



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 305, 25 July 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

#### “Denver Public Library Hosts Virtual Racial Equity Symposium”

[https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=denver-public-library-hosts-virtual-racial-equity-symposium&utm\\_source=Marketing&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=july21LJXpress](https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=denver-public-library-hosts-virtual-racial-equity-symposium&utm_source=Marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=july21LJXpress)

(Source: *LJXpress* – *Library Journal*, 21 Jul 2020)

Write-up of a virtual symposium hosted by Denver Public Library in July, which looks at good practice in developing work around equality, diversity and inclusion – especially during the COVID-19 crisis. As one speaker, Regan Byrd, an anti-oppression speaker, trainer, activist, and consultant, noted:

“Normal is gone, and we are now tasked with building a new and better normal,’ she said. ‘Our workplaces and organizations have been sources of trauma and violence and anxiety for a long time. And now we have the ability to actually take a step back and think about what would it mean to have whole folks be able to bring their entire selves to a workplace.’”

Inevitably, the write-up is brief, but contains some useful tips and ideas.

#### “Black Lives Matter charter calls on heritage sector to turn words into action”

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/24072020-black-lives-matter-charter?utm\\_campaign=1781834\\_24072020%20MA%20newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Museums%20Association&dm\\_i=2VBX,126VE,27LU0M,422JM,1](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/24072020-black-lives-matter-charter?utm_campaign=1781834_24072020%20MA%20newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,126VE,27LU0M,422JM,1)

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

“As Black Lives Matter protests swept across the UK last month, museum and heritage organisations expressed their solidarity with the protesters’ calls to end racial injustice.

But a charter from the arts and education charity Culture& is calling on such institutions to do more to ‘decolonise their relationship with the UK black community’”.

The Charter is at: <https://www.cultureand.org/news/black-lives-matter-charter-for-the-uk-heritage-sector/>.

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

**“Movement for Black lives: an interview with Barbara Ransby”**

[http://www.irr.org.uk/news/movement-for-black-lives-an-interview-with-barbara-ransby/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=movement\\_for\\_black\\_lives\\_an\\_interview\\_with\\_barbara\\_ransby&utm\\_term=2020-07-24](http://www.irr.org.uk/news/movement-for-black-lives-an-interview-with-barbara-ransby/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=movement_for_black_lives_an_interview_with_barbara_ransby&utm_term=2020-07-24)

(Source: *IRR News*, 24 Jul 2020)

Really interesting interview by *Race & Class*:

“As we witness one of the largest uprisings in US history, led by Black working-class activists, *Race & Class* interviews Barbara Ransby, a US-based historian, feminist and longtime organiser, on the significance of the Movement for Black Lives (M4BL) uprisings across the US ignited by the murder of George Floyd.”

**“The racism faced by teenagers in the UK: new research”**

[https://theconversation.com/the-racism-faced-by-teenagers-in-the-uk-new-research-142596?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2024%202020%20-%201686216269&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2024%202020%20-%201686216269+CID\\_d6a61d3525da03e7bde9a724b507ff24&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=The%20racism%20faced%20by%20teenagers%20in%20the%20UK%20new%20research](https://theconversation.com/the-racism-faced-by-teenagers-in-the-uk-new-research-142596?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2024%202020%20-%201686216269&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2024%202020%20-%201686216269+CID_d6a61d3525da03e7bde9a724b507ff24&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20racism%20faced%20by%20teenagers%20in%20the%20UK%20new%20research)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 24 Jul 2020)

Article by Sarah Page, introducing her research:

“With a team of research assistants, we investigated teenagers’ personal experiences of victimisation and the effects this had on their health and wellbeing. The young people we worked with – who were all from the Midlands region of England – encountered racism and discrimination at school, on social media, and in their wider community. Our research findings show that racism sadly remains an issue for young people in British society.”

The research paper is at:

[https://www.mmuperu.co.uk/assets/uploads/bjci\\_files/BJCJ\\_Page\\_2020.pdf](https://www.mmuperu.co.uk/assets/uploads/bjci_files/BJCJ_Page_2020.pdf).

In a parallel but apparently unrelated piece, *Guardian* columnist, Aditya Chakraborty, wrote “There’s a hidden epidemic of racism in UK schools – but it’s finally coming to light”, see:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/jul/22/racism-uk-schools-teenager>.

## Coronavirus/COVID-19

**“COVID-19 reinforces the importance of public libraries for Toronto’s homeless population”**

<https://the-pigeon.ca/2020/07/13/covid-19-libraries-homeless/>

(Source: email from Simon Wallace, 22 Jul 2020)

Interesting long article which looks at some of the support that public libraries offer homeless people – and how vital that support is.

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

***Libraries: an essential part of local recovery***

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/resource/libraries-essential-part-local-recovery>

(Source: email from the CILIP Public and Mobile Libraries Group, 23 Jul 2020)

Libraries Connected have produced this useful advocacy toolkit to use locally. It covers the important role of public libraries in:

- Economic Recovery: How libraries support job seekers and entrepreneurs, with training, volunteering opportunities, apprenticeships and more
- Education Support: How libraries can support children who struggled to learn at home and SEND students
- Isolation Mitigation: How libraries combat the harmful effects isolation and loneliness for vulnerable groups and help people to reconnect in a safe, local space (includes a mention of Libraries of Sanctuary)
- Digital Inclusion: How libraries support residents with little or no IT skills and those with no access to the Internet at home
- Cultural Ecology: How libraries are helping local artists and cultural organisations that have struggled during lockdown to reach audiences.

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

***Can gardens, libraries and museums improve wellbeing through social prescribing? A digest of current knowledge and engagement activities***

<https://www.cebm.net/2020/03/cultural-environments-can-improve-health-and-wellbeing-through-social-prescribing/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 19 Jul 2020)

Important new research report:

“Based on a 12-month research project, the report explores how gardens, libraries and museums could contribute to health and wellbeing through ‘social prescribing’, which is a key part of the NHS Long Term Plan and delivery of Universal Personalised Care.

Social prescribing takes a more holistic approach to health by enabling GPs, nurses and other primary care workers to refer a patient to community-based groups or services that can offer practical, social or emotional support. The report shows that these environments can support health and wellbeing by helping people learn new things, develop new skills, make social connections and gain a greater sense of structure and purpose.

The research identified three key concepts that underpin the potential of garden, library and museum activities for improving health.

The first is that cultural venues can be seen as ‘therapeutic landscapes’ – spaces that are conducive to healing and which serve as the location for social networks and therapeutic activity.

The second is that engaging in these activities ‘creates a sense of flow’, which is a state in which people get so involved in an activity that nothing else seems to matter. This ‘flow’ helps individuals concentrate on the activity at hand, meaning that other concerns and worries are forgotten.

Finally, garden, library and museum activities ‘draw on social capital’ through encouraging socialising and the building of social networks and reciprocal relationships, which can in turn contribute to positive health and wellbeing.” [Taken from website]

### **Disability issues – Other Agencies**

**“Disabled activists call for a refreshed social model to ‘bring it back to life’”**

<https://www.disabilitynewsservice.com/disabled-activists-call-for-a-refreshed-social-model-to-bring-it-back-to-life/>

(Source: NCVO *Update*, 17 Jul 2020)

Write-up of an online meeting hosted by Disabled People Against Cuts, which:

“[...] called for a re-examination of the social model of disability to produce a “reinvigorated” version that will bring together disabled, Deaf and autistic people to challenge the oppression they face.”

### **Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

***The UK’s Points-Based Immigration System: further details***

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/899755/UK\\_Points-Based\\_System\\_Further\\_Details\\_Web\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/899755/UK_Points-Based_System_Further_Details_Web_Accessible.pdf)

(Source: MEMO [*Minority Ethnic Matters Overview*], 668, 20 Jul 2020)

“On 31 December 2020, at 11:00 PM, freedom of movement between the United Kingdom (UK) and the European Union (EU) will end. This document sets out further detail on how our new immigration system will operate. At the heart of it will be the Points-Based Immigration System.”

[p7]

The key issues are around requirements:

“5. EU and non-EU citizens wishing to come to and live in the UK from 1 January 2021 will need to demonstrate their right to be in the UK and the entitlements they have. All applicants will receive written confirmation of their immigration status. EU citizens will additionally be provided with secure access to their immigration status information via an online service which they will be able to use to confirm their rights and to access services when necessary, instead of a physical status document.

6. EU and non-EU citizens who are entitled to work will be able to use an online service to demonstrate their right to work in the UK. This online service, which has been in operation since January 2019, makes right to work checks simpler for employers, by making individual’s right to work information available in real time and removing the need for physical document checks. This also allows the option for checks to be conducted remotely, for example via video call. A similar online right to rent service, which most individuals will be able to use, is planned for later this year, making right to rent checks easier for landlords.” [pp11-12]

There has been considerable criticism of these plans, especially as they appear to make it difficult for care-workers to obtain the right to work – see, for example: <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18580199.new-uk-immigration-rules-2021-explained-points-based-system-work/>.

### **Migration issues – Other Agencies**

#### ***Communities up close: neighbourhood change and migration in Yorkshire and Humber***

<https://www.migrationyorkshire.org.uk/userfiles/attachments/pages/844/cuc-final-report-july2020.pdf>

(Source: The Campaign Company *Weekly*, 24 Jul 2020)

Important new report from Migration Yorkshire and IPPR.

“In recent years, neighbourhoods across Yorkshire and Humber have experienced considerable economic and social change. One of these changes has been increased migration to the region. This report – the culmination of a major two-year research project – aims to understand how people living in cities and towns across the region experience change and migration in their local areas.” [p5]

The report presents a typology of neighbourhoods, based on their response to migration, and then comes up with key findings and recommendations, some of which are areas where we can get involved, including:

- Investing in English language support
- Facilitating social contact
- Addressing tensions and tackling discrimination.

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

**And, finally ...**

**“Libraries could be leaders once again”**

<https://www.thebookseller.com/blogs/libraries-could-be-leaders-once-again-1211772>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 19 Jul 2020)

Another opinion piece from Tim Coates in *The Bookseller*, talking about public libraries:

“They have represented themselves too much as caring for the needy, and they have to do more than that.”

Forgive a personal comment here, but I cannot disagree more!

**Exeter – City of Literature**

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

Great news that my home city has been awarded UNESCO City of Literature status.