



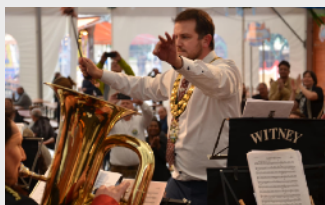
WITNEY TOWN BAND

Good Luck Oscar!

Oscar Archibald (Eb Bass), has been part of the band for a number of years and even gave us the pleasure of performing with him, as part of his A-level music studies. Oscar is now taking a step back from the band, as he goes on to study Film Production at university.

Congratulations and Good Luck!

Who's that Guy?



Whilst in Unterhaching, Germany, the band found themselves under the direction, of their local Mayor, Councillor Owen Collins.

Going Strong!

We'd rather not revisit the dreaded pandemic years, but one thing Witney Town Band are proud of, is that we stuck together through it all. Unfortunately, group activities in many forms suffered a lot during the pandemic, including brass banding. Like many though, we made online videos (which you can still view if you're in need of a chuckle) and met virtually every week for a quiz, until we could rehearse together again. The quizzes, of course, were definitely testing our music theory.... A lot changed during the pandemic, but still the band comes together each week to practise, but most importantly enjoy, making music.



Nobody enjoys a rehearsal as much as our cornet player, Sophie, when Jingle Bells is put on the stands though!

It's Judgement Time

Back in February, the band took part in the Oxfordshire & District Brass Band Association contest. The band were thrilled that their performance earned them First place, winning the Fourth section! It's not always about winning, but it did give the band a little boost ahead of the regional London and Southern Counties Brass Band Contest, which took place in March.



The annual contest is always an enjoyable day out for the band, despite the early start, and was attended this year by Mr Alan Fernie himself, the composer of the 2024 Regionals Fourth Section Contest piece. If you don't recognise the name, you will most certainly recognise some of his arrangements in our programmes.

The band then took part in another contest in October, though the hardest part this time was making sure we got all the laughing out of our systems before keeping a straight face during the performance. The picture speaks for itself....

Thanks so much to the ODBBA and volunteers for another year of well-organised contests. Thank you also to the regional associations, who bring players from all over the country together.



Out and About

Over the last year, the band have been taking part, supporting and celebrating with the people of Witney and the wider community. Take a look at what we've been up to:



Above: **D-Day 80th Anniversary Ceremony**, 6th June

Right: **Richmond Village**, 27th July



Left: **Concert in the Park, Witney Leys**, 3rd August

Right: **Black Bourton Fete**, 1st September



Left: **Combe Feast**, 11th August

Below: **Witney Feast Church Service**, 15th September

Right: **Witney in Pink**, 28th September



You blew us away...

Last year, the band welcomed Eric Byers with open arms, having been on a mission to join a local band after not playing in many years.

Eric started learning the trombone as a young child, over in America. Having set his mind on other adventures, Eric set the Trombone aside. Not only has Eric started playing again, but he has excelled in his performance and technique. Within a just a few weeks of joining the band Eric had already learnt to read music in another clef (which is no easy task), and showed real commitment to developing his skills and to the band. Unable to attend any Christmas concerts, it was a delight to have Eric's parents join the band for a Christmas rehearsal, whilst on a visit to the UK. It was the first time they had seen Eric play since taking the Trombone up again. Eric has given so much to the band, for the short time he's been with us and we are sad to see him go.

We wish him well as he moves on to pastures new.

Spotlight on...

Members of the Training Band have had their own successes too!

Huge congratulations to **Patrick** and **Lewis**, who were joint winners of the **most outstanding contribution award**, which is presented annually.



A Home from Home

Taking a bit of Witney with them, some of the band set off for Unterhaching, Germany in July. The band last performed there back in 2019, for the 30th Anniversary celebrations of the twinning partnership between the two towns. After a bit of a rough start, including cancelled flights, lost instruments and a bit of sleep deprivation, the group made a series of appearances, performing for the people of Unterhaching (and those who were just visiting for the football!). They had a great time, sharing music with our friends in Germany.



Training Band Update

The training band have continued to improve both as individual players and as a group. Aside from rehearsals, they have been busy with end-of-term concerts, summer fetes and taking part in the ODBBA Brass Festival. The band even got into the football spirit and performed 'Three Lions' at their summer concert in July.

Keep an eye out for information of the Training Band's next performance, which will be their Christmas end of term concert, at the Witney Methodist Church.

New players are always welcome. The band accepts players of any age, with a minimum standard of Grade 1 playing. Rehearsals are Tuesday, 18:00 - 19:00, at the Witney Methodist Church (term time only).

For more information on how to get involved with the Training Band, please contact Ali Howes: secretary@witneytownband.org.uk





Feeling Festive? See what's in store

- **29th November:** Christmas Fayre, *Bampton Garden Centre*, 18:30
- **1st December:** Advent Fair, *Witney*, 11:00 - 13:00
- **2nd December:** *Hailey Christmas Concert*, 19:30 - 21:30
- **6th December:** *Witney Mayors Carol Concert*, 19:00, *St Mary's Church*
- **10th December:** *Woodstock Probus Carols*, 18:30
- **14th December:** *Oxford Bowls Club Christmas Concert*, 19:30 - 21:30
- **22nd December:** *Richmond Village Christmas Concert*, *Witney*
- *Keep an eye out for us around Witney and Carterton throughout December and join the band for some caroling!*



Get in touch

Find us on Facebook:

Witney Town Band

Email us at:

secretary@witneytownband.org.uk

Visit our website:

witneytownband.org.uk

What's in store for 2025...?

We already have things in the diary for the next year, but if you would like to hear the band perform at one of your events, don't hesitate to contact us.



WITNEY
TOWN COUNCIL

