



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 295, 15 March 2020

Events

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

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“CILIP Coronavirus information service”

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/news.asp?id=493378>

(Source: email from Nick Poole, CEO CILIP, 15 Mar 2020)

“CILIP is committed to supporting our members in all aspects of their work, including understanding and managing the emerging impact of COVID-19 and coronavirus on library, information and knowledge services.

We will be keeping this hub regularly updated with information, guidance and best practices from across the sector as the situation develops, so do please bookmark this page and check back regularly for updates.”

“Coronavirus: how will it affect museums and what can be done to mitigate the impact?”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/news/10032020-coronavirus-impact-museums-galleries?utm_campaign=1707767_12032020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,10LPZ,27LU0M,3V402,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 12 Mar 2020)

Useful round-up from the MA:

“Based on the feedback the MA has received from museum professionals across the UK, these are some of the ways in which the sector might be affected, and measures that museums are taking to mitigate the impact:”

“COVID-19 Guidance for Educators”

<https://gem.org.uk/gem-covid-19-guidance-for-educators/>

(Source: email from GEM, 13 Mar 2020)

GEM (the Group for Education in Museums) has:

“[...] pulled together the following guidance from health professionals, the UK government as well as educators and arts and culture organisations for the benefit of those working in education.”

Coronavirus: issues, good practice and information

https://mcusercontent.com/e68315dd39f97787827c1ef00/files/7e0a213b-e145-4a76-b905-fd709cce2559/What_Next_Coronavirus_paper_120320.03.pdf

(Source: email from Culture Declares Emergency, 14 Mar 2020)

Very useful briefing from “What Next?” *

* “What Next?”:

“What Next? is a movement bringing together arts and cultural organisations from across the UK, to articulate, champion and strengthen the role of culture in our society.

We want to work collaboratively to build alliances outside of the cultural sector, build relationships with local and national government and engage the public in new and different conversations about the arts.”

See: <https://www.whatnextculture.co.uk/>.

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

“Outsiders Then & Now”

<https://museumofhomelessness.org/2020/02/19/outside-then-now/>

(Source: email from Museum of Homelessness, 21 Feb 2020)

“Museum of Homelessness has received a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund for an 18 month creative heritage activism project, *Outsiders, Then and Now*. Made possible by money raised by National Lottery players, the project will explore the heritage of grassroots movements in the homeless and LGBTIQ+ communities since the 1960s in order to inspire change today.

Beginning in March 2020, this project forms the next exciting step in our joint creative residency with QueerSeum at the Outside Project’s Community Centre in Clerkenwell Fire Station. Other key partners include Streets Kitchen, Islington Council, The Simon Community and London Metropolitan Archives.

The National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £98,000 will support:

- A new weekly direct access drop in service including creative heritage activity for the street homeless community in Islington.
- A new exhibition and public programme during Pride month at the Outside Project’s community centre in Clerkenwell Fire Station.
- Creative activity across the borough of Islington from September 2020 to April 2021.
- Paid work for artists, producers and researchers from the LGBTIQ+ and homeless communities.
- Volunteer opportunities and skills training for our communities.”

“UK BAME authors & illustrators”

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/british-bame-authors-illustrators-publishers/>

(Source: *Teen Librarian Newsletter*, Mar 2020)

Matt Imrie has just reorganised his valuable BAME lists and broken them down into Teen/YA, Middle Grade, Children's, Poetry and Picture Book authors & illustrators.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

A needs assessment of veterans in custody, their families & children

<https://www.nicco.org.uk/userfiles/downloads/5e3d905a68926-veterans-assessment-doc.pdf>

(Source: *Clinks Light Lunch*, 622, 21 Feb 2020)

Important new report that looks at the impact of imprisonment on veterans and their families.

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

“Creating Space for Kindness”

<https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/project/creating-space-for-kindness-public-libraries-in-scotland/>

(Source: *CILIPS Newsletter*, 65, Mar 2020)

New project from the Carnegie UK Trust.

“Over the course of 2020, we are looking to build a network of Champions for Libraries and Kindness from across Scotland to develop ideas, test out small interventions in their own workplace, and share this collaboratively with colleagues. Ultimately, we hope that learning from the project will inspire others in the sector across the UK and Ireland to take forward action to encourage kindness and continue to enhance community wellbeing.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Doing digital: how it can help improve wellbeing in the homelessness sector

https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/sites/default/files/research-publications/reboot_handbook_v2.pdf

(Source: *Good Things Foundation News*, Feb 2020)

“In the UK, there are 11.9 million people without essential digital skills [...], and 15.2 million people who aren't making full use of the internet [...] Despite the huge growth in ownership of smartphones, people who experience homelessness – particularly those who sleep rough and/or have multiple needs – are often socially and digitally excluded. They can face barriers to getting online and using online services, meaning specialist support and help is vital to help them access all the benefits the internet has to offer.

This guide offers advice and resources for homelessness organisations wishing to do more with digital. Whether it's helping the people you support to benefit from what the internet can offer, or simply helping you

and your service users to keep up with the ever changing technological world around you, this guide should have something of interest to you [...]

All of the tips, suggestions and examples of best practice in this document have been provided by Homeless Link, Mind centres and Online Centres, as part of the Reboot UK project.” [p3]

Further info about Reboot UK at:

<https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/projects/reboot-uk>.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“At home I feared the war. Here I feared the Home Office’: the female refugees left destitute in the UK”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/feb/12/at-home-i-feared-the-war-here-i-feared-the-home-office-the-female-refugees-left-destitute-in-the-uk>

Just in case you didn’t see this *Guardian* article:

“More than 100 women have told a charity how it feels to be left without a home or financial help after fleeing persecution. Here, three people share their stories”

“How do I convince the Home Office I’m a lesbian?”

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-51636642>

(Source: *The UoP Equality & Diversity Newsletter*, 27 Feb 2020)

Moving account of one lesbian’s attempts to seek sanctuary in the UK:

“Angel fled Zimbabwe in fear of her life after police found her in bed with another woman five years ago. It’s taken most of the time since then for her to convince the Home Office that she is gay and will be persecuted if she returns. But how do you prove something you spent your life trying to hide?”

“I get a lot of love’: how hope survives in the hell of Moria”

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/feb/18/librarian-moria-ales-hope-refugee-camp>

Important article reporting on conditions – and signs of hope – within the refugee camp on Lesbos:

“It is not easy to find the library at Moria on the Greek island of Lesbos. Before reaching the refugee camp’s main entrance, you turn off the road where the police bus is always parked, then walk up the track that runs beside the perimeter fence. You walk past the military post and the hawkers selling fruit and veg, trainers, cooking utensils, cigarettes, electrical equipment – pretty much everything; past huge stinking mountains of bagged-up rubbish – so much rubbish; and past the worst toilets in the world, overflowing with excrement and plastic.

Then, opposite the hole in the fence where people who don't want to use the main gate come and go, you turn right, into what they call the Jungle, the olive groves into which the camp has exploded, because it was meant for 3,000 people and now has 20,000."

"Conversations From Calais"

<https://www.conversationsfromcalais.com/>

(Source: email from Kier Swaffield, Birmingham Libraries, 28 Feb 2020)

This is a really useful resource:

"Documenting conversations between volunteers and migrants met in Calais.

Sharing them with the world by pasting them on our cities' walls.

Re-humanising the refugee crisis."

"The new immigration system: what it is and what it means"

<https://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2020/02/25/the-new-immigration-system-what-it-is-and-what-it-means/>

(Source: NCVO *Policy Round-up*, Feb 2020)

Really helpful clarification by NCVO of what the new system will involve.

"Brexit: thousands of care-experienced children 'at risk of living in UK illegally'"

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/brexit-thousands-of-care-experienced-children-at-risk-of-living-in-uk-illegally>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Update*, 4 Mar 2020)

"All EU nationals living in the UK need to prove their immigration status under the EU Settlement Scheme before the transition period ends on 31 December in order to remain in the country [...]"

However, research by the Greater Manchester Immigration Aid Unit (GMIAU) shows that 10,000 young people could remain in the UK illegally if they are not provided with support to prove their status."

"Settled"

<https://settled.org.uk/en/>

(Source: email from Devon for Europe, 15 Mar 2020)

"Settled is a new charity [...] working with vulnerable and hard to reach EU / EEA citizens in the UK.

Settled is accredited for Level 2 immigration advice by the Immigration Services Commissioner [...]"

Our mission is to reach out to those who are at risk of losing their right to live and work in the UK after Brexit, in the event that they fail to apply successfully for Settled Status by the end of 2020."

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“Local councils are asking young people kicked out of their homes for being LGBT+ for ‘proof’ of their homelessness”

<https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2020/03/09/councils-england-lgbt-homelessness-youth-albert-kennedy-trust-bbc-three-investigation/>

(Source: Peter Tatchell Foundation *Weekly*, #91, 12 Mar 2020)

“Local councils in England are asking LGBT+ homeless youth who have been kicked out by their families for letters from their parents as ‘proof’ of homelessness, according to an investigation by *The Next Episode* podcast and BBC Three.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“Reading news – latest research and articles”

<http://www.aneharding.net/3047/reading-news-latest-research-articles/>

(Source: updates from Anne Harding Training, 3 Mar 2020)

Important round-up of new research about children’s and young people’s reading.

Audiobooks and literacy: a rapid review of the literature

https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Audiobooks_and_literacy_2020.pdf

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Newsletter*, 10 Mar 2020)

New review from the National Literacy Trust, which shows that audiobooks can:

- Improve children’s reading skills and enjoyment of reading
- Support children’s emotional intelligence and mental wellbeing
- Improve children’s reading comprehension
- Widen children’s access to books.