



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

www.witney-tc.gov.uk



Witney Town Council
Tel: 01993 704379
Town Hall, Market Square,
Witney, Oxon OX28 6AG
info@witney-tc.gov.uk

WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2026



WITNEY'S NEW MAYOR

At the Annual Council Meeting last night, the Mayoral Chain of Office was passed to Cllr Jane Doughty. Jane has had a busy and successful year serving as Deputy Mayor, carrying out the role with dedication and enthusiasm, and has been a tremendous support to the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Andy Bailey throughout the year. She is now looking forward to taking on the role of Mayor for the year ahead. Her new Deputy Mayor is Cllr Sandra Simpson.

You can find out all you need to know about our new Mayor on their dedicated webpage and can book them for your event: www.witney-tc.gov.uk

In this issue:

CORN EXCHANGE WHAT'S ON

See what's coming
up in 2026

BE A TOWN COUNCILLOR

Learn what's involved

If you need this newsletter in any other form, please contact communities@witney-tc.gov.uk

Witney's New Mayor

Clr Jane Doughty



Jane Doughty was elected Mayor of Witney in 2026, bringing nearly 20 years of experience representing local residents in government. She has lived in Witney for more than 35 years with her husband, Geoff, who is also a local councillor.

Jane is committed to fostering a strong, supportive community in Witney. In her dual role as a Town and District councillor, she works closely with residents and supports organisations serving young people, older people and families. As Deputy Mayor in the previous year, she frequently represented the town at regional community and charity events.



Mayor Jane Doughty at the Corn Exchange Witney



Mayor Jane Doughty with shop owners and staff at the Shake Shop in Witney

Professionally, Jane brings a background in finance and administration to her public service. She is a Finance Officer at the University of Oxford within the Department of Biology. Her local governance experience includes serving on the Audit and Governance Committee, the Licensing Committee, the Finance and Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and planning and community-based committees.

The Mayor's chosen charities for this year, Oasis and Witney Day Centre.

The Oxfordshire Autistic Society for Information and Support (OASIS) provides vital services and supports families raising children and young people with autism through activities, playdays, and community support, helping to reduce isolation and build local connections.

The Witney Day Centre provides companionship, activities, meals, and support for older residents, helping people stay connected and reducing social isolation. It is run largely by volunteers.

Together, these charities reflect the strong sense of community support and practical care that exists across Witney and Oxfordshire.

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

Witney Town Council Reaches Silver Accreditation Milestone



Witney Town Council is proud to announce that it has been awarded the **Silver Level in the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) Local Council Award Scheme**, recognising the Council's continued commitment to transparency, sound financial management, strong governance, and meaningful community engagement alongside a commitment to the ongoing development and support of staff and councillors.

This achievement builds on the Council attaining Bronze accreditation in April 2025 and places Witney Town Council among a small number of councils in Oxfordshire to receive recognition under the scheme.

The Local Council Award Scheme is a peer-assessed programme designed to support councils at every stage of their improvement journey, while recognising those operating at the forefront of the sector. It celebrates local councils that demonstrate high standards, effective service delivery, and a commitment to continuous improvement.

Achieving Silver status reflects the Council's dedication to delivering professional services in line with best practice, while continuing to innovate and seek new opportunities for the benefit of the community.

Cllr Ruth Smith Leader of Witney Town Council was delighted with the new Silver status,

"I am immensely proud the Town Council has attained the NALC Silver Award, which recognises its high standards of governance, service delivery, and professionalism in line with Parish & Town Council sector expectations. This achievement reflects the dedication, professionalism, and expertise of staff in supporting the work and priorities of the Council for the benefit of Witney.

Witney Town Council looks forward to working positively and collaboratively with the future unitary authority for our area to support the best outcomes for the town and its residents. Gold next!"



Witney Town Council Celebrates St George's Day

A huge thank you to everyone who helped make our St George's Day family event such a beautiful occasion, filled with the happiest and most relaxed vibe. It was wonderful to see so many people coming together and enjoying everything on offer from street games and crafting and great music and food!



St George's Flag Raising with the mayor, councillors, and the town crier

A special thank you to Sausage Bros for serving up incredible sausage and mash, Smarts Fish and Chips and the staff of 1863 for producing some very special English food favourites for the occasion. Witney museum hosted a brilliant dragon-making workshop on Saturday, and Sonia, one of their volunteers, led two fascinating White Wool, Red Cross heritage walks that brought our town's history to life in such an engaging way.

The Shake Shop provided us with wonderful St George-themed sweet jar quiz prizes, and Blizzard Security for provided additional first aid cover and security services, helping to ensure the event was safe and enjoyable for all.

From the football skills sessions with Witney Vikings to the fantastic music throughout the day, the traditional folk sounds of Witney Township Waits, the summery hits from Witney Vocals, and the brilliant sing-and-clap-alongs with Witney Guitar Club — there was truly something for everyone.

We were also incredibly proud to welcome Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue from Witney Fire Station, South Central Ambulance Service, and Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire, who represented our local frontline services — true modern-day heroes.



Fire Engine brought by the Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service



We'd like to acknowledge the valuable support of our Town Crier, Jean, and to the Mayor of Witney, Cllr Andy Bailey, and Deputy Mayor, Cllr Jane Doughty, for joining us on the day and introducing the event.

We are indebted to Windrush Radio for keeping the music and banter going throughout the day.

Most of all, we want to say thank you to everyone who came along and made the day so special — your energy and smiles made it what it was.



Lowland Rescue Oxfordshire with their Search Dogs

A big shout out to our local primary schools for their fantastic creativity in imagining what Witney's very own dragon would look like. The entries were wonderful.

We also loved seeing the imaginative Best Shop Window displays, and congratulations to Deborah at Country Bathrooms and Tiles, whose winning window gave a whole new meaning to "bath (k)night"!



Witney Guitar Club performing



Children's Artwork Exhibition



Witney Town Council at Witney Carnival

Look for our logo, and you'll discover plenty of activities at our Witney Carnival stall this year!

- **Vote** for your favourite planted wheelbarrow as part of the Schools In Bloom initiative.
- **Explore** some of our green initiatives.
- **Engage** in conversations with the Witney Youth Council about the changes young people wish to see in Witney and their plans for the future!
- Take our satisfaction survey - just moments to complete.

Join us at the Leys! While you're there, be sure to check out the newly opened Courtside and explore their impressive range of facilities. You can also take a refreshing dip at the Splash Park or enjoy some laps at the Skate Park.



Last year's Schools Wheelbarrows at Witney Carnival (2025)



A Wheelbarrow from a Witney Primary School last year (2025)

Be Our Guest?

Each year we offer a barrow to a charity or not for profit organisation working with young or vulnerable people in Witney. If you'd like to be considered contact info@witney-tc.gov.uk.



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www.witney-tc.gov.uk



What's happening in our Green Spaces?

There's a wonderful variety of flowers blooming around Witney currently, with flourishing wildflowers in Windrush Cemetery and at our roundabouts, and tulips blossoming in trees!

The Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron*) is an excellent choice for urban environments due to its hardy nature and exceptional tolerance to pollution, making it a popular option for towns and cities alike. And aren't they beautiful?

Our Works Team are also busy planting the summer flower beds around town, so we look forward to seeing even more colour once they begin to bloom.



Windrush Cemetery Wildflower Area
(The Tulip Tree at Langdale Hall, right)



Witney Town Council Works Team Planting Summer Flower Beds



A tree at Witney Lake covered in Irmine Moth Webbing

Interested in volunteering?

The Green Spaces team are always looking for help with the many tasks they do on a daily basis. If you like working outside with the rich nature of Witney, contact info@witney-tc.gov.uk.



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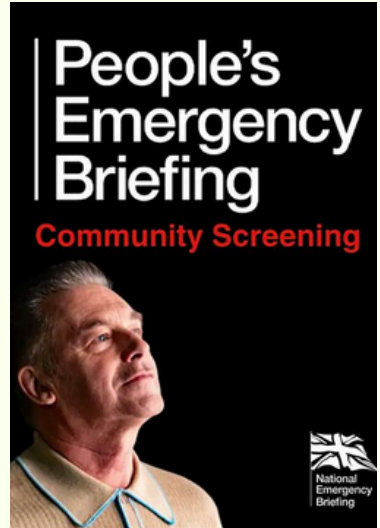
WTC Green Initiatives

Corn Exchange Film Screening

As part of Great Big Green Week, the Witney Corn Exchange is excited to host a special film screening of "National Emergency Briefing" on 27 July 2026. This event promises to be an enlightening experience, bringing the community together to explore important environmental themes through cinema.

Attendees can look forward to a thought-provoking film that aligns with the values of sustainability and environmental awareness. To secure your spot at this unique event, be sure to book your tickets through Eventbrite.

Look out for more information to come soon.



Monday 27 July 2026

Tools available for free booking from Witney Town Council:



**Litter
Picking
Equipment**



**Thermal
Imaging
Camera**

Contact us by emailing info@witney-tc.gov.uk



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

WITNEY TOWN BAND PRESENTS,

BRASS *on the* **GRASS**

Sunday 5th July

Oxlease Park, Witney, OX28 3JZ

(Opposite Cogges Farm Museum)

14:30 – 16:30

Sunday 2nd August

The Leys, Witney, OX28 4BA

14:30 – 16:30



**BRING A BLANKET OR CHAIRS & JOIN WITNEY TOWN BAND FOR AN
AFTERNOON OF LIVE MUSIC.**

Children's Christmas Light Design Competition

It may seem early to start thinking about Christmas, but we have a light to design in time for the holidays!

Our Christmas Light Competition is open to any child of primary school age attending school or resident in Witney. We also welcome entries from children enrolled in Witney community groups, such as Brownies, Beavers and others.

The winning design will be turned into a super-size 1.5m x 1.5m light, which will be installed on the Town Hall this year as an integral part of the town's Christmas display. The Town Council also displays some, still serviceable winning lights, from previous years.

Entries can be submitted by email, post or delivered to the Town Council office. Download the Witney Town Council Christmas Light Competition 2026 template from our social media or you can simply draw a square on a sheet of A4 paper.

Please submit your entries to: info@witney-tc.gov.uk or Witney Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Witney, OX28 6AG. Closing Date is **Friday 10th July 2026**



Design Template (see next page for full size)



More information and the design template can be found here:

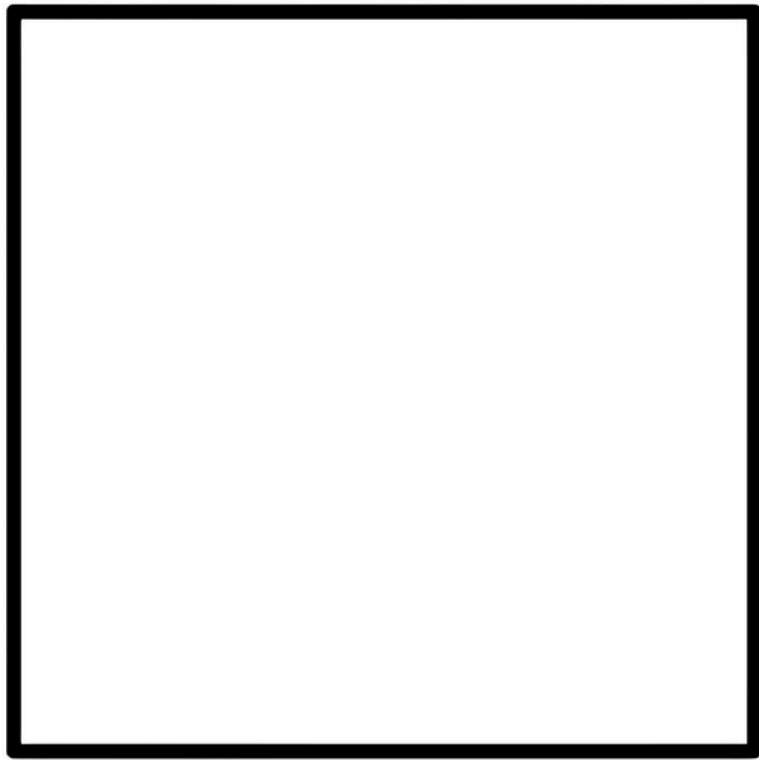
www.witney-tc.gov.uk/news/witney-town-council-christmas-light-competition-2026-open-for-entries/





WITNEY
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Witney Town Council Christmas Card Competition 2026



Name

Age

Primary School/ Witney

Community Group e.g

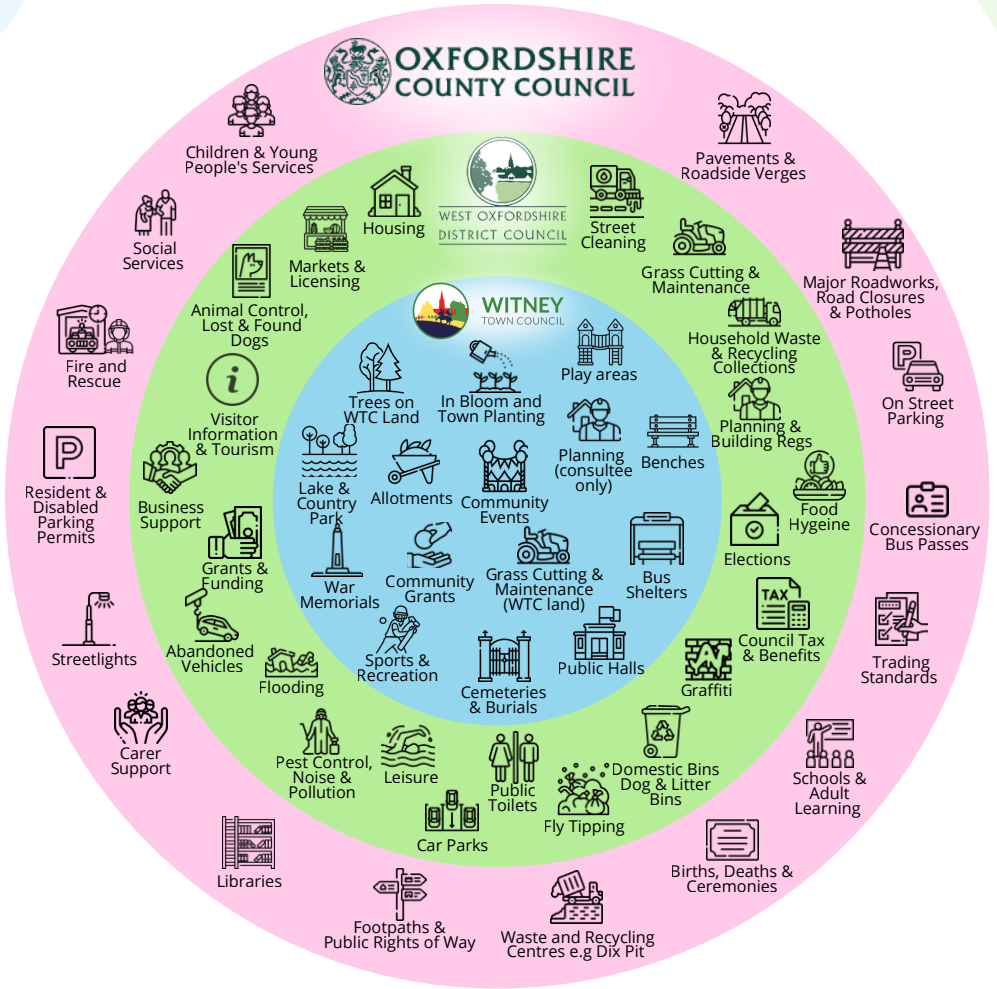
Brownies/ Beavers etc

Design Guidelines: Please keep your drawing well within the lines of the square above or submit on plain paper A4. Use bold colours as these will reproduce well when printed.

Please send your entries to: info@witney-tc.gov.uk or by post to Witney Town Council, Town Hall Market Square, Witney OX28 6AG. Don't forget to include your name, school/group and contact details with your artwork

Who Does What?

Our diagram illustrates the different services provided by local councils, Town, District and County serving Witney



[FixMyStreet.com](https://www.fixmystreet.com) is a website where you can report a problem in your local area. It is the best place to report problems with 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

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

WITNEY YOUTH COUNCIL
IS ACCEPTING



NEW MEMBERS

Make decisions, talk local politics, and meet people just like you
- if you are **11 - 18 years old**, apply now!



**Find the application
form on our website:**

www.witney-tc.gov.uk/the-council/youth-council/



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

**APPLICATIONS CLOSE
AUGUST 2026**



CORN EXCHANGE
THEATRE - MUSIC - CINEMA - COMMUNITY EVENTS

WHAT'S ON?

CINEMA	Daytime Cinema Presents: Edie Tuesday 2 nd June	CINEMA	Daytime Cinema Presents: H is for Hawk Tuesday 14 th July	EVENT	Rock & Roll Dance Party Thursday 6 th August
MUSIC	Witney Jazz Presents: Jonny Kerry Quartet Friday 5 th June	THEATRE	Buttercross Theatre Productions Presents: Hadestown Teen Edition Friday 17 th July - Saturday 18 th July	MUSIC	Witney Jazz Presents: Ben Holder's Tribute to Porter & Gershwin Friday 7 th August
ART	Witney Photo Group Exhibition Saturday 13 th June	MUSIC	Music Box Events Presents: Julia Titus' Speakeasy Band Thursday 23 rd July	CINEMA	Summer Holiday Cinema: The Little Mermaid Tuesday 11 th August
THEATRE	Yellow Submarine Charity Talent Show Sunday 14 th June	MARKET	Mynt Image Market Saturday 25 th July	CINEMA	Summer Holiday Cinema: The Lion King Tuesday 18 th August
CINEMA	Daytime Cinema Presents: Finding Your Feet Tuesday 16 th June	EVENT	The People's Emergency Briefing Monday 27 th July	MUSIC	The Candy Girls Cabaret Friday 21 st August
QUIZ	Quiz Night Friday 19 th June	CINEMA	Summer Holiday Cinema: Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Tuesday 28 th July	MARKET	Mynt Image Market Saturday 22 nd August
CHARITY	Witney and West Oxfordshire Foodbank Charity Event Friday 26 th June	THEATRE	The Tale of Peter Rabbit Thursday 30 th July	CINEMA	Summer Holiday Cinema: Monsters Inc. Tuesday 25 th August
CINEMA	Daytime Cinema Presents: Notting Hill Tuesday 30 th June	MUSIC	Music Box Events: Paul Jones & Friends Friday 3 rd July	THEATRE	Teddy Bears Picnic Friday 28 th August
MUSIC	Music Box Events: Paul Jones & Friends Friday 3 rd July	CINEMA	Summer Holiday Cinema: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory Tuesday 4 th August		



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

TUNES ON THE SQUARE

CORN EXCHANGE
WITNEY AND SMARTS
FISH & CHIPS



LIVE MUSIC OUTSIDE
THE CORN
EXCHANGE EVERY
FRIDAY FROM 7PM
JUNE 19TH - AUG 28TH

THE DEALS
ASK INSIDE FOR MORE

SCAN FOR
UPDATES

£13

BOTTLE OF PROSECCO

£11

4 BOTTLED LAGERS

£14.50

FISH & CHIPS MEAL
WITH MUSHY PEAS OR CURRY SAUCE



The Candy Girls Cabaret



CORN EXCHANGE
WITNEY

August 21st
Doors 7pm
Show 8pm

A fabulous evening
of themed entertainment. Your ticket
includes a mini charcuterie board.

£22

+booking fee

More info & tickets:

<https://www.cornexchangewitney.org.uk/event/candy-girls-cabaret>



Bipolar Disorder Research Clinic

The Bipolar Disorder Research clinic is a research-funded service within the NHS, that offers specialist assessment and treatment for people living with bipolar disorder who are interested in taking part in research.

What we can offer:

A careful assessment by our team of expert psychiatrists and research nursing staff, followed by a discussion of diagnosis and treatment options. Assessment can be done in person at the NIHR Clinical Research Facility: Oxford Health (Warneford Hospital) or remotely (via Teams).

What happens next:

People will be offered research participation alongside ongoing care from the Bipolar Disorder Research clinic or referred back to their primary or secondary care service, as appropriate.

Clinical team

Prof Andrea Cipriani [Clinical Director], Dr Andrea Paggi, Dr Katharine Smith, Dr Caroline Zangani, Dr Edoardo Ostinelli, Dr Georgina Corbet-Burcher.

Please note that the clinic cannot provide immediate or emergency mental health support.



How to refer yourself or your patient

Individuals can refer themselves to the clinic or be referred by their GP

email: oxfordhealth.bipolarclinic@nhs.net
telephone: 01865 902 135

Or visit the website for further information:
[Bipolar Disorder Research Clinic Website](#)



Witney Play & Activity Day 2026

Thursday 6th August 2026

11am – 3pm

Burwell Meadow Recreation Ground,
Thorney Leys, Witney. OX28 5NP

FREE ENTRANCE AND FREE ACTIVITIES



**Ride on Time Toddler Vehicles * Junk Modelling - Art Avalanche *
Go Kart Party * Body Zorbing * Smoothie Bike * Community Albums *
DIY Face Painting * Giant Bubbles * Muddy Feet * Homestart *
Fabric Upcycling - Groovy Su * Active Communities Team and more!!**

This is an open access event / NO childcare is provided / This event will be photographed /
Food and drinks will need to be purchased or please feel free to bring a picnic /
For further information please contact martin.gillett@oxonplay.org.uk / www.oxonplay.org.uk /
07436 270267

THIS EVENT IS FUNDED AND SUPPORTED BY



WEST OXFORDSHIRE
DISTRICT COUNCIL



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

WITNEY TOWN HALL CHARITY



OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Charity Event.

A Night of Music & Giving

Annual Fundraising Evening
Supported by the Mayor of Witney,
as one of his chosen charities.

**FRIDAY
26TH
JUNE**

7.30pm til Late
**THE CORN EXCHANGE,
WITNEY**

What's in store?

- ✓ Live entertainment from Anna & The Fireflies
- ✓ Charity Auction & Raffle with amazing prizes
- ✓ Great food, drinks & company
- ✓ All proceeds go to support local foodbanks

Anna

AND THE



FIREFLIES

Award-Winning Divas
Soul, Funk, Rock & Pop



Tickets: £10 per person
Get tickets here! →



★ AUCTION PRIZES ★

INCREDIBLE PRIZES DONATED BY LOCAL BUSINESSES & GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

	£100 Meal Voucher at the Rose and Crown, Shilton
	Haircut & Style at Two's Company Hair & Beauty (Tue or Sat)
	4x Family Pass for Blenheim Palace (2 incl. Adventure Play)
	£20 Voucher for the Hollybush
	Selection of South African Food from SPAZA Shop
	Majestic Wines - 1x Spanish Red, 1x NZ Pinot Grigio, 1x Cranberry & Gin Spirit
	£25 Voucher from Bakers Butchers
	£50 Meal Voucher from The Three Horseshoes
	Four Ball Voucher at Burford Golf Club
	Haircut & Gift Hamper of High End Products - LA Hair
	£40 Flower Bouquet from The Flower Shop
	£80 Meal Voucher at the Masons Arms, South Leigh
	12x Bottles of Rene Beaudouin Champagne

	Four Ball Voucher at Frilford Heath Golf Club
	Winter Gardening Session from Topiarus Horticulture Jan/Feb 2027 (2 gardeners for ½ day)
	£15 Voucher from COOK
	Family Ticket to Cotswold Wildlife Park (2A + 2C)
	£150 Cake Baking Class from The Cake College
	Bottle of House of Commons Branded Champagne
	£10 Meat Voucher from Denshams Butchers
	Styling Session for 4 Ladies with Champagne at The White Coco Salon, Burford
	6 Week Adult Football Session at Witney Vikings
	£10 Voucher for The Steamhouse at UE Coffee Roasters
	2 Loaf Cakes from GAILS Bakery
	2x Witney Prints from Local Artist Sally Middleton
	Idlewild Hair Salon Voucher



Together, we can make a difference.

All proceeds support Witney & West Oxfordshire Foodbank and help families in our local community.

Thank you for your support! ★★

We are...
**here to help
anyone who
needs it.**

- **Benefit entitlements**
- **Money and debt issues**
- **Housing and renting issues**
- **Work and employment rights**
- **Managing your energy bills**



Volunteer with us and make a real difference.

In 2025/26, we supported over 18,000 people with over 71,000 issues across Oxfordshire. As a charity, we couldn't do what we do without our amazing volunteers.

Find out more and join us: www.caox.org.uk/volunteering

**citizens
advice**

Oxfordshire

0808 169 6031
www.caox.org.uk



COGGES MANOR FARM



Summer at Cogges Manor Farm

From the Cogges Summer Festival to the Summer Fete and Party in the Barn, there's something for everyone to enjoy.

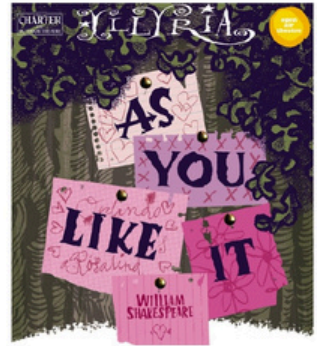
Plus, enjoy open-air theatre performances on the Manor lawn, with a bar, snacks and ice cream available- perfect for a summer evening outdoors.

Head to our website for more details and tickets.

SUMMER FETE & PARTY IN THE BARN

Saturday 27th June
Fete 11am - 4pm
Party 4pm - 9pm

Join us for a day filled with fete fun, with Cogges BBQ and Bar on hand, and then get ready to boogie in our Wheat Barn to live local bands!



TWELFTH NIGHT TRUTH TOLD

Thursday 9th July & Friday 10th July
6.30pm - 8.30pm

Set in the mythical land of Illyria, 'Twelfth Night' is a timeless comedy that unfolds with wit, mischief, and mistaken identities.

THE COGGES SUMMER FESTIVAL

Saturday 8th August
12pm - 10pm

We will have 50+ locally produced craft beers and ciders, Cogges BBQ, entertainment and live music all afternoon and evening.

AS YOU LIKE IT ILLYRIA

Thursday 27th August
6.30pm - 9pm

In 'As You Like It', Shakespeare explores Love in all its guises. Join him this summer for a memorable night of laughter and romance under the stars.

Witney & District Museum

SUMMER 2026

JULY 11TH WITNEY CARNIVAL

Visit us at Witney Carnival to find out more about the museum and get a little crafty!

EVERY
WEDNESDAY
22 JULY-
26 AUG

MUSEUM EXPLORERS

Free drop in workshop for families.
10:30am-1pm

Explore Witney's history and get hands on in our craft area.

TOURS HERITAGE TOURS

Various Dates - please see our website
£10 per person

Step back in time and explore the rich history of Witney on our engaging heritage walking tours!

For more information visit our website:

