



# Witham's Voice



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## SPRING Edition

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On the 8th May 2020 it will have been 75 years since the guns fell silent on the war in Europe. To commemorate this special occasion, Witham will be taking part in the nationwide celebration VE Day 75 - organised by SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity - taking place on the weekend of 8-10th May.

On Friday 8th May you are invited to join us in Witham Town Park for a 1940's celebration; with entertainment and refreshments available from 12 noon and the official 'Nation's Toast to the Heroes of WW2' at 3pm. Bring along your picnics, blankets and chairs and join us for a fun and free afternoon! Period dress is of course encouraged, whether you come along in allied military uniform or prefer a more casual civilian approach, we hope to see you all there in full costume!

On Saturday 9th May the Royal British Legion will be holding a 1940's dance,

with the fabulous Lisa Day providing musical entertainment for the evening. This evening event will be held in the RBL Memorial Hall on Newland Street, and more information on tickets and timings will be available from the Information Centre in the coming weeks.

Commemorations will continue on the Sunday in local church services, including performances of the Last Post and Tribute to the Millions. Please speak to your local church for more details about their VE Day services.

To commemorate this anniversary, we also plan to hold a display in the Information Centre with memories from the original celebrations from 75 years ago. If you have any photos or memorabilia from VE Day 1945 that you would like to share, please contact [communityofficer@witham.gov.uk](mailto:communityofficer@witham.gov.uk) or pop in to the Information Centre at the Town Hall on Newland Street.



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

# Witham's Voice



## MEETING



## Connecting With Our Communities

Our community policing team will be holding a Local Community Meeting between 7pm & 9pm at New Rickstones Academy in Witham. There will be a short presentation with the opportunity to learn about what has been going on in your area, to ask any questions you may have or even voice your concerns. Everyone is welcome to attend.

For more information please visit our Facebook page @EPBraintree or visit Witham Information Centre on Newland Street.

### Witham Police Town Centre Team

In July 2019, Essex Police introduced new Town Centre Teams to police in the heart of our communities and create stronger relationships with the public.

Witham has two dedicated officers, PC Melanie McPherson and PC Wayne Davies, who will focus on community concerns, including drug dealing and anti-social behaviour.

Under the guidance of their sergeant, they will work closely with local businesses and support groups to get to the root of on-going issues and tensions and investigate appropriately.

They will also work with businesses such as bars and clubs which experience issues associated with crime and anti-social behaviour at night.

Wayne has been in the force for 15 years, working in a multitude of roles and areas within the district. He has spent the majority of his career so far working in local and community policing teams, and enjoys being back on the beat and talking to members of the local community about what matters to them.

Melanie has been an officer for 22 years and has worked in various departments including local policing teams in three different districts before a move to roads policing where she has spent the majority of her service.

Over the years, she has enjoyed front line policing, dealing with people and being at the heart of the community which has now lead her to the Community Policing Team in Witham.

If you see Wayne and Melanie, please do stop and talk to them about any concerns you may have.

They can also be seen pedalling on their police bikes on a dry day.

There will be Coffee with Cops held in the local area, so please look out for them or follow us on Facebook.





# Community News



## SUPPORT YOUR WITHAM TUESDAYS CHARTER MARKET

The Witham Tuesdays Charter Market was re-established by “Marketing Witham CIC” a small group of local people aiming to re-invigorate the Newland Street experience, for the benefit of the people of Witham and surrounding villages. It’s taken years of effort by this small group for the Market to start, and has now been up and running for more than 3 months. Marketing Witham CIC had to prove the validity of the Royal Charter, dating back to King John in 1212 and updated by Queen Anne in 1703. This allows for a weekly Tuesday Market on Newland Street. It’s held in the parking bays to avoid traffic disruption. The CIC secured a lease over the Royal Charter from the Lord of the manor of Witham, and with an agreement in place with Essex Highways they were able to start. They have experienced a number of challenges over Winter, including bad weather conditions which impacts which stalls can attend. However, with your support the market will grow and improve, for the benefit of us all.

If you want to discuss holding your own stall on the market or just want more information regarding Witham’s fledgling Newland Street market please see our “Witham Charter Market” Facebook page or contact Kev Atwill directly on 07798 873544 [atwillk@btinternet.com](mailto:atwillk@btinternet.com)

## Can You Spare an Hour?

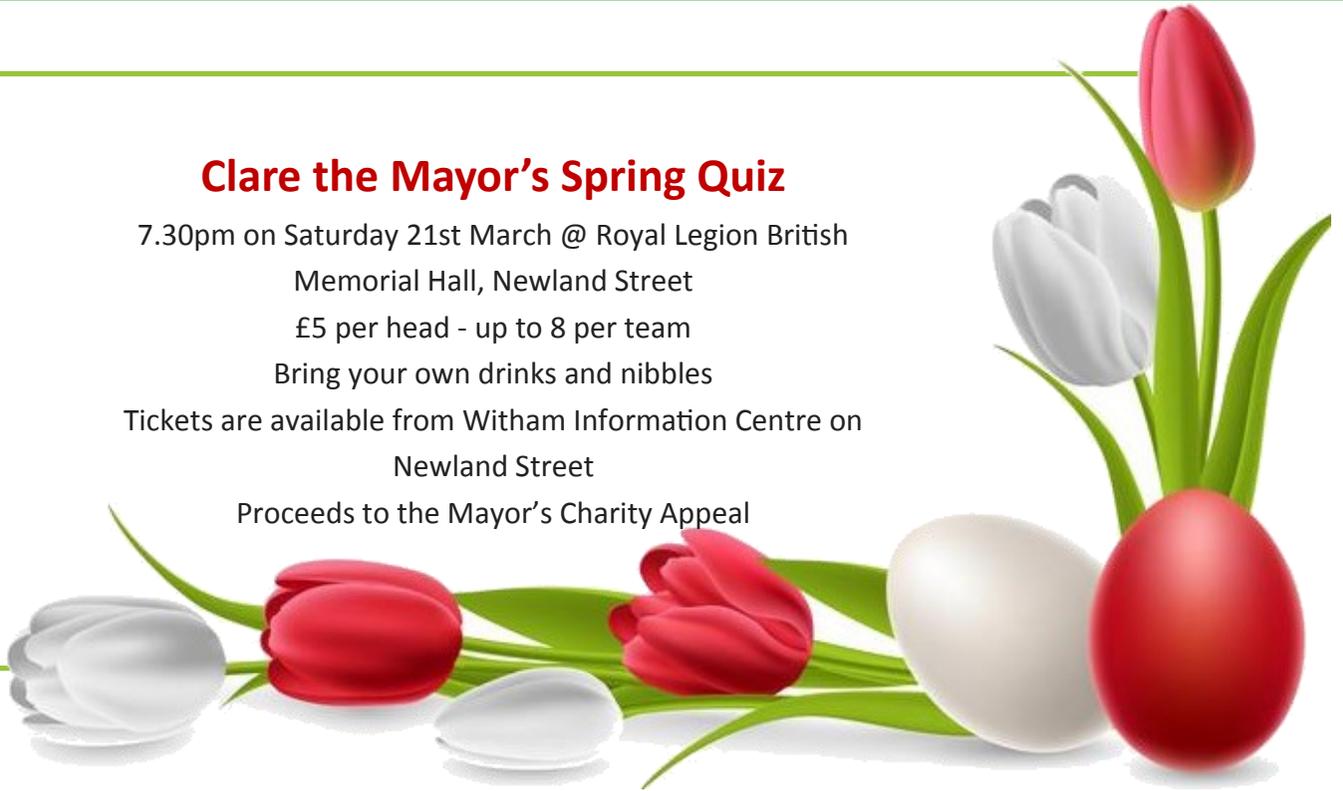
Many people across the country go days at a time without speaking to anyone, leaving them isolated from society. Whether you’re a struggling single parent, the sole carer of a loved one, you’re vulnerable or lonely, a simple telephone call or quick visit can make a world of difference. There is currently a call for more volunteers in the Witham area to offer their time as a buddy for someone who needs another person to talk to. If you are over 18 and think you could help by sparing an hour of your time to connect with someone in need, we can put you in touch with organisations who offer full training and support to be able to make a difference.



**For more information, please email [assistantrfo@witham.gov.uk](mailto:assistantrfo@witham.gov.uk) or call the Information Centre on 01376502674.**

## Clare the Mayor's Spring Quiz

7.30pm on Saturday 21st March @ Royal Legion British  
Memorial Hall, Newland Street  
£5 per head - up to 8 per team  
Bring your own drinks and nibbles  
Tickets are available from Witham Information Centre on  
Newland Street  
Proceeds to the Mayor's Charity Appeal



## Witham's annual Community Day is back on Saturday 13th June!

Taking place from 10.30am to 3.30pm in Witham Town Park, this local community event is free to attend and showcases our local groups, charities, businesses and talent from Witham and the surrounding areas. Each year, stall holders of local community organisations are invited to take part to raise awareness for their causes and showcase their work. This free day out offers singing, dancing, games, activities and children's attractions - fun for the whole family!

If you are based in the Witham area and would like an opportunity to showcase your organisation by holding a stall or performing in our display arena, please get in touch to find out how you can do so free of charge by emailing [communityofficer@witham.gov.uk](mailto:communityofficer@witham.gov.uk). Bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis, so don't leave it too long to get in touch!

# What's On



## **Meet up Tuesdays - Every Tuesday at 10am**

Come and have a natter with some company over tea & coffee!

## **The Hub Booksale - Every third Friday of the month**

Join us for our monthly book sale! All books are 50p each or 3 for £1

The purpose of Witham Hub is to promote social inclusion for the benefit of individuals living within the town of Witham and its surrounding area. We do this by preventing people from becoming socially excluded, relieving the needs of those people who are already socially isolated and assisting them to integrate into society. To develop the capacity and skills of individuals living within that community who are socially and economically disadvantaged in such a way that they are better able to identify and meet their needs and to participate more fully in society.

## **Something exciting is happening to your Information Centre!**

We will be refurbishing the Information Centre in the next few months, but don't worry, most of our services will still be available to you. We will be moving temporarily to the Function Room, located at the rear of the Town Hall while improvement works take place and will be easily accessible via our side passage. You can still pop in and pick up your local information, buy tickets and browse our local products.

Keep an eye out for updates and further information regarding our refurbishment on social media and in the Town Hall. And be sure to come by and see your newly-refurbished Information Centre once we re-open!

**Witham Information Centre, Town Hall, Newland Street**



## **Witham Choral brings Haydn's Creation to the Public Hall**

Witham Choral and the Colchester Philharmonic, conducted by Patrick McCarthy, will be bringing Haydn's Creation to Witham Public Hall on Saturday 4 April 2020 at 7.30 p.m.

"The Creation is a wonderfully elegant, tuneful and descriptive work," Patrick told us, "and it is very much a choral favourite among choirs and audiences alike."

Talented soloists Gill Wilson (soprano), Tom Stapleton (tenor) and Alan Loader (bass) will be helping to tell the well-known story, representing the Archangels and Adam and Eve.

Chairman, Stephen Northfield said, "I am looking forward to singing this very accessible piece and am sure our audience will love it."

Tickets are £15 (Senior Citizens £14 and those in full-time education £5) and are available from Witham Information Centre on Newland Street, Witham Public Hall on 0345 0178717 or [info@withampublichall.co.uk](mailto:info@withampublichall.co.uk), from choir members and on the door.



## Witham's Natural Landscape

*The Duck Pond on Witham's River Walk*

Witham's River Walk has been colloquially dubbed the 'Jewel of Witham' - and it's no wonder why. Tranquil and picturesque, this peaceful waterway is bursting with wildlife and is the ideal spot for an afternoon stroll. Leading in to Whetmead, Witham's very own Nature Reserve. Marshland, scrub and meadow flowers provide an ideal habitat for important local wildlife like butterflies, bees and dragonflies.

Along Guithavon Street you will find the closed Churchyard. Now in the care of Witham Town Council, this area has also become a haven for small local wildlife, as well as native flora and fauna species.

James Cooke Woods is 14 acres of community woodland planted in 1992, comprising of an assortment of local species such as oak, ash and birch. This popular dog-walking spot was named in memory of a young fatherless boy who was wrongly executed in 1829 for a string of fires that he did not start. Planted and supported by the local community, this flourishing woodland is now home to a rich variety of wildlife, such as the critically endangered yellowhammer bird.

All of these spaces are managed by our hardworking and dedicated Operations Team.

Pictured below are our newest members Hannah (left) and Kat, with Jamie (right) and Operations Manager Spencer (centre). If you are out first thing in the morning along the River Walk, you will often spot this fantastic foursome working tirelessly to preserve and maintain our open spaces.





## CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WITHAM & DISTRICT - EASTER SERVICES 2020

### 4 April – Saturday

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

### 5 April - Palm Sunday

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)

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

10.30 am Family Service  
United Reformed Church

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

6.00 pm The Cross of Christ  
St Nicolas Church (CofE)

### 9 April – Maundy Thursday

6.30 pm Meal and Maundy Service  
*with the Baptist Church*  
Methodist Church

7.30 pm Communion Service *w Rickstones Church*  
Valley Church

8.00 pm Last Supper celebration  
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 of the Passion until Midnight  
Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

### 10 April – Good Friday

9.30 am Good Friday Service  
Methodist Church

10.30 am Easter Messy Church including lunch  
United Reformed Church

10.30 am Good Friday Service  
*with the Baptist Church*  
United Reformed Church

10.30 am Good Friday Service *with Valley Church*  
Rickstones Church

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

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)

### 11 April – Holy Saturday

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

2.00 pm Świąconka (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)

### 12 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)

10.30 am All-age Worship - come and bring the  
Easter Story to life  
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 Easter Sunday Service  
Methodist Church

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

11.00 am Easter Morning Worship  
Valley Church

5.00 pm Easter Meditations  
Valley Church

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

<b>Valley Church</b> Guithavon Valley, CM8 1HF	<b>United Reformed Church</b> Newland Street, CM8 1AH
<b>Holy Family (RC)</b> Guithavon Street, CM8 1BN	<b>Rickstones Church</b> Rickstones Road, CM8 2NG
<b>Methodist Church,</b> Guithavon Street, CM8 1BJ	<b>St Nicolas Church (C of E)</b> Chipping Hill, CM8 2JS
<b>Bethel Christian Fellowship</b> 65 Church Street, CM8 2JH	

# Dates for your Diary



## Mayor's Spring Quiz

Tickets available from the Information Centre.  
See page 4 for more details.



## VE Day 75

Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Victory for England with a fun free event. More details can be found on page 1



## Witham Community Day

A fun free event for the whole town! More information on 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