



CHETHAM'S  
LIBRARY

# Chetham's Library Events Guide

*September 2018  
– February 2019*

**The oldest public library  
in the English-speaking world**

Tucked away in the heart of Manchester's Medieval Quarter, Chetham's Library is the city's best-kept secret. Founded in 1653 by Humphrey Chetham, a wealthy textile merchant, landowner and banker, it has been in continuous use as a free public library for over 350 years. On the same site, Chetham also established a school for forty poor boys, now a specialist music school of world renown.

The building that houses Chetham's is even older than the foundation of the School and Library. It was built in 1421 to accommodate a college of priests and remains one of the most complete medieval complexes to survive in the north west of England.

This wonderfully atmospheric place is a remarkable survival of Manchester's pre-industrial past. The quiet stillness of the ancient buildings and the stimulating creative energy of the working library create a unique and compelling mix which is not easily forgotten.

"So quiet and peaceful, it's hard to believe you're in the middle of a busy city"

## Events at a glance

### September 2018

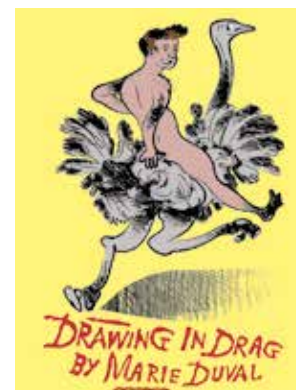
**Heritage Open Day**  
Friday 7 September

**Discover the Treasures of Chetham's Library**  
Wednesday 12 September

**Heritage Open Day**  
Friday 14 September

### October

**An Evening with Professor Bill Sherman**  
Thursday 11 October



**Exhibition Preview, Book Launch and Talk**  
Friday 12 October

**Strange Perfume: A Queer Culture Book Fair**  
Saturday 13 October

**Queer Zine Workshop**  
Saturday 13 October

**Creating Comics Workshop**  
Sunday 14 October

**Chetham's Library Unscripted**  
Thursday 18 October



**Family Friendly Chetham's**  
Autumn Half Term  
Monday 22 – Friday 26 October

**Chetham's Library Secondhand Book Stall**  
Autumn Half Term  
Monday 22 – Friday 26 October

**Frankenreads**  
Wednesday 24 October

**In the Margins: The Annotated Nuremberg Chronicle**  
Tuesday 30 October

### November

**Chetham's Library Unscripted**  
Thursday 1 November

**Baronial Baroque**  
Wednesday 21 November

### December

**Chetham's Library Unscripted**  
Thursday 6 December

**Christmas Tours with Jonathan Schofield**  
Saturday 15 December

### January 2019

**Living Library**  
Sunday 13 January

**Chetham's Library Unscripted**  
Thursday 17 January

**Focus on Chetham's Library: A Photography Workshop**  
Sunday 27 January

### February

**Volunteer Open Day**  
Sunday 3 February

**Letters of Love: A Valentine's Calligraphy Workshop**  
Sunday 10 February

**The Drama of the Oratorio**  
Sunday 10 February

**Valentine's Day Chetham's Library Unscripted**  
Thursday 14 February

**Family Friendly Chetham's**  
Spring Half Term  
Monday 18 – Friday 22 February

**Secondhand Book Stall**  
Spring Half Term  
Monday 18 – Friday 22 February

### Regulars

**Chetham's Library Book Club**  
3rd Tuesday of the month  
(apart from August)

**Manchester Women's Institute**  
4th Tuesday of the month



## Heritage Open Days

**Friday 7 September  
and Friday 14 September**  
2pm–8pm

*Free | Booking essential*

Experience the magical atmosphere of one of Manchester's oldest buildings on a self-guided tour of its secret staircases, hidden passageways and closed doors – all open for you to discover and explore in your own time and without a guide. A rare opportunity to wander freely through the beautiful medieval buildings and the unique seventeenth-century library at your own pace. Experience the mystery and atmosphere of the dark stone cloisters, the panelled rooms and the chained library without the pressure of time or the formality of a guided tour. Take your own route round the buildings, linger among the bookshelves or sit and read at the table where Karl Marx worked to overthrow capitalism: with almost six hundred years of history hidden within the walls, there will definitely be something new to explore.



## Discover the Treasures of Chetham's Library

**Wednesday 12 September**  
6.30pm–8.30pm

*Free | Pre-booking essential*

The collection at Chetham's Library is designated by Arts Council England as of international importance, and includes many unique and rare books and manuscripts spanning nearly 800 years. These treasures are not normally on display and this is a chance to see some of them at close quarters and learn more about their histories – and sometimes surprising former owners.

This evening is a taster of events available to Patrons of Chetham's Library.

## An Evening with Bill Sherman: The Invention of Printing and the Birth of Secrecy

**Thursday 11 October**  
6.30pm–8.30pm

*Free | Booking not required*

Professor Bill Sherman is Director of the Warburg Institute at the University of London. He has published widely on the history of books and readers and on the plays of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. Much of his current work explores the interface between word and image, the relationship between knowledge and power and the surprising connections between the modern and the early modern. This evening's talk will explore the relationship between the beginning of printing and the emergence of cryptography.

## Chetham's Library Unscripted

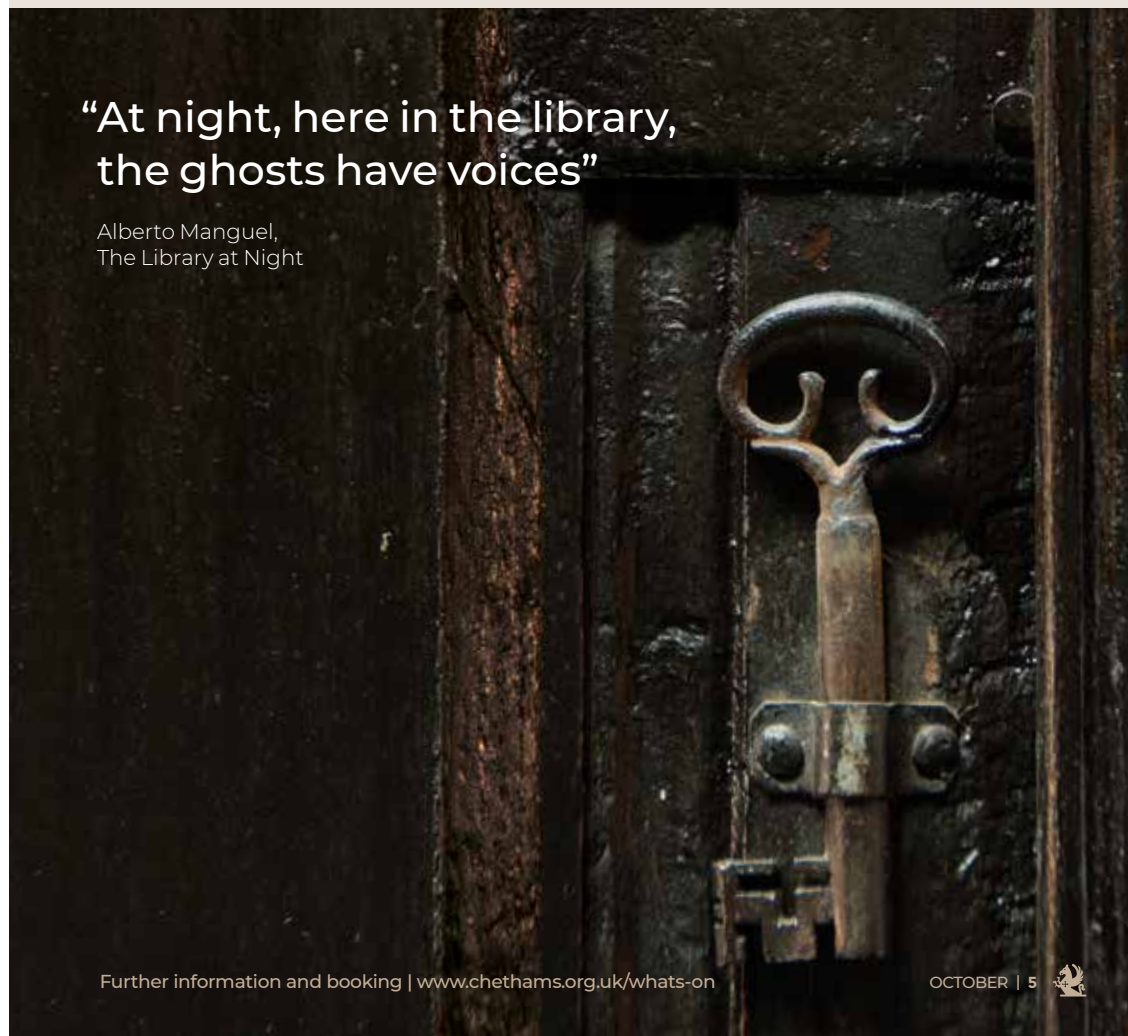
**Thursday 18 October  
Thursday 1 November  
Thursday 6 December  
Thursday 17 January  
Thursday 14 February**

6.30pm–8.30pm  
*Tickets £20 | Booking essential*  
*Includes a glass of wine*

Once a month, after the Library has closed to the public and the dust of the day has settled, the buildings come alive for a unique and magical experience. Join us for an exclusive self-guided tour through the medieval stone passages, secret staircases and richly panelled rooms as the day turns to evening and dusk begins to fall. Lights will be low, shadows will be long and the air will be thick with the silence of centuries as you wander freely without a guide through this richly atmospheric space, finishing in the Baronial Hall for a glass of wine and an informal chat with staff and curators of one of the most ancient and lovely buildings in the city centre. Come with an open mind and expect some surprises!

**"At night, here in the library,  
the ghosts have voices"**

Alberto Manguel,  
*The Library at Night*



## Drawing in Drag by Marie Duval

Artist's publication and exhibition by Simon Grennan

Saturday 13 – Friday 19 October

An exhibition of drawings from Simon Grennan's new book *Drawing in Drag by Marie Duval*. Based on an illustrated Victorian novel from the collection at Chetham's Library, the book focuses on the manners and habits of twenty-first century leisure culture, and its roots in the great cities of the nineteenth century. Artist and graphic novelist Simon Grennan reimagines Duval's work from a contemporary perspective, adopting her name as a pseudonym and 'drawing in drag', as a woman.

### Exhibition Preview, Book Launch and Talk with Simon Grennan and Christopher Breward

Friday 12 October

6.30pm–8.30pm

Free | Booking advised

Join us for the launch of the comic book *Drawing in Drag by Marie Duval*, a first look at the exhibition, and hear Simon Grennan in conversation with Christopher Breward.

### Strange Perfume A Queer Culture Book Fair

Saturday 13 October

11am–6pm

Free | Booking not required

A wealth of stalls featuring artists, printers and small publishers curated by queer artists' group Strange Perfume. There will be impromptu readings and events and a playlist by Prem Sahib running throughout the day.

Exhibition continues 13–19 October during usual Library opening hours

Chetham's Library in partnership with Book Works  
[www.bookworks.org.uk](http://www.bookworks.org.uk)

### Queer Zine Workshop with Brigid Elva and Cherry Styles

Saturday 13 October

2pm–4pm

Free | Booking advised

All ages and abilities welcome

Join artists Brigid Elva and Cherry Styles for a hands-on zine workshop. Make your own zine or comic to take away with a little inspiration from some of Salford Zine Library's favourite queer titles.

### Creating Comics Workshop with Simon Grennan

Sunday 14 October

12noon–2.30pm

Free | Booking advised

Age 10 and over | All abilities welcome

Join artist Simon Grennan for this easy and exciting hands-on introduction to visualising and making comics. Existing drawing skills aren't required, but all levels of artistic ability are welcomed. All materials are provided.





## Chetham's Library Unscripted

Thursday 18 October

6.30pm–8.30pm

Tickets £20 | *Booking essential*

Experience the unique and magical atmosphere of the Library and medieval buildings after they close to the public at the end of the day. Take your time to wander freely through the quiet, dimly lit rooms as dusk begins to fall, and finish with a glass of wine in the Baronial Hall with the curatorial staff. Places are limited and early booking is advised.

## Frankenreads

Wednesday 24 October

3.30pm–4.30pm

Free | *Booking advised*

Join staff and students of the University of Manchester for a reading of (most of) *Frankenstein* as part of the worldwide Frankenreads festival marking the 200th anniversary of the book's publication. The reading begins in the English, American Studies and Creative Writing Common Room, Samuel Alexander Building, University of Manchester at 12noon, continues in Chetham's Library at 3.30pm, and moves to Central Library to finish the reading between 5pm and 6pm. Readers will include academics, students, librarians, writers and actors.

[www.frankenreads.org](http://www.frankenreads.org)

## Family Friendly Chetham's

Monday 22 October –

Friday 26 October

Free | *Booking not required*

*All ages welcome*

Join us every weekday of half term for family-friendly activities in the Library. Taking inspiration from the 'Drawing in Drag by Marie Duval' exhibition we will draw, paint, cut, stick and create our way through the week with themes of identity, self-portraiture, comics, storytelling and humour. We'll also be running our popular family-friendly tours of the buildings and self-guided scavenger trails. See our website and social media channels for details.



## In the Margins: The Annotated Nuremberg Chronicle with Nina Adamova

Tuesday 30 October

6.30pm–8.30pm

Free | *Booking not required*

The Nuremberg Chronicle is one of the most celebrated illustrated books of the 15th century. In the late 16th century the copy now held at Chetham's Library was owned by Thomas Gudlawe of Wigan, who annotated the Chronicle so heavily that hardly a single blank space remains in the margins.

Dr Nina Adamova from the State University of St Petersburg has been awarded a prestigious British Academy Visiting Fellowship based at Manchester Metropolitan University to spend five months working on the Chronicle, and will be sharing her insights into what is almost certainly one of the most interesting books in the entire Library.



## Chetham's Library Unscripted

Thursday 1 November

6.30pm–8.30pm

Tickets £20 | *Booking essential*

Experience the unique and magical atmosphere of the Library and medieval buildings after they close to the public at the end of the day. Take your time to wander freely through the quiet, dimly lit rooms as dusk begins to fall, and finish with a glass of wine in the Baronial Hall with the curatorial staff. Places are limited and early booking is advised.

## Baronial Baroque

Wednesday 21 November

5.30pm

*Tickets available online*

*Booking essential*

An hour of timeless Baroque repertoire performed by students from Chetham's School of Music in the intimate surroundings of the medieval Baronial Hall, directed by Dr Martyn Shaw.



## Chetham's Library Unscripted

Thursday 6 December

6.30pm–8.30pm

Tickets £20 | *Booking essential*

Experience the unique and magical atmosphere of the Library and medieval buildings after they close to the public at the end of the day. Take your time to wander freely through the quiet, dimly lit rooms as dusk begins to fall, and finish with a glass of wine in the Baronial Hall with the curatorial staff. Places are limited and early booking is advised.

## Christmas Tours with Jonathan Schofield

Saturday 15 December

1.30pm and 3.30pm

Tickets £10 | *Booking essential*

Join us for a special festive edition of Jonathan's popular tours of the Library and the wonderfully atmospheric medieval buildings, spend time examining items from the collection, and finish with a warming glass of mulled wine in the Baronial Hall.

[www.jonathanschofieldtours.com/exclusive-chethams-library-and-college-house](http://www.jonathanschofieldtours.com/exclusive-chethams-library-and-college-house)



## Living Library

Sunday 13 January

11am–4pm

Tickets £10 | *Booking essential*

A self-guided tour of the behind-the-scenes workings of the Library.

350 years after it was established, Chetham's is not just a museum but continues to be a working library. This open day puts on display the inner workings that are usually hidden from view: readers and research projects, the digitisation of Chetham's treasures, book care and repair, the conservation of the historic building and plans for the future. Discover what makes the library tick, handle items from the collection and find out how to get involved.

Incorporates all areas of the Library and the Waterhouse Building, with access to offices and book stores not normally open to the public.

## Chetham's Library Unscripted

Thursday 17 January

6.30pm–8.30pm

Tickets £20 | *Booking essential*

Experience the unique and magical atmosphere of the Library and medieval buildings after they close to the public at the end of the day. Take your time to wander freely through the quiet, dimly lit rooms as dusk begins to fall, and finish with a glass of wine in the Baronial Hall with the curatorial staff. Places are limited and early booking is advised.





## Focus on Chetham's Library: A Photography Workshop

**Sunday 27 January**

**10.30am–4pm**

**Tickets £80 | Booking essential**

Your chance to spend a day photographing the historic Library and its architecturally rich medieval buildings in the low, atmospheric winter light. The entire building will be yours for the day, and items from the collection will be available for close-up work. Photography enthusiasts, students, photo-journalists and influencers are all welcome. Please dress warmly, and bring your own equipment and a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be available throughout the day. Places are very limited, so book early to avoid disappointment.



**“I constantly get the ‘wow’ factor on taking visitors round the Library”**

Marjorie, Library Volunteer

## Volunteer Open Day

**Sunday 3 February**

**11am–3pm**

**Free | Booking not required | Drop in**

Join us for our first Volunteer Open Day of the year!

Come along and see behind the scenes, meet our staff and volunteers, and find out how you can get involved and become part of the Chetham's Library team. Learn more about the buildings, the Library collections, and the characters and stories that form such an important part of Manchester's history.

If you enjoy meeting people from all walks of life and share our passion to provide a world-class welcome to visitors, becoming a member of our friendly and enthusiastic team of volunteers could be just right for you.

In return we can offer a flexible range of volunteering opportunities, from regular weekly sessions through to seasonal or event specific roles. The roles and duties focus on providing a visitor welcome, leading group tours, and event and workshop support.

There are also regular social events, lunches, walks and tours so that we can say thank you for your contribution and help you to get to know this friendly team.

Don't miss out, start something new and exciting for the New Year! We look forward to meeting you.

**[www.chethams.org.uk/about/volunteering](http://www.chethams.org.uk/about/volunteering)**

## Letters of Love: A Valentine's Calligraphy Workshop

**Sunday 10 February**

*11am–3pm*

*Tickets £65 | Booking essential*

There is nothing more romantic than a handwritten love letter, and where better to learn how to create one than in the most romantic building in Manchester? In this absorbing one-day workshop led by the team at Manchester's own Love Calligraphy, you will learn how to use traditional nibs and the principles of calligraphy, and produce your own Valentine's Day card. All materials provided, including a starter calligraphy kit to take home. No experience necessary.

[www.lovecalligraphy.co.uk](http://www.lovecalligraphy.co.uk)



## The Drama of the Oratorio

**Sunday 10 February**

*4.30pm and 6.30pm*

*Tickets available online*

*Booking essential*

Extracts from major oratorios, dramatised and performed by singers and accompanists from Chetham's School of Music as semi-staged scenes in the atmospheric Baronial Hall. The 'Opera Extracts' event is an annual highlight of Chetham's calendar, regularly filling every seat across two performances. Early booking is highly recommended.

## Valentine's Day Chetham's Library Unscripted

**Thursday 14 February**

*6.30pm–8.30pm*

*Tickets £20 | Booking essential*

Treat someone special to our magical Valentine's evening – an exclusive opportunity to experience the atmospheric Library and medieval buildings after they close to the public. Wander freely throughout the quiet, dimly lit rooms as dusk begins to fall, and finish with a glass of something fizzy in the Baronial Hall.



## Weddings at Chetham's Library

Fall in love with the magical atmosphere of Chetham's and say your vows in the medieval Baronial Hall with its beautiful inglenook fireplace and magnificent timber roof. Dating back to 1421, the mellow sandstone buildings, ancient stone cloisters and richly appointed rooms are full of character and history.

You and your guests will have exclusive use of the medieval buildings for your special day, and can wander through the tranquil cloisters, secret passageways and hidden courtyard. The gorgeous time-worn sandstone and sumptuous oak-panelled rooms provide the perfect backdrop for your wedding photographs.

In the heart of Manchester city centre with excellent transport links, Chetham's offers the perfect combination of history and heritage in a contemporary setting. Ceremonies, drinks receptions and wedding breakfasts can be hosted in a series of period rooms with the flexibility to accommodate anything from the most intimate gathering to larger groups.

By special arrangement you can have the register signing or even the ceremony itself in the stunning seventeenth-century interior of Chetham's Library.

[www.chethams.org.uk/venue-hire/weddings](http://www.chethams.org.uk/venue-hire/weddings)





## Family Friendly Chetham's

Monday 18 February –  
Friday 22 February

Free | Booking not required  
All ages welcome

Join us every weekday of half term for family-friendly activities in the Library. Crafty afternoons, child-friendly tours and self-guided scavenger trails will all be on the menu. See our website and social media channels for details.

## Chetham's Library Secondhand Book Stall

Autumn Half Term (22–26 October)  
Spring Half Term (18–22 February)

Open during usual Library opening hours

Don't miss our brilliant little secondhand book stall every weekday during the half term holidays. There's something for everyone and all proceeds go directly to conservation – what's not to like?!

## Chetham's Library Book Club

Regular Tuesdays

6pm–7pm

£1 contribution to drinks and snacks

The best book club venue in the city! Come and join our friendly reading group for lively literary chat over a cup of tea or a glass of wine in the historic Reading Room. Visit our website for up-to-date information including book list.

## Manchester Women's Institute

4th Tuesday of the month  
7.15pm

A modern take on the traditional WI. The group is made up of women aged 18–60+ who come together to enjoy monthly meetings on topics including comedy, women in politics & the music industry, burlesque, chocolate tasting, journalism, Vegas style party nights, Manchester City Centre walking tours and poetry – just to name a few!

[www.manchesterwi.org.uk](http://www.manchesterwi.org.uk)

## Supporting Chetham's Library

Chetham's Library is an independent charity and receives no regular public funding. We rely on the support of individuals, businesses and charitable trusts to ensure that the buildings and collections continue to be used and enjoyed, as well as for conservation, digital access, and our public programmes of art and activities. If you have enjoyed your visit to the Library, please do consider supporting us and preserving the Library for future generations.

### Patrons of Chetham's Library

Our wonderful patrons are central to all that we are able to do at the Library. Through an annual donation from £38, their support enables us to maintain a programme of conservation and activity which has a real and significant impact on our work. As part of their membership, Patrons receive exclusive invitations to special annual events, talks and activities, regular newsletter updates and a handprinted certificate of patronage.

### Corporate Opportunities

A corporate partnership with Chetham's Library is a one-of-a-kind opportunity. We can offer bespoke opportunities to sponsor specific projects, exhibitions and events with tailored benefits to suit your needs. Benefits include exclusive tours of the Library for you, your staff and clients, and the chance to host your guests in our beautiful medieval buildings.

### Legacies

It is thanks to a generous legacy left by Humphrey Chetham that Chetham's Library exists today. He could not have foreseen the incredible impact he would have on thousands of scholars in the 350 years since, or have anticipated that Chetham's Library would one day be the oldest public library in the English speaking world. If you are interested in helping us to continue our work through your own legacy, please do get in touch.

To find out more about any of these ways to support Chetham's Library, or for further information, please call our Development Team on 0161 838 7206 or email [jessicahilton@chethams.com](mailto:jessicahilton@chethams.com)

[www.chethams.org.uk/support-us](http://www.chethams.org.uk/support-us)

## Venue Hire

Chetham's is a unique and atmospheric location, ideal for events from seminars and meetings to private dinners and concerts.

Our Baronial Hall is one of the best preserved examples of a 15th century medieval hall. It provides an intimate and atmospheric location for small-scale performances, or as an memorable venue to entertain guests for a conference, networking event or a formal three-course dinner.

A range of smaller rooms in the medieval building are equally impressive for smaller events, breakout sessions or intimate private dining.

[www.chethams.org.uk/venue-hire](http://www.chethams.org.uk/venue-hire)

## Group Bookings

We offer a range of weekday tours for groups of ten people or more, exploring the medieval buildings and learning more about the Library and its collections. All tours must be pre-booked and are suitable for community and special interest groups.

For more information visit our website or email [visitorservices@chethams.org.uk](mailto:visitorservices@chethams.org.uk)

## Volunteering

We would be lost without our friendly team of volunteers – without them we simply could not open to the public. If you enjoy meeting new people, have a passion for excellent customer service and a few hours to spare each week, why not get in touch and find out if volunteering at Chetham's Library could be for you?

Alternatively, come along to our Volunteer Open Day and meet our staff and volunteers to discover more.

### Volunteer Open Day

Sunday 3 February

11am–3pm

Free | No booking required | Drop in

[visitorservices@chethams.org.uk](mailto:visitorservices@chethams.org.uk)

[www.chethams.org.uk/about/volunteering](http://www.chethams.org.uk/about/volunteering)

## The Collections at Chetham's Library

The books you can see on the first floor of Chetham's Library represent only about twenty percent of the total collection. Many of the manuscripts, volumes of printed works, maps, diaries and ephemera are stored downstairs, but all are available for study by anyone who wishes to read them.

The entire holdings of the Library have been designated by Arts Council England as of national significance, and include an important collection of early modern printed works, over forty medieval manuscripts and a vast amount of material relating to the Manchester region. The starting point for research is our website, where you will find the online catalogues of the printed and archival collections, digital material and plenty of information about the treasures and special collections. Be sure to subscribe to our e-newsletter to keep up to date about new additions to the collection.

Chetham's Library is open to readers by prior appointment. To consult material email us a day or more before you plan to come in so we can have everything ready for your research visit.

[librarian@chethams.org.uk](mailto:librarian@chethams.org.uk)

[www.chethams.org.uk/collections](http://www.chethams.org.uk/collections)





# Visiting information

## Opening Hours for Visitors

In order to provide the best possible visitor experience, admission is by timed entry from the Gatehouse at the following times

**Monday – Friday**

**10am | 11am | 12noon | 2pm | 3pm | 4pm**

## General Admission

Free (suggested minimum donation of £3)

**Chetham's Library**

**Long Millgate**

**Manchester M3 1SB**

**Tel:** 0161 834 7961

**Email:** [visitorservices@chethams.org.uk](mailto:visitorservices@chethams.org.uk)

**Web:** [www.chethams.org.uk/about/visiting](http://www.chethams.org.uk/about/visiting)



@chethamslibrary

## Further Information

The Library is closed on public holidays, and between Christmas and New Year. Occasionally we may need to close to the public during the week – please check our website and social media for details.

## Readers and Groups

If you would like to come and use the Library collections, or you are bringing a group of more than ten people, please phone or email to make an appointment (contact details below).

## Highlight Tours

30-minute tours of the Library  
(and medieval buildings if available)

**Monday – Friday, 11am and 2pm**

**Free | Booking not required**

## Saturday Tours of Chetham's Library and Medieval Buildings

With Jonathan Schofield and Blue Badge Guides

For a unique experience and an opportunity to see the full medieval complex and some of the treasures from the collection, book this in-depth tour of the Library and medieval buildings.

**Every Saturday, 10.30am and 12.30pm**

**£10.50 per person**

**Booking essential at [www.jonathanschofield.com](http://www.jonathanschofield.com)**

This issue is kindly sponsored by Ask Real Estate and BAM Construction



### Ask Real Estate

Ask is a Manchester-based company and a market leader in delivering a range of developments including offices, residential, retail and leisure. Ask is currently bringing forward the second phase of the Embankment development opposite the City's cultural heritage buildings.

**[www.askrealestate.co.uk](http://www.askrealestate.co.uk)**

**[www.embankmentmanchester.com](http://www.embankmentmanchester.com)**



### BAM Construction

With a strong presence in Salford and Manchester, BAM has delivered some of the area's most challenging and well known buildings. Recently appointed Main Contractor Partner, BAM is now on site with the construction of 100 Embankment in Manchester City Centre.

**[www.bam.co.uk](http://www.bam.co.uk)**

