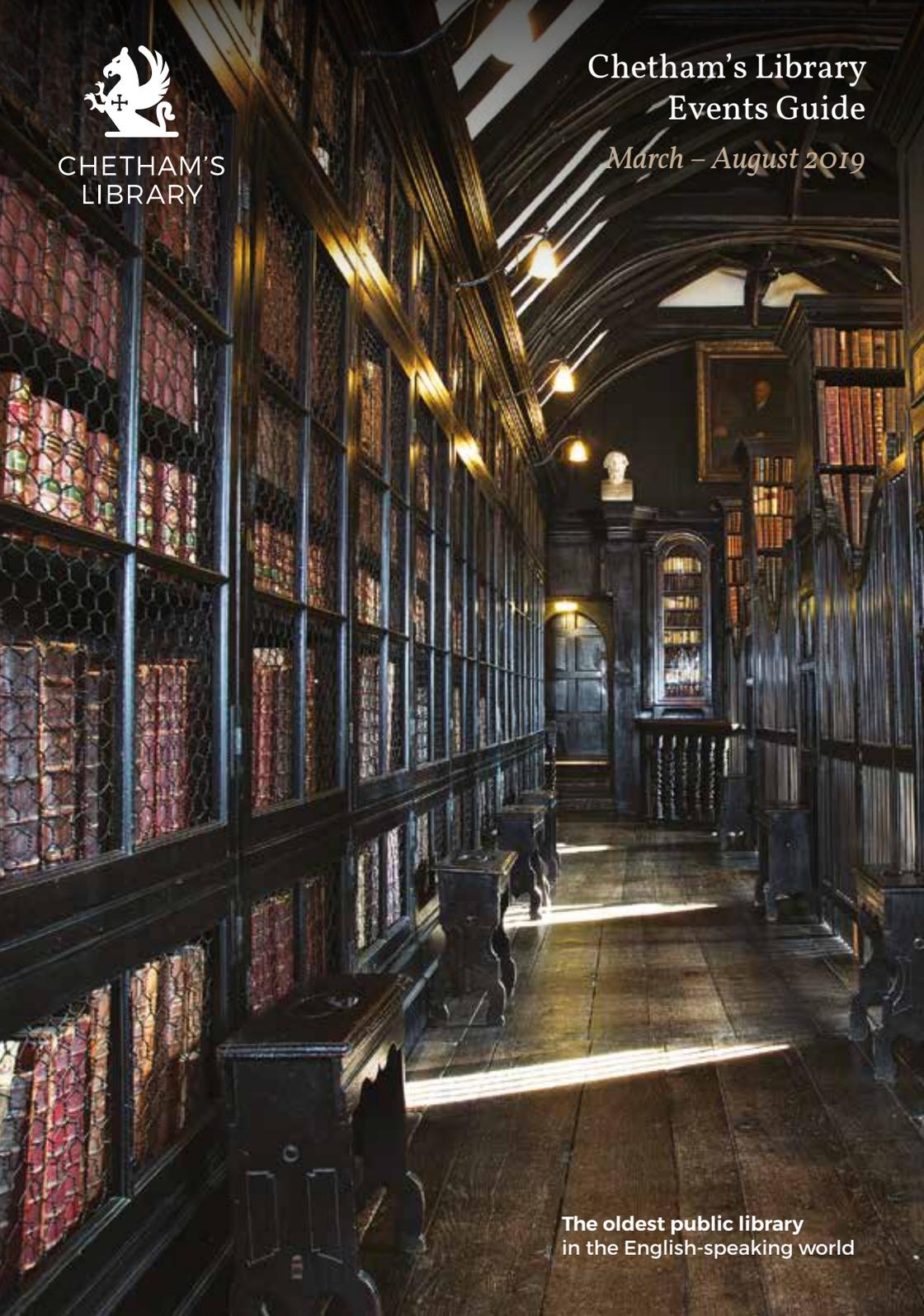




CHETHAM'S  
LIBRARY

# Chetham's Library Events Guide

*March – August 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

### March

**Baronial Baroque**  
Wednesday 13 March

### April

**Lunchtime Talk with Verónica Calsoni**  
Wednesday 3 April

**Family Friendly Chetham's**  
Monday 8 April –  
Thursday 18 April

### May

**Living Library**  
Saturday 11 May



**Chetham's Library Sundown Sessions Curated by Hey! Manchester**  
Thursday 16 May

**Family Friendly Chetham's**  
Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

### June

**Chetham's Library Sundown Sessions Curated by Hey! Manchester**  
Thursday 6 June

**Researching Peterloo**  
Thursday 13 June



**Iris Murdoch at 100**  
Thursday 20 June



### July

**Chetham's Library Sundown Sessions Curated by Hey! Manchester**  
Thursday 11 July

**Manifest Festival**  
Thursday 18 July

**Volunteer Open Day**  
Sunday 21 July

**Marx in Soho**  
Sunday 28 July

**Beastly Books**  
Wednesday 31 July

### August

**Family Friendly Chetham's**  
Weekdays during August

**Chetham's Library Sundown Sessions Curated by Hey! Manchester**  
Thursday 8 August

### Regulars

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

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



## 500 Years of Salford History at Chetham's Library

Over the summer we'll be sharing more news about our major digitisation and outreach project funded by the Booth Charities. We're digitising thousands of documents, photographs, art works and papers relating to Salford past and present and making them available for you to view online. We'll be asking you to get in touch, share your stories, and come and see the archive for yourself. You can see many of the images on our online catalogue, and keep an eye on social media for our open days and special events.

## Baronial Baroque

Wednesday 13 March

5.30pm

Tickets £6.54/£5.45 | *Booking essential*

An hour of timeless Italian Baroque music performed by students from Chetham's School of Music under the direction of Dr Martyn Shaw. Chetham's Early Music Ensemble will perform concertos scored for multiple soloists by one of the most revered composers of the genre, Antonio Vivaldi.

## Lunchtime Talk with Verônica Calsoni Pamphlet Wars: Roger L'Estrange and Printed Polemic in Restoration England

Wednesday 3 April

1pm–1.45pm

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

Find out how clandestine and illegal printing trades operated in the Restoration Era and how characters like Roger L'Estrange seized seditious texts and exploited the power of the press to publish his own replies. With PhD student Verônica Calsoni (University of Sao Paulo & The Sao Paulo Research Foundation and Visiting Research Fellow, Goldsmiths College & Chetham's Library).

## Family Friendly Chetham's

Monday 8 April–Thursday 18 April

Free | *Booking not required*

*All ages welcome*

Join us on weekdays during the Easter holidays for family friendly crafts and discovery activities. We'll be taking our inspiration from paper and looking at recycled paper crafts as well as offering our popular family friendly tours of the buildings and self-guided scavenger trails. See our website and social media channels for details.

## Chetham's Library Sundown Sessions Curated by Hey! Manchester

Thursday 16 May

6.30pm–8.30pm | 8pm–10pm

Tickets £21 | *Booking essential*

**HEY! MANCHESTER**

The loveliest and most relaxing after-work drink in the city centre.

As evening gathers and the slanting rays of the setting sun illuminate the secret stone passages and richly panelled rooms of the library and medieval buildings, we invite you to enjoy these magical spaces after they have closed to the public for the day. As you wander through the building you'll encounter an intimate acoustic performance curated by Hey! Manchester, one of the city's most unique and exciting promoters of folk and alternative music. Get yourself a glass of wine or a beer from the Baronial Hall and chill out in the tranquil atmosphere of this very special place. Tickets for the two sessions are limited and early booking is strongly advised.



## Living Library

Saturday 11 May

11am–3pm

Tickets £11 | *Booking essential*

A self-guided tour of the behind-the-scenes workings of the Library, with access to areas not normally open to the public.

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.

## Chetham's Library Sundown Sessions Curated by Hey! Manchester

Thursday 6 June

6.30pm–8.30pm | 8pm–10pm

Tickets £21 | *Booking essential*

**The loveliest and most relaxing after-work drink in the city centre.**

As evening gathers and the slanting rays of the setting sun illuminate the secret stone passages and richly panelled rooms of the library and medieval buildings, we invite you to enjoy these magical spaces after they have closed to the public for the day. As you wander through the building you'll encounter an intimate acoustic performance curated by Hey! Manchester, one of the city's most unique and exciting promoters of folk and alternative music. Get yourself a glass of wine or a beer from the Baronial Hall and chill out in the tranquil atmosphere of this very special place. Tickets for the two sessions are limited and early booking is strongly advised.



## Family Friendly Chetham's

Monday 27 May–  
Friday 31 May

Free | *Booking not required*

*All ages welcome*

Buzzzz! Manchester is full of bees and they have become an important symbol of the city and its people. Join us every weekday of half term for bee-related family friendly activities including crafty afternoons, child-friendly tours and self-guided scavenger trails. See our website and social media channels for details.



## From Page to Screen: Researching *Peterloo*

Thursday 13 June

7pm–9pm

Tickets £6.50 | *Booking essential*

We are delighted to welcome to Chetham's Dr Jacqueline Riding, consultant historian on Mike Leigh's *Mr Turner* (2014) and *Peterloo* (2018). Jacqueline specialises in British History and the art of the long eighteenth century, and is author of *Peterloo: The Story of the Manchester Massacre* (2018). In this lecture she will talk about her research methods and explore the process of transferring the history of Peterloo from page to screen and back again.

The evening will also include the opportunity to examine the large collection of primary source material relating to Peterloo held here at Chetham's Library, including items consulted by Dr Riding and her research team.

## Iris Murdoch at 100

Thursday 20 June

7pm

Free | *Booking essential*

Born in 1919, Iris Murdoch was one of the most prolific and renowned writers of the twentieth century. Several of her letters to friends are held at Chetham's Library, and Professor Avril Horner, the editor of Murdoch's letters, will be joined by two critics to discuss the life and legacy of this remarkable novelist and philosopher.

In partnership with the  
Anthony Burgess Foundation.



## Chetham's Library Sunset Sessions Curated by Hey! Manchester

Thursday 11 July

6.30pm–8.30pm | 8pm–10pm

Tickets £21 | *Booking essential*

The loveliest and most relaxing after-work  
drink in the city centre.

As evening gathers and the slanting rays of the setting sun illuminate the secret stone passages and richly panelled rooms of the library and medieval buildings, we invite you to enjoy these magical spaces after they have closed to the public for the day. As you wander through the building you'll encounter an intimate acoustic performance curated by Hey! Manchester, one of the city's most unique and exciting promoters of folk and alternative music. Get yourself a glass of wine or a beer from the Baronial Hall and chill out in the tranquil atmosphere of this very special place. Tickets for the two sessions are limited and early booking is strongly advised.

## Manifest Festival

Thursday 18 July

6.30pm

Free | *Booking advised*

A masked vocal performance by artist and writer Richard Shields, using operatic personae to represent and explore contemporary culture and values. This is a new work commissioned especially for Chetham's Library by Manifest Arts Festival and will be accompanied by an exhibition of works on paper which will run for the duration of the festival (12–21 July) during usual Library opening hours.



## Volunteer Open Day

Sunday 21 July

11am–3pm

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

Join us for our summer Volunteer Open Day!

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. We look forward to meeting you!

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

**"I love speaking to  
visitors and hearing  
how their visit has  
impacted them"**

Sarah, Library Volunteer

## Marx in Soho

Sunday 28 July

8pm

Tickets £16.35/£13.09/£3.27 |

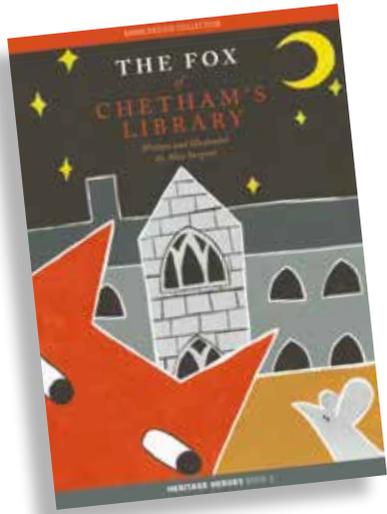
*Booking essential*

Bob Weick returns to Chetham's after last year's sold-out production with his tour-de-force solo performance of *Marx in Soho* by Howard Zinn.

In this unique one-man show, Marx encounters life in contemporary Soho, New York, and launches into a passionate, funny, and moving response.

At 7.15pm there will be an opportunity to view the library and see the books that Marx and Engels read together at Chetham's. After the performance Bob Weick will meet the audience and answer questions.

**"Marx in Soho' is a delight. Go see!"**  
Maxine Peake



## Beastly Books with author Alice Sargent

Wednesday 31 July

10am–12noon

Free | *Booking essential* | Age 8 and over

A workshop for older children exploring animals in writing and illustration with local author Alice Sargent. We'll take our inspiration from the collections at Chetham's Library and join a fun safari around the building to find the animals that may be hiding here. Learn how to develop story plots and illustrations and start to write your very own animal story.

Alice Sargent is a local writer and the author of *The Fox of Chetham's Library*. She's also a teacher who believes one of the best ways for children to learn is through stories. Alice's inspiration comes from ancient buildings: she says she 'tugs on the yarns that are lying around them, and the stories just unravel!'

## Family Friendly Summer at Chetham's

Weekdays during August

1pm–1.45pm

Free | *Booking not required*

All ages welcome

The nicest family friendly activities in Manchester this summer are right on your doorstep! Come and join us every weekday during August for family friendly activities marking the anniversary of Peterloo: take part in banner-making, printing and colourful craft activities and have your voice heard! See our social media channels and website for details.

## Chetham's Library Sundown Sessions Curated by Hey! Manchester

Thursday 8 August

6.30pm–8.30pm | 8pm–10pm

Tickets £21 | *Booking essential*

The loveliest and most relaxing after-work drink in the city centre.

As evening gathers and the slanting rays of the setting sun illuminate the secret stone passages and richly panelled rooms of the library and medieval buildings, we invite you to enjoy these magical spaces after they have closed to the public for the day. As you wander through the building you'll encounter an intimate acoustic performance curated by Hey! Manchester, one of the city's most unique and exciting promoters of folk and alternative music. Get yourself a glass of wine or a beer from the Baronial Hall and chill out in the tranquil atmosphere of this very special place. Tickets for the two sessions are limited and early booking is strongly advised.



Image: Stephen McGowan / [www.mcgowanweddings.co.uk](http://www.mcgowanweddings.co.uk)

## 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)

## Chetham's Library Secondhand Book Stall

Easter Holidays (8 April–18 April)  
Summer Half Term (27 May–31 May)  
And during the month of August

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 (except August)  
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 hand-printed 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)



## Booking Information

Tickets for all events at Chetham's Library are sold through The Stoller Hall Box Office (Hunts Bank, Manchester M3 1DA). Tickets may be purchased online, in person or by telephone. Payment may be made by Visa or Mastercard, or in cash.

### Book Online

Visit [www.chethams.org.uk](http://www.chethams.org.uk) to book online. You may choose to print tickets at home, collect them from Chetham's Library on arrival, or have them posted to you for an additional fee.

### Book by Telephone

Call 0333 130 0967 to book by telephone. Phone lines are open from 2pm-4pm Monday to Friday, and from one hour prior to each concert in The Stoller Hall.

### Book in Person

On the door (subject to availability) or at The Stoller Hall Box Office from 1pm-2.30pm, Monday to Friday, and prior to each concert held at The Stoller Hall.

### Booking Fees

Prices listed include booking fees of 9%, applicable to all purchases made online or by telephone. Tickets bought in person will not incur booking charges. If you would like to have your tickets posted to you, an additional fee of £2 per order will be charged.

For full Terms and Conditions please visit [www.chethams.org.uk](http://www.chethams.org.uk)

## 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. Perfect for book groups, societies and special interest groups.

Why not combine your visit with a delicious morning coffee or afternoon tea with cakes, all included in the tour price? Served across the road at the elegant and stylish Hotel Indigo Manchester - Victoria Station.

See our website or get in touch to find out more and to book your group visit.



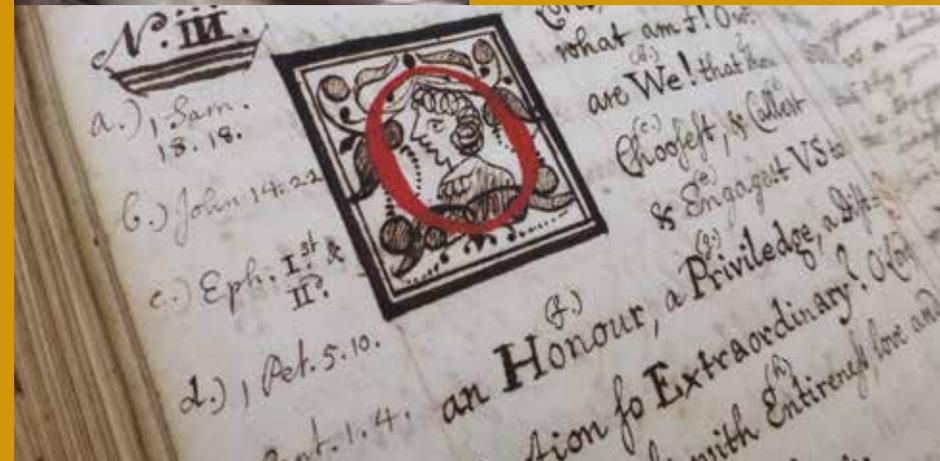
## The Collections at Chetham's Library

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.

[fwilde@chethams.org.uk](mailto:fwilde@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

## Highlight Tours

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

**Monday – Friday, 11am and 2pm**  
**Free | Booking not required**

## Further Information and Access

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. The ground floor of the building has uneven flooring and some steps, and the Library is located on the first floor up a flight of steps. Please contact us in advance to discuss your access requirements.

## 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.

## Chetham's Library and Medieval Buildings The Complete Tour

With Jonathan Schofield Manchester Tours

For a unique experience and the opportunity to see the full medieval complex and some of the treasures of the collection, don't miss this popular in-depth tour of the Library and medieval buildings on a Saturday morning. It's the only fully guided public access to the medieval buildings, and is jam-packed with historical facts and fascinating stories, all presented in a lively, engaging style.

**Every Saturday, 10.30am and 12.30pm**  
**£10 | Booking essential at**  
[www.jonathanschofield.com](http://www.jonathanschofield.com)

