



✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton
No. 588

THE CHRONICLE June 2024

St Sampson's Church, Cricklade
The Tower & Organ Pipes
picture © Jane Eyles



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SUZUKI

From the Editor

June! And the Cricklade Festival! It was a success for the team that resurrected it last year and we wish them a greater triumph this year on Sunday 9 June! There is news on page 17. But there will be more in the Official Programmes nearer the day.

Churches Together are supporting a sponsored Water Carry on 29 June for WaterAid (page 21). We may complain of our water supply and river quality here, but imagine life in deprived or war-torn areas elsewhere.

D-Day 80 years ago must be one of the greatest commemorations this month. The Court Leet is hosting our town's participation in the National Beacon Lighting on 6 June. See page 25. There are other stories and memories of D-Day within our pages. But the Cricklade Branch of the Royal British Legion is

looking for new members, also on page 27. You do not need to have any military affiliation to join.

Cricklade North Meadow will have been the venue for a Bio-Blitz from 18 May to record what species are there. See page 19 as there may still be time to join in. At least you might catch their "what we found" session on 1 June.

The Garden Club have their annual Plant Fair at the Town Hall on the 8th - see page 19.

Do you like singing? Sing Four Four are in concert at Immanuel, Upham Road on 22 June (page 39). The Wessex hold their Summer Concert at Christ Church on the 29th (page 21). St Sampson's have a "come and sing" Fauré Requiem on 6 July (page 41) and the United Church announce a "musical in a day" on 5 October (page 18).



In this issue

Art Group	28
Bio-Blitz	19
Bloomers	20
Chronicle Diary	43
Church Appeal (St Sampson's)	18
Churches Together	22-23
Coffee Café	39
'Come & Sing' Fauré at St Sampson's	41

Cricklade D-Day Memories	24-27
D-Day Beacon (Court Leet)	25
D-Day Delayed	25
D-Day Family Memories	26
Royal British Legion	27

Cricklade Festival	17
Cricklade Library	41
Cricklade Pétanque Club	40
Cricklade W.I.	40
The Final Word	44
Foodbank	28
Friends of St Mary's Church	17

Garden Club	20
Historical Society	27
Jenner Hall	17
Jenner Hall Save-It Club	5
Memory Café	37
Open Door	37
Plant Fair	19
Probus Club	4
Prospect Hospice	4
Purton & Green Gable Surgery	6
Rugby Club	42
Saxons Pétanque Club	42
Sing a Musical in a day!	18
Sing Four Four	39
Swindon Croquet Club	42
Town Council	3-4
Town Hall bookings	2
Twinning Association	39
WASPI Group	41
Water Aid sponsored carry	21
The Wessex choir	21
Wiltshire Councillor	5

The deadline for the July 2024 issue is Saturday 1 June 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	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
Wiltshire Councillor	752501	Link Scheme transport	07421 018 499
Wiltshire Council hub	0300 456 0100	Open Door	07599 987 851
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.

Meadowbridge School, SN6 6DD ///snapping.clearcut.tunnel
Cricklade Dental Practice, SN6 6AA ///trackers.motivate.joystick
33 Stockham Close, SN6 6EF ///advances.bakers.opts
17 Pauls Croft, SN6 6AH ///grace.bind.framework
48 The Hitchings, SN6 6NJ ///thing.hydrant.height
24 Deansfield, SN6 6BP ///enabling.gymnasium.records
Cricklade Leisure Centre, SN6 6JW ///smarting.drags.member
Culverhay Stores (Londis), SN6 6EN ///awaiting.sunflower.achieving
9 Kitefield, SN6 6NF ///cupboards.scan.universe



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

Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Monday 3rd June: Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee

Monday 10th June: Premises and Finance Committee

Monday 24th June: Full Council



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.

New Councillors for Cricklade

Cricklade Town Council welcome our two newest councillors Cathy Limbrick and Stuart Pryde to the Council. We look forward to working with you both in the future.

Cricklade Neighbourhood Plan Review

Have your say on Cricklade's future

Neighbourhood Plans are important planning documents that guide land use and development in the parish. The current Cricklade Neighbourhood Plan was passed at a referendum in March 2018 and runs to 2026. It is therefore the right time to review and update it. It is proposed that the new version will run to 2038.

Don't forget our two consultation events in the Town Hall on:

- **Saturday 25 May between 10am and 3-30pm**
- **Thursday 30 May between 1pm and 7pm**

Please do come along to let us know what policies in the existing plan require updating. Possibly some new ones are needed and some can be removed?

Information Boards will set out the key issues for your consideration. We need your input and look forward to seeing you.

Cricklade Youth Festival

The Cricklade Youth Festival was a shining success, not only was there a good turnout of young people and families but the weather was fine. We hope that it has inspired and encouraged our future residents to be involved in Cricklade's varied activities. The Leisure Centre put on a good spread for those who needed sustenance or hydration, whilst showcasing their facilities and new youth gym. A big Thank You to all the groups involved in the festival, without whose voluntary contributions it would not have been such a success.

Cricklade in Bloom

Councillors will be out and about judging the Cricklade in Bloom competition between 15 and 29 July 2024.

The categories are:

- Best Garden,
- Best Front Door, and
- Best Hanging Basket or Container,
- Best Commercial Property on the High Street.

Queen Elizabeth Orchard

In a joint venture between Cricklade Town Council and Cricklade Bloomers, many local residents turned out on a very wet and muddy Saturday morning to plant the Community fruit orchard at Fairview fields.

Many thanks to all involved – pop down and take a look.



The Town Council and Tourist Information Point is open, except Bank Holidays:

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

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 13 June | The True Story of the Murder of Harry Neal |
| 27 June | Jerusalem – “Whose City” |



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.

Prospect Hospice

A local support group for Prospect Hospice is holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 29 June starting at 10am in Cricklade United Church, Calcutt Street. There will be Refreshments, Cakes, Raffle and Tombola. All proceeds will go to Prospect Hospice.



Wiltshire Perspective

Much as I loved Cricklade before, since being elected I've had the privilege to be asked to go to all three AGMs in the division, where I am struck by the number of people who give up their time to help others in their community. Not for recognition or reward, but just being kind to one another. It may be unfair to pick out an example, but Fiona in the Chemist in the High Street is one, but there are several others and I might urge us to recognise them and thank them; I'm sure it will help make our communities even better places to live.

Having said that, I'm aware that there are people who are struggling on their own for all sorts of reasons. One such reason might be because a landlord doesn't appear to treat them in the manner one might expect. GreenSquareAccord is one that might come to mind. If you're struggling to be listened to and having your problems addressed, or they're causing you unreasonable financial distress, please contact me as I want to draw together issues so we can speak with a louder voice and co-ordinate our efforts; not just here, but together with other areas and campaign together to try to get things improved. I may not succeed but it's certainly worth trying.

By the time this goes to press, we'll know who our elected Police and Crime Commissioner is. Personally I'm really impressed with the Police Officers we have looking after us, especially bearing in mind the huge pressures they're put under but, if you think otherwise and you're not getting anywhere with the new post holder, again feel free to get in touch with me and I'll promise to see what I can do.

Finally, I managed to track down a definition of a pothole. It depends on the classification of the road it's in. In general it has to be 300mm (a foot) in length and width and 70mm deep (a bit over a couple of inches): if it's smaller than that, Wiltshire Council won't fix it. If we choose to reduce our taxes, we choose to reduce that amount of spending – I'm not judging, it's just a case of financial mechanics. For more general and widespread deterioration of road surfaces, I can try to prioritise with the Highways department in Wiltshire Council.

The month ahead will see me starting to learn more about the details of planning going to the Northern Area Planning Meeting. I'll update you with progress as I move forward.

As ever, if you think I can help please get in touch and I'll see what I can do.

nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk or 752501.

Nick Dye, Wiltshire Councillor

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 25 April, the lucky winners were :-

First Prize:	Pauline Feasey	£36.60
Second Prize:	Chris Mitchell	£24.40
Jenner Hall Funds:		£61.00



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.*)

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



New Phone System

We are pleased to say that the new Surgery telephone system is up and running with positive feedback.

PPG funding of new Items for Purton and Green Gable Surgeries

There are 13 new Blood Pressure monitors and arm cuffs on order for the treatment rooms in both Purton and Green Gable Surgeries. These have been funded by the PPG.

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 each month of £100 and £15. 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.



The March draw was made by Medical Secretary Caren Dwyer. All members of the 200 Club are allocated a number to be used in the draw. If you wish to know your number then please email our Treasurer: treasurer.psppg@gmail.com to request it.

Did you know? (a few statistics from the Surgery practice)

- We offer over 600 GP appointments each week, that's more than 30,000 each year.
- 300 nurse appointments each week (15,000 a year, plus 4,000 flu vaccines.)
- Over 150 blood test appointments each week, more than 7,500 a year.
- Our practice pharmacists communicate with over 200 patients each week.
- We complete 30 home visits each week, over 1,500 each year.
- Our reception team take over 1,200 calls per week, and make over 150 calls a week to patients and deal with patient queries at the reception desk.
- We process 1,000 prescriptions requests each week.
- Each week we make over 150 hospital referrals and liaise with hospital departments.
- Our GPs and practice pharmacists complete over 4,000 medication reviews a year.
- We allocate 16 GP hours each week, over 800 hours a year undertaking ward rounds at our local care homes to support them in looking after their residents.

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.psppg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Cricklade Festival Sunday 9 June 2024

There are only a couple of weeks to go! The Cricklade Festival is back on the street **on Sunday 9 June!**



Opening with a parade and the music from our own Cricklade Band, we continue with a variety of performers from the world of music, dance and general entertainment, with performances on the main stage and around the Clock area.

We have over 30 stall holders and vendors who are joining us on the day, so plenty for you to explore. There will be different options for food and drink; local charities to learn more about; and all kinds of craft and homemade items to purchase. Alongside all that there is face painting and henna (temporary) tattoos!

The children are not forgotten! With a new Family Area located in the "Fringe", we expect to have a full programme of activities, including arts & crafts, puppeteers and the Dog Show.

Once again we will have the Classic Vehicle display, also in the "Fringe" area, where festival goers can vote for their favourite vehicle of the day.

New this year is something for the older children (teenagers)??... A Silent Disco which will be held on the High Street with a number of sessions. This is another free activity, but will require a small deposit, fully refundable upon the return of the headset! Please note: under 14s must be accompanied by an adult.

Last but not least...we may still be looking for volunteers on the day so, even if you can only spare an hour or two, please make contact through our Facebook page.

Make sure you have **the date firmly fixed in your diary** and we look forward to seeing you for a great day out!

That's Sunday 9 June

Friends of St Mary's Church

Event details: St Mary's RC Church – during Cricklade Festival (9 June)

Situated at the far end of the High Street, the Friends of St Mary's will be serving tea, coffee, squash and homemade cakes in the grounds of St Mary's from 11am until 4pm. Sit and relax in calm surroundings and enjoy a cuppa and a little homemade treat!



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. 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. 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

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

We had a wonderful organ recital in April by Jean-Rene Andre in St Sampson's Church which raised much needed funds for our appeal.

We continue to plan further fundraising events. We will advertise them in *The Chronicle*, on posters around the town, on our church appeal website and Facebook page and on the Cricklade Council Facebook page.

How to give: Cash or cheques (made payable to St Sampson's PCC No. 2 Account) in the donations box in church or send to Adina Grace (Church Warden 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 (*right*) or visiting <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com>.

We are planning several fundraising events. These include our church fete (Saturday 7 September), another Kavali charity evening, musical events and a wine tasting evening. Information about each of these will be given via posters and social media.

Thank you so much for your support.



St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the April 2024 draw was:

Miss Pam Cowler who won £31.50

St Sampson's Church benefited by £31.50.

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

A date for your diary

Sing a Musical in a Day

5 October 2024 at Cricklade United Church

At the United Church we are holding another "musical in a day" event on Saturday 5 October. Led by a team of accomplished musicians - violinist, flautist, pianist, oboe player and guitarists. The musical DAVID is written by Roger Jones, a well-known composer of modern music and worship songs. The style of music is lively and modern, with an appeal to all ages.

Further information on timings and cost will follow in *The Chronicle* over the next couple of months so watch this space!

Contact: phillipa58@hotmail.com tel 01793 750556



CRICKLADE North Meadow
BIOBLITZ

Take part in the Cricklade North Meadow BioBlitz

Help us find as many species of plants and animals as possible during two weeks by recording what you see. Join us on Saturday 1st June at Cricklade Town Hall where you can talk to species specialists about what has been found.



18th May - 1st June

www.crickladecourtleeet.org.uk/north-meadow-bioblitz/



CRICKLADE GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS

their annual

PLANT FAIR

SATURDAY 8th June
9:00 to 12:00

CRICKLADE TOWN HALL

Huge selection of locally grown plants supplied by Cricklade Garden Club, Bloomers and independent nurseries
Local Eco-Businesses, Charity Stalls and Craft Stalls
Refreshments & cakes served by the W.I. in the Annexe

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Once again, due to persistent winter rainfall and consequential flooding, North Meadow was closed at fritillary flowering time. However, despite no visitors from afar, Bloomers Fritillary Tea Rooms were busy – so thank you to our loyal Cricklade supporters. Monies raised from this event buys the plants for our summer displays.



Saturday 13 July brings the visit of the Mikron Theatre to Cricklade. Our hosts, once again, are Anthony and Stella at Riverside by the Town Bridge. This year's production is entitled 'Common Ground'. Join Mikron on a 'hill-arious' ramble through the history of land access in England. From "ze" Norman Conquest to loitering in lockdown, via The Mass Trespass at Kinder Scout. The Pendle and District Ramblers are looking forward to celebrating 'in stile' on their 50th anniversary walk, but the path has been blocked by the landowner. How will they find their way through? Their quest for freedom and fresh air won't be easy, as they navigate bulls, beavers, and wandering sheep. Grab your boots and waterproof for a meander with Mikron on a hike through history.

Tickets (£15) are available, cash only, at The Town Council Offices or contact anita@crickladeinbloom. Gates for picnicking are open at 6.30pm, performance begins 7pm. Bring a chair, and perhaps a blanket (though we hope it will not be needed). Proceeds to Cricklade Bloomers

Cricklade Garden Club

Our **Plant Sale is at the Town Hall on Saturday 8 June**: see our poster on page 19.

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

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 11 June**, when our speaker is Anita Barrett.

20 years ago Anita, together with the late Bob Jones, set up Bloomers so there can be no one better to talk to us on

"Community Gardening"

How do you start? What are your aims? What of the future? Come and listen to the expert.

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

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

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

Queries to Bizzie 07876 347 973 or Janet 07765 276 534.

We look forward to seeing you!

**Everyone,
everywhere
needs**

**Clean water,
Decent toilets.
Good hygiene**



COME AND JOIN IN THE FUN!

Churches Together in Cricklade, Latton,
Ashton Keynes and the Leigh will be holding a

SPONSORED WATER CARRY SATURDAY 29TH JUNE 2024

from 10am to 12 noon

From the Thames at the Town Bridge
to the White Hart in the High Street

For registration, more information
and a sponsor form please go to
crickladeunitedchurch.co.uk

Sponsor forms also from
Town Council front office
open Monday to Friday 10am -4pm,
closed 12.30-1.30pm

**We're fundraising
for WaterAid**



The Wessex (male choir)

The Wessex will hold their Summer Concert on Saturday 29 June at Christ Church, Swindon SN1 3HG at 7pm. Special Guests are the Barry Male Voice Choir from The Vale of Glamorgan.

Tickets price £15 (u-16s £7.50) from ticketsource.co.uk/wessex-male-choir or by scanning the QR code right.



Five choristers from Cricklade were proud to be with The Wessex in Northern Ireland at the Bangor International Choral Festival in April. The Wessex won both classes they entered (Male Choir and Sacred classes) plus the Bowl for Best Visiting Choir. We made wonderful friendships on our brief tour. Pictured left to right are Events Manager Stuart Allinson (baritone), Musical Director Tom Graff and Chairman Andy Entwistle (top tenor).

We have welcomed many new young members to our choir. For more information contact membership@thewessex.org.uk

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

2 June

Trinity 1

- 8am Holy Communion at St Sampson's
- 10am 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
- 12 noon Celebration Service at Leigh All Saints and Parish BBQ
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

9 June

Trinity 2

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion at St Sampson's

16 June

Trinity 3

- 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 with S club for children in the Jenner Hall
- 10am Morning Worship at Holy Cross
- 6pm Evensong at Holy Cross
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

23 June

Trinity 4

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

30 June

Trinity 5

- 10am Worship Together Communion at Leigh All Saints Swan Lane

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

Baptisms

21 April Mia Elizabeth Neil Tapsell *at St John the Baptist Latton*

Funerals

9 April Dilys Anne Palmer *at Kingsdown Crematorium*

19 April Cyril Angus Keith *at Holy Cross Church with interment*

24 April Carol Isobel Symcox *at St Sampson's followed by Kingsdown Crematorium*

30 April David Napier, *Memorial service at Holy Cross with interment of ashes*

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. Please have a look at our website for all the current information regarding our services, dates, times and other events.
<https://crickladeunitedchurch.co.uk>

Morning services at 10.30am will be led by the following Preachers:

2 June Rev Ray Adams. The service will include Communion

9 June Cricklade Festival Sunday. A short informal service will be led by members of the Church. The Church will be open through the day and welcomes visitors to look round and enjoy tea/coffee with us.

16 June Adam Longhurst from Minety.

23 June Mark Dowling from Swindon.

30 June Rev Gerald England. The service will include Communion.

Cricklade's D-Day Memories (3)

On 6 June 2024 the country will mark the 80th anniversary of D-Day. During WW2, Cricklade people could recall in detail many local incidents leading up to it from a very personal viewpoint.

Although the civilian population had no idea when D-Day for Operation Tonga, the airborne element of Operation Overlord, was to occur, clues to its imminent preparation from both RAF Blakehill and RAF Down Ampney were noted by those who lived nearby. They'd become familiar with the roar of the Dakota engines at night well beforehand, and during the day watched the Horsa troop-carrying gliders being towed into the sky by the Dakotas, then released after circling the airfield and landing. This simple exercise was repeated for hours until the pilots could tackle the more difficult problem of taking off in quick succession with gliders full of men.

About a month before D-Day, these paratroopers destined to be dropped over France, were waiting under canvas at both bases for the operation to begin, and soon could be seen practising their parachute jumps. Finally, two days before D-Day, the Down Ampney airbase was completely sealed off to civilians. Meanwhile, those living in the Hayes Knoll area near Blakehill, remember their by-roads suddenly being closed except for local access because the military were using them to stockpile all the equipment they'd need. From the one-way lane off the main Purton road to Tadpole Lane, both sides were choc-a-block with boxes of armaments, and jerry cans full of high octane petrol packed into long, covered wooden crates. British and American soldiers were guarding them.

It was during the night of 5 June, but still light because of double summer time, that many locals watched the wonderful sight of the Dakotas setting off with the gliders behind them first from Down Ampney and then from Blakehill. One witness, living close to Blakehill airfield at Purton Stoke, described his view. 'With the planes and gliders parked in place ready for the nod, the tense atmosphere was heightened by several false alarms. All the engines would start up, and then nothing happened until suddenly there was loud cheering from the base, and they were gone. The planes seemed to ascend in pairs. As fast as one took off another seemed to come alongside it

building up in the sky in a marvellously synchronised operation– the organisation beforehand was absolutely incredible!'

Early the next morning (6 June) Down Ampney villagers awoke to see to their amazement that the sky was absolutely full of



Horsa gliders lined up for take-off

Dakotas, most with their gliders in tow. The numbers involved made it clear that aircraft from numerous other air bases were rendezvousing there before taking off within minutes of each other to form a massive armada.

The next thing the public heard was of the D-Day landings in France, and as everyone knows the Allied invasion was successful, but not without enormous cost to life and limb by the thousands of troops that took part. To appreciate the scale of Operation Tonga, and the awesome sight of the aircraft crowding the skies for the Normandy landings, it is worth noting that the four squadrons that left the Down Ampney and Blakehill Farm airfields on the night of 5 and 6 June were among fifteen RAF squadrons leaving eight different airfields in the south of England, with nearly forty Dakotas towing gliders from Down Ampney alone. A total of 362 aircraft flew from these, with the first take off from Down Ampney at 10.30pm on 5 June, thus signalling the start of the invasion of Europe.

Extracted from the Cricklade Revealed wartime books. For availability please contact Marion Parsons on 01793 750542, or e-mail mfparsons071@btinternet.com Profits from all CR book sales are donated to Cricklade Open Door.

D-Day Delayed

Weather was a key factor for the success of D-Day

Group Captain James Stagg was a British meteorologist, assigned to the RAF. He was attached to Eisenhower's command as chief meteorologist. His team of experts regularly rehearsed weather patterns for D-Day and prepared trial forecasts, which would then be checked for accuracy as each week progressed. They used a number of tools to measure temperature, humidity, precipitation and cloud cover, but collecting and interpreting accurate data was difficult and the weather remained hard to predict. In the days leading up to D-Day, Stagg and his team forecast that weather conditions would worsen and, on 4 June, Eisenhower postponed the invasion by 24 hours.

The decision to postpone was a difficult one, as any delay made it increasingly difficult to keep the operation a secret. If the weather did not improve, D-Day would have to be delayed until the tides were again the Allies' favour. This would not happen for another two weeks. But over the course of 4-5 June, Stagg predicted a temporary break in the weather. Based on this information, Eisenhower ordered that the invasion proceed on 6 June.

Cricklade Court Leet D-DAY 80th Anniversary

Thursday 6 June 2024

From 8.45pm at Waylands

Commemorate this historic event at The Cricklade Beacon
National Beacon Lighting following music from The Cricklade Band
In association with The Cricklade Band and the RBL



My Father's D-Day

KEN DIXON (RNVR 1942 – 1946)

Ken Dixon volunteered for the Royal Navy in 1942, aged 17, rather than waiting to be conscripted. He realised that although he preferred the idea of the navy to the other services, he would be unlikely to achieve this without volunteering.

His philosophy was that he didn't fancy fighting in ditches with the army, or being shot out of the sky in the RAF, or becoming a Bevin Boy conscripted coal miner. At least with the navy, "My senior officer physically went with me. So did the hotel!"

He was accepted into the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve and, in August 1942, was sent to HMS Bristol for training including a drill and assault course. He then attended HMS Ganges, near Ipswich, for six weeks. He passed his tests and was posted to the cruiser HMS Diomedé, in harbour at Rosyth, Edinburgh.

Diomedé steamed to Scapa Flow to join a convoy to Archangelsk in northern Russia. The voyage seemed years and "was bloody cold". He then returned with Diomedé to Scapa Flow, where he was posted to HMS King Alfred at Brighton for eight weeks of Officer Training. He was then commissioned as Sub Lieutenant to Greenwich Royal Naval College for a 4-weeks' Advanced Navigation Course, after which he was posted as Gunnery Officer on HMS Seagull, a minesweeper in the 1st Mine Sweeping Flotilla. Seagull (pictured in 1946) was the first Royal Navy ship to be built entirely without rivets to avoid setting off mines accidentally.



He volunteered for Coastal Forces in motor launches, MLs, on board ML571 (*similar to the Q-Class one pictured left*) based at HMS Hornet at Gosport opposite Portsmouth. These were built to a Canadian design by Fairmile (B class), and the hull was mainly made of marine plywood.



On D-Day minus 1, 5 June, his flotilla was ordered out ahead of the invasion fleet to "mop up as many e-boats as you can". Having done that, and not finding anything else useful to do round the

Normandy coast, they motored back into the Channel at day break to meet the incoming fleet.

Reporting for new orders, they were told, "Mmm, didn't expect you chaps to still be around. Stooage around and shoot at anything useful!" He was 2 months short of his 20th birthday at the time. You grew up fast in those days.

He served on MGB 571 for the rest of the war in Europe. There may be another chapter around next year's VE Day commemoration.



The Royal British Legion – Cricklade Branch

The Cricklade Branch of the Royal British Legion celebrates its 100th Anniversary this year. In June, the Branch will also be commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the D-Day landings on the Normandy beaches and, in September, the 80th Anniversary of Operation Market Garden, when thousands of Airborne troops flew by glider from Blakehill and Down Ampney to seize key bridges across the Rhine.

However, membership of the Branch is dwindling. It only survives because of the efforts of a small core of loyal members, and we are concerned that the long-term future of the Branch is in doubt. The Legion is not about aged veterans of WW2 – there are precious few left. Neither is it an exclusive club for younger ex-Service personnel. If you believe that the country must remember those who have served and suffered for our security then you are welcome, be it military, veteran or civilian.

We have one particularly important issue. After many years of dedicated service, Tina and Barry will not be running the local Poppy Appeal this year. So far, we have been unable to find new organisers and unless we do so, there will be no poppies on sale in the town this year. Tina and Barry – and their cohort of volunteers – raised over £10,000 through their efforts in 2023, so this would be a huge loss to the town, and the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal more widely.

If you are interested in learning more, and potentially lending some support to the Branch and the Poppy Appeal, then please talk to us. Give me a call or drop me an email. Or join us at the White Hart (back room) at 7.15 pm on Wednesday 19 June or Wednesday 18 September.

Jonathan Hill, Chairman
07583 313 837 – rbldcricklade@gmail.com

Cricklade Historical Society

Friday 7 June - A Walk which is based on the walk of August 2023.

Starts at 7.15pm outside the Town Hall.

Wednesday 19 June - Recent archaeological discoveries in and around Cricklade.

Speaker - Tim Havard (Wiltshire Archaeology)

This talk will be held in the Town Hall Annexe.

Doors open at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start.

Sunday 25 August - Annual Walk

Starts at 2pm - Start point and further details to follow, but it will finish at the Museum where refreshments will be on offer.

Would you like to join the Cricklade Historical Society? By doing so you will be supporting us in the running and maintenance of the town's Museum. Annual membership is only £20 (Single) or £30 (Joint) and this gives you free entry to our talks, unless otherwise stated, regular Newsletters, and also a free copy of our annual publication (CHS Bulletin) which contains articles on our local history. You can download a Membership Application Form from our website www.cricklademuseum.co.uk or contact Paul on 07585 420 027.

Cricklade Foodbank

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



Winter kept her icy grip on us late into April and that posed problems for our clients as they had to find extra money for fuel, which put an additional burden on family finances and often there wasn't enough money to meet the food bill as well. Maybe June will give us a taste of summer warmth.

All your contributions are gratefully received. We are still in need of more gluten-free items and also what we call 'extras' e.g. shampoo, shower gel, laundry powder etc.

We have a number of drop-off points around Cricklade: Tesco, Animal Fayre (pet shop), Culverhay Stores (Spar), St Sampson's School, the local churches and the Town Council office. The containers are emptied regularly by our volunteers.

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 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: crickladebcm@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Visit the website: malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Cricklade Art Group



The Group welcomes you to its summer exhibition.

There will be a wide range of art on display, including

paintings, cards and ceramics from a range of artists. We will also have our popular raffle.

Refreshments – including homemade cake – will be available for a small donation. Please come along and enjoy the atmosphere and perhaps find some special gift!

Summer Exhibition 2024

Saturday 15 and Sunday 16 June 2024

10am to 4pm Cricklade Town Hall

Free entry! All are welcome!

If you wish to learn more about the Cricklade Art Group, and the artwork likely to be on display, please visit our Facebook page www.facebook.com/CrickladeArtGroup or our website www.crickladeart.co.uk

The group meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member, please drop us a line to our email address crickladeartgroup@gmail.com.

Cricklade Open Door

We are nearly half way through the year with warmer weather and holidays being planned - it's just amazing how the months fly by.

Open Door had a very successful Jumble Trail at the end of April, despite the wet and cold weather and we raised £540.75, which is incredible!

Thank you to everyone who gave us their support in many ways.

Open Door is open for coffee, chat and friendship every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10.00 to 12.00. Mornings are a good time to come and meet us initially and find out about the afternoon activities. Lunch can be enjoyed 12 - 1.30pm (booked before 10am) and the afternoon activities begin at 1.45 for 2pm. On Monday afternoons we enjoy Seated Exercises; Tuesday afternoons vary - quizzes, games, discussions etc and on Thursday afternoons we play Bingo. Our Bingo Group could benefit from a few more members. We play for fun and winnings are not 'big bucks' but it's a good way to spend an afternoon and enjoy good company. We also have coffee and cake! Bingo has a lot to offer, especially as we get older. It is great for improving memory and cognitive function and can help hand and eye coordination. Come along 1.45 on Thursday afternoons.

Our next fundraising event is a

Coffee Morning with Raffle and Table Top Sales

Chris's Amazing Cakes and Scones

Saturday 15 June 10am to 12 noon

Jenner Hall, Bath Road

Do come along, see if you can grab a bargain, win a raffle prize, enjoy Chris's cakes and scones, or take some home, meet friends, chat and be part of the general buzz and fun with our Cricklade community.

Cricklade Open Door

Tel: 07599 987 851

Cricklade Memory Café

We continue to enjoy well attended lively cafes each month and usually have a bit of singing and sometimes even a little dancing.

In May we welcomed Jonathan Mansfield from Alzheimer's

Support who was able to give us very useful information and answer questions.

We have asked local businesses to support our monthly running costs and are delighted with the response. We are now able to run the Café each month this year without any charge to our attendees. Our aim is always to offer a welcoming setting with activities, information, fun and a chance to make new friends and now to offer this free is fantastic. So to all the businesses who have responded so far we send our very grateful thanks.

If you have memory issues or have dementia join us on the first Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall Annex for coffee and cakes. All enquiries, or if you would like to volunteer with us to Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.



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Cricklade Twinning Association

The main objective of the Cricklade Twinning Association is to give participants a chance to visit and learn about France. We do this by organising visits to and from our Twin Town Sucé-sur-Erdre.



On the Twinning visits to Sucé, members from Cricklade are hosted by families in Sucé. On visits to Cricklade by the French, it's the other way round. We support these visits with a series of events or attendances at events to stay in touch with members and raise money.

You don't have to speak French to participate.

Cricklade Festival - Sunday 9 June

Come and meet us at the Cricklade Festival to find out more about Twinning and join if you want to. Find our stall on the High Street not far from C&R Grocers.

Visit to our Twin Town in France

When you read this, we will be making or will just have made a four-day visit to Sucé-sur-Erdre (30 May - 2 June). More on that in the next Chronicle.

Some of us are flying to Nantes – Nantes airport is about 18 miles south of Sucé. Others will be making their own way independently by car – Sucé is about a 2 hour drive south of the port of St-Malo.

BBQ & AGM 2024

We will be holding our annual BBQ and AGM on 27 July

For more information, visit us at the Festival or contact me at the address below.

*Chris Faulkner, Chair Cricklade Twinning Association
chair@crickladetwinning.org.uk*

Sing Four Four Community Choir

The Community Choir has two public engagements this summer.

On Saturday 22 June we will be singing alongside other choirs at Upham Road Church, Swindon SN3 1DH, in order to raise money for the charity Brighter Futures. Each choir has a half-hour slot. We perform at 12 midday.



Our Summer Concert will be held in St Sampson's Church on Sunday 14 July at 3pm. Tickets (£6) will be on sale from the Town Council from mid-June. Under 12s are free. As usual, the concert will be followed by tea and cakes. We will also be holding a raffle,

This year the RNLI is celebrating its 200th anniversary. In order to mark this event, the RNLI has launched an initiative called 'Sing to Save Lives', which is designed to encourage choirs to include some songs about the sea in their repertoire. We shall also be supporting the RNLI by donating the proceeds of our raffle. We look forward to seeing you and hope you will enjoy our concert.

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.

The Chronicle

Page 39

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
Tue	7 - 9.30pm	Sat	10am - 12.30pm

Coaching Sessions are:

Wed	10 - 11.30am (ladies)	Fri	10 - 11.30am (mixed)
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18 members took part in the Cotswold Invitational Doubles at Gotherington.
Congratulations to Club members Doug and Mary Hughes who won the tournament.

Our Club social night will be on Friday 28 June.

The Club will be hosting the Cricklade Pétanque Open on Sunday 30 June.

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

Find us on Facebook by searching Cricklade Petanque Club



Cricklade W.I.

We would like to thank our May guest speakers, Doug Small and Jan Flanagan, who brought us up to date on the Latton Basin Restoration. The Latton Basin Restoration Group is a charity dedicated to preserving and maintaining this important historical and unique area. The Basin is at the junction of the North Wilts and Thames & Severn canals just north of Cricklade.

Take a walk along to see how they are clearing and reinstating the towpath and the canal bed between the basin and the Thames.

June is our 40th birthday and we will be celebrating with guests from neighbouring WI's who will share in our wine and nibbles after listening to a talk from Michele of Page Green Flowers.

Michele is another of our local entrepreneurial women; she grows a variety of seasonal cut flowers on a small plot in Cricklade for florists, DIY wedding and events buckets and small jam-jar posies. The flowers are beautifully scented and are sown at the Page Green Farm without use of chemicals. The soil is supplemented regularly with organic mulch and Michele only uses multi-use and recyclable plastics. She will give us a demonstration of basic flower arranging and how to extend the life of cut flowers.

Don't forget to come along to our Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale on Saturday 8 June in the Town Hall from 9.30am to 12 noon to enjoy home made cake and refreshments while browsing our stalls.

For further information about Cricklade WI visit our Facebook page or contact our secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or at vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com





St Sampson's Church, Bath Road, Cricklade. SN6 6AT

COME & SING!

Fauré's REQUIEM

Musical Director
Mark Lee, Director of Music, Bristol Cathedral

Saturday 6th July 2024

- 10.30am Registration
- 11.00am—3.30pm Workshops
- 4pm Performance
- Cost: £20 to include score and refreshments (please bring a packed lunch/buy lunch locally)
- Parking is available at Cricklade Town Hall SN6 6AE or St Sampsons Primary School SN6 6AX

Scan the QR code below to book or email:
admin@upperthames.org.uk

If you don't want to join the singing workshops please come and enjoy a FREE performance at 4pm—all welcome!



South Cotswolds WASPI Group

Based in Cricklade

Are you a woman born in the 1950s? Join a new South Cotswolds WASPI group based in Cricklade.

If you're in this age group, you're probably aware that the Ombudsman has recommended that compensation should be awarded for the failure of the Department for Work & Pensions to inform women properly about the changes to their State Pension age. WASPI (Women Against State Pension Injustice) has a national network of over 55 local groups, and now there's a new group based in Cricklade and covering the new South Cotswolds constituency area. If you'd like to join us to campaign for the fast and fair implementation of a compensation scheme, please email southcotswoldswaspi@outlook.com

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	

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade

Saxons Pétanque Club play on the gravel just in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and 10am on Saturday mornings. Our 7pm Wednesday evening club sessions have restarted now that the evenings are lighter and hopefully a bit warmer! We also run informal training sessions at 10am on some Wednesdays. Membership is very reasonable at just £20 per annum for adults and £5 for children.

We have a 3-ender club competition coming up on Sunday 30 June and a tournament on Saturday 20 July raising funds for Marie Curie. This year we have entered two teams in the Cotswold Pétanque League where we will be playing teams from Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Pétanque Club among others.

We arrange social events throughout the year and in June we will be trying our hand at tenpin bowling in Swindon.

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



Come and join in the fun! Mixed Tag on Thursday evenings 7 to 8pm at Fairview Fields ... it's free! All newcomers are

welcome, just turn up. Zac 07842 666 755, Pixie 07728 399 759.

Sunny Start to Swindon Croquet Club's season

Swindon's 2024 season began on 1 April in pleasant sunshine with many of our members very keen to return to the lawns at Moredon Sporting Hub. The club's sessions on both Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings are in full swing.



Members have also been busy preparing and working on the area where two new lawns will be sited. The hope is that a fourth lawn will be available for play very shortly.

An Open Day is being planned and will give prospective new members a chance to enjoy this game of skill and strategy. If you would like to give croquet a try please see our website, find us on Facebook or email for more information (www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk)

Pictured (L to R): Tony Mayer, Clive Smith and Steven Hares who represented Swindon at the annual "One ball" Charity event held at Kington Langley CC. The event raised £165 for The British Heart Foundation.

Moon Phases

June 2024

6th



14th



22nd



28th

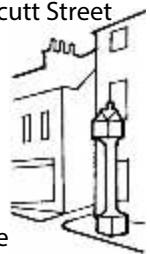


The Chronicle Diary – June 2024

- 1 Sa tbc North Meadow Bio-Blitz “results” session at Town Hall, page 19
end of day Chronicle copy deadline
- 3 M 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
7pm Town Council Planning (PCT) Committee, Council Chamber
- 4 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St
7.30pm Camera Club AGM and Annual Exhibition, Town Hall Annexe
- 5 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 6 Th 8.45pm D-Day Beacon Lighting commemoration ay Waylnds
- 7 F 7.15pm Historical Society walk starting from Town Hall
- 8 Sa 9am to 12 noon: Garden Club Plant Fair at Town Hall
9.30am to 12 noon: W.I. Coffee Morning and Table Top at Town Hall
- 9 Su **Cricklade Festival – High Street area**, page 17
11am to 4 pm: Teas and Cakes at St Mary’s Church
- 10 M 7pm Town Council Premises & Finance Committee, Council Chamber
- 11 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
7.30pm Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 15 Sa 10am to 12 noon: Open Door Coffee Morning with raffle etc, page 37
10am to 4pm: Art Group Exhibition at Town Hall
- 16 Su 10am to 4pm: Art Group Exhibition at Town Hall
- 17 M 7pm Town Council Personnel Committee Meeting, Council Chamber
- 18 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St
7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 19 W 10.30am to 12 noon: Parkinson’s Café at Cricklade Club, High Street
7.15pm Royal British Legion *and friends* at White Hart- see page 6
7.15pm for 7.30pm: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
- 20 Th Summer solstice (longest day)
7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 22 Sa 12 noon Sing Four Four choir at Upham Road Church, page 39
- 24 M 7pm Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
- 27 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 29 Sa 10am Prospect Hospice Coffee Morning at United Church, Calcutt Street
10am to 12 noon: Sponsored Water Carry, page 21
7pm The Wessex at Christ Church, Swindon, page 21

Every Week

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-3.30pm: Open Door at Jenner Hall
- W 1.45 for 2pm Bingo4Us at Jenner Hall
- Th 10-11.30am Acorn Community Bank: in Tourist Information Office
1.30-4.30pm The Paint Palette: Ladies’ Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
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



The Final Word ...

St Sampson's church tower is a well-known sight, visible for miles around, but I wonder whether you've ever popped inside and looked at the big east window, (it's up at the far end of the church from where you come in, up behind the main altar). The central part of this window shows Jesus on the cross as well as a scene from the vision of God's future, described in the last chapter of the last book in the Bible (Revelation 22:1&2).

The scene shows the river of the water of life, and from the wood of the cross comes the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit. Those fruits (both images and words) are some of what the Bible calls the fruit of the Spirit - perhaps we'd call them Christian values, like patience, love, goodness. Around the tree of life, with its green leaves, are these words - "the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations."

In these troubled times across our world, with conflict in Ukraine, parts of Africa and in the Middle East, the healing of the nations may well seem a long way off, but we can hold on to the hope of God's promise for His future of a new creation, with peace and healing of the nations. Let's hang on to that hope.

St Sampson's church is open every day – do pop in and take a look at the east window, and perhaps offer a prayer, a prayer for yourself or for someone you know or for peace in our world. It is in God that we have hope.

*Revd Shirley (Serving in Upper Thames Benefice of
Cricklade, Latton, Ashton Keynes and the Leigh)*

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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.

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