



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 350, 8 April 2022

### Events

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

### Black Lives Matter

***The impact of Covid-19 and BLM on Black, Asian and ethnically diverse creatives and cultural workers***

[https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/212029276/Impact\\_of\\_covid\\_and\\_blm\\_on\\_ethnically\\_diverse\\_creatives\\_and\\_cultural\\_workers\\_report.pdf](https://www.research.manchester.ac.uk/portal/files/212029276/Impact_of_covid_and_blm_on_ethnically_diverse_creatives_and_cultural_workers_report.pdf)

(Source: *The Black & Asian Heritage Mix' Newsletter*, Apr 2022)

“This report investigates the impact of both the Covid 19 pandemic and the Black Lives Matter activism of 2020 on Black, Asian and ethnically diverse workers in the creative and cultural industries. We found that ethnically diverse participants had experienced negative impacts including:

- reduced financial stability and job security
- obstacles to entry, progression, and retention in the creative and cultural industries
- ongoing forms of racial and religious discrimination within the industry
- negative effects upon mental health.” [Taken from: <https://www.ethnicity.ac.uk/discover/briefings/creative-industries/>]

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

### Ukraine

**“Supporting refugees – what can libraries do in relation to Ukraine?”**

<https://www.seapn.org.uk/post/supporting-refugees-what-can-libraries-do-in-relation-to-ukraine>

Working with Libraries Connected, we’ve produced a brief outline of what libraries can do (regularly updated).

**“UK museum community urged to get involved in Ukraine aid efforts”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2022/04/uk-museum-community-urged-to-get-involved-in-ukraine-aid-efforts/?utm\\_campaign=2122236\\_01042022&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Museums%20Association&dm\\_i=2VBX,19HJ0,27LU0M,4X0VP,1#](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2022/04/uk-museum-community-urged-to-get-involved-in-ukraine-aid-efforts/?utm_campaign=2122236_01042022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,19HJ0,27LU0M,4X0VP,1#)

(Source: Museums Association update, 1 Apr 2022)

Round-up of initiatives to support the country's museum workers and cultural heritage.

### **“Our response to the Ukraine War”**

[https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/our-response-to-the-ukraine-war/?mc\\_cid=ae7b322391&mc\\_eid=a2d98ab814](https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/our-response-to-the-ukraine-war/?mc_cid=ae7b322391&mc_eid=a2d98ab814)

(Source: NLT *Training & resources*, 31 Mar 2022)

National Literacy Trust blogpost outlining what support they are offering, including the creation of Welcome reading packs and recruiting Ukrainian speaking volunteers to run community storytelling sessions for refugees.

### **Press release: “UK boosts support for Ukrainian research community”**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-boosts-support-for-ukrainian-research-community>

Government announcement:

“Ukrainian nationals involved in academic research will benefit from a £3 million UK government package of support to continue their vital work in the UK.”

### **“Ukrainian refugees”**

<https://lordslibrary.parliament.uk/ukrainian-refugees/>

(Source: *MEMO [Minority Ethnic Matters Overview]*, 742, 4 April 2022)

House of Lords Library “In Focus” briefing, published 31 Mar 2022.

And a timely reminder:

### **“The media spotlight on Afghanistan is fading fast – but the agony of its people is far from over”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/mar/19/the-media-spotlight-on-afghanistan-is-fading-fast-but-the-agony-of-its-people-is-far-from-over>

(Source: *Black & Asian News – European Edition*, 28 Mar 2022)

“Afghans have been fighting since the 70s for the same reason Ukrainians are fighting but they have been neglected and betrayed”

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

#### ***Open House: the difference made through working together***

<https://le.ac.uk/rcmg/research-archive/open-house>

(Source: *Research Centre for Museums and Galleries Newsletter*, 2, Mar 2022)

This new report:

“[...] explores the significance of Kettle’s Yard’s socially engaged community programme Open House. Taking place between 2014 and 2021, Open House has established a number of distinctive characteristics in the form of ambitious and innovative engagement models that have developed and evolved through working collaboratively with artists and communities at a hyperlocal level.

The evaluative research looks back at the entirety of the programme, in order to understand its impact, value and significance; the difference it

has made to all stakeholders involved. Furthermore, the research considers how the values and methodologies of Open House might inform and shape future practice across Kettle's Yard [...]

An ethical framework for collaborating with communities [...] was co-produced as a result of this collaboration, which offers new ethical insights and presents ways in which museums and galleries can become more useful to, and more used by, local communities."

NB Fuller assessment of the ethical framework to appear in *The Network Newsletter*.

**"Afghanistan's libraries go into blackout: 'It is painful to see the distance between people and books grow'"**

<https://theconversation.com/afghanistans-libraries-go-into-blackout-it-is-painful-to-see-the-distance-between-people-and-books-grow-176219>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 27 Mar 2022)

Grim outline of the present fate of libraries, bookshops and reading in Afghanistan.

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

**Commission on Culture and Local Government**

<https://www.local.gov.uk/topics/culture-tourism-leisure-and-sport/commission-culture-and-local-government>

New from the LGA:

"Councils are the biggest public funders of culture, spending over £1 billion a year in England alone. This includes 3,000 libraries, 350 museums, 116 theatres, and numerous castles, amusement parks, monuments, historic buildings and heritage sites.

However, the role councils and local cultural organisations play in our national cultural life is not always recognised at a national level, where funding is often fragmented and project based, creating problems around sustainability.

This commission intends to demonstrate the important contribution local council funded culture can make to the Levelling Up agenda and our recovery from COVID-19."

**Strategic plan 2022–25**

<https://equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/about-us-strategic-plan-2022-2025.pdf>

(Source: *News from the Equality and Human Rights Commission*, 1 Apr 2022)

The EHRC has recently published its new Strategic Plan in which it says it will focus on six priority areas:

- "equality in a changing workplace

- equality for children and young people
- upholding rights and equality in health and social care
- addressing the equality and human rights impact of digital services and artificial intelligence
- fostering good relations and promoting respect between groups, and
- ensuring an effective legal framework to protect equality and human rights.” [p18]

***Digital inclusion in London: a review of how digital exclusion is being tackled across London***

[https://loti.london/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/LOTI-Digital Inclusion Report.pdf](https://loti.london/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/LOTI-Digital-Inclusion-Report.pdf)

(Source: *News from Digital Unite*, Mar 2022)

“This report seeks to describe what digital inclusion looks like across London – that is, what are public, voluntary and private sector organisations in London doing to tackle digital exclusion, how are they doing it, and what challenges are they facing?

The report includes a range of case studies of digital inclusion in action, highlights a dozen key practical success factors, and makes a series of recommendations for London-wide action that are necessary to address major challenges and gaps in London’s approach to support digitally excluded Londoners.” [p10]

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

**“Half of children not ‘school ready’, say teachers”**

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/half-of-children-not-school-ready-say-teachers>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 14 Mar 2022)

“The research, carried out by YouGov on behalf of education organisation KindredSquared, shows on average 50 per cent of primary school pupils were not ‘school ready’ and 88 per cent of teachers and teaching assistants had to spend additional time with those children not achieving their developmental milestones.”

The research, *School readiness: qualitative and quantitative research with teaching professionals*, is at: <https://www.kindredsquared.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/YouGov-Kindred-Squared-School-Readiness-Report-2022.pdf>.

Kindred<sup>2</sup> is a charitable foundation working collaboratively with partner organisations to improve early education and early child development, see: <https://www.kindredsquared.org.uk/about-us/>.

***Future of work: women (dis)connected***

<https://wonderfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Women-Disconnected-Report.pdf>

(Source: *Pride in Education Monthly Newsletter*, Mar 2022)

Important report looking at the issues across the world surrounding women's access to the internet and other digital resources.

**“What is it like to be destitute in Britain? ‘It makes you feel like some kind of underclass’”**

[https://theconversation.com/what-is-it-like-to-be-destitute-in-britain-it-makes-you-feel-like-some-kind-of-underclass-177395?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2028%202022%20-%202247522318&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2028%202022%20-%202247522318+CID\\_f5674f60904ce9cb4e6a9a67ae422dd8&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=What%20is%20it%20like%20to%20be%20destitute%20in%20Britain%20It%20makes%20you%20feel%20like%20some%20kind%20of%20underclass](https://theconversation.com/what-is-it-like-to-be-destitute-in-britain-it-makes-you-feel-like-some-kind-of-underclass-177395?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2028%202022%20-%202247522318&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2028%202022%20-%202247522318+CID_f5674f60904ce9cb4e6a9a67ae422dd8&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=What%20is%20it%20like%20to%20be%20destitute%20in%20Britain%20It%20makes%20you%20feel%20like%20some%20kind%20of%20underclass)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 28 Mar 2022)

Timely reminder from “five experts who study poverty from a variety of perspectives” looking at different aspects of destitution in Britain.

***Poverty in Northern Ireland 2022***

[https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-northern-ireland-2022?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=JRF%20Newsletter%20March%202022&utm\\_content=JRF%20Newsletter%20March%202022+CID\\_8b98d33a902e527c1fcc61f761da830b&utm\\_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm\\_term=Read%20Poverty%20in%20Northern%20Ireland%202022](https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/poverty-northern-ireland-2022?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=JRF%20Newsletter%20March%202022&utm_content=JRF%20Newsletter%20March%202022+CID_8b98d33a902e527c1fcc61f761da830b&utm_source=Email%20marketing%20software&utm_term=Read%20Poverty%20in%20Northern%20Ireland%202022)

(Source: JRF *Round-up*, 25 Mar 2022)

New analysis by JRF.

“As Northern Ireland entered the pandemic, nearly one-in-five people in Northern Ireland lived in poverty, including over 100,000 children. With 1 in 14 households in food insecurity, the recent spike in energy prices, and wider inflation, as well as certain areas of Northern Ireland and groups such as people in workless families, disabled people, carers and people in ethnic minority households having much higher poverty rates, people across Northern Ireland need the next Executive to go further [...]”

The report recommends focusing on:

- The adequacy of the social security system
- Investment in the housing market
- “Take action to provide targeted employability support to people struggling most to secure well-paid jobs, not least disabled people and single parents.”
- “Work with employers and the education and skills system to ensure that people are able to secure the skills that they need for the jobs of the future, not least the significant potential for jobs in transition to a low-carbon economy.”

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

### “No you’re not” – a portrait of autistic women”

<https://wellcomecollection.org/articles/Yd8L-hAAAIAWFxga>

(Source: *Autism in Museums Newsletter*, Mar 2022)

Blogpost from the Wellcome Collection:

“When a woman discloses that she’s autistic, the reaction is often, ‘But you don’t look autistic,’ or even a straight denial, ‘No you’re not.’ This insightful and moving series of portraits and interviews by photographer Rosie Barnes allows the voices and experiences of autistic women to be heard.”

## Migration issues – Other Agencies

### ***We want to be strong, but we don’t have the chance: women’s experiences of seeking asylum in the UK***

<https://www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/we-speak-up-for-change/womens-experiences-of-seeking-asylum-in-the-uk>

(Source: *WMSMP* [West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership] *E-Bulletin*, 10, Mar 2022)

New report from the British Red Cross:

“This research explores the first-hand experiences of women going through the asylum process in the UK. It concludes that, for many women, the UK’s asylum process is not sensitive to gender or trauma and does not provide the support they need.” [p6]

## ***Refugee and Migrant stories***

[https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Refugee\\_and\\_Migrant\\_stories\\_March\\_2022.pdf?mc\\_cid=0cf242d02e&mc\\_eid=a2d98ab814](https://cdn.literacytrust.org.uk/media/documents/Refugee_and_Migrant_stories_March_2022.pdf?mc_cid=0cf242d02e&mc_eid=a2d98ab814)

(Source: *NLT Training & resources*, 17 Mar 2022)

The NLT has just produced a “[...] book list celebrates the contributions, creativity and resilience of refugees and people seeking sanctuary.”

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

### ***Welcoming LGBTIQ+ users: advice for public library workers***

<https://book28.weebly.com/news/public-library-worker-guide>

(The guide can be downloaded as a pdf, Word document, or Google Doc.)

(Source: email from Book 28, 5 Mar 2022)

Isadore Auerbach George from Book 28 has been working with Colette Townend and Elizabeth Chapman to produce this really useful new guidance for public libraries:

“In our work with public libraries, we have found many who would like to make sure queer people are welcomed and find their resources useful. However, many people don’t know where to start. Because of this, Book 28 Library are proud to have put together a free advice booklet for public library workers who would like to improve conditions for LGBTIQ+ people in their public library.”

## **LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies**

**“The pandemic has exacerbated loneliness for LGBTQ+ people, here’s how digital inclusion could help”**

[https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/what-we-do/news/the-pandemic-has-exacerbated-loneliness-for-lgbtq-people-heres-how-digital-inclusion-could-help/?utm\\_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=624461d9ee-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_04\\_05\\_08\\_12\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_874c1dbcc0-624461d9ee-110066901](https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/what-we-do/news/the-pandemic-has-exacerbated-loneliness-for-lgbtq-people-heres-how-digital-inclusion-could-help/?utm_source=Good+Things+Foundation+Newsletter&utm_campaign=624461d9ee-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_04_05_08_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_874c1dbcc0-624461d9ee-110066901)

(Source: email from Good Things Foundation, 25 Feb 2022)

Short post from Good Things Foundation, looking at the importance of digital inclusion for LGBTQ+ people.

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

**“The canary in the coalmine”**

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/>

(Source: LinkedIn)

Important article by Matt Imrie about the major increase in book-banning in US libraries and schools:

“What is happening now goes beyond such standard challenges. I believe that Texas currently leads the nation in the sheer industrial scale of attempted and actual book bans. Matt Krause a Texas lawmaker compiled a list of over 800 books that he feels could make (white) readers feel uncomfortable. The majority of these books focus on sexuality, racism and US history.

To date the largest splash has been made by the banning of the teaching of the Pulitzer-Prize winning graphic novel Maus, created by Art Spiegelman the son of two Holocaust survivors, it details the experiences of his parents before and during WW2.”

The post also includes links to a number of other key articles.

### ***A manifesto for local museums in Wales***

<https://ma-production.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/app/uploads/2022/03/09114241/A-manifesto-for-local-museums-in-Wales.pdf>

### ***Maniffesto ar gyfer amgueddfeydd lleol yng Nghymru***

<https://ma-production.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/app/uploads/2022/03/09114240/A-manifesto-for-local-museums-in-Wales-Welsh.pdf>

(Source: Museums Association update, 11 Mar 2022)

“We have launched a manifesto for local museums in Wales in the run-up to the Welsh local elections due to take place in May 2022.

The manifesto sets out how local authorities can invest strategically to ensure that Welsh museums are able to help create flourishing communities and play their full part in the recovery from Covid.

It asks local authorities to develop their own culture strategies which focus on building strong core museums services, developing a skilled museum workforce, widening participation and cultural democracy, building digital infrastructure and capacity, and supporting culture-led tourism.”

### ***A manifesto for museums in Northern Ireland***

<https://ma-production.ams3.digitaloceanspaces.com/app/uploads/2022/03/18131214/A-manifesto-for-museums-in-Northern-Ireland.pdf>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 18 Mar 2022)

Sharon Heal (Director, MA) says:

“This manifesto clearly demonstrates how museums across Northern Ireland are supporting wellbeing and recovery from the impact of the pandemic. Our museums can support young people to reach their potential; raise awareness about the climate emergency; and are a bedrock for the rebuilding of the tourism and visitor economy. Museums can also encourage and promote reconciliation and meaningful dialogue.

We are calling on the next administration to take practical steps to support museums including the creation of a new museum policy which would enable strategic investment in museum provision across Northern Ireland.” [Taken from:

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/advocacy/a-manifesto-for-museums-in-northern-ireland-2/?utm\\_campaign=2113995\\_18032022&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Museums%20Association&dm\\_i=2VBX,19B63,27LU0M,4W8CS,1](https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/advocacy/a-manifesto-for-museums-in-northern-ireland-2/?utm_campaign=2113995_18032022&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Museums%20Association&dm_i=2VBX,19B63,27LU0M,4W8CS,1)]

### **“Libraries and the Contested Terrain of ‘Neutrality’”**

<https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2022/03/03/libraries-and-the-contested-terrain-of-neutrality/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 27 Mar 2022)

Very interesting article that explores some of the issues around neutrality:

“Not all important questions are simple, and ‘it’s complicated’ is not a legitimate excuse for failing to deal with them — not if we are (and want to be regarded as) professionals. These are, in fact, the very kinds of questions that will be considered by people who want to have an intellectually honest discussion of neutrality and bias in the library.”