



December 2018

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR LIBRARIES



Hello

Welcome to the December 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

It's been a busy 2018 and will be an even busier 2019

Here are some of the highlights of our libraries in 2018:

- 2.9% visits to libraries – an increase of 1% on last year
- 21,076 volunteer hours from 366 volunteers – up 2%
- Withington Library fully refurbished and proving incredibly popular since re-opening
- Improvements to Hulme High Street library, as part of the redevelopment of Moss Side Leisure Centre
- Newton Heath Library has received an external makeover.
- Open Plus technology installed at Withington Library – increasing the weekly opening hours from 45 to 65.
- 8541 children took part in the summer reading challenge
- The Library Live programme continued, with cultural activity increasing in libraries across the city.
- Double the amount of e-books/e-audio books borrowed.
- We have supported residents with more online services. E.g. visa applications / parking permits / Universal Credit
- Launch of Press Reader – giving people access to 1000s of daily newspapers online

And here are some exciting things to look forward to in 2019:

- The North West Sound Archive in Manchester Central Library will be made available as part of a British Library project
- International Mother Language Day celebrations on 21 Feb
- More cultural activities across the city through and Arts Council programme of events
- Open Plus at Forum Library and New Moston Library
- Central Library will be the hub of the 200 year commemorations of the Peterloo Massacre.

I'd like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



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Family Learning Sessions Brooklands Library

Brooklands Library have had some really enjoyable and productive sessions working in partnership with MAES, Baguley Hall Primary school and Read Manchester.

Six busy workshops have taken place at the library. Parents attend with their children, plus the reception class teacher!

One group listened to the story of Oh! Frog, then each family created colourful frog models. The session winds up with lively actions, songs and rhymes.



The sessions are designed and delivered to show how important parent support is for a child's learning and development. All involved in the project have enjoyed and spoke well about their experience.

Newton Heath's magical makeover



Newton Heath had a magical Christmas makeover and celebrated its relaunch with a wonderful day for the community on 8 December.

This busy local library recently benefitted from an extensive exterior refurbishment over the summer and autumn, we held a festive Welcome Back party to celebrate our fabulous new look.

Father Christmas came early this year to give presents to all our babies and teenies. Plus everyone enjoyed carols with school children, crafts and badge-making. There was even a relaxing Christmas film, mince pies, afternoon tea and cakes to get all in the holiday spirit!

Beswick Library's winter wonderland

A sparkly bit of frosty magic fell on Beswick Library in the form of a Winter Wonderland on Saturday 8 December.

Families were greeted by a beautifully decorated snowscape full of twinkling trees and the sound of Christmas carols tinkling through the Library.

There was a snug fireplace stacked with presents for children, plus a special chair for Santa Claus to hand out gifts.



A seasonal family film kicked off the party followed by Christmas crafts, letters to Santa Claus and colouring in Christmas cards, plus gorgeous bauble making with artist Fiona. Mince pies, cookies and refreshments kept the crowds going! Lots of local families enjoyed the variety of activities and left feeling thoroughly festive.



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A Grand Day Out at North City Library

North City Library's lively Grand Day Out group for the over-50s had a wonderful time at their Christmas Lunch in December.



For the past six years the group have met regularly on Monday afternoons at North City Library, tackling loneliness and isolation through exciting events and activities.

This Age-Friendly social activity group are currently planning their Christmas Carols and Mince Pies afternoon with their favourite choir master Luke Crooks who will be leading the carolling.

Moss Side Powerhouse switched on

There was a fantastic turnout for the Moss Side Christmas Tree Lights Switch-On, at The Rec (Broadfield Park). The switch-on was introduced by former councillor Roy Walters, accompanied by choirs from Divine Mercy and St Mary's primary.



Also, in attendance were Cllr Emily Rowles, Cllr Mahadi Hussein & Cllr Sharif Mahamed and former councillor Alistair Cox. After the switch on everyone came back to Moss Side Powerhouse Library where they were greeted with music from a four-piece brass band. Both choirs sang again and then the band played some songs that everybody could sing along to. Once the singing was over Santa Claus appeared and spent over two hours handing out more than 170 selection boxes!!! (Provided by our friends at One Manchester, Adactus Housing and Mosscares St Vincents Housing).

There were a range of activities keeping everyone entertained, including an extremely busy paper puppet activity from the folks at Contact Theatre. One local parent who has attended a number of previous switch-ons told us *'This is an important event for the children of Moss Side and it is great to see the library continue to support it every year. This is the busiest one I have been to yet.'*

Winter Welcome Festival at Longsight Library

Stanley Grove Primary Academy brought the lovely Winter Welcome festival to Longsight Library with approximately 800 people of all ages in attendance.

There were many partners involved in delivering activities that were themed around the children's book "The Owl That Was Afraid of the Dark".



The Manchester Children's Book Festival set up their fantastic story tent in the middle of the library creating a magical space to be whisked away on a story adventure.

The Whitworth Gallery made beautiful felt collaged owls, Manchester University and Manchester Metropolitan University were involved with an abundance of student led activities.

Manchester Museum brought a handful of beautiful small animals native to Britain including an owl. For some children this was their first opportunity to get up close to a mole or a ferret!



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Eight local schools were involved in the beautiful Wish Trees outside the library. The recycled owl craft activity went down a storm.

With approximately 150 owls made by Longsight's young creatives, it was a non-stop, cutting and sticking marathon.



The afternoon ended with a beautiful Owl inspired lantern parade with the Stanley Grove PA Samba band and singing around the Longsight Christmas Tree. I can't think of a better way to enter the winter months. These comments summed it up:

"I stroked a vole, made an owl, made a star biscuit, made a mask and won bubbles!"

"It is so good we do these things in Longsight, I am happy we get together."

"My family is having a lovely day".

Withington Christmas Light switch on



Withington welcomed in the festive season with an amazing Christmas light switch on event including carol singing, a brass band, Old Moat Primary School band and a newly planted Christmas tree with decorations.

We also welcomed the Lord Mayor and a visit from Father Christmas. Santa kindly gifted all the children with sweet treats.

At the library we had Christmas crafting sessions, where a selection of beautiful tree decorations and cards were made. A record numbers of visitors joined in with our Christmas fun.

The evening had a lovely, happy celebratory feel to it, and even as the crafts ran out people just enjoyed chatting and soaking up the atmosphere in the library with hot drinks and muffins.

Chorlton Book Festival at the library

Manchester Libraries got involved in Chorlton Book Festival this November with the theme 'Boundaries, Inspire, Empower'. Award winning illustrator Lynne Chapman visited Chorlton Library to speak to primary school children about her own journey and ambitions.



Lynne has written best sellers with over 30 titles to her name, including the much-loved Giddy Goat, When You're not Looking! and Class Two at the Zoo. Lynne's fabulous characters are also printed on Manchester Libraries Children's tickets.

Over 300 hundred children from 4 different schools attended the sessions. Afterwards the children had a chance to ask Lynne interesting questions about her career.



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During the sessions Lynne illustrated her most popular characters and shared her current sketch book with the children, depicting how practice and hard work create masterpieces.



One child shared that her mother was too an illustrator for Enid Blyton's Faraway Tree! The teachers were hugely pleased after the event and commented how inspiring and enthusiastic Lynne had made the children feel.

This was the fourteenth annual Chorlton Book Festival, with 23 events over 9 days and 4 of these were for specific audiences: Primary School Sessions with illustrator Lynne Chapman, an Intergenerational event, Family Fun-days and the Chorlton Children's Book Award.

There was a packed programme of events, craft activities, author visits, talks, workshops, a local history walk, music and poetry for all ages and interests with a total of 1,554 people attending events.

We had events for a variety of audiences from 0-99 years, used a variety of venues and worked with various local businesses and partners to promote the Festival and host events.



This year's theme led to some incredible festival highlights. Our most moving moment was a play by Emma Decent "I Don't Know What I'm Supposed to be Doing" about her late mother's struggle with Dementia.

We also had two family themed fun-days 'High Energy' and 'Superhero You!' filled with amazing crafts and entertainment, a code breaking workshop and a Pop-Up Beats music workshop.



Other highlights included the fantastic children's author and poet Dominic Berry who entertained families and an 'Artful Playground' Storytime captivated the under 5 year olds.

Other authors who gave talks included Ruth Estevez and Phaedra Patrick who discussed their latest publications. Lastly, not forgetting great crowd pullers author Simon Donald 'Him of the Viz' and the multitalented Henry Normal.



In terms of visitor numbers to Chorlton library, this year's fantastic Chorlton Book Festival saw an incredible 4,443 visitors to the Library during the festival week.



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Central Library

Silent Disco

The festive fun at Central Library began with our biggest Silent Disco yet on the 7th. 320 people danced till midnight in the building to the best retro pop and classic Christmas Hits. Many were not regular users of Central Library and were blown away by the building and the cultural events on offer.



Others have been fans of the library for years. One attendee told a member of staff:

'this building has changed my life. I used to come in as a student to study, my children were brought to storytimes and now my wife and I are dancing the night away. Brilliant!'



Christmas Extravaganza

Central Library held its annual Christmas Family Extravaganza on Saturday 15 December.



300 performers entertained the crowds on the day with school bands from Blackley and Chorlton, to the Manchester Community Choir, City Of Manchester Opera and Manchester Musical Youth. More than 200 children took part in activities.

Our Emmeline

On the same day 100 years ago, when some women gained the right to vote for the first time, Manchester welcomed back "Our Emmeline" as she took pride of place in St. Peter's Square.

To celebrate this moment in Manchester's history, Central Library ran a host of activities to mark the occasion.

Our unique collection of women's suffrage archives were on display for visitors to see first hand the letters & documents that record the suffragettes struggle to secure the vote.



The North West Film Archive, in partnership with Cinema for All, held premiere screenings of "Born A Rebel"; a celebration of women in protest across the North of England. Plus, there was a rosette making workshop for those wanting to take home a memento.

Six young volunteers from Archives+ attended the march, recording the celebration and promoting the library events and activities to the thousands of people celebrating the unveiling of the "Our Emmeline" statue in St. Peter's Square.



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