

Oxford
Road
Corridor

INSIDE WILD, ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT
EVENTS IN MANCHESTER MUSEUM'S HISTORY

WELCOME BACK TO THE NEW AND
IMPROVED ALL SAINTS PARK

MANCHESTER PSYCH FEST RETURNS AND
IT'S BIGGER AND BETTER THAN EVER

Summer Edition



Dislocation

Strung by my collar onto a stainless-steel ceiling fan, I watched the world go by. *Chai!!* the sign had screamed and here I was, a puffer-coated punch bag, spinning in jerks and bursts. Below me, people's hair gave up its secrets: dark peeping roots, winnowed tufts. Little brown splish-splashes of tea on the table. The spices couldn't get to me up here. I swung past the window, spotted a buffalo between the bikes and the buses. The AC was icy. Why no hot lakeside stink? I tried to surf thermals of sing-song conversation, but mostly I just dangled. The ordering machine said *Touch here to start*, but I couldn't reach.

Tara Guha

Tara Guha is a dual heritage writer and creative wellbeing practitioner, studying an MA in Creative Writing at The University of Manchester. Her first novel, *Untouchable Things*, won the Luke Bitmead Bursary in 2014 and was published by Legend Press in 2015. Her second novel, *Each Night She Jumps*, won a Northern Writers' Award for work in progress in 2019. Tara has had articles published in national magazines ranging from *Psychologies* to *Gramophone*, and recently performed and exhibited one of her poems as part of the Calderdale Grid Project at Brighouse Library.

When not writing, Tara is generally to be found stomping up hills, hanging out with her kids or playing piano. She once managed all three at once, but that's another story.

Summer Edition

Welcome

Oxford Road Corridor stretches south from St. Peter's Square to Whitworth Park, extending either side to Upper Brook Street and into Hulme. Within this square mile, two of the UK's largest universities and a university NHS foundation trust work beside the city's digital, technology and life science businesses to drive innovation for Manchester and beyond.

Around Oxford Road you can find many of Manchester's iconic venues and cultural spaces alongside the institutions that cultivate the next generation of artists and creatives.

There is a thriving night-life and an exciting food and drink offer nestled between the beautiful architecture, landmarks, historic parks and contemporary green spaces.

Here is a taste of what's happening here this Summer...

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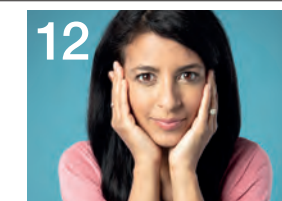
WE TAKE A LOOK AT THE STUNNING TRANSFORMATION OF ALL SAINTS PARK



AN INSIDE LOOK AT **WILD**, AN EXHIBITION SETTING OUT TO CHANGE THE WORLD



A LANDMARK YEAR FOR CENTRAL LIBRARY



THE FESTIVAL OF LIBRARIES RETURNS



UNIVERSALLY MANCHESTER MARKS THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER'S 200TH YEAR

WE PREVIEW THIS YEAR'S MANCHESTER PSYCH FESTIVAL



SUMMER LISTINGS

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Cover image: Holly Macve, who plays Manchester Psych Fest this August. © Laura-Mary Carter

Designed & edited by Ben Williams. Original design by Cathryn Ellis. With thanks to our partners Manchester Metropolitan University, University of Manchester, Manchester City Council, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Bruntwood and RNCM.



All Saints Park in bloom, photographed before refurbishment

A ten-year masterplan has transformed Manchester Metropolitan University into a vibrant, modern campus in the heart of Manchester's Knowledge Quarter. Central to this is All Saints Park, which after months of redevelopment, reopens to the public this summer as the University celebrates its 200th birthday.

It was once claimed that Manchester had everything except a beach, but as the city has rapidly expanded, it's green space and not sand that Mancunians have been calling for. Mayfield Park deservedly took the headlines when it opened in 2021, but it hasn't been the only recent addition to the city, with Oxford Road getting noticeably greener. The University of Manchester created Brunswick Park and University Green, the Whitworth has made improvements to Whitworth Park and pockets of green space have sprouted up around ongoing developments, notably the popular grassy pavilions at Circle Square where there once stood a grey BBC car park.

Now another welcome addition as Manchester Metropolitan University completes its massive overhaul of All Saints Park as part of its ambitious campus regeneration. A cherished and historic corner of the city, the pocket park is the centre of campus life at Manchester Met and has been a much-missed part of Oxford Road for everyone since it closed last year. As we enter the summer months, we are welcomed back to find a much-improved park with an emphasis on sustainability and biodiversity.

The first thing that strikes you is the pedestrianisation of the surrounding Lower Ormond Street and Cavendish Street, which effectively increases the park's original footprint and creates an open, welcoming space. The park now spills out into the university campus with

new sculptured seating, outdoor workspaces and picnic benches peppered across the beautiful new granite paving. Twelve new pollution-fighting field maple trees, six along each of the freshly paved streets, and two insect-friendly lime trees at the junction round off the sense of a boundaryless park.

Welcome back to the new & improved All Saints Park

Adding these trees and a new cherry tree in the elliptical garden within the original park marks a significant step towards creating a greener, more sustainable space and university campus for everyone to enjoy. Several factors were considered in choosing the tree species for urban areas; including their ability to thrive in cities, withstand climate changes, and support local wildlife, including insects, birds, mammals, fungi, lichen, and mosses. In total, the trees are estimated to support over 200 species of animals and plants.

Vehicle use on the surrounding streets is now reduced to essential access and it is a further boost to active travel in the area with improved cycle access linking seamlessly with Oxford Road's cycle lanes and safer, better-lit walking and wheeling routes.

However you choose to get around, it is an area well worth exploring.

There has been a restoration of historical buildings across the campus, including the Ormond Building which was built in 1881 and refreshed in 2020. More recently, the façade of the Grosvenor Building, the original home of the Manchester School of Art, was brought back to its former glory and will re-open in time for the summer exhibitions, complementing the Grosvenor East building which is home to the Manchester Poetry Library. Around the corner is the historic Salutation pub, dating back to 1828, it sits snugly beside the ultra-modern School of Digital Arts (SODA). A particularly unique spot in the park's surroundings is St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, opened in 1968, the Grade II listed building is a must-see on any Modernist tour of Manchester.

Within the park, the addition of wild meadow turf has increased the biodiversity level of what was already one of the city's most vibrant green spaces. The exterior and interior of the walls have been refreshed, new walls added in front of the library, more tables and benches added, and the old York stone flags have been cleaned and will remain a central feature. The restoration of the space respects its history and former use as a burial site with an illustration to show the footprint of the church site and plaques to serve as a reminder that it is consecrated ground.

Indeed, All Saints Park has a long and fascinating history which is worthy of its own article. Dating back to 1820 when it officially opened, the park only slightly pre-dates the founding of the Mechanics Institution in 1824. This is the date to where Manchester Metropolitan University traces its origins, and in this bicentenary year, the university has revealed plans for a jaw-dropping new All Saints Library. This state-of-the-art neighbour to the park opens in 2028 and will be the first chapter of the next 200 years of history.



wild

DAVID GELSTHORPE, CURATOR OF EARTH
SCIENCES AT MANCHESTER MUSEUM,
INTRODUCES AN EXHIBITION SETTING
OUT TO CHANGE THE WORLD



Wild aims to provide hope and to instil everyone with the confidence they can make a difference, no matter how big or small.

Manchester Museum's next exhibition is one of the most significant in its 134-year history.

In fact, with *Wild*, we're setting out to change the world. That might seem like a particularly lofty ambition, but we genuinely believe in its potential to empower meaningful action on one of the defining issues of our generation.

The story of biodiversity loss and climate change can be overwhelming, and the scale of the problem can often leave us feeling paralysed by a sense of powerlessness.

So *Wild* aims to provide hope and to instil everyone with the confidence they can make a difference, no matter how big or small. In that sense, it's as relevant for a visiting family as it is researchers and policymakers.

It prompts us to notice nature and challenges our perceptions of it, providing examples of inspiring projects from across the globe that are bringing plants and animals back from near extinction, healing the land and giving people a hopeful and happy future.

Ultimately it asks what kind of world we want to live in and what we are willing to do to realise that vision.

Wild carries a weight of expectation on its shoulders.

As only the second exhibition in the Museum's new exhibition hall, opened last February, it follows on from *Golden Mummies of Egypt*, which really captured audiences' imaginations throughout its run.

But *Wild* is also hugely significant because it says so much about who we are and what we are trying to achieve.

It speaks to both elements of the Museum's mission to build understanding between cultures and a more sustainable world. By providing visitors with an opportunity to listen to diverse voices, from Aboriginal elders to researchers and community activists, it allows them to embrace new perspectives, to challenge their own and to better understand what action they might take to protect and renew the natural world.

In its early stages of development, *Wild* was an exhibition focused squarely on rewilding, an approach to conservation focused on letting nature look after itself, often involving the restoration of ecosystems to a point before human intervention.

Rewilding is currently having a bit of a moment in the sun and there are a whole host of exciting stories about projects across the UK that are helping to transform landscapes and boost biodiversity.

However, it quickly became clear to us that *Wild* needed to be about much more than that, not least of all because wild means different things to different people and what works in one place may not work in another.

The process of pulling the exhibition together has been so hard because everyone you speak to has a brilliant example of their favourite wild place, their special childhood story or inspiring project where wildlife is bouncing back against the odds.

To make sense of all this we have chosen some of the most inspiring ways people are making the world more wild, from community action in Manchester, to The Knepp Rewilding Project in Sussex and cultural revegetation of previously colonial land in south-west Australia by the Noongar people.

The exhibition draws on our incredible natural

history collections, showcasing a rich selection of plants and animals that bring these stories to life, from the near extinct Purple Emperor butterfly now thriving at Knepp to wolves that are now making a dramatic return to Yellowstone.

Rewilding is definitely still a central part of the exhibition, but we felt we could reach more people and make a difference to more lives by exploring wild in the broadest possible sense. That way, it speaks to people's wellbeing, it speaks to the sheer sense of joy in feeding the birds or noticing beautiful plants that other people might dismiss as weeds.

We also wanted to challenge the notions people have developed about the natural world, whether through classical art, literature or even kids' TV programmes like *Octonauts*, and encourage them to view wild through different eyes.

By questioning who has shaped our definitions of wild and who makes decisions about where and how wild is introduced, we wanted to emphasise that there are many ways in which we can all make a change.

For some people, that may be as simple as noticing nature in a way they haven't done before, for others it might mean donating to a conservation charity and, in some

cases, it could be coming together with community members to take action on an issue that is important locally.

It's important to emphasise that conservation doesn't have to follow traditional rules. *Wild* highlights how people are taking a fresh look and we really hope that gives visitors the energy and power to make a difference in their own way.

Wild opens on Wednesday 5 June and admission is free. There's something for everyone within the exhibition, from families to researchers, and the accompanying programme will include everything from music inspired by nature to wild walks around Manchester.

David Gelsthorpe, Curator of Earth Sciences and Lead Curator of *Wild*

Find out more at museum.manchester.ac.uk



Neil MacInnes OBE, Head of Libraries, Galleries, Culture and Youth, Play and Participation Services at Manchester City Council reflects on a landmark year for Manchester's Central Library

10

Manchester Central Library is celebrating ten years since a major refurbishment, and 90 years since its grand opening by King George V on 17 July 1934. As the 'jewel in the crown' of Manchester's libraries and one of the most loved and iconic venues in the city, Central Library boasts services and facilities that are appreciated by over two million people annually - making it the most visited public library in the country. Central Library is an inclusive and dynamic space that appeals to families, children, and young people, as well as aspiring entrepreneurs, culture vultures, archivists, students, musicians, along with traditional library visitors.

Since re opening in 2014 we've had 12.3 million visitors with 1.6million items borrowed, 2 million free

Wi-Fi sessions and 1.3 million free PC sessions. 56,000 people have attended educational sessions, such as the free Digital Drop-ins, Storytimes for under-5s, and school visits, 500,000 people have visited special events and activities and 76,000 volunteering hours undertaken.

Our partnership with Read Manchester promotes reading and boosts literacy across the city, engaging communities through a variety of campaigns. We gift brand-new books to foodbanks, community groups and holiday activity providers (120,000 books in 2023) to support literacy and wellbeing. We also engage with national partners to enable school pupils to meet authors, and we devise our own campaigns, including Take 10, which focuses on mental health and the benefits of reading. See Myself in Books offers books, teacher resources and author visits as a free package to schools, reflecting characters, stories, and the cultural diversity of Manchester.

In 2021 the children's library was transformed into a fantastic new jungle-themed safari - perfect for letting children's imaginations run wild! Complete with new comfortable seating, it boasts crawl-through spaces for little explorers, wildlife wall art, new book display cases, and even a cosy corner for children and their parents to sit together and read. It has become hugely popular for Storytimes and primary school visits, encouraging children to fall in love with reading at an early age.

Our busy cultural programme continues to evolve and expand through author events, concerts,

unique performances, family fun days, as well as community and national celebrations such as International Mother Language Day and Festival of Libraries. Our successful partnership with Manchester Literature Festival has produced fantastic author events with Simon Armitage, Zadie Smith and Howard Jacobson, to name just a few. We will be celebrating our 90th birthday by hosting a fantastic Sunday Funday for all the family on 16th June featuring themed craft and activities, live music, and entertainers.

We have had a varied programme of exhibitions, such as *There is a Light that Never Goes Out*, celebrating Manchester's rich music heritage through iconic photography, *Sex Pistols in Manchester*, *50 Years of Rock Photography*, *Oasis DNA*, *The Danger Tree*, *Peterloo Massacre 1819*, *Manchester Hip Hop Archive*, and *Bobbins*, the hugely popular posthumous celebration of iconic performer Frank Sidebottom (Chris Sievey). One of our current exhibitions - *Greater Mancunians*, presented by The Manchester College - celebrates people born and bred in Greater Manchester, or those who have made it their home and have in some way shaped the city and its surrounding boroughs, for the greater good. It is very much a celebration of the Mancunian spirit.

Our expanded music library continues to evolve. In addition to borrowing from our vast collection of musical scores and music books, you can consult our world-renowned research collection of manuscripts and early sheet music and use our computers to compose your own. You can also use

our collection of instruments (including pianos, guitars, and drums), join one of our popular jamming sessions, and experience intimate live performances.

Our archives centre of excellence, Archives+, provides a range of archive and heritage services from one location. Archives+ brings together Manchester Libraries, Information and Archives, Greater Manchester County Record Office, North West Film Archive, Manchester Histories, Manchester Voices, Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Centre and Education Trust, and Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society. In recognition of the importance of Central Library and Archives+, we became the Northern Hub for the 1921 census, being only one of three venues in England and Wales able to offer free access to the census.

The Business and Intellectual Property Centre (BIPC) based in Central Library helps local people to start, run and grow their own business. From that first spark of inspiration, to successfully launching and developing a business, the tools, support, and advice are all here via free access to over £5m worth of business and intellectual property databases and publications. There is also one-to-one support, including our Patent and IP Clinics; workshops and networking events; a podcasting studio for small businesses and start-ups; and a 3D printer for prototyping.

We encourage and foster creativity and participation for all ages and are continually evolving to reach and engage with new audiences and partners.

We look forward to welcoming everyone over the next 90 years.

11

The Festival of Libraries returns to Oxford Road and libraries across Greater Manchester from 12-16 June.

Manchester City of Literature's Executive Director, **Ivan Wadeson** introduces this year's edition.

Now in its fourth year, the Festival of Libraries will be full of imagination, ideas, connections and discussion with exhibitions, author talks, performances, installations, live music, workshops and international collaborations which are all largely free to take part in.

Opening the five-day festival at the top of Oxford Road will be a performance in Central Library by LYR on Wednesday 12 June. LYR (pictured) is made up of British Poet Laureate Simon Armitage, singer-songwriter Richard Walters and multi-instrumentalist and producer Patrick Pearson and previous live performances include Green Man, Latitude and Blue Dot festivals. LYR have been commissioned to write and record a new song for the Festival of Libraries which will be released in early June ahead of its live première at Central Library.

Simon Armitage has a long association with the library: "I wrote some of my early poems "cramming in a carrel at Central Library" so it's a real thrill to be performing there, giving something back to the institutions which were a gateway to personal enlightenment and a place to get out of the rain." Whether rain or sunshine in June, this looks to be an unmissable

live event with rumours of a special Manchester guest joining the band too.

Later in the week Central Library also hosts The Embassy of Utopia, an exciting collaboration between Manchester and Tartu Cities of Literature in the year that Tartu is European Capital of Culture. Artists David Hartley (UK) and Henri Hütt (Estonia) will create a unique space in Central Library to host a forum for ideas that are too important to leave unspoken.

Individuals and community groups - whether they are poets, campaigners, academics, hobbyists, dancers or dreamers - are invited to speak about their vision for the future. What has Manchester collectively got to say? Come and find out in this utopian forum on Friday 14 and Saturday 15 June that shares positive visions of the future for these uncertain times.

International collaborations appear elsewhere on Oxford Road. At Manchester Poetry Library, award-winning poet and lecturer Helen Mort and scientists Dr Kathryn Adamson and Dr Iestyn Barr from Manchester Metropolitan University create an exhibition based on their research into environmental change in Narsaq, South Greenland.

As well as the major human, wildlife, and economic impacts of the warming of the oceans and resulting sea level rise, the exhibition will also highlight writing by Greenlanders reflecting on their individual experiences of these dramatic changes.

Throughout the Festival at Central Library is Collectives for Change. This comic art exhibition showcases the work of 12 artists from Egypt, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco. The exhibition shows how the Arab Revolutions of the past decade have paved the way for the rise of independent artists who have become the voice of the youth and are shaping the comic scene today. Comic artists from these exhibitions will be visiting Manchester during the festival to take part in workshops, talks and more.

As a UNESCO City of Literature, Manchester believes passionately in the value of libraries. The Festival reminds people of the breadth of what libraries offer and the incredible contribution they make to communities as places of learning and creativity.

Discover the full programme at manchestercityofliterature.com

LYR © Katie Silvester



John McAuliffe, Professor of Poetry and Director of Creative Manchester at The University of Manchester, looks ahead to *Universally Manchester*, a free festival celebrating 200 years of education and innovation at the University, taking place from 6-9 June.

UNIVERSALLY MANCHESTER

Professor Brian Cox



Universities have always been a hot bed of creativity, set up to better understand the world, respond to challenges and, sometimes, re-make our future. The University of Manchester has, over the past 200 years, drawn together great teams, pioneering researchers and writers who have shaped the life of this city, and the wider world.

This June, we draw on this rich seam of creativity and innovation through *Universally Manchester Festival*. Four incredible days of insightful discussions, entertaining performances and family friendly activities, at our iconic Oxford Road campus, and online, from **Thursday, 6 – Sunday, 9 June**. Experience everything from poetry to physics, music to medicine, computing to creative writing and more – you can take a dazzling journey into the universe with Professor Brian Cox, or let loose at The Carnival, a celebration of art and culture taking over the Whitworth.

As the Director for Creative Manchester (our University's research platform for arts and culture), I felt it vital that we take centre stage in these celebrations, hosting a series of talks, performances and commissioned artwork, which reflect on our history and looks beyond to our third century of cutting-edge creativity.

On Friday, our historian colleagues David Olusoga and

Michael Wood, who have been pioneering leaders in public history, take a critical lens on the world of tv and film to help us better reflect upon cultural narratives. In partnership with The Guardian Live, we will explore how transatlantic slavery shaped The University of Manchester and consider the emerging question: 'what should we do next?'. Before the British Pop Archive consider Manchester's musical heritage.

Woven through the festival weekend, Creative Manchester present vibrant musical performances too, including a vocal performance inspired by nature's beauty by Kantos choir, a collective of dynamic and creative vocal artists in the north. Four-time Grammy award winning percussionist, Carlos Maldonado will be joined by the Music Department's jazz ensemble.

The University of Manchester grew out of the inspired, future-shaping imagination of Manchester

citizens. Jeanette Winterson puts it best; 'Creativity is what defines us'. The festival will celebrate and continue that work, drawing on the city-region for inspiration, acting as a stage for

new ideas which may well shape the next century's progress...

Find out more about the free programme of events presented by *Universally Manchester Festival*, and sign up early bird tickets for in demand events by visiting universallymanchester.com.



GRRRL © Jacob Simkins



Black Gold Arts, courtesy of the Whitworth © David Oates

The biggest day out
for Manchester's gig-
goers is back and
knows no limits.



Deadletter at Manchester Psych Fest 2023 © Abbie Jennings



Circle Square/Manchester Psych Fest 2023 © Bella

Manchester Psych Fest comes barrelling into its second decade this August with no signs of slowing down. This year's edition takes place across sixteen stages over a footprint as big as most field-based festivals without the mud, leaking tents or long journey home.

Another superb line-up brings festivalgoers the chance to get up-close with the likes of **BC Camplight**, **Billie Marten**, **Baxter Dury**, **Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs Pigs**, **Altın Gün** and **The Horrors** as Psych Fest returns to the familiar surrounds of Albert Hall, YES, The Ritz and Gorilla. Projekts Skatepark will be the festival's first outdoor stage, and conveniently guaranteed to be rain-free thanks to cover provided by The Mancunian Way. More new acts and venues will be announced over the summer for what will be, by far, the festival's biggest outing to date.

For the third year in a row, Circle Square is the festival's hub, and it's a space that works remarkably well. Here you can pick up your wristband, browse the pop-up encampment of stalls, and, if you get down early enough, even enjoy a spot of yoga. By late afternoon the area buzzes with crowds who fill the grass pavilions as they float between sets. Squint just a little and it genuinely feels like being *somewhere*, *somewhere... in a field in Hampshire*.

Well, you get the idea.

Psych Fest has grown from an all-day session at the 250-capacity Night & Day, to an event that brings six thousand people into the city. Like any festival of this size, line-up clashes are inevitable, but also deliberate. While the stage times may leave some ticketholders wishing they could be in several places at once, the day is carefully curated to ensure everyone isn't converging on a single venue.

Capacity and security measures mean that queuing is an unavoidable part of the day, but the organisers have listened to the feedback and put procedures in place to better communicate with those in line.

Thankfully, this year's line-up is another belter and there's always plenty to be discovered across the festival's many stages. And exploration will be

Circle Square/Manchester Psych Fest 2023 © Mat Coffey | Der Fotoautomat



rewarded. The further you dig, the more you'll discover. Working Men's Club, Lime Garden, Hamish Hawk, Yard Act and BDRMM have all been amongst the 'small fonted' bands in recent years. This year's line-up is equally deep.

Fat Dog are hotly tipped to be the talk of the festival. The band's live shows are already notorious and 2023 single 'King of Slugs' gives you a good idea of what you're getting yourself into. **TTSSFU**, aka Tasmin Stephens, is an up-and-coming Manchester artist whose 2024 album, *Me, Jed and Andy*, is a low-fi retro delight. **Whitelands** are a new shoegaze and dream pop outfit with Ghanaian/London roots and billed as the perfect band for people who like loud guitars, soft voices. Toronto's **Wine Lips** are a proper garage rock band, a bit of a throwback to the likes of The Sonics, and Iggy Pop can be counted amongst their fans. The Irish-born, Yorkshire-raised singer **Holly Macve** is getting a lot of attention right now. Her melodramatic 'western noir' sound is reminiscent of the work of her friend and collaborator Lana Del Ray if it were remixed by Tammy Wynette and Patsy Cline.

The festival's multi-venue model means you'll be traversing Oxford Road throughout the day, clocking up thousands of steps and taking the edge off the next morning's sore head by impressing your fitness tracker. In truth, journeys between venues are all part of the fun with the festival bringing a friendly vibe to the city, and, of course, there's plenty of places to stop for refreshment. Festival venues like Sandbar, YES,

Gorilla and Deaf Institute are great spots to refuel. Circle Square also has a number of options, Hello Oriental and Federal are perfect for filling your belly, as is North Taproom which also boasts a cracking choice of drinks and an outdoor space which spills out into the festival hub. University Green and Society can be found in between venues, as can legendary pubs like Britons Protection, The Pev and Temple.

Let's put it this way, there won't be many moments during the day where you find yourself longing for a muddy field.

This year, **Creative Manchester**, The University of Manchester's research platform for developing and championing research in creativity and creative practices, is working alongside the festival to curate a strand of discussion. Announced closer to the day, the programme will reflect the themes of the festival and bring together the knowledge quarter's academic and musical strands.

It is part of Psych Fest's wider programme which includes visual art, discussion and workshops and further underlines the organisers ever-growing intent of this forward-thinking festival which is now a well established part of the city's cultural calendar.

Manchester Psych Fest takes place on Saturday 31 August at venues across the Corridor. Get tickets at manchesterpsychfest.com

Summer 2024

We only have space to list just a handful of the best things to see and do. There are thousands of gigs and concerts across the Corridor each year, countless cinema screenings at HOME, and loads of literary happenings in this designated UNESCO City of Literature

Follow us on socials and visit oxfordroadcorridor.com for more inspiration.

Please double-check listings before making a journey. All events are subject to change.

Exhibitions

MATTHEW BAMBER DREAM HOME

HOME
Until 9 Jun
Dream Home brings together a collection of works around the idea of ‘queer domesticity’ creating snapshots of the artist’s home as a site for identity construction.

40 YEARS OF THE FUTURE: PAINTING

Castlefield Gallery
Until 23 Jun
Castlefield Gallery welcomes back five artists who exhibited as part of its 1984 inaugural programme.

GREATER MANCUNIANS

Central Library
Until 29 Jun
A student led photography project celebrating those who have in some way shaped the city and its surrounding boroughs.

TALES OF MANCHESTER LIFE

Elizabeth Gaskell’s House
Until 4 Sep
Explore how the Victorian writer presented Manchester and its people through her novels and short stories, and the impact she had through her writing.

AYO AKINGBADE: SHOW ME THE WORLD MISTER

The Whitworth
Until 20 Oct
A solo exhibition by Ayo Akingbade comprising of two new film commissions shot on location in Nigeria.

JOHN LYONS CARNIVALESQUE

The Whitworth
10 May–25 Aug
The first major retrospective exhibition of Caribbean British artist and poet John Lyons.

WILD

Manchester Museum
5 Jun 2024–1 Jun 2025
Manchester Museum’s bold new exhibition, opening on 5 June 2024, looks at how we can go ‘wild’ to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis. *See page 6.*

LANDSCAPES OF CHANGE

Manchester Poetry Library
4 Jun–31 Aug
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.

THE ‘DEATH’ OF THE LIFE ROOM

The Whitworth
6 Jun 2024–12 Jan 2025
Set against the backdrop of the 1950s, this collection display highlights the challenges faced by the life room tradition from the mid-20th century.

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ART DEGREE SHOW

Manchester Met
15–22 Jun
The Degree show celebrates the achievements of this year’s final-year students with a showcase of work from across Art, Design, Fashion, Digital Arts, Performance and Architecture.

40 YEARS OF THE FUTURE: WHERE SHOULD WE BE NOW?

Castlefield Gallery
7 Jul–6 Oct
An exhibition from artists Jeffrey Knopf, Theo Simpson and Hope Strickland – a sculptor, a photographer and artist-filmmaker.

Stage & Events

TENDER

HOME
9–11 May
Drawing on the personal narratives of its company of refugee actors, Tender moves between the UK and home countries to explore the true cost of the migration journey.

FRANKIE GOES TO BOLLYWOOD

HOME
15–25 May
Rifco’s most ambitious musical yet is a breathtakingly colourful journey of romance, epic songs, and spectacular dance - inspired by real stories of British women caught in the spotlight of the biggest film industry in the world.

AFRICA DAY LATE

Manchester Museum
22 May
Join Manchester Museum for a celebration of Africa Day, Curated by Cultureville, where history, culture, and creativity converge.

ALADDIN

Palace Theatre
22 May–7 Jul
Already seen by over 14 million people worldwide, this exuberant production, based on the 1992 animated film is filled with unforgettable magic, comedy, breathtaking sets and dazzling costumes.

I WISH

HOME
25 May–1 Jun
Mirror, mirror on the wall, who’s that glittering like a disco ball? Gurl, that’s Effie—fabulous Fairy Godmother of fairytale fame! After centuries of making wishes come true, she’s marking the milestone of her brumblefillionth wish with a look back at her greatest hits.

UNIVERSALLY MANCHESTER

Multiple Venues
6–9 Jun
Join The University of Manchester in a four-day celebration to mark its 200th year. All are welcome to this special, one-off event.

MRS KAPOOR’S DAUGHTER’S WEDDING 2 MAURITIUS

RNCM
2 Jun
This British Asian laugh-out-loud theatre production is overflowing with comedy, singing, dancing and dhol, entertaining audiences young and old. It’s the all-inclusive package you most definitely want to book.

FROM ENGLAND WITH LOVE

HOME
6–8 Jun
Playful and poignant, full of pride and paradox, the multi-layered complexity of England takes centre stage in Hofesh Shechter’s compelling new work.

FESTIVAL OF LIBRARIES

Multiple Venues
12–16 Jun
Festival of Libraries celebrates the role that Greater Manchester’s 133 libraries play in wellbeing, culture, creativity and more. *See page 12.*

MOHAND AND PETER

HOME
13–14 Jun
PSYCHEdelight Theatre Company of Sanctuary’s last production, *Mohand & Peter* is a devised show addressing the trauma of long term exile and celebrating friendships across cultures.

THE WINDRUSH WARRIORS

Anthony Burgess Foundation
25–29 Jun
A comedy drama about courage under fire, exposing the Windrush scandal and the trauma that affected so many innocent people.

HAIRSPRAY THE MUSICAL

Palace Theatre
16–27 Jul
Featuring some of musical theatre’s biggest hit songs, Welcome to the 60s, ‘You Can’t Stop the Beat’, ‘Good Morning Baltimore’ and many more. *Hairspray* is the hilarious, joyous, and inspiring musical for all!

GALLIFREY CABARET

HOME
26–27 Jul
Jump aboard the queerest Tardis in time and space for a night of cosmic drag and cabaret, all inspired by the greatest TV show in the universe – *Doctor Who*

101 DALMATIANS

Palace Theatre
30 Jul–10 Aug
The smash hit musical *101 Dalmatians* is coming to Palace Theatre Manchester this summer, starring Kym Marsh (*Coronation Street*, *Hear’say*) as the greatest villain of them all, Cruella de Vil.

Classical

NORTHERLY WINDS WITH TAMSIN HOLDING
Anthony Burgess Foundation 10 May
GAMELAN MUSIC FROM WEST JAVA
Martin Harris Centre 10 May
MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE
Bridgewater Hall 10 May
THE HALLÉ - SIR MARK CONDUCTS THE ENIGMA VARIATIONS
Bridgewater Hall 15–19 May
NIKKI ILES JAZZ ORCHESTRA
RNCM 18 May
BBC PHILHARMONIC SPRING, THE SWEET SPRING
Bridgewater Hall 18 May
CZECH NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Bridgewater Hall 24 May
THE HALLÉ FINALE: SIR MARK ELDER CONDUCTS MAHLER 5
Bridgewater Hall 31 May–1 Jun
RNCM OPERA SCENES
RNCM 6,11 & 20 Jun
RNCM BRASS BAND
RNCM 13 Jun
RNCM WIND ORCHESTRA
RNCM 14 Jun

BBC PHILHARMONIC ENDING ON A HIGH
Bridgewater Hall 22 Jun
RNCM BIG BAND WITH SARA DOWLING
RNCM 27 Jun
RNCM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Bridgewater Hall 28 Jun
THE SILENT PLANET
RNCM 3 Jul
CHETHAM'S PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Bridgewater Hall 4 Jul
CHETHAM'S SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Bridgewater Hall 4 Jul
RNCM COMMUNITY OPERA SILVERWOOD
RNCM 4–5 Jul
THE HALLÉ STARS & STRIPES
Bridgewater Hall 6 July
RNCM NATURE'S MUSIC
Manchester Museum 6 July
NATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA
Bridgewater Hall 7 Aug

Gigs

DREAMWAVE
Big Hands 11 May
JASMINE MYRA
YES 12 May
MINAMI DEUTSCH
Deaf Institute 13 May
LA SÉCURITÉ
Big Hands 13 May
ECHOBELLY
Gorilla 16 May
MANCHESTER JAZZ FESTIVAL
Multiple Venues 17–26 May
MOOD SWINGS W. FCUKERS, THE FLINTS, SOFT LOFT & BNNY
YES 18 May
TEENAGE DADS
Deaf Institute 22 May
C.O.F.F.I.N
YES 23 May
YES
Bridgewater Hall 23 May
SAYA GREY
Deaf Institute 24 May
ENGLISH TEACHER
Gorilla 24 May

ARAB STRAP
Gorilla 25 May
AFROSOUND
Gorilla 26 May
DANNY BROWN
o2 Ritz 26 May
GARY NUMAN
o2 Ritz 24 May, 5–6 Jun
THE ZOMBIES
RNCM 26 May
COCO
YES 30 May
NORTH WEST CALLING
Manchester Academy 1 Jun
DEAP VALLY
Gorilla 5 Jun
THE LAKES
Retro Bar 7 Jun
PILLOW QUEENS
YES 8 Jun
SAN CISCO
YES 9 Jun
TEETHE
YES 9 Jun

CHASTITY BELT
Deaf Institute 12 Jun
VINCE STAPLES
o2 Ritz 12 Jun
SCUBA (LIVE)
YES 14 Jun
GIRLI
Manchester Academy 19 Jun
DESTIN CONRAD
Gorilla 19 Jun
POOLSIDE
YES 20 Jun
NSG
Manchester Academy 22 Jun
ALVVAYS
o2 Ritz 23 Jun
BODY COUNT FT. ICE-T
o2 Ritz 1 Jul
WHITE LIES
Gorilla 3 Jul
SIR
o2 Ritz 4 Jul
NILS FRAHM
Bridgewater Hall 10 Jul

DEATH FROM ABOVE 1979
o2 Ritz 16 Jul
SQUIRREL FLOWER
YES 18 Jul
THE GUEST LIST
Gorilla 19 Jul
GEORGE CLANTON
YES 8 Aug
WYRES
Retro Bar 9 Aug
TKAY MAIDZA
YES 15 Aug
THOMAS DOLBY
o2 Ritz 17 Aug
NEIL FRANCES
Gorilla 22 Aug
ARI ABDUL
Deaf Institute 24 Aug
MANCHESTER PSYCH FEST
Multiple Venues 31 Aug

Oxford Road Corridor



**15 ———
22 June**

Manchester School of Art
Degree Show 2024

Meet ———

the future



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