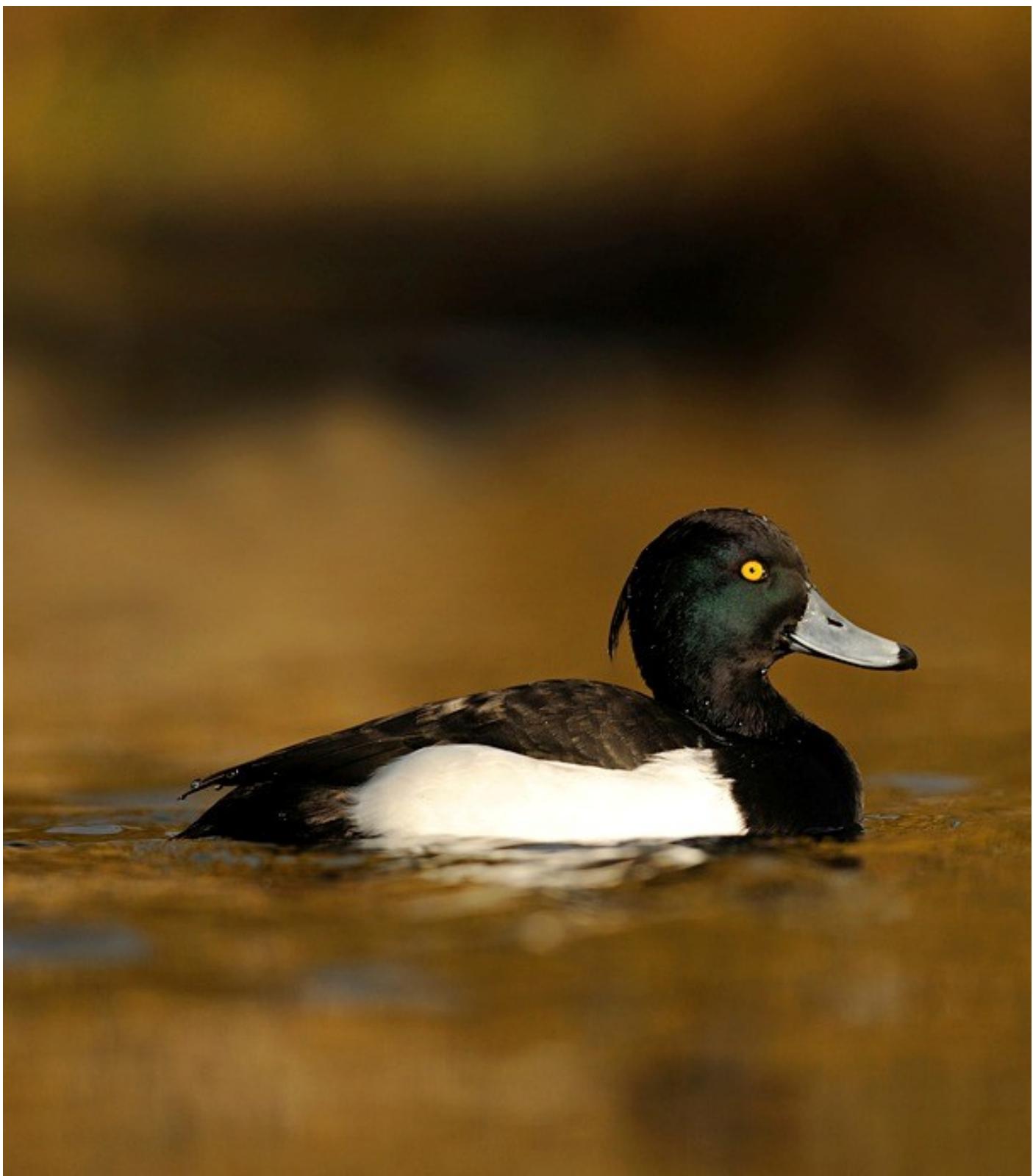


Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News

FEBRUARY 2026



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Waterperry News - Sue Parker

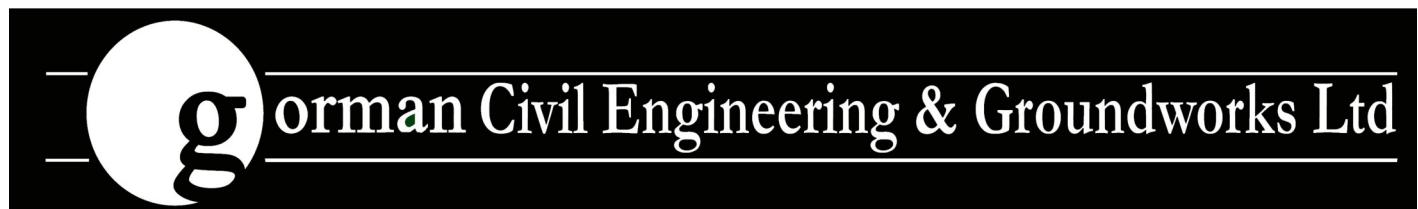
Waterstock News - Lorna Arthur

Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News is delivered monthly and free-of-charge to all households in the parishes of Holton, Waterperry with Thomley, and Waterstock. The magazine is run on a not-for-profit basis, and paid for largely through advertising revenue along with financial support from the three parishes. Its finances are overseen by Waterperry with Thomley Parish Council.

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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February Church Services

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| February 1 st | 9.30 St Leonard's Waterstock |
| February 8 th | 9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's Holton 5.00pm St Mary's Waterperry |
| February 15 th | 9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Leonard's Waterstock |
| February 22 nd | 8.00 St Mary's Waterperry 9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's |
| March 1 st | 9.30 St Leonard's Waterstock |
| March 8 th | 9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's Holton 5.00pm St Mary's Waterperry |

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday – 18th Feb. There will be a Lent Group running on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm from 19th Feb. The group will look at the Creeds of the Church under the heading '*What we believe. How we live.*' All are very welcome. Contact David if interested.

St Leonard's Waterstock

Flowers and cleaning rota

| | |
|---------------|------------|
| February 1st | A. Abdoo |
| February 8th | A. Abdoo |
| February 15th | J. Berrill |
| February 22nd | J. Berrill |
| March 1st | A. Ashby |
| March 8th | A. Ashby |

St Mary's Waterperry

Flower rota

| | |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| February 1st | Jacks |
| February 8th | Susan Fonge |
| February 15th | Lent - no flowers in church* |
| February 22nd | Lent - no flowers in church* |
| March 1st | Lent - no flowers in church* |
| March 8th | Lent - no flowers in church* |

*Emma has kindly offered to put a vase of flowers in the church porch during Lent

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Letter from the Vicarage

Although February is the shortest month of the year it can sometimes seem to drag on forever as winter appears to refuse to let go and allow us into the beginning of Spring. Not for nothing was it called Solmonath (mud month) in Old English. The Finnish, who know a thing or two about winter, call it Helmikuu, meaning "month of the pearl" for when snow melts on tree branches, it forms droplets, and as these freeze again, they are like pearls of ice, which is a lovely poetic way of acknowledging that although it is technically the last month of Winter it can be b***y cold!

In fact the Roman month Februarius, from which we get the name February, was named after the Latin word *februum*, which came to mean 'purification' after the instruments called *februa* which were used in the purification rituals which occurred in February, which were a preparation for the beginning of the new year in March. And nature's cycle in the northern hemisphere means that February sees the final clinging on of winter before the 'new year' of Spring takes hold and regenerates life into the land.

The most famous, now global, celebration in February is, I suppose, the 14th – Valentine's Day. We often seem to celebrate with food on this day, fattening each other up as a sign of our love! Also connected to food but somewhat more mysterious and closer to home is the honouring of 'Meal Monday' in Scotland, this year on Feb. 9th. Are we to infer from this that Scots normally go without food on Mondays? Actually it was the day given to students in Scottish Universities to go home to replenish their stores of oatmeal on which they subsisted for the majority of the time. It seems all academic thought in Scotland was well founded on porridge.

The other well known celebration is on the 2nd; Groundhog Day. As noted before in this Newsletter although a North American festival, originally from the small Pennsylvanian town of Punxsutawney, it has become famous outside of the US due to the film of the same name starring Bill Murray. However there are now many celebrations of Groundhog Day through the US when groundhogs are bought out of hibernation and if they see their own shadows at least 6 more weeks of winter are guaranteed, if not – spring is on its way.

The film tells the story of an obnoxious, utterly ego driven, TV Weather Man who is trapped in Groundhog Day forever, seemingly doomed to live the same day over and over again. In the end the only way he can break out and move on is by discovering a genuine love of other people and inspiring others to love him. I saw it again recently and it struck me that he was given a chance that most of us don't get, that is to be able to relive moments we wish we could go back and do again, but better this time.

The fact is that I know I'm doomed to repeat my mistakes unless I learn from them and then I normally find new mistakes to make. Jesus pointed to the self-evident fact that no one ever has a perfect day, 'all have sinned' he said. We don't get a Groundhog Life when we can just go on until we are perfect, we'd never get there. However Jesus also said that God's 'grace', the free gift of his love, meant that forgiveness, a chance to move on was on offer to all. We don't have to be perfect, God loves us immensely just as we are. We are not doomed to have to endlessly repeat ourselves but through the love of God we can all grow and experience real transformation, day after day.

Stay Blessed,

David

Rev David Bendor-Samuel
dbendorsamuel@btinternet.com
(01865 872102)



A great place to grow

Greetings from The Maple Tree!

This term we have had a few tweaks to our schedule!

Mondays: Messy Monday (back by popular demand) at 10:00-11:30am and Twins' Club at 2:00-4:00pm

Tuesdays: Smart Start at 9:30-11:30am

Wednesdays: Maple Babies at 9:30am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Time to Rhyme at 9:30-11:30am and

The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall from 10:30am-12:00pm

Fridays: Little Learners at 10:00-11:30am

Saturdays: Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am on February 21st, March 14th and April 18th

We will be open every morning during the February half-term and most days during the Easter holiday – please check our website or social media for details. We have another Emergency Paediatric First Aid for parents and carers coming up in February too!

Here is an additional date for your diary;

22nd March – our fabulous **Daffodil Day 2026** with Forest Hill's St Nicolas Church will start at 2:00pm. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Laura at the email below. We need volunteers for all sorts of roles during the event, from ticket collectors to refreshments servers to parking attendants. Beforehand, we will need lots of bakers and some people to set up traffic signs. We also need muscles to set up and later to take down gazebos and tables and chairs. It is a lot of fun in a beautiful setting, and it is satisfying to raise much-needed money for these two worthy charities. Do consider joining us as a volunteer or just come to enjoy the ambiance, the stunning setting, and of course the daffodils!

Wish List:

- A volunteer on Monday for our Twins' Club sessions from 2:00-4:00pm
- A fundraising-loving trustee!
- A finance, number-adoring trustee!

We are here to help if you need advice or support: 01865 236700.

Email: info@mapletree.org.uk

Website: www.mapletree.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheMapleTreeWheatley

Instagram: [@themapletreecentre](https://www.instagram.com/themapletreecentre)

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 February on 5th and 19th, from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. Come along for Tea, Coffee, Cake and a chat with friends and neighbours.

Film Night

On Friday 6th March, the film will be Bridget Jones Mad about the Boy (15). This is the latest episode in the ongoing story of Bridget Jones. Now widowed, middle aged and the mother of two children, Bridget sets out on a new adventure. Starring Renee Zellweger, Hugh Grant, Colin Firth and Emma Thompson plus supporting cast.
7.00 for 7.30 pm.

ENTRANCE - cash only Adults £5 Under 18s £3

TEA, COFFEE & CAKE - cash only

BAR OPEN – card payments preferred

Orchard Pruning

We shall be pruning the trees in the orchard on Saturday 28th February between 10 am and 12 noon. All help welcomed please bring gloves etc if you can.

Archive Exhibitions 14th March

There will be exhibitions in the Village Hall from Holton village archive, Wheatley Park school's Holton park archive and archaeology Club collection, and Jack Turner's geology collection on Saturday March 14th 2026.

12.30pm - 4.30pm

Free entry

TEA, COFFEE & CAKE - cash only

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

Household Waste Recycling Centres

A Booking System is now in place to help manage demand and make your visit quicker and easier. You can book up to two weeks in advance or 30 minutes before your visit (subject to availability). www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/hwrcbooking
Unable to book online? Call 01865 519800 Monday-Friday.

Oxfordshire District Council Chairman's Fund Raising Concert

The Chair of SODC Cllr. Katherine Keats-Rohan is organising a fund raising concert in Dorchester Abbey on 28th March 2026. The performance will be by a local rock choir so it promises to be a fun evening.

Tickets cost £25 each and can be purchased on line using the link below. All profits from the evening will be shared between Sue Ryder Palliative Care Hub in South Oxfordshire and Wigod Way Wallingford Family Centre.

https://www.tickettailor.com/events/wigodwaywallingfordfamilycentre/1957795?fbclid=IwZnRzaAOnVZNleHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2NjI4NTY4Mzc5AAEeizH9RklYW_nKrBwJMmY7Pl9px-ISmvzi5DNzLGCLaHmOUQDTI9jsbMHVyE_aem_Q3PgqkEqqyp1S8A3UKh6jQ

Holton Orchard Pruning Workshop -Saturday 28th February 2026 10 am – 12 noon.

Bring you secateurs and loppers and join in with expert supervision from Kieron Smith to tidy and winter prune the orchard fruit trees.

No previous experience needed – can't go wrong!! Tea and cakes provided.

Local Government Re-Organisation

All the proposals for unitary authorities for Oxfordshire have now been submitted for a decision by the Minister responsible for Local Government Reorganisation.

Holton Parish Council has joined with the 48 Parishes, who would be incorporated into the Greater Oxford Unitary Authority proposal from Oxford City and signed a letter strongly objecting to this scheme as it does not meet the criteria for a number of reasons and also believe that the proposal will damage rural communities that currently do not see themselves as in any way part of Oxford City.

The five MPs responsible for the 48 Parishes are also all strongly opposed to the Proposal and have written to Secretary of State accordingly

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 9th February 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 Hills are Alive with the Sound of Music".....we needed such an uplifting evening from Oxford Operatic Society on the wettest of dreary January days. An outstanding performance from what is still an amateur, but highly professional, group with clever choreography and impressive singing. Even door to door transport from the bus shelter in Holton to the door of the New Theatre.

Our craft afternoon, indoor bowling and an evening meal to come.....

Peter Tickler, crime author (and on Google) spoke at our January 6th meeting introducing us to his prolific writing, with many stories set in Oxford, his home area. He illustrated how he develops plot, characters and setting and also invited us to engage in how to imagine a novel by asking questions and setting up a scenario.

Our 3rd February meeting is about Complementary Therapies with Katie Chester, an opportunity to learn relaxation techniques.

Visitors always welcome. 7.30pm in Holton Village Hall.

Barbara Martin

Holton Cock and Bull

With the current difficulties experienced in arranging driving tests it's a pity when defeat is sadly snatched from the jaws of victory.

Having congratulated a candidate on her driving, an examiner, who had been about to award a pass, changed his mind after the girl crashed into six cars and injured one person when she parked at the end of the test.

When the girl pressed the accelerator rather than the brake the car went out of control and hit the first four vehicles before spinning around and hitting two more. A woman standing between two of the cars sustained leg injuries. The driver was taken to hospital with minor injuries and the examiner was treated for shock.

Name and address supplied

Holton Bus Shelter

Holton Bus Shelter Dates for 2026

Here are the dates for the various events planned to take place at the Bus Shelter in 2026 (but not including the times when a bus actually stops there). As per last year there will be four seasonal Bring and Takes plus an art exhibition, two book weeks, a Remembrance commemoration and a Christmas display (in case you like to plan ahead there are only 327 days between the 1st of February and Christmas Day).

The spring Bring and Take is on the 26th April. The conscientious gardeners have already sown aubergines, cauliflowers and onions ready to plant out later in the year but for the mere mortals amongst us February is the month to get cracking. Why not scatter a few extra broad bean, carrot, tomato and pepper seeds onto some trays of compost and keep them warm and watered on a variety of narrow, south facing windowsills? You can then spend the following couple of months vacuuming the carpet having knocked the trays over when opening the curtains. You could also bring some surplus seedlings to swap at the spring event.

Look forward to seeing you at some time during the year.

Dates for the diary:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Book Week 1 | 14 th to the 22 nd March |
| Spring Bring and Take | 26 th April |
| Art Week(s) | 2 nd to the 16 th May |
| Summer Bring and Take | 19 th July |
| Book Week 2 | 15 th to the 23 rd August |
| Autumn Bring and Take | 27 th September |
| Remembrance Commemoration | 7 th to the 13 th November |
| Christmas at the Bus Shelter | 6 th December |

*Allan East, Holton Parish Council
aeast@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk*

FILM NIGHT

Holton Village Hall

Friday 6 March 2026
7.00 for 7.30 pm

Bridget Jones: Mad about the Boy (15)

Starring
Renée Zellweger; Chiwetel Ejiofor; Leo Woodall
with Colin Firth and Hugh Grant

Run time approx. 2 hours

In this romantic comedy, the fourth film of the Bridget Jones series
(and considered by many to be the best)
Bridget juggles work, parenthood and love.
With the help of her loyal friends, Bridget navigates
romantic encounters, as she strives to forge a new
path in life.

ENTRANCE - *cash only*
Adults £5
Under 18s £3

TEA, COFFEE & CAKE - *cash only*

BAR OPEN

Holton News

January can be a challenging month and this year has been no exception. Initially, we were locked into a mini 'beast from the east' which then eased a bit but then we had the rain and lots of it. The inevitable results are potholes. The Potholers have kept on top of this problem for some time but just recently the spells of cold followed by rain have allowed the forces of nature to do their work and open up a few potholes and as always in awkward places. Let's hope that the potholers can get them sorted before too long so the road users don't have problems travelling through the village.

Still on the challenging theme, there are other challenges abroad. There is a sort of flu about that is stalking the village which has laid several inhabitants low, myself included. I now refer to this as a 'grueme' as it seemed to be a cross between flu (grippe in French) and a cold (rheume in French) so a sort of flu without a temperature. 'Fluold' (in English) doesn't sound right to me. Anyway, most unpleasant. And then there is the length of the month – a five-weeker which coming on top of the expenditure of Christmas makes for repeated viewing of the bank account as the bills roll in.

On a more positive note the days are getting just a little bit longer, particularly in the evenings and nature is responding as the world enters a new orbit. We had a delphinium in December! and daffodils are beginning to push through, some snowdrops are showing and before long others will appear. Roll on Spring!

Essentially life is restarting after the Christmas shutdown, back to work back to school, back to the gym etc. Now the weather is improving and there is a lot to look forward to in February.

Mel Ault
mel_ault39@outlook.com

Follow Holton Village Hall on Facebook to stay in the loop!

Holton Village Hall has a new Facebook page where you can find out about upcoming events and activities at the hall. Do follow the page if you live in Holton and want to be in the loop on what's on.

Search on Facebook for 'Holton Village Hall, Oxfordshire' and 'follow' the page. I also suggest you join [Nextdoor.co.uk](https://www.nextdoor.com) for Holton to receive updates.

Clare Wright

Joint Archives History of Holton Exhibition



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**SATURDAY MARCH 14TH 2026.
HOLTON VILLAGE HALL.
12.30PM – 4.30PM**

EXHIBITIONS FROM HOLTON VILLAGE ARCHIVE, WHEATLEY PARK SCHOOL'S HOLTON PARK ARCHIVE AND ARCHAEOLOGY CLUB COLLECTION, AND JACK TURNER'S GEOLOGY COLLECTION.

Waterperry News

As ever, the year is already rushing past: February already and thoughts turn to half-term holidays, Valentine Day and Spring just around the corner. Snowdrops are out in abundance in the garden and the daffodils along the verge are already starting to flower – although that could all falter and slow down if we get any more proper cold weather. I know I should take a grown-up, sensible-hat-on view on this, but I’m so disappointed not to have had any snow! I live in hope of even just one nice walk in a proper covering of crunchy fresh white stuff, rather than splashing along in muddy puddles! I remember several years ago, when our village young teenagers were still of nursery/primary school age, one day when the word went out that there’d be a gathering on the lawns and in the Rec to build snowmen (school was cancelled!). A few snowball fights ensued and there was a rather handsome snow goose sitting on a teashop picnic table for a few days.

It's a quiet time of year, so just a few notes of general information and parish council news. First of all, while on the subject of puddles, the roads continue to disintegrate under our wheels. As ever, the council blames the government for lack of funding, but I do have to question whether the local councils spend their funds wisely on the 'dragon patcher' repairs that fail within a few weeks of being made. Still, that's all we have at the moment so I'll just remind you that potholes can be reported on www.fixmystreet.com. It's important to report them when you spot (hopefully don't disappear into) a new pothole: by law the council has to have a system of checking and repairing roads and they have a responsibility to fix large potholes if they know about them. So, you'll potentially be doing other drivers a favour by alerting the council; if a motorist wants to claim from the council for damage caused, it is very helpful to be able to show that they had been made aware of the problem. If you are unfortunate enough to incur damage to your car from a pothole, you are entitled to claim compensation and there is information on how to do this online, including from the AA and from the MoneysavingExpert.

Closer to home, I attended an interesting talk in Wheatley just before Christmas given by the River Thame Conservation Trust as part of their 'Community Currents' project to improve and protect our local rivers and streams. I was surprised to find out how much work they do around the river environment and wildlife protection. Much of it is carried out by volunteers who give even a small amount of time to observing and recording – if you are a regular walker anyway, it could be easy to offer a bit of help. They have another meeting coming up later this month – I'll put details on our Facebook page.

In the village – I hope everyone has noticed the very smart new noticeboard on the bend opposite Manor Farm! It is in a slightly more prominent position, so please do check it for public notices and parish council meeting details. The old noticeboard is too special to just throw away (it was originally commissioned for the Millennium) so it has been moved into the churchyard, where the plan is to repurpose it as an insect hotel – look out for further details in the Spring when we'll organise a volunteer project to set it up.

Finally, verge posts! The parish council is currently getting quotations for the purchase of a small number of verge posts. These should be available later in the Spring and priority will be given to replacing those that have been damaged beyond repair and to trying to protect particularly vulnerable sections of verge throughout the village.

By the time you read this Village News, we will probably already have had the January parish council meeting. Further details will follow in the coming weeks of plans for a village Tidy-Up and litter-picking day and other village projects or events.

Keep your eyes on that noticeboard!

Sue Parker

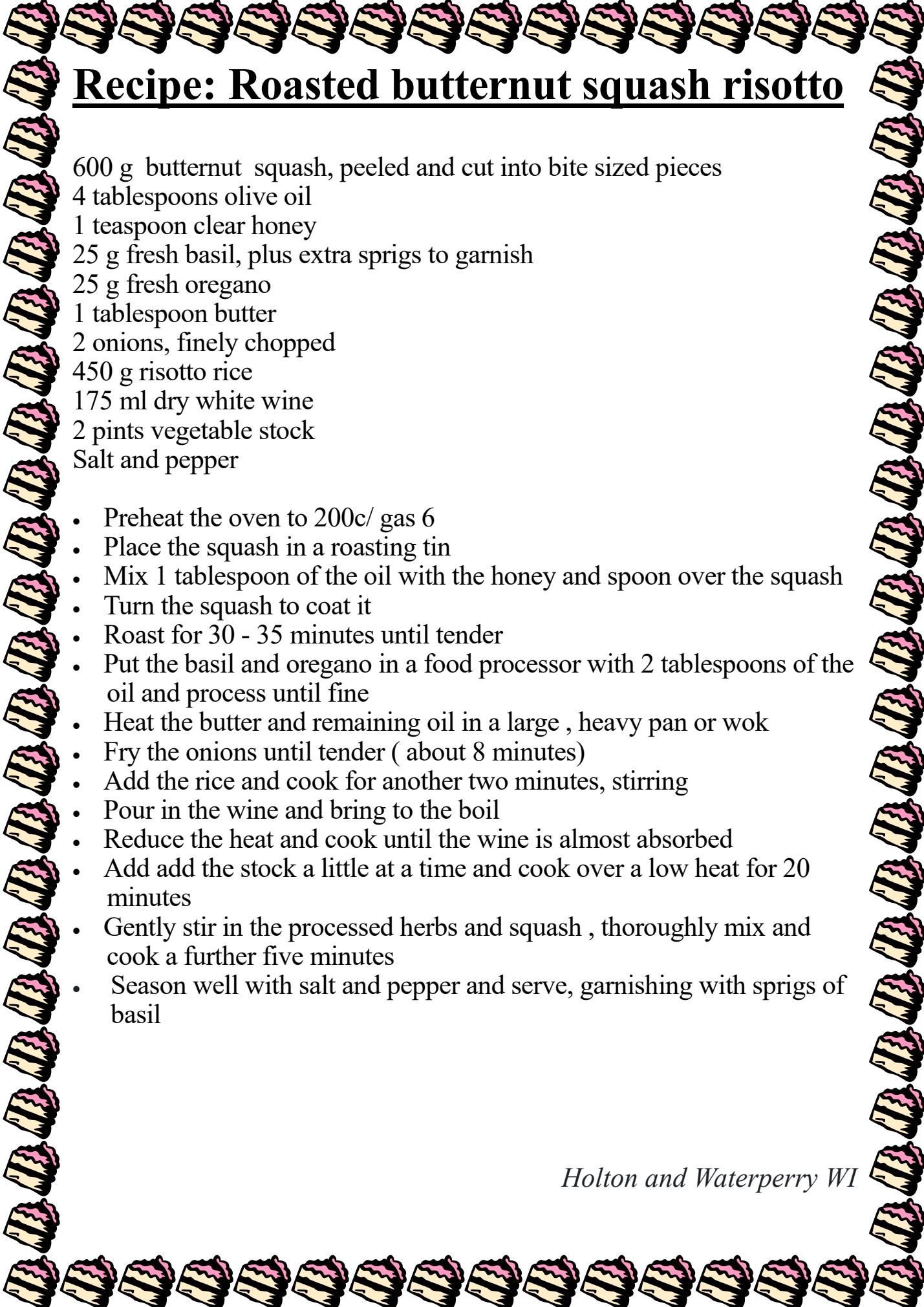
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Recipe: Roasted butternut squash risotto

600 g butternut squash, peeled and cut into bite sized pieces

4 tablespoons olive oil

1 teaspoon clear honey

25 g fresh basil, plus extra sprigs to garnish

25 g fresh oregano

1 tablespoon butter

2 onions, finely chopped

450 g risotto rice

175 ml dry white wine

2 pints vegetable stock

Salt and pepper

- Preheat the oven to 200c/ gas 6
- Place the squash in a roasting tin
- Mix 1 tablespoon of the oil with the honey and spoon over the squash
- Turn the squash to coat it
- Roast for 30 - 35 minutes until tender
- Put the basil and oregano in a food processor with 2 tablespoons of the oil and process until fine
- Heat the butter and remaining oil in a large , heavy pan or wok
- Fry the onions until tender (about 8 minutes)
- Add the rice and cook for another two minutes, stirring
- Pour in the wine and bring to the boil
- Reduce the heat and cook until the wine is almost absorbed
- Add add the stock a little at a time and cook over a low heat for 20 minutes
- Gently stir in the processed herbs and squash , thoroughly mix and cook a further five minutes
- Season well with salt and pepper and serve, garnishing with sprigs of basil



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**

Waterstock News

We start this month with not a lot of news but what we have is good news. We had been waiting since mid December to see if Greystoke would challenge the Planning Inspector's dismissal of their appeal to develop Waterstock Golf Club. As they did not file the required paperwork by 13 January, the final day on which it could enter a challenge – so we can now properly celebrate that the Greystoke development threat is dead. As we know, new planning challenges could arise in the future, but, if so, they will have to start again from scratch. Plus, they will have a much higher barrier to overcome particularly as the Golf Club land has been confirmed as Green Belt and definitively not Grey Belt. We will organise a celebration party for all our supporters to say thank you.

There was a big turnout of Waterstock Carol Singers on Christmas Eve this year – at some points well over 30 people. Fortunately, we were still welcomed inside and outside several houses and even served mulled wine and mince pies and other delicious snacks. Best of all we raised just over £205 pounds which we have split between the River Thame Conservation Trust and The Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) as a small gesture of thanks for their support in our fight against the development plans. We received a very nice thank you email from RTCT's CEO David Fraser: "Very many thanks to you and your fellow Waterstock Carol Singers for your generous donation to the RTCT. Fantastic to know that you were thinking of us. The funds really help us deliver for the river."

Other lovely news from Sini Haines. She is delighted to announce the arrival of her new grandson - baby Félix David. He is the first son of her daughter Claire-Anne and husband Max. He arrived on 23rd November. Félix was delivered earlier than planned and as a result was born at the John Radcliffe maternity where his mum was born too in 1988. She reports that Mum and baby are doing well and they are all eternally grateful for the outstanding care they received from the JR medical team.

Farewell to Jenny Grant who has lived in the Nook for over 8 years and is now moving to Witney. We look forward to finding out who the new residents will be and welcoming them to Waterstock.

An exciting report from Nick Marriner from his latest visit to Waterstock checking on our wildlife: "*WATERSTOCK Mega today... had a bit of a hunch that it would be a good day down by the river so took a last minute decision to head down and work through the huge flocks of Geese and BINGO ... 29 White-fronted Geese and 2 Tundra Bean Geese. The cold snap and persistent easterly winds have blown a lot of both species in land and some have chosen*

Waterstock to stay for a while. We have had White-fronted a handful of times but **never before a Tundra Bean**. They both come from Northern Europe - Russia and beyond. There are about 30 in Oxon at moment and **the County's first for c. 25 years**. Also had fly through Peregrine and female Merlin (only my 2nd record at Waterstock). Brilliant end to the year taking the year list up to 110 species”

As I write we are experiencing a very cold snap with lot of frost and ice and even a little bit of snow – my little grandsons who had only really seen snow on the TV asked if it was going to be Christmas again and would Santa be coming soon! I don’t think its going to last but it will be a while before we get to warmer weather and spring.

Have a great February -

Lorna Arthur



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

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msmelectrical61@gmail.com

What's On this *February*



**Waterperry
Gardens**

THERE ARE FEW BETTER PLACES TO CELEBRATE
THE ARRIVAL OF SPRING THAN WATERPERRY
GARDENS IN OXFORDSHIRE.

The historic ornamental gardens provide the perfect setting for the Galanthus. These wonderful little heralds of spring carpet the old orchard and riverside walks at this time of the year, and winter aconites are also likely to bring a smile to visitors' faces, providing new hints of colour in the garden*.

**WATERPERRY BOASTS BEAUTIFUL DISPLAYS OF
DOUBLE AND SINGLE-FLOWERED SNOWDROPS.**

With 20 acres of gardens, it's the perfect excuse for a walk in our beautiful gardens. Why not follow this by a visit to our Teashop to warm up after.

OPEN DAILY 10:00AM - 5:00PM

*Normal garden entrance fee applies.

