



FEBRUARY 2018

## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR LIBRARIES



### Hello

Welcome to the February 2018 of my Manchester Libraries Bulletin.

This bulletin will provide you with some highlights of what's been going on in the libraries around the city. So much has been happening in February to serve our residents and visitors, and meet the needs of the people and the communities of Manchester.

**Councillor Luthfur Rahman**  
**Executive Member for**  
**Schools, Culture and Leisure**

### **Illuminate: What an amazing way to use a library**

Library Live, funded by Arts Council England Grants for the Arts, has continued to push the boundaries of what Manchester libraries can be, in phase two of the funded programme.

In November, the specially commissioned, *Illuminate*, by Company Chameleon saw Central Library transformed through dance & movement. At the end of January, Chameleon toured extracts from the piece to Longsight, North City and Wythenshawe Forum Library. All were sold-out.



It was inspiring to see Company Chameleon make the different library spaces their stage. The events succeeded in engaging local communities with something different and new, and bringing new people into the buildings. Libraries are creative spaces, where you can enjoy arts and culture on your doorstep. In total nearly 700 attended *Illuminate* and over 90% rated the performances as four or five stars.

Here's what some of the audience had to say.

Longsight Library: "Loved that the art of dance was brought to me locally free of charge. This helps to break down the idea that art is only for the middle class/rich."

North City Library: "Perfect. Very moving and entertaining. Accessible for all people and child friendly."



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## International Mother Language Day

With almost 200 languages spoken, it's apt that Manchester's first event as UNESCO City of Literature celebrated language diversity. International Mother Language Day is a worldwide initiative held annually to promote multilingualism and linguistic cultural identity. Activities were held at four packed-out libraries in February.



### Longsight Library

Celebrations were held in partnership with Greater Manchester Bangladeshi Association Bangla School and local school Stanley Grove Primary Academy (SGPA). It was an afternoon of performance and language themed arts. Incredible dancing and poetry from the Bangla School students much to the joy and applause of a huge audience of family, friends and customers. 7yr old Arisha said "poems and dancing were my favourite" Mimensis, a Yorkshire based dance and musician duo retold the Peacock & Crane fable through interactive performance linking into the library's exhibits on loan from Manchester Museum.

The museum made colourful peacocks with families. Stanley Grove PA's full-time artist Emma Martin engaged local Longsight schools to take lines of a poem and rewrite in as many other languages as they could. This then created an exquisitely beautiful installation piece across the front windows of the library. The poems from a poetry book *The Same Inside* explore the themes of empathy and friendship.



Poet, Matt Goodfellow did a lively and fun reading.

*"Poems were brilliant, I bought a poetry boo and Matt signed it!!*  
Reported six year old Safa.

Multi-lingual Manchester (part of Manchester University) students bought together a wealth of language themed activities including mapping community languages. Creative writing took place with Young Muslim Writers. Another participant had the following to say; *"We enjoyed the event. Library always gives us opportunity to observe different things that we can't access. Thank you library"*

### Forum Library

A high energy celebration of language took place in Wythenshawe where people enjoyed music, spoken word, stories and crafts.



The day started with a multi-language banner workshop, to represent different cultures and languages - the library looked amazing when the completed banner was displayed.

The Afro-tots group did a beautiful interactive presentation about Africa through song and energetic dance moves.

The Bridgewater Hall joined for the afternoon with a song workshop plus Creole musician Papa Sam Alafia was a treat for visitors. One customer said *"That was so lovely, I got to do all my work on the computer with the fabulous music in the background."*

The day came to an end with The Language and Culture of Bangladesh group telling traditional stories through dance and music - this was stunning to watch.



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## Central library

International Mother Language Day was celebrated with families enjoying stories in the decorated storytelling tent, including tales in English Polish, Italian, French.

Children had the chance to try out some traditional Russian crafts plus a selection of sweets and biscuits from a wide range of countries. The afternoon was filled with music from the Kora an instrument originating in Nigeria.

Brightly coloured African hair wraps were also on offer and we collected greetings from our visitors in their mother languages.

One parent commented about how much her children enjoyed the event and how much they just wanted to stay all afternoon.

## North City Library

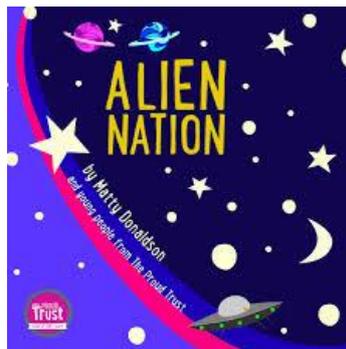
Harpurhey children and families had an amazing time celebrating International Mother Language Day at North City Library, one of our #McrCreativeSpaces. Children listened to multilingual library staff held a stories with the Baby Goz picturebook and played Snap in Spanish. We created a *Once Upon A Time...* story in the Dutch, English, Mandarin, Twi (Ghanaian) and Czech languages. Tomas led children in a Portuguese drumming workshop and Dr Gaya taught us traditional dances with Hindi and Tamil languages. Over 100 children & adults joined in the fun.

## Code-A-Drone workshop Forum Library

Saint Paul's Catholic High School, joined us with some year 9 students, for a Code-A-Drone workshop with Mako Education. The children enjoyed a coding session with the added fun of trying to code the Drones to fly and land and do tricks. The children did amazingly well, and it all got very competitive as they worked in teams, taking it in turn to complete the set tasks.

## LGBT History Month at the Avenue Library

Children from E-Act Academy in Blackley joined us for a visit by Library staff and Matty Donaldson from the Proud Trust.



Matty is the co-author of *Alien Nation* storybook which introduces children to gender diversity in a funny, kind and inclusive way.

Children very much enjoyed the interactive story and clearly took on board the elements of respect, freedom of choice and

equality which the story depicts. Head Ms Roughley said "Thanks for this amazing session – the children loved it so much – when can we have another visit for our other children?"



After two hours of hard but very exciting work, 18 happy children left the library asking when the next session is, one boy said "*It was the best ever, I am coming back when you have more stuff like this.*"

## Grand Day Out Chorlton Library

The Grand Day Out group at Chorlton, (part of Manchester's Age Friendly initiative) took off to see Concorde at Manchester Airport's aviation park.

After enjoying lunch in The Concorde Coffee House, they were shown around the aeroplane, sitting in the seats, and a chance to view the flight deck.

The group enjoyed the afternoon and on leaving were issued with their own certificate stating they have boarded Concorde.



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## Arcadia Library

February was Arcadia Library's two-year anniversary and to celebrate the library and leisure centre produced yet another fun-filled day with loads to do for all.

Circus House taught circus skills including spinning plates and diablo. There were also DJ skill sessions, yoga, free gym sessions face-painting, tombola, coding, bingo and lots of chocolate cake and tea provided by Levenshulme's older people's group.

Artist, Mandy Cleveland, turned children into magical creatures by making wings and unicorn horns.

Archives+ brought green screen and iPads loaded with photos of Levenshulme from "back in the day", much to the delight of MP Afzal Khan, the Lord Mayor and local Cllrs. Our lovely rainbow coloured selfie frames were brought out in support of LGBT History month.

It was a lovely day full of smiles and well-being... roll on Feb 2019!

## Central Library's Big Weekend - 16-18 Feb

There's so much to do and see in Central Library, and lots of new activities to try. Over just one weekend during February .....

### Boogie at the silent disco

The best way to spend a Friday evening – with 400 ravers at Central Library's latest silent disco.

DJ John Ryan from Retro Silent Disco span the classic hits from the 70s, 80s and 90s, with several channels to choose.



### Drag Queen Storytime!

On Saturday, Queer Contact and The Family Gorgeous presented their first Drag Queen Storytime at Central Library, to a sell-out audience. It is exactly what it sounds like - drag queens reading stories to kids.



The aim is to capture the freedom of childhood and give children positive, gender fluid role models in a world where people can present as they wish and dress up is real.



## Celebrate the Year of the Dog!

Nearly 2000 people joined on Sunday us for a celebration of Chinese arts, crafts and culture. The day began with a traditional Chinese Lion dance at the front of the library, to bring good luck for the new year.



Central Library had musicians, storytellers, artists and activities for all the family, and visitors could soak up the atmosphere with traditional Chinese music, art and dance. We were joined by the Confucius Institute of Manchester University and actress FenFen Huang for an afternoon packed full of Chinese traditions.



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**Bulletin**

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