



# Witham's Voice

Produced quarterly by Witham Town Council

ISSUE 71 WINTER 2019

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

*from the Mayor of Witham*

It's been both a real honour and an eye-opening experience as, having been a resident for 50 years, I thought I knew all I could about our town but now I'm finding out so much more. Witham just gets better and better as somewhere for families, young and old, and for all those who work here.

My visits to both Academies have shown me just what a talented generation of young residents guided by enthusiastic and hard-working teachers can achieve. Our town has a fine future in their hands. I've helped start the Sunday Cinema in the Library. Do look out for the posters and come along - it's tea and cake and a jolly good film for £1 - what could be better! The films are chosen with older customers in mind but all are welcome.

Our Town Council has now funded 4 Special Constables who do a wonderful job tackling anti-social behaviour and increase the visibility of Police on our streets. Finding out about the industrial estate and huge success of Witham Industrial Watch has been so interesting and I'm looking forward to my upcoming guided tour of a part of our town that I've never really explored. Our town centre has sadly, like so many towns in our country, lost a number of shops but is transforming very successfully into providing other services - particularly eating out - extremely well.

I'm very interested in young people, having in my past taught in both Witham and Braintree. To that end I've chosen to award money for Youth Projects in the Town as part of my Charity work. I'm inviting Youth Leaders to contact me via the Town Hall with details of any project they have that needs funding. My other charity is Citizens Advice which I believe is a very necessary and worthy service.

I've tried to introduce the Town Council to those who are not aware of what we do. We are very fortunate to have such brilliant staff. Our outdoor team of 4 look after the River Walk, James Cooke Wood, the closed churchyard and Whetmead and are now doing minor Highways work for the County Council. The Information Centre can solve many problems as well as providing booking services for events and travel and behind the scenes we have an excellent office staff. Together they run the Community Day, our fantastic Puppet Festival, the Dickensian Christmas Market and Christmas events.

The word Christmas neatly brings me to wishing all of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2020.



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Town Hall, Newland Street  
Witham, Essex CM8 2FE  
Tel: 01376 520627  
[www.witham.gov.uk](http://www.witham.gov.uk)

## Another Successful Puppet Festival!

On Saturday 21st September Witham celebrated its 20th annual Puppet Festival, taking place across the Town Centre. An eccentric variety of puppets and street performers entertained the crowds, taking us all Down the Rabbit Hole for a Wonderland themed day. Lots of children turned up dressed ready for a tea party for our fancy dress competition, searched for the Queen of Heart's missing footmen in the Teacup Hunt and tried to guess how many sweets were in the Mad Hatter's hat! The town saw a huge influx of visitors and smiles could be seen all around. Our local Special Constabulary even popped along to get involved!



A special thanks goes to all of the festival sponsors and to the Witham community for embracing the madness of the day!



## Pop up at Asda

A pop up stall was held at Asda on Highfields Road by Witham Town Council to talk to members of the public about community safety. The event was supported by Special Sergeant Simon Jesse who handed out purse bells and information on personal safety donated by Witham Neighbourhood Watch.

The purpose of the pop up was to not only inform the community about safety, but also to find out which safety issues they are most concerned about in order to look at how best to address them.

Based on the success of this occasion, another pop up has been planned for Saturday 25th January in the Newlands Centre.

If you have any concerns or questions about community safety or would like to find out how to become a special officer and make our town safer, please contact the Town Hall on 01376 520627 or email [assistanttrfo@witham.gov.uk](mailto:assistanttrfo@witham.gov.uk).

## Streetlights replaced with longer lasting LEDs

Witham Town Council is currently in the process of replacing our inventory of 70 footpath lights with LED fittings.

The new lights will be more environmentally friendly, using 70% less electricity than the previous system. Saving time and money on maintenance, the installation is a 20 year investment for the town.

An additional benefit to having these new lights is that they will be fully adjustable with four different brightness settings, so individual lights can be set according to their location. Streetlights in Witham are owned by different authorities, but any owned by Witham Town Council will have WTC clearly displayed on the column.



# Witham Information Centre

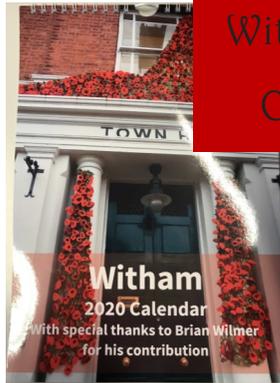
Town Hall, Newland Street

*Looking for some special gift ideas? Why not see what Witham Information Centre has to offer!*

Hand Wrapped Hampers



Witham 2020 Calendar



Witham Souvenirs



Local Books



Gift Sets



## Special News

Witham Town Council is happy to welcome Mark Williams as the newest member of Witham's Special Constabulary team.

Mark is the fourth member to join the team since the scheme started in June 2018, and there are commitments by the Council to fund even more Specials in the future.

The Specials give their time every month, and the presence of these fully warranted officers has led to a visible reduction in anti-social behaviour. Members of the public should feel free to approach them with any concerns they have whilst they are out on foot patrol.



## Be part of Witham's Next Community Day!

Witham Town Council will be holding the annual Community Day in Witham Town Park in Maldon Road on Saturday 13th June 2020.

Are you a Witham based club, group or organisation?

Would you like the opportunity to fundraise and showcase what you do?

Community groups are invited to take part in this event free of charge.

For more information or to register your interest please contact [communityofficer@witham.gov.uk](mailto:communityofficer@witham.gov.uk) by 31st January.





# Witham's Voice

## Clare the Mayor

Hosts....

### Barn Dance

on

Friday, 31 January 2020

7.30pm to 11.00pm

Spring Lodge Community Centre,  
Powers Hall End, Witham

£12.50 per head

Licensed Bar

Dancing to "Caperbility"

Caller Pam Warren

Bring a Plate of sweet or savoury finger  
food to share



## Mayor's Christmas Lunch

This December, the Mayor of Witham will be hosting by invitation a Christmas Lunch for seniors at the Town Hall in Newland Street.

*To qualify you must:*

- Be in receipt of a state pension
- Be a resident of Witham

Please register your interest at the Information Centre located in Witham Town Hall, Newland Street. Spaces are limited, so invitations will be sent to all attending with details of the date and time of the lunch.



## Bollywood Night

On

Saturday 29th February 2020

7pm til 10.30pm

At The Royal British Legion, Witham

£20 per person

Watch Bollywood dances & learn to dance  
them yourself

Sari demonstrations and an opportunity to try  
them on

Includes an Indian buffet

All proceeds to the Mayor's Charity Appeal – Citizens  
Advice and Youth Projects in Witham  
Tickets available from the Information Centre, Town  
Hall (Cash only)

## New to the Witham Voice?

We have recently changed to Royal Mail for distribution, meaning our town newsletter now reaches across the whole of the CM8 postcode. This free quarterly publication features the latest news from Witham Town Council along with details about Council events and community information.



## Sunday Cinema

**Witham Library, Newland Street**

Showing a selection of Golden Oldies once a month. Suitable for all audiences. The next showings are:

### ***High Society***

Sunday 24th November

### ***White Christmas***

Sunday 22nd December

Entrance is £1 per person - tea, coffee and biscuits are available.

For more information please visit the Library or Information Centre, or email [rob@rojosa.co.uk](mailto:rob@rojosa.co.uk)

By working with other organisations we can help to prevent isolation in older generations. We facilitate a number of events in our Town Hall Function Room as well as supporting events held at other local venues. We also provide a range of leaflets and support in the Information Centre located in the Town Hall.

Here is a selection of the groups that we support, but please feel free to contact the Information Centre on 01376502674 for more details or pop in and see us on Newland Street to see what else is on offer.

## Bereavement Support Group

*With East of England Co-op*

“We understand how difficult it is to lose a loved one, and that’s why we’re here to offer you a listening ear, for as long as you need us.”

Mondays from 1.15pm - 3.15pm in the Council Chambers at the Town Hall.

Feel free to come along as everyone is welcome.

**If you would like more information, please contact Evelyn on 01206 797196**

## Dancing with Dementia

Classes are led by a professional dancer and are designed to encourage positive physical and mental well being. Held at the Royal British Legion Memorial Hall in Witham.

Please call 01245 260911 or email [essex@alzheimers.org.uk](mailto:essex@alzheimers.org.uk) for more details.

## Dementia Friendly Choir

‘Where words fail, music speaks’ Free workshops held at The Empire Theatre, Halstead exploring the power of how music can benefit those living with dementia. Please email [mike@empire-theatre.co.uk](mailto:mike@empire-theatre.co.uk) for more details.

## Witham Town Lunch Club

*Function Room, Town Hall*

*Helping to support older members of our community*

Join us for a coffee or stay for lunch

Make new friends, play games and meet interesting people in a warm and friendly environment.

There’ll always be a warm welcome for you!

**For more information please contact Karen on 07842249397**

# Christmas in Witham



Witham's Dickensian Christmas Market is back for its eighth year, arriving at the Newlands Shopping Centre on Saturday 30th November.

Running from 9.30am until 3.30pm, there will be plenty of opportunity to find the perfect Christmas present from the variety of stalls available, whilst local choirs provide a festive soundtrack for your browsing.

Why not stick around for the Christmas lights switch on at 5.30pm by the town Christmas tree? New Rickstones Academy Choir will be providing the entertainment as you arrive with a selection of Christmas songs, and the lights

will be switched on by a special helper chosen by Waffle - Witham's very own elf on the shelf! After a day of shopping, Christmas music and seeing the town twinkling with lights, you are sure to be in a festive mood!



**CARDS**  
FOR GOOD CAUSES

We are proud to support Cards for Good Causes once more as they raise money for charity by selling a wonderful selection of Christmas cards in the Town Information Centre in Newland Street until 18th December.

## Carol Service

7.00pm on December 11th  
around the Christmas Tree on  
Newland Street

Carols will be led by the Bethel Band  
Retiring collection to the Mayor's  
charities - Citizens Advice and Youth  
Projects in Witham

Refreshments will be available after  
the service



## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WITHAM - CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2019

### 24 November - Sunday

10.30 pm Toy Service: gifts to Angel Tree Project.  
United Reformed Church

### 8 December - Tuesday

10.30 pm Toy service - bring toys for children that are less fortunate than ourselves  
Methodist Church

### 15 December - Sunday

9.30 am Breakfast Church - Christmas theme  
Maltings Academy Canteen, CM8 1EP  
Bethel Christian Fellowship

10.30 am Christingle & Nativity Service  
Methodist Church

10.30 am All Age Service including Nativity Play  
(preceded by breakfast at 9.45 am)  
United Reformed Church

4.00 pm Christingle Service  
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

5.00 pm Exploring the meaning of Christmas  
*Informal service with refreshments*  
Valley Church

### 17 December - Tuesday

11.00 am Carols & mince pies in Meeting Point  
United Reformed Church

4.00 pm Christmas Messy Church Nativity  
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

### 22 December - Sunday

10.30 am All-Age Worship  
Witham Baptist Church

10.30 am Carol Service  
Methodist Church

10.30 am Carol Service  
Methodist Church

11.00 am Morning Worship - All-age service  
United Reformed Church

4.00 pm Carol Service, *mince pies afterwards*  
Maltings Academy, CM8 1EP  
Bethel Christian Fellowship

5.00 pm Carols by Candlelight  
Valley Church

6.00 pm Service of Nine Lessons & Carols  
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

6.30 pm Carols by Candlelight  
Witham Baptist Church

### 22 December - Sunday

6.30 pm Candle-lit Carol Service, joint with  
The Holy Family Church, Witham  
Methodist, Witham Baptist & Bethel  
United Reformed Church

### 24 December - Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Crib Service  
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

5.30 pm Family Mass (carols 30 minutes before)  
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

10.00 pm Mass of the Night (carols 30 mins before)  
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

11.30 pm Midnight Eucharist  
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

11.30 pm Midnight Communion  
United Reformed Church

### 25 December - Christmas Day

9.30 am Mass of the Dawn (said Mass)  
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

10.00 am Family Communion  
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

10.00 am Christmas Day Celebration  
Methodist Church

10.30 am Christmas All Age Worship  
Witham Baptist Church

10.30 am Christmas Day Service  
Bethel Hall, Church Street, CM8 2JH  
Bethel Christian Fellowship

10.30 am All Age Celebration Service  
United Reformed Church

10.30 am Christmas Morning Service  
*joint with Valley Church*  
Rickstones Church

10.30 am Christmas Day Service  
Hope Community Church

11.00 am Mass of the Day  
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

### 29 December - Sunday

10.30 am Praise & Worship Service  
Bethel Hall, Church Street

### 31 December - New Year's Eve

11.30 pm Watchnight Service  
United Reformed Church

Guithavon Valley Evangelical Church (Valley Church)  
Guithavon Valley, CM8 1HF

The Holy Family & All Saints Church (Roman Catholic)  
Guithavon Street, CM8 1BN

St Mary's Church (Roman Catholic)  
Sheepcotes Lane, Silver End, CM8 3PJ

Methodist Church,  
Guithavon Street, CM8 1BJ

Hope Community Church (Church of England)  
Howbridge Junior School, 7 Dengie Close, CM8 1DJ

Bethel Christian Fellowship  
Bethel Hall, Church Street CM8 2JH

United Reformed Church  
Newland Street, CM8 1AH

St Nicolas' Church (Church of England)  
Chipping Hill, CM8 2JS

Witham Baptist Church  
Royal British Legion, Newland Street, CM8 2AZ

Rickstones Church  
Rickstones Road, CM8 2NG

# Dates for your Diary



## Dickensian Christmas Event

Fun for all. Come along and join the Christmas festivities!



## Carol Service

A free service for all, taking place in front of the Town Christmas Tree.



## Mayor's Barn Dance

At Spring Lodge Community Centre with all proceeds to the Mayor's Appeal. For more information see page 4



### TOWN HALL

Tel: 01376 520627  
townclerk@witham.gov.uk

### INFORMATION CENTRE

Tel: 01376 502674

### YOUR COUNCILLORS

#### CENTRAL WARD

**Michael Lager:** 45 Chipping Hill CM8 2JT.  
Tel: 01376 513747

**Robert Williams:** 25 Guithavon Valley CM8 1HF  
Tel: 01376 510845

#### WEST WARD

**Susan Ager:** 15 Chelmer Road CM8 2EY  
Tel: 01376 512470

**John Goodman:** 2 Chippingdell CM8 2JX.  
Tel: 01376 516918

**Tom Pleasance:** 5 Helford Court CM8 1TL.  
Tel: 01376 501597

**Paul Ryland:** 6 Old Parsonage Court CM8 1XP  
Tel: 01376 502500

#### SOUTH WARD

**Kevin Atwill:** 11 Guithavon Street CM8 1BJ  
Tel: 07798 873544

**Chelsey Jay:** 15 Magnolia Close CM8 2PD  
chelsejayemail@gmail.com

**Angela Kilmartin:** Flat 3, Icen House, Newland Street CM8 2FS.  
Tel: 01376 502872

**Cliff Livermore:** 4 Norah Guilder House, Strutt Close, Hatfield Peverel CM3 2HB  
Tel: 07825 093394

#### NORTH WARD

**Philip Barlow:** Rivendell, Chalks Road CM8 2BT  
Tel: 01376 514033

**Jack Bayford:** 14 Larch Grove CM8 2LW  
Tel: 07860 748151

**Steve Hicks:** 9 Malyon Road CM8 1DF  
e-mail: shoesoff@globalnet.co.uk

**Michelle Weeks:** 20 Elderberry Gardens CM8 2PT  
Tel: 01376 512590

#### HATFIELD WARD

**Clare Lager:** 45 Chipping Hill CM8 2JT  
Tel: 01376 513747

**Ron Ramage:** 9 Graces Close CM8 1QH  
Tel: 07963 934224

## It's your council...

Witham Town Council Offices are open Monday - Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM and Friday 9:30AM-4:00PM.

Closed Weekends and Bank Holidays.

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

Full details are displayed at [www.witham.gov.uk](http://www.witham.gov.uk)

Agendas are on display on the noticeboard in Newland Street.

Meetings usually begin at 7:30PM and Planning Applications & Transport sub-committee meetings at 6:30PM.

Meetings are held in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Newland Street, Witham, Essex, CM8 2FE.

The Information Centre in the Town Hall is open from 9:00AM-4:30PM Monday - Thursday and Friday 9:30AM - 4:00PM. Closed Weekends and Bank Holidays.

### MEETINGS:

**Town Council:** 13th & 20th January, 9th March

**Environment:** 27th January

**Community:** 25th November, 10th February

**Policy & Resources:** 9th December, 24th February

**Planning & Transport:** 25th November, 9th & 17th December, 13th & 27th January, 10th & 24th February, 9th March