



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 321, 11 February 2021

Events

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

Black Lives Matter

The transatlantic slave economy and England’s built environment: a research audit

<https://research.historicengland.org.uk/Report.aspx?i=16784>

(Source: *Black & Asian Heritage Mix Newsletter*, Feb 2021)

Major new report from Historic England:

“This is a summary report of a desk-based review of existing research into connections between the transatlantic slavery economy and England’s built environment. It also identifies gaps and recommends areas for future work in this area. Interspersed throughout this report are references to published literature, to the responses of heritage groups, organisations, and artists. These research outputs are listed fully and categorised, with many others, in the accompanying bibliographical Excel database. The time allotted did not allow for new research into slaving wealth and how it was spent in England.” [p1]

The bibliography mentioned is available from:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/research/inclusive-heritage/the-slave-trade-and-abolition/audit-of-slavery-connections-with-englands-built-environment/>.

“#GallerySoWhite: a digital exhibition exposing racism in contemporary art spaces”

https://theconversation.com/gallerysowhite-a-digital-exhibition-exposing-racism-in-contemporary-art-spaces-153920?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%209%202021%20-%201857618103&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%209%202021%20-%201857618103+CID_43f92fff5e142218fbb7e1c37e7c63f5&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=GallerySoWhite%20a%20digital%20exhibition%20exposing%20racism%20in%20contemporary%20art%20spaces

(Source: *The Conversation*, 9 Feb 2021)

“Art institutions are facing a reckoning over colonial histories and racist legacies [...]

Many of these projects include investigations into how items in museum collections were acquired and how they are interpreted and displayed. In some cases, this involves reviewing the processes of returning looted artefacts from the colonial era.

Contemporary art galleries, however, appear to be absent from these discussions and actions. My research aims to tackle racism within English public contemporary art galleries. As part of it, I asked artists, curators and gallery workers to share their experiences with me for #GallerySoWhite, a digital exhibition highlighting people's experiences of institutional racism in English contemporary art galleries. What I found was alarming."

Ethnic inequalities in COVID-19 mortality: a consequence of persistent racism

<https://www.runnymedetrust.org/uploads/Runnymede%20CoDE%20COVID%20briefing%20v3.pdf>

(Source: email from the Runnymede Trust, 5 Feb 2021)

New briefing from the Runnymede Trust. Key points are:

- "Ethnic minority people experience a much higher risk of COVID-19-related death, a stark inequality that impacts on all ethnic minority groups, including white minority groups such as Gypsies and Irish Travellers.
- Local authorities with higher proportions of ethnic minority residents are likely to have higher numbers of COVID-19-related deaths.
- These inequalities reflect increased risk of exposure to the virus because of where people live, the type of accommodation they live in, household size, the types of jobs they do and the means of transport they use to get to work.
- Ethnic inequalities in relation to COVID-19 mirror longstanding ethnic inequalities in health. A large body of evidence has shown that these
- inequalities are driven by social and economic inequalities, many of which are the result of racial discrimination.
- Ethnic minorities are also at increased risk of complications and mortality post COVID-19 infection; greater risk of serious illness with COVID-19 is more likely the result of pre-existing social and economic inequalities manifesting in the form of particular chronic illnesses. There is no evidence for genetic or genetically related biological factors underlying this increased risk, including vitamin D deficiency.
- Unless racism is understood as a key driver of the inequalities which increase the chances of exposure to and mortality from COVID-19, government and public sector policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic risk further increasing ethnic inequalities in the UK." [p1]

Climate emergency – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Climate Beacons for COP26”

<https://www.creativecarbonscotland.com/climate-beacons-for-cop26/>

(Source: *CILIP Scotland Newsletter*, Feb 2021)

“*Climate Beacons* for COP26 will be a Scotland-wide collaborative project between climate change or environmental organisations and arts, heritage or cultural organisations to stimulate long-term public engagement in the lead-up to and following COP26.

Creative Carbon Scotland is currently looking to hear from organisations working in the arts, climate, culture, environmental or heritage sectors that are interested in participating in the project. We are currently organising funding to cover participating organisations’ activity and will invite formal applications once this has been secured.

This page provides information about Climate Beacons and how you can submit an Expression of Interest using the form at the bottom of this page. The deadline for expressing interest is **9am on 1st of March.**”

Funding & Opportunities

National Lottery Grants for Heritage

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/funding>

(Source: *CILIP Scotland Newsletter*, Feb 2021)

“As part of our continued response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis, we are reopening our National Lottery Grants for Heritage to support organisations working with heritage to adapt and respond to the changing environment they are now operating in.

The reopening is happening in two phases [...]

Phase 2

Beginning 8 February 2021, we will resume accepting applications for grants from £100,000 to £250,000 and £250,000 to £5m. From February 2021, we will prioritise heritage projects that will:

- boost the local economy
- encourage skills development and job creation
- support wellbeing
- create better places to live, work and visit
- improve the resilience of organisations working in heritage

We will also expect all projects to demonstrate that they are building long-term environmental sustainability and inclusion into their plans, as appropriate.

New application and good practice guidance will be available on 8 February.”

“Ideas for Impact”

<https://bigsocietycapital.com/how-we-work/creating-new-ideas/ideas-impact/>

(Source: *Devon Funding News*, updates 7 Feb 2021)

Big Society Capital:

“[...] have launched **Ideas for Impact**, a call for ideas for how social impact investment can address a social issue in the UK, with potential for the solution to scale through a fund or similar structure.

A selection of ideas with the greatest potential to transform people's lives in the UK could each receive up to £30,000 of development funding plus in-kind support and connections.

If you're a UK-based fund manager, charity or a social enterprise with an innovative social impact investment idea that can make a difference, we want to hear from you.”

Just a quick reminder:

“Big Society Capital is funded by English dormant bank accounts, and the four main UK high street banks: Barclays, HSBC, Lloyds Banking Group and Natwest Group.” [Taken from:
<https://bigsocietycapital.com/about-us/>]

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

“New service from Norfolk Libraries will help west Norfolk families learn from home”

<https://www.lynnnews.co.uk/news/new-service-to-help-west-norfolk-families-with-home-learning-9155103/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 7 Feb 2021)

“West Norfolk families that are struggling with home learning have a new place to turn to for advice and support.

Norfolk Libraries has set up a phone line which serves as a first stop for parents and carers in the county using new devices to teach their children.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“The value of books and reading for children’s mental health”

<http://www.aneharding.net/3215/value-of-books-reading-for-childrens-mental-health/>

(Source: updates from Anne Harding Training, 5 Feb 2021)

In her latest blogpost, Anne writes:

“It’s Children’s Mental Health Week [1-7 Feb 2021]. Sadly the impact of Covid has made the week more vital than ever before. It feels appropriate to explore the benefits books and reading can offer.”

The post includes links to research findings supporting the links between reading and mental health/wellbeing; some quotations from young people; and a list of links to resources.

The **National Literacy Trust** also has a round-up of useful resources at:

https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/hot-topic-childrens-mental-health-week/?mc_cid=1f5f51e64e&mc_eid=a2d98ab814.

“Read, Talk, Share”

[https://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/read-talk-share.html?utm_source=The+Reading+Agency&utm_campaign=878991774f-CBX+Email+03+October+2017+COPY+01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e82b5d6fa-878991774f-51507097&ct=t\(Chatterbooks+Newsletter+Jan+9+2016+COPY+01\)&goal=0_e82b5d6fa-878991774f-51507097&mc_cid=878991774f&mc_eid=3fa1d39831](https://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/read-talk-share.html?utm_source=The+Reading+Agency&utm_campaign=878991774f-CBX+Email+03+October+2017+COPY+01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e82b5d6fa-878991774f-51507097&ct=t(Chatterbooks+Newsletter+Jan+9+2016+COPY+01)&goal=0_e82b5d6fa-878991774f-51507097&mc_cid=878991774f&mc_eid=3fa1d39831)

(Source: email from The Reading Agency, 5 Feb 2021)

On 4 Feb, The Reading Agency launched their new campaign, “an initiative to combat loneliness and promote wellbeing through the proven power of reading during the Covid-19 pandemic this winter.” Their press release states:

“Enabled by a £3.5 million award by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS), Read, Talk, Share will expand The Reading Agency's already successful Reading Well and Reading Friends programmes, with the charity's work to tackle loneliness and support mental health and wellbeing playing an important part in the nation's Covid recovery.”

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

“Museum of Sanctuary Award for Leicester Museum & Art Gallery”

<https://www.leicestermuseums.org/news/museumofsanctuary/> and <https://news.leicester.gov.uk/news-articles/2021/february/prestigious-award-for-leicester-museum-and-art-gallery/>

(Source: email from Colleen Molloy, City of Sanctuary, 9 Feb 2021)

Congratulations to Leicester Museum & Art Gallery:

“Leicester Museum and Art Gallery has become one of only five museums in the UK to win an award for welcoming people who arrive in the city seeking refuge.

The museum, in New Walk, has won a prestigious Museum of Sanctuary award for the work it does to extend a warm welcome to people of all backgrounds who have arrived in Leicester fleeing violence or persecution.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Highly Skilled Migrants: Indefinite Leave to Remain refusals & Covid-19 realities

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/HSM-Report-Jan-2021.pdf>

(Source: Migrants' Rights Network *Newsletter*, Feb 2021)

New report which looks at the treatment of the UK's Highly Skilled Migrants [HSM] – it argues that:

“The HSM case is another example of the impact of discriminatory ‘hostile environment policies’ experienced by migrants of colour and that Windrush lessons have not been learnt.” [p2]

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“LGBTIQ+ mental health”

https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/tips-for-everyday-living/lgbtiqplus-mental-health/about-lgbtiqplus-mental-health/?utm_medium=organic&utm_source=twitter&utm_campaign=info&utm_content=lbqthmtips21

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Feb 2021)

MIND have had this info available for a while, but the *Bulletin* included a useful reminder that these resources are available.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“News UK TV and GB News: new channels stoke fears of more partisan journalism”

https://theconversation.com/news-uk-tv-and-gb-news-new-channels-stoke-fears-of-more-partisan-journalism-154514?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%204%202021%20-%201853318057&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%204%202021%20-%201853318057+CID_ceb177a9db112f989e0061d432e463e4&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=News%20UK%20TV%20and%20GB%20News%20new%20channels%20stoke%20fears%20of%20more%20partisan%20journalism

(Source: *The Conversation*, 4 Feb 2021)

Without getting into deep water, I think it's worth noting these developments – and the urgent need for us to continue to support digital literacy skills and access to a range of information.