WHAT’S BEEN HAPPENING IN OUR LIBRARIES

Hello
Welcome to the first issue of my new Manchester Libraries Bulletin.

This bulletin will provide you with some highlights of what’s been going on in the libraries around the city.

Our libraries serve our residents and visitors from 0-100 years, meeting the needs of the people and the communities of Manchester.

Councillor Luthfur Rahman
Executive Member for Schools, Culture and Leisure

Read and Feed scheme
Fallowfield Community Library

This new scheme which ran every weekday from 11.30-1 pm, was designed to tackle holiday hunger and increase engagement with the Summer Reading Challenge. The project was a tremendous success with 97 different children joining the scheme – all of them signing up to the Summer Reading Challenge.

493 children attended over 28 days, 178 children started the Reading Challenge at Fallowfield Library this year – an increase of 150%.

Comments from parents included:
"The activities were great and varied, enabled children to try things they hadn't done before"
"Excellent, the staff are friendly and my kids enjoyed it and wanted to come back again"
"Invaluable, really needed in this area"
"Overall an excellent pilot to inspire young kids to read more, thank you"
Stop Motion Lego club
Burnage Library Activity and Information Hub

Families enjoyed a digital Lego club, each group started off by plotting out their Stop Motion Movie, they then built the set, and the action started, we even had the child taking the star role in one of the scenes using the Green Screen.

Nine family groups attended, all produced a Stop Motion Movie, and Green screen Film shot.

All who attended enjoyed the event and left asking for more.

We had a brilliant time at the Stop Motion Lego club, we had action/ adventure and lots of fun.

Helen

Storytime Graduation Ceremony
Brooklands Library

A very special graduation ceremony storytime, for children who are going to school in September took place. The BookStart Bear attended to award the children with their certificate. The children were made to feel very special, and looked fantastic in their graduation gowns.

BookBenches
9 libraries across the City

This summer, 58 book-shaped benches were on display across Manchester for all to enjoy – there were four in Central Library. The BookBenches were designed by local children and community groups, who were inspired by books and reading. 9 Libraries took part in the Read Manchester Bookbench project, and have kept their bookbenches after the summer trail has ended. To celebrate, lots of events took place over the summer at the venues where the BookBenches were displayed. In partnership with Wild in Art, the BookBench project is part of the Read Manchester campaign from Manchester City Council and the National Literacy Trust. The campaign promotes reading across the city to boost literacy levels. Find out more at:

readmanchester.org.uk/
Coding Clubs

Newton Heath Library

Code Club is coming to North Manchester Libraries! We are starting two brand-new sessions for children and young people who love creative digital stuff. If kids enjoy creating games or inventing projects using computers and robotics, these will hit the mark! Starting on Wednesdays 20 September 3.30 – 4.30 at Newton Heath Library and from Saturday 23 September 10am-12noon these sessions will run fortnightly. They will be led by our great new techy volunteers from the IT community and from Lloyds Bank and will be supported by Library staff. Children will able to learn new social and IT skills and enter a world of fun, colourful digital projects.

Carnegie Shadowing

Abraham Moss Library

North City Library

2017 is the 80th anniversary of the Carnegie Medal for children's literature. Staff from Abraham Moss Library and North City Library joined forces with staff from Abraham Moss High School's Learning Resource Centre to take part in shadowing the awards. The national CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards Shadowing scheme engages thousands of children and young people in reading the books on the shortlist at reading groups in schools and libraries. The group met both in the school library and in Abraham Moss Library.

Groups for Adults in North Manchester

Beswick Library

North City Library

Beswick Library’s Men’s Group has gone from strength to strength over the course of this year, with library staff winning a customer focus Award for Excellence for their work with this group.

The ‘Grand Day Out’ group at North City Library has been a longstanding success. Over 55s meet for a cup of tea and a chat, take part in creative activities and go on day trips together. Beswick Library started up its own group in August this year.

There are also groups for avid crafters at Avenue, Abraham Moss and Newton Heath Libraries.
How Did Your Garden Grow?

Central Library

The Architecture School for Children have worked with four local schools from the Moss Side and Hulme area of Manchester to help them learn about Piccadilly Gardens in the past and re-imagine a Piccadilly Gardens of the future. This exhibition is a celebration of the work created by the children as they visited the gardens, Manchester Art Gallery, Manchester Metropolitan University and Central Library.

The Architecture School for Children, was launched in Manchester in 2014 by PLACES, a charity formed from a partnership of artists and architects. PLACES director John Bishop said: "We often gather an attentive adult audience of passers-by, who say to us, 'I'll never think of buildings in the same way again. I wish we had looked at the city like this when we were children!'"

Central Library

Central Library has been awarded a TripAdvisor 2017 Certificate of Excellence, based on "the consistently great views you've obtained on TripAdvisor."

Central Library is currently #8 of 182 things to do in Manchester. Here are some recent comments left by visitors:

"Great. Just great! - It has undergone a well overdue update and refurbishment. Very modern for a fast moving forward city."

"Manchester Central Library is another great piece of the historical architecture to see and visit in Manchester."

"Laid back venue on ground floor of Super Cool Library. Great place for a break in centre of Manchester shopping."

"What a lovely building this is. Inside I felt so relaxed. I was quite envious of the students all studying in there, what a magnificent place to study with all that architecture around you."

100 Summer events in Central Library

Central Library

Summer time in Central Library saw stacks of things to do, see and take part in, so many that we can only list a few of them here – the Summer Reading Challenge, Blogging for Profit, The Manchester Jazz Festival, Women's Words, inflatable Manchester Museum, the Digital Garage, Deities at the Bottom of the Garden, Rhyme Time Extravaganza, Pride Special Silent Disco, Zoolab, the ME Portrait exhibition, Bookbenches, the Roaring Lego Lion, Manchester Voices, Refugee Week: Together Here, Together Now, Video Making, FabLab, Saturday Spectaculars, Mako Workshop, and 80 more!
Crane & the Peacock exhibition from Manchester Museum

Longsight Library & Learning Centre

The launch of the Crane & the Peacock exhibition from Manchester Museum was attended by over 500 residents. Families enjoyed stories, song, dance and crafts. The exhibitions will remain in the library enabling engagement with local schools and community Groups.

Manchester Museum has been engaging with our Toddler Time group to develop a ‘Journeys’ book containing stories and artwork from the group.

Celebrating Local History

Gorton Library

A triple celebration of Local History related events all in one week in August when we hosted an open day to recruit new members for our Local History group. A few Gorton related treasures from Archives+ were shared. We were also joined by Martin Dodge from MMU who brought a display on the history of the Monastery, and experts from the Monastery were on hand.

We had the opening of a photography exhibition by local photographer Jeff Goldthorpe. Images of the last Gorton Rush cart event 2007 were on show to remind Gorton of this wonderful tradition.

Moss Side Poetry Project

Moss Side Powerhouse Library

We worked in partnership with St Mary’s Primary School to deliver a 6 week creative writing project facilitated by author Mandy Coe. The workshops encouraged local children to celebrate creative writing and develop confidence in reading for pleasure, writing, sharing, listening and promoted a strong relationship between children and the local library.

The project also highlighted the library offer to local families in the community, encouraging children and families to join and use the library.

Women’s Words

Hulme High Street Library

Women in the Hulme ward made history with their own story, at the ‘Women’s Words – My Own Story’ coffee morning held on the 12th of September 2017 at Hulme High Street.

Women took time out of their busy schedule to sit down and write down a few of their stories of living, working and growing in Manchester. Some of the women carried on writing their stories at home, making notes in their ‘My Write as a Woman’ booklets.
Summer Reading Challenge:
Animal Agents

The Summer Reading Challenge was held in every library in the city. Over 10,000 children took up the challenge to read 6 books. This is more than double the participants in 2016. This is an amazing increase in children whose literacy levels will have improved over the summer holidays. They were enticed into libraries with over 200 themed activities. Over 4000 new children's books were bought. 59 young people supported the challenge by volunteering 625 hours of their time.

Comments from parents included:
'The reading challenge has been fantastic this year. A brilliant motivation for them to read.'
'Each time he returned his books he eagerly chose more and eventually read 47 books over summer'
'Brilliant workshop. So engaging and enjoyable and the kids learnt loads.'
'Great way for children to socialise and learn new skills'

Withington Library
Children got the chance to learn all about exotic mini-beasts, they got up close to a hissing cockroach and grumpy Tarantula spider, and handled a giant millipede, brave children.

Chorlton Library
Staff ready to join children to the Animal agents.

Arcadia Library
As part of the Summer Reading Challenge activities, Zoo Lab came to Arcadia.
The children enjoyed the handling session and an informative questions and answers session. 149 children in Levenshulme have completed the challenge.

Beswick Library
What a fantastic summer we have had in North Manchester Libraries with a record number of activities for children to join in from Animal Masks, Secret Hideouts, Treasure Boxes, Book Thief Police Lineups plus Green Screen Animal photo digital workshops….not to mention our fabulous Lego Clubs!

Newton Heath Library
With seven activities taking place, and hundreds of children signed up to the reading challenge, it has been a busy, but fun summer in Chorlton library.
Start Up Day

Business & IP Centre, Central Library - 21st Sept

The Business & IP Centre Manchester’s second Start Up Day was even more successful than the first in January, with over 500 places taken up throughout the day. As a member of the BIPC network we participated in this national drive to celebrate the region’s next generation of entrepreneurs.

The fantastic line up of speakers helped deliver an inspiring programme of workshops, talks and events, sharing the know-how to turn your great idea into a business.

Our keynote speaker was Suzanne Brock from Nutriment: in four years her company has gone from a start up to a £6M turnover.

Other highlights included:

- Jason Bailey from GRUB talking about what it’s like to be self employed
- Helen Jack from FoodSorcery on marketing your start up

And our first Made In Manchester event featuring a panel of Business & IP Centre customers that are all rapidly growing their businesses.

The day concluded with a networking opportunity to meet other entrepreneurs, where we also announced the appointment of Martyn Walsh from the Inspiral Carpets as the BIPC’s new “Creative Industries Guru in Residence”. He will be holding regular advice sessions in the BIPC for businesses in the creative and media sectors.

Research indicates that businesses who start up a business with the support of the Business & IP Centre network have a far greater chance of being successful: a recent independent evaluation has showed that 90 per cent of businesses that started up with the help of the BIPCs were still trading after year three.

The BIPC team also lead on the £250k Arts Council funded, GM Big Ideas Generators project.