

The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 422, 28 July 2025

Events

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

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

Press release: “Green Libraries Week 2025: Libraries across the UK Sow the Seed of Climate Action”

<https://www.cilip.org.uk/news/news.asp?id=706016>

“Running from Monday 27 October to Sunday 2 November, the theme for this year's national campaign is 'Seeds of Change – Make a Difference with Your Library'. The spotlight for 2025 is on encouraging libraries at all stages in their sustainability journey to celebrate their climate action - no matter how big or small.

From public libraries on the high street to academic, specialist and health libraries, Green Libraries Week showcases inventive and inspiring activities across the UK. The initiative connects libraries in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, providing support for green initiatives and celebrating how libraries help people build the skills and confidence to take action at every stage of life.

Now in its third year, Green Libraries Week has seen hundreds of events across the country. The week is launched with the Green Libraries Conference, taking place on Monday 27 October 2025 at the British Library Knowledge Centre. This key national event brings together library professionals, sustainability leaders and community partners to explore how libraries can lead on climate action. From practical tools to inspiring case studies, the conference offers a unique opportunity to share ideas, build networks, and strengthen the role of libraries in creating a greener, fairer future.”

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

“How Tom Gates got a child with vision impairment hooked on the Summer Reading Challenge”

<https://readingagency.org.uk/how-tom-gates-got-a-child-with-vision-impairment-hooked-on-the-summer-reading-challenge/>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 20 Jul 2025)

“Thousands of children across the UK will be heading to their local libraries this summer to take part in the Summer Reading Challenge – the annual readathon organised by The Reading Agency. The challenge allows children to win rewards after reading books and keeping a summer reading log.

In partnership with The Reading Agency, The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) is encouraging children with vision impairments to

get their reading vibes on this summer and take part in the challenge using books in large print, audio and braille from RNIB's online library.

Seven-year-old Thomas Zalba-Smith from Highams Park has nystagmus and is registered as sight impaired, but this hasn't stopped him completing the challenge four times at his local library."

Disability issues – Other Agencies

"Deaf Perspectives: Past, Present, and Future"

<https://www.theoffshootfoundation.co.uk/deaf-perspectives-past-present-and-future/>

(Source: email from Hannah Salisbury, Project Co-ordinator, Deaf Perspectives: Past, Present and Future, 21 Jul 2025)

"The project involves students from King Edward VI School in Bury St Edmunds and Northgate High School in Ipswich. The students are aged 11-15 and some are deaf and some are hearing. We are working with the students to make a series of short films about different aspects of deaf life in the past, present and future."

As Hannah said in her covering email:

"We have undertaken research into local deaf history and recorded interviews with deaf people of different ages. This material has all been brought together into a series of short films made with local high school students (some deaf and some hearing). The finished films, full interviews, and research findings are all going to be lodged with Suffolk Archives for long-term preservation."

Migration issues – Government, Government Agencies and Local Government

Afghan Data Leak

You will have seen media coverage of the major data leak.

I've drawn together some background info, including:

- Government guidance, "Data incident affecting applicants to the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy Scheme and Afghanistan Locally Employed Staff Ex-Gratia Scheme", is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/data-incident-affecting-applicants-to-the-afghan-relocations-and-assistance-policy-scheme-and-afghanistan-locally-employed-staff-ex-gratia-scheme>.

There are some useful explainers at:

- "Afghan data leak: how selective state secrecy and cover-ups can harm civilians", https://theconversation.com/afghan-data-leak-how-selective-state-secrecy-and-cover-ups-can-harm-civilians-261394?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2018%202025%20-%203457635220&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20Ju

[ly%2018%202025%20-%203457635220+CID_63ccfa94b614d82d27b1f64f743fb316&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Afghan%20data%20leak%20how%20selective%20state%20security%20and%20cover-ups%20can%20harm%20civilians](https://theconversation.com/why-did-the-government-hide-a-data-leak-about-afghans-working-with-british-forces-and-why-did-the-courts-finally-reveal-it-261437?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2018%202025%20-%203457635220+CID_63ccfa94b614d82d27b1f64f743fb316&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Afghan%20data%20leak%20how%20selective%20state%20security%20and%20cover-ups%20can%20harm%20civilians)

- “Why did the government hide a data leak about Afghans working with British forces and why did the courts finally reveal it?”,
https://theconversation.com/why-did-the-government-hide-a-data-leak-about-afghans-working-with-british-forces-and-why-did-the-courts-finally-reveal-it-261437?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2018%202025%20-%203457635220+CID_63ccfa94b614d82d27b1f64f743fb316&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Why%20did%20the%20government%20hide%20a%20data%20leak%20about%20Afghans%20working%20with%20British%20forces%20and%20why%20did%20the%20courts%20finally%20reveal%20it
- “Deny, delete and delay: the secrecy operation inside special forces”,
https://observer.co.uk/news/national/article/deny-delete-and-delay-the-secrecy-operation-inside-special-forces?utm_source=mailerlite&utm_medium=email&utm_term=Mon+21+Jul+2025&utm_campaign=Weekly+blog+updates

... and media coverage at, for example:

- “When that data falls into the hands of the Taliban it will lead to my arrest, torture and death”,
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jul/16/when-that-data-falls-into-the-hands-of-the-taliban-it-will-lead-to-my-arrest-torture-and-death>
- “Afghans have been betrayed yet again by this shocking UK data leak – and many don’t even know if they’re affected”,
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2025/jul/15/afghanistan-uk-data-leak-taliban-britain>

Migration issues – Other Agencies

“Living in Gaza, accepted to Cambridge — blocked by Home Office”

<https://www.thetimes.com/article/2a7d4e2b-115a-4b41-be22-99dafbf985a2?shareToken=04d1c488acd4ff442c4c96b209714db3>

(Source: email from Aleks Palanac to sanctuary@jiscmail.ac.uk, 21 Jul 2025)

As Aleks says in her covering email:

“In Saturday’s edition of The Times, a powerful article was published outlining the unimaginable challenges Palestinian students in Gaza are facing just to apply to university, only for the British government to make unfeasible visa demands, in full knowledge that these conditions cannot currently be met in the devastation of Gaza [...]

Other countries such as Italy, Ireland, France and even Germany have exercised flexibility in their visa requirements for Gazan student offer holders for universities in their countries ... and many in the UK HE

sector and beyond are asking why the UK Home Office is not doing the same.”

“Channel crossings: life in ‘microcamps’ on the French border, and how they are changing crossing attempts”

https://theconversation.com/channel-crossings-life-in-microcamps-on-the-french-border-and-how-they-are-changing-crossing-attempts-260843?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2028%202025%20-%203466435302&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20July%2028%202025%20-%203466435302+CID_7ed78e75bf575a63f5f4defd03192857&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Channel%20crossings%20life%20in%20microcamps%20on%20the%20French%20border%20and%20how%20they%20are%20changing%20crossing%20attempts

(Source: *The Conversation*, 28 Jul 2025)

Interesting background:

“I have spent the past two years examining the living conditions in informal refugee camps along the northern coast of France as part of an ongoing research project on borders. These sites are where people gather before attempting to cross the Channel to the UK.”

The writer concludes:

“In my view, the recently announced French-British measures to intensify policing and border enforcement are unlikely to deter people from attempting dangerous crossings. Instead, they will create an incentive for more dangerous tactics by smugglers, putting more lives at risk and violating human rights. Any agreement to return asylum seekers, restrict their access to asylum or force people back across borders will exacerbate the dangers already experienced by those seeking refuge.”

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

“What Factors Influence a Culture of Reading?”

<https://barbara567band.blogspot.com/2025/07/what-factors-influence-culture-of.html>

(Source: *Public Libraries News*, 20 Jul 2025)

New blogpost from Barbara Band, which starts by saying that:

“As a school librarian, avid reader and public library user, I welcome any campaigns, initiatives or events that promote reading but this cultural change will not happen without specific circumstances in place and can be improved by adding a few extra.”

The post then looks at key areas to focus on: Books; Access; Time; Role models; and Guidance.