

MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

NEWS RELEASE

Put a spring in your step with Manchester Markets

Manchester Spring Markets Thursday 20 May – Sunday 6 June 2010

King Street goes nostalgic – Manchester's very own garden fete, complete with flowers, bunting and afternoon tea

St Ann's Square - the very best food and drink from the North West and beyond

New Cathedral Street and Exchange Street - flowers, plants, crafts and gifts galore

This spring, the Manchester Spring Market returns to the city centre, with even more choice than ever.

There will even be a brand new market in King Street – recreating all the fun of an English Garden fete. Amidst hydrangeas, bunting and flowers there's a chance to sample a traditional Ploughman's with Mrs Kirkham's, award-winning cheese and homemade pickles and chutneys. Speciality coffee, cupcakes, afternoon tea, old-fashioned "pop", Pimms and cocktails will also be served.

The market extends to St Ann's Square where the very best of al fresco food and drink can be found. This year's line-up includes real ale and hog roast from Porky's of Yarm, curries, summer cocktails and speciality teas from Mango Rays, and authentic paella, chorizo and other Spanish delicacies from I Love Spanish Food.

Once again Exchange Street and New Cathedral Street are the venues for dozens of craft and gift stalls where you can choose from hugely popular jute bags from The Good Bag Company, hats, bags and clothes from Don't Bitch Stitch, glass jewellery and homeware from Ian Chadwick and an assortment of homemade sweets, jam, chutneys, cakes and biscuits.

Last but by no means least, "The Dutch Plant Man" is back in Exchange Street, with hundreds of plants and flowers at bargain prices, suitable for anything from the biggest garden to the smallest window box.

Councillor Paul Andrews, executive member for neighbourhood services at Manchester City Council said: "The Spring Markets are one of the biggest that we hold each year in the city centre, popular with visitors and local traders who regularly return each year. Its bustling atmosphere is a welcome addition to the city centre and we're particularly excited about the new stalls on King Street, which will add to the traditional springtime ambience come rain or shine."

Vaughan Allen, chief executive of Cityco, Manchester's city centre management company said: "We were really pleased to be able to work with Manchester City Council to bring a market to King Street for the first time. This not only enhances the annual Spring Markets in Manchester which are now a popular attraction, but helps connect these three important shopping areas which is one of our major priorities."

Running for just over two weeks from Thursday 20 May until Sunday 6 June 10am until 6pm, there's plenty of chance for people to come and enjoy the atmosphere, browse the stalls, pick up some bargains and support local businesses. The Spring Markets will spread from New Cathedral Street and Exchange Street into St Ann's Square and onto King Street.

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