



## MAYOR OF WITNEY - NEW YEAR MESSAGE



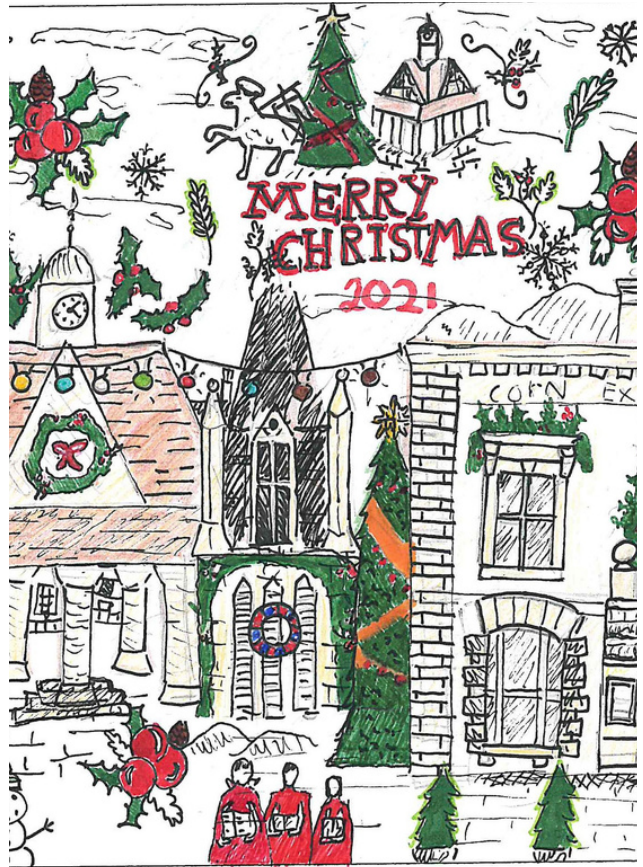
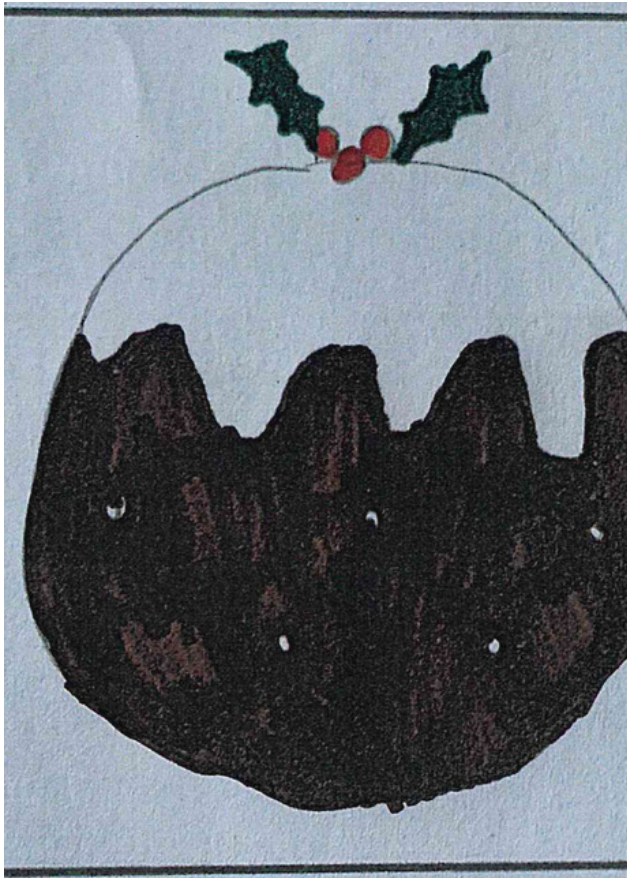
Happy New Year!

Cllr Joy Aitman, Mayor of Witney shares an inspirational quote encouraging the community of Witney to continue to be active and 'do our little bit of good wherever we are'.

[Watch Now](#)



# OUR COMPETITION WINNERS 2021



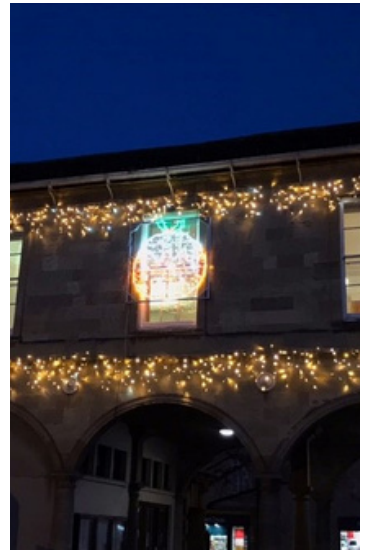
Let's take a look back at our competition winners from last year. These were the winning entries (clockwise from top left) Child's Christmas Light, Town Council Christmas Card, Cover sheet for Mayor's Carol Service and our winning Witney Wild Garden. You can discover more about the [winners and runners up on this link](#)



# CHRISTMAS LIGHTS 2021

The Christmas Lights Contract for 2021-2023 was put out to tender in March 2021 and awarded to Lite Ltd.

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency in 2019 the environmental impact of the lights was an important factor. Timing devices were fitted to the power connections to control the operational hours of the lighting, reducing energy usage. All the lights are LED. The Lights on the Town Hall will also be fitted with a timer for Christmas 2022.



Christmas Lights photos courtesy of Adam Clapton



# PARK ROAD PLAY AREA UPDATE



A £30,000 makeover project to give Park Road play area a long-awaited new lease of life has seen some new additions to the activity play provision.

The park, which opened in the autumn, already features bright and colourful equipment designed to stimulate imaginative and active play and appeal to toddlers and young children.

The inclusion of three new painted street games on an old area of concrete completes the revamp.

## NEW PEDESTRIAN ACCESS FOR TOWER HILL CEMETERY



Work is continuing at Tower Hill Cemetery where an additional pedestrian entrance will be created, following an audit on disability access by experts last year. To make the cemetery as accessible as possible, the new entrance will be located in the wall that runs along the northern end of the cemetery.

[Read More](#) including a comment from Councillor Mel Jones.

# SERVICE FOCUS - YOUTH GRANTS

Since launching in August 2020 Witney Town Council's £30,000, Youth Grants pot continues to be seen as a vital source of funding. [Discover more about the funding and how to apply.](#)

Here is how this year's funding has been allocated:

Got2B Community Interest Company was awarded £18,693 towards a second detached/in house youth session, following need demonstrated last year.

Home Start Oxford received £9,318 to improve their befriending services in Witney – supporting babies and preschool children and their parents, through a range of groups.

Oxfordshire Music and Arts have been awarded £7,668 for a six month program of tutorial sessions and band camp experiences aiming to culminate in a Youth Festival. The sessions are available to youths who are under privileged, excluded or vulnerable.

Synolos has been granted £4,068 for quality resources to kit out their Step 2 Safe Space which will provide stimulating and rewarding activities for young Autistic people.



# SERVICE FOCUS - COMMUNITY GRANTS

Witney Town Council awards discretionary grants to local community organisations working within the town to assist them with what they do, help fund the purchase of new equipment or help with a particular event or activity. It also considers discretionary subsidised hire requests for the letting of its venues.

Grants awarded in 2021/22 are as follows:

£994.31 – 2120 (Witney) Squadron R.A.F Air Cadets towards life-saving equipment

£500.00 – Rotary Club of Witney towards Witney Colour Run

£385.00 – Witney Parkrun towards a portable defibrillator

£2310.00 – Witney Day Centre towards a community Men's shed project

£2079.00 – Witney Mills Cricket Club towards a new pitch lawnmower

£500.00 – Witney Town Band

# THE WITNEY MAN SHED

Witney Day Centre received a Community Grant of £2,310 last year toward their Men's Shed project. [Find out more about the Men's Sheds initiative](#)

Although known as a Man Shed it is a community space for all.



The shed is currently under construction at Ceewood Hall and will provide a place which nurtures social connections and friendship, the sharing of knowledge and skills or just conversation and companionship.

Its main purposes are to promote good mental and physical health and to tackle loneliness and isolation. It is hoped that items made and produced by those visiting the Shed may be sold to help offset and sustain the running costs of The Witney Shed.

The Shed, will open every Monday starting in February 22.



## Rusty Riders

**Want to start cycling or get back into cycling?  
Want to improve your confidence to ride  
with your children?**

Rides of 2 – 5 miles on quiet roads and tracks  
including a coffee stop.

Each ride will be run by 2 qualified ride leaders.

*The*  
**BIG BIKE**  
*Revival*



**Fridays 11am: Jan 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, Feb 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Windrush Bike Project. 152B Corn Street, Witney. OX28 6BY**

**Borrow a bike for the ride from our workshop**

**Rides are FREE – reserve your place**

[www.bookwhen.com/windrushbikeproject?tag=rides](http://www.bookwhen.com/windrushbikeproject?tag=rides)

email: [admin@windrushbikeproject.uk](mailto:admin@windrushbikeproject.uk)



# WITNEY - A FAIRTRADE TOWN

It's no surprise that a town like Witney should be a Fairtrade Town – but what is it and what does being a Fair Trade Town mean? Wendy from the Witney Area Fair Trade Action Group (WAFTAG) sent us an article all about Fair Trade, with an appeal for help to continue with the group's aims.

In 2006, a small, but passionate group of individuals in Witney launched WAFTAG. There was much support for Fairtrade in shops and businesses and among the population, and after much hard work and awareness raising the group managed to gain the necessary council support. A suitable resolution was passed and in June 2011 Witney proudly celebrated becoming the 1000th Fairtrade town in the world!

Today Witney has a range of Fair Trade goods widely available across the town. Local people recognise the Fairtrade Mark and understand that it guarantees that the goods they buy with that mark have come from producers who get a fairer share of the money paid for them. It helps us be mindful of the origins of much of our food, something that we can easily lose sight of with, today's easily available, conveniently packaged supermarket foods.



Witney's Fairtrade group has been an active one that has been fundamental in raising awareness of the fight for trade and social justice in the town and changing public attitudes.

You may have come across one of their events or seen them taking part in the In Bloom planting with their containers on the Leys complete with bee boxes and sustainable planting schemes.

Members of WAFTAG still have the same passion for the movement that they have always had but they are a smallish group and are looking to recruit some additional members and would love to hear from some energetic new supporters. If you have an interest in Fair Trade and would like to be involved, please contact Michael Richards on: [richardsem@gmail.com](mailto:richardsem@gmail.com)

**Important dates:**

Fairtrade Fortnight Feb 21-March 6th 2022

International Fairtrade Day May 7th 2022

[Read More of Wendy's article](#)

# THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



Witney Town Council is planning for how it will mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June.

It is also exploring what events community groups are planning, in order to support and facilitate some of these. This is an opportunity for all members of the community to celebrate together after two very difficult years.

If your group or organisation is planning an event or project please get in touch and let us know all about it, so that we can include it in our promotion of events for the Jubilee.

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

## PANTO RETURNS TO THE CORN EXCHANGE



Review and photo courtesy of Tom Smith

It was fantastic to welcome Pantomime back into the Corn Exchange this Christmas, Buttercross Theatre Company performed a magical show to a full house of enthusiastic children and adults alike, and everyone got into the panto spirit. From water pistols and sweets, to the ugly sisters arriving on scooters, great fun was had by all!

Oh no it wasn't, oh yes it was!!!!

It was also a great opportunity to showcase the new sound and lighting installation along with the stage curtains and other fittings, all part of Phase II of the redevelopment of The Corn Exchange currently underway.

You can keep up with what's on at [The Corn Exchange](http://TheCornExchange.com) website



# SIGN UP FOR LOCAL FLOOD ALERTS



Our winters have tended to be very wet in recent years.

You can sign up for flood alerts on the .gov website. It allows you to select a national area for alerts across the UK, but you can also enter your postcode to focus in on flood alerts just for your town.

## IN AN EMERGENCY

With much of our winter still ahead here is a timely reminder about our website page, [In An Emergency](#).

If you can prepare and make a contingency plan and know what to do and who to contact, it makes it much easier to deal with an emergency effectively.

This page has useful contact numbers and links to other information pages.

It has some really useful links for residents seeking help in emergencies.



Witan Way photo courtesy of Polly Inness

# AWARENESS DAYS FOR JAN/FEB

**Know how to  
be energy  
efficient?**

Citizens Advice working in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust is running a social media campaign focused on providing up to date information which will help consumers take action to save money and energy in their homes this winter.

You can find lots of hints and tips on how make your home more energy efficient, reduce your carbon emissions and lower your energy bills at the Energy Saving Trust site.

**#EnergyKnowHow**



AWARENESS DAYS FOR JAN/FEB



# Big

## Garden Birdwatch

28-30 January 2022



# AWARENESS DAYS FOR JAN/FEB



## Children's Mental Health Week 2022 - Growing Together

From 7-13 February 2022, schools, youth groups, organisations and individuals across the UK will take part in Children's Mental Health Week. This year's theme is Growing Together.

Growing Together is about growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt and trying new things can help us to move beyond our comfort zone into a new realm of possibility and potential. However, emotional growth is often a gradual process that happens over time, and sometimes we might feel a bit 'stuck'.

For Children's Mental Health Week 2022, we will be encouraging children (and adults) to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. 1 in 6 children and young people have a diagnosable mental health problem, and many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement.



# OUR CALENDAR OF MEETINGS

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, other important documents and information, and you can subscribe to updates here too. There is also a useful search feature if you are looking for something in particular

[Click the image to visit the web page](#)



The screenshot shows the Witney Town Council website. At the top left is the council's crest. To its right, the text "WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL" is displayed in a green serif font. Below the header is a breadcrumb trail: "You are here: Meetings, agenda, minutes". A vertical navigation menu on the right side lists: Calendar, Committee, Decisions, Library, Meetings, Search doc, Subscribe!, Councillors, What's New, and Logon. The main content area is titled "Meetings, agendas and minutes" and contains a grid of ten icons with labels: Calendar (calendar icon), Committees (organizational chart icon), Decisions (handshake icon), Library (book icon), Meetings (grid icon), Search documents (magnifying glass icon), Subscribe to updates (bell icon), Councillors (group of people icon), What's New (sunburst icon), and Archived Minutes (text label).

**WITNEY** TOWN COUNCIL 

