



# Witham's Voice

Produced quarterly by Witham Town Council

ISSUE 70 AUTUMN 2019

## AUTUMN EDITION

Page 1

- Witham Puppet Festival -  
20th Anniversary Feature

Page 2

- Local News  
- Paddock's Parking  
- Witham Chamber of Commerce

Page 3

- Witham Information Centre

Page 4/5

- Puppet Festival Information

Page 6/7

- What's on in Witham

Page 8

- Dates for your diary
- It's Your Council

## Celebrating 20 years of Witham's Puppet Festival!



*Curiouser and curiouser...there seems to be all manner of weird and wonderful creatures gathering in Witham. It must be for the Mad Hatter's Tea Party!*

2019 marks the twentieth anniversary of Witham's Puppet Festival, and this year we are going Mad as a Hatter!

This fantastic free event organised by the town council is a great day out for the whole family. A wide variety of acts will be on display around the town, including the return of some favourites such as Titan the Robot and Punch & Judy. And rumour has it that the Mad Hatter himself will be making an appearance!

Puppets and performers will be taking over the whole town, with performances in the Grove Centre, Newland Centre and **NEW FOR 2019** -

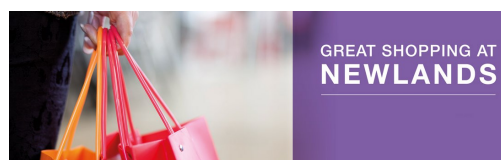
Venture Down the Rabbit Hole at the United Reformed Church on Newland Street.

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.

More information can be found on pages 4 and 5, and a full programme can be picked up from the Information Centre throughout September, or from the Town Council stall on the day of the festival.



Town Hall, Newland Street  
Witham, Essex CM8 2FE  
Tel: 01376 520627  
www.witham.gov.uk



**GROVE**  
SHOPPING CENTRE

# Witham's Voice

## Witham Chamber of Commerce

Celebrating 80 years, Witham Chamber of Commerce is going from strength to strength. Originally formed to support the businesses in the Witham town, its principles remain much unchanged – an independent group that represents the interests of local business and encourages members to work together.

With over 150 members and growing, our committee has been focused on ensuring we retain our independence to become a well-respected 'voice' in representing small businesses. We do this by facilitating regular events and by helping to influence and encourage investment in Witham and recognition of areas needing improvement. We also, via our diverse membership, provide support in the form of introductions and signposting to both new and established businesses and, where possible, training and advice.

Our Chair, Tina Townsend, is well known in the local area, being not only involved in the Chamber but also in the local community, having founded a local neighbourhood watch and even the town based Community Hub, which the Chamber has supported and encouraged. She says "businesses need a forum to connect and work together and we strongly believe that the Witham Chamber of Commerce provides this via the events and lobbying that we do. We welcome all types of business, however small, and encourage working together and sharing ideas."

More information about the Witham Chamber including how to join can be found at our website [www.withamchamber.co.uk](http://www.withamchamber.co.uk) and any queries should be directed at [info@withamchamber.co.uk](mailto:info@withamchamber.co.uk)

## 87% of residents support new parking restrictions



Residents of The Paddocks have been inconvenienced for quite some time with the number of cars being parked along the road by unknown drivers.

In a bid to rectify the matter, Witham Town Council has undergone a number of consultations to find an appropriate resolution. Residents then had the opportunity to have their say, with 87% voting to add an additional 1 hour restriction in the afternoon alongside the existing parking stipulations.

The hopes are that this addition will deter local workers from parking in the area during the day, leaving more space for residents and reducing the risk of collisions due to overcrowding.

The town council has applied to North Essex Parking Partnership to alter the current regulations.

Acacia Business Services Ltd



Health & Safety Training and Consultancy

Website: [www.absl-safety.co.uk](http://www.absl-safety.co.uk) 0844 500 2275

EL PULPO

SPANISH RESTAURANT & TAPAS BAR  
\* 01376 337122 \*



Website: [www.elpulpo.co.uk](http://www.elpulpo.co.uk) Email: [info@elpulpo.co.uk](mailto:info@elpulpo.co.uk)  
Address: 33 Newland Street, Witham CM8 2AF

OPEN 7 DAYS  
A WEEK



## Witham Information Centre

Town Hall, Newland Street



### Savings on local attractions!

- Colchester Zoo
- Adventure Island & Adventure Golf
- Southend Sealife Adventure



### Local Tickets

- Witham Public Hall
- National Express
- Coach Trips
- First Bus weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual

### Local Gifts

- Wilkins Jams
- Local Honey
- Witham souvenirs
- Theatre Tokens



We also provide nationwide tourist information, recycling and dog waste bags as well as fax & photocopying services.

**Looking for a venue for your training courses, workshops or meetings?  
Please contact the town hall for further information on our highly competitive hall hire costs!**



**Michelle Floral Design**

01376 511 318

13 Newland St, Witham, Essex, CM8 2AF

michelleflorist@btconnect.com

Hatfield Peverel, Wickham Bishops & Witham Nurseries



[www.belindanurseries.co.uk](http://www.belindanurseries.co.uk)

Hatfield Peverel  
Nursery  
01245 382450  
hatfieldpeverelnursery@gmail.com

Witham Nursery  
01376 517611  
withamnursery@gmail.com

Wickham Bishops  
Nursery  
01621 892991  
wickhambishopsnursery@gmail.com

# Witham's Voice

## Yumcious Cakes



Bespoke cakes and cupcakes for any occasion



07799882397

Sharon@yumciouscakes.co.uk

www.facebook.com/Yumciouscakes

Take on the Queen of Heart's Teacup Trail for a chance to win a deliciously fantastical treat from Yumcious Cakes...

...and come along in your best Wonderland inspired costume for the fancy dress competition!



Marvel at some amazing balloon art with the bonkers balloonatics...

...and look out for Mr & Mrs Nutkin as they squirrel about...



...before popping in to the library for an exciting adventure with the Bookworms!



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**



Find out what antics Mr Punch and his friends are getting up to....

...or join the Mad Hatter for a tea party!



# Saturday 21st September

## Witham Town Centre

### 10.30 - 15.30

#### CHILDREN'S FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

#### Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Entries will be judged by the Town Mayor at 2pm in the Newland Street Road Closure



Open to children of all ages  
Fantastic prizes to be won!



For a full programme please visit the Information Centre on Newland Street throughout September, or the Town Council stall on the day of the festival.

**Witham & District Lions Club**  
Part of the Largest Voluntary Service Organisation in the World  
**Proud to Sponsor the 2019**

Witham Lions Club has been supporting the town and local charities since 1980

We always welcome new members to our Service, Fundraising, Friendly and Fun group  
Membership (anyone over 18 years) or general information about

Where There's a Need There's a Lion

Lions Clubs please contact

**Gershwin Park Nursery School**

01376 383940  
[www.seymourhouse.co.uk](http://www.seymourhouse.co.uk)

# What's on in Witham



## Join the Mayor of Witham

**Clare Lager**

**For information please contact the Mayor's Secretary on 01376 520627  
or [townmayor@witham.gov.uk](mailto:townmayor@witham.gov.uk)**

### Coffee and Cake with the Mayor

Come down to the Town Hall for a chat and a cuppa with a choice of delicious homemade cakes to tickle your fancy.

**Starting at 10.30am on:**

**13th September 2019**

**&**

**11th October 2019**

### The Mayor of Witham's Quiz Night

Royal British Legion Memorial Hall,  
Newland Street, Witham

**7.30pm Saturday 9th November 2019**

You bring your tipples - We bring the nibbles!

Proceeds to the Mayor's Charity Appeal

**£5.00 a head**

**6-8 people per table**

Tickets available from the Town Hall



We are proud to support Cards for Good Causes once more as they raise money for charity by selling a wonderful selection of Christmas cards. Available from mid October from the Town Hall in Newland Street.

## FATHER CHRISTMAS IS BACK IN TOWN!

Witham 41club with Witham Lionesses are pleased to bring St Nicholas back to the town! We look forward to seeing you and your families in the Grove Centre this Christmas.

**7th, 14th and 21st  
December**





# DICKENSIAN CHRISTMAS MARKET



Witham's Dickensian Christmas Market is back again for 2019, arriving at the Newlands Shopping Centre on Saturday 30th November.

Opening at 10.30am, there will be plenty of opportunity to find the perfect Christmas present from the variety of stalls available, whilst local choirs provide a festive soundtrack for your browsing.

Closing at 4pm with the Christmas light switch on.

There are still vacancies for stall holders or entertainers who wish to participate in the Christmas Market. Please be aware that there will be a nominal fee for all stalls and that certain restrictions apply.

For more information or to register your interest please contact the Mayor's Secretary on 01376 520627 or [townmayor@witham.gov.uk](mailto:townmayor@witham.gov.uk)

Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays

**WITHAM TOWN LUNCH CLUB**

Function room, Witham Town Hall  
**Join us for a coffee or stay for lunch**  
 Helping to support older members of our community

Make new friends	Play games
Meet interesting people	Chat with likeminded people
Warm and friendly environment	Monday coffee morning from 10
Occasional events and outings	Lunch served at 12pm

*There'll always be a warm welcome for you!*

Contact Karen  
**07842249397**

OVER 40 YEARS  
 EXCELLENCE IN FENCING  
 EST. 1977

**DANBURY Fencing Ltd**  
 Established 1977

Proudly supporting  
 The Witham Puppet Festival

KILN DRIED LOGS FOR SALE

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • AGRICULTURAL • EQUESTRIAN • SECURITY

FULLY STOCKED SHOP OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

ONLINE SHOP  
 PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[www.danburyfencing.com](http://www.danburyfencing.com)

OLIVERS FARM, MALDON ROAD, WITHAM CM8 3HY  
 01376 502020 • [sales@danburyfencing.com](mailto:sales@danburyfencing.com)

# Dates for your Diary



## Witham Puppet Festival

Be part of the 20th year celebrations and go 'mad as a hatter' at this fun themed community event!



## Mayor of Witham's Quiz

Raising money for the Mayor's charities at the Royal British Legion Memorial Hall



## Dickensian Christmas Event

Fun for all. Come along and join the Christmas festivities!



### 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:** 2nd September, 28th October

**Environment:** 16th September, 11th November

**Community:** 30th September, 25th November

**Policy & Resources:** 14th October, 9th December

**Planning & Transport:** 2nd, 16th & 30th September, 14th & 28th October, 11th & 25th November, 9th December