

EDITION Nº.1

THE NORTHERN QUARTERLY



**AREA GUIDE, FASHION,
INTERVIEWS, ARTISTS,
FOOD & DRINK...**

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Hilton St, Lever St, Newton St, Tariff St, Port St.*

SUMMER 2025



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The
Summer Issue

EDITOR'S LETTER

Welcome to the first issue of The Northern Quarterly – an independent magazine dedicated to Manchester's Northern Quarter. This publication is born from the streets, businesses, and stories that make this corner of the city such a vibrant and creative epicentre.

Our aim is simple: to celebrate the ethos and people of the NQ community. Inside, you'll find in-depth features on local fashion, candid street interviews, interviews with artists, food and drink highlights, and profiles of new independent businesses. Each article is designed to reveal not just trends, but the real people and places behind them, offering readers an insider's view into what makes the area unique.

Unlike mainstream guides, we don't just skim the surface: we take the time to document genuine experiences, from the thoughtful choices that shape what people wear to the growing art and business landscape that keeps the Quarter ever-changing. What you see on these pages is the result of listening out on pavements, inside galleries, and over coffee at our favourite local spots. Our focus on community stories and visual storytelling comes at a time when many are seeking authenticity and substance in local media. We hope that you'll see yourself reflected in these pages, uncover something new, and join in the ongoing narrative shaping the area.

These stories are for you and about you, whether you're a long-time resident, a creative professional, a student, or just visiting for the first time. This is by no means a comprehensive guide; it's a starting point, a snapshot, and an invitation.

Thank you for being here at the beginning of our journey. We look forward to walking the streets together, season after season.

See you in the Quarter,

RUBY HENRY-DICKS

FOUNDER & EDITOR, THE NORTHERN QUARTERLY

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Major Redevelopment Planned for Manchester's Northern Quarter Church Street Car Park

Manchester City Council has selected award-winning developer Glenbrook to lead one of the most significant regeneration projects in the Northern Quarter's recent history—the transformation of the multi-storey Church Street car park. Long considered an 'eyesore' in an otherwise vibrant area, the 1.54-acre site will be reimagined as a mixed-use neighbourhood featuring more than 300 new homes, of which 20% will be affordable, along with commercial units designed for independent local businesses and four new landscaped public spaces. The vision is to replace an outdated concrete car park with a lively, sustainable, and inclusive urban environment that enhances the Northern Quarter's unique atmosphere, supporting its independent economy and improving the quality of public life.

Why This Redevelopment Matters

The Church Street car park has stood for decades as a relic of post-war planning, prioritising cars over people, in a city centre that now values walkability, public space, and climate-conscious design. It has become increasingly out of step with Manchester's ambitions by replacing it with housing, green spaces, and cultural facilities; the redevelopment addresses multiple challenges at once: the housing shortage, the need for affordable commercial space, the desire for more green infrastructure, and the goal of creating a pedestrian-friendly city centre. The strategy adopted by Manchester City Council to create places where housing, business culture, and public space coexist in a way that enhances quality of life for all residents, not just the most affluent.

Housing and Affordability at the Core

Housing is central to the proposal, with Manchester experiencing some of the fastest population growth in the UK. Demand for city centre homes has skyrocketed, but affordable options are under threat. The development will deliver over 300 residential units, with around 60 reserved as affordable housing.

These homes are anticipated to cater to a diverse mix of residents who have long shaped the Northern Quarter's cultural identity, including young professionals seeking proximity to the city's workplaces, families looking for access to central amenities, and essential workers who often struggle to secure affordable housing in Manchester.

The designs will strike a balance between contemporary needs and heritage sensitivity, ensuring the new buildings complement the Victorian and Edwardian architecture that defines the district. Brickwork scale and detailing will be carefully considered, while interiors will prioritise liveable layouts, energy efficiency, and natural light.

Supporting Independent Businesses and Cultural Vitality

The Northern Quarter is synonymous with creativity, independent retail, and innovative food and drink venues. Recognising this, Glenbrook's plans dedicate the ground floors to small-scale affordable commercial spaces aimed directly at local entrepreneurs, artisans, and startups.

Rather than leasing to large chains, the intention is to foster a diverse mix of tenants, boutique retailers, specialist cafes, microbreweries, vintage shops, and creative studios that reflect the area's personality. This approach is designed to preserve the area's identity, protecting it from the homogenisation seen in other redeveloped districts.



Four New Public Squares and Green Spaces

One of the most notable features of the proposal is the introduction of four public squares integrated with landscaped green spaces. In a densely built-up city centre, such open areas are rare and highly valued. These spaces will provide residents, workers, and visitors with opportunities to relax, socialise with friends, or attend cultural events. Landscaping will incorporate biodiversity-friendly planting, seating, and public art, creating environments that are both visually appealing and socially engaging.

Additionally, flexible community facilities are planned, including gallery and event spaces that can accommodate exhibitions, workshops, and performances. This ensures that the creative community has a physical platform to showcase its work and engage with the public.

Council Vision and Leadership

Council leader Bev Craig has been forthright about the need to replace the Church Street car park, calling it a barrier to the ongoing success of the Northern Quarter. She has described the redevelopment as an opportunity to deliver a world-class neighbourhood, one that balances economic growth with community benefits. Her statement reflects a broader urban strategy adopted by Manchester City Council to create places where housing, business culture, and public space coexist in a way that enhances quality of life for all residents, not just the most affluent.

Respecting Heritage While Building for the Future

The Northern Quarter's allure lies in its unique blend of preserved industrial architecture, vibrant street art, and independent storefronts. The redevelopment will seek to blend the old with the new, adopting design cues from the surrounding buildings to maintain a cohesive streetscape. Materials such as red brick and stone will echo the historic warehouses, while modern glazing and layout flexibility will accommodate today's needs. This approach aims to create architecture that feels authentic to the Northern Quarter, avoiding past mistakes where new developments have clashed with their context.

Glenbrook's Track Record

Glenbrook is no stranger to delivering large-scale urban projects; the developer has completed residential, commercial, and mixed-use schemes across the UK, often with a focus on regeneration and placemaking, and with experience in working with councils and communities. This positions them to navigate the site's complexities. Past projects have incorporated similar elements, affordable housing quotas, public realm improvements, and sustainability measures, giving assurance that the Church Street scheme will be handled with both commercial viability and community value in mind.

Prioritising Pedestrians, Cyclists, and Sustainability

The scheme represents a deliberate shift away from the car-dominated planning of the past. Where the current site prioritises vehicle storage, the new design will emphasise pedestrian movement and active travel.

Surrounding streets are expected to see improved walking routes, upgraded cycle lanes, and enhanced connectivity to existing public transport hubs, with a reduction in the dominance of cars. The development aims to cut emissions, improve air quality, and create a calmer, safer urban environment.

These changes align with Manchester's climate action goals, which aim for significant carbon reductions over the next decade. Buildings will be designed with energy efficiency in mind, utilising sustainable materials wherever possible and incorporating features such as green roofs, high insulation standards, and potentially renewable energy generation.

Public Consultation and Community Collaboration

A key element of the project is extensive community engagement once legal agreements are finalised in summer 2025. The council and Glenbrook will embark on a formal consultation process, which will include public meetings, design workshops, and online forums where residents, local businesses, and community organisations can review proposals and offer feedback.

The aim is to incorporate local perspectives into the final planning submission, ensuring that the scheme reflects the Northern Quarter's diverse voices and addresses potential concerns, such as gentrification, noise, and the balance between residential and nightlife uses.

A New Chapter for the Northern Quarter

When complete the Church Street redevelopment will be more than a construction project, it will be a redefinition of a key part of the Northern Quarter, with new homes, affordable spaces for businesses, cultural venues, green areas, and a design that honours its surroundings, the scheming is just strengthening what makes the area unique, while preparing it for the future and avoiding erasing its identity. The project intends to give the Northern Quarter renewed energy and ensure it remains one of Manchester's most distinctive and beloved neighbourhoods for decades to come.

The 12
Summer Issue

In the last few months, there have been some new kids on the block. Deano's Bar and Restaurant on Edge Street, situated on the same street as our beloved Ad Hoc Wine Shop, has quickly become a favourite spot for those looking for Italian American-style plates in a relaxed, low-lit environment with the bonus of open shutters or sitting outside on the lively street on hot summer days. Check out our Dine 'n' Sip section to find the deals they have this summer.

In 2024, we saw the closure of Disorder, a Joy Division-inspired bar on High Street known for its striking mural of Ian Curtis and lively basement events. However, the space is now occupied by the popular Japanese restaurant Maki and Ramen, which has expanded its growing presence in the city to the former site.

Founded by Teddy Lee, who trained in Tokyo to perfect the art of ramen and sushi, Maki and Ramen offers a menu featuring classic tonkotsu ramen, sushi, steak tataki, and salmon miso, all served in a vibrant setting decorated with pink cherry blossoms and walls covered in customer-posted notes.

In other news, the pub Freemount made headlines earlier this year by relocating just across the road to the old sister venue of the infamous Hacienda nightclub, Dry Bar on Oldham Street, that had been there long before the area was deemed the Northern Quarter. After twenty eight years standing it was first reported the longstanding joint would turn into a boutique hotel, but Freemount, running since 2017, known for its cosy, yet lively atmosphere, bands and of course Guinness is leaving behind its green and white tiled facade adorned with pelicans to take on the new, larger, open brick interior with live music seven days a week - one thing will remain however and that's the Saturday night queues.



Photo: GET BAKED



Photo: Maki & Ramen



Photo: Deanos

NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK



Photo: The New Freemount



Photo: The Morris

Music lovers have also found a new haven in Shoegaze Café, located at 108 Tib Street, run by Henry Da Massa. It opened earlier in the year and is a close-knit venue that blends café culture with indie and alternative vinyl, hosting live sessions that celebrate local music. The place is, unfortunately, said to be a pop-up until the right long-term tenant arrives, so head down now.

Adding even more flavour to NQ's evolving foodie and nightlife scene, Get Baked, an online and Leeds dessert spot, opened its doors in March in Stevenson Square, next to the independent bookshop Unitom. On its opening day, it gave away 1,000 free slices of their famous cake, Bertha - 24 layers of chocolatey goodness.

Meanwhile, meet The Morris on Thomas Street, from the creators of Blinker Bar in Spring Gardens, one of the top fifty UK cocktail bars. This new pub-meets-cocktail bar, which combines traditional charm with modern vibes, has quickly become a welcoming haunt for locals. Downstairs, you will find a proper local pub, while upstairs is an 80s-inspired cocktail bar. With a carefully curated drinks menu serving the likes of a 'Manchester Tart' and unique snacks to find on the bar, like Pepperamis and bags of Skips. The Morris perfectly complements the neighbourhood's mix of old and new, offering a convivial spot to unwind after a long day in the city.

RENAE

"Manchester has needed a venue like this for a while, you'd imagine it was in London or Amsterdam or Berlin"

Upon gearing up for a summer's night out in NQ, you are inundated with options for places to drink, as is the case with the whole of Manchester. In a city where chain bars and generic clubs are a stone's throw away, the Northern Quarter's nightlife scene is more than just alcohol and chart music - it's a place to support your local DJs and bands and to embrace the area's unique sense of community. A nightlife overview from Mancunian Matters describes the NQ as "perhaps the most fashionable district in Manchester" and notes its appeal to students and young professionals for its "unconventional bars" and indie record stores.

Among the newest additions to this dynamic scene is Renae, located at 45-47 Thomas Street. Renae transcends the typical bar; it is a music-led venue that blends a sophisticated, modern atmosphere with top-tier sound.



Photo: Renae

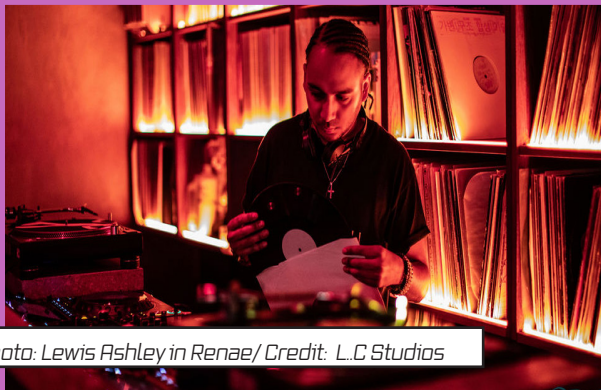


Photo: Lewis Ashley in Renae/ Credit: L.C Studios

VOYEUR

Not far from Renae, Voyeur is also making substantial waves in the NQ. This post-punk 80s-inspired cocktail bar on Oldham Street is owned by the same team behind Behind Closed Doors (BCD), another renowned debauched-style cocktail spot in the area. The staff have even told us that there is a discreet passage connecting the back rooms of Voyeur and BCD, linking the two venues behind the scenes.

Voyeur draws inspiration from 1980s Japanese voyeuristic photography, most notably the work of Kohei Yashiyuki, and features noirish interiors embellished with risqué black-and-white images by artists such as David Hockney and Marlene Marder. The cocktail menu is presented like a photography book, with creative, theatrical drinks such as the Kaleidoscope of Lies (a layered piña colada with strawberry daiquiri foam) and The Voyeur (a coriander-infused tequila drink with herbal punch and savoury character). Monthly specials range from playful concoctions, such as The Breakfast Club - inspired by Lucky Charms and chai latte - to inventive takes on classic cocktails. Voyeur's ambiance is further enhanced by moody marble lamps and a vintage green disco ball, creating a dark and intimate environment.

Jack Gordon, Voyeur's general manager, explains the bar's appeal: "I think Voyeur adds a lot to the Northern Quarter because, with the business on Oldham Street, it's a nice getaway from all the chaos. Quite hidden, relaxed, and chill compared to all the bars like BCD, NoHo, and even Stevenson Square in general. So yeah, a nice little escape."

He also highlights Voyeur's role in raising the bar for the area: "Northern Quarter's great for its multi-style, edgy bars, but people forget that there are really good cocktail places here. Voyeur, same as Evelyn's, is bringing a bit more class to the area."

Between Thursday and Sunday, DJs spin vinyl with selections from icons like Talking Heads and The Cure, reinforcing the bar's decadent, arty identity.

Local DJ, producer, and label owner Lewis Ashley is a prominent figure in NQ's electronic music scene, known for his sets at venues such as Eastern Bloc and his record label, Between the Walls. He recently brought his unique sensibilities to Renae. As Ashley articulates, "Manchester has needed a venue like this for a while, you'd imagine it was in London or Amsterdam or Berlin whilst you're in there". Ashley describes that the moment guests step inside, they are enveloped by an aura created by the ceiling mood lighting and the signature red glow cast upon a wall of vinyl, transporting them to a distinct realm.

Renae's commitment to quality extends to its technical specifications. Ashley praises its "clean, dense sound system, which instantly sets it apart from your average bar." He highlights the rare in-house 'Alpha Theta' rotary mixer, calling it "a very cool and unique selling point to DJs" and notes, "You would struggle to find that in-house anywhere." This attention to detail, coupled with a flexible approach to mixing formats—"The subtle emphasis on mixing vinyl records but not limited to is refreshing, allowing DJs to mix whatever format they want, allowing more comfort when performing"—solidifies Renae's appeal. For Ashley, it's clear: "It's definitely my favourite venue I've played this year!"

This fusion of design, music, and links with BCD makes Voyeur a standout destination for those seeking a sophisticated Northern Quarter experience.

When asked how Voyeur compares to Renae, Gordon is candid: "From the outside, very different, but I know the managers there, and the amount of effort they put into their drinks is just as much as us. They've seen the creation of Voyeur, and I've seen the creation of Renae. So from the outside, very different, but the same amount of effort and hard work goes into both venues."

New kids on the block, Renae and Voyeur, exemplify that the district's nightlife thrives on originality, community connection, and musical excellence, ensuring that a night out in the NQ is always an immersive cultural experience, far beyond just drinks.

Photo: Voyeur



KEVIN BOARDMAN

Manchester's NQ is an area filled with creatives, street art, and galleries such as ESEA Contemporary and Saan1 (one of Kevin's personal favourites). Kevin Boardman is an artist and designer living in NQ who has built his practice here and across the globe. Through partnerships with local venues, site-specific installations, and collaborative workshops, his career reflects and contributes to the participatory, grassroots ethos that defines the area.

From exhibitions at iconic places like Afflecks Palace and Islington Mill to educational communities across Manchester, Kevin's projects embody the interplay of art, place, and community.

In this Q&A, we step inside his work and also his perspective on what life is like as an artist here and in the North. On the following pages, we explore one of Kevin's newest projects, the Art Kit, which can help us think more laterally in our own lives.

How would you describe your work?

My practice explores alternative modes of thinking and creation by reinventing spaces, objects, and situations. At its core, my work stems from an interest in objects. I enjoy exploring new interventions, speculations, and possibilities. For me, processes and collaboration—such as mind mapping, drawing, and 3D methods—are essential.

How do you decide which venues or community groups to partner with?

I don't have a fixed methodology for choosing partners. Sometimes, an open call from a gallery or arts organisation inspires me to get involved, particularly when I feel my body of work or ideas align with theirs. Other times, it happens through conversations with fellow artists, from which new ideas emerge and evolve into works.

In what ways do you see your work contributing to Manchester's participatory grassroots art movement?

Since my time as a student, I have exhibited in Manchester at venues such as YardsaleMCR, Afflecks Palace, Seesaw Gallery, Islington Mill, and Air Gallery. In these exhibitions, I have created artworks and interactive pieces that invite the audience to engage in creative and critical ways.

I have also participated in community arts projects, including one at The Horsfall in the Northern Quarter,

where I was invited to create a space for artistic engagement during the Future Is Ours festival. Collaborating with the charity, I planned workshops that allowed young people to draw, paint, and express themselves, providing support during the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additionally, I collaborated with Bury Council and urban designers at Standard Practice, a Manchester-based design firm, to explore the significance of Whitefield town. I delivered workshops and created artworks designed to facilitate community discussions, design initiatives, and ideas for the town's future.

How do you balance presenting your work globally and maintaining a connection to your local community?

That's a good question. It really depends on my workload. Sometimes I have periods of inactivity, which allows me time to develop my practice and engage with other artists in Manchester. I view these inactive times as opportunities to explore new connections and ideas; I meet up with others and often go on aimless walks to talk, draw, and reflect.

However, when I'm actively working on overseas projects—like I am currently—I use that time to document my experiences and share them with a local audience. I also leverage these experiences to contribute to education by delivering workshops and lectures to students.

Where is your favourite art space in NQ and why?

My favourite art space is Saan1. I have attended many exhibitions there, and what I appreciate most is the diverse range of work and artists. The combination of established artists and new emerging talents fosters new connections and conversations about the evolving arts practices in Manchester.

What challenges do you face as a creative in the North?

I struggle to balance my arts practice with non-arts employment, while also seeking grants and open calls.

What advice would you give to emerging artists hoping to build a career in Manchester?

Don't give up! Build your network and take your time developing your practice.



"I enjoy exploring new interventions, speculations, and possibilities..."



Above: Workshop at 16th SAR International Conference on Artistic Research / Credit: Kevin Boardman

WEARING THE

What if the whiteboard wasn't on the wall, but walked in

One of Boardman's most intriguing projects, which he trials in Manchester and globally, is the 'Art Kit' - an idea that breathes new life into one of the most overlooked staples of classrooms and offices. We usually encounter whiteboards as stiff rectangles: chilly, gleaming surfaces where experts lecture, managers brainstorm, or teachers instruct. They've long been symbols of hierarchy - one person writing, others watching.

Beneath the playful exterior runs a thoughtful investigation. The project taps into the long lineage of reusable mark-making surfaces: chalkboards, whiteboards, and blackboards. These tools have not only shaped the way we think, teach, and plan for generations, but have also drawn invisible lines of power - deciding who gets to write and who is erased. Despite their cultural significance, their design has remained stubbornly unchanged for decades, still confined to flat rectangles on walls.

However, in this project, the whiteboard slips off the wall and onto the body. Think vests, bags, and accessories that double as writable surfaces - an Art Kit you can wear, carry, and share. Suddenly, the body itself becomes a site for ideas, exchange, and participation. A casual conversation can turn into a doodling session; a group brainstorm can take a new form. The whiteboard is no longer a tool of control, but a catalyst for collaboration.

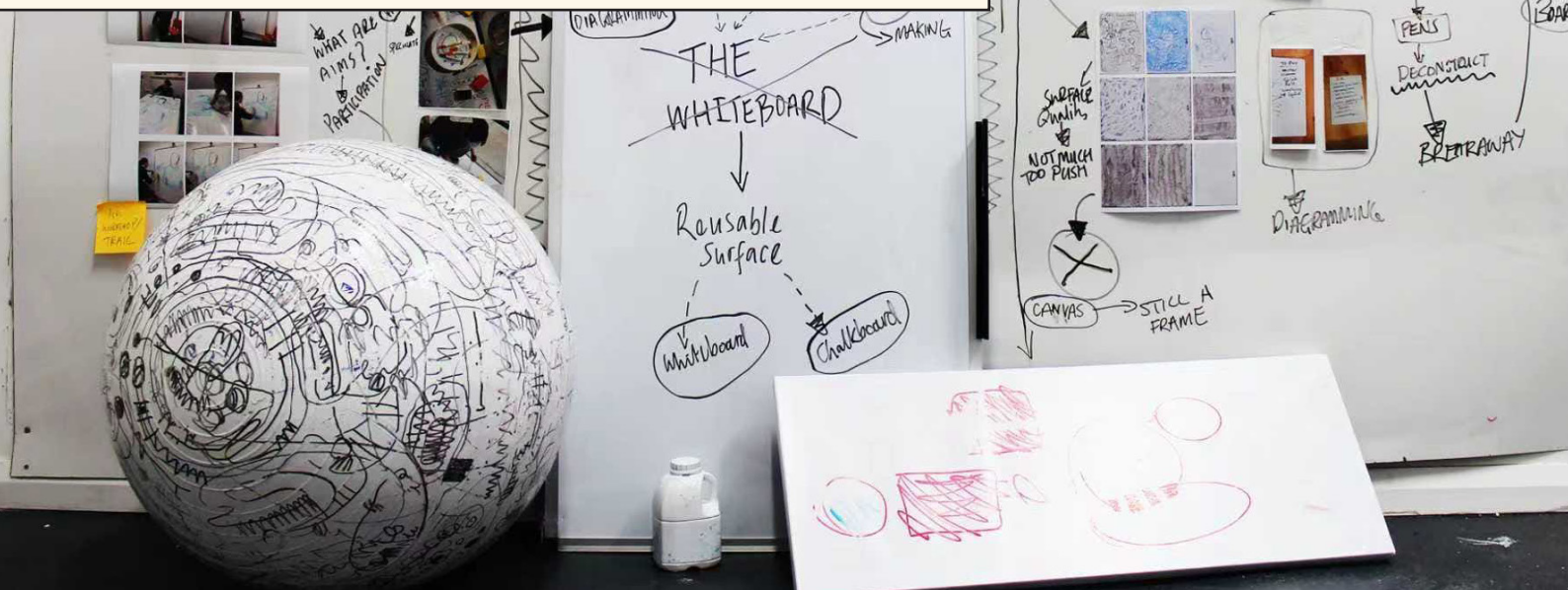
By turning the whiteboard into wearable, three-dimensional forms, the project unsettles these conventions. It asks: what happens when mark-making surfaces aren't static, but mobile? When they don't belong to the front of the room, but to everyone in it?

The answer is both sculptural and social. Through workshops, performances, and participatory events, these whiteboard garments invite people to draw, map and think together in new ways. They open up what the artist calls "horizontal collaboration", a flattening of hierarchies that transforms classrooms, studios, and workplaces into more experimental, collective spaces.

Ultimately, the 'Art Kit' is more than clothing or accessories. It is an act of reclaiming the everyday, daring us to wonder what else the ordinary can become. It reminds us that even the most familiar tools can be transformed, and that sometimes, the plainest surface can ignite the boldest ideas.

WHITEBOARD

board wasn't stuck to a
to the room with you?



*draw, map and think
together in new ways.*

WHAT WE'RE WEARING THIS QUARTER



@imjamesallen

The Northern Quarter bleeds creativity and character, and nothing captures its energy quite like the style found on its vibrant streets. To discover what people are actually wearing this quarter, we teamed up with fashion content creator James Allen who lives and breathes the aesthetic.

JAMES ALLEN



(Above: Adidas Superstar II Shoes)
Photo credits: James Allen



(Above: Studio Evira Zip Up Jacket)
Photo credits: James Allen

NQ & Ancoats fashion content creator James Allen tells all about street styles latest trends and influencer life...

How would you describe the typical style of the Northern Quarter?

I would describe the style in the Northern Quarter to be quite varied in terms of characteristics and personality. Everyone's style is individual to themselves, whether that's seeing a lot of fashionistas wearing the latest gorpcore or something more grungy.

What is your favourite shop or market here to find clothes?

Personally, my favourite shops to find the type of clothes I'm drawn towards are HIP or vintage folk, which arrange events every month for people to shop vintage and second-hand clothing.

What's one fashion trend in the Northern Quarter you really like this summer?

One fashion trend I've seen that I'm interested in is the use of bold,

eccentric styles and colours. This summer has been the summer of colour.

What is life like as an influencer?

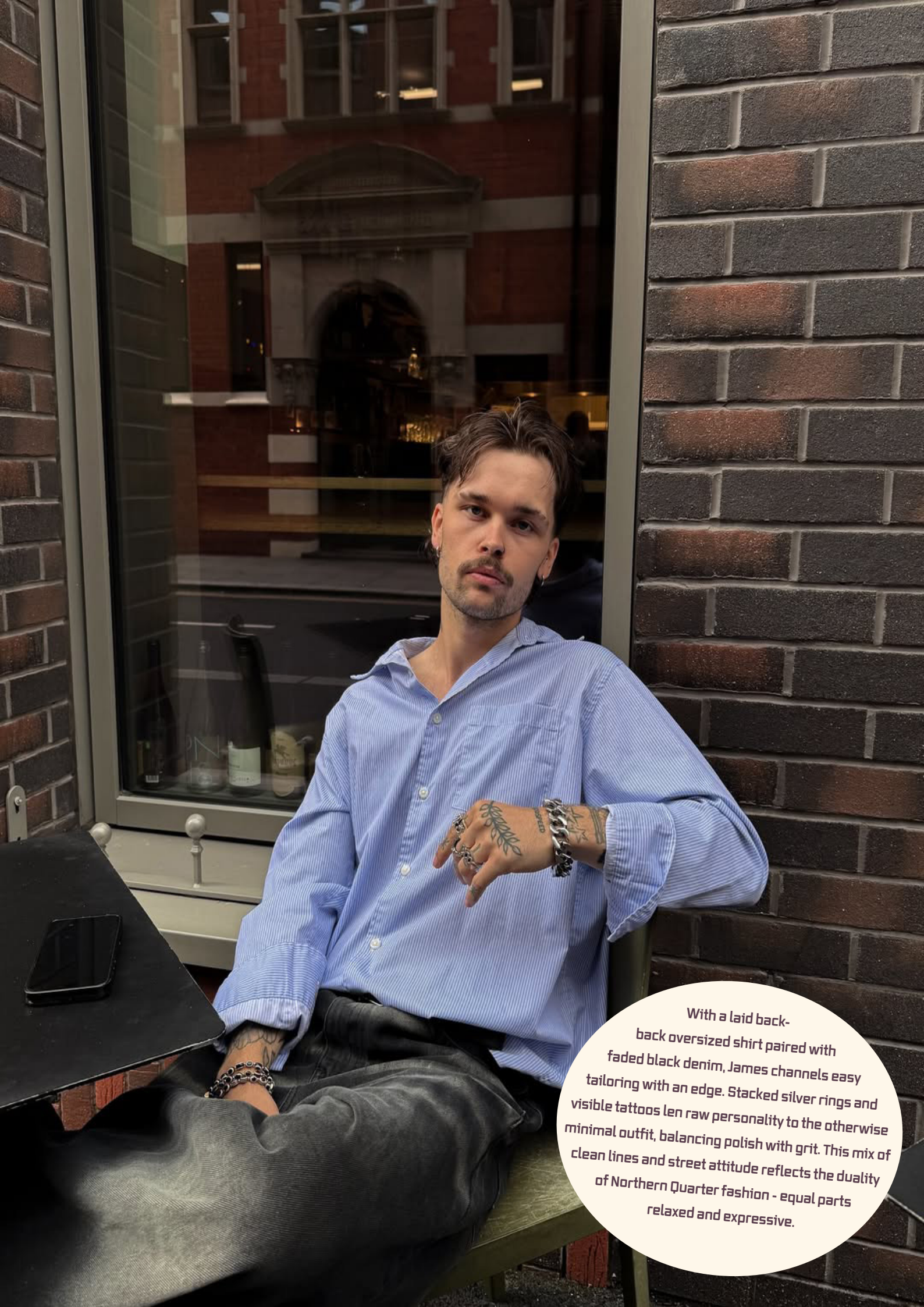
Life as an influencer is not anything out of the ordinary. I don't really see myself as one. I just love going out and taking photos of my outfit and uploading them online. I feel like it shows my personality and freedom with how I dress and how my life actually is

What's one tip for someone wanting to dress more like a local in the NQ?

To dress like a local in the NQ, you just need to express yourself with whatever feels right to you. Hairstyles, clothes and anything that feels right are the key moments of self-expression. Everyone in NQ has their own unique personality and style, and that is what sets this place apart from the rest!

Denim on denim takes centre stage here, layered and styled across a cinematic tennis court backdrop. The washed blues and loose fit nod to '90s streetwear, while the repetition of poses in the frame highlights the playful, performative side of James' style. Seen widely around NQ and casual, yet confident, it's a look that proves even the most familiar staples can be remixed into something fresh.





With a laid back-back oversized shirt paired with faded black denim, James channels easy tailoring with an edge. Stacked silver rings and visible tattoos len raw personality to the otherwise minimal outfit, balancing polish with grit. This mix of clean lines and street attitude reflects the duality of Northern Quarter fashion - equal parts relaxed and expressive.

Photo credit: James Allen



James

leans into Northern Quarter street sensibilities with wide-leg utility trousers paired with a black graphic tee. The patterned beanie and monochrome trainers tie the look together, mixing function and flair. It's a style that feels just as at home rolling through the city on a bike as it does standing still - casual, effortless, but always intentional.

This look captures James' take on everyday minimalism: a crisp white long sleeve paired with olive cropped trousers and clean trainers. The neutral cap and crossbody bag keep the outfit grounded, perfect for slipping between café stops and backstreet wanderings. A relaxed summer uniform that balances street practicality with subtle refinement.



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"The Northern Quarter is so expensive! Can we go some where else?"

The Northern Quarter gets a bad rap for being an expensive area, but could these deals be some of the beloved district's best-kept secrets? The impressive selection of food and drink deals makes sampling the best of the NQ as affordable as it is flavourful. Few places in Manchester's city centre capture the independent and multicultural food culture quite like the Northern Quarter. Tucked between the elegant highrises of the city centre and the calm canalside of Ancoats, the NQ is a hive of originality when it comes to matters of the tastebuds. Vibrant, ever-changing, and fiercely local, it's the kind of community where every corner offers a new culinary experience and no two visits are ever the same.

By day, the Quarter is calm and cafe-filled, making it an ideal spot for coffee, brunch, and lunch-time fuel. By night, it takes on an electric vibe, with late-night bars, live DJs, and neon-lit alleyways waiting for visitors. For example, consider Chakalaka. From boerewors to bunny chow, this restaurant on Oldham Street serves some of Manchester's most inventive South African dishes at the moment. You get great value for your money when you combine their weekday 50% off main courses (Monday through Wednesday) with 2-for-£11 cocktails until 7 p.m., especially when the atmosphere is as lively and friendly as the menu is daring. P.S. Check out the new fancy outdoor pub garden style seating area, as we know it's hard to find a good sunspot for you and your mates.

A short distance across Stevenson Square, BAB NQ offers Mediterranean-inspired gourmet kebabs in a sleek, contemporary setting. For those who want high-quality, quick, casual food that doesn't taste like a compromise, their £10 weekday lunch deal, which is available from 12 to 3 pm, includes a main course and a side dish - perfect for that midday work pick up.



Character and savings are popping off on Thomas Street. Cane and Grain offers 50% off of everything on Mondays, including giant burgers and sticky ribs. The same is true at the nearby Bay Horse Tavern, one of Manchester's best contemporary pubs, which offers half-priced fare on Wednesday across its noteworthy British pub menu.

Another chic Thomas Street location, Smithfield Social, dazzles with 50% off wine on Wednesdays and half-priced food every Tuesday. It's perfect for low-key date nights or midweek meetings because of its sleek interiors and laid-back decor.

When moving along Thomas Street, it's difficult to top Wolf at the Door for those looking for reasonably priced bites all week long. The favourite, which is well-known for its creative street cuisine and relaxed atmosphere, serves £1 tacos and bao buns every Tuesday. On weekdays, they also offer after-work drinks specials, including £6 burgers and don-buri bowls, from 3 to 7 p.m.



Above: Maricarmen



Above: The Firehouse

Want to impress that Hinge date? Or maybe you have a birthday coming up? A tasty two-course lunch is available Monday through Saturday at the TNQ Restaurant, located on the outskirts of the district (High Street), for £21. This is a more upscale option but still very accessible. Dishes include starters such as marmite-glazed Scottish mackerel, mains like roast fillet of sea bream, and sumptuous sides in the form of truffle cauliflower cheese. Want to take it up a notch? Happy Monday, and Thirsty Thursday includes three courses and 'unlimited wine' for £47.50! Try the French white, Villa Blanche, Grenache Rose, Pays d'Oc, for pale notes of pomegranate, pear, peach, and apple this summer.

Crazy Pedro's, Manchester's ode to late-night pizza and party vibes, must be mentioned when discussing Northern Quarter's bargains. For a quick lunch, their "Slice Club" lunch special, which includes two slices and a drink for £6, is ideal. With £12 full pies, £2.50 pizza slices, and 2-for-£12 cocktails during happy hours (5-9 pm) in the evening, the atmosphere picks up speed.

Maricarmen, also known as El Tableo, is a distinctive Spanish tapas experience in which food is brought round the tables on boards and chosen as it's served. It's an interactive, social dining experience that doesn't require ordering. At the end, they'll count how many tapas boards/plates are on your total bill. Each and every plate is available all day, Monday through Wednesday, and during lunch (12-4 pm) on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, for just £3.50! With a voucher, you can even enjoy a 10% discount on the lunch menu, making it more affordable than ever to savor authentic Iberian flavors in the NQ.

Don't miss one of the best midweek events in the Northern Quarter: The Firehouse on Swan Street hosts its Supper Club every Wednesday and Thursday from 4 to 10 p.m., with £14 dishes and £6 margaritas throughout the evening. In a relaxed, candlelit setting, this vibrant event serves up traditional and unique wood-fired plates. Supper Club offers value and a reason to get together with friends in style, making it ideal for impromptu get-togethers. No reservations are required, and the menu is updated every week.

Happy graduation, everyone! In celebration of those graduating this summer, Elnecot, located just outside the NQ in Ancoats, is giving graduates and their tables 25% off the total bill. To take advantage of the discount, simply include "GRAD" in the booking comments Monday through Friday. It's an excellent reason for recent graduates to share tasty in-season meals with loved ones, adding a little extra specialness to a milestone meal.

This summer, when you want to explore Manchester's Northern Quarter with your mouth-first and one of your mates says it's too expensive, don't forget this guide. With its varied menus, independent venues, and special offers nearly every day of the week, the NQ demonstrates that excellent taste doesn't have to be expensive.

AD S

SPACE

/AUGUST

3. THE UNSEEN ROOM @ The Fitzgerald / 30th

This event offers a unique blend of vintage jazz, magical sleight of hand, and theatrical comedy. Guests enjoy a 1920's inspired atmosphere, cocktail bar access, and a 90-minute immersive performance.

1. GREEN ISLAND FESTIVAL @ Hulme Community Garden Centre / 2nd

Green Island Festival returns this summer for its fifth year at Hulme Community Garden Centre and NIMOS. Enjoy underground and global music across five stages, plus a street food block party on Warwick Street. Family-friendly workshops and affordable tickets make it a more independent, accessible event to celebrate Manchester's creative and multicultural spirit.

3. CONNECTING SPACES @ Craft & Design Centre NQ / April till 23rd August

This event here in NQ showcases 11 local artists inspired by community and heritage. The free exhibition, open weekdays and the second Sunday of the month, features Dyslexia-friendly materials and allows guide dogs. Selected artworks are for sale. Visit 17 Oak Street in NQ while you can!

4. FONTAINES D.C. @ Wythenshawe Park / 15th

Irish post-punk heroes Fontaines D.C. are taking over Wythenshawe Park this August, bringing their acclaimed new album 'Romance' with them. The band will deliver their raw energy and raucous anthems, infused with a poetic edge, to thousands of fans. We're expecting this to be one of the most exciting live acts of our summer here in Manchester - not to be missed!

2. JOHN TALBOT @ The White Hotel / 2nd

John Talbot brings his signature blend of house, techno, and electronica to The White Hotel. Joined by Elena Colombi and Lupini, this all-night party promises boundary-pushing sounds from some of the most exciting selectors in electronic music.

WINTER'S ON

/JUNE

1. VINTAGE FOLK WARHOUSE

@ M12NP / 1st

Vintage Folk's Manchester Warehouse Sale is taking place on 31st May and 1st June from 11AM to 4PM, featuring over 30 rails of vintage clothing from the 1970s to the 2000s, with prices ranging from £3 to £20. Expect big brands like Carhartt, The North Face, Nike, Berghaus, Miss Sixty, and more.

3. PARKLIFE 2025

@ Heaton Park 14th / 15th

Parklife festival returns to Heaton Park, headlined by 50 Cent and Charli XCX. Featuring over 100 artists across genres, it's one of the city's biggest summer events.

1. ATP DISCO OPENING

@ Cane & Grain / 4th

ATP Disco is the brand-new hidden bar located above Cane & Grain on Thomas Street, now transformed into a sleek NYC loft vibe just in time for summer. Say goodbye to tiki, the venue now offers drinks like June Bugs at affordable prices and DJs spinning every weekend. Open late into the night, until 3am, ATP Disco is set to be one of NC's go-to spots for late-night dancing and retro drinks.

/JULY

4. DJ JAZZY JEFF

@ Band on the Wall / 20th

DJ Jazzy Jeff is bringing his legendary turntable skills to Band on the Wall in NJ for an unmissable night of classic hip-hop and party anthems. Known as one of the pioneers of the genre, his energetic live shows promise a packed crowd and an unforgettable experience.

2. SLEAZY F BABY

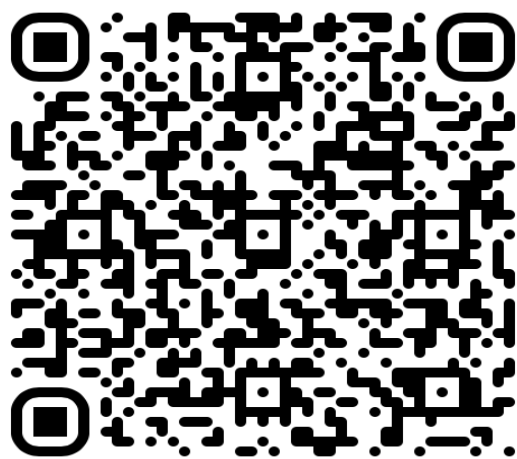
@ Stage & Radio / 7th

Sleazy F Baby plays his first Manchester show of 2025 at Stage & Radio on 7th June, 7PM. Expect high-energy rap from his Blaxploitation album and recent singles. Tickets cost £8. Don't miss this intense, must-see performance from one of Manchester's finest.

2.MCR LIVE '25

@ Manchester City Centre / 21st

Manchester will transform into a vibrant music hub throughout the summer, featuring live gigs, DJ sets, and pop-up events across various venues, celebrating the area's rich music scene. Check online for a full list of events!

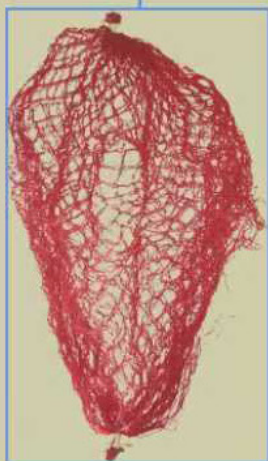


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დროშის მომზადება და
მისი გაცემა დაგეგმილია

AD SPACE

Featured artwork:
Kevin Boardman

THE NORTHERN QUARTERLY



Inside: Major Church Street car park renovation,
Q&A with Artist Kevin Boardman's NO Summer-
style Guide, the best hidden Dine 'n' Sip deals,
New Kids on the Block, and What's On.

