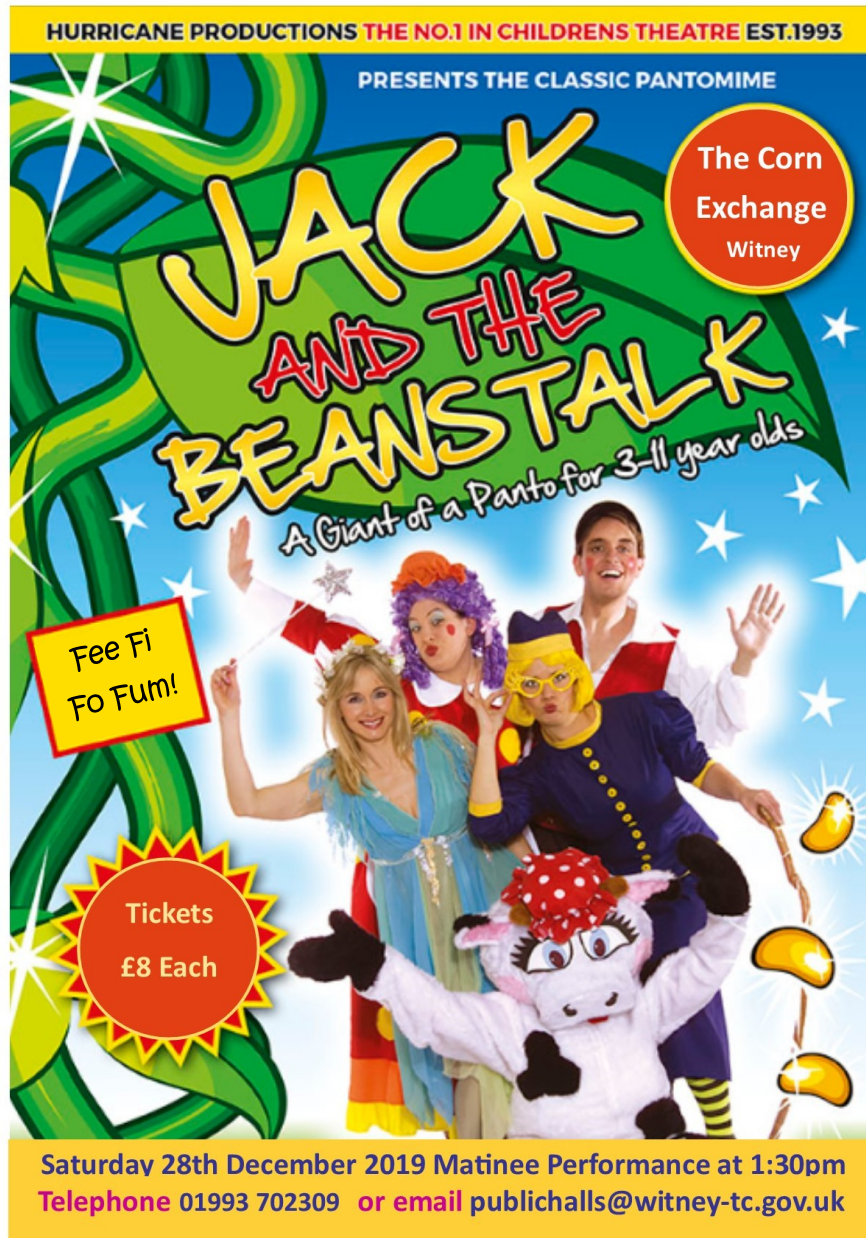


# Witney Town Council

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2019



CITIZEN OF THE  
YEAR  
NOMINATIONS OPEN

WHAT'S ON  
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

CHRISTMAS  
COMPETITIONS  
OUR WINNERS



# Citizen Of the Year Awards



The search is on to find Witney's Outstanding Citizen of the year 2019. 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 the town of Witney.

Friends, relatives, neighbours and colleagues have the chance to nominate a special person for the prestigious title. 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.

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. Please call 01993 704379, email [info@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@witney-tc.gov.uk) or download a form at our website.

Anyone thinking about nominating a deserving individual as Witney's Citizen of the Year, has until 31st December to submit their details.



*Advent Fayre Poster*  
*Erin, age 9*  
*The Batt C of E School*



*Mayor's Carols Poster*  
*Benjamin, age 8*  
*Madley Brook CP School*

Each year we invite our primary schools to design images for the official Witney Town Council Christmas card, the posters advertising the Advent Fayre, the Mayor's Carol Service and a new Christmas light for the Town Hall.





## WWI Centenary Events Commemoration booklet

Last year Witney Town Council was overwhelmed by the community response to the Centenary Remembrance commemorations, not least because of the 30,000 hand-made poppies we received. A year on it's time to update you on the fate of the poppies that formed the knitted poppy tribute.

The final recommendation of the former WWI Working Party was to use these poppies for the good of the Royal British Legion and other forces charities, to be dispersed to schools across the town, to create legacy poppy 'Witney blankets' and to create photo book/bookmark keepsakes of the weekend's events.

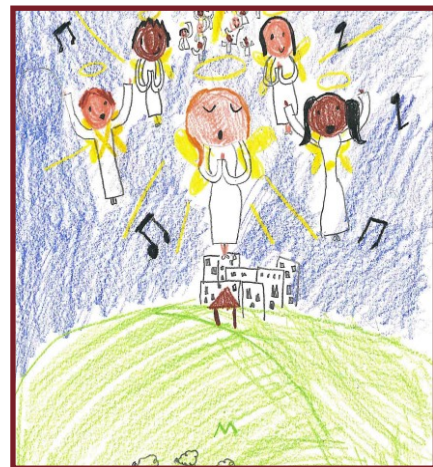
We are pleased to announce that all of these projects have now been completed. The Centenary Commemoration book and bookmarks were launched ahead of Remembrance Day, alongside the unveiling of the poppy blankets, so cleverly created by the West Witney Women's Institute. Between them, the books and blankets perfectly capture the tremendous community spirit and effort that went into this event last year. You can buy a pictorial souvenir book for £7.50 and a bookmark with original knitted poppy for £2 from the Town Hall, while stocks last with proceeds after costs going to the Royal British Legion.



*Child's Light Design and Town  
Centre Tree kindly sponsored by  
Scott Fraser*



*Christmas Light  
Christopher, age 9  
Madley Brook CP School*



*Christmas Card  
Daisy, age 9  
The King's School*

This year our winners have been invited on to the stage at the Christmas Light switch on , where they will be presented with their prizes by Witney Town Mayor, Councillor Duncan Enright.



## NEW NAME TO BE HONOURED ON WAR MEMORIAL

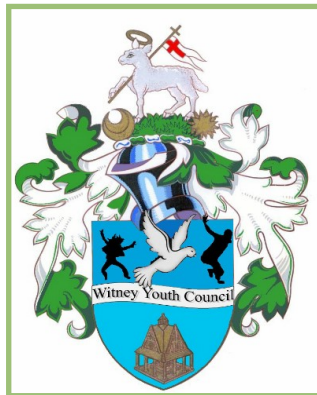
The name of Witney's only female WWI casualty will be added to the town's memorial following a request from local historian, Jeff Clements. Although Lucy Harris was listed in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission records, she was buried in Cogges Churchyard with no headstone and was not recorded on either the town centre War Memorial or the plaque inside Cogges church. Lucy enlisted in the WRAF in October 1918 but sadly died of influenza in London just two weeks later.

As custodians of the War Memorial on Church Green, Witney Town Council considered the request and agreed to have her name added in the single remaining space there.

Cllr. Vicky Gwatkin, Chair of the Halls and Green Spaces Committee, that considered the request commented;

***"Adding Lucy's name to Witney's War memorial allows us to pay tribute to her as an individual and serves as a poignant reminder to current and future generations of the efforts and sacrifices made by women from communities just like ours during periods of conflict. It is a privilege to be able to support Jeff's work and our thanks to him and Councillor Mel Jones for bringing Lucy Harris to our attention."***

Lucy's name is scheduled to be added in March next year. Mr Clements contacted the Town Council to say that he is delighted that Lucy would finally get the recognition she deserves.



## YOUTH COUNCIL NEWS

Witney's Youth Council has gone from strength to strength in the 18 months they have been established. There are currently thirteen youth councillors aged between 14 and 18 from Wood Green and Henry Box Schools. They meet monthly in the Town Hall Council Chamber.

In March the chair of the Youth Council attended the Annual Town Meeting. As a result they were able to liaise with the Neighbourhood policing team and exchanged feedback and information regarding youth concerns with the drug and antisocial behaviour problems in the town. They also spoke and represented young people at the Town Council's Climate Emergency meeting.

The Youth Council are currently fundraising for a sustainable water refill station for the town. So far they have run an Easter egg hunt and Cake sale along with a tin can alley stall at Witney Carnival that raised funds and promoted recycling at the same time. They are in the process of seeking grant funding for this project.

They have just elected a new set of officers for the forthcoming term and the council is confident that they will continue to be a voice for the young people of Witney and work toward making the changes they feel are important.



## CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Witney Town Council declared a Climate Emergency at the Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June. This means that it is committed to doing everything possible to help the town become carbon neutral and to ensure a cleaner and better future for its residents.

Keen to address this enormous challenge, it issued a call to arms by inviting residents to a public meeting at the Corn Exchange on the afternoon of 28<sup>th</sup> July.

This was well attended by more than one hundred members of the public and expert speakers and on the back of this a Climate and Biodiversity sub-committee has been formed which has representatives from other relevant organisations and groups along with councillors. This will meet several times a year and report back to the Council with its proposals and recommendations.

The committee stress that the meetings are open to everyone wanting to help Witney find real solutions. Vice-chair Cllr Ruth Smith adds:

***"The people of Witney want to tackle CO2 emissions. Every area of council responsibility overlaps with the Climate Emergency, from the footprint of large events, to sourcing sustainable Christmas lights, to maintaining our trees. We will feed local passion and knowledge into all levels of policy making"***

An update on progress and recommendations will be given at the Annual Town Meeting in March 2020.

# SILVER AND GOLD AWARDS FOR WITNEY IN BLOOM

Witney scooped two awards in the Thames and Chilterns regional In Bloom Awards this year. The Town retained its Silver Status while The Leys Recreation Park was awarded Gold. The Leys was entered as a separate category; Parks and Open Spaces, for the first time, this year.

Community	8
Maintenance	9
Environment	9

The Schools Challenge run by Witney Town Council every year forms part of the town's entry and this year was no exception, with colourful wheelbarrows on display outside the Corn Exchange throughout the summer. Winning school was The Batt School with Our Lady of Lourdes collecting second prize and The King's School third.

The awards, run by Britain in Bloom in association with The RHS, are intended to encourage local communities to improve and care for their local environment through gardening and conservation projects and to promote civic pride.

Judges made their decisions in July this year but the results were announced at the end of September.

The Leys was up against five other parks and was the only Gold winner.

Judges said, "What a delight it was to see a play area and all its facilities being used and enjoyed by all ages. It really felt that the community love being there and that staff really enjoy looking after the park."

The marks awarded for the criteria scored us 26 out of 30 and were as follows:

The judges commented on other aspects that they really liked and these included facilities for a wide range of activities and hobbies across age groups, the splash play which was being well used on such a hot day, good tree maintenance, the new war memorial and the bee friendly planting.

They also commented on areas for development and gave constructive advice on continuing to replace old bins with recycling bins, considering accessible picnic benches when these need replacement and some bulb or wild flower planting around tree bases to add colour.

Deputy Mayor, Cllr. Joy Aitman who attended the awards ceremony with Cllr. Melanie Jones and Jess Bailey supervisor of the Town Council's grounds contractors, Continental Landscapes, said;

***"I was filled with pride collecting our certificates on behalf of the town. It was a project that brought lots of groups of people together to share their skills, expertise and community spirit."***

The awards reflect the hard work and efforts of staff, community volunteers and of all those involved in the care and maintenance of the planting around the town and the facilities at the Leys.





# COMING UP



**The Corn Exchange**  
Indoor Boot/Table Sale  
Saturday 7th December  
10am—1pm  
GRAB A BARGAIN!  
£10 per table. Pre-booking is essential  
Contact Hollie on 01993 702309



The Corn Exchange  
19 Market Square, Witney, Oxon,  
OX28 6EA

Follow Witney Public Halls on  
Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/  
publichallswitney/](https://www.facebook.com/publichallswitney/)

Instagram: publichallswitney

Twitter: @hallspub  
for information on all our events.

You can hire the Corn Exchange and  
Burwell Hall for your own events too.  
If you want to find out more you can  
drop in to the Corn Exchange and  
speak to our friendly Public Halls team  
or call them on 01993 702309 or send  
an email to  
[publichalls@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:publichalls@witney-tc.gov.uk)



Witney Town Council  
Presents

**Fish & Chips Quiz Night**  
In aid of MacMillan Cancer Support

Thursday 19th December at 7pm  
£12 per person entering, teams a maximum of 6 people.  
Tickets in advance from the Corn Exchange only.

The Corn Exchange  
19 Market Square  
Witney, Oxon, OX28 6AB  
Tel: 01993 702309



MacMillan Cancer Support  
Registered Charity Number :  
261017

**MACMILLAN  
CANCER SUPPORT**  
RIGHT THERE WITH YOU


HURRICANE PRODUCTIONS THE NO.1 IN CHILDRENS THEATRE EST.1993  
PRESENTS THE CLASSIC PANTOMIME

**JACK  
AND THE  
BEANSTALK**  
A Giant of a Panto for 3-11 year olds

The Corn  
Exchange  
Witney

**NEW  
SCRIPT  
FOR 2019**

Tickets  
£8 Each



Saturday 28th December 2019 Matinee Performance at 1:30pm  
Telephone 01993 702309 or email [publichalls@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:publichalls@witney-tc.gov.uk)



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# THE CORN EXCHANGE

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## A Heritage Wedding Venue

We are delighted to announce that the Corn Exchange is now a licensed wedding venue. You can hold your marriage ceremony in the Gallery Room or Main Hall with prices starting from £230 for 2 hours. (Registrar and arrangement fees not included).

For more details call the Public Halls team on 01993 702309



## COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS 2019/20

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT	6pm	Tuesday	21 May 11 June*	2 July 23 July*	13 August 3 September 24 September*	15 October 5 November 26 November*	17 December 14 January 4 February*	18 February 10 March*	7 April 28 April
HALLS & GREEN SPACES	6pm	Monday	3 June	1 July	9 September	11 November	13 January	9 March	
STRONGER COMMUNITIES	6pm		10 June	8 July	16 September	18 November	20 January	16 March	
POLICY, GOVERNANCE & FINANCES(& Personnel sub-committee)	7pm		17 June	15 July	23 September	25 November	27 January	23 March	
COUNCIL	7pm		26 June***	29 July	7 October	9 December 16 December**	10 February	6 April	

Annual Council Meeting – Wednesday 6 May 2020

Annual Town Meeting – Wednesday 11 March 2020

**NOTE:** CHRISTMAS BREAK – Meetings will not be called between 17 December 2019 and 13 January 2020 unless deemed necessary

\* Indicates main Planning Committee Meeting, remainder for plans

\*\* Meeting on 16 December 2019 for budget purposes only

\*\*\* Meeting day changed due to adoption of AGAR



Witney Traffic Advisory Committee at 2.30pm – 4 June 2019, 24 September 2019, 14 January 2020, 17 March 2020

Witney Town Council 01993 704379	West Oxfordshire District Council 01993 861000	Oxfordshire County Council 01865 323000
<p>Allotments witneyallotmentassoc@gmail.com</p> <p>Burials</p> <p>Cemeteries</p> <p>Christmas Light s Displays</p> <p>Grants</p> <p>Grass Cutting (WTC Land)</p> <p>Lake &amp; Country Park</p> <p>Play areas</p> <p>Recreation Grounds</p> <p>Sports Pitches</p> <p>Street Furniture</p> <p>Trees (on WTC land)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEED TO REPORT SOMETHING AMISS?</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Here are some phone numbers for the services provided in and around Witney by different councils.</p> </div>	<p>Benefits</p> <p>Bins (household, recycling, dog, litter)</p> <p>Car Parking</p> <p>Dogs</p> <p>Elections</p> <p>Environmental Health</p> <p>Fly Tipping</p> <p>Grass Cutting (WODC land)</p> <p>Housing &amp; Council tax</p> <p>Leisure Centres</p> <p>Licensing (street trading&amp; taxis)</p> <p>Litter &amp; Street Cleaning</p> <p>Market</p> <p>Pest Control</p> <p>Planning &amp; Building Regs</p> <p>Public Toilets</p> <p>Street Naming</p> <p>Trees (on WODC land)</p> <p>Waste &amp; Recycling</p>	<p>Blue Badges</p> <p>Bus Passes</p> <p>Education (Schools)</p> <p>Highways</p> <p>Libraries</p> <p>Pavements</p> <p>Potholes</p> <p>Registrar Services</p> <p>Roadside Verges</p> <p>Roadworks</p> <p>Social Services</p> <p>Street Lighting</p>

