



WITHAM CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION
Do you want to be a part of the Witham Carnival Court?

The search is on for the 2024/2025 Witham Carnival Court. The new Court will be chosen at our Selection Dance on **Saturday 30th March 2024** at the Witham Public Hall, Collingwood Road, CM8 2DY, from 6.30pm. Entry is free to the Selection participants and their accompanying parent/guardian. Additional entry tickets can be purchased for £3.00 on entry for adults and £1.00 for children under 13.

The chosen Court will spend a year representing Witham, visiting other towns around our district. This is not a beauty contest but we do look for a pleasant personality, reasonably confident, enjoy meeting people, charismatic and **MUST live in the CM8 postcode or surrounding areas**. During the year they will help raise money for various charities, lead the Carnival Day Procession & attend other carnivals across Essex, London & Kent. **A list of mandatory events is highlighted**. Application forms should be in no later than **Saturday 02nd March 2024** including **signed disclosure**. **Anyone interested should apply with this application form and send it to: Miss C Victor, 23 Spa Road, Witham CM8 1NF**. For more information contact 07769 152 330

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____ M _____

Date of Birth _____ AGE ON 13th JULY 2024 _____

Your signature _____ Date _____

E-mail address _____

All entrants must at time of application reside in the CM8 postcode area. This will also apply to the successful applicants during their year as the Court.

ENTRY AGE GROUPS

Senior Court Members aged 13 – 25

Junior Court Member aged 5 – 12

Your age must be as above on Carnival Day which is **13th July 2024**

All entrants under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Parent or Guardian signature required if entrant is under the age of 18 years.

Signature _____ Date _____

Print name _____

(If you are successfully selected to be part of the 2024/2025 Court you will be asked to sign a disclosure form similar to that below)

- 1 Should you be successful on being selected as part of the 2024/2025 Witham Carnival Court there are some rules that we expect you to follow. This honour brings not only wonderful experiences but also responsibilities. So, this is to go over some of the things you can expect and a few of the very important ground rules.
- 2 First of all, your main responsibility in being the Carnival Court is to represent Witham, the Carnival Committee and yourselves. Make us all proud! Your purpose is to put on a good show for the people of Witham and to raise money for local charities. Remember that you must exhibit good behaviour at all times. You need to be good role models. Remember you are the Carnival Court **24-7** even when you are not on duty. **This includes comments put on social networking sites such as Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook etc. Swearing, crude comments or any negative or gossip comments about any part of the Carnival experience are strictly forbidden.** To be part of the Carnival Court requires a commitment to have fun and enjoyment. Should you win awards then this is a bonus but it is not the main theme of being in the Carnival Court.
- 3 Most importantly:
No smoking at any time when on duty.
No swearing.
No drinking alcohol when on duty. This also goes before an event.
No drugs (**if you need to take prescribed medication, let the chaperones know**)
No using mobile phones on the float or when on duty.
Avoid gossip – it will not serve you well nor enhance your experience.

OK, enough of the “NO’s”! Here are some other important “DO’s” that will make your experience even better and safer.
- 4 Listen to your chaperones and follow instructions. Please remember the committee’s decisions are finale.
- 5 Stay together when going on rides and going to the toilet, etc. You will be escorted by the chaperones at all times and cannot go off with friends or family during a sponsored event.
- 6 Build good relationships with the other Carnival Courts. You will see them often throughout the year.
- 7 During a procession, look at people directly, wave and say hello. Be kind to everyone. You might be surprised to see how much this means to people. Always have a smile even though at times you may not feel like smiling.
- 8 **DO NOT BE PROVOKED BY ANYONE** (for example, someone shouting at you whilst on duty). No backchat. Just smile. Your chaperones will deal with this situation and protect you.
- 9 Look people in the eye, speak in more than one word answers and are sociable. This will help you in competitions and will generally enrich your experience.
- 10 There are throughout the year a few competitions that you will be involved in. This includes competitions at other carnivals for best float, Court, etc. We don’t mind if you win or lose so long as you enjoy yourself and have a wonderful time! You will also be invited to functions within the town of Witham. When you attend a Presentation or Selection evening, your own or another Court’s, you will be expected to give a little speech and do a curtsy together. You need to plan with your chaperones what you want to do and say. After you attend your first one, you will see what the other Courts do and will be more at ease with the whole event. There is also dancing at these events and we hope you will participate fully. It makes for a great evening and making friends!
- 11 You must be in full regalia at all times while at an event.
- 12 You will be responsible for maintaining your regalia which will include day/ evening wear, cape, bag and flowers. The chaperones will keep and maintain your crowns and sashes. This just helps prevent someone forgetting them on an event day. If you break, damage or lose any regalia it will be your responsibility to buy new ones.

- 13 We also ask that if you are unable to attend an event, please let your Court Manager know at least 48 hours beforehand so that we can make alternate arrangements. Remember that there are many events that you will be invited to throughout the year and you **MUST ATTEND ALL WITHAM EVENTS**. Any holidays that are booked must be submitted to us with this application. Lastly please be sure that your family knows where you are going and when to expect you back at all times. They are always welcome to attend the Carnivals, etc. Please contact members of the committee for more information.

We will require a parent/ guardian of a court member to attend some carnival's to help drive the Court (between July- Oct 2024 and then in June 2025) and help with setting the float up. A rota will be organised so that each parent takes a turn (only 2-4 for each parent). Please make sure this is something you can commit too.

We do ask for a contribution towards fuel for each court member for each event as unfortunately fuel costs have gone up.

- 14 We hope that you find this information helpful. If there are other questions you have about what is involved, please feel free to ask any Witham Carnival Committee member who will be pleased to help.
- 15 **You are requested to bring a packed lunch, change of clothes and money with you when attending other Carnivals.** Your Court Manager will advise you on this.
- 16 Court Manager Contacts:
Carly Victor 07769 152 330
- 17 **Failure to comply with these requirements can result in immediate suspension or even termination of your position on the Witham Carnival Court.**
- 18 **To be completed by entrant**
I have read and understood and I agree to abide by the above rules and guidelines should I be successful in being selected for the Witham Carnival Court for 2024/2025.

Print name_____

Signature_____

Date_____

- 20 **Agreement signature of parent or guardian if applicant is under the age of 18 years.**

Print name_____

Signature_____

Date_____

- 21 **Holiday/ Unavailable dates from July 2024 to July 2025**

All details on this application form will be kept confidential by Witham Carnival Association and will not be released to any other party.

Events that we **require** the court to attend:

Witham Crowning- 06 July 2024

Witham Carnival - 13 July 2024

Witham Carnival Presentation Night – 30 November 2024

Witham Remembrance Day Parade (Queen lays wreath) 10 November 2024

Witham Dickensian Market/ Christmas lights – 30 November 2024

Mayors Civic Service- 2024/2025 TBC

Witham Carnival Selection Night – 08 Feb 2025 TBC

Witham Spring Lodge Fair- 04 May 2025 TBC

Community Day- 07 or 14 June 2025 TBC

Witham Crowning- 05 July 2025

Witham Carnival - 112 July 2025

All Carnival runs between June to September. From October to May they attend Presentation Evening Dances. Each year a Court can attend between 35-45 events. Below is a list of all the events the court could attend in their year, please consider the amount of time that is involved in this and if you can commit.

NEW 2024 COURT CROWNING

WITHAM CARNIVAL 2024

Coggeshall Carnival

Teddy Bear Picnic

Deal (Kent) Carnival

Basildon & Pitsea Carnival

Ramsgate (Kent) Carnival

Maldon Carnival

Clacton on Sea Carnival

Dover Town Carnival

Walton on the Naze Carnival

Stanford & Corringham Carnival

Burnham on Crouch Crowning Dance

Wickford Carnival

Great Dunmow Carnival

Aylesham (Kent) Carnival

Court of Kent Dinner Dance

Burnham on Crouch Carnival

Faversham Carnival

WITHAM PRESENTATION NIGHT

Court of Kent Buffet

MAYORS CIVIC SERVICE

Sheppey (Kent) Halloween Dance

REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Basildon & Pitsea Winter Dance

XMAS MARKET/LIGHT SWITCH ON

MAYOR CAROL SERVICE

Court of Kent Evening Ball

Sheppey (Kent) Ball

Wickford Crowning Dance

WITHAM SELECTION EVENING 2025

Basildon & Pitsea Crowning Dance

Stanford & Corringham Presentation Dance

SPRING LODGE FAIR

Maldon Selection Evening

WITHAM COMMUNITY DAY

Braintree Carnival

Brightlingsea Carnival

Great Bentley Carnival

NEW 2025 COURT CROWNING

WITHAM CARNIVAL 2025

CARE HOME VISITS