

WEST HENDRED PARISH COUNCIL

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

**10th May 2017, 8pm in the
Village Hall**

REPORT PACK

Contents:

- 1. Chairman's Report – Cllr Evans**
- 2. Highlights from talk about Didcot Garden Town – Cllr Murray**
- 3. Report from West Hendred Youth Club – Mrs Meston**
- 4. Report from 1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group – Mr Jensen**
- 5. Report from East & West Hendred WI – Mrs Cosgrave**
- 6. Report from County Councillor – Cllr Fox-Davies**
- 7. Reports from Holy Trinity Church – Mr Jack/Mr Rees**
- 8. Report from West Hendred Village Hall – Mr Rees**
- 9. Report from The Hendreds Primary School – Mr Case**
- 10. Report from St Amunds Primary School – Mrs Kilgarrieff**
- 11. Report from The Hendreds Twinning Group – Mrs Lewis**
- 12. Report from the Parish Footpath Warden – Mr Lewis**

Thank you to all who attended on the night and to those who sent a report.

West Hendred Annual Parish Meeting 2018

Parish Council Chairman's report

Welcome ladies, gentlemen, and councilors to West Hendred's Annual Parish Meeting.

This is my 4th Annual Parish Meeting and final as Chairman of West Hendred Parish Council and I am pleased to report on the highlights of our activities during the past year.

Firstly, I would like to thank the West Hendred's Parish Councillors and Clerk for their continued commitment and support to the parish.

I would also like to thank our District and County Councillors for their continued support.

The last year has been fairly quiet compared to previous years, but the main highlight must be the implementation of the warning lights on the A417. The crossing of the A417 by school children in the morning and evening rush hours has been a concern for most parishioners. With the expected increased traffic on the A417 we had to do something. We have spent £4,617 for the purchase and implementation of the flashing lights which have been programmed to coincide with morning and evening school bus times.

Planning

This year we have had 6 planning application. These relate mainly to home extensions and improvements, but applications of note were;

- New signs for the Hare.
- And Erection of three agricultural buildings on land east of Ginge Road

Crime

I have mentioned crime in previous years as we live in a very low crime area but this year there are incidents of note;

- Theft of vehicles from Ginge
- Criminal damage to the Village Green where a tree had been cut down. We would like to thank Sarah for her kind donation of a replacement tree.
- The theft of copper and lead piping from the Hare. We had to notify Star Inns as their Security Company hadn't.
- Report of a child being harassed on the Furlong because they were riding a bike
- The kissing gate behind the church being padlocked again.

Concluding Remarks

Finally, I wish to introduce you to you our new chairman for West Hendred Parish Council, Roy Lennox, and I wish Roy all the best in the coming year.

Cllr Mike Murray gave a report on Didcot Garden Town. The Highlights were:

- The emphasis is on planned rather than organic growth.
- The scheme has been recognised as one of the better proposals.
- There is a need to protect the surrounding villages
- The big issue will be traffic

The infrastructure that will be delivered:

- Science Bridge over the railway
- Didcot-Culham link road
- Central corridor A4130
- Cycle networks

Smaller projects include the Northern relief road and housing opposite Tesco (Didcot).

The land opposite and around the railway station is a big development site. This will become the Didcot Gateway.

The Enterprise zone will bring high value jobs and STEM led employment.

142 Park Drive will become an innovation centre, mostly containing laboratory space. This has not yet been approved.

There are plans for CAV sustainable transport at Milton Park, which will trial driverless electronic vehicles.

Waste heat from the power station will be used to heat Milton Park.

A parking study is being undertaken and there will be green buffer zones around the town.

Penny Meston gave presented a report on the West Hendred Youth Club

The Youth Club is going strong. Currently around 20 children attend. Various activities are undertaken.

A new influx of 8 year olds is due.

Mrs Meston put out a request for help with the Youth Club. At the moment there is only one other person helping to run this valuable village organisation.

1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group 2017-2018

Report to West Hendred Parish Council
10th May 2018

The 1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group covers East and West Hendred, and the surrounding villages – and forms part of the King Alfred District based in Wantage. We have active Beavers (6-8 years), Cubs (8-10¹/₂ years) and Scouts (10-14 years) sections, welcoming both boys and girls.

There are currently 16 Beavers, 26 Cubs and 18 Scouts in the Group.

Beavers and Cubs meet on a Tuesday evening at Snells Hall in East Hendred:

Beavers 5.25-6.25 pm

Cubs 6.30-8.00 pm

Scouts meet on a Monday evening, in the same venue:

Scouts 7.00-9.00 pm

I only took on the role of Group Scout Leader (GSL) in July last year, (having previously helped out as a “Parent Helper.”) In that time, all of the sections have grown in size and taken part in a wide range of activities:

Beavers at Cuckhamsley enjoy going outdoors for walks around the village, or into the woods to do den building. They play games in the hall and have also learnt basic skills in map reading.



The **Cubs** also enjoy getting outdoors, and have been on several hikes (day and night) as well as a

cycle ride last year. They received a visit from the Village First Responders, who taught them some First Aid, and have also learnt about other cultures and the environment. The older Cubs went on a Scuba Diving Taster course in Banbury, laid on by Scouting Oxfordshire.

The Cubs often make use of the woodland next to Snells Hall, and take part in cutting back the encroaching nettles and other vegetation, to keep the boardwalk clear.

The **Scouts** had their Summer Camp in the New Forest last year, which included hiking, caving and kayaking. This year they will be going to the Forest of Dean where they can expect to do pony trekking and canoeing on the River Wye, as well.

Regular meetings have included such things as; circuit training, cycling, first aid, open fire cooking and household skills, such as jam making and sewing. (Someone has to sew on all the badges they earn!)

Most recently, the whole group came together for the “St Georges Day Camp” which took place in woods just to the south of East Hendred, towards the Ridgeway. (In fact, we were joined by 4th KA Scouts from Wantage as well.) The Cubs and Beavers came just for the Saturday, whilst the Scouts built shelters, so that they could stay overnight to the Sunday as well. The shelters were built from logs and branches, with just a plastic tarpaulin to assist them. And if you remember, that was the night of a massive thunderstorm! All survived – mostly dry, and they came out feeling that they had achieved something special!

The Group also comes together annually for Christmas Carol Singing and for the Remembrance Parade in East Hendred, and this year was no exception. We were joined in November by a Brownies Troop from Didcot. The Christmas Carol Singing raised money for a local charity for the elderly. All the singers were refreshed with hot mince pies and hot chocolate at the Eyston Arms afterwards.

As GSL my role is to ‘manage’ and support the section leaders – which means I sit on the group executive, but can also go along to help out with any of the sections!

Adults are also welcome to get involved. We have uniformed leaders who attend regularly, but also rely upon ‘occasional helpers’ who may have particular skills they wish to share or who can’t attend a regular weekly meeting.

For those that wish to support behind the scenes, we also have an executive committee who look after the accounts, insurance, ensure Scouting policies and procedures are followed, organise fund raising and maintain safety.

Adults come from all backgrounds; some are old scouts, many are parents but some have never had any previous connection with Scouting. Comprehensive training is provided, which can provide transferable skills for home or work as well (Leadership, Safeguarding children, First Aid, etc.)

And now I hope you might assist us by helping in our search for new leaders: Our current Beaver Leader has announced that he wishes to step down this summer. He'll be sorely missed, but the Beaver troop will need to carry on. Therefore, I'd be grateful if you would spread the word amongst your parishioners.

If anyone expresses an interest in joining the Scouts – whether as Beaver, Cub, Scout or Leader – please feel free to pass them my details.

Thank you,

Doron Jensen

Group Scout Leader (GSL)

1st Cuckhamsley Scout Group

Email: doron.jensen.scouts@gmail.com

EAST AND WEST HENDRED WOMENS INSTITUTE 2018 - 19

East & West Hendred WI is a flourishing and friendly group with over 36 members at the last count. We are part of the larger National Federation of Women's Institutes. Formed in 1915 the WI is the largest women's organisation in the UK.

Now in our 97th year, the Hendreds WI provides an opportunity for the ladies of all ages from local towns and villages to socialise, network and campaign for issues that matter to them. Our monthly meetings start at 7.30 pm on the third Thursday of the month and we meet in both West Hendred and East Hendred Village Halls. We are very grateful to the West Hendred Village Hall committee who have always accommodated us for some of our meetings and at times for other activities. We have quite a few members from the village who attend our meetings and we so enjoy the closeness of the two villages within our group as well as members from further afield.

Our 2018-19 programme is now well underway including a talk on Demystifying the Defibrillator, (so important for both villages as each have one), a solicitor coming to talk about wills etc, we have a talk on the 'Page to the Stage' and this month one about the Windsor Chair. Our Summer Party will be held in West Hendred Hall this year, the hall is so light and sunny, everyone enjoys themselves. These are just some of the activities and talks planned for this year.

We have other events outside our meetings for example we visited Aston Pottery and we have a visit to Ardley Recycling Centre and a walk around Wantage planned. We also 'Get Active' and are considering joining up with a few other WI's with 'Walking Netball'.

We also like to help our villages where we can as in past years when we have planted snowdrops, picked up litter during the 'Clean For the Queen' campaign and given some children's equipment to the playgroup in West Hendred.

We do also support a local Charity every year and this year it is the Advice Centre.

So we are an active and involved group of women and always open to new members. For more information please contact Jennie Cosgrave on 01235 224467; email jen@wpj.me.uk

Oxfordshire County Councillor Mike Fox-Davies **Annual Report 2018 to West Hendred Parish Council**

Introduction

As County Councillor, I represent what is known as 'Hendreds and Harwell' Division. This Division comprises the eight parishes that run along the A417 from Blewbury to Lockinge. I am delighted to make this report to you and would like to wish the parish council (and residents!) every success for the coming year. I only apologise that I cannot be there in person. If there is anything I can help with, all my contact details are on the OCC website.

Responsibilities

In addition to representing the interests of residents in the eight parishes in my Division and my place on Full Council, I sit on three committees, Planning and Regulations; Joint Health Overview Scrutiny; and Performance Scrutiny; and the Transport Cabinet Advisory Group. I am also Deputy Leader (backbench) of the Conservative County Councillor Group.

Parish Council Meetings

Most of the parish councils for which I am responsible meet every month or every other month and I attend most meetings if I can. If I can't attend, I send a written report. At each the attended meetings, I give a general report on County matters, then follow this with a verbal report where there are matters specific to that parish.

Key County Issues

Infrastructure Funding Bid

The Oxfordshire Growth Board* has provided unanimous support for an application to the Government's Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) as part of a package of investment to deliver transport infrastructure. The funding bid for up to £500 million was submitted on 28 September by OCC as the county's transport authority. Money is sought to bring forward infrastructure investment to pump-prime three major development schemes:

1. Didcot Garden Town – £171m is bid for transport improvements including a Didcot Science Bridge and A4130 dual carriageway, a new river crossing at Culham and Clifton Hampden Bypass. This would support the delivery of over 22,000 homes in Didcot, Culham, Harwell and Berinsfield. Additionally up to £70m of cycle and other sustainable transport improvements are proposed for inclusion in the bid plan.
2. West Oxfordshire Garden Village – £135.4m is bid for further upgrades to the A40, building on existing schemes and based on the approved A40 Long Term Strategy including development of the Rapid Transit network and additional highway capacity on A40 transport corridor. This would support the delivery of over 10,000 homes in Witney & Carterton, and around Eynsham.
3. North of Oxford – £152m is bid for the development of Rapid Transit lines on upgraded A44 and A4260 corridors, a new Park & Ride, and strategic cycle

infrastructure plus. Support is also sought for additional education requirements (as yet un-costed). This would support the delivery of 5,570 homes in Woodstock, Begbroke/Yarnton and the Northern Gateway.

*The Oxfordshire Growth Board comprises the six councils: Cherwell District Council, Oxford City Council, Oxfordshire County Council, South Oxfordshire District Council, Vale of White Horse District Council and West Oxfordshire District Council, together with the county's Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP).

Growth Deal

The Oxfordshire Growth Board has also reached an outline Housing and Growth Agreement (Growth Deal) with Government. This will see an additional £215m of investment over the next five years to build infrastructure, support the delivery of new homes and boost economic productivity across the county. This breaks down as: £30m pa for five years for infrastructure; £60m for affordable homes across the county; and £5m to develop a Joint Statutory Spatial Plan (JSSP). The Board wants the five-year deal to be the first stage in a sustained partnership with Government to secure the ongoing investment needed to deliver properly planned growth and economic development over the coming years. This will support councils to achieve the ambition of 100,000 new homes across the county over the period 2011-2031, as identified through the 2014 countywide Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Local Plans. During the period of development, all planning authorities will have their five-year land supply requirement reduced to a three-year land supply with that condition in place for the first three years of the new JSSP. The Growth Deal has gone through the six councils' democratic processes and been agreed.

Social Care Costs & Council Tax

The rising cost of social care continues to be a problem for most councils and OCC is particularly hard hit. In partial recognition, Government has allowed councils to set an additional 3% Council Tax rise for 2017/18 and 2018/19 in respect of Adult Social Care plus 1% for 2018/19 and 2019/20 in respect of Children's Services, to offset both these costs. The nett result of this is the OCC Council Tax rise of 5.99% in 2018/19.

Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) update

When I first joined OCC, the HWRCs were under threat and it was planned to have just three centres for the whole of Oxfordshire. In July OCC signed a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) contract that secured all seven existing sites in the medium term, with no change to the sites opening hours or days.

1 million tonnes of rubbish transformed into energy at Ardley plant

OCC and its partner Viridor have marked the one millionth tonne of residual waste received at Ardley during December. The Ardley plant converts waste into electricity, rather than burying it in landfill. It produces enough energy to power 38,000 homes and can export up to 27MW per hour of electricity to the grid.

Ox-Cam Expressway

The National Infrastructure Commission (NIC) has published its report to Government on the Oxford-Cambridge arc. It advised on the need for long-term investment funding for new transport infrastructure to harness the region's economic potential, to benefit local people and boost UK plc in a post-Brexit landscape. Oxfordshire County Councillors are concerned about the proposals and have passed a motion calling for a Public Inquiry. This has been rejected by the Chairman of the NIC.

Unitary Government

A proposal for Unitary Government for Oxfordshire was submitted to DCLG in the Spring of 2017 by OCC, SODC and The Vale. Cherwell, WODC and the City of Oxford did not take part. Since the General election, Government appetite for such proposals seems to have faded and there is no update on the situation.

Carillion: OCC agrees exit deal after company collapse

OCC has formally terminated its contract with Carillion LGS Limited effective from 1 February 2018, following the collapse of the parent company. This brings forward the already agreed end of the contract set for the end of June 2018. Carillion provided services on behalf of OCC including school meals and cleaning; maintenance of council buildings; property services, and building work such as school extensions. Carillion staff in OCC's maintained schools who contracted their services via OCC will be transferred to OCC, and services will continue as normal. Services previously provided by Carillion to the county council will continue through a mix of bringing staff in-house (e.g. school meals, cleaning); continuing with suppliers (mainly catering), and working with existing sub-contractors (mainly construction and property services). Like every other Carillion customer, OCC is now working out the most cost-effective way to complete work left unfinished by Carillion. OCC will now take over direct responsibility for commissioning future construction work and service delivery. County council officers are reviewing the uncompleted works under the Carillion contract and talking to sub-contractors about the best way forward. OCC is establishing a process to assess, on a case-by-case basis, the impact on companies in the Carillion supply chain involved in providing county council services such as building maintenance.

Council Motion

In the last Full Council, I presented a motion, which was supported by the Full Council. This motion aims to strengthen the rules around HGV routing agreements, which are frequently attached as conditions for planning permissions. (Using specific routes or restrictions on times of use). My motion should give OCC more power to enforce these agreements when there is persistent breach. The bigger hope is that a change in UK planning law may be presented as a backbench motion in parliament.

Local Issues

Potholes, general road defects

Potholes is an issue across the County, if not the whole of the UK. There has been additional funding from central government for the roads, but the amount, some £3m extra, is a long way short of the cost needed to repair all of Oxfordshire's roads, (some £150M).

A417

The road works on the A417 between Rowstock and Wantage continue to be an issue. I am supporting all the parishes along this road in keeping pressure on the officers to ensure the works are completed as soon as possible and the traffic lights can be removed.

Mr R Jack gave the following report on Holy Trinity Church to supplement the formal PCC report:

Rev. Birch resigned earlier this year and a new vicar has yet to be appointed and is unlikely to be in post until March 2019 at the earliest.

There is an increasing number of lay-led services and the congregation is small.

The cost of running the church is just about covered by receipts. The biggest cost, other than the Vicar, is the maintenance of the building, which is Grade I listed.

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, WEST HENDRED

PCC ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2017

This is the 21st PCC Annual Report prepared according to Church Accounting Regulations. This report must now be adopted by the PCC at its Annual Meetings in April 2018 where it will be presented.

Background

Holy Trinity's PCC has the responsibility to co-operate with the Rector in promoting in the parish the whole mission of the Church, pastoral, evangelistic, social and ecumenical in accordance with the Parochial Church Councils (Powers) Measure 1956. Our aim is to be a Church which is at the centre of our community, pointing people to God in worship and reaching out in love and service to the community.

Membership

Revd. E. Birch (EB)	(Chairman)	(ex officio)
Mr H. D. Rees (HR)	(Vice-Chairman)	Churchwarden (ex officio) and Deanery Synod Rep
Mrs P. Jenkins (PJ)		Elected member
Mrs S. Hutchinson (SH)	(Secretary and Electoral Roll Officer)	Elected member
Mr R. Jack (RJ)	(Treasurer)	Elected member
Mrs C Tanner (CT)		Elected member and Deanery Synod Rep
Mrs A. Findley (AF)		Elected member
Mrs J. Trotman (JT)		Elected member
Mr R. Bye (RB)		Elected member

Committees

- (a) Standing Committee. This is the only committee required by law. It transacts the business of the PCC between its meetings, subject to the directions given by the Council, and reports back accordingly.
- (b) Benefice Council. West Hendred, as one of the three parishes in the Wantage Downs Benefice, is represented on the Benefice Council.

Church attendance

There are **42 members on the Church Electoral Roll**, 5 of which are not resident in the parish. The **overall** Usual Sunday attendance was **14 adults** and **1 child** depending on the nature of the Service; Sunday Communion mean numbers (21 adults and 1 child) or Family Service mean numbers (18 adults and 6 children), Morning Prayer mean numbers (8 to 9

adults and 0 children). The number increased at festivals. The worshipping community total is 62.

Review of the year

PCC meetings The full PCC met four times during the year. The Standing Committee met, as required, between meetings and reported to the PCC.

Services As has been the case for the past few years, Revd. E. Birch has been alone in conducting services across the parishes of West and East Hendred and Ardington and Lockinge. The pattern of services remained as for last year:

ie (9am every Sunday):

First Sunday	Morning Prayer
Second Sunday	Morning Prayer 10.30am Benefice Service rotating with other parishes
Third Sunday	Family Service
Fourth Sunday	Holy Communion
Fifth Sunday	Morning Prayer 10.30am Benefice Service rotating with other parishes
Second Tuesday	10am Holy Communion

Compline Services were held weekly during Lent and Advent.

Sunday Club The monthly Sunday Club continued to play an important part in our Church life. It follows the Family Service and is organised by the Rector with the Service and following activities (if there were any) held in the church .

The WH "Young Musicians" continued to play at the Family and Festival Services throughout the past year.

Occasional Offices in 2017: Weddings 1; Baptisms 2; Funerals 3

Fund-raising: Lent boxes, coffee mornings, Carol singing, Crib Service collections etc. provided funds for external organisations such as US (previously USPG), Helen House Hospice, the Children's Society, Christian Aid, and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust by participation in the Annual Ride and Stride. The main fund-raiser was the Summer Lunch, the proceeds of which were used to assist with the running costs of the Church. The "59 Club" based on the weekly Lottery Draw on a Saturday evening is another significant fundraiser for the Church and is organised and run by AF. The Church also supports the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box Appeal each year where AF and PJ are very instrumental in organising the collection of and transport of the shoe boxes to the nearest handling depot before they are distributed further afield.

Fabric, goods and ornaments of the church:

The church roof has an occasional leak near the Lectern which comes and goes and continues to be monitored. Still no signs of recurring beetle problems.

The main items on the agendas regarding church fabric, goods and ornaments have been:

- (a) Installation of an **anti- lead-theft roof alarm**. This followed discussions early in 2017 where it was deemed necessary to have such an alarm installed in order to keep in line with insurance requirements. The work was completed in the early summer by Ace Defence and the cost of the alarm and it's installation was alleviated by grants applied for and given by OHCT and Allchurches.
- (b) **Church heating and Electrics**: this is still under review, **and is still a work in progress** (as in last year's report). HR and Mr Trotman (our safety and technical advisor) have still continued to work hard on resolving the heating issue in the past year with the overall approach discussed with Proelec in mid – July. A revised quote was obtained in August. The heating controller is the current sticking point.
- (c) **Church Finial damage**: in October AF reported a fallen church finial that had landed in soft turf beside the church following particularly bad weather. Since then, investigations by HR and RJ have led to the point where the finial is to be reinstated by Hawkins & Riveiros once secure scaffolding is in place. Ecclesiastical Insurers will cover the cost of the finial reinstatement less the excess.
- (d) **Organ fan**: this has been confirmed at the end of 2017 as having no asbestos.

Chancel Repairs Liability: Nothing to report in this area this past year.

Safeguarding Children: The PCC unanimously re-affirmed the policy in place. HR's DBS check has been refreshed.

Safety matters: Mr Trotman continued to act as Safety Advisor, and to provide advice on technical issues, which is much appreciated by the PCC.

Bell ringing: The Parish continues to support an active team of bell ringers who ring for services, festivals and weddings.

Financial matters: The Church continues to keep afloat regarding finances with receipts for the past year exceeding payments, but not by much, and thus there is no room for complacency. The Church still relies heavily on fundraisers such as The Summer Lunch and the "59Club" which are both significant contributors to church funds as are donations and weekly collections. The audited accounts for 2017 were presented by the Treasurer at the February 2018 meeting and approved by the PCC.

WEST HENDRED VILLAGE HALL 2017-2018

We kicked off 2017 with Jazz in the Village at which Ian Millar on saxophone and Dominic Spencer on piano delighted us with melodic jazz and improvisations.

Linda Soderstrom built on her great success of Yoga and Mindfulness, adding a session for teens to help with exam stress.

In February and April the snowdrop “in the green” sales at the Coffee Morning, plant and book sales added spring colour and a variety of hardy plants. 2017 sales raised £195.45 for the Hall.

June saw another very successful West Hendred Not Just a Beer Festival in and outside the Village Hall. WHNJABF provided a generous donation towards the Hall’s new kitchen, which was also hugely helped by donations from the Parish Council and village residents. In addition, we received grants from Awards for All England, the small grant division of the Big Lottery Fund, the Doris Field Charitable Trust and the Magnox Socio-Economic Fund. Dan Bashford gave invaluable help on the grant applications.

The Village Hall now has professional-grade catering facilities and is therefore able to offer more versatile menus for larger groups. Oli Barton’s professional expertise was of particular value in responding to Awards for All’s questions and, in consequence, we were awarded the grant in less than eight weeks as opposed to the usual four months. The new kitchen was completed in September ahead of schedule and within budget; it received editorial coverage in both the Wantage Herald and the Oxford Times. As part of the requirements for the new kitchen, we also upgraded the Hall’s electrical systems.

In July, the Youth Club held its highly enjoyable summer party and barbeque, despite summer rains. At the end of the year, the Youth Club hosted another great Christmas Party.

On 25th November, we hosted a Grand Opening of the Hall’s new kitchen enabling village residents and potential hirers to see the facilities while feasting on delicious mince pies mulled wine. Bookings of the Hall in November hit an all-time high and have continued strongly since then.

In February 2018 the Hall was able to host over 100 residents and their guests for the second QI quiz and Indian curry supper, courtesy of Manjit Kahlon’s wonderful Masterclass the night before in Rosemary Budge’s kitchen. The evening raised over £2,000 for the Hall.

At the end of the Hall’s financial year, on 30th September 201, the audited accounts showed a small surplus. This small surplus, together with funds from successful events and any donations that we can source, will be largely absorbed by the purchase of a much-needed storage container to be situated outside the back of the Hall (subject to planning permission) and for the necessary regular treatment of the Hall’s floor.

END

Hendreds School
Report to Parish Councils
April 2018

I can do no better than start with a quotation from the head contained in a recent termly newsletter to parents:

Right from the minute the children walk through the gate, each day is regarded as a new day, with thousands of micro-interactions taking place which help them learn about kindness, resilience, ambition, empathy, resourcefulness and justice. With support from school and home, they have the mental and physical space to make every day count.

As ever there have been a huge number of enriching visits both out of school and from those coming to us:

For the second year all of Key Stage 2 (from ages 8 to 11) took a trip to the O2 Arena to join the 7,000 strong "Young Voices Choir". It meant many days of rehearsals and a long trip to London returning in the very early hours of the morning.

There have been two overnight trips to Ford Castle and Court Hill and countless local trips to the opera, Oxford and further afield.

Sadly travel to school has been very seriously disrupted this year with the work on the A417 making arrival times difficult to judge and of greater concern we still have to deal with parents who insist on driving to the school gates rather than parking at Snells Hall and walking. This dangerous behaviour has involved quite a big time commitment from governors that could otherwise be better spent.

The highlight of the year for governors so far has been our annual offsite training at the Loyd Lindsay Rooms. We were delighted to welcome the Reverend Martyn Percy, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford and a world authority on social capital. Far from some esoteric topic of academic interest it is fundamental to all that we are trying to do at the Hendreds School, building children's resilience and equipping them for the rigours of the modern world in a way that values each individual child and supports those whose social background makes learning and getting on more difficult. The session was filmed so that it can be distributed more widely throughout our Academy (the Oxford Diocesan Schools Trust) and further afield in the network of Church of England schools throughout the country. It is very exciting to be at the forefront of this emerging area of thinking and practice.

As ever do please feel free to get in touch with me with any questions or comments.

Richard Case
Chairman of Governors April 2018

Report for West Hendred Annual Parish Council Meeting May 2018
St Amand's Catholic Primary School

St Amand's school is continuing to flourish and grow over this past year. There are currently 133 pupils now on role, the highest for many years. During this year we had some changes, our Assistant Head moved to St Edwards in Abingdon and we were sad to see her go. However, we have appointed Joy Baker to the post and we are very pleased with her commitment and hard working attitude to the role. The school was to become part of a multi academy trust within the Portsmouth Diocese but we learnt at the start of the academic year that the Diocese was no longer pursuing moving to a multi academy trust.

The school is spending their sports funding to aim for the gold standard in PE, we have currently reached bronze and silver. We also continue to participate in a range of competitive sporting activities with other schools in the Vale. The assistant head is involved in the Bridging project which is helping to prepare year 6 children for transition to secondary school and she is disseminating good practice in mindful techniques and movement to the staff to use in the classroom to increase children's well being and resilience and support learning.

The school is currently having the roof re done and fortunately with the minimum of disruption to the daily working of the school. A challenge we are currently facing for the school is the ending of the school buses provided by the local authority, we have many pupils using the buses from both Wantage and Didcot directions.

Francia Kilgarriff
Foundation governor St Amand's Catholic Primary School
April 26 2018

The Hendred Twinning Group

Mrs Lewis reported on a successful visit to France last July, which was the 20th Anniversary of the Twinning Group. The visit included a Panto which was developed by Mrs Lewis.

The French group is coming here in July and a host for a family of four is sought.

New rules mean that in future children will not be able to attend these visits because they will not be able to take time off school.

Parish Footpath Warden

Mr Tony Lewis reported that the Beer Festival will need more people to come and help this year, although it is not definite that it will be going ahead.

There are very few issues on the footpaths. Any problems received were dealt with quickly. The main issue is the crossing of the Icknield Way.

Cllr Clayton suggested that the British Horse Society may be able to assist with a grant toward the development of a horse bridge. He agreed to send contact details to Mr Lewis.

Mr Lewis noted that The Vale Way was now fully open. Details can be found here

<http://www.ramblers-oxon.org.uk/thevaleway/valeway.htm>

He noted that ramblers appear to be taking more short walks at the moment rather than the longer distance paths.