# Scotland UNISON

NATIONAL DELEGATE CONFERENCE

MANCHESTER 2011

## SCOTLAND DELEGATES HANDBOOK



UNISON

- MESSAGE FROM SCOTTISH CONVENER
- SCOTLAND POLICY GUIDE ON ALL THE MAIN ISSUES
- WHO'S WHO? BRIEFINGS SERVICE AND OTHER **CONTACTS**
- WHAT'S HAPPENING? PROCEDURES GUIDE
- MANCHESTER **INFORMATION**



TOWN HALL



PEOPLES HISTORY





**BIG WHEEL** 



NOT EDINBURGH



PRODUCED BY SCOTTISH COMMUNICATIONS & CAMPAIGNS COMMITTEE IN CONJUNCTION WITH REGIONAL DELEGATES





CONFERENCE CENTRE

## Welcome to Conference

#### from UNISONScotland Convener Lilian Macer

Manchester for to **/**elcome UNISON's 18th National Delegate Conference. Can I extend a very special welcome to first time delegates at NDC.

We meet just a few weeks after an innovation in Scottish politics, a majority government for the Scottish National Party in the recent parliamentary election.

A year into the UK coalition government's cuts agenda and our worst fears have begun to materialise with their commitment to slashing public expenditure and the services in which we work, and on which our communities rely, bearing the brunt of their attacks.

Our focus is our members and the services we deliver. Our agenda in Manchester has that at its core'

As you would expect our main focus since last year's NDC has understandably been to do all we can in the protection of our public services in Scotland.

It is said that the standard of any civilised society can be measured by its public services, its ability to care for those elderly and infirm, young and learning, at work and out of work, those disadvantaged or disabled.

As UNISON we demonstrated our commitment to maintaining quality public services when tens of thousands of us took to the London streets on 26 March in defence of our Public Services.

There was a sea of green and purple marching behind UNISON banners from every region with Scotland leading from the front.

In Scotland we have participated in a large number of events both through the STUC and directly organised by UNISON, all giving a clear message that 'there is a better way' and we do have alternatives to the Condem cuts agenda.

With, for example, the cost of a new fleet of Trident nuclear missile submarines possibly more than doubling to £25bn by the time they are built, the decision to plough money into Trident has left a sour taste in the mouth of the millions hit hardest by the Government cuts.

UNISON Scotland believes this huge

sum could be used to save the economy and stop the loss of thousands of jobs, saving vital services that we deliver to the most vulnerable within our society. The £25bn does not even include the price of warheads, running costs and the bill for leasing Trident missiles from the US.

We know that there is an alternative to the Government's cuts agenda. Cracking down on the tax avoiders and tax havens, raising a Robin Hood Tax on the banks and making taxation fairer, would save billions at the same time as safeguarding our recovery.

While the bankers continue to award themselves obscene amounts of money in bonus payments, there is a 50% increase proposed for our pension contributions, which is simply a tax to pay back government debts that were raised to bail out the banks.

None of the money will go into the schemes and it threatens the whole system if members opt out. Overall the pension changes mean:

- Higher pension contributions
- Increases in retirement age
- All 27 of the Hutton Commission recommendations - closing the current schemes and creating new ones
- The end of pension protection if you face privatisation
- The change to annual pension increases will be calculation from RPI to CPI

Public service pension schemes have around 7.3 million pensioners and approximately 5.4 million active members. Including dependants, 20 million people are with us in the fight to defend public sector pensions.

There is much on our agenda for debate but pensions will be high on our priorities and rightly so. We have worked hard and paid over many years for the right to access our pensions and these proposed changes must be challenged.

Our focus is our members and the services we deliver. Our agenda in Manchester has that at its core.

It's the right place to be and I look forward to the debates and focused discussions over the week of National Delegate Conference.



#### Inside

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### **Scottish Branches Meeting** Monday 20 June 5.30pm - Sachas Hotel, Tib Street, **Piccadilly**

**Local Govt Branches** will meet 5.30 Saturday 18 June, Midlands Hotel.

**CELTIC NIGHT** Thurs 23 June The Place Hotel Tickets from Pat Rowland - see page 5.

## Who's who, or handy folk to know



## Mike Kirby, Scottish Secretary

Mike Kirby is Scotland's top full time official. Mike took over as Scottish Secretary in December 2010 from Matt Smith after serving as Scottish Convener, Scotland's lead lay activist, since the

merger that created UNISON.

Mike was also for many years one of Scotland's two Regional reps to National Delegate Conference.



## Angela Lynes, National President -

Scotland provides the National President this year in Angela Lynes. This is the highest lay member position. She will chair Conference throughout the week.

Angela is an Admin officer in Glasgow City and was a previous secretary of the branch.

She was elected to the NEC in 2001 and has been chairing the Industrial Action Committee for the last nine years. She was the union's second youngest vice president.

Angela lives with her husband and two children in Ayrshire, but she was born in Glasgow.



### Dave Prentis, General Secretary

Dave Prentis was elected general secretary of UNISON in 2000, took up the post on I January 2001 and was re-elected in 2006 and 2010.

Dave was born and brought up in Leeds and went to the University of London where he took a BA in history. This was followed by an MA in industrial

relations at the University of Warwick. He is a member of the TUC General Council, the TUC Executive and the Trade Union Labour Party Liaison Committee. In the Guardian list of the 100 most influential people in public services, Dave was placed fourth.



## Raymond Brown, Standing Orders Committee Rep

Raymond Brown from Strathclyde Police and Fire Branch is Scotland's new rep on the Standing Orders Committee which sets out the business for the week. Raymond will be the source of information on what's going on and whether your motion has any chance!

## Scotland policy guide on all the main issues



Lilian Macer: She loves this picture. (Well John Gallacher said she did).



Mark Ferguson: sporting a somewhat ostentatious UNISON lapel badge

Lilian Macer and Mark Ferguson are Scotland's delegates to Conference, elected by the Scottish Council of branches earlier this year.

They are an essential source of information and fulfil a key organisational role. They can help you liaise with other branches and regions throughout the week.

They will know how debates are being organised, who to speak to and, more importantly, how to get to speak. They will advise on Scottish policy and will speak for the Region in debates.

Here they preview the main debates at National Delegate Conference

Branches, regions, self organised groups, retired and young members and the National Executive Council

have submitted 124 motions, 17 Amendments to Rule and associated amendments to the conference agenda.

The experience of recent years is that conference will manage to discuss between 30/35 or so of these motions, many of which will find themselves in composites agreed by the bodies submitting the original motions.

Therefore if your favourite is not discussed below, it is unlikely to be debated first time around and the only alternative will be in the reprioritisation exercise.

This will take place on Wednesday evening/Thursday morning, for Friday afternoon business. continued on page 3

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#### **Priorities**

The Scottish Council meeting in April agreed Scotland's priorities. The Standing Orders Committee (SOC) has balloted regions, the NEC, self organised groups, National Young Members' Forum and the National Retired Members' Committee on what motions should be prioritised for debate at the National Delegate Conference. Ony these prioritised motions will be on the agenda.

### Pensions 21-27 and 85

In March hundreds of thousands of people stood up for public services at the TUC march in London. Now we must mobilise many more to defend our pensions. The government's strategy on pensions is clear. They want us to:

- pay more
- work longer
- and get less when we retire.

As you would expect there are a number of motion on pensions: 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 with motions 21 Scotland and 22

Manchester LG being prioritised, the likelihood being we might see a composite on pensions.

This will, as expected, be a priority for NDC this year given the proposed savage attacks on our members' pensions provision.

We face a number of attacks on the Scottish pension schemes including: a change to the way pension increases are calculated - RPI to CPI that has cut average pensions by at least 15%.

An increase in retirement age that doesn't reflect the demands on many public service workers. Abolishing pension protection for workers who are forced to transfer to another employer outside the public sector and changes to fund governance and cost sharing provisions with employers.

The motions from **Scotland**, Oxford City and Lambeth call for a coordinated campaign which should include legitimate industrial action in defence of our pensions.

As we know only too well the majority of public sector pensioners receive a pension of less than £5,000 and that half of the women in the NHS scheme receive less than £3,500. That is why the action in the motion from Newcastle City (22) calling for a campaign to address the public sector pension myths is important in raising

awareness within the general public.

State Pension provision is covered in motion 85 by the National Retired Members' Committee who raise concerns at the ever-increasing discrepancy between the basic state pension and the poverty threshold.

### Health 57-63

UNISON remains fundamentally opposed to the government's plans to bring about a massive topdown structural reorganisation of the NHS in England that favours markets and competition

over integration and cooperation.

Government plans represent a move to wholesale competition.

This will undermine attempts to provide more integrated care both within the NHS and between health and social care.

The application of competition law means the NHS is



Health Chair Tam Waterson is stunned by a surprise attack from behind by Health Minister Nicola Sturgeon at the UNISON Scottish Health Conference.

likely to become increasingly mired in wasteful litigation. Motions 57, 58, 59, 60, 61,62 relate to the proposed reforms in NHS England and 63 also relates to NHS England but focuses on the relaxation of the 18 week Referral to Treatment target.

The NHS will become increasingly subject to European competition law, meaning that instead of devolving responsibility to the local level, government plans will permit the EU a greater say in the way the NHS is organised.

## Recruiting And Organising 1-3

Motions 1, 2 and 3 will focus on the union's organising strategy ensuring it is fit to cope with the onslaught of savage cuts will have on our current and future members.

Recognising, despite the challenges we face with jobs under threat as a consequence of the savage cuts to public services, we must maintain our commitment to our organising strategy.

continued on page 4

Motion 39

focuses on

mutual and

enterprises

members

ensuring that

branches have

social

From Page 3

## Public Services 30-40, 44 and 47

Within this section there are a number of motions that will find themselves on our agenda to be debated as a priority: 39,34,33,36,30,40,44 and 47.

The Scotland delegation prepares for the approach of a bucket collection.

sufficient resources to prepare and support

with the challenges these provisions might bring. Motion 34 illustrates the disproportional effects women suffer as a consequence of the Tory-led attacks on public services. It highlights the need to produce gender-specific materials raising the effects on women and support branches in



Debates can be rivetting, with delegations like Edinburgh and Glasgow on the edge of their seats with excitement.

undertaking Equality **Impact** Assessments to fight against service and job cuts.

Motion 33 looks to expose David Cameron's twisted

concept of the 'Big Society' and lays bare the hollow truth that there is nothing in this for the advancement of a fair and equal society built on inclusion and participation.

Motion 36 stresses that the Coalition Government's cuts are driven by a political ideology, not economics - a continuation of the 1980s and the Thatcher years.

### Motion 30 is the National Executive Council's flagship motion on Public

Services which highlights the inequalities that have materialised as a consequence of the Government's cuts agenda. The motion calls on the union to work with local communities and

other trade unions to campaign for a fairer society based on sustainable quality services.

Motion 40 on the future of local government services facing an ideological attack from the Tory led government, needs everyone of us to be prepared and ready to take on the challenges this will bring to branches and regions. The Institute of Fiscal Studies describes this attack as "the longest and deepest sustained period of cuts since the Second World War".

Motion 44 from the National Women's Committee again highlights the disproportionate effect cuts to public services have on women and in particular the cuts to Sure Start.

Motion 47 from the National Disabled Members Committee highlights the severe restrictions which have been placed on support offered to disabled employees through Access to Work as a result of funding reduction.

## Economy 67, 68 and 76

Motion 67: 'Cuts are not the cure', says the National Executive Council. This is likely to be composited with Aberdeenshire's motion and a Glasgow amendment.

Maintaining vital public services, sustainable economic growth and investment to get people back to work, fair taxation and a commitment to rebuilding our manufacturing base will offer a alternative to the ideologically driven economic programme by the Condem government.

Motion 76 recognises the issue in relation to individual groups as a consequence of the financial crises and calls for the NEC to continue to actively oppose cuts in the Welfare State. Aberdeenshire's amendment focusses on child poverty.

## International 87, 89

Motion 89 from the National Executive Council highlights the positive role UNISON played in promoting justice for the Palestinians within the trade union movement and wider society. The motion further calls for UNISON to work with other organisations within existing policy on Palestine to pursue a policy of critical engagement with the Histadrut union.

Motion 87 on the international campaign against public service cuts has an amendment from Scotland which strengthens the motion in terms continued on page 5

From Page 4

of UNISON policy on EU economics and raises the profile of our education activities.

## Employment Rights 79, 81

Motion 79 from the South West Region recognises challenges facing the trade union movement to organise and bargain on behalf of members. The motion calls for the NEC to promote the value of collective bargaining to ensure fairness, reduce inequalities and tackle poverty.

Motion 81 on defending our right to take industrial action submitted by the Eastern Region is further supported by an amendment from Scotland.

#### Privatisation 28

Motion 28 on the abolition of the two tier code which protected our members who were outsourced is condemned by the NEC motion which deplores the Tory approach to procurement and further outsourcing of public services.

## Campaigns 65

Motion 65 calls for campaigning with the community and voluntary sector against the government's cuts agenda. The motion calls for all branches to engage with members in the workplace to mount a community based campaign in support of vital services.

## Equalities 101

Motion 101 from the National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Committee recognises the progress in equality under the last Labour government but calls for a number of actions to increase recognition of the equality agenda.

## Health and Safety 17

Motion 17 from the National Executive Council is extremely concerned by the approach the current government is taking towards health and safety and calls on the union to 'mainstream' health and safety, linking it closely with the organising and bargaining agendas within branches and regions.

## Civil Rights 106

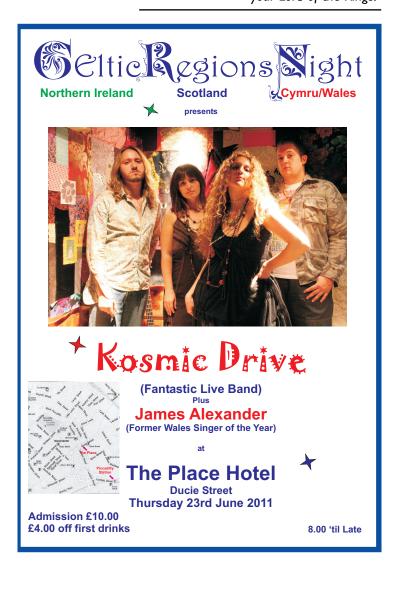
Motion 106 submitted by the Northern Ireland

Region recognises the strategic challenge to the UK government's attacks on its people and highlights that our public services are the main vehicle for enshrining fundamental human rights in general and in social and economic

terms.



We like a theme in the Conference Briefings and last year it was Star Wars. - From left: Mike Kirby, Clytus Williams, Lilian Macer, Bob Revie. Advice for this year is read up on your Lord of the Rings!



## Did I just miss something?

#### ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CONFERENCE MYSTERIES

After years of being caught out by jargon and sneaky procedural wheezes, your SiU scoop brings you a rough guide to help you out.

#### **Standing Orders Committee (SOC)**



Things can get hot when delegates challenge the Standing Orders Committee and Chair Clytus Williams leaves nothing to chance.

Comprises reps elected by each Region (ours is Raymond Brown and he's really helpful) and three from the NEC who organise the order of business, composites and so on. A report will be issued each morning on the day's business and probably future business - this is really important to understanding what is going on. Sometimes their rulings are challenged but it rarely

makes sense to do so since the committee reflects Regions' priorities.

#### **NEC Positions**

Most motions haven't got a chance of being heard and will be referred to the NEC, or somewhere. So it is worth looking to see what position the NEC has taken on your motion.

#### **Agenda and Priorities**

The running order (you'll get one at Conference) is set after consultation with regions on priorities. Motions are grouped into 'themes' to avoid duplication and the risk of voting against what we'd voted for earlier (yes we've done that before!).

#### Friday priorities

Come Friday (oh, come, come Friday), there is a chance to re-prioritise your pet motion that was not reached. On Wednesday or Thursday, we will circulate branches with a form to pick their priorities for Friday afternoon. These will be collated and go to the SOC which will set out a Friday pm agenda that reflects Conference's wishes. That can be an eye-opener!

#### **Emergency motions**

Conference has to vote to hear emergency motions in the first place (after the SOC has

decided it is an emergency and is relevant and competent). To qualify for an emergency, it must have been impossible to submit the motion's subject matter before the deadline.

#### Composite

An amalgam of similar motions drawn together into one motion that nobody likes! Not fair really, because many composites do succeed in combining areas of agreement through negotiation. You will get a composites booklet before Conference and probably new ones issued throughout the week.

#### **Suspending Standing Orders**

A super wheeze (needing a two thirds majority) to get an outside speaker up or do something that's not on the agenda. To be avoided in most cases because it cuts across agreed priorities and of course stops Conference making decisions.

#### **Grouped Debates**

Where a pile of similar motions and amendments are all moved one after the other, there is an all-in debate and we vote on them one after the other at the end.

#### **Reference Back**

Reports, such as the annual report or standing orders report, are presented to conference for approval. If someone is unhappy with part of the report they can ask for "reference back", meaning that committee or working group that prepared the report should reconsider that section.

#### Remittance

When the NEC asks for a motion to be referred to them for further clarification, elaboration, or investigation.

#### **Scottish delegates**

Lilian Macer and Mark Ferguson are this year's Scottish Regional delegates. They are there to help, especially if you want to get into a debate - they'll tell you how, who to see, and if you're not careful (or lucky), what to say! Sincerely folks, they are an essential source of advice, information and help.

## What's happening?

### GUIDE FOR NEW DELEGATES (AND OLD ONES WHO WERE AFRAID TO ASK)

With up to 2,500 delegates and visitors, Conference can be a daunting prospect, especially if you don't know what's happening. But now you will, thanks to SiU's handy guide.

#### Scotland Meeting

Monday's Scotland delegates' meeting gives last minute information and discusses Scottish input. It is also your chance to push your issues (see pl).

#### Seating Plan

There should be a seating plan in this pack. We traditionally get at least one seat wrong - so if you find yourself sitting on someone's knee, it's likely to be a mistake.

#### Credentials Bar Code

No this is not a secret sign to get a drink. Your credential card has a bar code which will scan you in. You must wear the card at all times. Wearing it at your waist is not helpful to the scrutineers, will lead to delays and may end up with more than you expected being scanned!

#### **Conference Guide**

This details all motions submitted. It also has more detailed useful information. You will also get a booklet with composite motions, listed by letters of the alphabet (usually with the numbers of the motions in brackets).

#### Speaking, speakers lists, timings

Seats for speakers FOR and AGAINST are labelled at the front. If in doubt, staff at the Rostrum Control will help.

In any case it is best to tell them you want to speak because they will have a list - and with amendments it is not always clear which seat you should be in. It also helps to speak to the Scottish Regional Delegates first!

Speakers can speak only once in a debate (except for the right of reply). Movers get five minutes. However, Conference sometimes reduces this. You will get warning to chainsaw all those bits you loved dearly out of your speech. Subsequent speakers get three minutes.

Always start your speech by giving your name and your branch.

#### Right of Reply

The mover of a motion is allowed a Right of Reply at the end of the debate or before voting on an amendment (but not both). This is a reply to points raised in the debate and cannot be abused by introducing new stuff (although

many try it).

#### Voting

Normally votes are taken by holding up bright coloured cards and the President will decide whether a count is needed.

If it is close, or a major issue is involved, the chair can call for a branch card vote. Delegates can also call for a card vote but only if 10% of us shout out with voting cards up immediately. If this is on an amendment, the debate is suspended until the result is known.

Branch card votes are stamped with the voting entitlement of your branch and with either FOR or AGAINST.

The correct number must be used for the particular vote. Get a colleague to check it.



The President points to a new direction for the union - which looks to us to be a slight veer to the left....



... news that clearly surprised Policy Chair Jane Carolan



... though not as much as Glasgow's Carol Ball.

#### **Procedure**

Like any other formal meeting, Conference is run by a series of rules. This often seems very bureaucratic but the system ensures some semblance of order is kept. The President chairs Conference and their ruling on any issue

See page 8 for rostrum lights, points of order and handy hints...



Jane exaggerates the size of the task



...while John insists size isn't everything!



and Kate takes a more laid back approach

## Conference briefings and website service

The Scottish Communications and Campaigns Committee, along with the Regional Delegates, will issue daily briefings during Conference week.

It is not a 'News' service after the event (after all you were *there*), it is for briefing delegates *before* the event.

However, we will issue some special reports as a basis for branch magazine reports back home. We will also be updating the website with most of what goes out in print so you can get easy access at www.unison-scotland.org.uk/conf2011.

The service is also there to be used by

branches to promote motions within Scottish policy.

In exceptional circumstances we can also help with typing and communications with branches, media etc back home.

Your contact is SiU editor John Stevenson who leads the team with Jane Aitchison and Kate Ramsden, with other committee members helping out too.

It would be really helpful if speakers could let the team know when they are speaking (so we can get a photo) and provide a copy of their speech for the reports.

# Blinkin' lights and points of order AND A RANGE OF OTHER HANDY HINTS

Timing for speeches is shown by lights on the rostrum....

... but even if you don't notice the light, there is always some bright spark who will shout 'time', usually when they're not agreeing with you.

It can be useful to have an 'escape clause' in your speech to cut to so you can finish on a good note..



Trying to distract the Chair when the red light comes on rarely works but is worth a try.

#### The lights mean....

**Yellow:** means the speaker has a minute to go.

**Red:** means 'zip the lip' now, not after you've made ten more points.

**Green:** means a point of order has been raised and will be heard before the next speaker.

#### **Points of Order**

You can move 'next business', 'adjournment' or 'private session' but the most used is 'that the question be put'.

The President must put this to Conference and, if carried, we go straight to the right of reply, and the vote on the motion or amendment. (The chair can caution there has not been enough debate.)

This move is especially helpful when there are a host of speakers for a motion and none against.

You can only move most points of order if you haven't already spoken in the debate.

## Handy Hints

#### **Card Votes**

- If you split your vote, make sure the figures add up. Get someone to check.
- make sure you've SIGNED your card
- and that the branch name is on it.

### Get your photo in advance

 Get your credential photo in advance.
Photo booths are few and far between. But please take it a wee bit more seriously than Local Government Chair Stephanie Herd.



#### Consideration

- We hope the Scottish Briefings will be of some use to you. But for safety, do not leave papers on the floor.
- Don't leave mobile phones on.
- Don't walk in front of the signers.
- Lots of people will be pushing papers and leaflets at you as you come to Conference. Not taking one does not make you a bad person! If you took them all, you would be like a walking rain-forest anyway.

MANCHESTER: Steeped in labour history

ot since Glasgow has National Delegate Conference landed on somewhere so steeped in labour movement history.

From a Roman settlement in a Celtic heartland, to a medieval market town, Manchester grew into a metropolis in the 19th century with the massive growth in textile manufacturing. It is home to the world's first ever passenger railway station.

It even, somewhat oddly, raised a regiment to support Bonnie Prince Charlie on his way south but turned on him on his way back.

In the 18th and 19th centuries the city was enriched by immigrants from Ireland and central and eastern Europe as the place expanded with canals, factories and the railway.

And radicalism grew. There were food riots in 1797. The Blanketeers mounted a huge march in 1817 against poverty during the textile recession and against the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act.

60,000 gathered in St Peter's Field in 1819 to demand parliamentary representation. Cavalry charged protesters with sabres, killing at least 15 and injuring hundreds in the 'Peterloo Massacre'.

Manchester became a borough in 1837 and the council eventually bought out the last of the manorial rights.

From 1842 to 1844 Friedrich Engels lived here and wrote his *Condition of the Working Class in England*. He met with Karl Marx in an alcove at Chetham's Library.

The Cooperative Wholesale Society was formed here in 1862.

By 1895 over 300 local branches of the Labour Party had sprung up. 40,000 people gathered to hear Keir Hardie speak in 1896.

Emmeline Pankhurst founded the Women's Social and Political Union in Manchester in 1903 - better known as the suffragettes.

By 1906 there were three Manchester Labour MPs and the city council had 13 Labour members. Today, 75 of the 96 councillors are Labour with no Tories.

What a history, and we haven't even touched on football yet. Manchester has a Hearts supporters club - and trams!

Modern Manchester had gone through a huge revival before the savage ConDem cuts

this year and there is much to see and do.

#### What to see

First stop has to be the magnificent **People's Story Museum** telling the story from the chartists, trade unions and the co-op movement to the Spanish



PEOPLES STORY

Civil War and much more - including a huge collection of banners and badges.

The John Rylands Library collection includes the oldest known piece of the New Testament, the St John Fragment. There are also magnificent illuminated medieval manuscripts and a 1476 William Caxton edition of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales.

The Manchester Museum, Museum of Science

and Industry and the series of art galleries are all worth a visit.

### **Eating out**

Manchester boasts a fantastic Chinatown not far from the Town Hall and a famous Curry Mile in Rusholme. The city centre has many restaurants near





WELLINGTON AND BIG WHEEL

the Conference centre, down by the canal, across to Piccadilly and the area around the Cathedral and the Arndale Centre.

#### **Pubs and Bistros**

The supposedly smallest pub in Britain is the Circus Tavern on Portland Street and there are a host of good real ale pubs around the area. Some trendy bars are to be found in Deansgate with popular venues alongside the canals at Castlefield. The gay scene centres on Canal Street.



CASTLEFIELD

The medieval Wellington and Sinclairs Oyster bar are near the big wheel. Astonishingly, the pubs have been physically moved twice. Once in 1974 to make way for the shopping centre, then a good distance closer to the cathedral after the bombing of 1996.

John Stevenson

