MANCHESTER MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
October 2026

Compiled from stories published online in October 2026



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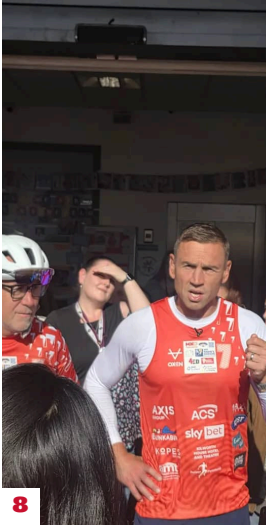

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Every photo is numbered with its page. Spot a face, turn to the number.

On the cover: Blackley Library Supports Sir Kevin Sinfield's MND Challenge, page 8. Photo supplied by Manchester City Council library service.

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

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MANCHESTER

First Child Friendly Manchester Awards Recognise Inspiring Young People

Inspirational children and young people from Manchester have been recognised at the city's first-ever Child Friendly Manchester Awards, following the city gaining Child Friendly City recognition from UNICEF earlier this year.

Nominations across ten award categories were invited from youth and play groups, schools, voluntary groups and other community-based organisations across the city. More than 100 nominations were submitted, each recognising the achievements and talents of young people in Manchester.

The different award categories included Young Leader, Championing Inclusion, Mental Well-Being, Young Carer, Young Entrepreneur, Climate Champion, Making Manchester Safer, Youth Led Project, Youth and Play Projects and a special Contribution to Our Child Friendly City award.

Judges had a difficult job deciding the winners of each award and in the end whittled it down to 24 winners spread over the ten different award categories.

Amongst those who received awards for their creativity and commitment to helping make

Manchester a better place for children and young people both now and in the future, were three individual young people who were each presented with a Young Leader Award.

Summer from South Manchester received her award for raising large amounts of money to provide Christmas presents and Easter eggs to children in Manchester who otherwise wouldn't have any and was nominated for her compassion, leadership and commitment to ensuring no child in her community feels left out.

Marcel from Wythenshawe received his Young Leader award for his commitment to his local Adventure Playground over the past 11 years where he has attended over 1,000 sessions since the age of seven. During this time staff have seen him progress through primary and secondary school and into university, whilst also giving back first as a volunteer and now a paid member of staff and an outstanding role model who inspires younger children.

And the final Young Leader accolade went to Praise from North Manchester: a phenomenal volunteer and team player who was rewarded for her consistently caring, positive attitude and inclusive approach which has had a significant impact on other children and young people in north Manchester.

Schools and organisations working with young people were also recognised at the awards, including the incredible Pioneer House Strawberry Fox Café, which received a Championing Inclusion Award.

The school and social enterprise café has been up and running for three years now and is well embedded in its south Manchester community helping bring local residents together.

Students from Pioneer House High School take an active part in running the café, helping plan the menu and prepare food, including fantastic coffee and cakes. In addition, they help grow some of the food used in the café, which is also the hub for the local food bank, providing a valuable resource for the local community.

Students' involvement in the café helps them develop confidence and valuable workplace skills, and they now have plans to launch a café van service in the community to expand their offer and help bring local people together.

Levenshulme Youth Project was another award-winning youth organisation, and one of three different winners of the Mental Well-Being Award. They were presented with the award in recognition of their youth-led sessions that take a 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' approach that helps shape how they support young people in a consistent and meaningful way. They have held a mental health community day, produced resources to help young people, and have worked in partnership with young people's mental health charity 42nd Street through their Ambassador programme.

Climate change continues to be a topic of ongoing concern amongst young people and it was perhaps no surprise therefore that it should be two of the city's schools who were crowned winners of the Climate Change Award.

St Clements Primary School in Openshaw were praised by judges for the fantastic child-friendly fun and informative Climate Champions Film they created to support their campaign to reduce, reuse and recycle, and to raise awareness of climate change amongst children and young people.

By Barbara Parker Online 12 October 2026

Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/first-child-friendly-manchester-awards-recognise-inspiring-young-people**

Manchester Council Executive Team Completed Under New Leader



Photo supplied by Manchester City Council

The council's political leadership under new Leader Councillor Garry Bridges is now fully in place.

The Executive team has been completed with the appointment of Councillor Joanne Green as Executive Member for Health and Social Care.

She succeeds Cllr Thomas Robinson who was recently appointed as one of the Council's two deputy leaders, joining Cllr Tracey Rawlins who holds the other position.

The Health and Social Care portfolio includes adult social care, public health and tackling health inequalities and integrated health and social care. The Council's Adult Social Care service was recently rated 'Good' by the Care Quality Commission.

Cllr Green has served as a councillor since 1998 and her considerable experience includes time chairing scrutiny commitees, including four years as chair of the Health Scrutiny Committee. She was most recently chair of the Communities and Equality Scrutiny Committee.

In her professional life, Cllr Green was Director of Quality for Bolton College for 13 years.

Cllr Green said:

Helping Mancunians to stay healthy and to live independently, while providing support for the most vulnerable, is a vital part of what the Council does. I'm passionate about this job and look forward to getting on with it.

Adult social care in this city is in good shape but what I've learned is that improvement never stops. You build on what works, are honest about what doesn't, listen and learn and keep moving forwards. We want to improve the lives of the people who need our support.

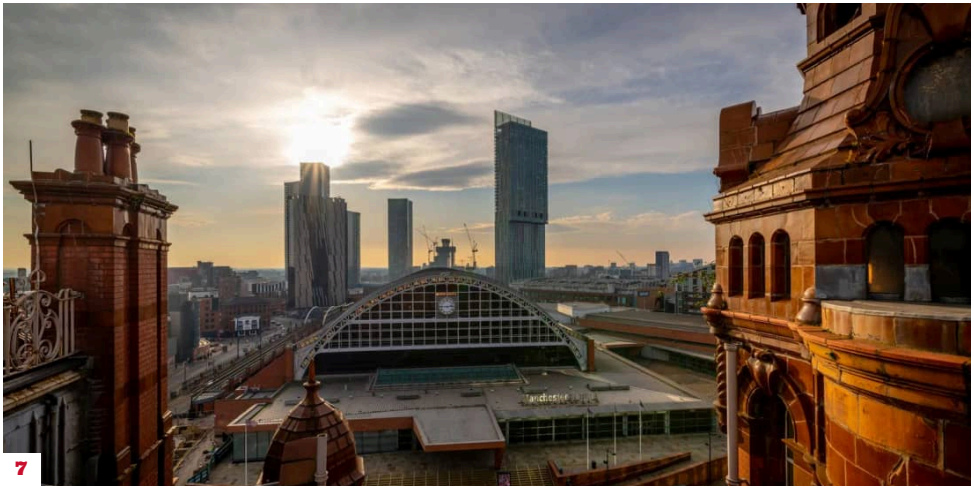
Council Leader Cllr Garry Bridges said:

Joanne is an experienced and committed councillor with many years of dedication to Manchester who will be a great addition to the Executive.

I'm pleased that the Executive team is complete and we can get on together with delivering the priorities for the city which we were elected on.

By Barbara Parker Online 8 October 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-council-executive-team-completed-under-new-leader**

Manchester and Northern Cities Back Ambitious UK Olympic Games Bid



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The UK Government has announced £7 million in funding to explore a future bid to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games, as the Prime Minister sets out ambitions to bring the global sporting events back to Britain.

The plans could see cities and communities across the North of England playing a key role, with the Government highlighting the potential to inspire future generations, celebrate sporting achievement and bring communities together through a shared sense of national pride.

Mayors and local leaders across the north of England have rallied behind the idea of bringing the Games to the region.

Their ambition is for a sporting event that could unlock untapped potential across the north, involving tens of thousands of people in its delivery and engage millions more through sport, culture and community activity.

The ambition is to create a Games that belongs to the whole of the UK, bringing communities across north and south together and spreading its benefits across the country.

Government backing helped bring last year's Women's Rugby World Cup to England, with Twickenham hosting the showpiece final, and there are more big sporting moments ahead.

In 2027, the Tour de France and Tour de France Femmes Grand Départs will race through England, Scotland and Wales, before the UK and Ireland host UEFA EURO 2028.

Those major events are backed by government investment of more than £500 million, helping spread the excitement and benefits of world-class sport across the whole UK. Prime Minister Andy Burnham said:

By Albert Nelson Online 27 October 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-and-northern-cities-back-ambitious-uk-olympic-games-bid**

MANCHESTER

Blackley Library Supports Sir Kevin Sinfield's MND Challenge



Photo supplied by Manchester City Council library service

The Avenue Library in Blackley gave a warm welcome to Sir Kevin Sinfield and his team on day five of their ultra-marathon challenge, which is raising awareness and funds for the Motor Neurone Disease community across the UK and Republic of Ireland.

The rugby league legend, alongside his 7 in 7 team, was undertaking the seventh and final annual ultra-marathon challenge. Avenue Library was the penultimate stop on day five of the journey and which finishes on the pitch at Old Trafford on Sunday 4 October.

By Zoe Walker Online 4 October 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/blackley-library-supports-sir-kevin-sinfields-mnd-challenge**

MANCHESTER

Manchester's Giant Santa Returns to Albert Square with New Walk-Through Christmas Cracker



Manchester's popular Giant Santa has returned to Albert Square for the festive season, standing outside the Grade I listed Victorian Town Hall with a brand-new feature for Christmas visitors.

Gone is the enormous over-sized Christmas present tied up with ribbon that thousands of Mancunians will remember Santa sitting on top of, and in its place this year is a huge walk-through green Christmas Cracker with golden bows at each end, festooned with fairy lights inside as visitors are invited to walk through the magical tunnel from one end of the cracker to the other, underneath Santa, serenaded as they go by a musical playlist of Christmas classics.

By Zoe Walker Online 28 October 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchesters-giant-santa-returns-to-albert-square-with-new-walk-through-christmas-cracker**

MANCHESTER

Adoption Matters Shares Inspiring Family Stories During National Adoption Week



There are currently 2,970 children waiting to be adopted in England, compared with just 1,350 approved adoptive families, leaving a shortfall of 1,620 families.

Nearly 1,000 more children could find permanent, loving homes by 2030 if adopter registrations returned to the levels recorded just five years ago.

By Barbara Parker Online 20 October 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/adoption-matters-shares-inspiring-family-stories-during-national-adoption-week**



Photo supplied by Teenage Cancer Trust release

MANCHESTER

Manchester Student to Climb Mount Kilimanjaro for Teenage Cancer Trust

Joseph Mooney will trek up Mount Kilimanjaro to raise money for Teenage Cancer Trust, inspired by his family's experiences of cancer

By Zoe Walker Online 23 October 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-student-to-climb-mount-kilimanjaro-for-teenage-cancer-trust**



MANCHESTER

Manchester Communities Invited to Apply for Grants to Host Local Remembrance Events

Manchester communities are being invited to apply for grants to host their own Remembrance events through the city's ongoing partnership with the Royal British Legion (RBL).

By Zoe Walker Online 7 October 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-communities-invited-to-apply-for-grants-to-host-local-remembrance-events**

In brief



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MANCHESTER

GM4Women2028 Announces New Leadership and Governance Appointments as it Looks Towards 2028

GM4Women2028 has made a number of changes to its leadership and governance as it enters the final two years of its ten-year initiative, appointing Tess Page and Nadia Ali as Co-Chairs, welcoming Sharmila Kar as a new Trustee, and appointing Sherree Schaefer as Treasurer and Carol Ann Whitehead as a new Co-Lead of its Participation thematic area.

By Jennet Ingram Online 16 October 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/gm4women2028-announces-new-leadership-and-governance-appointments-as-it-looks-towards-2028**



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CHESTER

Gold Success for Cheshire West and Chester at 2026 Britain in Bloom North West Awards

Cheshire West and Chester Council has secured an impressive selection of accolades at the 2026 RHS Britain in Bloom North West Awards.

By Albert Nelson Online 30 October 2026
Continued at **chestermagazine.co.uk/gold-success-for-cheshire-west-and-chester-at-2026-britain-in-bloom-north-west-awards**



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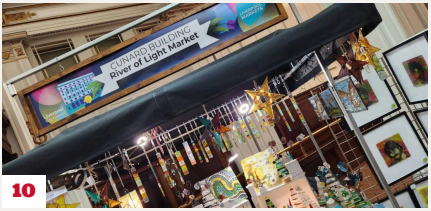
CHESTER

Guide Dog Puppies Enjoy Spooktacular Halloween Adventure in Cheshire

For the second consecutive year, Guide Dogs has partnered with Magical Woodland in Cheshire to help puppies become familiar with the spooky sights, sounds and surprises of Halloween, preparing them for new experiences in a fun and supportive environment.

By Zoe Walker Online 31 October 2026
Continued at **chestermagazine.co.uk/guide-dog-puppies-enjoy-spooktacular-halloween-adventure-in-cheshire**



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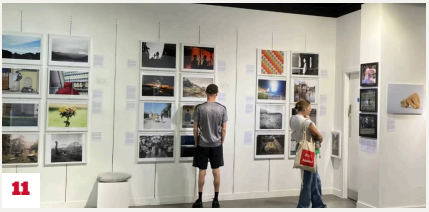
LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's Cunard Building Market Returns for Eight Nights During River of Light

Following a hugely successful three-night event last year, the market has been extended to eight nights for 2026, running daily from 4pm to 9pm, Friday 23 October to Friday 30 October.

By Zoe Walker Online 19 October 2026
Continued at **liverpoolmagazine.com/liverpools-cunard-building-market-returns-for-eight-nights-during-river-of-light**

In brief



CHESTER

Chester Photo Festival Returns with More Than 200 Works on Display

Hundreds of works by artists and photographers will be displayed across Chester this month as Chester Photo Festival returns.

By Albert Nelson Online 13 October 2026
Continued at **chestermagazine.co.uk/chester-photo-festival-returns-with-more-than-200-works-on-display**



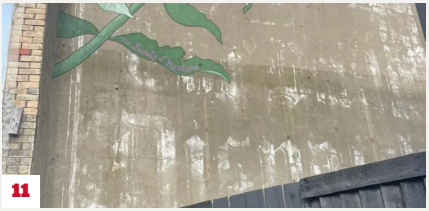
CHESTER

Chester's Grosvenor Museum Celebrates 140th Birthday

Residents are being invited to celebrate a major milestone as Chester's Grosvenor Museum prepares to mark its 140th birthday in October.

Since opening its doors in 1886, the museum has welcomed generations of visitors, preserving and sharing the stories, heritage and culture that make Chester unique.

By Zoe Walker Online 7 October 2026
Continued at **chestermagazine.co.uk/chesters-grosvenor-museum-celebrates-140th-birthday**



LIVERPOOL

Liverpool's County Road Gets a Fresh New Look with Parks, Trees and Murals

Liverpool's County Road is set for a fresh new look, with plans for pocket parks, tree planting, colourful murals and street improvements to revitalise one of the city's best-known high streets.

By Barbara Parker Online 27 October 2026
Continued at **liverpoolmagazine.com/liverpools-county-road-gets-a-fresh-new-look-with-parks-trees-and-murals**

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