

# Manchester City of Literature



## Check out the unexpected

Discover a world of events, culture  
and creativity at your local library



## Festival of Libraries

15-19 June 2022

#FestivalofLibraries

[manchestercityofliterature.com](http://manchestercityofliterature.com)



A UNESCO City  
of Literature



Supported via public funding by  
ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University

MANCHESTER  
1824  
The University of Manchester



MANCHESTER  
CITY COUNCIL



# Festival of Libraries 2022

**Manchester UNESCO City of Literature's Festival of Libraries, the county-wide celebration of Greater Manchester's 133 libraries, returns, after a successful debut last year, with a full live programme of events for all running from Wednesday 15th to Sunday 19th June, 2022.**

The Festival, which is supported by Arts Council England, once again features a varied and vibrant programme that highlights the library network's full offer, with events taking in wellbeing, activism, culture and creativity, digital and information, and of course books and reading.

Manchester changed the game in 2021 by investing in libraries as an essential service, and the, now annual, Festival of Libraries aims to build upon this commitment with a yearly celebration showcasing digital art commissions, artist residencies, dance, performance, panel talks and walking tours.

In 2022, mass participation events will be a huge part of the Festival; the 'Look for a Book' treasure hunt adventure competition will see young people searching for books in every

borough of Greater Manchester to win the book and a chance to meet Lenny Henry, author of our featured book this year *The Boy With Wings*. In addition, the 'Shoebox Libraries' project encourages anyone, anywhere to create their own dream library out of materials they can find at home.

The 'Inspired by' strand of events, that saw contributions from the likes of Elbow's Guy Garvey and BBC 6 Music's Stuart Maconie last year, is back with an incredible line-up including much-loved actress and activist, Julie Hesmondhalgh (Coronation Street, *Dr Who*), as well as modern furniture restorer, eco-designer and TV presenter, Jay Blades MBE (*The Repair Shop*, *Money For Nothing*), much-loved local DJ Mike Sweeney, Jackie Kay and artist Abigail Reynolds in conversation and more.

"A library is the loudest place on the high street because books are bursting with very loud ideas. And yet it is where you can go for peace and quiet. Amongst all that is happening in our world, peace and quiet has great value."

Libraries change the world because people who use libraries change the world. This year's Festival of Libraries demonstrates throughout its brilliant programme that all ages, all types, all are welcome. Your community. Your library."

**Lemn Sissay**  
Festival of Libraries Ambassador

"I am proud to say that Manchester has continued to invest in our libraries over the last year, and we can see that in the brand new Children's Library now open at Central Library plus improvements at Withington, Forum, Avenue and Hulme High Street libraries too. I'm so pleased that Manchester will be once more celebrating how vital libraries are with the Festival of Libraries in 2022. Our libraries provide vital free access to information, learning opportunities and reading for pleasure for all in Manchester. They are creative, community hubs that are vital to building resilient and cohesive neighbourhoods."

**Cllr Rahman**  
Deputy Leader  
of Manchester City Council



Don't forget you can become an official **Friend of the Festival of Libraries** by making a donation, no matter how big or small, to support those who benefit from literature and libraries the most.





# Inspired By Libraries

A series of fascinating discussions with famous faces that we all know and love, on how libraries have shaped their lives and why they believe it's important for libraries to be celebrated across Greater Manchester and beyond.

## Julie Hesmondhalgh

15th June, 4-5pm, Ashton Library

Join the much-loved Julie Hesmondhalgh for an evening of conversation with Nasima Begum on the importance and vitality of libraries.

## Greg Jenner

15th June, 7.30-8.30pm, Urmston Library

Greg Jenner is a British public historian with a particular interest in communicating history through pop culture and humour.

Join Greg and host Catherine Fletcher to hear all about the importance of libraries, and libraries throughout history!

## Jackie Kay and Abigail Reynolds

16th June, 5-6pm, Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University,

Join poet Jackie Kay CBE and Artist Abigail Reynolds for an intimate in conversation on the importance of libraries in their work and art, hosted by Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University, hosted by Nasima Begum.

During British Art Show 9, Abigail Reynolds is developing Elliptical Reading, a regular reading hour at local libraries. Readers meet to share short sections from a favourite book, creating between them an unruly text of word collage, which builds over time.

One of the books chosen was Jackie Kay's Adoption Papers, and the rebound copy of the book is currently available to view in the poetry library. During the choosing of these books Jackie's work was chosen four times by participants who expressed a strong connection to her work.

Join these two wonderful artists or this conversation, as they discuss how libraries have inspired them throughout their lives, and why they feel strongly about access to libraries for everyone.



## Jay Blades MBE

19th June, 2-3pm, Bolton Central Library

Jay Blades is the nation's favourite furniture up-cycler who inspires individuals, companies and charities to transform old furniture into works of contemporary design.

Starting in 2017, Jay has hosted BBC1's primetime heart-warming show The Repair Shop. Last year Jay bravely shared his story about deciding to learn to read at age 51.

## Lemn Sissay

16th June, 6.30-7.30pm, Manchester Central Library

Manchester City of Literature's Festival of Libraries is delighted to announce Lemn Sissay OBE as the ambassador of this year's festival. The BAFTA nominated, international prize-winning writer, who was recently awarded an OBE for services to literature by The Queen of England, is supporting the varied and vibrant programme, which highlights the library network's full offer, for people from all backgrounds and demographics. We can't wait to hear from Lemn for an exciting talk on how libraries have inspired him in his life.

Sponsored by 

**“Libraries are fantastic spaces in the UK, anyone can walk in, be welcomed and spend time there for free. Reading or learning something new can be such a gift in times of need too, and for these reasons I'm so excited to be part of Manchester's Festival of Libraries this year!”**

– Jay Blades

## Mike Sweeney

17th June, 7-8pm, Eccles Library

Join much loved BBC Radio Manchester DJ Mike Sweeney and host Hannah Kate from North Manchester FM for an intimate conversation at Eccles Library in Salford all about the importance of libraries.

Mike was born in Salford and has worked in music and entertainment his whole life. He's extremely passionate about grassroots politics and the democracy of libraries as free public spaces. We can't hear what he's got to say at this special Festival of Libraries event.



# Virtual Writer Residencies

Manchester Literature Festival and Manchester UNESCO City of Literature are delighted to appoint Peter Bakowski and Jake Goldwasser as the Virtual Writers in Residence for the second Festival of Libraries.

Following in the digital foot-steps of 2021 writers Alicia Sometimes and Anna Polonyi, Melbourne poet Peter Bakowski will be hosted by the **International Anthony Burgess Foundation** and Iowa poet and cartoonist Jake Goldwasser will be hosted by **Chethams Library**. During their three-week residency, both writers will enjoy virtual tours of the host venues, meet staff to find out more about Manchester's literary heritage and have the chance to explore their online collections and archives. The writers will both share their experience of the city with Manchester's literary community via digital media and produce a new piece of writing inspired by their residencies. The writing will be shared as part of Manchester Literature Festival's next Festival in October 2022.



**Manchester  
City of Literature**



## Peter Bakowski

Peter Bakowski is a poet and library lover based in Melbourne City of Literature. He has been writing poetry for 40 years and has published many collections including the forthcoming *Our Ways on Earth*, *Waldo's Game* and *On Luck Street*. His poems have been translated into many languages and he prides himself on writing clear, accessible poems, using ordinary words to say extraordinary things. He has been Writer-in-Residence in Rome, Paris, Macau, Suzhou (China), Greenmount (Western Australia), Battery Point (Tasmania) and Broken Hill (New South Wales). An avid music lover, Peter has presented jazz programmes on Melbourne radio stations 3RRR and 3CR and used to run his own influential record shop Exposure Records. He aims to write 'a series of portrait poems exploring the interplay of words and music, wit and performance' in the creative and daily lives of Anthony Burgess and other Manchester creatives.



## Jake Goldwasser

Jake Goldwasser is a poet, translator and cartoonist based in Iowa City of Literature. His writing has appeared in *The New England Review*, *Lit Hub*, *Grist*, and elsewhere. His mission is to make more people love poetry, and he gets to work towards that mission every day as a teacher of literature at the University of Iowa, where he is pursuing his MFA in the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He is interested in exploring how the wisdom of the past is relevant to issues of the present, like technology, climate change, and globalization. The practice of translation is central to that interest and to his writing. Jake translates from Dutch, and his translation of Judith Herzberg's *Landscape* is forthcoming (Circumference Books 2022). When he's not writing or reading, Jake is a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* and other publications.





# Families

## Look For A Book

A huge book treasure hunt for every borough of Greater Manchester! We're thrilled to have Lenny Henry and his new book for young people 'The Boy With Wings' as our Look For A Book prize for the Festival of Libraries 2022. Local libraries released clues throughout May 2022 about where to find books hidden in their boroughs, and 500 books were found!

Everyone who found a book or took part is encouraged to come into their local library and receive a certificate, and get entered into a prize draw with the chance of being invited to the special showcase author event with Lenny Henry himself in Manchester.



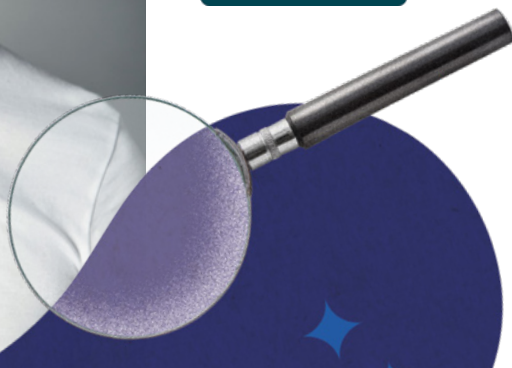
**“Copies of my book, The Boy With Wings, have been hidden across the whole of Greater Manchester as part of the Manchester Festival of Libraries – how exciting!**

**“The story’s an adventure about an ordinary kid who becomes an extraordinary hero, and you can be a hero too! Your mission is to find the clues at your local library, then keep your eyes peeled and your ears open, and you could find your very own book to keep and enjoy, but if not you’ll have lots of adventures along the way.**

**“Not only that, some lucky winners will be coming to see me at a special event, fingers crossed it could be you! I can’t wait to come to Manchester – you’ve got some pretty amazing libraries!”**

– Lenny Henry

Proudly sponsored by Weightmans Law Firm.



## Shoobox libraries

Join artist Klaire Doyle and make your very own Shoobox Library! Watch our exciting step by step video on the festival website, gather your materials at home and you're ready to make your own dream library in a shoebox.

You might want animals, your favourite food, your favourite people – or even a library in space! Whatever your dream library, get involved with the Festival of Libraries and send us a picture to be in with a chance to win some goodies, free tickets to a very special event during the Festival of Libraries in June as well as a chance for festival ambassador Lemn Sissay to see your very own library!

To submit your entry to the competition, please email us on [mrcityoflit@gmail.com](mailto:mrcityoflit@gmail.com) and send a picture or video of your shoebox library. Do include your name, age and tell us what you can about why your library is the best! The competition is open to anyone under 18 who wants to get involved.

## Family Fun Days

18th June, 2-4pm,  
Wythenshawe Forum Library

18th June, 2-5pm, Longsight Library

18th June, 1-4pm, North City Library

19th June, 12-4pm,  
Manchester Central Library

Join your local library for a whole afternoon of fun for the Festival of Libraries! Where we'll be celebrating all the amazing things we love about our local library. There will be music, dancing and crafts at all the events, plus games, workshops and your chance to tell us why you love libraries.



## Eroll's Garden Storywalk for Under 5's

16th June, 11am, Alexandra Park, Oldham

Step into in the story of Errol's Garden as we walk through Alexandra Park in Wigan this summer-time.

Join us on this activity packed walking trail for the under fives and their grown ups. Our outdoor adventure will bring the story of Errol's Garden to life. Come along to hunt, plant, make and play as we create our very own growing community. Meet at the Lion's Den!

## Storytelling: The Spanglish Girl

18th June, 12-1pm,  
Instituto Cervantes Manchester

Join us and celebrate the Festival of Libraries with children's literature and storytelling, coordinated by Magaly Flores, with the story The Spanglish Girl. The story was written by Natalia Simons, who works with bilingualism as a way of learning for children from early childhood.





## Carrot To The Stars workshops

Across festival dates. At Beswick Library, Arcadia Library, Spotland Library, Hazel Grove Library, Bredbury Library and Astley Chetham Art Gallery.

Carrot To The Stars is a comic book, translated into English from the French Original. After the reading there will be creative activities, which adults and children can work on together. Each participant will get a free copy of the book to take home!

## Have You Seen My Duckling? Storytime in Mother Languages

15th June, various times, Pendleton Library and Leigh Library

The joys and benefits of sharing books with babies and young children are wide ranging but for families from minority language backgrounds living in the UK finding the right kinds of books can sometimes be a challenge.

In this interactive session we will introduce ways to help parents of minority languages make the most of their local libraries. The session is aimed at parents/caregivers and their young children (aged 0-3).

## Love To Read: Family Drop In

18th June, 1-3pm, Manchester Poetry Library

Children who read for pleasure achieve more in school but, more importantly, as detailed in research from the National Literacy Trust, children and young people who like to read are three times more likely to have better mental health than those who don't.

Join us in the Manchester Poetry Library for our first family 'Love to Read' session. Whatever your age, whatever your reading ability; just come long and enjoy sharing poetry with us.

## Improvised Book Club for Kids

18th June, 11am-12pm, Stretford Library

Come and join the Honey Pot Village Improvised Book Club.

Ilaria the storyteller will help you create original characters, and you'll even get to help write the book.

Bring your grown ups and something like a hat, sunglasses, handbag to help you with your character!

## Reading Rocks!

16-18th June, various times, Across Rochdale Libraries: Balderstone, Littleborough, Norden, Spotland, Middleton and Smallbridge.

Rock painting with a book-ish theme!

Join us for a free, fun, crafty afternoon at Balderstone Library. Decorate a plain pebble with a book-themed design, then hide your work of art outdoors for someone else to find. All pebbles, paints, brushes and other materials provided.

# Music and Dance

## Hawk Dance with Inside The Igloo

17th June, 9.45am and 11am (two performances), Rochdale Central Library

17th June, 11.30am-12.30pm, Ashton Library, Wigan

Using projection, dance and storytelling, join us on our exciting, interactive family performance for children 3+ and their grownups.

Three little penguins, Pixel, Crash and Click are stuck inside their igloo. As the storm rages outside, they splash, skid and dance their way through the day, discovering fun and adventure hiding around every corner!

Children can join in with the story, interact with the performers as well as participating in a fun, engaging workshop that focuses how can we look after ourselves, each other and the world around us.

## The Old Green Time Machine

18th June, 11am-12pm, Sale Library  
18th June, 2-3pm, Urmston Library

The Old Green Time Machine follows the journey of two intrepid and quirky time travellers who are in a race to save the world. In a future where all living things have been destroyed and all that's left is plastic, our two adventurers find themselves on an urgent journey into the past to change the course of history. It's a shame their time machine has seen better days!

Coalesce Dance Theatre presents this family friendly show that is a whirlwind of contemporary dance, music, poetry and fun. The performance is followed by an interactive 'Stay, Play and Learn' workshop.

## Migrant Voices take over the Rylands

18th June, 1-4pm, John Rylands Library and Research Institute

Experience live musical performances from across the globe in this Manchester Festival of Libraries takeover.

Meet with musicians from Olympias Music Foundation's Migrant Voices, learn about their migration stories and hear them perform their music as you explore all areas of the library, in this unique musical event at the Rylands for the Festival of Libraries. Learn about the many migration stories documented at the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah RACE Centre, and how they are supporting Olympias Music Foundation.

## Migrant Voices: Musical Living Library

17th June, 2.30-4.30pm, Bolton Library

Join singers, artists and DJs Vera Tymchyshyn and Geli Berg for an afternoon of talks, performances and group discussions at Bolton Library.

## Migrant Voices: Musical Living Library

16th June, 6.30-8.30pm, Stockport Library

Join Tony Watt, Director of Manchester School of Samba and Social Entrepreneur Numan Azmi for talks, musical performances and group discussions.



# Activism

## Libraries as Sanctuary with Lviv City of Literature

Online

15th June, 11.30am-1.30pm, Online

Join us for a live streamed panel event featuring Lviv City of Literature in Ukraine, Manchester City of Sanctuary and Manchester City of Literature on libraries as places of sanctuary.

We will be exploring how libraries act as such vital places of sanctuary in both Manchester and Ukraine; how libraries can best support refugees; then to hear more about the situation in Ukraine and how libraries are supporting people fleeing conflict; to discuss how reading and writing can support people dealing with war, displacement and trauma.

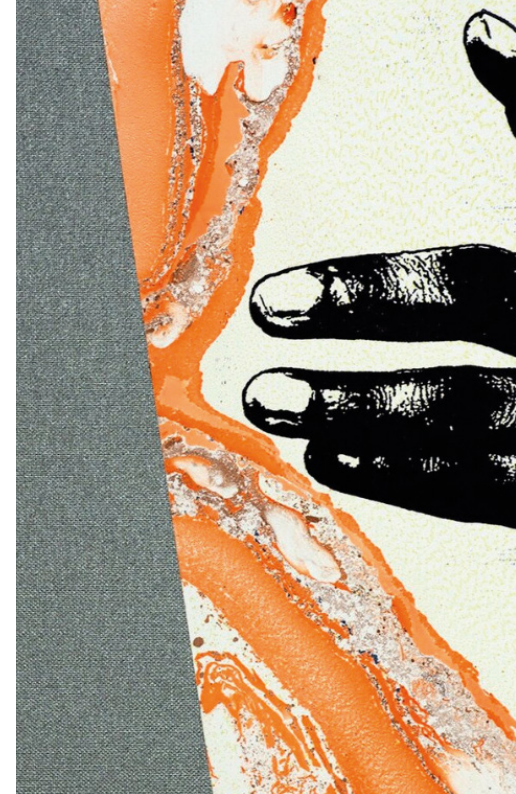


## Happy Safe and Free

18th June, 10am-5pm,  
Manchester Central Library

Happy, Safe and Free is a yearlong, city-wide art project, exploring empathy and understanding for refugees through creativity. It has been designed for Manchester's Year of the Child and Young People 2022 by Emma Martin, assisted by Judy Donnelly.

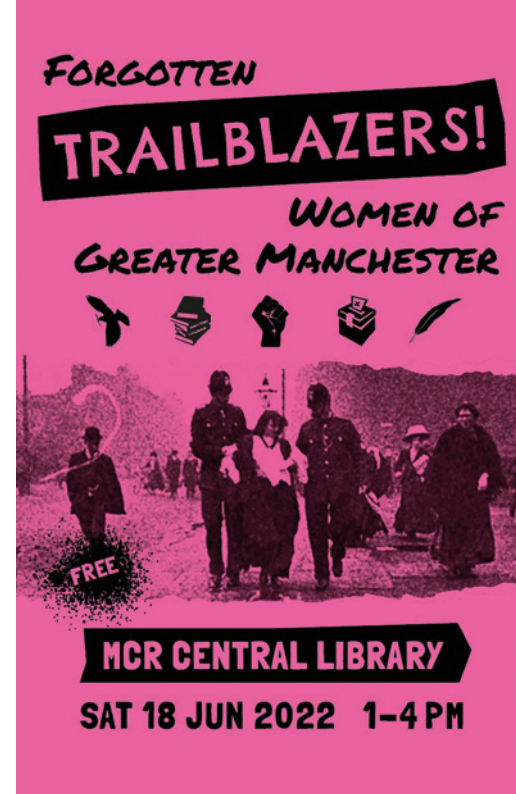
Since the beginning of 2022 over 10,000 school students across our city have been making artworks expressing what makes them 'happy', 'safe' and 'free'. They then destroyed their artworks, shedding each piece to illustrate the loss of the basic human needs of happiness, safety, and freedom. The shredded artworks will be on display as 'seas' with origami boats floating on top to symbolise the dangerous journeys migrants and refugees are forced to make to find a place of sanctuary.



## Trailblazers! – Women of Manchester and the North West

18th June, 1-4pm,  
Manchester Central Library

Celebrate pioneering women from the history of Manchester. Come and join us for family friendly activities including badge-making, dressing up, memorial walks, street art design and badgemaking. There will be short talks on important women including Louise Da-Cocodia, Ellen Wilkinson, Elizabeth Gaskell and Elizabeth Raffald. Kate Green MP will give the Margaret Ashton Memorial Lecture on 'Women and Politics', to be followed by a performance by the feminist band LittleSheGirls.





# Wellbeing

## Manchester University Hospitals NHS Library Tours

17th June, 9am-4pm

Come and meet Library staff at our Oxford Road campus on Saturday 17th June, for an opportunity to visit an NHS Library service.

Service elements on display will include:

- A variety of medical models
- An entire copy of the human printed genome (the only hospital based copy in the UK!)
- Medical board games
- Book collections including standard clinical handbooks and textbooks, popular science, health and wellbeing and a leisure collection
- Medical and healthcare resources

Especially for the event there will also be an optional quiz, and an opportunity for a selfie with a skeleton!

## Bolton NHS Library Tours

15th-18th June, between 9-3pm

The Knowledge and Library Services at Bolton NHS Foundation Trust will be showcasing the positive contribution that health libraries make to the wellbeing of our communities.

They will be opening up their services to the public by offering:

- A tour around the site library at Royal Bolton Hospital and interactive information relating to:
- Finding trustworthy health information online
  - Doing your research
  - Information on managing specific conditions

## Write for wellbeing workshops

15th June at Wigan Library  
15th June at Rochdale Library  
16th June at Tameside Library  
16th June at Stretford Library  
17th June at Oldham Library

Facilitated by professional writers from the Centre for New Writing at The University of Manchester.

A workshop exploring creative writing techniques to improve your personal wellbeing. Expressing yourself and crafting an object have long been studied and considered a way to relieve stress and emotional turbulence.

We know first-hand the effects that creative writing can have, and we are delighted to offer these sessions for interested readers and writers, and those who are curious about creative writing as part of their own personal wellbeing.

Please note that space is limited to 15 places so booking is essential with each of the individual libraries.

## Shared reading group at GMMH

16th June, 10.30am-12pm

Come and join one of Greater Manchester Mental Health Library's shared reading group sessions! Run as part of GMMH's Recovery Academy which provides a range of free educational courses and resources for people with mental health and substance misuse problems, their families and carers as well as health care professionals.

The group facilitator will start the session by reading aloud a short story, with breaks in the reading, to allow group members to discuss and share any thoughts they may have about the story. Throughout the session there will be opportunities for group members to read aloud parts of the story. However, the idea of the group is to create a space where people feel relaxed and comfortable and able to contribute to the session, without feeling under any pressure to read aloud or contribute to the discussion.

Sometimes, just sitting and listening to the story can be as rewarding for group members as contributing to the reading and discussion.

## Dementia coffee morning

17th June, 11.30am-2.30pm,  
Atherton Library, Wigan

A warm welcome for those living with Dementia and their carers.

Come along and enjoy activities, conversation and lunch!

## Deaf and Blind coffee morning

17th June, 11am-12pm, Wigan Library

A weekly get together for those with visual and/or auditory impairment to offer each other friendship and support.

## Sensory Session and messy play

17th June, 10-11am,  
Hindley Library, Wigan

You're never too young to get creative! Lots of sensory stimulation and messy play, aimed at babies up to 12 months. Tickets are £5.

## Yoga in the library

15th June, 10.30-11.15am,  
Urmston Library, Trafford

Join us for our weekly Hatha Flow Yoga class - ideal for beginners or those who want to practice yoga mindfully and slowly. Incorporating traditional yoga poses alongside functional movements; the class provides the opportunity to safely stretch, strengthen and mobilise the whole body, whilst allowing the breath to slowly relax muscles. Please bring your own mat.





## Exhibitions

### Elliptical Reading

15th June, 5.30-6.30pm,  
Manchester Poetry Library

Abigail Reynolds is an artist working in sculpture, collage, print, moving image and performance, much of which is inspired by a deep love of books and libraries.

In Manchester, Elliptical Reading is presented at Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University, where visitors can find poetry which has been chosen by local readers, re-bound by the artist, and re-shelved by the readers in new places outside their usual categories. An insight into the reader's choice is included on a bookmark in each book.

Members of the public are welcome to attend and watch the readings take place. There is no need to book, you are welcome to drop in.

### Ten Years To Save The World

Comic Arts Exhibition, Wythenshawe Library, whole festival duration

This exciting exhibition hopes to demonstrate how the comics medium can stimulate climate change action through the creation of a comic digital anthology.

Ten internationally-recognised comic and graphic artists have been commissioned – five from the Philippines and five from the UK.

There's no need to book a ticket to view the exhibition, just drop in.



### Little Libraries with Malandra Jacks

15th-19th June

Little Libraries is a community arts installation celebrating the diverse voices of Greater Manchester as they take centre stage sharing their favourite books, stories and anecdotes.

The installation is brought alive via projection and enhanced audio. A small collection of books will be installed in libraries across Greater Manchester. The books on show will have plain white covers, a blank canvas for projection. Throughout the day recorded interviews with locals will be projected onto the books along with images and book covers of their favourite books. This magical installation brings our books to life and fills the space with the voices of our communities. Sharing stories, building bridges, encouraging conversation and giving an excuse to visit your local library.

The libraries taking part are The Portico Library, Oldham Library, Heywood Library, Urmston Library and Prestwich Library.

## Tours and Trails

### The Best Anthology of Libraries in the UK: A Guided Tour

17th June, 12-2pm

Join tour guide and writer Jonathan Schofield on an excursion around the four great libraries of Manchester city centre, Central Library, Portico Library, John Rylands Library and Chetham's Library.

All of these buildings have different architecture from different periods and styles, they have different stories too, fabulous collections and their own beautiful individual spirit.

Special Festival of Libraries price: £5 per person, strictly limited numbers so do book your place. The meeting point is outside the main entrance to Manchester Central Library, on St. Peter's Square.

### Manchester Poetry Library Tours

15-18th June, 1-1.30pm,  
Manchester Poetry Library

Visit Manchester Poetry Library during Manchester Festival of Libraries 2022. Manchester Poetry Library is Manchester's newest library, and we are open to the public. Throughout the festival, we will be running 20 minute introductory tours of the library every day at 1pm. There will also be a late tour on Wednesday at 6pm (booking is advised).

### Middleton Library Photo Trail

15-19th June, all day, Middleton Library

To celebrate the Festival of Libraries, we want to showcase a special treasure – the local studies photographic collection held at Middleton Library.

We have created a walking trail through Middleton, where you can find and compare today's view with that captured in some of the photographs in our collection. You can go in your own time, at your own pace.

Paper copies of the trail are available from Middleton Library, part of Rochdale Borough Libraries, during library opening hours.





# In Prisms of Knowledge

Along the ring-road enclosing this city like walls,  
Past the new-builds laid with warehouse-style bricks,  
Beyond Bridgewater Viaduct's clutch of new bars,  
After the glass towers glaring down this thoroughfare,  
Through Deansgate-Castlefield's sheltering underpass,  
Stride up the whole measure of Manchester,  
Reach the libraries where readers still enter,  
Approach the John Rylands, daunting and grand,  
Pass under gothic arches and enter hushed archives.

Seek out Gilgamesh, Sumer's most famous:  
"Surpassing all Kings" — "Heroic in Stature"  
"Uncannily Perfect" — "Magnificent and Terrible"  
He set out to Dilmun in search of immortality,  
But when his flesh hardened to tablets of clay  
His epic was lost, found, dragged to this distant land.  
In prisms of knowledge, he is not to be touched,  
He crumbles to the touch in prisons of knowledge.

Ashurbanipal, building the first library in ancient Assyria,  
Might have dreamed its contents would still be kept,  
Thousands of years after his sun dipped west,  
In libraries where dawning eyes still set  
Fresh light on these same cuneiform grooves.

Displaced descendants of Dilmun, Assyria, Sumer,  
Living within the modern walls of Manchester,  
Grimly relish to find their ancestors  
So carefully caged in such strange ways.

Yet as you seat yourself in an oak-panelled alcove  
To sink in a story plucked off a canopied shelf,  
Your gaze guided by the stained-glass light,  
The echoing footsteps and murmuring readers  
Made distant in this intimate moment, take heed  
Of the ancient author's wedge-work commandment:  
*Whosoever fears the gods Anu and Antu  
Shall care for and respect this tablet*



By Manchester Multilingual  
City Poet Ali Al-Jamri

*Inspired by the collection of clay tablets  
at the John Rylands, and amongst them,  
the 'Gilgamesh and Aga' epic.*

# بِنورِ بَيْتِ الحِكمةِ

بِطُولِ شَارِعِ دائِرِي بِسَوْرِ المَدِينَةِ  
أَمَامَ بِيوْتِ مَبْنِيَةٍ تُشْبِهُ المَخازِنَ العَتِيقَةَ  
تَحْتَ جَسْرِ <بِرِيحِ ووَتَرِ> وَحَانَاتِهِ المَخْفِيَةَ  
بَعْدَ العِمَارَاتِ الزَّجاجِيَّةِ وَنظاراتِها السَاخِطَةَ  
عَبْرَ مَحطَةِ <دِرِينزَغَيْت-كاسلِفيلد> وَممرَّها السُّفلي  
إِخْطِ بِطُولِ مَدِينَةِ مانَشِسْتَرِ وَعَرِضِها  
أَبْلُغْ مَكْتَباتِ بِعَمْرُها القَرَاءِ  
إِقْتَرِبْ مِنْ مَكْتَبَةِ <جون رايْلِنْدز> الشاهِقَةِ الواسِعَةِ  
إِدْخُلْ تَحْتَ أَقْوَاسِ قَوطِيَّةٍ وَبَيْنَ غَابَاتِ رَوقِيَّةِ

إِبْحَثْ عَنِ فَخْرِ سُوْمَرِ، جَلْجَامِشِ  
بَطَّلِ فَاقُ كُلِّ مَلِكٍ!  
مُفزَعٌ، كَامِلٌ، غَرِيبٌ!  
عَظِيمٌ وَرَهيبٌ!

رَحَلْ إِلى دِلْمونِ يَبْحَثُ عَنِ الخُلُودِ  
وَجِئِ جَمَدَ لَحْمِهِ فِي لَوْحٍ مِنَ الطِّينِ  
ضَاغٌ . . .

وَجِئِ وَجِدْ، حُبْسِ وَنَقْلِ لِأَرْضِ غَرِيبَةٍ  
تَرَاهُ مِنْ بَعِيدٍ فِي نَورِ بَيْتِ الحِكمةِ  
فِي ظِلِّ سَجَنِ العِلْمِ، كُلِّ لِمَسَّةٍ تُزَعِجُ طِينَهُ  
وَجِئِ بَنِي أَشورِ بانبالِ أَوَّلِ مَكْتَبَةِ فِي أَشورِ  
تُرى . . .

هَلْ تَحَيَّلُ أَنْ دَواوِينُها سَتَبقى  
مَحفوظَةً فِي مَكْتَباتِ حَدِيثَةٍ  
أَلْفِ السَّنِينِ بَعْدَ أَنْ غَرَبَتْ شَمْسُها؟  
حَيْثُ تَحْطُ أَعْيُنُ مُسْرِقَةٍ  
عَلَى نُقُوشِها المِسماريَّةِ مِنْ جَدِيدٍ؟

أَحْفادُ سُوْمَرِ وَدِلْمونِ وَأَشورِ النازِحونِ  
يَعيشُونَ وَرِاءَ أسوارِ المَدِينَةِ الحَدِيثَةِ  
يَتَلذِّذونَ لَدَّةً دَائِلَةً بِزِيارَةِ أسلافِهِم  
الَّذينَ حُبِسوا بِهذِهِ الطَّرِيقِ الغَرِيبَةِ

وَجِئِ تَجَلِّسْ فِي زاوِيَتِكَ المَنحَوَتَةِ مِنَ البُلُوطِ

سَيَبْتَعِدُ عَنكَ صَدَى الخَطِّواتِ وَصَوْتِ الهِمَماتِ

وَجِئِ تَعَرِّقْ عَيْنَكَ فِي كِتابِ قِطْفَتِهِ مِنْ رُفُوفِ مُظَلَّلَةٍ

سَيُوجِّهُ نَورَ الشُّبائِكِ المُعَشَّقِ نَظَرَكَ إِلى نُقُوشِ أوراقي أوروکِ

سَتَقَرُّ وَصِبَّةَ المَؤَلَّفِ المَنسِيِّ كَأَنَّها مَنقُوشَةٌ عَلى جِلْدِكَ:

مَنْ يَخافُ الِالِهَةَ آتو وَأَتونِ

يَحْفَظُ هَذَا اللُوحَ وَيُوقِرُهُ

علي الجمري، شاعر المدينة متعدد اللغات

استلهمت القصيدة من مجموعة الألواح  
الطينية في مكتبة جون رايْلِنْدز ومن  
ضمنهم ملحمة (جلجامش وأغا)



# Full schedule

## Festival Duration: Wednesday 15th – Sunday 19th June

Event name	Event location	Event time
150 Years of the Together Trust	Manchester Central Library	All day
Latin American Literature Reading Club	Online	All day
10 Years To Save The World Comic Arts Exhibition	Forum Library	All day
See Myself in Books Library Storytimes for tots	Manchester Central Library	All day
Middleton Library Historic Photo Trail	Middleton Library	All day
Little Libraries by Malandra Jacks	Various libraries	All day
Bolton NHS Library Tours	Royal Bolton Hospital Library	9.00am - 3.00pm

## Wednesday 15th June

Event name	Event location	Event time
Libraries as Sanctuary with Lviv City of Literature	Online	11:30am-1:30pm
Have You Seen My Duckling? Storytime in Mother Languages	Leigh Library	10.00am - 11.00am
Golborne library Board Games group	Golborne Library	10.00am - 12.00pm
Writing for Wellbeing Workshop at Wigan Library	Wigan Library	10.00am - 11.15am
Leigh library Craft and Chat for adults	Leigh Library	10.00am - 1.00pm
Yoga in the Library	Urmston Library	10.30am - 11.30am
Bits, Bobs and Babbles at Hindley library and Community Centre	Hindley Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
Writing for Wellbeing Workshop at Rochdale Central Library	Rochdale Central Library	12.00pm - 1.15pm
Chatter Cats	Wigan Library	12.00pm - 2.00pm
Manchester Poetry Library Tours	Manchester Poetry Library	1.00pm - 1.30pm
Have You Seen My Duckling? Storytime in Mother Languages	Pendleton Library	1.30pm - 2.30pm
Porcelain painting workshop at Withington Library	Withington Library	2.00pm - 3.00pm
The Great Miss Lydia Becker: Suffragist, Scientist and Trailblazer	Altrincham Library	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Activism Past, Present and Future	Manchester Central Library	4.00pm - 7.00pm
Future (of) poetry Libraries: an online event hosted by Manchester Poetry Library	Manchester Poetry Library	4.00pm - 5.30pm
Inspired By Libraries: Julie Hesmondhalgh	Ashton Library	4.00pm - 5.00pm

Bedtime Stories	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	5.30pm - 6.30pm
Elliptical Readings	Manchester Poetry Library	5.30pm - 6.30pm
The Palmer Crime Lecture Series: The Life of Crime	The Portico Library	6.30pm - 8.00pm
Love to Read: 100 Queer Poems with Andrew McMillan (online)	Manchester Poetry Library	7.00pm - 8.00pm
Author Evening with David Nolan	Bredbury Library	7.00pm - 8.00pm
Inspired by Libraries with Greg Jenner	Urmston Library	7.30pm - 8.30pm
Manchester Poetry Library Tours	Manchester Poetry Library	All day

## Thursday 16th June

Event name	Event location	Event time
See Myself in Books with Maisie Chan	Manchester Central Library	10.00am - 2.15pm
Shared Reading Group at Greater Manchester Mental Health Library	Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust	10.30am - 12.00pm
Eroll's Garden Storywalk for Under 5's	Alexandra Park, Wigan	11.00am - 1.00pm
See Myself in Books with A.M.Dassu	Manchester Central Library	11.00am - 2.00pm
Writing for Wellbeing Workshop at Stretford Library	Stretford Library	11.00am - 12.15pm
Print Me a Poem	Chetham's Library	11.00am - 12:30pm, 2.00pm - 3:30pm
Shevington library Ancestry Club	Shevington Library	1.00pm - 3.00pm
Fabric painting workshop at Didsbury Library	Didsbury Library	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Love to Read: The Odyssey with Lara Williams (in person at Manchester Poetry Library)	Manchester Poetry Library	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Reading Rocks! at Norden Library	Norden Library	3.00pm - 5.00pm
Kindness Bookmarks at Littleborough Library	Littleborough Library	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Reading Rocks! at Balderstone Library	Balderstone Library	3.30pm - 5.00pm
Stories on the Green	Salford Museum and Art Gallery	4.00pm - 6.00pm
Reading Rocks! at Spotland Library	Spotland Library	4.00pm - 5.30pm
Carrot to the Stars at Hazel Grove	Hazel Grove, Stockport	4.00pm - 5.00pm
Inspired By Libraries: Jackie Kay and Abigail Reynolds	Manchester Poetry Library	5.00pm - 6.00pm
Writing For Wellbeing Workshop at Ashton Library, Tameside	Tameside Libraries	6.00pm - 7.15pm
Migrant Voices: Musical Living Library at Stockport Central Library	Stockport Central Library	6.30pm - 8.30pm
Inspired By Libraries: Lemn Sissay	Manchester Central Library	6.30pm - 7.30pm



Discover Pandora – A LIVE, interactive Interview with sensational new author: Susan Stokes-Chapman	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Author Evening with Chris Simms	Marple Library	7.00pm - 8.00pm
Manchester Poetry Library Tours	Manchester Poetry Library	All day

## Friday 17th June

Event name	Event location	Event time
Manchester University NHS Library Tours	Manchester University NHS Library	9.00am - 4.00pm
Hawk Dance with Inside The Igloo at Rochdale Central Library	Rochdale Central Library	9.45am and 11am (two performances)
Art Group at Shevington library	Shevington Library	10.00am - 12.00pm
Sensory Session and Messy Play with thrive CIC at Hindley library and Community Centre	Hindley Library	10.00am - 11.00am
Deaf and Blind Coffee Morning	Wigan Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
Print Me a Poem	Chetham's Library	11.00am-12:30pm and 2.00pm-3:30pm
Atherton library Dementia Friendly Luncheon Club	Atherton Library	11.30am - 2.30pm
Hawk Dance with Inside The Igloo in Wigan	Ashton Library	11.30am - 12.30pm
Jigsaw Club at Golborne library	Wigan Library	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Writing for Wellbeing Workshop at Oldham Library	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	2.00pm - 3.15pm
Migrant Voices: Musical Living Library at Bolton Central Library	Bolton Library	2.30pm - 4.30pm
Kindness bookmarks at Langley Library	Langley Library	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Reading Rocks! at Littleborough Library	Littleborough Library	3.30pm - 4.30pm
Inspired by Libraries with Mike Sweeney	Eccles Library	7.00pm - 8.00pm
The Death of the Great Detective Murder Mystery Evening	Urmston Library	7.30pm - 10.00pm
Manchester Poetry Library Tours	Manchester Poetry Library	All day

## Saturday 18th June

Event name	Event location	Event time
Happy, Safe and Free	Manchester Central Library	10.00am - 5.00pm
Peter Pan Junior	Langley Library	10.00am - 10.30am
Carrot to the Stars at Spotland Library	Spotland Library	10.30am - 11.30am
Carrot to the Stars at Bredbury Library	Bredbury Library	10.30am - 11.30am

Carrot to the Stars at Brooklands Library	Brooklands Library	10.30am - 11.30am
Carrot to the Stars at Beswick Library	Beswick Library	10.30am - 11.30am
Carrot to the Stars at Arcadia Library	Arcadia Library	10.30am - 11.30am
Reading Rocks! at Smallbridge Library	Smallbridge Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
The Great Miss Lydia Becker – interview with author Joanna M Williams	Manchester Central Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
The Old Green Time Machine at Sale Library	Sale Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
LEGO® Brick Building Club	Altrincham Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
Improvised Book Club for Kids	Stretford Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
Reading Rocks! at Middleton Library	Middleton Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
Letters in the Library	Chetham's Library	11.00am - 12:30pm, 2.00pm - 3:30pm
Reading Rocks! at Balderstone Library	Balderstone Library	11.00am - 12.00pm
Storytelling: 'The Spaniglish Girl', by Natalia Simons	Instituto Cervantes	12.00pm - 1.00pm
Trailblazers! Women of Manchester and the North West	Manchester Central Library	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Migrant Voices Takeover the Rylands	John Rylands Research Institute and Library	1.00pm - 4.00pm
North City Library Festival of Libraries Family Fun Day	North City Library	1.00pm - 4.00pm
Love to Read: Family Drop in at Manchester Poetry Library	Manchester Poetry Library	1.00pm - 3.00pm
Carrot to the Stars at Astley Cheetham Art Gallery	Stalybridge Library	1.00pm - 2.30pm
Writing Workshop with Will Harris	Manchester Central Library	1.00pm - 3.30pm
Festival of Libraries Family Fun Day at Forum Library	Forum Library	2.00pm - 4.00pm
Festival of Libraries Family Funday at Longsight Library	Longsight Library	2.00pm - 5.00pm
The Old Green Time Machine at Urmston Library	Urmston Library	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Festival of Libraries: French Storytime	Manchester Central Library	2.00pm - 3.00pm
Festival of Libraries: Reading Rascals	Manchester Central Library	2.00pm - 3.30pm
Manchester Poetry Library Tours	Manchester Poetry Library	All day

## Sunday 19th June

Event name	Event location	Event time
In the Margins: The Portico Library and its collection	The Portico Library	12.00pm - 4.00pm
See Myself in Books with Manchester Central Library's Sunday Funday	Manchester Central Library	12.00pm - 4.00pm
Inspired by Libraries with Jay Blades MBE	Bolton Library	2.00pm - 3.00pm





**MAN  
CHE  
STER**

A UNESCO City  
of Literature



supported public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University**

**MANCHESTER**  
1824  
The University of Manchester



**MANCHESTER**  
CITY COUNCIL

**15-19 June 2022**

**#FestivalofLibraries**

**manchestercityofliterature.com**