



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 303, 29 June 2020

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

“No reader is too young to start’: anti-racist books for all children and teens”

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2020/jun/04/no-reader-is-too-young-to-start-anti-racist-books-for-all-children-and-teens>

(Source: ASCEL *Update*, Jun 2020)

Useful brief article from *The Guardian* by Aimée Felone (a co-founder of Knights Of and Round Table Books in London).

“Bearing witness to the history of black lives in Britain”

[https://theconversation.com/bearing-witness-to-the-history-of-black-lives-in-britain-](https://theconversation.com/bearing-witness-to-the-history-of-black-lives-in-britain-140776?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2017%202020%20-%201654015914&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2017%202020%20-%201654015914+CID_629dd013f79e91cd08d8206bea1c028d&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Bearing%20witness%20to%20the%20history%20of%20black%20lives%20in%20Britain)

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As outlined in recent news headlines, COVID-19 is currently having a disproportionate impact on BAME communities. To ensure this is captured for future researchers, educators, and commentators and contribute to a collective national history, the Centre has launched its #AllStoriesAreImportant campaign.

The project aims to collect records, stories and articles that demonstrate how racism – structural, institutional, and interpersonal – still exists today, but is being erased by our national story being largely told by the privileged few.

If you are interested in finding out more about the campaign or donating material to the project, you can visit [the above weblink] [Taken from email]

“Statements on contested heritage”

In the latest issue of *Heritage Update* (see:

<https://email.premmdesign.co.uk/campaigns/reports/viewCampaign.aspx?d=r&c=F8A79382986513D2&ID=56DD9EACCDE45A282540EF23F30FEDED&temp=False&tx=0&source=Report>), Heritage Alliance helpfully draws together some recent statements:

- Historic England has written a statement: "Heritage should be for everyone", see: <https://historicengland.org.uk/about/who-we-are/heritage-belongs-to-everyone/>. This includes:

“We at Historic England condemn racism in any form. We are committed to inclusion, diversity and equality of opportunity in all of our work - but we know that we, and the heritage sector, have a long way to go.

Our heritage and our built environment should be a source of knowledge and understanding for everyone. There continues to be a disproportionate weighting in our history books, at our historic sites and in our records, focusing predominantly on white male achievement. This bias must change.

England has a rich and complex history. Our buildings, monuments and places sometimes bring us face to face with parts of our history that are painful, or shameful by today's standards. We recognise that there are historic statues and memorials which have become symbols of injustice and a source of great pain for many people. Our sector has a long way to go to be able to tell hidden and uncomfortable stories and we are committed to playing a full part in driving forward the positive change that must happen.”

- Historic England have also updated their brief statement on contested heritage – see: <https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/statements/contested-heritage/>.
- The National Trust has published “Addressing the histories of slavery and colonialism at the National Trust” (see: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/addressing-the-histories-of-slavery-and-colonialism-at-the-national-trust>), which includes:

“The National Trust cares for places and collections on behalf of the nation, and many have direct and indirect links to slavery and colonialism.

We are responsible for making sure their stories are fully explored and shared. This often means working with partners and communities to uncover and tell them. While we have done this at places such as Sutton House in London, Dyrham Park in Gloucestershire and Quarry Bank Mill in Cheshire, and with partners such as Colonial Countryside, we have much more work to do.

Slavery has been woven into the fabric of British and global history for thousands of years. For 400 years, white British people, companies and organisations gained huge amounts of wealth through the appalling exploitation of enslaved people as part of the slave trade.”

- Historic Houses has shared its education work on “Inclusive Histories” (see: <https://www.historichouses.org/about/education-work/inclusive-histories.html>), which includes:

“Historic Houses believes that the UK should be a country in which everyone feels at home, is respected and is treated fairly.

We can’t change the past, but we believe there is much to be gained from using heritage to contextualise the past and draw out painful, hidden or contested histories. We believe strongly in the value of protecting heritage, learning from it, and using it to create positive social change.”

- Finally, the National Lottery Heritage Fund is launching a wide-ranging review of its approach to diversity and inclusion – see: <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/we-want-do-more-eliminate-racism-and-drive-greater-equality-diversity-and-inclusion-heritage>.

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Government support for charities in the Covid-19 crisis”

<https://www.thinknpc.org/resource-hub/the-750m/>

(Source: New Philanthropy Capital *Weekly Update*, 22 Jun 2020)

“On 8 April 2020, the Chancellor Rishi Sunak announced a £750m package to ‘ensure [charities] can continue their vital work during the coronavirus outbreak.’

Through our work, we are aware that many charities want to know how they can access some of this funding. We have also seen some confusion about how it has been allocated. So, using government sources [...] we have attempted to break down the allocation of the £750m into its sub-funds, in a way that is both clear and accessible.”

This seems fairly shocking:

“All of the £750m has been allocated to different causes, but we have different levels of information on how much of it has reached the end recipient (and who that recipient is). To that end, we hope to keep this page updated as new announcements are made.”

Funding & Opportunities

Art Fund: Respond and reimagine grants

<https://www.artfund.org/supporting-museums/programmes/respond-and-reimagine-grants>

(Source: *Devon Funding News*, updates 21 Jun 2020)

“Respond and reimagine grants provide funding to help museums, galleries and cultural organisations respond to immediate challenges connected to the Covid-19 crisis, and offer support to adapt and reimagine ways of working for the longer-term future [...]

We are happy to receive applications from UK public museums, galleries, historic houses, libraries and archives that:

- ordinarily have spaces for the public to visit and experience the visual arts or other object-based collections. This could include natural history, maritime and transport, archaeology and social history.
- can demonstrate that you usually operate to best practice standards or have a good track record in delivering high quality public activity [...]

There are three funding rounds for these grants:

- Round 1: Apply by Monday 6 July 2020, and we’ll aim to get you a decision by 31 July 2020
- Round 2: Apply by Monday 17 August 2020, and we’ll aim to get you a decision by 21 September 2020
- Round 3: Apply by Monday 12 October 2020, and we’ll aim to get you a decision by 9 November 2020”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Lloyds Bank UK Consumer Digital Index 2020

https://www.lloydsbank.com/assets/media/pdfs/banking_with_us/whats-happening/lb-consumer-digital-index-2020-report.pdf

(Source: *Digital Unite Newsletter*, Jun 2020)

“The Lloyds Bank UK Consumer Digital Index is now in its fifth year. It uses the behavioural and transactional data of one million consumers to build a view of digital engagement in Britain. It also benchmarks the UK Essential Digital Skills for Life and Work measure.” [p2]

Key findings include:

- “16% of the UK population cannot undertake Foundation digital activities such as turning on a device, connecting to Wi-Fi or opening an app by themselves.”
- “c. 2.7 million (5%) people can access the Internet but lack the ability to use it to its full advantage; in total, an estimated 11.7 million (22%) people in the UK are without the skills needed for everyday life.”
- “At a crucial time when digital can turn isolation into inclusion, the behavioural data shows that only 7% of over 70s are likely to have the capability to shop and manage their money online. In fact, 77% of this age group have Very Low digital engagement. It is not just the elderly who are under-equipped though; 52% of those offline are between 60 and 70 years old, and 44% of those offline are under the age of 60. Often, it is the most vulnerable and disadvantaged who are the most likely to be digitally excluded.
 - People with an impairment are 25% less likely to have the skills to access devices and get online by themselves
 - People with an annual household income of £50,000 or more are 40% more likely to have Foundation digital skills, than those earning less than £17,499
 - 4-in-10 benefit claimants have Very Low digital engagement.” [all quotes taken from p7]

A lifeline for our children: strengthening the social security system for families with children during this pandemic

https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/call-stronger-social-security-lifeline-children?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%2015%20June%202020&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%20wc%2015%20June%202020+CID_b5dc0cc9d140f126f8f48623f248cbc0&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20the%20research

(Source: *JRF Weekly round-up*, 19 Jun 2020)

New “Briefing” from JRF and Save the Children:

“For families on low incomes with children, the combination of income loss, additional costs, and the limitations of lockdown, is causing the

pressure to mount. JRF and Save the Children recently polled 3,000 families with children claiming Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit (polling methodology is included in the Appendix). This polling has shown that around 7 in 10 families with children claiming Universal Credit or Child Tax Credit are having to cut back on essentials including food, utilities, nappies and activities for children such as books and toys, with around 50% cutting back on food. Families on low incomes have to manage extremely tight budgets with careful planning and resourcefulness, but this seismic shock to daily life has meant many parents are struggling to put food on the table, let alone find the resources to support play and learning at home.” [p2]

Disability issues – Other Agencies

Covid-19: Henshaws survey with blind and partially sighted people

Full report: <https://www.henshaws.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Covid-19-Henshaws-survey-with-blind-partially-sighted-people-Final-report-15-June-2020.pdf>

News release (and link to accessible plain text version):

<https://www.henshaws.org.uk/news/blind-and-partially-sighted-covid19-survey-report-published/>

(Source: email from Sarah Mollitt, Marketing Manager Knowledge Village, Henshaws, 18 Jun 2020)

Key findings include:

- The overwhelming majority of respondents had not been contacted by their local authority sensory team during the early stages of the pandemic.
- 41% of respondents had not received any of the public health messaging about Covid-19 in a format which is accessible to them.
- One quarter of respondents had been informed they are at very high risk from Covid-19 (extremely vulnerable and should be shielding).
- There is considerable variation across Greater Manchester with regard to the support people with sight loss received during this time. [Taken from News release]