



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 299, 19 May 2020

Events

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

Consultations/Inquiries

“Children’s literacy and wellbeing at home surveys”

https://literacytrust.org.uk/contact-us/childrens-literacy-and-wellbeing-at-home-surveys/?mc_cid=383185cec8&mc_eid=a2d98ab814

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Resources and Training Update*, 15 May 2020)

Network member, the NLT, have just launched these surveys:

“We have launched a survey for children and young people (aged 8 to 18) to find out more about the reading, writing, speaking and listening they are doing at home during lockdown.

We have also launched two surveys for parents to help us understand how families are coping with supporting their children’s literacy and wellbeing at home since school closures in late March.

Children, young people and parents have until **31 May 2020** to take part.”

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“£18m support for the culture, creative and sport sector in Wales” [press release]

https://gov.wales/18m-support-culture-creative-and-sport-sector-wales?_ga=2.116320902.1288196321.1588675961-33031462.1475138217

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 10 May 2020)

“More than £18m will support the creative industries, culture and sport sectors, which are feeling the immediate impact of COVID-19”

Includes:

- **“£7m Arts Resilience Fund led by the Arts Council of Wales.** Working with the Arts Council, this fund will support artists and arts organisations most in need and least likely to benefit from other support programmes. Further announcements will be made about how the fund will be distributed.
- **£8m Sport Resilience Fund.** This will be used to support sports clubs and partner networks which play such a vital role in ensuring the nation is able to remain active and enjoy all the health and wellbeing benefits that sport brings. The fund will be led by Sport Wales.

- **£1m Creative Wales** fund will provide support for grassroots music venues to respond to immediate pressures (up to £25K per business), and additional support for TV and publishing sector to allow it to consider future opportunities. Examples will include working on new content ideas for TV and new digital experiences
- **£1m Cultural Resilience Fund** for museums, collections, conservation services, archives and community and public libraries to respond to short-term pressures and recovery actions on a grant application basis.
- **£750k Emergency Relief Fund** to support the smallest and most vulnerable independent sector sport, museum and heritage organisations with cash flow and other critical issues. This includes two grant programmes administered by the Welsh Museums Federation and Sport Wales.
- **£250k Digital Library Resources**, which will enable public libraries to provide additional digital resources to the public and gives people resources to read and engage with whilst self-isolating.”

“Lego, learning and laughter: how libraries are thriving in lockdown”

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2020/may/06/lego-learning-and-laughter-how-libraries-are-thriving-in-lockdown>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 10 May 2020)

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

“UK libraries are at the heart of local communities as eborrowing soars, printers turn out PPE, and staff get creative online”

“Reopening the museum sector: a statement from the Museums Association”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/news/04052020-reopening-the-museum-sector-ma-statement?utm_campaign=1738989_04052020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,119T9,27LU0M,3Y00C,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 4 May 2020)

Important statement from the MA, which includes this outline:

“The Museums Association (MA) believes that museums should be enabled to reopen to the public as soon as it is safe for public and staff to do so and all necessary public hygiene and social distancing measures are in place.

In order to facilitate reopening the following support is needed:

- Museums should be eligible for emergency public support during an extended period following the end of lockdown to ensure their continued survival
- Governments should provide clear and unambiguous messages to the public on the safety of visiting museums once it is appropriate to do so

- Museums should play a prominent part in any campaign to encourage the public and international visitors to return to cultural venues in the UK
- Any museum unable to reopen because of inability to comply with social distancing measures should be eligible for emergency funding to ensure their continued survival.”

“ARA Together Support Hub”

<https://www.archives.org.uk/ara-together.html>

The ARA have just launched their Support Hub which aims to signpost members “[...] to a wide range of reliable online resources that we believe will provide you with valuable information and guidance throughout this period.”

“Making plans for re-opening”

<https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/our-archives-sector-role/coronavirus-update/making-plans-for-re-opening/>

(Source: email from TNA to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 5 May 2020)

The National Archives has produced new guidance with:

“[...] some principles and operational factors that an archive service should take into account when planning for its re-opening. As highlighted in several of the principles, the current situation changes quickly and this webpage will be updated regularly to reflect the latest developments. We are also developing more detailed risk management support and will publish it as soon as possible.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Windrush learning resource 2020

Full resource: <https://www.gcfoundation.co.uk/pages/category/windrush-learning-resource-2020>

Pdf: <https://www.gcfoundation.co.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=81efd371-a374-4561-af1f-6d5b460202cb>

(Source: email from Kate Fellows to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 12 May 2020)

New from the Geraldine Connor Foundation:

“[This resource] provides everything you need to plan and teach a lesson on the Empire Windrush and the legacy of the ‘Windrush Generation’. Our resources combine a mixture of short films, interviews, recipes, reading lists and playlists.”

Preventing the disadvantage gap from increasing during and after the Covid-19 pandemic

https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/EPI-Policy-paper-Impact-of-Covid-19_docx.pdf

(Source: Cultural Learning Alliance *Newsletter*, 14 May 2020)

New paper from the Education Policy Institute, which includes:

[...] a series of policy recommendations for government, designed to prevent a significant widening of the disadvantage gap between poor children and the rest of the pupil population following the pandemic.

Prior to the outbreak of Covid-19, EPI research found that disadvantaged children are already on average one and a half years of learning behind other pupils by the time they take their GCSEs.

Ahead of the expected announcement on the reopening schools, the new paper calls on the government to set out a school 'Catch Up Plan' to provide targeted pupil support."

"Meet ArtActivistBarbie, the fearless funny feminist taking on a white male art world"

https://theconversation.com/meet-artactivistbarbie-the-fearless-funny-feminist-taking-on-a-white-male-art-world-138041?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2015%202020%20-%201622515571&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%2015%202020%20-%201622515571+CID_652efb55038c96669e55265927eac83b&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Meet%20ArtActivistBarbie%20the%20fearless%20funny%20feminist%20taking%20on%20a%20white%20male%20art%20world

(Source: *The Conversation*, 15 May 2020)

Just in case you haven't come across this terrific intervention:

"With her inviting call to arms, 'Refuse to be the muse!' this fierce new incarnation of Barbie is helping to challenge art galleries and museums worldwide about their woeful lack of women and other minorities in their collections, and reluctance to consider the female gaze."

You can follow her on Twitter! See: <https://twitter.com/BarbieReports>.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Empathy Day, 9 June – launch of Family Activities pack

<https://www.empathylab.uk/family-activities-pack>

(Source: email from EmpathyLab, 18 May 2020)

"With Empathy Day fast approaching on 9 June, we're counting down the days with a set of fun activities for the whole family in our brand new Family Activities Pack.

The activities cover Empathy Day's three themes - Read, Connect, Act - but can be done in any order, with just some scrap paper and a pen or pencil."

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

“It’s time to move the needle on disabled representation”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/comment/12052020-its-time-to-move-the-needle-on-disabled-representation?utm_campaign=1744086_13052020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,11DQU,27LU0M,3YHL2,1

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

Article by Yoti Goudas (user experience consultant) about his survey of museums and their strategies for employing and engaging with disabled staff:

“From national and private cultural sector institutions, to digital companies that create accessible exhibition experiences, I wanted to gauge to what extent disabled people in the museum workplace have real influence and agency within their organisation – and, indeed, whether they are there at all [...]

Sadly, most of the cultural institutions that were part of this initial investigation had very few, if any, disabled staff. Even fewer had any policies to create conditions where retention and recruitment of disabled staff could be improved.”

The author calls for urgent and lasting changes:

“Going forward, we need to focus on creating lasting and meaningful change within organisations. For accessibility to be advanced in any museum it must be:

- championed by leadership and entrenched in governance;
- embedded in recruitment processes and reflected in the workforce who are hired as staff or volunteers;
- supported by procurement policies and operational practices so as to remove physical or digital barriers to staff;
- promoted and supported within the culture of the institution through learning and development.”

Disability issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Face masks – overcoming the barriers they pose to communication”

https://www.equalityni.org/Footer-Links/News/Employers-Service-Providers/Face-masks-%E2%80%93-overcoming-the-barriers-they-pose-to?utm_source=NewZapp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=May20ezine

(Source: email from Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, 12 May 2020)

Very useful advice note from the Equality Commission NI, which looks at a range of important issues, including measures to take if your staff can’t avoid wearing masks.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“This is what it feels like to be a destitute asylum seeker in a pandemic”

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/coronavirus-uk-lockdown-hostile-environment-asylum-seeker-destitute-a9497296.html>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 658, 11 May 2020)

“Charities that support us have been forced to shut down or scale back, leaving numerous migrants like me very vulnerable in increasingly desperate circumstances”

“Unite for Literacy”

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

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 7 May 2020)

“Unite for Literacy is a site that encourages bilingual reading of stories for children (which could be ideal for low literacy adult learners) as well as encourage children reading to their parents as well as for children to get their parents to read to them and create stronger bonds.” [taken from email from esol-research@jiscmail.ac.uk]

Unite for Literacy:

“We picture a world where all children have access to an abundance of books that celebrate their languages and cultures and cultivate a lifelong love of reading.” [taken from: <https://growingreaders.uniteforliteracy.com/>]

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

“LGBTQ children’s books face record calls for bans in US libraries”

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/apr/21/us-libraries-say-lgbtq-children-books-most-calls-for-bans-last-year-alex-gino-george>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 10 May 2020)

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

“Annual list of the most challenged books includes Alex Gino’s *George*, about a transgender girl, and John Oliver’s picture book about a gay rabbit, *A Day in the Life of Marlon Bundo*”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“How to Make Your Digital Classroom More LGBTQ-Friendly”

<https://itgetsbetter.org/blog/lesson/how-to-make-your-digital-classroom-more-lgbtq-friendly/>

(Source: It Gets Better Project *Your Weekly Uplift*, 7 May 2020)

Useful resources from the It Gets Better Project to help create inclusive spaces.

“The It Gets Better Project is a nonprofit organization with a mission to uplift, empower, and connect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer youth around the globe.” [taken from: <https://itgetsbetter.org/about/>]