

# NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

[17<sup>th</sup> June 2011]

## FIRST CIVIC DAY TO CELEBRATE WHERE WE LIVE Lancaster Civic Society running city centre tours

Saturday 25 June is England's first ever Civic Day and civic societies across the country will be holding events to celebrate their area and keep it distinctive. Everyone is invited to join in and learn more about where they live.

Lancaster Civic Society is offering tours of the city centre to raise awareness of the built environment which we so often take for granted. Entitled "**So you think you know Lancaster?**" the tours will endeavour to show aspects of the town of which residents may be unaware, including historical details of buildings and architectural features that they may never previously have noticed.

Civic Day has been organised by Civic Voice, the national charity for the civic movement in England. Its President Griff Rhys Jones says:

"Civic Voice believes everyone has the right to live somewhere they can feel proud of. At this time of financial uncertainty and an increasing desire to involve local people in decision making it has never been more important for everyone to understand their local area.

"What do you want to protect? What do you want to improve? If we are going to ensure that our villages, towns and cities give everybody living in them a good quality of life, we need everyone to get involved."

The tours offered by Lancaster Civic Society will be free and led by Society members with varying specialist interests. They will commence in Market Square near the entrance to Marketgate, leaving at 10.30am, 11.30am, 12.30pm and 1.30pm on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June. Numbers on each tour will be limited and participants are responsible for their own safety and should be mindful of both vehicular traffic and pedestrians.

For more information contact Roger Frankland, telephone 01524 541156.

Details of the programme of Civic Day events being run by over 150 civic societies and other community groups across England can be found here [www.civicvoice.org.uk/civicdaymap](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/civicdaymap)

- Ends -

For more information about Civic Voice and national Civic Day contact: Laura Buller or Rosie Warin at Forster on 020 7403 2230 or [laura@forster.co.uk](mailto:laura@forster.co.uk) and [rosie@forster.co.uk](mailto:rosie@forster.co.uk).

### **About Civic Voice**

[www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk)

Civic Voice is the national charity for the civic movement in England that aims to make places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive, and to promote civic pride.

The civic movement is based on a network of hundreds of local voluntary civic and amenity societies across England. The first civic society was set up in the 1840s and it is now one of the largest social movements in the country.

Civic societies provide a focus for voluntary and community action to improve the places where people live, work and relax. They champion the importance of these places to decision makers and opinion formers in business, politics, government and elsewhere. They play an essential role in helping individuals take action to improve the quality of their life through the place where they live.

Current campaigns being supported by Civic Voice include:

- ☛ *Planning for People* – helping to ensure effective land use planning for everyone as new laws are introduced
- ☛ *The Big Tree Plant* – promoting planting and care of trees in urban areas
- ☛ *Broadband Boxes* – ensuring broadband infrastructure does not destroy the beauty of where we live
- ☛ *Street Pride* – getting rid of unnecessary clutter from signs, posts, bollards and railings on our streets

### **About Lancaster Civic Society**

[www.lancastercivicsociety.org](http://www.lancastercivicsociety.org)

#### **The Society's aims are:**

- to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in the City of Lancaster;
- to stimulate public interest in, and care for, the beauty, history and character of the city and surrounding area
- to encourage and actively participate in, the preservation, development and improvement of features of general public amenity or historic interest

We offer a lecture programme, including a social event at Christmas; a summer outing to another historic town and country house; a summer evening walk in the district; an annual "Ugly Walk" to identify building and areas in need of attention and involvement in the national Heritage Open Days.

