

**Manchester
City of Literature**

Take a front row seat

Your local library is
home to a feast of events,
performers, art, fun and
surprises this June.



**Festival
of Libraries**



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



12-16 June 2024

#FestivalofLibraries
manchestercityofliterature.com

Festival of Libraries 2024

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

Manchester is a region boasting world-class libraries that have made Manchester a UNESCO City of Literature.

This is a region that proudly invests in its libraries and celebrates all of the community, learning and creativity that they represent, this is the fourth year of the Festival of Libraries.

From the oldest English-speaking public library Chetham's Library, independent libraries like The Working Class Movement Library, specialist libraries like Manchester Poetry Library and The Proud Place Library, language libraries like Alliance Francaise and Instituto Cervantes, Children's Libraries such as Z-Arts, stunning heritage libraries like The John Rylands Research Institute and Library, The Portico Library and Manchester Central plus our local branch libraries that are vital community hubs too - we've got a lot of libraries to be proud of in Manchester.

The Festival of Libraries spans the ten boroughs of Greater Manchester, bringing with it a programme that's full of ideas, connections and discussion with exhibitions, author talks, vibrant performances, fascinating installations, workshops to get stuck into and international dynamics that are putting Manchester Libraries on the map.

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Libraries have always been home to discovery. This year, discover new places and new perspectives in our international strand of the programme.

As well as a celebration of local talent and community voice, this year's Festival of Libraries is also a celebration of our status as a UNESCO City of Literature and the city-region's considerable international links. So come and meet writers and artists from Estonia (The Embassy of Utopia), Catalonia (Barcelona Air Raid Shelter Exhibition), Denmark (Danish Comics Exhibition), and Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco (From Ink To Action and Collectives For Change exhibitions and associated talks and workshops).

Many thanks to the British Council and Lakes International Comic Art Festival for their support of From Ink To Action.

– Ivan Wadeson, Executive Director, Manchester City of Literature



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The Festival of Libraries showcases the fantastic range of libraries in Greater Manchester, from the Central Library and Manchester Poetry Library to the equally important local libraries which support their communities so well. I'm delighted that we are supporting this year's festival through our National Lottery Project Grants programme and I'm sure that local people and visitors will enjoy the huge range of talks, performances and exhibitions alongside taster sessions for Lego and creative writing.

– Luke Burton, Director of Libraries, Arts Council England

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Inspired By Libraries



LYR open Festival of Libraries 2024

Wednesday 12th June
Doors 7:30pm

At Manchester Central Library

Band LYR have written a new song, 'The Enlightenment', dedicated to the Festival of Libraries 2024. The band will open the festival on 12th June with a very special performance featuring Manchester singer-songwriter Josephine Oniyama at Manchester Central Library.

New single The Enlightenment will be released on streaming platforms on Friday 7th June and will be performed live for the first time by the band at Manchester Central Library as part of the festival on Wednesday 12th June.

The Enlightenment tells of the adventures, discoveries, inventions and encounters that lie in wait within a library; a subject that each member of LYR is passionate about. The band are also using the opportunity to highlight the importance of libraries to the fabric of society and from a very personal perspective.

"Libraries are very close to my heart. Since I became Poet Laureate I've been reading in libraries around the UK every spring, from big landmark buildings like the British Library to a mobile library van on the Outer Hebrides. I want to support the under-pressure services that play a vital role in shaping the cultural, imaginative and intellectual life of this country, and often stand at the core of communities. I wanted to write about libraries in general as places of illumination, where a person's mind can expand in every direction, and can do so for free. I think we sometimes forget that knowledge, learning and information can be very expensive, be that an internet connection, a smart phone or a course of study. Libraries are the ultimate democratic institutions - places of sharing - and having taken so much out this is an opportunity for me to give something back. Let's say I'm balancing the books."

– Simon Armitage

'The Enlightenment' extract:

“Sunshine through high windows
igniting the pages.
Books paving the way
out of the dark ages.
Illumination, bud,
like morning breaking.
The enlightenment, kid,
there for the taking.”



The Enlightenment

Read the lyrics in full and hear LYR's new song, especially commissioned for the Festival of Libraries, by scanning the QR code.





Inspired By Libraries with Maxine Peake

Wednesday 12th June
1pm - 2pm

At Bolton Central Library

Join Maxine Peake for a homecoming event in the newly renovated Bolton Central Library discussing the impact of libraries on her life and work.

Maxine is a Trustee of the Working Class Movement Library and is well known for starring in film and TV roles such as Three Girls, Black Mirror and Silk. She has extensive stage experience, championing arts in the North throughout her career. Maxine has received three BAFTA Best Actress nominations, for HANCOCK & JOAN, THE VILLAGE, and ANNE.



Inspired By Libraries with Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho

Thursday 13th June

At Urmston Library

Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022-2024 Joseph Coelho is an award-winning performance poet, playwright and children's author.

His books include the critically acclaimed Luna Loves... series including our favourite: Luna Loves Library Day, If All The World Were, and the CLIPPA-shortlisted collection of poems, Overheard in a Tower Block.

Joseph will be giving a talk at Urmston Library to young people from Highfield Primary school about libraries and reading.

Please note that this is a closed event especially for schools and so no booking is available to members of the public.

Inspired by Libraries with Christopher Eccleston

Thursday 13th June
5pm - 6pm

At Stockport Central Library



“As an actor words are the tools of my trade. When I was growing up in Salford the local library provided a vibrant lifeline to the wider world. Libraries feed people's interests and passions and provide access leading to connections being forged. I'm excited to be at Manchester City of Literature's Festival of Libraries this year to share how I have been inspired and supported by libraries.”

– Christopher Eccleston

Born in Salford, is a British actor, with a career in theatre, film and television that spans over 30 years. Join us for an exciting talk about how his life and work have been shaped by libraries.

Christopher's early television work included roles in Cracker, Hillsborough and Our Friends in The North, for which he received a BAFTA TV Award nomination. Christopher was also nominated in this category for his leading performance in The Second Coming.

In 2011, he won the Emmy for Best Performance by an Actor for his role in the TV crime-drama, Accused. Christopher also starred in popular dramas, Flesh and Blood, The Shadowline, Lennon Naked, The Leftovers, The A Word, Come Home, Dodger and True Detective - Night Country which will transmit later this year.

Christopher's memoir “I Love The Bones of You” was published in 2019 and he is an ambassador for The Big Issue.

Inspired By Libraries with Antony Szmierek

Friday 14th June
6:30pm - 7:30pm

At Manchester Poetry Library

Reflecting on the last twelve months, it's fair to say that Antony Szmierek has been the subject of a deservedly meteoric rise – fresh from being declared one of BBC 6 Music's Artists of the Year for 2023, making his television debut on Later... With Jools Holland and at the tail end of an entirely sold-out first ever UK headline tour, the Manchester based spoken word and indie-hip-hop artist has today released his new 'Seasoning' EP via underplay/Lab Records.

Join us for an exciting talk at Manchester Poetry Library with Andrew McMillan to discuss how Antony has been inspired by libraries in his life.



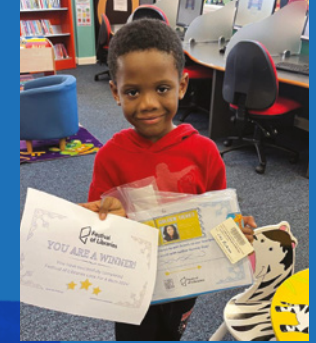
Look for a Book

Hidden in and around the green spaces of Manchester's libraries 500 copies of Konnie Huq's Fearless Fairy Tales were lying in wait to be found.

In this shake up of classic tales you won't meet damsels in distress, instead you will be captivated by characters like Sleeping Brainy, whose dream is to become the Chancellor of the Exchequer!

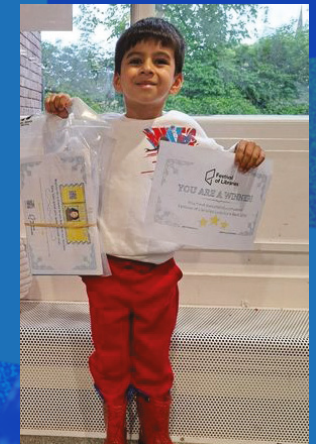
Those that followed the clues were rewarded with a copy of the book, an activity pack and also the chance to meet Konnie during the festival to find out more about her writing and days as a Blue Peter presenter (1997-2008).

Lucky winners from those brave adventurers who found book packs are invited to meet Konnie at a very special event taking place at Oldham Central Library on Saturday 15th June as part of the Festival of Libraries.

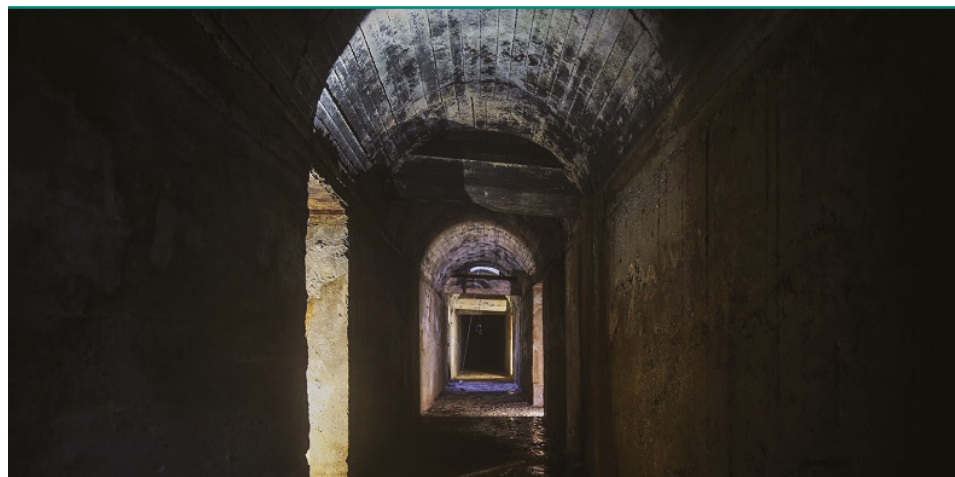


"I'm thrilled that Fearless Fairy Tales is such a big part of Festival of Libraries 2024, off on a great adventure of its own around Greater Manchester's green and community spaces for Look For A Book! I'm proud to be supporting libraries and our young people should be too, this is such a fun way to share the range of services and activities they offer. Good luck treasure hunters and I look forward to seeing the winners in June!"

- Konnie Huq



Exhibitions



Barcelona Air Raid Shelters: From Spanish Civil War to the Blitz

Saturday 1st –
Sunday 30th June

At Eccles Library

The extraordinary testimony of civil resistance, forcibly silenced for decades during Franco's dictatorship, still lives under the streets of Barcelona. A photographic exhibition has revealed the network of underground air-raid shelters, intensively bombed between 1937 and 1939 by the Italian and the German air forces, allied with Franco's command, from an artistic perspective. Forty of these 1322 shelters from the Spanish Civil War are being seen for the first time, showing a civic, historical and architectural heritage that became a centre of debate in all of Europe, just before the Second World War.

Library
opening
times

This incredible exhibition will be on display during the Festival of Libraries 2024 at Eccles Library, marking Greater Manchester's history of air raid shelters and how Air-raid shelters have become reflections of cities. The successful precedent of Barcelona was ruled out by Churchill's government for social and political reasons, not for technical reasons: the collective underground shelters, where all social classes come together, challenged some of the dominant values of the British upper class. This is probably the greatest indicator that the model of shelters is not only a building technique, but also a mirror of societies. This is why this exhibition can explain not only a connection between Catalonia and Great Britain, but can also offer a more global comparative reflection on the values of societies at war.

This is a drop-in exhibition and you do not require a ticket to visit. Please check Eccles Library opening times carefully before your visit to ensure entry.



From Ink to Action

Thursday 6th –
Sunday 30th June

At Didsbury Library

From Ink To Action is a global comic art exhibition that brings together twelve talented artists from the Arab region to tackle pressing environmental issues through the compelling medium of comic art.

In this immersive exhibition, you'll have the opportunity to explore the diverse perspectives of these twelve artists, hailing from Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, and Algeria. They have been commissioned to create powerful narratives that address the urgent climate crisis and environmental threats in their own contexts.

Each artist offers a unique lens through which to view these global challenges.

Three artists featured in the exhibition will be joining us across festival activities to share insight, skills and expertise through workshops including: Noha Habaieb, Tracy Chahwan and Zainab Fasiki.

From Ink to Action - Using Comic Art to Save the Planet is a collaboration between The Lakes International Comic Art Festival (LICAF) and the British Council – MENA.

Library
opening
times

Art Bubble Danish Comics Exhibition

Saturday 1st –
Sunday 30th June

At Bolton Central Library

Art Bubble is Denmark's friendliest comic festival and has been running in Aarhus since 2011.

This exhibition will come to Bolton Central Library for the Festival of Libraries. The exhibition gives an overview of the history of Danish comics and then introduces the contemporary artists from Denmark in a vivid and accessible way. The exhibition is in English and Danish.

Exhibition creators Lars and Arni will be joining us across the festival to share their insight and expertise with us.

Library
opening
times





Collectives for Change

Tuesday 11th –
Sunday 16th June

At Manchester Central Library

Throughout the 20th century, comics from the Arab world exclusively targeted children and were used by the ruling totalitarian authorities (military or religious) to control social morals and impose political and ideological agendas.

The Arab Revolutions of the past decade paved the way for the rise of independent collectives of artists from various Arab countries, seeking freedom of expression and creating a network of sharing experiences that has been and continues to shape the comics scene today. Introducing a variety of genres and breaking the boundaries of social and political taboos with a leading role for women, these collectives and independent artists are becoming the voice of the youth across the region.

Curated by Lina Ghaibeh and George Khoury.



Library
opening
times

Landscapes of Change

Wednesday 5th June –
Saturday 31st August

At Manchester Poetry Library

Landscapes of Change brings together poetry and science to explore how the impact of the climate emergency is making itself known. The exhibition features films, poetry across multiple languages, and special activities for children.

In September 2023, scientists Kathryn Adamson and Lestyn Barr and poet Helen Mort visited Narsaq, South Greenland to undertake scientific research and to work with the local community. In Narsaq, the warming of the oceans and resulting sea level rise are resulting in coastal erosion, melting of permafrost and decreased sea ice thickness with major human, wildlife, and economic impacts.

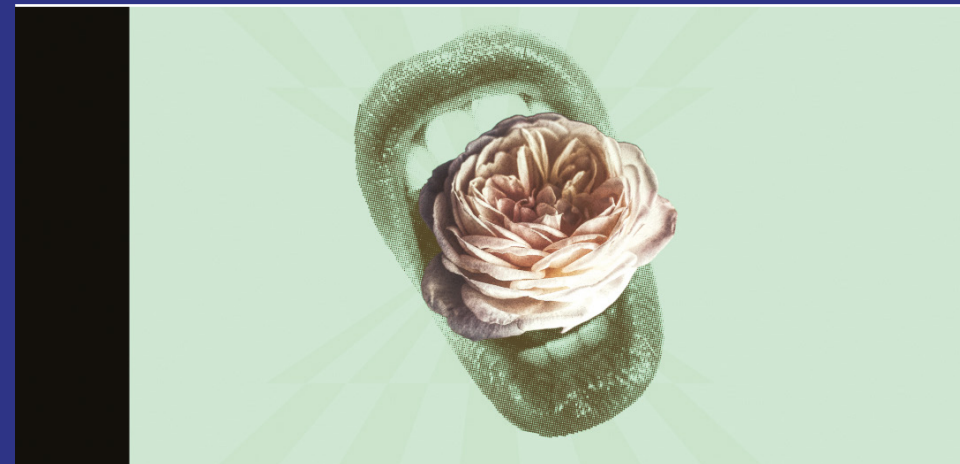
The Rainbow Library

Wednesday 12th June
10am - 5pm

At The Proud Place LGBT+ Community Centre

In 2022 a group organised by Manchester City of Literature began writing their stories, which are now on display during the Festival of Libraries 2024, come and visit, read the stories and celebrate LGBTQ+ writing.

Community Voice



The Embassy of Utopia

Friday 14th June
10am - 4pm

Saturday 15th June
11am - 4pm

At Manchester Central Library

The Embassy of Utopia is an exciting collaboration between artists from Manchester and Tartu UNESCO Cities of Literature, consisting of a two-day open forum of speeches, spoken word, ideas and performance staged in a specially created 'embassy' within the Manchester Central Library.

Artists David Hartley and Henri Hütt have created a space for dreamers, poets, activists, architects, community groups to share ideas that are too important to leave unspoken.

There will be 120 performances over two days where bold individuals and community groups have been invited to speak about their vision for the future. At 1pm on both days, there will be special extended performances from the Embassy of Utopia Ambassadors. Expect short stories, music, fashion shows, books used in unusual ways and surprises. Friday's Ambassadors will be writer David Hartley (UK) and performance artist Henri Hütt (Estonia); Saturday's will be the poets Penny Boxall (UK) and Maarja Pärtna (Estonia). All four are in Manchester after appearing in the Tartu 2024 European Capital of Culture programme in May this year.

The Embassy of Utopia was devised by Estonian artists Jan Teevet and Oliver Issak as part of the 2023 Prima Vista Literature Festival in Tartu. This is its UK premiere. Come along to find out what Manchester has collectively got to say, this is a drop-in event so no tickets needed.

Collections Encounter: Deaf Community, Culture and Collections

Friday 14th June
2pm – 3:30pm

At Historic Reading Room at
the John Rylands Research
Institute and Library

Drop into the Historic Reading Room at the John Rylands Research Institute and Library and explore Deaf community and culture from the late 19th century to the 1980s. With curator Steven Hartshorne, delve deeper into the stories behind the current exhibition 'We Have Always Been Here'. View objects, including those from the archive of librarian and Deaf activist, Richard Goulden.

This is a drop-in event, no need to book tickets. BSL interpreters including Thomas Holroyd have been booked for this event.

Hidden Shadows

Saturday 15th June
11am - 1pm

At Stalybridge Library

A series of interactive shadow sculptural scenes created with local communities, made from cut out papers, bringing stories to life.

The exciting immersive experience explores hidden stories around diversity, for example the slave trade and the impact on children and young people working in cotton mills, on migration and diverse cultures brought together from Britain's industrialisation and colonisation.

From working with young people to create shadow stories from collections and archives, bringing the stories to life through multimedia art and then filmed to create short animations.

In this workshop Rachel Riggs will lead young people to create paper cut outs to tell their own stories using vintage and contemporary papers, recycling and repurposing old books, magazines and comics into interactive works of art.

Please note that all children must be accompanied by an adult and that all adults and children attending the workshop need a ticket. We recommend this workshop works best for young people ages 8-14.



One Seven Five: An incomplete history of Oldham in 175 objects

Saturday 15th June 2024 at 9am –
Saturday 11th January 2025 at 5pm

At Gallery Oldham

2024 sees the 175th anniversary of the founding of the borough of Oldham. To celebrate, a variety of today's Oldhamers have selected objects which tell fascinating stories about our area through the years. We'll be showcasing stories of Olympic glory, pet wasp, and some gems from Oldham's art and natural history collections which you may not have seen.



'Queenie and the Pooka'

Saturday 15th June
10:30am

At Langley Library

Saturday 15th June
2pm

At Rochdale Library

Friday 14th June
10:30am
At Oldham Library and
Lifelong Learning Centre

To celebrate Gypsy Roma Traveller History Month (annually in June), Leeds Gypsy & Traveller Exchange in partnership with Spin Arts, has created a brand new live music, dance and theatre show for families - Queenie and the Pooka.

Developed with Gypsy & Traveller youth, Queenie and the Pooka tells the story of a Traveller girl with a wild imagination. She dreams of exploring the world as a famous dancer and musician, telling tales of Traveller folk through her talents. Unfortunately for Queenie,



her parents don't approve, because of a mysterious family tale. Little does she know, a shape-shifting Pooka is trapped in the trailer – and this mischievous faerie has plans for an adventure.

This mesmerising tale uses dance, live music and object theatre to capture the imaginations of big and little kids alike to tell a story of acceptance and following your heart, whilst celebrating Gypsy Traveller culture and lifestyles.

The work has been made with Gypsy, Roma, Traveller Communities but it has been created to be enjoyed by families of all kinds regardless of their background or beliefs.



Innovation and Science



Playscape: How to Build a Galaxy

Saturday 14th June
3:45pm

At Droylsden Library

How to build a galaxy is an immersive performance installation that combines dance, motion capture technology and visuals to open up new possibilities for physical, social and digital connection between people.

An exciting performance from Katie Dale-Everett Dance about play, imagination and the importance of following your curiosity and dreams. Witness the journey of dance, play and interaction where we discover new ways of sharing space and trusting our imaginations.

There will be a chance after the performance for young people to ask questions about their work with motion capture technology.

Playscape: Try the motion capture suits!

Saturday 15th June
Public performances and Q&A's
10:30am - 11am
3pm - 3:30pm

**6 bookable slots mini workshops
to test out motion suits 2 people
at a time: 11am, 11:30am, 12pm,
12:30pm, 1:45pm, 2:15pm**

At Urmston Library

After seeing the exciting performance about play, imagination and the importance of following your curiosity and dreams why not book a slot to try out the motion capture suits for yourself!

With the supervision of the lead technologists of the show have fun creating a universe of your own.

There are slots available to book between 11am and 2.15pm in between the two public performances of the show on the same day in the library. There are two suits so this activity is only suitable for two people at a time.

Blackout the Jargon

Friday 14th June
3pm - 5pm

At The Portico Library

Although scientists publish their work in academic journals or others to read, these can often be difficult to understand due to the type of language used. Join us for a session of blackout poetry, where participants can find meaning in a scientific text by selecting certain words and redacting the rest to create a literary and visual work of art. Our researchers will be on hand to show you what to do and discuss any of the source material, if needed.

3D Printing demo

Friday 14th June
2pm & 3pm

At Ordsall Library, Salford

Did you know that we have a 3D printer at Ordsall Library? Curious?

Why not stop by on Friday afternoon and as we take a look at the creative process of the 3D printer and see it in action.



Roundview sessions

The 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. The RoundView inspires hope and inspiration to work towards a sustainable future. All in a table-top game!

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

Visit a library local to you during the festival and play the RoundView:

Walkden Library, Salford

Wigan Library, Wigan

Bolton Central Library, Bolton

Rochdale Central Library, Rochdale

Uppermill Library, Oldham

Sale Library, Trafford

Ramsbottom Library, Bury

Comics

Are We There Yet? Corey Brotherson talks comics and representation

Saturday 15th June
2pm - 4pm

At The Portico Library

Award winning graphic novel writer Corey is the creator of the women-focused sci-fi anthology Deadlier Than..., and the critically acclaimed ongoing graphic novel series, Magic of Myths, as well as the writer of in-development adventure game 'Windrush Tales'.

Joining him in a fireside chat will be Portico Public Programme Committee Chair, Carol Ann Whitehead, as Corey shares his journey across 17 years in the comic book industry, focusing on lived experiences and perspectives often absent from the mainstream. You'll also have the opportunity to take part in a workshop to explore ways to create your own inclusive stories.



by Zainab Fasiki,
From Ink To Action

From Ink To Action Comic Art Workshop

Friday 14th June
1pm - 3pm

At Didsbury Library

Join Tunisian artist Noha Habaieb for a 'create your own comic panels' workshop exploring themes of climate change and deforestation through the life-cycle of bees, inspired by elements of her own work displayed at the upcoming global comic art exhibition 'From Ink to Action'.

Collectives for Change Art and Activism Workshop

Thursday 13th June
1pm-3pm

At Wigan Library

Join Moroccan artist Zainab Fasiki and Lebanese artist Tracy Chahwan for a free art and activism workshop, where you will create your own poster or four panel comic strip as well as learn more about political comic art, inspired by the artists' own work in the 'Collectives for Change' exhibition at Manchester Central Library.



Barcelona Air-Raid
Shelter exhibition

Barcelona Air-Raid Shelter exhibition - Meet the Artist and Historian

Thursday 13th June
2pm - 3:30pm

At Eccles Library

Ana Sanchez and Xavier Domenech, the photographer and historian behind the unique exhibition at Eccles library will be discussing the photographs themselves, the inspiration behind the project and the importance of the shelters to the history of Barcelona and civil defence in the U.K.

Meet the From Ink To Action Comic Artists

Saturday 15th June
2pm - 3pm

At Manchester Central Library

This is a special chance to meet three comic artists from exhibitions featured across the Festival of Libraries: Noha Habaieb, Zainab Fasiki and Tracy Chahwan.

Reading and discussion group on Orwell's *Homage to Catalonia*

Tuesday 18th June
2pm

At Eccles Library

Join us for a discussion of George Orwell's – to some controversial – account of his experiences fighting for the Spanish Republic during the Civil War.

The Spanish Civil War, 1936-9: Salford, Manchester and the North-West Dolores Long and Chris Carson

Tuesday 25th June
2pm - 3pm

At Eccles Library

Discuss the local and regional impact of the Spanish Civil War.

We will talk about the volunteers inspired to fight for the Spanish Republic against what they saw as fascism.

Speaking of the impact on our communities here in the North West, and the incredible response by local people to the need for humanitarian aid, from local fundraising, sending food and medical supplies to taking in refugee children from the beleaguered Basque Country.



Health and Wellbeing



Walking for Health taster sessions

Tuesday 11th June
10am
At Littleborough Library

Thursday 13th June
12pm
At Spotland Library

Get active, one step at a time! Our health walks are a great way to get active and meet new people in your local area. Meet at the libraries listed below for one of our guided taster walks, returning to the library at the end of the walk for refreshments. No previous experience is required, just clothes and footwear that are suitable for walking, and the weather conditions on the day. No need to book. Everyone welcome.

HiVIS Eye Health Marketplace

Wednesday 12th June
10am & 1pm

At Wigan Library

Talk to health professionals and organisations about eye health and how to live well with visual impairment. Meet local author, Ben Andrews, from Better Places, Guide Dogs for the Blind, RNIB, Henshaws and Wigan, Leigh & District Society for the Blind.

One in Ten – Let's Talk About Cough

Wednesday 12th June
12pm, 2pm, 6pm

Thursday 13th June
12pm, 2pm
(1 hour running time)

At Longsight Library

One in Ten is a listening experience that will take you on a journey through the mysteries of the human body.

Immerse yourself in this eye-opening, powerful soundscape and walk in the shoes of people whose lives are deeply affected by a complex and misunderstood condition. Inside your body, in every moment, there are millions of messages being sent and received. For the most part, these signals stay silent, under the threshold of your awareness. But for one in ten people the signals spill over and the sensations explode. For one in ten people, their everyday experience is threatened by a physical reflex, that for most of us, is a minor irritation. One in Ten layers moving personal experiences with a fascinating story about a biological mystery inside us all. You will be gently guided through an imaginative and evocative soundscape. One in Ten is an experience designed specifically for public libraries. It is followed by a conversation with some of the people whose stories you will hear.

This is a 30 minute immersive audio experience, followed by a 30 minute informal discussion.

Suitable for everyone over the age of 14. It will interest people keen to explore and understand real life stories about health, the human body, science, biology and medicine.

One in Ten was created by the participants and collaborators of Let's Talk About Cough and is presented in partnership with Creative Manchester.

Meditation at the Library

Thursday 13th June
10:30am - 11am

At Timperley Library

Take 30 mins to stop, be still and breathe. Enjoy some simple meditation practices scientifically proven to help reduce stress and encourage a sense of stillness and wellbeing. Suitable for all. Tickets available from Wednesday 1st May 2024. A free Festival of Libraries event.



Vibrant Voices

Friday 14th June
1:30pm - 3:30pm

At Oldham Central Library

Come join our fun, relaxed and singing group for those living with dementia, stroke survivors, Parkinson's and their friends, and caregivers. No previous singing or musical experience.

Gaming

Imagination Gaming

Saturday 15th June
10am - 3pm

At Rochdale Library

Drop in throughout the day and join in with table-top games for all the family.

Learn and play some of the coolest, smartest and amusing games from across the world. Strategic games, fun games, word and number games - there will be something for everyone.

Remake Reuse Replay MMU Gamecentre

Saturday 15th June
10:30am - 1pm

At Wigan Library

Remake, Reuse, Replay! is a game jam challenge which pairs participants with game designers to make new games from existing games.

The Jam explores new ways of playing games that challenge models of consumption and extend the lifespan of the products gamers consume.

Participants will work in teams, each guided by a game designer, choosing a game from the game centre library to work on. The rules are simple: take the components you have and make something new. Following the jam, one team will be declared the winner and (copyright permitting) all rulesets will be made freely available online under a Creative Commons licence.

Fun Family Board Games

Saturday 15th June
11am - 1pm

At Middleton Library, Rochdale

No need to be bored when there are board games about! Drop in and play a range of great table top games. Everyone welcome. No need to book.



Families



Baby Photo Session

Friday 14th June
10:30am - 12:30pm

At Bolton Central Library

We are thrilled to announce that the esteemed photographer Tim Simpson will be joining us at Bolton Library for our Baby Photo session! This presents a wonderful chance for you to bring your little one to discover the library while capturing their portrait. The ticket price covers one printed image from the photoshoot, with the option to purchase additional images and prints directly from Tim.

Please note that slots are limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, with 8 slots available per hour. Each slot lasts approximately five minutes, and while you wait, there will be a wealth of books available to keep you and your little ones entertained.

GO BABY

Thursday 13th June
10:30am - 12pm

At Gallery Oldham

Sensory exploration and play sessions for 0 - 2 year olds and their families. Free, no booking required.

Festival Bookstart Baby and Bookstart Bear Club at Rochdale Borough Libraries

Thursday 13th June at 9:45am
Friday 14th June at 11:30am
(multiple sessions)

At libraries across the
Rochdale Borough

Join Bookstart Bear and Amy, who'll be in the mood to party at libraries across the Rochdale Borough! There'll be lots of fun stories, songs and rhymes to celebrate the Festival of Libraries. Come ready to sing, dance, play and join in, with musical instruments, bubbles, and lots of fun. Bookstart Baby sessions are especially for babies up to 15 months; Bookstart Bear Club sessions are for babies and toddlers up to pre-school age, and their parents or carers.



Dads and Diddies

Saturday 15th June
10am - 11:15am

At Lamberhead Green Library

Event description: Enjoy jigsaws, games, creative colouring, stories, and rhymes – mums welcome too! Quality family time in a relaxed, friendly environment. Suitable for age 0 to 10 years.

Festival of Libraries Funday at Z-Arts

Storytelling Extravaganza! Immerse yourselves in captivating tales that transport you to far-off lands and spark the flames of your imagination.

11am / 11:45am / 12:30pm / 1:15pm



Crafty Corners

Unleash your inner artist or illustrator. Make your own bookmarks and write and illustrate your own books and comics. Use your creativity to bring your stories to life through art.



Bookmarks – Library Atrium with George

Pick your favourite story and use this as inspiration to design, draw and colour your own beautiful bookmark!

Comics and Books – Atrium space led by The Story Drawing Club and Lauren

Work with illustrator Emma to make and fold your own concertina book, then with drawing, colouring and writing tips you can use the mini book to create your own brilliant and colourful stories and comics.

Brand New City-wide Book Trail

Embark on an exciting literary adventure! The Blue Peter Book Club Badge Trail challenges children to discover special Blue Peter badges on display in 12 different cultural venues across Manchester, with a bonus badge in the Blue Peter Garden in Salford. You can collect your first badge at Z-arts at our event! Pick up your special trail map at Z-arts. It will guide curious minds to the various locations, where each badge will be decorated to celebrate one of 12 books in the Blue Peter Book Club. Each badge has a letter, find them all to create three special names and be in with a chance to win a prize.

Meet & Greet with Authors and Illustrators

This is your chance to meet some inspiring authors and illustrators who will be sharing their work. Engage in interactive sessions, listen to their stories, ask questions and have a go at some writing and drawing challenges.

Artist Studio

11:15am - 12pm

Susannah Lloyd – Here be Giants & Who Ate Steve – aimed at ages 4+

12:15pm - 1pm

Joan Haig – Great Minds & Tiger Rugs! – aimed at age 8+

1:15pm - 2pm

Paul Morton – Bug Belly Adventures – aimed at ages 6+



The Tiger Skin Rug Inspired Art Installation

Contribute to a collaborative masterpiece led by artist Andy Fear. Families are invited to leave their artistic mark on a communal art installation, showing our communities love for reading inspired by Joan Haig's book Tiger Skin Rug.

Tiger Skin Rug by Joan Haig

"An old promise. A mysterious tiger. A magical adventure. Fly into the night with this enchanting tale of friendship, family, and what it means to find home. Lal and his brother Dilip miss home. They don't like drizzle, midges, or the tiger skin rug in their creepy new house. All they want is to leave Scotland and go back to India. But that's before they make friends with Jenny, and before the tiger comes back to life. The tiger tells them it will take them home in return for their help: it cannot rest until it fulfils an old promise. Can Lal, Dilip and Jenny help it on its quest? Who is trying to stop them? And will they get back home?"

Under 5's Messy Play

Saturday 15th June
2pm - 3pm

At Bolton Central Library

Play, have fun, explore!

Get messy in our early years studio. We'll be painting, splashing & more!

Booking Essential through Bolton Library and Museum Eventbrite page. Tickets go live Saturday 8th June.





Edible Readathon

Sunday 16th June
1pm - 2pm

At Manchester Central Library

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.

"Tasting Children's Literature: An Edible Read-A-Thon" will be an immersive experience and read-a-thon of classic and contemporary children's literature aimed at young children up to the age of 8.

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 presented by academics and students in The University of Manchester's Programme in American Studies, in partnership with Creative Manchester.

Festival of Libraries Fun Day at Longsight Library

Saturday 15th June
2pm - 4pm

At Longsight Library

Event description: A fantastic afternoon of fun and interesting activities for all ages. A perfect blend of community, creativity and all things library.

Forum library – Festival of Libraries Celebration Fun Day

Saturday 15th June
2pm - 4pm

At Forum Library

Join us for an afternoon of fun 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. It's free and open to all, just turn up to be part of the fun.



Celebration of Creativity at North City Library Funday

Saturday 15th June
2pm - 4pm

At North City Library, Manchester

Join us for an afternoon celebrating libraries and all that they offer with some fantastic arts, crafts and stories. Our colourful celebration involves a Walk and Talk trail, a wonderful story teller and some creative literacy-based crafts and games.



Festival of Libraries Sunday Funday

Sunday 16th June
12pm - 4pm

At Manchester Central Library

Central Library will open its doors to celebrate its 90th birthday. Join us for an afternoon of fun with lots to do. There will be crafts, face painting and much more. Free family event. No need to book, just drop in.



We Are Butterflies Forever In Flight



All the colours that we shine,
wherever we go, we are
butterflies forever in flight

all the colours that we shine,
wherever we go, we are
butterflies forever in flight

The 7th century saw South Asian
servants, seamen, theatrical
performers taken to England

by East India Company,
when no longer needed, stranded,
with nothing in this foreign land

some set up businesses to care
for their own, an early testament
to the diaspora resilience

maybe that's when it began,
this migration forced, it did not
phase our creativity, brilliance

مہ، یہ ے تکمچ مہ وج گنر مامت ہو
کے ہشی مہ مہ، یہ ے تاج یہب راہج
یہ یال لتت یم زاو پر ےل

مہ، یہ ے تکمچ مہ وج گنر مامت ہو
کے ہشی مہ مہ، یہ ے تاج یہب راہج
یہ یال لتت یم زاو پر ےل

ی بونج یم یدص نیو تاس
،وزاھج یرحہ، سورکون یئی ایشیا
ڈنیل گنا وک سوراکنف کے رٹیہت
ایگ ایاج ےل

بج، ہعی رڈ کے ینپمک ایڈنا ٹسیا
ےسنہپ، یہر ین ترورض یک سا
یم نیمزرس یکلم ریغ سا، ےئوہ
ےہ ین یہب ھچک

ےل کے لاہب ھکی ینپا ےن ھچک
اروپسی ےئاد ھک وج، ےیک ےئاق رابوراگ
ےہ دے یئادتب اک کچل

سا، اوہ عورش ہی بج ھک ے اتکس وہ
یرامہ ےن سا، ایک روبجم ےن ترجمہ
رود وک تنناہڈ، رو تیحالص یقیلخت
ایک ینہن

An extract of a
poem developed with
South Asian women's
groups at Festival
of Libraries 2023.

A film of the full
poem will be premiered
in July at Manchester
Indian Film Festival

www.
manchesterindian
filmfestival.co.uk



By Anjum Malik
– Manchester Multilingual
City Poet

Full schedule

Exhibitions

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date	Event time
Greater Mancunians	Manchester Central Library	Manchester	Mon 19th April - Sat 29th June	Library opening hours
Barcelona Air Raid Shelters	Eccles Library	Salford	Sat 1st - Sun 30th June	Library opening hours
Art Bubble Danish Comics Exhibition	Bolton Central Library	Bolton	Sat 1st - Sun 30th June	Library opening hours
Landscapes of Change	Manchester Poetry Library	Manchester	Weds 5th June - Sat 31st August	Library opening hours
From Ink to Action	Didsbury Library	Manchester	Weds 6th - Sun 30th June	Library opening hours
Collectives for Change	Wigan Central Library	Wigan	Thurs 6th - Sun 30th June	Library opening hours
The Rainbow Library Exhibition	The Proud Place LGBT+ Community Centre	Manchester	Weds 12th	10am - 5pm
Ocean Drifters	Gallery Oldham	Oldham	Thurs 13th June - Sat 7th Sept	9am & 5pm
One Seven Five: An incomplete history of Oldham in 175 objects	Gallery Oldham	Oldham	Sat 15th June 2024 - Sat 11th Jan 2025	9am - 5pm

Workshops for Schools

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date
Hidden Shadows	Ramsbottom Library	Bury	Weds 12th June
Playscape: How To Build A Galaxy	Didsbury Library	Manchester	Weds 12th June
Queenie and the Pooka	Wigan Library	Wigan	Weds 12th June
Hidden Shadows	Swinton Library	Salford	Thurs 13th June
Queenie and the Pooka	Stockport Central Library	Stockport	Thurs 13th June
Workshop with Noha comic artist workshop	Didsbury Library	Manchester	Thurs 13th June
Inspired By Libraries with Children's Laureate Joseph Coelho	Urmston Library	Trafford	Thurs 13th June
Playscape: 'Try the suits'	Droylsden Library	Tameside	Fri 14th June
Hidden Shadows	Bolton Central Library	Bolton	Fri 14th June
Central Library 90th birthday activities	Manchester Central Library	Manchester	Fri 14th June

Tuesday 11th June

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date	Event time
Walking for Health taster session	Littleborough Library	Rochdale	Tues 11th June	10am & 1pm
LEGO Club taster session	Langley Library	Rochdale	Tues 11th June	10:30am & 12:30pm

Wednesday 12th June

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date	Event time
HiVIS Eye Health Marketplace	Wigan Library	Wigan	Weds 12th June	10am & 1pm
Introduction to Canal Boat Art	Bridgewater Canal which runs adjacent to Sale Library	Trafford	Weds 12th June	10:30am & 12:30pm
Dukinfield Library Club	Dukinfield Library on Concord Way	Tameside	Weds 12th June	10:30am - 11:30am
Adam Perrott's fun songs and stories	Rochdale Library	Rochdale	Weds 12th June	11am - 12pm
Watercolour taster session	Heywood Library	Rochdale	Weds 12th - Thurs 13th June	11am - 1pm
One in Ten - Let's Talk About Cough	Longsight Library	Manchester	Weds 12th June	12pm, 2pm, 6pm (1 hour running time)
Coffee and Crochet	Alkington Library	Rochdale	Weds 12th June	12pm - 2pm
Inspired By Libraries with Maxine Peake	Bolton Central Library	Bolton	Weds 12th June	1pm - 2pm
What's In A Word	The Portico Library	Manchester	Weds 12th June	3pm - 4:30pm
Festival of Libraries Author Talk and Creative Writing Workshop	Old Trafford Library at Limelight	Trafford	Weds 12th June	5:30pm - 7:30pm
LYR open Festival of Libraries 2024	Manchester Central Library	Manchester	Weds 12th June	8:15pm - 9:15pm (doors 7:30pm)
Roundview	10 libraries across Greater Manchester	Manchester	Weds 12th June	See venue opening times



Thursday 13th June

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date	Event time
Festival Bookstart Baby and Bookstart Bear Club	Libraries across the Rochdale Borough	Rochdale	Thurs 13th & Fri 14th June	9:45am (13th) 11:30am (14th)
The Storynook	Winton Library	Salford	Thurs 13th & Fri 14th June	9:30am - 10:30am, 11am - 12pm, 2pm - 3pm, 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Workshop with Eileen Earnshaw	Rochdale Library	Rochdale	Thurs 13th June	10am - 12pm
GO BABY	Gallery Oldham	Oldham	Thurs 13th June	10:30am - 12pm
Meditation at the Library	Timperley Library	Trafford	Thurs 13th June	10:30am - 11am
Walk with Be Well	Around Standish, Meet at Standish Library car park	Wigan	Thurs 13th June	11:30am - 12pm
Bury Library Rhyme Time	Bury Library	Bury	Thurs 13th June	11:30am - 12pm
Walking for Health taster session	Spotland Library	Rochdale	Thurs 13th June	12pm
One in Ten Let's Talk About Cough	Longsight Library	Manchester	Thurs 13th June	12pm & 2pm (1 hour running time)
Oliver East Workshop (Chief Librarians Office)	Manchester Central Library	Manchester	Thurs 13th June	1pm - 3pm
Creative Writing	Height Library	Salford	Thurs 13th June	1:30pm - 3:30pm
Knit & Natter	Walkden Library	Salford	Thurs 13th June	1:30pm - 2:30pm
Stay & Play	Little Hulton Library	Salford	Thurs 13th June	1:30pm - 2:30pm
Chatter and Natter	Hindley Library and community centre	Wigan	Thurs 13th June	2pm - 3pm
Meet the artist and historian	Eccles Library	Salford	Thurs 13th June	2pm - 3:30pm
Tote-ally Bookish	Multiple Rochdale Libraries	Rochdale	Thurs 13th - Sat 15th June	3pm (13th) 1pm (15th)
LEGO Club taster session	Spotland Library	Rochdale	Thurs 13th June	3.30pm - 5pm
Inspired by Libraries with Christopher Eccleston	Stockport Central Library	Stockport	Thurs 13th June	5pm - 6pm
Writing for Wellbeing	Ashton Library	Tameside	Thurs 13th June	6pm - 7:50pm
Made in Manchester with Brian Groom	Urmston Library	Trafford	Thurs 13th & Fri 14th June	7pm (13th) 8:30pm (14th)
Roundview	10 libraries across Greater Manchester	Manchester	Thurs 13th June	See venue opening times

Friday 14th June

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date	Event time
Embassy of Utopia	Manchester Central Library	Manchester	Fri 14th - Sat 15th June	10am - 4pm
Queenie and the Pooka	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	Oldham	Fri 14th June	10:30am - 11:30am
Baby Photo Session	Bolton Central Library	Bolton	Fri 14th June	10:30am - 12:30pm
Toddler Tales	Bolton Central Library	Bolton	Fri 14th June	11:30am - 12:15pm
Writing for Wellbeing	Heywood Library	Rochdale	Fri 14th June	1pm - 3pm
Knit and Natter	Heywood Library	Rochdale	Fri 14th June	1pm - 3pm
Art and Activism workshop with collectives for change artists	Wigan Library	Wigan	Fri 14th June	1pm - 3pm
Vibrant Voices	Oldham Library	Oldham	Fri 14th June	1:30pm - 3:30pm
Knit and Natter	Balderstone Library	Rochdale	Fri 14th June	2pm - 3pm
Collections Encounter: Deaf Community, Culture and Collections	Historic Reading Room at the John Rylands Research Institute and Library	Manchester	Fri 14th June	2pm - 3:30pm
Ramsbottom Library Storytime	Ramsbottom Library	Bury	Fri 14th June	2pm - 2:45pm
3D Printing Demonstration	Ordsall Library	Salford	Fri 14th June	2pm - 3pm
Blackout the Jargon	The Portico Library	Manchester	Fri 14th June	3pm - 5pm
Playscape: How to Build a Galaxy	Droylsden Library	Tameside	Fri 14th June	3:45pm
Inspired By Libraries with Antony Szmierek	Manchester Poetry Library	Manchester	Fri 14th June	6:30pm - 7:30pm
After House Silent Disco	Stockport Central Library	Stockport	Fri 14th June	8pm - 10pm
Roundview	10 libraries across Greater Manchester	Manchester	Fri 14th June	See venue opening times



Saturday 15th June

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date	Event time
Embassy of Utopia	Manchester Central Library	Manchester	Fri 14th - Sat 15th June	10am - 4pm
Imagination Gaming	Rochdale Library	Rochdale	Sat 15th June	10am - 5pm
Dads and Diddies	Lamberhead Green Library	Wigan	Sat 15th June	10am - 11:15am
LibraryFest	Leigh library	Wigan	Sat 15th June	10am - 1pm
Queenie and the Pooka	Langley Library	Rochdale	Sat 15th June	10:30am
Playscape: How To Build A Galaxy - Public performances and Q&A	Urmston Library	Trafford	Sat 15th June	10:30am - 11am 3pm - 3:30pm
Remake Reuse Replay MMU Gamecentre	Wigan Library	Wigan	Sat 15th June	10:30am - 1pm
Fun Family Board Games	Middleton Library	Rochdale	Sat 15th June	11am - 1pm
Hidden Shadows	Stalybridge Library	Tameside	Sat 15th June	11am - 1pm
Writing for Wellbeing	Ramsbottom Library	Bury	Sat 15th June	11am - 1pm
Festival of Libraries Funday	Z-Arts	Manchester	Sat 15th June	11am / 11:45am / 12:30pm / 1:15pm
Playscape: How To Build A Galaxy - Bookable mini workshops	Urmston Library	Trafford	Sat 15th June	11am, 11:30am, 12pm, 12:30pm, 1:45pm, 2:15pm
Clothes Swap	The Proud Place	Manchester	Sat 15th June	11am - 2pm
Reading at the Rylands	The John Rylands Research Institute and Library	Manchester	Sat 15th June	12pm - 4pm
Ten minute portraits	Sale Library	Trafford	Sat 15th June	1pm - 4pm
Queenie and the Pooka	Rochdale Library	Rochdale	Sat 15th June	2pm - 2:45pm
Under 5's Messy Play	Bolton Central Library	Bolton	Sat 15th June	2pm - 3pm
Are We There Yet? Corey Robertson talks comics and representation	The Portico Library	Manchester	Sat 15th June	2pm - 4pm
Festival of Libraries Fun Day	Longsight Library	Manchester	Sat 15th June	2pm - 4pm
Festival of Libraries Celebration Fun Day	Forum Library	Manchester	Sat 15th June	2pm - 4pm
Celebration of Creativity	North City Library	Manchester	Sat 15th June	2pm - 4pm

Saturday 15th June

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date	Event time
Look For A Book with Konnie Huq's Fearless Fairytales	Oldham Central Library	Manchester	Sat 15th June	Closed Event
We Invented The Weekend	Various locations	Salford	Sat 15th June	Various times
Roundview	10 libraries across Greater Manchester	Manchester	Sat 15th June	See venue opening times
LEGO Club taster session	Junction Library	Rochdale	Sat 15th June	10am - 12pm
LEGO Club taster session	Norden Library	Rochdale	Sat 15th June	10.30am - 12.30pm

Sunday 16th June

Event name	Event Location	Borough	Event date	Event time
Festival of Libraries Sunday Funday	Manchester Central Library	Manchester	Sun 16th June	12pm - 4pm
Edible Readathon	Manchester Central Library	Manchester	Sun 16th June	1pm - 2pm
Roundview	10 libraries across Greater Manchester	Manchester	Sun 16th June	See venue opening times
We Invented The Weekend	Various locations	Salford	Sun 16th June	Various times





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12-16 June 2024

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