



July 2018

# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR LIBRARIES



## Hello

Welcome to the July 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 Luthfur Rahman**  
**Executive Member for**  
**Schools, Culture and Leisure**

## Children in our libraries

Our libraries have been of excited children this July, as they are during every summer holiday for the annual Summer Reading Challenge. This initiative challenges children aged 4-11 to read any six books is proven to prevent a summer dip in children's literacy levels. This year's challenge is entitled Mischief Makers and is proving extremely popular with our younger residents. This bulletin features highlights of the challenge which takes place across all our libraries until September.

Following a successful pilot last year at Fallowfield Library we are running the Read and Feed scheme at Fallowfield Library, Gorton Library and North City Library. This initiative tackles 'holiday hunger' which can occur where children do not receive their free school meal during the summer holidays and engages children with the Summer Reading Challenge. The children who join the challenge at these libraries take part in activities and receive a free lunch each day.



Library use also helps massively with school-readiness. Every child in Manchester is given a library card at their birth registration. There are Tiny Tots and Toddler Times at each library, and the library service also co-ordinates the delivery of Bookstart in the city. It's never too early to introduce children to our magnificent libraries!



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## Mischief Makers – Summer Reading Challenge

### Longsight Library and The Big Book Bash.

The Big Book Bash is an annual activity that is part of Stanley Grove Primary Academy's ongoing commitment to linking creativity and literacy in the local community.



Library staff promoted the Summer Reading Challenge dressed as Dennis the Menace with a giant Gnasher and then delivered a fantastic hands on animation activity.



This year was very special as they joined forces with Manchester Children's Book Festival, taking the festival's funday activity out of the city centre into Longsight.

Nearly 200 people came to the library when the library joined up with Manchester Museum to read the book *A Lottie Lipton Adventure - the Egyptian Enchantment*. Children and families designed Shabtis which became the characters of their animations featuring Manchester Museum backdrops.



### Abraham Moss Library

Children from Abraham Moss Community School had a surprise visit to Abraham Moss Library as an end of term treat. "That Poetry Bloke" Craig Bradley paid us a whistlestop visit to build excitement for Mischief Makers. Children and teachers were hysterical with laughter at his rhyming antics and rhythmic tongue-twisters.



Craig touched all our hearts when he encouraged one young boy with severe hearing and visual impairments to stand up and help him recite "Three Young Fellers, They Felt Smart." It was great to see such an inclusive approach. Crumpsall kids are very keen readers and always keen to attend our summer activities.

### Gold Medals for Beswick Library kids



This year's Summer Reading Challenge has started quickly at Beswick – lots of children have already got their Gold Medals! Fingers crossed for that Grand Prize of a bike!



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## Science and Industry Museum at Beswick Library



East Manchester has had a great start to their buzzy summer activities with Jenny and Tom from Manchester Science and Industry Museum coming to Beswick Library to show us how to make paper-engineered bee puppets in a Hive. Lots of children from local schools such as Ashbury Meadow and Church of the Resurrection came to join the Summer Reading Challenge and the Bee workshop.



## Read and Feed

Read and Feed is a first for North City Library. The library is

hosting activities and a free lunch for kids to combat holiday hunger this summer when they get signed up for Mischief Makers.



## Bee in the City – Be a Reader!



We're buzzing to have teamed up with Bee in the City this summer. Come into Central Library and start ticking off the super-size and little bees in your trail map. You can find more bees at Didsbury, North City, Forum and Longsight libraries. Families are able to join the Bee a Reader Challenge from Read Manchester and pick up an entry form for our bee themed writing competition for 7-16 year olds.

## Forum and Didsbury libraries

The Forum and Didsbury Library are honoured to be - Bee in the City locations. The mini bees have been designed and created by local school children, youth groups/ Storytime groups and adult creative groups and are attracting lots of well-deserved attention.



You'll find Beatrice and Willow Garden in Didsbury Library, designed by the Didsbury storytime group, and Paint Pots adult art group, with finishing touches by local artists, Fi and Jo. We are absolutely delighted with our bees and very proud of all involved. It has been so nice seeing school children bring their families along to see and take a picture with their bees.





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## Greater Manchester Festival of Ageing

GM Festival of Ageing in early July saw lots of exciting things happening for older people in our Libraries. Libraries that hosted activities include Avenue Library, including the gorgeously colourful embroidery hoops by the Avenue Crafters who worked with textiles artist Mandy Beck-McKim to create a display for the library.



Mighty Heart Theatre were back with Crumpsall Craft Group to smash age-ist stereotypes. Artists Lisa and Sam are continuing their creative projects with the Cheetham and Crumpsall communities.



## Manchester International Festival at North City Library

We were very excited to have Manchester International Festival taster event at North City Library.

The Festival in My Neighbourhood Meet-Up had music, traditional dance and voices from Amani Creatives, an African Drumming workshop, tasty World food, plus a performance of favourite Abba tunes by the Grand Day Out elders group led by choir master Luke Crookes alongside singing library staff.



Customers were amazed and amused and bemused in turn by this joyful gathering. Many people joined in to sing along, and to hear about MIF's great invitation to host their own festival in their neighbourhoods.

## Retro Silent Disco at Central Library Friday 20th July.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> July saw the 4th Silent Disco at Central Library. It was another amazing evening with over 280 people dancing the night away.



People could choose a range of DJ Mixes including Northern Soul, Manchester Bands or Classic Summer Hits as DJ John Ryan from Retro Silent Disco kept the hits coming. The Silent Discos have proved increasingly popular and are a great way of bringing new audiences to Central Library and developing our Cultural Offer. Look out for our special Christmas Silent Disco this December!

