

December 2025

Witney Town Council Winter Newsletter



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

A Festive Thank-You

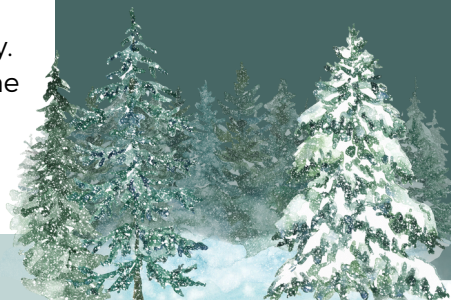
As we head into the festive period Witney Town Council would like to thank local businesses for their generous support of the town's Christmas tree, lights display and Advent Fayre.

The Corn Exchange Tree is sponsored by H&OB Building and KLM Scaffolding; the Buttercross tree by Scott Fraser Estate and Lettings Agents and H&OB Building. The Children's Christmas Light is sponsored by Parker Bullen Solicitors, and the Advent Fayre by TWC Home Improvements and H&OB Building.

Their contributions have provided cheerful and eye-catching focal points amid the main display. The involvement of our sponsors underscores the importance of community partnership and the shared commitment to enhancing the festive experience.

In this issue:

Christmas Tree Sponsorship
Christmas Light Switch-On
West Witney Accessway Notice
Advent Fayre
Christmas Competition Winners
Mayors Round-up
Witney Lake & Country
Park News
Corn Exchange Seat
Sponsorship
Town Flag Flying
What's On At Corn Ex
Who does what?



COUNCILLORS AT THE CAFÉ

Your regular opportunity to chat with
Councillors from Witney Town Council
in the Corn Exchange.

No purchase or booking required!



FIRST
SATURDAY
OF THE
MONTH



Councillor Joy Aitman
Witney East

Labour Party

Deputy Leader

joy.aitman@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Thomas
Ashby
Witney West

Conservative

thomas.ashby@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Andy
Bailey
Witney East

Labour Party
Mayor

andy.bailey@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Owen
Collins
Witney South

Labour Party

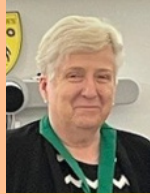
owen.collins@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Rachel
Crouch
Witney South

Labour Party

rachel.crouch@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jane
Doughty
Witney West

Conservative
Deputy Mayor

jane.doughty@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Geoff
Doughty
Witney West

Conservative

Geoff.Doughty@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor David
Edwards-Hughes
Burwell

Conservative

david.edwards-hughes@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Duncan
Enright
Witney North

Labour & Co-
operative

duncan.enright@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Georgia
Meadows
Witney Central

Labour Party

georgia.meadows@witney-tc.gov.uk



Abdul Mubin
Witney Central

Conservative
Party

abdul.mubin@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Denis
Newcombe
Witney Central

Labour Party

denis.newcombe@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor James
Robertshaw
Witney East

Conservative

james.robertshaw@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Sandra
Simpson
Witney North

Green Party

sandra.simpson@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Ruth
Smith
Witney East

Labour Party
Leader

ruth.smith@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Jack
Treloar
Witney South

Conservative

jack.treloar@witney-tc.gov.uk



Councillor Dean
Temple
Witney North

Conservative

dean.temple@witney-tc.gov.uk

Who are your
councillors?

International Day of Older People

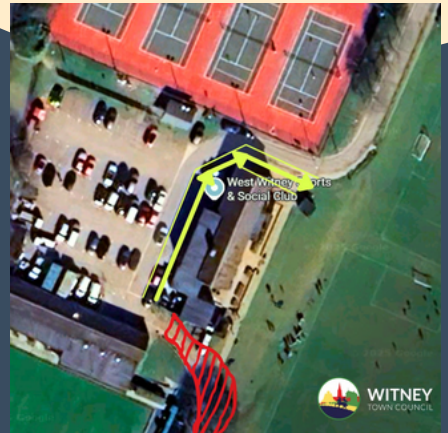
We marked the day with a free activity book which was available in 1863 if you were having a coffee there that day (while stocks lasted). It was also available online.



The activity books found at the Corn Exchange Cafe 1863 - currently not available

Construction Work at West Witney Sports Field - Accessway Notice

The accessway between the clubhouse and the shooting range is closed until the end of March. During this period, please use the accessway located between the tennis courts and the clubhouse to reach the field.



Map of accessway closure

We ask all users to take extra care when using this route, as there is a blind corner near the access road. Children should be closely supervised, and dog walkers are advised to keep dogs on leads until reaching the field.

Please see the map showing the available accessway and the area currently closed for construction.

ADVENT FAYRE

30th November 2025

Crafting with Santa Claus

We gathered for some festive fun at this year's Advent Fayre, where children made snap-bracelets, reindeer food, jingle sticks, and Christmas cards to send to the family. Father Christmas received a lot of letters and requests for when he makes his deliveries, and gave out hundreds of early presents for all the boys and girls that joined us.



Santa's Grotto at the Advent Fayre

It was a great event to get everyone in the Christmas spirit, with no ticket fee or purchase required. Free crafting fun for children of all ages! Many thanks to this year's sponsors TWC Home Improvements and H&OB Building



Christmas Light Competition Winner

December 2025

Congratulations to Olivia!

A huge congratulations to Olivia, whose beautiful snowy church design will soon be shining proudly on the side of the Town Hall, ready for the Christmas Lights Switch-on.



Original Design for the Light - Olivia Aged 9



Deputy Mayor with winner Olivia and sponsor representatives from Parker Bullen

Shining Sponsors

This year, the Children's Christmas Light has been kindly sponsored by Parker Bullen, and representatives Louise and Jasmine joined us for the reveal. It's always a joy to see a young artist's face light up when their creation comes to life.

Winner's Prize

Olivia won a Neon Glow Art Kit and gets to see her light as the star of the Witney Christmas Lights!



Deputy Mayor and winner Olivia both show thumbs up

**PARKER
BULLEN**
SOLICITORS

Witney Town Council's Christmas Competition Winners!



Carol Sheet Cover
Isaac Aged 10



Card - Seth Aged 9

Well done to our wonderful young Witney artists 🎄🎨🖍️

Deputy Mayor Cllr Jane Doughty visited to congratulate the winners of this year's Children's Christmas Design Competitions, which were open to all Witney primary schools and primary-age children living in the town.

Runners Up



Carol Sheet Cover
Enoch aged 8



Carol Sheet Cover
Alfieri aged 10



Carol Sheet Cover
Louisa aged 11

Two winners and six runners-up received creative prizes, including a Neon Glow Art Kit and brand-new colouring pens to help inspire their future artwork.



Card - Ray aged 10

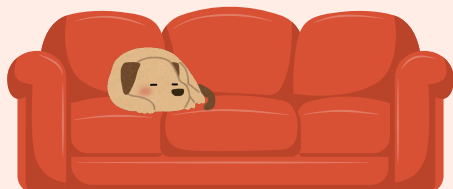


Card - Sameeha aged 10



Card - Jaykob aged 10

Congratulations to all of them, we hope to see some entries again next year!



WITNEY'S CHRISTMAS TREES

SPONSORSHIP

Our valued sponsors are featured in the following photos alongside the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Witney, with their banners proudly displayed next to the trees. Their commitment, generosity, and partnership help support community services such as the Christmas Lights and the sold-out Advent Fayre on the following Sunday, adding so much to the festive season for Witney residents.



Sponsors are pictured with Witney's Mayor and Deputy Mayor and their sponsored trees

Alongside this our Christmas Light Contractors, LITE have donated their annual contribution of £1000 to a social value fund which will see four local charities get a helpful seasonal boost: Witney Community Meal, Witney Food Bank, Witney Food Revolution and Something Good Campaign.

We extend our sincere thanks to all our sponsors and donors for their support.

Make sure to take a look the next time you are walking past 🎄



Witney Christmas Light Switch-On

CELEBRATING TOGETHER

Witney Town Council was delighted to welcome Be Free Young Carers from West Oxfordshire as our very special guests for a tailored event in the Gallery Room of the Corn Exchange on Friday 28th November.

The space was set up as a calm, safe viewing area so the young carers and family members could enjoy the Christmas Light Switch-On in comfort, away from the busy crowds, with crafts, treats, and time to relax.

We were honoured to have several VIP visitors drop in to meet these incredible young people, including DL, Alison Rooke, Mayor of Witney, Cllr Andy Bailey, MP Charlie Maynard, and Deputy Mayor Cllr Jane Doughty.

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the evening so special, and to the young carers themselves, whose resilience and kindness brighten our community every day.



Many young carers painted wood slices



Young carers watching the lights switch on



Young carers watching the lights switch on



Witney Mayors Round-Up

Deputy Mayor with Unterhaching representatives

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Witney have had an exceptionally busy few weeks - from travelling to our twin town in Germany, to opening and reopening local businesses! Here's a look at what they've been up to:

On 4 October, Deputy Mayor Cllr Jane Doughty officially opened local business TWC Home Improvements with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Congratulations to the team on their new store!



Deputy Mayor with TWC Home Improvements Representatives

On 16 November, Deputy Mayor Cllr Jane Doughty travelled to our twin town, Unterhaching, to represent Witney on their Day of National Mourning, the official commemoration of the First and Second World Wars. The day honours victims of war, violence, and oppression, including both soldiers and civilians from Germany and other nations.



Deputy Mayor in speaking in Unterhaching for their Day of National Mourning



Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Witney with Mill House Representatives

On Wednesday, both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor visited Mill House Care Home Witney to celebrate its reopening following refurbishment.

And in perhaps the most joyful news of all, Mayor Cllr Andy Bailey welcomed a new baby into his family, as if things weren't busy enough already! Warmest congratulations to the Mayor and his family on their wonderful new arrival.



Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Witney with Mill House Representatives

Booking the Mayor

To request the Mayor at an event please complete our [Booking the Mayor Form](#) on our website webpage The Mayor or contact the Mayor's Diary secretary loraine.harwood@witney-tc.gov.uk



Witney Woodland Volunteers and WTC Green Spaces Team at Unterhaching Park

Bulb Planting and Tidying at Unterhaching Park

The Witney Woodland Volunteers joined forces with Witney Town Council's Green Spaces Team to start work on the programme of work designed to improve and revitalise Unterhaching park.

They planted native bluebells, snowdrops and wood anemones, trimmed back overgrown vegetation, and swept the pathways. The flowers will bloom in spring, enhancing biodiversity and adding a vibrant splash of colour to the park. Cutting back the overgrowth also helps protect young plants and ensures healthier regrowth when the warmer weather returns.

Next steps will continue to make the area more welcoming and safer, with further work to lift the tree canopy to improve lines of sight through the park and create more light along the paths.

To thank the team for their fantastic efforts, we provided some well-earned refreshments and hot drinks to warm their hands and spirits.



Unterhaching Park

If you are interested in volunteering with any of our green spaces projects, please contact: carl.whitehead@witney-tc.gov.uk

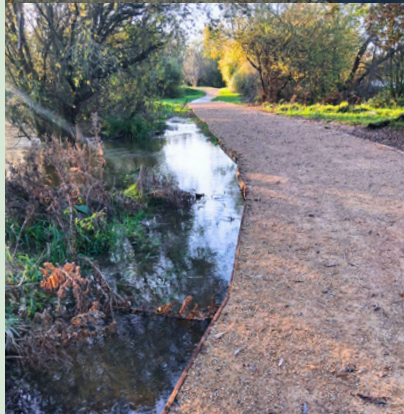
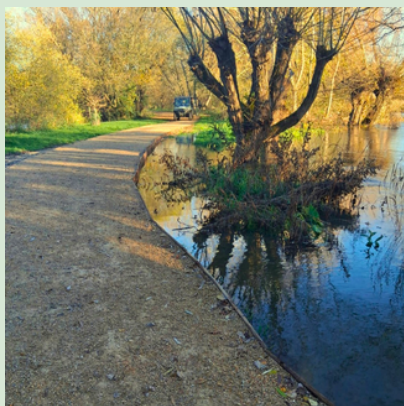


Flooding at Witney Lake and Country Park

Path Improvements and Flooding at Witney Lake

Please note that due to the recent increased amount of rain, many areas around Witney Lake & Country Park quickly become impassable from flooding. This happens around the Nature Reserve area, at the end of the lake, and across Snipe Meadow.

As the pictures show, the recent path improvements have had great success in mitigating the effects of the river overtopping, however it is still important to take extra care when travelling around and walking dogs near these flooded areas.



New path blocks the river overtopping



Theatre seating at the Corn Exchange

Witney Corn Exchange Seat Sponsorship

The Corn Exchange is delighted to announce the launch of its **Seat Sponsorship programme**, a rewarding way for members of the public and local businesses to make their mark on this much-loved arts venue.

Individual Sponsorship is just £100 for 3 years and the perfect gift for anyone with a special attachment to this historic hall.

Individual sponsorship includes:

- A gold-coloured metal plaque attached to the back of your chosen seat (subject to availability)
- A voucher for two glasses of prosecco in The Corn Exchange Bar to celebrate the installation of your plaque
- Recognition in the new supporters' section of our website (launching soon)





Corporate Sponsorship is £200 for 3 years. For businesses wanting to highlight their involvement in local culture and the wider community, this option offers a distinctive promotional opportunity, for name and branding placement inside the auditorium.

- A gold-coloured metal plaque on their chosen seat (subject to availability)
- A voucher for four glasses of prosecco to mark the installation
- Premium recognition at the top of the supporters' section of our website, including business name and logo



Theatre seating at the Corn Exchange during an event



You can register for yours now. The application form and full details are available on the Corn Exchange website.
www.cornexchangewitney.org.uk/sponsor-a-seat





Flying the Witney Town Flag



Our Town Crest-themed Community Window

Witney Town Council is proud to announce that the town flag will be flown every day above the Town Hall, except when replaced by a national or local flag for special occasions. Our town flag features Witney's heraldic crest, symbolising its community identity, and the town's historical roots.

Officially granted on 9 September 1955, the crest is rich with meaning. The white and blue wavy band reflects the River Windrush and its landscape, while the two leopards' faces with shuttles come from the Blanket Makers' arms. The glove represents Witney's former glove-making industry, and the Buttercross at the base symbolises the historic heart of the town.



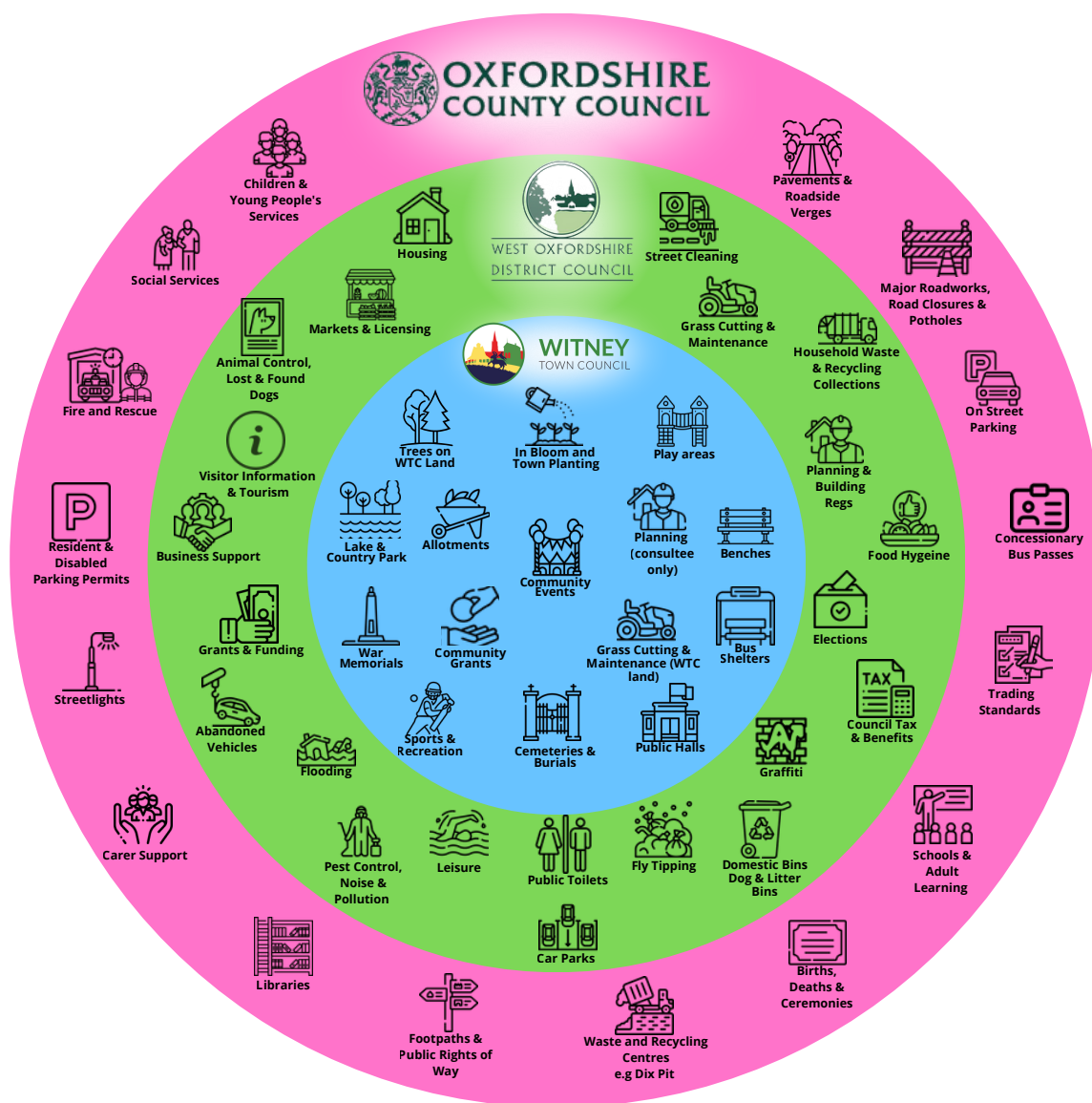
The Paschal lamb, a long-standing symbol of the town, also represents the Mount, where the Bishops of Winchester built a palace in the 11th century. Together, these symbols highlight Witney's industrious spirit and enduring heritage.

[Read more about the town crest](#)



Who Does What?

Below shows the different services provided by local councils, Town, District and County serving Witney



Fix My Street is a website where you can report a problem in your local area. Examples can be pavements, roads, street furniture, or lighting. The website will direct the problem to the organisation responsible.

 **OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**
 Contact form on OCC website
 01865 792422
 General Enquiries Number
 8.30am - 5pm, Monday - Thursday and
 8.30am - 4pm Friday

 **WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL**
 customer.services@westoxon.gov.uk
 01993 861000
 Available from 9am to 2pm
 Monday to Friday

 **WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**
 info@witney-tc.gov.uk
 01993 704379
 Available from 9am to 5pm Monday to
 Thursday, 9am to 4.30pm Friday

For further information or phone numbers on specific enquiries, please refer to each council's website

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place – you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2021** and **31 August 2022**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2026**.

Apply online at

**[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/
primaryadmissions](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions)**

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.



For help and information:

Web: **www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions**

Email: **admissions.schools@oxfordshire.gov.uk**

Tel: **01865 519800 Option 2**



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**



CORN EXCHANGE
WITNEY

WHAT'S ON?

Theatre - Music - Cinema - Markets - Community Events

Regular Events

Tea Dance
Every Wednesday
1PM

Specsavers Coffee
Morning
Every 1st Thursday

Sarah Moncreiff Art
Every Wednesday
1PM

UPCOMING PROGRAMME

Witney Dramatic Society
Bleak Expectations
30th Oct - 1st Nov

Pumpkin Parade
Friday 31st October

Day Time Cinema
Tuesday 4th November

Florence Nightingale: The
Lady With The Hammer
Thursday 6th November

Witney Jazz
Friday 7th November

Break The Rules - Status
Quo Tribute
Saturday 8th November

Witney Town Band Autumn
Concert
Sunday 16th November

Day Time Cinema
Tuesday 18th November

Open Mic Showcase
Thursday 20th November

Witney Blues
21st November

Mynt Image Market
Saturday 22nd November

Christmas Light Switch On
Friday 28th November

Advent Fayre
Sunday 30th November

Day Time Cinema
Tuesday 2nd December

Mynt Image Market
Saturday 6th December

Witney Jazz
Saturday 6th December

BTP: Little Red
Riding Hood
18th - 31st December

Witney Jazz
Friday 2nd January

Witney Jazz
Friday 16th January

Witney Jazz
Friday 6th February

Angry Boater
Saturday 21st February

Young Elton
Friday 27th February

Dung Beetles
Saturday 28th February

PLUS MORE EVENTS TBA!

For full listing, tickets and more info visit:
www.cornexchangewitney.org.uk

