

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 243, 7 November 2017

Events

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

Enquiries

Easy read info about FGM

Peter Bates at the NDTi has asked if anyone has come across info about FGM in an easy read version. As he says, this would be useful for new arrivals who have a low level of literacy in English, as well as people with learning disabilities.

Peter has checked a number of sources already, the list of these is on his website, <http://peterbates.org.uk/home/garden-shed/easy-read-information-on-fgm/>. Has anyone any suggestions, please?

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

“Manchester scheme to give homeless access to libraries”

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-manchester-41775445>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 29 Oct 2017)

“Homeless people will be able to join libraries and access digital services in Manchester under a new pilot scheme.

The project will allow people who are being helped by homeless charity Lifeshare to register for a library card without a permanent address.

Manchester City Council said the service will give those involved access to all 22 of the city's libraries.”

“Another England”

<http://www.anotherengland.co.uk/#>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 357, 19 Oct 2017)

New project website from Historic England:

“Mapping 100 years of England’s history from the perspective of Black & Asian people, Another England tells the story of the country’s rich multicultural heritage through place. From 1918 - 2018, the project spans the period from the end of the Great War through to what will in 2018 be the 70th anniversary of the British Nationality Act.

Covering the break-up of the Empire and the devastation of the country through two World Wars, the project expands out to understand England’s recent history from the perspective of people of African, Caribbean and Asian heritage, who form a dynamic part of the country's population.

Another England draws attention to the role that Black and Asian people have always played in the building of the nation into a vibrant multicultural society whilst recognising the challenges they have faced and continue to face.

Exploring the themes of Origins, Home, Work, Culture, Racism & Resistance and Place, Another England charts the places in which Black & Asian people settled, worked, and socialised that have too often gone under documented as an integral part of our heritage.”

“Hunger and Libraries: Snacks, Backpacks and More”

<http://www.webjunction.org/news/webjunction/hunger-and-libraries.html>

(Source: WebJunction *Crossroads*, 1 Nov 2017)

US libraries help combat food poverty and hunger:

“Autumn is an excellent time of year to highlight ways libraries are fighting hunger in their communities, and October is a great month to start planning for summer lunch and learning programs. This list of resources will help you explore how food insecurity is impacting your local community. We’ve also gathered ideas and inspiration from library staff who are teaming up with local partners to provide after-school snacks, breakfast before schools, backpacks with food to get kids through the weekend, and more.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Social Inclusion Week 2017”

<http://www.intallaght.ie/social-inclusion-week-2017/>

Interesting development:

“South Dublin County Council’s Social Inclusion Week will be launched on Monday 20 November 2017 at 12.00 pm in County Hall, Tallaght [...]

The aim of this week is to highlight the positive work carried out by South Dublin County Council and other agencies to reduce social exclusion and poverty, and to promote an understanding of social inclusion and diversity in the County.

Each year there has been a steady growth of strategic partners from the community and other agencies, increasing the level of participation and the quality of events. The number of groups and communities engaging with the event has increased dramatically.”

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

“Call for health ministers to push forward arts in health agenda”

<https://www.artsprofessional.co.uk/news/call-health-ministers-push-forward-arts-health-agenda>

(Source: National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance News, Oct 2017)

Brief report of the Westminster Hall debate* on 11 Oct, in which the need for a cross-government approach to arts in health – including education reforms – was highlighted. The debate was called by Ed Vaizey ...

* “The House of Commons also sits in the Grand Committee Room just off Westminster Hall. This allows more time for individual MPs to raise issues of importance to them through a series of Private Members’ general debates.”
[taken from: <http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/visiting-and-tours/watch-committees-and-debates/westminster-hall-debates/>]

Museums on prescription: a guide to working with older people

<https://culturehealthresearch.files.wordpress.com/2017/10/mopguide.pdf>

(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 31 Oct 2017)

Recommendations for good practice, drawn from the AHRC “Museums on Prescription” project.

This is full of useful practical info for running a social prescribing project.

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

“Keep Antibiotics Working – highlighting the risks of taking antibiotics when you don’t need them”

<https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2017/11/02/keep-antibiotics-working-highlighting-the-risks-of-taking-antibiotics-when-you-dont-need-them/>

New post on Libraries Taskforce blog, drawing attention to this new Public Health England campaign.

To support the campaign in your library, you can order resources free of charge from PHE: <https://campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/resources/campaigns/58-keep-antibiotics-working/resources>.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

Transforming health ...

<https://youngfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Transforming-health.pdf>

(Source: *Latest news from The Young Foundation*, 17 Aug 2017)

Report from The Young Foundation, which calls for a move from treating illness to ‘Health creation’:

“It is time to take the onus of our own health, as citizens, off the shoulders of health practitioners onto that of our communities of which health practitioners are one important group amongst many.” [p8]

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

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

English Language Teaching: Refugees

<http://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2017-10-24/debates/B7130941-F08E-4DE2-ADBB-DBF4623E3605/EnglishLanguageTeachingRefugees>

(Source: MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview], 544, 30 Oct 2017)

Report of a HOC debate on 24 Oct, which gives some useful background info about ESOL provision, and also emphasises the contribution that “migrants” make to the UK.

The debate was backed up by the publication of a “Debate Pack” by the HOC Library, *English language teaching for refugees*, (Number CDP-2017-0195, 23 October 2017), <http://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CDP-2017-0195/CDP-2017-0195.pdf>.

“Croeso Abergwaun, Welcome Fishguard”

http://citiesofmigration.ca/good_idea/croeso-abergwaun-welcome-fishguard/

(Source: *Cities of Migration Newsletter*, 70, Oct 2017)

The local community has created the Welcome Fishguard Community Sponsorship Group:

“Under this new UK Community Sponsorship program, local groups agree to sponsor refugee families and help them integrate into life in the UK. They help their new families find housing, access medical and social services, arrange English language tuition, and support them with employment, leading to self-sufficiency.”

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Easy Towns”

<https://www.easytowns.eu/project/>

(Source: email from Simon Wallace, 24 Oct 2017)

“Easy Towns” [European Accessible Sustainable Young TOWNS] is a two-year project funded by the European Programme “Europe for Citizens”.

“The project gathers together 11 different towns from 10 different countries, all dealing with the theme of immigration, multiculturalism and integration, with different approaches. Partner cities will analyze how citizens perceive multiculturalism, integration and the current degree of efficacy of local, national and EU related policies; moreover innovative methods of citizens involvement will be developed and tested. Particular attention will be given to engaging and taking into account requirements and indications of younger citizens, including the ‘second-generation Europeans’.”

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

“The problem of the time-poor and the money-rich”

<http://www.publiclibrariesnews.com/2017/08/the-problem-of-the-time-poor-and-the-money-rich.html>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 9 Aug 2017)

Interesting piece about the change in use of libraries (and possibly other cultural organisations). Ian argues that:

“[...] those deciding against using libraries are becoming less and less comparatively rich or busy as technological change and cuts continue.”

He concludes:

“I don’t have any easy solutions to this. It’s just an explanation why many public libraries have the clientele they do: time-rich children and parents, money-poor jobseekers and students and time-rich (and often money-poor) senior citizens. Technology and hollowing out has made this more pronounced over the last decade or two. The very best libraries I’ve seen find alternatives: they provide things commercial alternatives do not (e.g. connecting people and empowerment in all its forms) and by doing so gain the trust and support of politicians who keep their funding.”

Benchmarking Framework for library services

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/benchmarking-framework-for-library-services>

DCMS have just produced this new guidance for public libraries:

“This Benchmarking Framework reflects best practice in sector-led continual improvement. It’s been designed by the sector to support library services to develop their organisational capability to achieve enhanced and sustainable positive outcomes for the communities they serve. The Framework is not a product, an award or a badge; it is a journey of improvement across all aspects of the library service and its work (underpinned by self-assessment).”¹

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

“Bump Booster”

<http://www.ascel.org.uk/bump-booster>

(Source: email from Sue Ball, Chair of ASCEL, 9 Oct 2017)

ASCEL have just launched their toolkit, subtitled “giving every child the best start in life even before they are born!”

It includes ideas and activities for library staff, for other staff, and for parents-to-be.

There is also an outline of the resource on the Libraries Taskforce blog, <https://librariestaskforce.blog.gov.uk/2017/11/06/bump-booster-new-toolkit-to-help-staff-support-parents-to-be/>.

¹ Taken from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/benchmarking-framework-for-library-services/introduction-and-recommended-process-for-the-benchmarking-framework-for-library-services-version-1-september-2017>.

“Museums Are Not Neutral”

<https://www.anabeloro.com/blog/museums-are-not-neutral>

(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 15 Sep 2017)

Very interesting blogpost that argues that museums aren't neutral:

“A certain narrative seems predominant these days trying to make us believe that we are divided by more than we have in common – depriving us of our humanity. There is no question whether museums can be part of these dialogues. They can, in fact, they have to and their museum policy resembles the questions of our time.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

Greenhouses not warehouses: commissioning education to plant seeds of hope and opportunity

<http://www.prisonerseducation.org.uk/news/greenhouses>

(Source: Prisoners' Education Trust email, Oct 2017)

Announcement of the launch of a new workbook to help prisons start to commission education:

“Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) contracts come to an end in 2018, making way for a new era of prison governor-led education commissioning. Prisons are being given increasing flexibility and control over education budgets and the ability to commission a wide range of provision.”

Suffrage Pioneers 1918-2018

<http://www.suffrage-pioneers.net/>

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 6 Nov 2017)

“The centenary of property-owning women, over 30 years of age and all men receiving the vote will be celebrated in 2018. Shouldn't we now be acknowledging those pioneers, ordinary people who did extraordinary things, to further the struggle to gain the vote? It was these people who helped highlight the opportunity for ALL women to participate in democracy by uncovering the achievements of those who both fought for the Representation of the People Act 1918 and then went on to participate in the opportunities it created.

The Women's Local Government Society (WLGS) working with Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), the Local Government Association (LGA), the National Association of Civic Officers (NACO), Vote100 and The Fawcett Society have come together to seek 100 pioneers who were suffragists across the country and who deserve to be recognised. This could be your grandmother, aunt, or other family member. If so let us have some information about them and perhaps they will become one of those 100 pioneers we wish to recognise.”

Nomination forms and further info at above website.

Deadline: **31 Dec 2017**.