but if they could revolve in some way. The **lack of diversity** is the problem.

2. Never experience again; I am a business-oriented person, so I would say the negative **economic impact**, how it will affect the affluence of the country and how this will affect **families and individuals**. This has accelerated my choice to **change career**, so I'm now going to retrain as a cybersecurity analyst. I don't think the economic recession will affect my close circle of friends, but I have friends who are a gay couple, who both **lost their jobs** when the crisis hit. They've been furloughed now, but that put a huge amount of pressure on their relationship. Although things have settled down, there's tension in the household, **they saw a dark side to each other's characters**, so they were ready to split. We're hearing about **domestic abuse, but not the lesser things, like pressure on relationships**.

3. Who benefits from it; those who were on benefits or who were low earners, probably weren't affected much (they have probably continued on benefits or been furloughed), and the ultra rich wouldn't have been affected. But the **people in the middle - the workers and the middle classes, are facing a lot of uncertainty**. However it will benefit **anyone who seeks power through the weakening of society** - it can add leverage to a party's agenda. **Business people will use it, they'll leverage people's needs and fears, because they know there will be a vulnerable market - people will not be checking what they're buying**.

4. How do you change it? They used to say that war thinned out a generation, but CV-19 is so unprecedented, no-one could have been prepared for this, so there has to be **casualties of war, so to speak, and we just have to make peace** with this. It's too big a problem to control. It's making people rethink things, how the world needs to function. It's accelerated flexible working, and that will remain, so that's a good thing. People talk about work/life balance, and being present for their children, so they have a choice they didn't have before. The economic dip really needs a rethink of strategy. The function of business will remain - people will always want to make money, but products and services will change. Prices will have to change, there will be more competition, prices will have to come down, property prices will have to come down, firms will have excess stock that they'll need to get rid of. Over the next 5-10 years, this will shape our markets. It will rapidly accelerate the internet of things, integrated systems etc. Digital marketing etc will help ease the economic impact. However I don't think the CV-19 crisis will change people fundamentally, it will create just as competitive an environment. **There's been a lot of loss, including economic loss, and that will just breed exploitation**. Although on the positive side, **automation makes**

things more transparent, you can see where you're being exploited. For example, as we move away from cash, there's a record of transactions. So if you suddenly see a lot of money has come out of your account, you can see where that's gone too."

#42

Date	12th May 2020
Age	20s
Gender	F
Job	Graphic Designer
Location	Dundee
Format	Phone
Questions	Standard

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

The growth delusion.

Generational divide – boomers reaped the benefits and there's nothing left for us. We are a short term generation.

Big differences in experiences, opportunities and privileges.

We need a mind-set and a culture shift.

Interview Summary

Keep

Feeling calm and grounded. I always imagine the worst is going to happen and now it has, we're all in it together.

Leave behind

Uncertainty.

Biggest Challenges;

Being reactionary.

Short termism. No investment in big problems. Focus on quick political wins over long term structures.

Global warming – in 10/20 years there is no future?

We are a short-term generation. My parents got to have kids and houses, not a realistic goal for us. I can't imagine having kids.

I feel I've maxed out my contribution – so I buy less and am vegan. Frustrating to not see that reflected system wide.

The growth delusion – prioritising money. It's not normal to be buying stuff all the time. How can houses now cost hundreds of thousands and it once cost tens of thousands. If you're renting, you've got nothing to show for it.

Why is this happening?

Everyone puts themselves first.

Parents/ older gen had more privileges than us – free uni etc.

We don't have any money left so we are going to cut anything.

Populist campaigning – Brexit etc. People don't act for the good of society, they finger point to what's next to them because it's hard to blame capitalism as a whole, as its hard to dismantle.

Generational divide – baby boomers get housing and education and we don't – then they horde it. Shored up by the MPs and voters who are landlords.

Differences in privilege and opportunity and experiences.

Meritocracy doesn't exist. People are getting a leg up without even realising it.

Like private vs comprehensive education. Disparities in resources. And Scotland vs England on higher education. Groups who are privileged are not motivated to risk their benefits for someone else who has nothing.

The people who make the system have all the power, and they won't vote away their power. The system is so antiquated and its just made up of who you know. It feels so old and illogical.

How do we fix this?

Stop subsidising oil. Start investing in clean energy. Seen as controversial because this is telling people their industry is no longer acceptable.

Stop subsidising meat and dairy – animal welfare and unsustainable, bad for planet and our health.

Subsidise other crops.

Mindset shift – culture shift – people don't want to eat animals if there's a cheap tasty alternative.

The govt won't act first – individuals need to get organised and take it to the big scale.

A different kind of **system** where its not most seats wins it.

#43

Date 12th May 2020
Age 50
Gender Male
Location Edinburgh
Format Asked interviewee how his day has been? (Busy Job)

The 'Takeaways' - key observations, words/phrases, from interview

My life has not changed much

Reflections on the process

I was using my mobile and the sound was not great. I sometimes needed to ask him to repeat which got in the way a bit and influenced how deep we could go

Interview Summary

"What would you like to keep from the Corona Virus period?"

He could **not think of anything** he would like to keep from this period. His job has stayed very much the same interaction with colleagues. They are able to cooperate and discuss things together.

What would you hope to never experience again?

Lack of contact with friends and some family. I wish I could meet with friends. Lack of chat with customers and when they communicate, they often **shout through the letterbox** and I don't see them much. There is too much work maybe like Christmas all the time. He is not happy with lockdown.

Aside from Coronavirus what, what do you see as the biggest problem in the world?

Population & poverty growth. This does not influence his life directly but he knows the planet cannot support this growth.

Why is the problem happening?

UK, the rich need to go back to a **simpler** lifestyle. More like 1970s. We need to become poorer. In many ways we have been too cushioned. The rich world has taken too much and **we need to share and give up some things**, give up stuff. People in many other countries do not have the same benefits and supports. In other places (e.g. Africa) people may be better in coping with a pandemic because of their support systems and experience of dealing with huge problems already. Craig thinks in the UK the government (Scotland included) has been poor. Should have locked down sooner MI6 knew what was happening in November December 2019. There has been a particular lack of care for staff and patients in care homes. "It has been a disgrace in care homes, the people on the front line, we abandoned them. These are low paid, poor skilled people who have not been protected. **Capitalist** approach in the UK and US is wrong.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

Tax the rich have a decent **basic income**. Should have more PPE, testing, and vaccination around the world. Without change there will be **violence**.

#44

Date	13th May 2020
Age	50
Job	Primary school teacher
Gender	Female
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Talked about coping with the Zoom world & contact with children and parents using this.

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

We have to see everything with fresh eyes

Reflections on the process

Really relaxed. The interviewee encouraged me.

Interview Summary

"What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period?"

Slowing down & **simpler** life. Needing less and doing less shopping. Being more appreciative of what I have got. People are more aware of others and their needs. Like the way **people are helping each other**.

What would you hope to never experience again?

All the **loss and deaths and fear**. Frustrated by the way the UK campaign in dealing with the virus has gone. Poor planning and procedures by UK govt. People feel **powerless** about what to do. People are **fearful** and many people do not have the **support** they need especially care home staff and people on their own. As a teacher working from home it is difficult to contact families. Zoom is difficult for some parents and many families don't have the devices to make this communication possible. 1:1 phone communication is often best. **Not all parents feel confident to support their children. Teacher is worrying that children are frightened.** Children, in many cases do not know what they are doing partly because there was a lack of preparation. Children did not see the google classroom until the lock down and the virtual connection is not the same and good communication and teaching of young children is hard. This teacher has been freaked by all the technology too. At the same time she has learned so much. Her brain has been stretched. New words have entered her lexicon e.g. "waffle" for the 12 dots. Lack of the right IT support. IT is fire fighting. Their "Techy tea party" is too advanced for teachers of P1& 2.

Aside from the coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenge facing the world (how do the affect you and yours?)

Inequality and the difference between the haves and have nots. For children there are big differences to access to **learning**, inequality in **housing**, support for finding **work**, support for **mental health** issues. This affects my children who need mental health support and access to further learning and work. It is hard to get back on track now. There are huge inequalities & unfairness between countries and how they are run. Some good examples of caring and dealing with difficulties have been shown and they need to be taken up long term. There is a danger of going back to bad ways.

Why has this problem been happening? (who benefits from it, and is there anything being done about it?)

Those in **power often do not make the best decisions because have their own interests at heart**. There is a lack of knowledge and those in power fail to make connections and join things up. A lot of things come down to money and government listens to money. **Some people have too much and others who have done so much in the coronavirus time are not recognised and rewarded. Carers need to be valued. Often people on the lowest pay are doing the most.**

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would do? (where would we start?)

We have to see everything with fresh eyes. We need to reassess what and how we value things. Bringing down house prices and rent would be a good idea. Things which have over-inflated prices should cost less. We should decide what we all need to have a decent standard of living. People who can pay more should. Fairer tax system is needed.

Interviewee talked about something called "'Build it Better'" Ideas for dealing with natural disasters and change.

#45

Date	14th May 2020
Age	Mid thirties
Gender	M
Job	Teacher
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard
Format	Zoom

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Climate change, power corrupting, fear narratives, inequality ingrained in the economic system, Scottish independence, nationalize things, make those in power take those with little seriously

Interview Summary

Corona Qs

It's so much nicer to be outside – few cars, less noise pollution, air quality. It's a positive feedback loop because the more people enjoy being outside without cars, the less they feel the need to use cars

Less plane travel

Space to learn new skills

Bad things: private people and companies capitalizing out of the crisis (e.g. giving high interest loans), isolation, domestic abuse, loss of social services just when they're most needed, the government quietly privatising things

Challenges

Climate change – there's no 'tipping point' it just gradually gets worse and no-one takes any notice. Every bad milestone we pass, the world doesn't explode, so people start ignoring them as bad things (don't experience the direct consequences enough). Economic inequality (both within countries and between). The economy is broken – profit is essentially exploitation. As the economy 'grows' inequality widens, because wealth just accumulates. Money drives the world, but money is a made up concept – we don't need it. There aren't really bad guys making this happen – it's the market itself that makes this happen, which makes it really difficult to change.

Power is so corrupting. Most politicians are narcissists.

People (workers) that have little power are so easily exploited. It's so easy for powerful people to slander their weaker competitors.

A lot of powerful decisions are made behind closed doors/discreetly.

Humans are so good at division. We've had scapegoats throughout history, e.g. recently the Nazis, then the USSR, then the Middle East.

Fear of dystopian futures coming true – e.g. highly militarized system ruling by fear and control.

People don't feel big issues (e.g. climate change) personally, so don't do anything about them.

Lack of social mobility.

Social media and general media biases. E.g. the national media spent four years slandering Jeremy Corbyn rather than providing critical evaluation of the government.

Solutions

Let countries default on their loans

Tricky question about voluntary things/charities filling the gaps the government leaves.

Better to focus on protesting the government?

Scottish independence -> be more liberal -> be an example to other countries

Give way more power to local authorities rather than keeping it in

Westminster/Holyrood

Use independent think tanks

Return of the welfare state

Nationalize things.

Renewables

We originally got the welfare state because people were trained to be soldiers, went to fight for their country during the world war, then came back to England's appalling conditions. The ruling class were scared of them uprising. We somehow need those in power to take the lower classes more seriously today. Not sure how. Protests. Unions.

#46

Date 15th May 2020
Age 20s
Gender M
Location Edinburgh
Questions Standard
Format Phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Climate change as a symptom of all our issues -> focus on the causes, economics, capitalism and growth, data manipulation and media control, inequality, power and money accumulating at the top, decentralization of power, wellbeing economy, universal basic income.

Interview Summary

What would you keep/ leave behind?

Slowing down, the sense you don't have to be busy all the time -> space to process things and think about how you want the world to be (more politically engaged population)

Having more time to give to people

Momentum for fast change around crises – we need to make use of it while it's here, **chance to genuinely change the system**

It's a shit situation for sure, but maybe this **globally experienced trauma** will give the world a shared experience that helps us empathise and connect internationally.

Challenges

Climate crisis obviously, but I see the climate crisis as a symptom of a vast array of issues. **We can't solve the climate crisis without solving its socio-political causes**

Social injustice (gender, race, class) – v. **ingrained in our psyche and deemed socially acceptable** e.g. most clothing made in sweatshops

Data manipulation – control people's thoughts and the narratives we believe e.g. data targeting in elections

Everything being streamlined to absolute maximum **efficiency for profit** means there's no resilience in crises, everything is very centralised, little diversity

Neoliberalism and the ensuing lack of regulation in financial sectors. Huge amounts of wealth are created, the vast majority of which does nothing towards the public good.

Trickle down economics is a lie, wealth is just accumulated at the top, at the expense of everyone that's exploited to make it. 'Predatory capitalism'. Banks are privately owned and profit themselves, but know the government will bail them out if things go wrong -> very little risk for them. No accountability in offshore banks, so very hard to regulate and stop their exploitation. The IMF should do that, but is very bound up in US politics.

Many different factions competing for power in the top 1%, and everyone else is just a pawn in their play

Governments have too much vested interest in how things are e.g. oil and gas, whereas they should be working actively for progressive things

Education – need to learn about colonialism and what we did, get rid of this british arrogance and pride and see ourselves as part of the global community rather than superior. People are proud that 'the sun never set on the british empire' whereas if you think about it it's disgusting – we were oppressors of vast swathes of the world. Need to teach critical thinking, and empathy, rather than regurgitating facts. Teach people that they can be part of changing things, that things don't have to be this way, rather than the situation now where people are educated to accept their place in the world. Tackle inequality in terms of who gets a good education

Lack of empathy in general – we need to see others point of view.

Solutions

Local groups running themselves and being supported to address their own issues – we need to stop looking for a silver bullet that'll fix everything and accept that large scale problems need lots of small scale solutions in a well supported network. Diversity and resilience in this model.

Wellbeing economy – measure a country's success in happiness rather than profit
Universal Basic Income – support people through the transitions we need, give them the chance to have more choice and take more risks

Finance! Make it public again. State owned banks, profits to the public, loaning for public benefit

Get rid of our obsession with growth

Be honest about colonialism.

Protect civil freedoms and civil rights (in danger of the far right)

Promote a sense of self determination. Currently people feel so helpless, and stuck in their situations; their only real power is as a consumer. The more opportunity people have to make change, the more interested they are in the potential for change. Currently there's such a tension between the 'moral' choice and your vested interests i.e. financial and social e.g. all the unethical things society views as totally fine because they're cheaper

Ann Pettyfer's talks on the green new deal – people need realistic, low carbon methods for transport in rural areas, green energy and land use – redistribution of land, especially in Scotland where a higher percentage of land is privately owned than anywhere else. Community ownership of land – people feel ownership of it and care for it, build in more resilience, decentralization, good for mental health. People that work in cities should all have a few months a year where they go out to work in rural areas to reconnect with the land, and have the space to reflect that's so novel to so many people during coronavirus lockdown.

#47

Date	16th May 2020
Age	30ish
Gender	M
Job	Charity sector
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard
Format	Zoom

The 'Takeaways', key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Climate change, capitalism, concentration of wealth, infinite growth, social inertia, power away from politicians

Reflections on the process

Bit harder to talk than the others, not much hope for change

Interview Summary

Corona Qs

Space to consider what's important

Shift in mentality

Lots of people volunteering/ doing community things they wouldn't usually – hope these folk continue doing this and keep the awareness they gained

Challenges

Climate change

Capitalism (injustices highlighted by corona)

Why?

Vast concentration of wealth by those with decision making power/influence

Need for growth embedded in our system

We grow up in the system and are told it's good – little culture of imagining or fighting for change

Social inertia (sense of powerlessness) and institutional inertia

We're socialized to think we have freedom, but it's freedom as a consumer and that's limited by your wealth, so it's a false narrative

Solutions

Shift in the way power is managed – more power to the population, and more power to unbiased experts

Move from a profit based economy to a people based economy – it's not true that profit leads to a better society (maybe it was on the cusp on the industrial revolution, but not any more)

Build people power by re-empowering unions and getting people involved in local things where they can see their impact more

#48

Date	17th May 2020
Age	mid thirties
Gender	M
Job	Youth worker (outdoor activities)
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard questions

Format Zoom

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Politics is awful (corruption, bias, designed to bore people so they don't get involved), lack of community empathy, media, education, scarcity narrative, change governance system

Reflections on the process

Interesting to talk to someone with a very different spiritual outlook (strong beliefs in earth energy, strong Buddhism influence but not Buddhist)

Interview Summary

Coronavirus

Mix things up, let people experience a new way of being that might suit them more (homeschooling, working from home)

More time for **creativity** – **freedom** from the constant, society imposed **drive to be economically productive**

Time to reflect, bringing out people's **compassion**

Community spirit

Brings **terrible behaviour of politicians** to light

Bad side – brings out **fear and selfishness** in some

Challenges

Lack of compassion and empathy for each other and the planet. Genuinely think most things would be fine if we properly cared about each other

Democratic **system is broken** – fills leaders with **corruption and bias**

Us and them mentality, and overwhelming desire to cope with problems by **blaming** them on other people.

Media controlling the narratives people here, pushing right wing agendas

Politics designed to be boring and inaccessible -> so people don't get involved

Not enough people fighting for change

Why?

Scarcity and fear narrative. We're socialized to think there's not enough to go around, that we have to prioritise looking after ourselves, and we can't care about others because them having more will mean us having less. Deliberate from those in power – **scared people are easier to manipulate.**

Sense (especially in poorer communities, and amongst men) that **you have to be tough, and not feel things**. So all these people who've been screwed over and live in poverty are **so angry (speaking from personal experience during late teens)**, but don't **understand their feelings and are very easy to lure over to right wing groups** (place the blame on others).

Lack of education

Not enough emotional space to care about everyone, so just switch it off

The voices of those seeking change are squashed

How can we change these things?

Change the governance system – let the public be much more involved. Citizens' assemblies, voting on phones – get people engaged

Somehow decouple the person making decisions (e.g. the first minister) from their own political future and the political future of their party.

Individuals **take responsibility** for their world – proactively fight for what you think is important.

Pour money into **renewables research** -> **stop the scarcity narrative** with energy

Land reform -> stop the scarcity narrative with food

#86

Date	18th May 2020
Age	40s
Gender	Male
Job	System designer?
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard questions
Format	Over the phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

"Politics is trying to put a yoke on people, campaigning is trying to change people, when you do that you are telling people they are wrong. Fundamentally the things we've been doing to this point, we've been telling people the way they've been doing things is wrong. That's painful for the receiver."

Interview summary:

Q1 “I like the simplicity, the budgeting (I’ve spent barely any money on anything apart from food and a book). I’ve pared down everything in the last few years, and this is more of that simplicity. I like that there is less pressure on me to be social.”

“I am so conscious of friends who are working more productively than ever before. They’re doing it 10 to 3 with an hour for lunch and are being more productive. These were people who did 70 hours weeks as standard”

“There are social conventions that are perpetuated in the work place (false relationships and false politics). Working remotely takes a lot of those wastes out”

“Trust and respect. There was maybe a lack of respect for peoples work ethic, but then we’ve had to do this. The deliverables are there whether or not you’re in the office. The computer knows whether you’ve submitted 30 reports. The data supports whether you’re doing your work or not. The freedom to choose how you spend your time, the autonomy, must be having huge benefit.

Q2

“How do we go from this idea that growth and amassing stuff is the right way to be. How do we move from that to some measure of contentment? Not just from GDP but the pursuit of happiness is a nonsense as well. We can have fairness, equality of opportunity, we can not have poverty. We can move away from consuming and towards some measure of contentment.”

Q3 “I think amassing stuff is intrinsically human. There’s a natural amount of greed in us, designed to keep us alive in times of paucity. And it is exploited by a system that isn’t designed to make the world best for everyone. Compound interest: you put down a little bit of greed and you end up with this monster greed now.”

“I feel like saying its capitalism. I don’t think there’s anything wrong with capitalism in its original form. It probably is capitalism.”

Q4 “I’ve got a pair of really nice yellow trainers that don’t need to be replaced. I watched a video on YouTube on how to restore them to new. If we had the time to look at everything we’ve got that needs replaced, and could understand that some bit of wear and tear is ok. If celebrities were going on Graham Norton and we could see the artistry in their refurbishment of their trainers.”

“Community learning centres! That’s the thing we do now in my tenement: sharing info on hygiene, on planting, on how to get grants. We’ve formed a small learning hub in our tenement.”

Transcript

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XIHzy4czqNmsp5lxT9CYbSxZVsQQYSoz/view?usp=sharing>

#49

Date	19th May 2020
Age	29
Job	Accountant
Gender	Male
Location	Glasgow

The ‘Takeaways’, key observations, words/phrases, from interview

General spirit of neighbourliness

Running every day is great

Living in limbo

Broken political system

corrupting influences

data harvesting

lack of privacy

black holes in understanding

feels a lack of control and powerlessness

money in few hands, directing debate/lack of

New left-wing media business model required

No specific idea of how

educate yourself, read up

All other issues seem secondary to the primary challenge

Looming threat of climate change, concerns for consequences here in Scotland: higher immigration

Maintain solid base with decent human values, such as dignity, respect and fairness.

Changing attitude towards Scottish independence: less about nationalism and more an opportunity for healthy democracy

Changing attitude towards nationality: less important, being English in Scotland less an issue than values

Reflections on the process

"This was the first interview I've conducted. I know the participant and he has already been interviewed on the project. As I said above, as time went on the conversation felt more comfortable, I felt better able to help the conversation along and to get a bit deeper. I found writing notes a bit difficult, as if there was a conflict between paying close attention/listening and looking down to write notes. But this felt okay over time and my notes gave me enough to look back through after.

It felt quick to me, but on reflection we did cover a fair amount and it wasn't so fast. I was aware that I know the interviewee and therefore tried to step back, with as little assumptions as possible and to give him space. As the conversation went on it felt more natural and I was able to prompt further explanations/deepen/widen the conversation. I paraphrased some statements to clarify what the interviewee had said, and to encourage further discussion. The participant was concise in answering, which I think is why it felt fast, but over the conversation it felt more relaxed and free flowing.

Started with standard questions. Quite structured, worked through standard questions. Tried to go back to what seemed to be key points. I made notes by hand of key phrases and general direction. After going through the questions I thought it valuable to go back to question 1, about other challenges, if any, which led to more discussion.

#50

Date	19th May 2020
Age	23
Gender	Male
Location	Edinburgh

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Climate change, social issues, reluctance of politicians and companies to take risk, money is all our system incentivises, the change we need is real big and complex

Reflections on the process

I think it was good! He's thought a lot about it all so it was dead easy

Interview Summary

1. *Coronavirus*

Good – working from home (better for some people's mental health, less commuting)

Bad – the government have a massive platform to look heroic and are gaslighting everyone

2. *World issues*

Environmental and social collapse. The two are very interlinked, and in some ways that's good as if we help one we can help the other, but in other ways multiple crises are harder to deal with and make each other worse. Far from me (privilege, it's not a day to day worry, danger is far off), but definitely of concern.

3. *Why do these issues exist?*

System is based on growth, and there's no counterbalance to that. Companies are incentivised to care about profit, not employees, so people are seen as money making machines. Those who benefit are safe from the dangers/able to protect themselves, so they don't care about the issues.

What's being done about it? –

Mainly cosmetic by those in power. Private organisations only have to look good not be good, and political parties are motivated by what gets them re-elected, so focus on short term big splash things rather than long term less visible stuff. When we try to make things to tackle environmental and social issues fit the system (i.e. make tackling them profitable) we end up just gaming the thing to make it as profitable as possible rather than prioritising making it effective at tackling the issue. Governments and companies are afraid to take risks – change is much more likely to be unpopular than keeping things the same. They're looking for the easiest way to make people not object to their actions, and mostly that means not rocking the boat. People just don't want to think about big issues, they're too demoralising and we feel helpless.

4. *How could we tackle these issues, if we were taking things seriously?*

Pay taxes!

If we stay within the current system we need huge financial incentives

If we do it in a more socialist way, we need huge injections of money

We've seen from coronavirus that a lot can change very fast, but also that individual action isn't enough to stop climate change. We need a total system overhaul.

System overhaul requires huge amounts of research into how to do this well.

Transitioning has a big environmental cost (e.g. extracting metals for batteries). It'll also really upset the balance of a very interconnected world. This has to be led by governments, though if what it takes to start on that is massive investment into private

firms to incentivise them to do it too, that's what we have to do because we don't have time to not start now.

#93

Date 19th May 2020
Gender F
Job Retired nurse
Location Edinburgh
Questions Standard Questions
Format Ask questions & summarised the answers. Interviewee made adjustments

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Divide between rich and poor is primary concern.
Small organisations can have an important role to play
UK government needs to listen more

Reflections on the process

Easy and conversational

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this Corona Virus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

Keep being more in touch with people in a deeper way. I have spoken at length with people on the phone/computer that I usually only contact once a year. She has a friend in England she is now speaking to every week. She also speaks to her sister, niece and daughter every week for a Zoom chat. More time for doing creative things. Lock down has given me personal inspiration for sewing. Also doing more Yoga and walking as part of an everyday routine. Interviewee has liked the reduction in road and air travel she sees this is important for our environment but fears it will not be sustained if we return to the usual way of doing thing which she thinks we will

She does not want to experience the increased class divide. She does not think the pandemic will remove this at all. The people in key worker positions have kept the country going, they have had some recognition, but she doubts this will result in fairer pay. Unfairness and poverty have been highlighted during this time especially the position of care worker staff in care homes

Aside from the Corona virus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

Poverty is the big problem and the divide between rich and poor. This is shown by the way the corona virus has swept through poor communities like wildfire. The lack of education, health care and domestic abuse is linked to poverty. Sometimes we don't see this, but it is happening under our noses. Climate change, gas emissions affect us all but the poor are the most affected. Much of waste is plastics and is hidden under the ocean. Out of sight & out of mind

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and is anything being done?

A lot of this is political. Some of it is cultural. For example, India has huge divides because of the caste system. Greed is behind a lot of poverty in the world. Effort often goes into the wrong thing. A lot of money goes into the arms trade which is so destructive. It is driven by greed There is not enough thought about people and use of words like collateral damage reflects this lack of care and greed. Europe's movement to the right is worrying and it is bad that as a country we do not see this movement to the right. Referendums do not help. Who benefits? A very small number of people. Our system puts money in the hands of a small number of people. Our country works with corrupt governments and this goes on behind closed doors.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

Sometimes small organisations can have an influence like Amnesty and Campaign Against The Arms Trade. Small steps sometimes have big influence like Ellen Moxley throwing the computers from a Nuclear submarine into the Loch. They were listened to. They act in a quiet way and are not in governments pocket. Governments need to listen to see what poverty actually is. Take note of inequalities and the hypocrisy which praises care workers, paying them badly planning to deport them.

#51

Date	20th May 2020
Age	30s
Gender	X
Job/ Sector	Sustainable Travel
Location	Remotely via phone, Interviewee in Edinburgh

Interview Questions

1. *Thinking about COVID what do I appreciate about this period, and what do I not want to have to experience again?*
2. *Aside from coronavirus, what do you see as some of the biggest challenges of our time?*
3. *If we as a global society were serious about the problems how would we fix them?*
4. *If you were going to give a message to future generations what would you tell them?*

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

People seem to have had a change in mindset, I'm paying more attention to birds/nature, I just have more time to appreciate these things.

Generally there has been more solidarity. Climate change (CC) is like that too, it's an issue we're all affected by. It would be good if that awareness could stick too.

I wouldn't want to keep Zoom meetings because of fatigue, and some folks driving more dangerously.

CC is the big one which connects to all others. Inequality is a big issue. (And any minority will be disproportionately affected by CC.)

The UN would get all nations to declare a climate emergency. Now we've seen what we do when it's an actual emergency (as with COVID) we can take notes from that and respond appropriately and make some more permanent changes. There's no vaccine for climate change either.

COVID is a fantastic opportunity we just need to make global leaders believe it too.

I would say some of us tried really hard [to stop climate change] but there was such inequality. The people in power (governments, the media) played upon the fears of most people. By the time people realised it was starting to be too late. I hope in your time you have better political systems.

It's not an excuse, we could have done more, but we tried.

#87

Date 21st May 2020
Age 30s/ 40s

Gender	M
Job	'Patrick M'
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard
Format	Over the phone, me typing on laptop

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

I couldn't get on board with XR. It is too messagey. I think the world is pretty complicated. If you just push very hard on a particular agenda and particularly if you use fear, it just switches me off.

"The environmental problem is a symptom of an underlying problem. To be hammering hard on the symptom doesn't lead you to where you want to go. It's like going to a Doctor and getting hysterically upset about the symptom and not addressing the cause."

Interview summary

Q1 - I definitely have enjoyed the sense of the world slowing down, but there's been quite a lot of anxiety. Implications down the road for the most vulnerable people – the non-asset owning low wage people"

"I enjoyed not hearing planes overhead and being conscious of that, and the massively reduced volume of traffic, and the deer."

Q2 - Finance is like a magical sphere that has us hoodwinked into seeing it as very respectable and well understood and definable. But its really magical, its pulling the next shape of human experience which will shape the next shape. If you create a million pounds out of nothing for someone and . . . you issue it to arms manufacturers and construction then you get arms and housing estates. If you issue it to community groups then you have a material impact there."

"It's less the material level. It's our psychology, our conditioning. The amount of fear or trust - our lack of emotional security. Some few hundred Eton educated people conditioned into fear and survival have a huge impact. It's a psychological level that then manifests through power dynamics."

Q3 - I think that's been really ramped up in the West by hundreds of years of moving towards a materialist way of understanding the world. It's basically fear. If you come from that place and your strategy is to gather material protection against that then

there is no limit to it. You will never be satisfied. An endless attempt to try to feel safe and not using the right strategy.”

Q4 - We need some kind of social revolution but history has shown that when we are thrown into a context of fear that is capitalised on by those operating out of fear. The French revolution, the Arab spring, once it turns into a fear based context it is very difficult for progress to come out of it. What’s needed is safety and trust, connection, a sense of not being pushed into survival mode.”

“At the moment it feels like the more we want to try and change things the more tension is created and the more opposition we create to that change.”

“Wouldn’t it be amazing if you got a diverse room of people together to agree a story, a collaborative fairy tale, together. Bringing all their fears and hopes to it. Even with a fairly big group you could do break out groups. Not trying to do anything but find a story that can give us hope.”

Transcript

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haring

#52

Date	25th May 2020
Age	55
Gender	Female
Job	Social Worker, managerial post
Location	Edinburgh
Format	On zoom

The ‘Takeaways’ Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

It’s all about power

Need top down and bottom up approach

Divisions of people prevent change

Need equality although there will always be poor

Our whole system needs to change in order to have more equality

Need to focus on what is essential in life not more things

Reflections on the process

I know the participant and the balance was between listening but also keeping her to the questions we were focusing on

Interview summary

Covid 19 lockdown :Keep

Reduced cars on the road, making cycling more enjoyable. Would like more cycle routes like in Milan. More space to walk on the road so would like bigger sidewalks

Quite enjoyed the quieter supermarkets so queuing outside was OK (not in Winter!)

Having more time and not be consumed by work: able to be more creative, upcycling, loved being in the garden more

Spending less money and not buying things I do not need “rubbish”

Recognizing what is important in life – back to the essentials, shelter, food, community. This highlighted poverty and inequality. We do not need to eat out as much and drink all these takeaway coffees. Helpful to recognise what is luxury

Covid 19 Lockdown: Never Experience again

Want there to be some flights to get away but recognise we need to travel less

Restrictions of lock down – being indoors away from friends. Don’t believe all restrictions are needed. This was a poorly thought out strategy and don’t believe government have told us the truth. They know it is not all necessary. They need to treat individuals as responsible people

I missed going places and seeing people and I do not want to do everything online

I hate being forced to work from home all the time as I need to separate work from my other life

Biggest Challenges:

Terrible Leaders – Trump, Johnson, Kim Jong-un

Poverty is a big one. Especially the disparity between rich and poor and not just the mega rich people like us

Divisions between people e.g.: the plight of Rohingya Muslims

The economy being prioritised over people well- being and health

Why is this problem happening?

Greed, power, super rich. The wealth is fed into a particular group. People in power are only interested in self. Psychopathic tendencies of leaders which are far removed from the people. They make life and death decisions without seeing the consequences. Not sure if they know the consequences and ignore them or if they really do not know. There are social groups like XR and other activists but unsure if they are effective at making change. Using examples like social bite or Woman's aid who have made a difference, but this is just local, and the power has not shifted. We have more equality as women and then things which happened in the Netflix series "Unorthodox" make us realise how controlling male power.

What should we do?

Top down and bottom up approach – need people at decision making level. Used the example of social bite – does it get to the root of the problem or just solve the symptoms.

Maybe the Royal family could do more? Prince William raising the profile of men's mental health

Our whole system has to change, and we need more equality and accessibility for marginalised people e.g.: yoga done in expensive studios, instead of being available for all especially those in need

Need to focus on getting everyone the essentials – home, food, security rather than rich getting more. Covid 19 has exposed the problems in our society with poor health, lack of housing and poverty and we need to go back to what is essential in life ensuring those in need get it

#84

Date	25th May 2020
Age	70s
Gender	Male
Job	'Derek J' – Retired GP
Location	Near Edinburgh

Questions standard
Format Over phone

The ‘Takeaways’ Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Q1: “Helpful reminders of a possible future but I’m not convinced people will act on those. The fact it is there in reality rather than “how would it be if?”, has to be positive.”

“Maybe we’re all considering “Given the world’s turned upside down, what’s important in my life?” Maybe everyone in their own small way is doing that. Loosening up the sense of “dread and doom, the world’s going down the tubes”

Q2: “The biggest ones are climate change and biodiversity crisis which are linked, and linked to that is right wing populism and fake news, and the whole rubbishing of rationality and science.”

“A potential for moves in the right direction from the experience of world-wide being under threat, with no exceptions. And the warmth of response from most people being “How do I help us through this””, rather than just putting up the walls.”

Q3: “Neoliberal economics and globalization.”

“Thatcher and co started, but then Tony Blair and Gordon Brown continued opening up the market, so industries went down the tubes, industries that people identified themselves with and valued themselves through. The power of the market trampling on peoples sense of value. The idea we’ll all be better if the world is trading more.”

Q4: “For me personally, what does it mean to listen to other points of view without judgement? It is much easier to jump to judgement. But I am aware that that is only likely to foster othering.”

“How do I understand the Brexit voter, those I profoundly disagree with, and get away from trying to convert them, and instead asks “How did we get here?””

Transcript here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QWsfT63XjlanrVVM8f6ake-cLAisxwi0/view?usp=sharing>

#53

Date 26th May 2020
Age 17
Gender Male
Location Ayr
Format Over telephone - semi structured

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

"Never felt as much freedom, even though I've been locked in a house for weeks" -
Thoughts during coronavirus period.

More time to think for myself. (during coronavirus period)

Flawed economy - Unequal, People not free to pursue what they would like to do in life.

Reflections on the process

First one on telephone and the youngest person I've interviewed. Felt comfortable about asking deepening the conversation, but also aware of the sensitivity of someone so young talking about a bleak future. Maybe we need to suggest somewhere in the about aftercare of participants.

Interview Summary

Described coronavirus period 'having more time to think for myself'. No School stress, no deadlines. The pressure of 'normal' life resulted in him having no motivation to do other things. Where now he has started reading books, because he wants to. Enjoying the less demand on his time and reduced expectation of others (particularly from School) on him. Feels School doesn't treat young people as humans, but simply things that need to get through the system, like all those before. He doesn't think Schools train people to use their own minds, but instead regurgitate information.

He doesn't want to see the return of social restrictions. Not being able to see friends face to face. He really doesn't like the feeling of thinking he, or other think, he's a threat to people, in terms of passing on a virus. Experiences this when walking past people in the street.

Biggest challenges were – Pollution, Plastics and the use of fossil fuels. Decision that were made 70 years ago, are now hitting hard with effects on the environment.

Thinks the economy is flawed. Cites the capitalist system is designed to serve the 1 %. It's unequal. The 1% do not care about sustainability, but only care about profit.

Also results in people not being free to pursue something that will make them happy.
Also results in poor mental health.

Other challenge is around food production. Need to ban industrial animal production. Meat should be seen as a luxury item. And be more expensive.
Much of the landscape is manmade. Would like to experience places that haven't been affected.

The smell of car exhausts and petrol stations affect him. Finds it unpleasant. Also, the smell 'links to how the earth is deteriorating'. Notices how plants that grow closer to the road in verges are often in a worst state than plants grown further away from road.

The environmental issues make him feel scared about what the future is likely to be for him, and his future children.

Thinks the economic system needs to change from being profit centred. But also thinks human nature means people will always want more, which needs to change. The 1% do not care about sustainability, but only care about profit.

#91

Dae	26th May 2020
Age	42
Gender	Male
Job	'Colin J' – management consultant
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard 4 questions
Format	Over phone, typed up on laptop while interview happened

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Q1: Half the airlines going under would be good for the planet but not for those working in them, so need for retraining or simply connecting people with opportunities that are emerging.

Q2: The biggest challenge the world faces is coordinated action

Q3: How we've understood our political and economic life, homo economicus, the assumption that everyone is selfish. It doesn't have to be like that.

Q4: It's often only when people are forced into uncomfortable situations that difficult decisions get made, and step changes happen. Massive shifts in behavior become possible.

Interview summary

Coronavirus period?

Positives:

Noticeable in my work. Before we had to be careful about kids being around, now it has become very normal and loosens things up.

No rush hour, less CO2 pollution, less local air pollution, more people walking and cycling, and city centres being adapted to cycling. Are cycle lane and walking lanes permanent features of city centres? Are the economic stimulus options carbon heavy or carbon light? Are all the airports saved or are businesses subsidized to work remotely?

Half the airlines going under would be good for the planet but not for those working in them, so need for retraining or simply connecting people with opportunities that are emerging.

A lot of the economy still thinks people can't be trusted. Presenteeism, you only work when you're in the office. But there are ways of managing a business that show people can be trusted.

Negatives:

People fall into two groups: those who live with families and those who live on their own – facing opposite challenges of being stuck with people 24/7 or isolated. Both would probably like a family swap

Obviously for a lot of businesses and people's livelihoods it's been massively tough. Uncertainty has been very damaging. A lot of the awful things since 2008 can be put down to the way the costs and benefits were distributed

Big mental health issues. The more vulnerable people are the more they'll be suffering mental health issues, so inequality is exacerbated.

Biggest challenges?

You can always kick climate change down the road . . . Giving up Track and Trace in March is analogous to what we've been doing with climate change. The biggest challenge the world faces is coordinated action

Why is this problem happening

Self-interest. Coordination problem, it's collectively in everyone's interest to cooperate, but it's in everyone's individual interest to be selfish.

There were lots of ills in the 70s but the solution was to go from a collective model that wasn't really working to extreme individualism powered by an economic model which sees people as selfish and individualistic, and it became accepted wisdom. It's how we've understood our political and economic life, homo economicus, the assumption that everyone is selfish. It doesn't have to be like that.

How tackle it?

It's often only when people are forced into uncomfortable situations that difficult decisions get made, and step changes happen. Massive shifts in behavior become possible: (1) how we use energy and carbon production particularly around traveling, much cleaner greener way of living, (2) and how people organise their lives, how flexible their working lives are, both location and timing, and how they relate that to their family life, and different ways of being with families and friends, how they organise their time. (1) Climate emergency, and (2) ways of working and living have been evolving but this gives it a massive kick forward

In a way its events like this which have the power to bring communities together and emphasise what we have in common, how much better off we are when we work together, and that we aren't people who just think about ourselves.

#54

Date	27th May 2020
Age	23
Male	Gender
Job	University student
Location	Glasgow
Questions	The big 4 questions

Format On the phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Human greed is the problem – intrinsically selfish

Don't know if you can solve these problems

Need a revolution

Politicians do not work for the people

Young people have been really badly affected by covid 19

Reflections on the process Interesting talking to a young person who does not really think about climate change or have ideas about solving it – other people are the problem and someone else is the solution

"Interview summary:

What would you keep: nothing massively. Cant think of much as I have not enjoyed this at all. Maybe this limbo has given me a chance to do things that I would never have got round to doing like learning Spanish, reading the bible. Hope never to experience again: social isolation , not seeing friends nor meeting up with girls, not seeing wider family. Everything is on pause and that stresses me out as I like to move forward. Being indoors so much is poor for mental health especially for young people who have been hit hardest by this

Biggest Challenges aside from covid 19: challenges stem from human greed – so much is wrong with the way we live. Wars and exploitation of others by those in power. The NHS has been badly hit by Conservative cuts and selfish policies. I lead a pretty sheltered life away from the challenges – does not affect me really. Lots of people do not have the drive I have to get on in life. Social media such as TikTok is dangerous and young people want instant gratification – dopamine rush and short attention span. I am disciplined so took myself off all this but most people cannot do this – they do not have the drive and determination.

Why are these problems happening: those who are rich and in power benefit and want to keep things the same. The inequality is so bad but it is the selfishness of human nature – they do not care for others. The rich get richer. On a global scale I see myself as rich but on a Western civilisation comparison I am just middle class and not the top 5%. Conservative government is 100% the problem as are most politician. They make the rules and ensure that they benefit.

What would we do if we saw this as serious: don't know if you can tackle these problems. Need a drastic change a revolution. However even if that happened human nature would make those with vested interests look after themselves. It's all human nature and politicians manipulate this. Need someone with the money and power to change the system to be more equal.

#55

Date 27th May 2020
Age 40s
Gender F
Location Edinburgh
Format Face to face (at social distance) at my home.

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

"There are caring people in a not caring society. If we are brave enough to be open we can support each other.. The world is horribly unequal.

A deep feeling of human goodness given the chance. Balanced by a feeling of the littleness of the individual to combat inequality. Knowing it could be better and should be.

Reflections on the process

I felt many times of empathy with my interviewee. Often sad at the feelings of impotence expressed. Great feeling of warmth and admiration for her personal work and commitment to caring . Her wanting to ' do it better' 'not just think it a good idea ' Her own frustration with her inaction.. A feeling of privilege to hear another's honesty.

Interview summary:

Like to keep from this crisis

Everyone is disclosing their vulnerability.

Admitting difficulties. More honest. If we are brave enough to be open we can support each other.

Never experience again

Seeing extreme stress / anxiety and consequential lashing out.

Biggest Challenges

WHAT: Inequality and over population .Inequality of income. The world is horribly unequal.We have finite resources. We need to be responsible.We are fortunate and comfortable and in a bubble. Why is it ok for some people to earn so much ? Nightmarish scenario. Also massive inequality in Cultural Capital . Really massive problem.

WHY: Everything is cyclical. It's taken a long time to get here. There's an inevitability about how humans work. We can't hold back. Once there is a ' me first' climate it's hard to go back. ' Middle People ' don't know what to do. (My impact is insignificant. Doesn't matter what I do , as viewpoints) It is difficult to connect up these middle people. Those already high up the ladder benefit. Money makes money.

HOW to tackle the problem: Put oneself in another's shoes. People don't do stuff from being told what to do , or force. It comes from a sense of everybody being a part of something . Genuine motivations.It's a great opportunity while barriers are down to act from feelings felt collectively. // Contact trusted leaders in existing community groups with established community respect. Bring ideas to them. Ask for community ideas. // Change the curriculum to bring about equality in Cultural Capital.// Connect people from very different walks of life. // ' We all conform without thinking '

MY QUESTION : “Why do you think people don't care about large political questions?”

// 1 Not caring is contagious. 2 Human trait : ' my opinion is not important' So we become protective and defensive. 3 ' There are caring people in a not caring society , they are drowned out by the louder ones . So they just focus on what they can do ...family , neighbours etc. // We need to create an environment where people feel they matter , are valued and accepted // My HOPE is in in things like AVAAZ which overtakes national politics. It makes sense to connect people from all over the world.

#85

Date	27th May 2020
Age	21
Gender	Male
Job	Artist/ student
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard 4 questions

Format Over the phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Q1: "a lot of people on furlough . . . aren't having to work to keep going. A lot of people like that are finding it hard, might sit down and watch Netflix. They aren't self-motivated. It brings round a revelation on who you are"

"People are taught to get to a certain place but not how to deal with it. To get to a certain job, careers or something, but no one teaches you how to deal with the pressures. That transposes to the Corona thing where you have to stay indoors but very small amount of info on how to deal with that."

Q2: "Mental health. Peoples personal mental state is their first reality"

"Everyone has mental health issues. Two people can feel terrible in completely different situations. Someone can be a single parent, living on the street or in massive high paid job - can be feeling the same."

Q3: "A lack of education even from being in schools. If people were being educated as well as everything else people would be able to do the right thing without their own personality getting in the way, being able to be a lot more contemplative."

Q4: "If you look on Instagram, and see NHS workers in their environment it is a completely different feeling than walking into the hospital. If you walk outside and see things you understand and believe it and have such a solidified experience. Its reality, it's not an image. The Instagram experience has a salience, it's very appealing to what you find important. Instagram etc is not shaped just by you but by cookies, by what you regularly type in. Which is exactly like the news, they use what they think you'll find interesting. It's all a marketing thing."

Transcript:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SX2uyG3wE7lumiZdaNIVOlj5mgEDNtjh/view?usp=sharing>

#90

Date 27th May 2020
Age 20s/ 30s?

Gender	F
Location	Fife????
Questions	Standard 4 questions
Format	Over the phone, me typing

Interview summary:

Coronavirus period?

Keep:

The more relaxed family time. Before my partner was out working 5 days a week and not seeing the kids much, and the older kid was out at nursery and would come back tired and have that meltdown period when she'd be quite emotional. But that dynamic changed. We're having 3 meals a day round the table as a family. My partner is a great cook, we've been eating healthily. Not having that rush rush rush life.

So I'm hoping that when things go back to some kind of normal we can keep this kind of family life. You're not just saying no to things, you have the time to say yes. I was so busy with my 4 yr old, other people were teaching her stuff but I can do stuff by myself, maybe in a way I was avoiding the messy play at home, but actually I really enjoy doing all that at home. As a family all of us have come together a lot more.

My work has realised that a lot can be done at home. . . . As long as you get the job done it doesn't matter when it gets done. I suppose there is more trust. How much of a Friday is wasted in a 9 to 5, but then there's a whole social time. . . .I don't know if there's the same flow that you would get face to face. Over time and it will become fine, because it's what you're used to. As humans, it's amazing how quickly you adapt.

Negative:

Anxiety over everything , the reason we're in lockdown. At the beginning I was watching loads of news and getting scared about everything. If I just concentrate on what we're doing everything seems much better.

My 4 yr old is . . . mad with the germs and wants the germs to go away now. . . . Her friend came over for her birthday and they had a window chat. She was sobbing. It was a from the heart cry. There is a whole element of missing out on her friends. What kind of world are you going to be living in. Thoughts of the future because everything is so unknown. It's such a time for reshaping and making a better world, but the thing that's weird is the social distance aspect.

Biggest challenges facing the world?

We're got a whole cohort of young people who are already disengaged from society, from hard families who can't get a minute to themselves, can't get safety. And you worry the council will say there's no way of working with them.

Interviewer: Why are the people you work in in that situation?

Family circumstance, areas where they live. All the young people we work with don't engage with school. More and more we're seeing young people with mental health issues. Their sleep patterns are terrible, on their phones, awake until 6am then sleeping all day. If we can't engage with them face to face and get them out the house.

Why is this problem happening?

Structure of our society. People in power not giving equal opportunities. A feeling of powerlessness and not feeling worthy, and so living the life that feels expected of them.

The situation has brought out that you are privileged if you can stay at home and not go out. You see post, delivery people, nurses - their jobs are so important and keep the world going. . . My admiration for bin men, you really appreciate it. Whereas before you wouldn't think twice. I see the importance of their work in a way I didn't before.

How can we tackle this problem?

Everyone getting the same amount of money. . . I don't want to sit in my house saying I'm so lucky, when there are families out there really struggling. This is a situation everyone's in. The Government has brought in ways to help the furloughed people, for people in high paid jobs they're being paid loads. There's loads of complex processes. Would it not be simpler to bring in a universal income that evens everything out better? But the problem is the people who make a lot of money have more control.

#56 - Mim starts

Date	28th May 2020
Age	50 - 55
Gender	F
Job	Primary teacher
Location	Edinburgh

Questions Standard Questions

Format Ask Questions & summarised the answers. Interviewee made corrections and adjustments

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

She sees pollution as a big concern and working to save the **environment** as a priority

We need laws which protect the environment

Would never like to experience not being able to hug family and friends again. It is not good when humans don't have contact with others.

Reflections on the process

Interview was straight forward and made enjoyable by our shared love of the natural world

What would you like to keep from this Corona Virus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

I would like to keep the sense of **community spirit** and have time to know my neighbours better. We have a street Whatsapp group which has helped communication. This has helped organise getting shopping for each other, a quiz and sharing jokes. There is a neighbour who has been organising delivery of certain foods to the whole street. Not everybody has What's App. Many of the older residents do not have this but neighbours have been calling round to see if shopping is needed. Kids have been making cards and putting them through letter boxes. There have been fewer cars and this has encouraged some street play and chalking games like hopscotch etc. Few hedges and low walls have helped communication. She has enjoyed learning with her child. Air quality is better with fewer cars on the road.

Would never like to experience not being able to hug family and friends again. It is not good when humans don't have contact with others and some people are very isolated. The interviewee found queuing demanding and sometimes this has been anxious making. She has seen increased **fear** with people wearing masks and gloves. She has not liked the **loss of freedom** and not being to go for walks in wilderness and parks which are further away. She also misses being unable to go swimming and going for meals with friends.

Aside from the Coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

She sees **pollution** as a big concern and working to save the environment as a priority. Plastics in the sea go through the food chain. She believes we need a world which is

more sustainable which has space for humans and other species. She cites Norway as a country which has been fishing in a more sustainable way.

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and is anything being done?

Population is increasing and people want to travel to the detriment of the environment. The desire to make money and acquire wealth is behind a lot of the problem. People need to think more carefully about the way we **spend money**. There is a lot wrong with the way business operates.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

We need laws which protect the environment e.g. reducing packaging. I need to personally think about what I am buying. Individuals and governments need to change the way of doing things.

#57

Date	28th May 2020
Age	50 - 55
Gender	M
Job	Groundsman
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard Questions
Format	Ask questions & summarise the answers. Interviewee made corrections adjustments

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Noticed changes in weather patterns.

The changes in climate will have a big impact, he does not think this will affect him so much, but it will affect future generations.

There is a too big divide between rich and poor

Reflections on the process

Interview was straight forward and made enjoyable by our shared love of the natural world

What would you like to keep from this Corona Virus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

Interviewee likes the community feel and people helping more and looking after each other. The interviewee works as a groundsman at a public institution, is in work when there are a few people there, other colleagues on furlough. There is little traffic when he goes to work. He enjoys the peace and quiet and increased opportunity to observe wildlife. He has noticed that staff and people living round the building have become more interested in wildlife. Generally, the place has developed more interest in using outside space e.g. there has been more outdoor learning and children have been climbing the trees. A deer has been spotted running through the grounds. Fox and cubs have also been seen. This Covid time has given nature time to flourish in the area. He feels wildlife is getting closer. People have been walking through grounds. He has also noticed a more relaxed and kinder atmosphere in the building. There has been more valuable chat and the chef has been cooking and baking for folk who are in during this time.

Interviewee has not liked the lack of freedom and not being able to travel further to go on long walks. He misses not being able to get right out into the country.

Aside from the Coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

Overpopulation and pollution. Too much pollution and turning the world into a concrete jungle. He is concerned about the chopping down of the trees and destruction of the natural environment in the world. He sees wars are a huge problem in the world. He thinks that this time will affect people mentally. He has noticed changes in weather patterns. It used to be colder. It has become wetter and windier. There are more weather extremes. This year the swallows have come in the last week in April. This is earlier than usual.

The changes in climate will have a big impact, he does not think this will affect him so much, but it will affect future generations.

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and is anything being done?

Amount of people on this earth is behind the problem. Big business, big cars and too much money in some hands adds to the problem. Some people have too much money. There is a too big divide between rich and poor

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

He has some clear ideas. We need renewable energy wave and wind turbines. We need more electric vehicles. He believes that we must increase tree planting.

Date 29th May 2020
Age 57
Gender Male
Location Edinburgh
Format Face to face in garden

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Biggest problem is the upsurge of Right Wing politics around the world. He had felt fired up by left wing politics in the late 1980's but now feels depressed and fatalistic that change will not happen

Reflections on the process

Moving. Depressing. I asked if he was alright at the end and he said he was fine. My sense was that he accepted how he felt. Didn't expect more or better. This man is friendly, outgoing, knows everyone on the street as he has grown up here. A caring man.

Interview summary:

KEEP : freedom to move about, get to his work. Cleaner air. Nature coming back.

NEVER AGAIN : the loneliness , not seeing family. He was mostly thinking of others

Biggest Challenge

WHAT : Right wing politics around the world. It depresses me and makes me anxious. Bullying people who indoctrinate. Propaganda through modern media.

WHY : Money driven. The more people have the more they want. Since the caveman. Big business with huge control. Politicians don't run the country it's big business. It's human nature to want more. Money is power. There's nothing being done about it. (I want some more money but I don't want power over others.)

HOW to tackle the problem

I don't know. I was excited about politics in the late 1980's with Militant Labour etc.. Nothing fires me up now. Feeling outrage, but it goes nowhere. (at the time of Grenfell we gave £372m to renovate Buckingham Palace.) What can you do ? What does a march do ? I just live in my own world. Family , neighbours. I expect disappointment. Greta Thunberg, she's only changing things around the edges. We need to hear more of these voices.

Politics is run by big business and we can't change that, or change human nature.

#59

Date 30th May 2020
Age 50's
Gender Female
Job Manager @ funding organisation
Location Zoom
Questions As on sheet

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Wants to have choice rather than imposition

Needs governments and industry to do more about environmental destruction

People do respond if they are educated and know the results of their choices

However, they can choices to themselves which are bad for the environment"

Interview summary:

1. Keep from Covid 19: I will definitely take the opportunity to work more from home. I want to keep the less frenetic pace of life and live more centred around my home. I will question myself as to if I really need to buy this. I have bought many less things and saved money. I have loved the bird song and noticing the nature around me. I have enjoyed travelling more sustainably and buying food once a week. I do not own a car which is a good thing

Hope Never to experience again: I do not like the lack of choice and the imposition of the government on my life. It has been hard not to go out and see friends or visit my mum who is shielding. I live alone. I understand why but the imposition of it all is hard to put up with.

2. The biggest challenge is the destruction of the environment: There is no global united action and we have world leaders who work against environmental policies. People have come together with Covid but they have not for the environment, as its destruction is gradual and often unseen. Pollution affects me and is a silent killer behind lung disease. On a daily basis it annoys me when people trash our environment

locally, dumping rubbish and dog poo which is a danger to wildlife. It makes me feel sad and bad that they do not look after the environment.

3. Why is it happening? Most people do care but the change is coming along too slowly. Laws need tightened up by the government and we need far reaching government legislation in order for things to change. People are aware and are changing eg: increase in veganism, not buying plastic straws after Blue Planet TV show but often here it is not evident on a day to day basis how we are destroying the planet. We and I justify our behaviour such as taking a flight and saying, “well I only live once’.

4. If we were serious about challenges what would we do: We would take pride in passing environmental laws to look after our nation and become a **Global leader** worldwide in leading the way out of this destruction. WE should not be relying on fossil fuel and the government should invest in sustainable energy supplies. It should be more profitable to make recycled packaging and make things sustainable. If sustainable industries were given support by the government then they could become profitable and people would be encouraged to work in these industries. Schools are active in educating children about the environment and how we should look after it – they no doubt teach their parents (I do not have children). On reflection I have blindly been doing things which add to the destruction of our eco system but with the right education people will do the right thing. Retailers and industry need to help consumers make the right choice. Ecological solutions need to be of good quality and affordable for consumers.

#60

Date	30th May 2020
Age	40s
Gender	Female
Job	Piano teacher
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard questions.
Format	Conducted in person.

The ‘Takeaways’ Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Wishes to: “keep a slower pace” “Glad to step off the treadmill – everyone forced to step off.” “Value placed on material, external values – lockdown has taken things out of

sight, out of mind, so focus is on home and family.” “Children (4 boys) relating better, collaborating . . . really refreshing.”

Never again: “manipulation in the media” “political posturing” “judging in public, self-righteousness” “observing “feelings of empire” in others – upstanding citizen, following orders, vindicated in their beliefs” “sad to see hardship inflicted on people, concerns for children in neglectful homes, lockdown has highlighted inequalities and injustices.”

Major challenges: “Trust.” “who should we trust, too much subterfuge and manipulation by governments, businesses . . .” “all info presented in its own colour: even if presented in black and white then people interpret it in their own colour.” “Manipulation of facts.”

Hopes for: “a more shared debate.” “people to be a part of the plan – rather than dictated to.” “People to have shared knowledge and responsibility, to take ownership of collective challenges.” Feels that with “more honesty there can be a healthier collaboration in society.” “Greta Thunberg movement: was it honesty and openness of mission which enabled her to harness collective power and energy?””

Reflections on the process

I really enjoyed listening to the interviewee and giving her space, offering small prompts and returning back to questions or specific points for elaboration.

Interviewee commented after that she found it really healthy having space, not being interrupted and being able to reflect out loud.

Interview summary

The interview was with my neighbour. We shared a communal space. The interview followed the standard question set but was very broad and flowed between questions throughout.

#61

Date	1st June 2020
Age	60s
Gender	female
Job	Organisational development
Location	Aberdeen

Questions Standard
Format phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Lockdown has been a transformative period personally, learning to get used to being a widow and on her own in a more comfortable way. Has also appreciated the closer community but has felt anxious about people not following the rules. Needs to be a balance between individual responsibility and the responsibility of leaders/government moving forward.

Reflections on the process

An enjoyable conversation for us both, with much reflection and connection

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period?

Seeing a lot more kindness, people pulling together. I speak to 2 neighbours no I didn't even know existed.

I feel much more relaxed. I don't feel a pressure – before I felt I didn't like being in the house on my own. Tried to meet friends, go shopping, be organised. But I feel much more contented being at home now – there's no where else to go! Everyone else is in the same boat. Initially I had a wobble but now I can let go of planning because every day is the same. I've had more time for reflection

I feel I've learned a lot about myself. I had thought I'd be much happier if my husband was still alive, but others tell me their husbands are driving them mad! I now have more contact with my children over the phone which feels good.

I've also enjoyed the quiet roads and the pollution has lifted, more birds, more wildlife – all around the world

What do you hope never to have to experience again?

I feel quite positive about this period but it bugs me when people don't stick to the rules. I also hope we would be more prepared another time

Apart from Coronavirus, what do you consider to be the biggest challenges we face as a nation?

Concerns me that people will go back to the way they were before – busy, money grabbing, back on the tread mill and not notice what we're doing to the planet. There's pressure from the government to show we have a great economy. Everyone's striving to do better, to have more. We buy things and then throw them away. I remember as a

child that my father bought a pair of golf shoes that lasted for decades! He took care of them and they were immaculate. My son doesn't take care of his golf shoes and wants to buy the newest model. With more money comes more waste.

Government needs money for infrastructure and this is a vicious cycle We have higher expectations for services – higher standards.

And the world as a whole?

This is a problem which is growing as affluence increases around the world -and it's only going to get worse!

Why do you think these problems are happening? Who's benefiting? Is anything being done about them?

We all want more, we don't want to be left out – so I guess we're all benefiting in a way. And of course, those who make the most money out of it all are benefiting the most. At the moment, we're not really addressing the problem

If we were serious about solving these problems, what would we do?

Individually, we'd have to take a look at how we contribute. We need to consider what we buy, where it is made, etc Also take more responsibility about our own environment eg people used to sweep the pavement outside their own houses.

We also need to think more about kindness and how we can be kind to one another

The government needs to look at how society works as a whole – re-evaluate our values. The NHS and other public services should be valued more, as well as other key workers like shopkeepers The government needs to come together – the cabinet needs to be multi-party so that politicians are forced to collaborate.

#62

Date	3rd June 2020
Age	60
Gender	M
Job	Retired
Location	Aberdeen
Questions	Standard
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Population growth and increasing affluence in the developing countries is the main problem the world faces as this will drive up energy and resource demand well beyond what is sustainable

Reflections on the process

Very different from other interviews! Very simple, straight forward answers with not much elaboration. Also, some resentment about having life restricted over the CV period.

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period?

People helping each other eg helping neighbours with shopping etc. Community spirit, and even talking to neighbours I haven't ever spoken to before!

People haven't felt the need to do things like shopping, going to restaurants/bars, etc. Feels like people enjoy more simple things, including walking, cycling etc. I've enjoyed these things too! The weather has been good of course, but I've been surprised how much time I've been happy to spend in the garden, reading and cycling

What do you hope never to have to experience again?

Restrictions on what you can and can't do! Even those things you can do, like going to the supermarket haven't been very pleasant. There's a lot of fear around, don't enjoy that. I also don't like the group dogma – you should do what you're told without questioning – quasi religious. Eg It's for the good of the fatherland, we're all in this together. Neighbours reporting on each other etc

Apart from Coronavirus, what do you consider to be the biggest challenges facing the world?

Population growth and overstraining the resources eg energy, water, land and the consequences that come from that. Climate change is the consequence of that. Poverty and famine – you could say that's the consequence of population growth and overstretching the resources at least partly. It doesn't directly affect me/mine very much but more concerned about **my children's future** – could cause all kind of instability like this pandemic. Who knows what else might happen. There's growing affluence as well so which is driving demand for resources

Why do you think these problems are happening? Who's benefiting? Is anything being done about them?

I don't know – maybe it's just the nature of population growth – eg it grows to the extent that resources are available. Also as things get better and easier, people want more.

I can't see how anyone benefits but population growth, but those who are enjoying more affluence are benefiting from that. Seeing land in the UK being made into building sites but don't know who benefits from that except the builders and those getting houses maybe

If we were serious about solving these problems, what would we do?

The richer countries will have to find some way of supporting the poorer countries, but not in a way that increases population. Otherwise I don't know.

#63

Date	3rd June 2020
Age	50-60
Gender	M
Job	Minister
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard
Format	Ask Questions & summarised the answers. Interviewee made adjustments

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

We need more kindness

We need more honesty in society, especially in politics.

Interview Summary

What interviewee would like to keep from the coronavirus period?

Keep a sense of community and neighbourliness. Foodbank is part of the ministry of the church in the community. It is what we are about. It is about being at the heart of the community. We have kept the food bank going when the other activities in the church have stopped. It has been our priority. We stopped many church activities at lockdown. The church closed for services mid March. We have changed the ways of doing things and this has been a creative experience. We have other ways of being in contact with people. We use a mixture of written newsletters, telephone chats, zoom

meetings and other online ways of communicating. The Covid experience has taken us back to where we should be as a church. They have broken down walls.

What the Interviewee never wants to experience again?

A terrible death rate 40,000 have died so far in the UK and numbers will continue to rise. Also, funerals have been hard for the community. It is devastating for people not to be able to say good-bye to loved ones as they had expected. There is a flip side though. The change has encouraged people to think about what is important. It has narrowed the focus so that people are able to put aside the trapping of funerals and think about what is essential

Apart from the CoronaVirus, what do you see as the biggest challenge facing the world (How do they affect you and yours)?

Environmental concerns, inequality, and injustice. Britain has lacked kindness. This permeates everything. The political sphere, media, the press and all through our wider society.

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and what can be done?

There is a lack of time and people have been rushing and not taking time to care for one another. The Interviewee was having his hair cut at the barbers. The young barber asked for advice about being a better person. Interviewee told him to just take time to be kind

If we are serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

Be honest and genuine in behaviour. Be genuinely kind and not just pay lip service to this. This should not just be an act. It should be real. Politicians need to demonstrate this behaviour. They need to be political with a small p"

#64

Date	3rd June 2020
Age	27
Gender	Female
Job	Procurator Fiscal
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	As on sheet
Format	Telephone

The ‘Takeaways’ Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Work, work, work – we need to concentrate on quality of life

Government needs to act as people are selfish

Wages for the majority are too low and the rich have too much

The media needs to educate and focus on important issues not scandals and selling us things

We in the UK align ourselves with other governments who are more interested in capitalism than the planet – China and the US

Interview summary

Like from Covid 19: Initially it did not feel calm but then things settled and the world felt calmer. Things stopped – less cars and no planes which was great. I feel anxious that things will just return to as many cars on the road and that people will just start consuming as much again. I liked how we were using local businesses more and many big stores were not open for us to buy things we do not need. Sales of cars went down which was good. I liked hearing stories of people getting to know their neighbours. I live in a friendly place and know my neighbours well but others just got to know each other and began helping one another, A big positive was the stories of nature reviving with the reduction of human activity. The environment had a little chance to recover without us humans being so destructive. The environment is not given enough attention normally

Never want to experience really don't like the lack of social contact – not to be able to see and hug friends and family. I hated all the deaths and the hospital scenes and people not being able to attend funerals of their loved ones. I really worried most about poorer households and domestic abuse, those without access to the internet. The poor definitely suffer more during periods like this.

Challenges: The issue of the environment and climate change is the biggest challenge I believe. This ties in with consumerism, throw away plastics, using lots of things when we do not need to. We need to focus on a better way of living rather than capitalism. We need to be concerned about our health, what we eat, how it is packaged, our quality of life, how we look after children. Too much is focused on work, work, work.

Housing is a big problem. Wages are not appropriate for a vast number of poorly paid people.

Why this is happening: there are some positive steps happening but they seem small-action is being taken e.g. plastic bags, coffee cups, packaging however it's too small and a bit late. Government and the media need to act to change this radically. Need to focus on the environment not financial issues and scandal. Sadly, we see the environment just as a way to make money! The trouble is the vast majority of people vote selfishly and I don't blame them as money does matter if you are poorly paid and cannot survive. However, governments do not deliver to the poor people but to the rich. In capitalism money matters not quality of life.

We need less processing and packaging, organic food however this is more expensive so those on a lower income cannot afford this. The government needs to ban cheap, over processed and badly packaged food.

Who benefits: Big institutions, corporations, the government, the rich? If the government does not please big corporations there is a back lash so they want to please them.

What can be done if we are serious about tackling these issues: The UK could be a world leader in sustainable energy and I do not understand why we do not do this. We definitely need a greater push there. We need to change on 2 levels – people and government. We need to pass laws re what is sold, what's in packages, what is harmful to species and humans. We need stricter controls on food production for many reasons including protecting insect life. Cannot just rely on individuals to do this through life choice. Some people cannot afford to choose products which are more ecologically sound. People will get used to different shopping. We also need greater awareness of what's in our food and how it is processed e.g.: baked beans are actually cooked in those tins lined with plastic! The government has to make unpopular decisions in order for us to save the planet – compensate green industries and encourage companies to make green products with subsidies.

However, the UK government are in bed with US and China in the destruction of the natural world for profit

I wish this project luck and hope it can make a difference.

#65

Date	4th June 2020
Age	18 yrs
Gender	M
Job	unemployed
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone call

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Coronavirus Q - nothing much has changed for me as a teenager. My life still seems the same. Much more aware of hygiene & anxious about transference of germs, not for me, but if I infect others. Realising being alone for most of the day is bad for your mental health.

Comments from main questions - Police brutality a key concern. Felt the Police system is corrupt. Many people have been badly treated. Good that people are speaking up about this finally.

Inequality. Innocent being killed. Being going on for centuries.

Not affected me personally or my close circle - from a privileged background. I'm much more aware now. Have read more, talk to my peers/ others interested in the same issues to learn more.

Trying to share what I learn with others to help people be more aware of injustice. You can't just be complicit, need to do something - sign petitions, help financially to support campaigns if you can. I give to some.

Problem is because others benefit - high society stepping on the little people. Not enough happening. Good some cops are getting the justice they deserve. Police corrupt - not just a few bad apples - whole system is rotten, the entire tree.

Fascist behaviour is a big problem and the difficulties speaking to those that think they are above others.

Hopes - the average person will read more / get more informed/ speak out to make changes.

(This interview took place a week or so after George Floyd was shot by Police in the U.S.)

Interview Questions

Pre-question: What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period - and what would you hope never to experience again?

- 1. Aside from coronavirus, WHAT do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world? (how do they affect you & yours?)*
- 2. WHY is this problem happening? (who benefits from it, and is anything being done about it?)*
- 3. If we were serious about tackling this problem, HOW would we? (where would we start?)"*

Reflections on the process

Very interesting process. The questions supported the participant to go deeper into their concerns. The prompts helped me clarify or deepen their comments.

#66

Date	8th June 2020
Age	56
Job	College tutor
Questions	Standard Questions
Format	Ask Questions & summarised the answers. Interviewee made adjustments

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

The pandemic has been drastic but it is a chance to look, think and change the system. We need redistribution of wealth.

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this Corona Virus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

I like the ways people have come together. I would like to see this continuing. I would like to see the reduction air travel continuing. I have been looking at before and after

lockdown pictures of iconic places online and have been amazed how clear they are now. The reduction in pollution is obvious. I would like to see the travel by bike increased and use of cars reduced. Travel for meetings can reduce as online meetings have increased & their value is clear during this corona period. People need to consider what they really want and need. What is most important. The value of human relationships has been highlighted during this time. People on furlough have benefitted from more family time. People on furlough are being pushed to go back to work long hours. Many people are reluctant to do this as they experience the value of family time. More flexible working which benefits people should be supported. People have been gardening more. I would like to see the increased interest in the outside environment and growing your own food continuing. There has been an increased recognition of other parts of the world and this needs to be encouraged.

Never want to experience seeing the levels of deaths and suffering again. People cannot be with loved ones for funerals and meet family members who are old and unwell. The coronavirus period has made us realise that we are social creatures. Meeting up with others face to face is so important. We need this. (She was not been able to meet with her dad for weeks) The interviewee is concerned about the prospect of unemployment and poverty as businesses and incomes are going to fail. She is concerned about the anxiety that lies ahead and how people will struggle to manage

Aside from the Corona virus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

Inequality on lots of different levels. She does not believe in the rich becoming richer and the poor have become poorer, that is what has been happening before corona. Some keyworkers have been valued during this period especially those in the NHS but many workers are not acknowledged. Many people are on low wages, they are often vulnerable and get verbal abuse. They need to be valued.

A huge challenge is climate change. People are slow to recognise that we need to change but if we do not, we will not have a planet as we know it.

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and is anything being done?

We live in a capitalist system and this is a huge reason for the discrepancy in terms of wealth. We need to stop looking for a quick financial bargain. This is true for every level of society including government.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

The pandemic has been drastic, but it is a chance to look, think and change the system. We need redistribution of wealth. Boosting a green economy is vital. This

change can have a positive effect on many things: the planet, social justice, people & fair trade. We need to work for sustainability in the environment, economics, and social justice. Which party is in power will have an effect on how the UK deals with these issues. We all need to do our bit and we need drive to change behaviour. Community involvement and people's voices in decision making are important. We need to develop a real sense of fun and this is not about money.

#67

Date	8th June 2020
Age	20
Gender	Male
Occupation	University student
Location	Edinburgh – phone call
Questions	The BIG questions
Format	Phone call

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Continuous demonstration required which is started centrally and people can take on locally

Honest brutal messaging of facts is required as media is corrupt

Needs global change

BLM is a great example of global protest

Reflections on the process

BLM is in the news a lot and the participant was inspired by the action in Edinburgh and took part. Interview kept coming back to this. Reflect that climate protest needs to tap into current popular protest and link some of these together as they are interrelated

Interview summary

What would you keep from Covid 19 lockdown?

People being more considerate of people. The respect for people's space I like. People are friendlier and concerned about others

Valuing essential workers rather than low skilled periods

Never:

Not being able to do things, see friends, no activity apart from create selves

2. Biggest challenges

Predominantly climate change, it's a political debate rather than a reality.

Lots of interrelated general systemic issues: BLM, police brutality, people treated as disposable in the capitalist system. Profit over people

3. Why is this problem happening? The government elites, big capitalists, “fat cats”, government in back pockets of big corporations – bribery. The current system is resistant to change and we need real change. People in power will stay in power. We need to mobilise on a global scale to effect change

4. Serious about this we need mass protest and a recognition that the media is rigged. We need a combination of peaceful protest and marches but we cannot just do one march and then forget and do no more. We need continuous protest – organized centrally with people joining in locally using the central guidance but being able to be creative – need to share a key message. XR movement has helped get recognition that there really is a problem. There need to be honest BRUTAL messaging like with the George Floyd murder at the hands of the police.

#68

Date	9th June 2020
Age	36
Gender	F
Job	Additional Support Needs Assistant
Location	East lothian
Format	phonecall

Reflections on the process

Very interesting to interview someone who follows Jehovah Witness beliefs , which are different from my own in some key ways , but I also found common ground on many issues, which was a surprise.

Interview Summary

Pre-question: What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period - and what would you hope never to experience again?

Keep - more time! Time for friends and family. Time for what is really important in life.

Lose - people being so concerned for themselves. Maybe they will continue to think and care more for others after this.

1. Aside from coronavirus, WHAT do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world? (how do they affect you & yours?)

Greed and corruption are main concerns.

I'm neutral in politics, JW's don't take a position in politics.

People just want power over others - corruption / blackmail

I see us all as equal. I have no right to take another's life. But so many people try to dominate others.

I find it's so difficult to be at peace when people hurt each other so much - people are hungry & suffer because of others.

2. WHY is this problem happening? (who benefits from it, and is anything being done about it?)

I don't believe man has the power to change his ways. There are good people out there but history has shown us nothing changes. Man cannot change the world on his own, they need the help of Jesus and Jehovah. They need to follow the bible, they are not strong willed enough on their own.

If people followed Jehovah there would be no need for money. People would have their own home, their own garden, there would be peace.

There is not enough justice or righteousness in the world. No fairness.

Black Lives matter -Scary situation. How can people look down on others because of colour? We are all people. We are all equal.

Mentioned personal experience of volunteering in Belarus. Very worthwhile experience, able to make a difference to some people's lives , even if temporarily.

Difficult and upsetting to see how people with disabilities (physical & mental) had been badly treated by others. Such poor facilities for disabled people. People had lost their self esteem through poor treatment. One man had said ' When I was human...' this phrase stayed with her.

Feels the problems are both nature & nurture. No one is born a racist. Black people probably grow up thinking white people will treat them differently.

Ignorance lays a part. Life experiences change people - for good and bad.
I've learned a lot watching TV. People in general are not very intelligent, they just want to be part of a group. If you speak to others who seem different, if you talk to them you will find out they're more like you than you thought.

3. If we were serious about tackling this problem, HOW would we? (where would we start?)

It will be a slow, slow journey to a better world.
Everyone needs more moral education. Some people are evil.
We need to pull the whole lot down and rebuild it. The whole system, not just the education system. So many loopholes- the class decision, not a level playing field.
There is still slavery - people can't see it.
The problems around climate change.
Social media - people being so unkind and selfish online. No respect.

If the world didn't revolve around money. If we all had our own home and land we would be much happier.
I would rather be a slave to god than money.

Advice on anything we can do to improve this form or the process

"Nothing to suggest re improvements at this time.
My participant said she had really enjoyed the chance to have a meaningful conversation with another person, especially at this time (COVID 19 lockdown). She enjoyed the process and was really grateful to be able to have an honest and sincere conversation/ be heard on issues that really felt important to her.

#69

Date	10th June 2020
Age	Not known
Gender	Male
Job	Retired businessman
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Phone

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Key decision makers are 'insulated' from the results of their actions; also some better off people - doesn't touch them personally

Unbridled capitalism

Need culture change; imperial past and individualism in UK and US in comparison to e.g. Europe

We're not taking the actions we could be taking; government disconnected so don't see the climate change implications of decisions.

Interview Questions

Covid Question then the standard 3 - sent the covid question in advance as a 'taster'

Reflections on the process

Challenging to get the conversation onto experience as opposed to ideas and analysis of current trends.

Interview summary

Covid +ves: less traffic and car noise; quieter neighbourhood

Covid -ves: loss of social interaction, virtual not the same; missed two overseas trips due to lock-down- but not furloughed, or effected in terms of work or income, so some sense of being insulated from the challenges others face

Biggest challenges:

Failures of UK and US governments in terms of leadership towards their own societies and towards rest of the world

Growing income inequality; extremely partisan politics - anything justified if it keeps the party in power; only looking to protect wealth/low taxes and looking out for each other whilst 'societies shattering around them'.

Doesn't feel personally affected 'insulated economically' - not personally worried about children getting jobs or owning their home. But it does bother him 'a great deal' as a 'moral thing' - 'we're on a decline'.

Why is this happening?

The problem is unbridled capitalism. 'I'm certainly a capitalist, but the failure to regulate is leading to the decline in democracy. Cheating in elections is now ok/justified - e.g. Russian involvement. That gives him anxiety because watching politics is now about brainwashing and propaganda - Brexit becomes a good thing and illegal immigrants

the problem. Too much money in politics - power of huge financial donations spiralling out of control. Corporations now have the same rights as citizens - which has tipped the balance away from people and taken away their power. Issue is greed and unbridled capitalism, with lack of regulation. Any system, including socialism only works if you have the rules to keep things properly in balance.

Frustrating and disappointing to see the way things are going. Expanding wealth gap. Countries being run the wrong way.

Need to dig into why Brexit happened. It's part of unbridled capitalism. The controlling business class doesn't want European regulations on workers' rights; want to be able to erode employment rights - like length of maternity leave - which really gets in the way of business planning. Likes of Jacob Rees-Mogg are really only about making money.

That class are well enough off to be insulated; Covid doesn't really affect them - they can take care of own elderly - they won't be dying in care homes. Insulated from the lower income groups and service workers who are on the front line - Cummings etc see them as replaceable.

Climate change is about 'insatiable capitalism' - we could take short term measures like banning big cars that people don't need. Set targets like 2045 which are too far away for people to care about - and are anyway too late. Planning decisions like housing developments around Kirkliston - supposedly all about 'affordable houses' but there's nothing there in the way of services - people living there will have to have cars. That creates the climate change problem. But all the issues are voted through in parliament separately. All disconnected and people don't see what is going on.

Where to start tackling it?

Don't know

Especially in the US need is to drive money out of politics - not so bad in the UK but still there

Way we behave and see things; taking more personal responsibility.

just operating with more civility; Little things like litter - dumping items in a ditch not taking them for proper disposal.

Global warming - bigger and bigger cars and more driving. Don't need a Range Rover to drive for a coffee in Stockbridge. We say we're bothered about climate change but struggle to make commitment to do anything about it. There's something about Anglo culture in US and UK - more oriented to consumption; being independent, free and individualistic rather than more community oriented. Belief in 'it's a free country and I can do what I want' - even if that means breaking lock-down which was put in place for the common good; machine guns being carried at anti-Covid rallies. Europe seems to be more community minded. UK still has imperial mind-set based on go round the world and take what we want

Scotland is different to England. Slower paced; greater sense of care for the vulnerable and honouring the notion of the welfare state which seems to be gone from England. But too easy just to blame England. Nicola gets a free pass and isn't held to account in the way that Boris is. It's naïve always to be blaming England; allows hiding from the issues

History keeps coming back. End slavery, and laws passed but the issue doesn't go away. Trump has allowed ideas to come back to the surface, when previously they were buried by people being politically correct. If we were politically correct over enough generations then ideas would become diluted and would die out - but before that could happen, we've got leadership that makes it OK to 'say what we think' - so things are going backwards.

#70

Date	13th June 2020
Age	60s
Gender	F
Job	Senior civil servant
Location	Borders
Format	Telephone; line poor - made a difficult interview harder!

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Religious faith - as needed bedrock in society

Underlying sense of fear of society running out of control (this being interviewers subsequent reflection) and only a return to the past - when religious values were stronger would help

Interview Questions

Covid Question then the standard 3 - sent the covid question in advance as a 'taster'

Reflections on the process

Felt I really struggled here. Felt that questions were being answered in a way which kept me at arm's length, and I wasn't effective in getting beyond that. Sense of a person who feels society running out of control and that faith is her personal bedrock, and felt I wouldn't agree and was half daring me to challenge her. Tried to stay neutral, and let her answers run their course she might open up and say more, but that she wanted to say the minimum, or only add trivial details. Didn't respond to any questions which I had hoped might nudge to open up a larger world view of what was going on, and the connectedness between things ...

Interview summary:

Covid:

+ves - number of friends she's been in touch with - including those usually more distant; likes being able to attend meetings without travelling - feels more productive

-ves - 'Its been awful'; 'identity theft' - feels has had taken away all the things that makes her who she is - links with church, family friends. 'I don't even look the same' - because not been to the hairdressers; misses to travel to cities within Scotland to places in Europe too.

Biggest challenges

Loss of religious faith as the bedrock of family and society; really damaging. Sees this in her job working in child protection; her job to empathise with people - and to do a good professional job, objectively. Religious faith in society has declined - affects how people see their families and communities.

We are seeing social disintegration. Lots of things going with Covid and won't be coming back. Worries about social care for vulnerable children and elderly. Being dehumanised - relating to people through a plastic shield.

Any positives? - like seeing who is valued/valuable in society - like those currently low paid in shops and social care? Answer - pay is by scarcity rather than by value of job.

Why has this happened?

Education: In 1950s/60s Scotland there were two kinds of education in Scotland, Catholic and Presbyterian - nowadays it is Catholic and secular. Values have changed - there is no external reference point; no interior framing of values so if you don't like something you can just ignore it.

Education is impoverished in comparison to the past. Technology means you get answers without knowing and understanding. Calculators get in the way of mental arithmetic and in geography children don't know where places are

Covid is depriving children of education - may only be going back 1-2 days a week. Fears government may not have calculated it right; sacrifices people are making may be more damaging than the virus itself. Surprised at how frightened people are of it.

Technology: when she started work it was with a fountain pen and computers were as big as a room.

Who is benefitting from the change/s?

No one

Technology - we all benefit and richer we are the more we benefit - but doesn't make a real social difference because even poorest have mobile phones

What could we do?

Don't know

How do we restore values? - it's a huge question. If things go on as they are see much more of short term relationships; children who can't focus - poor education and more technology; Old people left to rot. Solution is restoration of Christian faith. Church has walked away from its own faith and hasn't the courage of its own convictions - has focussed on addressing social problems as an expression of faith, but should be focussing on faith itself. Church has abandoned its role in society. Education has changed, loss of deference more generally. Some churches active in Covid response, but lively faith is the starting point.

#71

Date 14th June 2020
Age 39
Gender F
Format Phone call

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Compassion and Empathy resonating from her own vulnerabilities. Government 'don't give a crap' as 'they' have no experience of poverty

Reflections on the process

Very touching. She was very open about her own vulnerability, and quite blown away by having someone be interested in her opinions.

Interview summary

KEEP Everybody seems to care about each other's welfare more.

NEVER Isolation is a trigger for my low mood / depression. I need interaction. Also coming out of lockdown could cause great anxiety as you have to come out of your safe bubble.

First Question WHAT : Poverty. Emphasised by current situation.£ million people are totally ignored by the government just now. Money makes money. The lowest suffer. If you don't conform or are on the fringes you don't get help. I care deeply about inequality. Get upset. I have an excess of empathy.

Second Q. WHY : The Government. They don't give a crap about the little people.They have no experience as they are wealthy. Eton etc.

Third Q. HOW : Start at the bottom . DEal with poverty. Funding into Community charities.Knowing that there is care out there has a huge, a massive effect. Ideally go in both directions.Top down and bottom up. Get a different government. I know I am privileged.

#72

Date	15th June 2020
Age	60-65
Gender	F
Job	Retired Teacher
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard Questions
Format	Ask Questions & summarised the answers. Interviewee made changes.

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Equality means everyone needs to be listened to and treated well.

The rich are able to push their agenda.

Reflections on the process

Interview went well. Interviewee needed time to work out her thoughts

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this Corona Virus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

Families are doing more together outside near me. They appear to be happy and this has gone on for the past 13 weeks. People are exercising more. This time has also opened opportunities for using technology. I am using Zoom for Pilates and "pub chat". We have had to communicate in different ways. We can still be in contact even if we cannot hug each other. This technology has especially helped sharing and support for one woman in our pub group. People in our area seem to be looking at things differently. There is more sharing going on and people are talking to each other more in our street. They are politer and more friendly. I have noticed this sharing in the children in our cul de sac. They have worked out a way they can share ball games in a way I have not seen before. I have found out much more about my area during this time. I never want to see such ineptitude of a Westminster government like this again. I personally feel wrung out by this lockdown experience (*The interviewee has been supporting her elderly father during this time*)

Aside from the Coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

Racism and eroding of women's rights are big challenges. We are in a time when it has become more difficult to disagree with people and powerful, aggressive people are pushing their viewpoint. Attacks have become abusive and violent. People should be

able to be what they want to be and have support to do this. The interviewee highlighted some of the transgender lobby have become aggressive and she is worried as one group's rights are recognised, they can push others down. Women have had to work hard to gain rights. Equality means everyone needs to be treated well and listened to.

Towards the end of the interview, they mentioned concerns about the climate and how humans need to change their behaviour to protect the environment.

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and is anything being done?

Some people take control and ignore the rights of others. There are powerful businesses influencing the media. Money is often at the bottom of what is happening. The rich are able to push their agenda.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

We need to improve communication at every level. Attitudes and behaviour are influenced early on at home so everyone has a role to play. Of course, governments have a big role to play in the policies they make but also in their behaviour. The government needs to model good behaviour and attitude. The government needs to lead by example. People need to speak up about what is important and we need to listen to each other.

We need to take more care of the environment and reduce our carbon footprint. We need to look at our lifestyles like buying locally. The government needs to develop green policies like planting trees. Reduce road traffic and bring canals for transport back into use.

#73

Date	16th June 2020
Age	30-40
Questions	Standard Questions
Format	Ask Questions & summarised the answers. Interviewee made changes

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Nature is trying to heal itself
People should travel less but travel better.

Reflections on the process

Very articulate and thoughtful responses.
Hard to keep up writing these down.

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this CoronaVirus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

Being able to spend more time with the family and not needing to commute every day. Has 2 children. One at school and one preschool I cycled to work before lockdown which was good, but it is a good experience not having to rush in the morning. The corona time has allowed us not to rush and it has removed the morning chaos. take a step back. Working from home has meant more flexibility. Interviewee has noticed more kindness in the community round about him but also in other places. Our society has generally been moving too fast. We should travel less and travel better. Nature is trying to heal itself. He has found that the quality of communication has improved with friends who live at a distance. Less time spent following each other on social media and more time with valuable talks using zoom etc. This has felt very natural, it has been valuable engagement.

Never want to experience again. . .

He never wants to experience the terrible experience of lock down being stuck in doors. This has been terrible. He feels their family is in a good living environment, but they have found it hard tempers have flared at times. Other families will have had it harder. Their older child has missed school. It looks like this will continue into the next year. Work will become difficult with homeschooling. He knows they are not teachers and carers. They are parents. This home schooling is difficult. He feels employers will find it hard with parents being with their children long term while trying to do a job. There is general anxiety around the issue of job security. He still has a job, and he knows that he is lucky. He misses seeing his wider family. Also, he feels that there has been poor communication and decision making from the government.

Apart from the Coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

The interviewee is concerned about the climate crisis. If we do not care for our world, we won't have existence. He is also worried about world relations and if countries don't work together there will be serious problems including for the climate. He sees that the atmosphere of blame is destructive and the US president is particularly guilty of this.

Inequality and racial prejudice are also of concern. The Black Lives Matter protests have been important in highlighting racism. Racism has been in our society for a long time. It is systemic and it is important to face our unconscious bias. The protests have meant that many people have been failing to keep social distance rules and this could increase the instance of CoronaVirus. The world is an unstable place.

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and is anything being done?

We have been slow to acknowledge the realities of the climate crisis. People don't listen and care enough. Capitalism blocks us from acting on the problem and it encourages consumerism which has become a big motivator for humans. Overpopulation has added to the problem.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

We need to reduce our consumption. Government needs to take this on board in its policies. We need to change our lives and corporations and industry need to change the way they operate. Industry needs to make things more sustainable and we must waste less. People should travel less but travel better.

#74

Date	18th June 2020
Age	69
Gender	M
Job	Businessman - Property Developer
Format	In person, outside interviewees house

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

We ignore the climate at our peril. We need world cooperation. Concept of "exploit" opportunities brought by climate change.

Reflections on the process

He is a wealthy 'successful' Business man. He is informed and thinks about major climate and political issues. He does 'Think Globally and Act Locally' with the proviso that he can make money. Very astute at benefitting from grants and Government subsidies. He is though very concerned for our (his Granddaughter's) future. Sure of the need for World cooperation. The question WHY was the hardest for him to grapple

with. He did not for instance say“ people like me or like us “ to the question ‘ Who benefits ? “ , he moved up the ladder to Bill Gates and Musk..

Interview summary

KEEP Less traffic. Enjoying shopping (at supermarket) His first ever experience. Enjoy discipline of not just popping out ; need to think and plan.New tech like Zoom is good and good going forward.

NEVER Not having freedom to get out and about. Restricting his business.

WHAT

(a) Terrorism linked to Religion.

(b) Russia is run by a criminal. China is run by a dangerous person . America is run by an idiot.

(c) Climate Change. We ignore that at our peril. I don't feel as strongly as Greta Thunberg , but maybe I haven't looked closely enough.Worried for the future of his granddaughter. Good that we are moving away from coal. The dangers of Nuclear Power are overplayed.It could be the solution. The trouble is it takes 20 years to build a station. This may be too late.

We should use Solar and Hydro. (Austria is 70% Hydro) Why did we stop development of Hydro ? When we were in Beijing it was hard to see the sky.

(d) Over Population is a big problem.

WHY It's hard to follow. (he was at loss to say why , needed time to think it out) . We are living in quite peaceful times , punctuated by Terrorism. (Thinking of his Granddaughter) : It's a terrifying world. Up to now we've muddled through. Perhaps with Green Consciousness we'll get a handle on it.

The Americans are doing well (as response to “ who benefits” ?) Gates / Musk.

HOW We need to exploit in a positive way Climate Change solutions.. There has to be an agreement between countries to work together on climate problem.But if you pull too many people together you never get consensus . In an ideal world you would get the wealthy countries to target global warming issues in poorer countries.

We need to get rid of African dictators . We need a summit to agree the issues we need to address. Plant more trees at (he mentions his land) . Get more trees planted by everyone. The trees we've planted haven't cost us anything. (Grants) Asides : We are paid to heat this place (using a wood chip boiler paid for through grants)

It's totally stupid. Imported wood with massive carbon footprint. It is only the boiler is 'green'. Put a freeze on petrol and diesel cars. (He spent £1m on tidal power research / experiment 20 years ago and lost it) We need to increase subsidy on Hydro.

Additional Question

"How did you get pulled towards working on environmental problems?"

It's a way to make money. And a green way. Very exciting business to be in. He looked at wind and solar. Would have loved to be involved in a hydro scheme.

#75

Date	22nd June 2020
Age	39
Gender	F
Job	NHS worker
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard Questions
Format	Ask Questions & summarised the answers. Interviewee made adjustments to this.

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Divisions, especially in religion are at the bottom of many problems in the world

These are often at the bottom of violence. Religious and racial groups often end up fighting each other. Nobody benefits in the end.

Reflections on the process

This interview was hard because of dental problems & concern that my speech was hard to understand.. Think it was ok.

Interview summary

What would you like to keep from this Corona Virus period- and what would you hope to never experience again?

Personally, I would like to keep family time we have built up over this period. I am on maternity leave with no pressure to go to work. If I was not on maternity leave, our oldest child could go into a Hub but the care for the other two children would be very difficult. It is good not to be rushing around and all the family have enjoyed spending more time together especially with our young baby. We have all enjoyed being home based and not going out for school, nursery, gymnastics and parties etc. Other young families I know have also enjoyed being at home. She also values the way the community has come together, contacting each other on What's App and checking neighbours are ok. She has spent more time to speaking to an elderly neighbour since lockdown. She never wants to experience not being able to see extended family and friends. The lack of social contact is not good for people especially people on their own. It has been hard not being able to hug people outside the family. It has been good there has been some easing of lockdown for people on their own

Aside from the Corona virus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world (how do they affect you and yours)?

This interviewee sees terrorism and violence as the biggest challenges. She was brought up in Northern Ireland and this has influenced her perception. She was brought up with bomb scares. At present she is particularly concerned about the economic recovery and employment issues for people and what will happen next

Why is this problem happening? Who benefits and is anything being done?

She sees religion bigotry and separate education as a problem. Divisions between people are bad and these stop people understanding each other. These are often at the bottom of violence. Religious and racial groups often end up fighting each other. Nobody benefits in the end.

If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do?

Help people mixing in a positive way. We need to remember Black Lives Matter. Children mixing from an early stage is vital especially in school. People needed to be included and not left out. One of the good things about Corona Virus is that it has encouraged people to work together in the community"

#95

Age 61

Gender Female
Job Cardiology Nurse
Location N Lanarkshire

The ‘Takeaways’ Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

Positive from lockdown: “I have taken up running. Even in the rain, I’ve been pushing myself. My area is not cycle friendly. You see families out – all the fast food places closed – people actually cooking.”

Not want to experience again: “I’ve had a terrible time at work – bullying and racism in NHS – we need to change the shame and fear of when you are bullied. Endemic systematic bullying. I want a society that is more accepting, more tolerant. The woman who was bullying has now been promoted to move her on. Senior nurse. I decided I am not going to take his. Because it happened to me, I want to stand up and say this is endemic. Speak out, and tell my story. Change that culture. I hated that clap because we were just doing our job and doing it unprotected.

Biggest challenge facing world: Unfair economic system – covid has shown it up. The economy is important but not as important as humankind. 100 years ago we survived WW1 – the economy did recover. As a world we need to reach out to one another. The homeless, the racism, we need to educate ourselves. The Irish Slavetrade for example, I didn’t know about that. I want my grandchildren to have a future. I want my children to have jobs. I want the NHS to exist. This area has got the highest suicide rates, and that’s down to drugs and unemployment. We need to invest in our young children, they are the generation of the future. It comes back to bullying – and your chances in life. Our schools need to be more efficient. I want children in nursery to be able to be themselves. Its all very well being academic but not everyone is academic. Fairer economic system that allows everyone to thrive no matter where you come from.

Why is this problem happening?: “The rich. The people with the most money, they are doing ok. Boris and Hancock. I don’t think anything is being done about it. Peoples health is suffering. Grenfell. How do we develop a fairer society when everyone can benefit? Healthcare has improved. But private healthcare is a worry. The economy is going to struggle. How will we pay for the furlough?

What can we do?: “There must be a worldwide economy that we could strive to create. These big corporations; Google and all that need to held accountable for their tax. Our government should be doing something – that’s why we have them. We need

transparency from the govt down. We need to lobby. Stand our ground. Hold politicians accountable. We have got all these houses lying empty so why have we got homelessness? Holding them accountable. Taking notes and then three months later come back to them holding them to their word. Stop being just the little people. Us ordinary people need to start singing from the same song sheet."

Interview Questions

- "1. What would you like to keep from this coronavirus period - and what would you hope never to experience again?"*
- 2. Aside from coronavirus, what do you see as the biggest challenges facing the world? (how do they affect you & yours?)"*
- 3. Why is this problem happening? (who benefits from it, and is anything being done about it?)"*
- 4. If we were serious about tackling this problem, what would we do? (where would we start?)"*

Interview Format

On whatsapp video

Reflections on the process

Was really fun and felt important to connect

#92

Date	25th June 2020
Age	47
Gender	Male
Job	Charitable Fund Manager
Location	Edinburgh
Questions	Standard 4 questions
Format	Over phone, typed up on laptop while interview happened

Interview summary

Coronavirus period?

Positives: "A lot of community groups have emerged from out of nowhere (well not out of nowhere but out of care and worry and concern).

“The street WhatsApp group meant folk got nappies for us when we ran out of nappies, provided us with a fan when it was hot and the kids couldn’t sleep. . .

“There’s been a re-examination of our mad consumption levels – because we can’t go to the shops, people are asking “Do we need it?”.

“Much greater appreciation of place, exploring of local areas. There’s been greater public and policy recognition of the need to make space for cycling, walking, living streets. I hope that carries forward”

“The blurring of professional and family life. We used to have to present smartly and be in control. Now we are seeing each other’s kids jumping into video conferencing. Emails have got more friendly. Nothing wrong with being professional, but the humanness comes into the relationship which can make it more friendly and less confrontational. More based on an understanding of the ‘whole person’

People have really become aware of how much we need – how much society depends on – service jobs like the delivery/post man, shop assistants, etc. As well as health workers obviously. Hopefully people will continue to value them going forward”.

Negatives: “Work has been absolutely manic for me. . . . Not much support for parents of young kids – teenagers needing home schooled, I have twin babies too and need to support their mum, work busy – everything shifted onto parents. . . . I’ve missed the space in the office to work, whereas at home I hear all the crying from downstairs. I’ve missed the bike commute which builds in daily exercise, and space to unwind.”

Biggest challenges?

“Growth mindset. The focus on “let’s get back to normality” when we need a phase shift, a whole model shift to more decentralization, decoupling economic growth from carbon emissions, and more than that: moving beyond growth to wellbeing.”

“The bluff and bluster blokey politics mindset, having to be seen to be the hero, Trump: complete and utter narcissism, never grew up; Johnson: always bangs the table. Why can’t he be more human? Politics of binary choice and tending towards polarization, rather than win-win or shades of grey – everyone gets something, a balanced approach. ”

Why is this problem happening?

“I once saw a piece on emotional development. Setting out various stages of realizing you are not the centre of the universe. Each could be devastating, but it moved on and

moved on to realizing that there's lots of people in the world and realizing you are part of the picture"

How tackle it?

"Our current perception of leadership is about the strong individual. It needs to be about enabling other people to shine, about being able to show vulnerability, about consulting, consensus building. Things aren't so fixed. We need to be responsive to the shifting facts and science and mood of the day."

Transcript

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rPBgHTp0KLgsRGHaOo3wPPCpy1uhd1t7/view?usp=sharing>

#97

Date	2nd July 2020
Age	50 -60
Gender	Male?
Job	Community Development Officer
Location	Aberdeen
Questions	Standard
Format	Zoom

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

"The main challenges are meeting basic needs and providing livelihoods for people.

Highlights forgotten people, both in an educational sense and socially. Erosion of community. Too much profit ideology, especially in public sector.

Need to create spaces and time in society for people to connect"

Reflections on the process

The person really appreciated having the opportunity to be listened. There was also a moment I had to bite my tongue after he said something about education that I thought I didn't agree with. But the point he actually ended up making was very insightful and something I actually agreed with!

Interview summary

Silver lining of lockdown was the noticeable improvement in air quality. Really appreciated this when on walks. It felt positive. Also noticed a slowdown in pace of life, which meant more family time and less turnover of actual social events. Feels initially young people did not like lock down, but due to less social events, it meant fewer time-sharing experiences on social media. Therefore, less stress and anxiety among young people.

Wouldn't want to see the return of imposed control on freedom of movement. It was worrying to see the level of control imposed by Government, but acknowledges this was socially sanctioned, but sanctioned with an 'anxiety ridden mandate'. But does not think now it could be re-imposed due to lack of public support and the impact on the economy and people's jobs. Really does not like to see a return of all the uncertainties regarding the impacts the virus brings, we still don't really know what the long health impacts are. This was unsettling.

The main challenge is an economic one to ensure people have work and employment. Recognizes that there are many people in our society who need help, especially those lacking basic skills needed to get a job, like letter writing etc. See's that some college and university courses are very unhelpful, especially those that do not necessarily directly lead to a vocation or other employment. Many FE and HE are providing education that does not necessarily meet the needs of the public. Specifically mentioned that colleges advertise courses and careers in the cultural sector, where the actual number of jobs is very small. This can lead to false hopes for students.

The other challenge is that there is lack of recognition among governments of what the basic needs of people are, and there is also a lack of engagement to understand what is happening for people at the basic level. Attempts to rectify that through 'civic forums' tend to be over bureaucratic.

Need more political awareness with people informed about why decisions are made which affect them. Tendency to push the ideology of the individual in society. And has witnessed the general breakdown of community.

Also sees increasing ideology of profit maximization in public services. Not against profit or even capitalism, but that should be preserved for traditional markets. But wishes to see a larger public sector providing public services, meeting public needs. Too much corporate greed.

There is really a lack of planning for emergencies/crisis like the pandemic. The type of connection and help people have given to their community during the pandemic needs to be in place all the time, because many people are struggling all the time.

We need to create more spaces and time for people to connect and chat with one and other about things that really matter for people. There is a lack of such places in society. Redirect funding into this. We really need to focus on the people who have voted for 'Boris' as they are feeling left behind.

#96

Date	4th July 2020
Age	49
Gender	Female
Location	Edinburgh
Format	Face to face

The 'Takeaways' Key observations, words/phrases, from interview

As a society we have shown that we have the ability to act collectively in a crisis.

Bold steps are possible if you take people with you.

Economics reflects what a society values.

Challenge consumerist, capitalist society – is there a way to have more sustainable, equitable capitalism?

Re-evaluate – what values do we give things?"

Interview summary

Coronavirus negatives: The shock of financial insecurity and the knowledge of the devastation caused to others by this. Social isolation. Anger and hatred in people is just below the surface.

Positives: Collective response and social responsibility. As a society we have shown that we have the ability to act collectively in a crisis. Slower pace and more family time with the foot off the accelerator.

Lesson: life can change overnight.

WHAT

Climate change

Equality (may lead to riots and civil unrest (seen in London))

Competition between nations and ideologies, the impact of conflict

We know about all of these things and we've chosen to ignore them.

Similar to lockdown, many of these issues are not affecting us personally just now, but when they do it will be too late. Future social and economic impacts locally and across the globe.

WHY

Those who've benefited most are in power and hold on to it. Only when the powerful are on the edge of the abyss are they forced to react and fire-fight. It takes a crisis to make people listen (eg. BLM, State schools in England and new funding pledge)

We kid ourselves that we live in a meritocracy. Unrestrained capitalism is bending the system eg. Private schools as charities vs. state schools. A class issue?

Economics reflects what a society values: kudos and status vs. looking down on others.

Society has a narrative put forward by the media, a political set up. Emphasis on qualifications and university with the driver being financial security and rewards of status and what is desirable. All of this is wrapped up in our economic model.

Consumerist way of life is destructive on many levels including mental health, constant drive to have more, to have cash flow.

Don't think anything is being done.

WHAT

Bold steps are possible if you take people with you (as shown by Covid response in general and as an example the homelessness response).

Take economic risks to drive change eg. More buses to reduce crowding, encourage use.

Re-evaluate – what values do we give things? Real values eg. Time taken to grow and produce a crop vs. 'pretend values' for things like property, or for things we think we need, but don't. There is a disconnect between these two sets of values. This disconnect is actually driving our economy.

Challenge consumerist, capitalist society – is there a way to have more sustainable, equitable capitalism?

Accept there will be winners and losers.

Feelings of frustration – perhaps there could be regeneration from the bottom up eg. Small venues might be able to grow, whilst bigger organisations like the National Theatre, which have been inaccessible to many must adapt and change. Feelings that people are not listening to each other or allowing others to voice opinions, especially on social media.