



Witham's Voice

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Town Mayor's Christmas Message 2016

"I am pleased that there are a large number of voluntary organisations in Witham. I appreciate the time residents give to support good causes and raise funds for them. Our first event was Witham Community Day on 11th June, commemorating the Queen's Birthday. It was a great success with 32 different organisations involved. On the 9th July, the Carnival, as usual, was much enjoyed and the work of all volunteers involved ensured it was a success.

The Drumhead Memorial Service commemorating the first day of the Battle of the Somme included a march past and salute at the Town Hall. Rev. Sally Lodge led the service in the recreation Park alongside two bands. In September, our International Puppet Festival was well supported and Titan entertained everyone. In November, I attended alongside Deputy Mayor JoAnn Williams, the evening meeting of the Air Training Corps 295, Witham and Rivenhall Squadron. The Squadron had suggested a Cadet for the Mayor and Sergeant Avery was selected. In visiting the Maltings Academy on a number of occasions, I would like to commend the great progress that is being made. The public hall is busy and I have had the pleasure of being invited to numerous excellent shows.

The Town Hall continues to provide an invaluable service through its Tourist Information Centre and I would like to acknowledge the effort that goes into this success. The Town Hall Staff make great efforts to provide assistance to residents and visitors including our Open Spaces Team who have worked hard all year round on the Riverwalk, Whetmead Nature Reserve and James Cooke Wood. I welcome three new staff who have joined us recently and would like to thank my fellow Councillors who have supported and helped me. In September, Witham was named as the Best Town and Parish Council in Essex and alongside our Town Clerk, Mark Squire, the Council was presented with a silver salver and certificate and numerous letters of thanks.

I wish the residents of Witham a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year"



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Newland Street
Witham
Essex
CM8 2FE
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www.witham.gov.uk



Councillor Patrick Horner
Witham Town Mayor

Witham's Voice

First Annual Witham Community Day

Witham Town Council held Witham's very first Community Day on Saturday 11th June this year in Witham Town Park, Maldon Road. Starting at 10:30am running until 3:30pm, a beautiful sunny day brought hundreds of people to the event who discovered what the numerous clubs and societies around Witham have to offer.

There was a timetable of events throughout the day for the performance in the display arena which included The Big Sing, Witham Twirlettes, Witham Hockey Club, a Football Tournament and The Rock Choir. A selection of refreshments were available from Gourmet Burgers, Homemade Cakes, Ice Cream and Strawberries and Cream.

A picnic area provided a comfortable area for everyone to enjoy their lunch and watch the Fly Past to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday.

Throughout the day there were many events to take part in, including storytelling, circus skills, archery, bowls, football and yoga as well as face painting, a fairground ride and inflatables.

The Community Day was the first of a new scheduled annual event hosted by Witham Town Council, taking place on the second Saturday in June each year. Be sure to mark Saturday 10th June 2017 in your diary for next years event, which will be back bigger and even better!

Interested Groups for 2017 events should contact Pauline Merritt at Witham Town Council by 10th February 2017. Help make next years event even bigger and better!

Email Pauline at communityofficer@witham.gov.uk

Puppet Festival Retailer's Competition

Building up to the Puppet Festival it had been the turn of our Town Retailers to get competitive and take part in a window display competition. Certificates and Prizes were awarded to Mama Dells, Witham Library and Havens Hospice who won first prize for the second year running with their imaginative mystical window display. Congratulations also go to Tesco for receiving a Highly Commended Award for their magical themed window display.





Witham's First ATC Mayor's Cadets Chosen

After a rigorous selection programme, Witham Town Mayor Cllr Patrick Horner and Deputy Mayor Cllr JoAnn Williams interviewed two candidates to choose Witham's first ATC Mayor's Cadet. The Mayor's Cadet will join the Mayor at Civic functions and will also attend a Town Council meeting and other events to assist the Mayor when needed and to learn more about how a Town Council actually works.

The candidates were put forward by Flight Lieutenant Sean Purcell. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor then interviewed each young man and were highly impressed with their dedication to the ATC and their accomplishments both within the ATC and outside including school activities. They found it very difficult to choose between the two. As a result, it was decided that Sergeant Troy Avery would serve as the first ATC Mayor's Cadet with Town Mayor Cllr Patrick Horner, who is currently in the middle of his term as Mayor. Sgt Avery will serve until May 2017, when the new Mayor will be selected. Sergeant Thomas Benson will then be the new Mayor's Cadet for their term 2017-2018. Both young men will attend events in the next few months such as a full Town Council meeting and the Mayor's Christmas Evening to meet the other Councillors and start to learn what goes on in the Town. These two young men exemplify the best of youth in Witham and we are proud to have them join with the Mayor to represent Witham.



Witham Says Goodbye to Sue Reichart After 16 Years

After 16 years Witham Town Council sadly says goodbye to Sue Reichart, Tourist Information Manager. Mark Squire, Town Clerk to Witham Town Council said: "Sue has provide an exceptional service to local residents and visitors to Witham over the last 16 years . In my 6 years as Town Clerk she has been exemplary in her work with the community, councillors and staff alike. Her undoubted popularity was demonstrated by the large number of people calling in to wish her well during her last few weeks and the numerous entries of goodwill in her presentation book in the Information Centre lobby. Sue's friendly and helpful disposition will be missed by all and we wish her all the very best in a new 'chapter' in Norfolk.

Brent Smith has now taken over in the Information Centre and we trust he will enjoy the same warmth and goodwill from visitors as Sue has experienced during her time in Witham."



Councillor Jack Bayford Joins The Chamber

Following the resignation of Councillor C.J Bailey, a closely contested by-election was held for Witham Town Council North Ward which saw Councillor Jack Bayford take up the vacant seat for the Conservatives.

Councillor Bayford serves on the Planning Applications Sub Committee, Environment Committee and Community Committee. The Town Hall welcomes Councillor Bayford to the chamber.

Town Hall Welcomes New Staff To The Team

Witham Town Council welcomes three new members of staff to its team this winter. Brent Smith takes over from Sue Reichart as the Customer Services Manager, Gary Dyer joins the Outside Spaces team and James Sheehy takes over from Jane Coleman as Deputy Town Clerk.



Gary Dyer
Open Spaces Operative



Brent Smith
Customer Services Manager



James Sheehy
Deputy Town Clerk

Witham Town Council Crowned “Council Of The Year”

Witham Town Council is very proud to have won Essex Council of the Year award presented by the Essex Association of Local Councils.

The Essex Association of Local Councils said “During the last year (the council) has been active in helping to shape the development of the town in the best interests of local residents, whilst recognising Government’s house building targets.

“The community has been involved in seminars and meetings working towards achieving a vision for Witham for the next ten years.

“Witham also runs many events and delivers a large number of services, including the World War One Commemorations, which is a four year programme of events to mark the 100th anniversary of the First World War.”

The Town Council has taken an active role in promoting better healthcare and is working on a parking strategy task force.

Local MP Priti Patel congratulated Councillors for their efforts and determination to improve Witham for the benefit of its residents whilst Town Clerk, Mark Squire said "This is a great achievement which reflects so well on the diversity of work that the town is engaged in, and on Witham councillors and staff alike – I am very proud."





Dickensian Christmas Event, Saturday 26th November 2016

The 2016 Dickensian Christmas Market will be taking place in the Newland Shopping Centre on **Saturday 26th November**, starting at 10:30am and finishing at 3:30pm.

This year the event will be officially opened by Town Mayor, Councillor Patrick Horner. There will be entertainment from 11:00am in the form of Witham Big Sing, Funky Voices, Templars Academy Choir, The Rock Choir and the 295 Squadron Bass Ensemble.

Over 25 stalls will be selling all sorts of goodies including bags, books, handmade crafts, secret marquetry boxes, Gluhwein, cards, cakes, toys, hot chestnuts and beauty care. There will also be a ride for small children. Witham Town Luncheon Club will be holding a coffee morning from 9:30am in the Newlands Precinct Hub in association with Cards for Good Causes with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cakes available.

The majority of market stalls are run by voluntary organisations who are working hard to raise funds and awareness for their chosen charities.

At 3:45pm, the Rock Choir will be singing their way to the Christmas Tree in Newland Street for the Christmas Tree and Lights switch on, this year by Priti Patel MP. Come and explore the timeless mystery of the Dickensian Market, Saturday 26th November.

The Town Council Carol Service will also be taking place on **Wednesday, 14th December** around the Christmas Tree in Newland Street. Funky Voices will lead the singing and refreshments will be available at the United Reformed church afterwards.



Christmas Tree Recycling

Register before
5th January
12 noon

Register now
www.farleighhospice.org/treerecycling

Supporting Farleigh Hospice in Witham

Light Up a Life

24th November 2017

Farleigh Hospice will once again be holding their annual Light Up a Life events, to offer a very special way to remember loved ones. By sponsoring a light on the Witham Christmas tree, you can help ensure that patients and families affected by life limiting illnesses continue to get the help they need, when they need it most.

Congregate by the tree in Grove Shopping Centre from 6pm. Service starts at 6.30pm.

Christmas Tree Collection 7th to 8th January 2017

Following their previous successes in recycling Christmas trees in the Chelmsford area, Farleigh Hospice will this year be including Witham in their collection route. Book your collection slot for 7th or 8th January by visiting www.farleighhospice.org/treerecycling before 12noon on 5th January.

Witham Open Gardens

2nd July 2017

Farleigh Hospice is delighted to be organising the Witham Open Gardens on Sunday 2nd July 2017. Gardeners are invited to display gardens of all shapes and sizes for visitors, whilst bringing the Witham community together to raise vital funds for Farleigh Hospice.

If you would like to take part or require further information please contact Debbie de Boltz at Farleigh Hospice on 01245 457352 or email debbie.de.boltz@farleighhospice.org.



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Witham's Voice

Witham International Puppet Festival 2016

Witham's Town Centre became alive with an air of Mystery and Magic on 17th September as the Puppet Festival drew in crowds from near and far.

Acts ranged from traditional Punch and Judy shows to more unusual Giant Pink Witches, Floating Ghosts, Flying Carpets, Unicorns, enormous stilt walking Birdmen, and of course, the ever popular Titan the Robot!

Witham Library hosted storytelling puppet shows throughout the day, such as 'Jack and the Beans Talk' which proved very popular with younger children. Free craft making was available throughout the day for children of all ages in the Freebournes Court area opposite the Library.

This was also the place to be if you were a Witch or Wizard taking part in the Fancy Dress competition. Our Town Mayor, Cllr Patrick Horner and Deputy Mayor Cllr JoAnn Williams had a difficult decision to make as there were so many wonderfully spooky entrants to choose between; however, worthy winners were decided upon and certificates and prizes were awarded to Bethany Parish and Isaac Wolstenholme. Congratulations to all who took part!

The Puppet Festival is organised by Witham Town Council, and is held on the third Saturday in September every year. It is a fantastic day with something for everyone to enjoy, make a note of the date of next year's Puppet Festival!

Saturday 16th September 2017



Churches Together in Witham - Christmas Services 2016

4 December – Sunday

- 10.30 Toy service - for the Angel Tree Project
United Reformed Church
- 10.30 am Toy Service, with Nativity & Christingles
Methodist Church
- 4.00 pm Christingle Service
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

6 December - Tuesday

- 7.00 pm Sung Eucharist for St Nicolas' Day
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

11 December – Sunday

- 4.00 pm Nativity Play
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)

18 December – Sunday

- 10.30 am Carol Service
Methodist Church
- 10.30 am Family Nativity Service
United Reformed Church
- 11.00 am Christmas Family Service
Valley Church
- 4.00 pm Carols by Candle-light & Christmas Tea
Witham Baptist Church
- 4.00 pm Carol Service & Christmas refreshment
Maltings Academy Main Hall
- 6.00 pm Nine Lessons and Carols
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)
- 6.30 pm Candle-lit Carol Service
United Reformed Church
- 6.30 pm Carols by Candle-light
Valley Church

20 December - Tuesday

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

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 Mass
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)
- 11.30 pm Midnight Communion Service
United Reformed Church

25 December – Christmas Day

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)
- 10.00 am Family Eucharist
St Nicolas' Church (CofE)
- 10.00 am Christmas Day Service
Methodist Church
- 10.30 am Christmas Family Service
Witham Baptist Church
- 10.30 am Family Celebration
Bethel Hall, Church Street
- 10.30 am Family Worship
United Reformed Church
- 10.30 am Christmas Day Family Service
Valley Church
- 10.30 am Meeting for Worship
Friends Meeting House, Butt Lane, Maldon
- 10.30 am Christmas Day Family Service
Elm Hall Primary School
- The Living Stone Church
- 11.00 am Mass of the Day
The Holy Family & All Saints Church (RC)

Note: no Mass at St Mary, Silver End (RC)

1 January 2016 – Sunday

- 10.30 Family Worship for New Year's Day
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

Rickstones Church
Rickstones Road, CM8 2NG

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

CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

MULTI CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SHOP

CARDS SOLD FOR AT LEAST 25 CHARITIES

Cards for Good Causes Limited (CFGCL) pays the participating charities (or their trading subsidiaries) at least 70p in every pound from their card sales, less the VAT payable on the amount retained by CFGCL. The retained amount covers CFGCL's costs of running the temporary charity Christmas card shops. In addition to these costs, the participants have to pay for the production and distribution of their cards.

Witham Town Hall
Newland Street

17 OCTOBER – 15 DECEMBER
Monday - Thursday 9.30am – 4.00pm
Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm
Saturday CLOSED

 For details of shops nationwide **T: 01264 361 555**
or shop on-line at www.cardsforcharity.co.uk



Useful Contacts

All numbers are 01376
code unless shown



TOWN HALL

Tel: 520 627

townclerk@witham.gov.uk

TOURIST INFORMATION

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: Chestnuts, 8 Octavia Drive, Witham, CM8 1HQ. 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 9AM-5PM 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 sub-committee meetings at 6:45PM.

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: 16th & 24th Jan, 6th March

Environment: 23rd Jan, 20th March

Community: 6th Feb, 3rd April

Policy & Resources: 5th Dec, 20th Feb, 18th April

Planning: 5th & 19th December, 9th & 23rd Jan, 6th & 20th February, 6th & 20th March, 3rd & 18th April.