

Holton, Waterperry & Waterstock News

MAY 2026



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

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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May Church Services

May 3rd	9.30 St Leonards Waterstock
May 10 th	9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's Holton 6.00pm St Mary's Waterperry
May 17 th	9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Leonard's Waterstock
May 24 th	8.00 St Mary's Waterperry 9.30 St Helen's Albury 11.00 St Bartholomew's
May 31 st	Cluster Service TBA
June 7 th	9.30 St Leonards Waterstock

St Leonard's Waterstock

Flowers and cleaning rota

May 2nd	Jacqui
May 9th	Jacks
May 16th	Susan F
May 23rd	Rebecca
May 30th	Zena

St Mary's Waterperry

Flower rota

May 3rd	J Davies
May 10th	J Davies
May 17th	S Getty
May 24th	S Getty
May 31st	S Bell



May Birthdays

A very Happy Birthday this month to:



Ronnie who will be turning 12
Halle who will be turning 14
Lizzie who will be turning 15

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

FILM NIGHT

Holton Village Hall

Friday 15 May 2026

7.00 for 7.30 pm

The Ballad of Wallis Island (12)

Starring

***Tom Basden *Tim Key *Carey Mulligan**

Run time approx. 1 hour 39 minutes

A British comedy drama about an eccentric lottery winner who invites his favourite estranged folk duo to perform a private show on his remote island. This film blends quirky humour with heartfelt themes of love, loss and moving on. With standout performances from Tom Basden, Tim Key and Carey Mulligan.

ENTRANCE - *cash only*

Adults £5

Under 18s £3

TEA, COFFEE & CAKE - *cash only*

BAR OPEN

Letter from the Vicarage

The colour of May is green – and so naturally enough the associated gemstone for the month is the emerald. According to medieval alchemical lore the virtue of the Emerald is to counteract poison. It was said that if a venomous animal should look at it, it will become blinded, and the gem also acts as a preservative against epilepsy; it cures leprosy and strengthens sight and memory. So, helpful in a number of circumstances and may save a trip or two to the JR!

Outdoor leisure pursuits can begin with the warmer weather and longer days and the occupations of May in Books of Hours are hawking and courting. And the practice of ‘Maying’ is also pictured. This was the tradition, probably drawn from the pre-Christian festival of Beltane, of gathering green boughs and foliage to decorate the home at the beginning of May.

This Maying was the original ‘spring clean’ of opening windows and doors and letting light in and celebrating the new green life of nature. And a number of our Churches have undertaken their own spring cleans and so thank you to all the volunteers that took part in cleaning and dusting and polishing. As far as the May occupation of courting goes I don’t have the figures to hand but the tradition of a May wedding was and still may be prevalent – the sap rising and the greening of the trees, which started in April, now bursting out into full leaf being reflected in courting and marriage.

Celebrations in May include it being the UK national smile month – come on you can manage a smile for one month a year surely – and if you need help the third Saturday of May is World Whisky day (other ways of helping you smile are available). Some more to enjoy (or not) 3rd – Star Wars Day (light sabres at the ready), 6th – International No Diet Day (pies at the ready), 15th – International Families Day (phone at the ready), 22nd – World Goth Day (black T shirt and pessimism at the ready) and 29th – World Digestive Health Day (antacids at the ready).

This year May also gives us two significant days in the Church calendar. The 14th is Ascension Day and the 24th is Pentecost. If Christmas is the beginning of Christ’s coming to earth and Easter is the fulfilment his purpose then Ascension Day and Pentecost celebrate respectively the completion of his time on earth and the explosive beginning of the next stage of the divine plan without which there would be no Church. And while we don’t make as much fuss over them as we do Christmas and Easter these two events are both absolutely vital to our understanding of the Christian faith.

Having proved his divine and human co-existence in the resurrection Jesus needed to return to heaven so his gospel, his good news, could be released from the time and place of his human life, and that is his Ascension. And so the Holy Spirit was let loose and that started with the spiritual cork coming out of the bottle with a bang at Pentecost and the Church was up and running, with the presence of God given to each and every believer, a state of being that is still true for every Christian today 2000 years later. And so these two days, Ascension and Pentecost, represent the spring flowering of Jesus purpose, mission and teaching.

I’m sure a number of you have birthdays during May – Happy Birthday to you if you do. Well Pentecost is the Church’s birthday and we will celebrate on the 24th.

Stay blessed,

David

Rev David Bendor-Samuel

dbendorsamuel@btinternet.com (01865 872102)

Jazz in the Village

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Holton Village Hall

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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 May on 14th and 28th, 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.

Solar Panels

The Village Hall will have its Solar Panels installed during the first week of August. This will make the Hall self-sufficient for electrical energy.

Village Hall Committee AGM

On the 14 May the Village Hall Committee will hold its AGM in the Village Hall from 7:30 pm. All welcome.

Film Night 15th May

The film will be 'The Ballad of Wallis Island 7pm for 7.30pm start 12 rating. This is a British comedy drama about an eccentric lottery winner who invites his favourite estranged folk duo to perform a private show on his remote island. This blends quirky humour, heartfelt themes of love, loss and moving on. With standout performances from Tom Basden, Tim Key and Carey Mulligan.

ENTRANCE - cash only

Adults £5

Under 18s £3

TEA, COFFEE & CAKE - cash only

Annual Parish Meeting - Thurs 21st May 2026

7:30pm – The PCC has organised a resume of developments in the village over the past year with some hints of what is to come. All welcome

Jazz Night

Miller & Spencer are coming to Holton Village Hall on Friday 5th June 2026 - 7.30pm for 8.00pm for an evening of Jazz. Tickets are available to purchase either on-line or direct from the village hall committee. Tickets - £12

Under 16s (Accompanied) – Free

Purchase on-line

Entry by Ticket Only

Bar Open

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

Holton Parish Council

Planning Applications

P26/S0308/FUL St Andrews Field, Holton. OX33 1PZ

Erection of a self-build 1.5 storey dwelling with a detached garage and store.
Additional information 10th March 2226.

P26/S0693/FUL Land to the rear of Slaymaker, Holton. OX33 1PR

Erection of field barn to provide storage for agricultural equipment, animal feed and related stores.

Planning Decisions

P26/S0214/LB The Hay Barn, Pond Farm, Holton. OX33 1PY Installation of EO mini-EV charger on external wall. Granted

Holton Litter Blitz Saturday 21st March

Thank you to the 12 residents who turned out to pick up litter. The team covered the village and picked up 12 bags of litter. The Parish Council is considering expanding this operation to cover extras such as sign cleaning and path clearing. Let us know of areas in the village that would benefit from a spring clean.

Holton Parish Meeting to be held on Thursday 21st May from 7.00 pm in Holton Village Hall

Progress update on the Holton Park (Brookes) development presented by Savills and Crest Nicholson. Briefing on the Holton Village Hall Solar Energy Project due to start in August. Report from the Road Safety Working Party. Parish Council Report. Annual reports from Village organisations and a chance for everyone to put forward a wish list of village improvements which could be funded through the CIL funds generated from the Holton Park (Brookes) development.

Please let the Parish Council know of any items of general village interest you wish to be discussed by the whole Parish at the Annual Meeting of the village.

The Road Safety Working Group Report is published on the Holton Parish Council website.

St Bartholomew's Churchyard extension

The wildflower meadow has been sown and green shoots are appearing on the cleared and levelled land. Do drop in to the Churchyard and see the progress so far.

Stocks Tree Removal

The Parish Council were as surprised as everyone to see the new planting of three trees on the Green. We were under the impression that we would be involved in choosing one replacement tree. The County Council, not generally known for immediate action caught us all off guard. The feeling is that the choice of trees and positions on the Green might be considered inappropriate and discussions have been held with OCC Tree Officer to reposition one of the trees in the Autumn.

The Parish Council has plans in hand to replace the Bus Shelter ceiling and replace the wood on the concrete seat on the Green. The litter bin by the bus shelter to be replaced with a lidded version.

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 11th May 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

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Holton News

It would appear that spring has actually arrived and we are currently enjoying an almost traditional April of sunshine and showers. We now have beautiful blossom and lots of spring flowers which really brighten up the village, the birdies are singing and that haze of green indicating new leaves about to burst is present now on the bigger trees. On the subject of bigger trees, the old horse chestnut opposite the green had to be taken down as it was not safe. However, we now have three saplings to replace it so we will be even greener in future.

No sooner than you have a litter blitz than the rubbish piles up again. Does someone put the word out and then the litter bugs follow up?

I received the answer to my question of why no fossils were covered in the archive exhibition. It was pointed out to me that this was a historical and archaeological exhibition and did not cover palaeontology. Well maybe we should have one of those then? To be fair, Jack Turner, who covers this side of the village's past, could not contribute due to his commitment to the Wheatley play: *If You Go Down to the Woods Today*.

This took place at Wheatley Park School and was a community event that included adults of all ages, families and children. Several Holtonians were involved and a fun time was had by all. The music and the band/orchestra were fab but the 'chickens' stole the show!

The 'Potholers' have been busy again and have marked up a few more potholes that have either appeared, were missed or have become enlarged. Our village is in a much better state than many others are and when it comes to main roads (eg the A40) don't get me started.

The Village Hall Committee will be holding its AGM on the 14 May at the Village Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Mel Ault
mel_ault39@outlook.com

Holton Bus Shelter

Holton Bus Shelter Art Weeks 2nd - 16th May 2016

It is that time of year again. Spring has sprung. The swallows are in the air and the world is full of bud and leaf. Hopefully everyone's artistic tendencies have blossomed once more and now adorn the bus shelter.

Do pop along when you are passing and enjoy the exhibition.

Dates for the diary:

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
aeast@holtonoxford-pc.gov.uk



Recipe: Quick and Easy Spice Cake

200g SR flour
1.5 teaspoons mixed spice
75g caster sugar
2 tablespoons marmalade
2 tablespoons golden syrup
3 tablespoons water
75g butter
75g sultanas
1 egg

- Mix the flour and spice
- Gently heat the butter, sugar, marmalade, syrup and water in a pan until the butter has melted
- Add this mixture to the flour and mix well
- Stir in the sultanas and beaten egg
- Place in a greased cake tin and bake in a moderate oven (180C/ gas 4) for one hour fifteen minutes until firm.

Holton and Waterperry WI

Holton Cock and Bull

It would seem that 'Cranial Trauma' would best describe a couple of stories this month.

In San Diego a woman phoned the emergency services from her car stating that she had been shot in the head. She had heard a loud bang, something impacted the rear of her head and, exploring the area, she felt a 'warm squishy mass'. This was presumably her brains exiting the site of the injury and which she was holding in place. On arrival, the responders found the situation was not so serious. A tub of cookie dough on the rear seat had exploded in the heat and, projected at high velocity, the dough had struck the rear of her head. Her final comment was, 'well, it felt like brains.'

Then there's the tale of a German worker who mistakenly nailed his hard-hat to his head with a nail gun. Apparently, he only became aware of this when he tried to remove the hat in a bar.

Name and address supplied

Holton Village

Hall

AGM

Charity No. 273526

7:30pm on Thursday 14th May 2026
Holton Village Hall.

The meeting is open to all residents of Holton and will be a chance to hear what your Village Hall has been up to over the past year and future plans.

Trustees of Holton Village Hall will be elected on the night.

The committee are looking for more people to get involved, especially to run events and family activities.

If you are interested in finding out more about becoming a trustee of our friendly committee, please email;

Holton Table Tennis Club

Holton Table Tennis Club had mixed fortunes in the 2025/26 season.

Our A team was having difficulties finding enough players, so they decided to withdraw from the league.

Our B team (Division 2), who were promoted the previous season, were unfortunately relegated this time. After an encouraging start to their campaign they found it too difficult and could now find themselves back in division 3. They were however in the final of the Handicap Plate which they managed to win, so another trophy for Holton Table tennis Club.

The C team (my team) finished runners up in division 3 so will be promoted, this will mean another challenging season ahead.

Our D team finished mid table, a good result after struggling to turn out a full team every week during the season.

We will be holding our AGM during the summer, look out for details in the magazine later in the year and it would be nice to see some new faces attending, there will be time to play table tennis after the meeting.

Brian Dobson

Holton & Waterperry WI

Due to the Easter holiday several members missed a very informative talk with the return of Karen and Bret Wiles who this time showed us again how well prepared they are with their excellent talk and research. In WW2 the WI DID produce a lot of jam, utilising the abundance of fruit but also having to keenly negotiate to have enough sugar to produce the jam. (Things have moved on) In addition WI members took in evacuees, many of them bombed out of the slum areas of London and needing toiletries, clothing as well as food. Make Do and Mend was one of the war slogans, knitting clothes for families and the forces was another activity and the WI also introduced the National Savings scheme. The superb photographs and the voice over have come from the National Archive.

A well planned talk.

Elaine has taken on the role of President and also that of secretary. We must all support her in the best way we can. She told us that, luckily we have been granted a memorial bursary to help with our funds; that she attended the OFWI meeting recently and she also reminded us of our next craft afternoon on the 14th April (watercolour painting) and also another Oxford Operatic Society performance on July 3rd.

The new programme looks varied and interesting with a First Aid talk to include CPR; a talk on the Mitford sisters and a talk about Shotover amongst others.

Our next meeting is the 5th May - a talk about what magistrates do and also a plant and produce stall. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month in Holton Village Hall at 7.30pm. Visitors are always welcome.

Barbara Martin

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Waterperry News

Many hands make so much difference!

On a sunny Saturday at short notice a group got together for a litter pick, churchyard clear and tidy of the village ornamental pear trees.

Teams went from Bow Bridge up as far as the end of the road at Waterperry Common and five bags of litter were picked up. Lawrence had the most 'productive' walk to the Common and was 'impressed' with how far delivery drivers can hurl empty cans into the hedges. He also saw a dead grass snake... A couple of weeks earlier Carl (from Holbeach) walked up towards Worminghall and had a similarly 'good' haul of cans. Laurie does a periodic walk down the road to Wheatley and Chris from Green Ground keeps eye on much of the village road litter wise. I suspect there are others quietly contribution to making our village a better place to live too!

Meanwhile back in the churchyard wisteria was pulled from the walls and ground - there is still a lot left! With power tools and secateurs massive amounts of brambles were cleared from around the Henley tomb. Did you know that that this family which used to own the House and the village are direct descendants of William the Conqueror? Also one of the naval men whose remains are in the tent shaped tomb was the commander of the Royal Yacht Britannia in Queen Victoria's time? Ivy has been cut and partly removed from the churchyard walls. Once it's dead it will come off easier with less damage to the pointing. Later Pat Havers came and trimmed the memorial roses on loved one's graves. We are very grateful to the Gardens for disposing of two big trailer loads of debris.

On the roadway many of the pear trees have had lower limbs stripped off and ivy cut so they look smart. Last year whilst waiting for a very tardy Fish and Chip van the rotten tree stakes were removed.

The team recuperated from 90 minutes of hard work with tea and cake in the church. Thank you to everyone who took part and worked so energetically. Come and have a look in the churchyard to see the improvements. As ever nature will regenerate quickly so we will have another tidy - maybe in the autumn!

Waterperry Open Gardens Saturday 20th June 2 to 5pm

A date for your diary. Several gardens will be open in aid of Waterperry Church with teas and cakes for visitors from our village and neighbouring villages. If you are in Waterperry and would like to open your garden please let me know!

We would like help in directing anyone coming by car to park sensibly. Could you volunteer to make and serve cakes or to contribute to garden and house plant sales?

All funds raised will go to urgent repairs to our church. In recent months we have had some electrical faults. Shortly we will be organising lime plastering and lime washing to the wall behind the altar.

Helen Marshall

hfsmith@icloud.com 07726 763154

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 7.30. We often have interesting speakers and activities or sometimes just a social evening for all to enjoy. In May, Carol from **Wheatley Farm Shop** is going to show us how to make a hanging basket so let us know if you would like to come along. A small donation of £2 will include 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

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Waterstock News

Fifty years ago, in the May 1976 edition of the Parish Mag, the Editorial as well as all three villages' Parish notes were all together on just one page, with the Waterstock quarter page being just twelve lines.

Within those twelve lines it was reported that one enterprising spring bird was seen removing wild clematis seed heads for its nest; that Mrs Moores – who lived at Park Cottage – had held a Pippa-Dee evening (a fashionable variant of Tupperware parties for clothes) which raised £20.50 for the church (£200 in today's money); and that Carole and I had moved to Waterstock that April. Poor Carole was pregnant throughout what was, and remains, the hottest recorded summer ever, with Sarah arriving in September along with the desperately needed downpours at last.

As you will see, these notes are considerably longer than 1976's, but the themes are the same. Our precious environment, the weather, and supporting the church.

I am sure we all saw the totally engaging and magical Secret Gardens programme from Waterstock Mill which attracted rave reviews in the national papers (if you haven't seen it, it remains on BBC iPlayer). Particularly delightful was the way nature in the raw played out in the river and its wetlands, whilst human life continued in the Mill, and the garden was tended and mown, with little interaction between the two worlds except for the anxious vole that lived in the lawn. We all cheered plucky Doris, the world's bravest duck, who raised nine ducklings without losing any, and turned on a marauding otter to defend them. I asked Henry for behind the scenes info on the filming.

Henry Reports:

Michael asked me to unlock some of the secrets of "Secret Garden", such as why for several weeks every meal in the Manisty household tasted of ginger, or why my clothes were regularly drenched. Well, as those who have watched it will know, the River Garden episode opens with Sara chopping ginger in the kitchen and, about half-way through, sees me hurrying to the front door in monsoon conditions. Although these incidents barely last a second on screen, the filming of them, with multiple "takes", took much longer. As a result, a pile of chopped ginger became available for Sara's culinary creations, and there was another pile-- of wet clothes-- for the drier. Another secret that can now be revealed is that the "monsoon" was filmed on a dry day using our garden hose.

It was in December 2023 that we were first sounded out about the possibility of Waterstock Mill featuring as the River Garden in a new wildlife series being developed for the BBC, through a friend of our son James, involved in the project, who had visited the Mill several years before. The "sounding out" was shortly after SODC had turned down the Greystoke planning application when there was the prospect of an Appeal to a Planning Inspector. Participation in the project seemed to be an opportunity to publicise Waterstock's wildlife credentials and the harms that the threatened development would cause. So, we agreed at once.

As first outlined to us, all the series' emphasis would be on filming the wildlife, with minimal participation by us. It seemed a modest production and there was nothing to suggest David Attenborough would have anything to do with it.

Later, to our horror, the emphasis shifted towards greater focus on us: hence the ginger chopping, the wet clothes plus the appearances of Sara stocking the bird table, watering

flowers and offering cups of tea to the crew, and me hosing, raking, log carrying and donning waders. The film crew team were so nice that it proved impossible to say "no" when they made more and more requests for us to be filmed doing various tasks. Many of these filmed tasks thankfully never made it into the final cut.

Although my wildlife camera clips helped direct them to the usual otter haunts, and to the kingfisher nest, it was a member of the camera crew who discovered Doris and made her the star that she has become. We remember the high excitement when they filmed Doris' ducklings leaping from the tree nest, and just a few weeks later, being attacked by an otter.

In the intervals between their visits, we had to watch over the expensive camera equipment they left in the river to capture wildlife while they were away. This was quite a responsibility. On one occasion after a heavy storm, the river rose so fast that, on returning late from a dinner out, I had to put waders on to rescue the equipment, but only managed to retrieve three of four cameras. One had already been swept downstream.

It was certainly a shock to us to be told, only a few weeks ago, that David Attenborough was to narrate the series and that it is to form part of his 100th birthday celebrations.

So Waterstock wildlife is now famous. With luck, the episode should help deter future speculative development proposals, so that we will never again have to contend with the Greystokes of this world.

Meanwhile, and also excitingly, hedgehogs, once common, had disappeared from the village until they were recently re-introduced here gradually from Tiggywinkles renowned animal hospital in Haddenham by our own Gillywinkles (aka Gill Spencer).

Thanks Gill, it is wonderful to have them back. There is the occasional visitor at Camilla Cottage, who was rather riskily sitting in the middle of the lane the other evening right beside the warning sign to motorists.

By the Pond reports up to four visitors a night and even some squabbling between them, and the possibility of at least one pregnancy. May is the beginning of the baby hedgehog season. Pippin Cottage, on the other hand, despite the provision of a hedgehog hotel with fresh cat-food and drink provided, and special hedgehog access points in the wall between them and Holly Cottage, has so far not seen any visitors at all.

However, Gill reports a concerning incident recently:

A few weeks ago I found a young hedgehog in the garden during the day looking distressed. As this is unusual behaviour, I immediately became concerned and took it straight away to Tiggywinkles to be assessed. I have no update on its condition as yet.

It's thought that it went into hibernation underweight and emerged struggling. It's being tested for Lung Worm which is very common and fatal if not treated. They get infected by eating slugs. I'll get a further update on the test results in a couple of weeks. The message here is, if you see a hedgehog large or small out during the day, it's a bad sign, so please could you take it to Tiggywinkles or call me. Otherwise, I'm happy to say our hedgehogs are doing extremely well and I'm sure we'll be seeing lots of babies in the village during the summer. Thank you all for your enthusiastic help. Gill.

Following the torrential rainfall in September 2015, and as reported in previous issues, the roadside drainage network has been improved by householders installing larger capacity pipes at Home Farm Barn, Camilla Cottage and By the Pond.

The ditches up the lane have been cleared out, the channel through the wall at High Wall has been cleared and widened, and a new pipe has been laid through the garden at Pippin Cottage, all to smooth the flow of excess water to the river before it can do any damage.

Work continues. Last month, Geoff and Michael Talbot, assisted by our stalwart Chairman Rob Arthur, could be seen laying a new open concrete drain at a slant across Stockwell Lane just North of the White House.

Geoff reports that at the last Parish Meeting there was a feeling that something needed to be done about the quantity of water generated by heavy rainfall running down Stockwell Lane and overwhelming the gullies on the street. He says “the channel across the lane was my idea as a simple solution to divert the water into the ditch, which was reinstated in anticipation a few years ago, reconnecting to the pipe I put down in the 60s beside the War Memorial. I try to be ahead of the game!”

On the environmental front, a major thrust is Keeping Waterstock Tidy. Thanks to Jane Hanson and family who over Easter are reported to have single handedly collected two full bags of rubbish from their end of the village; and to Rodney Portman who has recently often been seen deep in the ditches up and down the lane collecting copious numbers of jettisoned drinks cans thought to be thrown from car windows.

For those interested in marketing trends or holding shares in drinks companies, Rodney reports that whilst the “cans jettisoned in Waterstock” market has long been dominated by “Frosty Jack”, Stella Artois appears now to be gaining market share. Is Waterstock again setting a trend?

On the same theme of improving the village we live in, we are very lucky to have an active church restoration team consisting of Sini, Lorna, Rob, Jenny, Sara and Rosalind, which has already done a lot of work in cleaning and brightening up the church and making it more user friendly.

On 17th and 18th April, they organised a big hands-on cleaning and tidying event from pruning the trees and removing the ivy in the churchyard on Friday to polishing the pews and removing the cobwebs inside the church on the Saturday. Many of us turned out to assist. An enjoyable and productive time was had by all. The longer term objective is to improve the capacity of the church to accommodate social events, and widen the range of activities it can host.

As with Mrs Moores Pippa-Dee party fifty years ago, the village was continuing to do its bit to keep Waterstock church resilient and relevant.

Finally, a reminder that when you get this magazine we should be in Artweeks which last from May 2nd to 10th, so do look out for signs and pop in to Helen Macritchie’s and Jane Hanson’s studios in Waterstock which will be open, as should much-missed ex villager Lili Shaw’s at Waterperry.

STOP PRESS Ali tells me that son Mo has been selected for his school, Shiplake College’s, rowing team for all national competitions, and what’s more in the lead role of stroke, responsible for the rhythm, rate and timing of the whole crew. It all shows what a national reach our tiny village has.

Michael Tyce

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What's On this *May*



Waterperry
Gardens

FREE EXHIBITION: 1st May - 28th June
MODERN MAKERS COLLECTORS SHOWCASE

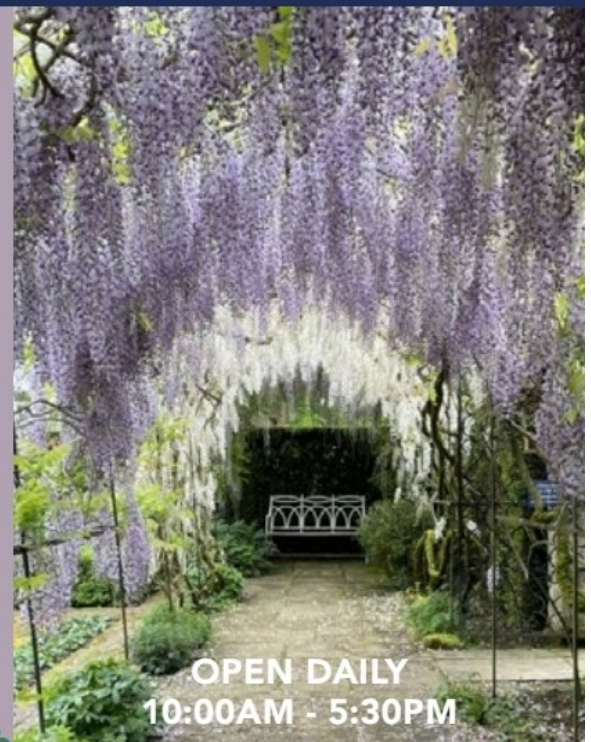
FREE EXHIBITION: 1st - 10th May
OXFORD ARTS WEEK IN THE GALLERY

WORKSHOP: 16th May
WILLOW GARDEN STRUCTURES

EVENT: 23rd May
SAXIFRAGA DAY IN THE WALLED GARDEN

RETREAT: 18th-21st May
TREASURES OF WATERPERRY

GNOMETASTIC
23RD MAY - 31ST MAY



OPEN DAILY
10:00AM - 5:30PM