

WEST HENDRED

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for next Newsletter
25 OCTOBER 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.

District Councillor Update

Cllr Sarah James - You are welcome to contact me by phone or WhatsApp on 07811 085661 or by emailing

sarah.james1@whitehorsedc.gov.uk

Why so many power cuts and should we expect better?

We get power cuts pretty frequently in this ward, and in other rural parts of the district. I feel we should be getting a better service from our local network operator Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN). Power cuts are at best a major inconvenience and for vulnerable groups they can be dangerous. Most central heating will not work when the electricity is out, no matter what the fuel is, and this is a particular risk for the old and young and those with health conditions. If you have any records of when recent power cuts have affected you, for example how many cuts there have been, when they were and how long they lasted, or the impacts they caused, please do drop me an email. This is something I am going to be following up with SSEN.

From West Hendred Parish Council **The Crossing on the A417(Update)**

Detailed design work has started including street lighting and traffic signals and a utility survey. The design has been adapted to avoid damage to the large chestnut tree near the crossing. A traffic management plan is being agreed to minimize disruption while the crossing is being built. A provisional

construction window of 4-8 weeks is planned early in 2025.

South East Strategic Reservoir Option (Sesro)

The Green Party Group of councillors on the Vale is very concerned about Thames Water's plans for a 1.5 million cubic metre reservoir in our area. This is one and a half times larger than the reservoir Thames Water consulted on in drawing up their draft Water Resource Management Plan last year. There are significant concerns about flooding risk, safety and biodiversity that remain unanswered, even though the plan for a large reservoir in this location is something Thames Water have been pushing for decades now. A recent briefing for councillors revealed that very recent groundwater modelling carried out on behalf of Thames Water shows a predicted increase in groundwater levels of 1m due to the reservoir at its southern side. It is concerning that this is only coming to light now as local residents have been asking about issues like this for years. As a result, Vale of White Horse Green Group is backing Group Against Reservoir Development's (GARD) call for a public inquiry into the reservoir plans. We have written to the Secretary of State to ask him to exercise his powers to call a public inquiry at this stage. For some reason the link in the newsletter pdf to the GARD (Group Against Reservoir Development) petition to Government to stop the reservoir going ahead doesn't work, all the other links are fine. This link works - please sign up and support it. It takes 2 minutes to complete. <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/stop-thames-water-s-plans-for-a-devastating-mega-reservoir>

The Secretary of State has overruled advice from his Environment Agency that Thames Water's plans for the Reservoir should be rejected because of concerns about the reservoir's resilience to drought and lack of proof that it represents best value for money. OCC, the Vale and Abingdon Town Council, alongside GARD, have all expressed strong opposition to Thames Water's latest consultation. If you would like to know more, both these links are helpful:

www.thames-wrmp.co.uk/projects/sero and <https://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk>

We'd like to know whether you would support putting up a GARD poster on the side of our bus stop at the top of the Greenway? Please email your message of support or otherwise to our Clerk, Julia Evans
mailto:parishcouncilclerk@westhendred.net or text Cllr Sarah Lloyd on **07798 623601**

Thames Water

Thank you for participating in our Summer 2024 consultation and events on our proposal for an essential new reservoir for the South East. This project aims to secure future water supply for 15 million people, including you and your neighbours here in Oxfordshire. The 12-week consultation period has now closed, and we're reviewing your feedback. We'll share any design updates and publish a formal response to the consultation early next year. You'll have another chance to have your say in our 2025 public consultation. In the meantime, please stay updated via our website: www.thames-sro.co.uk/sesro

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

The weather was warm, dry with a gentle breeze, and an excellent cycling temperature reaching about 20C. A really big difference to last year's 29C, with only a light wind! I opened Holy Trinity Church at about 9-15am, and then headed to East Hendred. A total of at least 9 visited the church, with a large contingent from Grove in late morning. Hilary Cakebread-Hall, of West Hanney who

is the Ride+Stride County Coordinator, said "In general we have been encouraged by the number of participants this year, although as has always been the case some churches inexplicably get more or less than previous years. We were very blessed with the weather which I think helped!"

The money raised will be divided equally between The Oxford Historic Churches Trust 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 2024 OHCT awarded a grant of £3,000 towards the new heating system, which was installed in May. We will shortly be applying to OHCT for a grant towards major work to re-tile the chancel roof. Thank you to all who have sponsored. Hugh Rees

Harvest service Sunday 6th October, 9:30am, at Holy Trinity Church, West Hendred.

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 the traditional mouth-watering Harvest breakfast. Make a vegetable animal and let your imagination go wild! Bring them to church and they can help celebrate Harvest. Also collecting produce and dried goods for 'Around Table' at Charlton Church which provides hot meals for those in need. Please bring contributions to the Harvest service or leave them in the church beforehand (open every day). Thank you! Thank you also for any contributions you're 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/> – or just search for 'Parish Giving West Hendred'.

Our Sunday services continue at 9:30am on the 1st, 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, and at 6pm on the 3rd Sunday. The 9:30am service on Remembrance Sunday 10th November will include an Act of Remembrance.

Closure of A17 into Wantage

There is a temporary suspension of the bus gate enforcement in operation until A417 gas works closure is completed. We can therefore get into Wantage by turning R at W Lockinge roundabout, then L into the new housing estate and exiting through the bus gate and onwards to Wantage. Please note that this is only until the gas works are completed, scheduled for midnight on 27th, after which you'll get a hefty fine... It would have been helpful if they had adjusted the signage to reflect this temporary reprieve, but that hasn't happened.

Hendreds and Ginge Dog Show

Very many thanks to everyone who brought their dogs or came to watch the Dog Show on the sunny Sunday afternoon of 1st September. Thank you too for the generous prizes donated, the delicious cakes made for us and to the teams on the tea table, the Bar and the entry table. And last, but not least, thanks to Ali Eyston for compering so brilliantly and to Rosemary Ryder and Izzy Davis for judging. It as a lovely community event, which will contribute towards the Hall's running costs this coming winter.

The Hare reopening

I've got some very good news to share with you all! I've just left the Hare after meeting the new manager, Craig, who's going to be opening in a few weeks. Painting and cleaning is ongoing and I'm going to help him pass updates and drum up some support for the reopening. If you know anyone who's not in this group who would like to be kept updated, please drop Nigel or I a direct message with their details and we'll add them in! I hope to see you all in there soon!

Morgan Butler

07977 101108

WH Community Whatsapp Group

A WH Community WhatsApp group has been created and there are now nearly 70 members. It's already proved incredibly useful returning lost property and pets and there are regular updates on the re-opening

of The Hare, the status of the crossing and other village news. If you don't want to view the messages, you can easily mute the conversation and catch up when you're free. If you'd like to join, please send a WhatsApp message to group administrators 0797710110 or 07900554537.

Cost of Living Help or 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

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

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

Village Hall Treasurer

As mentioned in the July Newsletter, Ken Pagett has been co-opted as a Trustee. He will be our new Treasurer when Nigel Findley retires from 30th September (financial year-end). After 17 years invaluable service, we are hugely grateful to Nigel. Nigel and Ken have already commenced several handover matters.

Events at the hall

New dog training classes now started Tuesday, Friday 18:30-19:30, 19:45-20:45

Classes are run by a IMDT qualified dog trainer on Tuesdays and Fridays at 18.30 - 19.30 and 19.45 -20.45 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 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 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 costs of the training is £6 per lesson (reduction for more than one family member).

Children's class from 5pm - 5.45pm

Adults class 5.45pm - 7pm.

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

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 Committee Contacts

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

STOP



THE

RESERVOIR

WATER TABLE RISE OF 1 METRE

THREAT TO



HOMES



NATURE



LIFE

THIS WILL AFFECT YOU

VISIT: abingdonreservoir.org.uk



GARD

GROUP AGAINST
RESERVOIR
DEVELOPMENT