



*Bringing together the
People of Manchester
to Celebrate the
Histories of Manchester*

**A one day SPECTACULAR at THE TOWN HALL on 21ST MARCH 2009,
with local history projects for schools, students & local groups, culminating in
displays by, and for, young people on Friday 20th March.**

Manchester has unique historical importance as the first industrial city – the ‘original modern’. It helped nourish the co-operative movement, free trade, Marxism, women’s suffrage and pan-Africanism. It was home to the first public library and Britain’s first professional orchestra. Its sciences, medicine and social studies have long been world famous. Manchester is also a model for post-industrial regeneration, including the extraordinary history of popular culture and sport.

The Manchester Histories Festival is designed to inspire a lasting pride in our shared inheritance. It will make local histories accessible and attractive to young people and other new Mancunians. It will deepen community involvement, improve educational attainment, and stimulate interest in Manchester’s continued development.

The Festival is a novel and ambitious partnership between the University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University and the City Council, with additional sponsors being sought. We hope it will become a regular part of the city’s calendar.

THE CELEBRATION

The City Council has made available all the public rooms in the Town Hall for Friday 20th and Saturday 21st March 2009. Friday will be used for setting up, and will include a schools event for those unable to visit on the Saturday. The Festival will be open to everyone on Saturday, including:

1. **Thematic exhibitions in the Great Hall**, around: Archaeology; Communities and Industry; Communities and Migration; Health, Medicine, Science, and Education; Leisure and Arts; and The City Centre;
2. **Displays** by all the major galleries, museums and archives in the city; by regional and national heritage organisations; by local societies with historical aspects; and by schools, universities and colleges;
3. **Performances of drama and music**;
4. **Archive film and tape recordings**;
5. **‘Ask your question’ sessions** on family history, old photographs, and old objects;
6. **Historical walks** led by Blue Badge guides, and those attached to Urbis and the People’s History Museum etc;

7. **Lectures** by well-known experts on aspects of Manchester history (expected to include Tristram Hunt and local authorities such as Sheila Rowbotham, Dave Haslam, Clare Hartwell and Terry Wyke).

Plus **Family Events; Food and Drink**, a **Website**, and **good Media Coverage**

Additional events may be organised by local groups and cultural institutions -- branded as part of the festival but delivered locally. We expect that some of the festival displays will go on show afterwards in central Manchester or in the districts.

AUDIENCE AND SCOPE

The audience for the Festival will include individuals and groups of all ages and levels of expertise – from school projects to major museums, from community groups and universities, from history, film or music buffs to casual visitors wanting to know more about the city and its development. In other words, the potential audience is all who care about Manchester.

Display space and participation opportunities will be offered principally to institutions located within the city, but regional societies and groups from neighbouring boroughs will be welcomed as space permits.

BEFORE THE FESTIVAL: EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH PROJECTS

A wide-ranging series of projects will be organised over the preceding year involving schools along with cultural institutions, universities and their students, societies, and local groups, building lasting links and producing displays for the Festival. The schools programme on Friday March 20th will also include lectures for senior pupils and a 'battle of the bands.'

AFTER THE FESTIVAL: IMPACT AND LEGACY

This festival will be internationally outstanding, and its impact could be large, in both volume of visitors and press interest. We expect many of the linkages to continue. We hope to maintain our website as a resource for schools, societies, institutions and individuals -- and towards future Festivals.

The Festival will build lasting bridges across generations, localities and institutions -- bringing together all who look to the histories of Manchester as an inspiration for its future.

BE PART OF IT -- and tell your friends...

For more information or to offer help, contact:

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The University of Manchester



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