

Children and Families Activities



SHARRACTER

CENTRAL
LIBRARY



MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL





In 2013, The Oglesby Charitable Trust awarded a major grant to Manchester Central Library Development Trust to support children and family programming over five years. This generous grant came at a pivotal time in the history of Manchester Central Library, coinciding with a major £48million refurbishment and transformation. The Library reopened in March 2014 and grant funds have been carefully utilised since, both on children and family activities at Central Library, and at a number of branch libraries.

Children and families activity in Manchester Libraries enables confidence-building, and increased creative, digital, literacy, communication and interpersonal skills. Financial support from the Oglesby Charitable Trust has given children and families more opportunities to learn together through a variety of activities, such as the Bookbenches and Summer Reading Challenge initiatives, Family Sunday Fundays, exhibition-related activity, family extravaganza The Ministry of Lost & Found, and the Bee in the City learning programme.



Bookbenches

The iconic Bookbenches project, with the Read Manchester initiative, was an opportunity to involve Manchester's communities in a citywide art trail in summer 2017. Four open book-shaped benches were funded by the Oglesby Charitable Trust at Central Library, Moss Side Powerhouse, and Beswick and Chorlton branch libraries. Nine libraries also benefited from funding that enabled them to commission community artists to design and decorate the library benches with local groups. The groups that were involved in the Bookbench project were very diverse and included the Tiny Tots and Toddler time group at North City Library.

“ I feel so proud to have taken part in this and being able to create something for the library and the community.”

Participant from the Paint Pots group – Forum Library

“It was amazing when he drew Tracey Beaker for us and we got to bring it back to school.”
Pupil from E-Act Academy



Nick Sharratt

Award-winning author and illustrator Nick Sharratt visited Central Library in May 2017 to open his inspiring touring exhibition, *Pirates, Pants and Wellyphants* – the Illustrated World of Nick Sharratt. Supported by the Oglesby Charitable Trust, the launch attracted more than 850 children and families, who joined Nick in creating drawings in the exhibition and had books signed by him. The exhibition attracted 5,200 visitors over a ten-week period and was the first children’s exhibition to be hosted by Central Library. Over 1,500 children visited the exhibition with their school, and 1,000 of these attended lively author sessions with Nick.



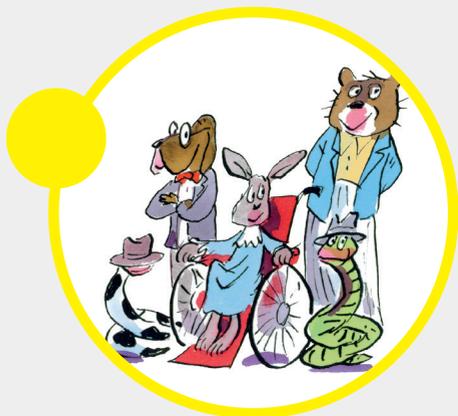
“This is fun! We thought libraries were boring.”
Young participant



Manchester

Summer Reading Challenge

The Summer Reading Challenge is the perfect opportunity to tempt children into libraries to take part in the challenge to read any six library books. The Challenge is supported by an array of more than 200 activities in Manchester Libraries. Oglesby Charitable Trust funding has supported some of the activities, both at Central Library and in some branch libraries.



“ So engaging and enjoyable, and the kids learnt loads. The kids had such a sense of achievement. It got them into Central Library, where we did writing in the beautiful Reading Room. Magic.”

Parent of Alex and Jessica,
aged 9 and 7

“ Knowing when the holiday sessions were coming up has really helped build a routine for the children, and with both children having autism, it was really helpful.”

Mum with three children,
aged 1, 5 and 6, attending
Avenue Library

Sunday Fundays

Since 2015, a series of Sunday Fundays have been held at Central Library, including themes around the Manchester Day parade, technology, Chinese New Year, the venue relaunch anniversary, and a bustling Christmas Extravaganza. These special events at Central Library enable the venue to open its doors to thousands of families on a Sunday, a day it is usually closed.



Attended by 1,000 to 2,000 people, Sunday Fundays have helped put the venue 'on the map' as a cultural destination in the city centre. They provide lots of opportunities for families to spend fun, good-quality time together creating activities such as music-making, storytimes, face-painting, archive-handling, performance and animation workshops, and even robot-making sessions!





Elbow frontman Guy Garvey broadcasted his weekly Sunday BBC 6 Music radio show from Central Library as part of the 2015 Libraries Week. Special guest Radiohead's drummer Phil Selway commented in the Independent newspaper:

“ It's great that libraries are evolving, and that the core purpose of the building is still there: that shared area where people can delight in learning and, in this case, find an outlet for their expression.”



“Central Library is a credit to you, and the city is lucky, especially in these difficult times, to have it! The Walker family will be back en masse to register for membership this week and look forward to using all the services on offer on a regular basis.”

Parent

“I really liked today as I am considered a weirdo for liking Harry Potter. It turns out I'm not the only one.”

Alice



Saturday Spectaculars

Themed family events have proved to be a huge success, and none more so than a Harry Potter family event in February 2017. This attracted an audience of nearly 5,000, both young and old.

“Fantastic event, extremely engaging, and inclusive for children with special educational requirements. Having live owls was a very special touch. A winner!”

Parent

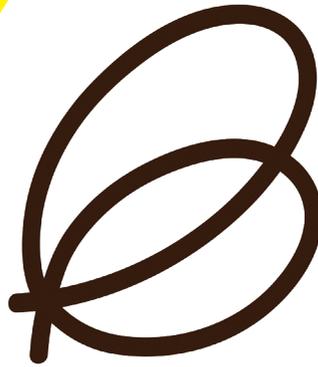
The Ministry of Lost & Found

In summer 2018, Central Library hosts family extravaganza The Ministry of Lost & Found.

Through an intriguing map quest, children and families will explore unknown rooms and archives, play hide and seek, and unlock historical secrets of the past. Mysterious staff from 'The Ministry', Leo Lost and Philius Finder, will help participants discover 'the most curious and precious objects ever lost or found'!

Visitors will be able to find their house on a giant map in the Archives, discover the tiniest insects on earth in the Performance Space, and play hide and seek in the Reading Room. There'll be juggling, hula hooping and dressing up too, not forgetting storytime, crafting and a treasure hunt. Workshop activity will be taking place at a number of branch libraries, including Gorton, North City and Wythenshawe.





Bee in the City

Bee in the City

In July 2018, Manchester will host one of its most spectacular mass-participation public art events ever, when over eighty giant honey-bee sculptures wing their way over to the city. The Bee in the City sculpture trail is inspired by Manchester's celebrated worker-bee emblem, which has been part of the city's heraldry for more than 150 years and is synonymous with Manchester's pioneering and creative industries.

The Bee in the City trail will be on display throughout the city for nine weeks from July to September 2018. Each super-sized bee sculpture will be decorated with its own unique design, created by regional professional, emerging and amateur artists – making an unforgettably stunning spectacle when the trail goes live.

Oglesby Charitable Trust grant funding will be utilised by Manchester Libraries to participate in an inclusive learning programme, imaginatively linked to the curriculum, which will give children and young people the chance to explore 'everything Manchester' through creative eyes.

Supporter thank you

Our broad range of activities for children and families would not be possible without the generous funding from our supporters.

We are extremely grateful to The Oglesby Charitable Trust, whose major support has enabled Manchester Central Library and Manchester Libraries to reach and engage children and families it otherwise couldn't do.

In addition to directly funding participatory activity, the Trust has also enabled us to attract more young people, parents and guardians to Manchester Libraries. They then discover the fantastic range of resources and facilities available to them and return as regular users and new library members.



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To find out more about Manchester Libraries' work with children and families and how to support or sponsor the programme, please contact:

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