



Civic Day

Your questions answered

What is Civic Day? Civic Day is a new initiative when civic societies across England will invite people to celebrate their area and discover more about where they live. A diverse program of events and activities showcasing civic society activity is being planned, focused on Saturday June 25th 2011 as the first Civic Day.

Why June 25th 2011? There is no “right” date for Civic Day. Late June is usually a lovely time of year when things look at their best and it is conveniently located after the May Bank Holidays and before the summer break. It also gives a years notice for everyone who is going to participate.

Do we have to be members of Civic Voice? No, a common misconception is that societies think they can only get involved if they are a member of Civic Voice. This is not the case. Civic Day is an idea that was born in the civic movement and is a chance for the civic movement to raise its profile collectively. Any civic society can participate in Civic Day as long they put an activity during the day and you can also encourage other groups to get involved.

Do we have to stick to events on June 25th 2011? No. It would be best to focus activity between June 25th and the weekend after so there is a critical mass of events and you don't have to choose June 25th if it isn't convenient. Naming a specific day gives a focus for publicity and promotion. Events before June 25th won't benefit from any publicity it attracts.

What is the purpose? Civic Day is an opportunity for civic societies to demonstrate their strength in numbers, celebrating their achievements and showcasing their work on a national as well as a local stage. It is an ideal opportunity to raise funds and recruit members while celebrating all that is good about your local area.

Who decided a Civic Day was needed? It isn't a new idea. Civic societies have been organising similar events for years. One of the most successful has been Civic Societies Week in Yorkshire and Humber and you can read more about Civic Societies Week [here](#). Many people have asked how Civic Voice can build on these local events and the Board decided to support local civic societies through a Civic Day at its meeting in June 2010. During the Civic Society Initiative it was clear that societies wanted to be involved in campaigns that made them feel part of something bigger. There has been strong support for the idea.

Can we do anything we want? Broadly speaking yes. There are no rules about what has to happen on the day and local groups know best what will work in their area. The twin aims are to encourage people to celebrate their area and to promote the work of civic societies. You may already have activities planned or can choose to put them on as part of Civic Day.

How big does our event have to be? This is up to you. We know some societies are planning small events while some societies will be going all out to raise their profile. In reality, only you can decide what is right for your society this year. If you are unsure about what to do, you could attend a workshop or contact us on civicday@civicvoice.org.uk

Our calendar is already planned for next year? We are very aware that civic societies book programmes months ahead of schedule and we have tried to give everyone as much notice as possible. This is an opportunity to be part of a campaign to raise the profile of the civic movement locally and nationally. Where there is flexibility in your programme to reschedule events or put on new ones then that would add significantly to the success of Civic Day.

What are the benefits for a civic society getting involved? Civic Day is an opportunity to celebrate your achievements and showcase your work on a national as well as a local stage. Other civic societies participating in Civic Days tell us that it is an ideal opportunity to raise funds and recruit members while celebrating all that is good about your local area.

Is there a theme? We are exploring the potential for a theme which groups might pick up, such as a focus on young citizens given the overwhelming desire from civic societies during last year's discussions to see more activity working with young people. If we can secure sponsorship then we will be able to provide extra support for groups who adopt the theme but it is an optional extra. The main priority is to promote your local group and attract interest and support.

How is it different to Heritage Open Days? Civic Day will be very different to September's Heritage Open Days. This is undertaken in partnership with a large number of organisations and is more about opening parts of our heritage up to the public free of charge than showcasing the contribution of civic societies.

Who can participate? Civic Day is open to any civic or amenity society to get involved by putting on activities and promoting their work. Additional support from Civic Voice is available only to those civic societies who are members of Civic Voice.

How can I get involved? Talk with others in your local group about your plans for 2011 and what you might do for Civic Day. There will be further information and ideas on what you could do provided soon.

What support will Civic Voice be providing? Civic Voice's role is to support civic societies with information and materials, share ideas between different groups, raise the national and seek sponsorship. If we can secure funding then we hope to be able to provide small amounts of financial support or support in-kind through the provision of promotional material which can be adapted locally.

What is the role of the Civic Day group? A small group of local volunteers led by trustee Freddie Gick is advising on how to make the most of Civic Day so civic societies are supported in making it a success. Let them have your feedback on info@civicvoice.org.uk

Will there be a Civic Day in 2012? We don't know. There will be an evaluation in July 2011 of how things have gone and we will also be looking at how Civic Day fits in with other plans in 2012 related to the Golden Jubilee and the Olympics.

If your question isn't answered here or you want to raise an issue or seek advice then contact us at info@civicvoice.org.uk or ring Ian Harvey on 0151 708 9920. Keep any eye out on the website for more information on Civic Day.