



Witham's Voice

Produced quarterly by Witham Town Council

ISSUE 62 AUTUMN 2017

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Witham promises to be packed to the gunnels with swashbuckling madness at this year's puppet festival!



Avast ye Withamites and man the crow's nest for an invasion of scallywags and briny creatures will be sure to tempt ye of yer' pieces of eight at this year's Witham Puppet Festival.

Being held traditionally on the third Saturday of September, this year's festival theme is centred around the seven seas and features a vast array of acts including the mystical Summer Lion, representatives of the Fairly Fresh Fish Co, an unsolicited gatecrash from Granny Turisimo and as rumour has it, a galleon of Viking invaders!



Organised by the Town Council, the Witham Puppet Festival is a free, action packed family fun day out, which sees Newland Street shut to traffic and the town alive with performances taking place from 10:30am to 4:00pm.

The day is sponsored by local businesses and organisations who help to support the community and make the Witham Puppet Festival bigger and better each year.

Included in this edition of The Voice (pages 4-5) is the programme of events, however any further

information regarding the day can be obtained by emailing Community Officer Pauline Merritt at communityofficer@witham.gov.uk.

Once again a fancy dress competition will be held with judging to take place outside of Witham Library at 1:40pm. Children are invited to enter the competition in the spirit of this year's theme "Under The Sea" dressing as mermaids, pirates and all manner of sea creatures. Free craft workshops will also be taking place in The Grove Centre throughout the day and a colouring competition organised by the Witham & District Chamber of Commerce

Witham Town Council
Town Hall
Newland Street
Witham
Essex
CM8 2FE
Tel: 01376 520 627
www.witham.gov.uk



Dickensian Christmas Market is coming to Witham again.

The 2017 Annual Dickensian Christmas Market will take place on Saturday 25th November in the Newland Shopping Centre. It will be officially opened by the Town Mayor of Witham, Councillor Mrs JoAnn Williams at 10.30am. As the event closes at 3.30pm a choir will sing their way from the Newland Shopping Centre to the Christmas tree opposite the Town Hall where the Christmas tree lights will be switched on.

There are still a few vacancies available for stall holders or if you belong to a choir and would like to entertain the Christmas shoppers then the Town Council would like to hear from you. Please be aware that you will have to provide your own gazebo and tables, Public Liability Insurance and a nominal fee of £20.00 for a business pitch, or a reduced fee of £10.00 if you are a charitable organisation.

The Dickensian Event is made up of over twenty five stalls run by charity organisations who are raising awareness of their work and also raising much needed funds. The stalls are full of Christmas goodies for sale and also run several tombolas. Local small businesses also take up stalls to advertise their wares whilst entertainment is provided by local choirs and community organisations throughout the course of the day.



If you would like to take part in this event please contact Dee Halliday on 01376 520627 or email townmayor@witham.gov.uk

Witham Turns Out to Commemorate The Great War in 1917

Continuing the commemorations of World War I, for this year Witham Town Council hosted Witham 1917: Out of The Line at the Witham Public Hall, featuring the Jeff Short band.

An evening of live music of the era presided over by the Council's very own Master of Ceremonies, Councillor John Goodman saw citizens and dignitaries from across Essex come together in remembrance marking one hundred years since the Battle of Passchendaele whilst also reflecting on the lighter side of life during the war.

Guests were served by two suffragettes in attendance voicing their campaign to

extend the right to vote to women as dinner was served during the interval. Witham's own Deputy Town Mayor greeted guests at the door as none other than a Young Winston Churchill, newly appointed Minister of Munitions for 1917.

The World War I Centenary Commemorations Working Group of Witham Town Council has installed a remembrance bench in Chipping Hill, conducted the Drumhead Parade in 2016 and has continued the bill of commemorations through Witham 1917 and has been supported by representatives of the Royal British Legion and other local community organisations.

As part of this year's commemorations, a war time exhibition created by members of the committee is being held in the Witham Library.

Members will now be turning their focus towards 2018 commemorations when one hundred years since the end of The Great War will be marked.

The Working Group wishes to give thanks to all of the guests who helped make the evening a great success and supported the fundraising efforts of the Council through the purchase of entrance and raffle tickets.



Would you like to join the Mayor of Witham?



Christmas Lunch 2017

Every year the Town Mayor of Witham invites thirty two Senior Citizens who live in Witham and are in receipt of a state pension to come to the Town Hall and have Christmas lunch with them on a Friday in December. This year's mayor is Councillor JoAnn Williams.

Each guest will receive an invitation to attend a three course traditional Christmas dinner with wine and a chance to meet other seniors and hopefully make new friends.

If you would like to join the Town Mayor for lunch, simply enquire at the Information Centre, 61 Newland Street, Witham by the end of October 2017.

The Town Mayor's Quiz Night

The Town Mayor's Quiz Night will be held in The New Times Restaurant, Tiptree on Monday 23rd October 2017. The tickets will be on sale in the Information Centre for £5.00 from 1st September 2017 with an open cash bar available on the night.

A raffle will be hosted and all funding raised will go to the Mayor's Charity Appeal which this year supports the Witham Operatic Workshop and Little Havens Hospice. The questions will be on various subjects including geography, sport, history, current affairs etc. There is also ample parking at the venue.

Highland Dinner Dance

The Town Mayor is planning to host a Highland Dinner & Dance Saturday 3rd March 2018 in aid of this year's Mayor's Appeal, with further details to follow in the next edition of the voice.

Currently in the planning stages, it is anticipated that a three course dinner will be on offer with a raffle held to help raise funds for the Mayor's Appeal. Dates will be confirmed in the next edition of The Voice and tickets for the event will be on sale in the Information Centre, 61 Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FE.

Fundraising Efforts by Former Mayor Councillor Patrick Horner.

With the final sums counted, Councillor Patrick Horner, Mayor for the Civic Year 2016/17 raised a total sum of £4,320 for his nominated charities of Chelmsford & District Cardiac Support and Action for Family Carers, each receiving £2,160.00. The Town Council wishes to thank everybody who supported last year's Mayor's Appeal as raising such a vast amount of funds could not be done without the generous support of the citizens of Witham.





WITHAM PUPPET FESTIVAL

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER

A great
FREE
day out



GROVE
SHOPPING CENTRE

Grove Centre

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

10.30 am	The Pirates The Giant Spider
11.00 am	Granny Turismo The Fish Trike
11.30 am	The Summer Lion Squashbox Theatre - The Sea Show
12 noon	Beach Patrol The Seahorses
12.30 pm	The Giant Spider Bro Fitness Sea Cadets Duo
1.00 pm	Fairly Fresh Fish Company Squashbox Theatre - The Sea Show

1.30 pm	The Seahorses The Bubble Wizard
1.45 pm	Funky Voices Choir
2.30 pm	Beach Patrol Squashbox Theatre - The Sea Show
3.00 pm	The Fish Trike The Seahorses
3.30 pm	The Giant Spider The Pirates



FREE CRAFT STALLS RUNNING ALL DAY BY THE LOG CABIN IN THE GROVE CENTRE

Witham Town Council would like to express their sincere thanks to Stephenson's, First and National Express bus companies and other road users for their flexibility with regards the road closure and diversions on Puppet Festival Day.

Newlands Centre

NEWLANDS
SHOPPING CENTRE

The Newlands Centre, continued proud partners of the Witham Puppet Festival.

10.30 am	Beach Patrol Fairly Fresh Fish Company
11.00 am	Meet The Funnels Punch & Judy - The Pirate Show
11.30 am	The Puddleducks Bro Fitness Sea Cadets Duo
12 noon	The Bubble Wizard Squawk
12.30 pm	Holidaying Penguins Punch & Judy - The Pirate Show
1.00 pm	Meet The Funnels The Big Sing Choir

1.30 pm	The Seagulls Walkabout Pirate
2.00 pm	Holidaying Penguins Bro Fitness Sea Cadets Duo
2.30 pm	The Puddleducks Punch & Judy - The Pirate Show
3.00 pm	Meet The Funnels Squawk
3.30 pm	The Seagulls Fairly Fresh Fish Company



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cabello

AVEDA

"Meet Belle from Beauty and the Beast today!"

Witham Puppet Festival - Saturday 16th September 2017



Newland Street (Road Closure)

10.30 am	The Bubble Wizard	1.30 pm	The Fish Trike
11.00 am	Titan The Robot	2.00 pm	The Bubble Wizard
11.30 am	The Seagulls	2.30 pm	Cabin Fever
12 noon	Cabin Fever	3.00 pm	Holidaying Penguins
12.30 pm	Granny Turismo	3.30 pm	The Summer Lion
1.00 pm	The Pirates		



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www.seymourhouse.co.uk

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Newland Street, Witham, Essex, CM8 2AF www.whitehartinwitham.co.uk

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recruitment@cofunds.co.uk

The Library, 18 Newland Street

A full programme of smaller puppetry and storytelling will take place in Witham Library, throughout the day.

10.30 am	Allin Kempthorne - Captain Crossbones' Potty Pirate Stories
11.30 am	The Little Lighthouse - Meet The Lighthouse Keeper
12.30 pm	Allin Kempthorne - Captain Crossbones' Potty Pirate Stories
1.30 pm	The Little Lighthouse - Meet The Lighthouse Keeper
2.30 pm	Allin Kempthorne - Captain Crossbones' Potty Pirate Stories
3.30 pm	The Little Lighthouse - Meet The Lighthouse Keeper



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Car Park

Cofunds are pleased to co-sponsor the Puppet Festival and are allowing use of their car park to create a performance area.



1.00 pm	Titan the Robot
2.00 pm	The Summer Lion
2.30 pm	Granny Turismo
3.00 pm	Titan the Robot



High Street

Puppets will be meeting and greeting visitors along the High Street

10.30 am	Walkabout Pirate Squawk	1.00 pm	The Puddleducks
11.00 am	Cabin Fever	1.30 pm	Deep Sea Jiving
11.30 am	Deep Sea Jiving	3.00 pm	Walkabout Pirate
12 noon	Walkabout Pirate		



WITHAM CHAMBER

An independent body set up to provide support and advice for Industry, Commerce and Retail Businesses in Witham and the surrounding area.

www.withamchamber.co.uk
email: info@withamchamber.co.uk

VISIONS OF WITHAM OPTICIANS

94 Newland Street
01376515510

info@visionsofwitham.co.uk
www.visionsofwitham.co.uk

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Witham Town Centre

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The organisers of the festival reserve the right to alter the performance programme.



Have You Seen What's Happening at Witham Library?



The Team at Witham Library

We were going to write a whimsical piece about life in Witham library, but we've got so much on offer that we ended up having to make a list of all our wonderful FREE events instead!

Looking for something to distract the nippers? We offer two **Rhyme Times** each week with Jonny and Sue – board the bus to Rhymetown on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 11am! Suitable for accompanied babies and toddlers. NB: be prepared to march up the hill with the Grand Old Duke of York!

For slightly older children, we present **Cheeky Monkeys** every Saturday at 11am, when Anne-Marie will be making some fun crafts and leading rhymes.

It's nice to talk to other grown-ups when you have a new baby, so come along to **Welcome New Baby and You** – have a cup of tea, a biscuit and a chat whilst the babies enjoy toys and rolling about on the mat, every Thursday 11am-12pm.

We don't just cater for ankle-biters! If you're looking for work and feel that you'd like a little support from others in the same boat, drop in to our **Seekers** group every Wednesday at 10:30am for some peer-led help and advice – and if your CV needs brushing up, schedule a **Work Club** appointment with one of our lovely volunteers (please ask at the Hello desk for an appointment slip).

Has a well-meaning relative bought you some technology that you're struggling with? Try our **Conquer IT** sessions, every Friday at 10:30am; let one of our volunteers guide you through the use of tablets, laptops and mobile phones.

Reading is for everyone – if you're visually impaired, you might consider coming to our **Witham Insight Audio Book Group**, held on the first Monday of the month at 2pm, to discuss and recommend audio books to other visually impaired readers.

You may have noticed that our Children's section is looking a little depleted at the moment – that's because **The Summer Reading Challenge 2017** is in full swing! There's still time to complete the challenge and help us solve a library mystery – visit the library and <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/> to get started!

Our indefatigable **Essex Knitters and Stitchers** continue to produce fabulous crafted items in support of charities – join them on the first Wednesday of the month at 10am. Beginners welcome!

Aspiring structural engineers should pop along to **Block Builders Club**, which Erica will be running on Tuesdays at 3:45pm from September – have fun with LEGO and other connectable blocks, building magnificent structures and vehicles. One of our young architects created a brilliant model of the library!

There's so much else going on – including the return of our wildly successful **Fun Palace** on **Saturday 7th October** where we will be exploring the science and art of the elements of Earth, Air, Fire and Water – check out <http://funpalaces.co.uk/> !

We're open 9-7pm, Monday to Friday and 9-5pm on Saturdays, but if you can't manage to make it in to the library do check out the Essex Libraries website to see what your library card can unlock – including audiobooks, e-books, hundreds of magazines to read for free on your device, newspaper and music archives, language courses and much more – all free of charge! Don't forget, you can also order and renew books online too.

We'd love to see you in person though, so ignore the scaffolding outside and come to visit us here at Witham library – whether it's to attend one of our events, borrow some amazing books, use the internet, do some photocopying, access council services or indeed just to say hello!

Have a fantastic summer!

Essex Libraries: 0345 603 7628

Libraries.essex.gov.uk

Cards for Good Causes set to return to Town Hall for Christmas.

Cards for Good Causes was originally started in 1959 and was called The 1959 Group of Charities, before becoming Cards for Good Causes in the 1970s. It has been operating in Witham Town Hall since 1995 every Christmas and raises funds for at least 25 charities.

Charitable causes include Cancer Research, NPSCC, Bloodwise, British Heart Foundation, Stroke Society, Alzheimer's Research, Multiple Sclerosis Society, Multiple Sclerosis Trust, National Reyes Syndrome Foundation and local charity Farleigh Hospice.

Last year in Witham alone Cards for Good Causes raised over £10,000 for such charities and raised an incredible £7,000,000 nationwide.

This year the shop will be open from the Monday 16th October to Friday 15th December from 9:30am - 4.00pm Monday to Thursday and 9:30am - 3:30pm Friday, and will be opened by Father Christmas and The Mayor of Witham. At least 70 pence of every pound raised goes directly to the charitable causes that the cards are sold for. Every year a dedicated team of 20 volunteers give up their time freely for ten weeks from October to December to ensure the smooth running of the shop. Without their loyalty and dedication the shop could not run.

Cards for Good Causes extends its thanks to all of its customers who make the fundraising possible and welcomes both new and existing customers this year when the shop opens.



Cards and merchandise for sale in aid of charity in the Town Hall

New Singers Welcome at Witham Choral Society!

Witham Choral will be starting Christmas preparations early this year when rehearsals for its 9th December concert start on 19th September at 7.45 p.m. at Witham United Reformed Church. New singers are always welcome at this very friendly, non-auditioned choir so do come along and join us.

On the programme will be a splendid Christmassy mixture of excerpts from Messiah, Charpentier's Midnight Mass, Vaughan Williams' Christmas Fantasia and carols for both choir and audience. The concert will be at Witham Public Hall and the choir will be accompanied by the Colchester Philharmonic, conducted by Patrick McCarthy. More details are available by calling 01376 513713.

www.withamchoralsociety.org.uk



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Useful Contacts



All numbers are 01376 code unless shown otherwise.

TOWN HALL

Tel: 520 627
townclerk@witham.gov.uk

INFORMATION CENTRE

Tel: 502 674

YOUR COUNCILLORS

CENTRAL WARD

Michael Lager: 45 Chipping Hill, Witham, CM8 2JT. Tel: 513 747

Robert Williams: 25 Guithavon Valley, Witham, CM8 1HF. Tel: 510 845

WEST WARD

John Goodman: 2 Chippingdell, Witham, CM8 2JX. Tel: 516 918

Patrick Horner: 6 Powers Hall End, Witham, CM8 2HE. Tel: 501 857

Thomas Pleasance: 5 Helford Court, Witham, CM8 1TL. Tel: 501 597

Bill Rose: 110 Humber Road, Witham, CM8 1TU. Tel: 07553 082 384

SOUTH WARD

Angela Kilmartin: Flat 3, Icen House, Newland Street, Witham, CM8 2FS. Tel: 502 872

Janet Money: 11 Carraways, CM8 1XW. Tel: 515 990

Jacqueline Kempf: 29 Guithavon Valley, CM8 1HF. Tel: 501 608

Lorne Campbell 18 Millbridge Road CM8 1HB. Tel: 07847 810 062

NORTH WARD

Philip Barlow: Rivendell, Chalks Road, CM8 2BT. Tel: 514 033

Jack Bayford: 12 Court 2, Bronte Road, CM8 2QQ. Tel: 07860 748 151

Paul Ryland: 6 Old Parsonage Court, CM8 1XP. Tel: 512 042

JoAnn Williams: 25 Guithavon Valley, CM8 1HF. Tel: 510 845

HATFIELD WARD

Clare Lager 45 Chipping Hill, CM8 2JT. Tel: 513 747

Ron Ramage: 9 Graces Close, CM8 1QH. Tel: 515 295

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 September, 30th October, 15th January.

Environment: 18th September, 13th November, 22nd January.

Community: 2nd October, 28th November, 6th February.

Policy & Resources: 16th October, 12th December, 20th February.

Planning & Transport: 4th, 18th September, 2nd, 16th, 30th October, 13th, 28th November, 12th December.