

Witney Town Council

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2018



OUR NEW
MAYOR
CLLR BRENDA
CHURCHILL

WWI
COMMEMORATIONS
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

RALEIGH
CRESCENT
PLAY AREA
REFURBISHMENT

Our new Mayor Cllr Brenda Churchill

"I am extremely proud to have been chosen to represent the town of Witney and the Town Council for the next year. I have served on Witney Town Council for 15 years and celebrate 25 years in politics this year, so will bring plenty of experience to my time as Mayor. In my time on the council, I contributed greatly to the development of the Christmas Lights switch on during the time that it was run by Witney Town Council and continue to be a huge supporter of this and other community events such as In Bloom. I am also very proud to represent a town that is so supportive of charity and community events and I'm excited about moving forward with some of the initiatives I am already involved with. As an ex WRNS I am hoping to establish a sea cadets corp within the town."

Being disabled herself, Brenda is an advocate for other disabled residents and actively campaigns for change at the Traffic Advisory Group meetings. For many years she also represented the town at the Neighbourhood Action Group and is also a passionate supporter of the NHS. Most recently she has been at the forefront of the battle to save the Deer Park Medical Centre, a fight which continues.

[Facebook -Save Deer Park Medical Centre](#)

Brenda believes this demonstrates what can be achieved by people with disabilities.

Councillor Churchill is very family orientated and has three children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren. There are five generations in her family as Brenda's father, Thomas turned one hundred years old on 5th January 2018.

Brenda splits her time between her home here in Witney and her caravan in Swanage. Councillor Churchill's husband, Mark, is from there originally so there is more family in Swanage!

As Mayor, Brenda is looking forward to meeting new people and renewing old acquaintances from her time on County and District Councils. She is really looking forward to being an advocate for the town and an ambassador at the events she will be attending and hosting.

In a break from tradition Brenda has not nominated any specific charities to support this year. Instead, she will fund raise to build a pot of money and small, local organisations will be eligible to apply for small grants. She hopes this will ensure that a diverse number of groups will benefit from her year in office.



Brenda with her 100 year old father, Tom



Deer Park play area

Following the consultation exercise, the winning design for the refurbishment of Raleigh Crescent play area has been released and contractors will begin work after the summer holidays.

Weather permitting, we hope to see it open in the near future. The refitted park will remain within the existing footprint and will be fenced in.

World War I Commemoration Plans

Plans are coming together for Witney Town Council's commemorations of one hundred years since the end of the Great War. Events will take place across the weekend of 9-11 November.

From Friday to Sunday an exhibition in the Corn Exchange will display mosaics made by pupils from Witney schools. They have made these working with local artist Becky Paton, who was commissioned to make the mosaic element of the new Centenary Memorial at The Leys. Witney Photo Group will also have an exhibition of historic photographs that they have reproduced and reimaged for the occasion.

On the evening of Friday 9th November lighting will be used to turn St Mary's Church poppy red.

On Saturday 10th November a ticketed, evening reception is planned for the Corn Exchange. This will be open to anyone who purchases a ticket and will include supper and an evening of entertainment.

On Sunday 11th November there is a full programme of events beginning with the Royal British Legion Parade and Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial. This will be followed by a Church Service at St Mary's. The RAF will be exercising their Freedom of The Town and marching from Marriott's Walk through town to take a salute at the far end of Church Green shortly after the service ends.

On the Leys there will be a variety of events including WWI themed play activities throughout the afternoon, a fancy dress competition, a mock-up trench and the unveiling of the new, specially commissioned Centenary War Memorial.

In St Mary's church between 1.30 and 4.30 afternoon tea will be provided by Richmond Villages. Tea will be accompanied by performances of music, singing and drama from Witney Drama Group, Witney Town Band, WOAPA and Voicebox. The day will culminate with the lighting of the Beacon Bonfire on the Leys at 6.55 followed by a peal of bells.

This will also be an opportunity to view the poppy tribute which will consist of around 18,000 handmade poppies displayed along Market Square, Church Green and The Leys.

Poppy Total

An overwhelming response from our poppy makers means that we have surpassed our initial target of 15,000 and are now looking to get at least 18,000 poppies to display in our 'Centenary Poppy Mile'. Look out for some 'Crafternoon' sessions in the next few months to begin the mammoth task of attaching poppies to strings, nets and ribbons.



Phone Box Defibrillator

A new life-saving defibrillator has been installed in Witney Town Centre in partnership with Rotary Club of Witney. The device, which can deliver a brief electric jolt to establish a normal heart rhythm, in the event of cardiac arrest, is kept within a secure high-visibility cabinet inside the phone box, which is accessible 24 hours a day. In an emergency, callers dialling 999 and quoting the unique location code will be given the access code needed to remove the defibrillator from the cabinet.



Roadworks!

Witney is currently the site of several different sets of Roadworks. We publish information passed to us by Oxfordshire County Council. They also provide the following link so you can keep up to date with current and planned roadworks here <https://roadworks.org/>. You can select your location, zoom in and out and choose what layers to have on the interactive map.

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2018/19

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	6pm	Tuesday	15 May 5 June*	26 June 17 July*	14 August 4 September 25 September*	16 October 6 November 27 November*	18 December 15 January 5 February*	26 February 19 March*	9 April 30 April
ESTATES MANAGEMENT	6pm		14 May	2 July	3 September	5 November	7 January	4 March	
SPORT & RECREATION	6pm		21 May	9 July	10 September	12 November	14 January	11 March	
COMMUNITY SERVICES	6pm		4 June	16 July	17 September	19 November	21 January	18 March	
POLICY & RESOURCES (& Personnel sub-committee)	6pm		11 June	23 July	24 September	26 November	28 January	25 March	
COUNCIL	7pm		25 June	6 August	8 October	10 December 17 December**	11 February	8 April	

Annual Council Meeting – Wednesday 15 May 2019

Annual Town Meeting – Wednesday 13 March 2019

NOTE: CHRISTMAS BREAK – Meetings will not be called between 17 December 2018 and 7 January 2019 unless deemed necessary

* Indicates main Planning Committee Meeting, remainder for plans

**** Meeting on 17 December 2018 for budget purposes only**

Witney Traffic Advisory Committee at 2.30pm – 5 June, 25 September, 8 January 2019, 19 March

Stay in Touch



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WitneyTownCouncil

Community Art to Brighten Journeys

Art work by students at Abingdon and Witney College has been installed on two of the town's bus shelters. The first installation which featured art work inspired by Witney Carnival on the shelter at Newland was sponsored by local company Krayma Technical Solutions. A second shelter in Market Square was a collaboration between three local companies, Clever Business Websites, STL Business Communication Solutions and Krayma Technical Solutions. This artwork was inspired by the Buttercross. From within the shelter there is a clear view of the street and approaching buses but from outside the windows are clad in a colourful and exciting design which also has a very slight transparency.



A number of the town's shelters are already spoken for but there are lots more to choose from and prices start from as little as £133 + VAT. If your organisation would like to sponsor a shelter please get in touch via info@witney-tc.gov.uk to express an interest and get more information.

