

WEST HENDRED

JANUARY 2021 ***NEWSLETTER***

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE!

IMPORTANT!

This month's newsletter will not be distributed as a hard copy. Please can we ask that, if you know of any neighbours who may not have access to the internet, you print a copy off for them and pop it through their door. Thank you.

For the most up to date Government advice regarding the Coronavirus, please go to <https://gov.uk/coronavirus>

Your Village Help Co-ordinators :

If you need help with shopping of collecting prescriptions. Please get in touch with any of the following people:

**Nigel Findley
07900 554537**

Nigel.findley@westhendred.net

**Angela Findley
07775 863350**

Angela.findley@westhendred.net

**Stefan Povolotsky
07460 727374**

Stefan.povolotsky@sky.com

Citizens Advice can guide you through a claim for benefits

As the cold weather closes in with biting frosts and long, depressing hours of darkness, the combined effects of the pandemic and financial problems threaten to drive us into a pit of total despondency. But if lack of money is your problem, take heart because there could be a way to take control of the situation: you might be entitled to receive benefits and Citizens Advice can help you all the way.

If you are unemployed, have a low income, an illness or disability, or are caring for somebody, you could get Universal Credit. This also applies to the self-employed. The amount you might get depends on your individual circumstances. Always do a benefits check before starting an application. Don't forget that if you need help with paying Council Tax you need to apply to the District Council.

Even if you are not a UK citizen you might be able to get some benefits, and if you already receive benefits, you could get more because of Covid-19.

All the information is on the Citizens Advice website <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk>. Also have a look at the government website www.gov.uk where benefits rules are signposted on the home page. There are some reliable online benefit calculators like benefits-calculator.turn2us.org.uk

In order to apply for benefits you will need to assemble all the relevant information: details of your bank or building society accounts; your income, e.g. payslips and savings; and proof of identity.

Citizens Advice has a dedicated "Help to claim" team to get you started on claiming benefits. Phone us on 0800 144 8444 (Mon-Fri 0800 to 1800) or use webchat (same hours). Appointments in person are not available at present.

Holy Trinity Church West Hendred Oxford Historic Churches Ride and Stride

This year's sponsored event took place on Saturday 12th September. Fortunately the weather was good – sunny with light winds – not too hot, and no rain!

As we go to press, we've just got the grand total – a very impressive £848-50 for these Covid times!

This year I did streamlined route from West Hendred to Oxford. Many churches decided to participate in the last week or so. I went from West Hendred, via East Hendred to Steventon then Milton, and on to Sutton Courtney, where there were several other St/riders. From there, I went to Abingdon on a cycle track near the Thames, and then on via Peachcroft to Radley, and next to Iffley for lunch. After a short break, I headed to the centre of Oxford, and bumped into Lizzy and Angela outside the United Reform Church in Alfred street, which is off High Street, and then again at St. Aldates, and the Cathedral. From there, across the Thames again to Holyrood, a really nice modern-style Roman Catholic church just south of Folly Bridge. From there, I cycled via St. Frideswides on Osney island to Binsey, and its ancient holy well, then across the Thames again and Port Meadow to St Barnabas in Jericho, a glorious mixture of English Ravenna meets Torcello! I finished in North Oxford.

My target a week before the Ride & Stride had been about 30 churches – failed again – with a handful more than the target.

A big thank you goes to our St/riders , Nadine, Ollie, Sam and David Haigh, Harry and Julian Taylor, as well as Angela and Lizzie Findley.

Thank you to all who have sponsored.
Hugh Rees

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2020

After an unavoidable delay due to the second lockdown, I am pleased to say that the shoeboxes have now begun the journey to extremely needy children overseas. Thank you so much to all those who supported this appeal during such a difficult year with donations of filled boxes, gifts and cash donations. We wish you all a safe and brighter New Year.

Patsy and Angela

A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO THIS BEAUTIFUL VILLAGE FOR THE CHRISTMAS PARCEL. IT WAS DELIGHTFUL AND GAVE SO MUCH PLEASURE AT THE END OF A VERY DISMAL YEAR. GOD BLESS YOU ALL. SUE AT THE BARNYARD.

♪♪♪ Thank you to the Joyful Carol Singers ♪♪♪

Due to the latest restrictions this year we had to limit groups to six, socially distanced adults or families, so everyone had to sing out to be heard!

Thank you to everyone who sang so beautifully, particularly the children with such clear voices. Also Thank you to those who donated, in whatever way.

We raised over £203 for Helen and Douglas House Children's Hospice, who offer support to families caring for a terminally ill child, even at Christmas.

Hopefully hearing the carols singers spread some Christmas joy too! ♪♪♪

The deadline for items for next month's newsletter is 25th January. Please email to newsletter@westhendred.net or hand to Janet Trotman, Tean, The Millham

WEST HENDRED AND GINGE VILLAGE HALL NEWS

HALL LETTINGS

All hall enquiries/bookings should be made via email to villagehallbookings@westhendred.net . Web Site: www.westhendred.net .

Covid-19

The Government requires that 'Community centres, youth centres and similar', must close with the exception that 'Facilities may remain open for the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks or homeless services.'

The Last Year - 2020

Much of the past twelve months has been "the year that wasn't" for Hall activities, as we went to one dependent from mid-March upon strictures around Covid-19.

We've received generous support from the Vale of White Horse District Council to see us through these Covid times. Events ranging from Jazz in the Village to the Beer Festival and the QI Quiz and Curry Supper all had to be postponed – to we know not when, but we very much hope some time in 2021.

Of the hall's events:

The year began with a wide array of regular activities, including **Yoga, Pilates, Konga, West Hendred Stitches, Youth Club** and our Mother and Toddler Group **Boogie Mites**, all well-attended. Some of these have been able to resume on Zoom or, when regulations permitted, in the Hall with due attention to hygiene and distancing; some regular activities have sadly not been able to resume.

The last quarter has seen Puppy Classes begin, which we are very excited about and look forward to being able to expand next year.

Let's hope that not too far into 2021, everyone can get back to their favourite Village Hall activities. Meanwhile, we are hugely grateful to those who have enabled anything to continue at all!

Of the things that did happen, three particular highlights were:

- May's exhibition in the windows of the Hall celebrating local trees, arranged by **Mirren Kessling**. This brought much joy to many of us.
- The **Swap Shop** arranged by **Jenni Dimbylow** in the summer holidays saw large number of books, DVDs, puzzles and games changing hands and providing amusement not just for the Village's children but also for many adults.
- The **Artmasters** Village Art Club - run by **Floss and Hettie Masters** - whose Nativity Exhibition is in our Hall windows at the moment!

And finally, a big Christmas thank you to **Jasmine and Kitty Spurgeon**, with support from Angela Findley and WHPC, for creating the wonderful Christmas present bags which have been given out in West Hendred.

Annabel and my bookshop and snowdrop sales in January and February raised just over £165 for the Hall – it seems an age ago but thank you to those of you who came and bought. We also held pop-up Christmas card sales in November for Holy Trinity Church, which raised over £225 towards its repairs fund.

West Hendred Village Hall's AGM was held on 13th August. Since then, our application to the Charity Commission for the Hall to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) has been approved. This is so that the hall's Trustees will no longer have unlimited financial

liability. We are now getting a new bank account set up and transferring the assets of the original charity to the new CIO. After this is all done, the original charity will be wound up and we will hold the first AGM of the new (CIO) charity.

Last but not least, we have purchased a large storage container which is situated behind the Hall. This is to store chairs and other Hall furniture not in constant use, so that there is more space in the Hall for activities and event. The **Doris Field Charitable Trust** provided a grant of £1,000 towards this.

As we go to press, we are waiting for BT to enable Wi-Fi in the Hall; watch this space!

My thanks to the Committee, to our hirers and to everyone who has used the Hall and helped us through a difficult year.

Hugh Rees

Puppy School – small socially distanced course at the moment

We are currently running a small, socially distanced course and hoping to continue running 6-week courses for vaccinated pups under 20 weeks old in 2021. (Hopeful but not advertising just yet!)

For more information please get in touch. debbennison@puppyschool.co.uk or for more information see www.puppyschool.co.uk

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE HALL WOULD USUALLY INCLUDE:

KONGA - POSTPONED

For more information Contact Rachel Lock on 07801 824293.

Youth Club - sadly cancelled for the foreseeable future

For more information, please contact Penny Meston on 01235 832113.

Mother and Baby/Toddler Group Monday mornings' – POSTPONED

West Hendred Stitches - POSTPONED

Further information from Jane Soffe 01235 832554

Pilates - Mondays 7 to 8 pm on ZOOM, Weds 6 to 7 pm, and 7.20 to 8.20 pm

I will now be running the Zoom class on Monday evenings at 7-8pm.

This is aimed at all ages and abilities and a free taster session is available for any new clients that are interested. The cost is £8 to drop in or £35 for a block of 5.

The Wednesday evening classes are roughly the same: 6-7pm and 7.20-8.20pm.

The cost is £11 drop in or £50 for a block of 5. In all cases 24 hours notice of cancellation is required. Please contact Charlie Prince on 07581 462 317, or charlie@princepilates.co.uk, or see Charlie's website for more information about classes etc. www.princepilates.co.uk

YOGA

Fridays 9.30 – 10.30 am Hatha Yoga – via Zoom

Tuesdays 10 – 11am – Gentle / chair yoga – via Zoom

Tuesdays 6 – 7 Teen Yoga with mindfulness – via Zoom this half term

I am also hoping to run some extra classes at different times. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact me on 01235 863647

or linda@soderstrom.myzen.co.uk New students welcome! Linda

Village Hall Committee Contacts

Hugh Rees (Chair) 01235-833174 / 07802-416031

Sarah Lloyd 01235-833373