



# WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2017

Despite working full time, Mayor Chris, has managed to attend an astonishing 29 official engagements since his election in May. He says it has been an absolute pleasure and is looking forward to attending a great many more.

Born and raised in Witney, Chris is passionate about the town and the people where he grew up and is honoured to represent them. He says; **“ I am a very community minded person, who will grasp any opportunity to meet and engage with as many people or groups as possible through my year of Mayoral office – the community of Witney is awesome and should be celebrated.”**

To request the Mayor at an event please complete the online form on the Mayor's page or contact the Mayor's P.A michelle.brooks@witney-tc.gov.uk



*Meet The Mayor*

## BUS STOP GALLERIES FOR TOWN'S COMMUTERS



This summer Witney Town Council is undertaking an exciting project to help bring a whole new look to Witney's bus shelters. The Council has commissioned art work by the students of Abingdon and Witney College which will feature on the panels of shelters across the town. The work forms part of the student's Work Experience. The Town Clerk visited the college to deliver the initial design brief which asked for a focus on the town's heritage and history. In June the Clerk and Councillor Enright, who had proposed the collaboration, with the college's Art students attended a presentation to preview their interpretations.

Residents may have noticed that shelters have already been cleaned and painted in readiness. The artwork will be attached to existing and new Perspex panels and installed.

**A taster of some of the designs can be seen here.**

Work is being carried out the work throughout the coming months and aims to be completed by October to really brighten up the town.

**Cllr Duncan Enright,**

**“Our bus shelters were not in great shape but thanks to our council team they are now ready to become art installations and showcases for our talented students. We think this town-wide art project is a first and we hope to repeat it in years to come.”**

# NEWS IN BRIEF

## In Bloom

Witney Carnival goers got to vote for their favourites in the Schools in Bloom competition for the first time this year



Normally the public never get to see all the work our schools put in to their entries to this very popular competition but this year we worked with our new Grounds Contractors, Continental Landscapes Limited and Witney Rotary Club to bring the entries out into the community so that everyone can admire and enjoy them. Here are the winning entries for 2017.

1st Queen Emma's Primary  
2nd West Witney Primary  
3rd Tower Hill Primary  
Rotary choice Witney Community Primary  
Chrissie Curry Wow Factor The Batts School

Congratulations to all our winners and thank you for entering. We look forward to you all taking part again next year. The awards ceremony takes place on September 21st at 2pm in the Corn Exchange.

**The Wheelbarrows are now on display on the Leys until the end of summer.**



## Play Day Competition Winners

This summer's fantastic free outdoor play event for families took place on King George V field at the beginning of August

Despite the grey skies and windy weather, the Witney Play Day was the best attended of all the Oxfordshire Play Association play days so far this year with hundreds of children taking part in the outdoor play activities. Families attending were invited to enter a competition by downloading the Witney Town Council App and submitting photographs of the fun. Three lucky winners were selected from the entries received and won outdoor game prizes. They were presented by chairman of the Community Services Committee, which oversees the Play Day, Cllr Chris Holliday.

OUR WINNERS WERE .....



*Isabelle aged 5 and Oliver aged 2 who won a hopscotch game and a pop-up dinosaur tent*



*Ellie aged 10 and April aged 7 who won a hopscotch game and a giant bubble blower*



*Sidney aged 5 and Arthur aged 20 months who won a giant bubble blower and an inflatable bouncy ride on animal.*

**You can see their winning photographs on the Town Council website and our Facebook page.**

**Keep up to date with events, surveys and competitions by downloading the Witney Town Council App from your app store.**



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Mental Health Awareness Day

**This year Witney Town Council will be hosting an event to celebrate Mental Health Awareness Day**

The event in the Corn Exchange will offer information stalls from relevant organisations, refreshments, live acoustic acts and some therapeutic activity taster sessions. There will also be a photo booth and a promise wall which will connect to social media to spread the word! This year's theme is mental health in the workplace.

**The free event is open to the public between 10am and 2pm on Tuesday 10th October 2017**

## Handmade Poppy Appeal



In 2018 Witney will commemorate the end of WWI with events, including the unveiling of a brand new memorial on the Leys.

We are appealing for help producing knitted, crocheted and other handmade poppies to festoon the town centre. Other towns have successfully 'yarn-bombed' their towns or highlighted particular areas in this way.

We would like to line the route that the soldiers would have taken from mustering in the Market Square, along Church Green, through the churchyard and on to the Leys towards the train station, in this way. Your poppies will be used to adorn bollards, railings and lamp-posts along the route.

We cannot have too many poppies as they can be used individually or made into wreaths, crosses and cascades. The more we have, the greater the impact.

**More information can be found on our website on the 1918 Centenary Page**



## Revealing the Heritage of Tower Hill Cemetery

**Witney Town Council's Heritage Open Day**



This year we are uncovering the history behind our Victorian cemetery at Tower Hill or "Witney Burial Ground" as it was then known. The chapel will be open and within it some of our older burial records, historic documents and reproductions will be on display. Among these will be maps showing the original burial ground and its extensions, the contracts that were issued to the builders of the time, the mortgage documents and other correspondence.

**There will be a self- led heritage trail with explore and discover questions and a guide which will cover:**

- o The Commonwealth War Graves
- o The Wishing Tree story
- o The 'local celebrity graves' of Witney's rich and famous
- o The flora and fauna of TH cemetery
- o Who was the first person buried in the cemetery and where is their grave?
- o Bygone occupations

At midday on Saturday 9th **only**, there will be a short service of reflection led by Rev Toby Wright and Father Patrick Broun with music from Witney Town Band.

Limited parking across both days is available at Our Lady and St Hugh Catholic Church and refreshments are also available there.

**The free event is open to the public between 11am and 3pm on Friday 8th & Saturday 9th September 2017**

# Council & Committee Meetings 2017/18

## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2017/18

	Tuesday	Monday						
PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	6pm	9 May 30 May*	20 June 11 July 1 August*	22 August 12 September 3 October*	24 October 14 November 5 December*	19 December+ 9 January 30 January*	20 February 13 March 3 April*	24 April 15 May
ESTATES MANAGEMENT	6pm	16 May	3 July	5 September	31 October	16 January	20 March	
SPORT & RECREATION	6pm	22 May	10 July	11 September	6 November	22 January	26 March	
COMMUNITY SERVICES	6pm	5 June+	17 July	18 September	13 November	29 January	2 April	
POLICY & RESOURCES (& Personnel sub-committee)	6pm	12 June	24 July	25 September	20 November	5 February	9 April	
COUNCIL	7pm	26 June	7 August	9 October	4 December 11 December**	19 February	23 April	

Annual Council Meeting – Wednesday 9 May 2018

Annual Town Meeting – Wednesday 14 March 2018

**NOTE:** CHRISTMAS BREAK – Meetings will not be called between 13 December 2017 and 2 January 2018 unless deemed necessary

\* Indicates main Planning Committee Meeting, remainder for plans

+ Sequence changed due to Public Holidays etc.

\*\* Meeting on 13 December 2017 for budget purposes only

Witney Traffic Advisory Committee at 2.30pm – TBC

Witney Town Council

Town Hall

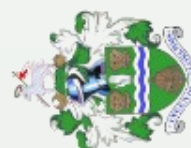
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## Stay in Touch

## STOP PRESS!

### Oxlease Park Regeneration Work Scheduled

Work begins at Oxlease In September. Exciting new play equipment will transform the park.

Cllr Suzanne Bartington, Chair of the Cogges Meadow Park Community Group believes the facility will make a huge difference to the lives of people living in the area. She says:

*“This project will provide a real boost to the recreational opportunities for people of all ages in Cogges. It’s fantastic that WREN and other local charities, groups and individuals have supported us through grant awards and fundraising. We hope the new play area will be ready for children to enjoy by the end of October.”*

