

WEST HENDRED

July 2026 NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for next Newsletter
25 July 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/>

Holy Trinity Church Services

This summer, join us for a celebration every Sunday at 10:30am, rotating between our four churches:

19 July: East Hendred

26 July: Lockinge

2 August: West Hendred

9 August: Ardington

16 August: East Hendred

23 August: Lockinge

30 August: West Hendred

There will be refreshments after each service and a chance to get to

know each other from across the villages. The weekly 9am service in West Hendred will resume from 6 September.

Christian Aid Coffee Morning – Holy Trinity Church, West Hendred

Many thanks to all who so generously supported and helped at the recent coffee morning held at Holy Trinity church. I am very pleased to report that the sum of £382.65 was raised which has been forwarded to Christian Aid.

Patsy for West Hendred PCC

West Hendred Summer Garden Party 2026 – Sunday 12th July – 3:30pm to c 6:30pm – free entry

In aid of Holy Trinity Church

The Summer Garden Party will be at Manor Farm House, kindly offered by Lys and Peter Cook. Final preparations are starting as the Newsletter goes to press. Raffle tickets have arrived and are available to buy – excellent prizes to be won! Entrance is free – yet again! The price of the early evening meal is £10 for an adult and £5 for a child under 12. Children under 5 continue to be

free. This great value meal includes two delicious home cooked courses, with a wide variety of dishes to choose from.

Hot-dog stall (£2), cakes, bar with beer, Pimms, wine and soft drinks. Payment can be by card or cash.

Like last year, we're having lots of things for kids, such as Teddy Tombola, and Pre-loved Toys.

We'll be keeping some favourites, such as the internationally famed Duck Race, Bowls, Name the Dolphin, and the Garage Game. Downy Duck has been waddling through the summer flowers to prepare for a celebrity appearance at the Duck Race.

Please come along to this very enjoyable occasion to meet friends and make new acquaintances. If you would like to run a stall, or have your own ideas for stalls, please do say. Can you offer items for the Cake Stall?

We'll be putting up the marquee and beer tent from 6pm on Thursday 9th July. Please come along and help, or if you are able to help in any other way, please get in touch with Hugh Rees on hugh@citidata.co.uk ; 01235-833174 or 07802-416031.

Raffle Prizes for the Summer Tea Party.....

We are currently selling Raffle tickets with some FAB-U-LOUS prizes! Any donations you have for the Raffle or the Tombola can be left with: Angela Findley, Rosemary Budge or Hugh Rees. Bottles, toiletries, candles, unopened games etc., all welcome. Please message 07775 863350 if you're dropping of foodstuffs in this heat – phew! Or if you need us to collect any items. THANK YOU!

Would you like to join the Holy Trinity, West Hendred '59' Club?

The '59 Club' is a smaller version of a 100 club, devised to accommodate a small village such as West Hendred. Each participant is allotted 2 numbers (with 2 chances to win!) and the winner is chosen - completely independently - by the bonus ball number, in the Saturday National Lottery draw. How much does the draw cost? The cost is just under £1.25 per week or £65 per annum for the two numbers.

The prize! £8.00 is awarded each week to the lucky winner: enough for a little treat maybe cake? Or a glass of wine!?

Holy Trinity Church has been a cool constant within the village over the last one thousand years (or so). As a medieval building it requires a lot of care and you would be supporting this beautiful church into the future for us and others to enjoy. For further info contact: angela.findley@westhendred.net or call 07775 863350. Keep Cool!

Holy Trinity West Hendred Oxford Historic Churches Ride and Stride – 12th September

Do you enjoy cycling? Or walking? Horse-riding? Or have an unusual form of transport – like a vintage tractor? Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust, is an organisation that makes grants to churches across the county for everything from essential repairs to projects such as improved heating.

This year's event is on Saturday 12th September – money raised will be divided equally between The Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and Holy Trinity Church.

Last year's sponsorships final total raised was £818; Holy Trinity Church received half i.e. £409. We also received £96 of direct donations. OHCT are being very helpful of our efforts as we endeavour to get our Lay Rector and Patron, Corpus Christi College, to pay for the Chancel Roof re-tile, a big repair. OHCT have provided grants for quite a number of major repairs to our church building.

You'll find all the information you need at <https://ohct.org.uk/ride-and-stride/>

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

There are several "old hands", young and old, who anticipate participating. So please join us, either by Riding or Striding yourself, or sponsoring us. More details will be available from Hugh Rees on 01235-833174 and OHCT's website on www.ohct.org.uk

Beer Festival 2026

It was a fantastic weekend for the Beer Festival. We're very glad we dodged the heat wave! Thank you to all the sponsors whose support gets the event off the ground. Thank you to the fantastic musicians, to everyone who lent equipment and to those who gave their time. Thank you to everyone who came to enjoy the event. There was a fantastic atmosphere and it felt like our biggest crowd yet. The funds raised will keep the village hall running and support the air ambulance. See you all next year! The Beer Festival Team

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

Firstly, thank you West Hendred for a brilliant beer festival! It was hugely enjoyable, as always. Minor bin collection changes:

Vale Council are making small changes to waste and recycling rounds from Monday 29 June 2026 to improve service reliability. Collection days will remain the same, but the time that crews arrive on each street may change.

Vehicles may arrive earlier than usual, so make sure bins out by 6am on collection day to avoid missing a collection. If possible, people are encouraged to put their bins out the evening before, provided they do not block pavements or footpaths.

Ancient trees and a bat filled woodland in the reservoir site:

On 14th June I joined a guided nature walk near Drayton on part of the planned reservoir site. The walk was organised by Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) and led by Julian Parfitt, an expert volunteer with GARD and with the Woodland Trust who has spent hundreds of hours logging ancient and veteran trees and other wildlife across the huge site. We met ancient trees and heard about a barn owl that is skilled in catching bats, amongst other wild delights. Knowing what is there is important to a fair assessment of whether the reservoir project should get permission. It also affects what habitats must be protected or replaced if it does go ahead. Thames Water plans to use land south of the railway line, including in the north part of West Hendred Parish, for species relocation. Thames Water have relied on desktop assessments and survey short cuts which underplay the wildlife and habitats on the site. Julian and GARD have been working tirelessly to make sure the true picture is published. You can find out more about the proposed reservoir from Thames Water at <https://thames-sro.co.uk/whitehorsereservoir> and from GARD at <https://groupagainstreservoirdevelopment.org/> with GARD's proposed alternatives to ensure our water supply.

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.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH WESSEX DOWNS ### SUMMER 2026 UPDATE

Welcome To The North Wessex Downs!

Welcome signage is a feature across several National Landscapes that we at the Trust have looked at longingly for many years, without ever being in a position to do anything similar to greet visitors to our area of outstanding natural beauty. Finally, however, the National Landscape Partnership found the funding and asked us to make it happen! Richard Broadhead, our Trustee responsible for Partnership Working, has worked tirelessly with representatives from the five Highway Authorities (Wiltshire, Hampshire, West Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Swindon) to get the signs installed on all major roads entering the National Landscape. They're now in place across the Downs, so keep your eyes peeled next time you're out and about in the area!

Postcards From The North Wessex Downs

Alongside the National Landscape Partnership's list of 50 Things Not to Miss, there are now over 30 Postcards from the North Wessex Downs on our interactive map. This means that whether you're a resident or regular visitor, day tripper, holiday-maker or armchair surfer, you can get a flavour of the huge variety of landscapes, wildlife, historic features, and cultural heritage of the North Wessex Downs by browsing through our Postcards. Also featured are places to eat and drink and local walks, so there's no excuse not to find something interesting to do whatever the season! Open the Map:

<https://maphub.net/NWDLT/welcome-to-the-north-wessex-downs>

You can help people find even more places to visit by sending us a Postcard. If you know of a fabulous viewpoint, an intriguing piece of heritage, a fascinating historical site, or a bit of local folklore, do share it with us now:

<https://www.nwdlt.org.uk/postcards/postcard-ideas>

Buzzing In The North Wessex Downs!

The weekend of 18th and 19th October 2025 saw community groups across the North Wessex Downs and beyond down on their hands and knees planting over 70,000 spring-flowering, bee-friendly bulbs!

As well as providing essential meals for hungry bees emerging from hibernation in the spring, bulb planting proved to be a lot of fun!

Find out more: <https://www.nwdlt.org.uk/our-work/buzzing>

Upcoming Events

Guided Walk: Morgan's Hill Nature Reserve

Friday 17th July, 1:30 pm. Led by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, this walk takes in old pathways and stunning views but the main attraction is the wildflowers, best seen in June and July - the site is one of the best for orchids in the whole country, with 11 species found here. Find out more: <https://www.nwdlt.org.uk/event-details/guided-walk-morgans-hill-nature-reserve-2>

Guided Walk: Lost In The Forest

An autumn Saturday TBC, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm
Join local author Rev. Colin Heber-Percy on a ramble to lose yourself amongst the magnificent oaks of ancient Savernake Forest. A treat for nature lovers and literary enthusiasts alike! Find out more: <https://www.nwdlt.org.uk/event-details/guided-walk-lost-in-the-forest-with-rev-colin-heber-percy>

Sustainable Development Fund

We're delighted to have been able to support some interesting projects over the past 12 months, and have more applications in the pipeline. Find out more:

<https://www.nwdlt.org.uk/grants>

Peter Lemon

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death of Peter Lemon in March. Peter was a long-standing supporter of the Landscape Trust and served as a Trustee from 2020 until he retired last July. Peter loved the Downs and particularly the history of the landscape around Wilton, where his family has farmed for generations. He is much missed by all who knew him.

Support Our Work

If you like what we do, we're very grateful for any donations however small. Or why not become a Friend of the North Wessex Downs by committing to a regular donation to help support the work we do?

<https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/10554#!/DonationDetails>

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

West Hendred and Ginge Village Hall News

All hall bookings should be made online via the hall website: www.westhendred.net. Enquiries should be made via email to villagehallbookings@westhendred.net.

EVENTS at THE HALL

The Owls Return - 4th July, 6pm

After the huge success of the talk by The Owl Conservation Project last year, Lu is returning with her feathered friends. It's a great opportunity to see these beautiful creatures up close and to learn about their habitats and ask questions. Open to all ages, there will be a bar, refreshments and pizza slices available. Tickets on the door. £5 for adults and £2 for children under 13. Large groups can prebook tickets by contacting jenniferdimbylow@hotmail.co.uk

Matwork Pilates - Fridays in the Hall

Is anyone interested in a Matwork Pilates course in the Autumn term run by a Women's Health Physio? I have a couple of spaces left. Here are the details below:

Term time Fridays in West Hendred Village Hall.

- 10:30-11:30 (1hr)- female only; Or
- 12:40-1:25 (45minutes) - mixed gender

Start date: 11th Sept; End date: 11th December. Note: there are no classes on 23rd and 30th October over half term. Total number of classes 12. Cost: 12 X £11 = £132

Email me if you would like to find out more. Emma Marsh: Emma@womensphysiotherapy.co.uk
<https://www.womensphysiotherapy.co.uk/about>

Dog behaviourist talk - understanding dog body language - Friday July 10th 6-8pm

Come and join us for an informative and engaging evening with professional dog behaviourist Emma Barnett from So Help Me Dog, where you'll learn how to better understand your dog's body language and behaviour.

Have you ever wondered what your dog is really trying to tell you? Come and learn how to recognise the subtle signals dogs use every day, helping you to build a stronger bond and improve communication with your canine companion. Cost is £20 per person.

To book your place, contact **Krissy's Canines** on [07809 283700](tel:07809283700) or admin@krissyscanines.co.uk

Dog training classes at West Hendred Village Hall

Class times:

- 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.

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.

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


SPRINGLINE SINGERS


A COMMUNITY

CHOIR

Summer Concert

 11th JULY 2026

 19:30 - 21:30

 Snells Hall,
East Hendred
OX12 8LA

FEATURING:

THE JEWEL TONES

JERRY NICKLESS


BYO DRINKS
AND NIBBLES


RAFFLE


TICKETS £5
RAISING MONEY
FOR LOCAL CAUSES

Tickets available from
springlineproductions.co.uk

