

City of Rochester Society

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

[date]

FIRST CIVIC DAY TO CELEBRATE WHERE WE LIVE

City of Rochester Society running local event

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.

The City of Rochester Society is marking **Civic Day** with an event at historic Eastgate House, giving a number of other Rochester-based voluntary bodies the chance to explain what they do for the benefit of the local community and, hopefully, to recruit some new members. Those taking part, in addition to the City of Rochester Society itself will be the Friends of the Vines, the Friends of Broomhill (Strood), the Friends of Rochester Cathedral, the Friends of Medway Archives and Historic Rochester Residents' Association.

Also represented there will be the French Hospital (La Providence) showing off plans for the creation of a national Huguenot Centre here in Rochester

Eastgate House will be open from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm on Civic and admission will be free.

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."

Bob Ratcliffe, President of the City of Rochester 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 in Rochester and champion what's important to our community. Please come and meet us and and share your views."

For more information contact Christine Furminger, Secretary of the City of Rochester Society **01634 320598** or by e-mail at cafurminger@blueyonder.co.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 Civic Voice and national Civic Day contact: Laura Buller 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

