



## Public Artefact Donation Scheme

*To protect and preserve the history and future of Witham's heritage and community.*

### **What is this scheme all about?**

Set up by Witham Town Council in 2019, this scheme allows local citizens, businesses and community groups the ability to donate any items of historical interest they may have in their possession to public ownership, to be held by the Town Council in the Town Hall archives in perpetuity, preserving these objects of local interest for future generations and allowing them to be shared and enjoyed by all.

### **Why has this scheme been set up?**

As the public authority that exists to defend and promote the interests of Witham, we feel it is more important than ever to showcase not just the many new and exciting things that are taking place in our local community, but also to share and raise awareness of how Witham came to be today.

As a statutory public body, Witham Town Council can ensure that artefacts that are held in private ownership can be protected for the future and registered as being donated for the public good. Items of historical interest donated to the Town Council will never be sold or transferred to another body, ensuring these valuable and fascinating pieces are kept at home for all local citizens to enjoy.

### **What sort of things are you willing to take?**

We are happy to accept a vast range of objects including historical photographs, written and paper records, unusual objects and relics of the past. The Town Council has over the years accepted many gifts from local citizens including portraits and memorabilia and holds a collection of items from the former Witham Urban District Council and buildings that once stood in Witham which no longer do today.

If you think you have something that you would like to donate to public ownership, please contact the Town Clerk via email or telephone to arrange an appointment, the Town Clerk will make an informed decision as to whether the artefact would be appropriate to accept. If accepted your contribution will be recognised and attributed in the Town Council's archives.

### **Where can I see things that are held in public ownership?**

By visiting your local Town Hall and attending debates held in the Chamber you can inspect many items already on display. Other display pieces held in archives not currently showcased will be periodically rotated. Do not forget however that our archives are open to public inspection free of charge as per elector's rights, during normal office hours.

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