



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 294, 19 February 2020

Events

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

Climate emergency – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Climate Crisis”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/climate-crisis?utm_campaign=1670103_23012020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,ZSNR,27LU0M,3ROA4,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 23 Jan 2020)

The MA has launched its campaign “[...] for museums to be more environmentally sustainable and address the climate crisis.”

“We are asking all museums to do three things:

- Get your museum in order: make sure that your organisation’s footprint is as low as it can go, and commit to targets for reducing energy consumption, waste, travel and carbon use. There are lots of tools to help you do this, this is just one: <https://juliesbicycle.com/reporting/>
- Raise awareness: use your collections, programmes, exhibitions and learning and engagement work to discuss the climate crisis and encourage audiences to think about what they can do to make a difference.
- Champion change: work with community and environmental organisations to implement greener policies in your local area.

We are asking funders to include environmental sustainability in their strategies for museums and to make it a requirement of funding that environmental targets are set, monitored and met.

And we are asking agencies and strategic bodies to take the lead by working with the sector to bring about change at a policy and practice level.

At the MA we have declared a climate emergency and implemented a policy that means we will stop printing reports and publications, offer only

vegetarian food at our events, significantly reduce our air travel, and switch to green suppliers as well as lots of other measures.”

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

“Being relevant and resonant in today’s world”

<https://phm.org.uk/blogposts/being-relevant-and-resonant-in-todays-world/>

(Source: email from PHM, 14 Feb 2020)

Blogpost by Katy Ashton (Director, People’s History Museum) celebrating ten years of the Museum being in its current building, and 30 years in Greater Manchester.

PHM have also published a report, outlining their major impact – see:

<https://phm.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Peoples-History-Museum-Impact-Report-published-February-2020.pdf>.

“I’ve seen firsthand what we lose if we don’t invest in libraries”

<https://www.bigissue.com/opinion/ive-seen-firsthand-what-we-lose-if-we-dont-invest-in-libraries/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 16 Feb 2020)

Short *Big Issue* article, looking at some of the positive social impact that libraries has, especially for homeless people.

“This is the sort of space we need to invest in: places that provide respite from material deprivation, loneliness and exclusion; that offer a sense of belonging: that give free access to education and advice. What is clear from my work is that public libraries can offer this environment in spades.

Public libraries have the potential to be vibrant community hubs in our social infrastructure. Yet realising this requires politicians and policymakers to understand that their value goes beyond book borrowing or footfall. Perhaps the better question then is not what we might lose should more public libraries close, but what could be gained were we to properly and sustainability resource them?”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“We expect cities to foster multiculturalism – but they are struggling”

[https://theconversation.com/we-expect-cities-to-foster-multiculturalism-but-they-are-struggling-](https://theconversation.com/we-expect-cities-to-foster-multiculturalism-but-they-are-struggling-130412?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2014%202020%20-%201534414637&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2014%202020%20-%201534414637+CID_317f8ad0028290d062b7b584e3f55ae0&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=We%20expect%20cities%20to%20foster%20multiculturalism%20%20but%20they%20are%20struggling)

[130412?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2014%202020%20-%201534414637&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2014%202020%20-%201534414637+CID_317f8ad0028290d062b7b584e3f55ae0&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=We%20expect%20cities%20to%20foster%20multiculturalism%20%20but%20they%20are%20struggling](https://theconversation.com/we-expect-cities-to-foster-multiculturalism-but-they-are-struggling-130412?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2014%202020%20-%201534414637&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2014%202020%20-%201534414637+CID_317f8ad0028290d062b7b584e3f55ae0&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=We%20expect%20cities%20to%20foster%20multiculturalism%20%20but%20they%20are%20struggling)

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[multiculturalism%20%20but%20they%20are%20struggling](https://theconversation.com/we-expect-cities-to-foster-multiculturalism-but-they-are-struggling-130412?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2014%202020%20-%201534414637&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2014%202020%20-%201534414637+CID_317f8ad0028290d062b7b584e3f55ae0&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=We%20expect%20cities%20to%20foster%20multiculturalism%20%20but%20they%20are%20struggling)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 14 Feb 2020)

Interesting brief report of new research which:

“[...] shows that cities’ ability to foster ethnic and racial inclusion is being limited by austerity and the rise of beliefs that ‘native’ cultures and people should come first [...]

The combination of austerity and nativism means that the ways we think about what an inclusive city can and should do are changing. This is not necessarily all bad. For example, making inclusion a part of all aspects of local policy-making could deliver better results than group-targeted programmes, provided it is not done simply to cut costs.

However, city governments are making these policy choices under strong pressures to work with fewer resources and to do it in ways that do not provoke a backlash from the “natives”. This shrinks their policy options. Cities might indeed be able to create a more inclusive future, but they face a great challenge in doing so.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

National Literacy Trust “Books Unlocked” reading list 2020

https://literacytrust.org.uk/news/we-unveil-2020-books-unlocked-reading-list/?mc_cid=6dba58911c&mc_eid=a2d98ab814

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Monthly Newsletter*, Feb 2020)

Just in case you haven’t yet seen this, the NLT has announced its 2020 reading list.

“The Lost Homework: representing the Traveller community in children's fiction”

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/news-and-features/features/2020/february/the-lost-homework-writing-about-the-traveller-community-in-childrens-fiction/>

(Source: email from Anne Harding, 17 Feb 2020)

“Writer Richard O’Neill talks about his book *The Lost Homework*, growing up in a Traveller community, and the importance of children seeing themselves positively represented in books.”

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

“Libraries launch Reading Well for children”

<https://reading-well.org.uk/news/libraries-launch-reading-well-for-children>

(Source: The Reading Agency *Newsletter*, Feb 2020)

Just in case you missed the launch of “Reading Well for Children” – The Reading Agency press release has links to the booklist, plus info about library activities, etc.

See also: “Picture books on prescription” in *The Guardian* online:

https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/feb/06/picture-books-on-prescription-the-new-chapter-in-childrens-mental-wellbeing?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-533bef053e-51507097&mc_cid=533bef053e&mc_eid=3fa1d39831.

Also launching in Feb are the 2020 “**Quick Reads**” – see:

https://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/quick-reads-reveals-stellar-list-of-authors-for-2020.html?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-533bef053e-51507097&mc_cid=533bef053e&mc_eid=3fa1d39831.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Loneliness annual report: the first year

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/858909/Loneliness_Annual_Report_-_The_First_Year.pdf

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 13 Feb 2020)

“This report tells the story of what has been achieved since the publication of the loneliness strategy, and sets the government's direction of travel on the loneliness journey.” [p5]

It includes a summary of progress on the strategy commitments; updates on social prescribing and the “Let’s Talk Loneliness” campaign; an update on the new pilot projects; etc.

It also includes a number of short case studies – one of these, on St Tudy Shop and Post Office, includes the setting up of a library.

The report also lists the Loneliness Strategy Commitments which include:

- Cultural programmes as part of social prescribing
- Role that arts and culture can play in addressing loneliness
- Masterclasses on measuring the impact of library services in reducing loneliness
- 2018 Libraries Week to include loneliness.

The report also confirms the three areas that work is developing within:

- The need for more information and communication about loneliness and the activities which are available to reduce it.
- The need for further policies targeted at tackling children and young people’s loneliness – young people report struggling with loneliness more than any other group, but targeted interventions and policies are currently relatively sparse.
- The need to tackle loneliness through place – strengthening community infrastructure and assets, and growing people’s sense of belonging.” [p13]

The loneliness strategy, *A connected society: a strategy for tackling loneliness – laying the foundations for change*, was published in 2018 – see:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/750909/6.4882_DCMS_Loneliness_Strategy_web_Update.pdf.

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

An ethical approach to interpreting disability and difference

<https://le.ac.uk/rcmg/research-archive/disorder-dissent-disruption>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 13 Feb 2020)

Important new guidance just published:

“The Wellcome Collection in London and the Research Centre for Museums and Galleries at the University of Leicester have published new guidance outlining how museums can take an ethical approach to interpreting disability and difference in gallery spaces.”

See also MA press release at: https://www.museumsassociation.org/museum-practice/new-practice/13022020-museums-urged-to-address-unethical-representation-of-disability?utm_campaign=1686603_13022020%20Newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,105E3,27LU0M,3T6KF,1.

NB Fuller assessment to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

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

Creative differences: a handbook for embracing neurodiversity in the creative industries

<https://umusic.co.uk/Creative-Differences-Handbook.pdf>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 410, 24 Jan 2020)

“[This new handbook] explores the experiences of people with specific facets of neurodiversity such as ASD, ADHD, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and Tourette Syndrome. It contains throughout the testimonies of individuals' lived experiences and those of professionals working in the field.

The handbook highlights that while nearly all creative companies recognise the value of neurodiversity in the workplace, only very few have ND-friendly policies and practices in place. It goes on to provide a range of practical solutions companies can adopt to make their workforces more accessible in areas including recruitment, mentorship and career progression.

Specific recommendations include neurodiversity awareness education for all employees, providing flexibility around the job application process and also some less obvious suggestions such as a buddy system to help new recruits better understand unwritten social rules.” [taken from *Heritage Update*]

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

EU Settlement Scheme

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/eu-settlement-scheme-local-authorities-toolkit>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 644, 3 Feb 2020)

The Government has just published a number of pieces of guidance – this “local authorities toolkit” look useful:

“This toolkit equips you with the right materials and information to support EU citizens to apply to stay in the UK.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“How Kurdish diaspora groups are pushing for unity over their divided homeland”

https://theconversation.com/how-kurdish-diaspora-groups-are-pushing-for-unity-over-their-divided-homeland-130103?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2028%202020%20-%201519914483&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20January%2028%202020%20-%201519914483+CID_319d0d9beeafb292d58a518d6cfc8ee3&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=How%20Kurdish%20diaspora%20groups%20are%20pushing%20for%20unity%20over%20their%20divided%20homeland

(Source: *The Conversation*, 28 Jan 2020)

Interesting article looking at the background to Kurdish people’s struggle for recognition, and the growing call for “[...] a single demand for the recognition of Kurdish status for administrative, cultural and political rights in the Middle East.”

Migrants and discrimination in the UK

<https://migrationobservatory.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Briefing-Migrants-and-Discrimination-in-the-UK.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 643, 27 Jan 2020)

New “Briefing” from The Migration Observatory.

“This briefing examines migrants’ experiences of discrimination due to their ethnicity, nationality, religion, language or accent. It also presents experimental data on labour market discrimination against migrants and children of migrants.” [p2]

Key points include:

“Migrants may experience discrimination for different reasons, some of which also affect UK-born ethnic minorities. This [c]an be due to characteristics such as ethnicity and race, but also factors that particularly affect the foreign born, such as having a foreign accent or foreign qualifications.

In 2018, non-EU born migrants were over twice as likely to describe themselves as members of a group that faces discrimination because of nationality, religion, language, race or ethnicity, compared to EU-born migrants (19% vs. 8%). However, there was a sharp, temporary increase in EU migrants' perceptions of discrimination around the time of the EU referendum, in 2014-16.

Adult children of migrants who were born in the UK are much more likely to perceive discrimination against their group than migrants themselves (32% vs. 16% in 2016-18).

In 2016-2018, the share of migrants perceiving discrimination against their group was similar in Great Britain (16%) to in other EU-14 countries (17%). Among children of migrants, however, the share perceiving discrimination was higher in the UK than in other EU-14 countries (32% vs. 21%).

The majority of the foreign-born population (72%) think that the UK is hospitable or welcoming for migrants, and that migrants can get ahead if they work hard (91%).

About 13% of the foreign-born population said that they had been insulted because of their ethnicity, nationality, religion, language or accent.

Both British and international evidence suggests that ethnic minorities are discriminated against in hiring decisions irrespective of the country in which they were born or received their education.” [p2]

There is an interesting background article by one of the authors, Mariña Fernández-Reino – see: <https://tellmamauk.org/analysis-why-do-the-uk-born-children-of-migrants-feel-more-discriminated-against/>.

“What Is Behind the Media’s Skewed Portrayal of Migrants?”

<http://classonline.org.uk/blog/item/what-is-behind-the-medias-skewed-portrayal-of-migrants>

(Source: Updates from Class, 13 Feb 2020)

Interesting blogpost by Cameron Boyle (a political correspondent for the Immigration Advice Service), which looks at the media treatment of new arrivals, and also calls for greater diversity in newsrooms:

“It is only when migrants play an active role in shaping news stories that events will be represented with decency and balance.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“A brief history of black names, from Perlie to Latasha”

https://theconversation.com/a-brief-history-of-black-names-from-perlie-to-latasha-130102?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201517314456&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201517314456+CID_b975721d7126f563e8c526d59ab0ddf1&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=A%20brief%20history%20of%20black%20names%20from%20Perlie%20to%20Latasha

(Source: *The Conversation*, 25 Jan 2020)

Fascinating article about Black names:

“Most people recognize that there are first names given almost exclusively by black Americans to their children, such as Jamal and Latasha.

While fodder for comedians and social commentary, many have assumed that these distinctively black names are a modern phenomenon. My research shows that’s not true.”