

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 590



August 2024

"I'm a-coming!"
Field behind Paul's Croft
picture © Bob Stimpson



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SUZUKI

From the Editor

As I write, I don't know the election result, but by now you all will! So it's back to normal life. Whatever that means?! I wonder what the summer will bring. It's still June for me cooling down after a rather hot spell. But it's August for you. I wonder what July was like?

St Sampson's Fundraising Appeal are holding a re-run of their well received Curry Night at Kavali on 12 August. It sold out quickly last year so, if you want to join in, see the details on page 20 and get your tickets soon!

A lot of clubs will be stopping their activities for August, so check their articles in the magazine, the *Chronicle Diary* and their websites for information.

The schools will have shut their doors from 25 July until 2 September, but I know the teachers will still be at work assessing the year just gone, and planning the next

year's curriculum. Students will be going up a year: some starting a new school, some a new experience in higher education, jobs or apprenticeships. We wish them all well!



The Olympics will be well under way in Paris by now, and there should be the opportunity to view all the athletes' performances, and to cheer on our own at the Leisure Centre (page 24).

We are pleased to see that the Parkinson's Café has found a new home from September. See page 39 for details.

If you are going away during the summer, the Town Council has some security tips on page 3. But if you are still around on 9 August, there is a free skate park session at the Leisure Centre.

Have a good August!

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The deadline for the September 2024 issue is Thursday 1 August 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



Can you help? It may save a life!

The Community Heart Beat Trust has seven defibrillators around Cricklade, all of which are there as the result of local fund raising and grants. There are others in premises such as Tesco and the Leisure Centre which mean our community is incredibly well served by these amazing devices.

They do however need regular cleaning and checks, usually on a monthly basis. Information is then submitted to the Community Heart Beat Trust so that the units are always ready if needed.

After September the current volunteer who carries out these checks will be handing over the task to someone else. Could you be this person and serve the Cricklade Community by doing so?

Defibrillators have helped to save lives, and can be used by anyone, as the user is guided through the whole process by the machine itself. If you can spare a couple of hours a month to undertake this very important task, please contact: Tom Dowsett: defibrillators@communityheartbeat.org.uk

Thank You.

Janice A Furze

Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Tuesday 27 July

Planning, Conservation and Transport
Committee



Monday 2 September

Full Town Council

The Meetings commence at 7pm, 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.

Skateboard Activity Sessions

The Council is again funding a Free Skatepark Session for children of all ages hosted by ATB Shop on Friday 9 August at the Leisure Centre between 10am and 1pm. Skateboards and scooters will be provided but bring your own if you prefer. Parents welcome to join in too!

Floral Displays

We would like to thank all the residents, businesses, Bloomers and the Council Grounds Team for their hard work in keeping Cricklade's floral displays in pristine condition. The High Street floral displays, planted by Bloomers and watered by the Grounds Team are in full bloom and looking fantastic.

There were many lovely front gardens, hanging baskets and front doors on display for the "Cricklade in Bloom" competition, but at the time of writing it has not yet been judged. Watch this space or visit the Council Website for more news and events.

The Tourist Information Point ...

... has a range of leaflets, for tourists and locals who just want to know a bit more about our Town, or what is available in the area. Do you know we have a lost and found property section? We post all items brought in on Facebook and on the Council door for those who do not subscribe to social media. Sadly, if the items are not retrieved, bank cards are shredded, anything else is binned or recycled, so if you have lost something recently do give us a ring, just in case.

In addition, there is also a collection point for used batteries, postage stamps, ink cartridges and mobile phones (Factory Reset please), as well as Foodbank items.

If there is anything you would like to see the Tourist Information Point stock, please let us know. We may not adopt your suggestion but it helps us keep your opinions at the forefront of our minds.

Holidays

Some useful checklists before you go. *Safewise.com* suggests you check your doors, garage and windows are securely closed and locked, and any existing security system is operational. If you are driving, service your car, check tyres, oil and water, plan your route and have an alternative. It is recommended you have frequent rest stops to prevent dehydration. Check you have all literature and documentation before leaving,

and that it is still in date. Let someone know where you are going, keep your phone and charger handy and don't be tempted to post where you are on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc whilst you are there. Keep it for when you get home!

If you have any worries about home safety, contact the Bobby Van, which is an independent charity working with Wiltshire Police and Wiltshire Fire & Rescue Service who offer a free home security service and a stay safe online support for older, vulnerable and disadvantaged people across Wiltshire. Email:

bobbyvan@wiltshire.police.uk

Bins

Please can we remind residents to ensure that their bins are returned to their property as soon as possible after collection. Leaving them out can cause obstruction to pedestrians and vehicles if left on the footpath or the road.

Hedges

Can all homeowners please note that you are responsible for your hedges. Please can you ensure that footpaths are kept clear of overhanging trees and hedges, and that undergrowth is not allowed to encroach onto footpaths. In recent weeks, we have had several instances of brambles and stinging nettles encroaching onto paths causing injury, and impassable footpaths.

Cricklade Neighbourhood Plan

There have been many concerns aired by those who took the time to let the Council know their needs and what they felt the community lacked. We thank you all for your time; it was a little disappointing not to have more information from the youth of Cricklade – after all they will be the ones taking the Town forward into the future, but with hectic lives it may have been too difficult.

The results are being collated and will be available later in the year.

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)

Closed Bank Holiday Monday 26 August 2024

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Wiltshire Sight

Wiltshire Sight have a hub on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at Cricklade Library between 10.15am and 12.30pm.

By appointment only. Please call 01380 723682 or e-mail info@wiltshiresight.org

Get information, advice and practical help from a sight loss advisor.

Wiltshire Perspective

This last month has been an extremely busy month for me: it had what will probably be the final 'first time' for specific meetings. This time it was the Area Board, which I've been to a few times some years ago, but never on the front desk. It was good to get views from a mezzanine perspective. The Area Board stretches from our division in the north and arcs round to the west of Swindon to Hackpen Hill in the south. Wiltshire has 18 such Area Boards.

Our Board Area includes Lyneham Banks, which suffered a landslip closing the B4069 in February 2022. Wiltshire Council has now awarded a contract for the repairs due to finish by the end of this calendar year. The Area Board meeting was given a presentation by the contract winners, who were quizzed in significant detail about many things including where the contractors would be staying and where they might be buying their sandwiches from. The questions in my mind were more along the lines of the details of the timeline that will take it almost three years to fix. But I bit my lip as I didn't have a dog in that fight.

A traffic concern I do have is the startling progress of the missing link at the northern end of the dual carriageway around Birdlip, and specifically the impact it will have on us with the increased traffic on the road and the associated noise that will be coming our way in the not too distant future. I'm trying to press for a focus on it now rather than having to suffer several years before the issue is prioritised to get it resurfaced. This is especially important now that it's about to be handed back to Highways England from the private company that built and maintained it since its original construction around 30 years ago.

As I write, I don't know the result of the election, but if it's Roz, I suspect I have a better chance of gaining traction on the issue than if it is James. Having said that, I will be pressing either of them for help to try to prioritise this for the well-being of our local residents.

The traffic that probably impacts on Marston Meysey the most comes from the aircraft rather than the ground, especially with RIAT in July. By cycling to Trowbridge for the last full council meeting I probably saved around 2 gallons of fuel or, put another way, less than a 30th of a second for an F-15 using its afterburners. They say every little helps, but in the light of that I can't help feeling 'but not much'.

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

Bingo 4 Us

Bingo4Us meet on Wednesday afternoons in the Jenner Hall, Bath Road, Cricklade. Doors open 1.45pm and it is EYES DOWN at 2 pm.

New members will be made very welcome. No joining fee, just pay £2 per session. No forms to complete just come along on the day.

If you have any questions please give Chris a call on 07500 871 680 or call Vicky 07801 952 027.

Cricklade Court Leet

Notice of Public Court and Appointment of Honorary Freemen



I give notice that the next public Court Leet will be held on
22 November 2024 in the Town Hall with the Lord of the Manor Michael
Neeld presiding.

Officers will give reports and members of the jury will have been duly summoned to
attend.

Part of the function of The Court is to award Honorary Freeman status to persons 'who
in the sole opinion of the Court have given outstanding or exceptional service for the
benefit of Cricklade'.

The award carries with it no rights or privileges simply the recognition of voluntary
work undertaken, generally over many years, in our community for the benefit of us
all. The number of recipients is limited by our rules, so it remains a special award to
those who have received it in the past.

If you feel you know of someone who may be suitable for such an award, please speak
to any member of The Court who can, if they wish, take the nomination forward for
you. A list of names and contact details is held at the Town Council Offices or speak to
me. See our website crickladecourtleet.org.uk

John Coole - Steward to The Manorial Court for the Hundred and Borough of Cricklade
Clive Smith - High Bailiff

St John the Baptist Club 100

The Latton 100 Club draw for June 2024 has taken place and the winners are:

1st Prize	£100	Helen Martin.
2nd Prize	£29	Phil Hamilton
3rd Prize	£20	Fiona Wigglesworth
4th Prize	£8.50	Cath Foreshaw

The next draw will take place at the end of September.

To join the club please contact Nicki at latton100club@gmail.com

The club's aim is to help maintain the fabric of the Church of St John the Baptist, Latton.

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 27 June, the lucky winners were :-

First Prize:	Eric Cripps	£36.60
Second Prize:	Alan Poole	£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

200 Club

The July draw was made by Receptionist Suzanne Willie. The £100 winner was Janet Newman, £15 winners were Paul and Susan West. 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.pspgg@gmail.com) to request it.

It's coming up to renewal time! The 200 Club year starts on 1 October!

If you have set up a Standing Order then you need do nothing else, your membership will automatically renew. If you're not already a member then you can join now ready for the new 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 you and for administration purposes. Forms are available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries.

Table Top in Purton Surgery

Thank you to all who support the Table Top in Purton Surgery Waiting Room, those who contribute items and to those who buy. We are pleased to receive good quality donations for the Table which should be handed in to Reception (no shoes please). If you would like to purchase any items then please hand your money in to Reception.

Don't forget there are also books for sale at 50p each; please put money in the tin or hand into Reception.

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.pspgg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Sing Four Four Community Choir

The Community Choir would like to thank everyone who supported our Summer Concert on 14 July. We enjoyed singing a wide variety of songs. It was also great to be able to support the RNLI in its 200th anniversary year. Thank you to everyone who bought raffle tickets and gave us the opportunity to send a donation to the RNLI.

The choir will be taking a break over the summer but will reconvene in September to begin rehearsing for our Christmas Concert in December.



Cricklade Development Foundation

The Old Police Station: Latest Update



We are pleased to announce the completion of the new toilet block which has gone from a dilapidated storage area into new “fit for purpose” toilets for the local community and visitors using the premises once the whole project is complete. The toilets were mainly financed by the generous grants from local organisations including Crapper and Sons, Hills Group, Wayland Estates Charity and of course our great membership.

With the upstairs flats already rented to local people the focus has been to complete the ground floor with potentially up to four commercial units and we are now almost there. We are actively now seeking commercial tenants for these exceptional units, which can be leased as one large unit or split into four. Located right in the heart of the High Street there is no better location.

So, if anyone has a great business idea, we may just have the place for you.

For more details email contact@crickladedevelopment.org.uk or telephone 07902 421 756.

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 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

Cricklade Festival

A BIG Thank-you to all the people of Cricklade who attended our Festival in June. We were blessed with great weather and the committee were amazed at the numbers in attendance, and we hope everyone had a good time!

Special thanks must go to all our wonderful volunteers who marshalled on the day. It wouldn't have happened without you!

However, without the funding of our local businesses there would be no Festival, so thanks to you all for your support. Also our thanks to our two sponsors Pebley Beach and Mather & Murray. We must also thank Cricklade Town Council for their continued support.

You may have noticed some changes and improvements this year resulting in a couple of feedback quotes we received such as "a lovely time and our young children had a lot of fun!" and many stall holders said they'd "had a great day" and definitely want to join us next year.

If you like to be part of making this truly wonderful day happen then please contact us and be a part of what's already in the planning for next year!

Catch us through our Facebook page or email to: Info@crickldefestival.co.uk.

See you next year on 8 June!

Thanks to all once again.

Alan, Louise, Polly, Paul & Chris

Just a selection of photos from the day!



St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

We are continuing to work with the architects, archaeologists and other specialists to develop detailed plans for the refurbishment. We are also starting our fundraising for the North Aisle roof and box gutter, which we hope to repair next spring ready to install air source heat pumps and solar panels. We have secured a £15,000 grant from Community First – Crapper and Sons. The total needed for the roof repairs is £90,000.

You can see the latest plans and visuals for the refurbishment at stsampsonschurchappeal.co.uk

We are so grateful for your donations and your support for our fundraising events.

Here are some dates for your diary:

*Curry Evening

**Join us at Kavali Indian Restaurant
on Monday 12 August at 7pm**

for an Evening of Fun, Food and Fundraising.

(*English dish available. Please advise of any dietary requirements.)

Tickets are £25 to include Quiz, Raffle & Games. Drinks are extra.
(sorry, the price was wrong in last month's issue)

Tickets available from:

Sharon Smith: 01793 751375 Adina Grace: 01793 380583

St Sampson's Church Fete

Saturday 7 September 2024 2pm - 4pm

Trips up the tower! Soft toy parachute jumps! Cream teas! Stalls BBQ



Wine tasting evening – Friday 4 October

You will see more information about this and other events and how to book on posters around the town, social media and our website: stsampsonschurchappeal.co.uk

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 donate.giveasyoulive.com.



St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the June 2024 draw was:

Clare Hoad 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

Cricklade Camera Club

The Club's season runs from September to June. During July and August details of friendly summer meets and workshops can be found on our website (crickladedecameraclub.org), or by contacting the Club Secretary for further information (clubsecretary@crickladedecameraclub.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.

Our 2024/25 program is just being finalised and will appear on our website soon, but we will continue to have many excellent speakers covering a wide range of topics.

Our eighth season starts in earnest on Tuesday 3 September in the Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm for an entertaining evening as members talk about their successes over the last year and discuss photographic new year's resolutions.

Our second meeting in September will be a Zoom meeting on 17 September with Alan and Julie Walker who will be explaining how to maximise your success in competitions. Their talk looks at how to improve individual images for competitions across a wide range of photographic genres. They will look at the capture and getting it right in the camera plus the necessary post production to avoid judge bait, before a brief look at taking photography to the creative level which is often successful in many competitions

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.



Early Warning!

WHCT Ride and Stride: Saturday 14 September 2024

We need volunteers to walk or cycle – or indeed ride on horseback – to visit as many churches as possible in our area. We hope that you will persuade your family and friends to sponsor you. Half of the money you raise will benefit your “home” church and half will go to the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

More details will follow from our churches but make a note of the date and start planning. Help to make The Great Cycle Ride come back to life.

RIDE+STRIDE
for Churches

WILTSHIRE'S CHURCHES OPEN DAY

14th SEPT 2024

Join us on a bike, on foot or on horseback to keep Wiltshire's historic churches, chapels and meeting houses looking beautiful and open for the future by raising money for your own church and the Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust.

Supported by the
WILTSHIRE CHURCHES TRUST
Since 1982

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

28 July

Trinity 9

10am Holy Communion *at Waterhay*

6.30pm Evening Service *at Waterhay*

Our 28 July services are Worship Together Outdoors in the 'sacred space' around the Old Chancel at Waterhay, and to which anyone is most welcome. (To get there, look for the sign to Chancel off Waterhay Lane). Please do bring a rug or chair. If wet the services will be inside Leigh All Saints church in Swan Lane.

Services during August in the Upper Thames Group of Churches.

We have a different pattern of services during August. At 10am, we will be holding one service in one of our churches. The early communion services follow their usual pattern.

4 August

Trinity 10

8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*

10am Worship Together Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*

11 August

Trinity 11

10am Worship Together Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*

18 August

Trinity 12

8am Holy Communion followed by breakfast *at St Sampson's*

10am Worship Together Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*

25 August

Trinity 13

8.30am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*

10am Worship Together Holy 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

9 June Artemis Mercutio Bleu Oxley *at St Sampson's*
30 June Theo Joshua George Morris *at St Sampson's*

Weddings

14 June Danielle Ann Bowles & Thomas Michael Patterson *at St Sampson's*
30 June Lars Ake Frimert & Susan Maria O'Brien *at Holy Cross*

Funerals

3 June John Charles Kilminster - *Interment of ashes at Cricklade Cemetery*
11 June David William Messenger - *Service at St Sampson's with interment Cricklade Cemetery*
26 June Meg (Margaret) Cripps - *Services at Kingsdown Crematorium and St Sampson's*

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.stthomasparishfairford.org.uk.

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

Sunday morning services at 10.30am during August

4 August Rev David Newman, service includes communion
11 August led by the Worship Group
18 August led by the Worship Group
25 August Pam Mullins from Shrivenham

Cricklade United Church

Bounce and Rhyme - a group for Babies and Toddlers. Come along and enjoy a social afternoon with music and rhymes for the little ones. Chat and refreshments including lovely cake available:

Tuesday 6 August and Tuesday 20 August from 1.45pm to 2.45pm.

Worship Services during August - see page 23

Cricklade Memory Café

We continue to enjoy well attended lively cafes each month and June was no exception; we welcomed six new members for a particularly busy morning. We were delighted to be joined by:



Children from Thames Pre School,
Cat Attewell from 'Home Instead',
Rod Davis from Swindon Lions with 'Messages in Bottles',
Avril Samuel from the Katie Haines Trust with Carbon Monoxide Detectors.

Jonathan Mansfield from Alzheimer's Wiltshire also attended – a last minute meeting had prevented him from attending our May Café. He handed out leaflets and chatted to some of the Carers.

Our very grateful thanks to Wayland Estates Charity for their grant award. It will enable us to go forward with confidence, benefiting our charity and more importantly our members, and it will give us the ability to expand our resources and activities.

Our aim is always to offer a welcoming setting with activities, information, fun and a chance to make new friends and enjoy coffee and homemade cakes.

If you have memory issues or have dementia, join us on the first Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall Annexe for coffee and cakes – see the Diary at the back of your copy of *The Chronicle*.

All enquiries, or if you would like to volunteer with us to Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.

OLYMPICS – PARIS 2024

CRICKLADE LEISURE CENTRE

WATCH LIVE TV ON THE BALCONY*

Families welcome – come and join us!

BBQ & bar

Olympic Events during the summer of this year.

Friday 26 July to Sunday 11 August

**Weather permitting. Will be held in the café/bar area if it rains
or you can bring your brolly*

Cricklade Garden Club

Our gardening year starts in March and, as always, we have had a wide range of excellent speakers and garden visits.

In March, after our AGM, David Cropp gave us an enthusiastic demonstration of dividing and potting on with the very satisfactory outcome of getting a number of new plants from one old one.

The threats historic gardens, parks and landscapes face from housing developments, infrastructure projects and leisure demands were highlighted by Maggie Hoffnung of the Gardens Trust. It was a very informative talk and a wake-up call for us all.

Jo Homan of the Orchard Project spoke to us on the transformative benefits of green space and community growing, particularly in deprived urban areas.

June was a busy month: we had our annual Plant Fair in the Town Hall on the 8th which was well attended and lots of plants were sold to happy gardeners who then went on to sample delicious refreshments from the WI in the Annexe. Then on the 11th we invited visitors from other Cricklade organisations to join us in celebrating 20 years of Bloomers. Anita Barratt gave us a beautifully illustrated talk on how she and the late Bob Jones started Bloomers and how it has evolved over the years. Glasses were happily raised to honour a remarkable achievement.

In July, Sally Oates, an artisan grower and florist, showed us how she had created a cut flower patch from scratch at her delightfully named Dillycot Garden.

Lovely visits to Welford Park for snowdrops, the iconic Waterperry Gardens and the atmospheric Bishop's Palace Gardens in Wells were thoroughly enjoyed.

Our next meeting is on 10 September when we will be delighted to welcome back Richard Ricketts. Our favourite bee keeper will be introducing us to the amazing honey bee. Refreshments are served from 7pm and 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 £20.00 per annum, and we are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies (www.gfgs.org.uk)

Visitors are always welcome at £5.00 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 in September.

Christian Aid

Many thanks to everyone who donated to the Christian Aid week annual appeal. Thanks too to those who offered their homes as envelope collection points all around the town. We

are delighted to announce that overall we raised £1,665.88 – this has been forwarded to Christian Aid and will be a great help in allowing them to continue their important work supporting the most needy and vulnerable people across the world.



The Christian Aid Team

After Blakehill – The Story of Blakehill Camp

What happened next to RAF Blakehill Farm?

When WW2 ended, many factories switched from military to commercial production, but the increasing demand for workers was hampered by the housing shortage. In response to this national problem the Government started converting living quarters on abandoned army and air bases into civilian accommodation. And so, in November 1946 when RAF Blakehill closed, Cricklade & Wootton Bassett RDC drew up proposals to adapt the Nissen huts on the unoccupied sites as temporary housing until new council houses could be built.



*Nissen huts when first erected
at RAF Blakehill Farm*

At Blakehill there were six ex-RAF living sites of separate groups of half-circular, corrugated steel Nissen huts set on compounds around the aerodrome with more than thirty huts plus other ex-military buildings on most sites. About 150 huts were suitable for conversion on five of the sites each surrounded by farmers' fields on the land that had been requisitioned when the airfield was built.

The Nissen huts (30ft long by 16ft wide) had been the sleeping quarters for the WAAF and RAF personnel. With no internal partitions they were heated by a coke-fired stove, and lit only by windows in the brick-built ends. Latrines and washrooms were in separate buildings outside. Now, each hut was to be divided into five spaces inside to provide two bedrooms, a big living room with a new dormer window to allow in extra daylight, and a bathroom and kitchen. Water and electricity were laid on so that the bathroom could be fitted with a fixed bath, wash basin and flush toilet, and the kitchen with a sink, cooker and water heater. By late 1947 the huts were ready for occupation by a significant number of key workers and their families, while some Swindon companies were allocated Nissen huts at Blakehill to let to their own employees.

Extracted from Cricklade Revealed book Part Seven by Marion Parsons.

In next month's *Chronicle*, look out for the reaction of the new tenants when they first moved in ...

Sale! More than half of Cricklade Revealed's 15 books are now out of print. However, reprints of complete sets of all 15 books at only £25 (less than half the original price) are now on offer for a limited period.

Advance orders ONLY. Please ring Marion on 01793 750542 or email:

mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com to add your name to the rapidly growing list.

Profits from all CR sales are donated to Cricklade Open Door.



A Nissen hut after conversion to civilian use.

Parkinson's Café Cricklade

We are really happy to tell you, that we have found a new venue for the PUK - The Cricklade Café.

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

As of Wednesday 18 September, we will start afresh at The Cricklade Hotel & Spa.

There you will find plenty of level parking, good access and an accessible loo!

There is also a Helicopter landing pad there if you wish to enter in style, please notify us in advance if you wish to use this facility!?

We are very grateful to Derek and his team at The Cricklade Hotel & Spa for welcoming the café to their fine establishment.

The volunteers team look forward to seeing you there!

Vincent, Maggie, Sean, Ray and Jim - your volunteers team.

PARKINSON'S^{UK}

PARKINSON'S CAFES

**For people living with Parkinson's and
their loved ones or carers**

Wednesday 18 September 2024

Then every third Wednesday

10:30am-12pm

**Cricklade House Hotel and Spa
Common Hill
Cricklade
SN6 6HA**

**Join us for a cuppa, cake, and a chat!
No booking required, just come along.**

**Anyone affected by Parkinson's welcome,
including family, friends, and carers.
Refreshments and cake available to
purchase. We meet in the hotel restaurant.**

**For more information contact Vincent Mobey,
Cafe Co-ordinator on parkinsonscafecricklade@gmail.com**

Sing a Musical in a Day – Greater than Gold 5 October 2024 at Cricklade United Church

Workshops from 12 noon – performance 4.30 approximately
Charge £5 to include light lunch

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 **Greater Than Gold** 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

Wayland Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present



Leave a Legacy to Cricklade

Wayland Estates Charity would appreciate residents of Cricklade considering making a donation or leaving a gift in their will to the Charity.

WHY? Currently, Wayland Estates Charity gives approximately £10,000 per annum to community groups. The Charity has a limited amount of capital, providing a small amount of income, with little opportunity for growth. In future we would like to be able increase our income allowing us to help more groups and support bigger projects.

Who are we? There is a committee of twelve Cricklade residents who, as Trustees, meet twice a year to decide the grant awards and to maintain the running of the charity.

Who do we help? Examples of projects that have been supported are for the Cricklade Development Foundation, the Memory Café, Cricket Club, Bowls Club, the Town Band, the Jenner Hall, the Clock at St Mary's, The Chronicle, the Leisure Centre's Dance Studio. Our grants, given for capital projects not for running costs, enable groups to provide a community facility that may otherwise be lost in the future without valuable support.

Would you like to donate now or leave a legacy in your will for the benefit of Cricklade and the future of Cricklade? The Charity is the perfect way to do this by adding to the Charity's capital ensuring a healthy future income to help groups supporting all of Cricklade.

A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

For more information contact John Harman (clerk to Wayland Estates Charity)

Tel: 07962 116526 Email: jharman@btopenworld.com

or visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/waylandestates

or donate at: donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/waylandestatescharity

(or scan the QR code on the right)



Cricklade Open Door

Here we are nearly in August and 'heavens above', thoughts of autumn activities and even Christmas keep popping into my mind!

However - we had a great end to July, with an invitation to watch St Sampson's C of E School's end of term production - 'Rock Bottom', an hysterical Stone Age rock musical! We are so fortunate to be included in both St Sampson's C of E Primary School and Cricklade Manor Prep Schools' productions. It's great that they value the Cricklade community's residents of all ages.

We have also enjoyed afternoons of cake decorating and of flower arranging, as well as all the usual activities.

We visited 'The Crown' at Cerney Wick, to enjoy a pub lunch with a super menu of mainly Indian dishes but also other choices too. A great place and not too far away – we recommend it and also thank our volunteer mini bus drivers and assistants who transport members on extra days, other than on our usual 3 days at The Jenner Hall. On Friday 26 July we were invited to join in with the afternoon of White Lodge Care Home's Summer Fete, with stalls, raffles, eats etc, so we went along and, fabulously, the proceeds from the day were given to Open Door. That's a BIG 'Thank You' to White Lodge.

So, here we go into August!

Open Door will be open through August, just closed on Bank Holiday Monday 26 August.

Pop along on a Monday, Tuesday or Thursday between 10am and 3.30pm to The Jenner Hall or telephone 07599 987 851 if you'd like a chat beforehand.

Cricklade W.I.

We have had a busy few months recently and now it is good to settle back, relax and enjoy our upcoming speakers and the summer weather. Thank you Alison for our talk last month on the 'good old British cup of tea'. I'm sure we will all have more respect for our 'cuppa' now we realise the impact tea has had on our history and culture.

We are very much looking forward to our August speaker. Stewart Linford built a multi-million pound business from scratch that won him the Queen's Award and the Freedom of the City of London. Unveiling a series of exceptional pieces of craftsmanship Stewart will explain the evolution of chair making through his uniquely humorous stories, the inside accounts of dealing with clients from rock stars to royalty, plus his distinctive take on historic British heroes and events. Stewart created a Winston Churchill armchair in the early noughties ... and people said that Stewart looked a bit like the Great Man. That started an exciting journey as a Churchill lookalike culminating in his magnum opus: *The Wicked Wit of Winston Churchill*. As an award winning member of Toastmasters International Speakers he is a maestro of interactive and exciting story telling whatever the occasion.

If you would like to come and hear our speakers, we welcome visitors at £3 only. Come and see what we are about; we meet on the third Thursday of each month in the Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm. Or contact our secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or at



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Cricklade Foodbank

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



The school summer holidays are now upon us. Hopefully, we will enjoy many warm and sunny days and the children will be able to get out to play. Using lots of energy usually means hungry mouths to feed and many of our clients will find these six weeks tough.

We are always grateful to everyone who donates to the Foodbank, either by putting food into our donation points or by financial contributions. Our usual collection points: Tesco, Culverhay Stores, Animal Fayre and all the local churches, are regularly emptied. Please keep the donations coming.

There are a variety of ways to make a financial donation. On the Malmesbury & District Foodbank website there is a 'donate' button. Also you can download the app 'Bankthefood' for up-to-date food needs.

If you would like to make a regular donation via Standing Order, please contact Cricklade Foodbank Centre Manager, Hugh Thomas, on 07483 107 807. He will be able to give you all the relevant bank details.

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: crickladecm@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Visit the website: malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Cricklade Historical Society

Sunday 25 August – Annual Walk: Re-tracing the Route of the Saxon Walls

This walk will start from the Museum at 2pm and will finish at the Museum where refreshments will be on offer.

Please note: The walk will be partly over uneven ground/terrain, so suitable footwear will be required.

We will also be running a shorter version of the above. This walk will start from Saxons Rest at 2pm and will also finish at the Museum for refreshments. This walk will be along tarmac footpaths, but will include steps as we go from Portwell into Parsonage Farm Close.

In Our Broader Area

■ **Swindon & Cricklade Railway: Sat/Sun 3 and 4 August**

Sausage and Cider Festival, Blunsdon Station, Tadpole Lane SN25 2DA

Join us at the Sausage & Cider Festival, where sizzling sausages and crisp ciders compliment each other for the perfect experience.

Diesel Trains will be running to the Standard Timetable throughout the day.

■ **Purton Annual Flower, Arts, Crafts and Produce Show: 17 August**

Purton Village Hall. Open from 2pm. In aid of the Royal British Legion

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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Our Club social night will be on Friday 30 August.

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

Find us on Facebook by searching Cricklade Petanque Club



Pre-season training starts on Thursday 1 August. 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. Mixed Tag with strength and conditioning on Tuesdays 7 - 8pm. We are a friendly club and welcome new players and supporters.

Our Minis and Juniors 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. 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.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

8 August Katherine Parr - the Life, Loves and Times of the last Wife of Henry VIII

22 August The Wicked Wit of Winston Churchill; his Vices, Tastes and Virtues



The meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday at 10am at the White Hart Hotel in Cricklade. Ours is a friendly group who enjoy keeping our minds active and socialising over a drink in the bar after the meetings. We are actively seeking to expand our numbers and look forward to welcoming new members to the Club.

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

Cricklade Bowls Club

Our summer season progresses well with both our league and internal matches in full swing. These will take us well into September.

Today is 1 July and we haven't seen much rain in a while. We're hoping for a dry July and August but that will have an impact on our water bills. No one lives at the club so there's little in the way of water usage over the winter. But looking at last year, we had a very hot and dry summer. At the hottest times we might average 4m³ per day so, although we have a spray irrigation system, we don't want to over water. But nor do we want a brown green ... if there is such a thing! I suppose so, since the picture



here, taken by Clive Heard from the top of St Sampson's church tower, shows a grey green!

The other times we use more water than normal are in the spring and autumn when we put on top dressing sand, fertiliser and seed, but that's comparatively minor.

Let us hope for long warm sunny days, with significant rainfall every night that stops an hour before dawn!

We continue to welcome a few new members almost every week. If you are interested and want to know more about the game of bowls, the best opportunity is to come to one of our Club Nights at 6pm every Friday in the season. Come along to the Bath Road green, opposite St Sampson's primary school. No charge, no experience necessary and no special kit – just make sure to wear shoes with a flattish sole if you want to have a trial bowl. We have club members who can show you what to do and we have spare bowls for you to use. And we will welcome you to our club bar for refreshments afterwards!

For more information please contact:

Roy Phillips (Secretary) roy2308@btinternet.com or 07751 201 793

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

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

Rick Dixon (Treasurer) rickdixonbowls@gmail.com or 01793 759123

We hope to see you there.

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 Leisure Centre

Saxons Pétanque Club play on the gravel pistes just in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, 10am on Saturday mornings and 7pm on Wednesday evenings during the summer.

The game is very easy to pick up but we run informal training sessions on some Wednesday mornings for those who want them. Membership is very reasonable at just £20 per annum for adults and £5 for children.

For some members the club sessions are enough but others enjoy the competition of matches both within Saxons and against other local clubs.

Several of us went tenpin bowling in June and we're looking forward to a social evening of pétanque with a BBQ towards the end of August – fingers crossed for good weather!

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.

Swindon Croquet Club

A great result to start the season!

In the first warm weather of spring, Swindon Golf Croquet Level Play 5+ team visited Bristol and came away worthy winners 14 - 6. Given the strength of the Bristol team this was expected to be a very tough game. Swindon started strongly and romped to a 8 - 0 lead after three rounds (two doubles and a singles) with the 12 afternoon singles ending up all square. Stand in captain Tony Mayer said, "The Swindon team played exceptionally well which surprised our opponents who, on paper, expected to win. It was a superb team effort."



This is a game of strategy and skill you wish you'd started to play earlier! Please get in touch if you'd like to find out more or give croquet a try.

Find us at www.swindoncroquetclub.org.uk on Facebook or contact us at croquetwindon@gmail.com.

Wendy White

pictured: The Swindon CC Level Play Team

Cricklade Computer Club

On the first Monday of each month we will be available from 10am to 12 noon in the Leisure Centre cafe. We try to help anyone with problems with computers, tablets, phones etc. We are volunteers and there is no charge for any help we are able to give you.

Even if you have no particular problems you could always pop in for a coffee, a cake and just a general chat!

Roger Heafield

The Chronicle

The Chronicle Diary – August 2024

- 1 Th 7pm to 8.30pm: Cricklade Rugby Club training restarts at Fairview Fields
end of day Chronicle copy deadline
- 5 M 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
- 6 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St
- 7 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 8 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 9 F 10am to 1pm: Free Skatepark Session (children of all ages) at Leisure Centre
- 12 M 7pm Kavali Supper Evening for St Sampson's Appeal (ticketed: see p20)
- 13 Tu 7.30pm Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 15 Th 7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 20 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme. United Church, Calcutt St
- 20 Tu 7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 22 Th 10am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 25 Su 2pm Historical Society Walk, starting from the Museum. (Shorter route starts same time but from Saxons Rest.)
- 26 M **Summer Bank Holiday**
- 27 Tu 7pm Town Council Planning (PCT) Committee, Council Chamber

September look ahead

- 2 M Wiltshire Schools resume (others may differ)
7pm Full Town Council, Council Chamber
- 3 Tu 7.30pm Camera Club season restarts at Town Hall Annexe
- 17 W 10.30am to noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa **NEW VENUE**

Every Week

- Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-3.30pm: Open Door at Jenner Hall
- Tu 7-8pm Mixed tag rugby at Fairview Fields
- W 1.45 for 2pm Bingo4Us at Jenner Hall
2-4pm Cricklade Museum open, Calcutt Street
- 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
7-8.30pm Cricklade Rugby Club training at Fairview Fields
- 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

August 2024

4th ●

12th ◐

19th ○

26th ◑

The Final Word ...

I'm currently a couple of years into a long term project to walk the Wales Coast Path – 876 miles taking in the Welsh coastline from Chester in the north, right around to Chepstow in the south east. Having just passed the 400-miles mark, the end is not quite in sight, but perhaps a faint glimmer on the horizon!

The real joy of walking is not just reaching the end but the time and space of the journey itself. There's something about the rhythm of walking that helps to give a different sense of perspective. I grew up in Wales and some of the coast is very familiar to me, but walking has connected me with places and landscape in a different way. In the busyness of daily life, we rarely get the space to look and see and think differently.

Recently I read a delightful book by the Norwegian explorer Erling Kagge called "Walking – One Step at a Time". In it Kagge says, 'After having put my shoes on and let my thoughts wander, I am sure of one thing – to put one foot in front of the other is one of the most important things we do.'

Christians often talk about "the journey of faith", and for me, that journey is much more of a long hike than a high speed rail trip! In faith, too, there are stiff climbs, and delightful river valleys. In faith, too, there are days of trudging against rain and wind, and moments when the sun breaks through and the view is beyond words. In faith, too, there's nothing more important than putting one foot in front of the other, thankful for the God of love and life who walks with us.

Revd Liz Griffiths

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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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