



March – April 2018

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR LIBRARIES



Hello

Welcome to the March/April 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. 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

The beating hearts of our communities

Manchester has always loved its public libraries. We opened the first public library in the country in 1852.

Libraries are more important to city than ever.

Central Library has received over 1.5 million visitors in the last year.

Our 22 libraries offer so much more than books. Today our libraries are the beating hearts of our communities.

Libraries are community hubs which serve residents needs and improve the life of so many in so many ways.

This includes:

- Helping make children ready for school
- Improving literacy for young and old
- Being a social lifeline for old people
- Helping people to thrive in the digital world
- Improving the health and wellbeing of our residents
- Giving access to cultural events and activities

Our libraries are vibrant spaces welcoming and well used by all ages. A wide range of fun and creative activities create a buzz throughout the city. You will see this from the following events and activities that took place in March and April.

The possibilities are endless at Manchester Libraries!



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Legacy of Ahmed at Avenue Library

In March, Libraries and the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Education Trust held classes with children from E-Act Academy in Blackley, to learn about Ahmed, a young Manchester boy murdered in the playground of his Burnage school.



After taking part in an art project looking at their roots, their families and themselves, children discussed how important it is that we learn how to act against racism and inequality. The Legacy of Ahmed is an exhibition depicting Ahmed's story and the Education Trust which helped Ahmed's family build a school in Bangladesh.

Teachers said the children really enjoyed the lessons and were very engaged with the issues. The Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre is located in Central Library, and is an Archives+ partner.

World Book Day in Abraham Moss Library

Snow storms didn't stop children celebrating World Book Day 2-18! Beswick, Abraham Moss and Avenue Library all hosted visits from schoolchildren in all sorts of fancy dress who enjoyed the free gift books they were able to take home from their Library visits.

Lots of great titles were on offer this year as always and children eagerly chose their favourites such as these Year 5 children from E-Act Blackley Academy.



Micro: bit Magic at Newton Heath Library

Eager Code Club kids at Newton Heath Library were extremely keen to experiment with the BBC Micro bits we have as part of our Wolfson-funded digital activities.

The devices are simple to programme and can be linked up to more complex projects, challenging children's problem-solving skills as well as teaching IT literacy.



Big Ideas Day at Central Library

Over 500 people attended Big Ideas Day - a micro festival for start-ups and entrepreneurs at Manchester Central Library in March. The day was a celebration of the year-long Big Ideas Generator project across Greater Manchester, developed and operated by Manchester Libraries.



With a packed programme of free workshops, talks, advice, support and inspiration for Manchester start-ups, the day was a massive success. Workshops covered the basics of intellectual property plus market research plus learning how to present the perfect pitch.

The performance space was full for the Dragon's Den style pitching sessions where six aspiring entrepreneurs made business presentations to a panel of local business people. There was also the opportunity to try 3D printing, make electronic music and learn about the Internet of Things in a special Ideas Room.





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International Women's Day at Beswick Library

To mark this special International Women's Day in the centenary of women's suffrage, Beswick Library held a special event for local schoolchildren. St Barnabas Year 6 children joined in our "Dear Friend" creative writing project. Artist Sylvia Kolling introduced the students to a letter-writing project celebrating our Manchester heroines - they had to write a letter explaining how inspirational that woman was to them and persuasively inviting them to visit St Barnabas School.



Amongst the children's heroines were Jacqueline Wilson, musician Ariana Grande, US black female astronaut Mae Gemison and inspirational community leader Mancunian Kath Locke. Selected letters produced by the students will be included on the Dear Friend.org.uk website and Sylvia is planning a display in Beswick Library.

International Women's Day Didsbury Library

Didsbury Library celebrated International Women's Day with an afternoon tea event, we had a display with the Press for Progress posters and selfie cards, and this provoked lots of lively conversation. Tea and cakes were also enjoyed, and a lovely afternoon was had by all.

This Vibrant Thing at Forum Library, Wythenshawe

The library was transformed into a vibrant festival of great culture, from free-runners to live music. Library visitors embraced it with love and appreciation. We also got the chance to welcome new customers and show off the library as a great venue for all forms of culture.

People enjoyed amazing local talent such as Mica Millar and Jardel, backed by the excellent band 8 Gold Rings. There were lots of opportunities to get arty with a mix of workshops including canvas painting, Zine, badge making, and the beautiful Build a World in a Book. As we had free food served through the event people could spend the full time with us enjoying all that was on offer.

"Fantastic event. Lots of great activities, felt really relaxed and welcoming. It's great to see people coming together and enjoying themselves. The perfect example of what libraries should be. Thank you."



World Book Day at Chorlton

We had author Rob Biddulph join us for World Book Day at Chorlton, plus children from Oswald Road Primary School and Chorlton C of E. Rob Biddulph spoke about following your dreams, as he had to become an author and Illustrator.



He was very inspirational. The children responded well with lots of exciting career choices & plans. The children enjoyed listening to extracts from his books, such as Kevin and Odd Dog Out.





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BBC Get Creative at Gorton Library

March saw Gorton Library celebrating BBC Get Creative with local families and Manchester based artist Mandy Cleveland.

Mandy's colourful and eclectic style lent itself naturally to the making of Giant Dream Catchers and celebrated the slow arrival of spring with customised plant pots.



The lovely thing about these events is that not only are families encouraged to try something new – they also get to take home their beautiful creations.

Children and parents were equally in the creative zone making and chatting about their creations. And you couldn't help but feel that this type of creativity feeds into a sense of well-being.

One youngster commented *"I love it here, it is so fun and you make good friends and you make new things every time"*.

This Vibrant Thing at Longsight Library

Freezing weather didn't put off over 500 mainly young people attending "This Vibrant Thing". The library had a very definite festival feel to it, with a performance area being the focal point of the day.

Young vibrant talent was the order of the day with Eight Gold Rings providing a backdrop of beautiful music plus wordsmiths and MC's such as Abnormal Sleepz and Young Identity. Isaiah Hull hosted the event, much to the joy of his very evident fan base.

The Proud trust's Hebe Philips ran a zine-making workshops and zines are currently on display in the library, for anyone who'd like to check them out. The Bangladesh Women's Organisation Youth Group created a beautiful exhibition of jewellery visual art pieces and decorated the outside of the library with their poem Love for All.

For the younger audience Nicola Norton led an interactive "I am a Storybook" performance. Highlights of the day were too many to list but here's a: A room full of children serenely practising yoga with Cat Teague. The group of young mums and their babies rapt by the performances. The library having so many young people supporting and enjoying and sharing their talent with their peers.

In the words of one participant audience member *"Bruh, this was dope. Well done!"*

Never be bored at Newton Heath



Newton Heath Library now has a brilliant range of activities for children and families with a new Lego Club plus a new arts and crafts club every Saturday. Activities include junk modelling, green screen fun, stop motion animation, story making, puppets and lots more. At Sky High Day in April, kids created large-scale junk model rockets and cardboard towering villages decorated with colourful balconies and windows, plus a Tower of Lego!

A recent bid for Community Giving Back funds from GM Police was successful in raising £2,500 which will finance activities for children, families and young people in and around Newton Heath Library to combat anti-social behaviour and encourage community cohesion.



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Mighty Hearts in Cheetham, and Crumpsall

Royal Exchange artists Sam and Lisa from Mighty Heart Theatre have made such a great connection to the people of Cheetham and Crumpsall that they have continued their work at Abraham Moss Library.



They held several workshops over the Easter holidays with Crumpsall Crafters making an embroidery applique tapestry of Cheetham Hill. There were drama workshops for families and children exploring games.

Their work brought a warm positive vibe to the library during chilly April weather. Crumpsall Crafters have asked them to lead their project for the July GM Festival of Ageing.

Hulme High Street has a buzzing Easter

Hulme High Street Library was buzzing during the Easter holidays making spring themed animals. We had a lot of Bunny Rabbits ears, Bumble bees and Caterpillars templates to decorate and there was a nice big group of local families in attendance.

The children participating were really creative and came out with

all sorts! They had a great time posing with their creations.

Isiah's quote sums it up *"This activity was the best thing of my life. It has bumble bees, rabbits and caterpillars to colour in, and the best bit is, it's free for everyone"*.



Noah's A.R.T at Barlow Moor Community Library

Barlow Moor had the pleasure of a visit from Noah's A.R.T, an Animal assisted therapy group, known as Pets helping people. The children from the Holiday club, the over 60's group and centre visitors all enjoyed interacting with the Rabbits, Rats, Guinea Pigs and Dogs. The Animals brought energy and humour to the session, and helped the children and adults strike up common ground for conversation, animals really do engage and relax people.

Mouse the dog was a real star with his friendly, confident nature approaching all and showing of with his tricks.

Barbra the Guinea Pig stole the show, with her instant connection with one of the regular ladies to the over 60 group, they both enjoyed a long cuddle and talk.



Chorlton Library TravelLab

We had a very successful TravelLab event at Chorlton Library, TravelLab is ran by the STEM volunteers from The University of Manchester. It is a programme specially put together for Manchester Libraries, to run high quality science based family events.

The theme was coding, and activities included - Building your own Computer game, Create Models using 3D Pens, Robot colouring and with the help of the Robogals – Programme your own Robot.

All activities proved very popular, with fantastic feedback and families leaving asking when is the next event, luckily this was the first of four so families left with a programme of the upcoming TravelLab events.