

WEST HENDRED

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Deadline for next Newsletter
25 January 2026

Happy New Year everyone!

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/>

The West Hendred & Ginge

Christmas Fair took place in the Village Hall on Sunday 7th December and it's fair to say that it was a great success! Thank you to all our volunteers, to the brilliant stallholders, to everyone who helped clear away (just in time for the Hendred's panto rehearsal), and a big thank you to the Springline Choir for a glorious rendition of The Carol of the Bells and other favourites.

The wheelbarrow of booze (including the wheelbarrow) was won by Tacina Rixon; a big cheer for the donors of the fabulous raffle prizes, and also to those who pre-sold raffle tickets which always makes a difference!

The Hall made a profit of £2,064 which will be a real help in meeting our bills over the winter months; and the plan is to start a sinking fund for future repairs. We have recently reset the roof ridges, done major electrical work, and the interior of the Hall has been painted thanks to a generous bequest by John

Sobota, long-time resident of West Hendred who died earlier this year. Most of all, thanks to everyone who came to the Fair and have a very happy New Year!

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

This year's sponsored event took place on Saturday 13th September. We received a total of £818.00, which has gone to the OHCT. An impressive total, which surpasses 2024's total. Also, this has catalysed a further £96.08 in donations to the church online. The West Hendred Christmas Fair resulted in 3 additional sponsorships, making a total of 32 sponsorships. This brings the grand total to £914.08.

OHCT pays back 50% of the total (a payment of £409), which will help towards the re-tile of the chancel roof. West Hendred's Ride & Stride involvement helps support our grant applications. We've already been awarded a grant towards the chancel roof repair work.

Thank you to all who have sponsored, including those who have sponsored me in the last couple of weeks. Hugh Rees

Fencing of the Path in the Woods from West Hendred to Ginge Update

The public meeting in the hall on the 29th September was very useful for those present to express their opinions for and against a range of views and to have their questions answered as best as possible.

Following this meeting a further contact with the estate was made and there has been a verbal statement of a possible compromise being put forward by them. Those c.50 people who have asked us to send their forms to Oxfordshire County Council to apply for this historic footpath to be re-established have been told the application is on hold pending final discussions with the estate to see if the compromise is acceptable to them.

As before, we are not trying to persuade people one way or another, just to help those who want to act. We will keep you informed.

Marcus, Paul, Tim & James

Hendred Sports Club News

It's been an extremely busy year at Hendred Sports Club. Our core mission - to increase participation in sports and leisure - is clearly gaining momentum!

- The Football club are riding high in Witney & District Premier league.
- The newly formed darts team are top of their league.
- In September we welcomed the Art Club and Kung Fu club to the club.
- Children's Tennis lessons returned to the club during September and it is clear there is real demand for this to continue. We are looking at how to deliver this on an ongoing basis in 2026.
- Pickleball is now a firm fixture on the MUGA and during Winter we are playing Saturday mornings at 10am.
- The Community Café is well attended every Monday and the new 30/30 Tennis Cardio and/Pickleball classes are enjoying a coffee after the sessions on a Monday morning.

Our grant application success has continued. In partnership with EHPC we have raised over £120,000 for

improvements to our facilities in the past 12 months.

Excitingly we now have finalised the potential layout and exterior look of the new building and we have just started the fundraising process. We have shared the design with key stakeholders and are now looking for donors. Initially donations will help us take the first step to get planning consent. We aim to secure planning consent by the end of 2026. This milestone will launch a five-year fundraising and construction phase. A public showcase is planned for West Hendred Village Hall in late January, look out for the dates early in the New Year.

Want to start a new club, Netball; Chess; join an existing sport, or help shape our future as a Trustee? We'd love to hear from you! Contact us at hendredsports@gmail.com or WhatsApp 07803596388.

Harwell Laser Light on 1 January 2026

A laser was shone into the sky at Harwell to celebrate 80 years since the establishment of the Harwell Research Centre on 1 January 2026. It was clearly visible in the village, once eyes adjusted to the dark, coming on for about 10 seconds then going off for 10 seconds.

Waste Recycling

It's that time of year when more of us make use of our excellent recycling centres. From 14th January 2026 we will all have to book a time slot before every visit via

<https://oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking>

Have proof of address with you when you go, otherwise it will be a £15 charge.

The deadline for items for next month's newsletter is 25th January. 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 Last Year 2025 and Coming Year 2026 – the report will be February's Newsletter.

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 Flowing Flamingo Yoga class kicking off 5th February 2026 at 6.15pm

A feel-good class designed to help you move more freely, feel more comfortable in your body, and properly unwind. Each class begins with gentle yoga conditioning focused on mobility, flexibility and functional movement. We'll use stretching and simple, supportive exercises - plus props like blocks, straps and resistance bands - to help condition your joints and muscles for everyday life and build a sense of strength and confidence in how you move. Then we slow things right down with restorative yoga. Expect cosy, supported poses, calm breathing and deep rest to help soothe your nervous system, release tension and leave you feeling reset after a busy day.

- ◆ Friendly, welcoming and accessible
- ◆ No experience needed
- ◆ Perfect if you're feeling stiff, tired or just need some you-time

Booking: www.flowingflamingo.com/book-a-class

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

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

Friday Pilates Classes - Matwork Pilates with Physio Emma

Fridays at 12:40-13:25 (45 minutes)

Start date: January 9th

End date: March 27th

It's a 10-week course (NO CLASSES 20th February or 6th March). £11 per class to be paid in advance. Plus £30 for an initial 1:1 session with Emma (before the course starts) to achieve a quick medical screen, intro to Pilates and Emma's way of teaching and goal setting. If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Emma Marsh Emma@womensphysiotherapy.co.uk

Village Hall Contacts

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