



The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 401, 24 July 2024

Events

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

Cost of living crisis/poverty – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

On the brink: Heritage in the cost of living crisis

<https://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/On-The-Brink-Heritage-in-the-Cost-of-Living-Crisis.pdf>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 521, 27 Jun 2024)

Important new report:

“The heritage sector contributes an estimated £45.1 billion in gross value added to the UK economy and supports over 538,000 jobs. It is estimated to make a larger direct contribution to UK GDP than the security, defence, or aerospace industries [...] Heritage is a living and breathing part of our everyday economy – from canals and railways to high streets and theatres.

However, the heritage sector is now facing an existential threat. The triple impact of the Covid -19 pandemic, the ongoing cost of living crisis, and our changing relationship with the EU and wider world, has exacerbated pre-existing sector vulnerabilities [...]” [p4]

The report makes a series of key recommendations as part of the Heritage Alliance’s wider *Heritage Manifesto 2024*,

<https://www.theheritagealliance.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Heritage-Manifesto-2024.pdf>.

Cost of living crisis/poverty – Other Agencies

The impact of hardship on primary schools and primary and community healthcare

Executive summary: https://www.jrf.org.uk/deep-poverty-and-destitution/the-impact-of-hardship-on-primary-schools-and-primary-healthcare?utm_campaign=1193477_June%202024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Joseph%20Rowntree%20Foundation&dm_i=7ADY,PKW5,1R494R,3EH7E,1

Full report: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/sites/default/files/pdfs/the-impact-of-hardship-on-primary-schools-and-primary-and-community-healthcare-e71f7b7f51b14b150bb7874ca82bad09.pdf>

(Source: *JRF Newsletter*, 3 Jul 2024)

“Across Britain, millions of people are experiencing hardship, by which we mean they are going without basic essentials such as enough food, heating and appropriate clothing, because they cannot afford them. We know this holds people back from building better lives, with lasting impacts on health and life chances. But this report looks at a different question. It asks what impact hardship is having on the delivery of services in primary schools and primary and community healthcare setting such as GP surgeries.

The findings are stark: services are staggering under the weight of hardship. Services are spending significant resources, time, funding, emotional energy, and in some cases, whole job roles, trying to deal with the consequences of hardship. It diverts resources and adds to demand and workloads, which has knock-on impacts on pupils, families and patients who are not directly experiencing hardship.” [Full report, p2]

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

“People in prison need art, music and reading’: Inside the prison libraries that break down walls”

https://www.bigissue.com/news/social-justice/prison-libraries-books-reading-ag-smith/?utm_campaign=1201004_Fortnightly%20newsletter%2026%20June%202024%20-%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS_PQP8,9VBO9,3FFTG,1

Important article, looking at Alan Smith’s work as a writer, performer – and prison librarian – and also highlighting some of the key issues around literacy & reading in prisons:

“According to the National Literacy Trust, around two-thirds of the roughly 80,000 people in custody in England and Wales have the literacy skills expected of an 11-year-old. This is over four times higher than in the general population. And 47% of prisoners have no educational qualifications at all.

Prison libraries play an integral part in the teaching of literacy and functional skills that are requirements to most careers and daily life. Learning to read can reduce stress and vulnerability, improve resilience, self-confidence and future prospects.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Our Manifesto: digital inclusion is everyone's business”

https://www.digitalunite.com/about/our-manifesto-digital-inclusion-everyones-business?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=case_studies_change_and_champions&utm_term=2024-07-14

As Digital Unite say:

“The election's come and gone, but we're got great hopes for what comes next and we're keeping our manifesto up for a while.”

In outline, the Manifesto argues that we need:

1. Political will and political leadership
2. Reimagining the models, money, stakeholders
3. Digital inclusion as a form of customer service propelled by mandatory, compliant behaviours.
4. Building capacity, stimulating ownership: support for, promotion and celebration of, building organisational DI capacity and essential digital skills through peer-to-peer models that embed ownership and sustainability (AKA Digital Champion models).
5. Social value and ESG: hard-wiring of digital inclusion commitments into social value/ ESG. [Environmental, social, and governance]

Diversity in books and other materials

Comics Laureate list for libraries

(Source: email from Louisa Steel, ACE, 2 Jul 2024)

Louisa kindly shared this booklist, created by Bobby Joseph, the current Comics Laureate.

“Bobby has chosen Diversity in Comics as his focus and aims to tackle diversity in all its forms pushing for wider representation in comics and more comics created by people from diverse backgrounds. He believes that to inspire more diverse readership and more diverse representation in comics we need to arm librarians, as a priority, with knowledge about some of the best comics to enjoy, stock and recommend. He has prepared 3 recommended reading lists, one for adult readers, one for young readers and an additional list focussing upon manga. The list tackles diversity in the widest possible sense and includes working class creators, those with autism and white British creators too dealing with related diversity issues. The manga list is more general. It's a personal list but born out of decades working in and commentating on the medium.”

The list is at the end of this Ebulletin.

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

“Public libraries to promote public health and wellbeing: a cross-sectional study of community-dwelling adults”

<https://bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12889-024-18535-5>

(Source: LinkedIn)

Very interesting study of the impact of libraries on health and wellbeing – which also identifies key barriers to greater take-up, including:

- Lack of community awareness of what libraries provide

- Concerns about funding
- “Few young library-using participants mentioned that there is a potential for libraries to be perceived as ‘uncool’ and that young people may avoid libraries due to fear of bullying.”

Recommendations include:

- Increasing community awareness
- Diversified and accessible service provision.

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“Avoidable deaths have increased in the UK: the damning data political parties aren’t discussing”

https://theconversation.com/avoidable-deaths-have-increased-in-the-uk-the-damning-data-political-parties-arent-discussing-234447?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2015%202024%20-%203033530883&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2015%202024%20-%203033530883+CID_ef804449da61731b0dc55f76a159481f&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Avoidable%20deaths%20have%20increased%20in%20the%20UK%20the%20damning%20data%20political%20parties%20arent%20discussing

(Source: *The Conversation*, 15 Jul 2024)

A timely reminder:

“The ONS data tracks trends at the level of local authorities in ‘preventable mortality’, which can be avoided through effective public health and ‘primary prevention’ before a person becomes unwell, and in ‘treatable mortality’, avoidable through timely treatment once a person needs it.

When combined these two measures are termed ‘avoidable mortality’ or ‘avoidable deaths’ [...]

These latest statistics show sustained progress between 2000 and 2012, after which the rate of improvement slowed, before worsening from 2019 and during the pandemic. The most recent data show a slight recovery for England in 2022, but still worse than in 2019.”

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Council celebrates migrant children”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/news/article/council-celebrates-migrant-children>

(Source: *Children & Young People Now Update*, 3 Jul 2024)

“Warwickshire celebrated its refugee community with a week of workshops and cultural performances, including input from the local authority's unaccompanied migrant children and Ukrainian refugees [...]

The county hosted more than 30 events for Refugee Week 2024.

The celebrations included a youth art competition. Their artworks, reflecting the theme "Our Home," were displayed in libraries across Warwickshire [...]"

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“The vast majority of movement across UK borders is controlled – so why do Sunak and Starmer say we’ve ‘lost control’ of our borders?”

https://theconversation.com/the-vast-majority-of-movement-across-uk-borders-is-controlled-so-why-do-sunak-and-starmer-say-weve-lost-control-of-our-borders-233516?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%202%202024%20-%203021730751&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%202%202024%20-%203021730751+CID_a65f94eb0522de0aa24af1ecea46e9b&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20vast%20majority%20of%20movement%20across%20UK%20borders%20is%20controlled%20%20so%20why%20do%20Sunak%20and%20Starmer%20say%20weve%20lost%20control%20of%20our%20borders

(Source: *The Conversation*, 3 Jul 2024)

Important article which challenges the lazy narrative that there is no control over who enters the UK – and also the issues around focusing on arrivals via boat:

“On the contrary, the UK’s borders are incredibly controlled – a complex system for tracking how people arrive, how long they stay and what visas are needed. In the last year, 125.5 million people arrived in the UK.

The vast majority have the proper visas and documentation to visit, live or work long term (or, if British nationals, return home), and we have detailed information about who they are, where they came from and how they arrived.

By contrast, just under 30,000 people came irregularly by small boat across the channel – a tiny fraction in comparison.”

“World Refugee Day: 9 charts that explain displacement”

<https://www.dw.com/en/world-refugee-day-9-charts-that-explain-displacement/a-69407558>

(Source: *WMSMP* [West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership] *Monthly Newsletter*, Jul 2024)

Very useful background info:

“According to a recent United Nations report, there are currently 117 million people who have been forced to leave their homes worldwide. These charts show where many of them come from — and where many will likely end up.”

Baripen – Roma Archive and Cultural Centre UK

Baripen FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/people/Baripen-Roma-Archive-and-Cultural-Centre-UK/61559349676736/>

Compas Charity: https://compas.org.uk/roma-archive-and-cultural-centre?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMATAAR3C19Tw0ffdZrtn9JRE-Yz2Qe3BWb9ft95nML6cvwTgEZiMhk94KX-qkkQ_aem_jldpbsES6l5gSRKJ8XjIQ

(Source: EoE AS&R/MW *Newsflash* Apr-May 2024)

“This project is about identity, pride, remembrance and solidarity, and about informing, securing and sustaining Compas Charity’s guardianship of the Paul Polansky archive which contains substantial primary material connected to Roma people in the WWII era Lety concentration camp; and to the experiences of Roma people in Kosovo during the 1990s Balkan war (including of those who were relocated by the UN to the area of a former lead mine).

Our aim is that by preserving, reflecting on and sharing their heritage, UK Roma people, young people especially, have pride in the shared and distinct heritage of their families; confidence to integrate into their local communities; and develop knowledge and skills to increase employability and achieve their ambitions, whilst the project also ensures that Compas Charity can effectively understand, preserve, and share access to the archive.”

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

“Trust Libraries: our ten pledges to the incoming Government”

https://www.cilip.org.uk/page/election24?utm_campaign=1184657_Fortnightly%20newsletter%2012%20June%202024%20-%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS_PE35,9VBO9,3DHUT,1

Just in case you haven’t seen this which “[...] sets out how CILIP, and the profession we represent, will keep libraries and their place in society as a trusted and essential service at the top of the new Government’s agenda.”

The 10 pledges are:

1. “To deliver trustworthy information and access to culture
2. To inform better decisions (including in business, health and government)
3. To offer a warm welcome and a safe place for all
4. To champion the right to read and intellectual freedom
5. To enable learning at the heart of communities and institutions (from high streets, online, and in prisons, to schools, colleges and universities)
6. To open a world of opportunities, inspiration and ideas
7. To fuel the future green economy with data and skills
8. To support diverse and resilient start-ups
9. To help unlock new research and innovation

10. To be ethical partners committed to social justice”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

The Spirit Level at 15: the enduring impact of inequality

<https://media.equality-trust.out.re/uploads/2024/07/The-Spirit-Level-at-15-2024-FINAL.pdf>

(Source: email from The Equality Trust, 24 Jul 2024)

“In 2009, *The Spirit Level* sounded the alarm on the corrosive effects of economic inequality with a comprehensive analysis linking inequality to a wide range of social ills, from higher rates of imprisonment and mental health issues to eroded trust within society. The book led to the establishment of The Equality Trust to campaign to reduce inequality and heal social divides. Fifteen years on, the warnings of *The Spirit Level* ring truer than ever. Our new report is a rallying cry to reject the false narratives that have justified inaction, and to boldly confront systemic inequalities.” [p4]

Very important update.

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

The benefits of reading

Web summary: https://www.booktrust.org.uk/what-we-do/impact-and-research/research/the-benefits-of-reading/?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=so5-2024&utm_content=benefits-of-reading-230724

Full report (English):

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/booktrusts-benefits-of-reading-june-2024.pdf>

Full report (Welsh):

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/booktrusts-benefits-of-reading-welsh-june-2024.pdf>

(Source: via LinkedIn)

Just in case you haven't seen this important evidence:

“From babies to children in their early years and all the way through to early teens, reading brings profound and wide-ranging benefits that can have a lifelong positive impact on children's lives.” [Taken from Web summary]

Graphic Novels by UK Comic Creators

Lavender Clouds - Comics about Neurodivergence and Mental Health By Bex Ollerton – Andrews McMeel publishing. ISBN: 9781524890278

Synopsis: A dazzling, humorous, and highly personal portrayal of neurodivergence from a leading voice in mental health comics.

Mongrel – Sayra Begum. Knockabout Comics. ISBN: 9780861662692. Synopsis: Some of Shuna's memories are atypical, as she is a mixed-race child, the daughter of a Muslim convert. Shuna learns to switch back and forth from her rebellious face to her pious one depending on her company. This becomes more difficult when she falls in love with a non-Muslim.

Barking by Lucy Sullivan. Avery Hill. ISBN: 9780861662586. **Synopsis:** Alix Otto is having a very bad day. Easily her worst so far. A year since they fished her friend's body from the river, she finds herself hounded, haunted and driven to the brink. Caught in a situation she can't explain, Alix is handed over to the professionals and sectioned, left alone in a labyrinthine system with her delusions running wild.

Forty Lies: A Work of IPSEDIXITISM – David Shenton. Knockabout. ISBN: 9780861662913. **Synopsis:** This anagram of a book, is a vaguely chronological patchwork of forty(ish) personal stories, following the trials of Coming Out, the Age of Consent, family rejection, dodgy boyfriends, shaky career prospects, and police swoops.

Sennen by Shanti Rai – Avery Hill Publishing. ISBN: 9781910395714. **Synopsis:** Living with her parents, her adoptive father and her biological father Baba, Sennen's world is turned upside down when the Gods' demands of human sacrifices impact her family on a very personal basis.

What We Don't Talk About By Charlot Kristensen - Avery Hill. ISBN: 9781910395554. **Synopsis:** Adam and Farai are an interracial couple that have been together for two years. Farai has finally persuaded Adam to introduce her to his parents, but the visit to the in-laws turns out to be a horrible experience for Farai.

Shame Pudding by Danny Noble – Street Noise Books.

ISBN: 9781951491024. **Plot synopsis:** A celebration of the wacky and wonderful Jewish grandmothers who nurtured the author as she grew from a kid struggling with anxiety and insecurity to a teen finding her own voice.

The Roles We Play – Sabba Khan, Myriad Editions. ISBN:

9781912408306. Synopsis: As a second generation Azad Kashmiri migrant in East London, Khan paints a vivid snapshot of contemporary British Asian life and investigates the complex shifts experienced by different generations within migrant communities.

Catalyst – Various artists – Self-Made Hero. ISBN:

9781914224027. Synopsis: From tales of misplaced memories to battles with the id, *Catalyst* offers a look at the consequences of big and small acts alike from various diverse comic creators from the UK.

Lip Hook: A Tale of Rural Unease By David Hine and Mark

Stafford. Publisher: Self-Made Hero ISBN: 978-1910593578

Synopsis: Somewhere in the British Isles, at the end of a neglected road, there is a village called Lip Hook. For its inhabitants, the village is more than the end of the road—it's the end of the world.

CHILDREN'S GRAPHIC NOVELS

Saving Sunshine by Saadia Farugi and Shazleen Khan –

Roaring Brook Press. ISBN: 9781250793812. Synopsis:

During a family trip to Florida, when the bickering, shoving, and insults reach new heights of chaos, their parents sentence them to the worst possible fate-- each other's company! But when the twins find an ailing turtle, it presents a rare opportunity for teamwork--if the two can put their differences aside at last.

Donny Digits: Heroes! Heists! Hot Dogs! By Woodrow

Phoenix – Bog Eyed Books. ISBN: 9781916311800. Synopsis:

Donny Digits is the Fixingest Boy Alive! Any machine that goes wrong, from a toaster to an ocean liner, anything at all that requires

repairing, Donny can do it with the contents of his pockets and whatever is lying around.

Dog Man: Twenty Thousand Fleas Under The Sea. by Dav Pikey. ISBN: 9781338801910. Publisher: Scholastic.

SYNOPSIS: Dog Man and the rest of your favourite characters must join together to face Piggy and his most diabolical plot yet in this heroic and hilarious adventure.

Bumble and Snug and the Shy Ghost by Mark Bradley.

ISBN: 1444958070 Publisher: Hodder Children's Books.

Synopsis: Bumble and Snug are excited to show off their magic tricks at the Bugbopolis Talent Show together with their new friend, a little ghost.

Corpse Talk: Season 1 by Adam and Lisa Murphy. ISBN:

978-1910200018. David Fickling Books. Synopsis: Corpse Talk is the 'show that brings the dead famous to life' in a highly amusing and clever comic style history book that introduces the reader to historical figures in a fresh and funny way.

Mexikid by Pedro Martin. ISBN: 978-0593462294 Publisher:

Guppy Books. Synopsis: Pedro Martín has grown up hearing stories about his abuelito--his legendary crime-fighting, grandfather who was once a part of the Mexican Revolution! But that doesn't mean Pedro is excited at the news that Abuelito is coming to live with their family. After all, Pedro has 8 brothers and sisters and the house is crowded enough!

Drawn to Change The World Graphic Novel Collection: By Emma Reynolds Publisher: Harper Alley. ISBN: 978-

0063084216 Synopsis: The climate crisis is reaching a critical tipping point—and young people are taking action and speaking up for change. This collection of short, inspiring true stories highlight the importance of taking charge and creating change. Young environmental activists around the world are making a difference and taking action against what is probably the most important issue in all our lives.

Akissi: Tales of Mischief by Marguerite Aboutet and Mathieu Sapin. ISBN: 978-1911171478. Publisher: Flying Eye Books. Synopsis: Poor Akissi! The neighbourhood cats are trying to steal her fish, her little monkey Boubou almost ends up in a frying pan and she's nothing but a pest to her older brother Fofana... But Akissi is a true adventurer full of silliness and mischief, and nothing will scare her for long!

Bunny vs Monkey: Bunny Bonanza! By Jamie Smart. ISBN: 9781788453066 David Fickling Books. Synopsis: Monkey and the gang are on a hunt to find Bunny, after he mysteriously disappeared. On their search they'll be bamboozled by Old Bunny, Neanderbunny, the mysterious Shadow Bunny and the always-confusing Not Bunny. Will they ever find their faithful friend?

Juniper Mae: Knight of Tykotech City By Sarah Soh. ISBN: 978-1912497454. Publisher: Flying Eye Books. Synopsis: Tykotech City is home to the most incredible technology you've ever seen, but something is going horribly wrong with all of it and there's only one tiny inventor that stands between the city and total darkness. Building her own gadgets in her dad's repair shop, Juniper Mae is a certified kid wonder.

Manga.

One Piece (Omnibus Edition), Vol. 1 by Eiichiro Oda Publisher: Viz Media. ISBN: 9781421536255 Synopsis: High jinx on the high seas! As a child, Monkey D. Luffy dreamed of becoming the King of the Pirates. But his life changes when he accidentally gains the power to stretch like rubber...at the cost of never being able to swim again!

Jujutsu Kaisen, Vol. 1 by Gege Akutami Publisher: Viz Media. ISBN: 9781974710027. Synopsis: Yuji Itadori attempts to save the world from cursed demons, but learns the best way to do it is to become one himself!

My Hero Academia, Vol 1 by Kohei Horikoshi. Publisher: Viz Media. ISBN: 9781974743247 Synopsis: Quirkless Midoriya inherits the superpower of the world's

greatest hero, but being a hero may not be the easiest thing to do.

Dandadan, Vol. 1 by Yukinobu Tatsu. Publisher: Viz Media. ISBN: 9781974734634. Synopsis: A high school kid, alongside his school crush and his spirit granny fight powerful spirits and aliens all vying for the secret power of the "family jewel."

Chainsaw Man, Vol. 1 by Tatsuki Fujimoto.

Publisher: Viz Media. ISBN: 9781974709939. Synopsis: After being killed on a job, Denji armed with the powers of his pet devil Pochita becomes Chainsaw Man!

Spy x Family, Volume 1 by Tatsuya Endo. Publisher: Viz Media. ISBN: 9781974715466. Synopsis: An action-packed comedy about a fake *family* that includes a *spy*, an assassin and a telepath!

Death Note Black Edition, Vol. 1 - Death Note Black Edition 1 by Tsugumi Ohba and Takeshi Obata.

Publisher: Viz Media. ISBN: 9781421539645. Synopsis: The story follows Light Yagami, a genius high school student who discovers a mysterious notebook: the "Death Note", which belonged to the shinigami Ryuk, and grants the user the supernatural ability to kill anyone whose name is written in its pages.

One Punch Man Vol 1 by Yusake Murate. Publisher: Viz

Media. ISBN: 9781421585642. Synopsis: The story follows the life of an average hero named Saitama who manages to win all of his fights with just one punch. This ends up being the cause of a lot of frustration as he no longer feels the thrill and adrenaline he once felt in battle. After all, what's so good about having overwhelming power?

Attack on Titan Volume 1 by Hajime Isayama

Publisher: Kodansha America, Inc. ISBN: 9781612620244.

Synopsis: Mankind is on the brink of extinction when these man-eating monsters terrorize everybody and set to destroy the last of human civilization left in the world. The only person standing in their way is Eren Jaeger, a teenager who uses his special gift to fight the titan race.

Naruto (3-in-1 Edition), by Masashi Kishimoto.

Publisher: Viz Media. ISBN: 9781421539898. Synopsis:

As a boy, Naruto is ridiculed and ostracized on account of the Nine-Tailed Demon Fox—a malevolent creature that attacked Konohagakure—that was sealed away in his body. Despite this, he aspires to become his village's leader, the Hokage, in order to receive their approval.