

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 196, 9 November 2015

## Events

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

### **West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song**

(Source: email from Marion Wallace, BL, 29 Oct 2015)

The British Library's major exhibition has just opened – further info in the press release (attached as Appendix).

## Funding & Opportunities

### **“Megaphone: making minority voices heard in British children’s literature”**

[http://megaphonewrite.com/?utm\\_source=EQUIP+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=78df83ef06-EQUIP\\_Newsletter\\_October\\_201510\\_29\\_2015&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_2de6bb1556-78df83ef06-38845237](http://megaphonewrite.com/?utm_source=EQUIP+Newsletter&utm_campaign=78df83ef06-EQUIP_Newsletter_October_201510_29_2015&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_2de6bb1556-78df83ef06-38845237)

(Source: *Latest News from EQUIP*, 29 Oct 2015)

“**Megaphone** is a new writer development scheme, specifically aimed at BAME (Black, Asian or other Minority Ethnic) writers who would like sustained support as they write their first novel for children or teenagers. The scheme costs £300, though full funding is available for participants in financial need. There are five places available on the scheme. Applications for a place are invited from **14/10/2015** until **24/12/2015** and will be awarded on merit.

It is funded by Arts Council England and The PA Children’s Book Group in association with EQUIP (Equality in Publishing). Applicants must be resident in England.”

Further details about applying on above weblink.

### **Community Archive & Heritage Awards 2016**

<http://www.communityarchives.org.uk/content/awards/community-archive-heritage-awards-2015>

(Source: email from Elaine Davis to [archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk), 1 Nov 2015)

“The Community Archives and Heritage Group (CAHG) are pleased to announce the opening of nominations for the Community Archive & Heritage Awards 2016.

The Awards are open to all community groups in the UK and Ireland who are members of CAHG. Community archives, community heritage groups, community museums and community archaeology groups are all included in CAHG. If your group is not a member of CAHG it is free to join.

The closing date for entries is **31st January 2016.**”

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

### **“Reading to babies: a beginner’s guide”**

<http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/books/reading-to-babies-a-beginner-s-guide-1.2407512>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 29 Oct 2015)

“Sara Keating runs the baby Book Club in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown libraries. Here she offers advice on how to pass on to children a love of reading.”

Includes tips and suggestions of books that work.

### **“Major collaborative study explores information poverty amongst young first-time mothers”**

<http://medicalxpress.com/news/2015-10-major-collaborative-explores-poverty-young.html>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 1 Nov 2015)

Announcement of a new research project, led by the University of Strathclyde:

“This study aims to advance our understanding of information poverty and to contribute significantly to the important discussion of how public information providers can support and empower young first time mothers in seeking information. We also aim to help providers develop new services that are appropriate for young first time mothers.”

The research:

“[...] marks the first time Glasgow Life has worked in partnership on a research study of this scale with both an academic and a charitable organisation.

With more than 7000 babies born in Glasgow every year, the range of services offered to new parents throughout Glasgow's 32 community libraries, and the iconic Mitchell Library, has grown considerably over the years. Glasgow Life has transformed the service to allow parents and children to participate in a vast array of activities and events designed to aid childhood development, together with the more traditional services associated with a library.”

### **“Museum to commission artist to create work based on a food bank”**

[http://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/28102015-museum-to-commission-artist-to-create-work-based-on-a-food-bank?dm\\_i=2VBX,3CB8,27LUOM,9XCF,1](http://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/28102015-museum-to-commission-artist-to-create-work-based-on-a-food-bank?dm_i=2VBX,3CB8,27LUOM,9XCF,1)

(Source: latest updates from the Museums Association, 4 Nov 2015)

“Discovery Museum in Newcastle-upon-Tyne wants to raise awareness of inequality.

The Discovery Museum in Newcastle-upon-Tyne is looking for an artist to create an installation based on one of the busiest food banks in the UK.

The artwork, which will be on public display in February, will be created in response to the food packages given out at the Newcastle West End Food Bank and other items in the museum's social welfare collections.

It will be funded by a £3,000 grant from the Museums Association's Transformers programme, which is designed to encourage mid-career professionals to look at innovative ways to build resilience and create impact for their museums.

Earlier this year the museum monitored around 30 visitors' reactions to the food bank's family food parcel, which the museum displayed in its social welfare gallery.

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

#### **Offenders' Families Helpline: Information sheets**

<http://www.offendersfamilieshelpline.org/index.php/information-sheets/>

(Source: i-HOP *E-news*, Nov 2015)

Part of the service offered by the National Offenders' Families Helpline, these useful info sheets cover key areas eg Arrest, Foreign nationals, Healthcare, etc.

More about the Helpline service at: <http://www.offendersfamilieshelpline.org/>.

### **Health & Wellbeing issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government**

#### ***Arts on Prescription: arts-based social prescribing for better mental wellbeing***

[https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/images/practical\\_support/public-services/cultural-commissioning/arts-on-prescription-mental-health-october-2015.pdf](https://www.ncvo.org.uk/images/images/practical_support/public-services/cultural-commissioning/arts-on-prescription-mental-health-october-2015.pdf)

(Source: email from Caroline Townsend, NCVO, 3 Nov 2015, to National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing, [museumsandwellbeingalliance@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:museumsandwellbeingalliance@jiscmail.ac.uk))

New case-study from the Cultural Commissioning Programme (see: <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/public-services/cultural-commissioning-programme>).

This looks at three partnerships where arts activities have been prescribed to individuals experiencing mental health issues:

- “Colour your Life”, County Durham
- “Start in Salford”
- “Creative Alternatives”, “an Arts on Prescription programme which was established in 2006, following a successful funding bid to Invest to Save, a central government fund which encouraged innovation in public service delivery. Following three years of pilot programming, the service has been sustained through regular funding from Sefton Council’s Public Health department and the council’s Arts and Cultural Services.”

### **Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies**

#### **“Strong Young Minds”**

<http://www.strongyoungminds.org/>

(Source: email from Frances Hendrix, 29 Oct 2015)

New NW charity has just been launched, which aims to support young people and reduce the stigma attached to mental health in schools and communities.

***Music reawakening: musicianship and access for early to mid stage dementia – the way forward***

<http://www.arts4dementia.org.uk/music-reawakening-report>

(Source: email from Veronica Franklin Gould, President, Arts 4 Dementia, 6 Nov 2015 to [museumsandwellbeingalliance@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:museumsandwellbeingalliance@jiscmail.ac.uk))

This report:

“[...] provides guidance to spread music practice for people affected by early to mid stage dementia and carers nationwide.

*Music Reawakening* is the outcome of A4D's Best Practice Symposium 2015 at London's Wigmore Hall. The report presents programmes by leading opera companies, orchestras and choirs – most offered free to families affected by dementia. It illustrates music education opportunities and neurological evidence of the power of music to increase and maintain cognitive activity, improve wellbeing, reduce isolation in dementia and reduce the risk of developing dementia.”

More about Arts4Dementia at: <http://www.arts4dementia.org.uk/>.

**Arts & Health South West: “Dementia”**

<http://www.ahsw.org.uk/page.aspx?p=173>

(Source: email from Jackie Henville, Co-ordinator, Arts & Health SW, 6 Nov 2015 to [museumsandwellbeingalliance@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:museumsandwellbeingalliance@jiscmail.ac.uk))

This webpage “collects together all the case studies that were submitted as part of the Arts & Health South West Prize 2015 and which share dementia as a common theme.”

More on the Prize at: <http://www.ahsw.org.uk/Prize.aspx>.

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

**ALISS Disability Forum**

<http://alissnet.org.uk/>

(Source: email from Dave Percival to CDEG Committee, 30 Oct 2015)

ALISS [Association of Librarians and Information Professionals in the Social Sciences]\* is about to launch (on 26 Nov) “Library Champions for Disability Access”, a forum for all information professionals.

\*“ALISS (Association of Librarians and Information Professionals in the Social Sciences) is a not-for-profit unincorporated professional society. It is an independent group which was formed in April 2005 by the former committee of ASSIGN (Aslib Social Science Information Group and Network).”

**“How to Use iPads to Help Teens With Autism”**

<http://www.slj.com/2015/10/technology/ipads-brighten-lives-of-teens-with-autism/#>

(Source: *LJXpress – Library Journal*, 3 Nov 2015)

Interesting article about how senior librarian of teen services, Carrie Rogers-Whitehead, developed her provision for young people on the autistic spectrum.

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

#### “Refugee families' new lives in Glasgow shown in photos”

[http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13896995.Refugee families new lives in Glasgow shown in photos/](http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/homenews/13896995.Refugee_families_new_lives_in_Glasgow_shown_in_photos/)

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 456, 2 Nov 2015)

Brief report on the photo exhibition being held at the Mitchell Library and then other venues in Glasgow.

### Migration issues – Other Agencies

#### “Little Voices of Syria: Project Brief”

[www.globallearninglondon.org.uk](http://www.globallearninglondon.org.uk)

(Source: email from Alia Al Zougbi, Head, HEC Global Learning Centre, 28 Oct 2015)

“HEC Global Learning Centre, as part of the Tower Hamlets Schools Library Service, is working on a project leading to a publication *for* children in the UK *by* Syrian children in refugee camps in Turkey, Lebanon and Syria. The publication will be a collation of visual art, poetry, short stories and fast fiction. In this pilot phase, we will be engaging schools in Tower Hamlets where the Prevent agenda is a high priority due to a number of incidents of school-age students leaving to Syria.

The purpose of *Little Voices of Syria* (working title) would be to provide an arts platform for refugee children’s voices to be heard and responded to within a community that feels a particularly strong connection to the plight of the Syrian people, but is yet to find a constructive outlet for action. By engaging Tower Hamlets pupils with the real voices of real refugees from Syria, a cycle of critical learning will be achieved based on this viable source – the life experiences of the refugee children of Syria as they themselves see and express them.

This anthology would be distributed to schools, engaging pupils in Tower Hamlets Schools in a process of reading, discussing, interpreting and analysing these contributions using tried and tested Global Learning methodology. The pupils will then respond with an artistic output to be staged or exhibited publicly in a prominent arts venue and with a cluster of activities around it to engage parents and extend into the community. Our commitment is to pave the way ahead for the arrival of refugees in a sustained, warm and welcoming atmosphere of empathy and solidarity ”

HEC Global Learning Centre is looking for partners, support and other interest in this idea. There is more info about the Centre’s work at:

[www.globallearninglondon.org.uk](http://www.globallearninglondon.org.uk).

If you would like further info, please contact:

[alia.alzougbi@towerhamlets.gov.uk](mailto:alia.alzougbi@towerhamlets.gov.uk).

**“So many British people live abroad that now the ‘immigration debate’ is about us”**

<http://metro.co.uk/2015/11/06/so-many-british-people-live-abroad-that-now-the-immigration-debate-is-about-us-5485131/>

(Source: email from Simon Wallace, 8 Nov 2015)

Story picked up by some of the media (see also:

<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/so-many-brits-now-live-abroad-that-theyre-causing-immigration-debates-oh-the-irony-a6723006.html>) that focuses

on:

“[...] a new report from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the UK actually has a much greater proportion of citizens living overseas than any other European country [...]

Around 3.97 million UK citizens were living abroad in 2010-11, and since then the numbers have grown. Globally, Britain was second only to Mexico – which had 12million citizens living in other countries.

And we beat China (3.90million), India (3.83million) and Germany (3.63million).”

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

#### **“Libraries Transform”**

<http://www.librariestransform.org/#because>

New campaign just launched by the American Library Association:

“Designed to increase public awareness of the value, impact and services provided by libraries and library professionals, the Libraries Transform campaign will ensure there is one clear, energetic voice for our profession. Showcasing the transformative nature of today’s libraries and elevating the critical role libraries play in the digital age.”

Includes (currently):

- Six reasons why libraries are transforming (which the campaign aims to add to)
- “Trends” – a collection “to help libraries and librarians understand how trends are developing and why they matter”
- Toolkit (eg downloadable posters, etc).

#### **“It’s Time to Talk About Guns: surface the facts, convene the conversation”**

<http://lj.libraryjournal.com/2015/11/opinion/editorial/its-time-to-talk-about-guns-surface-the-facts-convene-the-conversation-editorial/#>

(Source: *LJXpress* – *Library Journal*, 3 Nov 2015)

Terrific article about the key role that libraries (and, by extension, the rest of the cultural sector) can play in starting ‘conversations’ about critical issues, such as guns.

## West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song

**The British Library's major autumn exhibition is now open.**

'West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song' is an exhibition of literature and music – from the great African empires of the Middle Ages to the cultural dynamism of West Africa today

Fascinating stories from the region's 17 nations show how West Africans have harnessed the power of words to build societies, drive political movements, sustain religious belief and fight injustice. Beautiful manuscripts, historic film and sound recordings, books, photographs, and colourful textiles offer a unique insight into a profound and engaging literary culture with centuries-old written heritage existing alongside ancient oral traditions.

Hear the myth of the founding of ancient Mali in recorded performance. See the influence of religion through colourful fabric and the saddlebag Qur'an. Celebrate writers and artists including Africa's first Nobel Prize winner, Wole Soyinka, and internationally acclaimed musician and human rights activist Fela Kuti.

For more information, and to book, see <http://www.bl.uk/events/west-africa-word-symbol-song>.

Tickets £10. Concessions include a special group price of £5 per person for groups of 6 or more. Students £5.

See the curator's blog for more on the thinking behind the exhibition: <http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/asian-and-african/2015/10/west-africa-word-symbol-song.html>

The exhibition is accompanied by a major series of talks, events and performances. See <http://www.bl.uk/events>

For more about West Africa on the BL's website: <http://www.bl.uk/west-africa/>