

## The Network Newsletter – Ebulletin 437, 23 June 2026

### 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/Decolonisation

**“Windrush celebrations backed with £500,000 for communities”**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/windrush-celebrations-backed-with-500000-for-communities>

(Source: *Heritage Update*, 569, 28 May 2026)

“A total of 33 projects, from Plymouth to Leeds, will receive government funding to bring communities together and mark the lasting contribution of the Windrush generation to British life.

These community-led initiatives will mark the eighth annual Windrush Day on 22 June 2026, following on from the 30 projects that received funding last year.”

The press release includes examples of projects funded, eg:

- “City Council Libraries in Leicester: Windrush history will come to life across sixteen public libraries and at a city festival attracting 60,000 visitors. Working with 100 schoolchildren and Windrush elders, the project will create lasting educational installations and deliver an immersive experience for communities.”

Incidentally, Black Equity Organisation has just launched their **Windrush Support Directory** – see: <https://blackequityorg.com/windrush-compensation-support-map/>.

“The Windrush Status Scheme and Windrush Compensation Scheme were set up to allow those harmed by the Windrush Scandal to seek redress. Unfortunately, the schemes are not easy to navigate, especially for those who have been traumatised by the scandal. Thankfully, there are a number of individuals, community organisations, Law Centres, University Legal Clinics and law firms that are spread across the country who provide advice, support, or representation to help claimants with their Windrush applications.

We have developed an interactive map that will assist those in seeking the help they need when making an initial Windrush Scheme application, challenging a compensation award at Tier 1 or Tier 2, or making a complaint to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, as there was no central place for those who want to easily access the valuable support.”

## ***Understanding anti-Muslim hostility: foundations for action***

<https://britishmuslimtrust.co.uk/assets/reports/understanding-anti-muslim-hostility-report-bmt-june-2026.pdf>

(Source: *Equally Ours* Newsletter, 18 Jun 2026)

Important new report:

“Anti-Muslim hate is on the rise in Britain. Reported hate crime hit a new record in 2025, following two summers of far-right community disorder and growing experiences of online discrimination. High profile cases have also demonstrated how this hate can be misdirected towards other faith and ethnic minority communities.” [p8]

This report is a starting-point, setting out key issues and some ways of beginning to tackle these, with a further report due later this year.

Key findings include:

- “Muslim respondents express confidence about their place in Britain. Almost three quarters (73%) of Muslim respondents say Britain is a good place to be a Muslim” [p9]
- Yet Muslims report widespread experience of prejudice and the perception that this is rising.
- A narrow majority of the British public express basic acceptance of Muslims in Britain.
- But acceptance is shallower than needed to secure resilient foundations.
- About twice as many people (22%) see Muslims as making an overall negative contribution to British society compared to members of other faiths such as Jews (12%) or Hindus (8%).
- More than one in three (37%) agree with a statement that “The growth in the Muslim population poses a foundational threat to UK culture.”
- Around one in six also hold persistently strong, hostile views of Muslims.
- Attitudes become more positive when interaction with Muslims is more frequent.
- Most people in Britain recognise anti-Muslim prejudice exists and support action to tackle it.
- There is some confidence in community relations, mixed with fears for the future. [These points taken from pp9-10]

The rest of the report looks at how to begin to tackle these issues:

“We conclude with eight key challenges that emerge from the data – and look at the distinct roles that different institutions and networks can play in reducing prejudice, to help build a stronger social norm of accepting Muslims on equal terms. Our follow-up report, to be released later this year, will provide new qualitative research and advice to better understand the messages, messengers and practical solutions that can help to broaden acceptance of and empathy towards Muslims as a social norm across society.” [p11]

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

### **Congratulations!**

#### **Museums + Heritage Awards 2026**

<https://awards.museumsandheritage.com/2026-winners/>

(Source: Museums Association email updates, 15 May 2026)

The winners of the 2026 Museums + Heritage Awards have just been announced.

### **Funding & Opportunities**

#### **“Sites of Memory”**

<https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/arts-and-culture/diversity-public-realm/memorial-victims-transatlantic-slavery/sites-memory>

(Source: email from Joseph Kelly, The National Archives to [archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk](mailto:archives-nra@jiscmail.ac.uk), 28 May 2026)

“A new funding opportunity is now open designed to support community-led projects that explore, preserve and share the histories and legacies of transatlantic slavery.

The programme is part of a wider commitment to remembrance, reflection and public engagement. It forms part of the Mayor of London’s commitment to deliver the capital’s first permanent memorial to honour enslaved Africans who were trafficked as part of the transatlantic slave trade.

Find out more: <https://www.london.gov.uk/programmes-strategies/arts-and-culture/diversity-public-realm/memorial-victims-transatlantic-slavery/sites-memory>

A wide range of organisations are encouraged to apply, including those who may not have previous experience of public funding.

Submit an Expression of Interest by Friday 3 July.” [taken from email]

#### **“Culture Priority Places”**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dcms-place-targeting/culture-priority-places>

(Source: Community Libraries Network *Newsletter*, Jun 2026)

List of places included in “Priority Places”:

“Many cultural programmes supported by DCMS investment contribute to some social and community outcomes, alongside other outcomes relating to culture and growth, and we have therefore developed a set of Culture Priority Places, guided by the broader DCMS approach to place targeting. This list has been developed specifically for application (where appropriate) in programmes relating to museums, libraries, the visual and performing arts.”

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

### “Public Libraries of Refuge”

<https://bellacaledonia.org.uk/2026/06/22/public-libraries-of-refuge/>

(Source: LinkedIn)

Interesting post:

“Kirsten MacQuarrie and Kavan P Stafford discuss libraries as spaces for refuge and solidarity in times of social crisis.”

Kirsten edited *Feminist librarianship: principles, practices and provocations*

(see: <https://www.facetpublishing.co.uk/page/detail/feminist-librarianship/?k=9781783308033>), and Kavan wrote *Public libraries and*

*homelessness: a practical guide* (see:

<https://facetpublishing.com/page/detail/public-libraries-and-homelessness/?k=9781783307760>).

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

### **Steering the ship: building an economy that works for society**

<https://progressiveeconomyforum.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/01-SteeringTheShip-DIGITAL.pdf>

(Source: email from The Equality Trust, 16 Jun 2026)

Just in case you haven't seen this interesting paper published in May:

“This paper explores three interconnected structural faults that lie at the roots of Britain's increasingly broken economy and fragile society. These are: the growth of unproductive and pro-rich forms of wealth accumulation, a return towards wealth and income concentrations of the past, and a shift from democratic and social control over the economy to elite and unaccountable financial institutions and individuals. Together these forces have brought both an economic slowdown and widened the gap between economic activity and high social value.” [p3]

## LGBTQ+ issues – Other Agencies

### **My love all love excels: the remarkable life and times of 17th-century poet, Katherine Philips**

Important new book by Norena Shopland (whom many of you will know for her work on “[...] diverse history with books including *Forbidden Lives: LGBT stories from Wales* which celebrates Welsh LGBTQ+ history [see:

<https://www.serenbooks.com/book/forbidden-lives/>], and *A History of Women in Men's Clothes: from cross-dressing to empowerment*. [see: <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/A-History-of-Women-in-Mens-Clothes-Hardback/p/19087>”

[Taken from website]

“Katherine Philips: the first woman to have a play commercially produced; a seventeenth-century poet writing about love, society and relationships during the tumultuous years of the English Civil War. But as with many early women writers, she has been largely forgotten by

historians, and she slipped into obscurity a few decades after her death in 1664.

She lived in violent times; a Royalist while her husband was a Parliamentarian. With the restoration of the monarchy she faced a choice, leave him to his fate or save him. Yet it is her love for two Welsh women that dominated Katherine's life, and these relationships were writ large in her poems to the point where scandal, detailed for the first time in this book, threatened to destroy her reputation."

NB Charged-for publication

Info about the book at: <https://www.parthianbooks.com/collections/new-releases/products/my-love-all-love-excels-the-remarkable-life-and-times-of-17th-century-poet-katherine-philips-hardback>.

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

**"Information Austerity Threatens the Future of Library Work. Let's Teach Future Librarians to Fight Back."**

[https://katinamagazine.org/content/article/future-of-work/2026/information-austerity-and-lis-education?utm\\_campaign=7025437\\_Fortnightly%2017%20June%20-%20MEMBER&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm\\_i=6WFS\\_46KV1,9VBO9,B32J5,1,0,0,0](https://katinamagazine.org/content/article/future-of-work/2026/information-austerity-and-lis-education?utm_campaign=7025437_Fortnightly%2017%20June%20-%20MEMBER&utm_medium=email&utm_source=The%20Chartered%20Institute%20of%20Library%20and%20%20Information%20Professionals&dm_i=6WFS_46KV1,9VBO9,B32J5,1,0,0,0)

(Source: *News from CILIP*, 17 Jun 2026)

Interesting and important post:

"Information austerity arises when the conditions needed for people to access accurate information are systematically destroyed by three reinforcing governance failures: fiscal austerity that defunds libraries and eliminates information professionals; deregulation that lets platforms profit from misinformation without accountability; and ideological governance (book bans, censorship campaigns) that restricts what information can be accessed on partisan grounds. This is austerity in the political-economic sense, an engineered scarcity that serves particular interests while shifting the costs of navigating an increasingly hostile information environment onto individuals, families, and the very institutions being starved."

The article concludes:

" If we want graduates who will challenge platform power, defend intellectual freedom, and resist the managed obsolescence of the profession, then we have to be willing to do those things ourselves, in our research, in our public writing, and in the institutional spaces where decisions about the future of library work get made. The students watching us are learning not only what we teach but what we are willing to say and do."

## Broader issues – Other Agencies

**“Britain’s reading revival may be failing to reach those most disconnected from books”**

[https://theconversation.com/britains-reading-revival-may-be-failing-to-reach-those-most-disconnected-from-books-284019?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%203%202026%20-%203792238837&utm\\_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%203%202026%20-%203792238837+CID\\_34ca2b80e9b0cc4203013e9799de4889&utm\\_source=campaign\\_monitor\\_uk&utm\\_term=Britains%20reading%20revival%20may%20be%20failing%20to%20reach%20those%20most%20disconnected%20from%20books](https://theconversation.com/britains-reading-revival-may-be-failing-to-reach-those-most-disconnected-from-books-284019?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%203%202026%20-%203792238837&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20June%203%202026%20-%203792238837+CID_34ca2b80e9b0cc4203013e9799de4889&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=Britains%20reading%20revival%20may%20be%20failing%20to%20reach%20those%20most%20disconnected%20from%20books)

(Source: *The Conversation*, 4 Jun 2026)

Interesting article:

“This renewed focus matters. At a time when concerns about declining reading are widespread, celebrating reading as joy, immersion and connection remains important.

Yet these conversations often make me think less about books themselves than about the type of reader they focus on. Much discussion around reading for pleasure begins with people who already possess a relationship with books: their favourite novels, formative reading experiences and longstanding habits. This presumes they already have the confidence to see themselves as readers.

Less visible are those for whom reading stopped feeling natural much earlier.”

It then goes on to outline “[...] adult reading re-engagement through a digitally delivered book club for readers and writers across more than 90 prisons in England and Wales.”