

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 251, 19 February 2018

Events

Events have been added to the Courses & Events pages on The Network website – see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/courses>.

European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018

Newsletter 2

http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/eac/newsletter-specific-archive-issue.cfm?newsletter_service_id=585&lang=default

More info about events across Europe.

Also includes a link to a new resource, *Creative Europe: rediscovering our cultural heritage*, https://europa.eu/cultural-heritage/toolkits/creative-europe-brochure-english_en, which “presents a selection of 15 projects, funded by the Creative Europe programme, focusing on cultural heritage.”

Funding & Opportunities

#NHS70 Parliamentary Awards

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/nhs70/get-involved/nhs-organisations/parliamentary-awards/>

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 7 Feb 2018)

“We are working with a number of partners on an [exciting awards scheme for MPs](#) to find and nominate ‘health heroes’ in their constituency. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to a national awards on Wednesday 4 July 2018, the day before the NHS’s 70th birthday.

MPs are encouraged to select their nominees with support from their local NHS, as well as charities, community groups and others.

We have produced a [support pack](#) for NHS, health and care organisations.”

Why not get an MP to nominate library, museum, archive, cultural heritage wellbeing work?

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

Library fines

<http://www.publiclibrariesnews.com/2018/02/its-not-all-fine-trafford-remove-all-late-fees-from-1st-april.html>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 7 Feb 2018)

PLN reports that:

“Trafford has shocked the UK public library world by announcing that they will be removing all library fines from 1st April. The reasons put forward for that by councillors is that fines are off-putting for customers,

no fines will increase usage (and indeed will increase returns as people know they won't get fined if they're late) and that there should not be any barriers to accessing libraries. Children were especially mentioned as benefitting from no fines and Trafford will also be giving a library card to every child.”

Ian Anstice goes on to say:

“It also ties in with a global trend I've been noticing for a while (especially in the USA and Australia) where libraries have been removing fine due to it being a barrier (after all, we've removed physical ones years ago), inequitable and no longer needed now we have the power to automatically online renew.

The big barrier to this in the UK is of course where the money is going to come from if we get rid of fines. Charging people for late books does bring in some money that will need to be replaced in another way. There's also - no surprise in the library world this - a fundamental lack of research of shared data on how effective removing fines are. We need that evidence shared in order to spread good practice and identify bad. Personally, I am tired of seeing people arguing over fines in libraries and I know that fines are a reason people tell me socially they no longer use libraries. So I really hope this is a successful experiment. And an experiment that produces what a good experiment always does: actual shareable data on the result.”

There certainly has been research into the recognised impact of library overdue and other charges in the past, and I hope to find more examples. Two surveys which note people's views of fines as barriers were cited in *Open to all? Vol 1* (see: <http://www.seapn.org.uk/uploads/files/OtA-volume-1-final-version-Sept-211.pdf>):

Marketing and Communications Group (1996), *Whose library is it anyway? Libraries and their use in the City of York, A market research report*, York: Marketing and Communications Group.

MVA (1998), *Community consultation on library services: report on focus groups. Prepared for London Borough of Merton*. London: MVA.

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people

“CLPE and BookTrust to review BAME representation in kids' books”

<https://www.thebookseller.com/news/clpe-and-booktrust-review-representation-725386>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 7 Feb 2018)

“The Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE) is teaming up with BookTrust to review ethnic representation in children's literature.

CLPE is launching an initiative called ‘reflecting realities’ and will look at the representation of BAME characters in children's books. A steering

committee of experts, including Fen Cole (co-director of Letterbox Library), Darren Chetty (teaching fellow at UCL Institute of Education), Vini Lander (professor of race and teacher education at the University of Roehampton) and Nikesh Shukla (author and editor), will examine books published in the UK in 2017.

BookTrust, meanwhile, is working with University College London on a research project into the number of children's titles created by authors and illustrators of colour in the UK.

Both surveys are being funded by Arts Council England and are aimed at making publishers more conscious of representation in their books [...]

CLPE will announce its findings in July, while BookTrust's report will be out in September."

Health & Wellbeing issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

"HRH The Duchess of Cornwall visits HMP Styal to learn more about Books Unlocked"

https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/hrh-duchess-cornwall-visits-hmp-styal-learn-more-about-books-unlocked/?mc_cid=74091fe315&mc_eid=a2d98ab814

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Supporters' Newsletter*, Feb 2018)

"Our Patron HRH The Duchess of Cornwall visited women's prison HMP Styal in Cheshire last week to find out more about how prisoners' lives are being transformed by rehabilitation initiatives, including our Books Unlocked programme."

More info about Books Unlocked at:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/programmes/books-unlocked/>.

Disability issues – Other Agencies

"Living with retinitis pigmentosa in childhood – Anna's story"

https://www.rnib.org.uk/insight-online/rp-childhood?utm_medium=email&utm_source=February-Insight-2018&utm_campaign=Living%20with%20retinitis%20pigmentosa%20in%20childhood%20-%20button&utm_content=2603

(Source: *Insight Online*, Feb 2018)

This new film from RNIB "aims to help people understand how Usher Syndrome can affect children."

More info on Usher Syndrome at: <https://www.sense.org.uk/get-support/information-and-advice/conditions/usher-syndrome/>.

"Living with nystagmus in childhood – Molly's story"

https://www.rnib.org.uk/insight-online/nystagmus-childhood?utm_medium=email&utm_source=February-Insight-2018&utm_campaign=Living%20with%20nystagmus%20in%20childhood%20-%20button&utm_content=2603

(Source: *Insight Online*, Feb 2018)

Another new film from RNIB, this one:

“[...] aims to help people understand how nystagmus can affect children.

Molly is 10 years old and has nystagmus, a condition that causes constant movement of the eyes which can't be controlled. It currently affects one in 1,000 people in the UK and is the most common form of visual impairment among children [...].”

Further info about nystagmus at: <https://www.nib.org.uk/eye-health-eye-conditions-z-eye-conditions/nystagmus>.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“In Sweden, Noor went straight to school; in Britain, Ammar waited six months”

https://www.theguardian.com/education/2018/feb/13/sweden-school-britain-education-young-refugees?CMP=share_btn_link

(Source: email from Anne Harding, 13 Feb 2018)

Guardian article reporting on a new research project contrasting the attitudes to young refugees arriving in Sweden and the UK.

LGBTQ issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“LGBT History Month 2018: where do you feel safe to be yourself?”

<https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/news-features/lgbt-history-month-2018-where-do-you-feel-safe-be-yourself>

(Source: email from Jo Reilly, HLF, 9 Feb 2018)

Latest blog post from HLF, which celebrates LGBT History Month and also emphasises the importance of archiving ‘ephemera’.

Broader issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Young People’s Library Survey”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2018/02/14/young-peoples-library-survey/>

Sarah Mears writes about the CIPFA report which analyses the results of the Young People’s Library Survey from 2014-2017, the results of which “demonstrate impacts in key policy areas such as reading for pleasure, early years and social equality”.

The report is available at:

<http://www.ascel.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/public/Young%20People%27s%20Library%20Survey%20-%20National%20Report%202014-2017.pdf>.

Discover and share: ways to promote positive values in arts and cultural settings

<https://valuesandframes.org/downloads/>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 363, 9 Feb 2018)

New report that draws on learning from a year-long collaboration between Manchester Museum and Common Cause Foundation, inspired by the work of the Happy Museum project.

“Some key questions for those of us working in arts and cultural organisations include: What is our role in society? How should we be engaging with the world around us, and bringing people together? What is our role in promoting social justice, in encouraging action on climate change, in building more compassionate and caring communities, in inspiring volunteering and civic participation? And how can we ensure that we are places and spaces that reach out to, and attract people from, all parts of our communities?

One way we can do this is to embrace and work with widely shared values. Not values as espoused in organisational mission statements, but values as understood by social psychologists: Those deeply held guiding principles that help to shape our attitudes and behaviours, and which are in turn shaped by the world around us and our interactions with each other.” [p2]

The guidance is a practical look at how this works, with info on values and how they operate.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

Young People’s Library Survey

<http://www.ascel.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/public/Young%20People%27s%20Library%20Survey%20-%20National%20Report%202014-2017.pdf>

(Source: CILIP Public and Mobile Libraries Group *Newsletter*, Dec 2018)

In Oct 2017, CIPFA published this report which covers 2014-2017 and includes results from 18 library services and some 42,859 respondents.

Key findings include:

- Using library services is more popular among girls
- Close to half of all respondents (47%) awarded their library a rating of 10 out of 10. Young people in Key Stage 2 were the most enthusiastic about their library
- Children and young people living in areas of high deprivation awarded a higher overall satisfaction score compared to their peers living in less deprived areas.
- The results suggest that young people using library services are more likely to live in areas of low deprivation.
- The majority of young people in Key Stage 2 also rated the helpfulness of staff as 10 out of 10 (67%), while 77% said the library has helped with enjoyment of reading a lot and 62% said it also helped them get better at reading a lot. Some 8 in 10 children in Key Stage 2 borrowed a book to read for pleasure – the primary motivation for doing so was because it looked interesting.

- Young people in Key Stage 3 to 4 were more inclined to use the library computers to help with their homework, compared to the library books or the staff.
- However, the library staff attracted the highest overall satisfaction ratings for helpfulness.
- Among this group there is high demand, ie half or more of all respondents, for: joining reading groups; taking part in creative writing groups; using healthy lifestyle information; and playing board games.
[Taken from p4]