

WEST HENDRED

OCTOBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for next Newsletter
25 October 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.

From West Hendred Parish Council

A417 Crossing

It is very frustrating to report that we have tried numerous avenues to glean accurate information about the proposed crossing on the A417, which have all proved fruitless to date.

Be assured we are keeping up the pressure to be given hoped-for progress and a start date for the work. As soon as we get any response from Highways and/or our County Councillor (Jane Hanna) we will pass on the information immediately.

Keeping Footpaths Clear

A gentle reminder to all householders with a boundary adjacent to a public footpath that you should maintain hedging and growth so that it is easy to walk the footpath.

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/>

Reminder: Public Meeting re Rights of Way on Monday 29th Sept at 8pm

This is about addressing ongoing concerns regarding the fencing off of paths that many residents have used for over 20 years.

Following the communication sent to residents early in August it is with regret that we relay that there have been two further emails from Lockinge Estate refusing to

entertain any compromise from their part on the fencing off of the previously used paths. As you may know the preferred outcome kindly suggested to the estate was a permissive path (where the landowner retains control of access but allows use). We said we would be having a village meeting to allow any final views to be put forward, and for the 56 people who said they would sign to say they had used the paths for over 20 years to talk to one another about next steps.

The proposal for discussion is to make an application to Oxfordshire County Council to make the well-used paths in and beside the woods around the brook into formally designated Public Rights of Way (PROW). Maps are available showing a first attempt at describing the paths used and to be registered; these can be changed after discussions from the meeting. To see them in advance, use the contact details below.

The next action is for the 56 people to complete a declaration, also available from the authors below. The document needs to be printed and filled in by the person making the declaration. Completed forms can be handed in at or after the meeting. Please help us with those not at the meeting or without the technology to do this.

In the meeting we will very briefly cover what has gone on so far, share some maps and historical evidence of use to go with your declarations and suggest the pros and cons of this next step. Then the floor will be open to all for comments, questions and debate.

Anyone who cannot declare 20+ years of using one or more of the path sections is also welcome at the meeting but clearly won't be able to take part in the application that will only go forward from those able to declare.

If you have any comments or questions in the meantime, please email hendredpaths@gmail.com or talk to James, Tim, Marcus or Paul.

Please bring your completed declaration forms to the meeting.

Meeting Agenda – Monday 29th September 2025 8pm, West Hendred & Ginge Village Hall

1. Chair Martin Spray – welcome and introduction
2. Setting the scene & what's been done so far; the pros and cons of going for a Public Right of Way application & possible consequences if the application is not made – Paul Wyman, Tim Hutchinson, James Spurgeon.
3. Questions & comments.

Oxford Historic Churches Ride and Stride 2025

This year's sponsored event took place on Saturday 13th September. The weather was warm, dry with a gentle breeze, and an excellent cycling temperature of about 17°C, although there were some short, intense downpours in the afternoon.

I opened Holy Trinity Church at about 9.30am, then headed off to East Hendred. A total of 5 st/riders visited the church, lower than last year's count of 9 st/riders Hilary Cakebread-Hall of West Hanney, the Ride+Stride County Coordinator, popped into the church to see how things were going. She said, "As ever it is very varied across the county with no obvious explanation!"

The money raised will be divided equally between The Oxford Historic Churches Trust (OHCT) and Holy Trinity Church West Hendred. We usually receive our portion in late December or early January. OHCT have always been very supportive of us. Most recently, in February 2025 they awarded a grant of £6,000 towards the chancel roof re-tile. They are continuing to be very helpful, supporting our efforts to get our lay rector, Corpus Christi College, to reimburse. The lay rector has the obligation,

both legal and moral, to pay for upkeep and repairs of the chancel. OHCT have mentioned "from our experience they will put up every possible obstacle", yet in the end they do pay up.

Thank you to all who have sponsored.
Hugh Rees

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

Last year your shoeboxes brought joy to needy children in Eastern Europe. This year we are again supporting Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. If you would like to participate through the village collection, leaflets are available now from Holy Trinity Church or from either one of us. The leaflets contain full details about how to fill your box with toys, toiletries and other goodies and how to wrap it. Of course we are more than happy to answer any questions. As in previous years a donation of £5 per box is welcomed by Samaritan's Purse to cover transportation costs but this is not mandatory and we welcome ALL boxes. Please could we have completed shoeboxes by Thursday 13th November at the latest so that we can get them to the despatch point in time! These boxes bring so much joy to needy children overseas so please do consider taking part. Thank you for reading this.

Patsy 07784773678 Angela 07775863350

The Golden Age Club

Have you ever considered coming to the Golden Age Club? We are a well-established village club for the older community based in East Hendred but would welcome new members from the surrounding villages. We are fun, friendly and young at heart! We meet on the first or second Thursday of every month at Snell's Hall. We have either tea or a simple lunch and an activity or a speaker, and it costs only £25 a year. Transport can be arranged.

To find out more, why not come and have a free "taster" tea at 3pm on Thursday 2nd October at Snell's Hall? Please email dga.rachel@yahoo.co.uk if you'd like to come.

The panto is back in E Hendred

This time it's *Snow White and the Seven* – a much loved pantomime with a modern twist. Audition day – Sunday 12th October at Snell's Hall, East Hendred, from 3 to 6pm. All welcome from school year 6 upwards. Children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Come and have a fun afternoon and see if you've got what it takes to be part of the Panto. Performances will be on 27 & 28 February and 1 March 2026.

Typhoid and Paratyphoid A Fever Clinical Trial: volunteers wanted

Oxford Vaccine Group (University of Oxford) is running a trial called BiVISTA, and is appealing for voluntary participants aged 18-55.

Participants will be vaccinated with the new vaccine or control, and then exposed to the bacteria that cause paratyphoid fever. All study participants will receive antibiotic treatment, and will be reimbursed up to £4585 for their time, inconvenience and travel. Find out more at <https://www.ovg.ox.ac.uk/>

District Councillor Update: Cllr Sarah James (Hendreds Ward)

Waste Collection

There is a new contact number for waste-related queries – 01235 422 123. The old 03000 waste number will soon be turned off. This new number is for all district council household waste, recycling, food, garden waste, bulky waste collections, clinical waste collections and street cleaning services. It is also the number to call to report fly-tipping and abandoned vehicles.

For queries about garden waste permits, residents should continue to call 01235 422 422.

You can also contact Vale Council about all of these through their website.

Allotments

Following press coverage last month about Government approvals for taking allotment sites out of allotment use for development or other uses I got some concerned queries about how well protected our allotment sites are. I checked up on this. Happily, it turns out there hasn't been a policy change. Recent coverage seems to be due to a question in parliament about when Government has allowed councils to sell allotments, but allotments are well protected which is why councils wishing to sell them must get Government approval to do so and the numbers each year are very small.

Cost of Living Help:

<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

Or contact me by phone or WhatsApp on 07811 085661 or by email:

Sarah.James1@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Vale News

The September edition of Vale News has updates on the backlog in Planning Services, tips on cutting waste and saving money, fun events at The Beacon, and lots more! Click on this link to see details:

<https://mailchi.mp/acfbba41581e/the-first-edition-of-vale-news-for-17346613?e=e68dc21950>

For Sale

Adult Trek FX3 Hybrid bike. Size 17.5. Bought for £500 in June 2017, hardly ridden and in immaculate condition, will accept £250. Comes with saddle bag, lights and puncture repair kit. Enquiries to: 07758 730164

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

West Hendred and Ginge Village Hall News

Hall Lettings

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

John Sobota's Gift to the Hall

The West Hendred & Ginge Village Hall Trustees and Management Committee are hugely grateful to John Sobota for his generous bequest of £2,000 to the village hall. John and his wife, Veronica, were valued members of the committee of the original village hall in the 1970s and 1980s.

The trustees have decided to use John's bequest to redecorate the hall's interior, which will be carried out this autumn and which will be dedicated to John.

Events at the Village Hall

West Hendred Christmas Fair – Sunday 7th December 12 noon to 3pm

A date for the diary – more details next month.

Dog training classes at West Hendred Village Hall

Class times:

Tuesdays and Fridays 18.30-19.30: training foundations

Mondays 18.30-19.30: graded classes

Tuesdays and Fridays 17.15-18.15: graded classes.

Graded classes are suitable for dogs who have completed their training foundations.

All classes are for puppies and dogs (of all ages) once fully vaccinated.

All classes are tailored 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.

Wednesday Pilates Classes

Sally Bensoussis, a Level 3 certified Body Control Pilates Master Teacher, runs Pilates classes in the Village Hall at 7.30-8.30pm on Wednesdays. Classes are in five-week blocks through much of the year; the cost is £60 per block, with maximum 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, please complete the enrolment form on Sally's site <https://www.pilateswithsally.co.uk/> so that she can check for any relevant issues before confirming your place.

Springline Singers Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm

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 7:30-9:30pm.

West Hendred Stitchers - SECOND & FOURTH Tuesdays in the month 10am to 4pm

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 07455076584

Yoga

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

Hatha Yoga: Wednesdays 4.30 – 5.45pm. Thursdays 9.30 – 10.45pm

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 Teacher and Yoga Therapist/Yoga in Healthcare Alliance

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