

Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News

JANUARY 2026



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Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News is delivered monthly and free-of-charge to all households in the parishes of Holton, Waterperry with Thomley, and Waterstock.

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We welcome letters, articles and announcements from individuals and organisations, but reserve the right to edit or to publish or not.

All copy must be received no later than the 18th of the month prior to publication and with its author's name attached.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor.



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January Church Services

January 4th	9.30 St Leonard's Waterstock 6.00pm St Bartholomew's Holton Epiphany Carol Service
January 11th	9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's Holton 6.00pm St Mary's Waterperry
January 1st	9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Leonard's Waterstock
January 25th	8.00 St Mary's Waterperry 9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's
February 1st	9.30 St Leonard's Waterstock
February 8th	9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's Holton 6.00pm St Mary's Waterperry

St Leonard's Waterstock

Flowers and cleaning rota

January 4th	R. Portman
January 11th	R. Portman
January 18th	H. Walker
January 25th	H. Walker
February 1st	A. Abdoo
February 8th	A. Abdoo

St Mary's Waterperry

Flower rota

January 4th	Rebecca
January 11th	Helen
January 18th	Jan
January 25th	Jacqui
February 1st	Zena
February 8th	Susan Fonge

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Letter from the Vicarage

Happy New Year to you all. We can choose how we respond to the inexorable passing of time. How old we are plays a part in our attitude – children often yearn for time to go quicker so they can experience life as an adult, while those of us of a ‘certain’ age long for it to slow down, partly because we realise increasingly what a precious commodity it is and partly simply so we can sit down and catch our breath.

The New Year is traditionally a time to look forward, a seeming chance for a new beginning – the promise of a better time ahead. Last year in this January Newsletter I made some predictions for 2025 and hoped for a favourable result in the Waterstock planning appeal. Well the appeal went well, for which we are all very grateful, but my predictions were all well off (apart from a new French Government!). Nothing daunted here are a few for this year.

Politics: Nigel Farage announces that as Brexit was such a stunning success a future Reform government will apply to be the 51st State of the USA. Foreign Minister David Lammy asks where the USA is and can you get there in a small boat? Arts: The Turner Prize is won by an empty crisp packet stuck to the wall with chewing gum by an anonymous artist. Confusion reigns when at the prize giving a Mrs Edna Smoot claims the packet was stuck there by her ‘naughty’ 5 year old on a visit to the gallery. Sport: The USPGA announce an honorary first prize medal for the US Open to Donald Trump. The Senate Republicans offer to take turns caddying for the president. The England men’s team win the World Cup. Technology: Elon Musk reveals that Kier Starmer is an AI powered robot. Offers the UK a new updated model that has a charisma function. Mark Zuckerberg reveals that Elon Musk is an AI robot and offers not to plug him back in when the battery runs out.

Whatever your feelings about time we know it only flows one way. This coming year will take us on a journey forward and some of that journey will be wonderful and some of it may be sad or painful. We can’t turn time back no matter how much we would like to. And being at peace with this seminal fact of life is a worthwhile goal for us all. However, we need to remember we are in fact timeless beings – our Bible tells us we are intended to be immortal, in fact longer lasting than the earth we stand on or the universe we look out into.

For now we are in the season of Epiphany – the word comes from the Greek meaning a manifestation and in this case it is the manifestation of the coming of the light of God into the world in the form of Jesus. One specific event characterises Epiphany and that is the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem. They, who were gentiles, were led by a heavenly light to discover a heavenly king and this was a sign that the light of Jesus was for all people. So as we begin another year, anchored in time but nevertheless timeless beings, we do so in the company of the Magi who stepped out into the unknown and found someone who would change the world as no other has ever done. Now I’m not saying that our journey through 2026 will offer us something as momentous as that. But the Magi can be an example for us and encourage us to be willing to step out in faith into uncertainty. Like them we can be sure that if we seek the heavenly king we will find him. Who knows what else we may find and what surprises may be waiting for us, what Epiphanies are in store for us. One thing’s for certain – it won’t be England winning the World Cup. Or will they?

Stay Blessed,

David
Rev David Bendor-Samuel

The Holton Village Hall needs help!

The Village Hall has just celebrated its 50th anniversary this year, having been a central part of the Village for many events and celebrations.

Hopefully it will continue for many more years to come.

However, because many of the 'original' volunteers have stepped down after many years' voluntary service for a well-deserved rest, we are looking for some new volunteers to help look after and run the Village Hall as part of the Committee.

We are always looking for new, fresh ideas to implement & update our role in the community and would love to hear from you if you are interested.

Only one short meeting each month, and various roles with which you may be able to help.

Please contact admin@holtonvillagehall.co.uk or speak to any of the current Committee members.

The Hall is a charity and can only continue to exist if there are sufficient volunteers willing to help.

Charity no. 273526

Holton Village Hall

www.holtonvillagehall.co.uk

Village Hall Committee

New Committee Members

We are always on the lookout for new committee members to bring fresh perspectives and ideas forward, especially for fundraising. If you are interested, please contact us on admin@holtonvillagehall.co.uk

Afternoon teas

The Afternoon teas at the Village Hall continue to be a great success. Many thanks to everyone that helps, for all their hard work. There will be afternoon teas in January on 8th and 22nd, from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. Come along for Tea, Coffee, Cake and a chat with friends and neighbours.

Solar Panels

The Village Hall is planning to install Solar Panels in order to make us self-sufficient for electrical energy. A planning application has been submitted, so watch out for developments.

Film Night

There will be another Film Night in February. Look out for details on the website or in the Mag.

Race Night

On the 23rd January the Village Hall will host a race night. No animals will be harmed in the Hall as the races are shown on the big screen and betting is allowed. Tickets - £10 per head will be sold in advance which will include a hot supper. Further information will be in the mag and on posters in the Village noticeboards etc.

Future Events

For up to date information on all events at the Village Hall please access the website at www.holtonvillagehall.co.uk. The noticeboards on the green and at the Hall will also display forthcoming events closer to time.

Booking the Village Hall

If you would like to book the Village Hall please call 07873 857063 or please E-mail bookings@holtonvillagehall.co.uk

Take care

Mel Ault

Holton Parish Council

Planning Applications: None

Planning Decisions: South Oxfordshire District Council

P25/S2464/S73 Holton Park Cottage, Holton OX33 1PR

Removal of condition 6 (Close existing access) and 13 (Demolish specified buildings before occupation). Granted

P25/S2977/HH Kirton House, Holton OX33 1PS

Proposed partial demolition of existing attached double garage to provide addition residential accommodation. Granted

Horse Chestnut Tree (Stocks Tree) on Village Green

The tree on the village green/bus shelter area was planted roughly 60 years ago to replace the original 'Stocks Tree'. The Horse Chestnut tree has been inspected and unfortunately, is showing signs of fungal and bacterial infection and significant rot in the stem. The Highways Tree Officer has recommended removal of the tree and this will be carried out shortly by Oxfordshire County Highways. The area of land is actually Highways land and so they are responsible for the removal.

Suggestions for a suitable replacement tree type would be welcome.

Refuse collections over Christmas and New Year

Normal Collection Day

Monday 29th December

Monday 5th January

Revised Collection Day

Tuesday 30th December

Tuesday 6th January

Garden Waste Collections

No Garden Waste Collections will take place between 25th December and 8th January 2026. The Garden Waste Collection service resumes from Friday 9th January 2026

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 12th January 2026 starting at 7.00 pm in Holton Village Hall Committee Room.

Contact details: Clerk to Holton Parish Council (Sonja Barter).

Home Farm House, Holton, Oxford. OX33 1QA.

Email: clerk@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk Tel: 01865 872334

Copies of Holton Parish Council Meeting Agendas and Approved Minutes can be viewed on Holton Parish Council website:

www.holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

Holton & Waterperry W.I.

The welcome with prosecco, apple juice and delicious homemade canapes got our evening off to a fine start. Short business followed and we learnt of our 15th January visit to the theatre to see 'The Sound of Music' (reduced rate for groups) and also another planned winter meal in February for which there was much support.

Our Christmas crafts was the main event of the evening and how splendid that was. We were all guided by Carol who had put so much time and effort into the planning. She demonstrated an unusual star with fairy lights, a coloured bead candle jar and Christmas roses from ribbon. We all came away with three wonderful items. All these were unique and exceptional and the whole evening was festive and friendly.

On January 6th we will welcome Peter Tickler as planned but with an amended talk. Now he will give an interactive talk about writing a crime novel, referencing his 1919 murder mystery, inspired by his Great Great Grandfather's jam factory. Sounds intriguing.

A very happy and peaceful New Year to everyone.

Barbara Martin

Holton Cock and Bull

The lying-in-state of bishops is a custom carried out by many religions to allow devout mourners to take one final look at the deceased and generally pay their last respects.

Thus it was that, as tradition demanded, the 80-year-old Bishop of Lesbos, Nicephorus Glycas, clad in the finery of his formal episcopal vestments, was laid out in a Greek Orthodox church at Mithymna and watched over by priests, day and night. However, after two days spent with crowds of the faithful filing past, the Bishop suddenly sat bolt upright, glared at the mourners and, with some acerbity, demanded to know what they were staring at.

He had apparently fallen into a death-like lethargy and his doctors had concluded the worst rather too quickly. Although it was a while ago (1896) the bishop was fortunate in holding his position of high office as he would otherwise have been buried more swiftly.

Name and address supplied

Holton Bus Shelter

Thanks to everyone who came along to the Christmas Bus Shelter. It was a lovely event and it was great to see so many people meeting up and enjoying the festive occasion. There were three gazebos, suitably lit with twinkling lights, full of books, puzzles and a large selection of high quality Christmas items. Thanks to everyone who contributed gifts and well done to all those who took things away. There were real bargains to be had and some people will be getting a good present this year.

Special congratulations go to Rose Gorman and Dominique Smith who worked so hard to turn the Bus Shelter into a brilliant Gingerbread House and then proceeded to get lots of youngsters, and a few older people who should know better, decorating gingerbread biscuits. It does look fantastic. Thanks go to Wendy Cummins who supplied us with the electric power for the event. I hope the next bill isn't too large.

There were lots of goodies available to eat and drink. A big thank you to everyone who contributed by serving, supplying cakes and biscuits and also to Jenny for the hot chocolate. Jas supplied a very tasty and powerful mulled wine. Quite a few people walked down to the event and nearly as many, having partaken of a festive drink, staggered off into the distance at the end. A good few stayed to help clear up - your help was very much appreciated.

And what of this last year? Galileo once said "Measure what is measurable and make measurable what is not so" but he would have stayed silent on the matter if he had ever managed, like me, to mistakenly cut far too much off his Christmas tree. Still, bijou has been all the rage recently.

Even so, a small amount of corroboration surely can't do too much damage, and with what appears to be an unimaginably bleak 2026 ahead, this is a perfect time to look back on 2025 using nothing but indisputable data points. So, what story do the statistics tell?

4 The number of Bus Shelter events, one for every season and each with appropriate weather to match.

38°C - the maximum daytime temperature during the July Bring and Take. And yes, I had said that it would probably be a nice day.

£775 The total of your kind contributions to our charitable causes (The Maple Tree Children's Centre, Dementia UK, Thames Valley Air Ambulance and Shelter). This includes a fantastic £250 at the Christmas event.

45 The number of minutes I spent in a state of high anxiety when I mislaid the donation box after the summer event. It was finally discovered in a box full of jigsaws. I still insist, to this day, that I never put it there. My wife says it must have been me as she never did it. We are speaking again.

6 The number of bags/boxes of produce donated to Thame Food Bank. And the number of miles I walked to deliver them due to the limited parking in the town at Christmas.

2 Book Weeks (February and August). This village must be the most well-read conurbation in Oxfordshire.

16 The surplus boxes of books, puzzles, toys and bits and bobs donated to Oxfam and Katherine House Hospice charity shop during the year.

7 The weeks art was on display in the bus shelter during the May and November exhibitions.

4 The number of outbuildings in our garden that are needed to store puzzles, books and toys.

30 Years we have lived in Holton, amazingly. This happened without me noticing and despite the fact that I had 29 years of notice. I never organised a celebration or a party. I think it is because time flies when you are enjoying yourself. I went to ask the neighbours if they thought the same as me but strangely, despite their lights being on, they were all out when I called.

But these numbers cannot tell the true story of what a lovely place this village is to live in. Perhaps a better quote would be from Albert Einstein "Not everything that can be counted counts, and not everything that counts can be counted".

Happy New Year!

Allan East
aeast@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

Date for your Diary

We will be running Holton's first charity '**Night at the Races**' event on Friday 23rd January at the Village Hall - a fun filled evening for all the family, with a chance to win money on the winning horses. A simple supper will be provided and there will be a cash bar.

You can 'Sponsor a Race' and 'Name a Horse' in advance of the event, and of course on the night you can bet on our horses and we will watch how the races unfold on a big screen.

50% of race takings will be distributed as winnings, and 50% will be donated towards the Holton Village Hall Charity for forthcoming financial needs such as the Solar Panels. There is no skill involved in placing bets and the pre-recorded race order is randomly selected at the time of the event.

Do organise a table of family and friends to come and have a flutter, as it promises to be a great evening and should liven any January Blues. More details and tickets will be available in the New Year from Clare Wright, but in the meantime do start planning your race and horse names.

How about '*Maythehorsebewithu*'?

Clare Wright

Collections over Christmas and New Year

Here are the collection changes over the New Year period:

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Thursday 25 December	Saturday 27 December<
Friday 26 December	Monday 29 December<

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 29 December	Tuesday 30 December<
Tuesday 30 December	Wednesday 31 December<
Wednesday 31 December	Friday 2 January<
Thursday 1 January	Saturday 3 January<
Friday 2 January	Monday 5 January<

Normal collection day	Revised collection day
Monday 5 January	Tuesday 6 January<
Tuesday 6 January	Wednesday 7 January<
Wednesday 7 January	Thursday 8 January<
Thursday 8 January	Friday 9 January
Friday 9 January	Saturday 10 January

< No garden waste collections between 25 December and 8 January (see below).

If you're not sure when your next collection day is, please use [our BINZONE service](#).

Collections will return to the normal schedule from Monday 12 January.

Garden waste collections

To ensure crews are able to collect the additional waste and recycling produced over Christmas, garden waste collections will not take place during between 25 December and 8 January.

The garden waste service resumes from Friday 9 January, depending on your next scheduled collection – if you are unsure when this is, please [check Binzone](#).

Christmas recycling – remember to check it before you chuck it!

Here's a quick checklist on where some of the most common Christmas waste should go:

Items	Where they should go
Food waste	always in your food waste bin
Soft plastic packaging (such as the film covering your turkey)	your local supermarket may have a collection point, if not then please put them in your black non-recyclable waste bin
Tin foil and foil trays	put these in your green recycling bin – remember it must be clean, dry and loose
Used cooking oil from your Christmas dinner	if it's just a little oil then put it straight into your food caddy, otherwise pour it into an old plastic bottle and place the bottle inside or near your food caddy
Broken baubles and tinsel	put these in your black non-recyclable waste bin
Wrapping paper and Christmas cards	Anything with glitter on will need to go in your black general waste bin. Standard Christmas cards and wrapping paper you can rip should go in the recycling bin. If the paper doesn't rip, please put it in your black non-recyclable waste bin.
Used batteries	these should go in a clear bag on top of your green recycling bin. Never put them inside a bin as they are a major fire risk!
Small electricals, such as broken Christmas lights	in a tied carrier bag next to your black non-recyclable waste bin
Broken glass	glasses, mirrors or cooking dishes need to be placed in the black non-recyclable waste bin

From Your Member of Parliament

Dear residents of Holton, Waterperry and Waterstock,

As we begin a new year, I want to send my warmest wishes to everyone in the parish. January is a time to look ahead with fresh energy and to reflect on what makes our communities so special, and it has been a pleasure continuing to hear from residents in Holton, Waterperry and Waterstock over recent months.

I am very grateful to everyone who has taken the time to get in touch about local issues. Your feedback helps shape the questions I ask and the work I do in Parliament, ensuring that the concerns of our community are heard. That is why I would be extremely grateful if you could take a few minutes to complete my constituency survey, which is currently being delivered to homes across the area. Your views will directly inform my work over the next year, and I want to hear what matters most to you.

I was delighted to hear that the Waterstock Golf Course appeal has been refused. I was pleased to be able to speak at the enquiry, and huge credit goes to Sarah and Henry for their long and hard-fought campaign, your dedication has truly made a difference for the community.

It is also great news that South Oxfordshire District Council is providing a capital grant for solar panels on the parish hall roof. This is a positive step for sustainability and will help make the parish hall more energy-efficient, supporting it as a hub for community activities.

Thank you for all you do to make Holton, Waterperry and Waterstock such strong and welcoming communities. I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout the year ahead.

Finally, whether it is a local concern, a community event, or an issue you would like me to raise in Parliament, please do get in touch.

You can email me directly at freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk.

*Freddie van Mierlo MP
Member of Parliament for Henley and Thame*

Holton News

Happy New Year everyone! I hope your Christmas was peaceful and jolly. Lots of houses are lit up and the tall fir tree on Cox's Hill now has a big star on it which I have never noticed before. It's so striking that if it was there before it must have been hidden in low cloud as it's so high up! I always miss the lights when they come down on 12th night, and so enjoy them during the festive weeks.

We start the New Year with an apology to Jan Marlowe who produced a very fine display from the Village archive at the 50th celebrations which I forgot to mention. Variations on these boards come out for the teas and on other occasions and remind us of our Village history. This was a talking point when running the bar for a while recently and quite a few of the attendees were commenting on how much the village had changed since they lived here, so it is useful to have a reminder of the passage of time and its effects. If you get a chance, take a close look at the archive next time it is on display.

I am sure that you will have seen the wonderful Ginger Bread Bus Shelter and perhaps attended the Christmas market/bring & take Sunday the 7th. There are pictures on FaceBook as a nice reminder. What you may not have seen is the amount of effort that went in to setting all this up and repairing the damage that storm Bram wrought on the whole edifice. In consequence of all this effort, we had the best and most successful Christmas on the Green we have ever had IMHO. Thanks to all who helped to make that day so special.

The Carol Service at St Barts this year was fantastic. It was a pleasure to see the church full to bursting along with beautiful hymns and traditional readings. We had the wonderful Wheatley choir and an actual organist to enhance the experience. Best of all there were a number of young children who had a great time playing in the Village Hall during the refreshments and socialising that followed. All in all a splendid evening. Thanks to everyone who organised and delivered the event.

Take care

Mel Ault
mel_ault39@outlook.com

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What difference will you make?

Governors make a significant contribution to ensuring that every individual child receives the best possible education. As a governor, you will bring your own individual skills and experience to the role. By being part of the governing body you will be able to help the group to make majority decisions so that it fulfils its strategic responsibilities. There are no specific qualifications; you just need the right attitude, enthusiasm, and time to devote to the role.

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Christmas Tree collections

Once the festivities are over, you can dispose of any real Christmas trees in the following ways:

If you are subscribed to SODC's garden waste (brown bin) service, you can put your Christmas tree out for collection on your next scheduled brown bin day.

All residents can drop off real Christmas trees at the locations listed below.

All trees collected will be sent to be composted and then sold to local farmers.

Tree collection points garden centres

Garden Centre	Address	Last day to leave your tree
Notcutts	Notcutts, Nuneham Courtenay, OX44 9PY	Saturday 10 January
Toad Hall	Toad Hall, Marlow Rd, Fawley, Henley-on- Thames, Oxfordshire RG9 3AG	Saturday 10 January
Root One	Root One, High Rd, Wallingford, Oxfordshire OX10 OPT	Saturday 10 January
The Tree Barn	The Tree Barn, Greenfield Farm, Christmas Common, Watlington, OX49 5HG	Saturday 10 January
Waterperry Gardens	Waterperry Gardens, Nr. Wheatley, Oxfordshire, England. OX33 1JZ	Saturday 10 January

Waterperry News

Another year draws to an end.and in the village some things seem the same as this time last year: too much rain, big puddles and mud, so let's not dwell too much on that!

For a small village of just a couple of hundred or so people, with a dead-end road, no village shop and no pub, I've always thought we punch a bit above our weight in terms of interesting places and people. Last month Helen highlighted the interests and achievements of some residents (I'm sure there are more that keep their lights under a bushel!), but how about a couple of the places, rather than the people?

The oldest building in the village is undoubtedly our Grade I listed parish church. It dates to before the Norman conquest in 1066 and its Saxon history is visible internally with the double archway to the chancel. Nestled up against Waterperry House, this is often assumed by visitors to be a chapel for the House, but this close proximity has evolved over centuries as the village changed shape and the House grew in size and (self) importance. As it was gentrified by successive owners, they swept away some of the 'less pleasing to look at' humble homes of the farm and domestic workers to improve the outlook from their windows, so the church became a little removed from the village. A few centuries ago, that half mile walk up a track to the church would have been an important Sunday outing. Nowadays the first village property easily visible from the windows of the House is Abbey Cottage, with the landmark end wall of what was once a barn attached to the cottage. The rather grand arched doorway with its round window above is a favourite photo spot for visitors and many of them ask if that is the remains of a church or abbey. Well, no, just an old barn, but who knows, maybe that end wall was spruced up to make a more attractive view from the House!

Then of course, we have Grade II* listed Waterperry House itself. Too much history to go into here, but it has grown since the C16th from a rural manor of brick and timber-framed houses and bays, this oldest part most easily seen from the churchyard. The 'Queen Anne' style frontage was added by the Curson family in the early C18th as the owners grew in stature and wealth. Of course, many of the lord of the manor families are remembered in the church with memorials and brasses. Sadly most of the House is out of bounds to the casual visitor and the ground floor interiors we can see today are modern, light and airy, not as they would originally have been, but if you ever have a chance to look around the older parts of the building it is certainly an interesting glimpse into the history of the development of the House.

But of course, the Gardens are what have drawn visitors to the village over the last 50 to 80 years, ever since Miss Beatrix Havergal founded her renowned horticultural school in the House. Originally a school very much for young ladies to learn horticultural skills, the relative isolation of the estate suited the founders as it kept the young ladies safe from the local youths! Over the years it became well known and respected for the design of the gardens and the skills of the students. The estate provided fruit and vegetables for their own shop in Oxford's covered market and Miss Havergal won awards at Chelsea for her beautiful strawberries. Since the 1970s the Gardens have evolved but have remained true to the legacy of Miss Havergal and some of her esteemed ex-pupils. Moving into modern times, the Gardens kept up with new-fangled technology, with ex-pupil and then teacher Mary Spiller being the first woman presenter of Gardeners World on television! Nowadays, the Gardens and Head Gardener Pat Havers have embraced media and social media to raise the profile of the Gardens. Just this year, Make it at Market were back for their second visit to film on specially constructed sets around the gardens. On an international scale, Pat and Horticultural Manager Rob Jacobs filmed a slot for a gardening show we're probably unlikely to see – the top gardening show in Lithuania!

And as the summer went on, the cameras kept coming: Eric Knowles spent a very enjoyable day filming segments for an upcoming Bargain Hunt show and Pat's cuttings garden (in the Walled Garden) was filmed as part of a 'local highlights' spot on Escape to the Country. It all culminated just last month when Pat was finally persuaded by her horticultural friend Carol Klein to actually be filmed for a lovely walk and chat along the autumn border, which looked spectacular on a sunny day. Maybe a second career beckons as a TV star!

So, as I said at the beginning, for a small place, we have a wealth of people, places and buildings we can be proud of. Let's see what 2026 brings!

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!

Sue Parker



Recipe: Enchiladas

This recipe appeared in the Holton Recipe Book in 1994.

8 flour tortillas
4 chicken breasts cut into strips
1 medium onion, chopped
1 small carton soured cream
4 ozs . Cheddar cheese, grated, plus extra for topping
2 tablespoons of chopped parsley
1 teaspoon of salt, pepper
1 carton of passata
4 fl ozs. water
2 teaspoon chilli powder, to taste
0.5 teaspoon oregano
0.25 teaspoon ground cumin
1 clove garlic

- Fry the chicken in a large pan with a drop of oil
- Add the onion and cook a little longer
- Remove from the heat and drain any excess oil
- Stir in the soured cream, cheese, parsley, salt and pepper
- Heat the water and remaining ingredients to boiling in a separate pan, stirring occasionally
- Reduce the heat and simmer uncovered for 5 minutes
- Dip each tortilla into the sauce, coating each side
- Spoon some of the chicken mixture on to each tortilla and roll up
- Arrange the rolled tortillas in an ungreased oblong baking dish
- Pour over any remaining sauce and sprinkle on more grated cheese if you wish
- Cook uncovered for about 20 minutes at 180c/gas 4
- Serve with refried beans, salad, soured cream and more grated cheese

Holton and Waterperry WI



Morland House Surgery, Morland Close, Wheatley OX33 1DP

The usual surgery opening hours are Monday to Friday 8am to 6.30pm
Saturday mornings (excluding Bank Holiday weekends) 8am to 10.30am,
for **prebooked** consultations only

Enhanced access hours are offered outside these times, please speak to one of the care navigators on 01865 872448 for more information.

When the surgery is closed, please contact the Out of Hours service by phoning 111

A Morland House Surgery **Facebook Page** has been created. This is to keep patients up to date with surgery news and health issues. Please like and follow.

Ordering Repeat Prescriptions: Please use the NHS App or log into your account on the NHS website. For more information on ordering, visit the 'prescriptions' page on our website.

Medicine waste costs the NHS around £300 million/year. Only order the medicines you need. Once medicine leaves a pharmacy it can no longer be re-used even if unopened.

Winter vaccinations are still available from local pharmacies to protect against serious illnesses like flu and COVID-19. For information, check eligibility and booking visit [Winter vaccinations and winter health - NHS](#).

Care Messages: The NHS App is now being used by MHS and other health providers to send you simple, secure messages on your phone about your care e.g. appointments, test results, reminders. Much quicker than waiting for a letter or phone call. See MHS website to find out how to turn on notifications in the NHS App and receive Care Messages.

Scam NHS cold calls - beware of fake calls from "receptionists" or "doctors" asking you to update your GP records or risk being removed from the surgery.

You and Your General Practice – this new NHS guide can be downloaded from the MHS website. It is great resource for all NHS patients, full of useful tips and helpful information.

Online Resources for Clinical Help Did you know that there are many local services to which you can make self-referrals without speaking to your GP? The Morland House Surgery website lists the various options. Visit [Self-Referral – Morland House](#)

Visit **Morland House Surgery Website** for a wealth of information and guidance on managing a vast number of health conditions, symptoms, and treatment: www.morland-house.co.uk For example:

- **Medical Records and Test Results** - guidance on how to access this information.
- **Pharmacy First Service (PFS)**, whereby pharmacies can treat directly seven common health conditions.
- **Group Consultation Clinics** – successful group clinics are currently being offered for the menopause and hypertension.
- **Breast screening** to detect the most common cancer in women
- **Whooping Cough** infections, symptoms and treatment
- **Weight Loss Medication**
- **Childhood Immunisation**



Quiz Night

Saturday 7th February

Come and join us for a fun Charity quiz evening.

Tiddington Village Hall

Doors open at 7pm Quiz starts at 7.30pm

£5 per person

Max 8 per team

Bring your own drinks and snacks

We're raising money for Thomley Hall and
Waterstock & Tiddington WI

Contact to book: Debbie Millett 07770932882
waterstockwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk



January Birthdays



A very Happy Birthday this month
to:



Arthur Fonge who will be turning 15
Phoenix who will be turning 11
Teddy who will be turning 14
Edward who will be turning 18

(to have a birthday included in the magazine, please email Dominique -
domisqueak@gmail.com)

Waterstock News

I hope this finds you all well and rested over the Christmas break, spending time with friends and family, and sharing news of activities during the past year.

And what better news to share here than the Planning Inspector's dismissal of that proposal to build a Science and Technology Park on land at Waterstock Golf Club! Local opposition to the application by Greystoke, a major corporate developer, was led by a formidable and underestimated group of Waterstock residents and supporters. Henry Manisty, the notable power horse in this campaign, wished to document his thanks for "An Epic victory for Team Waterstock and its many wonderful supporters", as follows -

"There surely cannot be anyone in Waterstock who is not already aware that the Planning Inspector has dismissed the Appeal to develop the golf course site, thereby lifting the cloud that has hung over us since May 2020, when Greystoke first announced its intentions to develop the site. We will not be able to relax completely until January 13th, the deadline set for Greystoke to decide whether to apply for Judicial Review of the Inspector's Decision. But, in order to succeed, Greystoke would have to show that the Inspector has made a serious mistake in misapplying the law. Knowing--as we now do rather well--our careful Inspector, he's unlikely to have made a mistake of that kind.

So, we should rejoice in a great Victory, but one which could never have happened without the quite extraordinary efforts of so many in our tiny village. There's 'Green Belter' Michael Tyce, a planning rather than judo expert, who upset so many of Greystoke's technical arguments. There's Nick Edmonson, who brilliantly presented the golfing arguments and Arabella Whelan, the equestrian ones. Rob Arthur gamely took on noise, lighting and other aspects. We could always rely on a formidable support team: Lorna Arthur working her media magic, Shona and Ali Britton providing the artwork, Michael Talbot producing the slides to illustrate the points we needed to make, Edward Dyson, Susie Edmondson, Sarah Godowski, Michael Haffey, Jane Harper, Rosalind Portman and John Wilkinson all made oral statements at the Inquiry. Angela Abdoo provided valuable intelligence gleaned from her dog walks on footpaths across the site. Numerous others provided suggestions, intelligence and encouragement and, in the case of Rev. David Bendor Samuel, pleas for divine intervention.

Bass Hassan quietly provided wise advice to counter the developer's claims that Oxford needed to have a Science and Innovation park at Waterstock. He was assisted by Professor Alastair Buchan, a former Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Oxford University and now Chair of Stroke Research at the University, who made an oral statement to the Inquiry having flown to Heathrow in that morning after attending a conference in the US.

So many responded generously to Stephen Shipperley's indefatigable fund-raising efforts. This was Waterstock at its finest. A tiny village rising magnificently to the occasion or, as someone aptly put it recalling the title of a 1950's novel, "The Mouse that Roared".

However, we would never have got very far without all the many friends who have supported us. Outstanding was the commitment from the River Thame Conservation Trust (RTCT), where Ben Piper (Chair), David Fraser (Chief Executive), and Nick Marriner (Trustee) all gave testimony, as did the botanist Professor Roger Heath-Brown, and Nick Moon, our public rights of way expert. Savaging Greystoke's inadequate highways case was Chris Shaw, Geoff Talbot's brother-in-law, who painstakingly gathered compelling new evidence. All of these generously giving their support without charge.

We were also fortunate in our retained professionals. Dominic Woodfield, our biodiversity witness, who put in more hours than he ever charged us for, and whose advice has been invaluable throughout. And then there was Harriet Townsend, our highly experienced barrister, now a K.C., whose connection with the development site goes right back to her successfully opposing the unlawful waste disposal operations there many years ago. She guided us expertly through the mysteries of a planning inquiry.

There were generous financial contributions from the parishes of Great Milton and Waterperry and from many individuals; the over 400 letters of support and the many participants in the protest walks, and the remarkable poem in support from Roger Coventry in Waterperry "A Curlew crushed by Concrete". A special mention too for the two members of SODC's planning department taking part in the Appeal. Tracy Smith and Emma Bowerman were, quite simply, magnificent.

But my greatest thanks of all goes to Sara, who accompanied me to the Inquiry each day, and who kept me (more or less) sane during what was certainly a nerve-racking time. I am a very lucky man."

I'm sure you'll all agree we are the lucky ones to have Henry in our corner. Our sincere thanks go to you, Henry. If you'd like to read the details of the dismissal please go to our press releases in local and national press (just 'Google' for them) or on our website www.waterstock.org

As we enter January 2026, there is still time to join the fun evening, back by popular demand, that is the

Waterstock Wine Bluff - Friday 23 at 7.00pm - Tiddington Village Hall

Please get your tickets bought asap as they are selling very quickly. It is a fun evening of wit and wine tasting. You have to decide which of our panel of 'winos' ... sorry four keen wine drinkers are telling the truth and which are bluffing. Enjoy tasting their five carefully selected wines accompanied by a selection of nibbles, cheese, pate, and pudding/cake, plus a quiz! This event was a sell out last time in 2022 and places are limited so to help with planning please book and pay for your place by 9 January. You can reserve a table of 8 places or more, or just book one or two places and join a table. It's all in a good cause - as profits will be split between Cancer Research and the Church Development Fund. Contact lornacampbell1@gmail.com for tickets - £25 each. Ps if anyone has any prizes to donate to raffle/tombola that we will be running we will be looking for donations in early January.

As mentioned in last month's news, Helen MacRitchie will be speaking at the Waterstock and Tiddington WI on January 20 from 7.30pm about her art practice. "Colours of Oxfordshire" will focus on her preparation and use of local natural dyes in her textile art. Come see her work and ask those burning questions you have, such as - just how do hawthorn leaves produce pink dye? Proceeds to Cancer Research.

And on one final note, Susie has reported that the grand total of £858.51 (including Gift Aid) was donated to this year's British Legion Poppy Appeal by Waterstock residents. A massive thank you to everyone for their generosity!

Happy New Year!

Helen MacRitchie

MSM Electrical

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- Garden Lighting & Power
- Electrical Vehicle Charging Points
- Small Jobs Welcome



**REGISTERED PART P
LANDLORDS CERTIFICATES**

Contact Martin Shaw: 07860 795 605 / 01865 872681
msmelectrical61@gmail.com

What's On this *January*



Waterperry
Gardens

ENJOY WINTER WALKS and see the gardens turn into a spectacular vision as the frost spreads across the grasses and trees, the mist winds around the garden and the Riverside Walk. The garden prepares to burst into new life with *Snowdrops* for beautiful walks in February.

NOT JUST FOR GARDEN LOVERS, Waterperry has a fantastic Gift Barn and Gallery, which is a true shopper's delight. Handmade pieces of art available from British artists and unusual gifts for the whole family.

USING LOCALLY SOURCED INGREDIENTS, why not try our delicious home cooked meals and tasty selection of cakes and treats, available every day in the Teashop.

OPEN DAILY 10:00AM - 5:00PM