



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 317, 30 December 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

“Small museums should spearhead drive to decolonise museum practice”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/opinion/2020/12/small-museums-should-spearhead-drive-to-decolonise-museum-practice/?utm_campaign=1861139_14122020&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,13W2B,27LU0M,49MKX,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 14 Dec 2020)

“At least 40% of UK museums are in rural areas, according to a preliminary estimate of the Mapping Museums research project at Birkbeck, University of London. Most are small and independent.

The National Trust is the main custodian of Accredited museums rural regions and, given the recent public and political interest in the organisation’s exploration of its properties’ colonial histories, it is a critical time to address decolonial practices in small, rural museums.

The sector has been debating the value of decolonising practice, its practical applications and even whether museums can be truly decolonised for some time.

The relevance of decolonising practice to small (and mainly rural) museums have varied from serious interest to none at all. A typical response is: ‘Not sure this is relevant to my museum but it is certainly a discussion point and worthy of reflection.’

Rural museums need to be central protagonists in decolonising efforts if the sector is to be credible in this movement. This includes directly addressing the volunteer workforce across the nations.”

“MGS investigates impact of colonialism on museums”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2020/12/mgs-investigates-impact-of-colonialism-on-museums/?utm_campaign=1860348_11122020%20members&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,13VGC,27LU0M,49JQQ,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 11 Dec 2020)

“Museums Galleries Scotland (MGS) is calling on organisations to take part in a survey to help it explore the legacy of colonialism and empire on the sector.

The survey will inform the Empire, Slavery & Scotland’s Museums: Addressing Our Colonial Legacy project, which is sponsored by the Scottish government.”

There is more about “Empire, Slavery & Scotland's Museums” at: <https://www.museumsgalleriescotland.org.uk/projects/empire-slavery-scotlands-museums/>.

The survey is at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PT3LNVJ>.

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“HMCI commentary: findings from visits in October”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hmci-commentary-findings-from-visits-in-october>

(Source: Cultural Learning Alliance *Newsletter*, Dec 2020)

In this article, Amanda Spielman discusses what was found in visits to education and children’s social care providers during October, including:

“It’s becoming clear that children’s and learners’ experiences since the first national lockdown in March fall into 3 broad groups. There are those who have been, and still are, coping well in the face of restrictions; there is a group who have been hardest hit, largely because of the interplay between their circumstances and the impact of the pandemic; and there is the majority – a group who have slipped back in their learning to varying degrees since schools were closed to most children and movement restricted [...]

Across all age groups, children with SEND were seriously affected in both their care and education, as the services that families relied on, particularly speech and language services, were unavailable.

And of course, there continue to be concerns about the children who were out of sight while schools were closed to most pupils. Referrals to social care fell and have still not fully returned to more usual levels as schools have returned, raising concerns that neglect, exploitation or abuse is going undetected.”

School attendance rates across the UK since full reopening

https://epi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/UK-school-reopening-attendance-November_EPI.pdf

(Source: Cultural Learning Alliance *Newsletter*, Dec 2020)

“New analysis from the Education Policy Institute (EPI) of the latest November school attendance data in the UK, supported by the Nuffield Foundation, shows that attendance in Wales and Northern Ireland increased following the short, sharp lockdowns in both countries.

In contrast, around the same period, the proportion of pupils in school in England and Scotland fell, and Covid-related absences began to climb.”
[Taken from: <https://epi.org.uk/publications-and-research/school-attendance-rates-across-the-uk-since-full-reopening-november/>]

“84% of schools with the poorest children lack devices to ensure their pupils can study at home if self-isolating”

<https://www.teachfirst.org.uk/press-release/digital-divide>

(Source: Cultural Learning Alliance *Newsletter*, Dec 2020)

“Four out of five (84%) [...] schools with the poorest pupils do not have enough devices and internet access to ensure all self-isolating pupils can keep learning, a new survey from the education charity Teach First has revealed.

This compares to two thirds (66%) of schools with the most affluent pupils, showing that while all schools continue to face significant digital barriers – it is the poorest pupils’ education that will suffer the most if self-isolating.”

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

Delivering public engagement digitally emerging learning from Engaging Libraries in lockdown

https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2020/12/08112724/Delivering-Public-Engagement-Digitally.pdf

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 13 Dec 2020)

“This digital learning leaflet shares what has been gleaned from the delivery of digital public engagement activities by two Engaging Libraries projects during the height of the coronavirus pandemic and first national lockdown.” [Taken from:

<https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/delivering-public-engagement-digitally/>]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

Improving the literacy skills of disadvantaged teenage boys through the use of technology

https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Research_report_-_Improving_boys_literacy_using_technology.pdf

(Source: email from National Literacy Trust, 10 Dec 2020)

“This report explores the role that digital tools and resources can play in addressing the gender and disadvantage gap in young people’s literacy attitudes and outcomes. It combines insights from a review of the literature related to supporting teenage boys’ reading with new information gathered from interviews, focus groups and surveys of teachers, librarians, academics and young people from schools across the UK in 2019.” [Taken from: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/improving-literacy-skills-disadvantaged->

[teenage-boys-through-use-technology/?mc_cid=15d3d73b75&mc_eid=a2d98ab814\]](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/teenage-boys-through-use-technology/?mc_cid=15d3d73b75&mc_eid=a2d98ab814)

Destitution in the UK 2020

Full report/“Findings”: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/destitution-uk-2020>.

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 11 Dec 2020)

“This study, the third in the Destitution in the UK series, reveals that even before the COVID-19 outbreak destitution was rapidly growing in scale and intensity. Since 2017 many more households, including families with children, have been pushed to the brink.”

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

Social cohesion in Barking & Dagenham: participatory approaches

<https://www.youngfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Social-Cohesion-in-BD-Final-201130.pdf>

(Source: The Young Foundation *Christmas Newsletter*, 16 Dec 2020)

“Between late 2018 and early 2020, a team of community researchers from across Barking and Dagenham came together to explore experiences of living and working in the borough, and how change can happen to create a more cohesive community.

The work came to an end just as the Covid-19 pandemic hit the UK in earnest. This report tells the story of that work, the insights uncovered and the ideas that people had begun to develop and implement to create local change before lockdown began. The team of community researchers not only carried out interviews, they hosted storytelling events, innovation workshops and used a range of creative research methods. They also were crucial in shaping the analysis and ensuring that this report reflects what they heard from local people.” [Taken from: <https://www.youngfoundation.org/publications/social-cohesion-in-barking-and-dagenham-participatory-approaches/>]

Several mentions of libraries – this was particularly heartening:

“Transport links was the most commonly mentioned asset, followed by library services and local shops.” [p52]

England Civil Society Submission to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to inform its List of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR) 2020

http://crae.org.uk/media/129724/CRAE_LOIPR_09-DEC-20.pdf

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 17 Dec 2020)

New from the Children’s Rights Alliance for England:

“Children’s rights in England have regressed in many areas since the UK was last examined in 2016. Despite progress to embed children’s rights across Government, the response to Covid-19 has demonstrated how children’s rights and voices are regularly overlooked. England is also

lagging behind other parts of the UK, with incorporation of the [UN Convention on the Right of the Child] a very long way off.

Child poverty is increasing and likely to be exacerbated by the significant economic downturns expected because of Covid-19 and Brexit. Health and educational inequalities have continued to widen since 2016; in particular for poorer children and those from BAME backgrounds.

On top of this, black children continue to suffer persistent discrimination across many aspects of their lives and are disproportionately represented in school exclusions and in all parts of the criminal justice system (CJS). Despite numerous reviews, there is still no cross-government strategy for preventing and addressing systematic racism and race discrimination.

Although there have been welcome developments to children's social care legislation, funding for children's and youth services has been decimated, while the number of children needing care or protection is rising and the pandemic is putting additional pressure on services.

Despite some positive measures, very vulnerable children in need of special protection – such as those in the immigration or criminal justice systems – are still having their rights breached.” [p6]

Centre for Equity and Inclusion

<https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/about/equity/centre-for-equity-and-inclusion/>

(Source: *London Met News*, 18 Dec 2020)

London Metropolitan University launched its new Centre at the beginning of Nov, and it's beginning to build up useful lists of resources etc – see, for example: “Anti-racism in academia reading list”,

<https://www.londonmet.ac.uk/about/equity/centre-for-equity-and-inclusion/resources/anti-racism-in-academia-reading-list/>.

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

“Embedding the arts in community health and wellbeing through new collaborations”

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/news/blog/embedding-arts-community-health-and-wellbeing-through-new-collaborations>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Dec 2020)

“Dulwich Picture Gallery and NHS South East London Clinical Commissioning Group are working in partnership on an exciting creative arts programme for the new Tessa Jowell Health Centre in East Dulwich in London Borough of Southwark. The project came out of a shared vision to address the significant health inequalities in the local community through engagement in arts and creativity.”

“Prescribe Culture: a heritage-based, non-clinical mental health programme”

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/news/blog/guest-blog-prescribe-culture-ruthanne-baxter>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Dec 2020)

Outlines the work of:

“[...] Prescribe Culture, a heritage-based, non-clinical pilot project with the aim of supporting students with mental health difficulties.”

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

Expressions of Interest: London Metropolitan Archives 2021 Disability History Conference

(Source: email from Tom Furber, Engagement and Learning Officer, LMA to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 18 Dec 2020)

“London Metropolitan Archives is inviting expressions of interest for contributions to its 2021 Disability History Conference which will explore the questions posed by 2020 Disability History Month. How far we have come? How far have we to go? We aim to generate dialogue across the heritage, cultural, academic and grassroots communities.

If you would like to offer a talk, a workshop, run a stall, show a film or do anything else that explores these ideas then please get in touch. We’re very keen to present a day which is celebratory but also challenging and open to debate. Please feel free to be as original, informal and even controversial as you please with ideas.

Please send your ideas to tom.furber@cityoflondon.gov.uk and include

- Name/Organisation
- Brief Description/video clip/voice message: please keep to 200 words or 3 minutes words max

In light of the pandemic, there are some uncertainties but we are aiming to deliver a hybrid online/in-person event in May 2021. The in-person component will take place at London Metropolitan Archives, 40, Northampton Road, London, EC1R 0HB”

Disability issues – Other Agencies

“Inclusive audio”

<https://www.thebookseller.com/blogs/inclusive-audio-1227075>

(Source: update from Emma Scott, Calibre, to Share The Vision, Dec 2020)

Powerful article from Anthony Kemp (CEO of Calibre Audio):

“But I also believe that the publishing industry as a whole can now do more to assist opening up literature to under-served audiences.

Yes, the trade is making promising steps. In recent years the boom in audiobook sales and listening has meant publishers are investing in audio and starting to create titles in accessible formats. There is also an acknowledgement that more needs to be done to include underrepresented voices in publishing, as well as for more books to be written with a focus on characters with disabilities.

But it is time that inclusivity for people with conditions that make reading print difficult took a place at the heart of publishers' businesses and audience strategies. This should not be seen as a nice extra, or a charitable endeavour, but a crucial part of publishers' responsibility to represent and cater for the true diversity of people who read."

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

EU citizens living in Wales: community integration, equality of opportunity and equality of outcome

<https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2020-12/eu-citizens-living-in-wales.pdf>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 686, 14 Dec 2020)

"The Welsh Government, having recognised the need for ensuring migrant communities in Wales are able to understand their rights and services, commissioned Alma Economics to explore the opportunities and outcomes of EU citizens living in Wales and identify areas for improving integration." [p12]

Key findings include:

- Lack of access to information on public services
- Language barriers.

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

"Supportive Supervisors | Trans + Script"

https://www.libraryjournal.com/?detailStory=supportive-supervisors-trans-script&utm_source=Marketing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=december15LJXpress

(Source: LJXpress – Library Journal, 15 Dec 2020)

A look at how one US library service successfully supported a transgender/nonbinary librarian at work.

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

"Archives Unlocked"

<https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives-sector/projects-and-programmes/strategic-vision-for-archives/strategic-priorities/>

(Source: email from Jonathan Ladd, Digital Impact and Communications Officer, TNA, 18 Dec 2020)

The National Archives and archives sector have published their priorities for 2020-2022 – which involves:

“[...] reframing our thinking and priorities to better encompass the following important issues: diversity and inclusion, innovation and risk, advocacy and reputation, and health and wellbeing.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“Supporting communication, language and literacy with children with English as an additional language in the early years #3”

<http://www.aneharding.net/3190/supporting-communication-language-literacy-children-english-additional-language-early-years-3/>

(Source: email from Anne Harding, 10 Dec 2020)

This is:

“[...] the final blog in my series on communication and literacy with children with EAL, this one looking at stories, books and reading.”

The first blog in the series, “Supporting communication, language and literacy with children with English as an additional language in the early years #1”

<http://www.aneharding.net/3124/supporting-communication-language-literacy-children-eal-early-years-part-1/>, was noted in *Ebulletin* 312, 28 Oct.

The second, “Supporting communication, language and literacy with children with English as an additional language in the early years #2”,

<http://www.aneharding.net/3154/supporting-communication-language-and-literacy-with-children-with-english-as-an-additional-language-in-the-early-years-part-2/> was noted in *Ebulletin* 314, 20 Nov.