ILC Friday three - 21 July 2023

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International Longevity Centre UK

Latest news

ILC Friday three

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Solution of the week - should all cities appoint a "heat tsar"?



A number of people have asked us recently why our Healthy Ageing and Prevention Index considers environmental performance as one of six key healthy ageing metrics. As argued by speakers at ILC's joint webinar with the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, climate change and ageing are inextricably linked and are arguably the two most important and pressing issues facing the world today. Both require visions for the long term and an urgent interconnected and collaborative approach. If we don't start addressing both together, real threats and inequalities in healthy ageing and environmental impact will be exacerbated.

It has been 17 years since Al Gore and Davis Guggenheim's An Inconvenient Truth, five years since Greta Thunberg's school strikes began yet people are still having to resort to supergluing themselves to main roads or disrupting sporting events in an attempt to garner action. However, although we're still seemingly far away from

Globally, over five million people a year die due to excessive hot or cold temperatures and increasingly more due to heat. During extreme heat events, our bodies have to work harder to stay cool resulting in headaches, nausea, respiratory problems and heat strokes, among other health issues. It is particularly dangerous when temperatures stay warm overnight, providing people with no opportunity for relief. The mental and physical health impacts of the heat are felt most by the urban poor, young children and older people - exacerbating existing health inequalities.

In response to increasingly frequent and extreme heat events, cities like Phoenix, Arizona in the US; Freetown in Sierra Leone; and Dhaka in Bangladesh have all appointed chief heat officers – or "heat tsars". The heat officers are employed as part of heat-ready campaigns including outreach, awareness raising and infrastructure projects from building bus shelters to tree planting. This is a sticking plaster solution unlikely to stop any tides but perhaps a sign that one is turning.

What do you think? Since the start of the year, we've been highlighting examples of policy and practice which could help us adapt to increased longevity. And we've had a great response, with many of you sending us their solutions - thank you. We will collate ideas into a plan for the next Government and launch it at our Future of Ageing Conference on 7 December 2023. So, what do you think? Do you have different or better ideas? Let us know via events@ilcuk.org.uk

READ MORE

De-ageing Indy - what does AI mean for the film industry's future?



There has been much made of the theme around male age in the final 'Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny' film. It begins with the eponymous hero, played by a de-aged Harrison Ford in 1944, battling rather tired Nazi stereotypes, at which point his character is around 45. The film then jumps ahead decades to 1969, the story's present and Indy now has an on-screen age of 70, digital enhancement clearly absent.

age from the start, 'It's not the years honey, it's the mileage', he said to his future-on screen wife Marion Ravenwood (Karen Allen), as she bandaged his wounds in Raiders of the Lost Ark. Yet what is curiously absent from the fifth film is the age debate around Marion. Rather than being de-aged like Indy and back to drinking others under the table, all fabulous frying pan weaponry and machine guns, she has been hurtled far into older age for a cameo role at the end of the film. By ILC's calculations, her screen age for Dial of Destiny should be 60 but is made to look older than she is off-screen. And her potential co-starring role was taken by a younger model in the shape of a "god-daughter" Helena Shaw (Phoebe Waller-Bridge).

Of more serious concern, of course, is the starring role of AI which has turned digital de-ageing from something that requires months of highly skilled artists to something that people can do on their phones. We will presumably soon be able to see Marilyn Monroe, River Phoenix and Chadwick Boseman resurrected again - a prospect that is at once as glorious as it is terrifying. And these recycled actors will be able to work 24/7 and go without food, drink, or contracts - concerns about which screen actors and writers are protesting. With the speed at which generative AI is developing, the industry - and all of us - are likely to face more than just a few wrinkles.

The ILC is planning to do further work on the development and potential of generative AI across the life course - do let us know, via the button below, any thoughts you might have, especially any policy solutions.

LET US KNOW

ILC Trustees - a refreshed Board with a wealth of talent



Last week we were delighted to welcome all our Trustees - old and new - to spend a day at ILC's new office at The Foundry. It was a fantastic day offering the team a chance to say a proper thank you to Kevin Bounds, Martin Green, Diane Kenwood, Jackie Morris, Alyson Scurfield, and Deborah Sturdy who are standing down after many years of excellent support - and to welcome some fantastic fresh faces. And we've just this week formally announced that Nigel Waterson has been appointed as

Professor Martin Green OBE, ILC's outgoing Chair said "The ILC has appointed outstanding new Trustees, who together with the skills knowledge and experience of the existing Board, and under the leadership of Nigel Waterson and David Sinclair, will be able to take the ILC into an even more successful future. it was an enormous honour for me to Chair the ILC, and I know the new Chair, Board and Executive will lead the organisation into a new era."

Nigel Waterson has been a Trustee of the ILC since 2010. He was formerly a Conservative MP and Shadow Pensions Minister and Shadow Minister for Older People. He was also a long-serving Chair of the All Party Group for Older People at Westminster. Nigel has said "I am honoured and excited to be taking on this role, leading a refreshed and reinvigorated trustee board. As we start the countdown to the next Election, the ILC has a vital role in ensuring politicians of all parties are fully informed on the issues around longevity".

In addition to Nigel, the other members of the ILC's Board of Trustees are Sanjeev Chhugani, Shaun Crawford, Alexander Evans, Tim Fassam, Paul Green, Jean Jackson, Sue Lewis, Helene Panzarino, Glyn Ryland, Annabel Scarfe MBE, Janet Sutherland, and Pol Vandenbroucke. For more about each of them please see ILC's press release or on the 'Our People' page via the button below.

ILC TRUSTEES

There will be no Friday three next week as the editor takes a well-deserved break.

To keep up-to-date with ILC events throughout the year, please continue to check our website on a regular basis.

Future of Ageing 2023 takes place on Thursday 7 December. If you haven't got your ticket yet, please register here.

Please follow us on social media via the links below for our latest news and event updates.

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