

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 405, 12 October 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

“Publishing professionals call for industry-wide amnesty on use of term ‘BAME’”

https://www.thebookseller.com/news/publishing-professionals-call-for-industry-wide-amnesty-on-use-of-term-bame?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Most%20Read

Important article in *The Bookseller*, which looks at the issues around using the term “BAME” and, in the words of Marcus Satha (Inclusive Books for Children), “it is time to adopt terminology that respects the nuances between different ethnic identities.”

“10 brilliant, bold, queer Black British icons who deserve way more recognition”

https://www.thepinknews.com/2024/10/04/black-history-month-uk/?user_id=john@nadder.org.uk#page/11

(Source: *PinkNews*, 4 Oct 2024)

Celebration of 10 often-unsung icons.

Advancing antiracist therapy for racialised communities

<https://media.equality-trust.out.re/uploads/2024/10/BLAMReportCompressed.pdf>

(Source: email from The Equality Trust, Oct 2024)

“This report calls for an urgent reevaluation of how we address mental health in the UK by examining the intersections of racism, inequality, and mental health. The ongoing physical and psychological toll of racism with little recourse for support makes racial trauma a public health emergency [...] By recognising the impact of racism on mental health and advancing community-based interventions, policymakers and practitioners can contribute to a more inclusive and responsive mental health system.” [p6]

Riots – Background info/explainers

“Local. Left behind. Prey to populist politics? What the data tells us about the 2024 UK rioters”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/sep/25/local-left-behind-prey-to-populist-politics-data-2024-uk-rioters>

Important background:

“The Guardian has scrutinised data that provides insights into the lives of those accused of taking part in the unrest. The findings provide the first

comprehensive picture of the alleged rioters – and challenge some of the assumptions made about them”

The article also has a link to another interesting exploration:

“Simply wanting to belong to something’: why did children take part in the English riots?”

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/sep/26/simply-wanting-to-belong-to-something-why-did-children-take-part-in-the-english-riots>

“Court proceedings have suggested that very few of the young people involved shared openly racist views. Judges were told youths saw the unrest as a social event”

Climate emergency/the environment – Libraries, Museums, Archives and Cultural and Heritage Organisations

“Culture Nature England: public libraries help communities connect with nature”

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/culture-nature-england-public-libraries-help-communities-connect-nature>

(Source: LinkedIn)

News from Libraries Connected:

“Twenty-six English public library services will launch new projects this month to help their communities build connections with nature.

The projects are part of Culture Nature England, a partnership between Libraries Connected and Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment. Natural England has awarded each of the library services up to £6,000 to deliver work that enhances nature recovery and shares the benefits nature can bring to all. This is the second year of the Culture Nature England partnership, after a successful pilot phase in 2023.

The launch coincides with Green Libraries Week, which runs until this Sunday 13 October. This year's Green Libraries Week showcases the imaginative and creative work libraries are doing with, and for, their own communities around the environment, sustainability and climate action.

Among the Culture Nature England projects are an immersive sound and vision experience exploring nature and wildlife in Somerset, the development of an urban meadow in a deprived area of Blackpool and an investigation into the natural and archaeological history of Elmdon Nature Park in Solihull.

Other projects include developing library gardens, making them bee friendly, creating places for growing food, running seed swaps, walks and talks in local green spaces, nature literary trails and mindfulness activities in nature. The projects, which start this month and conclude in

March 2025, are designed to engage with diverse groups and communities.”

The post also includes a list of the libraries involved.

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“New polling highlights alarmingly low digital confidence as Get Online Week 2024 kicks off”

<https://www.goodthingsfoundation.org/discover/our-news/our-news-2024/polling-reveals-low-digital-confidence>

(Source: *Good News from Good Things Foundation*, Oct 2024)

“Our polling found that one in 10 (10%) people are not confident in using the internet for banking and managing their finances, rising to 18% for those without broadband access. With 82% of people agreeing that online banking saves them time, this lack of skills and confidence results in missed opportunities.”

“Longfield think-tank highlights long-term risks of poor school readiness”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/news/longfield-think-tank-highlights-long-term-risks-of-poor-school-readiness>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Early Years and Education Bulletin*, 8 Oct 2024)

Short article highlighting the number of children who are not ‘school-ready’:

“More than four in 10 children who are eligible for free school meals were not classed as ‘school ready’ before starting reception in 2022/23 [...]”

It’s drawn from research by Child of the North and the Centre for Young Lives,

https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/65b6b3c3bd2e7d160db2dbc0/66fec552d5159812bc01ff6d_Pre-School%20Report%20Digital.pdf.

Diversity in books and other materials for children & young people

“Library Lifeline part 21: Things we learned at the Inclusive Libraries Conference”

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/blog/library-lifeline-part-21-things-we-learned-at-the-inclusive-libraries-conference/>

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Training & Resources*, 8 Oct 2024)

Short blogpost summarising key take-aways from the Leeds & London conferences, with lots of useful links to resources.

“Blended Families”

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/b/blended-families/>

New from BookTrust:

“Families come in all shapes and sizes, and it’s validating and comforting to see your family reflected in books. This selection, for all ages, features families where one or both parents have children from a previous relationship. This kind of family can also be called a stepfamily.”

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“Countdown to Baby Week 14-20 November 2024”

(Source: email from Jo Ward, 27 Sep 2024)

“Improving Me-NHS Cheshire and Merseyside’s Women’s Health and Maternity Programme and the Liverpool Combined Authority Economies for Healthier Lives Team are delighted to announce a new toolkit for employers in Cheshire and Merseyside developed by Maternity Action on behalf of the NHS.”

Jo advises that the toolkit is available to all employers:

Maternity Alliance “Toolkit for Employers: Managing Pregnancy, Maternity and Parental Leave in the Workplace”,

<https://maternityactionemployers.org.uk/>

“Empathy Action Month”

<https://www.empathylab.uk/empathy-action-month>

(Source: email from EmpathyLab, 10 Oct 2024)

November is “Empathy Action Month”, and EmpathyLab have a range of resources on their website, plus a downloadable practical guide, https://irp.cdn-website.com/b2f3fbc2/files/uploaded/EAM_Guide_2024-1ebce56b.pdf.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

International students: a Hostile Office Report

[https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HO-Intl-Student-](https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HO-Intl-Student-Report-)

[2.pdf?link_id=3&can_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-](https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HO-Intl-Student-Report-2.pdf?link_id=3&can_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-immigration-raids-are-)

[immigration-raids-are-](https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HO-Intl-Student-Report-2.pdf?link_id=3&can_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-immigration-raids-are-racist&email_referrer=email_2475334&email_subject=solidarity-with-international-students)

[racist&email_referrer=email_2475334&email_subject=solidarity-with-](https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HO-Intl-Student-Report-2.pdf?link_id=3&can_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-immigration-raids-are-racist&email_referrer=email_2475334&email_subject=solidarity-with-international-students)

[international-students](https://migrantsrights.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/HO-Intl-Student-Report-2.pdf?link_id=3&can_id=30e439a67211f81f4bbace156600453a&source=email-immigration-raids-are-racist&email_referrer=email_2475334&email_subject=solidarity-with-international-students)

(Source: Migrants’ Rights Network *Newsletter*, Oct 2024)

Highly critical new report from MRN, which concludes:

“The way that international students are commodified is foundational to the racism that they face. Even those who speak in defence of international students often do so through the lens of financial ‘contribution’, yet these extortionate costs that they are forced to pay, through immigration fees, tuition fees, higher housing costs and lower income, are a core part of the problem. As a result, while international students are presented as a unanimously financially privileged minority, they are acutely affected by the dehumanising and racist immigration system that equates their right to be and stay in the UK with their financial input.” [p34]

LGBTQ+ issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

“Council flies Progress Pride flag from town hall despite MP’s objection: ‘It’s our building’”

https://www.thepinknews.com/2024/10/10/town-hall-flies-progress-pride-flag-despite-reform-uk-mps-objection/?user_id=john@nadder.org.uk

(Source: *PinkNews*, 10 Oct 2024)

“The decision, which the council said celebrated its ‘commitment to celebrating diversity and promoting inclusivity’, had cross-party support.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

Creating inclusive residential care for LGBTQ+ elders

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/circle-guide/>

(Source: Peter Tatchell Foundation *Weekly*, #319, 19 Sep 2024)

Very useful background info:

“The CIRCLE care home guide was developed as part of the CIRCLE research study, a study exploring various ways of supporting providers of residential care for older people to improve their LGBTQ+ inclusive care offer. CIRCLE stands for Creating Inclusive Residential Care for LGBTQ+ Elders. The CIRCLE care home guide was co-designed with older LGBTQ+ people and care providers. It was developed for use in care homes for older people, but the content may be relevant for other care providers.

The guide offers practical tips on what you can do to make your care practice more inclusive for LGBTQ+ residents. It can be used in day-to-day care practice, in supervision conversations, and in staff training. It also includes a poster that can be displayed in the care home to indicate the home and staff are working on LGBTQ+ inclusion.”

There is more info about the research study at:

<https://research.kent.ac.uk/chss/research-projects/creating-inclusive-residential-care-for-lgbtq-elders-circle/>.

NB You need to register on-site before accessing the guide.

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

CILIPS Advocacy Newsletter

(Source: email from CILIP, 16 Sep 2024)

CILIP Scotland have just launched an Advocacy Newsletter:

“Focussing in on partnerships, we felt it was worthwhile compiling our advocacy output into this quarterly digest. Keeping our relationships & networks updated with key moments throughout the calendar year, we will endeavour to share project updates, advocacy content and tools.

This newsletter will be open to anyone who may find it useful and who may be interested in our advocacy work around libraries, librarians and information professionals in Scotland.”

If you'd like to subscribe, the link is: <https://www.cilips.org.uk/advocacy-newsletter/>.

Arts for us all: putting culture and creativity at the heart of national renewal

<https://fabians.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/FABPN0399-Arts-For-Us-All-WEB-050924.pdf>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 528, 3 Oct 2024)

New policy report from the Fabian Society, which makes proposals for the 'renewal of the arts, including greater embedding in the curriculum, widening access to the arts where we live, and a section on public libraries (a 'new deal').

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