



June 2018

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR LIBRARIES



Hello

Welcome to the June 2018 edition 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 in the last month. So much has been happening to serve our residents and visitors, and meet the needs of the people and the communities of Manchester.

Councillor Lutfur Rahman
Executive Member for
Schools, Culture and Leisure

Volunteers in our libraries

I had the pleasure of speaking at the Libraries Volunteer Celebration event at Central Library this month, featured below. The event was a highlight for us, of National Volunteers Week.



I am so proud of the contributions that our volunteers make to the library service and to their local community.

Around 400 people volunteered at a library in the city over the past 12 months. The range of support they offer is amazing, and includes, supporting people with their use of ICT, helping to run community libraries, digitizing photograph collections, running reading groups and helping at events. Our libraries are the beating heart of our communities, and our volunteers are an integral part.

Many of our volunteers have found work because of their time volunteering at libraries – indeed some are now employed within libraries.

Thank you again to those who have contributed their time to their local library.



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Empathy Day

Empathy day was celebrated on 12 June, and our libraries held a week of celebration.

All libraries had empathy themed storytimes. Forum Library created an interactive hand drawn emotion display plus a discussion and film show.



Children filled out 'acts of kindness' activity sheets. Brooklands library even had one child return to the library with his completed sheet plus a book he had made with drawings and photos to demonstrate how he had done his acts of kindness.

Burnage Library had the pleasure of author Alan McDonald, local primary school St Bernard's enjoyed an interactive thought provoking session with him.



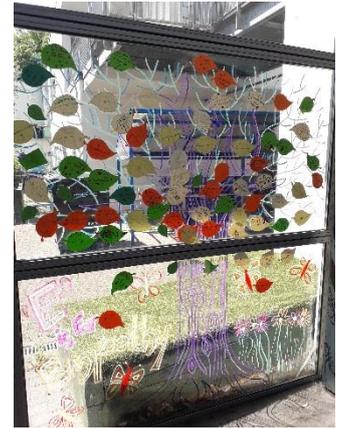
It was amazing to experience the kind, considerate & empathic future generation of adults coming our way.

Author Alan MacDonald visited Arcadia Library and ran a session with St Andrews C of E pupils. Alan is the author of the ever popular *Dirty Bertie* and *Trolls* series of children's books. The visit ended with a timely observation and reflection in a minute's silence for Grenfell.

Empathy Trees made an appearance in our libraries and children and families were invited to write and leave messages on the leaves of the tree.

"You have to live your life in a good way" Be kind to everybody and smile at everyone even if you don't know them.

Never say never, remember that you are beautiful just the way you are!" and "always help people who get hurt and sad"



St John's C of E year 6 came to Longsight Library and made comics around themes of empathy using iPads. They explored emotive scenarios through discussion, storyboarding, acting and photography, turning all their work into comics.

One teacher commented about how absorbed and focused the young people were. All children were given a copy of their comic and left with a Random Acts of Kindness checklist.





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Moss Side Powerhouse and Longsight Library showed the popular Pixar movie that celebrates the importance of all our emotions: Inside Out and followed the film with an activity making fortune tellers with messages of kindness.

All in all a fantastic and most lovely week.

Wythenshawe Comic-Con

The Forum hosted the first ever Wythenshawe Comic Convention which was a fantastic day packed with activities.

The Library held a Super Hero Lego club and green screen session that allowed people to be in a comic, this proved to be very popular.

Visitors also had the opportunity to have a go at interactive games, have a photograph taken at Jurassic Park gates with a dinosaur, and enter a Super Hero costume competition to mention but a few of the amazing things going on.



Arun Ghosh at Gorton

Gorton library was delighted to host international jazz musician Arun Ghosh for the second of two Ministry of Lost and Found teaser events.

Invited to come make some noise with Arun, the children learned about how to use the rhythms of their own voices to develop their own drum beats.

Using call and response with voice and percussion the session was great fun but also challenged the children to listen and respond to each other to make songs.

Children and accompanying adults were all delighted with what they learnt. One girl even stayed on beyond the scheduled end of the session to join library staff.

Arun and Jude from Z Arts in a 20 minute drumming circle which she led, whilst the adults built upon her beats and rhythms. The event and the day at Gorton fed into the larger Ministry of Lost and Found event at Central Library.

BIPC at the Manchester Youth Market

In June Central Library's Business & IP Centre took part in the Manchester Youth Market in the city centre.

The Youth Market is co-funded by Manchester City Council & the WeLoveMcr charity which provides advice & support to 16 - 30 year old Manchester residents that have a business idea for a market stall.



The BIPC team met many potential entrepreneurs and explained how they support start-ups and small businesses across the city.

We've been strong supporters of the Youth Market from the beginning and it was great to see so many young traders selling a range of arts, crafts and food.

The day also included a screen printing workshop, digital skills training sessions from the Google Digital garage, live music from local emerging musicians provided by the charity Brighter Sound a sneak preview of one of the Bee In The City bee sculptures produced by local artist Tony Brady.



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The Ministry of Lost and Found at Central Library

Saturday 23 June saw Central Library taken over by the Ministry of Lost and Found. Children, adults and families were immersed in live music, theatre, workshops, treasure hunts and wacky quests.

There was certainly something for everyone from the hilarious and entertaining interactions with the Lost and Found crew to the peace and serenity of the Reading Room where you could weave, do yoga or just sit and take in the calming music and the beautiful surroundings.



The day flew by as families visited the many activity stations across Central Library. There was even an inflatable igloo where tiny tots could chill.

At the end of the afternoon visitors and artists alike gathered together in the library to celebrate some of the music created on the day and everyone sang, danced or banged instruments. A great way to end with a feeling of true community spirit. Let's do it again!



Volunteers Week Celebration

Central Library hosted a lively and well-attended Volunteer Celebration event for Manchester Libraries and Archives Volunteers as part of the national celebrations during Volunteers Week in June.

The event was attended by over 60 volunteers from Central Library and neighbourhood libraries across the city, along with special guests Councillor Rahman and the Lord Mayor of Manchester. Volunteers attending included IT those who meet and greet visitors to Central Library, support the Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society, run Storytime sessions and Reading Hack volunteers who support the Summer Reading Challenge.

Volunteers were treated to afternoon refreshments followed by a Manchester quiz, a "backstage" tour of Central Library, a rare Archive handling opportunity, and an interactive session with a World War II Living History character.

Two long-serving volunteers were given special awards presented by Councillor Rahman and the Lord Mayor. Pat Scappaticci was given a Macmillan Long Service Award having supported the Manchester Libraries Macmillan project, and Edward Kane was celebrating being a volunteer at Abraham Moss library for over 25 years. Both Pat and Edward were thrilled to receive their awards and this was a fantastic opportunity to thank all of our volunteers who give so much time and contribute so much to enhancing the libraries and archives service



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