

WEST HENDRED

AUGUST 2024 NEWSLETTER



Deadline for next Newsletter
25 August 2024

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.

The Hendreds & Ginge Dog show 2024

The West Hendred playground will be closed next Sunday, 1st September, for the Dog Show taking place there.

There is Car parking in the field opposite, which will be signed.

Attached is the Entry form for the Show, for anyone who has not been able to pick one up, or who would rather print it at home.

Looking forward to seeing lots of dogs!

Holy Trinity West Hendred Oxford Historic Churches Ride and Stride – 14th September

This year's sponsored event is on Saturday 14th September – money raised will be divided equally between The Oxford Historic Churches Trust and Holy Trinity Church. We usually receive our portion in late December or early January.

Oxford Historic Churches Trust will provide very limited printed material, with almost everything available online from OHCT's website at

<https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

OHCT suggest "You might like to try one of our newly launched 'suggested routes' – we have walks on offer (including both instructions and a narrative read in advance about the churches included), a chance to follow in Bishop Gavin's 2021 and 2023 rides and a few more cycling routes too."

In June 2023 OHCT very generously awarded a feasibility grant of £1,100 for the entire net cost of a Structural Engineer's inspection and report of the Bell Frame and its supports. In February 2024 OHCT also awarded a grant of £3,000 towards the new heating system, which was installed in May. We are now applying to OHCT for a grant towards major work to re-tile the chancel roof.

There are several "old hands", young and old in age, who anticipate participating. So please join us, either by Riding or Striding yourself, or sponsoring us.

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

More details will be available from Hugh Rees on 833174 and OHCT's website on www.ohct.org.uk

Beer Festival – thanks

Thank you so much for everyone who supported the 11th West Hendred Beer Festival. This year we raised enough to cover the running costs of the hall for next winter, as well as managing to support other local groups such as the Preschool, Golden Age, Springline, Scouts and the Air Ambulance.

The event takes a huge amount of time, energy and investment. We couldn't run the event without the generous support of our main sponsor Chapman Worth, our keg sponsors and the many people who generously gave their time, fields, bunting, and slow cookers. It was a great success, and we hope you all enjoyed attending as much as we enjoyed running it. We look forward to seeing you all again next year! Save the date, 27th -28th June 2025
The Beer Festival Team

Sarah James - District Councillor update SESRO Reservoir – can it ever be safe?

Thames Water have spent the summer carrying out a reservoir options consultation.

<https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/projects/sesro/> .

Should the access road go here, or here? The intake from the Thames here, here or here? This implies that the case has been made and accepted that one, huge reservoir in this location is the best way to address water supply for South-East England. But that's not true.

Thames Water put this case in their draft Water Resource Management Plan, but that hasn't been accepted and published by the Government yet. The Environment Agency's

advice to Government is that it shouldn't be published in its current form.

I have responded to the latest Thames Water consultation, continuing to raise my concerns again that this is neither the best solution for the region, nor acceptable as it stands to our community.

One frightening aspect of the plans is the Emergency Discharge plan. The reservoir must be able to empty at a rate of 1m of water depth per day. Those are the safety requirements. From the point of view of anyone living near the reservoir embankment that is likely to feel too slow. If the reservoir is full, it would take 23 days to completely empty it at that rate. But that is still a tremendous rate of water discharge. It is 75 m³ per second.

This consultation laid out options for the channel or underground tunnel that will carry that water to the Thames in an emergency. It would discharge below Abingdon and above the Culham Cut and Sutton Courtenay. But it doesn't say anything about the ability of the Thames to handle that discharge. The average flow in the Thames below Sutton Courtenay is only 26 m³ per second. Suddenly adding 75 m³ per second could be catastrophic: for people in or near the river; for riverbanks and wildlife; and for infrastructure such as locks and bridges. It just isn't safe to build a single reservoir this big in this location.

GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) are asking people to sign a petition to Government to stop the reservoir going ahead. <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-thames-water-s-plans-for-a-devastating-mega-reservoir>

Steventon Lights Road Scheme

I attended a recent Oxfordshire County Council event about the roadworks planned between Steventon Lights and Milton Interchange. You can find more details at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/roads-and-transport/roadworks/major-current-roadworks/a4130-steventon-lights>. I welcome the planned upgrades, but the roadworks will impact us from around now until Spring 2025.

Cost of Living Help

For more information on help available please visit <https://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/vale-of-white-horse-district-council/cost-of-living-crisis-advice-and-support/> or phone the Community Hub on 01235 422600 or email communitysupport@southandvale.gov.uk

Cllr Sarah James

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

Council encourages people to take part in Thames Water Reservoir public consultation - deadline 28.2.2024

Vale of White Horse District Council is encouraging its residents to give their views on Thames Water's proposed reservoir for the district.

Thames Water has launched a public consultation on the proposed reservoir and the public have until 28 August to give their views - available here: <https://thames-wrmp.co.uk/sesro>

Plans for the controversial reservoir near Abingdon have again been criticised by local communities, with Vale of White Horse District Council urging water providers to consider alternative solutions more seriously. The reservoir is now even bigger than originally planned - at around 6.5 km² – almost as big as Gatwick Airport and unprecedented in scale. The council reaffirmed its objections to the reservoir in a formal letter to Thames Water after the water company submitted its revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan to the government.

The council argues that the plans fail to fully consider the long-term impacts to the local community and the environment, both during a decade of construction and the irreparable damage to the countryside.

Any reservoir would also come at the expense of significant carbon emissions which the council argues would impact the district's ability to become carbon neutral by 2045.

Cllr Bethia Thomas, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "With public confidence in Thames Water at rock bottom – and the further news this week on the company's significant financial challenges – it seems remarkable to me that it remains fixated on pushing ahead with this environmentally disastrous plan without properly exploring much more sensible and effective options. We remain opposed to these proposals and want to encourage residents to view the plans and give their feedback to Thames Water as well.

"Instead of sinking significant financial and carbon costs into a giant reservoir that dominates our countryside, water suppliers should be fast-tracking less disruptive alternatives by fixing leaks, helping us all to

reduce our water consumption and by exploring the use of water transfers.

"We will be providing our feedback as part of this latest process, and we will continue to represent our residents and urge water providers, regulators and government to listen to local voices and reject these plans."

NB. In December 2021, Vale of White Horse District Council agreed a motion to: 'reaffirm its position from the previous public inquiry that it opposes the reservoir proposal unless or until the case for need for this specific solution (over and above the other potential cheaper, less disruptive, and less environmentally impactful solutions) has been clearly tested, demonstrated and agreed by independent scientific experts.'

On 22 December 2023, the council restated its opposition to the Abingdon reservoir: 'the motion noted the council's concerns around the Southeast Strategic Reservoir Option (SESRO) set out in the draft regional plan by Thames Water.'

The council's resolutions included to request a meeting with the Secretary of State alongside a call for the SESRO approval processes to be paused.

Come and Join Us in September!

Springline Singers had two performances this summer, the first at the West Hendred Not Just A Beer Festival and the second in Snells Hall for our summer charity concert. This term, we had a special focus on music about the sea and sang some music specially written to mark the bicentenary of the RNLI.

This summer, Springline will be donating to the RNLI and our village churches. We are so pleased to be able to contribute to community charities and organisations and we are able to do this through the loyalty of our members and also through the fantastic support we have in our audiences.

Everyone who enjoys singing is welcome to join the choir, we rehearse on Thursday evenings at West Hendred Village Hall from 7:30pm. Our new term starts on 12th September, come along for a free taster where we will be singing our usual varied repertoire including pop and folk, Mozart and probably a bit of Rutter at Christmas!

Holy Trinity Church

We want everyone, regardless of age or background, to feel able to take part in the life of the church. As a first step, we have refreshed the orders of service that we follow

on Sunday mornings to make the services more welcoming to all who are not used to attending. Why not give it a try?

A hundred years ago, people imagined that with the increase in mechanisation and automation, in the future we would only need to work three hours a day, and machines would do everything else. We've now reached a level of automation that they could only dream of, and yet our work is getting out of hand, not slowing down. We need to have rest prescribed for us. We need the 4th Commandment: remember to keep holy the Sabbath day.

Sunday, our Sabbath, is a day to stop and pay attention, to unclench, and to celebrate. If you were here at Christmas, you may recall hearing me speak about the world as a place of convalescence, a place where God is at work to heal us. And I believe the Church is best seen as a hospital, a model for what the world could be: a place for the rehabilitation of recovering broken people, and a place where all are invited to take part in that rest.

Our Sunday services continue at 9:30am on the first, second, and fourth Sunday of each month, and at 6pm on the third Sunday (e.g., 15th September). The afternoon service, Family Church, takes place at St Augustine's East Hendred, 3:30pm every Sunday during school term, starting up again on 8th September.

Do save the date for this year's Harvest service on Sunday 6th October, 9:30am at Holy Trinity: a short Family Service where we will give thanks for the gifts brought to church by children and others. The service will be followed by refreshments.

Thank you for any contributions you are able to make towards the upkeep and continued life of our precious church this Harvest. The easiest place to donate (regularly or one-off) is online here:

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/west-hendred-holy-trinity-wantage/>

Nikolaj Christensen, Rector

Winter Fuel Payment

The Winter Fuel Payment has changed and we are urging older people across Oxfordshire to check whether they are entitled to Pension Credit or any other qualifying benefits.

The Winter Fuel Payment is an annual tax-free payment for households that include someone born on or before 23rd September 1958 (for 2024-25) designed to help cover heating costs in winter, with households receiving up to £300.

Previously, the payment was not mean tested, but changes by the current Government mean that only those receiving certain benefits will receive the contribution to heating costs.

Pension Credit is the primary way older people can continue to receive the Winter Fuel Payment, and with an estimate of more than 4,000 older people across the county not claiming the Pension Credit to which they're entitled, it's more important than ever that people check their eligibility.

Pension Credit is an income-related benefit that tops up weekly income to £218.15 for a single person and to a joint £332.95 for a couple. So if you know anyone eligible for Pension Credit, please encourage them to apply online at www.gov.uk/pension-credit or by calling Age UK Oxfordshire 0800 99 1234

Make an Impact! Volunteer with Citizens Advice Oxfordshire South and Vale

Are you looking for a new challenge, and want to contribute something to your community? Oxfordshire South and Vale Citizens Advice is looking for volunteer advisers and IT specialists to work in our friendly offices in Abingdon, Didcot, Henley or Thame. Citizens Advice gives people the knowledge and confidence they need to find their way forward - whoever they are and whatever their problem. In a typical year our 111 volunteers support around 10,000 people. Our volunteers play a vital role, ensuring that people receive the advice and support they need.

We are currently looking for advisers and IT specialists.

Advisers will:

- Receive extensive training and support to ensure they have the knowledge to help people move forward
- Learn about a range of issues that affect our clients including benefits, debt, housing and employment (no prior knowledge necessary)
- Give confidential advice over the phone and in person
- Make a real difference to people's lives, contributing to improving their wellbeing
- Have a sense of belonging to the community developed through working with people from all background

A new adviser training course begins in early October 2024, so apply now!

IT specialists will:

- Help to maintain our IT systems and support the service
- Help staff and volunteers with day-to-day IT issues, for example with trouble logging on, connecting to Wi-Fi and locating files.
- Help to maintain our local Citizens Advice website.

We would like you to be available for two sessions per week, if possible, either mornings or afternoons or for a whole day. We offer a rewarding, flexible and supportive working environment.

We also welcome volunteer receptionists, fund raisers, communication workers and HR administration.

To apply, please use this

link: <https://citizensadviceosav.org.uk/volunteering/>

Or, if you would like to discuss these volunteering roles, please email:

recruitment@citizensadviceosav.org.uk and one of our team will contact you.

Harvest Festival –

Sunday 6th October 9-30am save the date

A short family service, followed by refreshments.

Also see the rector's item. More in October's Newsletter.

The deadline for items for next month's newsletter is 25th August. 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 Hall - The Hundreds and Ginge Dog Show RETURNS on Sunday 1st September.

New dog training classes now started Tuesday, Friday 17:15-18:15 & 18:30-19:30

Classes are run by a IMDT qualified dog trainer on Tuesdays and Fridays at 17.15-18.15 and 18.30-19.30 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.

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-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 and 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

Kyokushin Karate Club - on Mondays

Attention all beginners! Ready to kick-start your karate journey? Join our Kyokushin Karate Club in West Hendred Village Hall on Mondays. The cost of the training is £6 per lesson (reduction for more than one family member).

Children's class from 5.00pm - 5.45pm.

Adults class 5.45pm – 7.00pm

Beginner-friendly classes designed to empower you. No experience required! Discover the art of self-defence, build strength, flexibility and confidence. Expert instructors will guide you every step of the way, ensuring a safe and supportive environment. Reserve your spot today and unlock your full potential! Call or message now: 07446469488

Pilates - Mat classes Wednesdays 6-7pm

Classical and modern Pilates exercises, incorporating myofascial release techniques to alleviate stress and muscle tension. We focus on maintaining and improving the 6 main Pilates principles: Breath, concentration, control, precision, centring and flow. All levels welcome.

I will provide modifications and more advanced versions of the exercises to suit different abilities. I provide all mats and equipment, but you are of course welcome to bring your own. Please get in touch to book your first session or for more information please contact: Charlie Prince on 07581 462317

charlie@princepilates.co.uk or visit my website: www.princepilates.co.uk

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 – 10.45pm

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 Committee Contacts

Hugh Rees (Chair) 01235-833174 / 07802 416031 Stefan Povolotsky 07460 727374

HENDREDS & GINGE DOG SHOW 2024

ENTRY FORM

SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER FIRST CLASS 2pm



Name of dog: _____

Breed: _____

Name of owner/handler: _____

Contact (mobile/email): _____

£3 per class

1	SIX BEST LEGS	
2	MOST LIKE OWNER	
3	BEST JUNIOR HANDLER	
4	WAGGIEST TAIL	
5	FANCY DRESS	
6	DOG WITH MOST CHARACTER	
7	BEST GROOMED DOG AND OWNER	
8	BEST PUPPY (3-12 months)	
9	BEST YOUNGSTER (1 -4 years)	
10	BEST VETERAN (12 years +)	
11	BEST TRICK	
12	BEST IN SHOW	

HAND THIS FORM TO THE ENTRANCE DESK WITH YOUR ENTRY FEE (CASH) ON THE DAY