

FIRST CIVIC DAY TO CELEBRATE WHERE WE LIVE

Whitby Civic Society running local events

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.

Whitby Civic Society is running a Georgian Walk leaving the Captain Cook statue on the West Cliff at 11am, the Victoria Spa Well House at the back of Brunswick Terrace will be open to the public from 10am - 3pm and a display of activities and leaflets will be on show in the lobby of the library also from 10am - 3pm. You will have the opportunity to find out what the Society has been doing and intends to do, as well as giving your opinions on what should be done and finding out what you can do to help.

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.”

George Dawson, chairman of Whitby 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, such as our local heritage, and champion what's important to our community. Please come and share your views.”

For more information contact 01947 820078

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 Whitby Civic Society event contact: Doreen Wort at 01947 603793

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

About Whitby Civic Society

We hold monthly talks on matters of local interest and publish a newsletter four times a year, and have a website (www.whitbycivicsociety.co.uk). In the past year we have held two Give or Take recycling events, have taken part in beach and street cleaning events, are helping with a survey of Baxtergate, are assessing various 'buildings at risk', have attended numerous town meetings and commented on planning applications. We organised the opening to the public of sixteen venues for Heritage Open Days in September and also opened the Victoria Spa Well House on other occasions. We erected one more blue plaque to a notable Whitby resident this year.

We will continue with these activities this year and amongst other plans we hope to take an active role in drawing up a new town plan. We are also looking into the possibility of erecting a noticeboard on the end of the West Pier to explain the use of the capstans, and hope to publish a Blue Plaques Trail leaflet to accompany the other leaflets on town trails we have devised over the years.

