



**MANCHESTER
HISTORIES**



MANCHESTER HISTORIES FESTIVAL 2022

THE HISTORY OF CLIMATE CHANGE

PAST >>> PRESENT >>> FUTURE

PRESS PACK

Wednesday 8 –
Sunday 12 June 2022

www.manchesterhistories.co.uk



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INTRODUCTION

Manchester Histories Festival is delighted to be back after a challenging few years. The festival, now returning for its 8th edition, will be exploring the history of climate change as well as celebrating the rich histories & heritage of Greater Manchester.

It is only by exploring the past that we can begin to understand what is going on in our world today. Climate change is happening now, much faster than it has over human history, having a dramatic impact on people and our planet.

The History of Climate Change seeks to encourage an understanding of the history of environmental issues and climate change in order to inspire people to look at ways that they can take action for a better future for all. Communities will be connected, stories will be shared, ambitions will be discussed, creativity will be showcased and steps towards change will be collectively taken. Spanning across Greater Manchester participating venues will include **The Manchester Monastery, Manchester Central Library, Gallery Oldham** and **Angel Meadow Park**.

We are delighted to be working closely with numerous artists, academics, theatre companies, musicians, and authors, including...**David Adetayo Olusoga OBE, Michael Wood, Carolyn Steel, Kooj Chuhan, Walk the Plank, Ergon Theatre, Brian Groom, Just Stop Oil, the Manchester International Roots Orchestra, Polyp, Emmanuela Yogolelo**, and more!

Manchester Histories is an award-winning charity that works collaboratively to reveal, share and celebrate Greater Manchester's diverse histories and heritage.

History matters. It matters because we forever connect to those who came before, those who exist now, and those who will exist into the future. Manchester Histories does vital work supporting people to explore these connections, and Manchester Histories Festival is an important component of this work.

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As the birthplace of the industrial revolution, Greater Manchester is the ideal place to explore the history of climate change and the way in which all our lives have changed and are changing as a result

Professor Hannah Barker
Chair of Manchester Histories

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MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY

We are delighted to be returning to Manchester Central Library – the most visited library in the UK, and home to a new permanent hub for Manchester Histories. Throughout the festival, the library will play host to a series of events featuring talks from environmental activists and academics, as well as performances from theatre groups and a talk from Manchester Histories Patron, David Adetayo Olusoga OBE.

Thursday 9 June

Zero Carbon Cities – This event will showcase what the Zero Carbon Cities network has learnt and progressed within their cities to achieve their zero carbon targets. Only available to online audiences.



Telling New Climate Stories Consortium – How can heritage resources play a larger role in climate change education while inspiring a more just and sustainable future?

The Wicked Problem from Ergon Theatre – An interactive theatre piece asking the audience to act as the jury as the question is asked – What would you put first, the planet or your family?

Author Talks

Paine – Paul Fitzgerald | Driving With Strangers – Jonathan Purkis | Ecocide: Kill the Corporation Before it Kills Us – David Whyte | Northerners: A History from the Ice Age to the Present Day – Brian Groom | Expansion Rebellion: Using the Law to Fight a Runway and Save the Planet – Celeste Hicks

Friday 10 June

Sustainable Futures at the University of Manchester – Sustainable Futures is delighted to host a seminar during the festival to showcase some of the exciting research taking place at the University.

Playing Out – This panel discussion will explore the importance of children being able to safely play and move on our streets, and why it is no longer part of everyday life.

David Adetayo Olusoga OBE – David will explore how the commemoration of individuals from our historical past remains a matter of continued and highly contested importance.

Cottonopolis: Lessons for Environmental Science from Manchester – Learn how the city of Manchester and its vast empire of cotton had an imprint across the British colonial world.

In Conversation with Ian Miller and Dr Mike Nevell – Dr Mike Nevell and Ian Miller as they discuss the commercial and social impact of the Manchester Ship Canal.

The Manchester Green Bees Young Peoples Assembly on Climate Change – Youth and community workers will be taking part in a creative workshop and training event led by local co-operative: Envirolution.

Right-wing Eco-populism: Critical Perspectives and Alternatives for the Future – Explore the challenges of eco-populism through an approach that combines the arts, the sciences and climate activism.

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Crossing Footprints

In the run-up to the festival, it was important to Manchester Histories that we worked with local people from diverse cultural backgrounds and life experiences, providing the opportunity to share their voices and be the beating heart of the festival. This work was supported by the National Lottery Community Fund, Together for Our Planet programme.

We worked alongside **Kooj Chuhan** from **Crossing Footprints** which delivers creative production towards action for human rights, climate change, equality, and wellbeing. This work includes two back-to-back events at Manchester Central Library.

Climate Change is a Race and Migration Issue

This panel presentation and discussion will look at the history of migration, and how environmental refugees have always been there but have been increasing drastically over recent decades. Manchester's history of activism on migration will be at the fore-front of this event, looking at how this activism may need to further evolve in the future. Panel members will include researcher and writer Alex Randall from the Climate & Migration Coalition; creative producer, artist and filmmaker Kooj Chuhan; musician and activist Emmanuela Yogolelo from DR Congo; visual researcher and activist Rabia Begum; and the antiracist activist Peninah Wangari-Jones who directs the Racial Justice Network.

GHOORNI – a Disastrous Cycle by Ayna Arts

Drama performance about a young person piecing together their grandfather's arrival in the UK from Bangladesh in the '70s, when due to the colonial legacies of conflict and poverty he left a country with little climate impact to work in a UK industry with high climate impact. This climate impact would be damaging mostly his own home country rather than the country he ended up working for. His grandchild is climate vigilant through their lessons in school, but only through the grandfather's story do they realise the global system that brought them here is the same as that which is destroying the climate especially for Bangladesh. Performance will be followed by a Q+A session.

Saturday 11 June

Manchester Digital Music Archive: Scanning Sessions – Bring your Greater Manchester music related items to workshops where volunteers from MDMArchive will be on hand to help guide you through the process of uploading images to add to the online archive.

Climate Emergency Manchester – an interactive stall with associated information and an interactive activity based on the history and archive of the Abbey Pond activists in Hulme, who in 1994 tried to protect their green space from destruction.

YoCLI: Young Climate Imaginaries – We welcome doodles, drawings, stories, lyrics, words and pictures about the future, and we invite you to our conversation about climate justice.

Disability and Climate Activism: Setting an Inclusive Agenda – This panel will bring together disabled activists and academics to discuss their experiences of climate activism, exploring themes of inclusion, exclusion, and discrimination, and situating these experiences within the histories of environmentalism.

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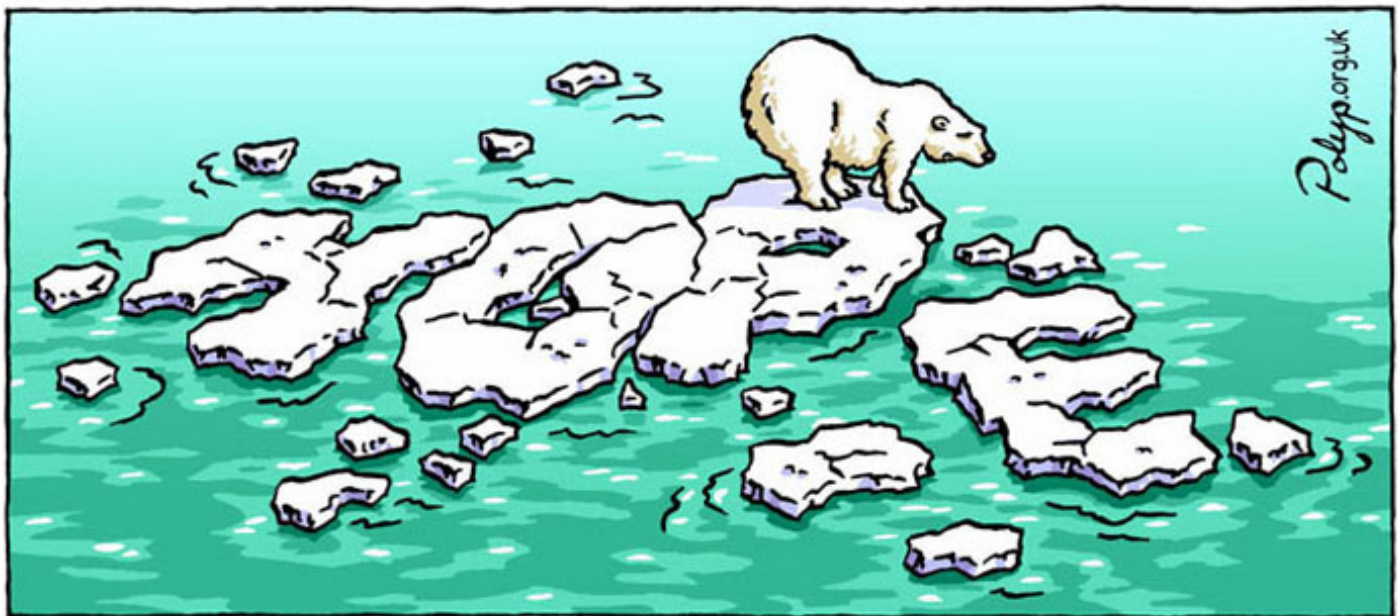
Taking Action to Ensure We Have a History – Just Stop Oil's Zoe Cohen tells us about what the physical and social science tell us about the climate reality we are in and the need for nonviolent civil disobedience.

Local Cultural Collaboration on Climate: the story of GMAST – GMAST brings together over 50 organisations across the city-region, including Manchester Histories. Their award-winning model has been shared with 5 European cities.

Competing Histories of Climate Change: From Science to Politics and Back Again – A talk on the different ways in which climate change is depicted in relation to class, floods, veganism and fast fashion, as well as the changing place of climate change in politics.

Create Your Own Climate Cartoon – An illustrated behind the scenes talk by professional cartoonist [Polyp](#) (pictured), revealing what goes into creating one of his climate cartoons, followed by a hands on workshop session helping aspiring artists create their very own climate cartoon!

Restoring the Pennine Peatlands – This talk covers Pennine moorland degradation, the effects on the surrounding area, how the moors have been restored, and the future of climate and restoration.



Polyp

Thank you to **oxy-plants** for their generous support in providing plant life to the festival.



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For those who are to come

Exhibition curated by Eduardo Carvalho and Vanessa Gabriel-Robinson

For those who are to come presents the diverse faces and colours of Amazonia. The exhibition was first shown at COP26 and is now in Manchester for the first time as part of the festival. Curated by Eduardo Carvalho and Vanessa Gabriel-Robinson the exhibition presents photographs from three influential photographers that show the different Amazonias within a single Amazonia: Marcela Bonfim, from Rondônia State; Bruno Kelly, from Amazonas State; and Nailana Thiely, from Pará State.

With an ever-watchful eye on the people of the forest – people who write the history of the region every day – their photographs help us to reflect on the importance of keeping this ecosystem alive and finding solutions to minimise the impact of exploitation.



Bruno Kelly / For those who are to come



Marcela Bonfim / For those who are to come

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ANGEL MEADOW

Saturday 11 June

Angel Meadow Park is a beautiful space, with a less than beautiful history. A housing estate in the industrial revolution that was so bad, it was the subject of a book by author Dean Kirby titled Angel Meadow: Victorian Britain's Most Savage Slum.

Now a tranquil oasis in the city centre (thanks to the Friends of Angel Meadow and a National Lottery Heritage Grant), the park will be teeming with food stalls, live music, and family friendly activities as we explore the history of food, drink, and climate change.

From beautiful, yet thought-provoking music, to cooking demonstrations, and talks about how food has always shaped the world we live in, our main stage will have something for everyone, including a Q&A with Carolyn Steel, author of *Sitopia: How Food Can Change the World*.

Main Stage Full Line Up

Sitopia: How Food Can Save the World: Carolyn Steel – Q&A with Carolyn, who writes about food and the way it shapes our world

Tales From The Congo Basin: Emmanuela Yogolelo – Music from a project to explore climate justice activism through music and other art forms

The History of Vegetarianism and its Future: Richard McIlwain, CEO, Vegetarian Society – Talk exploring the importance of plant based food and the role it has to play now and for the future

Vegetarian Society Cookery School – Live cooking demonstrations to sample and try at home

Harp and a Monkey – Award-winning Greater Manchester song and storytelling trio

Charlotte Peters-Rock – Spoken word and linking songs showing what humans are still doing to endanger the world



Carolyn Steel



Emmanuela Yogolelo

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ANGEL MEADOW

We are also delighted to welcome numerous community groups who will be on hand to discuss their vital work in the city. Chat to members of **Unicorn** grocery to discover how a worker-owned business based on values has been providing an alternative to the supermarkets for a quarter of a century! Find out more about **Moodswings**, a charity set up to support people with mental health problems and their friends and family. Hear testimonials from **Manchester Central Foodbank's** archives from ordinary citizens, and be part of new conversations about foodbanks, poverty, and inequalities. Learn from the **Friends of Angel Meadow** about the environmental impact of the industrial revolution on Angel Meadow, and its transition from meadow to polluted slum and back to the green city oasis of the present day.

We will also be running tours of Angel Meadow – find out what life was like in the park 150 years ago when it was, according to Friedrich Engels, 'Hell on Earth'! There will also be plenty of garden games, workshops, and food and drink vendors serving delicious produce from sustainable sources, including **Marley's Pizza**, **The Chaat Walas**, **Urbuns**, and **The Sri Lankan Experience**.

Finally, look out for the Climate Change Myth Buster (pictured) – an interactive performance installation from arts organisation **Walk the Plank**, which engages people in conversations around climate change – debunking some myths along the way!



Angel Meadow Park



Walk the Plank's Carbon Buster

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GALLERY OLDHAM

This year, Gallery Oldham celebrates its 20th birthday, and we are thrilled to be working with them on a number of events, talks, and exhibitions.

10 Years of British Wildlife Photography Awards – This retrospective of the British Wildlife Photography Awards looks at the past 10 years and for the first time will include all the overall winners along with a selection of images including category winners and highly commended images, that have made this the exciting and wonderful event it is today.

The Nature Table: Work by Sheila Tilmouth – Sheila Tilmouth is captivated and curious about the complexity of life forms and their fragile dependence on natural habitats within our landscape. She uses photography and microscopes to discover and magnify the extraordinary lives that are hidden all around us and in the miniature worlds beneath our feet.

On Saturday 11 June at 2pm, Sheila will be hosting a guided talk through her new exhibition and speaking about the species and habitats that inspire her artwork.

Oldham Microscopical Society – The Society will present a range of specimens and activities allowing visitors to explore how climate change continues to affect the plants and animals with whom we share our planet.

Climate Connections: New Climate Voices on Video – Short film series from Crossing Footprints' Climate Connections project, connecting diverse, migrant and low income communities with climate change. A new digital arts project enabling diverse, migrant and working class local people from Oldham to have a voice in the environmental movement and creating a series of ultra-short videos.

The screenings in Oldham Art Gallery will be accompanied by an informal talk by producer Kooj Chuhan and local contributors – please check our website for details and time.

Northern Roots – The UK's largest urban farm and eco-park on 160 acres of stunning green space in the heart of Oldham, will be releasing short digital content which brings to life 4 key areas in which Northern Roots is working to combat climate change. The digital content has been made by University of Salford students, as part of a partnership project Northern Roots have been running with the MA Digital Video & Marketing programme. A host of interactive/arts activities based on botany, biodiversity and environment will also take place across the festival. See [their website](#) for more details.



Ants by Sheila Tilmouth



Gallery Oldham

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THE MANCHESTER MONASTERY

Celebration Day – Sunday 12 June

The Celebration Day is back!

We will be at the spectacular, Grade II listed Manchester Monastery in Gorton as we celebrate the city region's rich history and heritage with over 50 stalls from museums, archives, and projects from across Greater Manchester. Fun for all with creative workshops, musical performances, a vintage bus, ice-cream van, and a pop-up museum courtesy of Manchester Museum!

The **Nationwide Cycling Academy** will be offering free servicing for bicycles. There will also be a clothes swap, as well as performances from the **Gorton Voice Choir and Youth Zone Voices Group** with **Manchester Camerata**.



The Manchester Monastery, Gorton

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THE MANCHESTER MONASTERY

Full List of Celebration Day Stalls

Alexandra Park Heritage Group	Museum of Transport Greater Manchester
All Things Considered	North West Film Archive (MMU)
Band on the Wall	North West Labour History Society
Belle Vue Zoological Gardens	Pamela Armstrong – Belle Vue Independent Artist
Bob Dobson	Pankhurst Trust – Rooms of Our Own
British Association for Local History	People's History Museum
Canal and River Trust	Polyp Graphic Novel
Castlefield Viaduct, National Trust	Richard Lysons
Cheetham and Crumpsall History Society	Talking about my generation
Cheshire and Lancashire Antiquarian Society	The Gaskell Society
Clayton Hall Living History Museum	The Portico Library & Gallery
Council for British Archaeology North West	The Victorian Society
Debdale Eco-centre and Gorton Heritage Trail	Trailblazers –
Friends of Gorton Cemetery	Women of the Manchester and the North West
Friends of Heaton Hall	University of Manchester –
Garrick Books	School of Arts, Languages and Culture
Gorton Local History Group	Victoria Baths History Group
Greater Manchester Police Museum and Archive	Visioning Lab
Greater Manchester's Young Archaeologists Club	Walk Ride GM
Healthy Me, Healthy Communities – Gorton Central	Working Class Movement Library
Heaton Park Tramway	
Hide Out Youth Zone	
Hungarian English Cultural Society	
International Brigade Memorial Trust	
John Ryland Research Institute and Library	
MACFest Muslim Arts and Culture Network	
Manchester and Salford Ramblers	
Manchester Camerata	
Manchester City Council –	
Neighbourhood Sustainable Team	
Manchester City of Literature	
Manchester Digital Music Archive	
Manchester Jewish Museum	
Manchester Libraries – Archives+	
Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society	
Manchester Military History Society	
Manchester Museum	
Manchester Settlement	
Manchester Centre for Public History and Heritage (MMU)	
Manchester Poetry Library (MMU)	



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KEY PARTNER EVENTS

Walks

Manchester Histories Festival Audio Walk – Learn more about Manchester and its story with climate change via three stories (one past, one present and one future) from twelve locations around the city. Produced by History, Politics, and Philosophy students from Manchester Metropolitan University.

Emma Fox Guided Tours – Explore the world's first modern environmental campaign, acid rain, dark satanic mills, the campaign for access to fresh air and green space.

More Than A 'Foul Drain': A Walking Tour of Manchester's Water History – This talk will take participants along the Irwell River and Rochdale Canal to tell stories of Manchester's efforts and failures to make its waterways work for transportation and industry.

William Royle and his Platt Fields protest: An Easy Self-guided Heritage Trail – Immerse yourself in the history of Platt Fields while you enjoy its thriving greenery, with this easy to use augmented reality experience created by ManMet's fresh-thinking Heritage team.

For full details and times of all walks, please visit our website.

Exhibitions

Manchester Art Gallery

Climate Justice – In February 2022, Manchester Art Gallery opened a gallery dedicated to Climate Justice, curated by the MAG Climate Justice Group, which includes gallery staff, artists and activists based in Manchester.

Wythenshawe Library

10 Years to Save the World – The Ten Years to Save the World anthology is a collection of 10 comics, of various lengths and forms, to represent each of the ten years left to save the world and to enable us to tackle different issues and different climate actions.

External Events

Groundswell 2022 – Friends of the Earth's Groundswell North West will bring together experts, activists and communities for a day of stimulating talks and practical workshops in central Manchester.

RSPB in Fletcher Moss Park – Join the RSPB on a journey back to their roots: a group of indefatigable women campaigning to end the killing of birds for their feathers.

Digital

Manchester Histories Festival will also feature a host of live streaming content and pre-recorded videos, all available to view for free on our website and YouTube channel, including archive films curated by North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University.

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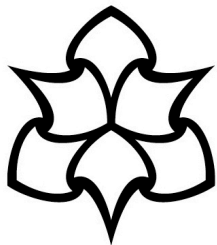


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MANCHESTER HISTORIES LEAD FUNDERS



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LINKS

Website www.manchesterhistories.co.uk

Image Library – <https://bit.ly/3w8ET3K>

SOCIAL MEDIA

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Greater Manchester Combined Authority

University of Manchester

Manchester Metropolitan University

Manchester Libraries

Solid Ground

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