

wythenshawe wave

FORUM

issue eight,
autumn 2026

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New app helps residents manage their homes



“Rent, repairs and
more – it’s right there
at your fingertips.
I love it.”

Fatou, a resident



WYTHENSHAWE WAVE CONTENT INSIDE

Lifelong learning

If you're aged 19 or above and considering a career change or looking to enhance your skills – take your first step with Manchester Adult Education at Forum Learning. Make the best of free courses to boost employment opportunities, for professional development, or simply to study for personal interest.

Forum Learning has a broad selection of courses for adult learners, including English and maths, digital skills for the workplace, counselling, employability, and teaching assistant. Selected courses offer part-time and evening classes, making it easier to balance learning with work, family, and other responsibilities.

"Judith was a great teacher and is a credit to Manchester Adult Education. She helped push me to strive for excellence and because of her I achieved this. Judith was very understanding and taught me a lot of new and better methods." Lincoln – Functional Skills Maths learner at Forum Learning

General enrolment for 2026/27 courses takes place up to 11 September. Additional weekly assessment and enrolment sessions continue from 15 September, but early

enrolment is encouraged to secure a place, before teaching commences.

Visit manadulthood.ac.uk or contact Forum Learning on 0161 935 4080 to book an appointment.

It's never too late

If school days were definitely not the best days of your life, Forum Learning provides the welcome and support that can make the difference and inspire learning in later life.

According to the Learning and Work Institute's 2025 study, nearly one-third (31 per cent) of people who hadn't engaged in learning in the previous three years said they feel 'too old to learn'.

But where does that assumption come from? And why should getting older mean seeing ourselves as less capable of learning, growing or trying something new?

The reality is that we are always learning as we get older, whether it's developing a skill, changing careers, taking up a hobby, or simply discovering something new.

As the new academic year begins, let's question the idea that learning has an age limit.

Additional information from www.agewithoutlimits.org



River Rees (5) enjoyed her graduation celebration at Forum Nursery

Moving on up

Children at Forum Nursery – operated by DeeDee's Childcare – enjoyed a fun graduation ceremony, designed to mark their passage from nursery to school.

Parent Mairead Ohare said: "DeeDee's

have been amazing with her for the last three years. From eight months old they have looked after her – and what a job they have done making my princess ready for school."



Forum Learning enrolment continues throughout September

POP UP PLANTS

Post 16 students at Piper Hill Special School in Wythenshawe showed their green fingers when they grew a variety of plants from seeds in their Environmental Education lessons.

The students also collected seed from flowers they had grown last year and created seed packets.

Through two pop up plant stalls on the Forum concourse, they shared their plants and seeds with the community and encouraged residents to grow more vegetables and flowers at home.

Careers co-ordinator Anna Conway said: "The students enjoyed meeting people who came to their stall and talking to them about the plants they had grown. Thank you to everyone who supported them, they will be back again with more plants."



Piper Hill students ran two pop-up stalls on the concourse



Back 2 School partners

Backpacks and bites provide back to school boost

Families gathered at the Forum for Back 2 School 2, a community event designed to ease the cost of getting children ready for the classroom.

Delivered by Everyone Active with local partner organisations – the event offered free resources along with practical advice and activities for families – with a particular focus on school uniforms and other essentials where rising prices are putting household budgets under strain.

Its aim was simple: help children begin the new academic year well-equipped and confident. For many households already grappling with higher living costs, uniforms, shoes, stationery, and everyday essentials can add up quickly.

The event was made possible by partners:

- Everyone Active
- Wythenshawe Forum Trust
- ROC
- The Brick Multibank
- Etec
- Family Action Wythenshawe
- Forum Pharmacy – The Pharmacist
- Forum Learning - Manchester Adult Education Service

Together, the organisations created a one-stop hub with a broad range of support under one roof. More than 100 families received support, while over 250 backpacks and more than 150 hot dogs were handed out.

From uniforms and shoes to school supplies, food, household essentials, and activities – the event helped families stretch their budgets further and prepare for September. Repeating the success of last year's event, Back 2 School 2 delivers help at a critical point in the year.

Hundreds of essential items were distributed, cutting household costs and helping children arrive at school ready to learn. Beyond the practical benefits, the day strengthened local ties with strong attendance and warm feedback received from families.

One parent said:

“It's going to go a long way! Even though you work full time it can still be difficult to afford everything and there isn't always the support to get it, especially if you work.”

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Community radio launches volunteer recruitment drive



Wythenshawe FM offers behind-the-scenes opportunities and a pathway to future presenting roles

Local people are invited to get involved in Wythenshawe FM, where volunteers are wanted for an immediate start in non-presenting and back-office roles.

Current opportunities include helping to create social media content, managing the station's website, supporting community engagement and advertising, reporting local news, and producing the what's on guide.

A route into radio presenting

The station is also keen to hear from people who would like to build their radio skills and knowledge in preparation for future on-air opportunities. Potential roles span breakfast, lunchtime, drive-time, late-night and weekend programmes, as well as specialist music, community affairs, arts and culture, sport, youth, and interview-based shows.

Wythenshawe FM is particularly interested in developing a broad range of programme ideas and voices, including classical, jazz and dance music shows, cultural programming, along with dedicated community-focused broadcasts.

How to apply

Anyone interested in volunteering can email their name and contact number to

maggie.karwat@wfmradio.org. A member of the WFM team will be in touch for an informal chat.

Those wishing to join will be asked to complete a simple application form and attend an initial informal interview before training begins in October 2026.

Further information about the station is available at www.wfmradio.org.



Station output grew quickly following the trial broadcasting period

FROM FOUR-DAY TRIAL TO THE VOICE OF WYTHENSHAW

It began with just four days on air. On 25 May 2000, trainees from a Radio Regen course set up a trial broadcast at the Forum – and Wythenshawe FM was born. What started as a training exercise quickly found an audience and a purpose. By 2002, the station was broadcasting 125 hours a week, powered by more than 80 volunteers.

The milestones followed. In 2005, WFM became one of the first stations in the UK to receive a full-time Community Radio licence from Ofcom. Five years later, it became independent of Radio Regen. Then, in 2014, came national recognition: the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest honour a UK volunteer group can receive.

Today, WFM once again broadcasts from

a studio at the Forum. Listeners can tune in on 97.2 FM, hear the station on DAB across south Manchester, stream it online or ask a smart speaker to play it. Operated by the charity Wythenshawe Community Media, the station remains entirely volunteer-run.

That volunteer spirit is at the heart of WFM. Around 50 people create and present its varied line-up of shows. Some arrive with broadcasting qualifications and years of media experience; others step behind a microphone for the first time.

Longer-standing volunteers also take on management, broadcasting and technical duties, giving their time and skills to keep Wythenshawe's community voice on air.

Presenter profile: Denise Southworth

Denise Southworth left education early, without qualifications, and is blind in one eye. Yet after years of overcoming obstacles, she found her voice—and her passion—behind a radio microphone.

The turning point arrived when she spotted an advert for a radio training course.

"I'm the least technical person but I can talk for hours with a microphone in front of me. I remember thinking 'this is what I've always wanted to do' but there was no guarantee of anything.

"Six of us in training shared a show, which didn't suit me, but when that finished I was given my own show and in the end I was the only one who carried on in the industry.

"The next move came quickly. I sent Wythenshawe FM (WFM) a recording and was invited in to do a test broadcast. I started the following week, in October 2014.

"I present a feature show with guest segments

which are pre-recorded. I've interviewed some big recording stars such as Joan Armatrading, Billy Ocean, UB40. Also, footballers such as Joe Corrigan, Denis Tueart, Paul Power, and Tony Whelan.

A call in the supermarket

"One of my proudest moments was receiving a call, while grocery shopping, from an agent representing the Four Tops. She asked if I could interview Abdul "Duke" Fakir – the last surviving member of the band at that time.

"He'd only done interviews with BBC Radio up to that point, but something had gone wrong, so the agent found reviews for my show and looked me up.

"Of course, I said yes. I threw the food back onto the shelves, went home and did the interview by phone. He died the year after.

"I've experienced many things because of this role – you get lots of tickets and invitations. I enjoyed a tour of United's training facility with a photo in Marcus

Rashford's seat in the changing room. It's gone way beyond anything I could have imagined.

"Equally important are the local voices – just last week I had a studio guest from Northenden Comedy Club, and young people come in to talk about charitable causes they're involved with. It's community and more."

Denise's show *Mouthworth of Southworth* airs every Thursday from 2 to 4pm, with a repeat on Saturday from 3 to 5pm. She also presents on Legacy Radio, an Afro-Caribbean station based in Hulme.

The microphone has taken her well beyond the studio. Denise covered the late Queen's funeral and even provided live updates for BBC Radio Manchester. "Don't think community radio is boring", she says.

"Radio presenting is my hobby and it's my opportunity to give something back as well.



Denise Southworth visited Manchester United's training ground

CREATIVE SPACE UPDATE



Live Night. Credit: Ingrid Turner Photography

In tune with local need

Fully-funded band sessions with Music Evermore return for the autumn term. Young people can access weekly music sessions free of charge, removing the financial barriers that often prevent them from learning an instrument and experiencing the excitement of playing in a band.

Since launching in the Creative Space, the project has welcomed dozens of local young people through its doors, many having never played an instrument or been part of a band before. They have gone on to learn guitar, bass, drums, keyboards, and vocals; form their own bands; write music; and most importantly, build confidence, friendships and a real sense of belonging.

The young musicians have also been given opportunities to take their music beyond the rehearsal room and perform live in front of hundreds of people across Manchester.

Highlights include regular showcases at Wythenshawe Forum, performances alongside Brighter Sound, appearances at the Music Evermore Summer Festival and ChasFest, and the phenomenally

successful Battle of the Bands at the Forum – which saw eight young acts perform to an audience of around 150 people.

The success of the Wythenshawe showcases was recognised at the Manchester Culture Awards 2025, where Music Evermore won the Best Event Award for its Forum showcase events – delivered alongside Brighter Sound – an incredible achievement for a project that began with the simple aim of giving local young people somewhere to make music together.

Music Evermore director Chris Maddon said: “One of the things we’re most proud of is seeing young people progress from walking nervously into their first session, to confidently stepping onto a stage with their band just months later.”

Maddon added: “We’re incredibly grateful to Manchester City Council’s Your Neighbourhood Fund and Forum Library Creative Space for supporting the project for another year.”



Musical workshops for schools. Credit: Spare Pixel Media

Cultural impact

Since Forum Library’s Creative Space opened in October 2024, it has established an award-winning creative and cultural offer for the Wythenshawe community. The space has broadened the overall library offer with both services working in unison – with much of its success down to the provision of funding from the Libraries Improvement fund.

Youth provision has been at the forefront of the concept through effective partnerships such as Wythenshawe Youth Theatre, Music Evermore, and Brighter Sound – alongside a major surge in school based learning engagements, community events and workshops, and arts-led wellbeing initiatives.

Data to the end of 2025 show the Creative Space expanding its reach among adults, intergenerational audiences, and SEND groups, while maintaining a strong core of open access and free community programming.

Creative Space activities engaged 7,260 people across 2024/25, reflecting its effective reach and diverse programming – 45 per cent of users were young people.

Community organisations use the space free of charge, enabling more efficient delivery of their initiatives and improved engagement.

Activities attract high mixed audiences where families, all age audiences, and mixed community groups attend together, common in performance, arts, and drop in events.

Impact of the Creative Space is recognised nationally through receipt of the Culture and Creativity Award at the Libraries Connected awards, and the Best Live Event award for Wythenshawe Live Night at the Manchester Culture Awards.

Current provision:

Youth activities are provided by Music Evermore, Wythenshawe Youth Theatre, Expressive Artz, Odd Arts and a TV acting school.

Adult activities include Beatification Poetry, Drum Therapy Collective, Upward Frog Chair Yoga, Lifestyle Strides Dance Class. And Liveinshawe – an evening of live performance – returns on 2 October.

NEW... Beatification Poetry Group

The Beatification workshops will use film, YouTube, audio, and photography to inspire and illustrate the fun skill of writing poetry. It will also aid people who have a story to tell, feelings to share, or opinions that need to be heard. There will also be biographical workshops examining particular poets’ lives to provide further inspiration.

Relaxed, informal sessions will enable people to read their own work, hear work

from others, and be encouraged to write new poems. There will be guest poets from around Manchester who will showcase new ways to write. So come along, share your work and learn new ways to improve your writing in a relaxed positive setting.

Workshops start on 7 September, from 2 to 4PM, and will run each Monday.

Further information:
john.hall4759@gmail.com

HEALING RHYTHMS

A new initiative from Drum Therapy Collective will set the autumn beat in Creative Space.

Community drumming sessions are ideal for beginners and combine drumming, singing, dancing, and other musical activities.

Sessions run from 29 September and every second Tuesday, from 12 to 1PM.

Further information: Zsuzsa Földes:
info@drumtherapycollective.com or, call 07887 097139.



Your guide to Forum Leisure reception

Visitors to Forum Leisure can expect a friendly welcome and fast, practical help from the reception team—the first port of call for anyone using the centre.

Staff can guide customers through leisure facilities, group classes, and guidelines for use of the sports, gym, and pool areas. They also advise on membership, personal training, medical referral classes, and support with the mobile app for timetables and bookings.

Reception is also the place to ask about events, function-room hire, and accessibility. If something falls short, visitors are encouraged to speak to a member of the leisure team to rectify any issues. A duty manager is on site at all times.

Forgotten your goggles? Reception also stocks Zoggs swimwear, flotation aids and Everyone Active gym merchandise.

For other services on site—including the library, job centre, childcare, adult education, café and health care—customers should head to the relevant reception desk.

Contacting Forum Leisure

The Everyone Active mobile app, available from the Apple App Store and Google Play, is the quickest way to view timetables, book activities, and contact the leisure team directly.

You can also visit reception in person, or telephone 0161-935 4020. At busy times, calls may go to voicemail. Please leave a message with your name, number and nature

of enquiry, and a member of staff will call you back when possible.

New for 2026: free junior gym memberships

Forum Leisure offers fully-funded memberships to help Manchester residents aged 11 to 16 take part in community-focused sport and physical activity.

Membership includes access to other leisure facilities, including swimming, selected fitness classes, and junior gym sessions.

The scheme forms part of Manchester City Council's ambitious programme that puts physical activity at the heart of the city's drive to reduce health inequalities.

The launch of the programme creates more opportunities for the community to be active and improve their wellbeing, and targeted support is available for those facing the greatest barriers.

Membership also includes free activities, such as girls-only dance classes on Thursdays at 4.30PM.

To sign up, visit the leisure reception desk.

Free armed forces veterans leisure memberships

Free memberships for all Manchester HM Armed Forces veterans to reduce social isolation and support health and wellbeing. Visit leisure reception to register.



Ilona Jeziorska is one of the membership advisors at Forum Leisure

About Everyone Active

Forum Leisure is operated by Everyone Active in partnership with Wythenshawe Forum Trust and Manchester City Council. As part of this, Everyone Active not only operates the wide range of modern leisure facilities at the site – a spacious gym, 25 metre swimming pool, group fitness studios, multi-sports sports hall and health suite – but also additional contract services

Welcome Wednesday inclusive gym sessions

Forum Leisure offers calm, supportive gym sessions for people who find standard gym environments uncomfortable or overwhelming. The sessions have no music, and instructors provide one-to-one support.

Hosted every Wednesday from 11am to 1pm, these sessions are particularly suited to those with anxiety, sensory differences, a disability, or long-term health conditions. Visit leisure reception to find out more.

extending to onsite catering including the concourse café, functions and events, also the facilities management of the building itself.

Everyone Active is the consumer leisure brand of Sports and Leisure Management (SLM), which operates leisure facilities and cultural services across England. SLM Ltd was formed in 1987, managing just one leisure centre in the Midlands. Today, Everyone Active manages 250 sites in partnership with, or as an agent of, more than 70 local authorities from Tyne & Wear down to Hampshire and Bristol across to Suffolk.

The company's growth has been built on the ability to deliver well-managed leisure facilities and an activity offering which provides great value for money. Everyone Active aims to increase the participation of local people in leisure activities, advocating a minimum of 30 minutes exercise, five times per week.

Further information: everyoneactive.com



The Mad Monks won the boat race

ANNUAL BOAT RACE RAISES THOUSANDS FOR THE CHRISTIE

Crowds lined the banks of the River Mersey over the August bank holiday weekend, to watch the annual competitive paddle downstream from Simon's Bridge in Didsbury to Northenden.

The Northenden Boat Race attracted 41 entries for its traditional inflatable boat and canoe races, with many crews competing in fancy dress.

Mad Monks won the boat race in 13 minutes 31 seconds, while Standard Frisks took the canoe race in 10 minutes 3 seconds. The Mermaids won the fancy dress competition.

Organiser Andy Cam said: "We had a great day by the river in Northenden.

After the race, the Lord Mayor of Manchester presented the trophies. Everyone had a great day."

The event raised £1,300 for The Christie Charity on the day, with around £1,000 more pledged so far through sponsorship and donations.

Organising team member Mary Monaghan said: "We're grateful to Northenden Untapped for its continued support as the event's main sponsor, to Your Neighbourhood Fund for helping cover this year's increased running costs, and to everyone else who contributed and supported us."

Donations: tinyurl.com/NorthendenBoatRace



The hand bike height can be adjusted for use sitting or standing

Accessible facilities at the Forum

The Forum is committed to making its services, activities, and events welcoming and accessible. A range of facilities and support is available across the centre.

- Accessible toilets, including a Changing Places Toilet for people with complex needs
- Lifts to the first-floor sports hall, library, and learning centre, plus accessible lift access to the sports hall and stage in Forum Hall
- Accessible swimming, with accessible pool steps and a hoist available if required
- Inclusive fitness equipment, wheelchair users have access to a hand bike in the gym
- Hearing loops are available around the centre including Forum Leisure reception, Forum Library, Forum Employment, Forum Health, and Forum Pharmacy.

Planning to attend an event?

Accessibility arrangements can be made in advance. Please contact the events team on 0161 935 4077 to discuss your requirements.

Support during your visit

Forum staff are trained in hidden-disability awareness and can support visitors living with dementia or with visual impairments. An induction loop is available, and reception staff can assist further on request.

Accessible online information

The Forum website includes the Recite Me accessibility toolbar, which offers assistive features to help visitors navigate and personalise the site. Visit wythenshaweforum.co.uk/accessibility for more information.

Further useful online information

- Contact and directions: wythenshaweforum.co.uk/contact-find-us
- Forum floor plan: wythenshaweforum.co.uk/forum-floor-plan



Lifts ensure easier access for visitors with limited mobility



Making use of the pool hoist

PRIDE IN PLACE

The £20 million government scheme that puts communities at the heart of the plans is underway in Wythenshawe. Pride In Place is a 10-year investment initiative that allows local voices to be heard – and acted upon.

The project is overseen by a community board, which has now been constituted and is meeting regularly to assess the results of the many community consultation sessions undertaken during the first part of 2026. The specific area to benefit within the town is Benchill and Wythenshawe South

The independent chairman of the board is Wythenshawe-born broadcaster and journalist Eamonn O'Neal OBE.

He said "We were extremely impressed with the number of local people who showed an interest in joining the board and I want to thank them for their enthusiasm during the workshops. The most important people in this whole project are the residents of Benchill and Wythenshawe South and I'm pleased that the constitution of the board is representative of that.

"We're here to reflect the views and wishes of residents, businesses, and community groups who will determine what can be done to deliver real improvements that matter to the people who live and work here. It genuinely is led by local people. And

we're incredibly grateful for all the ideas and suggestions so far."

Pride In Place is backed by the UK government through the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government, which has set out the timetable.

O'Neal said, "It's very early days but in our first couple of board meetings, we've recognised the milestones we need to reach, including when we must submit our general plans. Those plans will directly reflect the early consultation results and residents' comments.

“ One of the most significant achievements of the board so far has been the successful application to re-draw the Pride In Place boundary to include more people, homes, and community assets. ”

The new boundary increases the number of residents by 5,674 to 15,968 and households by 1,997 to 5,940. This should lead to more interaction and further consultations, which are planned for the autumn.

The board are also planning a Pride in Place Benchill community fun day later in 2026.



Some of the new equipment for 4 to 8 year-olds

Additional gymnastics kit has been brought in following suggestions from participants and coaches, to ensure that gymnasts continue to be challenged as their ability grows and can take every opportunity to reach the highest level.

New equipment includes bars, beam, tumbling track, and support kit to assist specific skills.

Classes run each Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 4 to 7pm – with sessions for ages 4-8 and 8-11 year-olds.

Sessions, led by a qualified gymnastics coach, cost £29.50 per month. Book via tinyurl.com/ForumGymnastics, on the Everyone Active mobile app, or at leisure reception.

A fine innings

The late 1800s marks the start of the 150-year journey for Wythenshawe Cricket and Sports Club (WCC) – the oldest sports club in Wythenshawe.

In the 1800s most of the land in the Northenden area was owned by the Tatton family whose home for 556 years was Wythenshawe Hall. It was in these grounds that the very first cricket matches were played between the wealthy Tatton family, their friends, and hardworking estate workers.

A formally constituted cricket club was formed by the estate workers in 1876 – playing only friendly matches against staff from influential estates such as Capesthorpe Hall and staff of other wealthy families from Didsbury and Chorlton.

As a result of this rapidly developing interest in cricket, local landowner and businessman, Thomas Hewlett, offered the cricket club the use of five and a half acres of land on Longley Lane as a proper base for their matches.

Originally rented land, it became apparent that the area was earmarked for a large housing development. Thomas Hewlett sold off some of the land and suggested the club move just 400 yards away to another plot of land he owned.

This land – also on Longley Lane –

remains home to the cricket club and a calm oasis amid housing and Sharston Industrial Area, – where cricket has continued, apart from during the war years when the space was utilised to support the war effort.

Community links are central to the club and local football teams use the grounds out of season. The large space is also used for community events – annual celebrations lodged firmly in the local calendar such as the Northenden Boat Race family fun day and after party and Wythenshawe Rugby Club's end of season celebration – also fundraising events and private functions.

And the space is used by a number of organisations and community groups such as Keystones Adult Support group for adults with a learning disability, Together Dementia Support, Slimming World, Parent and Tots, CPM School of Dance, and Northenden Neighbourhood Forum.

A table tennis club and the club's own darts team also meet weekly at the club for practice and matches.

With a full schedule of cricket training during the summer including senior, youth, junior, women's, and girls squads – the club is a true community hub.

Further information:
www.pitchero.com/clubs/wythenshawecc

Wythenshawe Hall history:
www.wythenshawehall.org



The retail area adjacent to leisure reception

Swimwear and accessories

Forum Leisure sells a range of Zoggs™ and character licenced swimming gear and accessories, available from the retail area adjacent to leisure reception.

Swimwear and clothing

- Zoggs swimsuits: Eco-friendly swimwear made from recycled plastic bottles using the Ecolast system, featuring chlorine resistance, bust support, and modesty linings.
- Trunks and shorts: Chlorine-proof men's and boys' swim shorts and trunks.

Gear and accessories

- Goggles: Kids' and adults' goggles, such as the Zoggs Little Twist models.
- Swim caps: Multi-coloured silicone caps to protect hair and keep a clear face.
- Swim nappies: Essential reusable or disposable swim nappies for babies and toddlers.
- Bags: Heavy-duty junior rucksacks to store your wet kit.

Learn-to-swim and pool toys

- Buoyancy aids: water wings vests, float discs, and baby swim wetsuits for young learners.
- Pool toys: dive sticks, dive rings, and floating character toys like Zoggy Soakers.

Sustainable swimwear

Zoggs swimwear is made using the company's unique Ecolast system, which takes used plastic and reimagines it into stylish swimming costumes for everyone.

Recycled bottles

Plastic bottles are collected, washed and chopped into flakes. The flakes are melted and formed into chips. The chips are then melted and spun into one of two sustainable fabrics unique to Zoggs: Ecolast or Ecolast+.

Chlorine-proof guarantee

Each swimsuit made using these fabrics features a minimum of two post-consumer plastic bottles. Ecolast+ offers the added bonus of a 100 per cent chlorine-proof guarantee.

In total, swimsuits produced using these sustainable fabrics account for over 1.7 million bottles being recycled every year.



The clubhouse at Wythenshawe Cricket Club

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EIGHT-YEAR SEARCH IS OVER

Manchester City Council's Community Asset Transfer scheme helped 1st Wythenshawe Scouts secure a new base in a former childcare facility at Baguley Park.

After years of borrowing space in other buildings, the Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts now have a permanent home in one of Wythenshawe's peaceful green spaces. The group's Explorer Scouts meet at St Luke's Church Hall.

Scouting in Wythenshawe continues beyond term time. While most groups close during the holidays, 1st Wythenshawe remains open, offering extra activities such as paddleboarding.

Each section meets weekly, with additional weekend activities including hikes and camping.

Volunteers

Group lead volunteer Lucy Cope said: "I'm very fortunate that each section has at least four adult volunteers every week. Others help when they can, while some join us specifically for camps.

"We can accommodate around 24 young people in each section, although the younger sections are smaller to maintain a higher adult-to-child ratio.

"Most volunteers get involved after their child joins and we persuade them to help. We don't want the children having all the fun."

The group began at Newall Green Baptist Church before moving to Newall Green Primary School. When Covid struck, it lost its meeting space and later gathered in parks as restrictions eased.

Lucy said: "The spaces we used were excellent, but they were never permanent and could have been taken back at any time."

The search for premises

"I've spent eight years searching for derelict buildings, contacting the council, and joining waiting lists. We even considered using empty shops for a nominal fee.

"I contacted the council about this building before Covid, and they got back to us a couple of years ago. This led to a Community Asset Transfer application."

The group then had to fund the refurbishment of the dilapidated building. Manchester City Council and Wythenshawe Community Housing Group awarded grants, but with costs now exceeding £35,000, fundraising continues.

David (15) is an Explorer who has attended since joining Cubs at age seven and is



1st Wythenshawe welcomes young people from age four who join Squirrels, moving up to Beavers from age six, Cubs from age eight, and Scouts from 10 up to 14, after which they can become Explorer Scouts and also take on a young leader role

pleased to have a base at last: "It feels a bit weird because I remember Lucy and the other leaders spending years trying to find a permanent place, he says. It seems unreal."

Young people from across Wythenshawe attend the group. The building and grounds support practical badge activities, including cooking, DIY, nature, and outdoor pursuits.

The building was opened officially in June by the deputy leader of Manchester City Council, councillor Tracey Rawlins.

And the scout group is still on a roll with a nomination for The Best of Manchester Awards. Lucy added: "It was a huge surprise to receive the nomination and really goes to show what amazing things we're doing."

Community Asset Transfer is a process that transfers the management of public buildings or land from a local authority to a voluntary community sector organisation for less than market value, delivering local social, economic or environmental benefits.

Wythenshawe Games 2026



Wythenshawe Park's centenary continued with a full schedule of free sports and activities at the Wythenshawe Games in August. Back in its spiritual home – Wythenshawe Games began in 2012 as an Olympic-inspired community sports festival to coincide with the London 2012 Olympic Games



Report anonymously. Help your community.

Illegal subletting of social housing is tenancy fraud, and it's harmful to your community.

If you know or suspect someone committing tenancy fraud, you can tell us **in confidence**. Other families need homes.



Tenancy fraud: helping make sure social homes go to those who need them

Demand for affordable housing remains high across Wythenshawe and Greater Manchester. In 2025/26, only 441 homes became available to relet in Wythenshawe, while around 20,000 people were waiting for a home through Manchester Move.

People may wait years for an offer of suitable accommodation. They are often forced to stay in expensive temporary accommodation, putting a huge strain on families and finances.

At a time of such extreme demand, tenancy fraud reduces the availability of social housing. Every case of housing fraud represents a home that could be used by a person or family on the waiting list.

What is tenancy fraud?

Tenancy fraud might not always be obvious, but it can have a real impact on our communities.

It happens when someone breaks their rental agreement to keep or gain a social home unfairly. This can mean a home sits empty, is rented out to someone else, or is kept by someone who no longer lives there, while other families are waiting for a place to call home.

Tenancy fraud can take different forms. It can include someone renting out their whole home while living somewhere else, or someone trying to take over a tenancy following a tenant's death when they're not eligible.

It can also involve someone getting, or attempting to get, social housing based on false information they've provided, such as failing to declare that they already own a home.

Another example is knowingly providing false information or failing to disclose information when applying to buy a home through the Right to Buy scheme, including not living in the home as their only or main home.

Why reporting matters

We take tenancy fraud seriously. Where it's proven, action can include losing the home or, in some cases, criminal charges.

If something doesn't feel right where you live, you can help by reporting your concerns.

Reporting tenancy fraud is confidential, and you don't have to give your name. Even



a small amount of information can help make sure homes are used fairly and go to people who really need them.

Worried you're involved without knowing?

If you're a sub-tenant, you might not realise the home is being rented to you unlawfully.

You could be at risk of unlawful eviction, but if that happens, we'll do what we can to help and support you.

How to report tenancy fraud

If you're worried about a home in the Manchester City Council area, you can report it online, anonymously and in confidence through Manchester City Council at: www.manchester.gov.uk/tenancy-fraud

You can also call Wythenshawe Community Housing Group on 0300 111 0000.

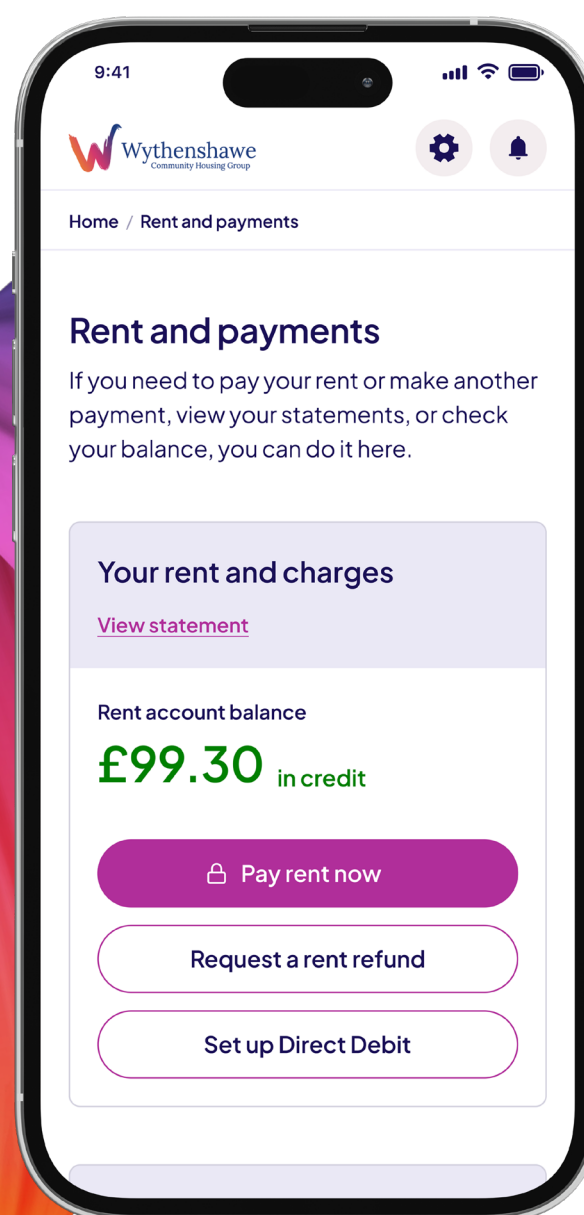
Your home on your phone



Manage your Wythenshawe Community Housing Group home anytime, anywhere.

- Report and track repairs
- Pay and manage your rent and payments
- Report and track anti-social behaviour
- Update your tenancy and contact details
- Get support

All in one app.



“Everything we need to manage our home is in the app.”

Samuel and Ezra, residents



To find out more, scan the QR code with your phone camera.

BOOKING NOW...



Further information and tickets from:
wythenshaweforum.co.uk/events



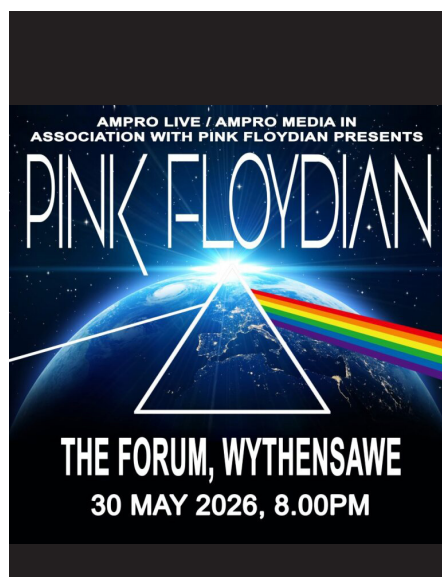
PINK FLOYDIAN

Friday 11 September 2026, £22.00

Celebrating the music and legacy of Pink Floyd – this 8-piece band pays homage to the greatest progressive rock band of all time. Every performance is a meticulously crafted recreation of the band's legendary live shows, complete with the signature soundscapes, haunting vocals, and dazzling visual elements that defined the original band's performances.

Their two-and-a-half-hour show features classic tracks from all the iconic albums along with lighting effects and lasers to make it a truly immersive performance.

tinyurl.com/PinkFloydian



FLEETWOOD MAC

Friday 20 November 2026, £20.00

Spanning six decades of Fleetwood Mac's stellar career, expect to hear *Go Your Own Way*; *Don't Stop*; *Little Lies*; *Songbird*; *Dreams*; *Formula One* theme song, *The Chain*; *Oh Well*; *Tusk* plus many more. This mesmerizing recreation of the stellar 'songbook' of Fleetwood Mac draws from over six decades of songs, including soft rock anthems from the *Rumours* and *Tango In The Night* albums. A portion of the show is dedicated to founding member and Blues guitar legend, Peter Green.

The unmistakable 'Mac' sound is recreated through immaculate details – the exceptional three part harmonies are a standout as well as the band's guitarist using the famous Lindsey Buckingham Rick Turner model of guitar that gives songs that final polish.



CINDERELLA

Friday 4 December, 7.00PM

Saturday 5 December, 1.30PM

Sunday 6 December, 1.30PM

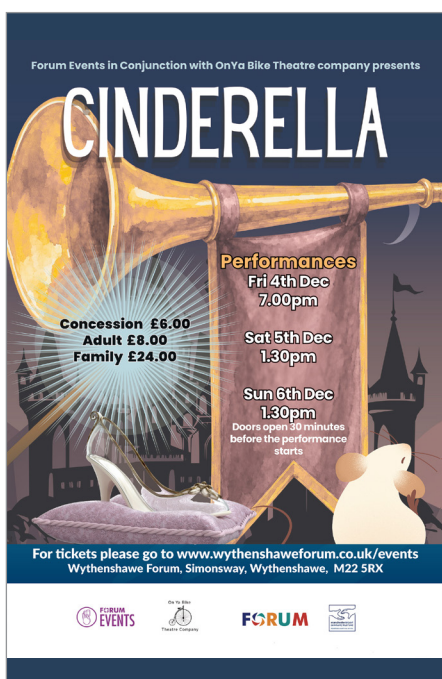
Doors open 30 minutes before the performance starts.

Tickets: Adult £8, Concession £6, Family Ticket £24

The classic fairytale gets a pantomime twist. Cinderella overcomes hardship, but will she be able to teach her wicked stepmother and stepsisters a lesson?

Can the fairy godmother help? Will Cinderella watch the clock and beat the midnight deadline?

Join in the festive family fun – tickets available now at tinyurl.com/ForumPanto2026, or from leisure reception.



Shows announced for 2027

DAVID TRAYNOR

Friday 22 January 2027

Share in this experience as David delivers his unique style of mediumship, blending compassion with humour to bring forward your messages from the spirit world.



AMERICAN WRESTLING

Saturday 20 March 2027

Get next to the action at this live family supershow... cheer the goodies, boo the baddies. Free meet and greet – have your photo taken with your favourite wrestler.

BEATLEMANIA

Saturday 27 March 2027

Every song is a winner in this note-perfect musical love letter to the Fab Four. From mop-top beginnings to the psychedelic highs of *Sgt Pepper* and beyond, all the biggest hits feature. This highly acclaimed production with stunning attention to detail brings The Beatles to life, live on stage.

THE ALL SEASONS

Friday 30 April 2027

Scintillating vocals and incredible harmonies. Bringing to life the music of Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons – The All Seasons present a show that will wow fans of the Jersey Boys sound. Crammed with singalong hits, audiences can expect the quality and atmosphere of a West End experience.



THE SPICE GIRLS EXPERIENCE

Saturday 8 May 2027

They bring everything you love about this groundbreaking girl band and perform it with incredible energy. This talented tribute act has audiences convinced they've been taken back to the 90s as they play the familiar songs that we know and love.



BOYBAND LEGENDS

Saturday 19 June 2027

Boyband Legends is the ultimate tribute to the iconic boybands that defined the 90s and early 2000s. Bringing together the biggest hits and unmistakable harmonies from legendary groups such as Boyzone, Backstreet Boys, Westlife, 911, Blue, and Five, this high-energy show is a non-stop celebration of pop perfection.



ACCESSIBLE SEATS AVAILABLE FOR ALL EVENTS

