



CELEBRATING ARTS AND CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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Join us for over 85 Events!



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WELCOME TO MACFEST 2026!

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in    

@MACFESTUK



Hello and Salaam...

Welcome to MACFEST 2026! The groundbreaking and award-winning Muslim Arts and Culture International Festival.

Our Mission: Celebrating arts, diversity, and connecting communities. We are proud to offer you again a rich feast of 85 events from February to July 2026 across the North West, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Muslim diaspora communities.

We are delighted to offer you an international art feast, including events hosted from Afghanistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Australia, Iraq, Indonesia, Morocco, Pakistan, Canada, Romania, Jordan, Mauritania, Bangladesh, Italy, Türkiye, Netherlands and the USA.

We are proud to present various themed festivals across the North West within MACFEST: Youth, Women, Ramadan, Environment, Museum and Libraries Festivals. There are many highlights, including: Lowry Eid Musical, Women's Festival, and art workshops. You will find something for the whole family: literature, art, history, music, performance, photography, culture, cuisine, comedy, art exhibitions, demonstrations, debates, women and youth panels, children's activities, art workshops and exhibitions.

We are bringing you a great line-up of local, national and international speakers, performers, writers, academics, photographers, comedians, poets, newsreaders, artists and singers.

We are happy to announce our two exciting initiatives: MACFEST Muslim Arts Awards 2026 celebrating Muslim Artists, and Heritage Tours to Saudi Arabia and Portugal. Together, we will go on a journey through these wonderful countries, exploring art, architecture, cuisine, local cultures, and much more!

On 14th February, we are celebrating our Opening Ceremony and Muslim Women's Arts Festival, part of Muslim Women's Arts Foundation, a sister company of MACFEST UK. This initiative celebrates Muslim women artists locally and internationally, with more than 20 events hosted in the North West, and globally from Afghanistan to the USA. This

will feature over 75 creative women: poets, performers, writers, artists and culture champions.

We are offering a hybrid programme with digital and live events. This is in partnership with wonderful organisations and venues across the North West. They include: Manchester Lit & Phil Society, Manchester Histories, Dialogue Society, Northern Lily, Manchester City of Languages, Huddersfield Literature Festival, Venture Arts, Yaran North West, The Literary Circle of Friends, The Jo Cox Foundation - Great Get Together, John Rylands Library, Bury Museum, Octagon Theatre, Abdullah Quilliam Society, Khizra Mosque, The Lowry, Manchester Museum, Blackburn Museum, SIM, Gaskell House, Trafford/ Stockport College Partnership Group, University of Salford, Creative Manchester, The University of Manchester as well as libraries in Bradford, Wigan, Warrington, Bolton, Stockport, Tameside, Oldham and Manchester.

We are equally delighted to host a Youth Festival starting in February with schools and colleges celebrating MACFEST Days! This includes: arts, cultural activities, poetry, calligraphy and an international panel.

A very warm welcome to our new and existing colleges and schools' partners and the British and international students taking part in MACFEST 2026.

Nearly all of our events are free. Donations are welcomed.

Thank you for joining us!

Enjoy!



Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA
Author, Founder and Executive
Director and Producer
of MACFEST



BOOKS & LITERATURE

ENVIRONMENT

MUSEUMS & LIBRARIES



RAMADHAN FESTIVAL

ART WORKSHOPS

CULTURAL HERITAGE

FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

ARTS AWARDS

WOMEN'S ARTS FESTIVAL

HERITAGE TOURS



PERFORMANCE

ARCHITECTURE

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES





CONTENTS

- 6** OPENING CEREMONY
- 7** YOUTH FESTIVAL
- 11** MUSLIM WOMEN'S ARTS FESTIVAL
- 21** FESTIVAL OF CALLIGRAPHY AND ARTS
- 24** RAMADAN AND EID FESTIVAL
- 28** MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES FESTIVAL
- 32** INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL
- 37** NATIONAL FESTIVAL
- 43** FESTIVAL OF WORDS AND BOOKS
- 49** OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR PLANET
- 53** MACFEST LIBRARY
- 54** MACFEST HERITAGE TOURS
- 57** MACFEST ARTS AWARDS
- 59** SPECIAL THANKS
- 60** EDUCATION, PARTNERS AND VENUES
- 61** FESTIVAL DIARY

MACFEST 2026 OPENING CEREMONY!

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: 11:30 - 13:30

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: £15, includes Lunch, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Wheelchair accessible



Join us in celebrating the opening of MACFEST 2026 and the Launch of Muslim Diaspora Archives!

There is something for everyone:

- Welcome speeches; greetings from partners
- Tilavat: Ayatullah Adeboye from Eden Girls' Leadership Academy
- Performance: Nile Language School
- Music: Shad Haidar Mustafa & Kawa Hussaini
- Performance: Sand Art
- Art exhibitions and cake cutting

Hosted by: Sandra Wong, Solicitor.

Welcome address by: Qaisra Shahraz MBE and Ed Watts, Whitworth Art Gallery.

Chief Guest: The Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, Mrs Sharman Birtles MBE JP DL



YOUTH FESTIVAL

Levenshulme High School Celebrating 'Our Roots'

Date: Wednesday, 4th February

Time: 9:00 - 10:30

Venue: Levenshulme High School, Crossley Road, Manchester, M19 1FS

Tickets: Invitation Only

Levenshulme High School looks forward to welcoming MACFEST 2026 to a celebration of work on the theme of 'roots': an exhibition exploring the intersections of culture, tradition, spirituality, and what the subject means to our students.

The school will showcase a wide range of work, including photography, ceramics, and textiles. In line with our theme of 'roots', there will also be an opportunity to make and taste a variety of fusion foods invented by our students, which showcase the fusion of traditional Islamic foods with staple dishes from cuisines around the world.

Hosted by: Neil Johnson, Headteacher of Levenshulme High School and Gemma Howells – Co-Head of Art, Design and Technology at Levenshulme High School.



William Hulme's Grammar School celebrating Culture Day

Date: Friday, 1st May

Time: 10:30 - 15:00

Venue: Spring Bridge Rd, Manchester M16 8PR

Tickets: Invitation only

We are thrilled to celebrate the rich diversity and unique traditions that make our school community so vibrant.

Culture Day is more than just a day of festivities - it's an opportunity to appreciate the many cultures that shape our identities, broaden our perspectives, and bring us together as a united community.

This special day is packed with exciting activities for everyone to enjoy! Together, let's celebrate, learn, and grow, embracing the differences that make us stronger and more connected.

Hosted by: Akeim Mundell BEM - Assistant Principal





The Manchester College celebrating Culture Day

Date: Wednesday 29th
April

Time: All Day

Venue: The Manchester College - Openshaw Campus, Ashton Old Rd, Openshaw, Manchester M11 2WH

Tickets: Invitation Only



Manchester College is proud to participate once again in MACFEST, celebrating the vibrant arts and cultures that make our city unique. This year, our talented students will showcase their creativity, skills, and passion through a diverse range of performances, exhibitions, and artistic contributions.

Hosted by: Marie Stock MBE, Vice Principal, Student Support and Experience, The Manchester College and Holly Barraclough, Enrichment Manager



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.

eventbrite

Manchester Academy: A Carnival Celebration of Colour!

Date: Thursday, 2nd April

Time: 09:00 - 14:00

Venue: Manchester Academy, Moss Lane East, Moss Side, M14 4PX

Tickets: Invitation Only

We are excited to host a cultural feast with different students celebrating their cultural heritage.

Manchester Academy School will celebrate culture, diversity and equality. It's a day to learn about different cultures and their histories.

Hosted by: Principal James Eldon, Gilly McMullen
Vice Principal, Tahani Anani, and teachers



CHS South School is celebrating MACFEST

Date: Friday 19th June

Time: 18:00 - 19:00

Venue: CHS South School, 451 Mauldeth Rd W, Manchester M21 7SX

Tickets: Invitation Only

CHS South Culture night celebrating the rich diversity of the school community through Art, Drama, Dance, Music, Poetry and Oracy. This event will provide a platform for students to share their heritage, traditions, and artistic expressions.

Hosted by: Ms Sue Burke, Deputy Headteacher.



Youth Celebrating World Culture Day

Date: Thursday, 21st May

Time: 18:00 - 19:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a cultural feast!

The event is a vibrant and educational gathering where students from various cultural backgrounds come together to celebrate and share the rich heritage of their countries of origin.

Various schools will take part; the students will be introduced by their teachers or head teachers.

Hosted by: Luljeta Halimi, Former Researcher / Production Assistant at Islam Channel

Chief Guest: Patsy Kane, OBE MA, former Executive Headteacher and Education Consultant working with Leadership Teams



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Muslim Women's — Arts Festival —

Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women

25 EVENTS!
FEBRUARY - JULY 2026

Saturday, 14th February 2026, 10.00am
The Whitworth Art Gallery



@MuslimWomensArtsFoundation
@mwartfoundation

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



Muslim Women's Arts
— Foundation —
Celebrating & Elevating Muslim Women



Welcome to Muslim Women's Arts Festival!

Welcome to the fourth Muslim Women's Arts Festival! Supported by Muslim Women's Arts Foundation.

We are delighted to offer you a feast celebrating Muslim Women in the creative industries from the North West and across the world!

Join us on 14th February at the Whitworth Art Gallery.

We have a marvellous selection of events in store for the whole family, including art exhibitions, Turkish folk dance, cultural hubs, calligraphy workshops, performances, as well as many other fun activities!

An exciting opportunity for the whole family to explore their creativity whilst guided by the expertise of Muslim female artists!

Nearly all of our events are free. Donations are welcomed.

Thank you for joining us!



Qaisra Shahraz MBE JP FRSA
Author, Founder and Executive
Director and Producer
of Muslim Women's Arts
Foundation



ALL DAY ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITIONS FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

Cultural Heritage Hubs

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Join us for an art, culture, and heritage feast!

Explore our cultural hub presentations from around the world, curated by our local Muslim women: Ethiopian, Uighur, Turkish, Syrian, Libyan and Romanian.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Henna Body Painting with Khadija Kemlaoui

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a fun and creative activity for adults - henna painting with Khadija Kemlaoui.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Children's Face Painting with Kinga Truszkowska

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Bring your children along to this fun-packed, colourful and creative face painting session with Kinga Truszkowska.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Card Making Workshop with Farhat Javid

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Workshop 1: 10:15-11am

Workshop 2: 1:30-2:15pm

Workshop 3: 2:15-3pm

Workshop 4: 3:00-3:45pm

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: £5, register on Eventbrite

Join us with Farhat Kalsoom Javid for a fascinating and intricate card making session!

We will be offering 4 short 45-minute card making workshops throughout the day. There are 12 spaces in each workshop open to those who have booked through our Eventbrite link and are on our list. Parents will need to show proof of each child's booking confirmation.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Tote bags Art Workshop with Zareena Bano

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: 10:15 - 11:45am

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: £8, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an inspiring Tote bags Art Workshop, where creativity meets mindfulness! Unwind, get creative, and design your own masterpiece! No experience needed – just bring yourself, and I'll guide you step by step. All materials included.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Ebru Marble Painting with Rabia Avci

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: Workshop 1: 12:00 - 12:45pm, Workshop 2: 1:15 - 2:15pm

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting activity for children to get creative with marble painting with Rabia Avci.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Calligraphy Workshops with Farzana Patel

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day

Workshop 1: 10.15-11.00am, Workshop 2: 11:15-12.15pm, Workshop 3: 2:30 - 3:30pm

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: £8, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting calligraphy demonstration for children with Farzana Patel from Blackburn.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Illumination Art Workshop with Atefeh Seifi

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: 2:30 - 4:30pm

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: £8, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an exciting art workshop by an award-winning artist and art practitioner Atefeh Seifi from Bury.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Art Exhibition by Venture Arts

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for an art exhibition by Muslim artists from Venture Arts. Venture Arts is an award-winning visual arts organisation working with learning disabled artists.

Through studio programmes, exhibitions, and collaborative projects, they remove barriers to the arts. Venture Arts put artists in the lead; they champion neurodiversity and provide pathways for every individual to develop their creative identity.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



Art Exhibition by Shahida Ahmed

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

 Wheelchair accessible

Join us for an art exhibition by an award-winning international British-Asian artist, curator and writer Shahida Ahmed from Lancashire.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.

Art Exhibition by Asma Al-Neama

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

Join us for a special art exhibition showcasing the work of Asmaa Al-Neama, who uses glass, mirrors and wood to create artwork.

This event is part of the Muslim Women's Arts Festival.



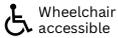
Art Exhibition by Yaran North West

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Join us for a relaxing session of art movement therapy, with two art therapists from Yaran North West.

They will engage with the audience, invite them to paint and share how movement can help us to relax. The workshop will end with a celebration of a big picture painted by our participants and artists.

This event is part of the Muslim Women’s Arts Festival.



Muslim Arts Awards 2025 Winners Group Exhibition

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite

We are delighted to present the artworks of the winners of the second MACFEST’s Muslim Arts Awards: Asma Jadakara Desai, Iqra Saied, Mohammad Popal, and Mahmud Manning.

This event is part of the Muslim Women’s Arts Festival.



Art Exhibition by Rabia Begum

Date: Saturday, 14th February

Time: All Day (from 10.30)

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Join us for a thought-provoking art exhibition showcasing the work of Rabia Begum, an artist, and activist based in Calderdale and Manchester.

This event is part of the Muslim Women’s Arts Festival.



CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S WEEK 2026

Celebrating International Women's Day 2026! Muslim Women in the Media Speak Out: Challenging Narratives, Changing Perspectives

Date: Sunday, 8th March

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a powerful panel, celebrating International Women's Day, bringing together journalists, content creators, filmmakers, academics, and activists. We will explore the roles, representation, and realities of Muslim women across mainstream and alternative media platforms.

Our accomplished panelists will discuss the IWD 2026 theme: Give to Gain. They will share their personal stories and views.

Mars will be in conversation with:

Deana Soni, a presenter and journalist

Mariam Amini, a London-born Afghan and multimedia journalist specialising in faith, travel and diaspora culture

Muminah Koleoso, Multi-Award-Winning Writer, Journalist, Content Creator & Podcaster

Hosted by: Mars El-Brogy, TEDx Speaker, Managing editor, Exec Producer



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.



Muslim Women Creatives: Afghani Women Artists

Date: Saturday, 18th July

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for an exciting panel with 4 women artists from Kabul.

The Afghani women artists will share their individual exhibitions of paintings.

They will also discuss what it is like as artists, as women creatives, living in Afghanistan under the Taliban rule.

Hosted by: Interim Professor Dr. Raphaelle Beecroft, Chair of the English Department, Karlsruhe University of Education, Germany.

Chief Guest: Chris Sacarabany, Executive Director of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FFEU).



Muslim Converts: Our Lives, Our Stories

Date: Sunday, 28th June

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for an empowering and thought-provoking event as Muslim women converts come together to share, discuss, and debate the unique challenges, insights, and transformations that come with embracing Islam.

This event is a platform for dialogue, understanding, and connection. Our panel will engage in a respectful, lively discussion on topics such as identity, community integration, misconceptions and spiritual growth in Islam.

Speakers: Mars El Brogy, Malik Al Nasir

Hosted by: Yvonne Ridley, author, broadcaster





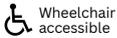
International Women's Day 2026 - Ripple Effects: Co-researching Work, Precarity and Contribution in Later Life

Date: Wednesday 4th March

Time: 12:15 - 14:30

Venue: Whitworth Art Gallery, Grand Hall, Oxford Road, Manchester, M15 6ER

Tickets: Free, Lunch provided, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Wheelchair accessible

Join us in partnership with MACFEST Muslim Arts and Culture Festival and Healthier Futures for a panel event celebrating International Women's Day 2026.

We will be welcoming a panel from Uncertain Futures, a participatory research project exploring art as research, focusing on understanding inequalities around work for women over 50 in Manchester.

The panel brings together a diverse range of voices of working women in Manchester, alongside researchers from the participatory project which interviewed 100 older women about their experiences of work and worklessness in relation to work and retirement.

Speakers:

- Marie Greenhalgh, Founder/Director at Good Neighbour Group, Deputy Chair of Manchester Age Friendly Board, author, *Forgotten Foods: Memories and Recipes from Muslim South Asia*
- Jila Mazoun, Founder, RAHA, former Trustee at City of Sanctuary, Advisory Group Member, Uncertain Futures project
- Nadia Siddiqui, former Women's Rights Worker at South Manchester Law Centre, Founder and CEO, Women's Voices, Advisory Group Member, Uncertain Futures project
- Sarah Campbell, Senior Lecturer in Health and Social Care, Manchester Metropolitan University, co-research lead, Uncertain Futures project

Hosted by: Dr Connie Smith, Deputy Director of Creative Manchester, Senior Lecturer in Social Anthropology, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, Faculty of Humanities.



FESTIVAL OF CALLIGRAPHY AND ARTS

Celebrating Art and Creativity with award-winning Muslim Artists

Date: Saturday, 9th May

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking session and a tribute to the rich diversity and innovation within the Muslim artistic community. Through artist talks, and an interactive Q&A, we will gain insight into their journeys, challenges, and triumphs and how they are using their craft to inspire, provoke thought, and create change.

With: Carol Souza, Mohamad Aaqib Anvarmia, Mahvish Javed.

Whether you're an artist, an admirer of creativity, or someone seeking deeper cultural connection, this event promises inspiration, dialogue, and a celebration of identity and imagination.

Hosted by: Haji Samir Malik, artist, calligrapher

Chief Guest: Sita Kumari, Director, Heartstone and Allied Mouse Ltd



Mughal Art Workshop with Ashfia Ashrif

Date: Thursday, 14th May

Time: 12:00 - 14:00

Venue: Didsbury Library,
692 Wilmslow Rd,
Didsbury, Manchester M20
2DN

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join Ashfia Ashrif, an artist and a student of Traditional Arts, for this demonstrative workshop on how to construct/draw and paint flowers inspired by the Mughal Empire of India.

Beautiful, bold, floral patterns often adorned the walls of the Mughal Courts of India. Ashfia will speak briefly about the enchanting, rich and grand floral empire that controlled much of South Asia between the 16th and 19th centuries.

In the workshop, in particular participants will look at a design that is on a Darbar wall in a palace in the Punjab in India.

Hosted by: Didsbury Library Team

 Wheelchair accessible

 MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL



An Illuminated Path. A Workshop with Ashfia Ashrif. Hello from Warrington!

Date: Wednesday, 8th July

Time: 13:00 - 15:00

Venue: Penketh Library,
Honiton Way, Penketh,
Warrington WA5 2EY

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Join us for an exciting illumination painting workshop with Ashfia Ashrif, an artist and student of Tehzip Illumination. In addition to demonstrating, she will speak about her journey as an artist and showcase some of her work.

Hosted by: Penketh Library Team



Mandala Art Workshop with Zareena Bano at Heald Green Library; Stockport

Date: Tuesday, 16th June

Time: 14:00 - 16:00

Venue: Heald Green
Library, Finney Lane Heald
Green, Finney Ln, Heald
Green, Cheadle SK8 3JB

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Discover the Art of Mosaics!

Join Zareena Bano for a hands-on Mosaic Workshop where you'll learn how to transform simple tiles, glass, and recycled items into stunning works of art. Zareena will guide you through the techniques of designing and arranging pieces to create your very own unique mosaic masterpiece.

This workshop is perfect for beginners and enthusiasts alike – no prior experience needed! All materials are provided, and you'll leave with a beautiful, finished mosaic and the confidence to continue exploring this timeless craft at home.

Come along, get creative, and enjoy the satisfaction of making something truly one-of-a-kind!

This workshop is beginner-friendly and suitable for children 7+ years of age (accompanied by an adult, if 7-11 years old). Suitable for adults

Hosted by: Heald Green Library Team



Youth Celebrating Arts

Date: Wednesday, 13th May

Time: 18:00 - 19:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join the youth art panel, which highlights students' artistic achievements. The panel serves as a testament to the younger generation's creativity and talent, providing them with a valuable platform to share their work, gain recognition, and continue growing as artists.

Students from the following schools will take part: Eden Girls' Leadership Academy, Manchester; Levenshulme High School; William Hulme's Grammar School; Withington Grammar School for Girls; CSH South School and Newman RC College.

This panel is linked to the MACFEST Muslim Arts Awards. It serves as a testament to the creativity and talent of the younger generation, providing them with a valuable platform to share their work, gain recognition, and continue growing as artists.

Hosted by: Graham Gordon, Careers' Advisor, Eden Girls' Academy & Director of FIT Ltd.

Chief Guest: Sam Ingleson, Associate Dean for Enterprise and Engagement (EEP), School of Arts, Media and Creative Technologies, University of Salford.



Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano. Hello from Wigan!

Date: Saturday, 25th July

Time: 11:30 - 13:30

Venue: Wigan Library, Life Centre, The Wiend, Wigan WN1 1NH

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Wheelchair accessible

Join Zareena Bano, a celebrated artist, in this fun and enjoyable creative art workshop where you will have the fantastic opportunity to make a beautiful unique personal piece of artwork to take away.

In the session, you will be encouraged to explore and express your personal creativity by taking inspiration from designs of the mosaic world, books, and artwork.

You will design your own pattern and inlay with a wide choice of materials (mosaic tiles, mirrors, beads, sequins, buttons, glass stones, shells, jewellery parts, upcycled items) on a wooden frame. Please feel free to bring anything you would like to use to embellish.

Hosted by Wigan Library, Life Centre



Wigan Council



Tile Painting at Brush and Paint Studio

Date: Wednesday, 25th March

Time: 11:00 - 13:00

Venue: Brush and Paint Studio, Unit 8b, Empress Business Centre, 380 Chester Road, Old Trafford, Manchester, M16 9EA

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Come and join us for a morning of mindful creativity!

We will provide you with plenty of inspiration to paint your very own tile coaster, or you are welcome to design your own.

We have a wide selection of underglaze paints to choose from, and all materials will be provided including stencils, design sheets and carbon paper.

After the session your tile will be left with us to glaze and kiln fire, and will be ready to collect in 2 weeks time.

Hosted by: Sarah Ahmad, artist



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.



RAMADAN AND EID FESTIVAL

Forgotten Foods: Memories and Recipes from Muslim South Asia with Siobhan Lambert-Hurley

Date: Sunday, 22nd February

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join Professor Siobhan Lambert-Hurley, historian and author, for a captivating conversation, as she discusses her acclaimed book, "Forgotten Foods: Memories and Recipes from Muslim South Asia" with Shamim Choudhury, award-winning Media correspondent and writer.

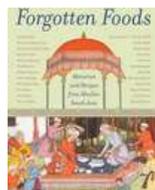
Heritage food is a booming industry in India and Pakistan today. Five-star hotels and fashionable restaurants tout traditional menus, while food festivals bring historic flavours to a general public hungry for dishes with provenance.

Vloggers and bloggers from Instagram to TikTok have jumped on the bandwagon, enriching their #foodporn with a spoonful of Wikihistory. Yet, from the perspective of professional historians, all this chatter about 'lost recipes' and 'gastronomic traditions' needs more bonafide research to give it historical meaning and texture.

This realisation led to the birth of a project called Forgotten Food to open communications between scholars and food practitioners, including writers, performers, farmers and chefs. Among the many collaborations to come out of this project is a delectable collection of food stories, histories and recipes called Forgotten Foods: Memories and Recipes from Muslim South Asia (2023). As well as celebrating an amazing diversity of cuisines, it also points to how Muslim kitchens have so profoundly shaped and enriched South Asian food today.

This event pairs food historian Professor Siobhan Lambert-Hurley with chef and writer Sadaf Hussain to discuss their contributions and collaborations to recover lost histories and fading culinary traditions

Hosted by: Shamim Choudhury, award-winning Media correspondent and writer



Iftar with our Partners

Date: Thursday, 12th March

Time: 16:30 - 21:00

Venue: Khizra Mosque,
425 Cheetham Hill
Road, Manchester, M8
0PF

Tickets: Invitation Only,
visit [Eventbrite](#)

 Wheelchair
accessible



Join MACFEST and Khizra Mosque for the breaking of the fast during the holy month of Ramadan.

The evening will celebrate our festival's vast partnerships across Greater Manchester, inviting our valued partners and volunteers to join us for the breaking of the fast meal, during the month of Ramadan in May.

Welcome our new partners More In Common from Jo Cox Foundation and Man Lit and Phil Society!

Hosted by: Jawad, Sajjid Amin and Qaisra Shahraz MBE.

Chief Guest: The Right Reverend Prof. David Walker, Bishop of Manchester



Celebrating Ramadan in Romania

Date: Saturday, 21st
February

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join Dr Eda Gliga-Baubec PhD, as she explores how Ramadan traditions, such as Iftar gatherings, communal prayers, and family customs were maintained under communism and how they have flourished anew in democratic Romania. Centuries-old recipes continue to bring families and neighbours together.

For Romanian Muslim community Ramadan offers not only spiritual renewal, but also a powerful way of sustaining identity, memory, and community.

Speakers include:

- Eden Kurtasan, Historian
- Dr. Leyla Cheamil, Associated Professor, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Turkish Department
- Resul Cadir - Authorised translator

Hosted by: Dr Eda Gliga-Baubec PhD, MACFEST team member





International Cuisine: Our Grandmothers' Recipes

Date: Sunday, 15th March

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a heartwarming online panel celebrating the flavors, stories, and wisdom passed down through generations.

Culinary storyteller Yvonne Maffei and TV host Syirin Said have come together to share memories, traditions, and the enduring legacy of the women who shaped their kitchens—and their lives.

From handwritten recipe cards and whispered secrets at the stove, to adapting heritage dishes for modern tables, this conversation will explore how food connects us to our roots and to one another. Expect personal stories, cultural insights, and reflections on what it means to preserve—and reinterpret—the culinary knowledge of our grandmothers.

Presented by: Yvonne Maffei, Chef & Cookbook, author and culinary expert

Hosted by: Syirin Said, TV and podcast host, voice artist, actress



Dialogue Society celebrates Ramadan with a Community Iftar

Date: Saturday, 14th March

Time: 17:00 - 20:00

Venue: TBC

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

 Wheelchair accessible

MACFEST and the Dialogue Society warmly invites you to join us in celebrating the holy month of Ramadan with a special Community Iftar – an evening of togetherness, reflection, and shared values.

This is an opportunity for people of different faiths to come together to meet and eat together in a communal space at the time of a time of spiritual renewal, compassion, and generosity, to build bridges across cultures and communities.

This Iftar gathering offers a unique opportunity for people of all backgrounds and faiths to come together, join the Muslim community in breaking the fast with them, learn about the significance of Ramadan, and enjoy a meal in the spirit of friendship and mutual understanding.

Hosted by: Dialogue Society





Stretford Campus Ramadan Iftar Celebration

Date: Thursday, 5th March

Time: 17:00 - 19:00

Venue: Stockport College,
Wellington Rd S,
Stockport SK1 3UQ

Tickets: Invitation Only

Trafford and Stockport College is proud to host its second Community Iftar, bringing together staff, students, and the wider community to celebrate the spirit of unity, reflection, and togetherness during the holy month of Ramadan.

Hosted by: Zebulnisa Butt, Director of Curriculum – ESOL, Lifelong Learning & Skills Development, Trafford and Stockport College Group.



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.



MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES FESTIVAL

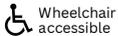
Arabic Calligraphy Workshop with Farzana Patel at Blackburn Museum

Date: Tuesday, 2nd June

Time: Workshop 1: 12-12:50pm, Workshop 2: 13:05-13:55, Workshop 3: 14:10-15:00

Venue: Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Museum Street, Blackburn, BB1 7AJ

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



BM&AG
Blackburn Museum & Art Gallery

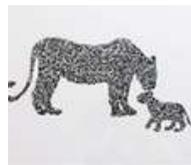


Join us at the Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery for a FREE hands-on Arabic calligraphy workshop!

Farzana Patel is an Arabic calligraphist who was taught a unique style of calligraphy by senior calligraphist Hudhaifa Al Awaidi from Oman. Adapting her style and creativity from what was taught by her respected teacher, she went on to become a part of a calligraphy society, participate in various workshops, and host many exhibitions.

She now specialises in bespoke pieces of work for customers and attempts to share her passion for Arabic calligraphy in her spare time when not working in her day job as a Chemical Site Production Manager.

Hosted by: Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery



Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano at Oldham Library

Date: Monday, 16th February

Time: 12:00 - 14:00

Venue: Oldham Library, 35 Greaves St, Oldham OL1 1AL

Tickets: Free, register on Eventbrite



Come and join Zareena Bano, a celebrated artist, in this fun and enjoyable creative art workshop, where you will have the fantastic opportunity to make a beautiful and unique personal piece of artwork to take away.

In the workshop, you will be encouraged to explore and express your personal creativity by taking inspiration from designs of the mosaic world, books and artwork.

You will design your own pattern and inlay with a wide choice of materials (mosaic tiles, mirrors, beads, sequins, buttons, glass stones, shells, jewellery parts, upcycled items) on a wooden frame. Please feel free to bring anything you would like to use to embellish.

Hosted by: Oldham Library Team



Illuminating Knowledge: Exploring Arabic Scientific Manuscripts at the John Rylands Library

Date: Saturday, 4th July

Time: 14:00 - 16:00

Venue: John Rylands Research Institute and Library, University of Manchester Rylands Research Institute, 150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

 Wheelchair accessible



Join us at the John Rylands Library to discover more about the Library's fascinating Arabic scientific manuscripts, created by some of Islam's most outstanding thinkers.

Prized by Muslims and non-Muslims alike, these texts have continued to inspire and enhance scientific thinking around the globe, revealing Islam's enduring scientific achievements set against a backdrop of colonial power and its legacy today.

Hosted by: Kamran Karimullah, Lecturer in Islamic Thought, The University of Manchester, and Zsófia Buda, Curator of Global Manuscripts, The John Rylands Research Institute and Library



The University of Manchester



Persian Painting with Atefeh Seifi. Hello from Warrington!

Date: Saturday 20th June

Time: 10:30 - 12:30

Venue: Culcheth Library, 440 Warrington Rd, Culcheth, Warrington WA3 5SL

Tickets: Free, [Register on Eventbrite](#)

 Wheelchair accessible

Join us for an exciting Persian Painting workshop with an award-winning artist Atefeh Seifi from Bury.

Painting has long held a prominent place in Persian culture, particularly during the Islamic period. Among its most renowned contributions is the tradition of Persian miniature painting, which developed into a highly sophisticated and celebrated art form in Iran. These works are admired for their intricate detail, vibrant colors, and cultural significance, making them a cornerstone of Persian artistic heritage.

Atefeh is one of the winners of the inaugural Muslim Arts Awards organised by MACFEST in partnership with The University of Salford.

Materials Required: Pencil and card/paper, High-quality gouache and watercolor paints, Fine brushes (sizes 000, 0, 1, 3).

Hosted by: Culcheth Library Team



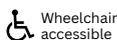
Islamic Geometric Patterns with Eric Broug at Longsight Library

Date: Saturday 2nd May

Time: 10:00 - 12:00

Venue: Longsight Library and Learning Centre, 519 Stockport Rd, Longsight, Manchester M12 4NE

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Wheelchair accessible



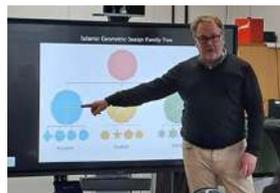
Join us for a 2-hour workshop on Islamic geometric design workshop with Eric Broug.

Participants will learn how to draw 2 patterns with just a compass and ruler, using a PDF template Eric has designed to get everyone started on a firm foundation.

Learn how to draw patterns in the same way that traditional craftsmen have done for centuries. Using just a ruler and pencil, author and artist Eric Broug will show you how these seemingly complex patterns are constructed. This workshop will start with a brief introduction to the basic design principles of Islamic geometric design.

Suitable for all ages.

Hosted by: Longsight Library Team



Muslim Diaspora Archives: Our Stories, Our Journeys

Date: Tuesday 23rd June

Time: 18:30 - 19:30pm

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for an exciting event celebrating Muslim Diaspora communities with Karen Shannon, CEO of Manchester Histories, for a riveting panel!

Hear the migration stories of four Muslim migrants from East Africa. They will share their experiences and how they came to set up their lives in the city of Manchester.

- Nasrullah Khan Moghal MBE, Former Councillor, Manchester

They will talk about their triumphs and challenges in settling into the wonderful city of Manchester.

This panel is in partnership with the Manchester Histories.

Hosted by: Manchester Histories

Chief Guest: Afzal Khan, Member of Parliament of the United Kingdom



Cultural Exchange Dialogue: Libraries Without Borders – How Libraries Create Belonging in a Changing World. Hello from Doha!

Date: Sunday, 24th May

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join Susan Parker-Leavy for a series of four short lightning talks followed by a moderated Q&A about the libraries as civic spaces fostering belonging across the Islamic world and diaspora.

This cross-cultural session brings together librarians from Qatar and the UK to discuss how libraries are responding to displacement, cultural identity, and inclusion. Speakers will include:

- Chaymae Mekanni (MIA Library) presenting “Tales from Gaza: A Case Study”, Doha, Qatar
- Sanaa Laabar, Library Coordinator, Museum of Islamic Art Library
- Rana Ahmed Alani, Librarian - Adults Reference Services, QNL Core Services - Public Services, Doha, Qatar
- Patrick Hart, Curator for Scottish Communities and Organisations, National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh
- Ms Wassilina Sekulova MA, Librarian, Oxford Centre of Islamic Studies, UK

Hosted by: Susan Parker-Leavy, Head of Library, Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar

Chief Guest: Neil MacInnes, Strategic Lead for Libraries, Galleries and Culture, Manchester City Council



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Islamophobia and Muslims in the Media. Hello from around the World!

Date: Saturday, 25th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a lively, engaging and thought-provoking discussion on the topic of Islamophobia and Muslims in the media, with a panel of an amazing group of Muslims.

This event will feature a distinguished panel of influential and diverse Muslim voices who will share their experiences, insights, and strategies for combating negative stereotypes and promoting accurate, respectful portrayals of Muslims in the media.

What is it like for British Muslims in the UK and around the world, faced with anti-Muslim hatred and the rise in hate crimes? What are the solutions?

With:

- Linsay Taylor, CEO, MEND – Muslim Engagement and Development
- Chaimaa Boukharsa, a philologist specialising in Arab and Islamic studies
- Ali Aziz Janjua, The University of Salford (SBS), Student

Hosted by: Ismael Lea South, The Salam Project CIC

Chief Guest: Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, British lawyer, Politician, Member of the House of Lords of the United Kingdom



BOOKING INFORMATION:

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eventbrite

Photography with Ali Al Sharji. Hello from Oman!

Date: Sunday, 5th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Join us for an engaging conversation with Ali Al Sharji, a conceptual and documentary photographer from Oman whose work bridges Middle Eastern heritage with universal themes.

A self-taught artist, Al Sharji uses photography to explore identity, culture, and contemporary social issues through visually striking and emotionally resonant imagery.

His work has been exhibited internationally across the Middle East, Europe, and the United States, earning recognition for its thoughtful storytelling and cultural depth.

In this online panel, Al Sharji will discuss his creative process, the role of heritage in shaping his visual language, and how photography can serve as a tool for personal expression and social commentary. This session offers a unique opportunity to learn from an artist whose perspective continues to contribute meaningfully to global photographic discourse.

Hosted by: Max Gorbatskyi. Curator at Open Eye Gallery, Liverpool

Chief Guest: Fuad Alakbarov, photojournalist and political commentator



Comedy with Preacher Moss. Hello from America!

Date: Saturday, 23rd May

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Get ready to laugh, learn, and rethink what comedy can do!

Preacher Moss is a pioneer, and the “O.G. of Muslim comedy.” His groundbreaking tour “Allah Made Me Funny,” served as a platform for Muslim comedy excellence to make its way to the Mainstream.

Preacher Moss is a comedian, writer, and producer. He toured with Dave Chappell, and writer for comedy heavyweights Damon Wayans, and George Lopez.

Recognized as the First “Muslim Comedy Scholar” Moss brings the ability to make you laugh and think. Clearly, he’s the “People’s Champion”.

Hosted by: Nabz Pat, writer and stand-up comedian



Islamesque: How Muslim Craftsmen Helped Build Europe's Greatest Medieval Cathedrals

Date: Sunday, 3rd May

Time: 15:00 - 16:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

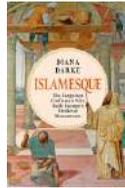
Join Diana Darke, who spent four decades in the Middle East.

This fully illustrated talk presents the evidence for how Muslim craftsmen were key in building Europe's greatest medieval monasteries and cathedrals, from Durham Cathedral, to the Leaning Tower of Pisa, thanks to their advanced understanding of geometry and their astonishing decorative repertoire. Diana argues that the architectural term 'Romanesque' should more accurately be called 'Islamesque'.

Presented by: Diana Darke, an author, Middle East cultural writer, Arabist, occasional BBC broadcaster

Hosted by: Robin Flack, Member of Research Staff, CIBEDO, Centre for Christian-Muslim Encounter, Frankfurt, Germany

Chief Guest: Dr Abdul-Azim Ahmed, Deputy Director, Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK, Cardiff University



AI and Creativity: Hello from Australia!

Date: Sunday, 19th July

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a thought-provoking event with Emeritus Professor James Trevelyan exploring AI and Creativity in the Context of Islamic Arts.

As AI technologies learn to generate traditional elements such as Arabic calligraphy and complex geometric patterns, they raise both exciting possibilities and deep concerns. While these tools can offer new ways to preserve, reinterpret, and share the rich heritage of Islamic art, they also risk reducing sacred and deeply human creative processes to algorithmic outputs.

Is AI a collaborator in artistic innovation—or a force that threatens to displace the artist entirely? This event invites artists, technologists, and thinkers to reflect on how we navigate the fine line between inspiration and imitation in a rapidly changing creative landscape.

Presented by: Emeritus Professor James Trevelyan, The University of Western Australia

Hosted by: Alan Wareham, author, IT Consultant and President of The Manchester Literary & Philosophical Society





Exploring the Legacy of Islamic Empires with Justin Marozzi

Date: Sunday, 21st June

Time: 14.00 - 15.30

Venue: Digital

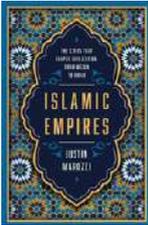
Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join Justin Marozzi, award-winning historian, travel writer, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, who has lived and worked extensively across the Muslim world, to talk about "Islamic Empires: Fifteen Cities that Define a Civilization".

In this acclaimed work, he traces the rise and flourishing of Islamic civilisation through the stories of its great cities, from Mecca to Baghdad, Cordoba to Istanbul, bringing to life the cultural, political, and spiritual forces that shaped a millennium of history.

At the panel, he will share these insights in an engaging journey through the empires that defined the Islamic world.

Hosted by: Mustafa Omar, Co-founder of Islamic Travels



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.



Collectors, Scientists and Slaves: Islamic Art in Early modern/Renaissance Italy

Date: Sunday, 26th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a fascinating online event featuring Dr. Federica Gigante, a renowned historian and researcher specializing in Islamic art and cross-cultural exchange, as she delves into the presence and influence of Islamic objects in 17th-century Italy.

In a time often seen as dominated by European art and culture, Italy's elite collectors and scholars were also deeply engaged with the Islamic world—acquiring objects, manuscripts, scientific instruments, and luxury goods from across the Mediterranean and beyond.

Dr. Federica Gigante is a scholar of Islamic art and material culture, with a particular focus on the movement of Islamic objects in early modern Europe. She is known for her accessible and engaging approach to academic history, bridging the gap between scholarly research and public understanding.

Presented by: Dr Federica Gigante, historian and researcher

Hosted by: Asma Younus, BBC Radio Presenter

Chief Guest: Chris Sacarabany, Executive Director of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding (FEU).



NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano. Hello from Bury!

Date: Thursday, 19th February

Time: 12:00 - 14:00

Venue: Bury Art Museum & Sculpture Centre, Moss St, Bury BL9 0DR

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Discover the Art of Mosaics!

Join Zareena Bano for a hands-on Mosaic Workshop where you'll learn how to transform simple tiles, glass, and recycled items into stunning works of art. Zareena will guide you through the techniques of designing and arranging pieces to create your very own unique mosaic masterpiece.

This workshop is perfect for beginners and enthusiasts alike – no prior experience needed! All materials are provided, and you'll leave with a beautiful, finished mosaic and the confidence to continue exploring this timeless craft at home.

Come along, get creative, and enjoy the satisfaction of making something truly one-of-a-kind!

Hosted by: Bury Art Museum & Sculpture Centre



Bury Art Museum
& Sculpture Centre

Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DR UK



“Harmony is Diversity” at Feversham Girls’ Secondary Academy. Hello from Bradford!

Date: Tuesday, 14th July

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Feversham Girls’ Secondary Academy, 158 Cliffe Rd, Bradford BD3 0LT

Tickets: Invitation only

We are delighted to be hosting MACFEST 2026 at Feversham Girls’ Academy!

The event will celebrate art, culture, music and creativity through student showcases and interactive activities.

The school will celebrate a vibrant day, highlighting the talents of its students and the spirit of community.

Hosted by: The headteacher, Ms Sajida Muneer and Mrs Latifa Aitelhawa, ADOL of MFL



Wheelchair
accessible

Feversham Girls’
Secondary Academy
Part of the iExel Family



Tameside College Celebrates Culture Day

Date: Tuesday, 19th May

Time: All Day

Venue: Tameside College,
Old Street Campus Old
Street, Ashton-under-Lyne
Greater Manchester, OL6
7SF

Tickets: Invitation Only



Join Tameside College to celebrate the diversity of cultures with their ESOL students!

This vibrant event is a unique opportunity to showcase the rich cultural diversity within our community, bringing together students from various backgrounds to share their stories, traditions, and heritage.

Through a series of engaging activities, including cultural performances, traditional crafts, and international cuisine, our ESOL students will have the chance to highlight their unique cultures while fostering a spirit of unity and mutual respect.

Come and experience the world through the eyes of Tameside's ESOL students at MACFEST 2026—a day of learning, sharing, and celebrating the richness of our global community!

Hosted by: Andy Macleod, Head of Community Education & ESOL.



Hopwood Hall College celebrating 'Our culture'. Hello from Rochdale!

Date: Friday 13th
February

Time: 11:00 - 14:00

Venue: Rochdale
Campus, St Mary's Gate,
Rochdale, OL12 6RY

Tickets: Invitation Only



Rochdale is Greater Manchester's Town of Culture for 2025-26. This prestigious title, awarded by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, celebrates the town's rich history, creativity, and diverse arts scene, highlighting its unique cultural impact.'

As such, Hopwood Hall College's theme for MACFEST in Feb 2026 will be 'Our Culture'. The college students, led by the ESOL team, will showcase the diverse cultures through their second book entitled 'Our Culture'.

There will also be a marketplace celebrating food and art from countries that are visited through the journey

Hosted by: Julia Heap, Principal, CEO, and Laura Wiggin, ESOL Program Manager, ESOL Team



NATIONAL FESTIVAL: Hello from Bolton!

Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz

Date: Saturday, 20th June

Time: 10:30 - 12:30

Venue: Bolton Central Library Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, BL1 1SE

Tickets: £10, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Bolton
Library and
Museum Services

Join Aysha Yilmaz' workshop. She will discuss motifs and designs and how silk is produced and it's origin, from The Silk Road (Iran, Uzbekistan, Turkey etc), which will be used to produce a Silk Painting.

Aysha will demonstrate how to apply the design to the Silk fabric from a drawing, followed by techniques of filling in with Silk paints.

This workshop is beginner-friendly and suitable for children 7+ years of age (accompanied by an adult, if 7-11 years old). Suitable for adults.

Hosted by: Bolton Central Library



Bolton School celebrates MACFEST

Date: Thursday, 4th June

Time: 10:30 - 12:00

Venue: Bolton School, Chorley New Rd, Bolton BL1 4PA

Tickets: Free, invitation only



Bolton School celebrates MACFEST 2026 with a vibrant school-wide event where students come together to celebrate the rich tapestry of Muslim heritage through art, culture, and creativity. This inspiring showcase will highlight the beauty and diversity of Islamic history and identity. This will include two art workshops.

This event honours the many ways in which Muslim culture has influenced and enriched the world of art. It's a moment for our school community to recognize, uplift, and explore the voices and stories of our students through their creative expressions and community spirit.

Hosted by: Bolton School Teachers



NATIONAL FESTIVAL: Hello from the City of Salford!

Muslim Arts Awards 2026 Exhibition Preview at University of Salford

Date: Thursday, 19th November

Time: 17:00 - 19:30

Venue: New Adelphi Theatre, University of Salford, University Rd, Salford M5 4BR

Tickets: £10, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Join us for the preview of the third exhibition of the selected artworks by the most outstanding Muslim practising artists in the UK.

The Muslim Arts Awards programme celebrates and raises the visibility of Muslim artists through an exhibition and Award Ceremony. You will have an opportunity to see all the works by the finalists under 4 categories: Drawing, Painting, Calligraphy and Photography.

Refreshments provided. A great opportunity to meet the artists, judges and industry partners.



Celebrating Eid at the Lowry!

Date: Saturday, 13th June

Time: 18:00 - 20:00

Venue: The Lowry, The Studio, Pier, 8 The Quays, Salford, Manchester M50 3AZ

Tickets: £15, [register on Eventbrite](#)

 Wheelchair accessible



Hello from Salford! Join us for a marvellous Eid musical evening at the Lowry Theatre in Salford Quays.

Like our previous festivals, we have a musical feast for you with talented and highly entertaining singers and musicians from the North West. They are: Hamza Robertson and Friends and Urooj Qawali Group.

Hosted by: Matt Eames – Head of Theatres (Contemporary & Commissioning).



NATIONAL FESTIVAL: Hello from Liverpool!

Belvedere Academy explores Identity: Photo voices and Artistic Expression

Date: Monday 23rd March

Time: 11:00 - 13:00

Venue: : Belvedere Academy, Princes Park, 17 Belvedere Rd, Princes Park, Liverpool L8 3TF

Tickets: Invitation Only

Belvedere Academy has been given an opportunity to work with other local schools on an inter-faith project designed to promote voice through photography.

A group of students (Yr12) will be producing images that will be a catalyst for conversation around local communities. This is a fantastic opportunity to be part of an exciting exhibition, to be displayed in different venues across the city.

Hosted by: Mrs Julie Taylor, Principal, and Emma Speed, Senior Assistant Vice Principal, Contingent Commander CCF



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.

NATIONAL FESTIVAL: Hello from Cheshire!

Celebrating Muslim Heritage: Stockport, Marple, Cheadle and Trafford Sixth Form Colleges

Dates: Monday, 13th - Friday, 17th April

Marple Sixth Form College and Cheadle College - Monday, 13th April

Cheadle College - Tuesday 14th April

Trafford College - Stretford Campus - Wednesday, 15th April

Stockport College - Thursday, 16th April

Trafford College - Altrincham Campus - Friday, 17th April

Time: 10:00 - 14:00

Venue : Stockport College, Wellington Rd S, Stockport SK1 3UQ

Tickets: Invitation Only

The Trafford College Group is proud to announce that they will be hosting MACFEST in March 2026!

Join us for various art and cultural activities with staff and students to celebrate diversity and Muslim heritage. They are delighted at the opportunity to celebrate the Muslim Arts and Culture Festival at Trafford, Stockport, Marple, and Cheadle Colleges. There will be food, art, literature, dance, and a henna demonstration!

Welcome message from James Scott, Principal and CEO, Trafford and Stockport College Group: "I would like to welcome you to Stockport College. We are delighted to be able to host this incredible event celebrating Muslim Arts and Culture and the rich diversity of our college and community.

Our partnership with the Muslim Arts and Culture Festival is of great value to The Trafford and Stockport College Group, and we look forward to many more collaborations to confirm our connection.

MACFEST is a much-anticipated annual event at our college, inviting students and staff to immerse themselves in the richness and diversity of Muslim cultures.

The festival transforms each college campus into a celebration of creativity, where live music and dance meet the delicate beauty of calligraphy and visual art.

Students can experience the intricate artistry of henna, explore cultural displays and delicious cuisines. More than just a festival, MACFEST is an inspiring showcase of the students' cultures that continue to shape and enrich our shared community."

Hosted by: James Scott, Principal and CEO, Trafford and Stockport College Group, Michelle McLaughlin, Student Engagement and Student Voice Lead, Charlotte Brocklehurst student experience practitioner.



TRAFFORD & STOCKPORT COLLEGE GROUP



MARPLE SIXTH FORM COLLEGE



THE CHEADLE COLLEGE



FESTIVAL OF WORDS AND BOOKS

Manchester: One City, Many Voices

Date: Thursday, 14th May

Time: 18:00 - 20:00

Venue: Manchester Central Library, St Peter's Square, Manchester M2 5PD

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Join the Manchester Lit&Phil and MACFEST for a vibrant evening celebrating the power of words to bridge cultures, spark understanding, and illuminate the rich tapestry of our city.

We bring together a distinguished panel of poets, whose award-winning works span continents, traditions, and lived experiences. Through live readings and personal reflections our guest writers will explore what diversity and inclusion truly mean in a city shaped by migration, creativity, and community. Their stories - rooted in memory, identity, struggle, joy, and hope - offer a compelling portrait of Manchester as a place where many cultures not only coexist, but flourish.

This unique event invites audiences to reflect on the ways literature can build empathy and connection, celebrating Manchester as an exemplar of multiculturalism at its best. Come prepared to be inspired, challenged, and uplifted by voices that reflect the city's past, present, and ever-evolving future.

This is a free public event, designed to welcome audiences from all backgrounds and to highlight the unifying power of literature and the spoken word. There will be time for discussion and questions to the poets.

Poets and Writers:

- Nasima Bee, performance poet, producer and creative practitioner
- Nóra Blacsok, Hungarian poet based in Manchester, one of the Manchester Multilingual City Poets in 2025
- Pamela Galloway, poet based in Canada and Manchester
- Peter Kalu, poet, fiction writer and playwright

For more information and biographies of the speakers visit [Manchester Lit&Phil website](#).

Hosted by: Man Lit & Phil Society

**Manchester
Lit&Phil**



A Conversation with Novelist Diana Abu-Jaber

Date: Sunday, 26th July

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

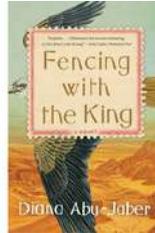
Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a powerful online conversation with an award-winning author Diana Abu-Jaber as we explore the role of literature in navigating identity, memory, and cultural belonging.

Through her acclaimed novels and memoirs, Abu-Jaber has carved a unique space in contemporary literature – weaving themes of heritage, displacement, and storytelling across borders. In this live panel, she will share her insights on writing between cultures, the nuances of Arab-American identity, and the enduring power of narrative to bridge personal and political landscapes.

Hosted by: Mary Lynn Bracht, Author, winner of the 2018 Writers' Guild of Great Britain Best First Novel Award



A 12th Century Novel: Ḥayy ibn Yaqzān by Ibn Tufail, Andalusian philosopher and novelist.

Date: Sunday, 12th July

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

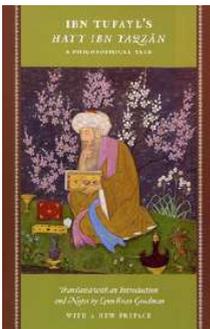
Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for an enlightening afternoon with renowned scholar, poet and film-maker Professor Akbar Ahmed, as he discusses the twelfth century novel Hayy ibn Yaqdhan (Alive, Son of Awake) written by the Andalusian scholar, philosopher novelist, the 12th-century Moorish philosopher, physician, mystic, and Islamic official Ibn Tufail. The novel has been described as "the most important story you've never heard of." This is because the book was so influential in the West. With its striking similarities to Daniel Defoe's eighteenth century novel Robinson Crusoe, it is widely regarded as the first novel in the English language.

Presented by: Prof Akbar Salahuddin Ahmed, a Pakistani-American academic, author, poet, playwright, filmmaker, former diplomat, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at AU and a Global Fellow of the Wilson Center

Hosted by: Darryl Morris, the award-winning broadcaster, filmmaker, and writer



The "Global Literary and Poetic Journey: Young Voices from the UK and Beyond"

Date: Wednesday, 31st March

Time: 18:00 - 19:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for an exciting event with young people from the UK and around the world on a literary and poetic journey.

Participating schools include: Whalley Range High School, Newman College, Loretto College, Manchester Academy and Stretford Grammar School.

They will encourage cross-cultural dialogue, and highlight the power of words to connect people across borders. This event aims to create a vibrant space for cultural exchange, creativity, and the sharing of unique perspectives through the written and spoken word.

Hosted by: Lulieta Halimi, TV Host, Islam Channel



Eid Celebration with Multilingual Mushaira and International Poetry

Date: Sunday, 17th May

Time: 15:30 - 17:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a captivating evening of multilingual poetry and Mushaira, where the rich literary traditions of the Muslim world come alive through the spoken word. This event brings together renowned Muslim poets from across the UK, USA, India, and Denmark, showcasing their artistry in various languages, including Urdu, Arabic, Bengali, English, and more.

Experience the beauty of poetic expression as these talented poets share verses that resonate with themes of spirituality, identity, culture, and human connection. The voices from different backgrounds will unite in the universal language of poetry again.

International poets include Sadaf Mirza (Denmark), Dr Malik Al Nasir DLitt (HC), Harmesh Manghra (Punjabi poet) and Paul Wadud.

Hosted by: Rubina Khan, Poet and BBC Radio Presenter and Becky Swain, Director of Poetry Library, Manchester Metropolitan University



Children’s Books with Nadine Kaadan

Date: Sunday, 19th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join award-winning author and illustrator Nadine Kaadan for an inspiring conversation about her creative journey – from writing in her mother tongue, Arabic, to crafting stories in English that reach children around the world. Nadine will share her experiences as a BAME author navigating the challenges of getting published, and the profound joy of representing her cultural heritage through stories that celebrate identity, empathy, and belonging.

She will explore her creative process, discussing how she approaches writing about war, trauma, and other difficult themes – and why such stories are vital in children’s literature.

From picture books to graphic novels, Nadine’s work spans genres and age groups, always rooted in the belief that “the end of racism starts on the bookshelf.” She will also talk about experiences reading to children in refugee camps and discover why representation in children’s literature is not just important – it’s transformative.

Hosted by: Simon Guerrier, Writer, Producer, Author of “Sherlock Holmes - The Great War” (Titan, 2021) and Chair of the Books Committee for the Writers’ Guild of Great Britain



Roots & Reverence: Poetry from the Punjabi Sufi Tradition

Date: Saturday, 6th June

Time: 14:00 - 15:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

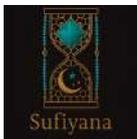
Join Dr Javeria Khadija Shah for an inspiring presentation on the creative legacy of Punjabi Sufi poetry, where verse becomes a vessel for prayer, resistance, and longing. The session highlights how mystics such as Bulleh Shah used Kalaam, a sacred poetic form, to express truths that transcended their own time and place.

Through selected readings and contextual insights the session explores how these verses continue to travel across generations shaping contemporary creativity in the diaspora. Audiences will encounter poetry as a timeless act of imagination and devotion, rooted in heritage yet alive with resonance today.

Presented by: Dr Javeria Khadija Shah, Founder, SUFIYANA CIC | Strategic Advisor in Education, Equity & Identity

Hosted by: Rhona Whiteford, Author and Artist

Chief Guest: Ivan Wadeson, Executive Director at Manchester City of Literature



Respect my Language: Voices and Experiences

Date: Saturday 4th April

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Join an insightful event in collaboration with Manchester City of Languages, where individuals from various backgrounds explore how language reflects our identities, cultures, and social class. Bringing together people with lived experiences, our speakers will delve into how language both shapes and is shaped by systems of power, identity, and culture – and how respect, or the lack of it, plays a central role in these dynamics. They will also examine how dialects and ways of speaking are often tied to class and cultural belonging, and how language can serve as a tool of empowerment, control, or resistance.

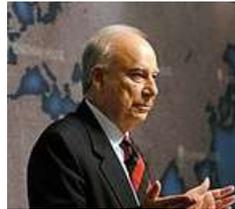
Join us as we challenge language hierarchies and celebrate the rich tapestry of voices that make up our communities.

Professor Matras will introduce the main language communities, with a focus on the language of the city's Muslim populations, and examine the power of dialect, the politics of "standard" language, and how linguistic diversity is often undervalued or stigmatized.

Our speakers:

- Prof Akbar Salahuddin Ahmed, a Pakistani-American academic, author, poet, playwright, filmmaker, former diplomat, Ibn Khaldun Chair of Islamic Studies at AU and a Global Fellow of the Wilson Center
- Dr. Leyla Cheamil, Associated Professor, University of Bucharest
- Munira Alusa, Headteacher, Manchester Arabic School

Hosted by: Prof Yaron Matras, author and former Professor of Linguistics, University of Manchester



BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via www.macfest.org.uk and Eventbrite. Digital events take place over zoom and the links needed to join will be sent nearer to the time of the event. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.

MIA Book Club: Reading the Islamic World – Gazing at Mecca and Medina

Date: Sunday, 10th May

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)



Join Dr. Mounia Chekhab Abudaya as she explores *Gazing at Mecca and Medina: Premodern Representations of the Ḥaramayn*, a remarkable volume that gathers scholarly insights into how Mecca and Medina have been represented through time—across manuscripts, visual arts, and architecture.

The book includes fascinating case studies from regions such as Aceh and Bosnia, presenting fresh interpretations and elevating lesser-known materials.

A short screening from the Treasures of Islamic Art series features a rare meters-long ziyāratnāmah (Hajj certificate) and will be narrated by Dr. Mounia Chekhab Abudaya.

Presented by: Dr Mounia Chekhab Abudaya Ph.D., Deputy Director of Curatorial Affairs at the Museum of Islamic Art, Doha, Qatar

Hosted by: Safia Florence Ascoli-Ball, Bayt Al-Hikma, Director and Movement Specialist & Taekwondo Instructor, freelance translator, part-time Pilates teacher.



Channeling the Muse or the Monster: Poems on the History of Tea. Hello from the USA!

Date: Sunday, 14th June

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Tea is linked to art, mysticism and mingling of cultures, besides being a catalyst for 20th century geopolitical expansionism.

Shadab Zeest Hashmi explores strands of mythology, colonial power structures, commerce, war, mysticism and the fine arts in relation to the history of tea in her book of poems titled "Tea Terra." She will read some poems set against the backdrop of the Silk Road, and discuss related historical events.

Hosted by: Professor John McAuliffe, Author, Co-Director, Centre and a Reader in Modern Literature and Creative Writing, University of Manchester



OUR ENVIRONMENT, OUR PLANET

Universities' Global Event on Sustainability and Environment

Date: Sunday, 5th July

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us at the "Universities Global Event on Sustainability and Environment" as we work together to build a more sustainable and resilient future for our planet.

5 Universities - 5 Continents

- Prof Khaliq Uzzaman, Professor of Geology and Oceanography, Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, USA
- Dr Ghada Soliman, Researcher at School of Materials, University of Manchester, UK
- Mr Imran Chotia (PR Eng), Principal Professional Officer, Innovative Energy Solutions, South Africa

The "Universities Global Event on Sustainability and Environment" is an international forum that brings together leading academic institutions worldwide to address critical issues related to sustainability and environmental conservation in their countries.

This event aims to foster collaboration, share innovative research, and develop actionable strategies to combat the pressing environmental challenges of our time.

Hosted by: Dr Karin Vogt, Professor of Teaching English as a Foreign Language and Head of Professional School, University of Education, Heidelberg, Germany.

Chief Guest: Sherilyn Macgregor, Prof of Environmental Politics, University of Manchester.





Food and fashion: Fez - a model city of sustainability. Hello from Morocco!

Date: Saturday, 27th June

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a thought-provoking online panel featuring Fatima Manar, renowned advocate for sustainable development and cultural preservation, as we explore the dynamic intersection of food, fashion, and sustainability in the historic city of Fez, Morocco.

This conversation will delve into how Fez, a UNESCO World Heritage city, is emerging as a living model for sustainable urban living — rooted in its deep traditions of artisanal craft, local food systems, and community-led environmental stewardship.

Hosted by: Safia Florence Ascoli-Ball, Bayt Al-Hikma, Director and Movement Specialist & Taekwondo Instructor, freelance translator, part-time Pilates teacher.



Environment: Tour of the waste recycling plant

Date: Wednesday, 22nd April

Time: 13:30 - 15:30

Venue: Longley Lane Household Waste and Recycling Centre - R4GM/Suez, Longley Ln, Sharston, Gatley, Manchester M22 4RQ

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a unique, behind-the-scenes look at how everyday waste is transformed, sorted, and given a second life.

This guided tour offers a rare opportunity to explore the inner workings of a modern recycling facility, where innovation meets sustainability. Whether you're an eco-enthusiast, student, artist, or simply curious about where your waste goes, this event will change the way you think about waste.

Discover how recycling contributes to a circular economy; learn about the challenges of waste management; and explore creative ways to reuse and repurpose materials in our daily life. From plastics and paper to metals and textiles, you'll see it all — and leave with a fresh perspective on consumption, responsibility, and creativity.

Hosted by: Longley Lane Household Waste and Recycling Centre Team



International Youth Speak Out on the Environment: Ending Plastic Pollution!

Date: Sunday, 7th June

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us as we host a special panel with young people from six countries!

Join us as we host a special panel with young people from five countries speaking on the theme of "Ending Plastic Pollution".

World Environment Day, since 1973, is the United Nations Day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action on urgent planetary issues, to protect our environment. The 2026 World Environment Day is hosted by the Republic of Azerbaijan.

School students will share their thoughts, ideas and solutions to address environmental issues in their countries for protecting our planet.

Participants:

- Hala Abdussalam Mohammad Hussain El Shoubaki, Al-Qaseelah High School for Girls, Irbid, Jordan
- Ebru-Ege Amet, Ovidius Grammar School, Constanta, Romania
- Linah Zarine Alikhan, Muirlands Middle School, La Jolla - San Diego, USA
- Hana-Maryam Razzaq, The Glasgow Academy, Scotland
- Labibah RahmaN, Falinge Park High School, Rochdale, England, UK
- Iclal Aktas, Friedrich-Schiller-Gymnasium Ludwigsburg, Germany

Moderated by: Professor Sorhaila Latip-Yusoph, multi-media practitioner and educator, Mindanao State University, Marawi, Philippines.

Chief Guest: Julia Durkan, Head of Environmental Sustainability, University of Manchester



Creative Recycling with Alaa Zalal

Date: Thursday, 25th June

Time: 18:00 - 19:00

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join artist and educator Alaa Zalal on an interactive, creative recycling workshop, giving new life and purpose to old things, which we all have and love.

Alaa will take us through the process of making a self-portrait candle, which will reflect our personality, favourite colours, and scent. In the second half of the session, Alaa will show how to preserve your memories with your children, making unique and meaningful pieces of art out of your favourite and loved items.

Presented by: Alaa Zalal, Artist and MACFEST team member

Hosted by: Lulieta Halimi, TV Host, Islam Channel





Orchard and Sustainability: Picnic in the Apple Orchard

Date: Wednesday, 10th June

Time: 12:00 - 16:00

Venue: Grass Roots
Marlborough Drive
Failsworth M35 0LE

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

 Wheelchair accessible



Join Victoria Holden in this immersive workshop which combines an exploration of apples in a beautiful orchard setting of Northern Lily. Breathe in the fresh air, bask in the beauty of nature, and be part of a relaxed yet meaningful gathering, celebrating our connection to the Earth.

Set in the heart of a serene apple orchard, this event is an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors while engaging with environmental initiatives that make a difference. Whether you're passionate about sustainability, curious about eco-friendly living, or simply looking for a peaceful day in nature, this picnic welcomes all ages and backgrounds.

Hosted by: Victoria Holden, Director of Northern Lily



Green Shoots Sustainability Project in Muslim Community with Saima Ansari

Date: Sunday, 29th March

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Venue: Digital

Tickets: Free, [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join Dr Saima Ansari for this special presentation which aims to map Muslim-led environmental initiatives and to unravel how these practices are shaping a more inclusive green agenda in Manchester.

She will also introduce 'Green Roots, Global Voices,' a civic engagement project built on seven years of TIES (Towards Inclusive Environmental Sustainability) research at Manchester University. This project explored the sustainability practices and perspectives of migrant households from Somali and Pakistani backgrounds.

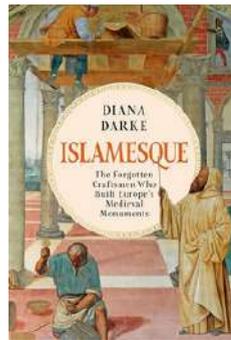
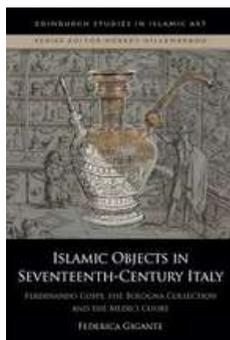
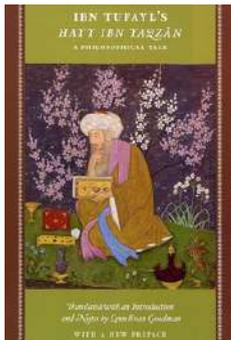
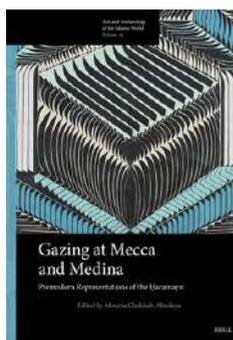
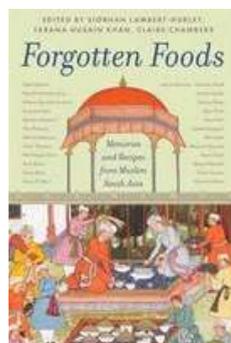
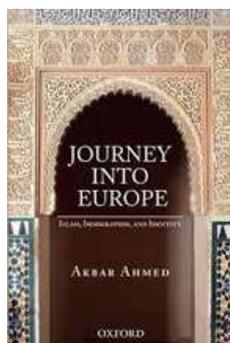
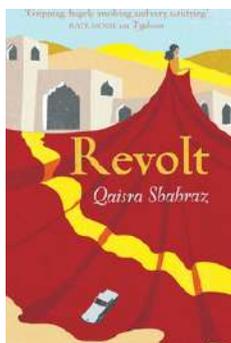
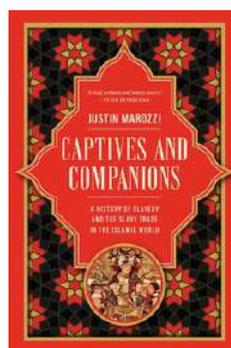
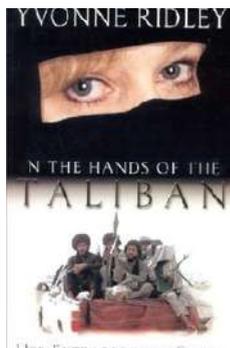
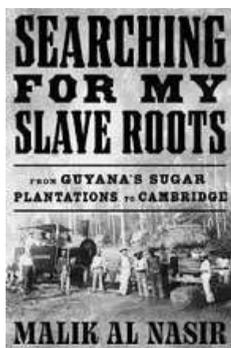
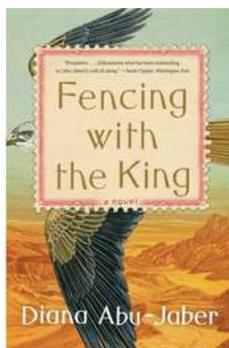
Presented by: Dr. Saima Ansari, Research Associate, Towards Inclusive Environmental Sustainability (TIES) Project, Sustainable Consumption Institute (SCI), University of Manchester

Hosted by: Andrew Nowell, Press Officer for The Nature Friendly Farming Network, former Manchester journalist.



MACFEST LIBRARY

Here is a collection of books written by some of MACFEST'S amazing panelists and participants, these books are discussed within their panels



BookTitles and Authors from left to right: Diana Abu-Jaber *Fencing with the King*, Malik Al Nasir *Searching for My Slave Roots*, Yvonne Ridley *In the Hands of the Taliban*, Justin Marozzi *Captives and Companions*, Nadine Kaadan *The Jasmine Sneeze*, Qaisra Shahraz *Revolt*, Prof Akbar Ahmed *Journey into Europe*, Siobhan Lambert-Hurley *Forgotten Foods*, Mounia Chekhbab-Abudaya *Gazing at Mecca and Medina*, Ibn Tufayl *Hayt Ibn Yazdan*, Federica Gigante *Islamic Objects in Seventeenth-Century Italy*, Diane Darke *Islamesque: The Forgotten Craftsmen Who Built Europe's Medieval Monuments*



WELCOME TO MACFEST HERITAGE TOURS 2026!

Join us on our four amazing and culture rich Heritage Tours in 2026 to Saudi Arabia, Portugal, Liverpool and Oxford!

There's a Tour for everyone! Join us in exploring the picturesque and breath-taking landscape of Mecca and Medinah whilst visiting spiritually uplifting mosques and historical sites.

PROUDLY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



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BOOKING INFORMATION:

Book your place via tours@macfest.org.uk or **0779 425 3856**. For more information and cost see Eventbrite. Stay up to date with our Eventbrite for any changes of dates and times.



Heritage Tour: Historic Abdullah Quilliam Mosque and Islamic Centre

Date: Sunday, 9th August 2026

Time: 12:00 - 4:00pm

Venue: 8-10 Brougham Terrace, Liverpool L6 1AE

Tickets: £10 (refreshments and tour), [register on Eventbrite](#)

Join us for a day tour and learn about a remarkable chapter of British Muslim history with this guided tour of the Abdullah Quilliam Mosque in Liverpool—the first registered mosque in the United Kingdom, established in 1889 in a Liverpool terrace house.

Located in the heart of the city, this beautifully restored building was once the home of Sheikh Abdullah Quilliam, a Victorian convert to Islam and a pioneering figure in British Islamic history. The tour offers a unique opportunity to explore the rich heritage, architecture, and legacy of a mosque that laid the foundations for Muslim life in Britain over a century ago.

The Muslim Institute was established by a group of 20 British converts to Islam, led by Sheikh Abdullah William Henry Quilliam (1856-1932). Our visit will take place for 2 hours between 12: 00 pm to 02: 00 pm, also those who are Muslims, will have the chance to do their Zuhr Prayer there. After that, there will be free time for everyone to have lunch and enjoy the city.

For further information please contact: E-mail: tours@macfest.org.uk



Portugal – Unveiling the Western Frontier of Al-Andalus

Date: Sunday, 12th April – Friday, 17th April 2026

Main Locations: Lisbon, Sintra, Évora, Mértola, Silves

Join us for a specially curated 6-day tour of Portugal offering a mixture of history, culture, cuisine and coastal beauty. Beginning in Lisbon, the capital, we explore the vibrant neighbourhoods of Baixa and Alfama, and the nearby town of Sintra, famed for its palaces, and Arabic influenced castle.

We then head inland to Évora, with its iconic Roman ruins, followed by Mértola where Portugal's only remaining medieval mosque building still lies intact, albeit as a church.

Our tour is concluded in the picturesque Algarve region where vestiges of Islamic architecture can be seen in towns such as Silves, Faro and Tavira. This tour provides a unique insight into the deep and often overlooked legacy of Islam in the western part of the Iberian Peninsula.

The package covers 5 nights in 4-star accommodation, breakfast, private ground transport, experienced tour guide, and entrance fees. Flights are not included.

For further information please contact: E-mail: tours@macfest.org.uk and visit [Eventbrite](#).



The Timeless Spirit of Central Arabia

Date: Saturday, 3rd October – Sunday, 11th October 2026

Main Locations: Jeddah, Makkah, Madinah, Al 'Ulā, Madā'in Sāleh, Umluj

Join us for an unforgettable 9-day journey through Central Arabia combining the spiritually uplifting experience of Umrah with visits to some of the region's ancient sites. Starting in Jeddah we experience the diverse character of this vibrant coastal city before proceeding to the holy sanctuary of Makkah for pilgrimage.

We then board a high-speed train to Madinah, where Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) is buried. After visiting the resting places of the Prophet's companions and other sites of Islamic significance we head northwards to Al 'Ulā. Here, we experience dramatic desert landscapes and discover the archaeological remains of nearby Madā'in Sāleh, which was once inhabited by the Nabataeans. The tour is concluded in Umluj with time to unwind and reflect beside the crystal-clear waters of the Red Sea. This itinerary blends spirituality, history and nature, offering a comprehensive glimpse into Central Arabia's rich cultural heritage.

The package covers 4-star accommodation for 8 nights with all meals included together with private transport, tour guide and admission fees where applicable. Flights are excluded.

For further information please contact: E-mail: tours@macfest.org.uk and visit [Eventbrite](#).



Muslim Diaspora Archives



Honouring and celebrating the lives of Britain's first Muslim Migrants

Muslim Diaspora Archives records the voices of Britain's first Muslim migrants – before they are lost forever.

Founded by Qaisra Shahraz MBE, Muslim Diaspora Archives is a long-term heritage project dedicated to preserving and celebrating the lives of Britain's Muslim diaspora in Manchester and the North West, with a special focus on first-generation migrants who arrived in the UK during the 1960s and 1970s.

The project highlights the contributions, struggles and achievements of Muslim pioneers, who helped build Britain's social, cultural and economic fabric, and ensures these vital histories are accessible to future generations.

Through podcasts and interviews, it aims to create an authentic, community-led archive that reflects Muslim life in Britain from a lived experience.

MACFEST.ORG.UK/MUSLIM-DIASPORA-ARCHIVES

Muslim Arts Awards

MACFEST 2026 Muslim Arts Awards will exhibit and award prizes to the finest work by UK Muslim artists! MACFEST Open Art Exhibition and Award Ceremony is in partnership with the University of Salford, School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology.

There are four categories: Calligraphy, Drawing, Painting and Photography. It is open to all UK based Muslim residents, 18 years or older. Selected artists will have their work exhibited at The University of Salford in November. All shortlisted artists will be entered into the awards.

Further details about the competition and guidelines on how to submit work to the Open Call, will be available on the MACFEST website: WWW.MACFEST.ORG.UK/ARTS-AWARDS



2025 WINNERS:

Photography: Iqra Saied, Drawing: Asma Jadakara Desai, Calligraphy: Mohammad Popal, Painting: Mahmud Manning



The Finalists



JOIN OUR MUSLIM ARTISTS' NETWORK



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MANCHESTER



MUSLIM ARTS AWARDS OPEN CALL

The National Muslim Arts Award celebrates and raises the visibility of Muslim artists across the UK through an Exhibition and Award Ceremony.

This award, now in its third year, is hosted by MACFEST, Muslim Arts and Culture Festival, in partnership with the School of Arts, Media and Creative Technology at The University of Salford.

All selected artists will be included in the exhibition.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

30th MAY 2026

All **Muslim Artists** based in the UK, 18 years or older, are invited to submit up to 2 artworks per category, in the categories of Drawing, Painting, Calligraphy and Photography.

EXHIBITION PREVIEW

5–7.30 pm, 19th NOV 2026

UNIVERSITY OF SALFORD

MACFEST



ARTS AWARDS



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

**FREE Submission via online entry form at
www.macfest.org.uk/arts-awards**

ARTWORK BY ZAREENA BANO
LOGO BY MAIDAA NOOR & SAMIR MALIK

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all our funders, sponsors, supporters and the dedication of the MACFEST operational team and volunteers for making this festival possible.



MACFEST OPERATIONAL TEAM:

Amir Arshad, Abbie Donald, Barbara Dresner, Dr Eda Gliga-Baubec PhD, Nabila Farooq, Hanane El Hadioui, Nafisa Madany, Steve Roman, Steven Tennant, Dudiya Zilic, Alaa Zalal, Tehmina Ahmed, Susie Bolchover, Hajra Mubashar, Heather Johnson, Laetitia Sevin, Luhaib Abood, Sameera Ashraf, Anila Saeed, Katarzyna Jablonska, Maryam Afolabi, Maryam Soliman, Nura Said, Tym Woodward, Manorama Venkatraman, Luljeta Halimi, Aicha Aboubaker, Hind Gaily, Tom McGuinness and Ban Saleh.

FUNDERS AND SPONSORS:

Arts Council England, Manchester City Council, Foundation for Ethnic Understanding FFEU, Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA), Beaverbrooks and University of Salford.

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BEAVERBROOKS

EDUCATION, PARTNERS AND VENUES

We are proud to have these Manchester schools and colleges celebrating MACFEST days. We would like to thank our partners and venues.



SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

- Sudanese Supplementary School, Manchester
- Eden Girls' Leadership Academy, Manchester
- Burnage Academy for Boys
- The Nile Language School
- Tameside College
- Oldham College
- The Manchester College
- Hopwood Hall College, Rochdale
- Canon Slade Sixth Form College, Bolton
- Manchester Islamic Grammar School For Girls
- Stockport College
- Trafford College
- Marple Sixth Form College
- The Cheadle College
- The City of Liverpool College, Liverpool
- The University of Manchester – Creative Writing Department
- CHS South, Manchester
- Stretford Grammar School, Trafford
- Manchester Metropolitan University
- The University of Salford
- The Belvedere Academy, Liverpool
- Levenshulme High School
- Whalley Range High School for Girls
- The Albion Academy
- Manchester Academy
- Withington Girls' School
- Manchester Grammar School
- Bosnian School and Society of Manchester
- Manchester Arabic School, Chorlton
- Newman Catholic College, Oldham
- Freehold Community Primary School, Oldham
- Bolton School
- Altrincham Grammar School for Girls, Altrincham
- William Hulme's Grammar School
- Manchester High School for Girls

PARTNERS AND VENUES

- Science and Industry Museum (SIM)
- Manchester Museum
- Wigan Library
- Oldham Gallery and Library
- Longsight Library and Lifelong Learning Centre
- Khizra Mosque
- The Portico Library
- Tameside Library
- Oldham Gallery
- Bolton Central Library
- Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery
- Abdullah Quilliam Mosque and Islamic Centre, Liverpool
- Stockport Library
- British Muslim Heritage Centre
- Bradford Central Library
- The Met, Bury
- Warrington Library
- John Rylands Library
- The Lowry - Salford
- Elizabeth Gaskell's House
- The Heaton's Library
- Whitworth Art Gallery
- Huddersfield Festival
- Northern Lily, Oldham
- Octagon Theatre Bolton
- Portland Basin Museum
- Heald Green Library, Stockport

FESTIVAL DIARY

Stay up to date with our [Eventbrite](#) page for any changes of dates and times.

FEBRUARY 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
4th	Levenshulme High School Celebrating 'Our Roots'	09:00 - 10:30	7
13th	Hopwood Hall College Celebrating 'Our culture'	11:00 - 14:00	38
14th	Opening Ceremony	11:30 - 13:30	6
14th	Cultural Heritage Hubs	All Day	13
14th	Henna Body Painting with Khadija Kemlaoui	All Day	13
14th	Children's Face Painting with Kinga Truszkowska	All Day	13
14th	Card Making Workshop with Farhat Javid	10:15 - 15:45	14
14th	Tote Bags Workshop with Zareena Bano	10:15 - 11:45	14
14th	Ebru Marble Painting with Rabia Avcı	12:00 - 14:15	14
14th	Calligraphy Workshops with Farzana Patel	10:15 - 15:30	15
14th	Illumination Art Workshop by Atefeh Seifi	14:30 - 16:30	15
14th	Art Exhibition by Venture Arts	All Day	15
14th	Art Exhibition by Shahida Ahmed	All Day	16
14th	Art Exhibition by Siddiqa Juma	All Day	16
14th	Art Exhibition by Asma Al-Neama	All Day	16
14th	Art Exhibition by Yaran North West	All Day	17
14th	Muslim Arts Awards 2025 Winners Group Exhibition	All Day	17
14th	Art Exhibition by Rabia Begum	All Day	17
16th	Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano, Oldham	12:00 - 14:00	28
19th	Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano, Bury	12:00 - 14:00	37
21st	Celebrating Ramadan in Romania	14:00 - 15:30	25
22nd	Forgotten Foods: Memories and Recipes from South Asia	14:00 - 15:30	24

MARCH 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
4th	Celebrating IWD: Ripple Effects: Co-researching Work	12:15 - 14:30	20
5th	Stretford Campus Ramadan Iftar Celebration	17:00 - 19:00	27
6th	Celebrating IWD: Muslim Women In the Media Speak Out	14:00 - 15:30	18
12th	Iftar with our Partners, Khizra Mosque	16:30 - 21:00	25
14th	Dialogue Society celebrates Ramadhan: Community Iftar	17:00 - 20:00	26

MARCH 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
15th	International Cuisine: Our Grandmothers' Recipes	14:00 - 15:30	26
23rd	Belvedere Academy explores Identity, Liverpool	11:00- 13:00	41
29th	Green Shoots Sustainability Project in Muslim Community	14:00 - 15:30	52
31st	The "Global Literary and Poetic Journey: Young Voices	18:00 - 19:00	45

APRIL 2025

Date	Event	Time	Page
4th	Respect my Language: Voices and Experiences	14:00 - 15:30	47
2nd	Manchester Academy: a Carnival Celebration of Colour!	09:00 - 14:00	9
5th	Photography with Ali Al Sharji, Oman	14:00 - 15:30	33
12th	Heritage Tour: Portugal – Unveiling the Western Al-Andalus	5 Days	56
13th	Stockport, Marple, Cheadle and Trafford Sixth Form Colleges	10:00 - 14:00	42
19th	Children's Books with Nadine Kaadan	14:00 - 15:30	46
22nd	Environment: Tour of the waste recycling plant	13:30 - 15:30	51
25th	Islamophobia and Muslims in the Media	14:00 - 15:30	32
26th	Collectors, Scientists & Slaves: Islamic Art in Renaissance Italy'	14:00 - 15:30	36
29th	The Manchester College celebrating Culture Day	All Day	8

MAY 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
1st	William Hulme's Grammar School celebrating Culture Day	10:30 - 15:00	7
2nd	Islamic Geometric Patterns Eric Broug, Longsight Library	10:00 - 12:00	30
3rd	Islamesque: Europe's Greatest Medieval Cathedrals	15:00 - 16:30	34
9th	Celebrating Art and Creativity with Muslim Artists	14:00 - 15:00	21
10th	MIA Book Club: Gazing at Mecca and Medina	14:00 - 15:30	48
13th	Youth Celebrating Arts	18:00 - 19:30	23
14th	Mughal Art Workshop with Ashfia Ashrif, Didsbury	12:00 - 14:00	21
14th	Manchester: One City, Many Stories	18:00 - 20:00	43
17th	Eid Celebration with Multilingual Mushaira	15:30 - 17:00	45
19th	Tameside College Celebrates Culture Day	All Day	38
21st	Youth Celebrating World Culture Day	18:00 - 19:30	10
23rd	Comedy with Preacher Moss	14:00 - 15:00	33
24th	Cultural Exchange Dialogue: Libraries Without Borders	14:00 - 15:30	31



JUNE 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
2nd	Arabic Calligraphy Workshop with Farzana Patel, Blackburn	12:00 - 15:00	28
4th	Bolton School celebrates MACFEST	10:30 - 12:00	39
6th	Roots & Reverence: Poetry from the Punjabi Sufi Tradition	14:00 - 15:00	46
7th	International Youth Speak Out on the Environment	14:00 - 15:30	50
10th	Orchard and Sustainability: Picnic in the Apple Orchard	12:00 - 16:00	52
13th	Celebrating Eid at the Lowry!	18:00 - 20:00	40
14th	Channeling the Muse or the Monster	14:00 - 15:30	48
16th	Mandala Art Workshop with Zareena Bano, Stockport	14:00 - 16:00	22
19th	CHS South School is celebrating MACFEST	18:00 - 19:00	9
20th	Persian Painting with Atefeh Seifi, Warrington	10:30 - 12:30	29
20th	Silk Painting Workshop with Aysha Yilmaz, Bolton	10.30 - 12.30	39
21st	Exploring the Legacy of Islamic Empires with Justin Marozzi	14:00 - 15:30	30
23rd	Muslim Diaspora Archives	18:30 - 19:30	35
25th	Creative Recycling with Alaa Zalat	18:00 - 19:00	50
27th	Food and Fashion: Fez a model city of sustainability	14:00 - 15:30	52
28th	Muslim Converts: our lives, our stories	13:00 - 16:00	19

JULY 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
4th	Illuminating Knowledge: Arabic Scientific Manuscripts	14:00 - 16:00	29
5th	Universities' Global Event on Sustainability and Environment	14:00 - 15:30	49
8th	An Illuminated Path: Workshop with Ashfia Ashrif, Warrington	13:00 - 15:00	22
12th	A 12th Century Novel	14:00 - 15:30	44
14th	"Harmony is Diversity", Feversham Girls' Secondary Academy	14:00 - 15:30	19
18th	Muslim Women Creatives: Afghani Women Artists	14:00 - 15:30	37
19th	AI and Creativity: Hello from Australia!	14:00 - 15:30	34
25th	Mosaic Art Workshop with Zareena Bano, Wigan	11:30 - 13:30	23
26th	A Conversation with Novelist Diana Abu-Jaber	14:00 - 15:30	44

AUGUST 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
9th	UK Heritage Tour: Abdullah Quilliam Mosque, Liverpool	12:00 - 16:00	38

OCTOBER 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
3rd	Heritage Tour: The Timeless Spirit of Central Arabia	8 days	57

NOVEMBER 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page
19th	Muslim Arts Awards Exhibition Preview, University of Salford	17:30 - 19:00	40



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