The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 403, 22 August 2024

Events

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

Riots – Practical advice

"The Vital Role of School Libraries in Countering Misinformation"
https://slgconnect.org.uk/2024/08/08/the-vital-role-of-school-libraries-in-countering-misinformation/
(Source: CILIP School Libraries Group *SLG Connect* 8 Aug 2024)

> School libraries are key to promoting information literacy. We teach students and young people how to evaluate the credibility of sources, particularly those online, as well as how to recognise bias and distinguish between fact and opinion. This is important not just for their academic progress. False information, particularly related to health and safety, can have serious consequences. By ensuring that young people have access to accurate and reliable information, school libraries can help protect their physical and mental well-being.

This post also includes a good list of resources.

Riots – Statements of support

"Checking in with one another: a statement from Arts Council England"
https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/blog/checking-one-another-statement-arts-council-england
(Source: Museum Development North *Newsletter*, 9 Aug 2024)

> "Our Chief Executive, Darren Henley, has written to our funded organisations and projects, with a message of solidarity and support in light of the recent riots and violence in our communities."

Riots – Background info/explainers

"The trouble with England – why rioting in the UK has not spread to Scotland and Wales"
https://theconversation.com/the-trouble-with-england-why-rioting-in-the-uk-has-not-spread-to-scotland-and-wales-236423?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%208%202024%20-%203060231205&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%208%202024%20-%203060231205+CID_37cf898df9135568e12e771dd9734718&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20trouble%20with%20England%20%20w

hy%20rioting%20in%20the%20UK%20has%20not%20spread%20to%20Scotla
nd%20and%20Wales
(Source: *The Conversation*, 9 Aug 2024)
Interesting article that argues that:

> "While the Scottish, Welsh and Irish played substantial roles in managing
> the British empire, the English were its primary driving force. This means
> that the reduction of Britain's role in the world in the wake of the break up
> of the British empire has arguably been felt more keenly by the English.
>
> A 2018 YouGov survey showed that almost three times as many
> residents in England thought the country's best years were in the past
> than in its future. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, by contrast,
> many more people think 'their country's best years lie ahead rather than
> behind them'.
>
> A 'nostalgic yearning' for the lost imperial power is part and parcel of this
> nostalgic English national imaginary."

"The truth about asylum"
https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/refugee-asylum-facts/the-truth-
about-asylum/?dm_i=21O5,8P4P8,JMLB84,1047J0,1
(Source: email from ActionAid, 8 Aug 2024)
The Refugee Council have reissued their helpful facts & figures.

"Stop changing the subject – the problem is fascism"
https://irr.org.uk/article/stop-changing-the-subject-the-problem-is-
fascism/?ml_sub=2542267266402096884&ml_sub_hash=c5q5&utm_source=n
ewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=building_unity_against_far_right
_violence&utm_term=2024-08-10
(Source: *IRR News*, 8 Aug 2024)
Important article by IRR's Liz Fekete, which argues that governments have
been "coddling the far right".

"The hypocrisy at the heart of racist riots"
https://theconversation.com/the-hypocrisy-at-the-heart-of-racist-riots-
236347?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conv
ersation%20for%20August%2011%202024%20-
%203062731232&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20f
or%20August%2011%202024%20-
%203062731232+CID_20927945f172964102c6bd7bc922ad42&utm_source=ca
mpaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=The%20hypocrisy%20at%20the%20heart%20o
f%20racist%20riots
(Source: *The Conversation*, 12 Aug 2024)
> "The relentless scapegoating [of people who are not White, for example]
> dovetails with the psychological biases we are all socially conditioned to
> fall for, creating an 'us' and 'them' environment that can easily turn
> violent. The events of the past two weeks have awakened much of

Britain to the consequences that can arise when society is defined this way."

"We keep hearing about 'legitimate concerns' over immigration. The truth is, there are none"
https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/aug/13/immigration-immigrants-society-rich-labour-public
Important article by Maya Goodfellow (author of *Hostile environment: how immigrants became scapegoats*. Verso, 2020), which argues that:

> "The government could change the narrative by making the history of empire and migration a statutory party of the curriculum, and by actively countering racism in the press, among opposition parties and within its own ranks. But it could also use this moment to change people's material circumstances by getting rid of 'hostile environment' policies and providing safe routes of travel (one of the only viable solutions to stop people from having to cross the Channel). It could also make visas cheaper, provide better housing, simplify labyrinthine Home Office processes and end temporary, exploitative visas, giving people the ability to come here on decent terms and stay if they want to."

Funding & Opportunities
"Racial Diversity UK Fund"
https://www.nuffieldfoundation.org/funding/racial-diversity-uk-fund?utm_source=Equally+Ours+Newsletter+2024&utm_campaign=4ba933a977-Newsletter+April+2+2024+RNM_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_93cf2d2bcb-4ba933a977-120687778
(Source: email from Equally Ours, 9 Aug 2024)
New funding:

> "Research funding to understand the barriers and pathways to a racially just and inclusive society."

Scope:

> "Grants from £15,000 to £750,000 are available.
>
> The Racial Diversity UK programme aims to be broad in its reach, interested in questions of socio-economic equality, senses of place, belonging and identity, barriers to and opportunities for inclusion, demographic trajectories, and the interrelationship between these themes. Research may also address how the UK compares internationally. Race and ethnicity should be the central focus from which any intersectionality with class, disability, gender, place and other dynamics would be explored."

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

"Inclusive Heritage Advice Hub"

https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/training-skills/heritageskills-cpd/inclusion/

(Source: LinkedIn)

This is a terrific introduction to developing diversity:

> "The Inclusive Heritage Advice Hub is part of Historic England's commitment to supporting the heritage sector to become more diverse.
>
> It contains digestible information for any organisation wishing to celebrate inclusive heritage and ensure their work is as diverse and inclusive as possible. Advice is presented through case studies, templates, checklists, guidance, and external signposting. Experts within Historic England created some of the resources, while others were commissioned externally."

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

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

Digital disengagement and impacts on exclusion

Web summary: https://post.parliament.uk/research-briefings/post-pn-0725/

Full report: https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/POST-PN-0725/POST-PN-0725.pdf

(Source: LinkedIn)

> "This briefing outlines motivational reasons for not being online or using digital devices, and how this can contribute to digital exclusion and other forms of inequality."

It includes:

- "Digital disengagement refers to people that have limited access to the internet or digital devices for motivational or personal reasons, rather than other forms of digital exclusion, such as access or affordability barriers. However, reasons behind digital exclusion can be inter-related.
- Digital disengagement and other forms of digital exclusion are negatively associated with social, health, employment, and financial inequalities, and can compound existing inequalities.
- In 2024, Ofcom estimated that 6% (1.7 million) of UK households did not have the internet at home. It is not clear how many are disengaged due to motivational reasons. However, multiple surveys indicate that lack of interest is the most cited reason for being offline. Other motivational reasons include fear of scams, or lack of confidence and skills." [Taken from web summary]

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies
Moments to connect: building social connection into events
https://www.belongnetwork.co.uk/resources/moments-to-connect-building-social-connection-into-events/?mc_cid=3171ef5a44&mc_eid=f15a1f0068
(Source: Warm Welcome Spaces *E-News*, 24 Jul 2024)
The guide is available to download from this website.

> "A free guide from the Belong Network in partnership with Spirit of 2012 on what it takes to create a successful event which contributes to social cohesion. It's an introduction to planning, evaluating, and holding events which promote connection, and ensuring they leave tangible change."

Human Rights – Other Agencies
International Human Rights
https://humanrightstextbook.org/
(Source: UK Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) Network *Network Bulletin*, 1 Aug 2024)
The former UN Special Rapporteur on Poverty and Human Rights, Philip Alston, has just published a new, free-to-download textbook:

> "This book examines the world of contemporary human rights, including legal norms, political contexts and moral ideals. It acknowledges the regime's strengths and weaknesses, and focuses on today's principal challenges. These include the struggles against resurgent racism and anti-gender ideology, the implications of new technologies for fact-finding and many other parts of the regime, the continuing marginality of economic, social and cultural rights, radical inequality, climate change, and the evermore central role of the private sector."

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies
"The right to health"
Campaign website: https://justfair.org.uk/the-right-to-health/
Press release: https://justfair.org.uk/health-is-a-human-right-our-new-campaign/?mc_cid=795667013a&mc_eid=17c19d737e
(Source: email from Just Fair, 25 Jul 2024)
Just Fair have launched a new campaign:

> "Health inequalities are widening
>
> In the UK, people's health and well-being varies on the basis of factors such as income, gender, place of residence or education level. This creates wide health inequalities, in all four parts of the UK.
>
> For example, in England, life expectancy for the poorest 10 per cent of women has declined, people living in poorer areas of Scotland are more likely to die earlier or have more years of ill health and the COVID-19 pandemic had a hugely unequal impact on people's health across the UK […]

Change will not happen overnight. Nor if we work in silos. This is why we are launching a new UK-wide campaign on the right to health to push for change so people can enjoy quality healthcare, access to adequate living and working conditions, as well as a healthy environment.

We invite civil society organisations, individuals, academics, patients' associations, healthcare workers, and trade unions to join us in this campaign." [Taken from Press release]

"Labour has been virtually silent on Britain's neglected seaside towns – it's time for a national strategy"
https://theconversation.com/labour-has-been-virtually-silent-on-britains-neglected-seaside-towns-its-time-for-a-national-strategy-235740?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%206%202024%20-%203056731173&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20August%206%202024%20-%203056731173+CID_cb8c9346c906c4782011ab1cdacc5f42&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Labour%20has%20been%20virtually%20silent%20on%20Britains%20neglected%20seaside%20towns%20%20its%20time%20for%20a%20national%20strategy
(Source: *The Conversation*, 7 Aug 2024)
Call for a national strategy and more in-depth work with seaside communities.

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government
The immigration rules
https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-10043/CBP-10043.pdf
(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 29 Jul 2024)
New HOC Library "Research Briefing" which sets out the basics of how the rules have been created.

It also includes a link to the latest very detailed Home Office "Immigration Rules" webpage, https://www.gov.uk/guidance/immigration-rules.

Migration issues – Other Agencies
"Information for new refugees"
https://scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk/information-for-new-refugees/
(Source: email from City of Sanctuary, 31 Jul 2024)
New from the Scottish Refugee Council:

"This guide is to help new refugees in Scotland understand the process after getting leave to remain."

Safe routes to nowhere: the UK's broken promises on family reunion
https://www.ramfel.org.uk/uploads/1/1/8/6/118604888/240605_ramfel_family_reunion_report_digital.pdf
(Source: email from City of Sanctuary, 31 Jul 2024)

New from RAMFEL (Refugee and Migrant Forum of Essex and London), this report looks at safe routes – and makes recommendations.

> "As things stand, the family reunion system is not an effective safe route to the UK. Even making applications is impossible for many, with the UK government requiring people to attend Visa Application Centres (VAC) to enrol their biometrics. Many countries, especially conflict zones, do not though have a functional VAC. If people cannot attend a VAC, they cannot apply for family reunion. The government's position is that people in this position, even unaccompanied children, should make dangerous and irregular cross-border journeys to try and attend a VAC in neighbouring countries." [p2]

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

"Dozens of UK school librarians asked to remove LGBTQ+ books, survey finds"

https://www.theguardian.com/books/article/2024/aug/19/uk-school-librarians-asked-remove-lgbtq-books-index-on-censorship?utm_campaign=1263851_Fortnightly%20newsletter%2021%20August%202024%20-%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS,R36Z,9VBO9,3MWOS,1

Just in case you didn't see this news story:

> "More than two dozen school librarians in the UK have been asked to remove books – many of which are LGBTQ+ titles – from school library shelves, according to new survey data."

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

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

"London Metropolitan Archives becomes The London Archives"
(Source: email from Symeon Ververidis to archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk, 29 Jul 2024)
From Mon 5 Aug, the name changes …

There is more background in the press release at:
https://news.cityoflondon.gov.uk/city-archives-ditches-metropolitan-to-end-confusion-over-collections-and-reach-out-to-new-audiences/.

Broader issues – Other Agencies

The state of the arts
https://www.campaignforthearts.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/The-State-of-the-Arts.pdf
(Source: *GEM eNews*, 187, 30 Jul 2024)
New report from the Campaign for the Arts.

From the Executive Summary:

"There have been dramatic falls in arts **funding** since 2010. Tax relief for the creative industries has surged, but core public funding for the UK's Arts Councils and the BBC has fallen, and investment by local councils has plummeted. Despite high public **engagement** with the arts, especially post-pandemic, cultural **provision** has contracted and remains fragile. Arts **education** faces critical challenges, from unequal opportunities in early years to course closures in universities nationwide. Reduced funding and a marginalisation of the arts in English state schools has driven catastrophic declines in participation and enrolment. **Employment** in the Cultural Sector has been growing, but significant wage disparities and job precarity threaten the long-term sustainability of the sector and the countless benefits it brings.

This report underscores the need for better and more balanced support to ensure the vitality and accessibility of the arts for everyone, across all parts of the UK." [p6 – emphases theirs]