



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 297, 30 April 2020

### Introduction

Firstly, I hope everyone is keeping safe and well in these difficult times. We decided to continue with the Ebulletins as people are working from home and still requiring information, news and current awareness – and it's another way of keeping people in touch with each other and with the wider world

As is probably the case with everyone, my inbox is filling rapidly every day, so that's meant that I have got a bit behind – but will hope to catch up in the very near future.

### Events

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

### Coronavirus/COVID-19

#### “FabLab Devon answers the NHS call for PPE”

<https://www.devonnewscentre.info/fablab-devon-answers-the-nhs-call-for-ppe/>

(Source: email from Devon County Council, 3 Apr 2020)

“FabLab Devon, part of Libraries Unlimited, the charity which runs Devon’s libraries on behalf of Devon County Council, is 3D printing visor parts and reinforcements as part of a volunteer group led by Dr Rupa Chilvers, of Exeter based company Tangerine Bee.”

### *Beating the virus*

<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/downloads-shop/beating-the-virus>

(Source: email from Aisha Affejee (Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives), 7 Apr 2020)

*Beating the virus* is the latest title from Beyond Words, and is being made available to download free-of-charge:

“In the story, we meet Kali again (some of you might recognise her from *Belonging*) when she starts to feel poorly with a cough and a temperature. Our short wordless story will help people to understand what to do if you have Coronavirus (COVID-19) to keep yourself and those you care about safe. The story also shows how you can safely help others who may be self-isolating.

Supplementary text at the end of the story gives information on where people can seek help if they are unwell and signposts to other useful resources.

This is an evolving resource which we will be updating regularly as our artist, Lucy Bergonzi, refines and colours the pictures.”

In terms of the series:

“There are 60 wordless (and therefore non-language dependent) stories in the Books Beyond Words series, all co-created with people with learning disabilities and autistic people. All the stories are available as paperbacks and eBooks via the Beyond Words website: [www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk](http://www.booksbeyondwords.co.uk).”

#### **“What remote story times have taught me”**

<http://www.anneharding.net/3054/remote-story-times-taught/>

(Source: updates from Anne Harding Training, 29 Apr 2020)

“There is nothing to beat the delights of sharing books with a child or children right there with you [...] Sadly, in these days of lockdown, for the moment many of us are having to resort to remote story times. I certainly miss the physical connection, but I’ve also realised that doing storytelling via video link has been a valuable learning opportunity for me. I’ve been observing what works well, and what less so, and I’m sure this will inform my post-lockdown practice.”

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

##### **“Manchester’s next cultural wave will centre on social impact”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/comment/23042020-manchester-cultural-wave?utm\\_campaign=1733315\\_24042020&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Museums%20Association&dm\\_i=2VBX,115FN,27LUOM,3XIMB,1](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/comment/23042020-manchester-cultural-wave?utm_campaign=1733315_24042020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,115FN,27LUOM,3XIMB,1)

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 24 Apr 2020)

Interesting article about developments in Manchester:

“In post-Brexit Britain and after the 2017 terrorist attack in Manchester there continues to be an alarming rise of intolerance towards faith and minority communities. A record number of anti-Semitic incidents were reported last year.

There is an urgent need to combat this growing racial intolerance and – as a new museum about a migrant community in a former synagogue on the most diverse road in the UK – we are uniquely positioned to do this.

From Bollywood concerts and an Afghanistan bakery to a Muslim Jewish textile group and multi-faith comedy nights, we are already bringing different communities together. Over the next two years, thanks to GMCA’s support, we will build on this even further. Next year, with the opening of our new museum, we will reach an even larger, more diverse audience.

Interfaith supper clubs are already being planned, as are English for Speakers of Other Languages courses using objects from our collection.

New volunteering and training opportunities will be provided for local Muslim residents, newly arrived migrants and students with special educational needs from Manchester's orthodox Jewish community.

To measure the social impact of our work we will be using the Social Return on Investment (SROI) framework."

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies**

#### ***Time to end the silence: the experience of Muslims in the prison system***

<https://www.maslaha.org/Project/Time-to-End-the-Silence>

(Source: Clinks *Light Lunch*, 631, 24 Apr 2020)

"The number of Muslim prisoners has more than doubled over the past 17 years. In 2002 there were 5,502 Muslims in prison, by 2019 this had risen to 13,341. According to government figures 40% are Asian, 29% are black, 16% are white and 9% are mixed."

Concerns have been raised about a number of issues, including:

"Muslims, as well as BAME men and women in prison, often describe their experience in prison and relationships with staff more negatively in comparison to white groups. A significant number of Muslim men report:

- Not receiving basic care
- Not being treated respectfully by staff
- Not being able to turn to staff for help
- Not easily being able to receive or send parcels or letters
- not easily being able to make complaints"

The report shows "[...] how Muslims in prison face racism which obstructs them from practising their religion and prevents them from accessing vital services such as mental health programmes."

"This report is based on a mixture of long interviews, focus groups, and observation conducted with those in custody and outside the prison estate. The interviews were with Muslim men and women who had experienced the criminal justice system as well as staff at Samaritans, Pact, the Prisoners' Education Trust and Switchback.

We also spoke to a number of academics and criminologists and other organisations and individuals who work in the voluntary sector and have specialist knowledge and experience of issues affecting BAME and Muslim communities. We conducted focus groups in 4 prisons as well as interviews with Muslim men and women who had served custodial sentences across an additional 10 prisons." [quotes taken from website]

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

### “Museum and Heritage Access Survey 2020”

<http://vocaleyeyes.co.uk/museum-and-heritage-access-survey-2020/>

(Source: email from Matthew Cock, CEO, VocalEyes)

“VocalEyes together with Stagertext and Autism in Museums are researching the museum visitor experience for people who use access support – this may be facilities, resources or events. We are undertaking a national survey of visitors which is the first of its kind. It will reveal what people with access requirements need from our museums and heritages sites, and how well these venues are currently supporting them. Responses will be published and disseminated in a report later in 2020, which we hope will catalyse further discussion and improvement in access provision.”

If you are a museum or heritage site professional: please could you circulate the survey to your visitors, via email newsletter, social media and to any access-specific subscribers you might have.

<http://vocaleyeyes.co.uk/museum-and-heritage-access-survey-2020/>

(This page has links to the online survey and Large Print versions (in both English and Welsh))

## LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

### “The Right’s New Target: LGBTQ Children”

[https://slate.com/human-interest/2020/03/lgbtq-kids-anti-trans-legislation.html?fbclid=IwAR046\\_FDs5Kkmyd4I5JnzUOQ5NXdqtZuSfU1m5zUZmMvLjG\\_xBQnBU0gsmw](https://slate.com/human-interest/2020/03/lgbtq-kids-anti-trans-legislation.html?fbclid=IwAR046_FDs5Kkmyd4I5JnzUOQ5NXdqtZuSfU1m5zUZmMvLjG_xBQnBU0gsmw)

(Source: post from Mark Perkins in IFLA LGBTQ Users SIG, 28 Mar 2020)

“From children’s books to TV shows and movies, media geared towards young people is more LGBTQ-inclusive than ever [... However,] the proliferation of inclusive media is unintentionally masking a highly coordinated, well-resourced political movement that is targeting the most vulnerable among us: our children.”