

**Manchester
City of Literature**

Make Your Mark

Open up a world of
imagination and joy



**Festival
of Libraries**



Supported using public funding by
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ENGLAND**



**MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL**

**4-8
June 2025**

manchestercityofliterature.com

Festival of Libraries 2025

Manchester's Festival of Libraries, the largest festival of its kind in the country with over 133 of Greater Manchester's libraries taking part, is thrilled to share its full programme for 2025.

Winner of Best Event at the Manchester Culture Awards 2024, this festival is a joyful and uplifting coming together of libraries that celebrates the inspiration, creativity and community that they represent and reminds us that they are places to cherish.

Taking place from Wednesday 4 June to Sunday 8 June there are events for everyone, which range from author talks, exhibitions and creative workshops, to things you really wouldn't expect to see in a library, including classic comedy, dance performances and music masterclasses.

Almost all of them are free to participate, but check the website for ticket information. Organised by Manchester City of Literature, the festival connects the city and its communities to other UNESCO Cities of Literature around the world with exciting international collaborations.

2025's Festival of Libraries arrives at an exciting time for libraries in Greater Manchester: John Rylands Library is marking its 125th birthday, a future looking transformation is taking place at The Portico Library, the restoration of Grade II listed Chorlton Library has recently been completed and Stockport has just opened a brand new library, Stockroom.

This belief in libraries and their roles in communities is reflective across Greater Manchester and celebrated in the Festival of Libraries. Join us and celebrate all that libraries are for Festival of Libraries 2025.

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“The Festival of Libraries is one of my annual highlights as it's always a joy to celebrate everything that libraries offer to their local communities and bring people together to experience a variety of activities from performances and exhibitions to writing classes and family adventures. I'm delighted that we have been able to support this year's festival with an award through our National Lottery Project Grants programme and I'm looking forward to enjoying some of the programme myself.”

– Luke Burton, Director Libraries, Arts Council England



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A huge thanks to all the artists, libraries and communities who come together to make the Festival of Libraries such a special and moving experience. As a UNESCO City of Literature, we are also able to use our global connections to bring international artists to Greater Manchester to enrich the festival further. I am delighted that this year we have artists from our sister Cities of Literature Québec City, Nanjing and Tartu taking part and alongside the professional artists we have linked schools in Manchester and Nanjing through our Real Contentment Young People's Exhibition. Huge thanks to Arts Council England and the British Council International Collaboration Grants for their support to make this happen, alongside the regular funders of Manchester City of Literature: Manchester City Council, the University of Manchester and Manchester Metropolitan University. And a final heartfelt thanks to the Festival of Libraries staff team who knit together the contributions of our all partners with such grace and skill.

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Poetry

Light Echo

A girl sat at E2 looks up at the light
bursting through the glass dome,
*therefore get wisdom, and with
all thy getting, get understanding.*

90 years ago, six-year-old Joan
from Moss Side saw the King here,
not expecting to return, aged sixty,
to write her first essay on local history.

The girl's skipped breakfast, can't focus
on ecology, a bee appears near her
ear. A fellow worker, perhaps expelled
from its hive, in search of sanctuary.

Izzy Wallman was ten minutes' late
for work the morning after the Blitz walking
two miles strewn with broken glass
to find an eager reader already there.

The bee lands on the girl's tome, stripes
aligned with lines, pleasing until it crawls
over *'extinction'*. If only she paid attention
in class, *a crown of glory she shall deliver.*

A bust of Erinma Bell formed of
50 firearms seized by police
or surrendered during gun amnesties,
the only weapon here is knowledge.

it's the week before exams, nowhere to go,
local library closed a month ago, *exalt her
and she shall promote thee.* The girl googles,
then opens the e-catalogue, types *'apiology'*.

On a trip to Italy, the first chairman
of the Manchester Ship Canal Company
fell in love with a marble girl reading,
her poem still a mystery.

Head teeming, the girl from E2 makes for
the cafe, joins a table of women with
pens & paper. Below the marble girl's gaze
an ode to things not yet gone begins.

A poem specially
commissioned for
Festival of Libraries 2025
by Manchester City Poet
Nóra Blascsó

Inspired By Libraries

Inspired By Libraries with Frank Cottrell Boyce

Wednesday 4th June
6:30pm – 7:30pm

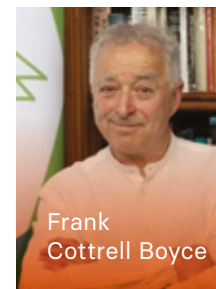
At Leigh library

Frank Cottrell-Boyce is the Waterstones
Children's Laureate 2024-2026 and
leading "Reading rights: Books build
a brighter future".

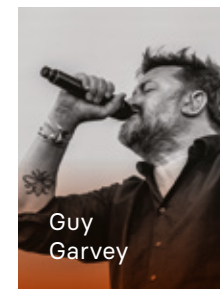
Join Frank for an insightful chat about
how libraries have inspired and shaped
his creative life at the newly refurbished
Leigh Library.

Frank is a passionate advocate for
the difference that reading can make
to a child's life and the vital role that
libraries play in their communities. He
is using his role as Children's Laureate
to raise awareness of the urgency of
children having access to books and
the value of reading. Frank will be joined
by a number of well-known figures
who will be in conversation at libraries
across Greater Manchester sharing their
stories and passions. Previous speakers
have included Simon Armitage, Radzi
Chinyanganya, Christopher Eccleston,
Guy Garvey, Cheddar Gorgeous, Julie
Hesmondhalgh, Stuart Maconie, Maxine
Peake, Michael Rosen and Gary Younge.

Frank is an award-winning author
and screenwriter. Millions, his debut
children's novel, won the CILIP Carnegie
Medal. He is also the author of Chitty
Chitty Bang Bang Flies Again, Cosmic,
Framed and The Wonder Brothers.
His books have been shortlisted for
a multitude of prizes, including the
Guardian Children's Fiction Prize, the
Whitbread Children's Fiction Award (now
the Costa Book Award) and the Roald
Dahl Funny Prize.



Frank
Cottrell Boyce



Guy
Garvey

Inspired by Libraries with Guy Garvey and Shaun Keaveny

Thursday 5th June
8pm – 9pm

At Manchester Central Library

Join us at Manchester Central Library
for a special one-off event featuring
two of the city's most distinctive and
much-loved voices.

Join Guy Garvey, Mercury Prize-winning
frontman of Elbow and presenter of BBC
6 Music's Guy Garvey's Finest Hour, and
Shaun Keaveny, long-time BBC 6 Music
broadcaster and now host of The Rock
Show on BBC Radio 2 and Community
Garden Radio.

In this relaxed and thought-provoking
conversation, Guy and Shaun will
explore themes of community,
creativity, working-class identity, music,
memory, radio, and the role that places
like libraries play in shaping our cultural
lives — all delivered with the humour,
warmth and honesty they're known for.

Elbow's new EP AUDIO VERTIGO ECHO
will be released the following day on
6th June, continuing the band's creative
streak. Join us on the evening before
to celebrate!

Inspired by Libraries with Yasmin Evans

Friday 6th June
5:30pm – 6:30pm

At Stockroom

Join Stockport's Yasmin Evans for an insightful discussion about the impact of literature on her life.

Stockport born, Yasmin Evans began her radio career at the age of just 15 presenting on one of Manchester's most prominent community stations, it was then that she began collecting vinyl's and originals, developing a taste for eclectic urban music influenced by old school RNB, Hip Hop, House and Reggae.

Yasmin joined the Heart Radio family in January 2022, previously hosting the BBC 1Xtra Weekend Breakfast show, BBC 1Xtra Weekday Breakfast Show and subsequently her own solo show on BBC 1Xtra every weekday afternoon. Now you can join Yasmin at the brand new Stockroom in Stockport for an insightful discussion into the importance of libraries and literature on her life.

Yasmin was the host of E4's Married at First Sight UK's weekly companion show, and co-hosted ITV2's spin-off of dating show The Cabins: Out of the Woods. From 2017 through to 2019 Yasmin co-hosted CBBC's live and chaotic Saturday Mash Up! A health, fitness and well-being advocate, Yasmin has previously taken part in Channel 4's hit show, SAS: Who Dares Wins as well as the BBC's Sport Relief.



Yasmin
Evans



Jordan
Stephens

Inspired by Libraries with Jordan Stephens

Saturday 7th June
2:30pm – 3:30pm

At Manchester Poetry Library

Join Jordan Stephens in conversation with Manchester Slam Champion Griot Gabriel, on how literature, inclusivity and community can be a force for a good life in this exciting talk for Festival of Libraries.

On Jordan's book 'Avoidance, Drugs, Heartbreak and Dogs', "Unsparingly digging into the fear, tenderness and trauma he carried in his body and mind, and the confusing assumptions of what a young man should be, Jordan Stephens discovers what it means to be a young man, why we should all open ourselves up to life, and how the price we pay for love in all its forms is worth it."

Jordan Stephens is a creative, musician, writer and performer, perhaps best known as one half the chart-topping duo, Rizzle Kicks who have recently made a come back after a 9 year hiatus.

Inspired by Libraries with Bobby Joseph

Thursday 5th June

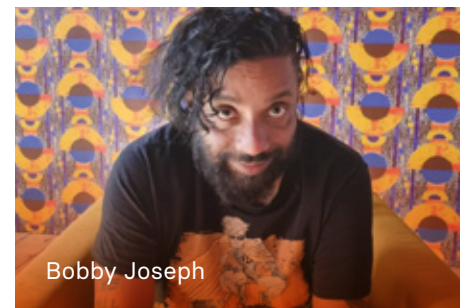
At Bolton Central Library

Bobby Joseph is the UK Comics Laureate and an acclaimed comic creator whose work has often challenged and inspired its readers. His early work includes the creation of cult comic classic Skank magazine, where his best-known strip, "Scotland Yardie", first featured, and was later published by Knockabout Press.

Bobby will work with young people during Festival of Libraries 2025 to share how comics and literature have inspired his life and career.

Since the beginning of his career, he has been a vocal advocate for diversity and representation in comic books. His graphic novel, Scotland Yardie, published by Knockabout Comics in 2017, was the first diverse graphic novel to be studied as a module on an English Literature MA course at King's College, London. He is the fifth incumbent to become Comics Laureate. His forthcoming graphic novel – Weekend Dad will be released in the autumn by Self-Made Hero.

Please note that this event is for a closed schools audience and is not bookable to the public.



Bobby Joseph

Look for a Book

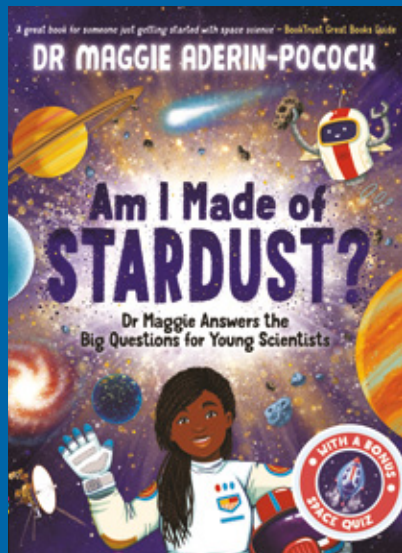
Hidden in and around the green spaces of Manchester's libraries 500 copies of Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock's *Am I Made of Stardust?* were lying in wait to be found during the May half term.

Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock PhD is a space scientist whose passion is presenting science to an audience and demonstrating that you 'don't need a brain the size of a small planet' to understand, participate in and enjoy science.

She studied at Imperial College London, where she obtained her degree in Physics and her Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. She has spent her career making novel, bespoke instrumentation in both the industrial and academic environments including working on the James Webb Space Telescope and various satellite monitoring climate change.

As well as public speaking she is a bafta nominated TV presenter, co-hosting the world's longest-running science television program *The Sky at Night*, which parents might recognise!

Lucky winners will meet Maggie at an extra special event during the Festival of Libraries!



“Libraries are such amazing places to fuel your rocket and jet off into all the places books can take you, for families to get together, and spend time having fun together. To take part in Look For A Book, follow your local Manchester library on social media to get the clues, then head out to parks, schools, libraries near you to get your hands on your copy and get exploring.”

- Dame Maggie Aderin-Pocock PhD



Exhibitions

Real Contentment

Monday 2nd June –
Tuesday 17th June

At Manchester Central Library

Exploring the natural world through literature and exchange between UK and China, this exhibition is the culmination of a 9-month project that forges a lasting partnership between Manchester and Nanjing, both UNESCO Cities of Literature and UNESCO Cities of Lifelong Learning.

Artist exchange is central to the project, uniting poets, illustrators, and playwrights from both cities to create new work. As part of the exchange, artists from Manchester visited Nanjing in Spring 2025. Creative collaborations explore the ecological theme of Real Contentment, inspired by Han Dong's poetry.

Artwork including poetry, illustration and writing by KS2 young people in Manchester and Nanjing will also feature in the exhibition, created to themes such as 'Year of the Snake', 'Myths and Creatures' and their favourite parts of Manchester.

A new bilingual illustrated poetry collection and play will be released later this year. The programme is funded by the British Council's International Collaboration Grants.



Enter the Mulberry Tree and Fly Free

Thursday 15th May –
Monday 14th July

At Levenshulme Old Library

"Enter the Mulberry Tree and Fly Free: Palestinian Comics Revealed" will present the work of twelve Palestinian comic artists in a unique installation designed by architects Rabi Kousa and Nabil Farhat, made from cardboard.

Fragile yet resilient, paper symbolises the endurance of a people amidst the tempests of history. The installation reflects the traditional architectures of the region and will house the art of twelve Palestinian comic artists. Each fold and crease in this paper house reflects the complexities of identity, memory, and the unyielding spirit of the works.

Through this ephemeral yet enduring medium, "Enter the Mulberry Tree and Fly Free" invites visitors to witness bold strokes of defiance and gentle whispers of hope.

Opening times: Monday 10am–2pm, and 5:30pm–7:30pm, Thursday 10am–12 noon, Saturdays 10am–2pm.



I've Never Read Elizabeth Gaskell

Wednesday 4th June –
Monday 30th June

At Manchester Central Library

Elizabeth Gaskell's House is marking the 10th anniversary of its restoration and opening to the public with a bold new exhibition called I've Never Read Elizabeth Gaskell, as part of a project supported by The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Three young writers – Georgia Affonso, Princess Arinola Adegbite and Guruleen Kahlo – have been awarded inaugural writers' residencies at Elizabeth Gaskell's House, Manchester's only literary house, and it is their endeavours that take centre stage.

They began their journey having never read Elizabeth's work, but by spending time at the house they have been immersed in her writing and role as a social reformist. Through their eyes visitors will also be able to discover just how much there is to the inspiring world of Elizabeth Gaskell.

In partnership with The Writing Squad and Manchester City of Literature.

125 Years of the Rylands

Saturday 7th June
11am – 4pm

At John Rylands Research Institute and Library

Roll up roll up! Join us at the John Rylands Library to celebrate its 125th birthday.

As part of the Festival of Libraries we'll be taking a trip down memory lane to look at the beginnings of the Library through our fascinating collections.

Take a look around the brand new Collections Gallery to see over 40 remarkable objects, many on public display for the first time. Explore our latest special exhibition The Secret Public: LGBTQ Pop 1955-1985.

The Research Centre will be open to discover more about how welcoming readers to the Library today. Join tours and printing demonstrations across the day with souvenirs to take home of this special anniversary.

Art Bubble Danish Comic Art

Wednesday 4th June –
Monday 30th June

Sale library

Art Bubble – a touring exhibition of Denmark's friendliest comic festival – is coming to Sale Library this Festival of Libraries!

Join us this June for a thrilling exhibition of comic artworks from Denmark's famous Art Bubble comic festival. 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.

Environment



Embassy of Utopia

Wednesday 4th June
11am – 7pm

At Manchester Central Library

The Embassy of Utopia came to Manchester Central Library in June 2024 as part of Festival of Libraries for its UK premiere, and was a collaboration between Manchester UNESCO City of Literature and Capital of Culture 2024 Tartu UNESCO City of Literature. Due to popular demand, we are running this event again for Festival of Libraries 2025.

Artist and writer David Hartley will host over 50 performances throughout the day, where bold individuals and community groups have been invited to share reflections on the theme of eco-futures. Extended performances from our multilingual city poets Nóra Blascsó and Charlotte Shevchenko Knight, sharing from Let's Talk Rochdale community members, work from international artists from Quebec, Tartu and Nanjing, and writing developed via a special collaboration with the Sonder Radio Community of over 60s will be programmed throughout the day. Expect short stories, poetry, music performed by plants(!) and much more.

Vanessa Bell's Monuments

Friday 6th June
12pm – 6:45pm

At Alliance Francaise de Manchester

This summer will see the UK premiere of MONUMENTS: a short, looped twenty-minute performance in which voices, texts and photos meet around a real territory, Newfoundland, and an imagined road trip.

Audiences of five at a time will be taken on an intimate journey from the eastern tip of Nova Scotia to Newfoundland. Award-winning Québec poet, author and performer Vanessa Bell takes audiences on the ferry, camping, fishing, walking the tundra, and experiencing the cold waters of this fertile island. MONUMENTS is a performance and installation based on the book of the same name, published in August 2022 in collaboration with photographer Kéven Tremblay by Éditions du Noroît.

Vanessa Bell is a poet, author, performer and curator who creates work in which a multitude of women's voices are heard alongside a strong focus on the natural world. Her writing is charged with sensuality, desire, and often anger. Bell has performed extensively in Québec and Europe. She has won several prizes including the Artist of the Year Award of the Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec in 2023 and is the first francophone Canadian to be supported by the Writers' Trust of Canada's Rising Stars program (2022).



Visualising Urban Greening

Friday 6th June
4pm – 6pm

At Bredbury Library

A fun, creative and engaging workshop with Adelina Court, graphic facilitator, the session is for anyone interested in urban greening, ecological innovation, and community engagement. Through guided storyboarding, attendees will explore strategies for integrating green spaces into urban landscapes with the use of pencils. Collaborate with others in helping to imagine and collectively design city green areas using imagination and drawing tools. Through this workshop, participants will learn how to address challenges like limited space, climate adaptation, and community needs. The session aims to foster actionable solutions that enhance urban biodiversity and improve community health.

The RoundView

Daily

At Bolton, Wigan, Trafford,
Stockport

Sustainable Words (and Actions) for a Better World. Are you ready to explore a world where people and nature thrive together? Join us for a fun, interactive workshop where science, art, and poetry come together to inspire real change! This workshop will introduce The RoundView, a fresh way of thinking about sustainability. It helps us to stop environmental problems before they start, and imagine a positive future for nature and people! What to expect? Solve colourful puzzles that challenge the way we think about sustainability. Get hands-on with creative activities. Team up with the RoundView team from the University of Manchester to sketch, scribble, or rhyme your vision for a healthy Earth! Who can join? Ages 8+ (Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult). This is a great chance to learn and create together as a family. Adults welcome!

Make Your Mark

Connecting Communities of Women Through Comedy

Wednesday 4th June
1pm – 3pm

At Wigan Central library

Join Caroline Jones and colleagues from the University of Salford for this unique workshop exploring how women can connect through comedy.

The session will bring women together to share laughter through games, jokes and story telling before giving a short performance of what they have developed during the workshop. Comedy is a powerful tool for sharing different perspectives, something needed more than ever, and we will utilise it as such during this fun workshop, with plenty of laughs along the way! Age 18+

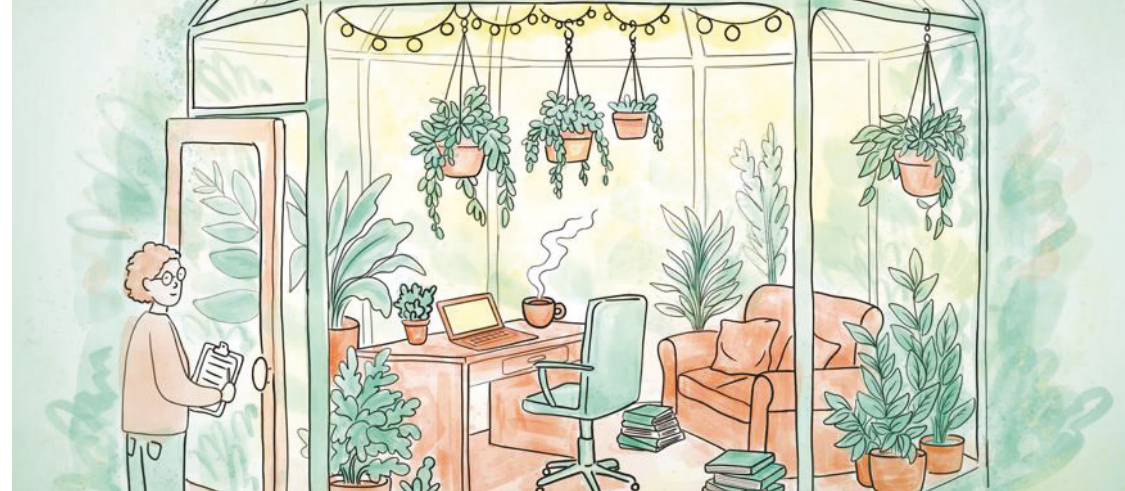


Comedy Queens on the TV Screen: Manchester's Working-Class Write Back

Wednesday 4th June
6pm – 7:30pm

At Stalybridge Library

A workshop celebrating Manchester's rich heritage of working-class female comedians on television, from Caroline Aherne to Sophie Willan. Led by Dr Laura Minor, Lecturer in Television Studies, and Ric Michael, former Head of Development for Baby Cow Manchester and Development Producer on Gavin & Stacey, this session explores how women use comedy to tell stories about class, gender, and the realities of life up North. Through creative writing exercises inspired by The Royle Family and other local comedies, participants will explore how to transform their own experiences into comedy gold and how humour can be a powerful tool for storytelling and social commentary. The session concludes with a group discussion about getting working-class women's voices heard in contemporary British television.



Pop Poetry

Changes venue daily throughout festival dates

At Oldham, Edgeley, Irlam and Urmston library

Ever fancied being a poet for 5 minutes? Ever wanted to see your work published in print?

Join Pop Poetry at Irlam Library on Wednesday 4th June.

Sit down and have a brew in our pop-up greenhouse. Write with the support of one of our poets and be part of creating a new community zine.

What is Pop Poetry? Pop Poetry is Ella, Hal and Chris, local artists who love poetry, the environment and popping up in local sites. Join the three of them for quick ten-minute workshops where you'll write a new poem and then watch as it is inputted directly into a digital zine. The following week the zine will be printed, bound and posted to your local library where it will be on display for everyone to see and read. A digital zine will also be uploaded online.

What's In A Word

What's In A Dictionary?

Wednesday 4th June
3pm – 4:30pm

At Manchester Cathedral

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? What about idioms such as spill the beans? How do children (or adults!) learn meanings of words without looking them up in dictionaries? 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 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.

Presented by the Linguistic Diversity Collective and Creative Manchester.

Family Friendly

Threads

Saturday 7th June
2pm – 2:30pm

At Manchester Central Library

Threads is a poignant and powerful story about mental health, friendship and identity. This latest work from Coalesce Dance Theatre uses stories from young people across the North of England to delicately weave together an emotive and uplifting contemporary dance and physical theatre performance about growing into adulthood.

Threads turns the spotlight on mental health and how important friendship and support can be when it comes to navigating adolescence. Performed amongst tossed away clothes, and a large wardrobe structure, two dancers use a highly physical movement language to connect and explore their intertwined experiences.



Out of this World

Performances in various libraries each festival date

At Stockroom, Ramsbottom, Farnworth, Urmston and Manchester Central libraries

Join Dan Worsley, children's author and performance storyteller as he embarks on an extra special, extraterrestrial storytelling journey. Dan will weave fact and fiction to prove that with a bit of imagination, anything really is possible. A guaranteed out-of-this-world storytelling experience! Ages 7+.

The 90-minute session will feature an engaging mix of storytelling and creative writing, followed by an informative segment on the James Webb Space Telescope. Participants will explore science facts through captivating demonstrations using an infrared camera.

Draw Along and Storytime with Neil Clarke and Penny Neville-Lee

Saturday 7th June
12pm – 2pm

At Rochdale Central Library

Join picture book makers Neil ('Crash! Bang! Wallop!') and Penny ('The Carousel Horse') in the Children's Library for a fun, interactive session of stories and drawing.

Plastic Not So Fantastic

Friday 6th June
2pm – 3:30pm

At Manchester Central Library

Join us for an engaging and interactive session delivered by Equans, where you'll find out everything you've always wanted to know about plastic, but never dared to ask. You learn lots about recycling and how to reuse plastic bottles to make mini greenhouses! Suitable for ages 7-12. Please bring a single-use plastic bottle to the session.

Family Fun Day at Z-arts

Saturday 7th June
12pm – 3pm

At Z-arts

Join us at Z-arts on Saturday 7 June at 10am to launch Environment Week with a fantastic Family Fun Day celebrating our love of libraries and nature! Kick off the day with a live show from Luna Loves Gardening creators Joseph Coelho OBE (our new Patron!) and Fiona Lumbers – including storytelling, live illustration, and behind-the-scenes book magic.

Trafford Libraries Super Saturdays

Saturday 7th June

At All Trafford Libraries

Drop in at your local library on Super Saturday and take part in a range of fantastic activities and events throughout the day!

Family Fun Days at Manchester Libraries

At North City, Manchester Central, Gorton and Forum libraries

Wellbeing

Billy and Andy's Music School

Wednesday 4th June
10am – 12pm

At Didsbury Library

A series of interactive sessions showcasing the beauty and possibilities of accessible musical instruments.

At Billy & Andy's Music School, our mission is to bring the joy of music to those who face barriers to traditional music-making. Through years of research and hands-on experience, we have discovered some of the most innovative and inclusive musical instruments available today.

Our goal is to raise awareness among parents, carers, and friends of people with additional needs, ensuring they know what's out there and how music can be truly accessible to all. These hands-on demonstrations will allow attendees to explore and play instruments designed for all abilities, proving that everyone deserves the opportunity to express themselves through music. After all, a world where everyone can make music is a happier, more connected place!

Z-access Day at Z-arts

Saturday 7th June
3pm – 5pm

At Z-Arts

Enjoy an afternoon of inclusive workshops in drama, music, circus, and art, designed to showcase the diverse talents of our community.



Creative Café:

Crafting Connections – A Heritage for Wellbeing Toolkit

Death Cafe

Friday 6th June
2pm – 4pm

At Heywood library

A Death Cafe is a chance to talk about death, often a taboo subject. Many people find the subject difficult, meaning those of us who want to ask questions and share ideas about it can struggle to find space to do so.

A Death Cafe is different. You can talk about any aspect of death you like, and no Death Cafe covers the same topics, so if you have questions, ideas you would like to discuss, or thoughts you'd like to share, come and join us for an open and honest conversation with cake. The session is for anyone who wants to talk about death, and any related topics, and is about seeing where that takes us rather than imposing any particular viewpoint.

The Cafe will be lead by Caroline Jones from Salford University. She writes: 'I have run a Death Café for years as part of my Death module, and we have covered personal bereavement, funeral traditions, life after death, and much more, always with tears, laughter, and tasty snacks. As a Humanist funeral celebrant, I am used to holding space for the difficult emotions triggered by the subject of death, and enjoy giving people the space to talk about it.'

Everyone is welcome to come and share ideas in a safe, supportive environment.

Creative Cafe: Crafting Connections - A Heritage For Wellbeing Toolkit

Wednesday 4th June
1pm – 2:45pm

At Bolton Central Library

An event to discuss the community rollout of the health and wellbeing toolkit developed by Manchester Histories.

Join Creative Manchester and Manchester Histories as they unveil their new Heritage for Wellbeing Toolkit, designed to spark creativity and foster meaningful connections. This toolkit features ten interactive activities aimed at enhancing wellbeing through heritage and the arts. In this session, the team will share insights into the toolkit's development and invite attendees to participate in one of the activities firsthand. This event is open to all and may be of particular interest to researchers in creative health, professionals in heritage, the arts, health, and social care, as well as members of the public looking to explore the power of creativity and connection. Refreshments will be served. No prior knowledge of history is required—just an open mind and a curiosity for learning something new.

The Stage

The moon was so big it forgot itself,
We spent ten minutes at the river's edge,
So nice, we wanted to stay longer,
But still, we left. After we left,
Those trees remained,
Those stones remained,
Seeming like a glimmering, ad-hoc stage,
All living creatures eager to perform on it.
Then all was calm again.

By Han Dong

Translated by Nicky Harman

A poem specially
commissioned for
the Real Contentment
exchange between
Manchester and
Nanjing UNESCO
Cities of Literature

Full schedule

Wednesday 4th June

Event name	Event Location	Event time
Pedestrian by Emma Blackburn	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Pick and Mix	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Enter the Mulberry Tree and Fly Free	Levenshulme Old Library	All Day
Mini books, big stories	People's History Museum	All Day
Festival Bookstart Baby and Bookstart Bear Club at Rochdale	Rochdale Libraries	All Day
Book Bunting Family Craft	Langley Library	All Day
Festival of Libraries 2025		9 am – 8 pm
Reform Radio Interactive DJ Workshop at Abraham Moss Library	Abraham Moss Library	10 am – 2 pm
Billy & Andy's Music School	Didsbury Library	10 am – 12 pm
Art Bubble Danish Comic Art Exhibition	Sale Library	10 am – 4 pm
Out of This World! at Stockroom	Stockroom	10:30am – 3 pm
Watercolour Taster Session at Heywood Library	Heywood Library	11 am – 1 pm
The Embassy of Utopia 2025	Manchester Central Library	11 am – 7 pm
Festival Toddler Tales	Bolton Library	11:30am – 12 pm
Art Bites at Manchester Central Library	Manchester Central Library	12 pm – 2 pm
Friends and Neighbours Group Taster Session at Wardle Library	Wardle Library	1 pm – 3:30pm
Connecting Communities of Women Through Comedy	Wigan Library	1 pm – 3 pm
Creative Café: Crafting Connections – A Heritage for Wellbeing Toolkit	Bolton Library	1 pm – 2:45pm
Heywood Scribblers Taster Session	Heywood Library	1:15pm – 3:15pm
Pop Poetry at Irlam Library	Irlam Library	2 pm – 4 pm

Art Emergency at Central Library!	Manchester Central Library	2pm – 3:30pm
What's in a Word, and What's in a Dictionary?	Manchester Cathedral	3pm – 4:30pm
Art Club at Eccles Library	Eccles Library	4pm – 5pm
Blackout the Jargon	Cheadle Library	4pm – 6pm
Comedy Queens on the TV Screen: Manchester's Working-Class Write Back	Stalybridge Library	6pm – 7:30pm
Wishes for Water: Dynamics, Flow, and Transformations	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	6pm – 7:30pm
Inspired by Libraries with Frank Cottrell Boyce	Leigh Library	6:30pm – 7:30pm

Thursday 5th June

Event name	Event Location	Event time
Pedestrian by Emma Blackburn	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Pick and Mix	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Enter the Mulberry Tree and Fly Free	Levenshulme Old Library	All Day
Mini books, big stories	People's History Museum	All Day
Festival Bookstart Baby and Bookstart Bear Club at Rochdale	Rochdale Libraries	All Day
Book Bunting Family Craft	Langley Library	All Day
Festival of Libraries 2025		9am – 8pm
Art Bubble Danish Comic Art Exhibition	Sale Library	All Day
Watercolour Taster Session at Heywood Library	Heywood Library	Until 1pm
Out of This World! (Schools Event)	Pendleton Library	All day
Music Evermore CIC Music Workshop	Forum Library	10am – 12pm
Pankhurst Centre Museum Learning Workshop	The Pankhurst Centre	10am – 12pm
'threads' by Coalesce Dance Theatre (Schools Performances)		All day

Carbon Ruins at Manchester Central Library	Manchester Central Library	10am – 12pm
Go Baby	Gallery Oldham	10:30am – 12pm
Festival of Libraries Silent Disco for All	Great Moor Library	11am – 12:30pm
Acting for Fun Workshop	Chorlton Library	12pm – 2pm
Therapeutic Thursdays Taster Session at Rochdale Library	Rochdale Central Library	12:30pm – 3pm
Manchester Central Library's Conversation Club	Manchester Central Library	1pm – 2:30pm
Knit & Natter at Walkden Library	Walkden Library	1:30pm – 2:30pm
Reading Group Taster Session at Spotland Library	Spotland Library	2pm – 3pm
Knitting Group Taster Session at Castleton Library	Castleton Library	2pm – 4pm
Knitting Group Taster Session at Wardle Library	Wardle Library	2pm – 4pm
Writing for Wellbeing at Walkden Library	Walkden Library	2:30pm – 4:30pm
Book Wands Family Craft	Langley Library	3pm – 12:30pm
Chess Club Taster Session at Spotland Library	Spotland Library	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Ukulele Storytime at Langley Library	Langley Library	3:30pm – 4:30pm
Explore Your Inner Creative Workshop with Linda Cosgriff	High Lane Library	4pm – 6pm
Movies for the Mind	Prestwich Library	5pm – 7pm
The Podcasting Phenomenon: How do you get started, and how do you keep going?	Ashton Library	5:30pm – 7:30pm
Songs the Morning Sang: Public Opening	The Portico Library	All day
Book Fest at Leigh Library	Leigh Library	6pm – 8:30pm
One Way to Make a Book	Chorlton Library	6pm – 7pm
Author Talk and Creative Writing Workshop with Reshma Ruia	Stretford Library	6pm – 7:30pm
Inspired by Libraries with Bobby Joseph (Schools Event)	Bolton Library	All day
Shark Night at Bolton Central Library	Bolton Library	6pm – 9pm
The Poetry of Humphry Davy	Manchester Poetry Library	6:30pm – 8pm
Victoria Wood in the Library	Bury Library	7pm – 9pm
Inspired by Libraries with Shaun Keaveny and Guy Garvey	Manchester Central Library	8pm – 9pm

Friday 6th June

Event name	Event Location	Event time
Pedestrian by Emma Blackburn	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Pick and Mix	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Enter the Mulberry Tree and Fly Free	Levenshulme Old Library	All Day
Mini books, big stories	People's History Museum	All Day
Festival Bookstart Baby and Bookstart Bear Club at Rochdale	Rochdale Libraries	All Day
Book Bunting Family Craft	Langley Library	All Day
Festival of Libraries 2025		All Day
Art Bubble Danish Comic Art Exhibition	Sale Library	All Day
Book Wands Family Craft	Langley Library	All Day
Craft Group Taster Session at Milnrow Library	Milnrow Library	10am – 12pm
Coffee Morning at Castleton Library	Castleton Library	10am – 11am
Little Builders	Eccles Library	10am – 11am
Reform Radio Interactive DJ Workshop at Gorton Library	Gorton Library	10am – 2pm
Singing Group Taster Session at Heywood Library	Heywood Library	11am – 12pm
Friendship Group Taster Session at Rochdale Library	Rochdale Central Library	12pm – 2pm
Writing for Wellbeing at Oldham Library	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	12pm – 2:30pm
Pop Poetry at Urmston Library	Urmston Library	12pm – 2pm
Vanessa Bell's Monuments	Alliance Francaise de Manchester	12pm – 6:45pm
Kaffeeklatsch Taster Session at Middleton Library	Middleton Library	12:30pm – 1:30pm
Get Green! Get Creative! Get the RoundView! at The Heatons Library	The Heatons Library	12:30pm – 1:30pm
Knit & Natter & Crochet Chatter Taster Session at Heywood Library	Heywood Library	1pm – 3pm

Blokes Club Taster Session at Wardle Library	Wardle Library	1pm – 4pm
The Shady Bunch Taster Session at Spotland Library	Spotland Library	1:30pm – 3pm
Death Cafe at Heywood Library	Heywood Library	2pm – 4pm
Plastic Not So Fantastic	Manchester Central Library	2pm – 3:30pm
Comic Club	Eccles Library	4pm – 5pm
Chosen Family Album Zine Making Workshop	Stockroom	4pm – 6:30pm
Visualising Urban Greening	Bredbury Library	4pm – 6pm
Inspired by Libraries with Yasmin Evans	Stockroom	5:30pm – 6:30pm
The Roads to Rome with Catherine Fletcher	The Portico Library	6pm – 7:30pm
Defeat the Librarian	Manchester Poetry Library	6:30pm – 8pm

Saturday 7th June

Event name	Event Location	Event time
Pedestrian by Emma Blackburn	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Pick and Mix	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Enter the Mulberry Tree and Fly Free	Levenshulme Old Library	All Day
Mini books, big stories	People's History Museum	All Day
Festival Bookstart Baby and Bookstart Bear Club at Rochdale	Rochdale Libraries	All Day
Book Bunting Family Craft	Langley Library	Until 4:30pm
Festival of Libraries 2025		All Day
Art Bubble Danish Comic Art Exhibition	Sale Library	All Day
Book Wands Family Craft	Langley Library	Until 12:30pm
Rochdale in Stitches Taster Session at Spotland Library	Spotland Library	9:30am – 12pm
LEGO Club Taster Session at Castleton Library	Castleton Library	10am – 11am
Super Saturday at Trafford Libraries	Trafford Libraries	10am – 4pm

LEGO Club Taster Session at Norden Library	Norden Library	10:30am – 12:30pm
Chatterbooks		10:30am – 11:30pm
Out of This World! at Ramsbottom Library	Ramsbottom Library	10:30am – 12pm
Remake Reuse Replay: Game Jam	Droylsden Library	10:30am – 12pm
Go Explorers	Gallery Oldham	10:30am – 12pm
LEGO and Model Painting Club Taster Session at Milnrow Library	Milnrow Library	11am – 12pm
Gruffalo-themed Family Craft Session at Balderstone Library	Balderstone Library	11am – 12pm
Creative Writing Workshop / Autobiography	The Portico Library	11am – 1pm
125 Years of the Rylands	John Rylands Research Institute and Library	11am – 4pm
Festival of Libraries Family Fun Day at North City Library	North City Library	11am – 1pm
Get Green! Get Creative! Get the RoundView! at Stretford Library	Stretford Library	11am – 12pm
Get Green! Get Creative! Get the RoundView! at Wigan Library	Wigan Library	11am – 12pm
Pop Poetry at Edgeley Library	Edgeley Library	11:30am – 1:30pm
Draw Along and Storytime with Neil Clark & Penny Neville-Lee at Rochdale Library	Rochdale Central Library	12pm – 2pm
Writing for Wellbeing at Middleton Library	Middleton Library	12pm – 2pm
Mexican Storytime & Crafts	Instituto Cervantes	12pm – 1pm
Festival of Libraries Family Fun Day at Z-Arts	Z-Arts	12pm – 3pm
Art Club at Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	1:30pm – 3:30pm
The Tulip Zither Ensemble	Longsight Library	2pm – 4pm
Small Cinema: Robin Hood (U)	Oldham Libraries	2pm – 4pm
Out of This World! at Farnworth Library	Farnworth Library	All day
Festival of Libraries Family Fun Day at Forum Library	Forum Library	2pm – 4pm
Macrame Phone Tether Workshop	Stretford Library	2pm – 3pm
'threads' by Coalesce Dance Theatre at Manchester Central Library	Manchester Central Library	2pm – 2:30pm

Festival of Libraries Family Fun Day at Gorton Library	Gorton Library	2pm – pm
Inspired By Libraries with Jordan Stephens	Manchester Poetry Library	2:30pm – 3:30pm
Keep Telling of Gaza	Levenshulme Old Library	7.00pm – 9.00pm

Sunday 8th June

Event name	Event Location	Event time
Pedestrian by Emma Blackburn	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Pick and Mix	Oldham Library and Lifelong Learning Centre	All Day
Enter the Mulberry Tree and Fly Free	Levenshulme Old Library	All Day
Mini books, big stories	People's History Museum	Until 5pm
Festival Bookstart Baby and Bookstart Bear Club at Rochdale Borough Libraries	Rochdale Libraries	All day
Festival of Libraries 2025		Until 8pm
Art Bubble Danish Comic Art Exhibition	Sale Library	All day
Out of This World! at Urmston Library	Urmston Library	10:30am – 11:30am
Festival of Libraries Family Fun Day at Manchester Central Library	Manchester Central Library	12pm – 4pm
Out of This World! at Manchester Central Library	Manchester Central Library	All day



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