

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

3rd June 2011

FIRST CIVIC DAY TO CELEBRATE WHERE WE LIVE

Marple Civic Society running local event

Saturday 25th 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.

Marple Civic Society is organising a task day involving 10 local community groups and local volunteers. Each group has chosen a community project to carry out in their own local area. A Picnic in the Park will follow and Marple Civic Society will also be celebrating its 50th anniversary, with enough birthday cake for everyone and entertainment by Marple Brass Bands. An exhibition will feature the type of work the Society is involved in including work at Possett Bridge, entries from Marple Hall School photo competition, progress on the Society's "Vision for Marple" and the Marple Vision Partnership, and more. The task morning will take place around the town from 9.30am to 12.30pm followed by a picnic in Marple Memorial Park between 1.00pm and 3.00pm. If you would like to join in the fun and take pride in where you live, contact Gillian Postill at Marple Civic Society info@marplecivicsociety.org.uk.

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."

Gillian Postill Vice-Chair Marple Civic Society said: "We hope as many people as possible will join us on Civic Day. We want to celebrate the things you feel proud of. We need your ideas on projects for our "Vision for Marple", your views on buildings that should be locally listed and street clutter that should be removed. Our aim is to work to make Marple a better place to live, work and visit so come along and let us know what is important to you.

For more information contact: Gillian Postill info@marlecivicsociety.org.uk

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

- Ends -

For more information about the Marple Civic Society event contact: Gillian Postill 0161 427 1379, 07793 214 591 gillian.postill@btinternet.com

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

About Civic Voice

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

