



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 336, 18 August 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

**“Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust announces £390,000 diversity and equality drive”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2021/07/royal-pavilion-museums-trust-announces-390000-diversity-and-equality-drive/?utm\\_campaign=1980744\\_30072021&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Museums%20Association&dm\\_i=2VBX,16GCO,27LU0M,4K100,1](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2021/07/royal-pavilion-museums-trust-announces-390000-diversity-and-equality-drive/?utm_campaign=1980744_30072021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,16GCO,27LU0M,4K100,1)

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 30 Jul 2021)

“The Royal Pavilion & Museums Trust (RPMT) in Brighton has received a £390,000 grant from the James Henry Green Trust to increase diversity and improve equality across the organisation.

The grant is for a three-year Culture Change RPMT project, which aims to make the trust more socially engaged and progressive. The money will support the appointment of two new staff members including a diversity manager and help create an oversight group to provide ‘scrutiny and accountability’. A staff working group will also be set up.

As part of the project, the museums trust intends to review its interpretation labels and panels, and its object displays. The histories of the building and collections will also be researched so it can reflect on the legacies.

Other aims include: organisation-wide training; research into how to connect with individuals, organisations, community groups and schools; and a review of policies and practices to ensure they reflect its anti-racist and socially just ethos.”

**“How have charities been taking an anti-racist stance and what do MPs think of it all?”**

<https://nfpsynergy.net/blog/charities-anti-racism-Conservative-MPs>

(Source: *Black & Asian News*, 30 Jul 2021)

Very interesting blogpost:

“This week’s blog gives examples of charities acknowledging and addressing institutional and structural racism. We explore how some

Conservative MPs have been opposed to these charity actions and touch on why this may be.”

### Coronavirus/COVID-19

#### “A re-opening for everyone”

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/re-opening-everyone>

(Source: open letter from What Next?, 29 Jul 2021)

Important blogpost from ACE, which reiterates the commitment to inclusive reopening:

“We, and our sector, have committed to inclusion and that we must give disabled and [clinically extremely vulnerable] colleagues, performers and visitors the support and flexibility they need to take advantage of reopening like everyone else. Now that the law has changed and is offering organisations more discretion, we are expecting organisations to take steps to ensure this is the case.”

The blog also reminds us of the seven inclusive principles: “7 Principles to Ensure an Inclusive Recovery”, <https://www.weshallnotberemoved.com/7-principles/> (noted in Ebulletin no.309).

### Climate emergency – Other Agencies

#### ***Fairness and opportunity: a people-powered plan for the green transition: final report of the IPPR Environmental Justice Commission***

Summary: <https://www.ippr.org/files/2021-07/fairness-and-opportunity-final-report-summary-july21-web.pdf>

Full report: <https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/fairness-and-opportunity>

(Source: *IPPR Newsletter*, 30 Jul 2021)

“This final report of the Environmental Justice Commission sets out a vision for the future of the UK. Part one defines the shifts needed in the UK’s approach to addressing the climate and nature crises and makes the case for a ‘new social contract’, to deliver a transition that is both rapid and fair. Part two, in five chapters, outlines the practical steps we propose. Each contains proposals on what we think needs to be done, when and by whom.”

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

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

#### “Early Years initiative encourages disadvantaged families to use libraries”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/early-years-initiative-encourages-disadvantaged-families-to-use-libraries>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Early Years and Education Bulletin*, 3 Aug 2021)

Good piece on the BookTrust Storytime initiative which is going to run at more than 2,500 libraries across England.

See: <https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/programmes-and-campaigns/booktrust-storytime/>.

### **“Struggling families will be given free book bags this summer”**

<https://www.openaccessgovernment.org/struggling-families-will-be-given-free-book-bags-this-summer/116709/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 8 Aug 2021)

“Hundreds of struggling families will be given free book bags this summer, thanks to the Reading Sparks programme  
Reading Sparks is a joint initiative between the Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC) and The Reading Agency.

Working with 17 libraries across the UK, the free books scheme will run until 2023 and 1,000 book bags will be distributed in the coming months to families who are experiencing hardship.

The programme aims to use reading as a tool to engage families in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).”

### **Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies**

#### **“Why we can’t understand child poverty in the UK without thinking about family size”**

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/politicsandpolicy/child-poverty-family-size/>

Interesting blogpost from the LSE:

“Looking at trends in poverty through the lens of family size reminds us of the essential role played by social security, and raises questions about the increasing focus on employment as the route out of poverty [...]”

### ***When we work together – learning the lessons***

[https://usercontent.one/wp/www.commissiononroughsleeping.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/KRSC\\_Interim\\_Report\\_0721.pdf](https://usercontent.one/wp/www.commissiononroughsleeping.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/KRSC_Interim_Report_0721.pdf)

(Source: *Black & Asian News*, 13 Aug 2021)

The interim report of the Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping has just been published.

This important new report:

“[...] sends a clear message that the Government must learn from the success of the Covid-19 response and continue the increased investment in homelessness services to avoid a post pandemic surge in rough sleeping.

The Commission has concluded the Government needs to maintain the additional funding that it made available during the pandemic – equating to £82m a year on top of its previous spending commitment – if it is to have any chance of achieving its pre-election promise to end rough sleeping by the end of this parliament.

In total the report makes 22 recommendations around increased funding for homeless services, changes to the welfare system, partnership working across agencies involved in supporting those rough sleeping or

at risk of homelessness, the increased involvement of health services in solutions for people experiencing homelessness and a tailored approach for women, young people and those with no recourse to public funds.”

[Taken from: News release,

[https://www.commissiononroughsleeping.org/latest-news/?utm\\_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=12554246\\_NEWSL\\_HWB%202021-08-09&dm\\_i=21A8,7H2X2,4GHBBM,UDXLE,1](https://www.commissiononroughsleeping.org/latest-news/?utm_source=The%20King%27s%20Fund%20newsletters%20%28main%20account%29&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=12554246_NEWSL_HWB%202021-08-09&dm_i=21A8,7H2X2,4GHBBM,UDXLE,1)]

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

### ***Creating space for kindness: an experiment with public libraries in Scotland***

[https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie\\_uk\\_trust/2021/07/01141514/LOW-RES-4937-CUKT-Creating-Space-Report.pdf](https://d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net/pex/carnegie_uk_trust/2021/07/01141514/LOW-RES-4937-CUKT-Creating-Space-Report.pdf)

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

“Small-scale ‘kindness initiatives’, delivered by local libraries can play a role in helping to improve wellbeing. This short report sets out why kindness matters to wellbeing and why it makes sense to consider how libraries can enhance this core aspect of wellbeing in local communities. It does so through describing a set of ‘kindness initiatives’ that were supported by the Carnegie UK Trust and delivered by 10 public libraries in Scotland. The report highlights the value of creating space to talk about kindness and the impact that this can have on individual and community wellbeing.” [Taken from:

[https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/creating-space-for-kindness-an-experiment-with-public-libraries-in-scotland/?utm\\_campaign=39130\\_Copy%20of%20CILIP%20Scotland%20Newsletter%20August%202021&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm\\_i=6WFS,U6Y,9VBO9,2L9J,1](https://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/creating-space-for-kindness-an-experiment-with-public-libraries-in-scotland/?utm_campaign=39130_Copy%20of%20CILIP%20Scotland%20Newsletter%20August%202021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,U6Y,9VBO9,2L9J,1)]

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

### ***The Beaney health and wellbeing in museums toolkit***

<https://canterburymuseums.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/The-Beaney-Wellbeing-Toolkit-Interactive.pdf>

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

Very useful new toolkit:

“The Beaney has developed an award-winning health and wellbeing programme, which uses its unique building and collections to enhance visitors experience. As the Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance South East Museums Champion, The Beaney is a pioneering therapeutic museum, embedding health and wellbeing as a priority across all museum activities.” [p2]

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

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

### CILIP Disability Network

[https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group\\_content\\_view.asp?group=237768&id=950584&utm\\_campaign=34125\\_Community%20Update%20July%2FAugust%202021&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm\\_i=6WFS,QBX,9VC9N,26RS,1](https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=237768&id=950584&utm_campaign=34125_Community%20Update%20July%2FAugust%202021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,QBX,9VC9N,26RS,1)

(Source: CILIP *Community Update*, Jul/Aug 2021)

The CILIP Disability Network launched on 22 Jul.

“The Disability Network has been established to provide support and a platform for library, knowledge and information workers with experience of disability.

Working with CILIP and other partners, the Network supports the advancement of disabled people in the workforce and the development of diverse library, knowledge and information services. It provides an authoritative voice on disability issues within the LIS community, with opportunities for its members with lived experience of disability to participate at events and within public discussions. The group also provides a safe and inclusive space to ask questions, share information and network.

It is free to join and open to CILIP members and non-members.

#### Contact information

Morag and Catherine can be contacted at [chair.disability@cilip.org.uk](mailto:chair.disability@cilip.org.uk).

For general enquiries email [info.disability@cilip.org.uk](mailto:info.disability@cilip.org.uk).”

### ***Curating for change: disabled people leading in museums***

[http://www.accentuateuk.org/domains/accentuate.org.uk/local/media/video/Curating for Change Disabled People Leading in Museums.pdf](http://www.accentuateuk.org/domains/accentuate.org.uk/local/media/video/Curating%20for%20Change%20Disabled%20People%20Leading%20in%20Museums.pdf)

(Source: Museum Association update, 6 Aug 2021)

Important new report:

“During the consultation and planning process for Curating for Change, we spoke to a wide range of museums, sector organisations, disabled people’s organisations, D/deaf, disabled and neurodivergent people working in museums or wanting to pursue a career in museums. This report is a summary of this consultation, highlighting the barriers disabled people are facing if wishing to pursue a career in museums.” [p4]

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

## Disability issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

### **National Disability Strategy**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-disability-strategy?utm\\_source=e-shot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=GBnewsletterJuly2021](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-disability-strategy?utm_source=e-shot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=GBnewsletterJuly2021)

Just to draw attention to this Strategy – which is available from the above weblink in different formats. There will be more on this in future Ebulletins ...

## Autism issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

### **“Interview: Abby Bird, Audiences and Communications Manager, Black Country Living Museum, July 2021”**

<https://www.autisminmuseums.com/interview-abby-bird-audiences-and-communications-manager-black-country-living-museum-july-2021/>

(Source: *Autism in Museums Newsletter*, Aug 2021)

“For the first time we have an interview with an autistic museum professional. Abby Bird is the Audiences and Communities Manager at the Black Country Living Museum. A TikTok superstar she shares what it means to her to be autistic and gives advice to workplaces on supporting autistic staff.” [Taken from *Newsletter*]

## Autism issues – Other Agencies

### **Top tips for communicating effectively with autistic people**

<https://www.ambitiousaboutautism.org.uk/sites/default/files/resources-and-downloads/top-tips-for-communicating-effectively-with-autistic-people.pdf>

(Source: *Autism in Museums Newsletter*, Aug 2021)

Very useful brief guide to successful communication.

### **“‘Staggeringly high’ number of autistic people on UK Prevent scheme”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2021/jul/07/staggeringly-high-number-of-people-with-autism-on-uk-prevent-scheme>

(Source: *PREVENT Digest*, Jul 2021)

Just in case you didn't see this article which reports a speech arguing “[...] that the criminal justice outcome may not always be the right one for autistic people and needs scrutiny.”

This is also picked up in:

“No evidence links autism with terrorism, but ill-judged statements and headlines will lead to stigma”, <https://theconversation.com/no-evidence-links-autism-with-terrorism-but-ill-judged-statements-and-headlines-will-lead-to-stigma-164133>

## Migration issues – News

### **Press release: “£2.6 million fund to help Hong Kong arrivals launched”**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-fund-to-help-hong-kong-arrivals-launched?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=govuk-](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/26-million-fund-to-help-hong-kong-arrivals-launched?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-)

[notifications&utm\\_source=43ef2256-a50f-44a1-b14a-418835e3d0a1&utm\\_content=daily](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-56144141)

“Community groups across the UK now have the chance to bid for a share of a £2.6 million fund to support programmes that will help newly arrived families make the best start to rebuilding their lives.”

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

#### ***Breaking the frame: challenging representations of migration in TV news***

<https://lccjournalismprojects.shorthandstories.com/breaking-the-frame/index.html>

(Source: City of Sanctuary *Newsletter*, Aug 2021)

“Unlike print and digital journalism, broadcast has remained relatively unexamined by academic researchers, even though television continues to be the most popular medium for accessing the news and one of the most trustworthy sources of information [...]

The evidence gathered by Breaking the Frame suggests that whilst there are encouraging practices in the way broadcasters report migration, for example that migrants, refugees and asylum seekers are regularly quoted in TV news reports, there is also scope for improvement. Stories often cover limited subjects and focus on the migrants as passive victims, and this has a marginalising impact on the those being reported on.

We believe that by challenging some of these frames, expanding not only the range of stories that are told, but also who gets to tell the stories of migration, more accurate representations can be achieved.”

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

#### **“Drag Queen Storytime Continues to Stir Up Controversy as Well as Excitement Among Library Patrons”**

[https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=26332&utm\\_campaign=40303\\_Fortnightly%20email%2011%20Aug%202021%20-%20MEMBER&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm\\_i=6WFS\\_V3J,9VBO9,2PNT,1](https://www.oif.ala.org/oif/?p=26332&utm_campaign=40303_Fortnightly%20email%2011%20Aug%202021%20-%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS_V3J,9VBO9,2PNT,1)

(Source: News from CILIP, 11 Aug 2021)

Just in case you haven't seen this post on the ALA “Intellectual Freedom Blog”.

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

#### **“Measuring outcomes in public libraries”**

<https://princh.com/measuring-outcomes-in-public-libraries-insights-from-darren-smart/>

(Source: message via LinkedIn, 6 Aug 2021)

Just in case you haven't seen this useful blogpost summary of the importance of measuring outcomes – and a bit about how to do so.

***A high street renaissance: how arts and culture bring people and pride back to our high streets***

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/download-file/A%20High%20Street%20Renaissance.pdf>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 449, 12 Aug 2021)

New report from ACE, demonstrating the importance of culture to the health of high streets:

- “Builds civic pride: 62% of UK adults agree that cultural experiences on the high street give them a sense of pride about their local area, according to new polling to support this research.
- Defends against high street decline: Closure of high street retail dents civic pride and creates spirals of decline.
- Footfall as an indicator of high street vitality: Culture drives footfall and spending. Many cultural activities require in-person settings, which drive footfall. The Turner Contemporary is estimated to have injected £70 million into the local economy between 2011-19.
- Contributes towards multi-functional high streets: Trips to cultural destinations have many motivations, including artistic participation and voluntary activity, and are combined with spending at nearby retail, hospitality, and leisure amenities.” [p1]

**Broader issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

***The austerity decade: local government spending on culture – the latest research on how local government spending on culture has changed over the last ten years***

<https://www.pec.ac.uk/blog/the-austerity-decade-local-government-spending-on-culture>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 449, 12 Aug 2021)

New analysis of the impact of spending cuts:

“Local government has been hit hard by austerity. On average, grants from central to local government have reduced by 49.1% in real-terms over the period 2010- 2018, translating into a reduction in real spending power of close to 30%.

Demand for statutory services such as social care, children’s services, and homelessness have also increased, due to widening inequalities and policy inertia on the crisis in social care. Taken together, these factors mean the period since 2008 has been particularly challenging for local government [...]

Looking at the data, what is most striking is the variation in spending cuts. While most areas have reduced the amount spent on ‘Culture and Heritage’, cuts range from 1% to 94%, with a minority increasing spending over time.”