



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 398, 26 May 2024

Events

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

Black Lives Matter/Anti-racism

“My hunt for a missing TV episode – and what it shows about being Black in Britain”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/may/13/tv-episode-black-britain-gay-history>

Just in case you missed this terrific article with its plea for us to do more:

“First of all, community participation in recording our history requires people to see the value in their lives – to not count themselves out of posterity. I say this because when researching and meeting older Black gay men for this book, there was a difference in what each man was capable of offering me: there were those who had kept possession of their life’s work – some carrying dossiers of every pamphlet, flyer and poster they’d created – and those who only had their memories [...] I’ve since made an effort to get a physical copy of every magazine or newspaper I write for – I don’t know which nosy twentysomethings might come knocking with questions for me in 40 years’ time, just like I did [...]

That said, preserving your own physical collections is so dependent on space. My bedroom is bursting at the seams with magazines and newspapers, so callouts for people to submit their possessions to valuable public archives is one solution; and a greater effort from museums, libraries and universities to build trust and reach people is essential.”

“The Black Lives Matter era is over. It taught us the limits of diversity for diversity’s sake”

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/may/20/black-lives-matter-diversity-racial-equality>

Important article that argues that many of the BLM initiatives in businesses have been ‘cosmetic’ and still benefitting a small (rich & powerful) minority; however, what is surviving is something different:

“Which is why there must be something else that broadens the definition of equality beyond meeting liberal criteria of success for the Black individual. Away from the corporate world, that something is happening. BLM UK has for three years been disbursing funds to people affected by

deaths in police and psychiatric custody, and to groups combating the hostile environment. It's on a much smaller scale than the sort of mass adoption of diversity as the answer we saw in 2020, but in it there is a committed understanding of racial justice as a goal that can be achieved only by tackling, in a focused way, the policies that fall sharply on the heads of the most insecure and hurt their health, safety, dignity and even basic participation in social and economic life.

Black Lives Matter as a mainstream taking of the knee may be dead; but in a more modest, targeted and, we can hope, sustainable way, it is still very much alive. And perhaps that's as it should be."

Cost of living crisis/poverty – Other Agencies

"Ending child poverty is urgent, and it is possible"

https://www.transformingsociety.co.uk/2024/05/10/ending-child-poverty-is-urgent-and-it-is-possible/?utm_source=Bristol+University+Press%2FPolicy+Press+sign+up+list&utm_campaign=fd0712e325-Uncomfortably+Off+May+24&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_-fd0712e325-%5BLIST_EMAIL_ID%5D

(Source: email from Policy Press, 13 May 2024)

New blogpost from "Transforming Society":

"There are 4.3 million children in the UK living in poor households – almost one in three children. Poverty blights their childhood – their health, their education, their present and future options. It costs the country over £39 billion a year in lost tax revenues and the costs of social provision."

This post has recommendations for action to start to resolve child poverty.

"Gordon Brown wants £3 billion for the 'austerity generation'. But the UK needs a more enduring solution"

https://theconversation.com/gordon-brown-wants-3-billion-for-the-austerity-generation-but-the-uk-needs-a-more-enduring-solution-230134?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%202017%202024%20-%20202972030222&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20May%202017%202024%20-%20202972030222+CID_da03cd4eecd8f01e96ff939fccc10289&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Gordon%20Brown%20wants%20%20%20billion%20for%20the%20austerity%20generation%20But%20the%20UK%20needs%20a%20more%20enduring%20solution

(Source: *The Conversation*, 17 May 2024)

Interesting article that argues that wider changes are needed:

"Policies like universally available early-years support and nursery and pre-school access, combined with basic income, are common sense and pragmatic. Our modelling suggests that only a broad programme of investment that reaches everyone in the country can produce the economic transformation the UK needs. It is common sense to strive for a long-term plan that gives adults the social security to care for and provide opportunities for 'austerity's children' and for those younger people to realise the potential they clearly possess."

“The shocking chart which shows how Britain has the highest rate of homelessness in the developed world”

https://leftfootforward.org/2024/05/the-shocking-chart-which-shows-how-britain-has-the-highest-rate-of-homelessness-in-the-developed-world/?mc_cid=aca9ff20c4&mc_eid=e91604b40f

(Source: *Left Foot Forward*, 17 May 2024)

Drawing on a chart published in the *Financial Times*, LFF reports:

“Britain now has by far the highest rate of homelessness in the developed world, a record which shames us as a country.

Using data from the OECD, the *Financial Times* has produced a chart which shows the scale of homelessness in the country compared to other European countries, with the number of English households living in temporary accommodation more than doubling between 2010 and 2023 from 48,000 to 112,000, the highest figure since records began.”

“Four in 10 teachers warn children are 'too hungry' to learn”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/four-in-10-teachers-warn-children-are-too-hungry-to-learn>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 22 May 2024)

News update:

“More than a third of teachers have said pupils in their classes are too hungry to learn, jumping to 63% in deprived areas, a new survey has found.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

It matters: your guide on how best to communicate with deaf people

https://www.hearingdogs.org.uk/globalassets/3.-training-our-puppies/it-matters/it-matters-communication-guide.pdf?_cldee=aP1CX4vG5UQVnisQNgwRFCK7QJX2ise7GhWcObRRGx-xHGIDXAK0E1xDOk-Me7&recipientid=contact-4d9de5f4953fe71181015065f38bd502-1961bb7078c14151b48c5040ccc5eaac&esid=2f9a16cc-2402-ef11-9f89-000d3ab9865a

(Source: *Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Newsletter*, May 2024)

Really useful guide:

“Simple tips that will make life easier for deaf people and people with hearing loss”

“Reading Well for Dementia”

(Source: *The Reading Agency Adult Reading News*, 8 May 2024)

“A refreshed Reading Well for dementia scheme is launching this month.

If you are a library staff member and would like more information on the new list or the promotional materials available, please contact readingwell@readingagency.org.uk.”

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

“It's HiVis fortnight!”

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/services/libraries-and-archives/news-and-campaigns/hivis-fortnight>

(Source: email from Terri Moss, 24 May 2024)

Hertfordshire Libraries have published this article on their website to promote services and resources for visually-impaired people, with a link to their events page.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Home Office to detain asylum seekers across UK in shock Rwanda operation”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/apr/28/home-office-to-detain-asylum-seekers-across-uk-in-shock-rwanda-operation>

(Source: email from Praxis, 3 May 2024)

Just in case you didn't see this *Guardian* news-piece from 28 Apr:

“The Home Office will launch a major operation to detain asylum seekers across the UK on Monday, weeks earlier than expected, in preparation for their deportation to Rwanda, the Guardian can reveal.

Officials plan to hold asylum seekers who turn up for routine meetings at immigration service offices or bail appointments and will also pick people up nationwide in a surprise two-week exercise.”

The effects of UK immigration, asylum and refugee policy on poverty: a Joint Inquiry by the APPG on Migration and the APPG on Poverty

Full report:

https://equalitytrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/news/attachments/MigrationandPoverty_Report2024_V2.pdf

Summary:

<https://equalitytrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/news/attachments/ReportSummary.pdf>

Press release: <https://equalitytrust.org.uk/news/migration-and-poverty-new-appg-report-released>

(Source: email from The Equality Trust, 1 May 2024)

The findings and recommendations include:

- “Immigration controls are a major cause of destitution, isolation, and poor integration. We should clear backlogs and halve the time people are subject to immigration control from 10 to 5 years.
- Fees and charges for immigration, nationality, and health are well above cost and a direct cause of poverty. They should be reduced.
- Preventing people from supporting themselves is costing society as well as migrants, leaving them reliant on insufficient support payments and vulnerable to exploitation. People seeking asylum should have the right to work after 6 months.
- The level of asylum support is not enough to live on. It should be reviewed and updated in line with inflation.
- No Recourse To Public Funds is a huge contributor to destitution, child poverty, isolation, and vulnerability. It should be strictly time-limited and

more support exempted from it, such as Child Benefit or emergency welfare.

- 45% of children of foreign-born parents are in poverty, but denied access to services despite 70% of them being born in the UK. Services and support for children and young people should be provided regardless of immigration status.
- Migrants are at much higher risk of homelessness, but are barred from safety nets and cannot access much of the private rented sector. Asylum seekers and refugees are not given enough time to find housing in these conditions, and we recommend the move-on period be extended to 56 days.
- Integration benefits all parts of society, but work on migration and poverty is deeply fragmented across government. National, devolved, regional, and local governments should work together on a refugee integration strategy.
- Expertise and lived experience is crucial to creating better policies in this area, but is not acted-on enough. The Windrush Lessons Learned Review called for a Migrants Commissioner to fix this, and this should be implemented along with the Review's other recommendations." [Taken from Press release]

Migration issues – Other Agencies

Brighter Zine

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6009b8cfb017cc11d6c19bbb/t/663a2a3680ff3f396de104f5/1715087940489/Brighter+Zine+Final+Web.pdf>

(Source: email from Praxis, 10 May 2024)

New zine from Brighter Futures:

“We are Brighter Futures, a group of young people aged 18 to 30 years old who have migrated to the UK and who come together, have fun, build a family in London and speak up for the rights of young people like us. We are fighters for justice and change. We want to transform the way the UK sees young migrant people and challenge the effect of the hostile environment upon our lives.” [p34]

“NATECLA's response to the Rwanda Plan”

<https://www.natecla.org.uk/news/1047/NATECLAs-response-to-the-Rwanda-Plan>

(Source: ESOL-Research@JISCMAIL.ac.uk, 17 May 2024)

Helpful response by NATECLA (National Association for Teaching English and Community Languages to Adults), including some useful weblinks.

“Rwanda Act: how you can step up”

<https://cityofsanctuary.org/2024/05/16/rwanda-act-support/>

(email from Universities of Sanctuary, 22 May 2024)

New article from City of Sanctuary with “a range of resources and organisations to help you understand what is happening, how you can support people who may be impacted by the new legislation, as well as sharing hopeful strategies to help shift the narrative and work to end hostility.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

“Phonics isn’t working – for children’s reading to improve, they need to learn to love stories”

https://theconversation.com/phonics-isnt-working-for-childrens-reading-to-improve-they-need-to-learn-to-love-stories-226573?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2010%202024%20-%202932529792&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2010%202024%20-%202932529792+CID_7deb2d6eb71cf76ceae13d7594db40e3&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Phonics%20isnt%20working%20-%20for%20childrens%20reading%20to%20improve%20they%20need%20to%20learn%20to%20love%20stories

(Source: *The Conversation*, 10 Apr 2024)

Just in case you haven’t seen this article:

“Our view, as academic linguists, is that part of the reason why so many children do not experience joy in reading is the excessive focus on synthetic phonics in early education [...]

Focusing on stories that children like to read would be a better place to start.”

Reading for Pleasure trends and insights on the link between reading and wellbeing

https://www.farshore.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/46/2024/04/The-Farshore-and-HCCB-Annual-Review-of-Childrens-Reading-for-Pleasure-1.pdf?utm_campaign=1153593_SLG%20Newsletter%20Summer%20Term%201&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,OQ49,9VBO9,39ZBK,1

(Source: CILIP School Libraries Group *Newsletter*, Summer Term, May 2024)

This is “The Farshore and HarperCollins Children’s Books annual review of Children’s Reading for Pleasure, 2024” [p1]

Just in case you don’t see this, it has some useful background info about young people’s reading:

“From this body of work and tracking trends we know there key factors that consistently affect reading: children are motivated and enthused when they are frequently read to, when they have wide choice and free choice of reading materials. But they are disengaged from reading due to the amount of time they spend with screen-based entertainment, not being read to, and thinking of reading as little more than a subject to learn.” [p1]