

Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News

JANUARY 2025



Editor/Advertising

Lawrence Wootten

07808 761710

lawrencewootten@aol.com

or

*mail@waterperry.org***Holton News**

Mel Ault

Waterstock News

Helen MacRitchie

Waterperry News(None this month -
back in February!)

Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News is delivered monthly and free-of-charge to all households in the three parishes, with additional copies left in the parish churches.

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 - anonymous entries will not be considered.

The views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor.

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January Church Services

January 5 th	9.30 St Leonard's Waterstock 6.00pm St Helen's Albury Epiphany Carol Service
January 12 th	9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's Holton 6.00pm St Mary's Waterperry
January 19 th	9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Leonard's Waterstock
January 26 th	8.00 St Mary's Waterperry 9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's
February 2 nd	9.30 St Leonard's Waterstock
February 9 th	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 5th	C. Tyce
January 12th	J. Shipperley
January 19th	B. Grzelka
January 26th	B. Grzelka
February 2nd	S. Getty
February 9th	S. Getty
February 16th	L. Stubbs

St Mary's Waterperry

Flower rota

January 5th	Rebecca & Jacqui
January 12th	Helen
January 19th	TBA
January 26th	TBA

Letter from the Vicarage

Hello,

I was listening to a podcast this morning and the podcasters played back the New Year resolutions they had made at the beginning of 2024. Huge embarrassment all round as none of the four had gone anywhere close to succeeding in keeping them. However nothing daunted they then made a whole load of new ones for 2025. Now I'm sure all of you are made of sterner stuff and have successfully kept all yours over the last year. No? Close? Oh well if you don't aim high you don't get anywhere at all.

But let's not look back – let's look forwards. What will the year of 2025 bring? Well first up we are all hoping for a further rejection of the planning application for the Waterstock Golf Course. But if we look further afield I've been privileged to get a peek at some of the headlines over the coming year:

UK – January – Ed Davey ends up in hospital as a stunt goes horribly wrong while base jumping from Big Ben. April – Boris Johnson is paid £1M to not publish the second part of his memoirs. September – Kier Starmer rides the first train on HS2, announces no more waiting lists for NHS treatment and is announced as the next James Bond before realising he has fallen asleep during Rachel Reeves Budget speech.

France – March – The year's 5th government falls and President Macron appoints Brigitte Bardot as the new Prime Minister. November – Prime Minister Bardot passes away. President Macron asks; 'who wants the job?'

America – July – President Trump announces new bigly wall project. The wall will be made of used McDonald's boxes and will surround the White House to keep vegetarians out. August – Trump says he wants to become an astronaut and would be the best astronaut ever. Elon Musk volunteers to fly him to Mars. World leaders queue up to encourage him to make the attempt.

Sport – June – Wimbledon insist that the new rule making the use of roller-skates compulsory if play goes to a fifth set will speed up play and add excitement to the tournament. October – After being sponsored by P&O cruises FIFA announce the next World Cup will include 128 national teams and will be held on floating platforms in the Pacific.

Well OK – maybe not all of the above will actually happen and that's the point really. We just don't know what the next year will bring. And uncertainty is never good for communities or us as individuals. But it has always been like this. There has always been uncertainty and at times seeming chaos as people look ahead. It's just now it is all on our phones and TVs 24/7. Various people at various times have claimed to know the future but so far no one has succeeded.

When Jesus left his followers they too faced a hugely uncertain future without him. He didn't tell them their future, what he did promise was that no matter what happened he would be with them, he would never leave them alone to face whatever was coming. And this promise is still true now to whoever wants to grab hold of it. Whatever the year may bring for us, and I hope and pray it will be good things, there is a hand held out to grab hold of us and be what we need as we venture into the uncertainty of 2025.

Stay blessed,

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

Holton Parish Council

Holton Parish Council website and emails

There is a new Parish Council website www.holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk and new Parish Council emails all now .gov.uk:

clerk@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

bpridmore@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

aeast@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

rbarter@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

amurray@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

The .gov.uk gives more security to emails and website and the new address will not get Holton Oxford confused with other Holtons in the country. We regularly get requests from residents of Holton Suffolk so there should be no confusion now.

Vacancy for a new Parish Councillor

Are you looking for a new challenge?

Do you want to make a positive difference?

Would you like to influence decisions that affect your community?

You will need to attend Parish Council meetings held once a month and spend some extra time on areas of specialism or interest.

You must be aged 18 or over, an elector and have been a resident or worked within 3 miles of the Parish for the past year. The position is unpaid

To express an interest or for more information, contact the Parish Clerk or any Parish Councillor on emails above.

Holton Road Safety Scarecrows

Thank you everyone who entered into the road safety awareness competition. All were worthy winners but we had to choose one to receive the coveted Gold Cup and that was Barry and Helen Andrews at Saxon, Holton. Their girl with the 20 mph poster withstood rain and gales but made it through. All the scarecrows served the purpose of promoting the use of hi-vis clothing on the village roads and hopefully the message has been received loud and clear.

Holton Orchard Winter Pruning

Saturday February 8th 10.00 am in Holton Orchard. Kieron will again instruct and lead us in aspects of winter pruning of the orchard trees. The improvement in the trees has been remarkable since we started the regular pruning sessions. Just an hour or so and hot drinks and cake so please come along and perfect your pruning technique.

HWW News

Copies of the HWW News will be available on Holton Parish Council website under Village Information – HWW News.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 13th January 2025 starting at 7.00 pm In Holton Village Hall Committee Room.

Agendas will be on the village notice boards and Parish Council website.

Contact details below.

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 the Holton Parish Council website www.holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk.

Holton & Waterperry W.I.

A merry time was had by all at our meeting on the 3rd December. Festive chocolate wreaths were made amidst much laughter and accompanied by seasonal nibbles, wine and soft drinks.

Our trips out have been much enjoyed and names were taken for a meal on the 11th February.

Our next meeting is on January 7th 2025 when we will hear Karen Wiles with a talk entitled 'Isn't it cold in the winter?' This is about life on a waterways barge.

We send good wishes to everyone for a happy and peaceful New Year

Barbara Martin

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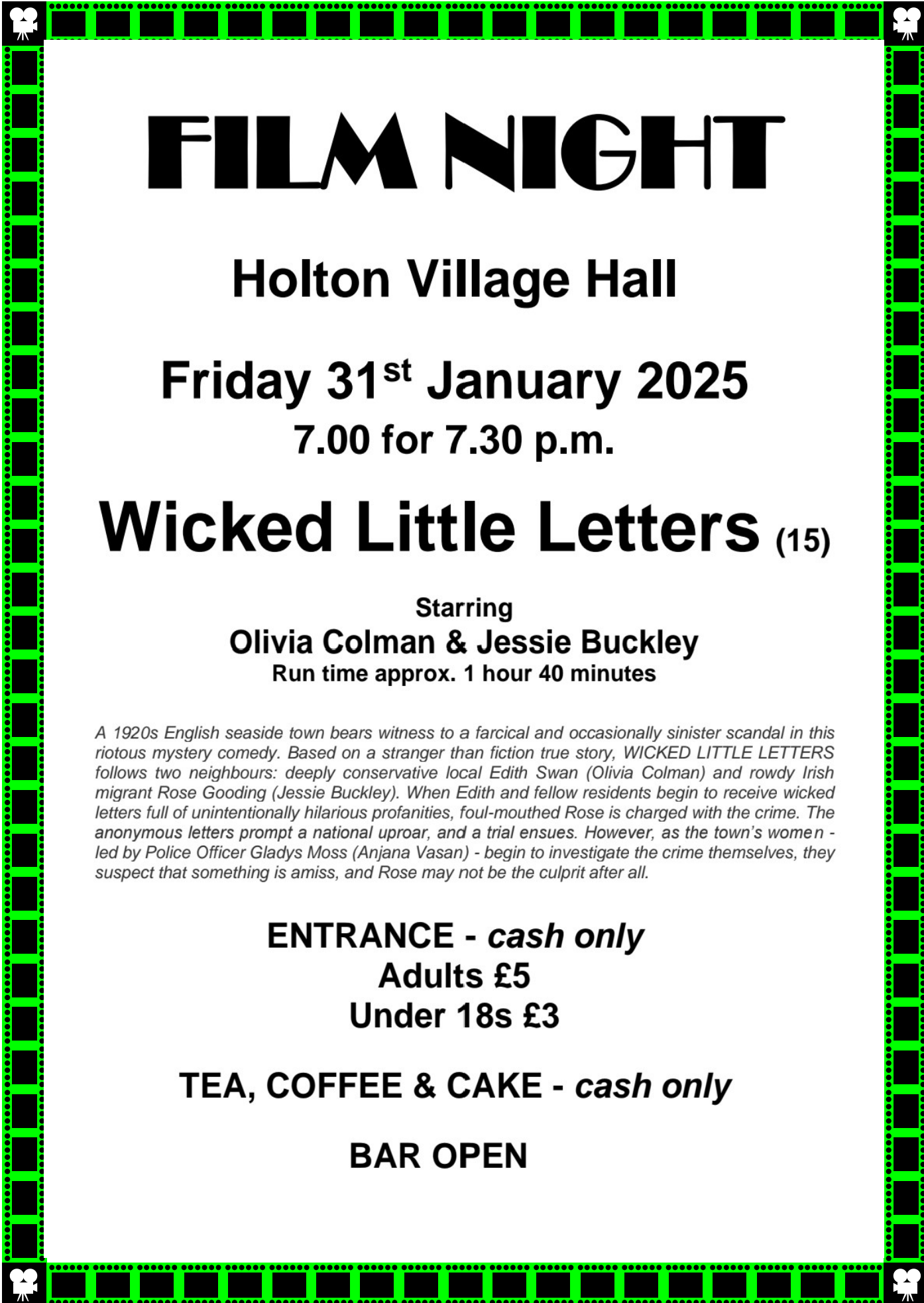
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FILM NIGHT

Holton Village Hall

Friday 31st January 2025

7.00 for 7.30 p.m.

Wicked Little Letters (15)

Starring

Olivia Colman & Jessie Buckley

Run time approx. 1 hour 40 minutes

A 1920s English seaside town bears witness to a farcical and occasionally sinister scandal in this riotous mystery comedy. Based on a stranger than fiction true story, WICKED LITTLE LETTERS follows two neighbours: deeply conservative local Edith Swan (Olivia Colman) and rowdy Irish migrant Rose Gooding (Jessie Buckley). When Edith and fellow residents begin to receive wicked letters full of unintentionally hilarious profanities, foul-mouthed Rose is charged with the crime. The anonymous letters prompt a national uproar, and a trial ensues. However, as the town's women - led by Police Officer Gladys Moss (Anjana Vasan) - begin to investigate the crime themselves, they suspect that something is amiss, and Rose may not be the culprit after all.

ENTRANCE - cash only

Adults £5

Under 18s £3

TEA, COFFEE & CAKE - cash only

BAR OPEN

Holton Bus Shelter

And so the old year ends as it began with the god of the winds proving to be unpredictable and uncontrollable. Storm Darragh certainly reminded me of the dangers of hubris and the need to respect the power of the natural world. The Christmas Bus Shelter Bring and Take was quickly postponed to the Wednesday evening and was combined with the advent window unveiling.

It proved to be a blessing in disguise as we had a wonderful evening. There was a great turnout, plenty of swapping of items and telling of tales from the past, the consumption of hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies and snacks and a chance to celebrate the festive season with some lovely people. All this was enhanced by gazebos, Christmas lights, two wonderful advent windows, the return of our very own inept Santa (stuck in the chimney once again) and a display of Christmas decorations. If you haven't seen the 'Bus Stop' as yet, then do go down once it gets dark. It's quite a sight. Special thanks to Dominique and Kieran for all their work in helping to set everything up and clear away on the night, to Rose and Michael Gorman for installing Santa and helping with the art display, Wendy Cummins for supplying the electricity to power everything and to all who contributed to the art display. A special mention also, to Clare Wright for her work in organizing the advent windows this month.

In addition, your generosity meant we were able to make both a contribution to the Thame Foodbank, which serves this area, and a wonderful donation of £250 to Shelter. Thank you all so much for your continuing generosity. Holton is such a lovely place to live.

The Bus Shelter Bring and Take will return, all being well, in the New Year. Look out for the dates in next month's magazine. In the meantime I am off to sort out my resolutions for 2025. There are a few things I have learned, over the years, to make this process bearable: make as few of them as possible, don't tell anyone what they are and never, ever, ever write them down. Most importantly, I intend to avoid things I know will inevitably end in disappointment - eat more vegetables, join a yoga class, learn a new language, take up painting, exercise more and get fit, have lessons on how to play a musical instrument, sort out the files on my computer. No, the secret is not to allow myself to be weighed down by my past failures to improve and then merely to add to that list. Instead, this year I am going to stop doing something. And that something is getting cross. Maybe my resolution will be not to get annoyed at: people speeding through the village, the tv remote control having a mind of its own, shops not taking money, lids being impossible to open, updates removing functions on my phone, people starting written sentences with 'And' or the arguments put forward by climate change deniers. Whatever it is you can be certain I won't be telling anyone. Meanwhile, I live in hope that the gods will not punish me like poor Sisyphus and condemn me to a lifetime of Bring and Take events in bad weather. Otherwise that will be another failed resolution.

Allan East
aeast@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

Holton Village Hall

Afternoon teas.

The coffee mornings and afternoon teas at the Village Hall continue to be a great success. Many thanks to everyone who helps for all their hard work. There will be afternoon teas in January 2025 on 9th and the 23rd. They will be from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. These events are really well attended so come along for Tea, Coffee, Cake and a chat with friends and neighbours.

Road Safety Week

The scarecrows are getting cold! Not sure when the judging will be but as soon as we know the info will be posted.

Christmas Carol Service at St Barts

We hope you all had a good time at the Carol Service and at the Hall for afters. Any suggestions for improvements next Christmas would be appreciated as this is a very popular event.

Film Night

There will be a new film to tempt you out on the 31st January 2025 which is Wicked Little Letters (15) starring Olivia Colman and Jessie Buckley. Based on the real-life Littlehampton libels in 1920, it follows an investigation into the anonymous author of numerous crudely insulting letters sent to the residents of the seaside town of Littlehampton. The Bar will be open and coffee, tea and cake served. Look out for further details in the full page ad.

Future Events

For up to date information on all events at the Village Hall please access the website at www.holtonvillagehall.co.uk

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

Hope you had a great Christmas and wishing you a Very Happy New Year

Mel Ault

mel_ault39@outlook.com

Holton Cock and Bull

The process of jury-vetting in the US can be protracted and tortuous with many and varied objections made by both the prosecution and defence teams. However, it is not often that a judge would raise an objection.

A prospective juror was dismissed by Judge Barber from his court in California with the following words, 'This woman is my wife. At home she either argues with everything I say or pays me no attention whatsoever. I have no reason to suppose that she would behave any differently in court.'

Name and address supplied

Holton News

The film for the last Film Night of 2024 was Top Gun Maverick and you sort of know the ending before it starts. However, there are a few plot line twists and turns. There were also some hangovers from the previous film to carry you through, always assuming that you had seen the first story. There is also the assumption that you will suspend disbelief for a couple of hours, a bit like you have to do for the Christmas and Rom Com films on the tele at the moment. Nevertheless, a good evening out, well done to all those who put it on and let's have more in the New Year please.

There were nine teams at Quiz Night which is a very promising number and shows that folks are getting about again after a series of economic shocks. The quiz was a great deal of fun and the lead switched about but the overall winners were the four Ms who took home a nice reward for their efforts as well as the coveted trophy. One highlight was the return of the ploughman's supper and the raffle prize money was won by that village regular Andy Murray. A very nice social evening was had by all and thanks to the organisers for putting on a good show.

In December we had the last tea & coffee afternoon of 2024. To mark the occasion, there was a large turnout and festive treats were on offer to all. These events are a great credit to the village and are part of belonging to Holton so thanks to the organisers and participants and here's to 2025.

Holton's social whirl of December continued with the window display for advent. Not quite as busy as last year but still very pleasant and some new faces/windows in the village. Great efforts on the part of the 'window dressers' and lots of variation. The drinks and nibbles, though not a necessity, were a very good and welcome addition. The main thing though was the company and the enjoyment of meeting new people and the fun of the occasion. Well done to the organisers and participants. There are pictures of the windows on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1243310106423426>. Thanks to Jan for posting them.

Watch out for all the other events in the village on the village website <https://www.holtonvillagehall.co.uk/events/> or in the magazine under Holton Village Hall. Do let me know if you have any village news that you wish to appear in these notes in future, especially if you are new to the village.

By the time you read this the festivities will be over so I hope you all had an enjoyable Christmas and very best wishes for a Happy 2025.

Mel Ault
mel_ault39@outlook.com

January great for winter walks



Waterperry
Gardens



WINTER

AT 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 is at its most dramatic state in January as it is cut back for the winter and prepares to burst into new life with Snowdrops in February.

Waterperry is not just for garden lovers, the Gift Barn and Gallery are a shopper's delight, with handmade pieces of art from British artists and unusual gifts for all the family.

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Wednesdays: Baby Cafe at 9:30am-12:00pm

Thursdays: Little Explorers at 10:00-11:30am and The Maple Tree at Forest Hill Village Hall from 10:30am-12:00pm.

Little Chatterboxes at 10:00-11:30am

Family Fun at 10:00-11:30am, 3rd Saturday of each month

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Laura Spencer , The Maple Tree Centre Manager



January Birthdays

A very Happy Birthday this month
to:



Phoenix who will be turning 9
Teddy who will be turning 12
Edward who will be turning 16
Arthur Fonge who will be turning 14

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

Waterstock News

Christmas may have been a stressful time for some but also an opportunity to slow down and take stock of everything for which we can be thankful. I hope this finds you well rested over the Christmas break, ready to begin 2025 renewed and refreshed.

At the beginning of December, I returned from a few weeks in Australia where everyone was preparing their Christmas lists – sunscreen, mozzie repellent, mangoes and, of course, prawns. I found the sunshine and heat was always wonderful at Christmas, but sitting around a pool never seemed as right as hunkering down around a fire with a hot drink or two. At least that's what I continue to tell myself as the darkness now falls at 4pm!

True to form, December in Waterstock was the usual mixture of rain, drizzle, wind and more rain, but the village still got together to enjoy many events and festive celebrations. On 15th, we came together at St Leonard's for our traditional carol service. Our thanks were given to Carole Tyce and Sara Manisty for keeping the church cleaned and decorated over the past year, and to Edward and David for keeping us musically and spiritually enriched. Flowers in the church by Wendy added a beautiful festive touch to the proceedings. The service was followed by the village 'bring and share' supper, ably and generously hosted by Stephen and Janet Shipperley at Home Farm. Through Janet's guidance, a magnificent spread, catering for everyone's needs, always seems to magically appear. Our thanks go to you both for making us all so welcome once again.

Helen MacRitchie held a couple of crafting workshops close to Christmas in her home, to make various fabric Christmas ornaments for the tree. Mulled refreshments and sweetie nibbles were on hand to 'keep up energy and focus'. Everyone had a lot of fun and even went home with some decorations! All monies raised went to the Waterstock village fund supporting our fight against Development plans.

And speaking of which, Henry Manisty has given the following update – There has been a lull in the Inquiry with only one working day in which Michael Tyce represented Waterstock at a round table discussion, chaired by the Planning Inspector, on whether there is an economic need for the development. This was a session that the developers need to win, but Michael and SODC's witness were highly effective in suggesting there was in fact no need for it at all. There are alternative and more suitable sites in the Science Vale. The Inquiry reopens on 14 January when Nick Edmondson will represent Waterstock at a session focussing on the harm to golf. Whether or not you play golf, please come to support him. Michael Tyce will return the following day for a session on the Green Belt and general planning issues. Angela Rayner's newly published planning revisions will introduce additional complexity to this issue.

On 12 Dec, a Parish Meeting was held at St Leonard's Church, chaired by Rob Arthur. Briefly the subjects discussed were

- actions taken following the September flooding e.g. clearing ditches, rebuilding walls, replacing drainage pipes and verge repair outside the church
- update on golf course development and Inquiry
- budget and precept
- future of Waterstock church, future additional uses

Minutes of the meeting were distributed by email to the village shortly after, and can be accessed for more details on the above discussions

Jane Hanson and Helen were exhibiting their pots and felted textiles respectively, at the Oxfordshire Museum in Woodstock during December. This was as part of the Oxfordshire Craft Guild Christmas sale held during Dec, and their thanks go to customers in Waterstock and the surrounding villages who supported them during a busy exhibition. If you missed them in Woodstock (what?!) they'd love to welcome you during May Oxfordshire Artweeks in Waterstock – look out for the signs later this year!

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year,

Helen MacRitchie



Recipe: Minestrone Soup

2oz smoked steaky bacon, finely chopped
1 medium onion, finely chopped
2 celery stalks, washed and finely chopped
6 oz carrots, washed and finely chopped
2 medium ripe tomatoes, peeled and chopped
1 crushed garlic clove
8 ozs leeks
3 ozs macaroni
1 oz butter
1 tablespoon olive oil
2.5 pints chicken or vegetable stock
1 dessertspoon tomato purée
2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley
Salt and pepper
Parmesan to serve

- Heat the butter and oil in a large saucepan, add the bacon and cook for a couple of minutes before adding the onion, followed by the celery and carrots then add the tomatoes.
- Stir in the garlic and salt and pepper then cook gently, covered, for 20 minutes. Keep stirring to prevent sticking.
- Pour in the stock and bring to the boil.
- Cover and simmer gently for an hour.
- Cut the rough ends off the leeks, wash the rest and finely chop them.
- When the other ingredients have simmered for an hour, stir in the leeks, macaroni and tomato purée.
- Cook for another 10 minutes uncovered.
- Finally stir in the parsley and serve sprinkled with Parmesan.

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