The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 291, 12 December 2019

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

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

"A new model for librarianship"
https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/new-model-librarianship-kim-gile/
(Source: email from Simon Wallace, 5 Dec 2019)

> "In the Fall of 2019, the Kansas City Public Library launched the new Community Reference Team. This team, comprised of five subject specialists supported by an Americorps VISTA, was created to help to individuals connect to the community and to information so that they are empowered to thrive […]
>
> When you think of a Reference Librarian, you probably imagine someone sitting at a desk in a library somewhere, flanked by reference books that can only be used in the library. That vision is still accurate for a lot of public libraries, but it isn't always relevant to the communities those libraries serve."

Doorstep Library
https://www.doorsteplibrary.org.uk/
(Source: MARCH Mental Health Network *Newsletter*, Dec 2019)
Just in case you haven't seen this terrific storytelling initiative:

> "Now operating in 3 London boroughs, running 14 projects, Doorstep Library volunteers are now visiting over 500 children."

(A wistful thought – 30 years or so ago, this would have been part of public libraries' role.)

"Telling 'difficult' stories at historic houses"
https://www.historichouses.org/resources/all-resources/telling-difficult-stories-at-historic-houses.html
(Source: *Heritage Update*, 408, 12 Dec 2019)
Very interesting article looking at how some historic houses are starting to tell more of their stories.

"Cardiff Met & CILIP ILIG Decolonisation Conference November 2019" – Padlet
https://padlet.com/jim_finch8472/cnryftdmavot
(Source: email from Briony Birdi, 11 Dec 2019)
In Nov 2019, the CILIP International Library and Information Group, in conjunction with Cardiff Metropolitan University, organised a day conference, "Decolonising Library Collections and Practices: from Understanding to Action"

Jamie Finch from ILIG has put together this Padlet with presentations and other key information from the conference.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government
"Level of NEET young people hits three-year high"
https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/level-of-neet-young-people-hits-three-year-high
(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 25 Nov 2019)
> "Figures just published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show that during the period between July and September this year there were 800,000 young people in the UK aged between 16 and 24 classed as Neet.
>
> The ONS said this was the highest number since October to December 2016, but still well below the peak of 1.2 million in the latter half of 2011."

This article was reporting on the ONS data release, *Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), UK: November 2019*, see:
https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peoplenotinwork/unemployment/bulletins/youngpeoplenotineducationemploymentortrainingneet/november2019.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies
Progressive toolkit: a guide to winning arguments for transformative change
http://classonline.org.uk/docs/Progressive_Toolkit_final.pdf
(Source: email from CLASS, 18 Nov 2019)
> "Whether you look at the state of our public services, stress and low pay at work, the climate crisis, inequality or immigration – we are moving backwards. Most people have felt the pinch and dislike injustice, but many also feel fatalistic and that inequality is inevitable. Some lack faith that politics can do anything about it. How do we empower people to believe in a progressive alternative vision? This toolkit aims to give helpful tips about how to communicate progressive ideas and values to win arguments for transformative change." [p2]

Really useful toolkit, including sections on

1. Tips for Communicating
2. Rebuilding the Economy for the Many

        a. Making the Case for Public Investment
        b. Championing our Public Services
3. Rebuilding Solidarity Across Britain
        a. Poverty is the Problem, not Social Security
        b. Breaking the Stereotypes of the Working Class
        c. British-Born vs Foreigners.

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

"The Times Christmas Appeal"
https://readingagency.org.uk/timesappeal/?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-1606821840-51507097&mc_cid=1606821840&mc_eid=3fa1d39831
(Source: The Reading Agency *Newsletter*, Dec 2019)
The Reading Agency are featured as part of *The Times*'s Christmas Appeal, and, in the past couple of weeks, reporters have visited libraries in Oldham and West Sussex and a hospital in Swansea to see the Reading Friends groups and volunteers in action.

The website has links to the articles describing these initiatives.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

There's no bus map for dementia: a story about living well and getting by with a little help
https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/media/mmuacuk/content/documents/esri/projects/dementia-comics/dementia_comic.pdf
(Source: email from Sarah McNicol, one of the book's authors, 26 Apr 2019)
Funded by ACE, this illustrated story "[…] was created through a collaborative, patient-led approach. Artists and people living with dementia worked together in a series of arts workshops to find ways to represent and share the experience of living well with dementia." [p2]

This was originally listed in *Ebulletin* 281, 10 Jul 2019.

Sarah McNicol, who co-wrote it, has emailed the Bibliotherapy JISCMAIL list on 15 Nov to say:

> "To order a single copy (free!), fill out the form at:
> https://tinyurl.com/nobusmaporder
>
> If you want multiple copies (for example, for a library or to use with a reading group), email s.mcnicol@mmu.ac.uk. (Again, these are free)
>
> You can also read the comic online at:
> https://issuu.com/happinessdragon/docs/dementia_comic_full_v2
>
> We've also produced a guide that gives some ideas for ways you might use the comic. You can download this at:
> https://www2.mmu.ac.uk/media/mmuacuk/content/documents/esri/projects/dementia-comics/dementia_guide_final.pdf."

"Stop medicalising loneliness – history reveals it's society that needs mending"
https://theconversation.com/stop-medicalising-loneliness-history-reveals-its-society-that-needs-mending-127056?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201468113926&utm_content=The%20Weekend%20Conversation%20-%201468113926+CID_cbdb3bee3769d382e923fd5651fa7f7f&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Stop%20medicalising%20loneliness%20%20history%20reveals%20its%20society%20that%20needs%20mending
(Source: *The Conversation*, 23 Nov 2019)
Interesting, challenging article that argues that we are over-simplifying loneliness in order to try to 'cure' it:

> "By talking about loneliness as a virus or an epidemic, we medicalise it and seek simple, even pharmacological treatments."

Autism issues – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations
"Two great books to fight stigma around autism in tweens & teens"
https://bookriot.com/2019/11/30/tween-teen-books-about-autism/
(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 1 Dec 2019)
Recommendation of two titles, plus links to other resources on making libraries autism-friendly by school librarian Lucas Maxwell.

Migration issues – Other Agencies
"What's happened to UK migration since the EU referendum – in four graphs"
https://theconversation.com/whats-happened-to-uk-migration-since-the-eu-referendum-in-four-graphs-127891?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%202%202019%20-%201476114014&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%202%202019%20-%201476114014+CID_e92899e6e4447ec53415d857af60421d&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Whats%20happened%20to%20UK%20migration%20since%20the%20EU%20referendum%20%20in%20four%20graphs
(Source: *The Conversation*, 2 Dec 2019)
Very interesting summary of the position post-Brexit.

"Rats in the kitchen, sodden carpets in the living room"
http://www.irr.org.uk/news/rats-in-the-kitchen-sodden-carpets-in-the-living-room/
(Source: *IRR News*, 27 Nov- 12 Dec 2019)
Article about the horrendous treatment of a family seeking sanctuary:

> "When researcher John Grayson visited a family with disabilities living in a Mears asylum house in Rotherham, he was stunned by what he saw.

'That's where the rats get in.' April [all names have been changed] was showing me round the kitchen in her Rotherham asylum house. I was visiting her with a volunteer interpreter to investigate reports that the family was in real difficulties. The visit confronted me with the worst case of neglect by an asylum housing provider I have encountered in my research and campaigning on asylum housing over the past seven years."

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

"10 LGBTQ+ books to inspire secondary pupils"
https://www.teachwire.net/news/10-lgbtq-books-to-inspire-secondary-pupils
(Source: email from Anne Harding, 5 Dec 2019)
New booklist from Barbara Band:

"Make sure your library shelves are as inclusive as you'd like your school to be, with these empowering and empathetic reads"

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

"Picture books that celebrate LGBT families"
https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/l/lgbt-picture-books/
(Source: email from Anne Harding, 27 Nov 2019)
List of picture books for children up to 5 – good to see these highlighted by BookTrust.

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

Inspiring creativity, heritage & the creative industries: a Heritage Alliance report
https://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/InspiringCreativity_THAreport.pdf
(Source: *Heritage Update*, 407, 29 Nov 2019)
"This report highlights the breadth of innovative projects heritage organisations are delivering with creative industries partners, making the UK a more exciting, engaging and inspiring place to live, work and visit. Through a series of case studies from Heritage Alliance members, and some affiliated projects, this report demonstrates the best that can emerge from effective and supported partnerships between these two sectors." [p2]

Guided by young voices: how to include young people on your board and in your decision making processes
https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/rh-sitefiles/marketing/Guided+by+Young+Voices.pdf?utm_source=The%20Audience%20Agency&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11071180_The%20Learning%20Diaries%20%7C%20November%202019&dm_i=1X0O,6LAKS,WM3QP2,Q9T5O,1
(Source: email from Nicky Boyd to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 6 Dec 2019)

Helpful practical new guide from the Roundhouse (who have been recruiting young trustees to the board since 2005):

> "This guide, commissioned by Arts Council England, outlines the impact that organisations can achieve from bringing young trustees around the table." [p3]

Broader issues – Other Agencies
Difficult histories & positive identities
https://www.cumberlandlodge.ac.uk/sites/default/files/public/Difficult%20Historie s%20%26%20Positive%20Identities%20report%20%28web%29.pdf
(Source: *Heritage Update*, 407, 29 Nov 2019)

> "There is no single way to view the past and to apply historical lessons to the present: historical enquiry is contested, because we investigate the past through the lens of the present, shaped by a diversity of current world-views, values, and attitudes. Diverse individuals and groups experience history differently, and leave different archival and material trails behind them. This report reviews research and thinking about approaches to a particular aspect of 'difficult histories', and its ramifications for British identities [...]
>
> This report outlines the need to confront the past in a more honest and open manner, because a critical examination of the past enables us to exercise aspirations and hope for a more peaceful, open, and inclusive society." [p1]