

# The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 414, 19 March 2025

## 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

### “Anti-racist Book Reviews”

<https://www.peoplescollection.wales/collections/2213981>

(Source: email from CILIP Community, 4 Mar 2025)

“As part of the CILIP Anti Racist Library Collections in Public Libraries in Wales project we collected short book reviews from public librarians in Wales.

As part of Phase 1 of the project we bought books - by black authors, about anti-racism, and about diversity in libraries - from small specialist suppliers (Gwales, Books from Nowhere, and Facet). We posted books from the list to each volunteer reviewer. We hope these reviews will encourage library colleagues to read and talk about a range of potentially anti-racist books.”

## Funding & Opportunities

### “Plan for Neighbourhoods”

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus-and-tools/plan-for-neighbourhoods-prospectus>

(Source: LinkedIn)

Just launched:

“Our new Plan for Neighbourhoods is part of this government’s plan to ensure that nowhere is left behind. It will help revitalise local areas and fight deprivation at root cause by zeroing in on 3 goals: thriving places, stronger communities, and taking back control.

No more sticking plasters; no more short-term fixes – rather, a 10-year plan that unlocks the potential of the places people call home.”

The website also has a list of the 75 places across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland that have been selected to receive funding through this programme.

## Equality, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion – Other Agencies

### “Activism Isn’t Optional: Why DEI, Justice, and the Fight Against Oppression Will Always Be Political”

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/activism-isnt-optional-why-dei-justice-fight-against-always-la%C3%AFla-qt4se/?trackingId=hsXS%2BD88D3da26W%2FujfiXQ%3D%3D>

(Source: LinkedIn)

Important article by Laila El-Métoui, which opens:

“I am often told to stop being ‘political,’ especially by those who praise my activism or those interested in my DEI (Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion) work. But activism and DEI cannot be separated from politics—because both exist to challenge inequality, discrimination, and systemic oppression. The truth is, everything is political.”

### **LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies**

#### ***Precarious lives: financial and material hardship among older LGBTQ+ people in London***

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a620d960abd04e6cae4477f/t/67bef962f8f712183bcb37/1740568946071/Tonic\\_Precarious+Lives\\_Design\\_FINAL\\_END.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a620d960abd04e6cae4477f/t/67bef962f8f712183bcb37/1740568946071/Tonic_Precarious+Lives_Design_FINAL_END.pdf)

(Source: email from Queer AF, 8 Mar 2025)

Important new report:

“This report throws light on a hidden population of older LGBTQ+ Londoners suffering financial and material hardship. It also highlights that there are particular factors which help explain why LGBTQ+ elders can face such difficulties. We have grouped these factors into four areas in this report: discrimination; isolation; long-term health conditions; financial stress.” [p5]

#### **“Russell T Davies: gay society in ‘greatest danger I’ve ever seen’ after Trump win”**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/mar/16/russell-t-davies-gay-society-greatest-danger-ever-seen-trump>

Just in case you missed this article in which Russell T Davies says that he feels “a wave of anger heading towards us’ and hostility in UK as well as US”.

#### **“Tackling the hidden crisis of LGBT+ homelessness”**

[https://leftfootforward.org/2025/03/tackling-the-hidden-crisis-of-lgbt-homelessness/?mc\\_cid=2dbc6cc0dc&mc\\_eid=e91604b40f](https://leftfootforward.org/2025/03/tackling-the-hidden-crisis-of-lgbt-homelessness/?mc_cid=2dbc6cc0dc&mc_eid=e91604b40f)

(Source: *Left Foot Forward*, 18 Mar 2025)

Short opinion piece (by akt\* and LGBT+ Labour) which introduces a new report, *There’s no place like home: uncovering LGBTQ+ youth homelessness in the UK*, see: <https://www.akt.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/akt-No-Place-Like-Home-Research-report-lgbt-youth-homelessness-2025.pdf>.

\* akt – formerly the Albert Kennedy Trust – “[...] exists to give 16–25-year-olds who are LGBTQ+ and at risk of, or experiencing homelessness or a hostile living environment, the support they need to thrive.” [Taken from: <https://www.akt.org.uk/about/>]

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

#### **“Our Heritage, Our Future” Project**

(Source: email from Simon Wallace, 16 Feb 2025)

“FAA has launched its students’ heritage programme equipping young people with valuable skills in tourism, restoration, and communications while cultivating a deeper appreciation of their local history.

Supported by Atlas Insurance and the Martin Laing Foundation and Game-based Learning, In collaboration with St. Margaret's College Cottonera, this project provided heritage-based learning through hands-on activities. FAA provided training in guiding tours and in developing communication materials through journalistic English and graphic design. The students then researched and created their own guided tour, designing costumes and promotional leaflets.

The programme helped equip students with essential skills in research, communication, public speaking, teamwork, and creative problem-solving. Students are also being exposed to new career opportunities through site visits to hospitality, restoration and media institutes.

After a year of work, FAA also launched its heritage website focused on Cottonera's history: The Knights Quest\* to foster pride in the students' heritage. Similarly, through the guided tour, the students showcased their heritage confidence and research with their families, Local Councilors, sponsors and Dr. Lydia Abela through a captivating guided tour of Cottonera in period costume.

FAA has always considered heritage as a public resource that this project harnesses as a means to provide careers that can help students break out of the poverty trap and enables foreign students to integrate and set roots in their new home. Recognising crucial links between the appreciation of local heritage and self-esteem, between career fulfilment and mental health, FAA aims to gradually extend this project to other youths across different towns and calls for volunteers who are ready to commit some time to helping with this programme in terms of historical research and training of students.

FAA thanks Atlas Insurance and the Martin Laing Foundation for their support that made this possible" [Taken from email]

"Flimkien għal Ambjent Aħjar (FAA) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization, committed to protecting and campaigning for Malta and Gozo's environmental and cultural heritage for a socially inclusive and sustainable quality of life." [Taken from: <https://faa.org.mt/homepage/>]

\*There is further info about The Knights Quest at:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/the-knights-quest/home/Tunnel?authuser=1>

**"New report calls for return of human remains – but UK museums lack the resources to act"**

[https://theconversation.com/new-report-calls-for-return-of-human-remains-but-uk-museums-lack-the-resources-to-act-252547?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2018%202025%20-%203302133716&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2018%202025%20-%203302133716+CID\\_eb9d4b712c70ab0fc78dc0cce5dda3ac&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor](https://theconversation.com/new-report-calls-for-return-of-human-remains-but-uk-museums-lack-the-resources-to-act-252547?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2018%202025%20-%203302133716&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20March%2018%202025%20-%203302133716+CID_eb9d4b712c70ab0fc78dc0cce5dda3ac&utm_source=campaign_monitor)

[\\_uk&utm\\_term=New%20report%20calls%20for%20return%20of%20human%20remains%20%20but%20UK%20museums%20lack%20the%20resources%20to%20act](#)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 19 Mar 2025)

Important article looking at some of the current background to restitution.

### **Broader issues – Other Agencies**

**“Only 6% of gen Z actually favour dictatorship – not half, as some reports would have you believe”**

[https://theconversation.com/only-6-of-gen-z-actually-favour-dictatorship-not-half-as-some-reports-would-have-you-believe-250945?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2026%202025%20-%203274833446&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2026%202025%20-%203274833446+CID\\_57c7b58259da5e16f15b2ba3fb0deb55&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Only%206%20of%20gen%20Z%20actually%20favour%20dictatorship%20%20not%20half%20as%20some%20reports%20would%20have%20you%20believe](https://theconversation.com/only-6-of-gen-z-actually-favour-dictatorship-not-half-as-some-reports-would-have-you-believe-250945?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2026%202025%20-%203274833446&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20February%2026%202025%20-%203274833446+CID_57c7b58259da5e16f15b2ba3fb0deb55&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Only%206%20of%20gen%20Z%20actually%20favour%20dictatorship%20%20not%20half%20as%20some%20reports%20would%20have%20you%20believe)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 27 Feb 2025)

A thoughtful piece, digging deeper into recent headlines.

“When you work it all through, only 6% of gen Z really support a dictatorship, in any recognised sense of the term. The problem we seem to be facing is not a whole generation of autocratic young people but a complex question answered quickly in online polls and hugely overinterpreted in subsequent reporting.”

It concludes:

“[...] the noise around this distracts us from real and serious issues with gen Z’s engagement with politics and institutions. We risk labelling a whole generation as “authoritarian” when the real problem is a lack of confidence in the delivery of democratic institutions and systems.”

### **Children and young people’s listening in 2024**

[https://nlt.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Children\\_and\\_young\\_peoples\\_listening\\_in\\_2024\\_MgzFHgw.pdf](https://nlt.cdn.ngo/media/documents/Children_and_young_peoples_listening_in_2024_MgzFHgw.pdf)

(Source: National Literacy Trust *Monthly Newsletter*, Mar 2025)

Latest research report from the NLT. Key findings include:

- “2 in 5 (42.3%) children and young people aged 8 to 18 told us they enjoyed listening to audio in their free time in 2024. This is a slight increase on levels of listening enjoyment in 2023 (39.4%).
- In 2024, a higher percentage of children and young people said they enjoyed listening than enjoyed reading in their free time (42.3% vs 34.6%). This is the first time that more enjoyed listening than reading since we first started asking about listening in 2020.” [Taken from: <https://literacytrust.org.uk/research-services/research-reports/children-and-young-peoples-listening-in-2024/>]