



# Manchester City of Literature

## Change your perspective

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



## Festival of Libraries



A UNESCO City  
of Literature



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## 7-11 June 2023

#FestivalofLibraries  
[manchestercityofliterature.com](https://manchestercityofliterature.com)

# Festival of Libraries 2023

**Festival of Libraries is a joyful celebration of the role that Greater Manchester's 133 libraries play in wellbeing, culture, creativity and more.**

This is a festival for everyone that spans internationally renowned institutions such as Central Library, Chetham's Library, The Portico Library and John Rylands Research Institute and Library, Manchester Poetry Library as well as the network of local libraries across the city region, reflecting Manchester's status as a UNESCO City of Literature.

Now in its third year, Festival of Libraries is funded by Arts Council England and enjoys the support and collaboration of authors, artists and creatives, who all believe in the vital community and cultural role of libraries.

June's festival programme highlights this, with a programme that will surprise and intrigue including live music, library exchanges, dance and theatre, poetry commissions, a writing trail, Family Friendly activities and much more, all of which will be free or Pay What You Can to take part in.

Fun is a big factor for Festival of Libraries and the Look for a Book treasure hunt taking place from the 22nd May promises plenty of this. It's set to mobilise children and families as they follow the clues and join the quest to find one of 500 books hidden in Greater Manchester's libraries. Plus the chance for some participants to meet the author.

We have Inspired By Libraries events taking place across Greater Manchester featuring Simon Armitage, Manchester icons Cheddar Gorgeous, Dave Scott and Andy Spinoza plus award winning poet Raymond Antrobus and local hero of The Reno, Linda Brogan.

Read on to find out more!

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“My experience of reading and writing began in the village library where I grew up, then in the nearby town library, then in libraries at various places of study and teaching. For many people they are an invaluable aspect of everyday life, giving access not just to books but to services, learning, conversation and creative thinking. I look forward to celebrating libraries as one of the great and necessary institutions as part of Manchester's very own city-wide Festival of Libraries in the UNESCO City of Literature.”

– Simon Armitage, Poet Laureate

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## Festival themes key:

- International
- Wellbeing
- Belonging and identity
- Families
- Create
- Reading and Stories
- Environment
- Music



# Programme

## Fishing for Rainbows



Rochdale Central  
Weds 7th June, 1-2pm

Tameside Droylsden  
Thurs 8th June, 11:30-12:30pm

Stockport Central  
Thurs 8th June, 4-5pm

Wigan Library  
Fri 9th June, 10:30-11:30am

Salford Pendleton Library  
Fri 9th June, 4-5pm

The theatre show is an adaptation of Oliver Sykes new book Fishing for Rainbows.

The story follows a twelve-year-old Romani-girl called Kezia, who after the loss of her mum is desperate to show her family that she can do anything a boy can. Kezia's family have a strict routine: the boys and Dad go fishing while she cooks and tidies the house, but Kezia longs to go out fishing and to be a part of something bigger. After challenging her dad to a bet, she gets her chance...

This new, original work translates into a funny and heart-warming one-person stage show for children aged 5+ and their grown ups. Directed by Dominic Berry and commissioned by Big Imaginations.

## The Old Green Time Machine



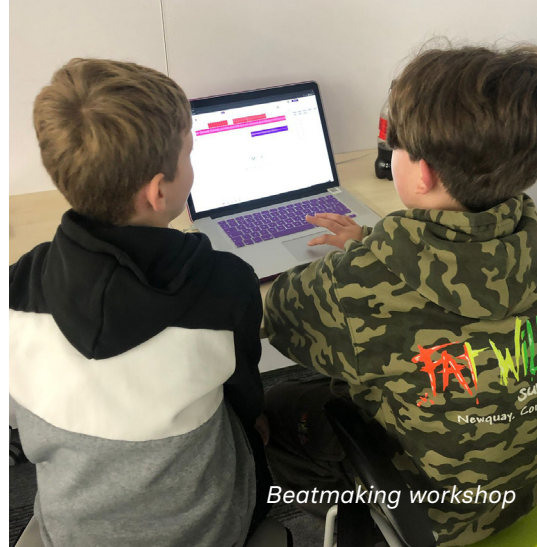
Oldham Central Library  
Weds 7th June, 10-11am  
Weds 7th June, 12-1pm

Salford Swinton  
Thurs 8th June, 10-11am  
Thurs 8th June, 12-1pm

Manchester Newton Heath  
Fri 9th June, 10-11am  
Fri 9th June, 12-1pm

Bury Radcliffe  
Sat 10th June, 10-11am  
Sat 10th June, 12-1pm

Coalesce Dance Theatre is a Salford-based, female-led dance company. 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 is left is plastic, our two adventurers find themselves on an urgent mission. It's a shame their carbon friendly time machine bicycle has seen better days! This family friendly show, for library spaces and unusual venues is a whirlwind of contemporary dance, music, poetry and fun. Performances include an interactive 'Stay, Play and Learn' session after the show.



Beatmaking workshop

## Beatmaking and lyricism



Ashton Library, Tameside  
Thurs 8th June, 4-5:30pm

Walkden Library, Salford  
Fri 9th June, 4-5:30pm

Poetry Library, Manchester  
Sat 10th June, 11am-12:30pm

Little Lever Library, Bolton  
Sat 10th June, 4-5:30pm

Join sound artist Yussuf Maleem for a workshop to learn new skills around beatmaking and lyricism. Yussuf will share the principles of beat making and basic programmes that are available to allow young people to start to explore their very own creative concepts. By learning new skills of how to make beats and record themselves creatively, the possibilities are endless!

## Story stem



Oldham Central Library  
Thurs 8th June, 10-11am  
Thurs 8th June, 12-1pm

Rochdale Central Library  
Fri 9th June, 10-11am  
Fri 9th June, 12-1pm

High Street Library, Bolton  
Sat 10th June, 10-11am  
Sat 10th June, 12-1pm

Urmston Library, Trafford  
Sun 11th June, 11-12pm  
Sun 11th June, 1-2pm

These interactive sessions take little ones and their grown-ups on an imaginative journey, helping them to learn about our natural world. The session inspires children and families to ask questions about the world around them.

The Manchester-based Story Stem team deliver fun and interactive storytelling events for children under-5 and their families. Nichola Williamson and Sarah Raine are experienced performers and early years practitioners with a passion for the arts and the environment.

## Stories of Gorton



Gorton Library  
Sat 10th June, 12-1pm

Since last September five residents have been undertaking monthly walks through Gorton and Abbey Hey with the writer Sarah Butler. Each month a different person led the walk around the parks, houses, work places, neglected corners and vanished buildings of the neighbourhood, sharing the stories of Gorton as they went.

Come and hear what the group discovered and hear some of the writing created during these walks. A short film about the project will be screened and all attendees will receive a pamphlet with writing about Gorton.

## What's in a word

**Chetham's Library**  
Fri 9th June, 11am-12pm

How would you describe the meanings of everyday English words such as rose, aunt, or giggle?

You have probably come across words in one language that have several translations in another – how can that be? How do dictionaries define words?

Our language activity, run by members of the department of Linguistics and English Language at the University of Manchester, centres around the description of meanings of everyday words and idiomatic phrases. We will use dictionaries from the library to prompt questions about the best way to define meanings. You will have the opportunity to teach others about the meanings of words from your home languages, and even write your own dictionary entries.

*This event is in partnership with Creative MCR.*



Chetham's Library



Manchester Central Library

## Edible Literature

**Manchester Central Library**  
Sun 11th June, 1-4pm  
Partnership with Creative Manchester

**"Tasting Children's Literature: An Edible Read-A-Thon"** is both an immersive sensory experience and read-a-thon of classic and contemporary children's literature.

From the apple that Snow White should not have bitten and the drink that makes Alice's trip to Wonderland possible to the feast gobbled by the very hungry little caterpillar in Eric Carle's now classic 1969 story and the nut that the mouse finally gets to savour in Julia Donaldson's contemporary classic *The Gruffalo*, food has long played a central role in children's literature.

The workshop will engage children in drawing pictures of and telling stories about the foods that come to life in their favourite stories, as well as the foods that mean most to them and their communities.

*This event is in partnership with Creative MCR.*

## The Rainbow Library exhibition

**Pendleton Library, Salford**  
Festival duration

Explore our groundbreaking rainbow library collection of the best writing and illustration from young lgbtqi+ writers in manchester.

The Rainbow Library is a UK and Ireland-wide participatory literature creation and publishing project being developed to address the near-invisibility of – and demand for – LGBTQ+ inclusive stories in children's books.

In 2022 a group organised by Manchester City of Literature began writing their stories, which are now on display for the first time during the Festival of Libraries 2023, come and visit, read the stories and celebrate LGBTQ+ writing ahead of the Queer Joy conference taking place in November.

## Creatives in Libraries films

**Online**  
Festival duration

Short films featuring four accomplished manchester creative practitioners who have worked closely with libraries over the course of their careers.

Hear how libraries support artists, writers, dancers, musicians and more to create original work, access valuable resources, gain practical support and inspire creativity.

These films aim to highlight the rich creative diversity of our libraries, and pave the way for emerging artists to head to their local library for ideas and insight for their next big project.





# Schools Writing Trail

Various venues across central Manchester

Festival duration

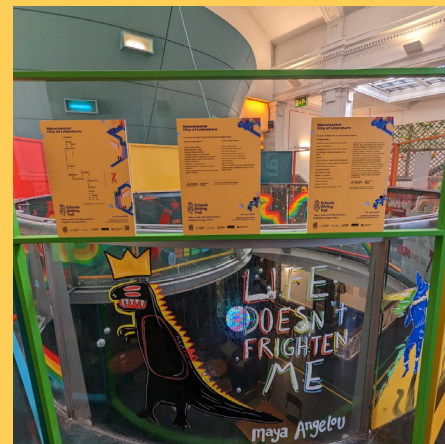
Thurs 1st June – Thurs 15th June

The schools writing trail showcases the 'best of the best' of student writing across Greater Manchester, offering a literature trail in conjunction with Manchester's Festival of Libraries.

The Schools Writing Trail is an exhibition of some of the very best student writing in Manchester. There are over 100 young writers, writing in 12 languages, whose poetry, fiction, and imagination feature in the exhibition. The Trail is a walkable constellation of young voices connecting community arts centres, schools, universities, and libraries with over 40 schools in Greater Manchester. The Schools Writing Trail is a celebration of the young writers who are a vibrant part of what makes Manchester a UNESCO City of Literature.

At each location on the trail, you will be standing at one of 6 locations in the city centre and reading work that was generated from 8 Manchester-based initiatives: First Story's Connect Event, Z-Arts Story Stars, The Portico Library's annual Sadie Massey Awards and Art of the Book awards, the Centre for New Writing at the University of Manchester's annual Schools Writing Competition, Manchester Metropolitan University's annual Mother Tongue, Other Tongue competition, Saturday Club and, in conjunction with the Comino Foundation, Comino Poet in Residence program.

We hope you'll take a beat to enjoy the writing at this part of the Trail and to visit all the locations! Tag us in your photo's on the trail or even get involved by penning your own piece of writing by using #MCRSchoolsWritingTrail.



"We're delighted to share the creativity of Manchester's young people in the brand new Schools Writing Trail during the Festival of Libraries this year. There are over 100 pieces of original writing in 12 languages by some of Manchester's brightest literary stars. You can see the trail in June across cultural venues around the City which feature writing connecting community arts centres, schools, universities, and libraries with over 40 schools in Greater Manchester."

– Councillor Luthfur Rahman,  
Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council





# The RoundView - tabletop game

Urmston Library and  
Central Library Manchester

Festival duration  
Tues 9th May – Fri 30th June

Roundview shares the science-based root causes of all environmental problems and helps us ask questions about the likely impacts of our actions, and to think of creative solutions. All in a table-top game!

The Roundview games are visually appealing, fun and tactile. The game brings together striking pictures, poetry and word puzzles - and groups of any age can put the pictures together and then discuss the ideas revealed by the completed games.

The games are free to play at all times the Library is open - no booking is required.



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“The positive view is why I’ve been so interested in the Roundview, because everything about sustainability is usually being told what we should stop doing, not what to do. As human beings we rile against that. This can be very powerful, especially as it says we can carry on living and enjoying ourselves but in a better and more clever way.”  
– Participant in Roundview training in Tesco Head Office

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## Simon Armitage Masterclass

Manchester Central Library  
Fri 9th June, 4-5pm  
16 people

Join Simon Armitage for an inspiring one hour poetry writing masterclass to celebrate the Festival of Libraries 2023. For beginners and more experienced writers alike, this is one-off opportunity to write new poetry on the spot under the UK Poet Laureate’s guidance, share what you write and to ask questions. You must be aged 16 or over and booking is essential. If you do get a ticket, please bring something to write with and paper or a notebook.

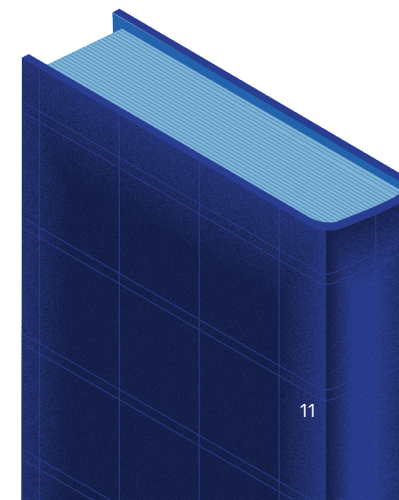


*Simon Armitage*

## Inspired by Libraries with Poet Laureate Simon Armitage

Eccles Library, Salford  
Fri 9th June, 7-8pm

Join Poet Laureate Simon Armitage at Eccles Library for this special event. Come and celebrate libraries with Simon Armitage, who will be reading poems and answering questions from the audience.





## Inspired by talks



Raymond Antrobus

### Raymond Antrobus

**Oldham Lees Library**  
**Weds 7th June, 2-3pm**

Join poet, writer, educator and investigator of missing sounds Raymond Antrobus for this exciting Inspired by Libraries talk with poet Kim Moore in Oldham.

### Cheddar Gorgeous in conversation with Paul Burston

**Chetham's Library**  
**Weds 7th June, 6-7pm**

Join Manchester icon Cheddar Gorgeous in conversation with Paul Burston for an intimate evening at Chetham's Library.

Cheddar and Paul will be discussing how they've been inspired by libraries and literature in their lives, and how vital these spaces are to the local community. They'll be discussing their own respective creative practices, plus Paul's brand new book *We Can Be Heroes*, will be on sale at the event from local bookshop Queer Lit. Please note that this event will take place at Chetham's Baronial Hall.



"Our libraries are not only archives of our past, but spaces that encourage word- and world- making. Library doors are open to everyone and, when we enter, they ask us not only to consider our past but to imagine our future. Through Sci-fi, classics, fantasy, poetry and theory libraries allow us to dream a little bigger. I can't wait to be involved in Manchester Festival of Libraries this year, and celebrate the endless possibilities that libraries create for us, without expecting anything in return. This festival is a testament to how these spaces are intrinsic to Manchester's diverse communities, especially as a UNESCO City of Literature."  
– Cheddar



Cheddar Gorgeous



Linda Brogan

### Linda Brogan

**Manchester Central Library**  
**Sat 10th June, 6-7pm**

Join us at Manchester Central Library in conversation with award-winning playwright and artist Linda Brogan.

Linda will be discussing how her pursuit of memories led to the excavation of the Reno Club, renowned in the 1970s for being the best soul and funk club in Manchester and a space for young mixed-race Mancunian who often weren't welcome elsewhere; an exhibition at The Whitworth; and now a book, *12 Words*, published by Bluemoose Books.

Authors Carmen, Tia and Catherine were part of the 2016 Reno excavation that took place 30 years after the club was demolished and have written *12 Words* alongside Linda, in the process unlocking truths, secrets and confessions.

### Andy Spinoza

**Altrincham Library**  
**Sat 10th June, 6-7pm**

Join Andy Spinoza in conversation with BBC Radio Manchester Presenter Eamonn O'Neal at Altrincham Library for an event to celebrate the Festival of Libraries, after his archive of media and memorabilia has recently been acquired by the new British Pop Archive at John Rylands Library and Research Institute.

Andy moved to Manchester from London at eighteen and never looked back. An early member of the Hacienda, he reported on the city's music scene for the NME and The Face. He founded alternative magazine *City Life* in 1983 and spent ten years as a gossip columnist for the *Manchester Evening News*. As boss of his own PR company, he promoted the dynamic post-industrial Manchester throughout the 2000s and 2010s.

*Please note this event is in partnership with Manchester University Press and Andy's book will be available for purchasing and signing by the author on the night.*

### Dave Scott

**Bolton Central Library,**  
**Lecture theatre Bolton Museum**  
**Sun 11th June, 6-7pm**

Join David Scott in an exciting discussion to celebrate libraries and his new book *'Mancunians'*.

*Mancunians* fills in a gap in the history of Manchester little covered in mainstream publishing: Manchester on the brink of the millennium, and is an account of Manchester told through a mixture of memoir and interviews with well-known Mancunians such as Guy Garvey, Tunde Babayola, Sylvia Tella, Badly Drawn Boy and Stan Chow, combined with the unheard voices of the population. We're thrilled that Dave Haslam will be in conversation with David for this exciting chat.

*This event is presented in partnership with Manchester University Press.*



Anjum Malik workshop

## Anjum Malik workshop

**Manchester Central Library  
(Event Space)  
Weds 7th June, 5-7pm**

Join Manchester UNESCO City of Literature Multilingual City Poet Anjum Malik for a celebration of South Asian culture. Combining rich conversation, classical Indian dance and poetry (plus samosas), the award-winning Anjum Malik shines a spotlight on the vibrant legacy of South Asian communities in Manchester and beyond in an interactive workshop for participants of all ages and backgrounds.

*Please note that this event will take place in the performance space at Manchester Central Library.*

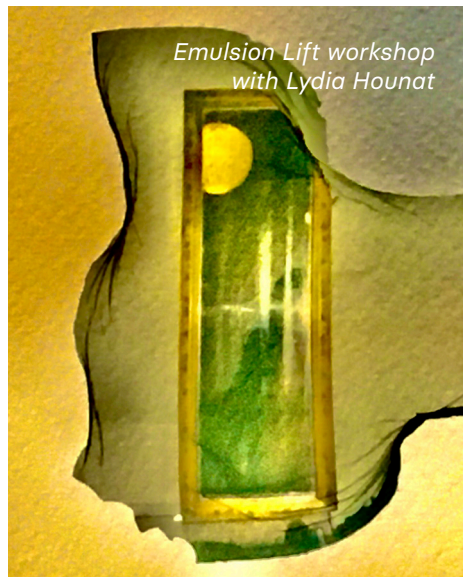
## Emulsion Lift workshop with Lydia Hounat

**Portico Library  
Fri 9th June, 2-5pm**

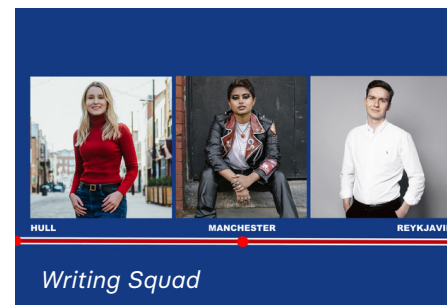
A three-hour interdisciplinary workshop exploring identity and heritage through photography and writing, to make miniature 'self-collages'.

Exploring the Polaroid emulsion lift process, where participants will take pictures using a Polaroid camera, and then how to perform what's called the emulsion lift process. You may take pictures of yourself, or want to photograph something within the building you resonate with, or something you have with you, perhaps clothing.

You will be able to take the prints home with you at the end of the workshop.



Emulsion Lift workshop  
with Lydia Hounat



Writing Squad

## The Writing Squad talk Weather Forecast: Points North

**Stockport Central Library  
Fri 9th June, 5:45-6:45pm**

Three writers from three cities, Reykjavik, Hull and Manchester, have spent time together ahead of the Festival of Libraries online and then in each other's cities to develop original writing in response to the theme of weather.

What if your everywhere is the middle of nowhere? What if in order to leave the country, you had to pass a test in which you describe your intimate self in another language? What is this Icelandic obsession with swimming? What kind of museum do you find in an underground public toilet?

An hour of exploration, readings, discussion, and maybe the answers to some of these questions, maybe not. Produced by The Writing Squad with funding from Hull City Arts and Arts Council England with support from Manchester and Reykjavik Cities of Literature.

*Produced by The Writing Squad with funding from Hull City Arts and Arts Council England with support from Manchester and Reykjavik Cities of Literature.*

## New Radical Voices with Oliver Lomax

**Working Class Movement Library  
Sun 11th June, 12-4pm**

Poet and Trustee of the Working Class Movement Library Oliver James Lomax is hosting this exciting poetry workshops for young people between the ages of 12-16.

Our young people will engage with and respond to the Working Class Movement Library's unique archive, helping inspire them to create their own work on the themes of social change. The workshops ask young people to connect historical moments with what is happening in their local communities today. This will support them to develop their own voice within the current political landscape and explore how the power of language has developed working-class consciousness and has influenced political and social change.

The winning poets from these workshops will be selected for publication on the library website and their work will be performed by actors Maxine Peake and Carla Henry at the Library's annual Radical Readers event. In addition, they will receive a WCML badge and poetry prize certificate and a £50 book voucher!



Oliver Lomax



## Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir residency

### Festival duration

Manchester Literature Festival and Manchester UNESCO City of Literature are delighted to be welcoming Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir as the first International Writer in Residence for the 2023 Festival of Libraries. The Icelandic writer will be here from 3–8 June 2023 and will be hosted by the John Rylands Research Institute and Library on Deansgate. As part of her visit, Auður Ava will enjoy a guided tour of the historic Library and its archives, immerse herself in the city's rich literary community and create a new piece of work inspired by her time in the city. She will return to Manchester in October 2023 to share her new work and her experience of writing in Manchester and Reykjavik as part of Manchester Literature Festival.

Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir is a prize-winning novelist, playwright and poet. She also writes lyrics for the Icelandic performance pop band Milkywhale. Her novels *Animal Life*, *Hotel Silence*, *Miss Iceland* and *Butterflies* in November are published by Pushkin Press and have been translated into over 25 languages. *Hotel Silence* won the Nordic Council Literature Prize, the Icelandic Literary Prize, and was chosen Best Icelandic Novel in 2016 by booksellers in Iceland. Whilst each of Auður Ava's novels feature different characters and themes, her writing is always beautifully crafted and features fine observations on nature, life, death, friendship and the human spirit. Auður Ava lives in Reykjavik City of Literature.



Auður Ava Ólafsdóttir

“Ólafsdóttir's specialty is the small journeys we take to save ourselves and the ones we care for. She is the heart's finest map-maker.”  
– Sjón



## Underscore by Quarantine

### Manchester Central Library Fri 9th June, 9:30pm-Midnight

#### WHO RUNS THE WORLD?

Underscore is an interactive digital experiment that disrupts the silent power structures of public space through live writing and projection of personal statements with real-time observations.

Set against the backdrop of the Emmeline Pankhurst statue in St Peter's Square, artists Lisa Mattocks, Lowri Evans and poet Molly Twomey will invite three generations of women to go undercover and live report on everything

they see and hear as the sky turns black. They will ask and answer questions about what keeps them awake at night, what they wished they'd said and what it all means, turning the tables on who gets to be seen and who gets to watch.

Join us in person and online from 9.30pm in a moment of mass observation, of reclaiming space, and taking back the night.

*No booking required: gather outside Manchester Central Library in St Peter's Square between 9.30pm and midnight.*

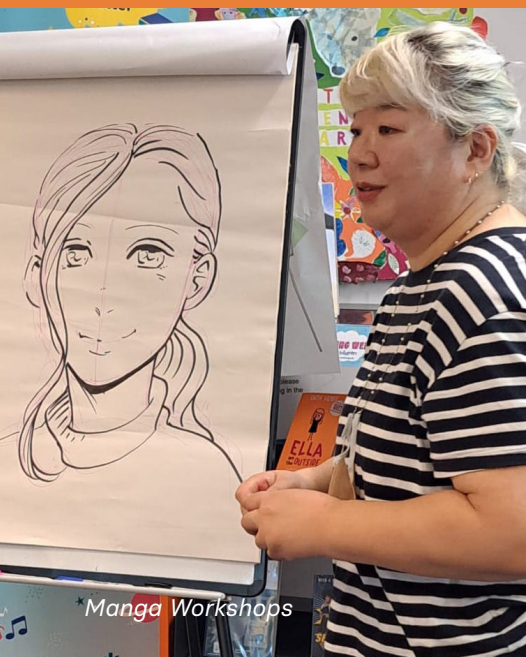
## Windrush NHS Stories Launch

### Manchester Poetry Library Thurs 15th June, 7-9pm

Untold Stories celebrates the contribution of workers from diverse backgrounds, in a range of roles, to the delivery of care and to the wider NHS story. In the 75th anniversary year of both the NHS and the arrival in the UK of the ship HMT Empire Windrush, the 'Untold Stories of the NHS' programme, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and led by Manchester Metropolitan University in partnership with Manchester UNESCO City of Literature, highlights the contribution of workers from the Windrush generation, and the communities they founded, to the NHS story in Manchester.

Following a workshop programme devised by Community Champion Jackie Bailey and delivered by award-winning writers including Keisha Thompson, Shirley May and Micah Yongo, the participants of the programme will take to the stage to share their stories.

Join Malika Booker (poet, playwright, and Poetry Lecturer at Manchester Metropolitan University) and our Untold Stories writers for an evening of poetry, storytelling, memoir and music.



## Manga Workshops

**Bury Central Library**  
Fri 9th June, 4-6pm

**Tameside Stalybridge**  
Sat 10th June, 10-12pm  
Sat 10th June, 1-3pm

**Trafford Stretford**  
Sat 10th June, 12-2pm

Manga artists Chie Kutsuwada and Inko Ai Takita will run creative workshops where participants create their own 4 panel manga comic. These sessions were hugely popular in October 2022 and encouraged new audiences and users to libraries in Bolton and Salford. We will extend the workshops across three other GM boroughs and link the workshops with the LICAF exhibition which will also run as part of the festival programme.

## Make Mine Manga exhibition

**Bolton Library**  
Tues 6th - Fri 30th June

**Manchester Library**  
Mon 10th July - Mon 28th August

Make Mine Manga is a free exhibition for anyone curious about manga as well as the avid fan. Drawn from material from the Kyoto Manga Museum, it has been specially created by Paul Gravett, comic publisher, fan and author of 'Manga: 60 Years Of Japanese Comics.'

Manga have become a pop-culture phenomenon in the UK and more and more people are reading them. Six of the top ten bestselling graphic novelists in Britain are Japanese manga authors. In the exhibition, explore how these comics evolved first in Japan and how their brilliant creators continue to expand the medium. And discover today's generation of award-winning British talents making manga their own way into a truly global language.



## Writing for wellbeing

**Marple Library, Stockport**  
Weds 7th June, 12-2pm

**Chetham's Library**  
Thurs 8th June, 12-2pm

Expressing yourself and crafting an object have long been studied and considered a way to relieve stress and emotional turbulence. We are told that "talking helps" and that making "something out of nothing" can make us feel better. Writing is a form of speech. And so, as part of the Festival of Libraries, we would like to invite you to take part in a Writing for Wellbeing Workshop, which will be facilitated by professional writers from the Centre for New Writing at The University of Manchester.

## Comic Art exhibition

**Bury Central Library**  
Festival duration

**POST COVID CITIES** an exhibition  
of award-winning comic art

In 2020, the hardship caused by the COVID-19 pandemic across the world's population stimulated discussion about how cities would function post-COVID-19. Angoulême in France, a UNESCO City of Literature with a rich history of celebrating comic books and graphic novels, launched a competition to find those visions, hopes and fears of a post-COVID world from other UNESCO cities.

For Festival of Libraries, we have collated ten entries from our UNESCO Cities of Literature for you here, along with a brief insight from the artists about their work. Come and see the exhibition at Bury Libraries as created by the town's twinned city in France working with a selection of international artists.



## Re:Sound

**Manchester Central Library**  
**Thurs 8th June, 6-7:30pm**

We're very proud to bring Re:Sound to Festival of Libraries, with the help of The National Lottery Heritage Fund. This exciting event will showcase the creative work produced by Manchester based community groups in response to music produced by artists working with the Greater Manchester Archives.

Manchester City of Literature and Unlocking Our Sound Heritage have brought together 3 Manchester based sound artists with 3 Manchester community groups. Each sound artist and community group will work together to bring audio heritage and local history to life through dynamic soundscaping, collaging and music.

The community groups Afrocats, KYSO and Pendleton Sixth Form College will present their creative work, inspired by the artists Yussuf Maleem, Jade Parker and Jaydev Mistry.

We will also meet our new artists and community groups for 2023 including Abnormal Sleepz, LayFullstop and HMD, with Community groups 42nd Street and The Sebene Project.



*This has been made possible by  
The National Lottery Heritage Fund  
awarding Re:Sound a grant, raised  
by National Lottery players.*



## More festival events by borough

### Manchester

#### Manchester Central Library

**Down Memory Lane with Archives+**  
**Fri 9th June, 1-4pm**

Why not spend an hour or two looking at some of our memory boxes or create your very own. These boxes cover the areas around Manchester and may bring back memories of where you used to live or play. Have a chat with us and share some of your memories of the area you lived or live in. This is an informal drop in session with the chance to have a chat and a cup of tea and also see some of the images from our collections.

#### Funday to celebrate

**Manchester FOL**  
**Sun 11th June, 12-4pm**

Celebrate the Festival of Libraries at our Sunday Funday. This will be an event to showcase what Central Library has to offer and of course include our amazing craft and face painting offer. Come along and join us for an afternoon of fun with the family.



### Manchester Poetry Library

**Manchester Poetry Library Tours**  
**Weds 7th June, 12:30-12:50pm**

Visit Manchester Poetry Library during Manchester Festival of Libraries 2023. 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 Wednesday to Saturday at 12.30pm.

Family activity packs will be available, so please come explore our children's section. We stock an extensive collection of poetry journals and books in different languages. You are also welcome to explore our poetry on vinyl collection.

**Underscore: A Round-Table  
discussion on poetry and text  
in live performance**  
**Weds 7th June, 1-3pm**

Chaired by John McAuliffe, Professor of Poetry at University of Manchester, with playwright and screenwriter Tim Price, and Manchester-based performance-makers/artists Lisa Mattocks and Lowri Evans, and Irish poet Molly Twomey, who are making Underscore, a Quarantine project, also part of Festival of Libraries 2023.

## Manchester Poetry Library Tours

Thurs 8th June, 12:30-12:50pm

### Future of Poetry Libraries 2: an online event w/Manchester Poetry Library

Thurs 8th June, 4-5pm

We are delighted to welcome representatives from Oxford to Kampala for the second iteration of this event. The discussion will be led by Martin Kratz, poet and Programme Manager at Manchester Poetry Library. This discussion offers the opportunity for poetry libraries, writer's houses, archives and other literature organisations and individuals to connect, to introduce their own work, and to think about the possibilities and challenges of the future.

### "Love to Read: This Beating Heart" with Laura Barnett & Livi Michael

Thurs 8th June, 6:30-7:30pm

This event marks the release of the paperback of Laura's fourth novel, *This Beating Heart*, a novel that challenges us to "think more creatively when it comes to happiness, and especially to the shapes that our families might take." (Hephzibah Anderson, *The Observer*) Laura is joined by Livi Michael. We will be celebrating the launch of Livi's new novel *Reservoir*, a novel about memory, guilt and reinvention.

Love to Read is a programme established to encourage students at Manchester Metropolitan University to read for pleasure. "Reading for pleasure" or "leisure reading" are both terms used interchangeably to mean reading done primarily for enjoyment.



## Manchester Poetry Library Tours

Fri 9th June, 12:30-12:50pm

## Manchester Poetry Library Tours

Sat 10th June, 12:30-12:50pm

## North City Library

### Festival of Libraries Family Fun day

Sat 10th June, 2-4pm

Join us at North City Library on Saturday 10 June 2-4pm for a colourful and creative celebration of all the things we love about our Libraries! We've got a jam-packed afternoon of arts, crafts, stories and play, music and feel-good fun all about making new friends and sharing with our neighbours.

## Forum Library

### Forum Library - Festival of Libraries Celebration Fun Day

Sat 10th June 2-4pm

Join us for an afternoon of fun interactive activities and entertainment for all ages. We will have lots of workshops to get involved in or you can just sit back and enjoy the atmosphere.

## John Rylands Library

### Workers' words from Lancashire Life

Sat 10th June, 11am-4pm

The Rylands is pleased to present a day of free activities inspired by the stories of culture, community and resilience from industrial Lancashire featured in our Workers' Playtime exhibition. Join us for a tour of the exhibition that goes beyond the factories to explore how workers aspired for better lives and creative expression through political, economic, and cultural self-organisation in Lancashire's historic urban communities. Explore collections that bring to life the clubs, societies and traditional leisure pursuits of local working-class people. Come and see our Columbian printing press in action and collect a freshly printed page of Lancashire dialect poetry, as we explore the life and work of dialect poet, performer, and cartoonist Sam Fitton.



## Gorton Library

### Festival of Libraries Funday

Sat 10th June, 2-4pm

Celebrating the fantastic-ness of libraries. We've got Nayna Lad our fantastic paper artist back to bring some colour into our lives. Alongside many more wonderful creatives bringing a bit of fun into our lives!



## The Portico Library

### Right to Roam: Caroline Lucas MP in conversation with Anita Sethi

\*Thurs 8th June, 7-8pm

### Belonging and identity Wellbeing Reading and Stories Environment

Caroline Lucas MP and campaigner for the right to roam in conversation with author and nature writer Anita Sethi. Part of a series of radical walks and events at The Portico Library exploring protest, the right to roam, wellbeing and access to nature.

### Pathways into Publishing

Sat 10th June, 11am-4pm

Northern professionals will provide insight into the variety of avenues into the book industries through discussion, workshops and performances. In addition from April to June 2023, the Portico Library will open up its exhibition space to the public for a community-led project recontextualising the representations and erasures in its 19th-century collection from diverse perspectives. A group of readers, residents and artists will present interpretations and provocations alongside Library books that illuminate the highlights, but also the absences and inequities, of the historic archive.





## Salford

Salford Libraries have a series of Storytime for children across their library network during the Festival of Libraries.

### Winton Library



Storytime at Winton Library  
Mon 5th June, 10:30-11:30am

### Walkden Library



Storytime at Walkden Library  
Tues 6th June, 9:30-10:30am  
Tues 6th June, 10:45-11:45am

### Boothstown Library



Storytime at Boothstown Library  
Tues 6th June, 10-11am

### Height Library



Storytime at Height Library  
Thurs 8th June, 10:30-11:30am

### Pendleton Library



Storytime at Pendleton Library  
Weds 7th June, 9:30-10:30am  
Weds 7th June, 10:45-11:45am

### Broughton Library



Storytime at Broughton Library  
Tues 6th June, 2-3pm

### Eccles Library



Storytime at Eccles Library  
Thurs 8th June, 10:30-11:30am

### Worsley Village Library



Storytime at Worsley Village Library  
Thurs 8th June, 2-3pm

### Swinton Library



Storytime at Swinton Library  
Fri 9th June, 11am-12pm

## Bolton

### Bolton Central Library

Behind the scenes tour  
– Bolton archives  
Tues 13th June, 11am-12pm

Book speed dating  
Tues 13th June, 5:30-7pm

## Oldham

### Oldham Library



Oldham Schools Local History  
Exhibition  
Mon 5th June - Mon 3rd July

An exhibition of work by Oldham primary schools, showcasing their local history and heritage learning, as a result of their involvement with Historic England's Heritage Schools programme. Come and see what heritage means to children in Oldham!

### Go Baby at Oldham Library



Thurs 8th June, 10:30am-12pm

Perfect for under 2's to explore and play with a mixture of sensory toys and materials. All chosen to help support babies development. Sensory exploration and play sessions for 0 – 2 year olds and their families.

### Vibrant Voices



Fri 9th June, 1-3pm

This friendly group is open to all who feel they would benefit from an uplifting sing! We aim to promote wellbeing through singing, particularly supporting those living with dementia, anxiety, Parkinson's, stroke survivors, their friends, family and caregivers. Brew and biscuit provided!

## Bury

### Bury Public Library

Comic arts exhibition:  
Post-covid cities  
Weds 7th - Sun 11th June, 10am-4pm

## Rochdale

### Langley Library



Festival LEGO club  
Tues 6th June, 3:30-4:30pm

Puppet craft Story time  
Thurs 8th June, 3:30-4:30pm

Reading Rocks! At Langley Library  
Fri 9th June, 3:30-4:30pm

### Littleborough Library



Rainbow Bookmarks at  
Littleborough Library Create  
Fri 9th June, 3:30-4:30pm

Festival LEGO club Create  
Sat 10th June, 11am-12pm

### Middleton Library



Pictures in the Park  
at Middleton Library  
Mon 5th June - Mon 12th June

Go on a bookish treasure hunt around Jubilee Park! Collect your competition sheet from Middleton Library during library opening hours, follow the clues, and find the pictures hidden in the park. All correct entries handed in by 5pm on 12th June will be entered into a prize draw.

Reading Rocks!  
at Middleton Library Create  
Thurs 8th June, 4-5pm

## Heywood Library

Rainbow Bookmarks  
at Heywood Library  
Thurs 8th June, 1:30-2:30pm

## Norden Library

Reading Rocks!  
Running as a dropin all week  
Mon 5th - Sat 10th June,  
during library opening hours

## Spotland Library

Reading Rocks!  
at Spotland Library  
Sat 10th June, 11am-12pm

## Rochdale Central Library

Reading Rocks!  
at Rochdale Central Library  
Sat 10th June, 11am-1pm



## Stockport

Stockport are holding various  
storytimes and crochet, knit and  
craft events across their libraries  
during the Festival of Libraries.

## High Lane Library

Story time at High Lane library  
Mon 5th June, 11-11:30am

Crochet, Knit & Craft  
at High Lane Library  
Tues 6th June, 3-4pm

## Edgeley Library

Story time at Edgeley Library  
Mon 5th June, 1:30-2pm

Crochet, Knit & Craft  
at Edgeley Library, SK3 9NB  
Weds 7th June, 2-3pm

## Bramhall Library

Story time at Bramhall Library  
Mon 5th June, 2-2:30pm

## Hazel Grove Library

Crochet, Knit & Craft  
at Hazel Grove Library  
Mon 5th June, 2-3pm

Story time at Hazel Grove Library  
Tues 6th June, 11-11:30am

## Reddish Library

Story time at Reddish Library  
Tues 6th June, 11-11:30am

## Heatons library

Story time at Heatons Library  
Tues 6th June, 2-2:30pm

Crochet, Knit & Craft  
at Heatons Library  
Fri 9th June, 11:30am-12:30pm

## Stockport Central Library

Story time at Central Library  
Tues 6th June, 11-11:30am

Crochet, Knit & Craft  
at Central Library, SK1 3RS  
Tues 6th June, 11am-12pm

Human Library  
Sat 10th June, 12-3pm

What if you were allowed to ask that  
question you've always wondered about  
someone who is trans, bipolar, muslim,  
homeless...different than yourself?  
Welcome to the Human Library.

A Human Library is an opportunity to  
unjudge someone, ask questions, be  
curious, and see beyond stereotypes,  
labels & boxes. Reading a Book in this  
Library means sitting down with a  
Human Book and having a conversation,  
free to ask any question. See where the  
conversation takes you.

Join us on Saturday, June 10, at  
Stockport Central Library. Our friendly  
Human Books will be available to check  
out and join you in a chat. Come for 30  
minutes, or stay longer and read more  
than one book.



## Great Moor Library

Crochet, knit and craft at  
Great Moor Library  
Mon 5th June, 1-2pm

Story time at Great Moor Library  
Weds 7th June, 2-2:30pm

## Adswood & Bridgehall Library

Story time at Adswood  
& Bridgehall Library  
Thurs 8th June, 11-11:30am

## Marple Library

Story Time at Marple Library  
Thurs 8th June, 11-11:30am

## Cheadle Library

Story time at Cheadle Library  
Thurs 8th June, 2-2:30pm

## Offerton Library

Story time at Offerton Library  
Thurs 8th June, 2-2:30pm

## Bredbury Library

Story time at Bredbury Library  
Fri 9th June, 2-2:30pm

## Brinnington Library

Story time at Brinnington Library  
Fri 9th June, 2-2:30pm

## Cheadle Hulme Library

Story time at Cheadle Hulme Library  
Fri 9th June, 2-2:30pm



**Heald Green Library** ●●●  
Crochet, Knit & Craft at  
Heald Green Library, SK8 3JB  
Mon 5th June, 1-2pm  
Story time at Heald Green Library  
Sat 10th June, 11-11:30am

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## Tameside

**Ashton Library**  
TechMate Tea Parties  
at Ashton Library  
Thurs 8th June, 1:30-3pm

Free drop-in session for anyone looking for support with basic digital skills. Our TechMate volunteers will help you with anything digital, including how to use devices and get online. No need to book, ideal for beginners. Bring your own device, or one can be provided to introduce you to the world of digital whilst enjoying a brew!

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**Droylsden Library** ●  
Droylsden Lively Minds Club  
Weds 7th June, 10-11:30am

Droylsden Lively Minds Club offers speakers and workshops as well as the chance to meet new people and try different things.

Come and listen to Mark Llewellyn tell the stories of Les Dawson and Roy Barraclough—and their most famous creations—Cissie and Ada.

All events are free and refreshments are available, so whether you're on your own or with a friend come along and join in.

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**Trafford** ●●  
Sale Library  
Alfie's first fight  
Sat 10th June, 2-3pm

If you liked Roald Dahl's Danny Champion of the World, the books of Jacqueline Wilson and the Rocky Movies, then you'll love this 'edge-of-your-seat storytelling' (Manchester Libraries).

Inspired by Oliver's own experiences growing up without a mum and being coached as an amateur boxer by his dad, the show centres itself around shy twelve-year-old Alfie, as he decides to go in search of his missing older brother, Jacob, when he disappears moments before an all-important boxing match...

On the surface, it's a simple adventure story. But it's also about love, loss, family and learning how to fight for what you want.

Join us for this funny and heart-warming family show that's guaranteed to pack a punch.

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**Urmston Library** ●  
Introduction to Lino Printing  
Thurs 8th June, 11am-1pm

Artist, Caroline Coates, will take you, step-by-step, through the process of printing onto lino to create your own unique piece of printed artwork. All materials are provided and no previous experience is needed.

**Alfie's first fight** ●●  
Sat 10th June, 11am-12pm  
See above.

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**Altrincham Library** ●  
Manchester:  
Tales of Rock & Roll excess  
Thurs 8th June, 7-8pm

Come and drink in a cocktail of excess and revelry drunk by those overdosing on their own egos and out to lunch in their own lifetimes in this irreverent, rabble-rousing talk.

Yes, it's the less than salubrious side of the Manchester music business with a cast list that includes Mark E. Smith, Bernard Sumner, the Happy Mondays, those lovely Gallagher boys and the Unmentionable One.

A talk by author, historian and Manchester tour guide, Ed Glinert.

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## Wigan:

**Standish Library** ●  
Meet crime fiction author Antony Johnston at Standish Library  
Tues 6th June, 10:30-11:30am

A Civilised Murder – Why We Love Cosy Crime. Author Antony Johnston (Atomic Blonde) reads from his new book The Dog Sitter Detective and talks about why we love cosy crime – in spite of critics telling us it's fluff – and how it's often not so cosy, after all!

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**Shevington Library** ●  
Ancestry at Shevington Library  
Weds 7th June, 11am-1pm

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**Wigan Library**  
"Book worms in Business"  
networking event  
Thurs 8th June, 10am-12pm

A relaxed business networking event run by author, Gemma Margerison. Those in business or looking to start up businesses are encouraged to join Gemma and to bring along a favourite book to start conversations flowing – no need for unexpected icebreaker activities or awkward small talk!

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**Leigh Library** ●●  
Pets as therapy Read2Dogs  
with Cliff at Leigh Library  
Sat 10th June, 10am-12pm

Pets as Therapy Read2Dogs scheme can help young people to improve their literacy skills and encourage confidence and concentration with reading. Reading a story aloud to a PAT dog, a great non-judgemental listener, helps young people to enjoy the reading experience whilst also developing trust, empathy and understanding of the needs of the pet. Kathryn will bring Cliff to Leigh library and families are welcome to come along to read to Cliff!

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# 7-11 June 2023



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