

Media release

14 October 2008

Citizens' Day is happening this Sunday

A reminder that a huge free fun day celebrating Cheltenham and its citizens is being held at Pittville Pump Room and park this Sunday 19 October 2008.

From 11am to 4pm, a series of interesting and spectacular events will entertain visitors, from dance to birds of prey demonstrations, music from local bands and a Wii room for good measure. Entrance is free and everyone is invited to come along.

Geoff Sloman, community development service manager, says: "This is Cheltenham's first Citizens Day. We look forward to welcoming you this Sunday to what will be a fantastic and fun filled event for everyone. This is an opportunity to celebrate all of our communities and the very best of our town. Our aim on Sunday is to demonstrate to local people what is on offer and to encourage them to participate and support their own communities, by using their knowledge and skills to help others."

The line up includes live music from Vince Freeman, Peter Gill and Friends and Explosive Nzakomba, as well as the Coady Crew, Chinese Lion dancing, capoeira, belly dancing, and a gamelan demonstration. A birds of prey demonstration, insect man, bouncy castles and circus skills provide just part of the entertainment for youngsters, as well as drumming and tai chi workshops to participate in. Food and refreshments will be available throughout the day or bring a picnic.

MP Martin Horwood, Deputy mayor, Cllr Lloyd Surgenor and Cheltenham Borough Council's Chief Executive, Andrew North, will formally open the event at 12.30pm.

The event gives community and voluntary groups, as well as agencies, the opportunity to tell local people about their services through a range of information displays. These include information about community safety, equality and diversity, youth services, family support and advice, as well as details about local issues and challenges and about how people can access the wide range of services offered by the town's voluntary and community sector organisations.

Cllr John Webster, cabinet member for community development and housing, adds: "The day aims to enable Cheltenham people to find out what they have in common with their neighbours, and to bring together people from all the different backgrounds that exist in the town."

Citizens Day is sponsored by Cheltenham Borough Council in partnership with Gloucestershire Police, the Gloucestershire Primary Care Trust and Gloucestershire County Council.

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Notes:

Citizen's Day events offer an opportunity for communities to celebrate local achievements and build greater partnerships. It is aimed at encouraging people and communities to be more actively involved in participating in their communities and working collectively to find shared solutions to community problems and concerns, and is about building community confidence and helping develop people's understanding of all of the town's communities.

Citizen's Day is part of the Government's agenda (Department of Communities and Local Government) and offers local authorities, working in partnership with community stakeholders (statutory agencies, public sector bodies and the voluntary and community sector) an opportunity to promote community cohesion and community engagement and develop effective citizenship, integration and community participation.

Other key objectives of Citizen's Day include:

- empowering local communities;
- celebrating shared values and heritages;
- exploring issues and local identities;
- building interaction across communities;
- providing a focus for the enrichment and empowerment of local communities;
- celebrating the work of community groups;
- providing a framework for encouraging community participation in decision-making;
- opening up access to public services;
- and providing an opportunity for residents and communities to talk about and feedback on important issues affecting their everyday lives.

For more information about Citizens' Day visit:  
[www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk/main/resource.php?s367](http://www.citizenshipfoundation.org.uk/main/resource.php?s367)

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