



October 2018

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR LIBRARIES



Hello

Welcome to the October 2018 edition of my Manchester Libraries Bulletin.

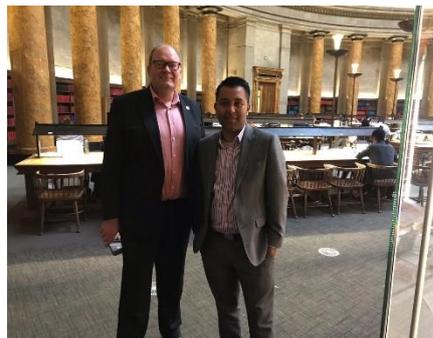
This bulletin will provide you with some highlights of what's been going on in the libraries around the city. So much has been happening to serve our residents and visitors, and meet the needs of the people and the communities of Manchester.

Councillor Luthfur Rahman
Executive Member for
Schools, Culture and Leisure

National Libraries Week

It was #librariesweek from 8th – 13th October. As always Manchester's libraries were full of events and activities.

I was privileged to host a visit of Darren Henley, Chief Executive of Arts Council England. He visited Manchester Central Library (pictured below in the magnificent reading room) and Longsight Library. Darren was so impressed with both libraries. Longsight Library is a perfect example of the library being the beating heart of its community. The library is always full, and people treat it as theirs. The library celebrated its 40th birthday this month.



The theme of this year's national libraries week was wellbeing. Using a library is good for you. As well as places to find information on health and wellbeing, reading makes you feel good. Libraries are also positive community venues, where people get together, socialise, have a chat, hold community meetings – they are lifelines for so many Manchester residents. This issue shows how much goes on in our libraries, and how so many of our residents' lives are made better through using their libraries.



October 2018

Festivals in Central Library

In addition to National Libraries Week, Central Library hosts a number of major festivals this month.

Black History Month

Events included the launch of local poet Shirley May's "She Wrote Her Own Eulogy", a screening of the documentary film "Generation Revolution" telling the powerful story of London's new generation of activists, and a visit from Professor Adams Bodomo, Head of African Studies at the University of Vienna who will be discussing Ghana's position in global politics and international relations.

Dashehra Diwali Mela 2018

Central Library was proud to host a contemporary celebration of the festivals of Dashehra and Diwali on Saturday 20 October.

Music, arts and crafts family workshops were held to make beautiful lanterns for the evening's procession in Albert Square, which was followed by a spectacular finale performance and firework display from Walk the Plank creative arts company.



EU Code week: FoxDog Studios

Libraries offer extensive Digital Training sessions and Code Clubs across the city, and to celebrate EU Code Week FoxDog Studios brought their critically-acclaimed Robot Chef show to Central Library. Fresh from their sold-out Edinburgh Fringe run, the tech comedy duo engaged the audience with baffling technology, music, and of course, an augmented reality, audience-controlled robot chef.



Manchester Literature Festival

Along with many visiting big names in literature, including Pat Barker, Carol Ann Duffy, Mohammed Hanif and Patrick Gale, events included a celebration of poet Ted Hughes; an evening with Terrance Hayes, one of America's most exciting and innovative poets; and a discussion of Ireland's #Repealthe8th and #Together4Yes campaigns with journalist Una Mullally, authors Sinéad Gleeson and Tara Flynn.

Manchester Science Festival

The Performance Space hosted an exhibition to discover the world of 11th century Arabian scientist, Ibn Al-Haytham. On the 23rd October people came to the Library to experience the thrill of science, from doodle pens to getting their hands on some libraries treasures.

The 7000 Socks exhibition by artist Christine Wilcox-Baker is also on display, an installation, to raise awareness for Diabetes UK.

Recipe For Success: How to get started in the Food & Drink Business

In conjunction with this month's *Manchester Food & Drink Festival*, the Business & IP Centre took our annual panel discussion out of Central Library to the Fairfield Social Club in Mayfield.



The panel was made up local food entrepreneurs nominated for this year's Food & Drink Awards, including Michael De Martiis from Sugo Pasta Kitchen, and Chelsea Campbell - Owner of Vegan street food caterers Wholesome Junkies and star of the recent BBC TV show "Million Pound Menu". A lively debate encouraged aspiring business start-ups and highlighted the support offered to new businesses. This is the third year the BIPC has been included as an official MFDF event.



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Fun Palaces

Central Library

On Sunday 7th October Central Library opened its doors for an extra special Sunday afternoon of family fun and learning together. With help from local residents, volunteers, community groups and businesses, a wealth of taster sessions were made available for our residents to try. 947 visitors took the opportunity to sample the varied programme of workshops; from drag make-up demos to retro coding video games, there was something for everyone!



Longsight

October is Fun Palace madness at Longsight Library and this year also marked the 40th birthday of the library in its current location. There was the usual array of quality science and cultural activities, with people coming together to share their passions from collage, photo-transfers, Tai Chi, coding and much, much more. Central Library brought along a few of their Treasures including Shakespeare's Second Folio from 1632! We also hosted the Celebrating Syria Festival.

The birthday was celebrated with the newly formed Refugee and Asylum Seeker choir, Women's Voices and of course lots of cake!



Joining in the celebration were a whole host of former staff from earlier years at Longsight Library including John Dolan and Pat Coleman, plus the Longsight councillors, Afzal Khan MP and former Mayor Naeem ul Hasaan.

North City Library

On Saturday 6th October, North City Library held their third and most successful Fun Palace yet, with over 700 people attending. A mix of digital and artistic activities included an Augmented Reality colouring app, Organic tomato plant cultivation, and science with Travelab's STEM students demonstrating the Makey Make Banana Piano. The Royal Exchange Theatre brought along their Model Theatre box, Journeys Festival International brought Zinemaking, College of the Third Age brought along calligraphy and artwork, and the Manchester Science and Industry Museum offered Engineering Storytime with a flight modelling craft.

Feedback from children, families and activity providers was excellent, with lots of requests to repeat the event next year as they enjoyed it so much. People liked that the activities were free, engaging, entertaining, diverse, different, new, friendly and fun!

Hulme High Street Library Summer Reading Challenge Winner!

Hulme High St Library young reader Lina Aidarus was the proud winner of this year's Summer Reading Challenge. She was presented with £100 worth of vouchers for the bike of her choice by the Executive Member for Schools, Culture & Leisure Cllr Rahman. She was very excited to have won and to be getting a bike, and has never had one of her own, but loves reading too. Her favourite books are a Puffin series by Jeremy Strong, King of Comedy, and she has read them all. Well, except one, that she is half way through. Lina's Mum and Dad are originally from Somalia, came to England after living in Holland (where everyone rides bikes), and now enjoy living in Manchester.





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Beswick Library

Common Lore

Beswick was delighted to host the acclaimed theatre performer Sophia Hatfield with her new production developed specially for Libraries. Sophia wrote and performed Common Lore across the city in early October and Beswick Library was lucky enough to be able to offer this to Year 8 and 9 pupils in the Performing Arts and English departments from the East Manchester Academy. Inspired by Angela Carter's Fairy Tales, Common Lore introduces Scarlet as she makes sense of a tough adult world by reinventing the childhood stories told by her Grandmother to make her own unique future.



Feedback from the pupils and staff was rewarding, the young people described the one-woman show as “awesome, “artistic, amazing, intriguing, creative and funny”. Many of the students had little experience of theatre events and it was rewarding to offer this high quality cultural event to offer to the students at our partners the East Manchester Academy.

Abraham Moss Library

Bollywood Dance Night



On 18 October, Thursday night was Dance Night at the Abraham Moss Centre Theatre as visitors danced the night away for a women-only event. Female residents, young and old, gathered together in friendship to learn some great Bollywood moves and some great belly-dancing techniques. Dressed up with sequined bellydancing belts, they had fun keeping fit and learning about each other's dance traditions. What residents said they enjoyed most was “Feeling Free” and “the community feel – everyone is very friendly!”.

Brooklands Library

Black History Month Storytime

For Black history month Brooklands Library themed their story time with a West African story of Baby Goes to Market. This session was greatly enhanced by one of our regular attendees Gloria.



Gloria told the story whilst wearing a traditional style top and spoke with great knowledge about the market place explaining how well the pictures captured a true flavour of the markets in this part of the world. A welcome song was sung in several languages including Russian, Czech, Polish, Greek, Italian, Arabic and English. It was an amazing session enjoyed by all involved.

Wythenshawe Forum Library

Golden Garter Sing-A-Long

Wythenshawe's renowned Golden Garter club recently had its 50th anniversary, so to celebrate Libraries Week John Orchard from the resident Sheps Banjo band, had a sing-a-long event at the Library. It was thoroughly enjoyed by a very enthusiastic audience, the nostalgic music and singing rang through the library creating a wonderful afternoon for all involved.



Choirs also sang at Fallowfield Library and Didsbury Library during Libraries Week, as a recognition of the wellbeing benefits of singing, especially with other people. This is a simple example of how using libraries make you feel good.



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Withington Library

On 22nd October Withington Library re-opened its doors following a major refurbishment. This included major repair works and internal redesign to allow an improved service. Improvements include a new meeting room and an extended children's library, plus new furniture, computers and book stock.

Here are a selection of photos of the library.



Here are the first customers through the door on 22nd October.



On the first day over 700 people visited the library, and the feedback was amazing. As well as existing customers, many of these people were new to the library service.

Activities in all the family took place during the week. Here is Bookstart Bear entertaining many happy children.



In addition, we are introducing a new Open Plus self-service system, that gives members access to the library for extended hours, six days per week (Monday - Saturday). This increases opening times by 20 hours per week, from 45 staffed hours to a total of 65 hours per week. This scheme is being piloted at Withington from November.

Visits to Libraries increasing

Visits to libraries in a 12 month period, surpassed the 3 million mark from October 2017 to September 2018. This is the highest number of people visiting our libraries since before Central Library closed for refurbishment.

The libraries are generally busier. In particular, summer activity has boosted footfall to libraries through a programme of library events and activities. This summer many families visited our libraries to see the bees that were part of the success of the Bee in the City art trail.

The annual Summer Reading Challenge, entitled Mischief Makers, finished in September. This year 8541 children starting and 5178 completing the challenge of reading six books.

