

# WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

## AUTUMN/WINTER NEWSLETTER 2016



The search is on to find Witney's Outstanding Citizen of the Year 2016. This prestigious award goes to someone who has given their time and energy to benefit their local community usually (but not always) on a voluntary basis.

Judges will be looking in particular for selfless service to a voluntary body or the community or someone whose service is acknowledged as making a real difference to the everyday lives of others. There is no age barrier, but nominees must live within Witney.

Friends, relatives, neighbours and colleagues have the chance to nominate a special person for the prestigious title or any of the other awards which include; a Certificate of Outstanding Merit, Outstanding Commitment to Public Service and Outstanding Contribution.

Witney Town Council is looking for people who have given exemplary service, which may be paid or unpaid, who make a real difference to Witney. Residents who go that extra mile to help others will be recognised in the annual awards, presented by the Mayor at the Civic Reception in March next year.

Anyone thinking about nominating a deserving individual as Witney's Citizen of the Year or for any of the other awards has until 30th December to submit their details.

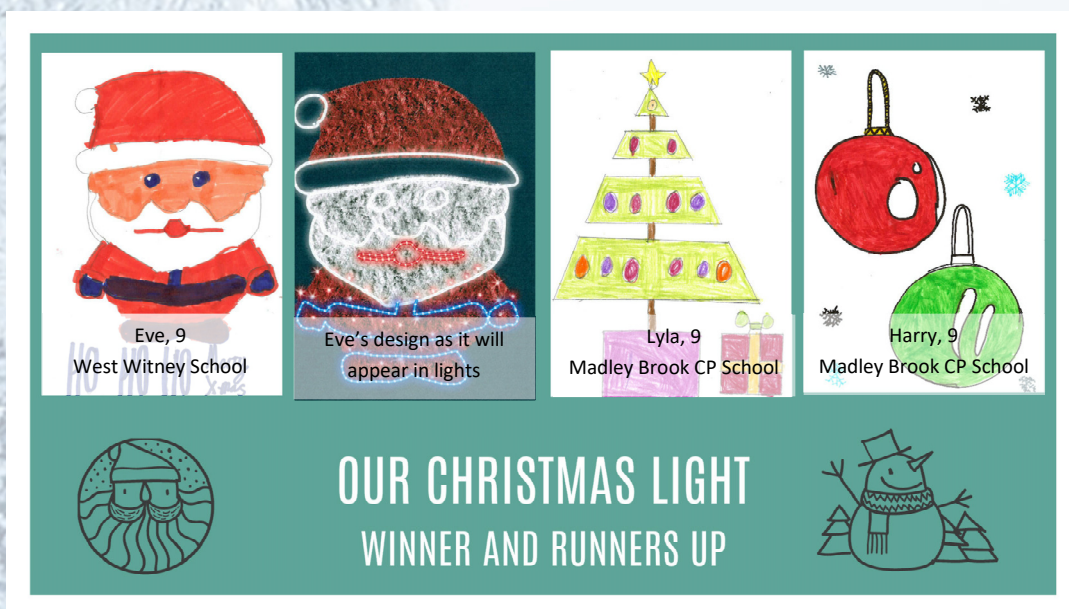
If you know someone who has demonstrated extraordinary commitment, energy and effort in order to achieve something of great benefit to you or your community contact the Town Hall for a nomination form or download a form at [www.witney-tc.gov.uk/citizen-of-the-year-and-the-civic-reception/](http://www.witney-tc.gov.uk/citizen-of-the-year-and-the-civic-reception/)



Last year's award winners.







Witney Town Council has, this year, reinstated its exciting Christmas Light competition. A special light based on the winning design by one of Witney's primary school children will be installed on the Town Hall. The prizes don't stop there.

Other competition winners are providing illustrations for the Mayor's Carol Concert and the official Witney Town Council Christmas card. Town Councillors will also be out over the festive period looking for the best decorated house and the best dressed shop window. Our Competition winners and their designs are pictured above. The winning designs and the runners up all receive prizes which are presented by the Mayor.

# The switching on of the lights heralds the start of the season for many Christmas shoppers and signals that Witney is gearing up for the rush

## WHAT'S ON

With nights drawing in and temperatures dropping, the town will be an oasis of light and festive family fun on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November when the **Christmas Lights** are officially switched on by Witney's Rotary and Round Table clubs.

The Switch On will take place at 6pm. Entertainment starts around 4pm with live music, stalls (including mulled wine and a BBQ) and Hatwell's Fair. Father Christmas will be waiting for his young visitors. Keep an eye on the Witney Rotary Facebook page for more details. This year Witney Town Council has set aside a bigger budget and has employed a new contractor who will be installing a brand new light display.

---

On Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> November Witney Town Council will be running the very popular **Advent Fayre**, now in its fourth year. The event in the Corn Exchange offers a few hours of completely free family fun with a range of creative activities and a chance to meet Father Christmas. You can take part between 11am and 3pm.

---

Mayor, Chris Holliday will be hosting his **Carol Service** at St Mary's Church, Church Green on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. A mix of traditional and modern music will be on offer, with Witney Town Band and WOAPA and the Service will be loosely based on a musical retelling of Dicken's, A Christmas Carol. We don't wish to spread any rumours, but something tells us that just like Clark Kent and Superman, you may not see the Mayor and Ebenezer Scrooge in the room at the same time!



Witney Town Council

**Children's Advent Fayre**

**Sunday 27th November**  
**11am—3pm**

**Corn Exchange**  
**Witney**

FREE ENTRY  
FREE CRAFTS  
FREE ACTIVITIES  
MODEL & COLLECTORS CLUB  
REFRESHMENTS

....AND A VISIT FROM SOMEONE SPECIAL! HO HO HO

Decorations  
Card making  
Christmas Place Mats  
Gift Bags and Tags  
Christmas Crowns

Make a treat plate for Santa & Rudolph!

PLEASE NOTE THIS IS NOT A CRECHE FACILITY

PARENTS COME ALONG WITH YOUR CHILDREN AND ENJOY THE CHRISTMAS FUN!

# CHRISTMAS IN WITNEY 2016



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Friends of the Cemeteries

**Do you care about our cemeteries? Do you have ideas about how to honour our loved ones and keep their memorials tidy?**



Why not join the Friends of Witney Cemeteries? This group will meet from time to time and work alongside Witney Town Council to make suggestions for improvements and enhancements to our Cemeteries and to disseminate information about projects and other related news. We will work to preserve and enhance our cemeteries as places of remembrance, tranquillity and contemplation for all visitors and in particular for those who cherish the memory of a loved one buried there.

## Police & Community Webpage

**Witney Town Council is creating a new webpage within our own site which will allow us to share information and resources from our local police as part of the Community Resilience initiative.**

Witney Town Council hope to bring you news about campaigns and projects along with information about staying safe in the community and online and what to do and when to contact the police if something goes wrong. The page is currently under construction but will be uploaded soon.

## Public Halls

**The Town Council have several venues that are for hire across the town.**

The Corn Exchange underwent major refurbishment between 2011 and 2015 and now has two lettable rooms. The Gallery Room occupies the front part of the building on the first floor and can accommodate meetings, conferences and small occasions while the Main Hall is on the ground floor and is perfect for larger gatherings or parties. It is centrally located and there are disabled facilities and a kitchenette for food preparation.

Burwell Hall is a purpose built hall at Thorney Leys in the west of the town. There are fields and a play area immediately adjacent to the building and it has two rooms for hire, the Main Hall which is perfect for classes or parties and The Meeting Room which can hold a small meeting or gathering.

As well as the Halls, the Town Council also has outside venues which are available for hire for events when not in use by regular sports users.

For further details on any of the above please contact our Bookings Office at the Town Hall on 01993 777821 or e-mail [michelle.brooks@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:michelle.brooks@witney-tc.gov.uk).



The Town Hall Chamber is also available for hire during office hours for smaller group meetings.



# NEWS IN BRIEF

## Go Ride Bus Service

**The Witney Town Centre Bus Service, currently being run by Go Ride CIC will now continue until January 2017.**

Go Ride have offered to continue the service until the New Year. The Town Council is still working hard to secure a long term viable service beyond that date and will provide updates on this once they are available.



## Competition Winner



**Over the summer Witney Town Council and the Lower Windrush Valley Project conducted a joint survey to find out what people think about Witney Lake and Country Park and how often they use it.**

The Town Council will use this information to decide if a Land Management Plan should be implemented and what form this should take. We entered all those respondents who completed the Survey on our App into a draw to win a key to the Bird Hides at Tar Lakes and Standlake nature reserves. Our randomly selected winner was Dan. Dan is in the 19-30 age bracket and lists his activities at the lake as Walking, Running, Bird Watching, Wildlife Interest, Photography and to relax and take time out. We hope he enjoys the Bird Hides.

## Preparing for Winter

**Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks is trying to find those people within our town that would need a little extra help or assistance in the event of a power outage in the forthcoming winter months.**

If you are eligible and register with them they can come out and ensure you are looked after during a sustained outage. It is a free service, and any information provided is strictly confidential.

They have registered in excess of 700 people in the last 12 months within Oxfordshire but there are many more vulnerable people that are not registered. Those registered will be flagged up to the team should there be a power outage affecting them. The team will go out and visit them and depending on their needs provide practical assistance including offering hot meals, drinks and reassurance. In very high priority cases small generators may be provided for short term use. In addition their Emergency Service Centre will call them during the outage, checking they are ok and giving updates on the estimated time of power restoration.

Registration is quick and simple to do. It can be done online:

<https://www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServicesRegister/>

You can register over the phone: 0800 294 3259 or download a copy of the booklet from the bottom of this page: <https://www.ssepd.co.uk/PriorityServices/> and fill in the form which can be returned to a FREEPOST address.



## Council & Committee Meetings 2016/17

<b>PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT</b>	6pm	<b>T u e s</b>	10 May 31 May 21 June*	12 July 2 August*	23 August 13 September 4 October*	25 October 15 November 6 December*	20 Decem- ber+ 10 January 31 January*	21 Febru- ary 14 March*	4 April 25 April*
<b>AMENITIES</b>	6pm	<b>M o n</b>	23 May	11 July	12 September	14 November	9 January	6 March	
<b>COMMUNITY SERVICES</b>	6pm		6 June+	18 July	19 September	21 November	16 January	13 March	
<b>POLICY &amp; RESOURCES</b> (& Personnel sub- committee)	6pm		13 June	25 July	26 September	28 November	23 January	20 March	
<b>COUNCIL</b>	7pm	<b>W e d</b>	22 June	3 August	5 October	7 December 14 December**	1 February	29 March	

**Annual Council Meeting** – Wednesday 10 May 2017

**Annual Town Meeting** – Wednesday 15 March 2017

**NOTE:** CHRISTMAS BREAK – Meetings will not be called between 14 December 2016 and 10 January 2017 unless deemed necessary

\* Indicates main Planning Committee Meeting, remainder for plans

+ Sequence changed due to Public Holidays etc.

\*\* Meeting on 14 December 2016 for budget purposes only

**Witney Traffic Advisory Committee at 2.30pm – 7 June 2016, 20 September 2016, 10 January 2017, 21 March 2017**

### Voice of Witney



We'd like to stay in touch with you. Be part of our 'Voice of Witney' group. You will be offered the chance to take part in further surveys/consultations/competitions, receive newsletters and be contacted when there are other occasions where we may wish to enlist the help of volunteers or a representative group. Just let us know the best way to contact you by:

- ◇ calling in at the Town Hall
- ◇ sending a private message on our Twitter @witneytowncounc
- ◇ telephoning us on 01993 704379
- ◇ sending a private message on our Facebook account -Witney Town Council
- ◇ dropping an email to [info@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@witney-tc.gov.uk)

**Witney Town Council**

**Town Hall**

**Witney**

**OX28 6AG**

**01993 704379**

[info@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@witney-tc.gov.uk)

[www.witney-tc.gov.uk](http://www.witney-tc.gov.uk)







## heritage open days

Witney Town Council took part in the Heritage Open days events in early September. The Town Hall was open to members of the public free of charge and we displayed a range of old Witney Gazettes and an Oxfordshire Constabulary Register from 1857.

There were some fascinating misdemeanours recorded in there, from being prosecuted and fined for 'stealing a quantity of turnip tops' to being charged with vagrancy after being found 'Wandering in the town of Witney at night with a loaded pistol and not giving a good account of himself.' We had some amazing feedback from the many visitors that passed through and enjoyed the display throughout the day.

- \* Loved the Court Hearings and the chance to talk to local people
- \* Absolutely fascinating
- \* Most informative to read about our local town and its people
- \* Reading local newspapers was enjoyable.
- \* Interesting to be able to look through old local papers and records of local constabulary- though didn't like finding out that my great, great grandfather was sentenced to 7 days for stealing an oak tree in 1861!
- \* Interesting insight into life in Witney
- \* V interesting – would be good if Gazettes were on show all year
- \* Worth doing. Thank you!
- \* Brought back many memories
- \* Well worth the visit – amazing!
- \* Wonder if there's any mention of my Grandfathers criminal record for riding a pushbike without lights
- \* I am the lady whose ancestor had a mischievous past. Fred B\*\*\*\*\* (my father's namesake) was in court for fighting with a T\*\*\*\*\*. Two old Hailey names. Talk about a blast from the past
- \* Thanks for sharing this. It was a wonderful chance to handle beautiful old documents

Every year we hold our Schools in Bloom Competition in conjunction with Rotary Club of Witney. This year's theme was to commemorate, Her Majesty the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday.

Most of the Primary schools in Witney took part along with Springfield Senior School.

The judges were delighted with all the schools entries, and as usual judging was very hard, given how much effort went into creating the beautiful Planters.

The awards took place in the Corn Exchange in September, with the following prizes awarded.

1<sup>st</sup> Prize went to West Witney County Primary School, who won a trophy plus a cheque for £100 from Rotary Club of Witney

Runners up were Queen Emma's Primary School & The Batt Church of England Primary School.

We also have our own special Chrissie Curry Memorial "Wow Factor Award" which was presented to Springfield School.

As you can see from the photos everyone had an enjoyable afternoon.



# WITH THE FESTIVE SEASON LOOMING DON'T MISS OUT ON WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WITNEY

## What have you been missing?

- Free Play Days
- Free Fitness Fiesta Taster Classes
- Free 90th Birthday Beacon Lighting Events
- Free Family Fun Days
- Free Advent and Christmas Events
- Fairs and Funfairs
- Free Music Festivals
- Sales
- Beer Festivals
- Food Festivals
- The Carnival
- Free Coffee Mornings for Seniors



## Download the Witney Town Council App

and we will notify you of upcoming events, with reminders on the day. Lots of other great features will keep you up to date, including special offers from Event Organisers



Stay informed about Witney's great events!



OR SEARCH FOR  
WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL  
IN YOUR APP STORE

