



WITHAM CARNIVAL ASSOCIATION

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

The search is on for the 2016/2017 Witham Carnival Court. The new Court will be chosen at our Selection Dance on **Saturday 09th April 2016** at Maltings Academy (Formally The John Bramston School), Spinks Lane, Witham, CM8 1EP, from 6.30pm. Entry is free to the Selection participants and their accompanying parent. Additional entry tickets can be purchased for £3 on entry. The chosen court will spend a year representing Witham Town, 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 area**. During the year they will help raise money for various charities, lead the Carnival Day procession & attend other carnivals across Essex. **A list of mandatory events are highlighted**. Application forms should be in no later than **Saturday 02nd April 2016** including signed disclosure. **Anyone interested should apply with this application form and send it to: Carnival Court Manager. Miss C Victor, 23 Burdun Close, Witham CM8 1PN.**

*** For more information, contact:

Miss Carly Victor on 07769 152 330

ENTRY FORM: Entry for Court selection

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POST CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____ M _____

Date of Birth _____

AGE ON 09th JULY 2016 _____

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 14 - 25 years old

Junior Court Members aged 8 – 13 years old

Your age must be as above on Carnival Day which is 09th July 2016

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 2016/2017 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 2016/2017 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 and Facebook etc. Swearing, crude comments or any negative or gossip comments about any part of the Carnival experience is 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 for the evening before an event.
No drugs (if you need to take medication, let the chaperones know)
Please inform us if you are on any medication.
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 be sociable. This will help you in competitions and will generally enrich your experience.
- 10 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 curtsey together. You need to plan with your chaperones what you want to do and say and perhaps practice a bit. That way, it will be easily done. 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. The chaperones will keep and maintain your crowns, capes and sashes. This just helps prevent someone forgetting them on an event day.
- 13 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. At the Presentation evenings there is also a Court of Court presentation. 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.
- 14 We also ask that if you are unable to attend an event, please let someone on the Carnival Committee 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 although you are not expected to attend them all, we would like you to come to as many as you can. Also, 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.
- 15 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.
- 16 **You are requested to bring a packed lunch with you when attending other Carnivals.** Your Court Manager will advise you on this.
- 17 Court Manager Contacts:
Carly Victor 07769 152 330
- 18 **Failure to comply with these requirements can result in immediate suspension or even termination of your position on the Witham Carnival Court.**
- 19 **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 2016/2017.

Print name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

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

Print name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

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- 02nd July 2016
Witham Carnival - 09th July 2016
Witham International Puppet Festival- 17 September 2016
Witham Carnival Presentation Night – 12 November 2016
Witham Remembrance Day Parade (Queen lays wreath) 13 November 2016
Witham Christmas lights – November 2016
Mayors Caroling Service- December 2016
Mayors Civic Service- March 2017
Witham Carnival Selection Night – April 2017
Witham Spring Lodge Fair- May 2017
Witham Crowning- 01st July 2017
Witham Carnival - 08th July 2017

All Carnival runs between June to September. From October to May they attend presentation Evening Dances. Each year a court can attend between 30-40 events.

Below is a list of all the events the current court has attended in their year, please consider the amount of time that is involved in this and if you can commit.

WITHAM CARNIVAL 2015

Coggeshall Carnival
Basildon Carnival
Maldon Carnival
Mersea Carnival
Clacton Carnival
Walton Carnival
Southend Carnival
Stanford & Corringham Carnival & Dance

Puppet Festival

Dunmow Carnival
Wickford Carnival
Burnham Carnival
Invicta Halloween Dance
Hornsey Halloween Dance

WITHAM PRESENTATION NIGHT

Remembrance Parade

Basildon Winter Dance

Xmas Light switch on

Xmas Market

Enfield Dance

Mayor Carol Service

Invicta Kent Ball
Southend Dance
Wickford Crowning
Stanford & Corringham Dance
Basildon Crowning

Mayors Civic Service

Hornsey Selection
Enfield Selection Night

WITHAM SELECTION EVENING

Mersea Selection

Spring Lodge Fair

Braintree Carnival
Brightlingsea Carnival
Great Bentley Carnival

NEW 2016 COURT CROWNING

WITHAM CARNIVAL 2016