



3 December 2010

Piccadilly Gardens' Christmas Family Fair opens

Manchester's newest Christmas attraction, the Piccadilly Gardens' Family Fair opens its doors on Thursday 9 December. Part of the 'Manchester's Magical Christmas' activity across the city centre, it will feature a range of traditional and affordable family rides and attractions including a galloping horses carousel, a helter skelter, swing boats, hook-a-duck, high striker, hall of mirrors, wave swinger ride and a coconut shy.

Open every day apart from Christmas day until 3rd January, the fair will also feature a Big Top Bar operated by Kro events. The Big Top Bar will be serving hot cocktails, traditional ales, warming hot cider, mulled wine and winter cakes, with entertainment from Band On The Wall every Thursday, Friday and Saturday leading up to Christmas.

There will also be a choice of food stalls serving gourmet seasonal food including Ginger's Comfort Emporium serving hot waffles with homemade ice cream, Pieminister offering pies and mash, the Manchester Hot Sausage Barrow, Baron Bruchard selling soups and stews and What's Cooking selling hot speciality meats.

Councillor Pat Karney, city centre spokesperson for Manchester City Council said: "This traditional family fair will really bring the heart of the city centre to life this Christmas. Piccadilly always offers something different and this year is no exception. This major Christmas attraction looks superb and I'm sure will create some special memories for every one of the families that visits it."

Alex King, Piccadilly Partnership manager for Cityco, the city centre management company said: "We've worked hard to source a high quality family-friendly attraction for this important part of the city centre and our efforts have really paid off. Not only does the fair itself look really pretty but the food and drink offers are of a very good standard. We've hand-picked companies that offer tasty, winter-warming food at

reasonable prices. The funfair has brought a really festive feel to Piccadilly and I'm sure it will prove to be a popular place for all the family to enjoy this Christmas."

Mark Ruby, managing director of Kro who are operating the Big Top Bar commented: "We're thrilled to be involved in such an exciting event and we can't wait to start welcoming families into the Big Top Bar. It's been a lot of hard work to get the bar built in the recent weather but the whole of the Garden's have been transformed into a magical winter wonderland and looks superb. Let the fun begin!"

The fair will be open daily 11am – 8pm and the Big Top Bar will be open daily 11am – 10pm. Smaller rides are priced at £1.50 and larger rides at 2pm.

For further information visit www.piccadillymanchester.com or www.cityco.com.

ENDS

For further information please contact Roz Hughes on T: 0161 838 3256 or M: 07967 800395

Notes to editors

- The Piccadilly Partnership is a strategic and pioneering alliance of public and private sectors, bringing together key landowners, Manchester City Council, Cityco - Manchester's city centre management company, other public sector services and local occupiers.
- The Partnership provides an important forum for consultation, discussion and debate on all issues influencing the Piccadilly area. One of the key objectives of the Partnership is the positive promotion of the area to both business and the general public.
- Cityco works in partnership to manage and market city centre Manchester. It is an independent, not-for-profit, company funded by both public and private sector.