

Manchester's Song of Harmony  
Recalling memories of a momentous day 14.12.2018.  
Mary Gavin

I stood on the steps of Manchester Central Library, a meaningful circular building, looking out on a sea of faces of all ages, cultures and no doubt belief systems as they all sang - men, women, boys and girls with 'one voice' to celebrate the unveiling of Emmeline Pankhurst's statue in the City Centre. A woman celebrated for her contribution to humanity. Only the second woman's statue in the City Centre, in contrast to many statues of men. Queen Victoria was the first and only statue until this day.

Like a spirit level I could feel a slight balancing of the historical imbalance and tears fell down my cheeks in relief. Someone, in suffragette attire, warmly hugged me and I felt moments outside time and space. I witnessed heartfelt and heart filled singing of all in a growing insistent voice for harmony and fairness. I felt privileged to be part of this great City on such a momentous day.

'The times they are a changing' as Dillon would have said. In reality 'the change' is already here, in a City renowned and respected for its revolutionary and pioneering ways. A balance is being found between diversity and Unity in a healthful way that 'just may' be a role model, much needed just now for the wounded World in which we all live and share.

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