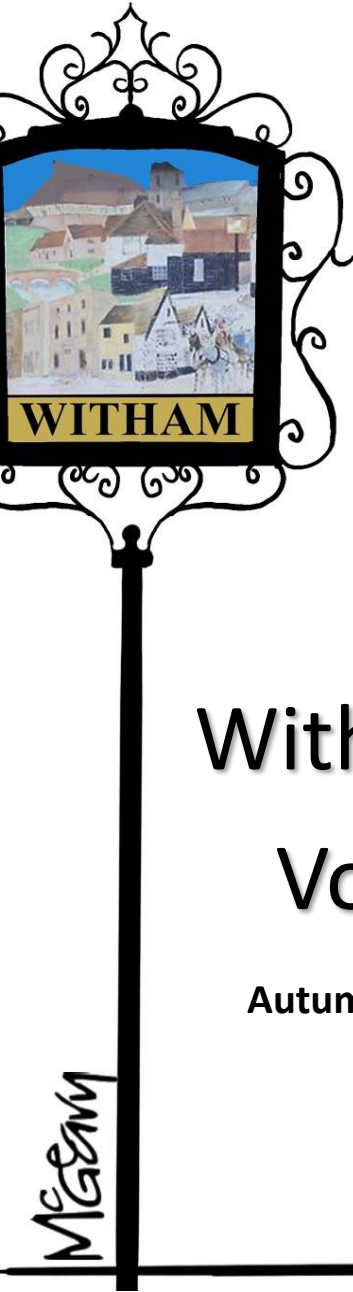


Issue 82



# Witham's Voice

Autumn 2022

McGarry



**Witham** Your quarterly newsletter  
town council

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A 2 page spread  
on the Witham  
Festival

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Photos from  
the Witham  
Dog Show

Our front cover was generously designed by Witham cartoonist Ron. To contact him, or to see more of his work visit [www.ronmcgeary.co.uk](http://www.ronmcgeary.co.uk)



Join WAOS as they celebrate their centenary with a brand new musical drama based on the true story of James Cooke and the Witham Fires of 1828.

Bonfire night, November 1828, and the people of Witham revel in celebrations until fires break out at barns either side of Newland St, Witham. Unbeknown to sweethearts James Cook & Betty Goodwin, the flames are about to change their lives forever.

When James is wrongly accused of starting the fires, Betty and the community rally round to provide support. Will justice prevail? Will the interrogators listen to reason? And when will the flames burn out?

This moving story has been written by Sarah Osborne in collaboration with WAOS members with a full folk style score by Franky Garland and orchestration by Phil Toms.

To book your tickets contact 0300 201 0080 or [www.waos.org](http://www.waos.org)

# COMPETITION WINNERS

Over the run up to the Queen's Jubilee, Witham Town Council ran a range of competitions, here are some of the winning entries below.



The top three winners of the online art competition, and the prizes that were generously donated by Morrisons.



The winner of the Shop Window Dressing Competition was Cabello Hair and Beauty. Members of the public voted for their favourite display on the Witham Town Council Facebook page, and a prize was presented to them by the Mayor of Witham, Cllr Jack Bayford.

Alongside our internet vote, Witham MP, Rt Hon Priti Patel, chose her favourite picture from the entrants to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Children's Art Competition.



# YOUR COUNCIL

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

Council meetings are open to any members of the press or public to attend and registration beforehand is not necessary. Dates of our Full Town Council and committee meetings are published on the back page.

## Pop-up stalls

Over the past several months Witham Town Councillors have been running pop-up stalls in various locations around Witham to bring awareness to a variety of issues, and to give residents the opportunity to come and speak to them about anything they wish to discuss.

If you would like to know the dates of future pop-up stalls please contact the Town Hall.



## Essex Police Community Surgeries

As you may recall from previous editions of the Voice, Essex Police have been holding community surgeries at Witham Town Hall on alternating Tuesdays



between 10-12 to give you a chance to pop in and speak to them about any concerns, to pass on any information or to ask any questions you may have.

The dates of these for September are the 6th and 20th, but we would advise calling the Town Hall on 01376 520627 before attending.

## Opposition to the National Grid

We were recently informed that National Grid has plans to build a new 400,000 volts (400 kV) electricity overhead transmission line, work at existing substations and build a new substation to connect new proposed offshore wind farms to the electricity transmission network. They were running a public consultation to receive input from the community and Witham Town Council has submitted an objection to the plans.

We will be given another chance to comment next year before the planning permission is requested.

## Repairs to Witham's Listening Bench



As you may be aware, the Listening Bench in Guithavon was unfortunately vandalised. The photo included is after our Operations Team repaired the damage to the bench, so be sure to take a rest as you pass and listen to the recordings of past Witham residents.

## The Queen's Green Canopy

In the last edition of the Voice we asked you to provide us with knitted leaves to create the Queen's green canopy to celebrate HM the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We were inundated with leaves and our wonderful volunteers helped put them all together to create the canopy which is pictured below. Thank you to everyone who took part.



# WHAT'S ON IN WITHAM



After a two year break due to Covid-19 the Witham Puppet Festival returns with a twist! Renamed the Witham Street Entertainment Festival this event will have a natural world theme with a range of brand new acts roaming the Town Centre.

From pandas, to seals to even walking trees! The whole family will be able to experience the wonders of nature from their doorstep.

This year to tie in with our theme of the natural world we will not be printing programmes for the event but full timings will be available on our website, social media and through our 'Witham Street Entertainment QR Code' which will be released shortly.



We would like to thank Braintree District Council for their £1,000 donation to this event.

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



**Witham**  
town council



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# Some of our scheduled acts include

Dinosaur show

Squash box Theatre

BUMBLINA

Puddle Ducks

Ned The Elephant

LIKE A TREE

Show Globe

GLIDING BUTTERFLIES

Sloth Time

TREE WALKABOUT

The Seal

What the Tortoise Taught Us

Sparky



You will be able to watch the acts perform from 12-5:00pm in the Grove and Newlands shopping centres, the library and on Newland Street. Further information regarding times and locations of specific acts will be available on social media and on the day of the event.

# WITHAM'S JUBILEE CELEBRATION

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of HM the Queen, Witham Town Council held a unique event on the River Walk. Here are some of the photos below:







# THE WITHAM AND COUNTRYSIDE SOCIETY

Are you interested in your surroundings? Do you notice how Newland Street and surrounding roads change? If you have an eye for detail you may have noticed the historical plaques on Highway Cottage and the Town Hall or even seen the QR codes on many buildings in Newland Street which, if accessed, tell you about their history.

All this is part of the work of the Witham and Countryside Society which for many years has promoted public interest and pride in the local built and natural environment.

We take an active interest in planning matters affecting us all and our views are often sought. We have published guides and photographic books about Witham and we have also organised trips to places of local interest like Copford Church, Paycocks at Coggeshall and an eco friendly farm near Tollesbury.

Post covid we are hoping to organise our regular meeting with speakers again, and to seek out places to visit. Are you interested? Want to know more? Contact the society at [www.withamandcountryside@btinternet.com](mailto:www.withamandcountryside@btinternet.com)



We get together a couple of times a month and have a stroll around a country park whilst having a chat in a safe place without judgement! It gives us guys the opportunity to offload, get things off our chest and talk about how we are feeling rather than bottling it up and suffering in silence.

Walk & talk 4 men is very much in its infancy stage, if you feel like you could or would like to contribute in any way please do not hesitate to get in touch with the founder James: [walkandtalk4men@gmail.com](mailto:walkandtalk4men@gmail.com)

As a general rule of thumb, our Witham walk events will always be in the same place: along the River Walk, starting from the Town Hall in Newland Street on the second Sunday of each month, at 11am - 2-3k walk followed by refreshments afterwards in Valero Lounge.

# Witham Dog Show

Witham Dog Show took place along the River Walk on Saturday 2nd of July and was run by Witham Town Council. Thank you to everyone who attended the event and to all our sponsors.



## TOWN HALL AND INFORMATION CENTRE

Office: 01376 520627  
townclerk@witham.gov.uk

Information Centre: 01376 502674  
infocentre@witham.gov.uk

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

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**Policy & Resources:** Sept 12th

**Planning & Transport:** Sept 12th, Sept 26th

**Town Council:** Sept 26th, Oct 24th

**Environment:** Oct 10th

# YOUR COUNCILLORS

## CENTRAL WARD

**Michael Lager:** Tel: 01376 513747  
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**Robert Williams:** Tel: 01376 510845  
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## WEST WARD

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**Michelle Weeks:** Tel: 01376 515912  
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## HATFIELD WARD

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**JoAnn Williams:** Tel: 07966 586574  
Cllr.j.williams@witham.gov.uk