



## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 379, 24 July 2023

### Events

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

### Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

**“Roald Dahl Museum announces steps to address legacy of author’s racism”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/07/roald-dahl-museum-announces-steps-to-address-legacy-of-authors-racism/#msdyntrid=0fFu8YjpTiw11g1EqSEhnCFczGylydf-cLbo4\\_5wXn8](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/07/roald-dahl-museum-announces-steps-to-address-legacy-of-authors-racism/#msdyntrid=0fFu8YjpTiw11g1EqSEhnCFczGylydf-cLbo4_5wXn8)

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 21 Jul 2023)

“[...] the museum is developing resources for primary schools to explore the United Nation Convention on the Rights of the Child through characters and incidents in Roald Dahl stories.”

There is further info about this in a statement issued by the Museum – see: <https://roalddahlmuseum.org/aboutthemuseum/antiracismstatement/>.

### ***Why the Windrush matters today***

[https://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Why-the-Windrush-matters-today.Report.Final\\_.pdf](https://www.britishfuture.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Why-the-Windrush-matters-today.Report.Final_.pdf)

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 15 Jun 2023)

Important new report from British Future:

“As Britain prepares to mark the 75th anniversary of the Windrush on 22 June, a new report from British Future, ‘*Why the Windrush matters today*,’ provides a ‘state of the nation’ picture of public attitudes to race and diversity in Britain today.

New polling by Focaldata, with a large sample of Black Caribbean and other ethnic minority respondents, finds a balanced picture of attitudes towards the progress made on race and the progress still needed:

- Some 71% of the public and 68% of ethnic minorities agree that ‘The UK has made significant progress on racial equality in the last 25 years’.
- But 80% of ethnic minorities and 66% of the public as a whole agree that ‘The UK needs to make much more progress on racial equality in the next 25 years.’

- 80% of ethnic minority Britons agree that the UK is a better place to live, as someone from an ethnic minority, than other countries like the USA, Germany or France.
- But 67% of ethnic minority respondents agree that ‘Black and Asian people face discrimination in their everyday lives in Britain today,’ while only 10% disagree.” [Taken from: [https://www.britishfuture.org/report-examines-attitudes-to-race-today-as-britain-marks-75th-windrush-anniversary/?utm\\_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2022&utm\\_campaign=ef6fe0ed5f-Newsletter+June+2+2023&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_93cf2d2bcb-ef6fe0ed5f-120687778](https://www.britishfuture.org/report-examines-attitudes-to-race-today-as-britain-marks-75th-windrush-anniversary/?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2022&utm_campaign=ef6fe0ed5f-Newsletter+June+2+2023&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-ef6fe0ed5f-120687778)]

And a timely reminder:

**“The forgotten migrant ships that came before Windrush in 1947”**

[https://theconversation.com/the-forgotten-migrant-ships-that-came-before-windrush-in-1947-206541?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2013%202023%20-%202651726735&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2013%202023%20-%202651726735+CID\\_bc5380fec07ebdbec9e9d390138e15d&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=The%20forgotten%20migrant%20ships%20that%20came%20before%20Windrush%20in%201947](https://theconversation.com/the-forgotten-migrant-ships-that-came-before-windrush-in-1947-206541?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2013%202023%20-%202651726735&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%2013%202023%20-%202651726735+CID_bc5380fec07ebdbec9e9d390138e15d&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20forgotten%20migrant%20ships%20that%20came%20before%20Windrush%20in%201947)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 13 Jun 2023)

**Equality Act 2010**

**“People’s History Museum in row over gender critical meeting”**

[https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/06/peoples-history-museum-in-row-over-gender-critical-meeting/#msdyntrid=alP09VhnujlnTzPU5Qy8dor77aEOqgfVLfc3o\\_JG4zE](https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/06/peoples-history-museum-in-row-over-gender-critical-meeting/#msdyntrid=alP09VhnujlnTzPU5Qy8dor77aEOqgfVLfc3o_JG4zE)

(Source: email from the Museums Association, 30 Jun 2023)

Just in case you haven’t seen this ...

**Congratulations!**

**“Libraries Connected Awards 2023 winners revealed!”**

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/libraries-connected-awards-2023-winners-revealed>

“The Awards celebrate the achievements of library workers who have had an exceptional impact on their library service, users or their local communities. The Awards have six categories reflecting the core services that modern library services provide.”

“The winners are:

**Children’s Award**

Oxfordshire Business & IP Centre Team (Jane Mason, Ewan McGuigan, Ryan Johnson, Unai Ledesma, Mariana Costa)

The team at Oxfordshire Business & IP Centre has introduced hundreds of children and young people to entrepreneurship through workshops, networking events and one-to-one business information sessions in its cutting-edge facilities, which include a marketing suite, VR headsets, interactive TVs and market research databases. Through strong partnerships with local schools, universities, charities and youth justice system, BIPC Oxfordshire inspires the next generation of entrepreneurs and offers positive opportunities to those at risk of youth violence or criminal exploitation.

### **Culture and Creativity Award**

Boundless Curiosity Exhibition Team (Adam Bayfield, Jodie Hearn, Chris Jordan, Abi Paine, Tracey Woosley), Guernsey

The Boundless Curiosity exhibition celebrated Guille-Allès Library's 140th anniversary, telling the fascinating story of its origins and showcasing some of the treasures in its collection [...]

### **Health and Wellbeing Award**

Werrington Community Library and Wellbeing Centre (Wendy Sandbrook, Betty Johnson), Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service

Wendy and Betty are part of a team of volunteers who operate the Werrington Community Library and Wellbeing Centre, a community-managed library within Staffordshire Libraries and Arts Service. Wendy and Betty's focus has been on meeting the health and wellbeing needs in the local area, which has over twice the national average of elderly and very elderly residents. In consultation with the local patient group and doctor's surgery, they have established a varied programme of health events and activities delivered by local organisations. Income raised through the library shop subsidises room hire costs for local wellbeing providers, bringing a wider range of services to the community.

### **Information and Digital Award**

Michael Davis, Senior Library Assistant, Maria Reguera, Development Librarian (Digital & Innovation), Vision Redbridge Culture & Leisure (Redbridge Libraries)

Michael and Maria were nominated for their work with Lab Central, Redbridge's digital makerspace programme which includes Tech Ilford, an annual festival celebrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths (STEAM). It was developed in 2017 as part of the Lab Central digital arts programme to engage and inspire the tech innovators of the future. Maria and Michael created the festival in response to growing demand for affordable STEAM activities in the borough. Both Maria and Michael are passionate about their work and consistently go the extra mile; their ideas have reinvigorated the library as a space for young people, with an estimated 10,000 taking part in one of the projects.

### **Reading Award**

Tracy McKechnie and Liz Gunn, Kent Prison Libraries (Kent Libraries, Registration and Archives)

Tracy and Liz are nominated for their use of technology to encourage more prisoners to use the library at HMP Swaleside. During the pandemic, the prison library was forced to close so Tracy and Liz had to quickly start a remote service. They offered a book request service for prisoners, started up a 'Lucky Dip' DVD club so that films could be borrowed fairly, produced a regular newsletter and encouraged prisoners to take part in reading and family initiatives. Liz and Tracy stand out for their dedication to improving the lives of their customers.

**Vision & Print Impaired People's Promise Award**

Julie Duffy - Vision Impairment Services Officer, Portsmouth City Council

Julie is nominated for her innovative work making Portsmouth Libraries more accessible to people who are blind or vision impaired. Julie, who is blind herself, is Portsmouth Library Service's Vision Impairment Services Officer. For over 20 years she has used technology to support disabled adult learners in Portsmouth's libraries and has developed a comprehensive range of services for visually impaired adults. She has also established two information and support groups at Central and Southsea Libraries, which are regularly consulted by the council and external agencies. Working with the wider Portsmouth community, Julie has provided disability awareness sessions in schools and worked on an intergenerational project where local secondary pupils helped older blind and vision impaired adults access audiobooks and digital resources.

**President's Award**

Jill Terrell - Head of Norfolk Libraries and Information Service

The recipient of the President's Award is chosen personally by the President of Libraries Connected to recognise an outstanding contribution to the public library sector. Current President Ayub Khan MBE describes Jill as 'a wonderfully supportive head of service and a brilliant regional friend who freely and kindly shares her advice, experience, and wisdom'. Jill has worked for several library services over her career, including Newham, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, where she is currently head of the Libraries and Information Service. Jill was also Head of Library and Manuscripts at the National Maritime Museum. As an active member of Libraries Connected, Jill has made invaluable contributions to national and regional projects as a leader, supporter and tireless champion."

**Cost of living crisis – Other Agencies**

***Hunger in the UK***

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2023/06/2023-Hunger-in-the-UK-report.pdf>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 13 Jul 2023)

Major new report from The Trussell Trust.

It explores:

- “the prevalence of food insecurity and use of food banks, including both food banks in the Trussell Trust network and wider food aid provision;
- who is most likely to experience food insecurity and to need the support of food banks;
- the drivers which pull people into food insecurity and needing support from food banks; and
- the factors that enable people to escape destitution and no longer require emergency food aid.” [p16]

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

#### Museums Change Lives Awards 2023

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/museums-change-lives/awards-2023/#msdynttrid=VfNMHwZBMsMpvWDGCXvffqWsnyK3JhS2fqr0mEUoDHA>

(Source: email from the Museums Association, 18 Jul 2023)

“The Museums Change Lives Awards recognise and celebrate outstanding practice by UK museums delivering social impact. They promote the best examples of work by museums and individuals that support communities and engage with contemporary issues.

You can now nominate eligible organisations and individuals for our four 2023 awards.

The deadline for entries is **5.30pm on 22 August 2023.**” [emphasis theirs]

### Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

#### “Poverty is linked to poorer brain development – but reading can help counteract it”

[https://theconversation.com/poverty-is-linked-to-poorer-brain-development-but-reading-can-help-counteract-it-208966?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%205%202023%20-%202673426991&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%205%202023%20-%202673426991+CID\\_24d1c6ee14ff18381fe5e30b6ffd63f7&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_u&utm\\_term=Poverty%20is%20linked%20to%20poorer%20brain%20development%20%20but%20reading%20can%20help%20counteract%20it](https://theconversation.com/poverty-is-linked-to-poorer-brain-development-but-reading-can-help-counteract-it-208966?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%205%202023%20-%202673426991&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%205%202023%20-%202673426991+CID_24d1c6ee14ff18381fe5e30b6ffd63f7&utm_source=campaign_monitor_u&utm_term=Poverty%20is%20linked%20to%20poorer%20brain%20development%20%20but%20reading%20can%20help%20counteract%20it)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 6 Jul 2023)

Interesting short article:

“Early childhood is a critical period for brain development, which is important for boosting cognition and mental wellbeing. Good brain health at this age is directly linked to better mental health, cognition and educational attainment in adolescence and adulthood. It can also provide resilience in times of stress.

But, sadly, brain development can be hampered by poverty. Studies have shown that early childhood poverty is a risk factor for lower educational attainment. It is also associated with differences in brain structure, poorer cognition, behavioural problems and mental health symptoms [...]

Our observational study shows a dramatic and positive link between a fun and simple activity – reading for pleasure in early childhood – and better cognition, mental health and educational attainment in adolescence.”

### **Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations**

#### ***Inviting & inclusive school libraries***

[https://readforgood.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/LIBRARIES\\_REPORT\\_2023\\_email-1.pdf](https://readforgood.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/LIBRARIES_REPORT_2023_email-1.pdf)

(Source: *Teen Librarian Newsletter*, 18 Jul 2023)

New report which highlights the dire state of some school libraries and summarises a project to improve those in schools in Gloucestershire.

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

### **Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies**

#### ***The ethnicity motherhood pay penalty***

<https://www.fawcettsociety.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=2700108d-d095-4ba6-8830-48f4abcb9785>

(Source: *Equally Ours Newsletter*, 13 Jul 2023)

Important new report.

“Becoming a mother impacts a woman’s income for the rest of her life. For Black and minoritised women, this motherhood pay penalty is compounded by existing ethnicity pay gaps and the intersection of gender-based and racial inequalities at work.” [p4]

#### **“Scapegoating of migrants, Muslims + queer people: an intersectional perspective”**

<https://migrantsrights.org.uk/2023/06/21/scapegoating-intersectional-perspective/>

(Source: *Migrants’ Rights Network Newsletter*, Jul 2023)

Strong post from MRN:

“At times of domestic instability or economic hardship, demonisation of marginalised groups often increases. In the contemporary British context, the queer community, Muslims and migrants have become the latest targets of Government and right-wing scapegoating.

Scapegoating and the painting of marginalised communities as ‘threats’ are an established, and effective, distraction mechanism by those in power. Denial of racism, homophobia, transphobia and Islamophobia

play a key role in scapegoating. It is used to veil the hate and discrimination that is essential in constructing the idea of a ‘threat’ in the public consciousness. Marginalised groups are often targeted by this deflection. In the culture war that is gripping the UK, migrant groups, Muslims and the queer community have been characterised as the latest ‘threat’ to communities and values.”

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

#### ***Libraries for living, and for living better: the value and impact of public libraries in the East of England***

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/sites/default/files/Libraries%20for%20Living%20and%20for%20Living%20Better.pdf>

(Source: *News from CILIP*, 12 Jul 2023)

“Libraries Connected East asked us to create a credible, replicable and recognisable methodology for articulating the impact of social engagement with public libraries. They also asked us to look at the value and impacts of public libraries around three themes: digital inclusion, health and wellbeing, and children’s literacy [...]

The report presents a valuation tool which we created to estimate the monetary value of library service impacts, for example, in terms of benefit for taxpayers or at the level of families using a particular service at a branch library. We also present ten case study examples of stakeholder engagement with public libraries in the Eastern region.” [p10]

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

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

#### **“Not a ‘nice to have’ – the importance of working with people and communities”**

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/blog/2023/06/not-nice-have-importance-working-people-communities>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Jul 2023)

Interesting, short blogpost:

“There is still a long way to go before systems recognise that they do not hold the answers to many of the issues they face and that work with the communities they serve might actually be part of the answer. Perhaps more needs to be done to make the case for this work; not just because this work is the right thing to do but because it will make services better.”

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

#### **“Technology for Reading”**

<https://rniblibraryresources.wordpress.com/technology-for-reading/>

Lara Marshall at RNIB has produced a very helpful post for the RNIB Library Resources and Information Portal, which gives info about devices that assist you with reading if you are living with a vision impairment and/or sight loss. It

includes “applications you can download onto a smart device or separate smart devices that need wi-fi, as well as those that you can use independently if you or the user prefer not to use them with computers or the internet.”

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

#### ***Creatively minded and refugees***

<https://baringfoundation.org.uk/resource/creatively-minded-and-refugees/>

(Source: *Culture, Health and Wellbeing Alliance Bulletin*, Jul 2023)

“Refugees often experience high levels of stress, trauma, and mental health issues related to their displacement and resettlement experiences. This report showcases the work of 12 organisations who offer creative opportunities, across a range of artforms, and support to refugees and people seeking asylum.”

They are: Artcore; Art Refuge; Compass Collective; Displace Yourself Theatre; Freedom from Torture: Write to Life; Hear Me Out; Inini Initiative; Kazzum Arts; Maryhill Integration Network; Music Action International; Oasis; Together Productions.

### **Migration issues – Other Agencies**

#### **“What safe and legal routes are available for refugees to come to the United Kingdom?”**

[https://freemovement.org.uk/what-safe-and-legal-routes-are-available-for-refugees-to-come-to-the-united-kingdom/?utm\\_source=Free+Movement&utm\\_campaign=47b7a83deb-Asylum+updates&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_792133aa40-47b7a83deb-116428530&mc\\_cid=47b7a83deb&mc\\_eid=7d8713d645](https://freemovement.org.uk/what-safe-and-legal-routes-are-available-for-refugees-to-come-to-the-united-kingdom/?utm_source=Free+Movement&utm_campaign=47b7a83deb-Asylum+updates&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_792133aa40-47b7a83deb-116428530&mc_cid=47b7a83deb&mc_eid=7d8713d645)

(Source: *Free Movement Refugee and Asylum Update*, 12 Jul 2023)

Very useful article from Free Movement, which looks at “what safe and legal routes are available, how they are accessed, and the grant of leave and entitlements of those who are successful.”

#### **“Celebrating projects that help refugees find work”**

[https://learningandwork.org.uk/news-and-policy/celebrating-projects-that-help-refugees-find-work/?vgo\\_ee=xfhPtIXpsLMlts5m1214xOOcJIQEqZ7BQoljSX9rU5qb%2Bq%3D%3ACgt3i%2B8KGhdOmxuMU4dQqWR3GLCQY9kw](https://learningandwork.org.uk/news-and-policy/celebrating-projects-that-help-refugees-find-work/?vgo_ee=xfhPtIXpsLMlts5m1214xOOcJIQEqZ7BQoljSX9rU5qb%2Bq%3D%3ACgt3i%2B8KGhdOmxuMU4dQqWR3GLCQY9kw)

(Source: *Learning and Work Institute Newsletter*, Jul 2023)

New post by Jill Rutter (now Head of Programme and Policy at Learning and Work Institute).

“Between 2001 and 2022 more than one million people arrived in the UK as asylum-seekers or through refugee resettlement programmes. Employment is key to their economic and social integration. To mark Refugee Week, we are highlighting some of the projects that are helping refugees find and progress in work.”