

Witney Pride • 12.00pm - 6.00pm • Saturday 25th July 2020

Objectives & Outcomes

Witney Pride provides an opportunity for local LGBTIQ+ people with their friends and families to come together to celebrate diversity and equality. In addition to the annual Witney Pride Picnic, and online community group, regular events that provide entertainment and information are arranged throughout the year to help reduce social isolation and encourage social engagement. Witney Pride is working towards becoming the focal point for local LGBTIQ+ people and those from the surrounding villages of rural West Oxfordshire.

As we build upon the 50 years since the New York Stonewall rebellion in 1969, Pride events continue to empower and inspire people and communities. Oxford Pride has continued to grow since it started in 2003 and now in 2020 Witney is proud to be a part of a network of volunteer organisations who are planning events around the county in Abingdon, Banbury and Didcot. This is part of a national trend that has seen a dramatic increase in grassroots LGBT+ community groups developing to help and support their local communities.

Event Overview

Following the success of the first Witney Pride Picnic on Church Green last year, it is the intention to move to the south side of St Mary's Church onto The Leys. In addition, this year there will be more ways for people to interact and get to know each other at a traditional sports day with a twist including activities like egg and spoon sprint, sack race, tug-of-war, handbag throwing, and the Unicorn Race.

We are continuing to develop working relationships with local businesses, Henry Box School and St Mary's Church, and will provide an opportunity for local and LGBT+ community groups to have a stall at the event. With around 100 people attending last year, it is anticipated that up to 400 people may visit during the day with 200 at any one time. All health, safety and welfare provisions will be in accordance with the HSE Event Safety Guide and WODC licensing regulations.

Pride March

A small pedestrian Pride March is also in planning that would provide visibility with minimal disruption to traffic and pedestrians. Please see attached map for the proposed routes.

1) Meeting by clock tower the March would head west through the open walkway (ensuring sound is minimised) towards Market Square and turn left, remaining on the pedestrianised area thereby passing the Saturday Market. Upon reaching Witney Town Council the March will cross the Langdale Gate toward the inspiration for our logo and continue along the east side of Market Square towards Church Green.

2) Based on the annual 'Good Friday procession' the March would start from the forecourt of Methodist Church (40 Hight St) and travels south to Church Green via Market Square.

It is estimated about 100-200 people would attend and the March would take no more than 3-5min to pass one point. Experienced steward will ensure the participants move safely and stay compressed to minimise the length of the March..

A full risk assessment is being made to ensure that all participants and members of the public are kept safe at all times. Stewards in high-vis will assist in the controlled movement of the March along the route with particular focus on crossing the road by the Town Hall to minimise any disruption to buses and local traffic.

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Location

The Leys (North-east corner) will allow Witney Pride to become established in a suitable location that enables growth and develop based on the same style of family friendly picnic.

Emergency Access

Emergency access will be maintained around the site with all sides kept clear at all times in order to maintain fire egress from The Leys or the corner of Station Lane.

Transport

The use of Public transport is encouraged and details of these, along with local parking sites, will be provided on the website.

Entertainment

The event will feature a tent (6m x 12m) with PA. This structure will be professional installed and removed and will have a CO2 and H2O extinguisher. There will be a host and local entertainment plus music again will be provided by Windrush Radio.

There will also be an interactive traditional sports day with a twist, including activities like egg and spoon sprint, sack race, tug-of-war, handbag throwing, and the Unicorn Race.

Noise

Sound levels will be kept within licensing regulations and monitored by the Event Manager.

Stalls

There will be a mixture of LGBTI+ community stalls including Witney Pride information.

Toilets

There will be two individual units and one accessible toilet unit professional provided.

Waste Management

The site will have additional waste and recycling bins located around the site. Bins will be monitored by volunteers. All waste will be cleared away.

Catering

People are encouraged to bring own food from home to the Picnic or to shop locally. Onsite catering is being considered for future events and would be in individual units with all their details and questionnaires passed on to environmental health for inspection.

Bars

We are discussing the provision of a licensed bars with local partners Moon Bar and in discussion with Oxbrew to make a Witney Pride beer. This is yet to be confirmed so may be for future years. Additional infrastructure related to the sale of alcohol would be incorporated into the event management if this is confirmed.

After the Pride Picnic closes there will be opportunities for people to continue their day at our partner venues that will be licensed and will provide more entertainment into the night.

Management of Anti Social Behaviour

The event is open to all members of the public unless they are causing offence or a nuisance or appear to be under the effect of alcohol and drugs and will be asked to leave.

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Security and Stewarding

There will be trained stewards from within the community on duty throughout the duration of the event.

Sun and Weather Protection

Volunteers will be advised to wear suitable clothing and footwear for working at the event. Attendees will be reminded at regular intervals via the PA about exposure to the sun and dehydration. If it rains, there is space inside the tent for 100-150 people and volunteers will be provided with ponchos.

First Aid

First Aid will be on duty throughout the duration of the event provided by EMC and Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue who will again be present with Fire fighters and the Rainbow Fire Engine will be at the event.

Lost Children

Lost children will be taken to the Witney Pride information stall and cared for by DBS checked committee members and all documentation filled out.

Volunteers

Local volunteers have been helping throughout the year. Additional experienced Pride volunteers will also be attending to help the safe management including from Reading, Swindon, Banbury, Abingdon and former chairs from Oxford.

Witney Pride Committee Contact List:

- Chair & Communications - Beth Sherlock
- Secretary - Claire Sherlock
- Treasurer & Operations - Mazz Image (DBS)
- H&S Officer - Debbie Brixey (DBS)
- Creative - Gemma Fryer
- St Mary's Church - Ross Meikle

Attachments:

- Map of The Leys
- Map of Parade Route/s
- Risk Assessment (to follow)
- Event Management Plan (to follow)