



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 319, 27 January 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

“Decolonisation + Democratisation”

<https://cimuseums.org.uk/dandd/>

(Source: email from Eleanor Root, Colchester + Ipswich Museums, to gem@jiscmail.ac.uk, 15 Jan 2021)

In Oct and Nov 2020, Colchester + Ipswich Museums hosted a series of livestream events which are available to view now, including sessions on:

- “Decolonisation + Democratisation”
- “Reinterpreting Regions”, looking at place-based projects
- “Community Created Permanent Displays”, where “Manchester Art Gallery and the Science Museum talk through their experiences, as they went from community contribution to co-creation.”
- “Beyond The Museum’s Walls”, in which “[...] the Courtauld Institute and Colchester Museums discuss different approaches to sharing activity.”
- “Sharing Power”, where “Ipswich Museums, the South London Gallery and York Museums Trust reveal some of the hidden and, often hard histories being brought to the fore.”
- And, finally, a “wrap-up” roundtable discussion.

The above weblink also has links to other resources.

“Clear attack on our democracy’: US museums respond to Capitol siege”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2021/01/clear-attack-on-our-democracy-museums-respond-to-the-us-capitol-siege/?utm_campaign=1871405_12012021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,143ZH,27LU0M,4AIIS,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 12 Jan 2021)

MA news-story, reporting:

“Calls for action against white supremacy as National Museum of American History launches collecting drive”

The piece also has a link to a joint statement issued by the American Alliance of Museums, “Statement on the Violence at the US Capitol”, <https://www.aam-us.org/2021/01/08/aam-statement-on-the-violence-at-the-us-capitol/>.

“So You’ve Hired a Diversity and Inclusion Expert? Here Are Six Ways You Could Be Undermining Them”

<https://medium.com/swlh/so-youve-hired-a-diversity-and-inclusion-expert-here-are-six-ways-you-could-be-undermining-them-5f0b47b1c522>

(Source: NCVO *Equity, Diversity and Inclusion round-up*, 25 Jan 2021)

Really interesting blogpost that argues that many organisations are tackling diversity issues in a way that ensures that there are no challenges – it quotes Angela Davis:

“When people call for diversity and link it to justice and equality, that's fine. But there's a model of diversity as the difference that makes no difference, the change that brings about no change.” [See: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2007/nov/08/usa.gender>]

Tuntimo

<https://tuntimo.com/>

(Source: email from Fiona O'Brien, 26 Jan 2021)

New Black history website aimed primarily at young people children aged 5-11 years old.

“Our mission is to provide children with free, fun and engaging information about the achievements and histories of Black people, showing children (and parents!) how Black people and communities, have contributed to the world.”

Coronavirus/COVID-19

“Digital Resources for Lockdown”

https://readingagency.org.uk/news/blog/digital-resources-for-lockdown.html?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-941540c648-51507097&mc_cid=941540c648&mc_eid=3fa1d39831

(Source: The Reading Agency *Newsletter*, Jan 2021)

Just in case you haven't seen this useful list of resources for children and young people, adults and teachers.

Funding & Opportunities

“Government announces £7.5 million funding to tackle loneliness during winter”

https://readingagency.org.uk/news/media/government-announces-funding-to-tackle-loneliness.html?goal=0_ef82b5d6fa-941540c648-51507097&mc_cid=941540c648&mc_eid=3fa1d39831

(Source: The Reading Agency *Newsletter*, Jan 2021)

In Dec, The Reading Agency put out this news release – in it, they also announced that £3.5 million had been awarded by DCMS to TRA for their Reading Well and Reading Friends programmes. In their Jan *Newsletter*, they also announced that:

“Funds will be used to provide the Reading Well mental health book collections for children, young people, and adults to all public libraries in

England, as well as significantly expand the delivery of Reading Friends through libraries – a shared reading model which uses reading to bring people together and tackle loneliness.”

Culture, Health and Wellbeing Awards 2021

<https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/get-involved/chwa-2021-awards>

(Source: *Museums North East News & Updates*, 27 Jan 2021)

“We are offering awards in the following categories: Collective power; Practitioner wellbeing; and Climate.

We are looking for projects, organisations and people who have led the way through lockdown or are learning from this challenging time to build a better future. We want to hear about work of all types and reach. Submission deadline is **5pm, Friday 12 February.**”

The notes for applicants state:

- “We can accept applications in different formats. Please contact us at awards@culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk and we can support you in this process.
- Projects or programmes need to be based in the UK and we can only accept one application per organisation per award.
- At least some of the project / programme needs to have taken place since March 2020 and the national lockdown but we are delighted to accept work that began before and has had to adapt, or work developed directly in response to the lockdown.
- Projects or programmes can be ongoing but need to be able to demonstrate impact or change.
- There is no cash prize but the awards will be widely publicized via CHWA and our partners’ websites and networks and are an opportunity to showcase your work nationally.”

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

“Cultural institutions find new ways to remember the Holocaust”

https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2021/01/cultural-institutions-find-new-ways-to-remember-the-holocaust/?utm_campaign=1879476_26012021&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,14A7O,27LU0M,4B4ZX,1

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 26 Jan 2021)

“Holocaust Memorial Day will be very different this year because of the national lockdown, but museum and heritage institutions have found new ways to remember the genocide.”

This article rounds up some of the initiatives.

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

“Businesses respond to Mayor of Greater Manchester’s call to support digitally excluded young people”

<https://aboutmanchester.co.uk/businesses-respond-to-mayor-of-greater-manchesters-call-to-support-digitally-excluded-young-people/>

“Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) has launched phase two of the Greater Manchester Technology Fund as an emergency response to support disadvantaged young people learning from home, following the lockdown announcement and immediate closure of schools and colleges.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

UK poverty 2020/21

https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-poverty-2020-21?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%2011%20January%202021&utm_content=JRF%20weekly%20round-up%2011%20January%202021+CID_fc2c40127bb7119c48fd59aef6fbb669&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Take%20a%20look%20at%20this%20years%20key%20findings%20and%20recommendations

(Source: JRF *Weekly round-up*, 15 Jan 2021)

Full report and “Findings” available to download from above weblink.

“This report highlights early indications of how poverty has changed in our society since the start of the coronavirus outbreak, as well as the situation revealed by the latest poverty data, collected before the outbreak. It examines overall changes to poverty, with sections looking at the impact of work, the social security system and housing. It also benefits from powerful insights from members of our Grassroots Poverty Action Group, who have direct experience of living on a low income.”

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

Tackling single parent poverty after coronavirus

<https://www.gingerbread.org.uk/policy-campaigns/publications-index/tackling-single-parent-poverty-after-coronavirus/>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 14 Jan 2021)

“This report – based on new research by Learning and Work Institute and Gingerbread – explores the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on single parents, and sets out what can be done to reduce single parent poverty after the pandemic. The research is based on new analysis of national survey data, and interviews and a workshop with single parents who have lost their job as a result of the pandemic. We explore the impact of the crisis on the 1.8 million single parents across the UK. We also highlight the changes single parents want to see as we emerge from the pandemic to help them back into decent work and out of poverty.

There was a significant and sustained increase in the single parent employment rate in the two decades prior to the pandemic, with the

employment gap with other parents nearly halving over that period. However, while there were more single parents in work than ever on the eve of the crisis, **single parents still faced very high levels of poverty**. Most single parents who were in work, worked part time, and they were more likely both to be low paid, and to be stuck in low pay than other parents. This meant that nearly half (44%) of children in a single parent family were in poverty on the eve of the crisis, compared to just one in four (26%) of those living in other families.

New analysis suggests that **the pandemic is hitting single parents harder**. Single parents are more likely to have lost hours and to have lost income in recent months. They are more likely both to have been furloughed, and to have lost their jobs – with a risk that the single parent employment gap has widened as a result of the pandemic. Given the greater impact on their employment, single parents are also more likely to be struggling financially and to be concerned about their future finances.” [p4, emphasis theirs]

The Prince's Trust Tesco youth index 2021

https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/about-the-trust/news-views/tesco-youth-index-2021?utm_campaign=1671493_January_ENews_2021_Youth_Index&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Prince%27s%20Trust&dm_i=4DH7,ZTQD,273YFE,4HNPP,1

(Source: email from The Prince's Trust, 20 Jan 2021)

“The Prince's Trust Tesco Youth Index finds that one in four young people (26 per cent) admit they feel 'unable to cope with life' since the start of the pandemic, increasing to 40 per cent among those not in work, education or training (NEETs). Half of 16 to 25-year-olds (50 per cent) say their mental health has worsened since the start of the pandemic.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

EmpathyLab: Read for Empathy collection 2021

<https://www.empathylab.uk/2021-read-for-empathy-collections>

(Source: email from EmpathyLab, 26 Jan 2021)

“Our 2021 Read for Empathy collection features 50 books for 4-16 year olds, with each book chosen to do a specific job in building young people's empathy.

The primary collection is for 4-11 year olds and consists of 30 books; the secondary collection features 20 books for 12-16 year olds. They are a powerful mix of genres and 42% are from writers and illustrators of colour. The books will help expand children's world view and understand others better.

Each collection comes with a free downloadable guide, giving information about the books, top tips, and explains what empathy is and how it works.”

“Lullaby Project”

<https://www.carnegiehall.org/Education/Programs/Lullaby-Project>

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 24 Jan 2021)

“The Lullaby Project pairs pregnant women and new mothers and fathers with professional artists to write and sing personal lullabies for their babies, supporting maternal health, aiding childhood development, and strengthening the bond between parent and child. In New York City, the project reaches parents in healthcare settings, homeless shelters, high schools, foster care, and correctional facilities. Extending across the country and around the world, the Lullaby Project enables partner organizations to support families in their own communities.”

There is a terrific article outlining how it is developing in Philadelphia and starting to spread across the world, “A caress to the soul” at:

<https://thephiladelphiacitizen.org/lullaby-project-philadelphia/>.

Now the Project is also developing in the UK – see, for example: “Bringing Carnegie Hall’s Lullaby Project to the North West: A Podcast”,

<https://www.livemusicnow.org.uk/lmn-news/title/Bringing-Carnegie-Hall-s-Lullaby-Project-to-the-North-West-A-Podcast/item/69858>.

LGBTQ+ issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Hungary orders publisher to slap disclaimer on LGBTQ+ children’s book in ‘unconstitutional’ assault on free speech”

https://www.pinknews.co.uk/2021/01/21/hungary-lgbt-publisher-disclaimer-gay-fairytale/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=PNnewsletter

(Source: *PinkNews*, 21 Jan 2021)

“The Labrisz Lesbian Association was ordered to add the disclaimer to any book containing LGBTQ+ themes after it published the fairytale tome, titled *Wonderland Is For Everyone*, *Reuters* reported.

Authors explained that the book is intended to represent everyone. It features the tale of a prince marrying a prince and a doe wishing to become a buck, as well as a reimagined Snow White, now renamed ‘Leaf Brown’.

But such stories are, according to the Government Office of the Capital City Budapest, a threat to society itself. Yes, really.

‘The book is sold as a fairytale, called so on its cover and designed accordingly, but it hides the fact that it depicts behaviour inconsistent with traditional gender roles,’ *Reuters* reported the office stating.

As a result, Labrisz was ordered to slap disclaimers on all books with LGBTQ+ content, including *Wonderland Is For Everyone*.”