

WEST HENDRED

SEPTEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for next Newsletter
25 September 2025**

IMPORTANT! 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.

Parish Council Minutes

To find the most recent and past Parish Council meeting minutes please follow the link below:

<https://www.westhendred.org/parish-council/meeting-minutes/>

Road Closure in West Hendred for Gigaclear works started 11th August

The Hall car park is primarily for the use of hirers of the Hall.

During the road closures, the Hall car park might be able to accommodate some of the cars of those affected by the first stage of the road closures, but the Trustees are obliged to state that the Hall's insurance does not cover those parked who are not actually using the Hall, so parking would be entirely at the car owner's own risk. Thanks!

WH Hall Trustees and Management Committee

Holy Trinity Church West Hendred

Our morning service has now returned to its traditional time of 9am every Sunday. Join us at Holy Trinity Church on any Sunday for a traditional service of Holy Communion with hymns and a short sermon.

There will also be other services in the villages around West Hendred: a more contemporary service in East Hendred at 10am, or if even that is a bit too early for you then there will be an 11:15 service in Ardington on the

2nd, 4th, and 5th Sunday of the month and 6pm Evensong in Lockinge on the 1st and 3rd Sunday.

Nikolaj Christensen

Rector of the Hendreds and Ardington with Lockinge

Holy Trinity West Hendred Oxford Historic Churches Ride and Stride 13th September

Do you enjoy cycling? Or walking? Horse-riding? Or have an unusual form of transport – like a vintage tractor? Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust is an organisation that makes grants to

churches across the county for everything from essential repairs to projects such as improved heating.

This year's sponsored event is on Saturday 13th September – money raised will be divided equally between The Oxford Historic Churches Trust and Holy Trinity Church.

In February 2024 OHCT very generously awarded a grant of £3,000 towards the new heating system, which was installed in May. More recently, OHCT has awarded £6,000 towards the Chancel Roof re-tile. OHCT are being very helpful and supportive of our efforts as we endeavour to get our Lay Rector and Patron, Corpus Christi College, to pay for this big repair.

Almost everything needed to get you started is available online from OHCT's website at

<https://ohct.org.uk>

Sponsorship forms are in Holy Trinity Church for you to take-away.

Please join us, either by Riding or Striding yourself, or sponsoring us.

More details will be available from Hugh Rees on 01235-833174 and OHCT's website

www.ohct.org.uk

Free Trial Yoga Class 10 September West Hendred Village Hall

I currently have spaces in the gentle yoga class on Wednesdays 10 – 11am at West Hendred Village Hall. It is a chair-based practice (so no getting down on the mat if you don't want to) which focuses on strength, flexibility and balance and incorporates breathwork and relaxation for your whole well-being.

It's ideally suited for people returning to exercise after injury; for those with a chronic condition such as osteo-arthritis or for those seeking a more gentle approach to exercise.

The whole class can be seated but there are opportunities for standing exercises using the chair for balance as required.

I am offering a free trial class on Wednesday 10th September – a chance for you to come along and see if gentle yoga is for you. Please contact me on 01235 863647

or linda@soderstrom.myzen.co.uk if you would like to discuss or book a place.

I have 20 years of experience teaching yoga and am also a yoga therapist working with people with a range of health issues.

Linda Davey

Result of the Survey on Paths - next steps

Dear neighbours,

As you know, we surveyed West Hendred & Ginge residents to gather their views about the fencing off of previously used paths by the Lockinge Estate.

Note that the survey was not sent out to people living in Lockinge, Ardington or East Hendred, many of whom also regularly use the paths in question, including some for decades.

To remind you this was the survey, click here: <https://forms.gle/DXqqGKUzc5AW4ico9>

We hope you will agree that the questions did not force people into a particular point of view but did allow all the relevant information to be collected. We had 70 households responding which includes in many cases more than one person per household; a large response for such surveys. 90% of respondents said they were unhappy with what has been done fencing off paths; 5% said they were content with what has been done. 86% are happy to have their name sent to the Lockinge Estate or Oxfordshire County Council as a part of this petition - only if required.

96% of respondents said they supported the actions we suggested taking including discussions with and emails to the Estate and the proposed plan.

79% said they supported the proposal to request a Right of Way be established through the relevant authorities should our discussions with the Estate not result in some sort of agreed resolution. Of a further 16% of respondents, a majority stated that they would potentially ignore fencing and signs if no resolution was agreed. 56 individuals from 25 households (36% of responding households) confirmed that they have regularly used the pathways under discussion without permission or prevention for at least 20 years and that they are prepared to sign a document to that effect to pursue any legal claim for a formal Right of Way to be granted.

We were invited to extend our survey to residents of Ardington, Lockinge and East Hendred should we need to. However, we would rather wait before casting the net wider. We have no wish to stir up negative sentiment to the Estate and would only extend the survey if it was felt necessary in order to pursue further courses of action. We strongly believe that if it can be achieved, a harmonious relationship between all relevant parties to local land use is in everyone's interest.

We summarised the survey and all these points to the Estate. We suggested that we believed villagers would be content with a package of changes, based on the key paths being made permissive pathways with relevant signage. We suggested that villagers would be content with partially restricted access in order to maintain the wildlife value if it also retains the equally and hugely valuable public good of recreational access to certain areas.

We said that we believed that this would enhance the Estate's control over the areas and lead to optimised respect of the area's protection and use. We offered any more information they wished to have. We included photos of the relevant paths.

The Estate representatives said they would put our requests to the Trustees for their decision.

We asked to meet with the Estate for a second time to try to get a compromise to consider if there could be some common ground of a compromise solution to put to the trustees that respects landowners rights. We made it clear that to progress with a formal Right of Way process is not our preferred solution in any case. They did not want to meet again.

They have recently written to say that the Trustees did not agree to our request, based on what we feel are three fairly poor reasons. These related to 1) Signs being taken down in the past, so signs won't work now. 2) The wildlife should be protected. 3) The Estate already gives locals access over other parts of their land.

We have just responded, politely rebutting each reason with a carefully considered and valid counter point. We have also kindly asked them for the 3rd time to reconsider to see if we can still find a mutually agreeable solution before we proceed with the next phase of our actions.

We now suggest that the 56 people who said they had personally used the paths for 20+ years and are prepared to sign a declaration to that effect come together to discuss the options of how best to get that done and to re-affirm their intent.

This group of people will be invited to a meeting in the Village Hall to discuss and agree next steps and how to take things forward. Those of us not in the 20+ years group will also be invited and are of course very welcome to attend and share their views/offer to help but won't be included in a vote on what the 20+years group decide to do.

It will also be an opportunity to discuss and consider any new views beyond the survey and

the pros and cons of progressing down the Public Right of Way route. This is certain to be opposed by the Estate and may take 12-18 months to go through the process.

We will get back to you shortly with a proposed date for the meeting.

With thanks and best wishes.

As agreed equally by James, Tim, Paul and Marcus

Wantage Choral Society – Singers Wanted

Wantage Choral Society has an exciting programme for the coming season, led by our lively and inspiring Music Director Hannah Zaki. Our first concert offers variety with three contrasting pieces: Finzi In Terra Pax, Pergolesi Magnificat and Saint-Saëns Christmas Oratorio. We rehearse on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 in Wantage Primary School, Newbury Street, OX12 8DJ.

We are looking for new singers to come and join us – and are holding an open rehearsal on Tuesday 23rd September where you can just turn up. We do not hold auditions – just want enthusiasm! Please come along and try it out.

Alternatively contact our membership secretary Delia Greaves at

wantagechoralsociety@gmail.com

and come to any one of our standard rehearsals which start on 9th September.

District Councillor Update: Cllr Sarah James (Hendreds Ward)

Sarah notes we are welcome to contact her by phone or WhatsApp on 07811 085661 or by emailing Sarah.James1@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Sarah tells us that she was delighted to meet our Neighbourhood Policing team, PCs Ellie Galbraith and Jeremy Oldroyd at their drop in event in East Hendred on 5th July. She continues, "I really welcome the return of active neighbourhood policing and named officers who know our community. I took the opportunity of raising concerns about inconsiderate parking, especially parking on pavements and on junctions and bends as I know many residents find this a problem."

On SESRO Reservoir News, Sarah remarks, "I was disappointed that the Judicial Review of the decision to approve the need for the SESRO reservoir failed in late July. To be clear though, this does not mean that the reservoir has permission, it means Thames Water can continue to apply for permission. Since the court case, it has been revealed that the actual reservoir costs have doubled or even tripled. It is now expected to cost up to £7.5bn (up from £2.2bn). For all the talk of private investment in infrastructure, that investment and the interest paid to investors always comes ultimately from our bills. If built, this will mean a very long-lasting, substantial hike in bills for all Thames Water customers.

I continue campaigning for a stop to this expensive and unnecessary reservoir which will actually export 30% of its water out of the dry Thames Valley to Southern Water customers, via a pipeline through the Hendreds.

I will also keep pushing Thames Water for reassurances on the safety and local impacts of the reservoir at every opportunity, as they put together their final plans to apply for permission."

Sarah also shares a reminder that cost of living help is available from:

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/cost-of-living-crisis-advice-and-support/>

Tel: 01235 422600; Email:

communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Vale News

Welcome to our August edition of Vale News. We have a bitesize roundup for you this month including information on exciting events happening at The Beacon and the UK government's Emergency Alerts system test on Sunday 7 September 2025 at 3pm. Click on the link to access:

<https://mailchi.mp/40afb0339045/the-first-edition-of-vale-news-for-17345787?e=e68dc21950>

The deadline for items for next month's newsletter is 25th September. Please email to newsletter@westhendred.net

West Hendred and Ginge Village Hall News

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

Events at the Village Hall

Dog Training Classes Tuesday, Friday 18:30-19:30, 19:45-20:45, Weds. 18.30-19.30

Classes are run by an IMDT qualified dog trainer

Tuesdays and Fridays 18.30-19.30 for training foundations and Wednesdays 18.30-19.30 for follow on graded classes each week. Suitable for puppies and dogs (all ages) once fully vaccinated.

Bespoke training classes to tackle all of your training issues. We work on recall, loose lead walking and much, much more. Come and train your dog with us, make new friends and have fun.

Please message Kriss on 07809 283700 or email admin@krissyscanines.co.uk to book.

Pilates Classes Wednesdays from September 19.30-20.30

Sadly, Gemma is unable to continue her Monday Pilates classes, as her daughter has become a chorister at Christ Church with rehearsals on Monday evenings. We have however been most fortunate, following a local recommendation, in finding Sally Bensoussis, a Level 3 certified Body Control Pilates Master Teacher, who will be starting Pilates classes in the Village Hall at 19.30-20.30 on Wednesdays, from Wednesday 3rd September. Please note the classes are a whole hour.

Sally runs classes in five-week blocks though much of the year; the cost is £60 per block, with a maximum of 12 people. Should a participant be unable to join a pre-booked class, Sally will try to accommodate them in another of her classes. To enrol, complete the enrolment form on Sally's website

<https://www.pilateswithsally.co.uk/>, so she can check for any relevant issues before confirming your place.

Springline Singers Thursdays 19.30-21.30

Springline Singers, your community choir, welcomes anyone who loves to sing.

We sing a range of music from pop to folk, spirituals to classical.

Come and join us at West Hendred Village Hall on Thursdays at 19:30-21:30pm.

West Hendred Stitchers - SECOND & FOURTH Tuesdays in the month 10.00 to 16.00

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

Any craft. We are a self-help group i.e. we help each other & share our knowledge. We have a lovely light hall with easy access. Coffee & tea provided. Please bring your own lunch. You are welcome to visit.

Call Jane Soffe for details on 07455 076584

Yoga

Gentle/Chair Yoga; Tuesdays 10 – 11 am (on Zoom)

Wednesdays 10 – 11am (spaces available)

Linda is offering a free trial class on Wednesday 10th September – a chance for you to come along and see if gentle yoga is for you.

Hatha Yoga: Wednesdays 16.30 – 17.45.

Thursdays 21.30 – 22.45

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

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

Linda Davey – British Wheel of Yoga Teacher and Yoga Therapist/Yoga in Healthcare Alliance

Village Hall Contacts: Hugh Rees (Chair) 01235 833174/07802 416031, Stefan Povolotsky 07460 727374