



Witham's Voice



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Janet Gyford Awarded

'The Freedom of Witham'



Following a unanimous vote held in secrecy by Witham Town Council, Members are delighted to announce that Janet Gyford has been awarded in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, Sections 249(5) and (6), The Freedom of Witham. The award was presented at the Mayor's Christmas reception in December 2018.

Town Mayor Councillor Tom Pleasance said of Janet: "Many local citizens will recognise Janet Gyford as our highly respected local historian, author and principal historical events fact-checker. Her contribution to our community has been truly invaluable which has led to the Council awarding the highest possible honour that is within our powers - The Freedom of Witham. Janet is only the second citizen of Witham to have ever received this honour in recognition of her truly amazing commitment to the Town that we all know and love."

Janet has contributed to many projects conducted by the Town Council over the years including serving on the WW1 Centenary Commemorations Working Group, Heritage List Working Party & Heritage Centre projects.

Janet has also authored numerous books concerning the history of Witham including Witham Park: 100 Years Old and Images of Witham which are available to purchase from the Witham Information Centre.

Janet said of her award "It was very, very kind and thoughtful of the Town Council and the Town Clerk to award me the Freedom of Witham, in recognition of my local history work. I didn't know such a thing as a Freedom existed, but I've found it extremely cheering and morale-boosting. So even though it's taken me over 50 years already, I find I still want to discover more. And in particular, to spread the information to as many people as possible. This is where the internet comes in, though it's only been possible to put a fraction of available items onto it. The ones which I have been working at hardest, are the interviews with "old" Witham residents, and the old photographs. You'll find the photos at <https://www.janetgyford.com/old-witham-photos> There are 1,500 at the moment. All being well there'll be another 500 soon. Very many thanks to all the people in the past who have lent me photos so that I could have them copied.

Witham Town Council

Town Hall
Newland Street
Witham

Essex
CM8 2FE

Tel: 01376 520627
www.witham.gov.uk



Witham's Voice

Christmas in Witham

On the last Saturday in November the Annual Dickensian Christmas Market took place in the Newland Centre.

There were over twenty stalls made up of mainly charity and voluntary organisations who were raising funds for their chosen societies. One group made a £700.00 profit. A couple of small businesses were also there using the opportunity to market their goods and get their name known.

Entertainment in the form of two incredible school choirs, Chipping Hill School and Templars Academy, and two amazing local choirs, Funky Voices and The Big Sing, lifted the mood and provided a wonderful Christmas atmosphere.

Afterwards the Christmas tree lights were switched on by James

Beardwell – Witham Football Club's Superfan, with the Carnival Court switching on the Town Hall Lights.

Witham Town Council would like to thank everyone who took part and welcome constructive comments on how to improve the event. We would also like to thank again the Rotary Club for their kind donation of the town Christmas tree.

The Annual Town Carol Service took place around the Christmas tree in Newland Street with readings from 295 Squadron ATC and The J's Hospice. Music was provided by the fabulous Bethel Group who, along with their singers, created a joyous uplifting mood to start the festive season.

If you would like to take part in the 2019 Annual Dickensian Christmas Market please contact Dee Halliday on 01376-520627 or townmayor@witham.gov.uk



Witham Christmas Events Winners Announced

The Witham Christmas Events Group would like to take this opportunity of thanking all of the shopkeepers who took part in the Christmas Window Competition. It was wonderful to see so many beautiful displays, and judging was really hard.

After much discussion, Witham Town Mayor, Councillor Tom Pleasance, awarded first prize to "The Little Flower Company" with "Witham Information Centre" as the runner-up.

The Winner of the best stall at the Dickensian Christmas Market was the R.N.L.I.



Do you want to be a part of the Witham Carnival Court?

The search is on for the 2019/2020 Witham Carnival Court. The new Court will be chosen at a Selection Dance on **Saturday 30 March 2019** at the Public Hall from 6.30pm. The chosen Court will spend a year representing Witham Town, visiting other towns around our district and attending charity events.

This is not a beauty contest but we do look for a pleasant personality, someone who is reasonably confident, charismatic and enjoys meeting people. **They MUST live in the CM8 postcode area.**

Court members must be the following ages:

Senior Court Members 13-25 years old

Junior Court Members 6-12 years old

Entry forms should be in no later than **Saturday 23 March 2019**. Anyone interested should apply to: Carnival Court Manager, Miss C Victor, 23 Burdun Close, Witham, CM8 1PN. (Entry forms are available at the Town Hall, Library or visit www.withamcarnival.org.uk) **For more information, contact:** Miss Carly Victor on 07769 152 330





Welcome from James Sheehy, our new Town Clerk



Witham's former Deputy Town Clerk commenced his new role as our Town Clerk on the 1st February.

James has said of his new post, "I am truly honoured to serve as the 4th Town Clerk to Witham Town Council having first joined the Town Council as the Deputy Town Clerk in 2016 and will be working harder than ever to deliver the ambitious business plans set out by Members to help improve the Town that we all know and love. The challenges faced by the Council and its administration are ever increasing and we find ourselves continually growing to meet the demand of local citizens who rightly expect us to provide high quality service and a rapid response to concerns of our local community.

I am also extremely fortunate to have behind me a dedicated and professional team of staff who continue to work tirelessly and selflessly to serve the interests of Witham. Together we will be delivering more than ever for the community, however I encourage all townspeople to get involved and have your say. Whenever you have a concern or want something changed for the better in the Town, Witham Town Council is here to serve you as your first port of call in local democracy. Both Councillors and staff are here to listen to you and point you in the right direction, and all Town Council meetings are open to the public with a dedicated public participation time where the Council must hear whatever you have to say.

My door is always open to Councillors, residents, local businesses and Witham's army of volunteers whenever you need something doing. As your new Town Clerk, I stand firm on my promise to deliver more than ever for the benefit of all those who work tirelessly to make Witham a truly excellent place to live and work"



THE MAYOR OF WITHAM'S Quiz Night



At The

Royal British Legion Memorial Hall

Newland Street, Witham

Saturday, 20th April 2019

7.30pm start

£5 per person - up to 8 in a team

You bring your tipples

We bring the nibbles

Tickets from the Information Centre, Town Hall

in aid of the Mayor's Charity Appeal

The J'S Hospice

295 Squadron ATC - Mini Bus Fund



Witham's Voice

Witham's Community Special Constables



In June 2018, Witham Town Council became the first local authority to fund its own volunteer police officers as part of Essex Police's Community Specials scheme.

Under the scheme, the council funds the expenses of three volunteer police officers who are designated to the town.

Special Sergeant Jason Atkins, Special Constable Simon Jesse and Special Constable Lorne Campbell are Witham's Community Special Constables and are required to volunteer a minimum of 16 hours each month in Witham to target anti-social behaviour, respond to community concerns and carry out high visibility foot patrols in the town. The Specials have the same full policing powers and uniform as regular police officers.



Witham Town Council will fund any expenses the Specials require to carry out their duties in the town and the scheme forms part of the council's plans to tackle anti-social behaviour.

The Specials consistently give more and more of their time every month and dedicate the majority of their hours to high visibility foot patrols, covering several miles a day and chatting with locals along the way. Simon and two of his colleagues from Braintree, SC Katy Barlow and SC Michael Mihalyfi, recently visited a local nursery to show the children that police officers are there to help them. The team also carry out speed checks around the town and over the festive period attended the Dickensian Christmas Market to chat to residents about the role.



You can follow all three on Twitter to see where they've patrolled and what incidents they've helped with:

SC Simon Jesse's Twitter (www.twitter.com/SCSimonJesse)

SC Lorne Campbell's Twitter (www.twitter.com/LorneSc)

S/Sgt Jason Wintin's Twitter (www.twitter.com/S_SgtWINTIN)



Essex Police has the fastest growing Special Constabulary in the UK and it's the second largest Special Constabulary with more than 480 dedicated individuals who volunteer to keep others safe. If you would like to become a volunteer police officer, visit: www.essex.police.uk/specials

A Message from the Mayor

"The Christmas period of 2018 was a busy period for my wife and I, we carried out 16 enjoyable engagements in December.

The Mayor's 2019 diary is already beginning to fill the pages with engagements that will take me up to the 13th May when I pass over the chain of office to the new Mayor, yet to be elected, following the local council election on Thursday 2nd May.

But before that I have a few Mayor's functions to host, two for my chosen charities, 'J's' Hospice and Witham's own 295 Air Cadet Squadron - minibus fund. A **'Charity Gala Dinner' 9th February at the Rivenhall Golf Club and 20th April Quiz Night at Royal British Legion Memorial Hall. 7.30 start, please get your tickets from the Town Hall early, the last one was a sell-out.**

And finally, the Mayor's Civic Service at St. Nicolas Church is on Sunday 7th April 2019 at 3pm. It will be a combined faith service; The Reverend Canon Sally Lodge has graciously agreed to take the service with the theme of 'Caring and Volunteering in the Community'

Thank you for your support and I continue to promote our Georgian Town of Witham's 'Georgeousness'"



Witham's Voice

Spring in the Information Centre

With spring approaching, please call into the Town Hall to see us for our latest local products / services including:

- ◇ Discounted tickets
 - * Adventure Island – wristbands; golf; and Sealife
 - * Colchester Zoo tickets
- ◇ Tiptree Wilkins range – Jams, marmalade, chutneys and local honey
- ◇ Theatre tokens – can be used at more than 240 theatres nationwide
- ◇ Box Office – Tickets for Witham Public Hall
- ◇ Witham memorabilia



Our other services include:

National Express Ticketing

Coach Trips with Witham departure and return

Brochures for a wide range of days out / UK based holidays

Photocopying and fax service

Recycling sacks and dog waste bags

Hall Hire – our Function Room & Council Chamber are also available at highly competitive rates for a wide range of events



We would also like to welcome Julie Furse to our team here at the Town Council. Julie has joined us as Community Officer, please feel free to welcome her the next time you pop in.

Julie would like to add "I am delighted to have joined the team, and would like to thank everyone for such a warm welcome."

Witham Choral's Night at the Opera

Witham Choral will be entering the world of opera at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 6 April 2019 at Witham Public Hall.

Musical Director, Patrick McCarthy, told us: "Coming from an operatic background myself, it will be a great pleasure to conduct Witham Choral and the Colchester Philharmonic in 'A Night at the Opera!' It will bring back happy memories."

Soloists Gill Wilson (soprano), Elaine Henson (mezzo) and John Pierce (tenor) will be performing well-known arias such as Mozart's Queen of the Night, the Habanera from Bizet's Carmen and Puccini's Nessun Dorma.

Chairman Stephen Northfield commented, "I am looking forward to singing the famous Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves and The Anvil Chorus! It will be a splendid evening full of much-loved familiar melodies."

Tickets: £13 (£5 full-time education) are available from Witham Public Hall 0345 017 8717, www.withampublichall.co.uk or from choir members or 01245 380958 or at the door. Doors open at 7.00 p.m.

If you are interested in singing with Witham Choral just go along to Witham URC at 7.45 p.m. on a Tuesday night or telephone 01245 380958 for more details.

www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WITHAM & DISTRICT- EASTER SERVICES 2019

13 April – Saturday

5.30 pm Palm Sunday Mass & Blessing of Palms
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

14 April - Palm Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (with Blessing of Palms)
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

9.30 am Breakfast Church around Palm Sunday
Maltings Academy Canteen, Spinks Lane CM8 1EP
Bethel Christian Fellowship

10.00 am Parish Eucharist, Blessing of Palms & procession - St Nicolas Church (CofE)

10.30 am Morning Worship - United Reformed Church

11.00 am Mass & Blessing of Palms
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

6.00 pm Faure's Requiem - St Nicolas Church (CofE)

15 April – Monday of Holy Week

9.30 am Mass - The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

8.00 pm Stations of the Cross - St Nicolas Church (CofE)

16 April – Tuesday of Holy Week

9.30 am Mass- The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

8.00 pm Holy Communion- St Nicolas Church (CofE)

17 April – Wednesday of Holy Week

12.15 pm Mass for Spy Wednesday
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

8.00 pm Sung Compline - St Nicolas Church (CofE)

18 April – Maundy Thursday

6.30 pm Prayers and Communion - Bethel Christian Fellowship

7.00 pm Passover Meal: Tickets from Centre Office
Free, donation on the evening - United Reformed Church

7.00 pm Maundy Service *with the Baptist Church* -
Methodist Church

7.30 pm Communion Service *w Rickstones Church*
Valley Church

8.00 pm Eucharist of the Last Supper followed by
Watch of the Passion until Midnight
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

8.00 pm Mass of the Lord's Supper & Watch until Midnight
Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

19 April – Good Friday

10.00 am Good Friday Service- Methodist Church

10.00 am Messy Church followed by brunch
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

10.30 am Easter Messy Church including lunch
United Reformed Church

10.30 am Good Friday Service
with the Baptist Church and Bethel
United Reformed Church

10.30 am Good Friday Service with Valley Church
Rickstones Church

19 April – Good Friday - continued

12 noon Haydn: The Seven Last Words of Christ
Helicon String Quartet

1.00 pm Devotion inc. Liturgy of the Cross at 2 pm
All at St Nicolas Church (CofE)

3.00 pm The Liturgy

7.30 pm Stations of the Cross
both at The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

20 April – Holy Saturday

11.00 am Easter March of Witness
Leaving from Tesco end of Grove Centre

2.00 pm [Święconka \(The Blessing of Easter Food\)](#)
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

8.00 pm Solemn Vigil & First Mass of Easter
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

8.00 pm Easter Vigil - St Nicolas Church (CofE)

21 April – Easter Day

6.00 am First Eucharist of Easter (*then breakfast*)
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

6.00 am Sunrise Service in the Park
followed by breakfast at the Centre
United Reformed Church

8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

9.00 am Mass - St Mary, Silver End (RC) CM8 3PJ

10.00 am Family Communion
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

9.45 am Messy Breakfast followed by

10.30 am All-age Worship incl. Holy Communion and activities
for children
United Reformed Church

10.30 am Easter Celebration Service
Maltings Academy, Spinks Lane CM8 1EP
Bethel Christian Fellowship

10.30 am All Age Worship with Communion
Royal British Legion Hall, CM8 2AZ
Baptist Church

10.30 am Resurrection Service - Methodist Church

11.00 am Mass - The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

11.00 am Easter Sunday Morning Worship - Valley Church

5.00 pm Easter Celebration - Valley Church

6.00 pm Easter Songs of Praise - St Nicolas Church (CofE)

6.30 pm Evening Worship incl. Holy Communion
United Reformed Church

Valley Church

Guithavon Valley, CM8 1HF
Holy Family (RC)
Guithavon Street, CM8 1BN
Methodist Church,
Guithavon Street, CM8 1BJ
Bethel Christian Fellowship
65 Church Street, CM8 2JH

United Reformed Church

Newland Street, CM8 1AH
Rickstones Church
Rickstones Road, CM8
2NG
St Nicolas Church (C of E)
Chipping Hill, CM8 2JS



Witham Community Day—Saturday 8th June 2019

10.30am - 3.30pm

At Witham Town Park

A fun day out for all the family with free entry to the
park

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

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

Patrick Horner: 6 Powers Hall End CM8 2HE.
Tel: 01376 501857

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

Bill Rose: 110 Humber Road CM8 1TU.
Tel: 07553 082384

SOUTH WARD

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

Janet Money: 11 Carraways, CM8 1XW
Tel: 01376 515990

Jacqueline Kempf: 29 Guithavon Valley CM8
1HF Tel: 01376 501608

John Pullen: 44 Avenue Road CM8 2DP
Tel: 01376 500109

NORTH WARD

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

Jack Bayford: 12 Court 2, Bronte Road
CM8 2QQ
Tel: 07860 748151

Paul Ryland: 6 Old Parsonage Court CM8
1XP Tel: 01376 512042

JoAnn Williams: 25 Guithavon Valley CM8
1HF Tel: 01376 510845

HATFIELD WARD

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

Ron Ramage: 9 Graces Close CM8 1QH
Tel: 01376 515295

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

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: 4th March 2019,
29th April 2019.

Environment: 18th March 2019.

Community: 1 April 2019.

Policy & Resources: 19th
February, 15th April 2019.

Planning & Transport: 19th
February, 4th, 18th March 2019,
1st, 15th, 29th April 2019.