



THE CHRONICLE

✠ *Serving Cricklade & Latton*

No. 562

February 2022



Community contacts all 01793 unless stated or emergency

This section is intended to give quick access to emergency and community help phone numbers. If you spot something missing, please let us know: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com or 01793 759123.

Churches.....	see centre pages	Dentist (104 High St).....	750388
Cricklade Town Council	751394	Gas leak reporting.....	0800 111 999
Lattonclerk@lattonparishcouncil.org.uk		Library (113 High St).....	750694
Wiltshire Councillor (Bob Jones).....	750773	Open Door.....	987851
Emergency Services.....	999	Optician (82 High St).....	750415
Non-Emergency: Police.....	101	Purton Vets (Bath Rd).....	751698
Non-Emergency: NHS.....	111	Samaritans.....	FREE: 116 123
Non-Emergency: Covid Helpline.....	109	Schools: St Sampson's Primary.....	750452
Doctors: Purton Surgery.....	770207	Manor Park.....	750275
Doctors: Green Gables Surgery.....	752633	Meadowpark.....	752600
Doctors: Cricklade (De Silva).....	750645	Bradon Forest.....	770570
Boots Chemist (100 High St).....	750226		

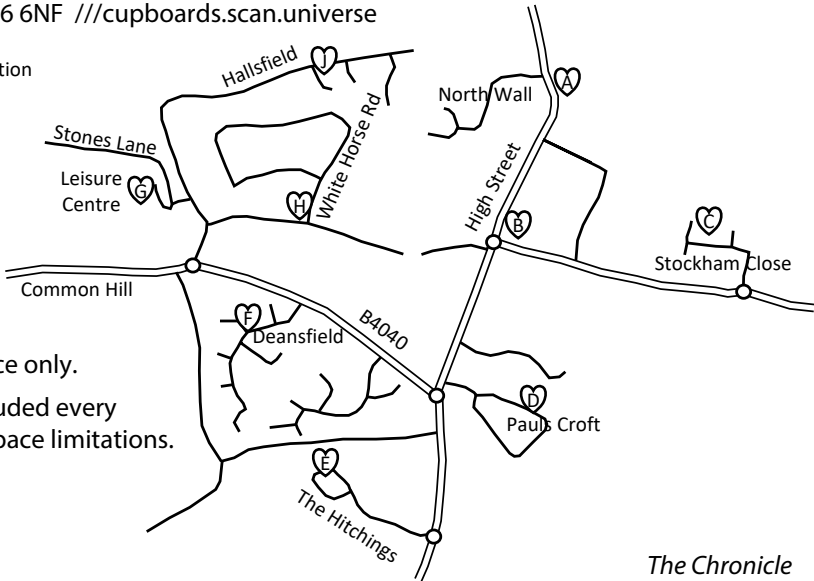
Defibrillator Locations - Public machines outside these premises:

What3Words location (///) is directly in front of the machine. To find the app, google What3Words.

- A Meadowpark School, SN6 6DD ///snapping.clearcut.tunnel
- B Cricklade Dental Practice, SN6 6AA ///trackers.motivate.joystick
- C 33 Stockham Close, SN6 6EF ///advances.bakers.opts
- D 17 Pauls Croft, SN6 6AH ///grace.bind.framework
- E 48 The Hitchings, SN6 6NJ ///thing.hydrant.height
- F 24 Deansfield, SN6 6BP ///kilt.massive.unspoiled
- G Cricklade Leisure Centre, SN6 6JW ///smarting.drags.member
- H Culverhay Stores (Londis), SN6 6EN ///awaiting.sunflower.achieving
- J 9 Kitefield, SN6 6NF ///cupboards.scan.universe



♥ Defibrillator location



Map for guidance only.
May not be included every month due to space limitations.

From the Editor

Hello and welcome to the February 2022 issue of *The Chronicle*.

My name is Rick and I am honoured to be taking over the Editorship from Claire who has fulfilled the role for the past ten years. I hope to continue the task she did so well.

I have been in Cricklade since 2017 and previously lived in Purton for 20 years.

You will see a few changes in your magazine which I hope you will like. The most obvious will be the cover picture which I took on a sunny day in October 2021. I have ideas for future covers but would very much welcome pictures you might like to send in for future issues - upbeat, seasonal, maybe even a painting?

I always feel that "sunny days" really begin in February. The sun rises a tad earlier and sets just that little bit later giving us the expectation of the spring to come.

Contact details are on the back page at the moment - but may move around as I find

my feet. Please don't use the old email address as messages will not come to me direct and you may miss the deadline! For the

moment the copy deadline remains the first of the month preceding publication owing to the time it takes to assemble the magazine, print it and distribute it.

Talking of which, I also want to thank Allan, your printer, and his wife Nick who between them organise the advertising in the magazine. It is this income which allows us to distribute the magazine to you free of charge. Our grateful thanks also to the team of Distributors whose job is likely to be easier in July than in February!



Cover picture: St Sampson's church viewed from the south.

© Rick Dixon, 2021

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The deadline for the March issue is Monday 1 February 2022

Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Mon 7 February 2022: Community & Leisure Committee
Mon 14 February 2022: Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee
Mon 21 February 2022: Premises and Finance Committee



All meetings, commencing at 7pm, are held in the Council Chamber, 113 High Street. Members of the public are invited to participate in a public forum at the beginning of each meeting.

Civic Awards 2021 - Do You Know Someone Who Goes the Extra Mile?

Cricklade is renowned for its community spirit, so do you know of someone, or a group of people, who volunteer in the community and deserve to be recognised for all their hard work, bravery, or courage? The Town Council is seeking nominations towards three categories of award: Young Person of the Year, Cricklade Community Award and Community Group of the Year. Details and forms are available on the website or from the Town Council offices. Closing date: Friday 18 February 2022.

Christmas Lights Competition Winners For 2021

Many congratulations to the following winners in the Cricklade Christmas Lights competition held in December. Certificates were presented at the Full Town Council meeting held in January. Many thanks for our Town Christmas tree that was again kindly donated by Tom Gee of Hop Kettle Brewery.

Residential Display

1st Prize	2 Bishopsfield		
Highly Commended	1 Pauls Croft	21 Bishopsfield	40 Cherry Tree Road

Best Decorated house

1st Prize	124 Ladymead
Highly Commended	128 Ladymead

Best Window Display

1st Prize	65 High Street	
Highly Commended	63 High Street	6 Calcutt Street

Business

1st Prize	Sue Ryder
Highly commended	Opticians

Events Diary 2022 - Advertise Your Community Events

With 2022 upon us, and hopefully things returning to a new normal, we'd like to remind residents about the Town Diary which can be found as the 'Events Calendar' on the Town Council website. This is a useful tool for those involved with local organisations planning meetings and social events, or those arranging their own fundraising ventures. Checking the Town Diary at the planning stage will avoid your event being double-booked and, once you have a date chosen, you can email the details to Cricklade Town Council and we will update the diary. You can view the Town Diary on

our website and email details of your upcoming events, meetings etc, to admin@crickladedowncouncil.gov.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

Halls and Meeting space to hire

Are you looking for either a hall or meeting room to hire for a one-off event or on a regular basis?

Did you know the Council rents out the Council Chambers at 113 High Street (Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm with minimum hire of 1 hour). There is a boardroom table with seating for 18 people and additional seating for a further 22 people. We also hire out Thames Hall which comprises a large hall type room, small kitchen, 3 toilets and a small separate room which is useful if you need to have a breakout group, or small group area. If interested in either space to rent then call 01793 751394 or email admin@crickladedowncouncil.gov.uk for more details.

The Town Council and Tourist Information Point is open:

Monday to Friday 10.00 - 16.00 hrs (Closed 12.30 - 13.30 hrs)

Tel: 01793 751394 E-mail: admin@crickladedowncouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.crickladedowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Committee Members Needed!

Did you miss the following community events in 2020 and 2021?

Cricklade FESTIVAL - usually happens in June

Cricklade FIREWORKS - happens in November

Cricklade CHRISTMAS LIGHTS – happens end November or early December.

All these committees are looking for new members in order to make the events happen again in 2022. If you have a few hours to spare for meetings and some time available on the day, then contact admin@crickladedowncouncil.gov.uk and we will refer you to the relevant committees.

Without “you” these great CRICKLADE events will not run in the future.

New ! Cricklade Revealed Extra, Index Book Five (CRE5)

CRE5, the final book of the entire series, can be obtained by contacting Cricklade Town Council Office, Cricklade Museum (tel: 07453 766 744) or Animal Fayre pet shop at No.88 High Street. Alternatively, you can buy this new book directly from me plus any past editions that you may have missed. All CR books cost £3.60 each and I can currently offer sets of 6 or more books at reduced prices due to surplus stock. Please ring me on 01793 750542 for further information and safe collection and delivery options.

Proceeds from all CR books are donated to Cricklade Open Door.

Thank you. Marion Parsons

Cricklade Development Foundation

91 High Street, Cricklade
The Old Police Station



Cricklade Development Foundation (CDF) finally purchased Cricklade Police Station, on behalf of the community, at the end of November. None of this would have been possible without the community becoming members of CDF and buying shares to raise the funds – so a big thank-you to everyone who has contributed! £144k has been raised towards our £250k target to renovate the property. This is a superb community effort, especially when you consider the difficult Covid situation since our appeal was launched earlier in 2021. There is still some way to go, but with your help, we are confident we can get there.

PLEASE BECOME A MEMBER

- Do you intend to become a member, but have yet to get round to it?
- Are you interested but require further information to make a decision?
- Is this the first time you have heard about the project?

If the answer is 'Yes' to any of these questions, then please do get in touch and we will be happy to answer any queries you may have – and provide the relevant member application forms, if required.

At this stage of the project, time is of the essence, and time costs money – so it's important that we reach our renovation target as soon as possible. So if you are thinking of becoming a member and playing your part in this huge community endeavour to retain a vibrant High Street, please contact us today. Membership gives you a stake in your community, helps make a difference to those of us who live here now, and leaves a legacy for future generations to enjoy.

IMPORTANT: CDF is a not-for-profit Community Benefit Society so all funds raised will be used for the benefit of the local community. You can learn all about our aims and the share offer via these contacts:

Website: www.crickladefoundation.org.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/crickladedevelopmentfoundation

Email: contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk

Telephone our Secretary, Terri Robertson, on 07902 421756

We look forward to hearing from you!

Defibrillator Sponsorship

The Defibrillator on the wall outside Meadowpark School in the High Street was bought through funding from the Red Lion Charity. Unfortunately this charity has been wound up and a new sponsor is sought. The cost of this is £125 per year to cover the insurance and maintenance of the machine. Businesses or individuals interested in sponsoring this machine can contact *The Chronicle* and we will pass on your details to the organisers.



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Focus on Wiltshire Council

I start the year with an appeal to you and our community. Covid is not a TV news item about other people in another town or country. In the last few weeks there have been many cases in our own locality, yet many have not taken up the vaccination programme. All the evidence clearly identifies that those affected most and hospitalised are those that have not been vaccinated. Some would say that this judgement not to get the jabs is selfish, depriving hospital beds to those most in need for other ailments such as cancer treatment or hip and knee replacements. It's not too late ... *get your jabs and boosters now*. If you don't know how to book online, or don't have access to a computer, or need help to get to a vaccination centre please call my mobile (07973 863 702) and I will try and direct you to the nearest centre. If you are stuck for transport the Link scheme can help you.

At County Hall the final budget planning continues, the Central Government cap of two percent continues and, as inflation and wage settlements are running at above this level, it seems hard to see how any services can be safe from some form of cuts. We await the final budget figures, also reminded that Wiltshire Council started the year identifying the need for forty million pounds of cuts to balance the books. On 14 February, the Budget will be finally debated and approved. I will report back next month.

Just before Christmas, I carried out one of my night visits around Cricklade trying to identify street lights that are not working. It was lovely to see so many houses decorated with Christmas lights and made the task a pleasure. Regrettably, although there were considerably fewer street lights out, those identified were some that have been out for months and some had only been fixed a few weeks ago but had failed again. Thanks to all of you for reporting failed streetlights either directly to Wiltshire Council on the "My Wilts" App or to me. Please remember to include the lamp standard number displayed on the lamp post so that the engineers can readily identify them.

Wiltshire Council have introduced a new single point of contact for Housing: "The Housing Advice Service" - phone no 0300 456 0106. The service provides tailored advice to those with housing issues or who are at risk of homelessness and deals with those facing eviction or possession action, affordability issues and paying rent or mortgage, or the suitability of existing accommodation, among other housing problems. People can also contact the team by email: homeless@wiltshire.gov.uk

The Homes4Wiltshire team remain on 0300 456 0104 for all enquiries relating to joining the housing register.

One of my responsibilities as a Wiltshire Councillor is that I sit on the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Authority. At our recent meeting it was reported that the Fire Authority is becoming increasingly concerned about the recruitment of retained firefighters. The recent serious fire in the Indian restaurant in Cricklade High Street highlights the problem. There were several fire appliances in attendance from across the area but not from Cricklade as there were not enough firefighters to ride the appliance. Have you considered becoming a Firefighter based in Cricklade? Visit dwfire.org.uk for more details, and remember it is open to all; maybe there are some mums or those working from home looking for a new challenge or call in at the Cricklade Fire Station on a Monday evening, 7-9pm.

If you are having a problem with Wiltshire Council, the Housing Association, or just need some general advice, I can normally find the right contact or highlight your problem to someone who can help. I have a direct telephone contact to all Officers in Wiltshire Council, and you will be surprised what can happen if you talk to the right person. I cannot promise to fix your problem personally, but I can assist you to resolve it.

I am also out and about in Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey during the week and even with the current restrictions I am always happy to meet with you if you have a specific problem to discuss. Please email me or phone to arrange a meeting. I can be contacted on 01793 750773 or my mobile 07973 863 702 or email me at bob.jones@wiltshire.gov.uk

I look forward to serving Cricklade and the Surrounding Community in 2022

Councillor Bob Jones

Swindon & District Samaritans Turning the Blues into Brews in 2022



Brew Monday is a Samaritans takeover of 'Blue Monday' – the third Monday in January which is often dubbed 'the most difficult day of the year' (although there's no scientific evidence to back this up). From 17 January we'll be encouraging everyone to get together for a cuppa and a catch-up.

At Samaritans we know there's no such thing as 'Blue Monday' and that feeling low isn't just reserved for Mondays or any random day in January... so we're saying out with the blue and in with the brew! And yes, brew up in February too!

For Brew Monday 2022, Swindon & District Samaritans are reminding people that there's always time for a cuppa and a catch-up. It doesn't matter if it's a Monday morning or a Saturday evening, or if you're drinking green tea, black coffee or orange juice! It also doesn't matter if you catch up in person, virtually or over the phone. If you're sharing a cuppa and listening, then you're helping to make a difference in beating the winter blues.

Now, more than ever, sharing a cuppa is more than a drink – it's about reaching out, checking in and staying connected.

As well as reaching out to family and friends for a cuppa and a chat it's also possible to raise vital funds for Swindon & District Samaritans. If you need to know more – please reach out to: swindon@samaritans.org – and if you brew up to chase those blues away and can support Swindon & District Samaritans at the same time, please text to donate – to donate £5, text BREWMONDAY 5 to 70490. Texts cost £5 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £5 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text BREWMONDAYNOINFO 5 to 70490.

Samaritans are always here every hour of every day of the year – talk to us any time you like, in your own way, about whatever's getting to you:

Telephone: 116 123 – calls are free Email: jo@samaritans.org

50 Shades of Green

The Adventures on a Wannabee Eco Warrior

What a whirlwind of recycling discovery January has been! And all just in time for me to take part in Waste Free February with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to reduce my landfill 'waste-line' to one 30 litre bin bag for the month – if you want to take part you can choose your own receptacle, a jam jar or bin bag, whatever is a challenge for you. It seems a bit of a scary prospect but I was suckered into agreeing to it by my friend who knows that I'm at my weakest half way through a bottle of bubbles.

Looking into the recycling rules in preparation, it seems I was a bit of a 'wishcycler' – hoping that something I threw in the blue bin would magically find the right recycling process. As we've already discovered, medicine blister packs don't go in standard recycling (Fiona at Boots tells me the new bin has been very popular so well done Cricklade!) and the film from yoghurt pots can't go in there either. Film plastics, like ready meal film lids and crisp packets need separate recycling to yoghurt pots and plastic bottles. Large Tesco stores do have facilities for collecting and recycling this plastic waste so there's no need to put them in the household rubbish. Foil trays and clean kitchen foil can go in the blue bin but it needs to be collected in to a fist sized ball as it's sorted by a machine that can't see smaller pieces (obviously a middle aged machine that needs some 'readers'). And here's a paradox – you don't need to remove the plastic window from envelopes before recycling but you do need to remove the film window from cardboard food boxes (e.g. quiche) before they can go in! Wiltshire Council has a very good list on their website of what can and can't go in and the Cricklade CAN group will be holding some events later in 2022 to help clear up some 'wishcycler' myths!

Prosecco corks were a very pressing waste problem after Christmas – knee deep we were! I have found somewhere to recycle the corks though and a few of us decided it makes sense to send them off in bulk so we will be clubbing together to send them to RecorkedUK.org. You could join our club by emailing us on TrizaGreen@icloud.com or maybe you have friends like mine and could make your own Cork Club? We're also urgently looking into 101 uses for empty wine bottles!

Of course there is a basic sustainability issue here – just producing the volume of Prosecco demanded by the British market (or even just me) depletes the soils where the grapes are grown, requiring more use of fertilisers and pesticides, but I try to buy some organic ones to reduce my impact. Let's face it, going Green is a long haul mission so I don't have to fix everything immediately and I seem to learn an awful lot while sharing a bottle of fizz!

Theresa Green for Cricklade Climate Action Network

Cricklade Historical Society

The Annual General Meeting was due to be held on 23 February. This will now be conducted by email and post instead.

Foodbank

Open every Friday 10.00am to 11.30 am
in the Jenner Hall, Bath Road



Over the past couple of months, the number of people visiting our Foodbank client-facing sessions has continued to rise. We are also seeing a number of new clients. They are welcomed by our friendly volunteers and invited to have a cup of tea or coffee. Any client wanting to discuss matters of a more confidential nature are offered a separate room. We have a selection of leaflets on the tables which can offer specific help and information. We prefer our clients to come with a voucher but will not turn away anyone in genuine need.

Contact us: Call: 01666 826982 (we will call you back)
Email: cricklade@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk
Visit the website: malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

A huge thank-you to all our incredibly generous donors who contributed to our Christmas hampers. These boxes of Christmas 'goodies' are delivered to anyone who has accessed Cricklade Foodbank in the last year. As a result of your generosity, we were able to deliver 29 family hampers and 16 children's hampers.

Thank you, also, to everyone who donates regularly to the collection boxes, which are situated in Tesco, Culverhay Stores and Animal Fayre (pet shop). Our local churches: St Sampson's, St Mary's and Cricklade United will accept donations. Please check to make sure the church is open.

Items in short supply this month are:

- Loo rolls
- Laundry powder/liquid
- UHT milk
- Fruit juice
- Sauces (ketchup etc)
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned rice pudding
- Tinned spaghetti

We have plenty of: baked beans, rice, cereals, sweet biscuits, dog food, tea, tinned fruit.

Cricklade Link Scheme

We Need Your Help

We need a Co-ordinator



We are seeking a Link Co-ordinator. We take requests on our answer machine and once a day the Co-ordinator matches up drivers and Link tasks. The Co-ordinators can operate from any location. We supply a mobile telephone.

Co-ordinators currently cover a two-week stint every six weeks.

Could you give up a couple of hours a week to be a Co-ordinator? Please call 751049 or 07421 018 499 for more details.

We are also seeking drivers to help run this service for your community.

We need Volunteers

07421 018 499

Churches Together

The Upper Thames Benefice

Cricklade St Sampson's, Latton St John the Baptist, Ashton Keynes Holy Cross and the Leigh All Saints

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Canon Debbie Dewes email vicar@upperthames.org.uk

Associate Minister: Revd Shirley Danby
email shirleydanby21@gmail.com; tel. 07980 548844

Parishes Administrator: Jane Templeton email admin@upperthames.org.uk

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

29 January (Saturday)

3.30pm Candlemas Choral Evensong *at St Sampson's*

30 January Presentation of Christ in the Temple

10am Upper Thames Holy Communion including Dedication of lights *at Holy Cross*

4pm Informal Worship - *service in the Jenner Hall*

6 February - 4 before Lent

8.30 Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*

10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's*

10am Morning Worship *at Latton St John the Baptist*

10am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*

4pm Informal Worship *at St Sampson's*

6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

13 February - 3 before Lent

10am Upper Thames Group Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*

20 February - 2 before Lent

8.30am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*

10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's*

10am Holy Communion *at Latton St John the Baptist*

10am Morning Worship *at Holy Cross*

4pm Informal Worship *at St Sampson's*

4pm Evensong *at Holy Cross*

6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

27 February - Last before Lent

8.30am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*

10am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*

10am Morning Worship *at Latton St John the Baptist*

4pm Informal Worship *at St Sampson's*

ther (CLAK & L)

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

FROM NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2021

Baptisms

21 November	Jude Lucas Justis	at Holy Cross
28 November	Jaxon Peter Francis	at St Sampson's
5 December	Harriet Marcella Binfield	at St Sampson's
5 December	Louis James Matthews	at St Sampson's

Funerals

4 November	Audrey Gwendoline Ball	Service at St Sampson's with committal at North Wiltshire Crematorium
5 November	Joseph Vincent Alan Giles	Service at St Sampson's followed by committal at North Wiltshire Crematorium
5 November	Paul John Horrell	Service at North Wiltshire Crematorium with memorial at Holy Cross
6 November	Sophie Mills	Service at Holy Cross and interment in churchyard
10 December	Edith Joyce Algar	Service at St Sampson's church
20 December	Gladys Joan Gibson	Service at North Wiltshire Crematorium

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Weekly Mass times 9.30am on Sundays
 10.00am on Fridays

For notices please see the noticeboard on the railings of St Mary's.

Parish website www.stthomasparish.plus.com.

Father Michael Robertson can be contacted on 01285 712586 or by email
michael.Robertson@cliftondiocese.com

Gerry Dudley, our Church Secretary, is on 01793 750107.

The Friends of St Mary's website with more details of the history of the church is at
www.cricklade.stmary.org.uk

Cricklade United Church Calcutt Street, Cricklade

Minister: Revd Sarah Simpson, tel. 01666 826866

Email: sarahsimpson14@btinternet.com

As a United Reformed / Methodist Church, we are part of the URC North West Wiltshire Pastorate and the Upper Thames Methodist Circuit. Services of worship take place on Sunday mornings at 10.30am and all are welcome. Please have a look at our website for all the current information regarding our services, dates, times and other events.

<https://crickladeunitedchurch.co.uk>

Letters to the Editor

Kind assistance

Grateful thanks and appreciation to all the kind people who helped and assisted my brother, when he fell in the High Street on Tuesday 14 December. Thank you all so very, very much.

Cricklade really is a wonderful place to live, full of kind caring people.

Kathy

Cricklade Pre-School

Cricklade Pre-school would like to thank the DGH Vallejee Foundation and the Cribbage Society for their very kind donations. This allows us to further enhance our indoor and outside areas to provide enriching experiences for the children.



Cricklade Jenner Hall (Parish Hall) "Save It Club"

In the recent Monthly Draws the lucky winners were:

	25 Nov Draw	23 Dec Draw
First Prize:	Mr J. Hickman (£40.20)	Mr & Mrs A. Mills (£39.90)
Second Prize:	Miss M. Baulch (£26.80)	Mr C. Head (£26.60)
Jenner Hall Funds:	£67.00	£66.50

Thank you to all the "Save it Club" members for their continued support.

Winners of each monthly Draw appear on the Jenner Hall website.

To Join the Jenner Hall "Save It Club", please contact Paul Marley
Tel: 752851

The Subscription for the "Save It Club" is only £12 per year.

Subscribers are encouraged to pay a year's subscription of £12 by Standing Order.



**All data is held under the guidelines of
the General Data Protection Regulations 2018**

Did You Know ... ?

February gets its name from the ancient Roman purification festival of Februalia. This may have helped to fix the timing of Candlemas in the early Church calendar.

The Venerable Bede, writing in 725AD says that in Anglo-Saxon the month was called Mud Month (Sol-monap) because of the weather or Cabbage Month as that was all that was left to eat!



Cricklade Open Door

As I write, it is just the end of December but I am writing for the February Chronicle and can't help wondering how the weeks after Christmas and into the New Year will be for us all. May we all keep well and continue with our lives without any new restrictions.

Open door will have reopened, after a Christmas break, on Tuesday 4 January and to continue with all our regular activities, lunches, transport and time spent with friends and fellow members.

We have been very fortunate to have had the support of so many Cricklade residents, businesses and organisations again in 2021. Our lunches continued to be supplied by Chef Colin and his team at Cricklade Manor Prep School and, in addition, they made Christmas goodie boxes which the children delivered, so politely, to our members. Martin West and his team at mLettings organised the distribution of gifts and cards to members at our Christmas Tea Party, gifts given by The Cricklade Business Community. Amanda at Stitches brought in a surprise donation and a load of wool! We also received an unexpected donation from Cricklade Cribbage Group, as we sadly heard they were closing their group. Thank you all very, very much and also all the individual supporters of Open Door - you are all ensuring that we can continue our service here in Cricklade.

Do keep an eye out for our posters around the town, which will advertise our weekly and special events. In February there will be a Valentine's Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 15th and on a Monday morning (date in Feb to be confirmed - look for a poster!) we will have another Music Morning brought to us by The Wiltshire Music Centre - something quite different this time - a delightful harpist. All our usual activities, Knit & Natter, Seated Exercises, Bingo will continue or you can just call in, in the mornings, for a coffee and a chat.

Cricklade Open Door is at The Jenner Hall, Bath Road on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am - 3.30pm. Telephone 07599 987851 if you would like more details or just call In. New members, visitors and friends are always welcome.



Cricklade & District Probus Club

We are looking forward to meeting as group on 3 and 17 February. The talks on those respective dates will be 'Life in the East End' and 'The Siege of Gloucester'.

On 10 February will be the occasion of our 35th President's Lunch.

Our meetings take place fortnightly on a Thursday at 10.00am at the White Hart Hotel in Cricklade. Ours is a friendly group which enjoys keeping minds active and socialising over a drink in the bar after the meetings. We are actively seeking to expand our numbers and look forward to welcoming new members to the Club.

For further information about our local club for retired gentlemen, please contact the Honorary Secretary, Richard Roberts on 01793 751063.



Church Appeal

Dear Friends,

On Sunday 12 December 2021, a service of dedication was held in St Sampson's Church, Cricklade, for the completion of repairs to the South Transept and Nave roofs. Adina Grace thanked all those who have donated. The support of individuals, families and grant bodies was much appreciated. Barry Hammond, project manager, announced that the total cost had come in just under budget. Just over 38% of the monies raised came from grant making bodies and just under 27% had come from individuals. The remainder was made up of fund-raising activities. Substantial grants have been received from Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust and Crapper & Sons Ltd. A plaque was presented by Community First, Wiltshire's Rural Community Council, which administers grants given by Crapper & Sons Ltd. Also in attendance were representatives from the Cricklade charities.

Barry recalled that one momentous event during the repairs had been the effects of a storm when the temporary roof was still in place over the Nave roof. He said, "It was a sight to see inches of water being swept away inadequately with church mops!"

Reverend Canon Debbie Dewes also thanked all who had enabled the church to be watertight now and blessed the new roofs.

The next stage of our project is to refurbish the inside of the building. We now need to make our dry building warm and well lit.

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of our recent draws were:

November 2021: Mrs Adina Grace £22

St Sampson's Church Appeal fund benefitted by £22

December 2021: Mr Derek Whitbread £22.50

St Sampson's Church Appeal fund benefitted by £22.50

Thank you to all members supporting the St Sampson's Church 100 Club. The club's aim is to maintain and improve our beautiful church building. To join the club please contact Sharon Smith on 01793 751375 or email sharonsmith54@hotmail.com or download the application form from The St Sampson's Church Appeal website.

We would still be grateful for any further donations to the next phases of the church appeal. Cash or cheques (made payable to St Sampson's PCC No. 2 Account) can be put in the donations box at St Sampson's, or sent to Adina Grace, Church Warden at Staddlestones, 4/5 West Mill Lane, Cricklade SN6 6JL. For further details please contact Adina at janda.grace447@outlook.com or 01793 750138.

Online donations can be made scanning the QR code on the right or visiting <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com>.

With best wishes from the Church Appeal Team.



Sing For Four Community Choir

Sing Four Four is a mixed community choir of approximately 45 singers which gives a very warm welcome to members of all abilities. The majority of our repertoire is SATB: sacred and secular, accompanied and unaccompanied, old and new – hopefully something for everyone! We recognise the joy in singing together and have fun while working hard!

The choir rehearses on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9.30pm at St Sampson's Church, Cricklade, which allows us plenty of space for comfort.

Please use our contact form for more information which can be found on our website www.singfourfour.org.uk or email our musical director Jan Bamford at jenlou.bamford@googlemail.com



Cricklade Camera Club

Cricklade Camera Club is now in its fifth season. Monthly meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in the Town Hall between September and June at 7.30pm. Membership is £35.00 for 2021/22.



New members are always welcome - you don't even need a camera. Everyone is welcome. So if you are budding novice or a more experienced photographer, why don't you try us out for an evening for a guest fee of £5.00. If you decide to join us, up to three guest fees can be deducted from the full membership fee, which entitles you to regular newsletters, access to our Facebook page, and enables you to participate fully in all our competitions.

For further details see our website: crickladecameraclub.org or email the Club Secretary Anne Eckersley for more information at clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org

1 February - Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm

Projected Digital Images League Round 2 and Prints League Round 1 and 2 to be judged by Keith Newton.

15 February - All the Gear No Idea. Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm with Roger Hance FRPS AFIAP DPAGB BPE5*

We all know people in camera clubs that have all the latest camera equipment, but they never seem able to 'consistently' take winning images. Yet other people in the club seem to regularly produce images that score highly. Why is this?

There are numerous reasons, and in this talk Roger will try to explain some of them and how you can avoid the pitfalls so many photographers fall into.

Roger will show some of his best images, across a range of subjects and explain how and where he has taken them. He will also show the 'original raw file' and then 'finished image' and explain how an image can be improved significantly with careful processing.

You can visit Roger at rogerhancephotography.blogspot.com

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Cricklade Bloomers are a bit like the plants that they tend this month, exhausted from the efforts in the autumn, hibernating now, waiting to burst into life in the spring. The cost of planting the Town each year has to be raised by Bloomers with a top up contribution from Town Council.



With no tea rooms again and limited ability to raise funds it was an all-out effort to make the wreath making a success. Cricklade you are amazing! Thank you for your support "to make Cricklade a Better Place". Your support for the Wreath making raised £3,500 towards this year's floral displays.

We will be out and about, social distancing of course, keeping the planters tidy and looking for new spring life in the gardens. Gardening is recognised as one of the most therapeutic pastimes. Bloomers have a number of added advantages. You don't have to be alone so friendship and avoiding loneliness are keys to your wellbeing. Even in the darkest days of Covid we managed to keep going following the strictest of measures. A chance to learn new talents, and not only gardening tips, comes from a wealth of skills and knowledge amongst our members. Then there is of course, our Community; we are proud of what we do around the Town. There is something very satisfying when a visitor says, "Your Town always looks so special" or "you are doing an amazing job".

Join us and be part of the success that is Bloomers. Everyone is welcome, you have skills we can use - come and join us.

Bloomers 07889 986 166 / 07973 863 702

email anita@crickladeinbloom.co.uk

Cricklade Jenner Hall at the Heart of Cricklade

Our Christmas Fayre and coffee morning on 4 December wasn't advertised in The Chronicle but it was a great success! It attracted many visitors of all ages. Valuable raffle prizes included Christmas vouchers donated by local traders, a luxury festive hamper and a £50 cash prize. The lucky dip for children of all ages was also a great success. There were delicious homemade cakes from friends and supporters and mugs of tea or coffee with free refills. The usual free-range eggs from a local farm also continued to be popular.

Most important though was the opportunity for everyone to meet in a happy festive atmosphere and talk to friends and meet others.

We look forward to welcoming you all to our Spring Celebration in April. Details will be in the March issue of the Chronicle.

If you would like to book the Jenner Hall for a party or celebration, please contact our booking secretary Charlotte Pearce at jennerhall.booking@gmail.com or call 07900 122099.

John Hickman
Chairman, Jenner Hall Community Trust

The Club is keen to recruit new young players, experience not necessary. For more information, please contact Mike Murray, our Club Captain, on 07514 596 910 or by email to michaelmurray198922@gmail.com. Training is on a Tuesday and Thursday at 7pm at Fairview Fields, and all are welcome.

We are a friendly club and welcome new players and supporters; why not come along and watch our Home games on 29 January vs Chippenham III and on 19 February vs Corsham II. Our Away game is against Colerne on 12 February. Another opportunity is to come along and join in our annual Race Night on Saturday 5 March at the Town Hall, which promises to be a really fun night!

Our Minis section continues to grow and is open to all shapes, sizes and genders. We aim to provide a safe environment where every player can enjoy rugby and develop their personal and social skills as well as a wide array of transferable multi-sports skills. Training is held at our Fairview Fields ground and new players are always welcome. Under 11s, 12s and 13s training is under floodlights on Fridays 7-8pm. Under 6s - 9s training is on Saturdays from 11am - 12noon. If you would like to join our Minis contact Danny Lloyd, 07979 864 279, or email daniel.lloyd@dhl.com We would also welcome any parents who want to get involved and support the Minis section, so if you are interested in taking part, please contact Danny.

CRICKLADE CINEMA!

Our Spring season continues....

Tues 22 February at 8pm
Cert 12A : 118 mins

Judy

This year marks the centenary of the birth of Judy Garland, and what better way to celebrate her life than this Oscar-winning tribute starring Renee Zellweger who plays the legendary Hollywood singer and actress in a film set in 1968, when the star was about to perform a series of concerts in England.



(contains: scenes of drug misuse, infrequent strong language)

Entry is by advanced ticket only. Tickets can be purchased from The Town Council Offices at 113 High Street. Price £4.

More details about all the films being shown and information on Cricklade Cinema can be found on our website (www.cricklodecinema.org.uk) so why not take a look.

Email us at: cricklodecinema@gmail.com or phone on 750782.

Check us out at Facebook Cricklade Cinema.

**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

Saxons Pétanque (Cricklade)

The Saxons Pétanque Club, which plays at the Cricklade Leisure Centre, is pleased to have had a busy summer working on the piste (playing area). We have erected a fence around the piste to halt the rather alarming incidents when children take a shortcut on their way to the play park. The new fence has established the piste area as a more secure and safe location to play boules.

We have also built a new piste strip along the side of our area so we now have seven playing areas. This new area increases our maximum capacity from 36 to 42. This is just as well as the club is regularly attracting new members who get hooked on this fun and sociable game as soon as they experience it.

Games are played on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, and Saturday mornings. All the details of when we play and further announcements are on our website, www.saxonspetanque.co.uk

We would be especially pleased to meet new players. Come along to any session and we will be pleased to offer you a free trial session to get the feel of this sociable and addictive fun game. Our friendly group will welcome you to this sport, run by the members for the members.

Kevin Weatherhead, Chairman

Hamster Care

Many children are given pet hamsters as Christmas presents and, without proper advice, some of these poor animals suffer in dreadful cage conditions for the rest of their lives.

First of all, you need to get your hamster a large cage - Blue Cross suggests a bare minimum of 80 x 50cm. And big enough for a 25cm deep layer of substrate.

Substrates include paper-based beddings, pet-safe compost, hamster-safe sand and wood shavings, but not all are safe for hamsters: 'fluffy' or cotton beddings can form strands which could wind round their legs cutting off the blood supply or entangle around their teeth. Some wood shavings release toxic chemicals.

Next, make sure your furry friend has an appropriately sized wheel. A hamster should be able to run on the wheel without bending its back. A Syrian hamster (bigger) should have a wheel which is at least 25cm (10 inches) in diameter. You might be able to get away with a 20cm wheel for a dwarf hamster.

Your pet hamster must have access to lots of enrichment, such as sand baths, wooden chews, large tunnels, bendy bridges, multi-chamber hideouts and other hamster-safe toys. They also need access to a water source: whether it's a bottle or a bowl it needs refilling daily. Hamsters are omnivores, which means they need a variety of fruits, vegetables, seeds and animal products to keep them healthy.

Finally, please do some more research regarding hamster care such as Victoria Raechel's informative videos on YouTube. Hamsters are a massive commitment, and you can expect to spend many hundreds of pounds on them in their lifetime.

Millie Thomas

The Cricklade Band ... here we go again!

We chose our slogan for the 2021 festive season because it felt like a pandemic re-run of 2020 – not just that but it was also a way of saying ‘we can do this, and we can keep doing it’. We can only keep doing it though with the help of so many people.



Huge thanks are due to everyone in the band for their efforts in attending as many of the events as they could from early December. And we also thank you, the wider community, for the support you gave: coming out to see us, tagging along with us, applauding and cheering, filming and photographing us – it's so rewarding for all of us musicians as we make our way through our carol books! Most importantly, you dropped donations into our buckets, sent us cheques and contributed by Crowdfunder, often anonymously. We have achieved our target of being able to afford the major forward expenses of 2022 with just a bit spare too. For a non-profit making organisation, it's a weight off our minds to cover the overheads, regardless of how active the band is allowed to be.

Other people that we'd like to thank for their help and support are Eric and Chris, Cricklade's Town Criers who were out and about with us. The arrival of bacon rolls on Christmas Morning is always so welcome, specially when the 'Wobble Doctor' provides them, with bacon supplied by Harold James – thank you! We'd also like to thank the editors of Cricklade Chronicle, Purton Magazine and Ashton Keynes & Leigh Newsletter for the publicity they gave. Social media is also incredibly important to us and we thank *The Only Way Is Cricklade* and *Spotted In Purton By Purton* for sharing our posts: A Facebook video of us playing 'Hark The Herald Angels Sing' on the town bridge has had 1400 views.

Our Christmas Show was a Town Hall sell-out until Omicron spiked and caused us to rethink ... and take the show alfresco! More thanks to Cricklade Town Council and the Town Hall Management Committee for their hugely appreciated co-operation and help. Our outside audience of about 150 people were provided with mulled wine and mince pies by our band Crew members while we played a non-stop set of favourite Christmas tunes – and then you all checked whether you'd won a raffle prize contributed by local shops and businesses. Thank you all!

In a special bit of news, GWP Group, the packaging experts based in Cricklade, have always sponsored the band's performance at the Christmas Lights event. In a new initiative, GWP have now forged a year-round link with the band by becoming corporate supporters. Welcome and thank you GWP.

As a final note, whole families came out into the streets as the band made its way round. If you or your children found our music inspirational and you'd like to have a go, or pick up where you left off, then just check out our Facebook page, drop us an email – and just come and have a go!

For now, we're all so grateful to everyone who played their own part, helping us to '...here we go again!' – thank you!

*Paul and everyone in the band
The Chronicle*

The Chronicle Diary

I can't include your event in this section if you don't tell me! Email RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com.

Priority will be given to not-for-profit events open to all.

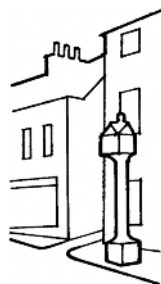
(For Church Services see centre pages.)

February 2022

Tu 1	5.49am	● New moon
	7.30pm	Camera Club at White Hart Hotel
	midnight	Copy deadline for March issue of <i>The Chronicle</i>
Th 3	10am	Probus at White Hart Hotel
M 7	7pm	Town Council Community & Leisure Committee in Council Chamber
Tu 8	1.52pm	☾ Moon first quarter
Sa 12		Cricklade Rugby vs Colerne (away)
M 14		Valentine's Day
	7pm	Town Council Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee in Council Chamber
Tu 15		Open Door Valentine's Afternoon Tea at Jenner Hall
	7.30pm	Camera Club (Zoom meeting)
W 16	5pm	○ Full moon
Th 17	10am	Probus at White Hart Hotel
F 18		Closing date: Town Council Awards nominations - see p4
Sa 19		Cricklade Rugby vs Corsham II (home)
M 21	7pm	Town Council Premises & Finance Committee in Council Chamber
Tu 22	8pm	Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall - tickets from Town Council Office
W 23	10.34pm	☾ Moon last quarter

Every Week

M	10am-3.30pm	Open Door at Jenner Hall
Tu	10am-3.30pm	Open Door at Jenner Hall
	7pm	Rugby Club training at Fairview Fields
Th	10am-3.30pm	Open Door at Jenner Hall
	7pm	Rugby Club training at Fairview Fields
	7.30-9.30pm	Sing For Four choir rehearsal at St Sampson's
F	10-11.30am	Cricklade Foodbank at Jenner Hall



Cricklade WI

In December, WI members were entertained by Gordon Brockman who talked about his Life as an Auctioneer. At our first meeting of 2022, members heard from John Carpenter about the charity 'Help for Heroes' and the worthwhile work they do.

In February members look forward to welcoming local resident and Glass Artist, Lesley Cowley, who will talk about her work and show a selection of items which will be available to purchase.

For further details please contact Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or email:

vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com.



The Final Word ...

I wonder how you got on with New Year's resolutions this year?! My intentions, like many other people's, have included improving personal fitness. Don't get me wrong – I have minimal experience of gyms and exercise routines, and far more success with weight gain than weight loss! If I were to commit to an exercise regime I think I would definitely need a personal trainer...

The definition of a personal trainer (that I found online) is someone who tailors individual programmes for their clients, motivating them and guiding them to achieve their goals. Never having had one, I imagine this person at my shoulder throughout, encouraging me, keeping me safe, helping me focus, getting me back on track when I'm struggling...

This definition exactly fits my idea of God, at my side when the going gets tough, and rejoicing with me when things are going well. So my New Year's resolution will be to commit to becoming spiritually as well as physically fitter, and to listen to my spiritual personal trainer!

Wishing you all a Happy and Healthy Year ahead!

Pauline Loveday

Upper Thames Group Licensed Lay Minister

Items for publication to the Editor: Rick Dixon, RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com,

01793 759123 or by post to 19 North Wall, Cricklade SN6 6DU.

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