

Cultural Assets Open Days

Join us for a weekend of big fun

The Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery and John Rylands Library are opening their doors to staff, their families and friends next month as part of a special open weekend just for University staff. Behind the scenes visits, heritage tours and hands on activities will be on offer, as well as special discounts in the shops and cafes at the venues.

Saturday, 6 July: Manchester Museum, Whitworth Art Gallery and South campus

Join in by making your way to the Manchester Museum and Whitworth Art Gallery on Oxford Road on Saturday, 6 July and to the John Rylands Library on Sunday, 7 July for the University of Manchester Cultural Assets Open Days.

Events at the Whitworth Art Gallery

- **All day:** Indian artist and performer, Nikhil Chopra, will be in the middle of a 65 hour non-stop performance (yes, the Whitworth will be open 24 hours a day for this one) called *Coal on Cotton* in the half-built landscape gallery in the Whitworth's new extension. This is part of the Manchester International Festival and is likely to be one of its talking points. Entrance to the landscape gallery is free but limited to 60 people at a time.
- **1pm-4pm:** After seeing Nikhil, you'll be able to take part in a free event called *Coal on Cotton: Urban Wandering*. Artist-led workshops - outside the gallery and within the Mela Festival - will invite you to make your own response to our locality, creating your own coal on cotton drawing inspired by Nikhil Chopra's work.
- **11am-3pm:** Outside the Gallery, an Archaeology Day on the site of the Whitworth Park archaeological dig will allow you to see some of the finds unearthed at the heart of the University.
- **11am-4pm:** Just for University staff and their families - unique Whitworth tours about the gallery's past, present and future will include a peek behind the scenes up the Edwardian staircase to see some of the fantastic spaces to be restored and brought back into public use as part of the Whitworth redevelopment. (Tours will last half an hour and will run on the hour every hour during this period. You can book on the day at the Welcome Desk.)

Events at the Museum

- **12 noon - 3.30pm:** Museum curators will be on hand to take you on a not-to-be-missed highlights tour of the Museum. The finale of the tour will be a visit to the Museum's "Harry Potter-esque" Herbarium in the tower, up several flights of spiral staircase. Tours run every 30 minutes and last 45 minutes. Please book your place at the Museum Welcome Desk.
- **While you wait:** To ensure you are entertained as you wait for your tour to begin, there will be a special family activity in the Museum's discovery centre from 11am to 4pm.

University Heritage Tours

- **11.30am and 2pm:** Also starting from the Museum, these unique University Heritage Tours for adults and interested children will last 45 minutes and visit key areas of the campus. You can book in advance on 0161 275 2648 or on the day at the Museum Welcome Desk.

Discount in the shops

To make your visit extra special, the Museum and Whitworth are offering a one-off special offer of a 25% discount in their shops for one day (remember to bring your University staff card).

Sunday, 7 July: The John Rylands Library

The John Rylands Library (part of The University of Manchester Library) has organised a range of activities specially programmed for colleagues, their friends and family, on Sunday, 7 July.

11am: The Library, on Deansgate, will open early for University staff to give you the chance to explore for an hour before we open to members of the public

12 noon, 12.15pm and 1pm: Join our curators for a 45-minute close-up look at treasures from our collections (with a maximum of 20 people per group),

1pm and 2 pm: Take a behind-the-scenes tour to explore hidden parts of what has been described as Manchester's most beautiful building (maximum of 15 people per tour).

11.15am and 2pm: Family-friendly tours with the chance to meet the dragons and other magical creatures that inhabit the Library's walls and ceilings (maximum 20 per tour).

12 noon – 1pm: Finally, creative activities for all the family in our education room (no limit on numbers).

Discounts in the shop and cafe

To make your visit extra special, the John Rylands Library is offering members of staff a 25% discount in its shop and a 10% discount in our Café at the Rylands (remember to bring your University staff card).

Future Open Days

The event will be followed by another special day on Saturday 14 September when the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre and the University's stately home, Tabley House, in Cheshire will also be holding open days.