

Witham's Voice

Winter 2021

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Sunday Cinema at the Witham Library

After the success of the Silver Cinema Afternoons which were held prior to the Covid lockdown, we are pleased to announce that we will be starting them up once again.

If attendance is as good as it was prior to lockdown, we hope to continue the session on the second Sunday of every month for the foreseeable future.

The Sunday Cinema provides regular entertainment and a day out for the elderly who might not get out at all, and especially at the weekends. It also provides an opportunity for the family to take their elderly friends and relatives for an afternoon out after lunch.

It also let us use our library. Many libraries are closing and this adds another important purpose to the Witham Library – and it is back to it's roots as it was once the Whitehall Cinema!

The cost of this lovely afternoon out is £1.00 per person – and this includes a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit, all with a wonderful and uplifting film and great camaraderie in a friendly and safe environment. Doors open at 2pm and the film starts at 2:30pm.

The showings we have planned so far are:

- ◆ 7 November 2021 – The King and I – Yul Brynner and Deborah Kerr
- ◆ 12 December 2021 – Mama Mia – Meryl Streep and Pierce Brosnan
- ◆ 9 January 2022 – West Side Story – Natalie Wood and Rita Moreno
- ◆ 13 February 2022 – The Pink Panther – Peter Sellers and David Niven
- ◆ 13 March 2022 – Bringing Up Baby – Cary Grant and Kathryn Hepburn
- ◆ 10 April 2022 – Some Like It Hot- Marilyn Monroe, Jack Lemon and Tony Curtis

Further information is available from Witham Information Centre on Newland Street.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

From the Mayor of Witham

Cllr Angela Kilmartin



I am delighted that, despite any hesitations initially, as we all slowly resume life after the great pandemic, my diary as Mayor for 2021-22 has been really busy. From reopening businesses in June to visiting schools for music and arts in the Autumn, my first six months has been pleasurable varied. I am happy to attend any event, just ask for me by phone or email to the town hall.

Now, Advent and Christmas seasons are bringing joy and a sense of belonging into our town. A sense of life arising as we usually know it. Decorations and Christmas trees once again make their way out of boxes and shops into our living rooms and onto our high street. This is all so reassuring and cheering and we deserve our uplifts after a lot of misery and uncertainties.

Staff, both inside and outside the town hall make plans, put up the Newland Street decorations and I go off to all sorts of tree and Carols events for children and

the elderly.

Being the Mayor means that I meet and greet a great many townsfolk. We have an army of volunteers doing selfless work in many settings which I feel so honoured to visit and applaud.

As the sea regularly comes in and goes out, so does Christmas. The little Christ-child brought love and hope and we, in various ways, continue to do this ourselves in our time here.

This is the very heart of Christmas: nothing more, nothing less. It is worth remembering the simplicity and hopefulness of this yearly message whatever your beliefs.

I wish you all an especially happy Christmas this year and improving health and happiness in 2022.

Angela Kilmartin

YOUR COUNCIL

Below is an update on some of the recent actions and outcomes of Council meetings.

Council meetings are open for the public to attend. If you would like to attend a meeting, dates are published on the back page of Witham's Voice along with details of all of your Witham Town Councillors. Information is also available on our website, www.witham.gov.uk/committees

Town Council Investigation Remains Unanswered by Braintree District Council

The Town Council remains unconvinced by a reply received from Braintree District Council on the matter of willow trees that were felled as part of the LIDL development adjacent to the River Walk. The Town Council completed a comprehensive investigation in April 2021 and submitted its report to Braintree District Council. The



Town Council's findings suggest that a serious administrative failure has taken place which led to the trees being felled unnecessarily. At the date of this report, the Town Council waited six months for a cabinet member to reply on this important matter of local concern. Members ask when will the Local Planning Authority demonstrate accountability for its actions?

Queen's Jubilee

The Town Council has put plans in motion to celebrate another jubilee of HM The Queen, by lighting a beacon on the River Walk as part of a nationally designated chain of events.

On Thursday 2nd June, more than 1500 beacons will be lit throughout the United Kingdom to mark The Queen's Platinum Jubilee after a remarkable 70 years on the throne. Witham will be joining the celebrations by holding a community event on the majestic River Walk.

More details of this event will be available in the coming months on our website and social media pages.



Historic Town Clock undergoing Restoration

The Town Council is pleased to announce that the historic Town Clock that has graced Newland Street for countless years has been sent for restoration by order of Members. With key events such as Puppet Festival having been curtailed by the coronavirus restrictions, the Council resolved to utilise unspent events budgets on a much needed restoration of a respected and much loved local icon. Works are anticipated to be completed by February 2022, where the clock will be returned to its rightful place on the Town Hall.



Quality Status Achieved

As part of the Local Council Award Scheme, Witham Town Council has been elevated from the Foundation status to Quality Status, in recognition of our continued growth in services, transparency and call to action on issues of local concern. Member are now committed to achieving the highest level of accreditation, the Quality Gold status in January 2022. The Town Council is proud to achieved this national recognition and remains fully committed to continued, positive growth in the interests of Witham's local citizens.



Rail Station Upgrade

At a meeting of Witham Town Council held 18th October 2021, Members voiced their anger at continued delays to the much needed and overdue redevelopment of Witham Rail Station. Members were disappointed to have received correspondence from Greater Anglia addressed to the District Council's Head of Economic Development & Planning. Greater Anglia complains that District Council planning department's "significant delays have now put the project at risk". The Town Council welcomes this much needed investment in Witham, which is not funded by tax intake and expects the District Council to assist Greater Anglia in facilitating this investment. Members do not wish to see a rare opportunity slip out of the hands of Witham's citizens due to planning department failures and bureaucracy. The full letter is available to read under Item 9 of the Town Council agenda paper dated 18th October 2021 (page 7) available at witham.gov.uk





Witham
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Recycling in Witham



Recycling Banks

Some recycling is not available at kerbside, but there are multiple recycling banks available around Witham.

Morrisons

- Glass
- Food & drink cartons
- Magazines

Newlands Drive

- Glass
- Food & drink cartons
- Magazines
- Textiles

Mill Lane

- Glass
- Food & drink cartons
- Magazines

What can I recycle?

Textiles

- Old clothes
- Curtains
- Bedding (except pillows)
- Towels
- Handbags
- Hats

Glass

- Coloured glass
- Clear glass
- Glass jars
- Bottle and jar tops
- ✗ Kitchenware
- ✗ Pyrex

Kerbside

- Plastic bottles & lids
- Plastic pots, tubs & trays
- Paper & cardboard
- Tins, cans and aerosols
- Food waste
- Plants, grass cuttings

- Belts
- Shoes

X Drinking glasses

and small branches



Essex Library of Things
Our place to reuse, borrow and share

The Essex Library of Things is a place to reuse, borrow and share. You can hire items such as DIY tools, camping equipment, musical instruments and cake moulds. This scheme is a partnership between the BLUEPRINT to a Circular Economy Project and the Essex Library Services, which means that all Essex residents who are members of the Library Service will be able to borrow items free of charge.

This scheme is being piloted at five libraries across Essex, including Witham Library. Items available to borrow include DIY and gardening tools, home appliances and hobby items.

To find out more or to borrow an item, please visit www.loveessex.org or visit Witham Library.

Electrical Item Recycling

Small WEEE is an electrical item that is small enough to fit inside a carrier bag. This could include things like electric toothbrushes, small radios, toasters or hairdryers.

Braintree District Council have launched a scheme where these items can be dropped off at convenient collection points, with dates running once a month.

Witham's collection point is located at:

Newlands Drive Car Park, CM8 1BN



To find out the next collection date, visit www.braintree.gov.uk.

MEET YOUR NEW COUNCILLOR: Sindhu Rajeev



I moved to Witham 15 years ago and takes great pride in calling the town that welcomed my family into its fold my home. I believe that blending seamlessly into a cohesive multicultural society was the greatest learning to have shaped my children's early life.

I am an educationalist with 28 years of experience in the field and have worked towards shaping young minds throughout my career. This experience has made me appreciate the need for an environment where the children in Witham can blossom into global citizens. I hope to work towards creating a new, vibrant, multi-cultural identity for Witham marked by ongoing community celebrations.

I have been involved with various philanthropic projects which include supporting children around the globe and raising funds for causes. I have actively represented the interests of people with grievances and have been involved in the organisation of multicultural events in Essex which saw the whole community come together.

The Holy Family and All Saints Closed Churchyard

Before



Witham Town Council are responsible for the All Saints Churchyard in Guithavon Street which has been closed since 1991. This is situated at the back on Newlands Drive car park and is a peaceful location in the middle of the town.

Our Operations Team have recently been carrying out some improvements to the churchyard by reducing vegetation to open up the site more whilst still maintaining areas suitable for wildlife habitat and encouraging biodiversity. New pathways have been created by using woodchips from branches that have been cutback.

After



Wildflower planting has been completed as part of these enhancements and it is hoped to see the benefits of this in the spring. This is the first trial of our wildflower

planting which we hope to extend to our other open spaces in the near future.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2021

Bethel Christian Fellowship:

Sunday 19 December Carol service - see website for times

At: Wood End Farm, Hatfield Road, Witham CM8 1EH

Further details soon at: www.bethel-witham.co.uk

Witham Methodist Church:

Sunday 19 December 10.30 am Carol service
Christmas Day 10.00 am Christmas Day Service

Guithavon Valley Church (Valley Church)

Sunday 19 December 11.00 am Family Nativity Service
5.30 pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day 10.30 am Christmas Celebration
Sunday 26 December 11 am Christians being thankful

Baptist Church

Sunday 19 December 10.30 am Worship
6:30 pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Day 10.30 am Christmas Worship

All at the Royal British Legion Hall

United Reformed Church (URC)

Sunday 12 December 10:30 am Nativity Service, followed by
Messy Church
Sunday 19 December 6:30 pm Carol Service
Christmas Eve 11.30 pm Midnight Service including
Holy Communion
Christmas Day 10.30 am Family Celebration Service
Sunday 26 December 10:30 am Morning Worship
Friday 31 December 11:30 pm New Year's Eve Midnight Service

St Nicolas Church (Anglican)

Sunday 5 December 10.00 am St Nicolas Day -
the original Santa Claus
Sunday 19 December 6.00 pm Christmas Carol Service
by candlelight
Christmas Eve 4.00 pm Crib Service
11.30 pm Midnight Communion
Christmas Day 10.00 am Christmas Communion

Hope Community Church (Anglican)

Sunday 19th December 10.30 am Family Service
at Howbridge C of E School
Tuesday 21 December 11.00 am "Real" Nativity at Manna Ark Farm
Thursday 23 December 11.00 am "Real" Nativity at Manna Ark Farm

The Holy Family & All Saints Church (Roman Catholic)

No details available yet, please see the website in December

www.withamcatholicchurch.org.uk/welcome.htm

CHRISTMAS IN WITHAM



On Saturday 4th December, Witham's brand new Christmas Event will be hitting Newland Street. From 4pm until 9pm the street will be lined with festive stalls selling gifts and treats galore. Make sure to pop in to Crafter's Corner in the United Reformed Church too!

At 6pm we will be joined by some very interesting characters as we switch on the town's Christmas Lights, so be sure to stick around!

Word has even reached the North Pole and Father Christmas himself has decided to pay a visit! He will be setting up his grotto in the Town Hall from 4pm until 6pm, so make sure you visit our website to book your tickets. But don't worry if you can't make that day, he will be back again on the 18th and 21st December—visit our website for more details!

On Wednesday 15th December we will be gathering together at Guithavon Green to sing

Carols by Candlelight from 7pm, and all are welcome to attend. Wrap up warm and come along for a festive sing along—it's the perfect way to get you in the festive mood!

All of our Christmas events are completely free to attend. More information can be found on our website and social media pages, or by contacting the Town Hall Information Centre on Newland street.



WITHAM CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Come along to our brand new Christmas market and enjoy the festive atmosphere whilst shopping for gifts and treats.



WINTER GROTTTO

Come and meet Father Christmas at our Winter Grotto! Tickets are available to book via our website.



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Join us for a candlelit Carol Service at Guithavon Valley Green from 7pm.

Christmas in the Information Centre

The Information Centre will be transforming to a festive wonderland this Christmas, so make sure you pop in for some fantastic gift ideas!

We have a wide selection of Wilkin & Sons products, including their delicious individual Christmas puddings and gift selections.

We also have our Witham calendar, with images of local landmarks provided by locals! This is available for just £5 and is the perfect gift for anyone who loves Witham.

All of our items can be made in to a beautifully wrapped hamper, with gift wrapping available for just £1.

The Information Centre will be open from 4pm to 9pm on Saturday 4th December as part of Witham's Christmas Fayre.



For updates on all of our events, visit our website and social media pages.



Witham
town council



@WithamTC



@WithamCouncil



@town_Witham



TOWN HALL

Tel: 01376 520627

townclerk@witham.gov.uk

INFORMATION CENTRE

Tel: 01376 502674

61 Newland Street, Witham, Essex CM8 2FE

Witham Town Council Offices are open Monday - Thursday 9:00AM-5:00PM and Friday 9:00AM-4:00PM.

The Information Centre in the Town Hall is open from 9:00AM-4:30PM Monday, Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00AM - 4:30PM Wednesday and 9:00AM - 3:50PM Friday.

Both are closed Weekends and Bank Holidays.

Meetings of your Town Council are open for you to attend. There is usually an opportunity before the beginning of each meeting to speak directly to members of the council regarding current agenda items.

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 Committee meetings at 6:30PM. These are held in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Town Council: 14th December, 17th January, 14th February, 14th March

Environment: 31st January

Community: 28th February

Policy & Resources: 29th March

Planning & Transport: 14th & 20th December, 4th, 17th & 31st January, 14th & 28th February, 14th & 29th March

YOUR COUNCILLORS

CENTRAL WARD

Michael Lager: 45 Chipping Hill CM8 2JT
Tel: 01376 513747

Robert Williams: 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: Tel: 01376 501597

Sindhu Rajeev: cllrsindhu.rajeev@yahoo.co.uk
Tel: 07490909902

SOUTH WARD

Kevin Atwill: Guithavon Street CM8
1BJ Tel: 07798 873544

Chelsey Jay: cllrchelseyjay@gmail.com
Angela Kilmartin: 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: 07774 196679

Jack Bayford: Oak Road, Rivenhall CM8 3HG
Tel: 07860 748151

Steve Hicks: 9 Malyon Road CM8 1DF
Tel: 07836 690551 e-mail:
steviehicks57@outlook.com

Michelle Weeks: 20 Elderberry Gardens CM8
2PT Tel: 01376 515912

HATFIELD WARD

Clare Lager: 45 Chipping Hill CM8 2JT

Tel: 01376 510845

Tel: 01376 513747

JoAnn Williams: