



**WITNEY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

## PLANS FOR THE NEW WHEELED SPORTS PARK UNDERWAY



## Witney Remembrance



A collection of photos  
from Remembrance  
Day in Witney 2023,

**Xmas**



Competitions

What's On  
at the



**Corn  
Exchange**  
Witney

Witney Lake  
Receives In Bloom  
**Silver Award**



### In this issue...

- New Wheeled Sports Park
- Christmas Competition Winners
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- Burwell Hall Refurb
- HomeStart Advent Ideas



# PLANS FOR THE NEW WHEELED SPORTS PARK



*left - a photo of the skate park as it is now before improvements*

WHAT WILL IT LOOK LIKE?

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

WHO'S INVOLVED?

**Wheeled sports are for everyone -**

Following a period of consultation and feedback from the local community, we are now at the very exciting stage of finalising the plans for the reimagined Wheeled Sports Park at the Leys, due to open in March 2024.

Witney Town Council has listened to those who have been pushing for improved facilities and embarked on achieving as much as possible of a survey generated wish-list, within the constraints of the space and budget.

The designers, Bendcrete are keen to demonstrate how they have fulfilled the vision presented to them and produced a design for an inclusive and accessible community hub for our wheeled sports enthusiasts.





# Christmas Card Competition Winners

**Thank you for all the entries!**

Congratulations to Ray (Aged 8) for winning first place in our Christmas Card Competition with their beautifully detailed festive scene, featuring Father Christmas, a hot air balloon, and a snowy mountain range.

The drawing will be the front for the Mayor's Christmas Card, and will also be used as the Town Council's own official card. Ray also has some printed cards to send out to friends and family.

Winners and runner ups have also won free tickets for four people to a film at the Corn Exchange! Look to page 13 to see what's on.

Ray aged 8



Isla aged 10



Eva aged 9



Eimile aged 7

All entries were fantastic - the Mayor had great difficulty choosing winners amongst the many that were sent in. We hope that there will be just as much interest for the competition next year.





# CHRISTMAS LIGHT & CAROL SHEET

## COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to Spencer (Aged 9) for winning first place in our Christmas Light Competition with Father Christmas riding his sleigh!

After placing third in last year's competition, Spencer stayed strong and tried his chances again, showing that perseverance is key.

It is a fantastic light that is really eye-catching in its spot on the side of Town Hall.

Many thanks to Scott Fraser for kindly sponsoring the competition, along with the Buttercross Tree.



And Congratulations to Millie (Aged 9) whose Christmas Card entry was chosen as the perfect cover for the Mayor's Carol Service song sheet.

The Snow Angel was a definite vote winner!





2023

# Remembrance Day



Lest We Forget - those who joined us on the 12th of November for Remembrance Sunday will have appreciated the huge turn out of those keen to pay their respects, not least of these being the representatives from our Young People's organisations, who are always keen to take part.

The service also included members of armed forces organisations, veterans and Civic leaders. Members of the clergy led the service and Witney Town Band provided beautiful music for the wreath laying and hymns.

*Thank you to all that attended*



We had a slightly damp start to the day, the first rain in a good number of years, but nothing dampened the spirits and enthusiasm of the people gathered to reflect and to remember those that gave their lives for our freedom.





# Are you **Weather Ready?**

Thinking ahead and preparing for what the weather may bring can make a real difference. Here are a few simple steps you can take to prepare yourself, your vehicle and your home or business.

## Take the worry out of winter storms

Consider a separate battery charger, and you could store key information such as the power cut helpline number (105) on your phone.



## Check your heating

Cold weather can be a risk to your health especially if you are over 65 or have a long-term health condition. Ideally your home should be heated to more than 18°C.



## Weatherproof your home and garden

Think about what might be impacted by strong winds or flooding around your home. Organise maintenance checks and consider moving items.



## Plumbing checks can save money

Freezing and thawing can cause pipe bursts. Check your pipes are insulated especially outside and make sure you know where your stop tap is.



## Make alternative plans

You may need alternative commuting plans for severe weather, and alternative childcare plans in case of school or nursery closures.



## Have basic supplies to hand

Put useful things such as water, torch, and batteries plus emergency numbers in a bag in case a storm takes out power, water or phone lines.



## Check your vehicle is winter ready

Top up with a screen wash that is effective in cold temperatures, check your tyres are road-worthy and pack a winter kit for your car.



## Think of vulnerable neighbours

Look out for others in your community and help people access the supplies, help or information they need to keep them safe and well in winter.



[www.metoffice.gov.uk/WeatherReady](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/WeatherReady)

Are your friends, neighbours and community WeatherReady for the winter? Help them prepare by sharing this checklist or join the conversation online #WeatherReady



Introducing another addition to our window; a celebration of our twin towns Unterhaching and Le Touquet!

In the window, we included a bit of our history, including newsletters, our Solemn Promise of Twinning signatures, and books showcasing the two towns.

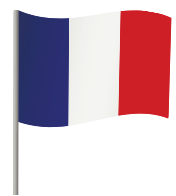
Check out our  
Twinning Website for  
more information

[witneytwinning.org.uk](http://witneytwinning.org.uk)



We welcomed our guests from Unterhaching for a simple shared breakfast on Saturday 11th and it was interesting to talk to officers from their local council and understand the similarities and differences in how our councils operate. Unterhaching Council has responsibilities that bear more resemblance to a Unitary Council than either a Town or District Council.

They joined us again for Remembrance Day on the 12th of November, at which they laid a wreath on behalf of Unterhaching.





# Citizen of the Year

Do you know someone who has given a lot to their community? A quiet hero?

Help give them the recognition they deserve by nominating them for Citizen of the Year

Carers, volunteers, charity fundraisers, anyone you think deserves appreciation.

There is no age requirement or limit, as long as the nominated person has given a selfless service such as volunteering or paid/unpaid work that has been acknowledged as a positive influence on the daily lives of others. They must also either live or carry out their good work in Witney.

Winners will be presented with their award by the Mayor, at the Civic reception in March 2024.

The number of awards is limited and therefore, no matter how valuable the service, not everyone will be able to receive recognition. A submission does not directly lead to an award, but a chance to receive one of the few.

The closing date for this year's nominations is midnight Sunday 14th January 2024, so make sure to get your nominations in before then!

Our categories include:

Citizen of The Year  
(18 years and above)

Young Citizen of The Year  
(17 years and under)

Organisation/Group/  
Sports Team of the Year







# Councillors in the Café



## FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH

10 AM TO 12 NOON

STARTING 2ND SEPTEMBER

- Want to know what is happening in your community?
- Have a question for your local councillor or simply like to meet those representing you?
- Drop-in to talk to your councillors in the Corn Exchange 1863 café area.
- You don't need to make a purchase.



## Are we representing you?



As a Council we are absolutely committed to representing the whole town – including those demographics who have been historically under-represented, or who have previously found barriers to their engagement.

We are seeking to engage with people from minority demographics and communities and those who may experience life in Witney differently, to share their ideas and experience with us.

This will ensure that our decisions and policies are as informed as possible as to their impacts on residents.

If you take a strong interest in our town or have ideas about changes you would like to see, then you have just what we are looking for.

To find out more about sharing your ideas and expertise please drop an email to [info@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@witney-tc.gov.uk) and we can put someone in touch with you.





# WITNEY IN BLOOM

WITNEY IN BLOOM  
IS ORGANISED AND FUNDED BY WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL



## Witney Lake and Country Park Receives Silver Award



We were delighted to receive a certificate for a Silver In Bloom award in September.

The Lake and Country Park was judged back in July where we presented the judges with our In Bloom portfolio to remind them of everything they had seen and talked about during their tour of the area with Carl, our Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer.

Our dedicated In Bloom page has more about our Community Gardeners and Schools In Bloom challenge, plus a look at the criteria for judging and past results.

There is also a link to resources from the Royal Horticultural Society for those who may be interested in Community Gardening.

[FIND OUT MORE ABOUT WITNEY IN BLOOM](#)



## Our Summer Competition Winners

# INSECT SAFARI

We invited primary school children to join in with our mini beast themed summer competition for a chance to win one of three Corn Exchange big screen cinema passes by submitting an A4 sized picture - drawing or painting of the most interesting insect you found in your garden or the park.

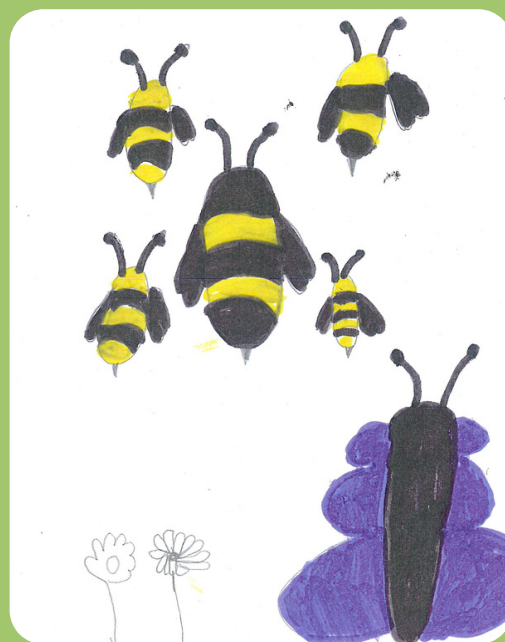
These were our winners.



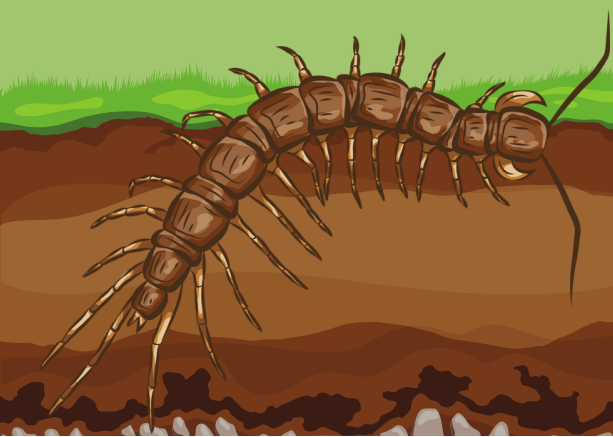
Clementine  
Aged 8



Dotty  
Aged 6



Sophie  
Aged 9





# Winter-themed Ideas

## Make the most of Winter!

1. Collect pine cones, berries and evergreens to make an autumn garland.
2. Protect the hedgehogs! – make a safe home for animals to hibernate in your garden
3. Organise a Secret Santa
4. Bake Christmas goodies



# our socials



**WITNEY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

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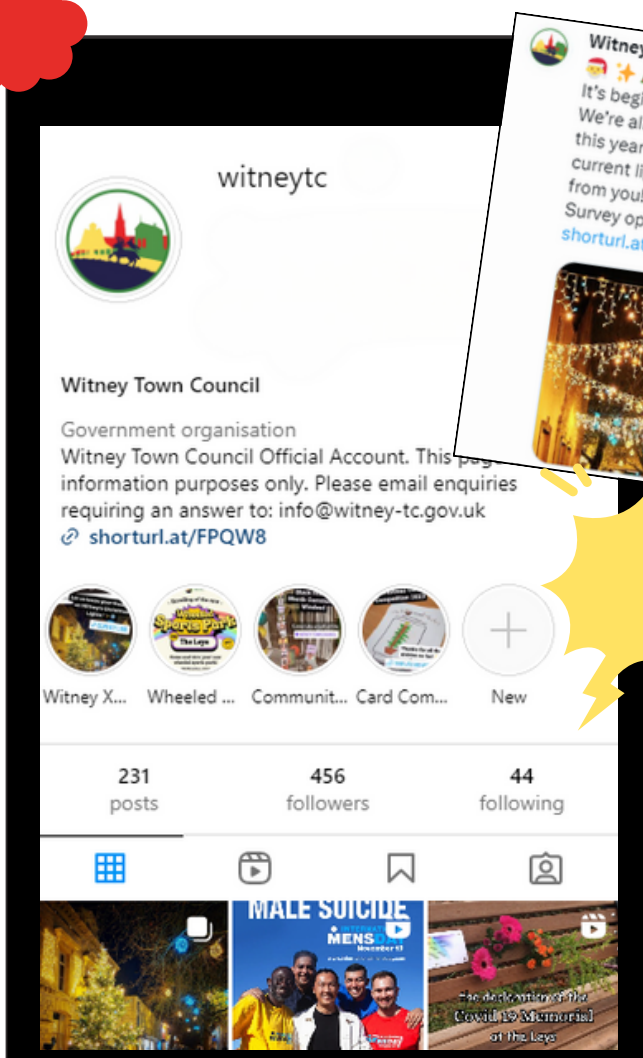


Witney Town Council

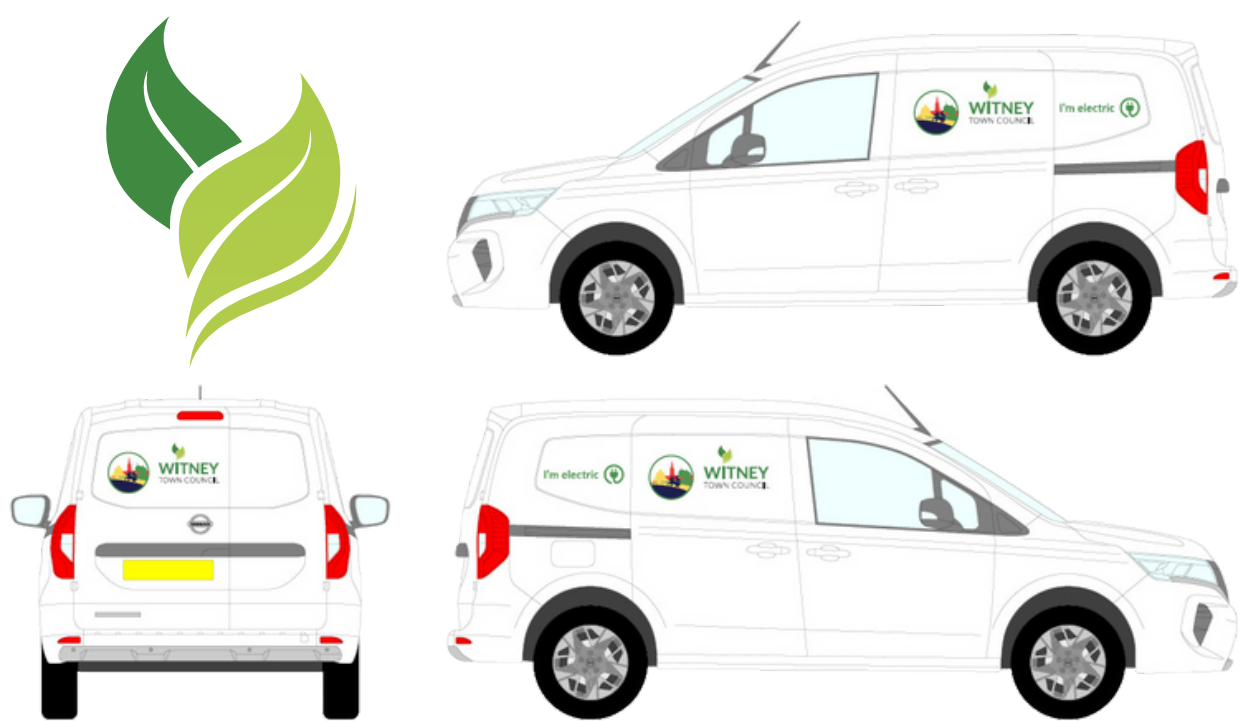


witneytc

You can also follow our news on YouTube,  
our website and our digital signage  
in the admin office window







When you are out and about look out for our new Electric Vehicle.

We were awarded a grant from the Government towards the purchase of our Nissan Townstar.

The new van will save a substantial amount of money compared to average van costs and there are practical, as well as financial and environmental benefits. It's also practical and conveniently charges overnight.



I'm electric



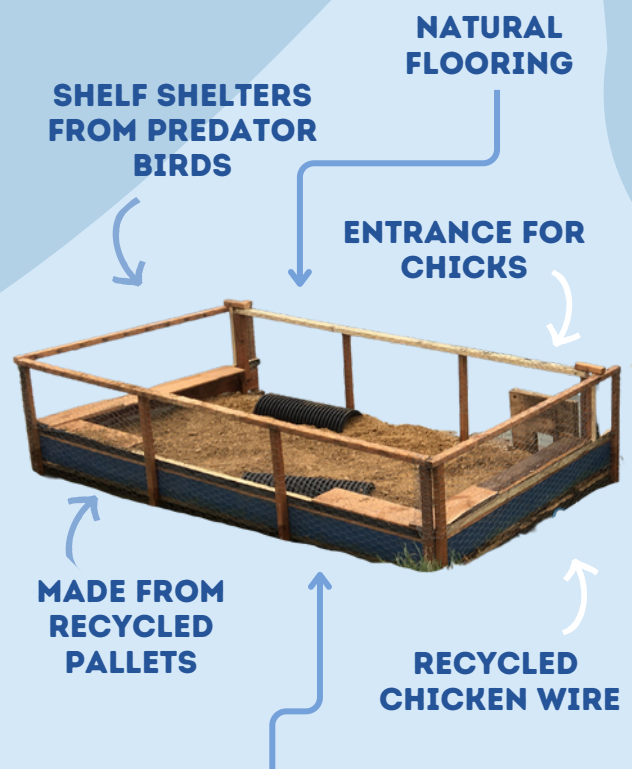


## INSTALLING A NEW FLOATING RAFT

Our Biodiversity and Green Spaces Officer, along with members of our works team were out on the lake this week.

They towed a hand made floating raft out into the middle of the lake and anchored it in place.

The raft will provide a great spot for the cormorants to rest and fish from.





# Burwell Hall Refurb

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## WHAT'S BEEN DONE?

- New door and window blinds
- Freshly painted throughout
- Energy efficient boiler and new hot water system
- Remote control to adjust heating for individual users

## STILL TO COME

- Refurb of toilets, including new sanitaryware
- Minor repairs to roof
- A programme of further future improvements





A selection of entertainment coming up in the Corn Exchange.  
For more information click the logo or individual images below

General **Advent Fayre** 2023

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER  
THE CORN EXCHANGE WITNEY

FREE EVENT!  
BOOKING REQUIRED: VISIT [WWW.CORNEXCHANGEWITNEY.ORG.UK/WHATS-ON](http://WWW.CORNEXCHANGEWITNEY.ORG.UK/WHATS-ON)

FACE PAINTING  
MAKE A BAG OF REMEMBERED FOODS  
"STAMP" SANTA-WEAVING FANTASY  
HANDMADE THAIY DECOUPLAGE  
WINE AND FREE GAZPACHO TO GO

**Advent Fayre**

26th November 2023: 10:00

Music



**Witney Jazz Club – Stuart Henderson Quintet**

1st December 2023: 20:00

Music



**Christmas "SWING" spectacular feat. ANDREW BOURN**


2nd December 2023: 19:30

General, Music **CHANGE WITNEY PRESENTS**

**OPEN MIC NIGHT**

7th December 2023: 19:30

Music



**Lucille & The Lightning Soul Train LIVE at The Corn Exchange Witney**

9th December 2023

**SNOW WHITE**

December 2023  
Corn Exchange, Witney

**Buttercross Theatre Presents: Snow White**

14th December 2023 - 31st December 2023

Music



**Witney Jazz Club: Gary Wood Quartet**

5th January 2024: 20:00

Comedy **WITNEY LAUGH OUT LOUD**



**Soundbite UK Presents: Witney Laugh Out Loud**

13th January 2024: 19:30

Music



**Witney Jazz Club : Tim Whitehead in Concert**

2nd February 2024: 20:00



Follow the Corn Exchange on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/cornexchangewitney](https://facebook.com/cornexchangewitney)

or at their website:  
[www.cornexchangewitney.org.uk](http://www.cornexchangewitney.org.uk)



Free and cheap kids Christmas activities and ideas in HomeStart's

# ADVENT CALENDAR



HomeStart, a charity that supports families across Oxfordshire has launched a free online advent calendar in a bid to help parents looking for things to do this Christmas that won't break the bank!

It's especially hard to find things for everyone to do that don't cost the earth. To help, Home-Start decided to create a special online advent calendar.

Every day you'll be able to uncover a new activity that you can do with your children. It's packed with ideas from baking gingerbread reindeer and creating snowflake decorations to going for a winter walk to spot the Christmas lights.

All the ideas are either free or low cost and importantly - lots of fun to do too!

Home-Start Oxford provides non-judgemental, free support to families, through both one-to-one volunteer support as well as running a number of free parent and toddler groups. Whether it be mental health issues, illness, disability, relationship stress, isolation, abuse, addiction or poverty - Home-Start is there to help families in need.

Kerry Center, Home-Start Oxford's Head of Family Support said:

"Christmas is a magical time but it can also be one of the hardest times for families, especially with the added cost of living pressures. We always have this in mind. It's why our stay and play groups are free and why we run special free events over the summer holidays too. We decided to create the advent calendar for families so everyone can keep the Christmas spirit going but not have to worry about the expense that normally goes with it."

**You can find Home-Start Oxford's free online advent calendar here:**

**<https://buff.ly/3GbP2lr>**  
**or scan the QR code**



More information about Home-Start Oxford and the groups and services it provides can be found on the charity's website: [www.homestartoxford.org.uk](http://www.homestartoxford.org.uk)



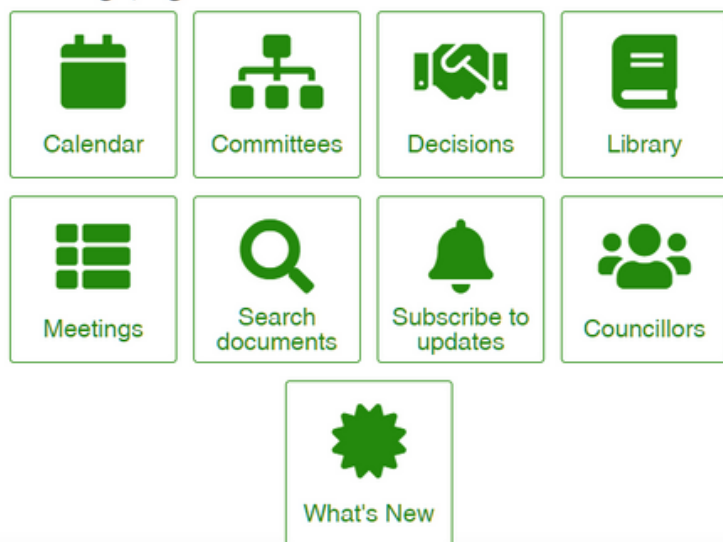
# INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOWN COUNCIL



**WITNEY**  
TOWN COUNCIL

You are here: Meetings, agenda, minutes

## Meetings, agendas and minutes



Calendar
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Decisions
Election results
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It's easy to keep up to date with our meetings and the agendas, minutes and reports that pertain to them.

You'll find information on our councillors, important documents and information, and you can also subscribe to updates here.

**[CLICK THE IMAGE](#)**

If you are one of our partner organisations, or receive grant funding from Witney Town Council and would like to submit an article about your organisation, please contact [communications@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:communications@witney-tc.gov.uk).

Our Spring edition is always tight on space as it is a paper version and contains information about how the Town Council spends money as well as a Residents' Satisfaction Survey, but we can offer space in other issues. The Newsletter is currently issued quarterly.



## SIGN UP TO THE NEWSLETTER

You can sign up to receive digital issues of our newsletter. Drop an email to [communications@witney-tc.gov.uk](mailto:communications@witney-tc.gov.uk) with the subject line - Newsletter sign up.

## NEXT TIME

Our next issue is due in the Spring. Let us know what you would like to see more of.