

WEST HENDRED

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

IMPORTANT! Please can we ask that, if you know of any neighbours who may not have access to the internet, you print a copy 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 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

The Last Year - 2022

In March, to huge relief, Covid-related restrictions were lifted and we saw the return of Jazz in the Village, with an excellent evening of really high-quality music provided by Ian Millar and Dominic Spencer.

Shortly afterwards, thanks largely to a generous donation from the 2021 Beer Festival, we began the repainting of the exterior of the Hall and, in early summer, renewed the paving and gravel areas of the car park. Flower tubs now line the paving, encouraging safer parking and preventing wheel damage to the paving. This was completed in time for a lunch for 130 village residents to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee – a joyous occasion.

At our AGM in July, David Trotman retired after many years of invaluable help and guidance. A big thank you to Dave! More recently, Jenni Dimbylow, who has been a big part of our bookings team for eight years decided to step down due to other commitments. Jenni will be much missed and we are now looking for her replacement. Do let us know if you might be interested in joining the bookings team.

The West Hendred Stitchers have continued strongly as have Charlie Prince's Pilates classes and Linda Soderstrom's Yoga classes, both doing zoom/online, as well as face-to-face "in the hall" sessions.

The Puppy School with Deb Bennison was in high demand in the first half of the year, sadly we bade farewell to Deb in late summer when she moved away from the area.

The Springline Choir have been much in evidence on Thursday evenings.

Mini-Kicks has been a regular event on Saturday mornings, pausing for a few weeks over winter and Boogie Mites has been in full action on Wednesday mornings.

In September, the Hall was again delighted to host The West Hendred Beer Festival - the tenth and most successful ever.

In Early December there was the first Post-Covid Book Sale. The previous one in February 2020 seems an aeon ago!

On Christmas Eve the West Hendred Crib Service was held in the Hall, as the church is having major repairs with plenty of scaffolding. Throughout the year, we have been a popular venue for children's parties and family celebrations. Thank you to all our hirers and users – without you, we would not be such a vibrant venue. And thank you for helping us through a difficult year.

The Coming Year - 2023

We'll very shortly be putting up a sign for the Hall, close by the tree and car park entrance. This is also thanks to the Beer Festival's donation.

We're aiming to replace the "professional" dishwasher for one that's simpler for everyone to use, although its washes may not be as quick.

In early 2023, we'll be sending you a questionnaire seeking your views on additional uses for the Village Hall and in what other ways we can contribute to our community.

Increased electric price, and hiring rates -

Electric is always our largest cost – last year it was £2,971. Energy industry experts anticipate prices to be volatile and fluctuate a lot in the next 18 months, as China comes out of Covid.

Prices are then likely to "drift down", yet winter 2023/24 "could be difficult on price and supply". Our Treasurer, Nigel Findley, has got us a really good new fixed 2-year deal. Even so, the hall's running costs are going to be a lot higher. We're looking at our hiring rates. There are various options we're considering. We will be consulting hirers on their views and how together we can manage through this.

Holy Trinity West Hendred Oxford Historic Churches Ride and Stride – 10th September

This year's sponsored event took place on Saturday 10th September.

As we go to press, we've just got the grand total – an impressive £1,023.50 has gone to OHCT. This total exceeds £805 in 2021, and £848 in 2020. This year's total comes from 45 sponsorships, with riders and striders doing 68 church visits. OHCT pays back 50% of the total; this will help towards the urgent repair of the North Aisle supporting beams.

Thank you to all who rode or strode, and all who have sponsored.

Hugh Rees

Carol Singing

A BIG thank you to all those who tore themselves away from the World Cup & braved the wet & windy weather (neither of which were foreseen!) to sing carols in West Hendred. Fortified by mulled apple juice/wine and mince pies at the village hall we set out to try and bring some Christmas joy despite the rain.

Thank you to all who sang, donated mince pies, mulled wine or money!

We raised £132 for Helen and Douglas House children's hospice which will be added to the crib service collection.

A special thank you to the strong singers for keeping us mostly in tune and the children who added such joy and excitement!

Wishing you all a Happy & Healthy New Year - Patsy & Angela

Church Services January 2023

SUNDAY 1 JANUARY - CIRCUMCISION OF CHRIST

11am Ardington - Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY – EPIPHANY

9:30am – Lockinge – Holy Communion (BCP)

11am – East Hendred – Holy Communion (CW)

SUNDAY 15 JANUARY – SECOND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9:30am – West Hendred – Holy Communion (CW Trad)

11am – Ardington – Holy Communion (BCP)

SUNDAY 22 JANUARY –THIRD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

9:30am – Lockinge – Holy Communion (BCP)

11am – East Hendred – Holy Communion (CW)

SUNDAY 29 JANUARY – PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

9:30am – West Hendred – Holy Communion (CW Trad)

11am – Ardington – Holy Communion (BCP)

Holy Trinity Church West Hendred

North Aisle roof – urgent work to the church – started 31st October

As has been widely publicised, urgent repairs to the North Aisle's supporting roof beams are needed. Work by the contractor, Ward & Co, has continued at pace, and is planned to be finished by 27th January.

New large beams have been ingeniously threaded behind the North Aisle's supporting upright beams. The new beams are of heartwood oak, which is harder and higher quality wood than the original beams, which means they will be more robust against any death-watch beetles. This ingenious approach, devised by our Architect and our Structural Engineer, has saved us many tens of thousands of pounds. Our Architect reports, "Following discussion and agreement with the church architect (Andrew Townsend) and the project engineer (Clive Dawson) on the precise scope of repair works to the nave roof, works undertaken by Ward and Co are now progressing well and it's anticipated the project will be completed by the end of January. During the heavy rainstorms in late November/early December, water was seen to penetrate the lead roof covering to the nave and aisles in several locations, but measures will be taken by the contractor to repair these areas using traditional repair techniques to prevent future ingress."

And our contractor, Ward & Co, reports, "Work to link the historic roof timbers to new timber to re-establish the load path is underway. The issues with the lead roof have been inspected and repairs will be included in the project." Access to the church building on Monday to Friday is very limited and is at the discretion of our contractor. This is for your safety, and that of the contractor's people.

We will be able to have services on Sundays. However, only about half the pews are available. The organ is covered by plastic sheeting to protect it during the work, so we're using an electronic keyboard for services.

We need your support

Thank you for the very generous donations from individuals. The total raised so far from grants and donations is £60,744 (including Gift Aid). If you have not done so already, please can you help secure the future of West Hendred's church by donating either online via www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6046/ and selecting "Give Now" from the webpage; or by contacting the church Treasurer, Roland Jack rolandmjack@gmail.com or 01235 831894

Hugh Rees

What makes a Scout Leader tick?

We are very lucky in our village, to have a Scout Group made up of three sections – Beavers,

Cubs and Scouts – led by volunteer leaders who plan, organise and run the programme between them.

These uniformed leaders are supported by another team of volunteers who work in the background to manage the finances, administration and ensure that the Group stays within the Scout Movement rules. These are the Executive Committee or “Trustees” who meet approximately six times a year – usually in one of the local pubs.

So why do they do it?

Some enjoy inspiring young people with varied activities, where they can challenge themselves. Others like the adventurous activities that take youngsters off on bike rides, canoeing trips and hill walks. Leaders can participate alongside the youngsters, and can even undertake nationally recognised training qualifications, to teach these sports themselves.

This year, the Scouts have undertaken visits to such places as the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) HQ at Didcot, the Thames Valley Police Museum just outside Reading, the Model Railway Centre at Pendon and the Air Tattoo at RAF Fairford. But as well as these trips away, leaders plan games and activities in the hall or locality.

There are a wealth of materials and ideas on the Scouting website, for leaders to draw upon, and tailor to our own group. Opportunities to demonstrate creativity and organisation.

Most training and visits provided within scouting are free for leaders (or at least funded by the Scout Association). This includes courses on; leadership, managing people, planning, teamwork – such as you might find in business. Undertaking this training, and then putting it into practice whilst volunteering has helped enhance many a leaders CV. Not everyone enjoys camping, but with a team and lots of equipment it becomes a lot more fun. The Scout Group is lucky to possess all shapes and sizes of tents, dining shelters and marquees as well as cooking equipment. The annual camp is usually a highlight of each section’s year – and with many people to share the planning and organisation – as well as scouts to put the actual tents up – it becomes a lot easier!

You can camp in luxury with such things as a gas-powered fridge, solar shower and portaloos–

or you can get back to nature with one of our backwoods camps, learning bushcraft skills. Some people volunteer because they want to give something back to the community, or simply wish to become more engaged with village life. It’s a great way to meet new people and become part of an effective team.

Not everyone can commit to a regular weekly meeting. Some have skills in particular areas – such as finance, storekeeping, cooking (camp chefs always needed!) or in teaching particular hobbies or sports. Some were Cubs and Scouts themselves previously. Some were Brownies or Guides. But being either is not essential to be a leader. Whatever the reason – all Scout Leaders agree – just like the youngsters – they get involved to have fun! If you would like to learn more, come along to an evening meeting, or contact the Group Scout Leader (GSL) Doron Jensen at gslcuckhamsley@kascouts.org.uk for a chat. (Tel. 07711 474 883.)

All leaders and trustees have to undertake a DBS (vetting) check in order to work with young people. (This is arranged and paid for by the Scout Association.) (There are a few additional perks: Leaders can get an extra 15% off the discount card price at Go Outdoors and 20% off at Blacks and Millets outdoor shops, plus many other outdoor gear shops. Anyone who volunteers as a leader, or on the Exec committee automatically gets one child’s subscription waived for as long as they are a leader)

For Sale: Vauxhall Corsa

X reg, 22 years old, yet 51,300 miles! Petrol 973CC MOT to Oct 23. Very reliable; low cost – both maintenance and excellent MPG. Low insurance cost. Full service history. Sale due to bereavement. £750
Contact: Hugh Rees, 01235-833174

The deadline for items for next month’s newsletter is 25January. Please email to newsletter@westhendred.net

Hall Lettings. All hall enquiries/bookings should be made via email to villagehallbookings@westhendred.net Website: www.westhendred.net

Covid-19

The restrictions have been lifted. All hirers are kept fully informed as part of their booking process, which continues to include the need to do a risk assessment.

Village Hall becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)

In July, we closed the old charity and became a CIO. In December we finally received the Land Registry's confirmation of the very last element of this transition: the transfers of the hall and car park to the CIO.

Hugh Rees

CURRENT EVENTS

Mini-kicks

We offer fun and imaginative football coaching sessions for children aged 18 months to 7 years old, enhancing their football skills as well as using their imagination and improving social skills.

Class are 9am Saturday mornings at the Village Hall. Pause in December

For more information contact minikicks18@gmail.com

Boogie Mites – Monday mornings

It's music and dance for preschool children, every Monday morning. Contact Lizzie on

Lizziel@boogiemites.co.uk

West Hendred Stitchers - SECOND and FOURTH Tuesdays in the month

West Hendred Stitchers meet on the SECOND and FOURTH Tuesdays in the month.

Call me for details. Thanks very much, Jane Soffe contact 07455076584

Pilates - General Mat classes on Mondays and Wednesdays 7-8pm

This is aimed at all ages and abilities. Places are available for anyone who is interested.

Zoom Pilates continues to be held on Mondays at 7-8pm.

Wednesday evenings are now back for face-to-face classes in the hall at 6-7pm and 7.15-8.15pm.

Please contact me and I can provide more information. Charlie Prince on 07581 462 317, or

charlie@princepilates.co.uk or see my website for more information about classes etc.

www.princepilates.co.uk

YOGA

Tuesdays 10 – 11am Gentle / chair yoga (on Zoom)

Wednesdays 10 - 11am Gentle / chair yoga

Wednesdays 4.45 – 5.45pm NEW! Hatha Yoga – suitable for beginners and improvers

Thursdays 9.30 – 10.45am Hatha Yoga – suitable for improvers

Fridays 9.30 – 10.3am Hatha Yoga (on Zoom) – suitable for beginners and improvers

Please contact me for further information on 01235 863647 or linda@soderstrom.myzen.co.uk

Not sure if yoga is for you? Contact me and arrange for a free trial lesson.

Linda Davey – British Wheel of Yoga/Yoga in Healthcare Alliance

Village Hall Committee Contacts

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

Stefan Povolotsky 07460-727374