

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 576

May 2023



CORONATION SPECIAL ISSUE

St Mary's Catholic Church
photo: Rick Dixon





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SUZUKI

From the Editor

Met Office spring starts in March, but what a wet month it was! We had loads of daffodils, celandine and muscari (grape hyacinth). As I write, April has the flowering cherry blossom. But I remember merrily dancing round a maypole as a child in the fifties. The pole must have been steel, the 'grass' will have been tarmac, the dancing was probably prancing, but it was spring!

So, let us spring into it! We have a Coronation to celebrate on 6 May and many events surrounding it. Cricklade Preschool has a Quiz Trail (page 24) but note the dates; not as reported last month!

You should have received an envelope inside your copy of *The Chronicle* on behalf of Christian Aid Week (14-20 May). We hope you will support their causes.

On 19 May, the Historical Society host a quiz. You'll need tickets, so see page 17.

There is a Jumble Trail round the town on 20 May, again organised by the Preschool. Many of the town clubs will be involved but fuller details will be found on page 24 including where to locate maps.

Returning to the floral theme, the Garden Club has its Plant Fair with sales at the Town Hall on 20 May. Cricklade Bloomers and the Bowls Club will also be holding plant sales on the day.

The Bowls Club will be open on 27 May for the Big Bowls Day in support of Bowls England. And, yes, they will be selling plants again as well as welcoming visitors!

There's so much going on that *The Diary* has overflowed! I've had to move it to page 42 and continue it onto 43. The more the merrier ...



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The deadline for the June issue is Monday 1 May 2023

Community contacts all 01793 unless stated or emergency

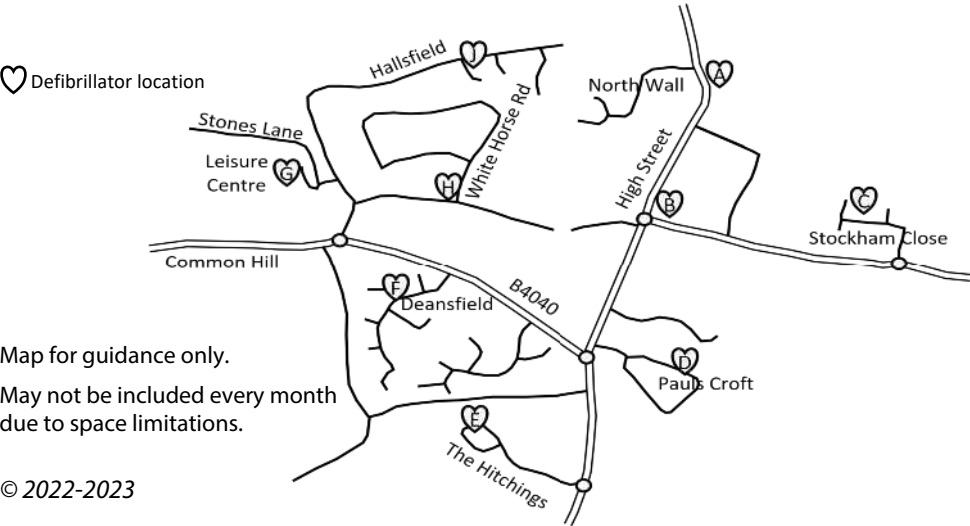
This section is intended to give quick access to emergency and community help phone numbers. If you spot something missing, please let us know: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com or 01793 759123.

Churches	see centre pages	Dentist (104 High St)	750388
Cricklade Town Council	751394	Gas leak reporting	0800 111 999
Latton P/Council ...	clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk	Library (113 High St)	750694
Wilts Councillor (Bob Jones)...	07973 863702	Link Scheme transport	07421 018 499
Wiltshire Council hub	0300 456 0100	Open Door	07599 987851
Emergency Services	999	Optician (82 High St)	750415
Non-Emergency: Police	101	Purton Vets (Bath Rd)	751698
Non-Emergency: NHS	111	Household Recycling Centre	778205
Doctors: Purton Surgery	770207	Samaritans	FREE: 116 123
Green Gables Surgery	752633	Schools: St Sampson's Primary	750452
Cricklade (De Silva)	750645	Cricklade Manor Prep	750275
Boots Chemist (100 High St)	750226	Bradon Forest	770570

Defibrillator Locations - Public machines outside these premises:

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

- A. former 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 ///enabling.gymnasium.records
- 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



Focus on Wiltshire Council

With the budget set for another year and increases in Council Tax across the board, life will be a little harder for all of our residents with increased costs and decreased services.

Some of the debates at Wiltshire Council committees recently have been about Central Government introducing a number of changes to legislation that will affect Wiltshire and, in particular, the cost of implementing Government policy without any extra financial support.

The Boundary Commission is reviewing the size of Parliamentary Constituencies. Not many years ago Cricklade was part of North Swindon and the changes to the size of Swindon made the area too big and we were moved to North Wilts where we are today.

Now the increased size of North Wilts and Swindon will require another change where Cricklade, Purton, Malmesbury and the surrounding villages will join Cirencester in a new South Cotswold Constituency. This is fraught with difficulty with a new MP and Constituency crossing county boundaries, but we will remain in Wiltshire as part of Wiltshire Council. The consultation has now closed so we will await the outcome.

Close to the same subject all voters will require Photo ID in all elections from October 2023. Most common IDs such as passport, driving licence, blue Badge will be accepted but I worry about some of our most vulnerable residents who may not have these. If you can help them, please go to electoralcommission.org.uk to see how to obtain a suitable ID document.

Another piece of legislation concerning antisocial behaviour: fly tipping and especially graffiti have been on the increase in and around Cricklade. The fixed penalty will shortly be raised to £1000 and, given the increase in graffiti in particular, please spread the word especially to some of our younger residents of the consequences of such actions.

New legislation around waste collection will lead to further segregation of household waste. There will be collection by Wiltshire Council of food waste weekly. Introduction to this service to every household in Wiltshire will be very costly and another burden on your Council Tax.

I sit on the Environmental Select Committee where all of this legislation and, in particular, its impact on residents of Wiltshire is debated. Often we have little control over the legislation sent down from Government except to negotiate the cost implications of its implementation.

There remain many concerns from Housing Association residents about poor maintenance and repairs. Central Government has a campaign at present to make residents aware of their rights and the procedure to complain in the first instance to the housing Association and if you are not satisfied, how to complain to the Ombudsman.

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 or available by phone to arrange a meeting. I can be contacted on my mobile 07973 863 702 or email me at bob.jones@wiltshire.gov.uk

Bob Jones, Wiltshire Councillor

Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Tuesday 9 May: Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee

Monday 15 May: Community & Leisure Committee

Monday 22 May: Annual Meeting of the Council

Tuesday 30 May: Premises & Finance Committee

All meetings, commencing at 7pm, are held in the Council Chamber, 113 High Street. Members of the public are welcome and have an opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of each meeting.



CRICKLADE CIVIC AWARDS

At the Annual Town meeting on 18 April, Cricklade Town Council presented the following Civic Awards.

Young Person of the Year

Unfortunately, there were no nominations this year

Community Group of the Year

Cricklade & District Community Association (C&CDA)

C&DCA are the group (now a registered charity) that saved Cricklade Leisure Centre from closure in 2007 and have run it ever since. The volunteer trustees and their staff have exercised their duties with a combination of imagination and financial prudence to maintain the facility for all residents. C&DCA have demonstrated voluntary community work at its best.

The Cricklade Community Award: Rob Aylward

Rob has been the chairman of Cricklade Youth Football Club for the past four years and under his leadership the club has grown to a membership of 130 local children. He puts his heart and soul into running the club, going above and beyond on numerous occasions. There were nine supporting statements from various managers and parents. These statements included phrases like: he's an inspiration, he has unwavering commitment to the club, Rob is CYFC through and through, he is dedicated, and his commitment to giving the children the opportunity to meet up, have fun and make friends whilst learning to play football.

Well done to all those who were nominated. Look out for details later in the year for the 2024 awards and keep nominating our residents for all the hard work they do.

Cricklade in Bloom

Coming to Cricklade soon! Look out on Facebook and our website for more details. As some gardens are not visible from the roadside, if you specifically would like your garden to be judged this year then please call 01793 751394 or email admin@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk.

CORONATION EVENTS



Cricklade Town Council is running 2 competitions. The first will be for the best decorated house and best decorated business on a Coronation theme – the judges will be out and about in Cricklade during the week beforehand.

Saturday 6 May: enjoy the day with your families and watch the events on TV.

Sunday 7 May: Come along to the **Coronation Party in the Park** organised by Cricklade Court Leet and Cricklade Band. Bring a chair and your own picnic/drinks any time after 4pm. Music by the Band from 5pm and the day concludes with lighting of the Beacon and a loyal toast to His Majesty.

Children are invited to come along wearing a crown – there will be prizes for the most imaginative crown for children aged 7 and under, or 8 and over. Just turn up to be judged; this is the second competition being sponsored by Cricklade Town Council over the weekend. Dress up for the occasion and bring a flag to wave! Judging at 4.30pm

Monday 8 May – Cricklade Court Leet and the Historical Society bring you **the Beating of the Bounds**.

A gentle 3 to 4-mile walk along part of the parish boundary. Come along and find out more about this ancient tradition. It is an easy walk but across open country and so stout footwear is recommended.

Meet at 1.50pm by Cricklade Museum on Calcutt Street. Refreshments will be available afterwards when back at the Museum.

The Town Council and Tourist Information Point is open:

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

Closed on Public Holidays

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Coronation Mugs

As part of the Celebrations for the Coronation of King Charles III, Cricklade Court Leet are presenting all children aged up to 11 who live in Cricklade with a commemorative mug.

Those children attending St Sampson's School and both the Playgroups will be given their mugs beforehand, so you need to take no action.

However, any parent of a child who is not covered by these arrangements as they attend different schools outside of Cricklade is asked to email steward@crickladecourtleet.org.uk as soon as possible giving the child's name, age, address, and the school they attend so we can reserve a mug for you.

You will then be asked to call at the Town Council office on Monday 8 May between 10 and 12 to receive their commemorative mugs. The office will be open specifically for this purpose.

Christian Aid Week: 14 - 20 May 2023

PLEASE HELP US!

We believe in Life before Death



For more than 77 years (since 1945), Christian Aid has provided humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights. The charity was founded by British and Irish churches to help refugees in the wake of the Second World War. Here, in Cricklade and Latton we have been involved in supporting this work throughout that time.

Christian Aid aims

- to expose poverty throughout the world
- to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

Please can you help us? A gift envelope has been enclosed with this issue (May) of *The Chronicle*. Please could you make a donation and post your envelope through the letterbox of one of the following collection points. There should be a collection point within a few minutes' walk of your home:

CRICKLADE

32 Calcutt Street	8 Manor Orchard	2 Frays Garden, Bath Road
"Southview" Abingdon Court Lane		Courtyard Cottage, Horse Fair Lane
21 High Street	83 High Street	3 North Wall
7 Reeds	1 Pleydells	1 Foxlease
57 Pauls Croft	16 Waylands	19 Byre Close
73 The Fiddle	21 Saxon Close	6 Matildas Piece
39 Pittsfield	85 Pittsfield	98 Deansfield

LATTON

5 Collett Place	Churchfield House, Upcott	6 Limes Place
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COLLECTION BUCKETS will be in:

St Sampson's Church	The United Church	St Sampson's Primary School
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Christian Aid Volunteers will be collecting in the High Street on the morning of Saturday 13 May.

Friday 12 May - Coffee morning at the United Church Hall, Calcutt Street 10 - 11.30am with Fairtrade stall.

Followed by Christian Aid Lunch - 12 noon to 1.30pm. Tickets at £5 available from the Christian Aid team or by phoning 751020.

Thank you for your generous support over previous years. Any help you can give us this year will be gratefully appreciated

Churches Together & the Christian Aid Team

Cricklade Development Foundation

Old Police Station



Cricklade
Development
Foundation

Works are continuing to progress at the Old Police Station. We appreciate this is not immediately apparent from the front of the building, which looks much the same as always.

But at the rear, it's all change. An extension has been built and works have started on turning the storage area into a toilet block. This is thanks to grant awards of £10,000 from The Hills Group and £25,000 from Crapper & Sons Aggregates. These grants have been made available through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) which is administered for Hills and Crappers by Community First - Wiltshire, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire.

A fuller update of our renovation progress was provided at our recent AGM, when David Tetlow and Tim Norman were re-elected as directors. If you want to learn more about the AGM and CDF, please go to our website, www.crickladefoundation.org.uk

As always, plugging the funding gap remains the top priority for CDF. If you can help us by becoming a Member and/or referring us to potential sources of grant funding, we would love to hear from you – thank you! Please get in touch by emailing us (contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk) or phoning our Secretary, Terri Robertson, 07902 421 756.

Cricklade Historical Society

Wednesday 17 May: Local War Graves – Speaker, Larry Banda.

To be held in the Town Hall Annexe. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Friday 19 May: Annual General Knowledge Quiz Night (with Supper)

To be held in the Town Hall – Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start.

Ticket Price £12.50 – includes a light supper and one free drink.

Bar available, non members welcome.

Tickets available online at www.cricklademuseum.co.uk

or from Tracy Threlfall on 01793 250352 or tracy@cricklademuseum.co.uk

Cricklade & District Probus Club

We are looking forward to our coming group meetings when the following will take place:

4 May: Annual General Meeting

18 May: A talk entitled 'Of Crowns and Coronations'

The meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday at 10am at the White Hart Hotel in Cricklade. Ours is a friendly group who enjoy keeping our 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 please contact the Honorary Secretary, Richard Roberts on 01793 751063.



Cricklade 70 Years Ago

Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation.



The organisation of the local celebrations for Queen Elizabeth II's Coronation on Tuesday, June 2nd 1953, was the responsibility of Cricklade Parish* Council, with various ideas being considered in advance. One which materialised, was a fund-raising plan to lay a mile of pennies along the High Street pavement kerbs, so residents had to be careful not to dislodge them whenever they left their houses! [**The Parish Council was renamed Town Council in 1974. Ed.*]

In the event the ambitious schedule consisted of:

- a united service at St. Sampson's Church,
- judging of the best decorated private house or business premises,
- bell ringing,
- a museum display of a William the Conqueror silver penny minted in Cricklade,
- children's sports at Hall Close,
- free teas for children under fifteen at the Town Hall with the presentation of souvenir mugs,
- free concert given by the boys of Prior Park School,
- dancing in the High Street to the Town Band,
- bonfire on Calcutt Forty with fireworks and a torchlight procession back to town,
- and finally a Grand Dance in the Town Hall to the 'Blue Star Orchestra'.

The following day a free tea was provided for all persons over 65 at Prior Park School. Most people's memories, however, revolve around the transmission of the event from London live on their new television sets bought specially for the occasion. Families and neighbours crowded into each other's homes to watch the tiny black and white nine-inch screens, often for the first time.

From Cricklade Revealed Part 9

There are still several single Cricklade Revealed books available at £3 each, covering the war years and the 1950s/1960s. For further details please contact me on 01793 750542 or email mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com

Marion Parsons

1953 Coronation memories from Enid Gassor (1908 - 1997)

Enid Gassor, whose description below of Coronation Day in London is taken from her account published in the Town Council's souvenir booklet (1952), was born in Cricklade into a well-known family of local builders, the Littles, who lived in Abingdon Court Lane. In 1953 she worked at the Post Office Exchange in Swindon and, on 29 January, a circular arrived there inviting employees to apply to a ballot for one of seven thousand seats available on uncovered stands in The Mall to watch the Coronation procession. Enid applied but was disappointed not get a ticket until, unexpectedly, an offer came of two unwanted seats. With her friend Kathleen Vickers from Cricklade Post Office happy to join her, they excitedly planned their big outing, with friends offering various advice such as, 'take smelling salts, a little drop of brandy, plenty to eat and drink, wear old shoes and take old newspapers to sit on.'

Enid recalled, "On the Coronation Eve we travelled from Swindon Town railway station to

Surbiton where friends, who had offered us a bed for the night, met us. On Coronation Day, we left at 4am for Wimbledon station. The weather forecast was poor – drizzle increasing to heavy rain here, and crowds getting denser as we approached the heart of the city. From Victoria Station we walked to St James' Park, where baskets of red geraniums each in the shape of a crown hung from stands. Finding our seats, we settled down among the crowd to eat our sandwiches, and drink our tea from a red, white and blue Thermos flask.

"The scene in The Mall was of four tremendous gilded arches with the lion, the unicorn and the crown suspended from them, panels of pink and red embroidered 'E R', and ornamented pillars at frequent intervals. The whole Mall was lined with guards in their bearskins and red coats, just like a picture book! A nearby child asked, 'What is the Queen doing now, Mum?' 'Having a cup of tea.' 'Does she drink tea like her subjects, or is she in the parlour eating bread and honey?' Australians were guarding us. There were cheers for the sun, people singing 'It ain't gonna rain no more', Ikley Moor bar t'at', 'Tipperary' and Welsh airs. Then suddenly there was a great cheer. 'Everest is conquered!!'

"The procession from the palace came in stages. Queen Saloti of Tonga captivated us. With the crown prince and her daughter-in-law they rode in an open carriage heedless of the rain. She wore red feathers but no crown. The crowds were very quiet and orderly at this point, but then there were tumultuous cheers when the golden state coach carrying the soon-to-be crowned Queen appeared – a breathtaking sight! As the deafening cheers subsided after she had passed, I felt a tide of great loyalty to my nation. What must it be like in the Abbey where bishops, kings, queens, envoys and plenipotentiaries from all over the world are assembled? I wondered. 'Am I really awake, or is this a colourful dream?' We saw the Queen Mother and Princess Margaret passing, Princess Alexandra, who at sixteen will be a beautiful woman, Winston and Lady Churchill obviously enjoying the occasion to the full. We were awed by the splendour of the whole occasion, and I thought, 'Thank God for his good gift of sight. I have been very privileged to have witnessed this scene on June 2nd 1953.'

Cricklade Town Hall

Your Community Hall

Book your event at Cricklade Town Hall. Birthdays, anniversaries, wedding celebrations, children's parties, quiz nights, club meetings, etc. - we have done them all! The Town Hall offers flexible space with tables, padded chairs, excellent kitchen facilities and free WiFi.

We offer a choice of one or more of the Main Hall, the Annexe, and a Committee Room, to meet your particular requirements. The Main Hall toilets and foyer area have been recently refurbished to a high standard, making our facilities eminently suitable for that special event you might be planning.

Please contact our Bookings Secretary, Mrs Nicola Fry on 01666 861023 (before 9pm please) or via email at crickladetownhall@hotmail.com for further details. Check out our Facebook page for photos and other information: www.facebook.com/crickladetownhall

The Town Hall was established on 11 July 1933 for the Parish of Cricklade and is a Registered Charity, No. 305499



50 Shades of Green

Adventures of a Wannabee Eco Warrior

I was Chair at a Cricklade Climate Action Network meeting recently, in my role as Vice-Chair (of course I'm Vice, we also have a Deputy Chair to spread the load) and I'm not sure it really showed off my skillset. Apart from laughing at our lovely Secretary's typos (just rude of me really) this is how a typical conversation went:

AB: I've been collecting eggshells for some time now...

TG: Don't tell me you can make wine with them?

AB: No, I keep them in empty soup pots and...

TG: You steep them in alcohol to extract the calcium?

AB: ...and I crush them up using another pot, it's such a satisfying crunch, and then I...

TG: You use them as finings for wine or beer!?

AB: ...no, I've got quite a lot of them now...

TG: I don't see what use they are then...

AB: ...and it seems such a waste to just throw them away.

KR: You can put them round plants to keep off the slugs.

TG: I suppose it saves wasting good beer...

MB: I think you can add them to compost to add calcium...

TG: This is sounding like a gardening question to me. I'll refer you to the Bloomers on that AB.

It turns out they are really useful and can be ground up to provide a calcium supplement for your plants, or more excitingly, you can add vinegar and ethyl alcohol to create a combustible gel!

We also discussed battery recycling - Cricklade CAN (the original crew) have done a great job for 10 or so years collecting batteries from Cricklade residents, recycling above the national average. Times have moved on though, and household batteries can now be put out with our recycling bins – in a sealed bag on top on the bin lid. The battery collection buckets in various locations around town will remain for the time being, along with the low energy lightbulb (compact fluorescent lamps) box in the Town Council Office (no, I didn't know either - we do now).

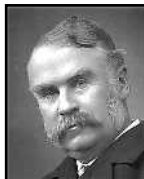
Finally we talked about the need for a social media / marketing person in the group to help us connect with people. If you would be interested in joining us to help with Facebook and other communications please let us know by emailing trizagreen@icloud.com

Our next meeting will focus on planning a Library of Things for Cricklade (we're still hoping someone will come up with a better name) and I'm going to discuss what I can use all my potato peelings for – I have a good feeling about those!

St Sampson's Church Appeal

We continue with our full events calendar for 2023. Look out for the posters!

Thank you to Cricklade Band who provided a most wonderful and entertaining evening on 1 April with songs from the movies. The evening went with a swing! Thank you, Paul Hewer and the band, and Clive Smith who was compère for the night.



W.S. Gilbert

Advance Notice Events at St Sampson's Church Friday 16 June

Swindon Gilbert & Sullivan Society Concert
Extracts from Gilbert and Sullivan operettas



Sir Arthur Sullivan

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the 19 March 2023 draw was:

Sharon Smith who won £31.00

St Sampson's Church Appeal benefitted by £31.00

It would be great to get 100 members in 2023! Contact Sharon Smith tel. 751375
sharonjsmith54@hotmail.com

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. For further details please contact Adina at janda.grace447@outlook.com or 01793 750138.

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



Wayland Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present

At their next meeting on 7 June 2023, the Trustees to Wayland Estates Charity will consider grant applications from organisations and groups towards any project or activity which has commenced or is about to commence. Any project seeking a grant must be for the general benefit of the people of Cricklade and the local area.

Application forms are available from the Clerk: John Harman

Tel: 07962 116 526 jharman@btopenworld.com



APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE 1 MAY 2023

Wayland Estates Charity is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 31 March 1976 as amended by resolutions dated 8 July 2009 and 5 February 2020. Copies of the Charity's annual report and investment policy can be obtained from the Clerk.

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 tel: 01793 752718

Associate Vicar: Revd Shirley Danby

email: shirleydanby21@gmail.com; tel. 07980 548844

Parishes Administrator: Jane Eyles

email: admin@upperthames.org.uk tel: 01793 979304

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

7 May

Easter 5

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

14 May

Easter 6

- 9am Holy Communion (Said) *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Churches Together Christian Aid Service *at Cricklade United Church*

18 May

Ascension Day (Thursday)

- 8.45am Ascension Day Communion *at St Sampson's*

21 May

Easter 7

- 8am Holy Communion followed by breakfast *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Morning Worship *at Holy Cross*
- 6pm Evensong *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

28 May

Pentecost

- 8.30am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 4pm Informal Worship *at St Sampson's*

Thursday morning prayers in St Sampson's:

8.30am for coffee & catch up, prayers from 8.45 and finish by 9.30am.
Everyone is welcome.

er in Cricklade & Latton

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

2 March Sue O'Brien, *Thanksgiving Service at St Sampson's
followed by Kingsdown Crematorium*

4 March John Stevenson, *Interment of Ashes at St John the Baptist Latton*

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>

Letter to the Editor

■ MRS MILLICENT COLLETT (1933-2023)

My Mother, Millie Collett of 79 Pittsfield, Cricklade passed away in GWH on 24 March 2023 and her funeral is at Kingsdown Crematorium on 28 April at 11.15am. She had lived in Cricklade for over 50 years.

We hope local friends and acquaintances may be able to attend her funeral.

Anyone wanting to make a donation to remember Millie's passing can do so to Swindon & District Open Door Centre or to the Dogs Trust, via
<https://millicentcollett.muchloved.com>

Brian Ockwell, for the family

Cricklade Preschool

We are doing a Coronation Trail in which people can buy a trail map for £2 and follow a trail round the town to find 25 letters to unscramble an anagram. This runs from **29 April to 8 May**. *(These are not the dates in the April Chronicle!)*



Win a prize of an locally sourced afternoon tea hamper.

Maps can be purchased from the Cricklade Preschool, Scissors and the Council Office.

We are running a Jumble trail on Saturday 20 May in Cricklade in which people can buy a table for £10 and sell whatever they like.

Maps will be sold on the day from the High Street, showing all the table spots. There will be refreshments at the Cricklade Preschool behind the fire station.

To book a table or for further information:

Amy on 07506 196 717 or Hayley: 07738 396 565

or email: fundraising.playgroupcricklade@btinternet.com

If you are interested in a place for your child, please feel free

to email us: playgroupcricklade@btinternet.com or call us on 01793 750817.

Cricklade Coronation Trail

Maps £2

Available from Scissors hair salon or Council Offices from 24th April

Follow the map to find the clues in windows around Cricklade

29th April - 8th May

Search for letters to unscramble a Royal phrase.

Return your completed map to preschool by 8th May to be in with a chance of winning an afternoon tea hamper

Find us behind the fire station:
The Old Library,
Bath Road,
Cricklade, SN6 6AT

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 30 March the lucky winners were:

First Prize:	Mr C. Head	£37.80
Second Prize:	Mrs P. Knight	£25.20
Jenner Hall Funds:		£63.00



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

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

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Contributions to The Chronicle are welcome for consideration on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are known or supplied (but may be withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this Magazine - especially with those recognisable in any photographs. Opinions expressed are solely those of the respective contributors.

Items for publication should be sent to the Editor, and advertisement details to the Advertising Contact, both no later than the 1st of the preceding month. Although articles and advertisements are accepted in good faith, The Chronicle cannot be held responsible for their accuracy, nor can it guarantee that they will be published. The Editor's decision is final.

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

May is a busy month for Cricklade Bloomers as we replace winter for summer in the planters around the town. On Wednesday 3 May we are stripping out the winter bedding at the walled garden and the following Wednesday (10th) and Saturday (13th) we plant up the baskets and troughs ready for distributing around the town later in May. Just turn up for a friendly welcome if you would like to help and find out what being a Cricklade Bloomer is like.



Would you like to try volunteering to support your local area for 'The Big Help Out' on Monday 8 May? If you do not have plans yet, why not help us to plant up Cricklade's lamppost baskets. This will take place behind the Council Offices from 10am to 12 midday. Please register your interest with Anita at anita@crickladeinbloom.co.uk

Along with other local groups and businesses, we are taking part in The Garden Club's Plant Fair on 20 May at the Town Hall between 9am and midday. There will be plenty of perennials, annuals and vegetables for sale. Otherwise, as usual, the cart outside the walled garden will be well stocked on Wednesdays and Saturdays with plants, homemade jams, marmalades and local honey.

Cricklade Camera Club

New members are always welcome - you don't even need a camera. Everyone is welcome. So if you are a budding novice or a more experienced photographer, why don't you try us out one evening for a guest fee of £5.00.



Our 2023/24 programme will appear on our website: crickladecameraclub.org. Contact the Club Secretary, Anne Eckersley, for further information: email clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org. We will continue to have many excellent speakers covering a wide range of topics.

2 May: Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm - Prints and PDI League Round 3
This is our final league round of the season.

16 May: Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm - Behind the Scenes with Alf Myers
Ever wondered what happens behind the scenes during the production of a film? Well, this talk gives a little insight into how a film comes together.

Alf says, "I had access during the whole process and I'll give you a little insight into that process; from the initial conception to casting, fundraising, filming and finally the premiere." Website www.alfmyersphotography.co.uk

6 June: at 7pm AGM and Annual Exhibition of Members Work
Tony Oliver ARPS CPAGB BPE5* will be presenting his selection from the best of members' work this evening. Come along and see the award winning images.

Cricklade Garden Club

Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall Annexe. Tea and cakes are served from 7pm. The speaker starts at 7.30.

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 9 May** when our speaker is Dominic Hamilton, the Garden Director of Painswick Rococo Garden. His talk is entitled "The History and Restoration of Painswick Rococo Garden."

This garden, the most perfect example of a rococo garden in the UK, was for many years a forgotten, neglected masterpiece which has been gradually brought back to life over the last 40 years. Dominic will tell us what rococo means and how this style has been interpreted and continues to evolve in this fascinating, quirky garden.

Remember, a special date for your diary: **20 May** - the Garden Club Plant Sale at the Town Hall, 9am to 12 noon.

For information about the club, upcoming events and trips please look at our excellent website www.crickladegardenclub.org.uk

Membership is £20 p.a. We are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies (www.gfgs.org.uk) and the RHS.

Visitors welcome at £3 a session - come and give us a try.

Queries to Anne 07717 695 022; Janet 07765 276 534; Bizzie 07876 347 973.

We look forward to seeing you!

Cricklade Open Gardens 2023

I am once again organising an Open Gardens Scheme in Cricklade. The date for this event will be the weekend of 1st and 2nd July.

I am looking for residents who are willing to open their gardens to the public during that weekend. You can do both days or just one if you prefer. The size of your garden does not matter as I am looking for both small and larger gardens to make it the success it has been over previous years.

If you have not opened your garden before or never even considered it, why not give it a go? It is great fun and you meet a lot of people who share your love of gardening.

We have raised significant amounts for local charitable causes and we hope to be able to continue that again this year. If you are able to help or want to discuss it before making a commitment, then please give me a call as soon as you can on 01793 759181 or alternatively email me at gloriaellen44@gmail.com.

Gloria Light

Bounce & Rhyme

Enjoy music and rhymes with your baby followed by tea and biscuits. All free!

1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month in term time: 1.45 to 2.45pm at Cricklade United Church hall, Calcutt Street.

Starts on Tuesday 7 March. Further details from 01793 751104.

CRICKLADE GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS
their annual

PLANT FAIR

SATURDAY 20th MAY
9:00 to 12:00

at

CRICKLADE TOWN HALL

**Huge selection of locally grown
plants supplied by Cricklade
Garden Club, Bloomers & Twigs**

**Local Eco-Businesses and Charity
stalls**

**Refreshments & home made
cakes**

Sing Four Four

The Choir has been pleased to welcome some new voices. We hope they will enjoy the experience and recommend it to their friends!

We rehearse every Thursday, during term time, in the United Church (Calcutt St) between 7.30 and 9.30pm. We have a very short interval break and finish promptly at 9.30.

So far this year we have three performances booked.

On Saturday 24 June we will be participating in the Brighter Futures fundraising event at Immanuel Church, Upham Rd, Swindon. We will be performing at 12 midday. It will be a great day, with a chance to listen to some of the other local choirs.

Our own Summer Concert is booked for Sunday 2 July at 3pm in St Sampson's Church. The concert will be followed by refreshments.

To round off the year, our Christmas Concert will also be held in St Sampson's Church at 3pm on Sunday 3 December. Again, we will provide refreshments after the performance. Please put these dates in your diary.

Exciting times ahead! If you'd like to join us, you can find more information on our website. Please use our contact form that can be found on the website : www.singfourfour.org.uk or you can email the musical director, Jen Bamford, at: jenloubamford@googlemail.com

Cricklade Computer Club

As a result of a combination of illness and holidays we haven't been able to run the Computer club as regularly as we would like.

Hopefully from now on at least one of us will be at the Leisure Centre on Monday mornings between 10am and 12 noon and that we will be able to help you with problems you may be having with your PC, Tablet, Phone etc.

Remember we are both volunteers and there is no charge for any help we are able to provide. Please accept our apologies if you turned up on the rare occasions neither of us was available.

Roger and Terry

Cricklade Jenner Hall ...

... continues to be At The Heart Of Cricklade for over 300 years.

The Jenner Hall continues to be a popular place for family events and smaller wedding receptions.

Our Trustees aim to make the Hall attractive to all age groups and any suggestions would be welcomed.

If you would like to know more about the Hall or check booking availability, please visit our website - crickladejennerhall.com.

If you would like to book the Jenner Hall for a party or celebration, please contact our booking email address at jennerhall.bookings@gmail.com or call on 07823 324 821.

Richard Hickman, Chairman, Cricklade Jenner Hall Community Trust



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Foodbank

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



The Foodbank is busier than ever, with a sharply rising number of clients.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling to feed either themselves or their families, you can contact us on any of the addresses below:

call – 01666 826982 (we will call you back)

Email: cricklade@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Visit the website: malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

We prefer clients to have a voucher, but we will not turn away anyone in genuine need. If you possibly can, please make sure you have a voucher before coming to the Foodbank. This really helps us to help you. With limited storage in Cricklade and increasing numbers, we are having to make extra journeys to the warehouse in Malmesbury first thing on a Friday morning to cover the clients we know are coming. If you come without a voucher, we may not have enough food left for you to receive a balanced supply of food.

We rely very heavily on your donations. These are vital if we are going to offer our clients the right amount of balanced food.

Donation boxes are situated in Tesco, Culverhay Stores and Animal Fayre (pet shop). All the local churches host boxes. Please check the churches' opening times.

Alternatively, you may like to make a financial donation. We can then purchase the items needed. There is a 'donate' button on the top of the 'Donate Food' page on the Malmesbury & District Foodbank website.

Another way is the 'BanktheFood' App, which gives up to date Foodbank needs.

Unfortunately, our list of needs is increasing and the following are in short supply:

- Long life fruit juice ****urgent****
- UHT milk **** urgent****
- Tinned potatoes
- Tinned vegetables
- Cold tinned meat
- Tinned meat pies
- Pasta sauce
- Rice puddings
- Jam
- Washing up liquid
- Puddings

Thank you, we have enough: Baby wipes; Shower gel; Cleaning products.

Bingo 4 Us

Bingo4Us is a small non-profit group who meet at the Jenner Hall, Cricklade on Wednesday afternoons at 1.30 and it is 'EYES DOWN' at 2 pm. We are keen to have more members from the local area, including Purton, who will be made very welcome.

There is no joining fee, just a fee of £1 per session to cover prizes.

There are no forms to complete, so just come along on the day. For venue details and any questions please give Vicky a call on 07801 952 027.

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade

Why not come and give pétanque a try? We're a friendly club and you can just turn up at one of our regular sessions at Cricklade Leisure Centre where we can lend you some boules if necessary.

We play at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and 10am on Saturday mornings but please arrive 10 minutes before the start time. Each session consists of three games with a break in between for a cuppa and a chat. We have recently re-started our Wednesday evening sessions from 7-9pm, usually with a visit to the Leisure Centre bar afterwards. Please note that our training sessions have changed slightly and are now the first and third Wednesday morning of the month.

Several club members just come and play socially but those who enjoy a bit of a challenge are competing in a singles ladder and, by the time you read this, we will have just held our 'three-ender' competition. Cotswold Pétanque League matches against other local teams will be starting soon and will run throughout the summer months.

If you'd like to find out more about Saxons Pétanque Club please come and say hello, take a look at our notice board inside the Leisure Centre, or visit our website at saxonspetanque.co.uk.

Cricklade Pétanque Club

At the Cricklade House Hotel, SN6 6HA

We are a friendly, accessible club based at Cricklade House Hotel and are always happy to welcome new members.

Pétanque is good fun and a great way to meet people.

Our playing days are:

Mon	2 to 4.30pm	Wed	2 to 4.30pm
Tues	7- 9.30pm	Sat	10am -12.30pm

We offer coaching sessions from a fully qualified Pétanque England coach.

Our Coaching days are:

Wed	10 to 11.30am Ladies	Fri	10 to 11.30am Mixed
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League and Club competitions are held throughout the year. The Club recently sent 5 out of 19 pairs to the GWR International Women's Day tournament. Congratulations to Club members Sue McKechnie and Tracey Fricker who were tournament winners.

For more information please go to our website www.crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk

Find us on Facebook by searching Cricklade Petanque Club on Facebook.

Cricklade Library

The Library is above the Town Council Office at 113 High Street. The entrance is through the gateway and there is a lift as well as stairs to the library level.

Current opening hours are: *(Closed Bank Holidays)*

Mon:	2-4pm	Wed:	2-4pm	Fri:	2-5pm	Sun:	Closed
Tues:	10am-1pm	Thurs:	2-7pm	Sat	10am-1pm		

Cricklade Rugby Football Club would like to thank the following Raffle Prize Donors 2023 and all the people in Cricklade who supported us and bought raffle tickets:

Animal Fayre	Cricklade Leisure Centre	Olly Pawley
Barista	Cricklade Stores	Painted Furniture Company
Bath Rugby Club	DTM	Plough Inn
Boots	Geomove Activewear	Red Lion
C&R Grocers	Gloucester Rugby Club	Scissors
Castle Combe	Harbour Fish & Chips	Spencer Sheridan
C.B. Slade	Harold James	Sun Inn
Chutney	Jigsaw	Tesco
Cricklade Club	Kavali	The Vale
Cricklade Dental Practice	Liberty Sports Therapy	Travis Perkins
Cricklade Kebab House	Old Bear	White Hart

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 from age 6 are always welcome:

Juniors	Under 10-12	Friday 5.30 to 6.45pm
	Under 13s and 14s	Friday 7 to 8.15pm
Minis	Under 6s through to Under 9s	Saturday 11 to 12 noon

Please contact our Director of Minis, Seth Wareing, sethwareing@hotmail.com or phone 07305 059 879. We would also welcome any parents who want to get involved and support the Minis, so if you are interested please contact Seth.

Cricklade Climate Action Network – Cricklade CAN!

Are you interested in helping our community? Are you a bit of a 'greenie' and want to make a difference by helping Cricklade folk understand more about climate change and how to lead a more sustainable lifestyle?

We are looking for someone with social media, PR and/or marketing skills to support our small but growing network. If you have a couple of hours to spare each month to help us develop and manage our on-line presence, write occasional news items and help develop display materials, we'd love to hear from you!

If you think you can help us, please email TrizaGreen@icloud.com

Parkinson's UK

At The Cricklade Club, High Street, SN6 6AY
10.30am - noon

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.

Join us for coffee, cake and chat on 3rd Wednesday each month: 17 May; 21 Jun; 19 Jul. We meet in The Living Room, turn right and follow the sign from the Foyer. contact: parkinsonscafecricklade@gmail.com or call 07951 944 760.

Cricklade Bowls Club

The Club is happy to thank the Royal Wootton Bassett & Cricklade Area Board for a grant of £4,750 towards the cost of fitting up our new storage cabin. We now have a weatherproof unit but need to fix it with electrics and move the electrical connections for the green watering pump into that drier and safer environment.



After a horribly wet March, we have now been able to start our 2023 season.

We will be joining the Jumble Trail again this year on 20 May between 10am and 4pm. We will be selling a selection of plants, herbs and grasses. We also have a range of blue garden pots in several sizes and some garden ornaments. There will be a raffle for a lovely hanging basket.



Refreshments will be available and a chance have a go at bowls as well.

If you can't make this and would like to have a go at bowls come along to our Big Bowls Day on Saturday 27 May, 10-4pm. We have everything you require to play. All you need is a pair of flat soled shoes or trainers. Refreshments will be available. We will have another plant sale during the day's events.

You will find us in Bath Road opposite St Sampson's school. Cricklade Bowls Club is on the web (crickladebowlsclub.co.uk) and we're on Facebook too.

For more information please contact:

Roy Phillips (Secretary) roy2308@btinternet.com

Paul Coleman (Men's Captain) colemanpaul1@hotmail.com

Adina Grace (Ladies' Captain) janda.grace447@outlook.com

Pictured above: Ducks taking advantage of our waterlogged green at the end of March (photo: Clive Heard)

Cricklade W.I.

Cricklade WI are always delighted to welcome new members. We meet every third Thursday of the month (except July and December) at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Annexe so do come along and join us. We have a variety of events and outings available through the Wiltshire WI and organised within our own group. We have a guest speaker at most of our meetings but April saw us enjoying a quiz among our members.



Looking forward to our May meeting, we are delighted to welcome Wendy Hubbard. Wendy is a retired NHS physiotherapist who will be giving us tips on how to keep fit and active as we get less young!

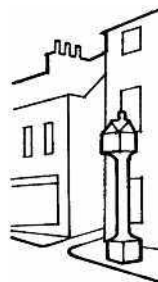
Come and find out more - your first three meetings are free. If you would like more information please contact our Secretary, Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or by email at vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com

The Chronicle Diary – May 2023

- 1 M Early May Bank Holiday
Final date for Grant Submissions to Waylands Estate Charity
29 Apr to 8 May: Cricklade Preschool Coronation Trail
end of day Chronicle copy deadline
- 2 Tu 7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 4 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 6 Sa **Coronation of King Charles III**
- 7 Su from 4pm **Coronation Concert and Picnic in the Park**, Waylands
- 8 M **Coronation Bank Holiday and Community Help Day**
10am *to 12 noon*: Children's Coronation Mug collection, Council Office
1.50pm Beating the Bounds Walk, from Museum, Calcutt Street
- 9 Tu 7pm Town Council Planning etc Committee, Council Chamber
7pm *speaker 7.30pm*: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 14 Su *to Sat 20th*: **Christian Aid Week**
- 15 M 7pm Town Council Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber
- 16 Tu 7.30pm Camera Club Zoom meeting
- 17 W 10.30am *to noon*: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Club, High Street
7pm *for 7.30pm start*: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
- 18 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 19 F 7pm Historical Society Quiz Night at Town Hall, tickets see p27
- 20 Sa Cricklade Preschool Jumble Trail
9am *to 12 noon*: Garden Club plant sale at Town Hall
- 22 M 7pm Annual Meeting of the Town Council, Council Chamber
- 27 Sa 10am *to 4pm*: Big Bowls Weekend, Bath Road, opp. St Sampson's School
- 29 M Spring Bank Holiday
to 2 June: School Holiday, Wiltshire (others may differ)
- 30 Tu 7pm Town Council Premises & Finance Committee, Council Chamber

Every Week

- M 10am-3.30pm Open Door at Jenner Hall
10am-noon Computer Club at Leisure Centre
- Tu 10am-3.30pm Open Door at Jenner Hall
- W 1.30 for 2pm Bingo4Us at Jenner Hall
- Th 10-11am Cricklade Credit Union: in Tourist Information Office
10am-3.30pm Open Door at Jenner Hall
1.30-4.30pm The Paint Palette: Ladies' Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
7pm Rugby Club training at Fairview Fields
7.30-9.30pm Sing Four Four choir rehearsal at United Church, Calcutt Street



F	10-11.30am	Cricklade Foodbank at Jenner Hall
	10-11.30am	Coffee Cafe at Cricklade United Church Hall
	7pm	St Sampson's church choir rehearsal
Sa	10am-noon	Cricklade Museum open, Calcutt Street

Moon Phases - May 2023

5th ○ 12th ● 19th ● 27th ●

Cricklade Open Door

April passed with several special events, all enjoyed very much by members and volunteers, as well as our usual weekly activities.

As we have all celebrated Easter, it was only fitting that Open Door had an Easter theme on many days, which included making lovely, floral arrangements with Chris, Anne, Jean and Meris on hand to help on Tuesday 4 April and Hot Cross Buns were enjoyed at all three sessions that week. The Easter Cream Tea with a big, Easter raffle was held on Tuesday 11 April, when we catered for over 40 members.



The following day, 25 members had a lunch out at The Thameshead Inn, where we have been before and Ben and his team look after us very well. A lovely pub, not too far away, not too fancy or pricey, if you're looking for somewhere for an excellent lunch and good walks nearby - I'm honestly not affiliated to TripAdvisor!

We had an invitation from Pam D, to visit Cricklade Museum, which we did on Tuesday 18 April. Thank you for opening up for us and providing refreshments; it was a very interesting afternoon. Hopefully, folks reading this article can see the wide variety of activities on offer at Open Door and if you would like to meet new people, make friends, do come along. We also just sit and chat and have a laugh in the Jenner Hall; there is something to suit everyone.

Forwards to May, we will celebrate the Coronation with a Coronation Tea Party on Thursday 4 May. Monday 15 May will be a fun morning, something quite different - Jon Seagrave, alias Jonny Fluffypunk will be with us to entertain with his brilliantly funny poems, brought to us through the Wiltshire Music Centre's, 'Celebrating Age' project. Laughter all around on that morning!

On Saturday 20 May we will join in with Cricklade Preschool's Jumble Trail, hoping for fine weather! We raised a good amount of money for Open Door last year, so hope to do the same this year. Our goods will be at 39 Pittsfield, so do pop along and support Cricklade Open Door and Cricklade Preschool.

A date for your diaries, way ahead - Saturday 15 July, 10am to 12 noon at the Jenner Hall, we will be holding a Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale, with excellent goods for sale and our top baker Chris's cakes and scones to enjoy with coffee or take home.

If you would like more information, please ring 07599 987 851.

Or call in to the Jenner Hall, Bath Road on Mon, Tues or Thurs between 10am and 3.30pm

With all the bank holidays coming up, we will be shut on Mondays 1st, 8th and 29th May.

The Final Word ...

"The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy" ...

So wrote the hymn writer Bryn Rees in one of his more often sung hymns. And what could have inspired him to do that? Perhaps he looked around him and saw a world fractured by war, people living in poverty and worrying about the cost of living, some even going hungry, an unfair distribution of the world's wealth, lack of fair access to education, health care and other benefits.

All sounding very familiar? Yes - and these are the problems which Christian Aid is seeking to address through their work in the most poverty stricken areas of the world. They are trying to bring the Kingdom of God just a little closer.

This year, Christian Aid is focusing on Malawi where soaring costs of food and essentials plus devastating droughts, floods and storms resulting from climate change are causing families to struggle to survive. They have to make very hard decisions between buying food, paying school fees or purchasing fertiliser for their crops. There is no-one to help them - Christian Aid tries to do this by recognising the injustice of their situation and working with them to improve their lives.

We can help too. A Christian Aid envelope is included with this issue of *The Chronicle* - please give a donation and take it to a collection point. See details on page 6 for locations. In this way we too can do something to bring a greater degree of Justice to the lives of people who have so little.

Where then the Joy? The joy of giving something to help others. The joy of giving some hope to people with so little. Surely no one should be expected to make a choice between feeding their children and sending them to school? The joy of making a contribution to a more just world.

*"The Kingdom of God is Justice and Joy"
We are United by Hope*

In a world of drought may seeds of hope
be drenched by waters of justice.

In a world of inequality may our hunger for justice
bring an end to the scandal of poverty.

In a world of danger where peace is in pieces,
may justice hold hands with love and create an unbreakable bond.

The Christian Aid Team

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01793 790210



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www.heritage-treecare.co.uk**