MANCHESTER MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
June 2026

Compiled from stories published online in June 2026



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On the cover: Manchester Support Programme Helps Ukrainian Refugee Achieve Career Dream, page 6. Photo supplied by Manchester careers support programme.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in June 2026. Manchester Magazine's first digital edition was published in November 2026.

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Your turn

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Photo supplied by Manchester City Council

MANCHESTER

Nominations Open for Manchester Culture Awards 2026: Celebrating the City's Creative Talent

The Manchester Culture Awards have returned for 2026, with nominations now open for the annual celebration of the city's outstanding cultural and creative achievements over the past year.

First launched by Manchester City Council in 2018, the awards were created to recognise the city's thriving arts and culture scene. As well as celebrating landmark projects, events and organisations, the awards also shine a spotlight on the talented individuals working behind the scenes whose contributions help make Manchester one of the UK's leading cultural destinations.

Over 400 nominations were received last year recognising different events, individuals, and organisations big and small that together help make Manchester the exciting and vibrant place it is.

This year's awards see nominations invited across 12 different categories including Best Event, Best Performance, and Young Creative of the Year.

New for this year is the Outstanding Storytelling Award to recognise the creation of compelling and relevant stories through word, film, digital media or other cultural forms.

This year also once again sees a special award made in partnership with the Manchester Evening News. The Cultural Welcome Award will be presented to an organisation or venue that provides a great welcome to everyone, whether as audience members, visitors, or participants. with the winner of the award chosen by a public vote.

Nominees for each of the awards must either be based in the city of Manchester or have a strong track record of delivering activity for the benefit of people who live in or visit the city, or that benefits the local economy.

Nominations are welcome from the professional, amateur and community sector, as well as from members of the public.

All nominations must reflect activity that has taken place between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, apart from the Cultural Welcome Award which recognises achievement over a number of years.

To be recognised for a Manchester Culture Award, nominees must be involved in one or more of the following: visual art, music, theatre, performance, dance, film and broadcast media, literature, digital art, photography, craft, or heritage arts.

Nominations are open until midnight on Sunday 21 June.

Councillor Shazia Butt, Executive Member for Culture, Libraries and Leisure, Manchester City Council said:

“Culture and creativity play a huge role in making Manchester the vibrant and exciting place it is, and it’s thanks in no small part to our richly diverse creative communities here in the city that we’re known around the globe for our world-class cultural and creative output.

“We’re a city that fully embraces culture and the arts, and the creative scene here in Manchester is fantastic. We can’t wait to get this year’s nominations in and hear more about who you think deserves an award.”

Full list of nomination categories:

Bright Spark: Young Creative of the Year

A young person (aged 13–25) who is inspiring future generations of Mancunians and others through their creativity or is supporting others to be creative.

Excellence in Creative Health and Wellbeing

Fantastic creative activity that helped people feel better in their body and/or mind.

Champions of Equality and Social Justice

Making change and creating opportunities for equality and diversity to thrive.

Our Planet: Action on Climate Change

Taking action to positively benefit the environment and support climate change, or raising awareness and encouraging others to act.

Igniting Creativity: Culture, Education and Talent Development

Doing great work supporting others to develop their learning, creativity, skills and talents.

Making it Happen: Best Business Partnership

A partnership that supports culture and helps it flourish in Manchester.

The Best Event

A brilliant creative or cultural event that deserves recognition.

The Best Performance

A standout performance, in any art form, that was amazing and captivated the audience.

By Manchester Magazine Online 2 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/nominations-open-for-manchester-culture-awards-2026-celebrating-the-citys-creative-talent**

Manchester Support Programme Helps Ukrainian Refugee Achieve Career Dream



Photo supplied by Manchester careers support programme

Three years ago, Hanna Nabilska arrived in the UK after fleeing the war in Ukraine in search of safety and a fresh start for herself and her young daughter.

The 40-year-old initially believed her stay in Britain would only be temporary, but as time passed she realised they would need to build a more permanent future here. Determined to create new opportunities for herself and her family, she decided to focus on education and training.

In July 2025, Hanna referred herself to Ambition Manchester, a programme which is part of Manchester Adult Education Service, for support with her career progression in the UK. Ambition Manchester provides personalised careers guidance, coaching and employability support, helping individuals build confidence, develop their skills and take practical steps towards the next stage of their careers.

Unable to speak any English when she first arrived in Britain, she spent the first few months "intensively studying" the English language. The former Child Phycologist said she still feels self-conscious about her native speaking abilities now but doesn't let it hold her back from striving for the best. At the same time, she still completed a Level 2 Teaching Assistant Course.

A determined Hanna secured a job as a Teaching Assistant in a pre-school, but her learning and development journey did not stop there.

After a year, she started a Postgraduate Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Psychotherapy to further continue her passion for psychology she had whilst living in Ukraine.

Following a recommendation from a friend, Ambition Manchester played a key part in helping her writing a CV, searching and applying for jobs and using tools like LinkedIn once she had graduated. Hannah said she felt "overwhelmed" with the entire process until the service stepped in to assist her.

By Manchester Magazine Online 1 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-support-programme-helps-ukrainian-refugee-achieve-career-dream**

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New Old Trafford Mural Celebrates Local Pride, Heritage and Creativity



7

A striking new mural celebrating the character and heritage of Old Trafford has been completed following a year-long creative project.

Drawing inspiration from notable local figures including 101 Dalmatians author Dodie Smith and Joy Division frontman Ian Curtis, the large-scale artwork is already attracting attention from commuters and visitors passing through Trafford Bar Metrolink.

The striking green, red and pink design is the handiwork of Old Trafford designer Charles Williams of Made Up Studio, who worked with local residents of all ages to come up with an idea that encapsulated the sense of pride people feel for their local area.

Giant boards installed in the windows and door of the former Trafford Bar station ticket office now spell out LOVE in an op art-style series of dots and curved lines. Each 2m high and a metre wide, the panels have been painstakingly hand painted by Williams, in a process involving masonry paint, computer software, a projector and a very steady hand. Additional smaller panels over the door add the letter OT and a heart.

The curved red brick building, at the corner of Seymour Grove and Talbot Road, which now hosts the mural, was opened in 1849. It was recently called “at risk” in a report by the group Save Britain’s Heritage.

By Manchester Magazine Online 15 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/new-old-trafford-mural-celebrates-local-pride-heritage-and-creativity**

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MANCHESTER

Heaton Hall Restoration Brings New Life To Historic Chandeliers And Orangery



8

Specialist conservators have painstakingly renewed the building's chandeliers as part of a property wide electrical rewire

The historic north Manchester property has been undergoing long-term refurbishment work to safeguard the building for future generations, including the Orangery building, which has been closed for nearly 15years

Heaton Hall's chandeliers have been returned to their glittering best following intensive works to refurbish and refresh the ornate lighting features as part of a major programme to rewire the heritage building.

By Manchester Magazine Online 29 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/heaton-hall-restoration-brings-new-life-to-historic-chandeliers-and-orangery**

MANCHESTER

Manchester Set for Unique Transylvanian Dance Party Inspired by Folk Traditions



8

A former drum and bass promoter is returning to Manchester's nightlife scene this summer with a fresh take on club culture that blends music, memories and local heritage.

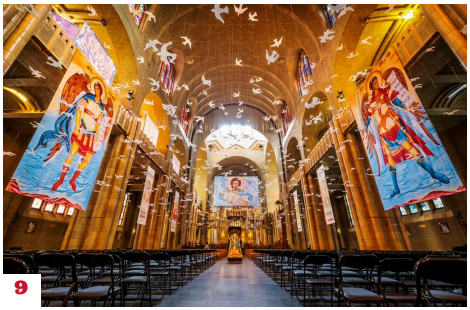
Ottilia Ördög, who made her name promoting influential DJs including Fabio and Shy FX through her popular Squiggle Dee Mash nights in the late 1990s and early 2000s, is revisiting her roots with a new event concept inspired by the city's rich musical history.

For one night only, Ottilia will stage an after hours "táncház" or dance house, which she likens to a traditional Transylvanian Hungarian party. In common with the Irish ceilidh tradition, everyone who buys a ticket is encouraged to get on the dance floor, learn the steps and become a part of the event.

By Manchester Magazine Online 16 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-set-for-unique-transylvanian-dance-party-inspired-by-folk-traditions**

MANCHESTER

Manchester Cathedral To Host Major Dian Kostov Art Exhibition This Summer



9

Manchester Cathedral will host a major new art exhibition this summer, as internationally acclaimed artist Dian Kostov brings Crossroad (The Price Of Choice: Peace Is Not Given) to the city for the first time.

Running from 3 July to 10 September 2026, the exhibition will transform one of Manchester's most historic landmarks through a series of immersive installations, documentary photographs and icon-inspired artworks.

Exploring themes of conflict, peace and human resilience, the exhibition invites visitors on a journey from destruction and uncertainty towards hope and renewal.

By Manchester Magazine Online 25 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-cathedral-to-host-major-dian-kostov-art-exhibition-this-summer**

MANCHESTER

Young Dancers Keeping Polish Culture Alive in Manchester for the Next Generation



9

A Polish folk dance group based in Moss Side is encouraging more boys to get involved, challenging stereotypes and showcasing the energy, athleticism and cultural significance of traditional Polish dance.

Thanks to the dedication of volunteers at Mlody Polonez, children of Polish heritage across Manchester have the opportunity to connect with their roots from an early age, learning traditional dances, music and customs that help keep their culture alive despite being more than 1,000 miles from Poland.

Around 30 children from all over Greater Manchester are regular attenders, though the vast majority are girls.

"Many boys are initially shy about dancing," says Dorota Witkowska-Dziuma, one of the volunteers.

By Manchester Magazine Online 8 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/young-dancers-keeping-polish-culture-alive-in-manchester-for-the-next-generation**

In brief



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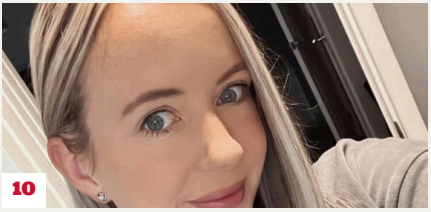
MANCHESTER

Greater Manchester Improv Festival Returns to Salford for a Weekend of Comedy and Creativity

The Greater Manchester Improv Festival is set to return to The King's Arms in Salford from 5–7 June 2026, bringing three days of live performances, workshops and plenty of laughter.

By Manchester Magazine Online 5 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/greater-manchester-improv-festival-returns-to-salford-for-a-weekend-of-comedy-and-creativity**



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MANCHESTER

Salford Mum and Content Creator Earns National Award Recognition

The national awards celebrate the achievements of small businesses and entrepreneurs across the UK, recognising those who are making a meaningful impact within their industries and communities.

By Manchester Magazine Online 22 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/salford-mum-and-content-creator-earns-national-award-recognition**



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MANCHESTER

Manchester Pupils To Sell School-Grown Produce On Market Street

Children from schools across Manchester will trade the classroom for market stalls this summer, selling fresh fruit and vegetables they have grown themselves in support of a good cause.

The Young Marketeers Manchester Market Day will take place on Friday 10 July from 11am-1pm at stalls on Market Street.

By Manchester Magazine Online 26 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-pupils-to-sell-school-grown-produce-on-market-street**



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MANCHESTER

Manchester Named Standout Success Story For Growth And Productivity

Manchester and the wider city region remain among the fastest-growing and most productive major city economies in the UK, according to a new Centre for Cities report.

By Manchester Magazine Online 28 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-named-standout-success-story-for-growth-and-productivity**

In brief



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MANCHESTER

Major Regeneration Underway at Gorton Market with New Food Hall and Community Spaces

Major regeneration works have now begun at Gorton Market, with the improvements set to deliver significant benefits for local traders, shoppers and the wider community.

By Manchester Magazine Online 3 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/major-regeneration-underway-at-gorton-market-with-new-food-hall-and-community-spaces**



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MANCHESTER

Manchester Artist Ivan Solod Explores Migration and Language Through New Digital Installation

Manchester artist Ivan Solod has spent more than 16 years working at the forefront of new media and digital creativity.

By Manchester Magazine Online 9 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-artist-ivan-solod-explores-migration-and-language-through-new-digital-installation**



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MANCHESTER

Manchester to Host Psoriasis Conference Following Major Research Funding Boost

This announcement comes ahead of The Psoriasis Association's Annual Conference, taking place in Manchester next week (Saturday, 20 June): a city that has recently become 'world-leading' for psoriasis treatment and research.

By Manchester Magazine Online 9 June 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-to-host-psoriasis-conference-following-major-research-funding-boost**



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OLDHAM

Oldham women to take her place on the Disability Pride Catwalk

A woman from Shaw is calling for better representation of disabled people ahead of a disability pride fashion show in Manchester.

Julie Blagborough, 51, is one of 16 models who will take part in the most inclusive fashion show the city has ever staged.

By Sara Teiger Online 14 June 2026
Continued at **oldhammagazine.com/oldham-women-to-take-her-place-on-the-disability-pride-catwalk**

In brief



12

BURY

Bury Model to Make Catwalk Debut on Disability Pride Runway

A first-time catwalk model from Whitefield is championing the message that accessible fashion should be available to everyone ahead of a major Disability Pride fashion show in Manchester.

By Sara Teiger Online 15 June 2026
Continued at **bury-magazine.com/bury-model-to-make-catwalk-debut-on-disability-pride-runway**



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LIVERPOOL

The St Helens Mum Whose Books Now Help Children in Liverpool's Family Court

Ashling Podmore's experience highlights a form of abuse often overlooked: the subtle, controlling relationships that leave no visible scars. Outwardly, her life seemed stable, but beneath the surface, she was trapped in a situation that gradually eroded her sense of self. The abuse she endured was psychological and emotional, difficult for others to recognise and even harder to escape.

By Liverpool Magazine Online 15 June 2026
Continued at **liverpoolmagazine.com/the-st-helens-mum-whose-books-now-help-children-in-liverpools-family-court**

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