

Winter at North Meadow
picture © Bizzie White

THE CHRONICLE

✦ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 584

February 2024



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SUZUKI

From the Editor

Just as I was writing this, I heard of the sudden death of Councillor Bob Jones. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the community and I urge you to read his final Focus article on page 3.

It seems there has not been a dry day since Christmas and parts of the country have had their full January rainfall already by the 4th of the month. I obviously don't know what the rest of January and February will be like but the town is protected by its wonderful flood plain - North Meadow. Our cover picture this month from Bizzie White shows the meadow "doing its job" in a view across the River Churn which meets the Thames at Town Bridge.

The Court Leet manages the Meadow among other roles. They are seeking new court members - see page 6.

With all that has been going on we have been hard pressed to fit everything in this issue. But we have ... and if we have had to edit down your article, we hope you will understand.



What is there to look for this month? Well the St Sampson's Appeal Grand Draw will take place on the 4th at St Sampson's Church. There may still be time for you to buy a ticket at £1 - see page 18.

As we enter Lent, Churches Together are running a series of inspirational Lent Talks; more details on page 20.

Not every Club starts the year immediately, so check the Diary to see what is going on (p43). But Cricklade Cinema is up and running (p42) with their Spring Season.

And don't forget it's a Leap Year! 3.6% more February than usual. Do the math!

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The deadline for the March 2024 issue is Thursday 1 February 2024

Community contacts all 01793 unless stated or emergency

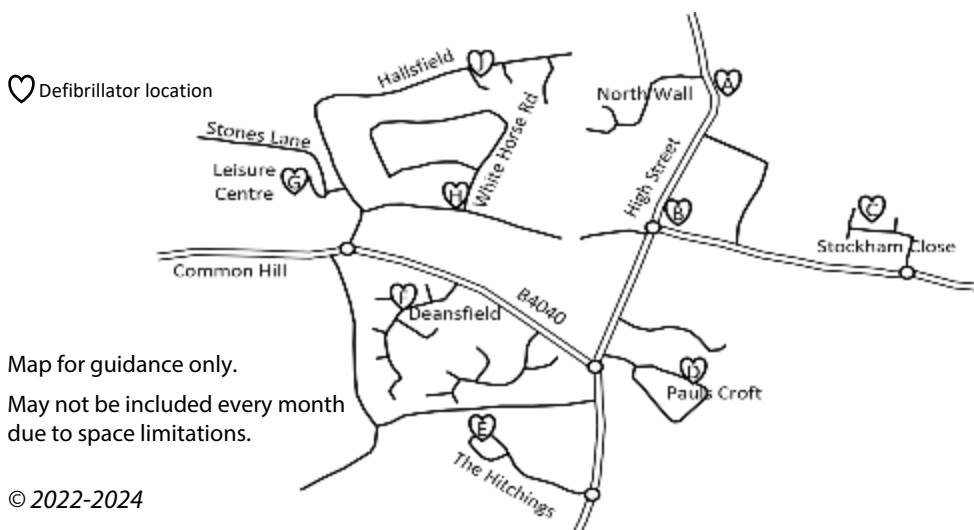
This section is intended to give quick access to emergency and community help phone numbers. If you spot something missing, please let us know: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com or 01793 759123.

Churches	see centre pages	Gas leak reporting	0800 111 999
Cricklade Town Council	751394	Library (113 High St)	750694
Latton P/Council ...clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk		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
Dentist (104 High St)	750388		

Defibrillator Locations - Public machines outside these premises:

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

- A. Meadowbridge 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



Map for guidance only.

May not be included every month due to space limitations.

Councillor Bob Jones

While preparing this issue of The Chronicle for print, we were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Bob Jones. He has worked tirelessly over many years on behalf of Cricklade and its surrounding area.

We felt it appropriate to include here his final entry for his "Focus on Wiltshire Council" series. It marks the measure of the many roles he played within the Council and as your Councillor. There are many other organisations in Cricklade that will have been created, assisted and promoted through his ceaseless work.

We hope to be able to publish a fuller obituary in a future issue.

We send our love and best wishes to Tina and family at this time.

Focus on Wiltshire Council

Given the reasonably long break for the Christmas period and the lack of formal business meetings at Wiltshire Council, I thought you may like to have some insight into the other responsibilities that I have as a Wiltshire Unitary Councillor. Whilst, always, my first call is to the residents of Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey, like almost all Councillors there are many other calls on our time.

I am Vice Chairman of the Environmental Select Committee (ESC) (12 members) which meets every second month. Any meeting which may concern finance is subject to the 1974 Local Government Act which means there has to be face to face meetings. The meeting lasts round 2-3 hours and the range of subjects is vast: the Committee is responsible for reviewing the work of the Departments for Transport, Environment & Leisure, Economic Development, Planning & Housing, Waste and Climate Issues. The preparation for the meeting includes briefs on any topic in advance, often taking in many topics over several meetings. Thankfully briefings can be online since Covid. ESC calls political representatives from all parties and Officers from the Departments to explain their actions. As the Vice Chairman, I am automatically a member of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee where the Chairmen and Vice Chairs from the other Select Committees (Environment, Children's, Health) meet every 2 months to review and scrutinise Cabinet.

One of the more enjoyable roles is as the Wiltshire Council representative on Swindon Council for the Plas Pencelli Education Activity Centre, a location many Wiltshire children visit each year for outdoor activities. The Management Committee visits the centre in Wales and holds regular meetings at Swindon Council offices.

My other main commitment is as the Vice Chairman of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire Authority (DWFA). The Authority is the body that administers the Fire and Rescue Authority's statutory core functions, as laid down in the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004,

They are to: promote fire safety in its area, extinguish fires and protect life and property from fire, deal with road traffic accidents and the rescue of trapped persons and deal with other types of emergencies as designated by order from the Secretary of State.

Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) has a statutory duty to provide the financial and other resources necessary to ensure an efficient and effective service. To this end, the Members set an annual budget after considering professional advice on the level of resources required. In addition to overseeing the Service's finances, the Authority

considers any new policy initiatives; these are often required or suggested by national government but can be of a more local nature. Members also have a legal duty to monitor the operational performance of the Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service and consider best practice, and this is done through workstreams and committees, as well as the full Fire and Rescue Authority. The Authority and DW Fire Headquarters are in Salisbury, a journey I make regularly. The Authority is geographically and politically huge from Cricklade in the North to Bournemouth and Weymouth in the South and taking in the authorities of Swindon, Wiltshire, Dorset, Bournemouth and Christchurch.

I remain committed to the local community.

Bob Jones, Wiltshire Councillor

In the meantime for urgent Wiltshire Council issues, contact Cricklade Town Council on 01793 751394.

Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Monday 12 February Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee (PCT)

Monday 19 February Premises & Finance Committee

Monday 26 February Community & Leisure Committee (C&L)

All meetings are held in the Council Chambers, 113 High Street, Cricklade SN6 6AE, and start at 7pm. Members of the public are always welcome and have an opportunity to ask questions at the beginning of each meeting.



Civic Awards 2024 - 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
Community Group of the Year.

Details and forms are available on the website or from the Town Council offices.

Closing date: Friday 23 February 2024.

Christmas Lights Competition Winners For 2023

Many congratulations to the following winners in the Cricklade Christmas Lights competition and all those other residents working to make the town look festive. Certificates were presented to the award winners at the council meeting in January.

Best Display: Overall winner: Oaks, Thames Lane

Highly Commended: 11 Reeds, 1 Pauls Croft,
Riverside (70 High Street)

Best Decorated: Winner: 124 Lady Mead

Highly Commended: 7 Fairfield; 40 Cherry Tree
Road; 128 Lady Mead

Best Window Display

Business Winner: Animal Fayre (88 High St) :

Residential Winner: 53 High Street

Page 4



A big "thank you" to Claire Bannon and her team for organising the Community Christmas Event on 2 December which got the festivities in the town off to a good start.

Date for your diary – Community Litter Pick

The 2024 community litter pick will be on Saturday 23 March. We meet at Bath Road play area at 9.30am and finish at Town Council offices around 11.30am. Please contact us in advance to register. Both individuals and community groups are welcome to participate in this rewarding activity. Equipment will be provided.

Cricklade Small Grants Scheme.

Are you a charity or community group and require some funds in 2024? The closing date for applications to our small grants scheme for this financial year will be Friday 23 February 2024. Further information and an application form can be downloaded from our website or please feel free to contact us.

Remembrance 2023

Whilst it may seem a long time ago, this is the first opportunity that we have had for thanking all those residents that attended the ceremonial parade on Remembrance Sunday. It is pleasing to see the town mark our respects to the fallen on that special day. Thank you also to those involved in making all the necessary arrangements.

In addition to serving and previously serving UK armed forces, we were again joined by representatives of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the United States Air Force and, as a reminder of continuing conflicts, we were especially honoured to be joined in the wreath laying by a serving member of the Ukrainian Army.

The school's service took place on the preceding Friday when our young people were able to participate by the laying of crosses.

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



Waylands Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present

The next meeting of the Wayland Estates Charity
will take place on Wednesday 7 February 2024
in the Town Hall committee room
commencing at 7pm



This meeting is an 'open' meeting and the residents of Cricklade and the Parish thereof are all welcome to join the proceedings.

The agenda will be published in advance on Facebook and on the notice boards in the town.

Cricklade Court Leet

Are you interested in the management of North Meadow and preserving the traditions of the Court in Cricklade?

If so, we currently have TWO vacancies which we are looking to fill to be a part of this Ancient Court.

You need to be a resident of Cricklade and be prepared to take an active role in the affairs of the Court.

We have a website www.crickladecourtleet.org.uk that gives more information about the Court and its activities.

Alternatively contact the Steward on steward@crickladecourtleet.org.uk or the High Bailiff at highbailiff@crickladecourtleet.org.uk for more information or to express an interest.

Clive Smith High Bailiff / John Coole Steward



Cricklade Development Foundation

Upstairs Completed and Tenanted

Downstairs Progressing Well



We completed all the first floor works at the Old Police Station in early December and were able to let both flats to new tenants just before Christmas.

We continue to make good progress on the conversion of the rest of the property – some of which you'll have seen:

- * The bi fold doors are in, along with the new entrance door
- * The old entrance door has been re purposed as the new rear door
- * The cladding on the front exterior wall has been replaced with render.
- * The internal floors have been screeded and levelled
- * First fix electrics are complete and second fix is underway
- * Work on the 3 x toilets is progressing well

We're continuing to work towards finishing all we can although, as we stand, we do not have the funds to complete everything.

So, if you're not already one of our 175 members and would like to join, please contact us and become a member and we'll add you to the 'Founder Members List' – a member share is £50 – there's a very good chance you'll already know one or more of our existing members.

Contact us today to play a crucial role in the continued success of the Old Police Station conversion: on 07902 421 756 or email contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk. Together, we are making a lasting impact on our community.

Cricklade Town Hall

The Town Hall offers flexible space with tables, padded chairs, excellent kitchen facilities and free WiFi. There is a choice of the Main Hall, Annexe and Committee Room. Please contact our Bookings Secretary, Mrs Nicola Fry on 01666 861023 (before 9pm please) or via email at crickladetownhall@hotmail.com for further details, or Facebook for photos and other information: www.facebook.com/crickladetownhall

Cricklade Garden Club

No meeting in February

Our first meeting in 2024 will be on Tuesday, 12 March which is also our AGM and our programme for the coming year will be revealed.

A review of the second half of our year: Our visit to Broughton Grange in August was outstanding and we were fortunate to have one of the few sunny days in that dismal month.

In September, Paul Green gave us a stimulating talk on drought resistant plants and autumn planting and as always, came loaded with exceptional plants for sale. Sadly Fred Gillam was unable to come in October and we had a Gardeners' Question Time instead which was lively, informative and revealed the deep gardening knowledge and experience of many of our members.

Mollie Higginson of the Young People in Horticulture Association spoke to us in November on making gardening more accessible to young people. Her talk showed how important it is to get an answer to the question, why is horticulture so much the Cinderella of job choices for young people?

Finally, in December our listed speaker had Covid and we were very grateful to Joff Elphick who, on very short notice, came a year early to give us his talk on "Crayfish on the Lawn and other Gardening Stories." It was a beautifully illustrated, entertaining talk and ideal for rounding off 2023 with our mulled wine and mince pies.

To remind you: our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall Annexe. Tea and cakes are served from 7.00pm. The Speaker starts at 7.30pm.

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 in March!

Scam Emails

Just before Christmas one of our advertisers phoned my home number saying that they had received an odd email. It said that their advertisement was due for renewal and also that *The Chronicle* was going to change from a not-for-profit publication.

There is no suggestion that any email contact list has been hacked. Probably someone was going through a paper copy of the magazine and using our own freely available email addresses and the email contacts within the printed advertisements.

I am saddened that anyone wanted to do this, especially in the run-up to Christmas.

Please be assured that there is no intention to change the basis of *The Chronicle*. And we would have had the courtesy to tell you through these pages!

Rick Dixon, Editor

St Sampson's Church Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

We look forward to 2024 and the events planned to continue raising funds for the improvement of our church facilities. We especially hope to be able to renew our heating and lighting as soon as possible!



Quiz Night: at St Sampson's School – 3 February 2024

Teams of 6. Tickets £10 to include hot supper. Drinks by donation.

Tickets from Sharon (01793 751375)

St Sampson's Church Appeal Draw

Would you like to win £100, a top London hotel stay, original artworks or one of many other prizes?

We will be outside Tesco's, Cricklade High Street on the morning of Saturday 27 January, depending on the weather and volunteers. Or contact Adina Grace 01793 380583; Helen Dixon 01793 759123; or Sharon Smith 751375.

Tickets £1 each

Draw date 4 February 2024

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winners of the November 2023 draw were:

Mr & Mrs Kroner who won £31.00 : St Sampson's Church benefited by £31.00.

And in December 2023 the lucky winner was:

Mrs Heard who won £30.50 : St Sampson's Church benefited by £30.50.

To join the 100 Club, contact Sharon Smith tel. 751375 or email sharonjsmith54@hotmail.com

We would still be grateful for any further donations to the next phase of the church appeal. Cash or cheques (made payable to St Sampsons PCC No 2 Account) can be put in the donation box at the church, or sent to Adina Grace, Churchwarden and Treasurer,



24 North Wall, Cricklade SN6 6DU. For further details please contact Adina on 01793 380583 or email janda.grace447@outlook.com

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

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8 February | The Story of a Violin |
| 15 February | The President's Lunch (members only) |
| 22 February | Putin's Russia |



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

St John the Baptist Club 100

Summary of 2023

Hello and our very best wishes to you for 2024. In 2023 we had 110 members for the first three quarters and an additional member for the fourth quarter.

Total income was £1323.00; half of this (£666.50) was paid out in prize money over the four quarters, £66.60 was paid in bank charges, and the balance, £599.50 was retained in the fund that helps maintain the fabric of our church. There were no charges for postage, printing, etc.

If you pay your membership by direct debit, then no further action is required.

If you wish to pay electronically, then the Club's banking details are HSBC Sort Code 40-17-25 / Account No 51398091.

Cheques are acceptable and should be made payable to "St John the Baptist Club 100"

Again, NO CASH, we have no traceability with cash.

As in previous years, unless we hear from you to the contrary, we will assume you wish to continue and will include you in the quarterly draws for 2024.

There are some changes you need to know about:

After living in Latton for 29 years, Eileen and I have moved to a smaller house, much smaller garden, and a slightly larger village with the essential shops and services.

As a result, I have passed the secretarial baton to a Mrs Nicki Crabtree. Nicki is a very friendly, sociable and capable lady and I have every confidence that she will do a super job and swell the club membership and subsequent prize money.

To make managing the Club a lot easier and less time consuming, it would be great if you could all pay your membership fees electronically and ensure that Nicki has your email address. To contact Nicki please email latton100club@gmail.com.

My thanks to each of you for your support over the last 21 years and of course, very best wishes to you all for 2024.

Keith

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

In the recent Monthly Draws the lucky winners were:

	30 November	28 December
First Prize: (£36.50)	Margaret Bracher	Jean McNally
Second Prize: (£24.60)	Betty Petrie	Rob & Kate Crow
Jenner Hall Funds:	£61.50	£61.50



The Save It Club raised £732.50 in 2023 - these funds will go towards the upkeep of the Jenner Hall. 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. (*GDP Regulations compliant.*)

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



Churches Together: Lent Talks

From politics, sport, entertainment, academia etc... plus God.

We hear from prominent people, each with a very different and challenging story. They talk openly and honestly about their life, work and faith and how it impacts their lives.



Danny Kreuger MP: Friday 16 February at 7pm

Danny is the MP for the Devizes constituency, and is a member of his local church. He has worked in journalism and in politics, most recently as Political Secretary to Prime Minister, Boris Johnson. But his main career has been spent working in the community. In 2006, with his wife Emma they founded Only Connect, a project working in prisons to stop criminals re-offending, which he ran for 10 years and now chairs. He also set up and ran the West London Zone for Children and

Young People, coordinating the work of schools, councils and charities with young people at risk.

Tony Jarrett : Saturday 24 February at 7pm

Tony Jarrett is a former Olympic hurdler who obtained many medals during his twenty-year career, including the 4x100 relay silver medal with fellow athletes Linford Christie, John Regis, and Colin Jackson and a Gold medal at the 1998 Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

He came 4th in the 110m hurdles at the 1992 summer Olympics in Barcelona, narrowly missing out on a bronze medal by 1000th of a second to Jack Pierce of the USA.

Tony made several media appearances including *BBC Breakfast* and coaching Ant and Dec for their *Saturday Night Takeaway* show. Although he had already won 12 medals during his career, the gold medal had always eluded him. It wasn't until he became a Christian that he finally won his first gold at senior level. In spite of Tony's success on the track he often felt that something was missing in his life. When he accepted Christ, this void was filled. Tony enjoys sharing his testimony with an emphasis on seeking the things of God, as opposed to what the world has to offer.



Professor Andrew Briggs: Friday 1 March at 7pm

Professor Andrew Briggs is the inaugural holder of the Chair of Nanomaterials at the University of Oxford. His research interests focus on materials and techniques for quantum technologies and their incorporation into practical devices. Current hot topics include vibrational states of nanotubes and charge transport through single molecules in graphene nanogaps, and machine learning for measuring and tuning quantum devices.

He has more than 650 publications, with over 28,000 citations. He is the author of

several books: *Human Flourishing: Scientific insight and spiritual wisdom in uncertain times* (2023 ISSR book prize winner.) *It Keeps Me Seeking: The Invitation from Science, Philosophy & Religion.* And the *Curiosity Science Quest* series.



JB Gill: Sat 9 March at 7.00pm

JB rose to fame as a member of one of the UK's biggest boybands – JLS. They dominated the charts for five years, boasting 5 number 1 singles, over 10 million record sales worldwide and a multitude of awards. JLS reformed in 2020 and in the autumn of 2021 had a sell-out UK tour, as well as releasing a new single and album. Six years ago, JB set up a farm in the Kent countryside, where he lives with his wife, Chloe, four-year-old son, Ace and 9-month-old

daughter, Chiara. He is the lead presenter on CBeebies' BAFTA-nominated television series, *Down On The Farm* (created for children aged 0-6 years, teaching them about life on the farm and in the outdoors). JB's enthusiasm for farming life and knowledge of countryside issues has seen him regularly contribute to BBC's *Countryfile* and *Springwatch*.

He is also an ambassador for Mercy Ships, a faith-based international development organisation that deploys hospital ships delivering vital, free healthcare to those in need around the world.

JB performed with his wife, Chloe on the ITV Primetime show *Dance, Dance, Dance*, for which they won 'Best Performance' at the National Reality TV Awards 2017. Most recently, JB has presented on *Springtime On The Farm* and *Big Week At The Zoo* both for Channel 5. JB also presents BBC South East's *River Walks: The Stour*, in which he walked 50 miles from the river Stour's origins in the Kent Downs, to Pegwell Bay. As well as his continued work as a presenter for *Down On The Farm* and BBC *Songs Of Praise*, he presented four episodes of a BBC1 series *Walks Of Life* each an hour long, broadcast from March 2019. An avid sports fan, JB enjoys taking part in outdoor pursuits. He is a keen skier and snowboarder and is an advanced PADI scuba-diver. In his spare time, JB likes to relax with his family and plays an active role as a member of his local church.

JB has served as an ambassador for The British Red Cross, to raise awareness of the effects of climate change in some of the poorest regions in Zimbabwe.

If you are looking for some inspiration or are seeking answers to many questions about what is happening in our world and in our lives, then come along to this series of talks during the period of Lent.

Meet and listen to some inspirational and thought-provoking people.

All events will be at St Sampson's Church, Bath Road, Cricklade.

Start times will vary, please see times etc. under each evening guest. Please try to arrive 15 minutes before we start.

Each evening will be followed by drinks and nibbles and an opportunity to meet and talk to our guests. Some will have merchandise such as books and CDs on sale, so come prepared if you want to purchase.

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

4 February 2 before Lent

- 8am Holy Communion at St Sampson's
- tbc Holy Communion at Holy Cross
- 10am Morning Worship at St Sampson's
with music group and children's activities in church
- 10am Morning Worship at St John the Baptist, Latton
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

11 February Sunday before Lent

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion at St Sampson's,
with Neil, Bishop of Swindon

14 February Ash Wednesday

- 7.30pm Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at St Sampson's
(Worship Together)

18 February Lent 1

- 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
- 4pm Evensong at Holy Cross
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

25 February Lent 2

- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP at Holy Cross
- 10am Holy Communion at St Sampson's
- 10am Morning Worship at St John the Baptist, Latton

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.*

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

- 9 November Daphne Brown *at Holy Cross*
- 14 November David William Cook *at St Sampson's followed by Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 29 November Gary (Gerhard) Walter Wilson *at Holy Cross*
- 7 December Jim (James) Woods *at Holy Cross followed by interment in churchyard*
- 8 December Richard Barrow *at All Saints Leigh followed by interment in churchyard*
- 16 December Chris (Christopher John) Waters *at Holy Cross
followed by interment in churchyard*
- 22 December Hazel Rumbold *at Holy Cross (Interment of Ashes)*

er in Cricklade & Latton

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

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.crickladedstmary.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>

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 United Church

To welcome in the New Year, the cross on the Church roof returned to a white light shining with the cross on St Sampson's across Cricklade.

Our good news is that the United Church has achieved a bronze award under the Eco-church scheme. The next step on our eco journey is the silver award - our target in 2024!

Bounce & Rhyme - Tuesdays 1.45pm to 2.45pm every fortnight

Pop in for a cup of tea with your baby /toddler and enjoy music and rhymes. Cricklade Breastfeeding Friends are there too offering help and support if needed.

Dates - 6 February and 20 February

Christian Aid - A massive thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas Appeal for Christian Aid's work in Gaza, Israel and the Palestine Territories. We were able to send approximately £900 ... money still coming in at the time of writing! A special thank-you to the Friday Walkers group and others who attended our Friday Cafe Coffee and Carols event which was so successful.

Don't forget Friday Cafe - Pop in for Coffee or tea every Friday 10am - 11.30am

Cricklade & District Poppy Appeal 2023

The Poppy Appeal and the Cricklade and District Branch of the Royal British Legion wish to thank all of the residents, businesses, and schools who contributed to the 2023 Poppy Appeal. The 2023 Poppy Appeal raised over £10,500 (Head Office is still to confirm the electronic amounts collected), and our gratitude goes to all the wonderful volunteers who manned the static points both in Cricklade and the West Swindon Shopping Centre.



2024 – A New Poppy Appeal Organiser Required for Cricklade

Cricklade needs a new Poppy Appeal Organiser to coordinate the volunteers for this year. It is a very rewarding role, and there is an amazing team of local volunteers in place to help you. All the fundraising resources and materials are provided by the Poppy Appeal – there is no need to hold stock, as all can be returned at the end of the Appeal. Members of the Cricklade Royal British Legion, Barry and I will be there to support the new Organiser throughout the Appeal.

Please contact Barry on 01793 759359, for more information.

Tina Jones and Barry Arthurs, Poppy Appeal Organisers

Family Quiz Night

Saturday 23 March at 7.30pm

St Sampson's CE Primary School

Come along and help us raise funds for Bethan's trip to Borneo this summer to volunteer with Camps International! A family-friendly quiz suitable for all ages, including a hot supper with vegan/gluten-free options. Bring your own glasses and drinks.

Tickets £10 per adult, children free, by emailing Ian Wallis at zenyogacricklade@gmail.com
See you there!

The Trustees, staff, volunteers and members of Cricklade Open Door are so saddened to hear of the sudden death of Bob Jones. He was a hard working Trustee for many years. Our love goes to Tina and family.

Cricklade Open Door

Hello and best wishes to you all for a happy and healthy 2024 from Cricklade Open Door.

We reopened after the Christmas break on 2 January and were very happy to get going again with all our regular activities, lunches, special events and to once more spend time with friends and fellow members.

We were very fortunate, again last year, to have the support of so many Cricklade residents, businesses and organisations. A BIG 'thank you' to McFarlane Estate Agents, who supplied the top class sherry for our members' Christmas party and to Paul at Cricklade Hardware Stores, who supported us by running a successful raffle and donating the proceeds to Open Door.

Again, last year, The West Mill Residents' Association held a Christmas Tree Lights Event in Reeds on Sunday 10 December and donated the proceeds to Open Door. A lovely surprise was a gift of a beautiful Christmas table decoration and Christmas cake, from Cricklade Bloomers, which certainly enhanced our members' raffle – support given from one community organisation to another, both working hard to make Cricklade a caring, enjoyable community – fabulous! Thank you also to the many local friends who supported us both financially and with gifts we can use over the next few months.

The weeks and months roll on: do keep an eye out for our posters around the town, which advertise our weekly and special events. We will soon have a date for a musical Monday morning, with Rob and Pete, 60's rockers! followed by our much enjoyed buffet lunch. On Tuesday 13 February we will hold an early Valentine Tea Party with Chris and Anne's excellent spread and a members' lunch at Jicsaw Thai Restaurant is booked for Friday 23 February.

All our usual activities, Knit and Natter, Seated Exercises and Bingo will continue, or if you just fancy a coffee and a chat, call in in the mornings and you will find a warm welcome, in a lovely, warm hall.

Cricklade Open Door, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00 - 3.30
at the Jenner Hall, Bath Road. Telephone: 07599 987 851.



The Chronicle is published by Churches Together (CLAK&L) with COVID Recovery Grant funding from Wiltshire Community Foundation. It is prepared and distributed on a voluntary basis and is printed by Webster Printing, Cricklade, 01793 752898, on paper from sustainable sources.



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Articles and advertisements are accepted in good faith and The Chronicle cannot be held responsible for their accuracy, nor can it guarantee that they will be published. The Editor's decision is final.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



Funds raised in 2023

In 2023 the PPG has received these donations and purchased items for the Surgery:

	Donations		Purchases
Bequest	£1,125.00	Examination Couch	£752.87
Purton Community Café	£412.50	FeNO Monitor	£2,994.00
Purton Parish Council	£2,994.00	ECG Machine	£1,831.20
Miscellaneous Donations	£221.00		
Total	£4,752.50	Total cost	£5,578.07

Other fundraising:

Books and Table Top in Purton Surgery waiting room - £785

200 Club - £1320

Raffles - £248

Talk on Parkinson's – 26 March 2024, 7.30-9pm

We are restarting the regular Health Talks which we were organising for patients before Covid ... the first of these will be on the subject of Parkinson's when we have Rachel Gardner, Lead Parkinson's Disease Nurse Specialist at GWH and Vincent Mobey from Cricklade Parkinson's Café. The talk will be in Purton Surgery where the capacity is limited, hence we ask patients to ask for a ticket (free) from reception. Tickets are available from Monday 8 January from receptionists in both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

Easter Raffle

The receptionists will be organising another Easter Raffle this year, Tickets at £1 each will be available from reception from 1 March.

200 Club

New members are welcome!! The 200 Club year started on 1 October, however you may still join part way through the year, bearing in mind that you will have missed some of the draws for the year. The cost is just £15 a year and there are two prizes of £100 and £15 each month. Setting up a Standing Order for your £15 to be taken annually on 1 September is much simpler for administration purposes. Forms are available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

Table Top in Purton Surgery

We would be pleased to receive good quality donations for the Table Top in Purton Surgery waiting room (no shoes please).

As always, your support for our work to both inform and support patients is much appreciated. If you know of anyone who would like to be included in our email list (all sent bcc) then please ask them to contact via secretary.pspg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Coffee Cafe

All are welcome to attend the weekly Coffee Cafe each Friday at Cricklade United Church Hall, Calcutt Street from 10am to 11.30am. Come along for a coffee and a chat.

Cricklade Foodbank

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



Christmas has been a challenging time for our clients. The cost of food, and also fuel, has been a worry for many. The number of clients receiving help has tripled in the last six months. Although we have been able to feed everyone who has sought our help, our supplies have been stretched to the limit.

As always, we are very grateful to everyone who either donates food or supports us with financial donations. In addition to our normal drop-off points, we now have a basket in the Town Council Office. This will supplement our baskets at Tesco, Culverhay Stores (Spar), Animal Fayre (pet shop), St Sampson's School and the local churches.

If you would prefer to make a financial donation, 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.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling to provide either for themselves or their families the Foodbank can be contacted on any of the addresses below:

call – 01666 826982 (we will call you back)

Email: crickladecm@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Visit the website: malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Cricklade Historical Society

Wednesday 20 March - War Churches with Interesting Connections

Speaker – John Hickman.

This talk will be held in the Town Hall Annexe. Doors open at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Friday 22 March - Unearthing the Mammoth Graveyard

Want to find out what it's like to unearth an Ice Age Mammoth? Hear more about the incredible Ice Age discoveries behind the documentary "Attenborough and the Mammoth Graveyard" and meet Sally & Neville Hollingworth who made the discovery.

- * Find out what it was like to discover the site.
- * How the documentary was made.
- * Find out how scientists examine their discoveries.
- * Learn about mammoths, how they lived and how they died.

This talk will be held in the Town Hall and tickets can be purchased via our website (www.cricklademuseum.co.uk) or from Tracy on 07825 430 278. Doors open at 6.45pm for 7.15pm start.

CHS Members £5.00, Non-Members £7.50, Under-18 s £2.50.

Free Service for Stamp Collectors

Mr Kevin New is offering a free service to consider the arrangement and content of postage stamp collections.

Please contact: Kevin New, telephone number 01793 751410. Address given after phone contact.

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden



As we think about the year ahead, sustainability and biodiversity are always at the forefront of Bloomers' decision making when planning activities to help make Cricklade an attractive place for you to live. For our flower planters and baskets, our most visible activity, we only use peat-free compost and recycle as many plants as possible from season to season.

We are increasingly using permanent planting in our planters and borders, especially plants that are summer drought tolerant and insect friendly. Perennials from the large borders are divided and replanted. Pots from any plants we do buy are reused for your purchases from the cart outside the Walled Garden. We harvest rain water in large tanks. We recycle all plant waste to make our own compost which is then given away free to Cricklade residents.

Our fundraising activities (our main source of income) are as sustainable as possible, for example, wreath making workshops use only locally sourced greenery.

Bloomers is based at The Walled Garden, which is at the rear of Tesco's on the path to Green Gables Surgery. We work all year round and have three large projects this winter that are particularly good for sustainability: planting an understorey in the Millenium Wood to provide cover for birds, small mammals and insects; planting an orchard at Fairview Fields to provide local organic fruit and community activities; and snowdrop planting, an essential winter food source for insects.

The first two are weather and flooding dependent so look out for dates on our Facebook page to get involved, however **snowdrop planting** is scheduled for **Wednesday, 14 February** during the school half term – an ideal family event. We welcome new members on our usual mornings of Wednesday and Saturday and occasional volunteers for the large planting projects.

If you would like to join us, help out occasionally or have any sustainability or biodiversity ideas of your own which you think would interest us, contact us through our Facebook page or email anita@crickladeinbloom.co.uk

Cricklade W.I.

We all enjoyed our January meeting when we kicked off the New Year with wine and nibbles. Our February meeting is on Thursday 15th when we look forward to welcoming Caroline Pover who will talk to us about her adventures in Japan. Maybe she will be inspiring a few of us to look at the possibility of a future holiday in far away places.

We welcome visitors so come and check us out. The first three meetings are free, we just ask for a £1 donation towards refreshments. Sometimes we have a speaker, sometimes a light activity and sometimes we just meet for a chat, but always with refreshments and cake. There are many other activities you can join in with our group and the wider Wiltshire WI too. Check us out on Facebook or contact our Secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or at vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com



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Letters

■ **DAVE COOK**, 4 Nov 1939 – 15 Oct 2023

On behalf of Mary and family we want to express our heartfelt thanks for all who have sent such touching messages, flowers, cards and for attending Dave's funeral on 14 November 2023. We were overwhelmed and were very humbled; Dave was loved by so many people and by everyone who came into contact with him.

Special thanks to the residents of West Mill Lane during this very sad time. Our Thanks to Revd Debbie Dewes, Scout Leaders and last but not least the Cricklade firemen for giving Dave such a touching send off – you all did him proud. A massive thank-you to Russell Osman of Blackwells for all your help and compassion at this difficult time.

The money raised at Dave's funeral was a total of £497 which is to be split between the Fire Fighters Charity and the Cricklade Museum. Thank you all so much.

Dave will be terribly missed by us all.

*Linda Wade
daughter of Mary and Dave Cook*

■ **GROTTO DONATIONS**

I would like to thank everyone who visited my grotto and for the donations of £80 which I am giving to Ferfoot House Care Home for Dementia. They cared for my Dad and it will go towards a treat for residents.

Thank you.

Sue Lane

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.

Sing Four Four Community Choir

Nearly 200 people attended the choir's Christmas concert in December. The audience enjoyed the mix of sacred and secular songs. The choir certainly enjoyed singing them.



The choir reconvened in the middle of January and are busy working on the programme for the summer concert.

We work hard but also have a lot of fun. We always have room for more singers. If you're interested, please come along for an evening and see if you like us! Rehearsals take place in the United Church on Thursday evenings during term time, 7.30-9.30pm.

Information can be found on the website (www.singfourfour.org.uk). Please use the contact form on the website. Alternatively, you can email the musical director, Jen Bamford, at jenloubamford@googlemail.com

Cricklade Memory Café

A message from the Town Council:

Councillor Rod Case identified a need for a monthly support group for those with problems with memory and their companions. We put out a plea last year for any volunteers to set up such a group and we are thankful for the two lovely experienced and qualified ladies that have come forward. The group - called Cricklade Memory Café – will meet at Cricklade Town Hall Annexe on the first Wednesday of every month starting this month!



The Café writes:

If you have memory issues or dementia join us on Wednesday 7 February at the Town Hall Annexe Cricklade from 10.30am to 12.30pm for free coffee and cake, and to find out more about this exciting new venture for residents of Cricklade and Latton. There will be music for the mind, plenty of information and support in a friendly enjoyable atmosphere.

The café will then be open on the first Wednesday of each month at a small charge of £2.50. If you are interested in volunteering or want to know more please contact Margaret 07976 620 089 and Vona on 07896 723 794.

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade

Do you fancy trying something new in 2024? Come and have a go at pétanque!

Saxons Pétanque Club plays on the gravel just in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and 10am on Saturday mornings.

We run informal training sessions at 10am, usually on the first and third Wednesday of the month, and in the summer months we hold a Wednesday evening club night.

We have around 50 members and our annual subscription is a very reasonable £20 for an adult and £5 for a child.

If you would like to give it a try with no commitment to join, please arrive 10 minutes early so we can say hello and find you some boules to borrow if necessary. Or, if you'd just like to find out more about Saxons Pétanque Club, we're a friendly bunch so please come and have a chat, take a look at our notice board inside the Leisure Centre, or visit our website at saxonspetanque.co.uk.

Cricklade Computer Club

As from the first week of February the Computer club will only operate once a month instead of weekly. It will still be on a Monday and we will still be available from 10am to 12 noon. We will continue to try to help anyone with problems with computers, tablets, phones etc. The first date will be 5 February and then 4 March and every first Monday of the month thereafter.

Remember we are volunteers and there is no charge for any help that we are able to give you.

We meet in the Leisure Centre cafe and even if you have no particular problems you could always pop in for a coffee, a cake and just a general chat.

Roger Heafield

Cricklade Pétanque Club

At the Cricklade House Hotel, SN6 6HA

Pétanque is great fun and an excellent way to meet people.

Our playing days are:

Mon 2 - 4.30pm

Wed 2 - 4.30pm

Sat 10am -12.30pm

Coaching Sessions are:

Wed 10 - 11.30am (ladies)

Fri 10 - 11.30am (mixed)

Our Club social night will be on Friday 23 February.

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

Find us on Facebook by searching Cricklade Petanque Club



Cricklade Camera Club

Our full programme for the current season can be found on crickladecameraclub.org, or contact the Club Secretary, Anne Eckersley, for further information: clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org



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 £6.00.

We meet in person on the first Tuesday of every month between September and June in the Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm and on another Tuesday of the month by Zoom.

6 February: Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm – PDI and Print Competition (League Round 2) with Andrew Mills MA, Med, CertEd, CandG(Dist), ARPS, LBIPP.

After the first round in November the tension is mounting in the Cricklade Camera annual league competition. There's all to play for in round 2.

20 February: Zoom Meeting at 7.30pm – Working with Textures with Janey Lazenby. Definitely not a talk to be missed. Answering all the what and how questions, Janey will go through sourcing and creating textures, how to use blend modes and then three different methods of how to apply textures to an image.

Janey will then invite the club to submit random images for a live edit where she will apply textures from her own stock to create final pieces, narrating every click en route. (ejlazenbyphotography.co.uk)

5 March: Town Hall Annexe - Contest with RWB Camera Club, judged by Eddy Lane.

19 March: Zoom Meeting Masterclass with Ian Bateman FRPS MPAGB AV-FIAP APAGB

Jenner Hall

The Jenner Hall is a popular place for family events and smaller wedding receptions. The Hall is attractive to all age groups. If you would like to know more about the Hall or check booking availability, please visit our website - crickladejennerhall.com. 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.

The Cricklade Band ...you liked our festive spirit!



A huge 'thank-you' from all of us in the band to everyone in our Cricklade community! Thanks for welcoming us during our carol-playing tours, supporting us by coming out to see us, tagging along with us, applauding and cheering, filming and photographing us – it cheers us along as we make our way through our carol books! Just as importantly, you dropped donations into our red buckets and onto our cashless terminals too, which all means that we have achieved a traditional target that goes back 136 years of being able to afford the major new-year expenses. For a non-profit making organisation, where no one gets paid and everyone volunteers their time and skills, it's a weight off our minds!

The stand-out people we'd like to specially thank for their help and support are Eric and Chris, Cricklade's town criers who were out and about with us - some of our band Vice Presidents accompanied us too. 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 Chronicle* for allowing us to publicise all that we do in a printed form.

There have also been many touching words of support and thanks posted on Facebook too, in response to the almost daily social media updates that we post before and after each event. You all seem to like tracking how we've evolved to continue with our traditions on socials.

And then there was Christmas Show! This was a Cricklade Town Hall sell-out and our publicity invited you to 'turn it into a party' – did you realise that you helped 'Last Christmas' into the No1 spot after 39 years?

2023 also saw our first big 'Festive Raffle' - you bought three times our anticipated number of tickets! There was a magnificent list of 30 raffle prizes contributed by Cricklade's shops and businesses, with a later addition (that just missed the list) from Blackwells of Cricklade. Thank you to all Cricklade's shops and businesses – please support them like they support us - and thanks to every one of our ticket buyers!

It's also a good time to gratefully mention the people who have their own panel on our trailer – our 'corporate supporters' – Baz the Farmer, Braydon Lane Limited, Chelworth Garage, GWP Group and The Painted Furniture Company – they support us financially and in other ways too. If you'd like to have your name on the trailer just get in touch!

As a final note, whole families came on to the streets as the band made its way round – if anyone, no matter what age, is inspired by what we do and would 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 do it!

For now, we're all so grateful to everyone who played their own part, keeping us playing in our Cricklade community – thank you!

Paul, and everyone in the band

Parkinson's UK At The Cricklade Club, High Street 10.30am - noon

Join us for coffee, cake and chat on 3rd Wednesday each month.

We meet in The Living Room, turn right and follow the sign from the Foyer.

Contact: parkinsonscafecricklade@gmail.com or call 07951 944 760.

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

Join us for RUGBY – the sport that builds strength, teamwork and resilience. Training, Thursdays 7 - 8.30pm at Fairview Fields, no experience necessary; contact Captain, Mike 07514 596 910, or Coach, Pixie 07728 399 759. All are welcome and Mixed Tag continues with strength and conditioning on Tuesdays 7 - 8pm. We are a friendly club and welcome new players and supporters.

February fixtures are:

3 Feb Swindon II at Home 7 Feb Chippenham III Away

Please come along and watch your local team.

Make a note in your diary for a fun evening on **Saturday 16 March, RACE NIGHT!**

Our Minis section continues to grow and is open to all boys and girls of all abilities. 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 (no experience necessary and the first four sessions are free):

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 Juniors and Minis, so if you are interested please contact Seth.

Dog poo! *We have had a number of instances where people have somehow managed to let their dogs onto the pitch. The gates are locked, so we assume they are lifting the dogs over the fence! Rugby is a ground-contact sport so contamination on the pitch is unacceptable.*

CRICKLADE CINEMA!

Our Spring Season continues on Tuesday 27 February at 8pm in the Town Hall

Past Lives (12, 106mins)

Highly acclaimed romantic drama. After years apart, a South Korean woman now living in New York reconnects online with the man who was once her closest childhood friend. *(Contains infrequent strong language.)*

And still to come...

26 March– The Old Oak (Cert 15, 113mins)

23 April – The Great Escaper (Cert 12A, 96mins)

Tickets can be purchased in advance from The Town Council Offices at 113 High Street or on the door (subject to availability). Price £5.



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

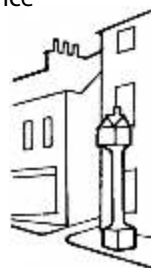
Email us at: crickladedecinema@gmail.com

Check us out at Facebook Cricklade Cinema

CINEMA
FOR ALL

The Chronicle Diary – February 2024

1	Th	end of day	Chronicle copy deadline
3	Sa	7pm	St Sampson's Church Quiz Evening, St S. School, Bath Road
4	Su	tba	St Sampson's Grand Raffle Draw at St Sampson's Church
5	M	10am	to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
6	Tu	1.45pm 7.30pm	to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
7	W	10.30am 7pm	to 12.30pm: Memory Café's launch event at Town Hall Annexe Wayland Estates Charity at Town Hall Committee Room
8	Th	10am	Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
12	M		Wiltshire Schools mid-term break starts (other may vary)
		7pm	Town Council Planning Committee, Council Chamber
13	Tu		Shrove Tuesday – Pancake Day
14	W		Valentine's Day
15	Th	7.30pm	Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
19	M		Wiltshire Schools resume (other may vary)
		7pm	Town Council Premises & Finance Committee, Council Chamber
20	Tu	1.45pm 7.30pm 7.30pm	to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St Art Group at Town Hall Annexe Camera Club Zoom meeting
21	W	10.30am	to noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Club, High Street
22	Th	10am	Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
26	M	7pm	Town Council Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber
27	Tu	8pm	Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall, tickets from Council Office
29	Th		Leap Year Day
Every Week			
M		10am-3.30pm	Open Door at Jenner Hall
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 and Tag Rugby at Fairview Fields
		7-10pm	The Cricklade Band rehearsal night, at Town Hall, visitors welcome
		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

Feb 2024

2nd ● 9th ● 16th ● 24th ○

The Final Word ...

It is February, so I want to talk about a small, four-letter word.

Some of you may be thinking that word is LOVE, some of you may be wondering if it is LENT.

You are both correct and that may seem either strange or intriguing, but I hope I have raised your interest enough that it will make you want to read on.

This is the month when love is celebrated most of all, Valentine's Day is big business for retail and hospitality at an otherwise quiet time of the year, but for many people the build-up, let alone the day itself, can be difficult.

We all want to know love and it comes in many forms: the Greeks had four different words to describe love, but often if we consider them at all, we do so in a ranking order, prizing some as more important than others. Depending on individual circumstances that may be understandable, it may, in some cases even be essential to well-being and a happy, settled life but the love I am thinking about in this context is the love that is Lent.

Many see Lent as a time to 'give up', a time to restrict or restrain, a time to go without the things that are an indulgence or a luxury and yes, that is often chocolate, (or chocolate and wine for me). For Christians, Lent is often a time of reflection, either individually or as a group, maybe involving some form of Bible study or discussion group. But Lent is also a time of love, and we have the chance to use the time to remember what it leads up to; to think about Jesus Christ and his sacrifice for the world, a sacrifice that was borne out of love.

Lent leads us onward to Easter: to fully experience Easter we need to have lived through Lent, and to live through Lent we need to open our minds and hearts to the love of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the uniqueness and sacrificial love that was and remains his alone.

That love is not just for Lent, neither is it only for those who profess their love for him. That love is for all people – it is unconditional, forgiving and free.

So when the hearts appear in the shops – think of that love.

Sarah Simpson, Minister, Cricklade United Church

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