



Witham's Voice

Produced quarterly by Witham Town Council

ISSUE 64 SPRING 2018

Be Safe And Feel Safe in Witham

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Witham Town Council has completed the installation of a new high definition CCTV network across the town centre. All the cameras have been upgraded to a very high specification with the benefit of 24/7 monitoring from the Chelmsford City Centre CCTV hub 365 days a year. Over the past year Witham Town Council has worked hard with Chelmsford City Council to ensure the best possible coverage for Witham .

The £41,000 investment in CCTV is part of Witham Town Council's continued drive to combat crime and anti-social behaviour in the town, especially when police resources are so stretched. In addition, the Council is encouraging local citizens to apply for Special Constables status as part of the Town Council's aims to recruit up to five Police Community Special Constables in partnership with Essex Police. These volunteer officers with full arrest powers and backed up by high quality footage from the new system will help reduce antisocial behaviour. The new cameras have direct access to Chelmsford CCTV monitoring centre and produce high resolution pictures during day and night, creating defined footage and imagery, delivered to the monitoring station and the Police.

Witham Town Councillor, Rob Williams, Chairman of the Community Committee said "This upgraded system will be a significant help to the Police in combating crime. Witham Town Council wants to make Witham a safe place to live, work and visit."

Spencer Clarke, Public Protection Manager at Chelmsford City Council, added that "The City Council was pleased to continue its relationship with Witham Town Council. Witham is being provided with 24 hour surveillance at the Chelmsford monitoring station. The high quality footage will aid Essex Police in prosecuting criminals, aided by real time control as crime occurs'. A further development is that police officers are now being provided with remote equipment and smart phones allowing them to view CCTV footage both historical and live, without the need to return to a police station"

The Town Clerk, Mark Squire stated "This is a new level of excellence that will provide reassurance to Witham residents".

The Town Council considers public safety to be one of its highest priorities and as part of its Task & Finish Group for Community Safety will review overall CCTV coverage in Witham such as in the shopping centres, the industrial estates, and the railway station. It is intended that the improved reach of CCTV coverage will help people be and feel safe in Witham, as those responsible for crime or antisocial behaviour will face a greater chance of being captured on CCTV and prosecuted.

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



Witham's Voice

Witham Christmas Event Winners Announced

Now that the dust has settled from Christmas 2017, the Witham Town Council and Christmas Events Group went out into town to give the awards to the winners of our official holiday window competition and also to award the plaque to the winners of the Best Stall for the 2017 Dickensian Christmas Market. These awards are usually given out at our annual presentation evening every January, but this had to be cancelled due to the fact that almost everyone was unwell with the various colds, flus and viruses going around.

The winner of the best stall at our 2017 Dickensian Christmas Market with the Bethel Christian Fellowship. The Mayor of Witham, Cllr JoAnn Williams, presented their award at the lovely café they run in Witham Town Centre, The Well. Their stall was chosen by the judges for first prize because it just made everyone feel like Christmas. Beautifully decorated with Christmas cheer, it was a great inspiration to start off the Christmas season.

The First Prize Christmas Window competition winner, chosen by judges Jodie Barton, Will Abbott and Town Mayor JoAnn Williams, was Havens Hospice Charity Shop in the Grove Centre. They decorated their 3 large windows in a silver and white theme with some very inventive giant snowmen as well. Once again, the trophy was presented by the Town Mayor. Second place went to Yaxley Homes and third place went to Visions of Witham. 4th Place included The Little Flower Shop and the Witham Town Information Centre. Well done and thank you to all who participated.

We look forward to having even more entries next year, where our window theme will be 'Christmas Films'.



Would you like to be part of the Witham Carnival Court?

The search is on for the 2018/2019 Witham Carnival Court. The new Court will be chosen at a Selection Dance on **Saturday 24 March 2018** at Maltings Academy from 6.30pm. The chosen Court will spend a year representing Witham Town, visiting other towns around our district & attending charity events.

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

Court members must be the following ages

6-7 years old for Rosebud Queen

7-13 years old for Prince

8-13 years old for Princess

14-25 years old for Queen.

Entry forms should be in no later than **Saturday 17 March 2018**. 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 withamcarnival.org.uk) **For more information, contact:** Miss Carly Victor on 07769 152 330



Insider: Witham Public Hall

It is a little over six years since the day-to-day management of Witham Public Hall was transferred from Braintree District Council to the registered charity, Witham Public Hall Trust. In that time the volunteers involved have worked to transform the hall into a venue the town can be proud of, not just for the range of top-class entertainment on offer, but also as a venue for wedding receptions, private parties and business meetings.

The Trust has invested heavily in improving the facilities available to hirers and users alike, including new seating, new house lights, additional stage sound and lighting equipment, upgraded kitchen and bar equipment and the conversion of an outbuilding to a technical store as just some of the major projects among dozens of smaller improvements.

With an ever-growing programme of shows, concerts, dance and other events the residents of Witham are gradually learning that they don't need to travel to Chelmsford, Colchester or beyond and volunteers behind the bar and helping front-of-house are used to customers expressing the fact that they hadn't appreciated what a great facility they had on their doorstep.

The hall is now home to around 50 public events each year. Last year these included concerts by Showaddywaddy, The Blues Band and Dr Feelgood alongside the Eastern Angles touring theatre company, wrestling, a real ale festival and pole sport competition. This is all in addition to the traditional musicals, plays and annual panto.

Looking ahead, highlights for 2018 (which has already seen a concert by the legendary Geno Washington) include The Kast Off Kinks, the return of Eastern Angles with a new play, 'Guesthouse', the first-ever Witham concert by the Colne Philharmonic Orchestra, blues legend Lil' Jimmy Reed and, later in the year, the brilliant Andy Fairweather Low. Tickets for these and other events are available via the Trust's website, www.withampublichall.co.uk, by phone on 0345 017 8717 or in person from the Visitor Information Centre at Witham Town Hall.

If you'd like to get more involved with helping keep this wonderful asset to the town for the future, the Trust are always delighted to hear from new supporters and volunteers. You can email info@withampublichall.co.uk or call them on 0345 017 8717 (local rate call)



Witham's Voice

What's On at Witham Library?

Hello from Witham Library! There's a lot to tell you about this issue, so let's dive right in.

Buried Treasure

Spring is the time to clear out forgotten or hidden corners – and as a library we have a lot of them. Our efforts have been rewarded with the rediscovery of an amazing resource – the M. J. Smith Collection.

Donated to Witham Library in 1990, the M.J. Smith Collection is an archive of postcards, newspaper clippings, original research and ephemera relating to the history of Witham and the surrounding area. Amounting to hundreds of items, many subsections of the collection have been lovingly hand-typed and hand-bound by Maurice J. Smith, who was the headmaster of the Witham Church of England School and an avid local historian. Sifting through the collection elicited cries of "Oh my goodness, that's the Grove!" and "What is a Bullock Fair?". (Librarians are an excitable lot.)

The collection will be catalogued properly over the next few months and a display of portions of it will be available for viewing on the upper floor. If you'd like to access the collection for research purposes – or simply to find out about Witham in days gone by – please ask at the Hello desk. The picture included in this article shows a tiny selection of M.J. Smith Collection items. If, during your own spring cleaning, you discover items of local historical interest that you'd like to donate to the Library, we'd be glad to have them – you, too, could leave a lasting legacy just like Maurice J. Smith.

Inclusive Communication Essex (ICE)

Regular library users will be aware of all the amazing things that library members can access through the service (though go and check out <http://libraries.essex.gov.uk/> anyway for a full list of great free stuff), but may not be aware that we share our lovely building with Inclusive Communication Essex, or "ICE". Here's what the ICE team have to say about their service:

"Inclusive Communication Essex (ICE) is an Essex County Council service that aims to meet the communication needs of people with speech and language barriers.

At ICE we firmly believe that everyone can communicate. Part of our offering is to help parents, carers and professionals who support someone with communication difficulties to find the right language. We do this through a communication equipment loan service. This is free of charge and available to anyone. You must have an ICE User card which you can get from your local library. The catalogue of communication equipment can be found on the ICE website.



A dedicated accessible website www.essexice.co.uk

- Consultancy, support and advice on all matters regarding accessibility and communication.
- Direct translations and support to make information accessible to anyone in Essex – this is also known as easy read.

Communication focussed events; [Sharing Day](#), Sensory Stories during libraries Summer Reading Challenge, etc [Sensory wall](#) (Loughton and Basildon libraries) It is unique to Essex to have a sensory station within a public library, enabling inclusion of children with all abilities. This is free, open to the public and available for bookings. By enabling someone to express themselves you help Essex County Council meet its statutory obligations around person-centred planning and information standards. More importantly, you open the world to that person; you increase their independence which can have a positive effect on their health and wellbeing. For further information, please contact the team on ice.resource@essex.gov.uk, telephone 0333013 2707 or drop in to Witham Library and ask for a member of the ICE team."

Essex Book Festival 2018

Don't forget – there are always exciting events going on at Witham Library. A full listing can be accessed at <http://libraries.essex.gov.uk/events/> (and by signing up to the libraries e-newsletter – ask at the Hello desk) but one of our highlights is the annual Essex Book Festival Dorothy L. Sayers Lecture, on **Monday 26th March 2018 at 7:45pm**. Writer, blogger, and detective fiction super-fan **Tony Medawar** will be exploring the Golden Age of detective fiction – from Witham's own Dorothy to Agatha Christie, and many of their contemporaries both famous and forgotten. Tickets, priced at £7, are available from the Box Office on 01206 573948 or via the EBF website <https://essexbookfestival.org.uk/event/tony-medawar/>

Thanks for reading!

For all library enquiries please call 0345 603 7628 and ask for Witham Library. Or just drop by. We'd love to see you!



Witham Leisure Centre

Fusion Lifestyle is pleased to be launching Walking Football at Witham Leisure Centre. Starting on Friday 16 February with two sessions weekly from 1pm – 2pm and 6pm – 7pm.

Sessions are for those over the age of 50, will be delivered by a qualified FA coach and cost just £3 per session and will need to be pre-booked at the centre. Walking Football is a fun, sociable and slow-paced version of the game that provides a great opportunity to keep active, stay fit and widen your circle of friends.



WALKING FOOTBALL
SESSIONS START ON FRIDAY FEBRUARY 16TH
 1PM - 2PM AND 6PM TO 7PM AT WITHAM LEISURE CENTRE

For more information contact Witham Leisure centre on 0345 260 1535

Walking Football is a slow paced version of the beautiful game
NO AGE LIMIT
NO RUNNING

COST £3 a session
 Book in advance at the centre
 Sessions are led by a qualified FA Coach

ActiveBraintree Braintree District Council
 fusion livewell

Celebrating 100 Years of 1st Witham Guides

2018 is the year that the 1st Witham guide unit celebrate 100 years since their initial registration. During the 2nd World War the Guides were actively involved in schemes to help the war effort and helping in the community remains a large part of Guiding today. The last 100 years has seen many social changes and Girlguiding has sought to reflect that with an ever-changing programme of activities to help inform and educate the Guides of today. Girl Guides remains a popular youth organisation and the 1st Witham unit is never short of new recruits each year. The 1st Witham Guides are planning a celebration in September to mark their 100th year and would like to hear from anyone who has ever been involved with the unit throughout its lifetime, maybe you have some photos or a story to tell. If you would like to know more or can help with contacting previous guides email Kay at withamguides@outlook.com



This photo dates from around the forties we believe, the uniforms have changed quite a bit since then. Much to the relief of today's guides !

Witham's Voice

Witham Christmas Lights Switch-On Survey

The Christmas Events Group as part of Witham Town Council are looking to the residents of Witham for their opinions and advice regarding future switch-ons of the Town's Christmas Lights. We have developed the survey for this purpose, so it would be greatly appreciated if you would take a few moments to give us your opinions and ideas so that we can provide the Town with the best Christmas experience possible based on our budget and location limitations. We are NOT looking for critiques or criticism on past events as we have already reviewed and taken these onboard. As a result, we are looking towards the future and how we can improve the event.

Please answer the questions as honestly and reasonably as possible. We hope that the community can give us some fresh ideas that will help make Christmas in Witham a pleasant and exciting experience that the entire Town would like to attend. [Please return your completed survey to Witham Tourist Information Centre, Witham Town Hall, 61 Newland Street, Witham, Essex CM8 2FE by no later than 6th April 2018. This survey can also be downloaded at \[www.witham.gov.uk\]\(http://www.witham.gov.uk\) and emailed.](#)

1 – The last two years we have held the switch-on for the Town's Christmas Lights both on the Town Christmas tree and the Town Hall directly following the Dickensian Christmas Market (usually the last Saturday in November). We need to have the switch-on no earlier than 4:30pm to ensure that it is dark enough. Would you be more likely to attend the Town's Christmas Lights switch-on if:

It was held after the Dickensian event at 4:30pm. The Dickensian Market would close at 3pm and there would be entertainment and food stalls, etc near the Christmas tree from 3pm until the switch-on at 4:30.

It was held on another evening – probably the first week in December.

Another idea? Please outline your suggestions below:

Within reason (remember, VERY small budget), who would you like to see doing the actual switch-on. In the past, we have had the Witham Carnival Court and a local child (Mayor's Youth Award winner, Christmas card design winner, etc). Who or what would make it more exciting and make you more likely to attend?

Local Radio Presenters

Local Hero

Witham Carnival Court

Others? Please make comments constructive and reasonable:

Any other comments:

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WITHAM & DISTRICT - EASTER SERVICES 2018

24 March – Saturday

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

25 March - Palm Sunday

8.00 am Holy Communion (with Blessing of Palms)
St Nicolas Church (CofE)
9.00 am Mass & Blessing of Palms
St Mary, Silver End (RC), CM8 3PJ
10.00 am Parish Eucharist, Blessing of Palms &
procession - St Nicolas Church (CofE)
11.00 am Mass & Blessing of Palms
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)
6.00 pm Olivet to Calvary
(Cantata of the events of Holy Week)
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

26 March – 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)

27 March – Tuesday of Holy Week

10.00 am Mass
10.30 am Confessions
Both The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)
8.00 pm Holy Communion
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

28 March – Wednesday of Holy Week

12.15 pm Mass for Spy Wednesday
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)
8.00 pm Compline (said)
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

29 March – Maundy Thursday

7.00 pm Maundy Service *with the Baptist Church*
Methodist Church
7.30 pm Communion Service *w Valley Church*
Rickstones Church
8.00 pm *Service in an Upper Room* to include the Lord's
Supper
United Reformed 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)

Valley Church
Guithavon Valley, CM8 1HF
Holy Family (RC)
Guithavon Street, CM8 1BN
Methodist Church,
Guithavon Street, CM8 1BJ

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

30 March – Good Friday

10.00 am Good Friday Service
Methodist Church
10.00 am Children's Service
St Nicolas Church (CofE)
10.30 am Easter Messy Church for families inc lunch
United Reformed Church
10.30 am Morning Worship
with the Baptist Church
United Reformed Church
10.30 am Good Friday Service *w Rickstones Church*
Valley Church

30 March – 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
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)

31 March – 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)

1 April – Easter Day

6.00 am First Eucharist of Easter (*then breakfast*)
St Nicolas Church (CofE)
6.00 am Sunrise Service followed by breakfast
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
9.30 am Family Service, pancake breakfast and Easter egg
hunt - book at www.rickstoneschurch.com
Rickstones Church
10.00 am Family Communion
St Nicolas Church (CofE)
10.30 am All-age Worship incl. the Lord's Supper
United Reformed Church
10.30 am Easter Day Celebration
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
10.30 am Meeting for Worship
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Butt Lane, Maldon, CM9 5HD
11.00 am Mass
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)
11.00 am Easter Sunday Morning Worship
Valley Church
6.00 pm Easter Songs of Praise
St Nicolas Church (CofE)
6.30 pm Evening Worship
United Reformed Church
6.30 pm Easter Meditations
Valley Church

SAVE THE DATE!

COMMUNITY DAY— Saturday 9th June— to be held in the Town Park (Always every 2nd Saturday in June)

PUPPET FESTIVAL— Saturday 15th September—to be held in the Town Centre (Always every 3rd Saturday in September)

DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET— Saturday 24th November—to be held in the Newlands Shopping Centre (Always last Saturday in November)

For further information about any of the above events call us on : 01376 520627 or see our Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/withamcouncil>



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

John Pullen: 44 Avenue Road, CM8 2DP
Tel: 500 109

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: 5th March, 30th April, 15th May AGM.

Environment: 19th March, 30th May.

Community: 3rd April, 12th June.

Policy & Resources: 16th April, 26th June.

Planning & Transport: 5th March, 19th March, 3rd April, 16th April, 30th April, 2nd May, 15th May, 30th May, 12th June, 26th June

Annual Town Assembly:

24th April 2018