FIRST WORLD WAR COMMEMORATIONS

Witham Town Council and the Royal British Legion are working together to devise a programme of local events to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War over the coming four years.

On the afternoon of Sunday, 3rd August, 300 people attended a Service at St. Nicolas Church, Chipping Hill, to commemorate the outbreak of the Great War. Before the service, the bells were rung 100 times in a sombre tribute to the anniversary. A display of photographs and memorabilia in the Church Hall reminded us of one summer day, when the war began.

The next day, on the evening of Monday, 4th August, over a thousand local residents joined the Commemorative Parade from the RAFA Club, led by the Stow Caledonian Pipe Band, all the way up Newland Street to the Memorial Gardens, where a short service was held. Representatives from the Royal British Legion, the Air Training Corp, Boys Brigade, Scouts, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows, Town and District Councillors, representatives of the Churches, the Police, the Essex Fire & Rescue Service and St John Ambulance all marched with the parade, which was escorted by two fire engines. The High Sheriff of Essex, Nicholas Charrington DL and the Chairman of Braintree District Council, Councillor Mrs Sue Wilson took the salute outside the Town Hall. Witham’s Town Mayor, Councillor Mrs Janet Money, laid a civic wreath on behalf of the people of Witham, on which was written the words. “Today we commemorate the centenary of the Outbreak of the Great War and the ultimate sacrifice made by the men and women of Witham. In grateful thanks, The People of Witham”

At 10 pm lights were extinguished, and World War One songs were sung by the light of a single hurricane lamp at the war memorial.

MERRY IT WAS TO LAUGH THERE….

An evocation of the First World War through poetry and diaries from the Front and those left at home. Weaving together poetry and diaries to reveal fascinating and poignant details about the everyday lives of the men who were fighting and the women waiting for their return.

Saturday, 13th September at 8 pm (doors open 7.30 pm)
In the Royal British Legion Memorial Hall,
Newland Street, Witham CM8 2AZ

Tickets £7.50, under 16’s £5, available in advance from Witham Information Centre, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham
A Lunch Invitation

The Mayor, Cllr. Mrs Janet Money, will be hosting The Senior Citizens’ Annual Christmas Lunch in the Function Room in the Town Hall in December.

If you live in Witham, are of pensionable age and have not attended the Mayor’s Christmas Lunch previously why not apply by contacting the Mayor’s secretary, Dee Halliday, at the Town Hall on 01376 520627?

A full Christmas lunch with all the trimmings will be served - an enjoyable start to the Christmas festivities.

Friends of the River Walk

CHARITY MEETING

7 pm
Thursday 25th September 2014
The Town Hall,
Newland Street
Witham

Come and join Roz Wisniewski from the Essex Wildlife Trust on a journey around Witham’s Period Garden and learn about its planting and place in history.

Witham Ambulance Trust

The Trust was originally set up by Charles Hedley Strutt on 1st March 1921 with £1040 invested in War Bonds. The intention of the Trust was to assist the poor or deserving, residing in Witham, Faulkbourne, Terling, Rivenhall, Hatfield Peverel, Wickham Bishops, Great Braxted and Little Braxted to pay for the costs of getting to hospital. Since then the ambulance service has changed considerably, although the conditions of the trust remain to assist with the costs of travelling to and from a hospital.

When I became chairman of the trust in 2012 I found that not many people or organisations knew about this fund and it had not been used for several years. There was a recommendation from some councillors to disband the trust and to give the money to other organisations. As the original gift was to help local people to get to hospital by ambulance, I wanted to continue to use the money for that general purpose. Posters have been sent to the doctors’ surgeries and several local organisations and churches to let people know what is available. I have spoken to many individuals and asked them to tell people about the trust and I am pleased to say that in the last couple of years we have made payments to a number of deserving people needing to visit hospital for treatment.

The Town Council has spoken with the Clinical Commissioning Group about the lack of transport to Broomfield Hospital and Braintree Community Hospital and they are looking into what can be done. Braintree District Council Community Transport is available for trips to and from hospitals in the district but will only do one way to hospitals outside the district. There is a charge for all of these journeys.

Although it has been over 90 years since the trust was set up, there are still people who need help with the expense of getting to and from hospitals. If it is an appointment for you or for a visit to a relative in hospital, the Witham Ambulance Trust fund may be able to help towards these costs.

Cllr. Mrs Maureen Bennett
Chairman, Witham Ambulance Trust
01376 520627

Charity Cycle Challenge

Cllr Steve Goodfellow (North Ward) recently took part in a charity cycle challenge, riding the first stage of the Tour de France on the day before the professionals tackled it. "It was the hardest ride I've ever done but it was worth it to raise nearly £800 for the Orchid charity" he said.

He watched the start of the race in Leeds the next day and stage 3 as the Tour passed through Essex. Then a couple of weeks later he cycled to Paris with a group of friends to watch the final stage on the Champs Elysees.

*A UK Charity devoted to the research and treatment of men’s cancers
Over 200 people came along to Le Tour de Witham on Sunday, 6th July. 150 riders took part in the cycle ride along the length of Witham’s River Walk. 56 riders took the opportunity to get their bikes security marked by the police, and the “Bike Doctors” had a constant stream of people asking for help with flat tyres, stiff brakes and other problems.

One mum said “We loved the event. It was brilliant to get out as a family on our bikes”. Another added, “I was so impressed and pleased that my daughter kept going for the whole way. She’s only 6 and I had to keep up”. “Are you doing it again next year?” asked another Dad.

Thank you also to those who supported the event; Essex Police for doing the bike marking and security advice; Morrisons for providing the refreshments; Greenfields Community Housing, Witham Town Council, and Essex and Suffolk Water for providing content for the goody bags.

After their Le Tour, riders got the chance to have their faces painted, have a go at different sports in the portable sports arena and chat to the police about keeping their bikes safe. Each rider taking part received a goody bag and certificate recognising their achievement. A special mention and thank you should go to our Mayor, Councillor Mrs Janet Money, who signed each certificate.

Lorne Campbell, from Witham Boys Brigade, the lead partner in arranging Le Tour said, “it was a privilege to see riders from a range of ages. The weather brightened up and the crowds came out to make an amazing atmosphere at this free community event. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave up their Sunday afternoon. They are an inspiration to others to share their time, talents and hobbies.”

Witham Boys Brigade seeks to improve the life chances of young people in Witham by raising aspiration, attainment, health and well-being. Proactively working with other groups where young people lead change by having opportunities to inspire their communities.

For more information, contact:- Witham Boys Brigade, Joseph’s Barn, Wood End Farm, Hatfield Road, Witham, Essex CM8 1EH. Tel: 01365 520400 or www.2withamboys-brigade.org.uk

Meet your Councillor
The 5 minute interview

In each edition of Voice we put one of your 16 Town Councillors under the spotlight. In this issue we meet Cllr. Neil Coughlan

Voice: Why did you become a Town Councillor?
NC: I wanted to represent my community and help bring about positive changes and improvements.

Voice: What are the most important changes you have made as a Councillor?
NC: Working with the residents on the Templars Estate to build a play area and the creation of Greenfields Community Housing, which resulted in substantial investment being made in former Council Housing stock.

Voice: What are your hobbies?
NC: I enjoy football and I am a Spurs supporter. I also enjoy politics and a game of chess.

Voice: Do you have a favourite singer/band/group?
NC: Yes I like many bands and types of music, my favourites being Pink Floyd, Radiohead, Pulp and Tchaikovsky.
WITHAM INTERNATIONAL PUPPET FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2014

The Grove Shopping Centre is delighted to support Witham Town Council through sponsorship and co-hosting of the Witham International Puppet Festival

### Grove Centre

- **10.30 am** The Penguins, Punch & Judy (GF), Stick with us
- **11.00 am** Titan, Stick with us
- **11.30 am** Skillywidden, Chinese Lion, Stick with us
- **12.00 noon** Suits, Punch & Judy (GF), Stick with us
- **12.30 pm** Granny Turismo, Stick with us
- **1.00 pm** Flying Dodos, Skillywidden, Stick with us
- **1.30 pm** Withams Big Sing, The Hairy Chairs, Stick with us
- **2.00 pm** Punch & Judy (GF), Flamingos, Stick with us
- **2.30 pm** Skillywidden, Mind Your Peas and Cues, Stick with us
- **3.00 pm** Flying Dodos, Pompous Maximus and Servillius Wretch, Stick with us
- **3.30 pm** Praying Mantas, Stick with us

### Newlands Centre

- **10.30 am** The Ostriches
- **11.00 am** French Fancies
- **11.30 am** Man in a Box
- **12.00 noon** Withams Big Sing
- **12.30 pm** Punch & Judy (DW)
- **1.00 pm** Chinese Lion
- **1.30 pm** The Lostronaut
- **2.00 pm** Nursie and the Pram
- **2.30 pm** The Ostriches
- **3.00 pm** The Hairy Chairs
- **3.30 pm** The Imagination Station Puppet Show

**New River Retail (The Newlands Centre) continued proud partners for the Witham International Puppet Festival**

**Visit us for our hog roast and BBQ from 11 to 6pm**

Bears Festival all weekend. Live music in the garden from 3pm & our full menu served 3–10pm

**Visit us on Puppet Festival Day for our**

Free Beauty Grotto • Kids’ ‘True Hero’ Quiz • Family Day • Sunny Courtyard Garden

**Why not book one of our new four poster rooms for that special occasion!!**
### Newland Street (Road Closure)

For the second year running Cofunds is delighted to support Witham Town Council with sponsorship of Titan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
<th>Venue</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.30 am</td>
<td>The Ostriches Academy Puppets</td>
<td>White Hart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>Flamingos</td>
<td>Grove Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 am</td>
<td>Flying Dodos</td>
<td>Grove Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 noon</td>
<td>Mind Your Peas and Cues</td>
<td>Newland Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30 pm</td>
<td>Academy Puppets The Penguins</td>
<td>Newland Street</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 pm</td>
<td>Titan</td>
<td>White Hart</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 pm</td>
<td>Suits</td>
<td>Grove Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 pm</td>
<td>Praying Mantas Academy Puppets</td>
<td>Grove Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30 pm</td>
<td>Chinese Lion</td>
<td>Grove Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 pm</td>
<td>Granny Turismo</td>
<td>Grove Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td>Titan</td>
<td>Grove Centre</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### The Library, Newland Street

Following the success in 2014 a full programme of smaller puppetry and storytelling will take place in Witham Library, 18 Newland Street throughout the day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Puppet Show</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.30 am</td>
<td>The Imagination Station Puppet Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 am</td>
<td>The Pied Piper of Hamelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 pm</td>
<td>The Imagination Station Puppet Show</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 pm</td>
<td>The Pied Piper of Hamelin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.30 pm</td>
<td>The Imagination Station Puppet Show</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### High Street

New for 2014 Puppet will be meeting and greeting visitors along the High Street

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Puppet Show</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.30 am</td>
<td>French Fancies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.00 am</td>
<td>The Dragon The Lostronaut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 am</td>
<td>The Dragon The Hairy Chairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.00 noon</td>
<td>The Dragon The Ostriches</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.30 pm</td>
<td>The Dragon Nurse and the Pram</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.00 pm</td>
<td>The Dragon Man in a Box</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.30 pm</td>
<td>The Dragon Pompous Maximus and Servillius Wretch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.00 pm</td>
<td>The Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.30 pm</td>
<td>French Fancies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.00 pm</td>
<td>Nurse and the Pram The Lostronaut</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Newland Street (Road Closure)**

We’re a large Essex employer. We look after investments on behalf of 600,000 people. If you’re interested in working with 600 great colleagues visit our website for more information.

[www.cofunds.co.uk](http://www.cofunds.co.uk)
[recruitment@cofunds.co.uk](mailto:recruitment@cofunds.co.uk)

**The Library, Newland Street**

Enjoy a choice of 14 cask ales and new ciders served straight from the cask at the White Hart Tap bar

With our newly extended garden, it’s the best place in Witham to meet and greet visitors from all over the world.

**High Street**

New for 2014 Puppet will be meeting and greeting visitors along the High Street

**Witham International Puppet Festival - Saturday 20th September 2014**
ADVANCE WARNING OF ROAD CLOSURES
NO ACCESS TO/FROM A12 AT JUNCTION 22
(COLEMAN’S BRIDGE)

Essex Highways have advised that essential carriageway surface improvement works will be carried out on the B1389 Colchester Road between The Avenue and Freebournes Road during the autumn. Works will be carried out between the hours of 20:00 – 06:00.

During the repairs, the road will be closed to all through traffic, and whilst there will be some limited resident/business vehicle access within the closure, there will be no vehicle access or egress through the area under excavation and/or construction. All affected residents have been advised.

Phase 1
Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014  The Avenue to Avenue Road
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014  Avenue Road to Crittall Road
Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014  Avenue Road to Crittall Road
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014  Crittall Road to Freebournes Road
Friday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2014  Crittall Road to Freebournes Road

Phase 2
Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov  Freebournes Road Junction

The Backwater Channel

On a glorious May morning, around fifteen of the Friends of the River Walk met up with Darren Tansley from the Essex Wildlife Trust for an inspiring session on the River Walk covering the evolution of a river, the development of an eco system and its balance, the response and adaptation of nature and wildlife to changes within their environment. A kingfisher and a Little Egret made guest appearances to thrill us as well.

We learned about why the Wildlife Trust thought it was important to restore the Backwater Channel, partly to alleviate flood risk, but also to provide new and improved habitats for wildlife to flourish in. The project was some six years in the planning, then funding suddenly became available and it was all systems go. At first, it looked like a battlefield, piles of bare mud and tree stumps. Many of the fallen trees were recycled to provide new habitats, and are now hidden in the midst of the burgeoning vegetation. Some of the wood has provided spawning areas for fish in the new channel, and this in turn creates a handy larder for the kingfisher’s brood. Darren showed us where an otter has marked the new channel as his territory, and he tried to convince us that its spraint smells like jasmine tea. He also pointed out signs of water vole returning to the area.

We learned that Darren plans to survey the new pond later in the year, to assess how it is establishing itself, and to see if there’s anything that can be done to enhance its value to wildlife.
Lunchtime Concerts

Braintree District Arts invite you to the Lunchtime Concerts that take place on the 1st Wednesday of each month in the United Reformed Church, Newland Street, Witham and on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in Christ Church, London Road, Braintree from 1 pm – 2 pm. Admission is free, although a Retiring Donation is requested to help with expenses.

Betty Beal, who has been organising these concerts since 1993 in Braintree and 1996 in Witham, says “their aim is to use professional and semi-professional performers and offer a varied programme of both vocal and instrumental music of a high standard”.

For information about the forthcoming concerts please contact Betty Beal on 01376 517678 or visit www.braintreedistrictarts.org.uk

Witham Town Luncheon Club

The Luncheon Club meets in the Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursday from 11.30 am until 1.15 pm. A home cooked lunch, dessert and tea or coffee is served, priced at £4.50, and there is a raffle each day.

The club is open to retired members of the Witham based community, so why not go along to meet some new friends or chat to some old friends. You will have your meal cooked for you and someone else will even do the washing up!

For more information please contact
Karen on 07842249397

Essex Boot Camp

Tired of walking into the same old gym with the same old people, worrying about who’s looking at you? Get yourself along to a new extreme, Essex Bootcamp. You could have the opportunity to train with some of the most inspiring people whom all share the same goals and desires as you, without anyone judging you. Log onto www.essexbootcamp.co.uk in order to sign up for the first trial session.

The Witham location is at Bramble Road, Witham CM8 2XA and the session times are:-
Monday 1930
Tuesday 0930
Wednesday 1930
Thursday 0930
Friday 1930

My Favourite Places
on Witham’s Walks
2015

Friends of Witham’s River Walk & Nature Reserves and Witham Horticultural Society teamed up this year and organised a Photographic Competition on the above theme. 87 entries were received and at the end of July, the difficult task of choosing the images for the 2015 calendar was undertaken by representatives from both organisations. The 2015 calendar priced at £5 is now available to purchase from the Information Centre, Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham.

All the photographs submitted will be on display for you to see in the Information Centre in the Town Hall from 15th – 26th September.

Photo by David L Smith
Road Rage

In June, Members of the Town Council met with representatives from Essex County Highways, following the gridlock that was created in the town by two simultaneous sets of roadworks at either end of the town in an effort to improve planning and co-ordination of future roadworks. As a result, they have undertaken extensive planning for the forthcoming major repair work to be done in Colchester Road.

Councillors also took the opportunity to express their frustration at the continuing poor condition of local roads, and the unacceptable delays in repairing them. Regrettably this is a county-wide issue, which the County Council recognises and has taking steps to address with the recent appointment of Cllr Eddie Johnson with responsibility for highway maintenance and small scheme delivery. Councillors will be meeting with the County Council again in October.

We need help from the public to keep on reporting potholes and other problems, as this increases their priority. As reported previously, you can report online to Essex County Highways by logging onto www.essexhighways.org/report-a-highway-problem.aspx . You can also report problems by ringing 0845 6037631.

It’s your council …

Witham Town Council office is open
Monday - Thursday 9 am - 5 pm
and Friday 9.30 am - 4 pm.
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Meetings of your Town Council are open for you to attend. There is usually an opportunity to speak to the Council at the beginning of each meeting.

Full details are shown on the Town Council’s website - www.witham.gov.uk

Agendas are on display on the noticeboard in Newland Street.

Most meetings start at 7.30 pm. The Planning Sub Committees generally start earlier at 6.45 pm.
(times for meetings subject to change)

All are normally held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

Meetings diary
Town Council:
27th October

Environment Committee:
16th September, 10th November

Community Committee:
29th September, 24th November

Policy and Resources Committee:
13th October, 8th December

Planning Applications Sub Committee:
16th & 29th September
13th & 27th October
10th & 24th November
8th & 16th December

Useful Contacts

(All phone numbers are 01376 code unless shown otherwise)

TOWN HALL:
Tel. 520627
email: townclerk@witham.gov.uk

TOURIST INFORMATION:
Tel. 502674

YOUR COUNCILLORS:

Chipping Hill & Central Ward
Michael Lager
45 Chipping Hill, Witham CM8 2JT. Tel. 513747
Paul Ryland
6 Old Parsonage Court, Witham CM8 1XP Tel. 502500
Robert Williams
25 Guithavon Valley, Witham CM8 1HF. Tel. 510845

West Ward
Miss. Lucy Barlow
34 Colne Chase, Witham CM8 1TH. Tel. 512949
John Goodman
2 Chippingdell, Witham CM8 2JX. Tel. 516918.
Tony Bennett
5 Tees Close, Witham CM8 1LG Tel. 514076
Bill Rose
110 Humber Road, Witham CM8 1TU Tel. 510385
Patrick Horner
6 Powers Hall End, Witham CM8 2HE. Tel. 501857

South Ward
Paul Heath
15 Pitt Avenue, Witham CM8 1JQ. Tel. 514730
Mrs. Janet Money
Chestnuts, 8 Octavia Drive, Witham CM8 1HQ. Tel. 515990
Mrs. Maureen Bennett
5 Tees Close, Witham CM8 1LG. Tel. 514076
Olatunde Biyi
27 Pondholton Drive, Witham CM8 1QG Tel. 512521

Mrs. Corinne Thompson
16 Chipping Hill, Witham CM8 2DE Tel. 07958396918

North Ward
Neil Coughlan
18 Court Eleven, Munro Road, Witham CM8 2RE. Tel. 520799
Steve Goodfellow
22 Rickstones Rd, Witham CM8 2NG. Tel. 514259
Dr. Bob Evans
17 Forest Road, Witham CM8 2PS. Tel. 514640

BRANTFLEET DISTRICT COUNCIL
For refuse and pest control, Council Tax & planning permission
Tel. 55225

GREENFIELDS COMMUNITY HOUSING
Tel. 535400

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL
County Hall
Trading standards
0845 4040506
Witham Library
Tel. 519625

POLICE
Routine or general enquiries 101
Emergencies only 999

BUS times - Traveline
0871 200 22 33
Train times
08457 484950
Citizens Advice Bureau
0844 4994719
National Flood Forum
01299 403101