**Parish Council News**

The Parish Council website (www.westhendred.org) is a useful information point where you can find out about local news, council meeting dates and minutes, PC accounts, responses to planning application and consultations, policies and procedures, contact details for your councillors and clerk, and finally contact details for local amenities and organisations.  

Next Parish Council meeting—8th March 2018 at 7.30pm at the Village Hall  
Parish Clerk: parishcouncilclerk@westhendred.net (email) or 833466 (phone).

Warning Lights on the A417  
The warning lights and sign plates on the A417 have been installed at a cost of £3780 which the Parish Council has taken from reserves. Donations toward the cost would be gratefully received.

Planning  
Planning application reference P18/V0135/FUL—Land East of Ginge Road. Application for erection of three agricultural buildings and hard standing. Details can be found on the Vale website.

Harrassment  
In November we received a report that a child on a bicycle had been harassed on The Furlong. We ask all residents to keep their eyes and ears open and report all such incidents to the Police on 101, with a copy to the Parish Council as we are keeping a log of these issues.

Community Led Plan  
The Parish Council received the Community Led Plan (CLP) in 2016. Since then the Parish Council has reviewed the CLP and has incorporated its recommendations in to the Village 5 Year Plan 2017-2021 (VP). In doing this, the Parish Council has decided on the priorities of work and taken into account the immediate and longer term needs of the village as well as the fluctuating policies of local Government. The Parish Council will report VP progress regularly on the website.

A417 Group  
Several years ago our then County Councillor Stewart Lilly established a group consisting of Parish Councillors from the villages along the A417 corridor and members of Oxfordshire County Council.
Highways. The objective of the group was to consider improvements to the A417. The group has created designs for various improvements, which have also been costed. However, the group cannot make any further progress because there is no money available to implement the improvements. Therefore, it is with regret that our new County Councillor, Mike Fox-Davies, has wound up the group.

Richard Evans, Chairman.

Coffee Morning

West Hendred Village Hall
Sunday 11th February 9:30-11:30
Tea, coffee, cake
Craft for the children
Raising money for Shelter and the Village Hall.

Holy Trinity Church West Hendred
Revd. Elizabeth Birch leaving Wantage Downs Benefice

Our Rector, Elizabeth, is ending her time as Rector here at the end of February. She has decided to resign from full-time ministry.

We would like to thank Elizabeth for all she has done for us over the last eight and a half years. There are lots of people she has talked to at various occasions in their lives, and she has brought comfort to many at times of need. Elizabeth has taken us all forward a very great way over the years she has been with us. Just one example is the Benefice Website. Elizabeth not only got this to happen, organised it to be up and going, then has championed it, and recently got it improved – a real step to help us all into the 21st century.

Her final services will be on Sunday 25th February. There is Holy Communion at Holy Trinity Church at 9AM that day. A message from Bishop Colin will be read out at the services on that day. Please do come along and join us. There is also an additional Holy Communion service at Lockinge at 6PM.

Please see the Wantage Downs Benefice website http://www.wantagedownsbenefice.com

The Diocese has commenced the formal appointment process for Elizabeth’s successor. This process is not quick, not least due to a need for a period of prayer, reflection and discernment. The appointment usually takes several months, and not uncommonly over a year. We send our very best wishes to Elizabeth as she moves forward beyond full-time ministry.

West Hendred Parochial Church Council

East & West Hendred W.I

Meeting on Thurs Feb 15th.
Speaker Shelley Edwards
Trading Standards Awareness.
Snells Hall 7.30pm Visitors Welcome.

Church Services at West Hendred Church in February

Sunday 4th Morning Prayer 9 am
Sunday 11th Morning Prayer 9 am
Benefice Communion 10:30
Sunday 18th Family Service 9 am
Sunday 25th Holy Communion 9 am

Attracting Unusual Suspects Workshop
How can we get more volunteers involved in our communities? If you are struggling to find and attract new people to volunteer within your community, then this free workshop is for you.
Date: 5th February
Time: 9.45am to 1:15pm
Venue: Harwell Village Hall, High Street, Harwell, OX11 0EX
Free of Charge
To register and for further information:
Snow Guide
A simple guide to snow clearance

Snow clearing: Communities and property owners can help themselves and improve the safety of their area by undertaking simple snow clearance activities as soon as snow falls.

Will I get sued? NO! There is no law to prevent the clearing of snow outside your house or on the pavement. Occupiers of properties have a legal responsibility to ensure their paths are safe to prevent visitor injuries.

The snow code. Be Careful! Don’t be afraid to clear paths in fear someone will get injured. People walking on snow and ice have the responsibility to be careful. Don’t make the pathways more dangerous by causing them to refreeze.

Gritting and clearing pavements and residential areas: What can I use? Grit and sharp sand, Dishwasher salt, Table salt, Soda crystals. Suitable tools: Plastic lightweight shovel, Regular shovel (however the snow will stick and be less efficient) Domestic grass seed spreader, Scoop or trowel, Wheelbarrow to move tools or snow

How much salt? Less than you think! A small handful should clear and protect 1m (3ft) of surface. Therefore to treat 400m (1320ft) of pavement, a 20kg bag of salt will be sufficient.

How to grit your path: Clearing snow enables the sun to aid the melting and evaporation process throughout the day. Salt helps prevent the re-freezing of water that can create black ice. Clear a path using a shovel and remove the snow.

Place salt on a small trowel and shake some off as you walk along, alternatively, use a seed spreader for quicker, more efficient spreading.

Remember: salt DOES NOT remove snow or compacted ice. Using lots of salt is unnecessary, wasteful, and harmful to the environment.

Tackling compacted snow: Provide traction for people walking over compacted snow by spreading sand that will become embedded and provide grip. Use a coarse cheap sand, such as builder’s sand, cat litter, or cinders. Remember to sweep the pavement after the thaw has occurred.

Quick guide: Pre-salt the pathways before the snow. Clear the snow and ice early in the day. Use salt or sand not water. Take care when you move the snow. Offer to clear neighbour’s paths. For information on gritted roads: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/winter-maintenance

For live updates follow us on Twitter: @OxfordshireCC Oxfordshire County Council Highways and Transport Drainage Team 0845 310 1111 www.oxfordshire.gov.uk

The deadline for next month’s Newsletter is 25th February

Hand delivered items – please place your article in an envelope marked clearly “WH Newsletter” and deliver to Janet Trotman, Tean, The Milham Tel:833531 Alternatively, you can send items for inclusion to our email address: newsletter@westhendred.net
HALL LETTINGS All hall enquiries/bookings should be made via email to villagehallbookings@westhendred.net . Web Site : www.westhendred.net  .

Upcoming events – for your diary

Indian Cookery Masterclass run by Manjit Kahlon – Friday 9th February For those of you who missed out on Manjit’s culinary expertise in 2014, here is an opportunity to find out the secrets of his wonderful Indian cookery. This event is now fully booked.

QI Quiz hosted by John Lloyd with Indian Curry supper - Saturday 10th February, 7.30pm, The Village Hall. Curry supper, prepared by the Masterclass under the watchful eye of Manjit Kahlon, will be served at half time. There will be a pay bar serving draught beer, cider, wines and non-alcoholic drinks. This event is now fully booked.

REGULAR EVENTS AT THE HALL INCLUDE:

Youth Club – Friday 16th February (TBC) - 7 pm to 9pm The Youth Club meets usually on the third Friday at 7 pm. Please contact for more information, Penny Meston. Adult helpers are urgently needed! Anyone interested in helping to run the youth club should contact Penny. We need adult helpers to go on a Rota. If we get enough, it could mean only helping once or twice a year as it is a monthly Youth Group. Please contact Penny: 01235 832113.

Coffee Morning, plant, and book sale – Saturday 24th February 10 am– 12 noon Thank you to all who came to the January sale. Many nearly new cookery and childrens books! Also a variety of hardy plants, and tall snowdrops and very early snowdrops on sale “in the green”. All proceeds are for the Village Hall. Please contribute - Hugh and Annabel on 833174.

Mother and Baby/Toddler Group Monday mornings’ 10.15am to 11.45. Get together in the hall and meet/chat to other local mothers. Fathers welcome too. Just drop in

West Hendred Stitchers - meet on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays in the month 10am - 4pm. Open to everyone who’d like to stitch with friends in a warm and sociable atmosphere. Beginners welcome. Work on individual projects. Tea & coffee provided. Bring own lunch. Further information from Jane Soffe 01235 832554

Family Service – Sunday 18th February 9AM The Family Service and Sunday club at 9AM will be in the Church.

Pilates - Monday evenings 7 to 8 pm, Wednesdays 6 to 7 pm, and 7.15 to 8.15 pm Please contact Charlie Prince on 07581462317, or charlie@princepilates.co.uk , or see Charlie’s website for more information about classes etc. www.princepilates.co.uk

YOGA: Tuesdays 6 – 7pm Yoga with mindfulness for teens  Focusing on strength and flexibility as well as strategies to deal with exam stress and aid relaxation. Ideal as sport or skill for Duke of Edinburgh awards. Classes start again 12th September. Thursdays 9.15-10.45 am Yoga for beginners and improvers. Thursdays 11-12.15 Gentle yoga For further information on any of these courses and to enrol, please contact Linda on 01235 863647. (British Wheel of Yoga and TeenYoga teacher)

Village Hall Committee Contacts Hugh Rees (Chair) 01235-833174 / 07802-416031 Sarah Lloyd 01235-833373