

WEST HENDRED

August 2026 NEWSLETTER

**Deadline for next Newsletter
25 August 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/>

Beer Festival 2026

We didn't have a figure in time for the July newsletter but the surplus from the Beer Festival is about £10,250. This wonderful result from all the hard work put in by the Festival team will enable the Trustees to make a substantial transfer into the Sinking Fund which they have agreed to establish to meet the likely more major hall refurbishment costs in the future as well as supporting day to day running costs.

The Owls Return - 4th July

Thank you to all who came to the talk by The Owl Conservation Project. Lu and her feathered friends provided a great opportunity to see these beautiful creatures up close and to learn about their habitats and ask questions.

Dog Behaviourist talk – 10th July

Understanding dog body language
An informative and engaging evening with professional dog behaviourist Emma Barnett from So Help Me Dog. We learned how to better understand your dog's body language and behaviour, and also how to recognise the subtle signals dogs use every day, so building a stronger bonds and improve communications with canine companions.

Church Services

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

<https://wantagedowns.org>

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/>

As we go to press, we've just received the sponsorship forms and there will be some available in Holy Trinity Church.

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

West Hendred Summer Garden Party 2026

– Sunday 12th July – In aid of Holy Trinity Church raised over £1,446, with a little more money to come in as we go to press. This is very creditable, given the number of changes, both small and large and the baking heat of over 31C!

We changed the day, and the time, so as to attract many families with young children. This has been a great success. We also had some competing events, such as Wimbledon finals. Although lower than 2025's total of £1,803, it is over £160 more than 2023's total, which was similarly a very hot day! This year we took over £480 on the day by contactless payment, as well as £62 beforehand.

A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make the Summer Garden Party possible. Thank you those who helped put up and took down the marquees, or ferried tables and chairs across and back to the Hall.

THANK YOU also for the many donations that were received for the raffle, and the tombola, and the entire event.

AND THANK YOU to the organisers of the duck race, and also for those who helped with the setting up and running of the Tombola, the Grand Raffle, Name the Dolphin, Teddy Tombola and pre-loved toys, Plants, the Garage Game, the Bowls, and the lovely Cards stall. And THANK YOU for those who ran the bar, as well as all those who tasted its delights!

The range of excellent food was extraordinary, the salads varied, the puddings delicious with hardly a

crumb left over! Thank you also for the Hot Dog stall, which did excellent trade.

THANK YOU to all those who cooked and prepped the food and cleared up afterwards.

THANK YOU also to First Cuckhamsley Scouts who provided help on putting up the Marquee and Beer Tent on the Thursday, and taking down on the Sunday evening.

All of this helped to make it such a success, both socially and financially.

A VERY BIG THANK YOU to Lys and Peter Cook who provided once again the idyllic setting of their garden and the stream for the occasion. And finally THANK YOU to all who came and made it such a fun afternoon and early evening!

North Wessex Downs Landscape Trust

Coming soon...Guided Walk:

Lost in the Forest

Saturday 10th October 11:30am-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!

Book Now

<https://www.nwdlt.org.uk/event-details/guided-walk-lost-in-the-forest-with-rev-colin-heber-percy>

Apologies...

Those of you who clicked on the Postcards link in the June newsletter noticed that you were directed to the wrong map - sorry! Please click/tap on the button below and then scroll down the webpage to find the correct map and browse through some of our Postcards from the North Wessex Downs. And maybe even send us an idea for a postcard from your favourite place in the area?

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

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?

Donate Now:

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

<https://www.facebook.com/NorthWessexDownsLT>

<https://www.instagram.com/northwessexdownslt/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/north-wessex-downs-landscape-trust/>

A4130 Steventon Lights integrated transport scheme update

How can I stay up to date?

The project web page contains more information about the full project scope and will be updated

regularly: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/steventonlights <https://oxfordshire.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=feb3ea90bfa82dcb90c21a3e7&id=6bd3f143af&e=5bc7bba034>

We also recommend signing up to our county travel and transport bulletin: www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/contact-council/sign-hear-us <https://oxfordshire.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=feb3ea90bfa82dcb90c21a3e7&id=e0efadd3ed&e=5bc7bba034>

Government confirms three new unitary councils for Oxfordshire and West Berkshire in 2028

The government has today (16 July) announced that Oxfordshire and West Berkshire's seven existing councils will be replaced by three unitary councils from 1 April 2028 as part of its plans for local government reorganisation (LGR).

The new councils will be:

- Greater Oxford Council – covering Oxford and its immediate surroundings.
- Northern Oxfordshire Council – covering most of the existing Cherwell and West Oxfordshire districts.
- Ridgeway Council – covering most of the existing South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse districts, combined with West Berkshire.

Three proposals were presented to government in November 2025 by Oxfordshire and West Berkshire councils – a single county unitary, two unitary councils and three unitary councils. These councils have been working together since the start of the year to plan and prepare for the future of council services, regardless of which option the government chose. This work has also been focused on ensuring services continue without disruption for residents.

Cllr Bethia Thomas, Leader of Vale of White Horse District Council, said: "Whilst I am naturally disappointed that our proposal wasn't chosen after working so hard on it in partnership with four other councils, above all, it is really important we now focus on a positive way forward, keeping our communities as our priority.

"Although the Government has made its decision, our commitment to Vale remains the same.

"Many residents raised concerns during the consultation process about retaining the unique character of the Vale's villages, protecting our countryside, and ensuring rural voices are not overshadowed by the priorities of a larger urban area. Those concerns remain valid and should continue to be heard and respected.

"Many of our rural communities will now be brought into a unitary authority focused on

Oxford City. This will impact over 23,000 residents across nine parishes, including Appleton-with-Eaton, Cumnor, Kennington, North Hinksey and Wootton – and I will be seeking utmost reassurance that any changes are carried out sensitively and with local voices in mind.

"While significant changes lie ahead, our focus remains firmly on delivering high-quality services to our residents and ensuring a smooth transition. By continuing to work constructively and collaboratively with all the councils involved, we will strive to achieve the best possible outcomes for the communities we represent."

"It is also worth noting the impact these considerable changes will have on our workforce – and I want to say a word about all our officers and councillors, and those of all the councils in Oxfordshire and West Berkshire, and thank them for their dedication to providing high quality services – and for all they have done and all they will continue to do over the coming months and years as we work together on making this change a success.

"I will continue to champion Vale's communities and internally, our staff and councillors, working constructively with all our partner councils to ensure a positive future is ahead for all."

The government ran a statutory consultation in February 2026 on the options with local stakeholders, residents and businesses invited to have their say. The government will publish the results of the consultation on its website soon.

Over the next two years, the existing councils will continue working together to prepare for the new arrangements, keeping people informed as plans develop ahead of April 2028. The full details of the three-unitary proposal can be found on 3councils.org

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 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

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.

1) 10:30-11:30 (1hr)- female only

Or

2) 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

Text or email me if you would like to find out more.

Emma Marsh

Emma@womensphysiotherapy.co.uk

<https://www.womensphysiotherapy.co.uk/about>

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