

Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News

SEPTEMBER 2026



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Waterstock News - Johnny Powell

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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September Church Services

September 6th	9am St Leonards Waterstock - Communion (BCP) Rev Clare Joyce
September 20th	11.30am St Leonards Waterstock - Harvest Festival Rev Clare Joyce
September 27th	3.00pm St Mary's Waterperry - Harvest Festival
October 4th	5.30pm St Leonard's Waterstock - Evensong with children from Wheatley Choir Led by Alexandra – curate from Wheatley
October 18th	11am St Leonard's Waterstock - Morning Prayer Led by priest -in- training from Cuddesdon

St Mary's Waterperry

Flower rota

5th September	Jan
12th September	Jacks
19th September	Zena
26th September	Rebecca, Susan, Jacqui (preparing for Harvest Service on Sunday 27th September at 3pm).

St Leonard's Waterstock

Flowers and cleaning rota

6th September	S Godowski
13th September	S Godowski
20th September	A Britton
27th September	A Britton

FILM NIGHT

Holton Village Hall

Friday 18 September 2026

7.00 for 7.30 pm

The Roses (15)

Starring

***Olivia Colman *Benedict Cumberbatch**

Run time approx. 105 minutes

Life seems easy for picture-perfect couple Ivy and Theo Rose: successful careers, a loving marriage, great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposedly ideal life, a storm is brewing.

As Theo's career nose-dives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites in this wonderfully wry, dark comedy..

ENTRANCE - *cash only*

Adults £5

Under 18s £3

BAR OPEN - *cash or card*

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 September, on 3rd and 17th from 2.30pm until 4.00pm. 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.

Spud Night

Spud Night will be held on 4th September between 6-9pm. "Come along and enjoy delicious baked potatoes with a variety of mouth-watering toppings". Price guide £6 to £8 depending on the toppings/ size of spud. The bar will be open.

Film Night

The next Film Night will be 'The Roses' on Friday 18th September 7.00 for 7.30 pm. It stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman, it has received very good reviews and is based on a novel – The Wars of the Roses (1981) by Warren Adler. 'Life seems easy for a picture-perfect couple Ivy and Theo Rose: successful careers, a loving marriage and great kids. But beneath the façade of their supposedly ideal life, a storm is brewing. As Theo's career nose-dives while Ivy's own ambitions take off, a tinderbox of fierce competition and hidden resentment ignites in this wonderfully wry, dark comedy.' Entrance - cash only, Adults £5, under 18s £3 tea, coffee & cake - cash only. Bar open - cash or card

Solar Panels

The Village Hall now has Solar Panels installed to the roof and the scaffolding used to put it up has been taken down. Unfortunately, the hot weather has delayed the installation of cabling in the loft but we expect that this will be done as soon as the weather moderates. Good progress and we will get there soon and reap the benefits of cheaper electricity.

Autumn Tidy Up

Please help us tidy up the Village Hall on Saturday 12th Sept 10am – 1pm. Look out for further details on the 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 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

Holton News

The heatwave continued into August and although the trees are pretty green, everyone's lawns and the fields surrounding the village are burnt to a crisp. We are told that there have been six heatwaves so far this year each one exceeding the definition of reaching more than between 25 and 28oC. We are also in an official drought and are being asked to conserve water, so don't get me started on some conspicuous leaks around the place from faulty pipework. The question really is, when will it rain and just how long this is all going to last? The weather forecast keeps on predicting rain next week which then vanishes as we approach the date. To illustrate this, we were advised that it would rain on 17 August in last week's forecast. This week that has gone, replaced by sunny weather. My daughter's prediction, (as good as any other) is that it will last until October due to the effects of el Nino, but others differ. It will probably rain when the kids go back to school or college and we oldies head off for an autumn break, but who knows and time alone will tell.

The village 'Big BBQ' was a great success according to the feedback coming in from the attendees. The weather was sunny but not too hot, the burgers and sausages sold well as they were very tasty, the bar did a very good trade and the atmosphere was congenial. People mingled, talked, gossiped, had a drink and a burger and had a good time. The kids played and the stallholders were worked off their feet. Let's do it again next year. .

You may be aware that there was a distraction burglary in the village. People posing as tradesmen managed to distract their victim and stole some valuables. The lesson here is be on your guard especially if there are two and they split up.

Once or maybe twice in a lifetime you get to see the clockwork of the heavens in full swing. The moon covers the sun to a greater or lesser extent, and as it dims possibly shows off its corona. We got a partial eclipse in the UK and we could not find any eclipse glasses so we made a pinhole camera out of an old cereal box which worked pretty well. A special evening and one which we won't see again soon, if ever.

Back to school were the words in the shops that meant the holidays were coming to an end and it was back to the daily grind. I suppose it prepared me for a lifetime of commuting as my school was two bus rides away. Ah, happy days.

Holton Village News

WhatsApp group



The Parish Council have recently introduced a WhatsApp group for Holton news updates.

Here is the QR code again, just in case you missed it:

Take care.

Mel Ault

mel_ault39@outlook.com

Holton Parish Council

Planning Applications:

P26/S2815/HH 2 Church End Cottage Waterperry Road, Holton OX33 1PW.

Removal of the rear cat-slide dormer and rear flat roof extension and replacement with a two-storey rear extension.

Planning Decisions:

None at 18 August 2026

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.

Churchyard Extension (Wildflower grassland)

Cutting should take place soon and a call will go out on the Village WhatsApp for volunteers to rake up the dried grasses etc.

Holton Parish Council Audit and Accounts 2025/2026

The Audit has been completed for 2025/26 and the audited version of the accounts, the auditor's certificate and the Notice of Conclusion of Audit are all posted on the Parish Council website.

Copies are available on application to the Clerk and/or can be viewed by arrangement with the Clerk.

Unitary Authority

The Government has decided that Holton and surrounding Oxford Green Belt villages will be part of the Greater Oxford Unitary Authority from 2028.

We await to see how our services will change and how, when we are part of Oxford City the system will change and we will lose the services of South Oxfordshire District Council and Oxfordshire County Council. Testing times as everything is changing.

Holton Speed/Traffic Survey

A Traffic survey will be carried out in Holton during September. To assess volume and speed of traffic to help with future decisions on traffic calming measures and road safety.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 14th September 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, Approved Minutes and copies of HWW News can be viewed on Holton Parish Council website:

www.holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk

Holton Table Tennis Club

We will be opening our doors for another season commencing on Wednesday 2nd September 2026. Club nights will take place at Holton Village Hall from 7pm until 9pm, everyone welcome from 10 years of age and above.

If you are new to table tennis, want to improve your game after being away from the sport or looking to play in the league, we look forward to seeing you.

For further details please see our advert.

Brian Dobson
briandbsn1@gmail.com

Holton & Waterperry WI

A cooler but very pleasant afternoon for our outing to Albury Rectory Gardens on 6th August. We wandered round the nooks and crannies of the garden, enjoyed the plentiful blooms and the delicious tea and cake.

We will have a plant and produce stall at our September 1st meeting. The talk is about first aid from a community first responder and includes a CPR demonstration.

Can't believe it will be September already!

Barbara Martin

Holton Cock & Bull

A focus on legal complexities this month.

After a robbery in Los Angeles police arranged an identity parade according to usual practice. As the witness had stated that he had heard the offender shouting, each member of the line-up was told to shout out, 'Get on the floor or I'll shoot!' Each man duly shouted the words as required, but when it came to the suspect's turn he said, 'That's not what I said. I said, "Give me all your money!"'

Proceedings at Bradford magistrates court were unable to commence as the door leading from the cells to the courtroom had jammed shut. All attempts by the police and council workmen were unsuccessful and it was left to one of the defendants, on a charge of being drunk and disorderly, to remedy matters by kicking the door down. It is not known if his generous assistance was able to be used in mitigation.

Name and address supplied

Holton Village Hall

'Spud Night'

FRIDAY 4th SEPTEMBER
6pm-9pm

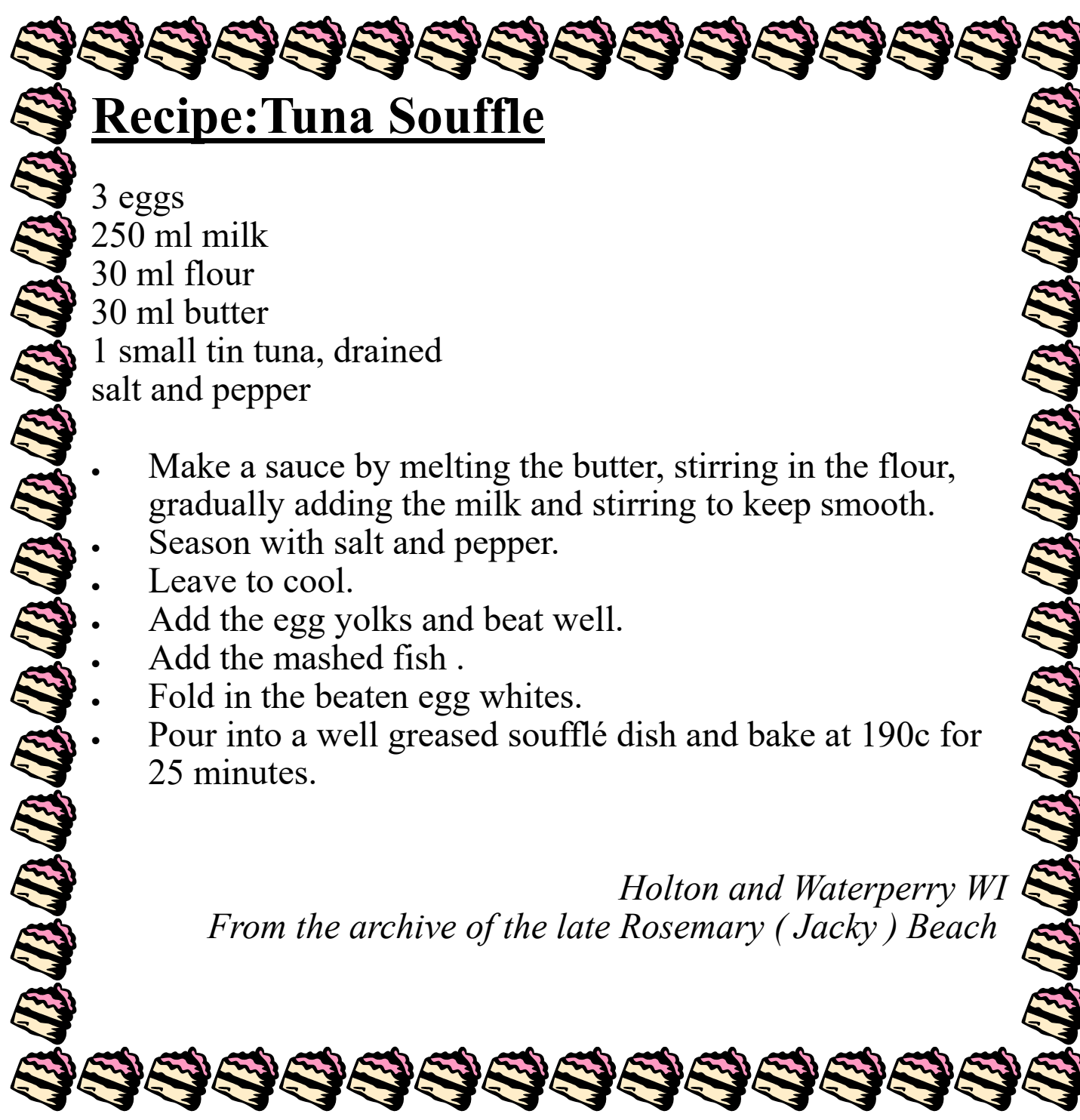
"Come along & enjoy delicious baked potatoes with a variety of mouth-watering toppings"

Price guide £6 / £8

Bar will be Open

Fundraising for the Village Hall's future projects - every spud sold helps keep our hall thriving for the whole community.

Charity No. 273526



Recipe: Tuna Souffle

3 eggs

250 ml milk

30 ml flour

30 ml butter

1 small tin tuna, drained
salt and pepper

- Make a sauce by melting the butter, stirring in the flour, gradually adding the milk and stirring to keep smooth.
- Season with salt and pepper.
- Leave to cool.
- Add the egg yolks and beat well.
- Add the mashed fish .
- Fold in the beaten egg whites.
- Pour into a well greased soufflé dish and bake at 190c for 25 minutes.

Holton and Waterperry WI

From the archive of the late Rosemary (Jacky) Beach

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Holton Village Hall
Sept to end of March**

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Family Membership £10.00
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For more details contact
Brian Dobson:
briandbsn1@gmail.com**

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Holton Bus Shelter News

The summer Bring and Take at the Bus Shelter was well attended. Thanks to everyone who came along and donated or took items. It was dry and the sun shone - nothing unusual there as it has done little else for months now. We started and finished early due to the heat but it didn't impact your generosity. We raised £163 for RNLI. Thanks for continuing to be so generous.

Last year our garden was awash with slugs throughout the summer. This time around I can barely remember the last time I saw one. I am hoping it is in part down to the presence of a hedgehog which is visiting us each night. Either way it means there will be plenty of plants without holes at the next Bring and Take (although they may have a few crispy leaves). The autumn event is a chance to bring along any surplus summer produce and maybe pick up a bargain or two. Make a note of the date. We intend to be back at the normal time, weather permitting.

Autumn Bring and Take, Sunday 27th September, 10am to 1.00pm.

As I write this Book Week(s) is taking place. There is a very good selection of fiction books available. So far it has been a great success with many villagers taking the opportunity to grab a good read.

Remembrance at the Bus Shelter will be taking place from the 26th of October to the 12th of November. More details of the event will be given nearer the time.

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



September Birthdays



A very Happy Birthday
this month to:

Maeve who will be turning 1.
Emilia who will be turning 2.
Jake who will be turning 5.
Oliver who will be turning 9.
Bobby & Edie who will be turning 9.
Freya who will be turning 10.
Katie Fonge who will be turning 11.
Eoin who will be turning 14.

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

Wheatley Library



Joining the library is FREE and you can borrow up to 20 books at a time!

We're part of the Oxfordshire County Council library service, so you can borrow and return books from any of the 44 county libraries. Your library card also provides free access to BorrowBox, Libby, Naxos Music Library, Ancestry Online, Find My Past and more resources online.

For Wheatley Library news, please follow the 'Friends of Wheatley Library' Facebook page.

Regular Events:

Rhymetime - every Friday 10.30 - 11am For children age 0 to 5

Storytime - every Saturday 10 - 10.30am For children age 3 to 7

Digital Helper Sessions - every Thursday 2.30 - 3.30pm

One-to-one support with technology e.g. smart phones, laptops, tablets, emails, WhatsApp etc.

Call or email the library to book a slot

Opening Hours:

Monday	Closed
Tuesday	2 to 7pm
Wednesday	9.30am to 1pm & 2 to 5pm
Thursday	2 to 5pm
Friday	9.30am to 1pm & 2 to 6pm
Saturday	9.30am to 1pm
Sunday	Closed

Contact us on 01865 815204 or email wheatley.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

You can search the library catalogue for books anytime:
www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/oxfordshire-libraries



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:

- How to Stay Well and Enjoy the Summer Months
- 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

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 News

FUNDRAISING FOR THE CHURCH

I'm pleased to say that we have some lovely new greetings cards for sale in the church. Designs include the dog on one of our special brasses, Waterperry pear trees and stag, fourteenth century stained glass ladies and the flower motifs on the modern window. The later include the Royal Sovereign strawberry grown by the Horticultural School. For the Summer we have a special limited edition of two views of the church done by local artist Sally Lessiter in water-colour. All cards are in glorious colour! At £4 for pairs of the larger cards and for three smaller ones also at £4 they are very good value and come with envelopes.

I first came to Waterperry as a second year student in 1988 and visited the gardens, tea room and church. I found at my parents a postcard of St Mary's that I had sent to my grandparents then. The very same design was still being sold this summer some 38 years later... Kindly the Rural Museum is still selling some of our backstock. All proceeds from sales of cards and postcards goes to the running of the church.

A reminder that the church is open every day and cards can be bought with cash or via our card machine.

SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY 11TH OCTOBER 10.00-11.30am

The next Village and Churchyard tidy will be on **Sunday 11th October 10.00-11.30am**, meeting at the church and followed by tea, cakes and soft drinks.

Volunteers needed for litter pick (hi-vis, rubbish bags and litter pickers will be provided), light gardening and assembling our village bee hotel!

Helen Marshall

COMMUNITY STRETCH & STRENGTH CLASSES

Don't forget that the Stretch & Strength Classes for Waterperry with Thomley Parish residents begin on Wednesday 16th September at 6.45pm in Classroom 1 at Waterperry Gardens (see below).

Thanks go to Cllr Dawn Leopard for obtaining funding through a Community Wellbeing Grant from South Oxfordshire District Council, and to Waterperry Gardens for allowing free use of Classroom 1 (it is much appreciated).

Look out for more information via the Waterperry Village Facebook channel.



WELCOME TO OUR STRETCH & STRENGTH CLASSES:

starting: **Weds 16 Sept**

WATERPERRY CLASS ROOM 1 - 6:45 PM

COURTESY OF THE SODC WELLBEING GRANT

FREE

more details early SEPT



Local Government Reorganisation: **what it means for our villages**

By Tim Bearder - Forest Hill and Holton District Councillor, Wheatley County Councillor and Leader of Oxfordshire County Council

The Government's plans for Local Government Reorganisation will bring significant changes to the way our area is represented. From May next year, elections will take place for the new unitary authority called Greater Oxford, which will eventually replace the existing county, district and city councils.

I am disappointed that Oxford City Council refused my proposal to keep the villages currently in the Forest Hill and Holton ward together. Instead, most have been lumped in with Horspath, currently part of the Horspath and Garsington ward. This appears to have been done simply to make up the required numbers, rather than reflecting natural communities and existing local connections.

The new two-member ward will be called Shotover and Bernwood, a name I proposed as a hopeful nod towards the possibility of a future national park in this area. Tiddington will instead be in the Ridgeway authority, while Waterstock will join Wheatley and Great Milton in a ward called Wheatley.

Each ward will elect two councillors, with elections every two years. The candidate receiving the most votes in May 2027 will serve five years – one year as a shadow councillor during the transition, followed by a standard four year-term on the new authority. The second candidate will serve three years, one year as a shadow councillor, and two in the standard run before elections return to a four-year cycle starting in 2030.

I have serious reservations about the whole reorganisation. Rather than simplifying local government, I fear it will initially make the system more complex and less financially resilient, while distancing decisions from local communities.

For example Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service will now have to become a standalone Fire Authority probably merged with either Thames Valley or Berkshire. Our Library service has a single repository of books which will need to be split into three or operate as a shared service - the list is endless and will takes years to unravel as property and assets are divided up.

There is also the proposed Development Corporation, which could have enormous implications for Oxfordshire's Green Belt and rural communities. I remain concerned that this could ride roughshod over local democratic accountability.

Buckinghamshire has been told that it will need to build 95,000 new homes over the next twenty years, based on 4,344 new homes per year. That is a lot of homes but that is over the entire rural county of Bucks. The Greater Oxford council has said: "By 2040 an additional 43,000-67,000 new dwellings can be brought forward –

a significantly higher level than in any existing or emerging Local Plans." They want to achieve that level of growth in 14 years which would equate to approximately three settlements the size of Wheatley in the Greenbelt, every year for the next 14 years and you and I will have no democratic control over that process whatsoever because the development corporation will be controlled by Whitehall. A total mockery of the Prime Minister's devolution of powers.

Finally, the Government has invited Oxfordshire to apply for a Mayor, potentially to be elected in May 2028. The Mayor would sit above the unitary authorities, with responsibilities including policing, strategic planning and NHS oversight. However, the Government has still not made clear what geographical area the Mayor would cover – an important question that needs resolving before we can properly judge the proposal.

Cllr Tim Bearder

tim.bearder@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Waterstock and Tiddington WI

If you live in the Waterstock or Tiddington area and want to meet new people and make friends, then come and join Waterstock and Tiddington WI and meet like-minded people of all ages at our friendly group.

We meet on the third Tuesday of the month in Tiddington village hall at 7.30pm.

We have had a very interesting summer which has included visits to Rycote Chapel and an Alpaca farm. On 20th October we will be hearing about The Miracle of Bletchley Park and you are invited to join us for a donation of £2 which includes tea and cake. Please contact us below if you want to know more or have someone to go with.

Everyone is welcome

For more information contact Debbie Millett:
Waterstock & Tiddington WI
waterstockwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk

The WI is a registered charity No 803793.

Waterstock News

What a summer it has been. I'm happy to say I'm writing this in North Cornwall and therefore am still having fun with my children and grandchildren in the many coves and beaches that Rock has to offer. It really has been a spectacular couple of weeks.

Unusually, I was also able to visit friends in St Mawes on the south coast, giving me an opportunity to compare two rather different Cornish holiday destinations. For a start, the south coast was a few degrees cooler than the north, but perhaps the most marked difference was in the style and atmosphere of the two places.

Rock has undoubtedly changed over the years. It has attracted the rich and famous, something reflected in both house prices and the amount of development. Expensive houses seem to be popping up everywhere, all desperately seeking a glimpse of the sea across to Padstow, or "Padstein" as it is sometimes known, or towards Polzeath and its famous surfing beach.

Fortunately, the things that really matter remain much as they always have. The beaches are still gloriously long, edged by sand dunes and open to everyone, whether they are staying in one of the grand houses, rented accommodation or a tent at one of the nearby campsites.

St Mawes, on the other hand, is much quieter and has a rather different feel. It has a strong sailing tradition and, despite also being an affluent and popular place, seems to have retained a rather more understated character.

All of which made me think about Waterstock.

We are obviously a very long way from the Cornish coast, but small places everywhere face much the same challenge: how do they change with the times without losing the things that make them special?

Waterstock has changed enormously over the years, as have the surrounding villages and Oxfordshire more generally. People come and go, houses change hands, farming evolves and the world beyond the village seems to move ever faster. Yet much of what gives Waterstock its character remains remarkably constant: the church, the river and fields, the old houses, the lanes and, most importantly, the people who make up the community.

The river itself is perhaps something we shouldn't take for granted. Henry Manisty recently remarked that the River Thames is, rather alarmingly, at its lowest level in the 30 years he has lived at Waterstock Mill. That seems all the more striking after seeing the extraordinary wildlife around the Mill brought to life earlier this year in the BBC's *Secret Garden*, narrated by Sir David Attenborough. The kingfishers, otters and other wildlife made Waterstock look every bit as remarkable on television as we know it to be. Let's hope the exceptionally low water levels have not taken too great a toll on them.

The strength of Waterstock, however, isn't confined to its landscape and wildlife. I was reminded of that very recently when I put out a plea for anyone who might be able to help take my granddaughter Daisy to the station so that she could get into London for her internship at a Beauty PR agency.

The response was immediate, with numerous people offering to help. A particular thank you must go to Stephen Shipperly and John Wilkinson, who between them came to the rescue, and to everyone else who volunteered. It was a small thing perhaps, but another lovely example of Waterstock as a community coming together when someone needs a hand.

There has been plenty of other activity in the village too. Sarah tells me that after the recent wedding celebrations the house looks remarkably similar to how it did beforehand, although piled high with all the paraphernalia that now needs sorting out. The rather more challenging legacy is an enormous metal arch, made in two pieces by her nephews, which is currently lying in a field and apparently almost too heavy to move. A solution has yet to be found, but I'm assured one will be!

Perhaps that is the lesson from both Cornwall and Waterstock. Places inevitably change, and we shouldn't necessarily resist that change. But we should take care of the things that cannot easily be recreated once they are gone: landscape, wildlife, character, history and, above all, that sense of community.

Johnny Powell

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msmelectrical61@gmail.com

What's On this September



Waterperry
Gardens

FAMILY FUN: until 6th September
SUMMER ORIENTEERING BUTTERFLY TRAIL

THEATRE: 5th September
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

EXHIBITION: until 6th September
A BRIGHTER VIEW - FREE IN THE GALLERY

THEATRE: 12th September
THE GREAT GATSBY

EXHIBITION: 19th September - 1st November
THE STITCHED GARDEN - FREE IN THE GALLERY

COMING UP: 3rd & 4th October
AUTUMN FESTIVAL WEEKEND

OPEN DAILY
10:00AM - 5:30PM