# Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News

*OCTOBER 2026*

**Editor/Advertising** - Lawrence Wootten (07808 761710)
*lawrencewootten@aol.com* or
*villagenewseditor@waterperrywiththomley-pc.gov.uk*

**Holton News** - Mel Ault

**Waterperry News** - Helen Marshall; Dawn Leopard

**Waterstock News** - Susie Edmondson

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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# ***October Church Services***

| | |
|---|---|
| October 4th | 5.30pm St Leonard's Waterstock - Evensong with children from Wheatley Choir<br>Led by Alexandra – curate from Wheatley |
| October 11th | 11am St Bartholomew's Holton<br>Communion Service - Rev Clare Joyce |
| October 18th | 11am St Leonard's Waterstock - Morning Prayer<br>Led by priest-in-training from Cuddesdon |
| October 25th | 11am St Bartholomew's Holton<br>Communion Service - Rev Clare Joyce |

## St Mary's Waterperry

**Flower rota**

| | |
|---|---|
| 3rd October | Jacqui |
| 10th/11th October (Village Tidy) | Helen |
| 17th October | Jan |
| 24th October | Susan F |
| 31st October | Zena |

## St Leonard's Waterstock

**Flowers and cleaning rota**

| | |
|---|---|
| 4th October | S Manisty |
| 11th October | S Manisty |
| 18th October | C Tyce |
| 25th October | C Tyce |

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# Holton Village Hall

www.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 an afternoon tea in October, on 1st,15th and 29th from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. Yes three teas! Come along for Tea, Coffee, Cake and a chat with friends and neighbours and if anyone from Waterperry and Waterstock wants to join us they will be very welcome.

**Film Night**

The next Film Night will be 'Choral' on Friday 13th November 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Choral was written by Alan Bennett, and stars Ralph Fiennes. 'As WW1 rages on, the Choral Society in a small English town has lost most of it is men to the army. The Choral's committee is determined to press ahead with new recruits. They engage a driven new chorus master, Dr Henry Guthrie – recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the community discovers that the best response to the war is to make music together. Entrance - cash only, Adults £5, under 18s £3. Bar open - cash or card

**Quiz Night**

There will be a Quiz Night on 20th November from 7-10pm. Details in the advert in the magazine

**Autumn Tidy Up**

Has been pushed back to the springtime so we can have a good Spring Clean.

**Solar Panels**

The Village Hall Solar Panels are installed and the system is up and running. We are now waiting for the agreement to be finalised so we can sell electricity into the grid but the hall is self-sufficient on electrical energy.

**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 together with the Hall Facebook page 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*

# FILM NIGHT

## Holton Village Hall

## Friday 13 November 2026
## 7.00 for 7.30 pm

# The Choral (12)

Starring
***Ralph Fiennes *Emily Fairn**
***Alun Armstrong *Mark Addy *Roger Allam**

**Run time approx. 108 minutes**

As WW1 rages on, the Choral Society in a small English town has lost most of its men to the army. The Choral's committee is determined to press ahead with new recruits. They engage a driven new chorus master, Dr. Henry Guthrie – recently returned from a career in Germany. As conscription papers start to arrive, the community discovers that the best response to the war is to make music together.

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

**BAR OPEN - *cash or card***

# ***Holton News***

Autumn is officially with us by which I mean meteorological autumn. The weather however has become cooler and wetter and lawns are beginning to go green again. There are some signs that the trees are going a bit over but its not marked yet. However, the birds sense that the seasons are changing and are gathering to depart. Indeed some may have already gone. The nights are drawing in and next month the clocks go back. Then before long it will be Christmas the cycle begins again.

Another successful event for the Village Hall was 'Spud Night'. This presented a chance to have a nice baked potato with a variety of fillings, have a social bevy and talk to neighbours and friends. A good number of people partook of this particular treat which makes it worth repeating so thanks to all those whose hard work made the night a success.

During the hot weather, I put out an old dog bowl of water for the nocturnal 'folk' that visit the garden. The water duly disappeared night after night, either from evaporation or from creatures drinking it. There were a few feathers about and hedgehog 'calling cards' but nothing big enough to tip it over which was reassuring. Then I found a very old tennis ball near the bowl where the vegetation had died, which led me to think of Penny a rescue dog that we used to look after when her owners were away. Penny had an unerring habit of finding balls in the garden when you didn't even know they were there and would eat anything even bread for the birds as she had been abandoned. She would present a really horrible ancient object to you for a game and would persist until you threw it for her. Unfortunately she got the doggy equivalent of Alzheimer's and died a few years ago. It was nice to have that memory of her though

You just get used to something and then they change it out of all recognition. We go into Oxford for a morning course to the north of the city centre once a week and use the 400 bus to Carfax, then walk up to Magdalen Street to get another bus to Polstead Rd. This way we try and stay green(ish). At the start of the new term we duly turned up at Thornhill to discover chaos. There were three buses going to Wheatley or Thame but nothing for the city centre. We paid our usual £2.50 for parking and were then told we were not eligible for our usual free ride into Oxford. We then noticed an announcement that from 17 Sept, the cost will go up to £3.00 but no mention of a free ride unless you used the hated Ringo App. Ringo has played us fast and loose in the past so we try not to use it. Eventually, one of the Wheatley buses came back into Thornhill having been held up in a big jam on the A40, by which time the place was rammed. Perhaps this will all settle down but at the moment it's not looking good for the new system whatever it is.

Thanks to whoever it was who chopped down a falling tree up from the Village Hall. It was looking dangerous and you had to go over the other side of the road to avoid it.

Take care.

*Mel Ault*
*mel_ault39@outlook.com*

# ***Holton Parish Council***

**Holton Parish Council Website**
If you would like to receive news alerts please sign up for 'Email Alerts' on the website located on the Home Page top right. It can keep you up to date.

**Holton News WhatsApp Group**
QR link and details of how to join located on the two village notice boards, July and August HWW News and on the Parish Council website.

**Holton Parish Councillor**
Marc Lafferty has joined the Parish Council as a co-opted Councillor. We welcome his valued contribution and look forward to working with him in the future.

**Churchyard Extension (Wildflower grassland)**
Thank you to the villagers who turned out to rake up the Churchyard Extension Wildflower Grassland. A rewarding exercise which will help to achieve our aim of an attractive and biodiverse area.

**Unitary Authority**
All back to the drawing board until the Government reviews the policy and legality of the original decision.
Elections for Parish Council and District Council will take place in May 2027 all wards as before.

**Temporary Traffic Order 28 October – 30th October 2026**
Oxfordshire County Council intends to make a temporary road closure on the road running southeast through Holton whilst works to install pressure monitoring points are carried out by M Group Water/Thames Water.
The area looks to be around the village green area. Access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for properties within the closed section of road where reasonably practicable. But it looks like one will not be able to drive straight through Holton at the village green area.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on **Monday 12th October 2026** starting at 7.15 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, Approved Minutes and copies of HWW News can be viewed on Holton Parish Council website:
**www.holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk**

# Quiz Night

## At Holton Village Hall

# Fri 20th November

**7pm for 7.30pm start**

## £10 per head including 'Ploughmans supper'

## Bar Open from 7pm

## Tickets in advance only - by Mon 16th November

Book your team of up to 8 in advance – If you don't have a team, just contact us and we can slot you in with another team.

**Contact;** admin@holtonvillagehall.co.uk
or phone 07836 234 740

Fundraising for the Village Hall's future projects - keep our hall thriving for the whole community.
Charity No. 273526

# Holton & Waterperry WI

At our September 1st meeting Elaine, our president, welcomed Helen and Evin, both first responders from South Oxford Ambulance Service to give a talk about CPR and defibrillators. We learned the difference between a person having a cardiac arrest and a heart attack and what to do in each case. Members were given the opportunity to try doing CPR on the mannequins and also to use a defibrillator.

Our activities continue - a walk on the 15th September; a fused glass workshop on the 29th September using the bursary money we have been fortunate to receive; we will display the poppies again later in October and have another afternoon with printed ink blocks on the 16th November.

Our 6th October meeting is our birthday supper which this year will take the form of a wine tasting evening followed by cheese and biscuits.

*Barbara Martin*

# Holton Cock & Bull

*'Cops & Robbers' usually provides a good fund of stories, but it's good to see the cops winning occasionally.*

*A robbery suspect made things easy for New York police when he walked into a police station to inquire about a friend who had been arrested – and stood beside his own 'wanted' poster on the wall. Awiey 'Chucky' Hernandez was spotted by an alert detective who noticed the resemblance and detained the suspect.*

*When police were called to the home of John Mitchell to investigate a break-in they took several sets of fingerprints, including those of Mr Mitchell in order to eliminate him from their enquiries. It later transpired that the prints of Mr Mitchell were already on file. He had been on the run for 3 years following a conviction for burglary.*

*Name and address supplied*

# Recipe: October Quick Chicken

An easy supper dish that can be served with crusty bread or steamed vegetables

8 oz broccoli florets
4 chicken breasts
1 can condensed chicken soup
2oz mayonnaise
4 tablespoons double cream
Half a teaspoon curry powder (optional)
Grated cheddar cheese

- Steam the broccoli until almost tender and place it with the chicken in an ovenproof dish.
- Mix together the soup, mayonnaise, cream and curry powder and spoon over the chicken and broccoli.
- Sprinkle with the cheese and bake at 180c for about 50 minutes.

*Holton and Waterperry WI*


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# ***Dr Rogers Trust***

When the Trust was set up in February 1980, the Constitution stated**:-**
**"The objectives of the charity is to promote the education (including social and physical training) of children and young person's resident in the area of the ancient parish of Holton. The Trust Deed instructs that Trustees shall have special regard to the promotion of education in accordance with the principles and doctrines of the Church of England".**

The Dr Rogers Trustees will be meeting in November 2026 to consider applications from apprentices, trainees and students, aged 14 to 21, who are resident in the parish of Holton, for grants to assist in the purchase of books and equipment or towards the cost of educational trips or courses.

A maximum of 2 grants per applicant will be considered, the first whilst at school and the second for undertaking further education up to the age of 21.

**In 2025 six grants were awarded to young people.**

If you would like further information, please contact:
Carol Johnston, Trustee/Clerk, Chance Cottage, Holton
Email: carol.johnstonfj@btinternet.com

Applications **MUST** be made **in writing** to the above by **8th November 2026.**

# October Birthdays

A very Happy Birthday
this month to:

Damian who will be turning 13.
Yvie-May who will be turning 15.
Miliyana who will be turning 15.
Amelie who will be turning 16.

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

**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 in reception on 01865 872448 for more information.

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

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:

- Winter vaccinations from MHS and the NHS are available to provide protection against flu and COVID-19. Vulnerable and eligible groups will have been contacted by MHS to book their appointments. To check eligibility, visit the MHS website.
- The NHS App, which is free and secure, and has recently been updated making it simpler and easier to manage your healthcare.
- Free Global Health Insurance Card - planning to travel overseas then ensure you have your UK GHIC card
- Meningitis and septicaemia – symptoms and protection; eligibility of young people and students for a free Meningitis B vaccine
- Are you a Carer? – find help and support
- 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.
- Expansion of RSV vaccine to those aged 80 and over
- The Direct Route – services you can access without seeing a GP
- Faster Access to Help for Joint and Back Pain
- Group Consultation Clinics – successful group clinics for menopause and hypertension
- Breast + Cervical Cancer Screening

The Chair of the Patient Participant Group (PPG) has contacted local parish councils regarding raising funds to improve the state of the MHS car park.

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.

## *Waterperry Village and Churchyard Tidy with Tea and Cakes - Sunday 11th October*

A reminder that all are welcome to join in on Sunday 11 October from 10am to 11.30am to help improve our village.

We are meeting at the church and will after 90 minutes come together for tea, coffee and cakes.

In the churchyard we are going to tackle ivy, Virginia creeper and wisteria so please bring secateurs and gloves.

For litter picking everything will be provided (but bring gloves).

We look forward to seeing you.

Everybody, child or adult welcome!

*Helen Marshall*


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# *Waterperry News*

## Waterperry Strength, Stability & Mobility

The new Strength, Stability & Mobility sessions at Waterperry have got off to a fantastic start. Led by Emma Fletcher of One8Two Fitness, the launch session introduced a range of enjoyable exercises focusing on strength, stretching, mobility and core stability.

There was a wonderfully positive and supportive atmosphere, with everyone joining in enthusiastically and enjoying the opportunity to exercise together.
We are looking forward to continuing the programme over the coming weeks and welcoming more members of our community.

Special thanks to Waterperry Gardens for kindly providing the classroom, to South Oxfordshire District Council for giving the Parish Council a community grant for the sessions, and to everyone who came along and made the launch such a success.

*Cllr Dawn Leopard*
*Waterperry with Thomley Parish Council*

# ***From Your Member of Parliament***

In August, following a short and much needed break from politics for a family holiday to Austria, I returned to work refreshed and full of energy to start my Summer Tour. The tour was a chance to get out to villages in Henley & Thame that I hadn't managed to visit during the year.

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting all corners of the constituency, and am hugely grateful to everyone who came to meet with me in Stanton St John, Forest Hill, Warborough, Little Milton, Stoke Row, Checkendon, Kingston Blount, Sydenham, South Stoke and Whitchurch-on-Thames. We got through nearly sixty appointments and had very informative meetings with parish, district and county councillors in each location too.

I'm keen to continue listening and engaging - solving local issues where I can, and weighing in on national and international concerns on your behalf. I'm already planning where to go next year! In the meantime if you have any issues or concerns you wish to raise with me, please don't hesitate to get in touch by emailing: freddie.vanmierlo.mp@parliament.uk.

On my return to Westminster I flagged the concerns many residents and parish councils shared with me locally about Local Government Reorganisation by asking Louise Haigh, First Secretary of State to reconsider the new Greater Oxford unitary authority. The Government had shown a real disregard for rural Oxfordshire by incorporating villages like Warborough, Dorchester-on-Thames, and Shillingford into a Greater Oxford authority.

I welcomed the Government's decision last week to review plans for Local Government Reorganisation. There is a need for clarity on how long the review will take and for reassurance that it will be a proper rethink - to that end I am currently writing to Angela Raynor (the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government) to ensure that residents' specific concerns about inclusion in the Greater Oxford Authority are on record if the proposals for a three unitary model return in future.

*Freddie van Mierlo MP*

*Member of Parliament for Henley & Thame Constituency*

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# *Waterstock and Tiddington WI*

## The Miracle of Bletchley Park

A talk by Gillian Cane

Tuesday 20th October
Tiddington Village Hall 7.30pm

Entry £2 donation to include tea and cake

Everyone Welcome!

Drop a text to Debbie 07770932882 to secure your place

Hosted by Waterstock & Tiddington WI
waterstockwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

# ***Waterstock News***

After a Summer of record breaking temperatures, the mornings are beginning to have a distinctly Autumnal feel and we've even seen some wet stuff falling from the sky! An alarming number of trees around the village have fallen victim to the drought and also of ash dieback and will need to be felled, which is always sad to see. The change of seasons also brings with it a few changes to Waterstock's residents.

One of the long time stalwarts of the village, Keith Ashby, and his wife Amanda have moved to pastures new in Tackley and sent this farewell message:
*"The Ashby's have finally left Waterstock having first arrived in the village in 1939 when Bob Ashby (my grandfather) his wife Francis and son Joe took up residence in what is now Holly Cottage. After serving in the army during the war Joe (Dad) married Majorie Meriman, the blacksmiths daughter from Tiddington in 1950. My sister Gillian was born in 1952 and myself in 1955. I have lived in Waterstock ever since. In 1984 Dad gave me a piece of land and I was able to build a house (The Old Timberyard) so as to continue living here. I married Amanda in 1993 and we raised our boys Sam (born 1995) and Oli (born 1998) in Waterstock. We have loved living in the village for so many years and would like to thank everyone for the support and friendship we have been shown. So many fond memories of the people and village events but we both feel it's time to move on to a new adventure. Please give a warm Waterstock welcome to Simon, Alison and their son Eric who by now should be happily settled in The Old Timberyard"*

Keith's departure leaves Geoff and I as the last two of the older generation of Waterstock 'lifers' which is quite a sobering thought when you think who has been and gone before us. We will really miss them both and all that Keith has contributed to the village over the years and wish them well on their new adventure.

As well as new residents at The Old Timberyard, it's also hello and welcome to Alice who recently moved into the Nook. Alice is no stranger to the village, as her mother Katie also lived at The Nook (and also at Park Cottage and Tamworth House)for some years.

Not strictly speaking welcome to Waterstock but more 'Welcome to the World' to Janet and Stephen's new grandson Oliver Stephen born to their daughter Becca and her husband Greg in late August. Proud Granny Janet will provide further details and an update in her Parish news next month.

**RIDE AND STRIDE:**
As Malcolm will be back at work in the Middle East on the official Ride and Stride weekend, he undertook his own version the weekend before, managing to visit 14 churches rather than the planned 12. His total distance was 48.5 km and the ride took just over 3 1/2 hrs with church stops (visitors books signed where the churches were open!) and a pit stop at the Bruin Cafe in Wheatley for one of their amazing Scotch eggs!

The tally so far is just over £600 assuming all donations come in as pledged.
Malcolm reports: "*It was an absolutely lovely ride along what were mostly quiet country lanes, through beautiful countryside and villages. Once you get off the main roads it really is a very different place! I didn't realise that our part of Oxfordshire was quite so hilly, especially around Cuddesdon and Garsington! The views from St Mary's in Garsington across Oxford and around to the Chilterns were pretty spectacular. Given what the day before was like, I was very lucky with the weather and could really enjoy our breathtaking countryside!"*
A big thank you to Malcolm and also to Sini who helped organise sponsorship.

**CPR:**
Thanks to Gill many of us had the opportunity to update our CPR skills and familiarise ourselves with the defibrillator. Gill reports:
"*Richard Shackleton a local First Responder for Oxfordshire Ambulance Service gave 2 training sessions in the church on CPR and using the village defibrillator. Both sessions were well attended and the feedback was that everyone found it very helpful. Hopefully a good majority of people in the village are now well equipped to handle the defibrillator in an emergency. If you haven't already joined the village emergency response WhatsApp Group and would like to do so, please contact Sini. Richard does refresher training sessions once a month at Thame Tennis Club on Saturday mornings. If anyone feels they would like to attend, please let Gill know. Richard was most impressed with the Waterstock community spirit, something we should all be immensely proud of.*"

Donations by participants over the two sessions totalled £217 for the Oxford Ambulance Service, for which Richard was extremely thankful. A big thank you to Gill for setting up these well attended and potentially life saving sessions.

**PARISH MEETING NEWS:**
During the recent Parish meeting the decision was made to draw up a Neighbourhood Plan in order to help protect our interests when we become, for better or worse, part of Greater Oxford in April 2028. Bas has volunteered to pull this together but I'm sure he will appreciate some help!

How to move forward with the plans to make the Church more user friendly as a social space was also discussed. It seems setting this project up as a charity would be advantageous in order to make the most of cheaper banking, available grants and other benefits. Caroline is starting the ball rolling by setting up a book exchange in the church. Any contributions to get library started would be most welcome. Joe Ashby's cine films have been converted to mp4 and a showing is planned in the church in the Autumn, along with a display of photographs from village events over the years.

Meanwhile the working group has been gathering information on the memorials, windows, silver and furniture in the church which may be of interest to visitors.
A section of lathe and plaster fell from the chancel roof and some recently plastered cracks have reappeared, however there is no discernible movement of the most serious external cracks which have been monitored for the last seven years. Geoff and Michael are checking to see if the front pews can be moved to make it easier to erect a scaffolding tower to facilitate repair of the chancel ceiling.

As always I end my piece with a reminder that the annual British Legion Poppy Appeal will be launched at the end of October and I will be doing my usual rounds of the village in early November with the poppies and Gift Aid envelopes hoping for contributions. I'm always astounded by your generosity and I really hope this year will be no exception!
Looking further ahead, one villager mentioned to me in early September how much they were looking forward to the traditional Christmas Eve Carol singing around the village and offered to host a 'refreshment stop'.

More details nearer the time but do please come and sing with us or offer refreshments, it's a great way to start Christmas!

*Susie Edmondson*

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msmelectrical61@gmail.com

# *What's On* this *October*

Waterperry Gardens

## FREE EXHIBITION: THE STITCHED GARDEN
until Sunday 1st Nov

An exhibition of textile art inspired by Waterperry Gardens. Showcasing a new body of work by local artist Rachel Wright following a year long project that captures the essence of Waterperry through her intricate machine-embroidered artworks. See website for more information.

## Autumn FESTIVAL Weekend
3RD & 4TH OCTOBER 2026

A great family day out where you can sample and buy many of our award-winning juices, taste a variety of our apples and enjoy tasting our home-made cider.

Home-made goodies from our very own home-grown apples will be available from the craft and food fair. The craft and food fair will be in our undercover area with lots to buy.

Our October Snake Trail for the little ones will take place in the gardens too.

Take a tour of the orchards & fruit sheds. Tours are £4.75 per adult or free with garden entrance and for season ticket holders.

The Towersey Horseshoes will return for the Saturday with their traditional dancing.

## SSSSNAKE HUNT
in our gardens this October

**SAT 17 OCT – SUN 1 NOV**

Find the ssslithering sssnakes hidden around the gardens and collect a prize at the end! See website for more details on all events.

Waterperry Gardens, Waterperry, Near Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1JZ | 01844 339254 | www.waterperrygardens.co.uk