

Whittlesey Festival 2023

Sunday 10th September 2023



Free Programme



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4:30PM - 9:30PM

THURSDAY, FRIDAY & SATURDAY

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MARCH 2023

WELCOME TO WHITTLESEY



IT'S BACK.... After a three-year break due to COVID we welcome you all back to the much-missed Whittlesey Festival for the 13th time.

Without the commitment to the local community that is demonstrated by the Festival Committee in their hard work and dedication we would not be able to celebrate the Whittlesey community spirit with such a festival.

I would like to thank the Festival Committee for the planning and coordination and pulling it all back together after the three-year break.

The community has really supported this event which makes me very proud. I really appreciate the fundraising that has taken place to help subsidise the rides and attractions to enable the day to be fun filled for all without some of the financial worry in these difficult times. That is only part of the story though, the sponsors and local businesses have also supported this event with time, money and ideas. A real community effort.

I know the Committee are looking forward to welcoming some new acts/performers and are particularly looking forward to welcoming back the Romford Drum and Trumpet Corps and the Peterborough Highland Pipe Band along with other past performers. The day is going to be fantastic.

Of course, the main requirement is good weather, so fingers crossed everyone.

Have a good time and enjoy the Festival and see you next year!

Councillor Mrs Kay Mayor

Mayor of Whittlesey



A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It's been three years since the last Festival, due to Covid, so the Festival Committee have been working hard to bring the event back bigger and better than before.

Marija Lysak has coordinated a tremendous line-up of international and local performers on the Market Square and the Schools Art Exhibition in the Whittlesey Library. David Bailey has brought together an amazing programme of music and entertainment in St Mary's Church and the church yard green.

Thanks go to Averil Cosstick and Jenny Parker for organising the Fund-Raising Coffee Morning and the Nova ladies for their wonderful cakes. This event combined with an Easter-Egg Hunt earlier this year raised over £800 towards the Festival.

Having served on this committee for many years I'm always grateful for the hard work of all our volunteers which makes me honoured to serve as chairman.

Thank you to our sponsors and advertisers whose support helps to make the Festival possible.

Hope you enjoy the Festival.

Brian Smithyman

The Whittlesey Festival Committee



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MARKET SQUARE RUNNING ORDER 2023

Time	Item/Performer
9.30 am	Parade Assembles, Broad Street (Whittlesey Christian Church)
10.00 am	Parade Departs – Arrive Market Square approx. 10.10 am
10.15 am	Official opening by Mayor of Whittlesey - Cllr. Kay Mayor
10.25 am	Peterborough Highland Pipe Band
10.45 am	Romford Drum and Trumpet Corp Marching Band
11.05 am	'Black Eagles' – Tanzanian Acrobatic and Dance Group
11.30 am	Puppet Show – The Eddie the Donkey Show – part 1
11.45 am	'Starlight Twirlettes' – Majorette Troupe
12.00 pm	Lindy Hop Dancers - Rug- Cutters
12.15 pm	Solas School of Irish Dance
12.25 pm	Indian Contemporary Dance Group - 'Ritu Ranga'
12.40 pm	Romford Drum and Trumpet Corp Marching Band
13.00 pm	Lithuanian Dance Group - 'Raskila'
13.15 pm	'Black Eagles' – Tanzanian Acrobatic and Dance Group
13.40 pm	Solas School of Irish Dance
13.50 pm	Peterborough Highland Pipe Band
14.10 pm	Puppet Show – The Eddie the Donkey Show – part 2
14.25 pm	Folk Dance group - 'Sutton Mask'
14.40 pm	Young Technicians – Musical Theatre group
15.00 pm	Lindy Hop Dancers - Rug-Cutters
15.15 pm	Reserved for Flypast of Spitfire/BBMF
15 30 pm	Festival Finale (Combined Bands) P. Highland Pipe/Romford D&T
16.00 pm	Close Festival -Mayor of Whittlesey -Cllr. Kay Mayor

While every effort is made to keep to the timings things don't always run as smoothly as planned. Weather and technical problems can delay things. Please bear with us if we don't hit the timing above on the day. The Flypast is also subject to change. (We get notified on the day of the timings)

St Marys Church Performance times



10:00 Church Service



11:15 am Whittlesey Concert Band



12:00 am Park Lane School Choir



12:30 Soussa Page



13:00 Alderman Jacobs School Choir



13:30 Whittlesey Singers



14:00 Abi & Aaron



14:30 Trevor Dixon



15:00 Tony Webster



15:30 Eye 2 Eye Acoustic

All Times are approximate and acts may be subject to change

St Marys Yard Performance times



11:00 Charlie Parker



11:35 Kill me Kate



12:15 Waldo Rumkins



12:50 Songbird and the Crow



13:25 James Edmonds



14:00 Just us 2



14:35 Unit 11 (L.A.P.A.)



15:10 the Boatmen

All Times are approximate and acts may be subject to change

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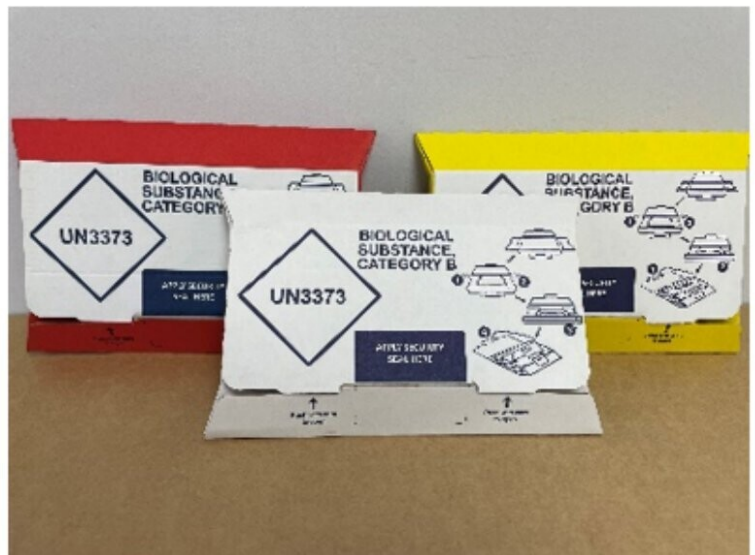
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The Royal Air Force Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (BBMF) operates from RAF Coningsby, a Typhoon base, in Lincolnshire.

The mission of the RAF BBMF is to maintain the priceless artefacts of our national heritage in airworthy condition to commemorate those who have fallen in the service of this country. The RAF BBMF also serves to promote the modern-day Air Force and to inspire the future generations.

The Flight operates six Spitfires, two Hurricanes, a Lancaster, a C47 Dakota, and two Chipmunk aircraft (primarily for training). The aircraft are flown by regular RAF Aircrew.

These aircraft can be regularly seen in the skies over the UK from May to September each year. They are flown to celebrate and commemorate public and military events from State occasions such as Trooping the Colour to major airshows and flypasts for public events.

They are proud to have His Royal Highness Prince William, Prince of Wales, as our Patron.

Whittlesey Festival have applied for a flyover of the show at around 3pm the aircraft and timing will be confirmed closer to the date.

The Battle of Britain Memorial Flight has six Spitfires, two Hurricanes and of course, the iconic Lancaster heavy bombers. We are hoping to get one, if not all on the day!

You will hear the Rolls Royce Merlin engines roar once again over Whittlesey – Look to the skies! (Pictures from www.raf.mod.uk)



CLASSIC VEHICLES BIG AND SMALL

This year you will see around 150 classic cars parked in the streets of Whittlesey, from classic motorcycles and cars from the 1920's (That's over 100 years old!) to American muscle cars of more recent years.

Talk to the owners, they are at the festival because of their passion for their vehicles. There are some fascinating stories and interesting history to be explored.



Thank you to Andy Stimson and the team for organising all these wonderful vehicles and parking them all perfectly so you can get a good view.

The Black Eagles – Acrobatic Dance Group



The Black Eagles are originally from Tanzania where they learned their acrobatic skills at the age of six on the streets of Dar-Es-Salaam. They met in Zambia in 1991 and joined Brian Boswell's Circus in South Africa in 1992. They then toured extensively in South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique before coming to England in early 1994 to join Jerry Cottle's circus. They toured throughout Europe with the circus for eighteen months and then formed the three-person Black Eagles, venturing into indoor cabaret and outdoor performances.

Shows are set to lively African music; the show progresses through a series of powerful and graceful acrobatic and dance routines with limbo fire and hoop jumping. A high impact, joyful show that will have people gasping in amazement.



PETERBOROUGH HIGHLAND PIPE BAND



The Peterborough Highland Pipe Band was founded shortly after the Second World War in 1947, by a group of soldiers who settled in Peterborough and missed their piping. The band was formed under the leadership of Pipe Major James Hanlon with a nucleus of ex-Scots Guards.

The newly formed band were honoured to have their first engagement on Armistice Day 1948. They went on to win several competitions, becoming The English Champions, receiving the coveted Silver Drum Major's Mace.

Today the Peterborough Highland Pipe Band are seen wearing kilts made from Ancient Gordon Tartan. It is worn with permission from the band's President, The Most Honourable Granville Charles Gordon, the 13th Marquess of Huntly.

The band you will see is comprised of musicians from Peterborough Highland Pipe Band and Bedford Pipe Band.

Peterborough Highland Pipe band are always actively recruiting new members, if you would like to learn to play the Bagpipes or maybe become part of the Drum Corp, please speak to a member of the band or take a look at our website www.phpb.org.uk or social media channels.



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The Rotary Club

Rotary extends a warm welcome to visitors to this year's Whittlesey festival. It is a wonderful opportunity for the town to show off its best features, especially the very talented people who live here! Make time to visit our stand and have a laugh with us on the "Human Fruit Machine". Rotary is one of the largest humanitarian organisations in the world and it all revolves around people like us – ordinary people who like meeting and helping people and having a bit of fun at the same time. Ask us about the new projects we are undertaking to raise money to support local and international charities.

This year we are also working in partnership with the Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue to fund free smoke alarms for vulnerable adults living in Whittlesey and surrounding villages.

With central government funding removed Rotary stepped in to assist with the funding of detectors to be allocated and fitted by Cambs Fire & Rescue. Future fund-raising events will include the participation in the Christmas Extravaganza, a "Proms Night" in March 2024 and Beer festival in July 2024.

If you are a person who likes to get involved with the local community, wants to make new friends and feel you could assist us in our fund-raising efforts, come and speak to us.

Looking forward to meeting you – Paul Cornell, President.

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In so many areas, we rely on experts to point us in the right direction. If your car breaks down, you see a mechanic. If a tooth aches, you go to the dentist. The same should be true of our finances. Why wouldn't we ask the experts and make sure they're being managed effectively?

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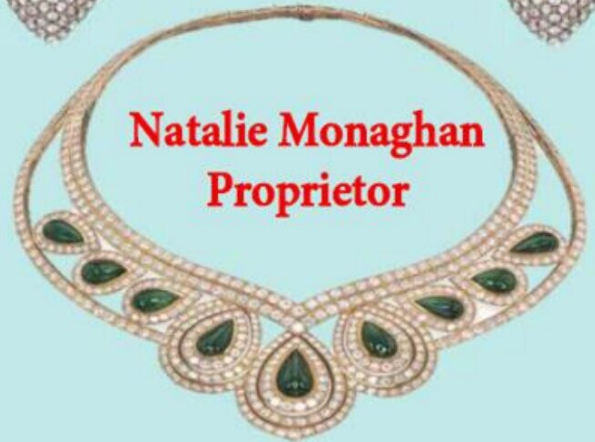
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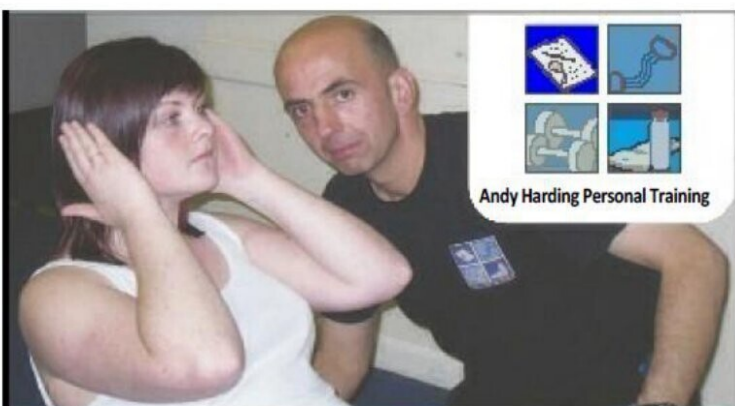
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Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid

In 2014, during my first term as Mayor of Whittlesey, I recognised the need amongst our community for a food bank to assist those families who were struggling at the time to provide adequate supplies for themselves.

Having had little experience of foodbanks, I carried out some research amongst existing food banks in the Greater Peterborough area during which I visited the Trussell Trust Distribution Depot at Orton Goldhay and one of their outlets at Stanground. At that time I had recently retired after ten years working for various agencies employed by Job Centre Plus so had a basic knowledge of how people qualified for help from foodbanks and the method of handing out a limited number of vouchers for those in need. I also researched Fairshare, an organisation that supplied food from a central point at a cost.

I somehow didn't feel that I was comfortable with traditional methods at the time associated with foodbanks as I wanted to help families as and when they needed help and not just on a spasmodic basis.

I therefore called an open meeting at the Whittlesey Town Council offices in Grosvenor Road where members of the public came forward with their thoughts and ideas. From that meeting I was fortunate enough to make acquaintance with Pastor Brian Smithyman of Whittlesey Christian Church, whose philosophies matched my own. Brian offered a permanent home for a foodbank at the Christian Church in Broad Street. Other local churches came forward with offers of regular donations along with the local supermarkets, and Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid was born administered principally by Brian, his assistant, Marija Lysak and myself. In time we were joined by Sue Jennings and a fully constituted body was formed.

In addition to providing food to the needy on a regular basis, projects were undertaken which included growing our own vegetables on an allotment in New Road, the provision of simple recipe sheets and most importantly confidential consultations.

Referrals were very much by word of mouth and from an initial core of 20–25 families Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid now services around 80 families regularly in the town and surrounding villages.

A link with a project known as Neighbourly gives us weekly access to unwanted food at many of the Peterborough supermarkets in addition to items donated by the public into receptacles at all the Whittlesey supermarkets. We are fortunate to have the continued support of local churches and regular cash donations from generous townsfolk.

In 2021 we outgrew our premises in Broad Street and in 2022 moved to new headquarters within the Manor Leisure Centre in Station Road and whilst Brian and Marija have now left us after years of valuable service I am indebted to Sue and Joe Jennings who, with a small band of volunteers, run the food bank on a day to day basis whilst Julie Windle and I take care of the administration.

A recent initiative has involved signposting our clients to the Citizens Advice Bureau where they can be further assisted on a number of matters to improve their own family environments.

At present the foodbank is open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week but please telephone Sue Jennings first on 07375143146 for an appointment as confidentiality is a key point of our organisation and a booking system is in place.

My thanks go to the many people who have supported us in the past and to those who I hope will continue to support us as long as food banks are necessary.

David K M Mason

Chairman

Whittlesey Emergency Food Aid

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Key Road

Closure



Toilets

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Churches



Parade Route



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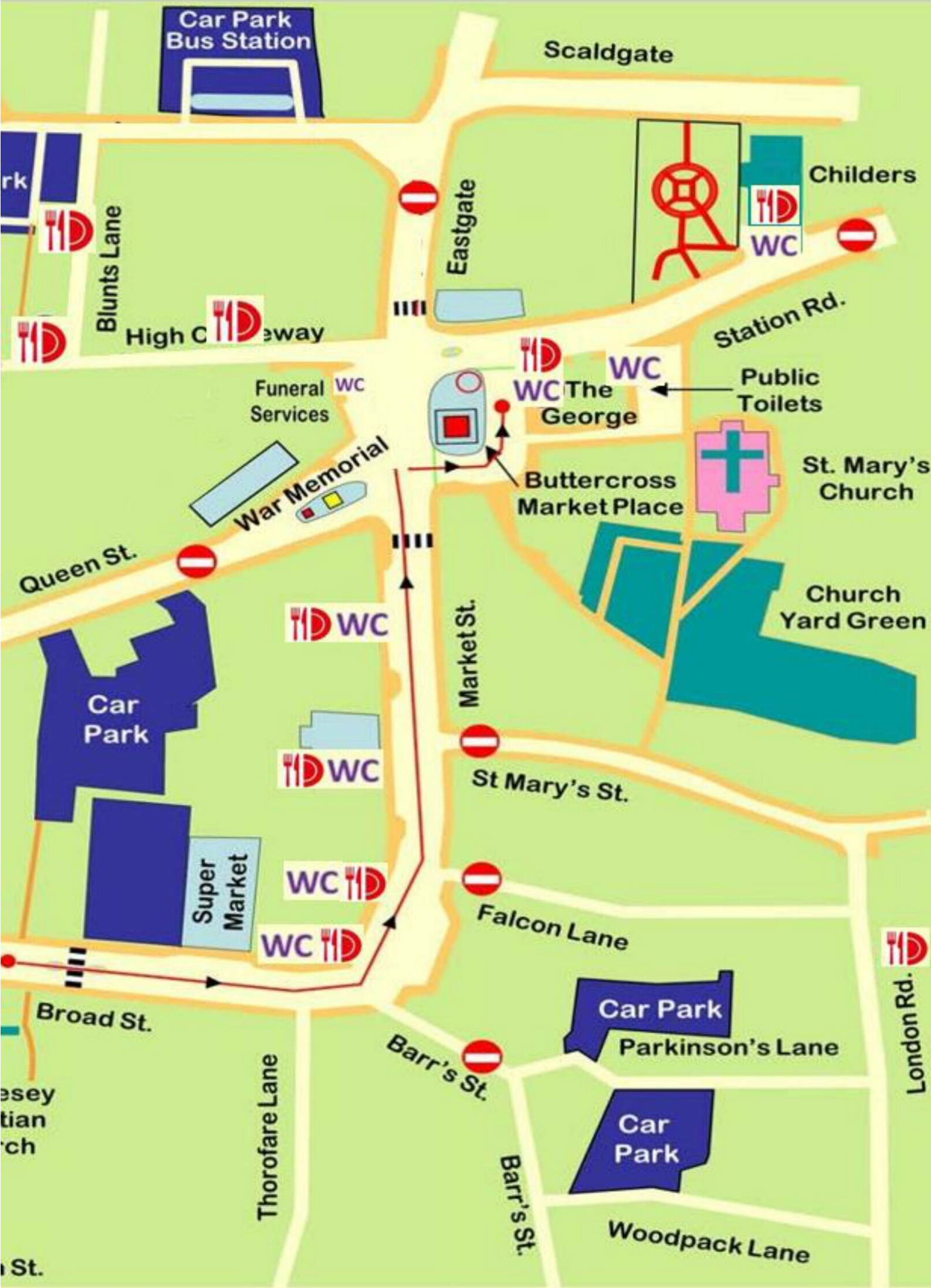
- The George
- Fontanella's
- The Black Bull
- Poppy's
- Central Café
- Royal Fish Bar
- The Falcon

Toilet Facilities

WC

- Childers
- Public (Free)
- Funeral Services
- The George
- Fontanella's
- The Black Bull
- Con. Club
- Poppy's
- Central Cafe





Car Park
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Eastgate

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Station Rd.

Funeral Services

WC The George

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Buttercross Market Place

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We have been doing our volunteer work in and around the town for more than fourteen years now, litter picking on average every two weeks on a Saturday morning. Regularly attending and maintaining our boars and floral displays at the gateway projects. We are extremely grateful to our local business sponsors whose support enables us to keep our town attractive and tidy. If you would like more information about volunteering for us, please contact Peter Davies (Secretary) by email to peterdaviesgb@aol.com



Indian contemporary dance group 'RITU RANGA'

Ritu Ranga which literally translates into 'Colours of Seasons' was formed just before the pandemic by a group of Indian ladies who were trained dancers. They were looking for a way to socialise which would be creative as well as productive. As word got out many ladies who were not trained dancers expressed interest and joined the group. They made their debut during the annual Diwali Festival in Peterborough in 2018. They chose red and black as their colours as they symbolize power. The dances are focussed around 'Shakti' or 'Divine Power of the Goddess' and Ritu Ranga has been performing at local community festivals and was the first Indian dance group to become a part of the Marks & Spencer Christmas advert in 2022.



Lithuanian Dance Group – 'Raskila'

The dance group "Raskila" mainly perform traditional Lithuanian folk and pagan dances. Their name "Raskila" is derived from the Rascilla flower which is thought to have had magical powers. The group was established in 2014 by Miss Raimonda Gecaite. Since then, the group has appointed two more leaders, Sandra Palubeckaitė, who also leads the Kings Lynn's dance group called "Karaliūnai" together with Irma Glavinskienė.

Currently there are 13 ladies in the group and through their dances they portray Lithuanian tradition, music, and culture. Wearing their national costumes, they have performed at events in Peterborough and across the whole of the UK. They are looking forward to bringing a piece of Lithuania to the Whittlesey community on festival day.

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Whittlesey Christmas Extravaganza

Whittlesey Christmas Extravaganza is a yearly event started 33 years ago for the residents of Whittlesey and surrounding areas to celebrate the Festive season. This year it takes place on Saturday 9th December between 3.30pm and 7pm.

For many years the event was held on the Market Square on a Friday evening, entertainment was provided by local dance organisations and groups with a few fairground rides who charged for each ride. In 2017 after many years of hard work the majority of the existing committee decided to step down and almost new committee took their place.

The new committee decided to expand the event to include some side streets. Since then road closures have allowed even more attractions and rides to be included. A decision was taken to move the day from a Friday evening to Saturday afternoon/early evening, this allowed those who were at work to have the opportunity to join in the fun.

The present committee spend the year planning the Extravaganza this includes applying for grants, fundraising, requesting donations and planning attractions. By doing this it allows children to enjoy the rides for a one-off payment for a wristband, thereby giving families an evening out before Christmas at a reasonable cost. Santa also puts in an appearance for those who want tell him what they would like to wake up to on Christmas Morning this is an additional attractions not included in the wristband.

Not only do families benefit, local charities are invited to have stalls to boost their funds, together with stalls selling festive goods.

Every year the committee tries out something new for both young and old. A recent inclusion has been the simulator which has proved very popular with Adults and older children alike!

The committee thanks all those who help make Extravaganza possible in any way shape or form. Keep your eyes peeled for further information later in the year possible.



Whittlesey Christmas Lights Committee

Chairman
Richard Exton
8 Horsegate
Whittlesey
PE7 1JD
07836733507

richardjexton@btinternet.com

Treasurer
Phil Knighton
2 Walnut Close
Whittlesey
PE7 1LL
01733202008

adyandphil@hotmail.com

Secretary
Sasha Allen
156 Eastrea Road
Whittlesey
PE7 2AJ
07730780080

paulsashaallen@gmail.com

The Christmas Lights Committee was formed in 1980's, since then a small committee has purchased, erected, dismantled and maintained Whittlesey's display every year. We raise funds by collections and grants from local organisations, businesses and members of the public.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the community that make Whittlesey look so special throughout the festive period every year.

We always welcome volunteers to help with the setup and takedown of the display. If you would be interested in joining us, please contact either Richard Exton Chairman or Sasha Allen Secretary.



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Whittlesey and District Lions Club have been serving the local community since 1990. Members come from all walks of life, all ages both men and women. Their aim is to help the Whittlesey area in many ways from providing medical equipment, funding equipment for local organisations as well as giving their time to help others.

To raise funds members can be seen selling their famous Lions Quiz sheets, attending local events with their stall with a variety of games to play, lastly members can be seen accompanying Santa on their annual rounds of the streets of Whittlesey, Eastrea and Coates.

If you would like to get involved please get in touch via our email address
whittlesey.lions@btinternet.com



Friends of St. Andrew's Church Whittlesey



The Friends of St. Andrew's Church are a group of people who for whatever reason, have an interest in the upkeep of the Church and its grounds as well as updating and adding new equipment.

Throughout the year the Friends hold a coffee morning in St. Andrew's Church hall, Parkinson Lane, on the 2nd Tuesday of every month all are welcome. They also organise a Pumpkin festival at the end of October, Sunday lunches twice a year, supply refreshments on Strawbear Day, help organise the Church annual Fete among other activities.

If you would like further information please contact Lynn on 07767 373264

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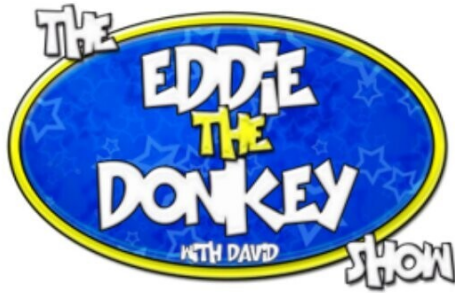
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Special thanks must also go to Isabel and her amazing team at Fenland District Council (Markets & Events). Their hard work and dedication throughout the year ensures everything runs as smoothly as possible on the day.



Special Thanks go to St Andrew Masonic lodge and R B Electrics for their kind donations to the festival.

Details of our sponsors can be seen above. Their help has enabled us to provide many of the rides and attractions free of charge at this year's event. Please consider using their products and services.

For more information about the 'Sponsorship' opportunities available or to join our Festival Partners Group, please contact Averil on 07307 903903 or Jenny on 07436 269616. Thank you for coming and please remember to make a note of next year's Festival date in your calendar: 8th September 2024

Brian Smithyman (Chairman Whittlesey Festival) and Whittlesey Festival Committee Members

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Whittlesey appears in a charter of the tenth century as *Witlesig* and in the Domesday book of 1086 as *Witesie* and the '*Inquisitio Eliensis*' lists it as *Wittleseia*.

The name is Old English perhaps from *Witles ieg*, which means *Witel's island* maybe after an otherwise unknown person named *Witel* or *Witta*.

Placenames ending in *-ey* or *-ea* are commonplace in Fenland derived from the Old English *ieg* meaning *Island* or *dry land* in the fen and *ea* meaning *river*.

Source www.wikishire.co.uk

FACTS ABOUT OUR TOWN

- Before the fens were drained, Whittlesey was an island.
- Whittlesey was linked to Peterborough and March by a Roman Fen Causeway (The motorway of the time) probably built in the 1st Century.
- Whittlesey is 23 feet above sea level and is about 3 miles long and ½ mile wide.
- In 2009 the people of Whittlesey raised £10,000 for bushfire victims in Whittlesey in Victoria, Australia
- Sir Harry Smith School was opened in 1953 on the site of a Workhouse built in the 19th century.
- The Whittlesey Straw Bear features on the album cover of the *'Voices of Animal's and Men'* by the *Young Knives*.
- Sir Harry George Waklyn Smith was born in Whittlesey in 1788 and rose from Rifleman to Major General and Baronet of Aliwal and was the Governor of the Cape of Good Hope between 1847 and 1852.
- David Proud was the first disabled actor to have a regular role in the BBC soap opera EastEnders and attended Sir Harry Smith Community College.
- Whittlesey has a population of 13,823 people (2021 Census)
- Whittlesey has a heritage walk starting at the Buttercross and can be followed by downloading the 'Love Exploring App'



Scan the QR Code for the Whittlesey Festival Facebook Page
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