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Manchester

Issue 14 March/April 2009

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Welcome to the March/April recession busting issue of *Families Manchester*. If you're finding your pennies aren't going quite as far as they used to then we've crammed this issue with ideas on how to save you money.

The Childcare Feature (page 10) gives you practical advice on getting the best value childcare, including your financial entitlements from the government. We've combined 'Beat the Crunch' and 'Save the Planet' with a fantastic feature about making things for yourself instead of buying them in the shops (page 8).

And if you do have a bit of spare cash, we've got some great spring break deals in Family Travel (page 4). And don't forget to check out all the great value activities (including lots of free ones) in 'Out & About' (page 12) during March and April.

Helen

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Front cover: Image courtesy of Bellybutton www.bellybutton.co.uk



Barnardo's Big Toddle returns to Manchester



THE Barnardo's Big Toddle is the biggest and brightest fundraising event for under 5s! It is a short, sponsored walk which last year saw almost 500,000 Toddlers register nationally!

All the money raised by Big Toddlers goes to local Barnardo's projects for children under 5 based throughout the UK. It's all about children helping children. The children's charity works with vulnerable and disadvantaged children and their families, this includes supporting children affected by poverty, homelessness, disability, bereavement and abuse. Last summer Manchester toddlers raised a tremendous £19,110!

If you and your under fives want to take part this year, check if your child's pre-school is organising its own Big Toddle or join the Big Toddle at Heaton Park on 25th June. To register for free visit www.bigtoddle.co.uk or call 0845 270 9900.

Has society demonised today's kids?

Sadly, it seems that many adults in today's society have a largely negative view of the nation's children and young people.

According to a recent poll conducted on behalf of the children's charity Barnardo's, just under half of adults believe children are increasingly a danger to each other and to adults.

In response to the survey's findings, Barnardo's has highlighted the fact that most children are not troublesome at all. For instance, Barnardo's points out that while the most recent British Crime Survey suggests that society blames children for up to half of all criminal

activity, they are actually only responsible for 12 percent of crime. In other words, society is demonising its children and young people.

The Barnardo's report suggests that some troublesome children might even be fulfilling a pessimistic prophecy. According to the charity, only a minority of children are anti-social and commit crimes – and it is exactly those children who need our help and support the most.

Barnardo's is involved in a major effort to change the growing intolerance by today's society towards children and young people – look out for their TV and internet ads out now.

Kids in Museums manifesto

KIDS in Museums is drawing up a 2009 Kids in Museums Manifesto; 20 ways to make a museum family-friendly – compiled from family visitors' comments.

So if your family has made a recent visit to a museum or gallery, why not let Kids in Museums know about your experience. The height of the Titians? The state of the toilets? A friendly face in the gallery? Or a kids meal in the café? Your comments could help determine the future of museums in Britain.

Ideas and comments about how every museum can make all families welcome can be emailed to manifesto@kidsinmuseums.org.uk or posted on the Kids in Museums Manifesto Discussion Board at www.kidsinmuseums.org.uk.

Customer service is 'World Class' at MOSI

A QUALITY standard normally associated with five star hotels has been awarded to Manchester's Museum of Science and Industry (MOSI).

The museum is the first in the country to gain the 'World Class Service' standard for its commitment to customer service.

Museum Director, Steve Davies MBE, said: "This is fantastic news for MOSI and is a credit to all our staff who work tirelessly to make the museum a great place to visit. As leaders in our field, this is a key milestone on our journey towards becoming a world-class cultural attraction."

The prestigious accolade followed a rigorous full-day assessment of over 700 points, looking at everything from the way visitors are looked after to the condition of the galleries.

So go and see for yourself - for events and activities visit www.msim.org.uk



■ The 'World Class' team at MOSI

More men allowed!

North West nursery group, Kids Allowed has backed a recent survey that urges more men to take jobs in nurseries.

The Children's Workforce Development Council found that 59% of parents said there was not a single man employed at the nursery to which they sent their child.

Single mothers appear to be particularly concerned, with 66% saying they would like a man to be involved in their child's development. The survey also suggests 17% of children have fewer than two hours of contact time per week with a male

adult, and 39% have less than six hours a week.

Kids Allowed founder Jennie Johnson says there is no reason why men should not choose childcare as a profession and in fact employs eight males across the three Kids Allowed childcare centres.

Simon Jones, who works at one of the centres says: "It is a very rewarding and fun job. I work with children aged from one year old and I enjoy seeing them progress and develop each day and being a positive male role model for them. I think more men should consider it as a profession".

Families Manchester

Would you like to earn a bit of extra cash by delivering Families Manchester in your area? You just need a car!

Call or email Helen on
0161 215 0596
editor@familiesmanchester.co.uk

Local mums help you get 'Away with the Kids'

STOCKPORT mums Helen Barker and Joanne Elliott have just launched a fantastic new website showcasing child-friendly holidays in the UK and Ireland.

Having three children each, Helen and Joanne recognise that being child friendly doesn't just mean providing high chairs and cots: "We like to think our places go above and beyond expected standards," comments Helen.

"Away with the Kids only lists selected companies that have been highly recommended to us by

family, friends and colleagues and ultimately provides a handpicked guide to a diverse range of holiday accommodation/alternatives, which meets all aspects of a family's requirements."

The accommodation varies from fun farms to award-winning hotels, contemporary cottages, scenic youth hostels and cool camping sites.

They also have a good selection of recession busting last-minute deals. So if you fancy taking your family to a castle in Yorkshire or a tipi in Cornwall visit www.awaywiththekids.co.uk



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Spring Breaks & Days Out – Special Offers!

■ Watergate Bay Hotel © Ben Rowe

Times might be hard, but you and your kids still need a treat this spring. We've searched Britain for ways to make your money go that bit further, whether it's a short break or a day out you're after. Joanna Moorhead reports

Best deals on short breaks

SET on its own spectacular surfing beach on the north Cornwall coast, Watergate Bay is one of the most happening beach experiences in Britain. It's a luxury break, but there are deals to be had – current offers on the website include free nights for one child under eight staying in their parents' room, and for breaks of three nights or more you can bag a 24% discount.

Watergate Bay offers laid-back living and great places to eat and drink, mixed with exhilarating beach sports – if you've got older kids, or a mixture of old and young children, it couldn't be more perfect. www.watergatebay.co.uk

COAST and Country cottages, which has some fabulous houses and cottages dotted around the superb South Hams region of Devon, has some great deals on a new cliff-top development, Edith Mews. The properties, perched above the ruins of the fishing village of Hallsands, have landscaped gardens, an outside pool, tennis courts and wonderful views, plus the nearby coastal path leads down to the unspoilt beach below.

Reductions include £50 off for weeks in June and July and £75 off for August, on prices from £750 per week in June to £1,200 in August, and the houses sleep between two and six.

www.coastandcountry.co.uk

WOOLACOMBE Bay Holiday Parks in Devon is offering deals including free night offers at Easter and Spring Bank Holiday and low season discounts for families with children under five. There are also more than 40 free activities on offer on site including indoor and outdoor heated pools, water slides, table tennis, bowls, health suite, tennis, cinema and nine-hole golf.

www.woolacombe.com

ONE child goes free per paying adult is the offer on a selection of UK family-friendly walking breaks during the Easter courtesy of HF Holidays, the UK's largest specialist walking holidays company. For example, a three-night break - starting 14 April - at Moorlands House on Dartmoor costs a total of just £199 (saving £99.50) for one adult and one child under 17 years of age sharing a room, or £398

(saving £199) for two adults and two children sharing two rooms. Prices include full-board accommodation, the programme of organised walks and social activities, transport to and from the walks, plus the services of an HF Holidays' walks leader. www.hfholidays.co.uk

Best deals on cultural days out

JOIN the National Trust and you get free entry to over 300 houses and gardens plus free car parking at all countryside and coastal locations – and there's a great bargain at the moment if you take out family membership and opt to pay by direct debit...you'll receive 12 months' membership for the price of nine, saving more than £20. For a cool £61.50 (a lot less than a day family pass to many visitor attractions) that's a lot of days out. www.nationaltrust.org.uk

THE Bronte Parsonage Museum in Haworth (North Yorkshire) is offering two for one on entry. Walk in the famous footsteps of Emily, Charlotte and Anne across the windswept moors where *Wuthering Heights* was conceived and see the flagstoned house where one extraordinary family's literary genius was nurtured. www.bronte.info



THERE'S also two for one entry at Muncaster Castle in Cumbria this spring, if you're visiting the gardens and fabulous owl centre. Muncaster is one of the best places in the Lake District for a family day out – there are more than 200 owls at the World Owl Centre, and make sure you're around at 3.30pm for Heron Happy Hour, when hundreds of herons descend for their tea! The lovely 18th century gardens cover 77 acres, with loads of scope for beautiful walks and hide-and-seek fun. www.muncaster.co.uk

BUY one get one free entry at Ness Botanic Gardens in Neston, South Wirral. A wonderful place for a bracing walk through a garden

packed with a selection of trees and shrubs with coloured fruits, barks and stems, and bursting with conifers. Indoor attractions, if it's a chilly day, include the all-year conservatory with its tropical and arid displays.

www.liv.ac.uk/nessgardens/index.htm

Best deals on theme parks



THOMAS Land in Staffordshire, with its 12 themed rides including the Troublesome Trucks Runaway Coaster, not to mention a fun-filled indoor play area, has some great deals on its website. Book online and you can save up to 22% on the normal prices of £70 for a family ticket (2+2), or £88 for 2+3. The park is open from March 15. www.thomaslanduk.co.uk

BUY online for a day out at Blackpool's Sea Life Centre and you'll make big savings – current offers include £3 off each ticket and they'll get you as close as it's possible to be to everything from shrimps to sharks...without getting wet.

www.sealifeurope.com



To take advantage of any of the offers above, click onto the bargains page at www.enjoyengland.com, where there are hundreds more offers on spring attractions and accommodation. Take advantage of 2 for 1 and Kids go free offers on theme parks, museums, castles, gardens, zoos and hundreds more attractions, and up to 50% off a superb range of accommodation.

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What's New?

Compiled by Kate Christie



Active clothes for tots, kids & mums

Introducing Chatterpants

Bright colours, practical designs, natural, environmentally friendly, ethical fabrics and a desire to celebrate children's artistic talents all lie at the heart of the Chatterpants approach.

Chatterpants designs are made from bamboo – the next big, practical stylish and green thing in clothing. They are designed with play in mind, with a layer of water-resistant fabric which means kids can experience outdoors without any discomfort from getting wet, and knee pads in the trousers and dungarees to make crawling and falling over a bit more comfy. Extra kneepads are available to buy separately! And perhaps what's most fun is that many of the garments are designed by kids themselves, originating from special art projects, organised in schools in the UK and New Zealand.

Visit the website www.chatterpants.com to see the full range and order online.

Ruffty Tuffty Tops

Muddy Puddles has launched Ruffty Tuffty Cotton Tops. Designed for active, outdoor kids, these excellent quality tops have a cosy, brushed backing for snugly soft comfort, and seams strengthened with heavy duty stitching. Pre-washed for instant softness, these mid-thickness cotton piqué tops are ideal for layering, and when the sun goes in, the yank-proof neck zip can be fastened to keep kids warm.

Machine washable at 30° Ruffty Tuffty Cotton Tops come in sizes to fit kids from 2 to 13+ years. They are available in navy stripe, pink stripe, light blue and raspberry, priced £19.50.

For more information see www.muddypuddles.com or call 0844 557 4950.

specifically for pregnant women and those trying to regain their pre-pregnancy figures. Sporty Bump's popular four-piece 'basics' capsule collection consists of: On The Bump Shorts, Under The Bump Capri Trousers, Cross-over Top and a Racer Back Vest. All items are available in chic classic black and in four accommodating sizes (small through to extra large). Designed with price in mind, the pieces range from £15 to £20 and the entire capsule collection costs just £71 (delivery is free when spending over £50). Sporty Bump clothing is available to buy online at www.sportybump.co.uk. Look out for further designs and accessories planned for later this year.



Times tables learning with Maths Wrap

A British inventor has created a revolutionary new way of teaching children their times tables which has won praise from teachers. Maths Wrap feels like a game but it's a powerful tool for building confidence and helping children understand the process of multiplication - the secret is the hands-on feel.

The iPod-sized device has numbered notches down two sides, and a cord attached. It comes with 12 cards, to test different tables. You wrap the string around the casing, through the appropriate notches: for the four-times table, your first 'wrap' hits numbers 1 and 4; your second hits 2 and 8; your third goes through 3 and 12, and so on. When you've finished, you've created a criss-cross pattern on the back. If your pattern matches the pattern in the window, bingo! – you've got it right. If it doesn't fit exactly, your four-times table needs more work.

Philippa, mother of two primary school children tested it for *Families Manchester*: "For the first week both children were fighting to play with it, literally. The hands-on, very practical approach worked very well indeed, it didn't sound like work to them, but play. The novelty factor has now worn off and it is up to me to make them work (or play!) at it!"

Times tables are the building blocks of mathematics so at only £4.99 this looks like a sound investment. Visit www.mathswrap.co.uk for more details.

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Shift your baby-weight in celebrity-style with Sporty Bump

Despite the credit crunch, you can still treat yourself to a little celebrity-style when it comes to exercising during and after pregnancy. Sporty Bump is a pioneering range of sportswear designed

Summer Camps

What did you do in the holidays?



Babylicious launches yummy new baby and toddler meals

Many mothers would love to be able to make home cooked meals every day, but time pressure means we can't always cook from scratch.

Frozen baby food company, Babylicious, has launched a new look with improved meals following months of research on what today's mums want when it comes to feeding their babies and toddlers. Babylicious Stage 2 meals (6 months plus) now have an Easi-Chew texture to help babies graduate from smooth purées to proper meals, a stage many mums find difficult to make at home. The company has also addressed the sometimes tricky issue of getting toddlers to eat vegetables. The toddler meal range – Kiddylicious – now does double duty with both hidden and visible vegetables. The Babylicious range of meals helps mums give their children proper food that is made out of wholesome, natural ingredients without any nasties or extreme sterilisation techniques.

The range is stocked in most supermarket chains but the company has also introduced a new, improved home delivery service for those mums not able to get the products in a local supermarket. The full range can be bought from the new look www.babylicious.co.uk and is delivered direct to customers' homes, ready to be popped into the freezer.

SUMMER camp for kids has long been a tradition in the US, and with each passing year is now becoming more and more popular with parents and children in the UK. And with so much on offer to keep youngsters entertained, fit, and occupied throughout the school holidays, it's not hard to see why.

With this rise in popularity, parents tend to book well in advance, so if your child is interested in experiencing a camp this year, it's never too early to start making enquiries.

Choosing a camp should be a fun process – discuss with your child what they want from their experience, and find out exactly what the various organisations have on offer – it would be fruitless to send a sports-phobic youngster to a camp that offers nothing but football and tennis, for instance!

Most camps will provide a mixture of indoor and outdoor activities, team sports, games and entertainments appropriately tailored to your child's age and abilities. Some centres offer dedicated 'themed' packages, such as specific sports academies - tennis or football for example - for older children. But it's not all sports – there are centres offering drama and arts

Image courtesy of Socious Sports



inspired courses.

Think about how long you want your child to be away for. Camps operate at different levels and not all are residential - you may well find camps in your local area set up in school and colleges during the summer recess, and offering day or weekly passes, whilst others are more organised 'holiday centres' where your child goes away, unaccompanied, for a week or more to a dedicated resort.

Bear in mind your child will probably be apprehensive and nervous about their first time at camp, especially if it is also their first time away from home. Reassure them that they can contact you at any time and that there will always be adults around to help and assist them. Satisfy yourself too that the

staff to child ratio, discipline, food, activities and general feel of the place are all to your liking – chances are if you feel uncomfortable, uninspired or ill at ease in the setting then your child probably will too.

Going to camp should be a positive, fun, character building and rewarding experience for your son or daughter, and one that leaves them with life long memories and friendships – and if you take time to choose the right provision to suit their interests and personality, it undoubtedly will be!

Families Manchester Recommends:

ZEM.Education run international language and adventure summer camps in Spain with either English or Spanish as the main language. Activities include horse-riding, rock climbing, canoeing and arts and crafts. www.zemeducation.co.uk

YHA Do it 4 Real have camps across the UK, including the Lake District and Peak District. Activities range from 'Performing Arts' to 'Go Extreme'. www.doit4real.co.uk

Socious Sports offer day and residential camps in a range of sports across the UK, including venues in Cheshire and Staffordshire. www.socioussports.co.uk

Image courtesy of YHA Do it for Real



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www.zemeducation.co.uk
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Beat the Crunch...

Precycle – is it on the washing machine?

Paul Peacock shows us how by using lost skills from our previous generations we can save money and the planet!

THERE are lots of strange words out there these days, slogans, buzz words and is there need for another?

We all know what it is to recycle. You buy your products from the supermarket and then put the bottle in the recycling bin, the

cardboard goes in the paper bin and the plastic goes; well no one is sure where the plastic goes. And so led by the EU, we are all doing our bit to save the planet by putting our rubbish into three bins where once, when I was a little boy living in inner city Manchester, we could hardly fill our single small dustbin.

And then our dustbin was just that, full of dust mostly, certainly not milk bottles or lemonade bottles or packaging. But then I tell a lie, we also had a swill bin. All the food left on the plate was scraped into the swill bin and the pig man came to feed his pigs with it, giving us a chicken every now and again for the privilege.

When you walk around the supermarket and buy the products you see a lot of packaging which you pay for. It is there simply to make it possible for the supermarket to sell you the goods on the shelves. Without packaging it would be impossible to put goods on the shelves in the first place.

Then inside the packaging you find even more things you are forced to buy only there to make it possible for the shop to sell you the thing you really wanted in the first place. I am thinking about washing powder full of flowing agents and all manner of food with preservatives whose sole purpose is to preserve the product's shelf life.

So precycling is taking a step backwards from the 'purchase then recycle' way we get the things we need. In short, to precycle, you do



away with the external and internal packaging by making the goods you need yourself, at home.

When you start to make your own food you get a shock. You find that not only are you saving on packaging, your food and products are cheaper – much cheaper. Then you realise the things you use around the house are safer; your food has no additives and there are no strange chemicals in your cleaning solutions. Precycling is shorthand for 'living like we used to'. But there's a twist.

Let us pretend you discover washing soda (also called soda crystals). This simple non polluting substance is the major constituent in washing powder, but there are no dye enhancers, no anti caking agents, no flowing agents, no brighteners. Years ago it was the only substance used on washday, but designer detergents have superseded humble washing soda.



Precycle! by Paul Peacock is published by The Good Life Press (www.goodlifepress.co.uk)

Reviewed by Helen Ash

This is one of the best books I've read in ages – I literally couldn't put it down (one night till I am). Paul shows you how to make just about everything from ketchup to shampoo, wine to bleach for a fraction of the cost in the shops.

I can hear you busy parents complaining that it sounds like a lovely, romantic ideal, but you just don't have the time. Well the majority of the

ideas and recipes are things you can do with the kids (what child wouldn't want to make a loaf from scratch or their own ice cream?), so not only will you be spending quality time with your children, but you will be teaching them valuable skills, whilst dramatically reducing your waste. Right we're off to make our own olive oil soap!

Precycle! is available in good bookshops and online at www.precycle-it.co.uk for £7.95

Precycle!



How to make everything you buy in the shops, from sauce to sausages, bleach to beer, detergents to disinfectants.

Don't Recycle - Precycle!

By Paul Peacock

... and Save the Planet

So why not use washing soda again? It only costs a tenth (yes a tenth!) of the expensive washing powders, but do you need to go back to the old fashioned way of washing, with a wash board and a mangle? The twist is you can use your modern appliances with washing soda. Three tablespoons of washing soda in your washing machine will wash just as well as the most expensive powders. It is non polluting and non allergenic.

But it doesn't stop there.

I was talking to a group of ladies who were complaining at the number of cleaning products they had to buy. Toilet cleaners, bleach, surface cleaners, anti bacterial wipes, disinfectants, cooker and oven cleaners. Then there were carpet cleaners and fresheners, fabric conditioners and on the list goes. With a combination of bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, salt and washing soda you can make yourself a cleaner fit for every job in the house. These substances are safe, non polluting, gentle to humans and tough on germs. They clean and disinfect and moreover a week's worth of cleaning can be had for pennies rather than pounds – quite literally a hundredth of the price in the shops.

But I mentioned making food. Well let me whet your appetite by making some bacon. Needless to say exactly the same criteria applies. You can make better bacon, cheaper bacon, healthier bacon than you could buy in the shops – but you cannot get the base meat

from the supermarket.

There is a downside to shop bought bacon. It is very high in salt. The worst I ever bought had 1g in each rasher. Since you are only allowed 6g a day, breakfast can easily eat up most of this. So wouldn't it be great to make your own bacon that had a third of the salt and was a third of the price? Here's how...

Go to the butchers – the supermarket can't do this, and buy a piece of pork. Ask the butcher to slice it as though it was bacon, but ever so slightly thicker. You can now put a tiny amount of cure just on the meat portion. For the first time you can decide the actual salt content of the bacon you eat.

Cure

This is simply a 50:50 mixture of salt and sugar. It can be ordinary white sugar, or any other depending on what you like. Sweet cure bacon is wonderful to eat and very expensive to buy.

Some maths

Let's pretend you have 1 kilo of pork, all sliced by the butcher, spread on a tray. To have half salt bacon you need 6 level teaspoons of your cure and sprinkle it just on the meat, evenly – not on the fat. Pile the slices on top of each other and cover with cling film. Leave them overnight in the fridge, they will be ready to cook in the morning. Grill the bacon on a foil lined tray - the sugar content



can caramelize and make cleaning a pan more difficult. But one thing I can guarantee – it tastes wonderful!

Costs

I like belly pork and I can make a kilo of brilliant bacon for less than a fiver. The cheapest equivalent I have ever seen costs £12 a kilo. You simply cannot get dry cure bacon for the price, but there is one more point to precycling. It's pride. When you have made your own the very best seasoning comes from your smile.

Calling All Pregnant Women!



The Babylab at The University of Manchester is looking for pregnant women to take part in a new, questionnaire-based project examining maternal nutrition during pregnancy. If you are currently less than 28 weeks pregnant and would like more information about taking part in the study then we would love to hear from you. Please contact:

Alison Rees on 0161 275 1970
E-mail: Alison.Rees@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk
Web: www.psych-sci.manchester.ac.uk/babylab

salford arts THEATRE

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Cutting the cost of childcare

– a few useful tips from Kate Christie on getting value for money

WE'VE all become more aware in recent months of the amount we spend and more mindful of what constitutes good value for money.

While we might be quite content to forego a foreign holiday or to swap expensive restaurants for dinner at home with friends, we're understandably reluctant to invest less when it comes to childcare. But saving money may simply be a question of re-evaluating our options and taking advantage of the financial help that we're entitled to. Here are a few tips, useful whatever the economic outlook – securing good quality, affordable childcare is, after all, a perennial challenge.

Be aware of your financial entitlements

Thousands of working parents are unaware that they are entitled to claim child tax credits or have simply not got around to making a claim. Nine out of 10 families with at least one child can claim an extra subsidy of at least £545 a year – and significantly more if your household has a lower income. You may also be entitled to recoup a decent proportion of your childcare costs – up to a maximum of £175 a week if you have one child, £300 per week if you have more. To see how your family could benefit, use the ready reckoner at www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits/do-you-qualify.htm. Bear in mind though that to claim back the cost of childcare you must use a registered nursery, childminder or nanny. There is a fee for registering your existing nanny if she is not part of the scheme but you, and she, may find it worth doing for the longer term.

Your employer may offer tax free childcare vouchers as part of a salary sacrifice scheme. If so, you need to decide between taking advantage of the vouchers or the childcare element of tax credits. The HM Revenue and Customs website gives advice on this. It's complex but the general rule seems to be that if



you are on a higher income with higher childcare costs, you're better off claiming the vouchers. Visit www.hmrc.gov.uk/childcare/interaction-tc-cv.htm - it's worth getting to grips with.

Finally, don't forget that your child is entitled to 12.5 hours of free nursery care once he turns three. Your nursery should deduct this automatically from your monthly bill but if you need more information, visit www.direct.gov.uk/en/parents/childcare.

Nursery or Nanny? Do the maths.

If you don't have a particular preference between enrolling your child in day care and employing a nanny to look after him at home it's worth taking the time to compare the costs – not forgetting the hidden costs – of each. Employing a nanny or an au-pair is likely to incur agency fees upfront while you find the right person to help your family. Then there is paid holiday to consider, and national insurance contributions, not to mention larger utilities bills from having your home occupied all day, extra strain on the

contents of your fridge, and often considerable expenditure on clubs and outings. The upside though, is one-to-one care from someone you have chosen yourself – and given that this is your little darling we're talking about, your childcare choice should not be all about money.

Nurseries may seem a less expensive option but once your child is enrolled you can expect to pay for every day the nursery is open, regardless of whether you're on holiday or your child is unwell. If you're running late, nurseries will charge considerably more than a babysitter for after hours care – £15 for every 15 minutes at my nephew's nursery. You should also factor in the cost and inconvenience of taking time off work on top of paying the nursery fee whenever your child is sent home with a sore tummy or a sniffly nose.

Consider sharing

If nurseries are not for you, why not think about nanny sharing, using a registered childminder or forming a babysitting circle? You'll

Tinies
Childcare

To learn more about Tinies,
or to register, please call:
0845 330 1419

www.tinies.com

reduce costs considerably and provide your child with a chance to interact socially with others. A childminder will look after your child in their own home and may offer more flexibility than a nursery, avoiding the high cost of after hours care if you're running late.

Nanny sharing is an excellent compromise between the personal care and attention you'd expect from a nanny, and the chance for your child to mix with others. You share both the cost of the nanny's salary and the hidden costs referred to above. And if your child has a playmate or two there will be less need to sign up to a series of expensive activities. The simplest way to find a nanny share is by word of mouth or by registering on a dedicated website – try thenannysharers.co.uk, where you can register for free.

Babysitting circles are groups of parents who baby sit for one another in exchange for babysitting points or credits. Each time you babysit for another member of the circle you receive credits – maybe one credit per hour for example – and you give up credits when someone babysits for you. Ideal for evening babysitting but it would work equally well for after school care. www.mynightoff.com is well worth a visit – it provides a free means of administering your circle online and information on how the scheme works.

Have the best of both worlds

Of course you don't have to choose one type of childcare over another. Why not use both nursery and nanny part-time? One Mum I know, who works four days a week, uses a local nursery for two days and is part of a nanny share with three other families for the rest of the week.

Think about flexible working

Did you know that if you have a child under 6 you have a legal right to request flexible working from your employer? If you have a job where you can work flexibly, you may well find you can save money by working a couple of days from home; compressed hours; flexi-time, during school hours, or during term time only.

The working families website, www.workingfamilies.org.uk is a mine of useful information on how to request a flexible working arrangement and how to make it work in practice – they also have very clear advice on tax and benefits. In my experience, working a couple of days a week from home works particularly well when your children start full time education, considerably reducing the cost of after school and holiday care.

It's not easy to work from home with a baby or toddler in tow and you may well still need to use a nursery or nanny but you'd be surprised by what you can save on commuting and childcare by foregoing a long journey into the office every day – not to mention the convenience of being on hand when childcare arrangements breakdown, as they occasionally do.

Useful Contacts:

Absolutely Au Pairs
www.absolutelyaupairs.com
0161 491 2758

Tinies Childcare
www.tinies.com
0845 330 1419

Nanny & Au Pair Connection
www.aupairs-nannies.co.uk
01204 694422

Best Bear
www.bestbear.co.uk



absolutely au pairs
the agency that cares

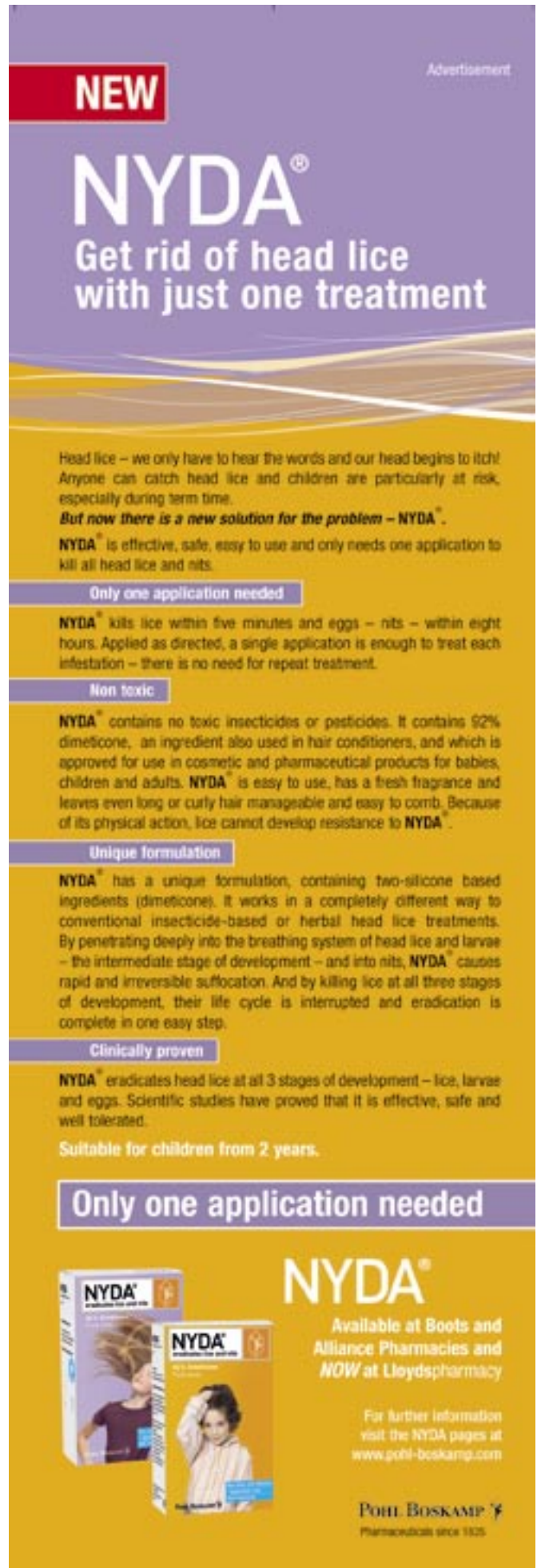
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Advertisement

NEW

NYDA®
Get rid of head lice
with just one treatment

Head lice – we only have to hear the words and our head begins to itch! Anyone can catch head lice and children are particularly at risk, especially during term time.
But now there is a new solution for the problem – NYDA®.

NYDA® is effective, safe, easy to use and only needs one application to kill all head lice and nits.

Only one application needed

NYDA® kills lice within five minutes and eggs – nits – within eight hours. Applied as directed, a single application is enough to treat each infestation – there is no need for repeat treatment.

Non toxic

NYDA® contains no toxic insecticides or pesticides. It contains 92% dimeticone, an ingredient also used in hair conditioners, and which is approved for use in cosmetic and pharmaceutical products for babies, children and adults. NYDA® is easy to use, has a fresh fragrance and leaves even long or curly hair manageable and easy to comb. Because of its physical action, lice cannot develop resistance to NYDA®.

Unique formulation

NYDA® has a unique formulation, containing two-silicone based ingredients (dimeticone). It works in a completely different way to conventional insecticide-based or herbal head lice treatments. By penetrating deeply into the breathing system of head lice and larvae – the intermediate stage of development – and into nits, NYDA® causes rapid and irreversible suffocation. And by killing lice at all three stages of development, their life cycle is interrupted and eradication is complete in one easy step.

Clinically proven

NYDA® eradicates head lice at all 3 stages of development – lice, larvae and eggs. Scientific studies have proved that it is effective, safe and well tolerated.

Suitable for children from 2 years.

Only one application needed

NYDA®

Available at Boots and Alliance Pharmacies and NOW at Lloydspharmacy

For further information visit the NYDA pages at www.pohl-boskamp.com

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Out & About

For all events and activities please phone ahead as times and dates may vary

March/April 09 Exhibitions

EXPRESS YOURSELF

The Lowry, Salford Quays

10 April – 27
September

Jive into the Lowry's first family dance exhibition – a celebration of what the human body is physically capable of. From rock 'n' roll to Riverdance, strut your way through the world of dance from ballet and breakdancing to line dancing and The Lasso!
0870 787 5793
www.thelowry.com



QUIFFS, RIFFS & TIFFS: THE STORY OF POPULAR MUSIC IN SALFORD FROM 1950 TO TODAY.

Salford Museum and Art Gallery
Until 25 October

From The Hollies to Joy Division to the Ting Tings, discover the older musical stories, and the current and future sounds coming out of Salford today. Follow the Music Timeline and pick up your copy of the Salford Music Map. 0161 778 0800 www.salford.gov.uk

BIKE STYLE

Hat Works, Stockport 14 Feb – 28 June

Welcome to the world of motorcycle helmets – with classic track, racing, motorcross and touring this is a chance to see the helmet in all its forms and functions. A fun and informative exhibition which looks at style and safety developments.

0161 355 7770 www.hatworks.org

COLLECTAMANIA II

Stockport Story Museum

10 March – 7 June

Enter the wonderful world of collecting as the gallery is filled with rare possessions never publicly displayed before. From ornate Opera Glasses to Pop Posters, and Song Sheets to Stamps, there will be something to interest everyone! Free

0161 480 1460
www.stockportstory.org.uk



SAVED FOR THE NATION: THE STORY OF THE FA CUP EXHIBITION

Bolton Museum

Sat 14 March – Sat 23 May

Everything you ever wanted to know about the world's oldest and most loved Cup competition can be found in this exciting exhibition. Plus family friendly events including quizzes, tours and Saturday afternoon arts and crafts.

01204 332211
www.boltonmuseums.org.uk

Sun 1 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays

Join friends, family and artists for these fun drop-in workshops and create exciting things from your own mini forest to Egyptian masks.

1.30 – 3.30 pm Suit all ages

0161 275 7450 www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

THE LOWRY

Baa Moo Yellow Dog

Join Ash in his colourful world of exciting animals for this imaginative play. (signed performance).

Ages 2 – 5. 12 pm and 3 pm

Children £5.50, Adults £8.50

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

BUILE HILL PARK, SALFORD

Bird box making

Make a bird or bat box. Nominal fee to cover cost of materials.

1 – 3 pm.

07968 327 107

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

Mon 2 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Art Adventures

Enjoy a story adventure while creating your own masterpiece.

For under 5s and their carers

10.30 – 11.30 am. Booking essential

0161 275 7450

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

Tue 3 March

THE LOWRY

Romeo and Juliet – The Musical

Shakespeare 4 Kidz bring the most famous love story in history to life with rock 'n' roll.

1.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Children £9, Adults £15

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Wed 4 March

THE LOWRY

The Tempest – The Musical

Shakespeare 4 Kidz blow up a storm with this magical romantic comedy.

10 am & 1.30 pm

Children £9, Adults £15

0870 787 5780

www.thelowry.com

Sat 7 March

ALBERT PARK, SALFORD

The Great Science Explosion!

Help Billy the boffin and Steve the scientist in the search for a new alternative energy source. Wear protective clothing as you're likely to get messy!

1 – 4 pm. www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Chinese & Japanese Textiles

Explore and learn about different cultures through stories, art activities and food snacks!

1.30 – 3.30 pm. Drop-in. Suit all ages

0161 275 7450 www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Family Art Club

Play games, be creative and get messy.

1 – 3 pm. For 6 – 11 year olds and parents

Free, limited places so arrive early

0161 235 8888 www.manchestergalleries.org

BURY ART GALLERY

Saturday Art Activities: Origami

Art workshops exploring a range of themes and media. Fold, bend and shape paper into flower and animal shapes. Suit ages 4 – 12 years.

2 – 3.30 pm. 0161 253 5878 www.bury.gov.uk

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH

Family Drop-in Creative Activity

Sessions which use a range of art and craft material to help families bring museum themes to life.

12 – 3 pm, ideal for ages 5+. Free

0161 836 4000. www.iwm.org.uk

Sat 7 – Sun 8 March

QUARRY BANK MILL, STYAL

Craft activities and Mill Trail

All with a science theme as part of Science and Engineering week.

12 – 4 pm. Normal admission price applies

01625 527 468 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thingstodo

Sun 8 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays (see Sun 1 March)

MANDLEY PARK, SALFORD

The Great Science Explosion!

(see Albert Park, Sat 7 March)

Tue 10 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Arty Picnics

Bring your family and some food and meet an artist for fun creative activities. If it rains the picnic can move into the gallery.

11 am – 12.30 pm. For under 5s in term time

and all ages in school holidays. Drop-in

0161 275 7450 www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

Fri 13 March

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Mini Family Art Club

Make friends, make noise and make a mess.

For families with children aged 5 and under.

Free, limited places so arrive early

0161 235 8888 www.manchestergalleries.org

THE LOWRY

Under 5s First Steps

Fun introduction to dance encouraging physical awareness and progress.

Suits ages 2 ½ - 4 ½. 10 – 10.45 am & 11 – 11.45 am

£3.50 (£1.75 Salford residents)

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Sat 14 March

CLIFTON COUNTRY PARK, SALFORD

Kingfisher Kids

Arts and crafts activities suitable for children aged.

6 – 12. Booking essential. 2 – 4 pm

0161 793 4219 www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

BURY ART GALLERY

Saturday Art Activities: Cartooning

(see Sat 7 March)

Learn how to draw your own cartoons.

HURSTHEAD INFANT SCHOOL,

CHEADLE HULME

Professional Traders Craft Fair

From cards and wooden toys to canvas prints and much more, 20 local crafts people sell their wares plus exciting craft activities for children.

10 am – 2 pm, 50p entry per adult

Sue O'Callaghan 0161 485 6163

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Family Art Club (see Sat 7 March)

Sat 14 – Sun 15 March

QUARRY BANK MILL, STYAL

Craft activities and Mill Trail

(see Sat 7 - Sun 8 March)

Sun 15 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays (see Sun 1 March)

BUILE HILL PARK, SALFORD

Bird box making (see Sun 1 March)

Mon 16 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Music Adventures

Explore the artworks through music and movement. Enjoy singing songs and musical games.

For under 5s and their carers

10.30 – 11.30 am. Booking essential

0161 275 7450 www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

Fri 20 March

THE LOWRY

Under 5s Art – Doodle Tots

Paint, stick, play and make in this colourful workshop. Suits ages 2 ½ - 4 ½.

10 – 10.45 am & 11.15 am – 12 pm

£3.50 (£1.75 Salford residents)

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Fri 20 – Sun 22 March

LOWRY OUTLET MALL

Easter Garden Party

Fun for the family with famous characters, garden themed craft workshops and fun spring activities.

0161 848 1834 www.lowryoutletmall.com

Sat 21 – Sun 22 March

LYME PARK, DISLEY

The Tudors at Home

Hands on activities including costumes, games and puzzles.

Sorry no pushchairs or buggies.

12 – 4.30 pm.

House ticket required.

01663 762 023

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thingstodo

Sat 21 March

THE LOWRY

Grandpa Joe's Magical Show

Blunderbus Theatre Company offer this heart-warming family tale.

Suit ages 4 – 7. 11 am & 1 pm

Children £5, Adults £8

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

THE OCTAGON THEATRE, BOLTON

So You Think You're a Superhero?

Big Adventures Theatre Company brings you the adventures of a group of unlikely superhero students.

Ages 4 – 11. 11 am and 2 pm

Tickets £8 (£6 concessions)

01204 520 661 www.octagonbolton.co.uk

BURY ART GALLERY

Saturday Art Activities: Animal Masks

(see Sat 7 March)

Make the animal mask of your choice.

WATERSIDE ARTS CENTRE, SALE

Ian Billings – Out of His Mind!

A tickle-filled show of chuckle puns and giggle gags with children's comic, poet and author of "Talking Pants".

Ages 7+, Duration 50 mins. 2.30 pm, £6 / £4.

0161 912 5616

www.watersideartscentre.co.uk

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH

Family Workshop

Lively workshop introducing techniques and media to make artworks.

12.45 pm, 1.45 pm and 2.45 pm

Ideal for ages 7+, limited places available so arrive early.

0161 836 4000 www.iwm.org.uk

Sun 22 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays (see Sun 1 March)

**WOW
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WHOOOP
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Manchester's new Events Programme 2009 will be announced soon, featuring family friendly events, many of which are FREE.

For information, to join our monthly e-mail list or to subscribe to our FREE Eventext service visit www.eventext.com

Manchester events to listen out for...
MANCHESTER 2009

Out & About

Sun 22 March

CLIFTON COUNTRY PARK, SALFORD

Mother's Day

Make a special natural present for mum.

2 – 3.30 pm

0161 973 4219

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

THE LOWRY

Ballroom Sunday

Fun-packed family event begins with a ballroom workshop followed by a tea dance.

Workshop 11 am – 12.30 pm. Tea Dance 1

– 2.30 pm. Adults £5, Children £2.50

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Mon 23 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Dance Adventures

Join in and dance like a sculpture, boogie like a textile and wiggle like a painting.

For under 5s and their carers

10.30 – 11.30 am. Booking essential

0161 275 7450

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

Fri 27 March

THE LOWRY

Under 5s First Steps (see Fri 13 March)

Sat 28 March

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Stress-less Saturday

Day of free activities to help the family relax and unwind including classical music performance and workshops, creative activities and tranquility art tours.

1–4pm. Free entry, suitable for all ages

0161 235 8888

www.manchestergalleries.org

BURY ART GALLERY

Saturday Art Activities: Giant Flowers

(see Sat 7 March)

Create giant flower sculptures.

SALFORD MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Activity Afternoon

Arts and craft activities with fun for all the family.

Free drop-in event. 2 – 4 pm

0161 778 0800 www.salford.gov.uk/museums

THE MET, BURY

The Wizard of Castle Magic

The Magic Carpet Theatre's spooky and funny play based on the Sorcerer's Apprentice.

Suit 5 – 11 year olds. 2 pm, £6

0161 761 2216 www.themet.biz

Sun 29 March

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays (see Sun 1 March)

Sat 4 April

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Family Art Club (see Sat 7 March)

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

South American Textiles (see Sat 7 March)

BURY ART GALLERY

Saturday Art Activities: Easter Cards

(see Sat 7 March)

Make Easter cards for family and friends

Sat 4 – Sun 5 April

HALL I' TH' WOOD MUSEUM, BOLTON

Tudor Servants Week

Become a Tudor servant for the day.

12 noon – 5 pm. 01204 332 370

www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/whatson

Sat 4 – Sun 19 April

DUNHAM MASSEY

Boredom Busters

Activities and fun to keep all the family busy throughout the Easter holidays.

Normal admission price applies

0161 941 1025

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thingstodo

Sun 5 April

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays (see Sun 1 March)

THE LOWRY

Music Baby!

Mr Scruff's clubbing event for every generation of music lovers.

Suit under 5s. 1 – 2.30 pm, 2.45 – 4.15 pm

Children £6.50, Adults £7.50 (Salford residents £5 & £6.50)

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Mon 6 – Sun 19 April

BRAMALL HALL, STOCKPORT

Carrot Quiz

Search for the rabbits' carrots around the house.

Suit ages 5 – 10 years

Free with normal admission

0161 485 3708 www.bramallhall.org.uk

Mon 6 – Fri 10 April

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH

Family Drop-in Creative Activity (see Sat 7 March)

Mon 6 – Thu 9 April

THE LOWRY

Art Zone – Make Your Own T-Shirt

Show off your artistic skills by designing and painting your own unique T-shirt.

11 am – 1 pm. £5 (includes a T-shirt) £4.50

Salford residents.

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Mon 6 April

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Art Adventures (see Mon 2 March)

Tue 7 April

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Arty Picnics (see Tue 10 March)

BURY ART GALLERY

Easter Celebrations

A range of art activities for children aged 4 – 12 years.

10.30 – 12 noon & 2 – 3.30 pm

Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Free, booking essential.

0161 253 5878 www.bury.gov.uk

SALFORD MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Little Music Makers

Budding young musicians under 5 are invited to come and play with the musical instruments in the exhibition and make a shaker to take home.

Drop in sessions at 10.30 & 11.30 am & 1.30 & 2.30 pm. £1 per child

0161 778 0800 www.salford.gov.uk/museums

Tue 7 – Wed 8 April

STAIRCASE HOUSE, STOCKPORT

Easter Cards

Bunnies, chicks and eggs galore! Make a special Easter card for friends and family.

Ages 5 – 11 years

10.30 am – 12 noon and 1.30 – 3 pm

£3 or £2.50 with Leisure Key. Booking essential.

0161 480 1460 www.staircasehouse.org.uk

Tue 7 – Thu 9 April

HAT WORKS, STOCKPORT

Easter Puppets



Make an Easter puppet to take home and entertain the family with.

10.30 am – 12 noon, 1 – 2.30 pm

Ages 5 – 11 years. £3 or £2.50 with Leisure Key

Booking essential.

0161 355 7770 www.hatworks.org.uk

THE LOWRY

Drama Zone- Lets Do Fun!

Explore your favourite characters in this feast of fast-paced fun and drama games.

11 am – 12.30 pm

£3.50 (1.75 Salford residents)

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Tue 7 – Fri 10 April

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Attack of the Monster Plants!

Create bold prints of giant sunflowers and mammoth daisies inspired by Paul Morrison's suite paintings.

Suitable for all ages. Free, no need to book

0161 235 8888 www.manchestergalleries.org

Wed 8 April

ORDSALL PARK

Easter Bunny Hunt

Follow the clues, crack the code and claim your prize from the Easter Bunny.

1 – 3 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Felt Making

Make your own felt masterpiece to take home.

Drop-in

0161 275 7450

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

BLACKLEACH COUNTRY PARK

Eggstraordinary!

Decorate hard boiled eggs and have a go at the traditional game of egg rolling.

Suit ages 5 – 12 years. 2 – 4 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

Wed 8 – Sun 12 April

THE LOWRY

Lazy Town Live! – The Pirate Adventure

Swashbuckling fun for all in this high-energy show full of power-moves, sing-alongs, parrots and buried treasure.

Wed – Sat 5 pm. Fri matinee 2 pm,

Sat & Sun 11 am & 2 pm

Children £10 - £16.50, Adults £12 - £18.50,

Family ticket £65

0870 787 5780

www.thelowry.com

HALL I' TH' WOOD MUSEUM, BOLTON

Tudor Servants Week (see Sat 4 April)

01204 332 370

www.boltonmuseums.org.uk

Thu 9 April

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Surreal Sculptures

Create a fabulous sculpture to take home.

1.30 – 3.30 pm. Drop-in

0161 275 7450

www.manchester.ac.uk/whitworth

CHIMNEY POT / LANGWORTHY PARK

Easter Bunny Hunt

1 – 3 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

SALFORD MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Design a Guitar

Decorate and personalize your own guitar cut out.

Drop in sessions at 10.30 & 11.30 am and 1.30 & 2.30 pm. £1 per child

0161 778 0800

www.salford.gov.uk/museums

STAIRCASE HOUSE, STOCKPORT

What a Mug!

Paint yourself an Easter mug using the shapes and decorations as inspiration.

Ages 5 – 11 years

10.30 am – 12 noon and 1.30 – 3 pm

£3 or £2.50 with Leisure Key

Booking essential

0161 480 1460

www.staircasehouse.org.uk

MERSEYWAY SHOPPING CENTRE, STOCKPORT

Big Knit

Take part in giant orbital knitting – no prior experience needed.

All ages welcome. 1 – 4 pm

Free, drop-in

BURY ART GALLERY

Easter Celebrations (see Tue 7 April)

Fri 10 April

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Felt Making (see Wed 8 April)

MANDLEY PARK, SALFORD

Feeling Crafty?

Arts and craft activities in the park.

1 – 3 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Mini Family Art Club (see Fri 13 March)

PRINCE'S PARK, SALFORD

Easter Egg Hunt

10 am – 12 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

BLACKLEACH COUNTRY PARK, SALFORD

Easter Bunny Hunt

The Easter Bunnies will be hiding around the park – pick up a map and some clues.

11 am – 2 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

SMITHILLS HALL, BOLTON

Victorian Servants Week

Become a Victorian servant for the day.

12 noon – 5 pm. 01204 332 377

www.boltonmuseums.org.uk/whats-on

Fri 10 – Mon 13 April

LYME PARK, DISLEY

Easter Trails

Fun family trails in the House and Garden.

11 am – 4 pm

Garden ticket required, £1.50 + normal

admission price.

01663 762 023

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thingstodo

QUARRY BANK MILL

Easter Trails in the Mill

£1 + normal admission price

01625 527 468

www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thingstodo

Sat 11 April

THE OCTAGON THEATRE, BOLTON

Pirate School, Pandora's Box Theatre Company

Join in this swash-buckling assembly at the world famous 'Skull 'n' Crossbones School of Modern Piracy'.

Ages 4 – 9. 11 am and 2 pm

Tickets £8 (£6 concessions)

01204 520 661

www.octagonbolton.co.uk

WINTON PARK, SALFORD

Easterastic!

Follow the Easter clues around the park.

10 – 11.30 am

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

VICTORIA PARK, SALFORD

Easterastic!

2 – 3.30 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

THE LOWRY

Don't Let The Pigeon Stay Up Late!

Big Wooden Horse bring this fun and feathery show.

Suit

Out & About

BURY ART GALLERY

Saturday Art Activities: Easter Bonnets
(see Sat 7 March)

Who can make the best Easter bonnet.

MARKET PLACE, STOCKPORT

Easter Eggstravaganza!

Come along to the Market and hunt for eggs amongst the stalls and produce. Free

Sat 11 – Sun 12 April

HAT WORKS, STOCKPORT

Drop-in Make a Hat

Make yourself an Easter hat, with lots of creative fun for all ages and abilities.

1.30 – 4.30 pm Free

0161 355 7770 www.hatworks.org.uk

Sun 12 April

BRAMALL HALL, STOCKPORT

Grand Easter Festival

Fun fund raising day with music, stalls, vintage bus and Easter bonnet making, face painting and much more.

11 am – 4 pm. Reduced entry to the Hall

0161 485 3708 www.bramallhall.org.uk

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays (see Sun 1 March)

CHADKIRK CHAPEL, ROMILEY

Easter Egg Hunt!

Find the hidden paper eggs within the grounds of the chapel.

Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult). 1 – 3 pm. 50p
www.chadkirkchapel.org.uk 0161 480 1460

CLIFTON COUNTRY PARK, SALFORD

Annual Bunny Hunt!

Where are those rascally rabbits hiding? Help the rangers find them.

Booking essential. 1.30 – 3.30 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

Sat 11 – Mon 13 April

TATTON PARK

Teddy Bear Easter

Bring your teddy along for Easter fun – hunt in the Gardens, join in the fun in the Farm, Mansion and Stableyard and check his temperature at the Teddy Bear Hospital.

10 am – 5 pm at locations around the Park
01625 534 400 www.tattonpark.org.uk

Sun 12 – Mon 13 April

DUNHAM MASSEY

Easter Eggstravaganza

Easter trails, games and activities for all the family. Normal admission price applies

0161 941 1025 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thingstodo

Mon 13 April

CHADKIRK CHAPEL, ROMILEY

Chadkirk Hide 'n' Seek

Find the clues within the grounds of the chapel.

Suitable for all ages (children must be accompanied by an adult)

1 – 3 pm. 50p

0161 480 1460

www.chadkirkchapel.org.uk

BUILE HILL PARK, SALFORD

Welly wanging & egg decorating

Turn your plain wellies and eggs into 'originals' by painting your own designs on them. Then compete for the furthest distance a welly can be thrown. 1 – 3 pm

07968 327 107

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Art Adventures (see Mon 2 March)

THE LOWRY

Art Zone – Tiny Dancers

Be inspired by our dance exhibition and make your own fantastic finger puppet.

Drop-in 12 – 3 pm. Free

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Mon 13 – Fri 17 April

SMITHILLS HALL, BOLTON

Victorian Servants Week

(see Fri 10 April)

Mon 13 – Sat 18 April

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH

Family Drop-in Creative Activity

(see Sat 7 March)

Tue 14 April

STOCKPORT STORY MUSEUM

Family Fun!

Decorate a small treasure box, create your own album cover, colour, stick and play.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

12.30 – 3.30 pm. Drop-in, free

0161 480 1460

www.stockportstory.org.uk

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Arty Picnics (see Tue 10 March)

BURY ART GALLERY

Easter Celebrations (see Tue 7 April)

SALFORD MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

T-shirt designs

Design and decorate your own T-shirt for a real or imaginary band.

Drop in sessions at 10.30 & 11.30 am and 1.30 & 2.30 pm. £1 per child.

0161 778 0800

www.salford.gov.uk/museums

PRINCE'S PARK, SALFORD

Easter Bunny Walk

Walk off those chocolate eggs! Suitable for families with young children.

9.30 – 11.30 am

Tue 14 – Thu 16 April

HAT WORKS, STOCKPORT

Easter Baskets

Design and make an Easter basket – let your artistic creativity run riot with this fun activity.

10.30 am – 12 noon. 1 – 2.30 pm. Ages 5 – 11 years. Free. £3 or £2.50 with Leisure Key

0161 355 7770

www.hatworks.org.uk

Tue 14 – Fri 17 April

THE LOWRY

Art Zone – Painting to Music

Paint to the rhythm of a drum.

11 am – 12.30 pm. £3.50 (£2.50 Salford residents)

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

Attack of the Monster Plants! (see Tue 7 April)

Wed 15 April

BRAMALL HALL, STOCKPORT

Build Bramall Hall

Help to build a giant junk model of the hall.

Ages 5 – 11 years. 1 – 4 pm. Free, drop-in

0161 485 3708 www.bramallhall.org.uk

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Felt Making

(see Wed 8 April)

THE MET, BURY

Don't Let the Pigeon Stay up Late

Big Wooden Horse's lively show brings The Pigeon back to Bury. Full of fun, feathers, laughter and excitement.

Ages 3+, tickets £6 (£4 members)

0161 761 2216 www.themet.biz

Wed 15 – Sun 19 April

THE LOWRY

SpongeBob SquarePants in A New Musical

Join SpongeBob and pals in an exciting new musical about dreams, friendship and soaring to new heights.

Wed – Sat 7 pm. Thu – Sat matinees 3 pm

Sun 11 am & 2 pm. Children £7.50 – £12, Adults

£15 – £25, Family ticket £70

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Thu 16 April

SALFORD MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Junk Modelling

Make a crazy instrument.

Sessions at 10.30 & 11.30 am & 1.30 & 2.30 pm £1 per child.

0161 778 0800 www.salford.gov.uk/museums

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Surreal Sculptures (see Thu 9 April)

BURY ART GALLERY

Easter Celebrations

(see Tue 7 April)

STOCKPORT STORY MUSEUM

Stamping Mad

Use the Collectamania II exhibition to inspire you to decorate a picture frame or card.

Ages 5 – 11 years. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 12.30 – 3.30 pm

Drop-in, £2

0161 480 1460 www.stockportstory.org.uk

BRAMALL HALL, STOCKPORT

Easter Pot Doodles

Turn an ordinary plant pot into a funky, decorative piece for your garden, and then plant with a spring bulb.

Ages 8 – 11 years. 1 – 3.30 pm

£3 (includes all materials). Booking essential

0161 485 3708 www.bramallhall.org.uk

Fri 17 April

STOCKPORT STORY MUSEUM

Mad Glasses

Get inspired by the Opera Glasses in the Collectamania II exhibition and make yours as beautiful or outrageous as you want.

10.30 am – 12.30 pm, 5 – 8 years and 1.30 – 3.30 pm, 9 – 11 years.

£3.50 or £3 with Leisure Key. Booking essential

0161 480 1460 www.stockportstory.org.uk

STOCKPORT ART GALLERY

Big Knit

This is knitting but not as you know it – take part or just watch – no prior experience necessary.

All ages welcome 1 – 4 pm Free, drop-in

0161 474 4453 www.stockport.gov.uk/artgallery

THE MET, BURY

The Railway Children

Interactive sing-a-long fun for the whole family with the Image Musical Theatre's production.

1 pm, tickets £6 (£4 members).

0161 761 2216 www.themet.biz

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Felt Making (see Wed 8 April)

Sat 18 April

BURY ART GALLERY

Saturday Art Activities: Spring Scenes

(see Sat 7 March)

Create your own spring picture.

STOCKPORT ART GALLERY

Family Robotics

Two hour sessions where you can build a real robot to take away

Family groups with children aged 8 +

2 – 4 pm. Free, booking essential

0161 474 4453 www.stockport.gov.uk/artgallery

Sat 18 – Fri 24 April

TATTON PARK

Lambing Week at the Farm

With talks and live viewing via the webcam you could even be lucky enough to see a lamb being born.

12 noon – 5 pm (closed Monday)

Adult £4.50, Child £2.50, Family £11.50

01625 534 400 www.tattonpark.org.uk

Sun 19 April

PURE, THE PRINTWORKS

Pyjama Party, Baby Loves Disco

Sunday afternoon is the new Saturday night!

£8 per ticket, non walking babies free

www.babylovesdisco.co.uk/manchester

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays (see Sun 1 March)

Mon 20 April

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Music Adventures (see Mon 16 March)

Thu 23 – Sun 26 April

THE LOWRY

Peter Pan

The classic adventure comes to life in a dark and thrilling new production with shadow puppetry and vibrant storytelling.

Suits ages 8+. Thu 10.30 am, Fri 10.30 am & 7

pm, Sat 2 & 7 pm, Sun 12 & 3 pm

Children £6.50, Adults £9

0870 787 5780 www.thelowry.com

Fri 24 April

THE LOWRY

Under 5s Art – Doodle Tots (see Fri 20 March)

Sat 25 April

BURY ART GALLERY

Saturday Art Activities: Giant Hats

(see Sat 7 March)

How big can you make yours?

IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM NORTH

Family Workshop (see Sat 21 March)

Sat 25 – Sun 26 April

TATTON PARK

St George's Weekend at the Old Hall



Magical activities including a pageant, quizzes, children's hunts and heraldry.

12 noon – 5 pm

Adults £4.50, Children £2.50, Family £11.50

01625 534 400 www.tattonpark.org.uk

DUNHAM MASSEY

Nifty Normans

Are you brave enough to slay the dragon? Try your hand as a medieval archer, with music and storytelling. 12 – 4 pm

0161 941 1025 www.nationaltrust.org.uk/thingstodo

LYME PARK, DISLEY

The Tudors at Home (see Sat 21 March)

Sun 26 April

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Colourful Sundays (see Sun 1 March)

SALFORD MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY

Activity Afternoon (see Sun 28 March)

Mon 27 April

WHITWORTH ART GALLERY

Dance Adventures (see Mon 23 March)

Tue 28 April

CHIMNEY POT / LANGWORTHY PARK

Play Out!

Adventurous outdoor play activities with the ranger. Old clothes recommended.

Suitable for 8 – 14 year olds. 3 – 5 pm

www.salford.gov.uk/countryparks



AWARD-WINNING



As Manchester's leading group of day nurseries, Holyrood are committed to providing the best in childcare and education. We look after the needs of each individual child in a fun, educational and secure environment. Don't take our word for it, come and see for yourself - a warm welcome is waiting for you.

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and save £250 on your first month's fees***

*offer applies to new customers if 5 or more sessions booked per week, redeemable after your first complete month.

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- Hope**, Stott Lane, Salford, M6 8FJ **0161 788 7730**
- Astley**, Lark Hill House, 320 Manchester Road, Astley, M29 7DY **01942 897 739**
- Swinton**, 126 Rake Lane, Swinton, M27 8RH **0161 794 8331**
- Shaw**, 35-39 Milnrow Road, Shaw, Oldham, OL2 8AP **01706 847 711**
- Gin Pit**, 12 School Street, Gin Pit Village, M29 7DL **01942 875 985**
- Sandilands**, Sure Start Children's Centre, Wendover Road, Brooklands, Sale, M23 9JX **0161 962 0733**
- Altrincham**, 1 Gaskell Road, Altrincham, Cheshire, WA14 1JF..... **0161 941 7731**
- Castleton**, Heywood Road, Castleton, Rochdale, Lancashire. OL11 3BT **01706 651 821**
- Bury**, 125 Walmersley Road, Bury, Lancashire, BL9 5AY **0161 764 5544**

for further details contact holyrood1@onetel.com

www.holyroodnurseries.co.uk

