

WEST HENDRED

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for next Newsletter
25 Nov 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/>

Urgent reminder

Application for a Public Right of Way
Please complete the forms attached to the newsletter email and post into the letterboxes or hand deliver to:

Tim at 3 The Greenway

Marcus at 1 Bankside

James at The Old Cottage, bottom of the Greenway

Paul at Brook Cottage, The Millham

District Councillor Update: Cllr Sarah James (Hendreds Ward)

You are welcome to contact me by phone or WhatsApp on 07811 085661 or by emailing Sarah.James1@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Passionate residents shake up Council meeting

Residents massively outnumbered councillors at our October Council meeting when we spoke about the tripling of cost of the Abingdon Reservoir (also known as SESRO). Thames Water now admit that the actual costs would be as much as £7.5 billion, not the £2.2bn previously claimed. 50 members of the public attended Vale of White Horse District Council's meeting on 22nd October to support our cross-party motion demanding that the Government and regulators stop and take another look at the reservoir proposal

given the new costs. West Hendred was represented in the crowd! The cost-effectiveness of a £7.5bn reservoir has never been considered, never mind weighed up against the alternative options such as water transfer schemes. Thames Water have got a £2.2bn reservoir through the process so far, and then just seem able to whack the price up as high as they like with no further questions. This was a huge turn-out for a council meeting, showing the strength of feeling locally. The reservoir is shockingly unjustified and expensive, I will keep fighting against this decision.

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

Waste Collection Queries – New Contact Number

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 the 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.

Brown bin permit holders

Residents who have purchased a permit for the district council brown bin garden waste collection service in South Oxfordshire or the Vale of White Horse can have extra garden waste collected for free, on their normal scheduled collection day only, between 27 October and 7 November. Permit holders can put out a maximum of four additional sacks of garden waste, per brown bin subscription, next to their brown bin.

To be eligible for a collection, please follow this guidance:

- Only present natural garden waste, such as cut grass, plants or small branches.
- Please use standard sized (60L) black refuse-style sacks or boxes / containers which combined total no more than a standard bin full.
- Please DO NOT use bags larger than 60L (including one tonne builders' type waste bags) – our crews will not collect any garden waste from these, as they are too heavy to lift and empty into the vehicle.
- Bags and containers must be left open so crews can easily empty them into the rear of the vehicle and be able to check there are not contaminants.

All the garden waste collected will be taken to a facility near Wallingford where it is composted. The compost is then sold on to local farmers for use on their farmland as a soil conditioner.

More information about garden waste collections, including how to buy a permit, can be found on the South Oxfordshire garden waste page

<https://www.southoxon.gov.uk/gardenwaste> or the Vale garden waste page

<https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/garden-waste/>

Poppy Appeal 2025

Eighty years after the war in Europe was won, there are over 2 million veterans of more recent conflicts — of all ages — living in the UK. It can take a lot for them to reach out for support, so it is vital that Royal British Legion can be here when they do. From money troubles to health issues, and from bereavement to mental health problems, members of the Armed Forces family face a range of challenges and urgently need the kind of help that RBL can provide.

As we marked the 80th anniversary of VE and VJ Day, your support could help ensure nobody has to struggle alone.

This year I was privileged to visit the new British D-Day memorial near Bayeux where I saw these words: "We don't know them all, but we owe them all. May their memory guide us towards a future of peace and freedom."

Sadly our very own village WW2 veteran died earlier this year aged 98. He wore his poppy with pride every year.

Best Wishes, Nigel Findley

Wreath Making

Come and spend a jolly afternoon with us on Sunday 30th November 3-5pm at West Hendred Village Hall making a Christmas wreath in time to get your front door looking fabulous for the beginning of the festive season. Moss your frame, add a wide range of beautiful foliage and then get creative with dried fruits, cinnamon, berries and cones. Finally choose a beautiful velvet ribbon to finish your masterpiece. No experience necessary and all materials and tools will be provided. £60 per person which includes festive treats and fizz. Contact Sarah Wimborne on 07949605383 or sarahwimborne@gmail.com to book.

However, if you are not feeling creative, I would love to make a wreath for you (prices from £55). Or come and buy a beautiful ready-made wreath at the Christmas Fair on Sunday 7th December.

The West Hendred Christmas Fair

is happening in the Hall on Sunday 7th December between 12am and 3pm.

There will be a marvellous array of stalls, fun for children, food to eat, mulled wine and mince pies, and the Springline Choir!

This is a Call-Out for helpers - hoping you could do an hour on a rota for: the Entry table or Bar or tombola or behind the hatch serving soup, sausage rolls and mulled wine.

We are looking for RAFFLE PRIZES, tombola items, bakers of CAKES, and (very important) MINCE PIES!!

If you can help in any way please contact one of us. Thank You!

Selena Adams selena_jane@icloud.com

Jenni Dimbylow

jenniferdimbylow@hotmail.co.uk

Sarah Lloyd sarahlloyd@qi.com

Duck needed

Lou Crosthwaite from Upper Farm, Ginge. lost her female duck on Friday pm and now has a distraught widower who desperately needs a new wife.

Can anyone help supply a new partner?

Thanks Lou – 07557090805

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal 2025

A little reminder. Please can we have completed shoeboxes by Thursday 13th November and many thanks for donations already received.

Patsy 07784773678 and Angela 07775863350

Holy Trinity Church, West Hendred Christmas Cards

We have 2 designs of Holy Trinity Church, West Hendred. The cards are in packs of 10 (with envelopes), £5 per pack, and are sold in aid of repairs to the Church. This is excellent value! The packs will be available at the church, which is open every day.

You can pay by cash, cheque payable to West Hendred Parochial Church Council.

Also, you can pay on-line via the Donate on our home page at

<https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6046/>

We will be at West Hendred Village Hall's Christmas Fair on Sunday 7th December. We'll have contactless card payment there too. Also look out for pop-up sales, which we're hoping to do in November and closer to Christmas. We have one design using a photograph taken in February 2019 printed to high-quality, as well as the very popular 2009 design, re-printed on high-quality textured

card. The greeting inside the card is "*Best Wishes for Christmas and the New Year*".

Also available are packs with no greeting inside the card. Further information from Hugh and Annabel Rees on 01235-833174.

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

I opened Holy Trinity Church at 9.30am and cycled to East Hendred, Steventon, Milton and Sutton Courtney, to Abingdon. I then went to Radley and lunch (part 1), Sandford on Thames, crossing the river at the Sandford Lock, and it started to rain. I cycled up a short, steep slope to the St. Andrews church, by which time it was a real downpour! So, lunch part 2.

From Sandford, on to Littlemore, Cowley, Iffley, St. Bartlemas Chapel, and then Oxford. This year I managed to see the interior of the Russian Orthodox Church in Ferry Road, Marston, which has very vivid colours. From there, I went across the river Cherwell to central Oxford, visiting St. Mary Magdalen on High Street, and the Cathedral, then across Folly bridge to Holyrood church, then I cycled along the Thames path to Osney.

Just upstream of Osney lock I encountered a small group of swimmers – brave souls – who had swum downstream from the Medley boat station near Binsey – about 1 mile! They were not quite blue, but certainly a very bracing thing to do with a river temperature of 17C! A couple of them had gone by kayak. I visited St. Frideswides church on Osney Island, and then off via St. Thomas the Martyr close by the railway station the City Centre and then St. Giles. I cycled on to St. Barnabas in Jericho (a glorious mix of Torcello meets Ravenna), the Greek Orthodox church in Canterbury Road, North Oxford, then Summertown. I finished at Woodstock Road Baptist Church – I went to Sunday school there from about 3 years old until 6 years old. Money continues to come in from sponsors. The total so far received is £548, with quite a lot more yet to come in. Thank you to all who have sponsored. Hugh Rees

The deadline for items for next month's newsletter is 25th November. 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

The West Hendred Christmas Fair

is happening in the Hall on Sunday 7th December between 12am and 3pm. There will be a marvellous array of stalls, fun for children, food to eat, mulled wine and mince pies, and the Springline Choir!

Christmas wreath making workshop – Sunday 30th November 3-5pm

(Details in newsletter) Contact Sarah Wimborne on 07949605383 or sarahwimborne@gmail.com to book.

Dog training classes

Tuesdays and Fridays 18:30-19:30 training foundations

Mondays 6.30-7.30 graded classes

Tuesdays and Fridays 17.15-18.15 graded classes.

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

Suitable for puppies and dogs (of 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.

New Strength & Tone Yoga classes with Tash from Flowing Flamingo Yoga

When: 6:10-7:10pm every Thursday

Come and join Tash for a higher energy MUST TRY Yoga class that includes the use of light weights (1kg or 2kg) to add resistance and power to your workout. You can also practice without weights too if you'd prefer. Perfect for you if you want to introduce Yoga and mindfulness into your life with the added extra of strength training without having to go to the gym!

All levels are welcome, including complete beginners to both Yoga and Strength training. It's a small and welcoming community where empowerment is at the core of what I do. If you have any questions please feel free to drop me an email. info@flowingflamingo.com

Book via my website: www.floatingflamingo.com

Sign up to my mailing list to receive 50% off two classes: <https://www.floatingflamingo.com/contact>

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 she can check for any relevant issues before confirming your place.

Springline Singers

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

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 me, Jane Soffe, for details on 07455076584

YOGA at West Hendred Village Hall

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

Wednesdays 10 – 11am

Hatha Yoga Wednesdays 4.30 – 5.45pm

Thursdays 9.30 – 10.45 am

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

WANTAGE TOWN COUNCIL



**Tell us what
you think! -
and win £50!**

Wantage Town Council is inviting all residents to take part in our Community Survey - your opportunity to help shape the future of our town, AND be in with a chance to win up to £50 in vouchers!

From public spaces and local events to community services and long-term priorities, we're seeking your views. Whether you've lived in Wantage for decades or have recently moved here, your feedback is important.

The survey only takes a few minutes to complete, but your input could have a lasting impact on the decisions that shape our community.



To take part, please scan the QR code or visit our website:
www.wantagecouncil.gov.uk

If you would prefer a paper copy, these are available to collect from:
The Beacon, Portway, OX12 9BX