

WEST HENDRED

FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for next Newsletter
25 February 2026**

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/>

From Holy Trinity Church, West Hendred

We are sorry to announce that Daphne Hitchcock has died after a long illness. Daphne had previously been secretary of West Hendred's Parochial Church Council for 47 years and was also clerk of the Parish Council. She enriched the lives of all around her with her friendly smile and faithful service. Her funeral will take place at West Hendred Church on Thursday 12 February at 11am.

Very sadly we have also lost Michael Evans, our cherished organist, who died suddenly in January. He was incredibly generous with his time, his enormous talent, and his positive attitude. His funeral will take place at East Hendred Church on Tuesday 10 February at 12 noon.

This year's Ash Wednesday service will take place at West Hendred Church on 18 February at 6pm. All are welcome to join in marking the beginning of Lent.

A Tribute to Michael Evans

Michael Evans – Holy Trinity Church Organist for over 50 years - died 8th January 2026. His funeral will take place at St Augustine's Church West Hendred at 12 noon on Tuesday 10 February 2026.

Michael touched us through his music and through his presence, steady and unassuming. He was always there, as regular and as reliable as a good watch, marking time without drawing

attention to himself. Week after week he supported our worship with quiet faithfulness, giving shape and continuity to our shared life. His playing accompanied the seasons of the church and the seasons of our own lives. In that constancy there was comfort, and something deeply reassuring. With prayers for Michael, and for all who mourn him, Karl Capp

Historic Path In The Woods - Update

Dear fellow residents,
Firstly, we wish everyone (including our neighbours, the Lockinge Estate) a Happy New Year and then an update of further developments and a call to action.
Just before Christmas we received an email from the Estate saying that they had "agreed to pursue the option of granting a permissive path along the field edge above the brook and tree line when ground conditions and funding permit".
We replied thanking them for being flexible and asking for further information on what might occur and when and whether it would be permanent.
In addition, we said that the overwhelming view from the survey and from the forms received is that those who responded wanted access to the woodland area re-opened. We said we expected that if a compromise could still be found, enabling access to the historic woodland path, then it was likely that those who had filled in forms would accept that and not submit their form to the County Council for a Public Right of Way to be re-instated (as shown on historical maps). We also offered to meet again.
Lastly we said that as the anniversary of the fencing was approaching then if no access to the woodland path could be agreed then as requested by the applicants, all their, approx. 50 forms would be hand delivered to the Council on Monday 26th January. This action can then be modified at any stage if a resolution were to be reached.

If you have not filled in a form to ask Oxfordshire County Council to have the path through the woods re-opened but would like to, please let us have it as soon as you can. As before we are not trying to persuade anyone to do what they don't want to do. We are helping those who feel sufficiently strongly that the path has been wrongly closed and should be re-opened to try and get their wishes enacted.

If you would like more information or to make a comment please get in touch with one of us.

Yours, hoping for a happy & peaceful 2026

Tim, Paul, Marcus & James

hendredpaths@gmail.com

The Panto is back in East Hendred

SNOW WHITE AND THE SEVEN - a modern twist on a traditional tale, at Snells Hall

Friday 27 Feb at 7.30pm

Saturday 28 Feb at 2 pm and 7.30pm

Sunday 1 March at 2pm. For tickets:

<https://springlineproductions.co.uk/>

£12 adults; £10 concessions

West Hendred Summer Garden Party

A date for your diary: Sunday 12th July – late afternoon to around 7.30 pm, in aid of Holy Trinity Church.

The Summer Garden Party event will be at Manor Farm House, kindly offered by Lys and Peter Cook. Last year we did a minor "refresh" following consultation sessions. We've taken additional views to make the event more attractive to families with children. Whereas the Summer Lunch/Event has traditionally been held on a Saturday lunchtime/afternoon, this year it will be on Sunday late afternoon/early evening, so as to provide an early supper meal for families with children. We'll be having the popular stalls, including the duck race, raffle and tombola. Please contact Hugh Rees on hugh@citidata.co.uk with any offers of help. Hugh Rees

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

The Monster Reservoir – what have we learned from the latest consultation?

Vale of White Horse District Council's response to the recent statutory consultation highlighted the lack of detail and data and objected strongly to the reservoir. They were clear that

the consultation is premature and rushed and cannot form a satisfactory basis for feedback ahead of the full application. In my response as a ward councillor I agreed with this, and I highlighted three things that worry me most for Hendreds ward:

1. Construction is expected to take 15 years and to have a significant impact on housing availability/affordability and access to public services locally. This is due to the large workforce needed. Residents already regularly raise concerns about housing and other living costs and a lack of infrastructure and services for everyone, so this is worrying.
2. Traffic and congestion impacts on the A417 corridor and the wider road network. The consultation shows that Marcham Interchange will not cope and so now 25% of construction traffic will be routed via Milton Interchange and the A417.
3. Leisure facilities and other community benefits are not firm commitments and may not be delivered. This is a huge project and it must deliver real benefits to its host community. This must be a promise, not a maybe, in the final plans.

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

Need help with energy bills?

Better Housing Better Health is a free service for Oxfordshire residents to help you keep warm and save money on energy bills -

<https://www.bhbh.org.uk/> or 0800 107 0044

North Berks Referees Association - 90th Anniversary 1936-2026

The North Berks Referees Association chalks up 90 years of its existence this year.

Formed on 16 July 1936 at "The Junction Hall" in Didcot with subsequent meetings held at the "Barley Mow" Abingdon and then at various pubs and venues across the area, a geographical location known affectionately to many as, North Berks, a colloquialism arising from its old Parliamentary Constituency name which, with but slight alteration, became known as "The Abingdon Constituency" which existed between 1895 and 1983 when it was abolished, although it had already ceased to be in Berkshire when county boundary changes came into effect in 1974 (on April Fool's Day!).

The local football league and the Association retained the North Berks tag as a token of pride marking its heritage, history and development. It is fifty-two years since the change to South Oxfordshire from Berkshire, yet another example of how fleet footed time seems to be.

The Association would love to hear from any of its former members, other referees, former players, club officials and spectators so they

can keep them informed of the varied events and activities they are planning to mark and celebrate this landmark in their history of which those listed are all a part. Please contact: Ernie Tilley - ernietilley@btinternet.com

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

West Hendred and Ginge Village Hall News

In its past financial year, to September 30th 2025, The West Hendred Village Hall continued to welcome a wide range of classes and activities, private celebrations, children's parties and pop-up plant sales. The annual Christmas Fair and summer Beer Festival were both very successful events and raised substantial funds for the hall. The combined income from events and lettings was £33,320. This allowed us to undertake a major overhaul of the electrical systems during a two week closure of the hall in February 2025, to repair water ingress to some of the storage cupboards, and to provide the materials for villager Neil Ashman to construct a fine new notice board outside the hall, which he very kindly did without charging for labour. The hall also received a generous legacy of £2,000 from the late John Sobota, which we used in October 2025, after the end of the financial year, for repainting the interior of the hall.

A big thank you to the many people in West Hendred and Ginge who have run and contributed to our events, to the Springline Singers and the Christmas pantomime team who practise in the Hall and to everyone who runs classes from dog training, to Yoga, Pilates and Stitching.

The Management Committee, established in 2024 to organise and run events in the Hall and oversee general maintenance, is proving a great success. It is now chaired by Selena Adams and includes Ken Pagett (the Hall's Treasurer), Jenni Dimbylow (Secretary), Stefan Povolotsky (overseeing Bookings), Sarah Lloyd, Linda Soderstrom, Michelle Tanfield and Rosemary Budge. The Trustees are Hugh Rees (Chair), Ken Pagett (Treasurer), Chantal Ligertwood (Secretary), Selena Adams, Stefan Povolotsky, Sarah Lloyd and Rosemary Budge.

The new online booking system established in 2024 is working well and the Hall's website has been refreshed, along with its Facebook page.

This year, we aim to host another Quiz night alongside all the activities in the current mix. We shall also be setting up a long-term Sinking Fund to finance any substantial maintenance required in future years.

Events at the Village Hall

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

Saturday 31st January 2026 11am -1pm West Hendred Village Hall

The Trustees of Hendred Sports Club will be hosting an informal meeting to present the development plans for the sports ground on Mill Lane East Hendred.

If you are interested in Archery, Art, Basketball, Chess, Cricket, Football, Tennis, Pickleball, Pilates, Softball, Social & Community events and more, do join us to hear more about our plans, and how you could help.

Save the date The West Hendred Beer Festival will be 19th and 20th June 2026. We look forward to welcoming you all back for a fantastic weekend! The Beer Festival Team

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 that 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

Stretch and Reset Yoga - 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 Stitches - 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