

PRESS RELEASE



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Benches and bunting to transform Piccadilly Gardens as The Manchester Picnic returns this August

Following the success of last year's The Manchester Picnic which saw 10, 000 people picnic their way through a weekend of family-friendly fun, Piccadilly Partnership in conjunction with CityCo has announced it will return from 5-7 August. Piccadilly Gardens will again become a picnic oasis for foodie families, with the grassed area transformed with benches and bunting.

There will be 60 wooden picnic tables and speciality market stalls from well-known Manchester restaurateurs including Harvey Nichols, Abode Hotel and Mint Hotel, in a specially created Gourmet Garden styled and dressed by Curve Interiors. Also Prestwich's Aumbry, who won Restaurant of the Year at the Manchester Food and Drink Awards last year will have a stall offering summer picnic favourites. The Mark Addy will also be running Robert Owen Brown's Marvellous Meat Emporium and Ginger's Comfort Emporium will be selling handmade ice creams and waffles from the much-loved retro ice cream van.

There will be seafood salads, ready-made picnic baskets, smoothies, a hog roast, jerk chicken, fresh squeezed juices, paella, strawberries and cream and cream teas.

Across the three-day event will be a host of entertainment from DJ and musical entertainment to Science Festival, Manchester Museum and Baby Ballet activities. In addition, UKTV's Good Food Channel will be filming Monster Munchies with Matt Dawson on the Saturday and a Teddy Bear's picnic will be held on the Sunday.

Councillor Pat Karney, city centre spokesperson for Manchester City Council said: "Last year's event was a really memorable weekend. It was great to see Piccadilly Gardens the focus for families having fun. There is already a real buzz about the event and The Manchester Picnic Weekend is set to be a highlight of our city centre summer activity again this year."

Alexandra King, Piccadilly Partnership Director said: "We were really pleased with the turn-out last year which exceeded expectations. There seems to be a real appetite for city centre outdoor event demonstrated by the large numbers attending the Northern Quarter street parties back in April. We have some great stalls again this year selling quality food at affordable prices. The Manchester Picnic is a great opportunity for people to get together and enjoy one of the city's most popular green spaces"

Iain Mackenzie, General Manager of Harvey Nichols Manchester comments, 'This is the second year that we have been involved with the Manchester Picnic. We think it is a great event where Manchester's food community can get together and showcase the fabulous cuisine that the city has to offer, in a relaxed and family friendly environment. We're very much looking forward to taking part. We just have to hope for sunshine!'

The picnic areas will be open from 12pm– 6pm all weekend.

For more information on The Manchester Picnic visit www.piccadillymanchester.com.
For more information on Cityco visit www.cityco.com

- **Ends** -



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Notes to editors

Piccadilly Partnership and CityCo work in partnership to manage and market city centre Manchester. They are independent, not-for-profit, companies funded by both public and private sector.