



August 2018

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR LIBRARIES



Hello

Welcome to the August 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

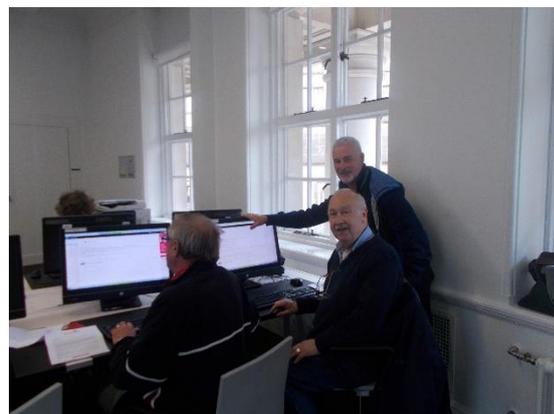
Libraries Supporting Digital Inclusion

Manchester's libraries are the beating heart of our communities. They are vibrant fun places, as shown by the stories in this bulletin.

They are also lifelines for many of our residents. One essential service that we offer is to support with digital inclusion. More and more services are only available online and some of our residents lack the access, confidence, skills or motivation to go online. Each of our 22 libraries offers free Internet access and free Wi-Fi.

We have skilled staff and volunteers who can offer support, and we have IT drop-in sessions at most libraries for those who need more in depth support.

Residents use our libraries to complete many types of online forms – for example universal credit and parking permit applications. We have also started supporting people with Visa applications.



This is an example of how our libraries are not only fun, vibrant places, but also vital for our residents' lives.



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Central Library

Sensory Story Time



Starting earlier this year, this Sensory story time is proving a hit. This session, held monthly on Saturday morning's is suitable for children with sensory or autistic spectrum needs. Each session consists of a story and 3 or 4 songs, and aims to be as visual as possible, using bubbles, sensory toys, props, instruments and mirrors. Feedback from parents has been very positive; "We really enjoyed today's session, particularly the singing and the space!"

The age group is 4-7 years, but we are flexible depending upon the individual needs of the child.

Comic Con



We were very proud to host the first Manchester Comics and Reading (MCR) Festival at

Central Library on Saturday 18th August.

Manchester Libraries worked with the team behind Oldham Comic Con to bring the first free Comic Con to Manchester. Highlights included a traditional comic fair, an anime/manga showcase and a cosplay event all rolled into one day. Over 2500 fans attended the festival to meet guest writers/illustrators, enjoy the comic trade and celebrate their fandom.



Didsbury Library Vibrant Saturday Morning

The weekly Lego club at Didsbury library has really taken off, the children love it, making the children's area a lively imaginative and busy space on a Saturday morning.



Our new Lego club volunteer has got stuck straight in, supporting and encouraging the children in all their great builds. Didsbury also has an interactive story & craft session – Athena's Owls, this sits well with the Lego club, giving children and families a fun packed morning.

Wythenshawe Comic Convention



The Forum hosted the first 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.



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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.

Crafty summer at Brooklands Library



Brooklands library have had a very creative summer, as well as all the wonderful Summer Reading Challenge activities there has been a craft table set up at all times. Children and families have loved this, what could be better choosing your

new books, using the internet, chatting with your friends and making a Unicorn mask, all in one place in one morning. FAB!

Chorlton Library Crafty Capers



Children got very imaginative and creative taking part in a Crafty Capers – Create your own comic book workshop, as always the children astonished us with their wonderful ideas, designs and enthusiasm, we had great stories such as Zap and his secret powers and The amazing Yellow Princess come to life. Keep your eye out in the future for these characters, and remember they first appeared at Chorlton Library.

Rainbow Playground

Manchester Libraries & Archives+ attended Rainbow Playground.



Rainbow Playground is a day's national festival celebrating all things LGBTQ for young people. The day was coordinated and led by Manchester's Proudtrust (LGBT + Youth) to have a young person focussed celebration of Pride. We took digital equipment along (ipads, microphones, greenscreens and tripods) providing a platform for young people to make a film that showed why it was important to have events such as Rainbow Playground & Pride. The interviews were conducted and devised by young people using a mixture of Archives+ photographs on green screen showing Manchester Section 28 demos etc. These were edited in a race against time to be shown at the Rainbow Playground after party at HOME. It was amazing to see the film on a big screen and be part of such a humbling experience listening to the voices of this generation's LGBT+ young people and the people who work with them. History in the making!! Look out for the film coming to the libraries blog page.



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Arcadia Library & Leisure Centre

Arcadia Library hosted some fun packed and educational animal themed Summer Reading Challenge activities.



The Dogs Trust visited with Little Mo, the loveliest of dog's who helped to deliver a story. Little Mo and her handler taught children & adults how to respectfully interact with dogs. *"Really helpful and enjoyable workshop for my 3 1/2yr old"*. In true Beano mischief style children and their parents/carers were entertained to a savoury cast of characters from the fantastic Zoolab folk. Giant millipedes, tarantula, massive snails, a constrictor snake and yes... a black rat were brought into Motley Zoo sessions!!!!

Active Tots sessions were delivered for under 5's giving both adults and littles ones a fun workout. One parent commented that *"it was great to have a chance for the children to really run and get active together whilst encouraging them to think about colour and shapes"*.

Read and Feed

100s of children have attended the Read and Feed scheme this summer at Fallowfield Library, Gorton Library & North City Library. This initiative tackles 'holiday hunger' and increases uptake of the Summer Reading Challenge. Children who join the challenge at these libraries take part in activities and receive a free lunch each day.



Lego Challenge at Newton Heath Library

Children and families from around Newton Heath and Miles Platting had a big surprise when Lego Master Builder Alex came to visit with the Museum of Science and Industry as part of their Year of Engineering celebrations.



He and Jenny from MSIM set kids a "Design A Playground" challenge to see how many original and fascinating ideas our families could build - they built slides, swings, zipwires roundabouts, towers & swimming pools - all with Lego! Alex was so impressed he gave each child a special prize - a chance to take home and keep their very own Lego models!

The Tempest whirls through Crumpsall!



Royal Exchange Theatre visited Abraham Moss Library to tempt our families and young people with the magic of theatre right in their own library. Original costumes & objects were available for children and adults to try out, plus a scale model of the Theatre & miniature props.

Library staff capture kids & adults trying on costumes against a Green Screen background of the actual theatre sets - really putting themselves on the stage! Families also had the chance to see the play and pay what they were able. Many people experienced Shakespeare for the 1st time.