MANCHESTER MAGAZINE

DIGITAL EDITION
September 2026

Compiled from stories published online in September 2026



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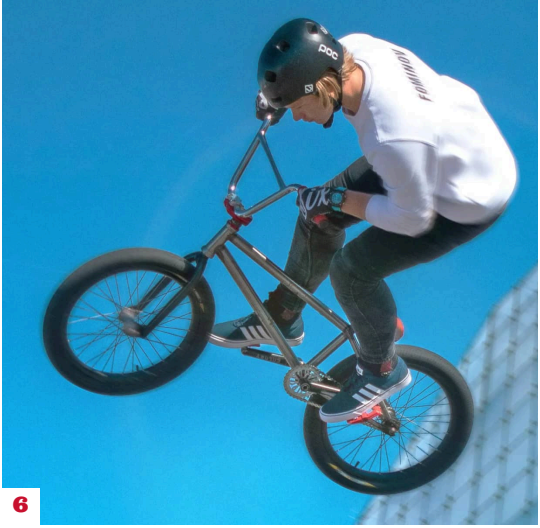

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Your story here

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

On the cover: Best of Manchester Awards Celebrate Community Champions, page 4. Photo supplied by Manchester City Council.

This is a look-back edition, put together in November 2026 from stories that appeared online in September 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

Best of Manchester Awards Celebrate Community Champions

Celebrations continued at the Town Hall as more inspiring people and organisations were recognised as part of the Best of Manchester Awards.

In the run-up to the inaugural awards, a series of events has taken place to shine a spotlight on this year's nominees.

Find out more about how we're honouring our nominees here.

The Best of Manchester Awards are all about recognising the unseen, the people and groups whose work makes Manchester what it is. They don't ask for a stage, but we thought it was time we gave them one.

To find out about why we're doing the Best of Manchester Awards click here.

Last week a further two special receptions took place, hosted by the Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr Shaukat Ali. The guests were people nominated from central and South Manchester wards, and Wythenshawe

One of the groups invited was Healthy Me Healthy Communities CIC. Based in Gorton, HMHC is a not-for-profit organisation committed to reducing health inequalities amongst our residents. Their group was nominated in the Community Action on Climate Change category, for their 'edible wall' project.

Kate Harrison, Head of Operations & Business

for Healthy Me Healthy Communities, said:

Our Edible Wall volunteers show what community climate action looks like in practice. They have embraced innovative growing methods, adapted what they produce to meet the needs of local residents and built a project that is both environmentally and socially sustainable.

What started with training from Farm Urban has become a community of volunteers who are now passing those skills on to others. Their passion, reliability and willingness to learn have created something far bigger than a growing project; they've created a model for how communities can respond positively to climate change while improving access to fresh, culturally appropriate food.

The attention will now turn to the award ceremony itself which is due to take place on Thursday, October 22, at the Midland Hotel.

Cllr Shaukat Ali, said:

The reception events we've held over the past two weeks have been inspirational. Meeting the people and groups that make such a difference to our city has highlighted exactly why these awards are taking place.

It's more important than ever that we do things like this, bringing together people from across our city and coming up with new and innovative ways to make everyone's life better.

Picture Caption: Kate Harrison, Head of Operations & Business for Healthy Me Healthy Communities with the Lord Mayor of Manchester Cllr Shaukat Ali.

By Catherine Wilson Online 25 September 2026
Read more: **manchestermagazine.co.uk**

Your turn
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MCR Drop to Bring Urban Sports and Culture to Manchester



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Photo supplied by MCR Drop announcement

MCR Drop will take place across Manchester city centre next August

Manchester is set to cement its status as a major centre for urban sports and culture when it launches the first ever MCR Drop next summer.

Showcasing the best of urban sports, including BMX, skateboarding and 3x3 basketball, alongside art, music and culture, MCR Drop will take place on 5-8 August 2027 at locations around the city centre.

Over four exciting days, this brand-new event for the city will bring together elite and rising sports stars, alongside a specially curated cultural programme that includes musicians and artists. The thrilling juxtaposition of skills and creativity presented against the backdrop of Manchester's dynamic urbanism will bring a whole new dimension to the city's world-renowned buzz.

A partnership between Manchester City Council and UK Sport, the event builds on Manchester's international reputation as one of the world's most vibrant cities for urban sports, arts, and culture.

Most events and activities will be free to attend and there will be plenty of opportunities for the public to participate in the sporting action, as part of the city's drive to get more people into sport and physical activity.

As well as an exciting new event for local people and communities from across Manchester to enjoy, the event is expected to attract thousands of visitors to the city, further boosting Manchester's reputation as a leading destination for sport and culture.

By Zoe Walker Online 29 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/mcr-drop-to-bring-urban-sports-and-culture-to-manchester**

From Grimethorpe to the Dance Floor



7

Two former members of the traditional miners' band that inspired the film Brassed Off are launching a surprising new club night in Manchester this October.

Trumpet player Dave Moore and drummer John Watterson both had stints in the very traditional Grimethorpe Colliery Band, which was formed in 1917 as a leisure activity for the workers at the South Yorkshire colliery.

But now the pair of friends, having earned their stripes playing brass band marches and classical arrangements, are starting a new night at The Deaf Institute, called Indie Brass Club.

Combining live brass with indie rock, Moore and Watterson, along with Adam Bidgood on trumpet, George Hardwick on trombone and Conall Gormley on sousaphone, will play two energetic 45 minutes sets of indie classics, leaving the audience to provide the vocals.

Crowd pleasers will include well known indie anthems from bands including Arctic Monkeys, Oasis, The Courteeners, The Killers, Kaiser Chiefs, James, The Smiths, The Fratellis and Pulp.

The six-piece have a bunch of indie credentials between them.

As session players, they have performed with legends including James, Shed Seven, Lily Allen and Embrace. Earlier this year, the band were gatecrashed by Stockport band Blossoms whilst playing at a recent wedding at the historic Victoria Baths.

Last summer, they went down a storm at Big Feastival, held at Alex James from Blur's Cotswolds farm, on a bill that included Faithless, English Teacher and Rizzle Kicks. Friday night headliner Nelly Furtado was so impressed, she asked the band to join her on stage.

Royal Northern College of Music graduate Moore said:

By Sara Teiger Online 28 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/from-grimethorpe-to-the-dance-floor**

MANCHESTER

Free Music and Culture on Your Doorstep



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This International Day of Older Persons on 1 October, Chetham's is encouraging older people across Greater Manchester to explore the wealth of free music, culture, and learning opportunities available right on their doorstep.

With this year's theme, 'What's on Your Doorstep', Chetham's is shining a spotlight on a range of free accessible and welcoming events that bring people together through music, conversation and lifelong learning.

Stoller Hall, located directly opposite Manchester Victoria Station, offers a year-round programme of performances in the heart of the city, including regular free lunchtime concerts and its popular Free Friday Night Jazz series. Starting at 5pm, the jazz evenings are particularly appealing for older audiences looking to enjoy live music without having to travel home late at night.

By Anna Pickard Online 17 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/free-music-and-culture-on-your-doorstep**

MANCHESTER

Walk Across This Artwork: Mark it to Make it



8

A curious artwork that becomes complete only when gallery visitors walk across it is coming to Salford Museum & Art Gallery this September.

Put Your Foot Down II is a temporary pathway made from dozens of blocks of floristry foam, commonly known as oasis.

Salford-based artist Maisie Pritchard is inviting visitors to move along the tactile path, leaving footprints and other marks behind.

As more people take part, the imprints left behind start to overlap, gradually transforming the work through collective movement.

And there's more to the experience than simply the joy of taking part. The installation forms part of Recoverist Month programme of exhibitions, performances and creative events. Led by arts organisation Portraits of Recovery, the annual event places the arts at the centre of conversations about substance use and recovery every September.

By Sara Teiger Online 10 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/walk-across-this-artwork-mark-it-to-make-it**

MANCHESTER

Manchester Fireworks Return as Grand Finale to Community Events



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The skies over Manchester will light up once again as firework night celebrations return to the city's parks this year, bringing local communities together.

On Saturday 7 November, free family-friendly fireworks events will take place at Wythenshawe Park, Heaton Park and Platt Fields Park. Each event will include a reduced-noise, low-impact display at 5pm for families and SEND audiences, followed by the main fireworks display at 8pm, with accessibility and inclusivity at the heart of the celebrations.

Each of the three parks will host lantern making workshops in the weeks leading up to the events, with family-friendly lantern parades taking place ahead of the 8pm firework shows. Additional entertainment will be announced for each park in the coming weeks.

By Zoe Walker Online 15 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/manchester-fireworks-return-as-grand-finale-to-community-events**

MANCHESTER

Middleton Woman Says Horror Writing Helped Her Stay Sober



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A Middleton woman says an unusual creative outlet has helped her stay sober for seven years.

While some people turn to journalling as a form of self-help, Alex Herod says writing horror stories has helped her finally "make friends with her monsters".

Alex, who will release her debut novel next year, says she has had a "difficult relationship" with alcohol since her early teens and finally quit drinking in 2019.

I tried different types of meetings, found online communities, made some real-life sober friends, had several different types of therapy and read all the 'quit lit' I could get my hands on, she said.

By Sara Teiger Online 7 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/middleton-woman-says-horror-writing-helped-her-stay-sober**

In brief



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MANCHESTER

Adoption Matters Welcomes Funding for Innovative Family Support

Lancashire-based children's charity and voluntary adoption agency Adoption Matters has welcomed new funding to deliver innovative support for adopted children, young people and families.

By Barbara Parker Online 1 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/adoption-matters-welcomes-funding-for-innovative-family-support**



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MANCHESTER

Where Young People Become Extraordinary Heroes: a Week with St John Ambulance North West Youth Camp

Young people from across the region came together this summer for the St John Ambulance North West Youth Camp, held at Linnet Clough Scout Camp, Mellor, from 1 to 8 August 2026.

By Joshua Gill Online 2 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/where-young-people-become-extraordinary-heroes-a-week-with-st-john-ambulance-north-west-youth-camp**



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MANCHESTER

Three Very Different Visions of Addiction Come Together for Stockport Screening

A BAFTA-nominated documentary about heroin addiction, a hand-painted animation described by Stephen Fry as "simply magnificent", and a US video artwork exploring a father's response to his daughter's drug-related death will be screened together at Stockport Plaza this month.

By Sara Teiger Online 16 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/three-very-different-visions-of-addiction-come-together-for-stockport-screening**



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MANCHESTER

Adoption Matters Supporters Complete Warrington Running Festival

Five dedicated runners took part in the Warrington Running Festival on Sunday 20 September to raise vital funds for Lancashire-based children's charity Adoption Matters, collectively raising more than £3,400 including Gift Aid.

By Catherine Wilson Online 24 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/adoption-matters-supporters-complete-warrington-running-festival**

In brief



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MANCHESTER

Piccadilly Gardens Transformation Plans Given Green Light

Plans to transform Piccadilly Gardens have been given the green light, with work now able to begin this autumn.

By Zoe Walker Online 30 September 2026
Continued at **manchestermagazine.co.uk/piccadilly-gardens-transformation-plans-given-green-light**



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LIVERPOOL

Her Majesty The Queen Visits Spellow Community Hub and Library in Walton

Her Majesty The Queen has visited Spellow Community Hub and Library in Walton to hear how the local community came together following the riots two years ago.

By Barbara Parker Online 6 September 2026
Continued at **liverpoolmagazine.com/her-majesty-the-queen-visits-spellow-community-hub-and-library-in-walton**



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CHESTER

Vibrant New Mural Celebrates Winsford Market's Past, Present, and Future Identity

Revealed to the public on Saturday, a vibrant new mural celebrating Winsford and its market now provides a striking welcome at the market entrance.

By Kim O'Neill Online 11 September 2026
Continued at **chestermagazine.co.uk/vibrant-new-mural-celebrates-winsford-markets-past-present-and-future-identity**



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CHESTER

Northwich Market Begins New Chapter 60 Years After Original Opening

Sixty years after the former Northwich Market first opened, a new chapter has begun with the launch of a brand-new market at Barons Quay.

By Catherine Williams Online 22 September 2026
Continued at **chestermagazine.co.uk/northwich-market-begins-new-chapter-60-years-after-original-opening**

In brief



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CHESTER

Lilian Continues Passion for Painting at Chester Care Home

A talented resident at a Sanctuary Care home in Chester is continuing her love of painting during a weekly art club with fellow residents.

By Kate Yates Online 10 September 2026
Continued at **chestermagazine.co.uk/lilian-continues-passion-for-painting-at-chester-care-home**



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LIVERPOOL

The Accidental Scouse Hero

Back in January, I created Salt & Pepper Chicken for the Walkers 'Do Us A Flavour' competition and somehow made it all the way through to the final two. When I entered, I had absolutely no idea how seriously Merseyside takes its salt and pepper chicken. I certainly do now!

By Lydia Houghton Online 20 September 2026
Continued at **liverpoolmagazine.com/the-accidental-scouse-hero**

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Manchester Magazine Digital edition, September 2026.
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Published by Firefly New Media Ltd.