

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 407, 8 November 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

Black Britain's Mandate

<https://blackequityorg.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/1014-Final-Report-1.pdf>

Major statement from the Black Equity Organisation:

“BEO exists to dismantle systemic racism experienced by Black people. Structural racism is a key factor in racial inequality, and BEO was established to work with all Black African, Black Caribbean and Black mixed heritage communities in the UK.

Our vision is to realise the empowerment, self-determination and welfare of Black people in the UK, and to be a credible and effective catalyst for dismantling structural racism within British society. Our mission is to promote economic, legal, social and political equity for Black communities in Britain in order to ensure equal opportunity for progress and prosperity. Our efforts will endorse and amplify Black talent, Black Enterprise and Black greatness in Britain.

BEO recognises that the intersection of race with sexism, ableism, homophobia, ageism, socioeconomic status and classism can have devastating effects on the lives and life chances of members of Black communities.

There is not one homogeneous Black community in the United Kingdom, there are many Black communities, and those communities are themselves made up of individuals with different identities. As a result of multifaced identities, interactions with the State and private actors mean that multiple forms of oppression can be experienced simultaneously.”
[p4]

Funding & Opportunities

“GLL Literary Foundation”

<https://www.better.org.uk/library/gll-literary-foundation>

(Source: LinkedIn)

Recently launched:

“We exist to:

- support local authors to develop the skills and knowledge that will allow them to reach their full potential,
- encourage greater promotion of diverse and inclusive texts,

- provide children and young people with the opportunity to be inspired to read and write by seeing local authors succeed,
- support publishers of all sizes to promote authors,
- connect local authors and publishers to the libraries at the heart of their communities.”

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

“Warm spaces return to UK libraries for third year running”

<https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/warm-spaces-return-uk-libraries-third-year-running>

Press release from Libraries Connected:

“As well as offering a free, heated space, most libraries will again deliver a range of other support, including entertainment, cultural activities, free hot drinks, and advice sessions on topics like household budgeting. Other initiatives include providing free warm clothing and blankets, sanitary products and food banks.

For the third year running, Libraries Connected is a partner of the Warm Welcome Campaign, which supports a network of over 4,000 warm spaces across the UK. The aim of this year’s campaign is to grow the number of warm spaces so that 100% of the population has a space close to home.”

The ‘hostile environment’

“Yvette Cooper reinstates Home Office unit for post-Windrush culture change”

https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/oct/24/cooper-reinstates-post-windrush-home-office-change-unit?mc_cid=f0dde05610&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 28 Oct 2024)

According to this *Guardian* article:

“A scrapped Home Office team responsible for reforming the department in the wake of the Windrush scandal has been reinstated by the home secretary, Yvette Cooper, amid a ‘fundamental reset’ of the government’s response to the issue [...]

The government will also be appointing a Windrush commissioner to act as an ‘independent advocate for all those affected’ by the scandal, which saw thousands of long-term UK residents, most of whom were born in Commonwealth countries and traveled [sic] to Britain in the 1950s and 60s, wrongly classified by the Home Office as illegal immigrants. Many people lost jobs, homes and pensions as a result and some were wrongly detained and deported.

The Windrush commissioner will also be responsible for driving improvements to the compensation scheme, which has been repeatedly criticised for slow decision making and low payouts.”

Tackling social and digital exclusion – Other Agencies

“Millions of us have experienced ageism. Have you?”

<https://www.saga.co.uk/magazine/life/millions-of-us-have-experienced-ageism>

(Source: *Later Life AGEnda*, 5 Nov 2024)

Another important report looking at ageism and its effects:

“Have you been overlooked for a job interview? Are you treated differently at the gym? Or have you felt that doctors seem to think you can’t speak for yourself?”

If you’ve suspected ageism is at play, you’re not alone. New research says that a third of over-65s and almost a quarter of people aged 50 to 64 have experienced it.”

Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

Dancing the tango with flexible work – the future of work and work-life balance

<https://www.ann-maree.biz/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/W20-UK-Future-of-Flexible-Work-Report-2024-FV.pdf>

(Source: UK Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) Network *Network Bulletin*, 8 Nov 2024)

New report from the W20 UK Delegation*:

“This paper:

- explores the current landscape of flexible working with a focus on caring responsibilities;
- examines best practice and identifies solutions to the barriers to working flexibly that continue to persist and prevent women in particular, and others, with caring responsibilities, from fully engaging in the world of education and work; and
- explains how employers and employees should respond to the new flexible working legislation.” [p5]

*“W20 (Women20) was established by G20 in 2015 as an independent advisory group to advise on women's equality. The UK Government appointed their own delegates as W20 UK. Each of the G20 nations has their own advisory group, all independently appointed. The location of the Summit moves each year as the G20 moves and W20 reports to the G20 each year with a Communiqué with their change recommendations which must be a consensus, and not voted for as a majority. All delegates provide their knowledge and expertise on a voluntary basis.” [Taken from: <https://uk.linkedin.com/company/w20uk>]

Health & Wellbeing issues – Other Agencies

“University of Roehampton researchers release musical resources to support people living with dementia”

<https://www.carehomeprofessional.com/uni-roehampton-research-music-dementia/>

(Source: *Later Life AGenda*, 28 Oct 2024)

Short article introducing this new resource:

“Researchers at the University of Roehampton have created an innovative set of resources – a website and cards – called *Take Note*, that feature 100 music-based ideas for carers to use with older people and those living with dementia.”

The “Take Note” website, which includes resources and strategies, is at:

<https://www.takenote.org.uk/>.

The healthiest generation of children ever: a roadmap for the health system

https://www.ncb.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/files/HPIG%20-%20The%20healthiest%20generation%20of%20children%20ever_0.pdf

(Source: *NCB Newsletter*, 8 Nov 2024)

New report from the Children and Young People’s Health Policy Influencing Group (“a group of influential charities and Royal Colleges” [p5]).

Noting that:

“Children’s physical and mental health outcomes in England are poor in relation to comparable countries, and there has been a shocking decline in the health of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children in recent years.” [p5]

this report makes a series of recommendations with a roadmap that argues that:

“[...] different ways of thinking, alongside new structures and approaches, would significantly improve the health and outcomes of children even without considerable new investment.” [p5]

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

“Axminster Library launches ‘Dyslexia friendly’ backpacks”

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/24635577.axminster-library-launches-dyslexia-friendly-backpacks/>

“Axminster Library has been lucky enough to secure funding from Axminster Care Services to create ‘Dyslexia Friendly Backpacks’ which will be borrowable to local families.”

From LinkedIn:

“After learning about a local fund for children with dyslexia, our team created borrowable backpacks to support families with dyslexia and other neurodiverse needs. We offer age-appropriate packs for 0-5, 5-8, and 8-12 years, filled with resources like dyslexia-friendly books, electronic reader pens, and STEM games.

Available for free with a library card, these backpacks can be borrowed for three weeks. Currently, they're accessible to families in Axminster and nearby villages. We hope they make a difference by providing valuable tools to support learning.

Neurodiversity issues – Other Agencies

“Eight reasons why ADHD diagnoses are increasing”

https://theconversation.com/eight-reasons-why-adhd-diagnoses-are-increasing-242458?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%206%202024%20-%203157532193&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%206%202024%20-%203157532193+CID_96b8a5f8f89cb5726f1834b1d50b72ec&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Eight%20reasons%20why%20ADHD%20diagnoses%20are%20increasing

(Source: *The Conversation*, 7 Nov 2024)

Interesting article looking at eight possible causes of the increase in diagnoses, many of which overlap and interact with each other.

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Linguist calls for London’s endangered language communities to be mapped”

https://www.theguardian.com/science/2024/oct/26/londons-endangered-language-communities-to-be-mapped-in-new-project?mc_cid=f0dde05610&mc_eid=7d8713d645

(Source: *Free Movement Weekly Newsletter*, 28 Oct 2024)

“Ross Perlin, an academic who claimed a prestigious £25,000 book prize last week, now hopes to start work on a mapping project with British researchers that would reveal the whereabouts of the speakers of the capital’s most at-risk languages. The map, they believe, would be a first step to saving them.”

“Paddington gets a British passport – but the Home Office treats real refugees very differently”

https://theconversation.com/paddington-gets-a-british-passport-but-the-home-office-treats-real-refugees-very-differently-241988?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%204%202024%20-%203155432168&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%204%202024%20-%203155432168+CID_c37cbdf655e10b2a5e340babe82a2e63&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Paddington%20gets%20a%20British%20passp

[ort%20%20but%20the%20Home%20Office%20treats%20real%20refugees%20very%20differently](#)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 5 Nov 2024)

In relation to the release of the new film:

“We wrote to the Home Office asking if we could get a replica, and they actually issued Paddington with an official passport,’ one of the film’s producers said. ‘You wouldn’t think the Home Office would have a sense of humour, but under official observations, they’ve listed him as Bear.’

Arriving from Peru in need of help, Paddington is often afforded the status of refugee-in-chief – even immortalised in Banksy artwork. Bond was inspired by Jewish refugees arriving in the UK from Europe during the second world war when he created the character.

In being granted British citizenship, Paddington has fared far better than most people arriving in the UK in need of help. Under the current system, asylum seekers must navigate a complex process, often over many years, in which they are disbelieved, excluded and stigmatised. A third of all people seeking asylum in the UK are refused at their initial application.”

LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

“Prevention rather than cure: Talking about LGBT+ bullying in schools”

<https://www.cypnow.co.uk/content/blogs/prevention-rather-than-cure-talking-about-lgbtplus-bullying-in-schools>

(Source: Children & Young People Now *Early Years and Education Bulletin*, 5 Nov 2024)

Important blogpost by Jack Lynch (Head of workshops and training at Pop’n’Olly):

“When we create environments where all children feel welcome, safe and respected, they are much more likely to be engaged in both school and learning. However, despite being decades on from the repeal of Section 28, LGBT+ bullying is the most common form of bullying in UK schools.”

Broader issues – Other Agencies

BookTrust Early Years offers: Year two headline findings

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/early-years-offer-y2-headline->

[findings_english.pdf?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=tap-24&utm_content=eyto-year-2-findings-031124](https://www.booktrust.org.uk/globalassets/resources/research/early-years-offer-y2-headline-findings_english.pdf?utm_source=linkedin&utm_medium=organic&utm_campaign=tap-24&utm_content=eyto-year-2-findings-031124)

(Source: LinkedIn)

Brief summary of impact:

“In this briefing, we share 10 key findings from the second year of our BookTrust Early Years offers (Bookstart Toddler / Bookstart 1-2 Years and Bookstart Pre-schooler / Bookstart 3-4 Years).” [p1]

Children and young people's reading in 2024

https://nlt.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Children_and_young_peoples_reading_in_2024_Report.pdf

The latest NLT survey shows “that the number of children and young people who say they enjoy reading, and read daily, in their free time continues to decline.” [Taken from press release, <https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/children-and-young-peoples-reading-in-2024/>]

As the report concludes:

“While our Annual Literacy Survey doesn't provide an explanation for the continued decline in reading enjoyment, perhaps we should consider what can be done to provide more space for children to read for enjoyment. Perhaps a packed curriculum, high academic expectations, and the perception of a challenging future all contribute to children having less time for reading for enjoyment and less mental space to do it. It's likely, too, that the recent pandemic and the ongoing cost-of-living crisis have exacerbated these challenges, with many children and young people struggling to access high quality reading materials.” [p30]

US Election

You'll probably be exhausted by all the coverage – and possibly the thought of what might be to come, but here are two very interesting articles, well worth reading for background (Source: Social Europe *Newsletter*, 7 Nov 2024):

“**How Trump won**”, <https://www.socialeurope.eu/how-trump-won>

This seems to me to be a fairly thorough analysis of what happened – and also doesn't hesitate to face some key issues:

“It helps that many of Trump's supporters secretly – or, increasingly, vocally – share his worst instincts. His racism? Many white Americans are sick of talk of 'white privilege' and even sicker of immigrants supposedly pouring across the border to take their jobs and consume their tax dollars. His misogyny? Many of his young male voters, feeling outdone or rejected by their female counterparts, like the idea of reminding women of 'their place.' His threats to punish 'enemies within'? The answer is self-evident: they are enemies.”

“**Democracy derailed: Trump's triumph signals a dark new era**”, <https://www.socialeurope.eu/democracy-derailed-trumps-triumph-signals-a-dark-new-era>

This similarly focuses on some key points:

“Trump's gains in the electorate came chiefly among working-class voters, who, as in many European nations, have moved rightward as the transformation from an industrial economy to an information economy has diminished their economic prospects and political clout. Like many centre-left parties, the Democratic

base now centres on college-educated and, hence, more prosperous voters. Exit polls showed Trump narrowly winning among voters whose yearly family incomes were under \$100,000, with Harris narrowly carrying those voters with family incomes higher than that.

Ironically, Biden's presidency was the first Democratic presidency since Lyndon Johnson's to put working-class interests at the centre of its economic programme, bringing about a historic increase in factory construction and clearly siding with unions in their disputes with management."

In addition:

“What a Trump presidency means for millions of migrants and their families in the US”

https://theconversation.com/what-a-trump-presidency-means-for-millions-of-migrants-and-their-families-in-the-us-243078?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%207%202024%20-%203159132207&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20November%207%202024%20-%203159132207+CID_3f8984143e66b7b2d96bc9f903a7e57b&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=What%20a%20Trump%20presidency%20means%20for%20millions%20of%20migrants%20and%20their%20families%20in%20the%20US

(Source: *The Conversation*, 8 Nov 2024)

Important article looking at the “climate of fear” being created – and its impact.