

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 594



December 2024

with January 2025

The United Church
picture © John Coole



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SUZUKI

From the Editor

After many years of researching and publishing Cricklade Revealed, Marion Parsons has decided that there will now be no more copies printed. She still has a limited stock of unsold copies - see page 18 for details. Marion has my personal thanks for the excerpts from the books published in these pages. I hope you have enjoyed them as much as I have.

"it's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!" as the song goes. That is reflected in this issue. St Sampson's Christmas Tree Festival runs from 29 November to 1 December, so you may have time to see the themed trees in the church - see page 20.

St Mary's is holding its Candlelit Concert in the church on 14 December (page 24). Sing 4:4 have their Christmas Concert on 1 December (page 27) at Purton St Mary's.

Not very Christmassy, but still full of glitter, Cricklade Cinema sees 2024 out with

"Wonka" on 17 December - see page 40.

To see our way with music towards Christmas, the Cricklade Band will be playing carols around the town from 12 December (page 33). I can't imagine they plan it that way, but they play outside my house early on Christmas Day itself. I'll have to be sure I'm up and dressed early!

And so into 2025. Don't forget to get your new Historical Society calendars. Page 28 tells you where to find them. All the proceeds go towards supporting our wonderful Museum.

Cricklade Festival is on 8 June 2025. Page 17 has a call for help on the committee.

Finally, thanks to our Distributors for getting our magazine to your letterbox each month. *The Chronicle* couldn't exist without them. Merry Christmas!



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The deadline for the February 2025 issue is Thursday 2 January 2025

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

How to use a Defibrillator - Easy Step Guide

You shouldn't be afraid to use a defibrillator machine. If you think someone just *might* have suffered a heart attack then follow this simple guide provided by The Community Heartbeat Trust.



1. Call 999 when you are with the patient, **do not go** to the nearest defib until you are told.
2. Answer the questions from the Ambulance Service.
3. The Ambulance Service will give you the location of the nearest defib and the code to unlock the cabinet if a defib is required.
4. Start CPR. Instructions will be given to you by the Ambulance Service.
5. **Do not leave the patient** unless told to do so. Wait for help to arrive; this could be a passer by or Paramedics.
6. If/when help arrives, somebody can then go and get the defib machine.
7. Carry on with CPR.
8. When the defib arrives, switch on and follow the voice and on screen instructions.
9. After Paramedics have taken control, return the defib to its cabinet and make sure the door is shut properly.
10. Remember **you cannot do any harm** to the patient with a defibrillator. It will only administer a shock to the patient if it is required.

source: The Community Heartbeat Trust

Wiltshire Sight

Wiltshire Sight have a local centre 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.

Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Monday 2 December Premises and Finance Committee

Monday 16 December Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee

- 2025 -

Monday 13 January Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee

Monday 20 January Full Council

Monday 27 January Community and Leisure Committee

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



Cricklade Town Councillors and Staff

would like to wish all residents a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

The Town Council office will be closed from 4pm on Tuesday 24 December and reopen at 10am on Monday 30 December.

Normal opening hours on 30 and 31 December 2024.

The office will also be closed all day on Wednesday 1 January 2025

Christmas Lights Competition

As the High Street is lit in all its glory, so the homes in Cricklade are beginning to take on their winter bling!

The judges will be out making their decisions in the two weeks up to 25 December. There is no need to enter.

Civic Awards

We all know someone who is part of a group but who goes the extra mile, an individual who helps others selflessly or a volunteer within the community. Mostly they avoid the limelight, but it would be nice to celebrate them and here is their chance.

The Town Council is seeking nominations towards

- Young Person of the Year,
- Cricklade Community Award, and
- Community Group of the Year

If you would like to nominate someone please obtain your forms from the Cricklade Town Council website or from the Town Council Offices. The Closing date for entries is Friday 21 February 2025.

Event Calendar 2025

For those who use the Town Council website to check events please be aware we can only publish items we have been informed of. For those of you planning an event, please email admin@crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk with your event or meeting details and/or poster and the website will be updated with your information.

For those running clubs/societies/welfare groups etc, please let us know of any personnel changes so that we can keep the website up to date.

Christmas Lights Committee

The Council would like to thank all those involved in making the Christmas lights festival another successful event.

Spare a thought

For those worrying about Food, Stress, Homelessness or Loneliness this Christmas season, there are groups who can help you. Cricklade Food Bank 01666 826982, Mind 0300 1021234, Shelter 0808 800 4444, and Citizens Advice 0800 1448848 to name a few. Christmas is not always happy for everyone, so please spare a thought for others.

For those feeling festively charitable, Cricklade Food Bank collects at Cricklade Town Council, St Sampson's Church and The United Church and Tesco Express, and a list of items they need is on their website malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk See their main article on page 27.

ADVANCE NOTICE – ELECTIONS IN 2025 - COUNCILLORS REQUIRED

It might seem a long way off, but there will be elections for the Town Council on Thursday 1 May 2025 – they take place every four years. If you, or someone you know, might be interested in standing for election then why not come along to a council meeting to see what it's all about. Alternatively, please feel free to give us a call, send an email or pop into the office with any questions you may have.

There are 15 seats at the council table and we want to make sure that they are all filled!

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 Public Holidays: 25 -29 December & 1 January

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Waylands Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present

The next meeting of the Wayland Estates Charity
will take place on 5 February 2025
in the Town Hall committee room
commencing at 7pm

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

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



Wiltshire Perspective

This month I have three big messages:

Winter Fuel Payments Planning Thames Water

Winter Fuel Payments: Contrary to many media headlines the Winter Fuel payment has not been axed! However, it will become means tested, and the Government are aware that a lot of people that could get Pension Credit don't claim it. I suspect successive Governments have relied on that fact.

Pension Credit is something anyone might be entitled to and you can think of it as a gateway benefit. If you get Pension Credit you can get many other benefits, from TV licence and Council Tax reduction to Housing benefit. If you are due those benefits, you need to check and **claim before 21 December 2024**. Give yourself a Christmas Present! Check if you're owed the money at www.gov.uk/pension-credit/eligibility. If you want help to go through the details please ask.

Planning: It appears that Wiltshire Council has changed its planning policy; from Lime Down's solar farm, Ashton Keynes' gravel extraction, to our very own North Meadow. Wiltshire Council appears to be unable to hear, or defend, the opinions of local people, or its previous refusals. To the extent that some of their own party are saying the planning function is not fit for purpose.

This is not a political column, and planning should be an unbiased implementation of policies. But I find myself fighting against the viewpoints of Council officers that I find hard to empathise with, especially in the light of their responses to questions we need answers to, or at least to be heard.

Can I thank residents who have dug into the details of the Stones Farm development and helped me fight Wiltshire Council to help them see our point of view? We will be travelling down to Chippenham to put our case as forcefully as we can to the Planning Inspector in Chippenham on 3 December.

Thames Water: When a resident sent a video of sewage coming up through a gutter in Cricklade, things had already gone way too far.

Wiltshire Council appears to be unable to force compliance, so I have escalated the issue to our MP, who has brought together a group of legislators to take a multi-layered approach and to push at every level.

I am grateful that you are pointing out to me where things go wrong. Be assured I am listening. I am even more grateful that, when I escalate things, I in turn am listened to and that there is a growing movement that sees the system as it stands is broken. Added to this is a momentum to make things better. In the short term we need to get things sorted as soon as possible.

Many thanks again for all the help you give me to fight our collective corner of Wiltshire. It's a privilege to try to help people, and if you think I could be helping you, please do get in touch and I'll see what I can do.

Nick Dye, councillor for Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 31 October the lucky winners were :-

First Prize:	Philip Keep	£36.30
Second Prize:	Sheila Gibbon	£24.20
Jenner Hall Funds:		£60.50



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

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

The Subscription for the "Save It Club" is only £12 per year. Subscribers are encouraged to pay a year's subscription of £12 by Standing Order. (*GDP Regulations compliant.*)

Letters to the Editor

■ LAURA HOUSE

The family of Laura House (Titch) would like to thank everyone for their support during and after the loss of a beautiful Wife, Mummy, Daughter, Sister, Auntie, Granddaughter and Friend. The financial donations to the family were amazing and so gratefully received.

Thanks also to Russell at Blackwells, Celia and Sarah at C & R and Steve at The Old Bear.

■ JOYCE MARY FOSTER (17 July 1929 – 30 August 2024)

On behalf of Giorgio and Joyce's family, we would like to thank everyone that sent touching messages and cards and those that attended the funeral on 16 September.

Special thanks to Russell from Blackwells for his kind help, compassion and guidance through this difficult time.

Also, thank you to Revd Dr Shirley Danby for a lovely service, Celia & Sarah from C & R Family Grocers for the beautiful flowers and The White Hart for a lovely spread.

A collection on behalf of mum amounted to £213.70 and will be donated to Cricklade Open Door.

Pauline Clapton (Joyce's daughter) on behalf of the family

■ LATTON DEFIBRILLATOR

I've noticed that on Page 2 of The Chronicle under Defibrillator Locations there is no mention of the Latton Defibrillator.

It's situated in the old phone box at the junction of Limes Place and Gosditch. Its W3W is ///lectured.doctor.crabmeat

David Pembridge

Ed: Thank you David for pointing this out. We have been wondering for some time about the validity of the map and list of addresses. They are only those placed and maintained by the Heart Beat Trust volunteers. However there are many more located around the town and district.

The way defibrillators work is that those attending the patient need to ring 999. They will be talked through the entire process including where to go to find the nearest defibrillator which may not be on our list. Once obtained, the machine is programmed to tell you what to do next. (See our amended page 2.)

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



Prostate Cancer talk – Wednesday 6 November

Our thanks to Dr Jake Wilson who gave an excellent, informative talk which was well attended. We ran out of tickets hence some late-comers were unfortunately too late to get one. Remember this for our next talk and get your ticket early!

Harvest Raffle: There were 13 prizes for our Harvest Raffle which raised £255 for PPG funds. The lucky winners know who they are!!

AGM: Our AGM is planned for Wednesday 6 March at 6.30pm in Purton Surgery. If you, as a patient of the Practice, plan to attend please contact Reception to register your attendance by Wednesday 6 February.

200 Club : The November draw was made by Dr Au-Yeung, and the lucky winners were £100 Helen Griffin, £15 Philip Shepherd.

New members are always welcome at a cost of £15 per annum, this cost remains for the year so the earlier you join the more chances you have of winning! Setting up a Standing Order is the simplest way to join, however if you join mid-year the it is helpful if you set future payments for 1 September each year.

This will then automatically renew your membership. Forms are available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries, alternatively you can email our Treasurer on treasurer.psppg@gmail.com for a form.



All members of the 200 Club are allocated a number to be used in the draw. If you wish to know your number then email our Treasurer to request it.

Table Top Sales in Purton Surgery: Thank you to all who support the Table Top in Purton Surgery Waiting Room which will have a Christmas theme.

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 2025

Sunday 8 June 2025 - Theme "Disney"

The Festival grows from strength to strength, and therefore the committee wishes to expand its membership.

So if you have any spare time on your hands and enjoy organisation type tasks, then why not get in touch with the team and see if it's for you...

Tasks, when spread over a number of like-minded people, do not need to be onerous. Even if you are employed, being part of a successful team can be a great addition to your CV.

We look forward to hearing from you...

Email: crickldefestival2023@gmail.com Mob: 07931 777 699

The Chronicle



Cricklade Revealed

... very last orders

No more new Cricklade Revealed books will be issued under this title after 2024.

However, I still have some surplus stock at home which will continue to be available "while stocks last" at £2 each, which will be given as a donation to Cricklade Open Door.

Stock available as of October 2024 (if not sold already) is:

1 x Part 10 6 x Part 5 6 x Part 6 12 x CRE 3 9 x CRE 4 30+ of CRE 5.

CRE5 was the final book of the series which came out in 2021, and was missed by many because of Covid.

If interested in any of the above, please ring me on 01793 750542 or email: mfp Parsons071@btinternet.com.

Happy Christmas everyone and thank you for buying my books.

- Marion

Cricklade Memory Café

It's difficult to believe we are already approaching Christmas and New Year and the end of our first as Cricklade Memory Café. We have enjoyed a busy, exciting, fun year and have met so many lovely people especially our members, volunteers and many visitors. They all bring such pleasure and enhancement to our monthly Cafés.



We have been privileged to receive grants from Cricklade Town Council and Wayland Trust to help us start and expand the café. Our grateful thanks to them and to all the local businesses who generously responded to our plea to support our café each month. So, to The White Hart, Pure Hair, Bayfield's Opticians, Scissors, Hillis & Porter, Bath Road Vehicles, AE Ltd, Jigsaw, Body Clinic, White Lodge Care Home and McFarlane Cricklade, many, many thanks. Without their support and the anonymous donations and fund raising, we could not run the Café free of charge for our members.

By the time this is published we will have enjoyed our first Christmas Party, with more fun, dancing and cake. Our Christmas Raffle will be in full swing and we will also be looking forward to our first birthday and the beginning of our second year on 5 February.

Our first Annual General Meeting is on 12 February in the Town Hall Annexe at 5pm.

New members are always welcome to join us on the first Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall Annex from 10.30 to 12.30 for coffee, cakes, friendship and fun in a safe welcoming environment. For more information, please contact Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.

Our very best wishes to you all for a lovely Christmas and New Year.

Cricklade Library

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

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

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

Cricklade Open Door

Christmas Greetings from Open Door to everyone in Cricklade and surrounding areas. We wish you a happy, healthy, fun filled season with your families and friends and a good year in 2025.



November has been an interesting month at Open Door. We had a Thursday visit from St Sampson's C of E Primary School's Community Champions and these young people helped over lunch, collecting dirty dishes and glasses, chatting to members and then tidying up our book corner. We were pleased to welcome these young people and their teacher. On Saturday 26 October, Graham Light, renowned Cricklade photographer, held an exhibition at the Town Hall Annexe with free entry but donations to Open Door. It was a busy morning and we were very pleased to accept £110 from Graham and Gloria, who are great supporters of Open Door.

Open Door are taking part in St Sampson's Church Christmas Tree Festival on 30 November and 1 December and our tree has the title - 'The Story of Open Door'. You may recognise some of our members in pictures hanging on the tree!

We have had to postpone our November Coffee Morning because our Star Baker, Chris has had a knee replacement and has been out of action for several weeks. We are pleased to say that she will soon be 100% fit again and our fundraising Coffee Morning, with Chris's wonderful scones and cakes will take place early in 2025, keep an eye out for posters in the usual places in Cricklade. Our thanks go to all our wonderful volunteers for taking on extra sessions to cover Chris's hours.

We will still hold our Christmas Raffle, even though the Coffee Morning is postponed so, if any supporters of Open Door would like to donate a raffle prize or buy tickets, please do! Pop into The Jenner Hall, Monday, Tuesday or Thursday or give us a ring on 07599 987 851 and we can collect or deliver. The raffle will be drawn on Thursday 5 December at 11am.

We have been invited, once again - fabulous - to watch Cricklade Manor Prep School's Christmas Nativity Play on Wednesday 4 December. We always enjoy their productions, as well as the refreshments beforehand! We would also like to say 'thank you' for their lunches, Easter and Christmas scones and mince pies, which we certainly appreciate and enjoy.

Members will celebrate and enjoy a Christmas Lunch at The White Hart on Friday 13 December; we are always looked after very well. Then we will close on Thursday afternoon 19 December with mince pies, sherry, fun and fizz and music from Jan Furze, supporter of Open Door, reopening on **Monday 6 January** at 10am.

Before we sign off, we would like to thank everyone in the community who supports Open Door in various ways and especially our volunteers, without whom Open Door would not continue and thrive. BIG thanks to you all.

Whilst we are closed over Christmas, the mobile telephone will still be switched on so, if you need information etc, do still get in contact - 07599 987 851.

Come along in 2025 and join in with friendship, fun and support, in a lovely, clean, warm hall (thank you Jenner Hall Trustees).

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10am - 3.30pm.

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



Our recent wine tasting evening was very successful, and enjoyed by all who attended.

Many thanks for all the wonderful support you have given us in 2024!

We look forward to future events in 2025, helping to raise funds for our church appeal project.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year

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 October 2024 draw was:

Val Atfield who won £31.00

St Sampson's Church benefited by £31.00.

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

Christmas Tree Festival

**St Sampson's Church
Christmas Tree Festival**

from 29 November to 1 December.

This year's theme is 'Tell us a story'.

Come along to the church to see the fabulous trees decorated by many local groups and organisations from the Cricklade area. There's something for everyone from music, refreshments, a quiz, raffle and activities for children! Join us at the church to start your Christmas celebrations!

The Tree Festival will begin with a Preview evening on Friday 29 November from 7.30 to 9pm (adults only.) Come and join us for a glass of Prosecco and mince pie as you enjoy a sneak preview of the beautifully decorated trees. £4 minimum donation for Prosecco and a mince pie.

St Sampson's Church Christmas Tree Festival

Saturday 30th November
10am - 1pm

Free Entry

Sunday 1st December
11.30am - 3.30pm

Free Entry



Churches Together in Cricklade & Latton

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Weekly Mass times 9.30am on Sundays
 10.00am on Fridays

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

Parish website www.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.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.
crickladeunitedchurch.co.uk

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

Parkinson's UK

At Cricklade Hotel & Spa, Common Hill SN6 6HA : 10.30am - noon

Join us at our new venue for coffee, cake and chat on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.

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

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

The volunteers team looks forward to seeing you there!

The Chronicle

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

Churches Together

Services for the Churches Together

1 December Advent Sunday

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's with children's activities in church*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church: Revd Andrew Francis*
- 4pm Christingle service *at Holy Cross with AK school*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

8 December Advent 2

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church: Revd Roy Fowler*

15 December Advent 3

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's followed by breakfast*
- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's with children's activities in Jenner Hall*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church: Godfrey Room*
- 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight *at St Sampson's*

18 December (Wednesday)

- 6.30pm Christmas Carols *at St Sampson's*

20 December (Friday)

- 10am to 11.30am: Friday Cafe in the United Church hall , mince pies & carols

22 December Advent 4

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 4pm Carols with Candlelight *at Holy Cross*
- 4pm Carols and Crib Service *at St John the Baptist*
- 4pm Carols by Candlelight *at United Church*

24 December Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

- 4pm Crib Service *at St Sampson's*
- 4pm Crib Service *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Carol Service *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 7pm Vigil Mass of Christmas *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 7pm Carol Service *at All Saints, Leigh*
- 11pm Midnight Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 11pm Midnight Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*

*Come and Light a Candle for Peace in St Sampson's Sunday 8 December anytime 2 pm - 3.30pm.
Pop-in, Pause, and Pray for Peace in our troubled world, or peace for yourself if life is tough
or if you're missing a loved one.*

Prayer in Cricklade & Latton

Prayer together over Advent & Christmas

25 December Christmas Day (Wednesday)

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 9.30am Dawn Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Christmas Morning Service for all ages *at United Church*
- 10am Christmas Day Family Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Christmas Day celebration for all ages with Communion *at Holy Cross*
- 11.15am Christmas Day Family Communion *at St John the Baptist*

29 December Christmas 2

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Upper Thames Group Worship Together Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*

5 January Epiphany or Baptism of Christ

- 8am BCP Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's with children's activities in church*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's: Trevor Stinton*

12 January Epiphany 2

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Upper Thames Group Worship Together Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church: Rev David Richardson*

19 January Epiphany 3

- 8am BCP Communion *at St Sampson's followed by breakfast*
- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's, children's activities in Jenner Hall*
- 10.30am Communion & Annual Covenant Service, *United Church: Rev Sarah Simpson*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

26 January Epiphany 4

- 9.30am Mass *at St Mary's R.C. Church*
- 10am Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist*
- 10.30am Morning Worship *at United Church*

*Mass is also said at **St Mary's R.C. Church** on Fridays at 10am.*

*Thursday mornings in **St Sampson's**: 8.30am for coffee & catch up, prayers from 8.45am.*

Cricklade United Church

Bounce and Rhyme

We are a group for parents, grandparents and carers with babies and/or young children. We meet every fortnight - on Tuesdays 1.45pm to 3pm for nursery rhymes, a story book, tea/coffee refreshments and a chat. Venue - the United Church Hall in Calcutt Street.

Next Meetings: 3 December, 17 December (Christmas celebration)
7 January, 21 January

There is no charge - we are delighted to welcome you.

Coffee Cafe

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

20 December - special for Christmas Coffee and carols. Come along and sing your favourite!

Worship Services during December and January - see centre pages.

St Mary's Candlelit Concert Returns

Back by popular request

Join us for song, carols, refreshments and importantly, Christmas Spirit, in the delightful historic church in Cricklade High Street.



St Mary's Church Choir are performing on:

Saturday 14 December at 7pm

and

Sunday 15 December at 4pm

Tickets are £10 and under 12s £5

Tickets are available from St Mary's Church, Animal Fayre
or by calling Anita Barrett on 01793 750039

Monies raised will go towards the running of *Cricklade Open Door* who provide an essential service offering Friendship, Fun and Support for those who may feel lonely and socially isolated.

We are all looking forward to seeing you there!

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 9 October | Dorothy Ponting at <i>St Sampson's</i> with interment in <i>Cricklade Cemetery</i> |
| 10 October | Gaye (Gaynor Margaret) Horrell at <i>North Wiltshire Crematorium</i> with a service at <i>Holy Cross</i> |
| 12 October | Shirley Indge at <i>Holy Cross</i> with interment in the churchyard |
| 30 October | Richard Cheston at <i>All Saints Church</i> with interment in the churchyard |

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden



We have Christmas sales on the cart outside The Walled Garden, every day, weather permitting, until 18 December. As well as the usual plants and jams, there are pots of hyacinths and pots of narcissi, and a limited number of Christmas wreaths and Christmas table arrangements.

Cricklade Bloomers, have been awarded "Outstanding" for the 6th year in a row for the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) *It's your Neighbourhood* campaign for our work in The Walled Garden. Any local community organisation can take part in this small scale scheme. The focus the RHS is looking for is community group promotion of sustainability in the natural environment by a club or organisation rather than floral displays. It does not require the level of commitment that a Britain in Bloom entry requires, and many other groups from Cricklade have taken part in the past. If you think it is something your club or organisation might like to do, take a look at the RHS website, contact Anita at anita@crickladeinbloom.co.uk or call at the Walled Garden on a Wednesday or Saturday morning.

Everyone at Bloomers would like to thank the businesses, organisations and people of Cricklade for their support throughout 2024. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year.

Cricklade Garden Club

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



The next meeting is on **Tuesday 10 December** when our speaker is Charlotte Howard whose talk is entitled "My Life as a Garden Designer".

Charlotte "Capability Charlotte" has over 20 years experience as a hands-on gardener, garden designer and horticultural designer. She is an RHS Master of Horticulture and has a Diploma in Horticulture. She designs for any area, any style and any budget, drawing inspiration from classical gardens, garden history and modern garden trends. Her philosophy - "Plants should be queen of the garden".

Join us for mulled wine and mince pies on 10 December to cheer us on to Christmas.

There are no meetings in January and February. Our first meeting of the new year, which is also our AGM, will be on 11 March.

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

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

Visitors welcome at £5 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!

Christmas at the Old Police Station

We just wish to thank our membership, our volunteers and the wider community for your support this year. We hope that 2025 will see the completion of the garden/event space area at the rear and the commercial units fully let. So much to look forward to!



Cricklade
Development
Foundation

In the meantime, we are delighted to be supporting the Christmas Lights Team and the community by continuing to be the home of the Town's Christmas Tree and the venue for the annual switch-on event. Every year the Lights Team does a great job on bringing the community together and we are pleased to do our little bit to help keep the Christmas festivities at the heart of the High Street.

AGM: We held our AGM last month. If you want learn more about CDF and our progress, you can find our financial accounts and AGM papers on our website at: Governance & AGM | Cricklade Development Foundation. Happy reading!

As always, if you are interested in becoming a member or wish to buy membership for someone else (from £50), please contact Terri on 07902 421756 or email: contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Cricklade Scouts Christmas Bingo

Tuesday 10 December

at Cricklade Town Hall

Doors open at 6.30pm

Eyes down at 8pm.

Many great prizes including a
Mega Christmas Hamper valued at £100
plus lots of other festive delights.

No ticket price rises since 2010 and we're keeping it that way so we can all enjoy a decent good value night out at playing Bingo!



Scouts

Thank you, Distributors

The Chronicle would like to thank the volunteer distributors for all their hard work and help throughout the year delivering your magazine to the many houses in Cricklade and Latton.

Distributors, please do not feel obliged to deliver your round if you are struggling to do so. Let us know so assistance can be provided.

Merry Christmas.

Cricklade Foodbank

Open every Friday 10am to 11.30am in the Jenner Hall, Bath Road



Firstly, a huge 'thank you' to our local churches and schools who gave so generously at their Harvest Festivals. It has helped us to stock up on some of our staple items. The last statistics available (Sep 24) show that we received 1,189 kg of donations, but we gave out 1,432 kg of food. As you can see, your donations are really needed.

As Christmas is approaching, we would like to supplement our normal food bags with some festive items. If you would like to donate to this, please leave them in the normal drop off places: Tesco, Animal Fayre, and Culverhay Stores who willingly host our collection baskets. The local churches are happy to receive donations and there is a basket in St Sampson's School during term time.

If you prefer to make a financial donation, there is a 'donate' button on the Malmesbury & District website. 'Bankthefood' is a useful app for up-to-date requirements.

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.

We are pleased to announce that the Foodbank will open on Friday 27 December at the normal time.

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

Sing Four Four Community Choir



The Community Choir will be performing their Christmas Concert on **Sunday 1 December** in St Mary's Church in **Purton**. It will be at the usual time of 3pm and followed by tea and cake. The choir will be singing a wide range of Christmas music, both sacred and secular. There will be something for everyone to enjoy. Please be aware that parking is difficult, so come in good time. Doors open at 2.30pm.

Tickets will be £6.00 for adults. Under 12s are free. The tickets will be available from 28 October in the Town Council office.

Cricklade Town Hall



Book your event at Cricklade Town Hall. Birthdays, anniversaries, wedding celebrations, children's parties, quiz nights, club meetings, etc. The Town Hall offers flexible space with tables, padded chairs, excellent kitchen facilities and free WiFi. There is a choice of the Main Hall, Annexe and Committee Room.

Please contact our Bookings Secretary, Mrs Nicola Fry on 07977 758 389 (before 9pm please) or via email at crickladetownhall@hotmail.com for further details, or Facebook for photos and other information: www.facebook.com/crickladetownhall

Cricklade Jenner Hall ...

... **At The Heart of Cricklade for over 350 years.**

The Jenner Hall is a lovely 17th century Cotswold stone building, which continues to be a popular place for family events and smaller wedding receptions, and is only a 'stones throw' away from St Sampson's Church, with the bonus of a courtyard at the front of the Hall.



Maybe you would like to hold your Craft Session or Fair, Table Top Sale, Quiz Night or even Dance/Exercise class with us. In addition, our smaller annex hall may be suitable for your Talk or Club Meetings etc. Our Trustees aim to make the Hall attractive to all age groups, and any suggestions would be welcomed.

For more information about the Hall or to check booking availability, visit our website -crickladejennerhall.com

To book the Hall, 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 Historical Society

***** NOW AVAILABLE *****

CHS CALENDAR 2025 – Our latest calendar is now available to buy at £10.00 each. Calendars can be purchased via the Museum website (www.cricklademuseum.co.uk) or by contacting Pam Debenham on 07453 766 744 or email pamdebenham@live.co.uk Also available at the Town Council Office or visit the Museum during our normal opening times and pick up a copy (or two) from there.

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). Membership entitles you to free entry to all our regular talks (non members £5), unless otherwise stated, Newsletters and a free copy of our annual publication, the CHS Bulletin (non members £3.60) which contains articles and photographs 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 Computer Club

On the first Monday of each month from 10am till 12 noon we will be available at the Cricklade Leisure Centre to try to help with problems you may be having with your computers, tablets, phones etc. **In addition** we are going to try to be available every Monday as we did previously.

If you need help you could just go to the Leisure Centre and even if we are not there you could stay for coffee, cake and a general chat. Alternatively just phone the Leisure Centre on 01793 750011 to check if we are available.

Remember that we are volunteers and that there is no charge for any help we are able to give you. Just bring the equipment with you and we will try to solve your problem.

Cricklade W.I.

At our November meeting we were delighted to welcome Karen, who gave us a demonstration of some beautiful quilling work. Quilling is an art form that involves the use of strips of paper that are rolled, shaped and glued together to create decorative designs. Karen bought in some materials and, to our enjoyment, also helped members to make cards for themselves.



Thursday 16 January sees us return to our normal schedule in the Town Hall Annexe when we will be celebrating the New Year with drink and nibbles. Non-members are welcome at any of our regular meetings throughout the year; all we ask is a small donation of £5 to cover refreshments, speakers or activities. We're a friendly bunch so come and check us out. If you can't make our January meeting, we meet at the Town Hall Annexe at 7.30pm on the third Thursday of each month. Details of our speakers and activities are on Facebook or contact our Secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or at vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com.

We also meet on the first Tuesday of each month in the White Hart for a coffee and chat when members and non-members get together and catch up on their news. Our next coffee and chat is Tuesday 3 December followed by Tuesday 7 January – 11am when the pub opens!

We wish everyone in Cricklade and neighbouring areas a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

We are looking forward to our upcoming group meetings in December and January when the following talks will take place.



- 12 December** "A Dickensian Christmas" which provides a detailed insight into what Christmas was really like in Victorian times!
- 9 January** "The First Descent into the Grand Canyon"
- 23 January** "The Greatest Gold Rush of all time"

The meetings normally take place fortnightly, on a Thursday morning at 10am for a 10.20 start, 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.

Bingo4U

Come along on Wednesday afternoon at the Jenner hall anyone welcome.
£2.00 entry. Eyes down at 2.pm

Contacts: Chris 07500 871 680 or Liz 07780 473 024.

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Cricklade Leisure Centre

We would like to wish all our members, customers and visitors a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support throughout 2024. It's thanks to you that we continue to go from strength to strength and are able to "keep leisure local" for the people of Cricklade and the surrounding area.



Coming soon...

We are busy behind the scenes planning for the New Year. We can't reveal those plans just yet but if you want to get 2025 off to a great start, we can definitely help. With a warm swimming pool, well equipped gym and a fantastic range of fitness classes we are here to help you achieve your health and fitness goals. Please get in touch for more information about our great value memberships (they make an ideal Christmas present!) and the latest timetables.

For all our news please:

Follow us on Facebook

Visit www.crickladeleisure.com

Email admin@crickladeleisure.co.uk

Call us on 01793 750011

Or just pop in. We'd love to see you

Swindon Croquet Club ... Win their First Title for 20 Years

Blue skies and warm sunshine welcomed the Swindon Croquet team to the south coast for the Championship final of the Level Play (5+) League against Budleigh Salterton. It



all pointed to a classic encounter with Budleigh on a 100% win record and Swindon only losing one match all season.

With the score level both teams had everything to play for in the final round of four games. To win the match, either team needed to win three of the last round games to lift the trophy and title of champions. The Swindon players strode to their respective courts with the encouragement of their

travelling supporters ringing in their ears and confident that victory would be theirs.

The final result was a win for Swindon 11-9. At the trophy presentation an emotional Swindon captain Terry Clements, said "I am so proud of not just today's team, but, all those who contributed to our success throughout the season. It is 20 years since Swindon Croquet Club has won a title. I'm determined it won't be 20 years to the next." Although it would be unfair to single out individuals, it should be noted that Steve Hares ended the day with a 100% record.

If you would like to join a championship winning team, or just enjoy gentle exercise in a friendly, welcoming environment, come visit us at Moredon Sports Hub. Contact Wendy White, on 07733 271 607 or email croquetwindon@gmail.com for details.

Pictured: The winning team from L to R: Colin Brain, Martin Briggs, Dave Booth, Beverly Briggs, Terry Clements (Captain), Clive Smith, Steve Hares.

CRICKLADE CINEMA!

Our Autumn season concludes on
Tuesday 17 December at 8pm in the Town Hall.

Doors will open promptly at 7.30pm.

Wonka (PG, 102 mins)

A musical fantasy tale that imagines the origin of Roald Dahl's beloved chocolatier Willy Wonka. Timothee Chalamet stars as Willy, with the familiar names in the supporting cast, including Olivia Colman and Hugh Grant.
(contains: mild threat, violence, implied bad language)



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

We will be back in the New Year with our Spring 2025 season starting on Tuesday 28 January. Tickets will be on sale from 18 December and the full programme will be selected from a shortlist of films at our meeting:

**CINEMA
FOR ALL**

Tuesday 3 December at 7pm – Town Hall Committee Room

Everyone is welcome and no previous experience is necessary.

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

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

Check us out at Facebook Cricklade Cinema

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	Sat	10am -12.30pm
Wed	2 - 4.30pm		



Coaching Sessions are:

Wed	10 - 11.30am (ladies)	Fri	10 - 11.30am (mixed)
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At the end of November our Tuesday session (7pm-9.30pm) will stop over autumn/winter and return in spring 2025.

A reminder that our AGM will be held on Saturday 14 December at 12 noon at the Cricklade House Hotel. All members welcome.

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

Find us on Facebook by searching Cricklade Petanque Club

Email: info@crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk



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.

Come along and support your local team. Matches in December are:

7th at home to Chippenham III **14th** away to Swindon II.

In January we play on:

11th at home to Swindon College Old Boys II **18th** away to Chippenham III.

Results for October were sadly all losses!

We are holding our bi-annual Quiz Night at Cricklade Bowls Club on Friday 31 January and will draw the results of our annual raffle. If you are interested please contact crickladerfc@gmail.com

Is your son in Year 10? Then contact Seth and he can come along and join the new Under 15s.

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. Training is held at our Fairview Fields ground and new players from age 6 are always welcome (no experience necessary and the first 4 sessions are free):

Juniors **Under 10-12:** Fridays 5.30–6.45pm. **Under 13s and 14s:** Fridays, 7-8.15pm.

Minis **Under 6s** through to Under 9s, Saturdays 11-12noon.

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 Bowls Club

In October, the club hosted a Macmillan “afternoon” Coffee Morning, led

by Wendy O. and announced by Town Crier Eric Cripps. This was well attended with so many supporters, a great raffle and lovely cakes. The amount raised for Macmillan was £452 - a wonderful result!

We would like to say thank you to Cricklade Bloomers who kindly donated polyanthus and bulbs which have now been planted up in all the pots at the club.



Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

The Club plays on the gravel pistes just in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and 10am on Saturday mornings. Our three newly qualified coaches are still awaiting their final sign off, but plan to start coaching session as soon as their licences come through.

We hold social events every so often and we will be enjoying a skittles evening at The White Hart in November. Then it's our Christmas meal ... in January!

Club membership is very reasonable at just £20 per annum for adults and £5 for children. 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.

Upper Thames & Ridgeway National Trust Association

And so the year winds to its end. This month I'll be putting up my pillow case –and noting it is the one from last year and it didn't do all that well then.

Since my last contribution, our group has been to Chedworth on a private visit where we enjoyed the undivided attention of our personal guide. That place is so remarkable it seems the Romans are still there and any minute a bloke in a skirt will appear out of the trees and demand to know (in Latin of course) who on earth we are? The location, in the head of the valley, is so incredible it seems that it should be brought out nearer to civilisation for the 21st century to appreciate it better.

At our last committee meeting we discussed next year's visits and the general area of our annual 'holiday' in 2025. I can reveal that it will be in Suffolk and in the area of Bury St Edmunds. No more details yet but we'd love to hear from you if you wish to accompany us.

The local branch of the National Trust is yours to join if you are attracted by our adventures. Have a look at our website sometime (www.utrnta.co.uk)

In the meantime, may we wish you all a Merry Christmas.

In Our Broader Area

■ The Wessex (male choir)

Saturday 7 December at St Mary's Church, Purton SN5 4EB at 7pm

Singing with Purton Village Voices.

Christmas Concert: Sat 14 December at St Mark's Church, Swindon SN1 5EH at 7pm

Christmas/Winter music and carols. The Wessex will be joined by Brunel Brass.

Refreshments and Christmas prize draw.

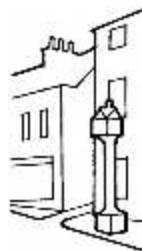
Tickets for both Wessex events available from ticketsource.co.uk/wessex-male-choir
price £12.50 (u-16s £6.00)

Moon Phases

Dec 2024	1st ●	8th ☾	15th ○	22nd ☾	30th ●
Jan 2025	6th ☾	13th ○	21st ☾	29th ●	

The Chronicle Diary – December 2024

- | | | | |
|----|----|---------|--|
| 1 | Su | 11.30am | to 3.30pm: Christmas Tree Festival at St Sampson's Church (final day) |
| | | 3pm | Sing 4 4 Christmas Concert at Purton Church (St Mary's) (page 27) |
| 2 | M | 7pm | Council Premises & Finance Committee, Council Chamber |
| 3 | Tu | 1.45pm | to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 3pm | Cricklade Cinema planning meeting at Town Hall Committee Room |
| | | 7.30pm | Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe |
| 4 | W | 10.30am | to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe |
| 10 | Tu | 6.30pm | for 8pm: Scouts Christmas Bingo at Town Hall |
| | | 7pm | speaker 7.30pm: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe: |
| 12 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| 14 | Sa | 12noon | Cricklade Pétanque AGM at Cricklade House Hotel |
| | | 7pm | St Mary's Church Candlelit Concert at the church |
| 15 | Su | 7pm | St Mary's Church Candlelit Concert at the church |
| 16 | M | 7pm | Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee, Council Chamber |
| 17 | Tu | 1.45pm | to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Art Group at Town Hall Annexe |
| | | 8pm | Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall, tickets from Council Offices |
| 18 | W | 10.30am | to 12 noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa |
| 19 | Th | 7.30pm | Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe: |
| 21 | Sa | | Winter solstice |
| 23 | M | | Wiltshire Schools Christmas break (others may differ) |
| 25 | W | | Christmas Day bank holiday |
| 26 | Th | | Boxing Day bank holiday |



January 2025

- | | | | |
|----|----|------------|---|
| 1 | W | | New Year's Day bank holiday |
| 2 | Th | end of day | Chronicle copy deadline – February 2025 issue |
| 6 | M | | Wiltshire Schools resume (others may differ) |
| 7 | Tu | 1.45pm | to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe |
| 8 | W | 10.30am | to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe |
| 9 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| 13 | M | 7pm | Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee, Council Chamber |
| 15 | W | 10.30am | to 12 noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa |
| 16 | Th | 7.30pm | Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe: |
| 20 | M | 7pm | Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber |
| 21 | Tu | 1.45pm | to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Art Group at Town Hall Annexe |
| 23 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| 25 | M | 7pm | Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber |
| 28 | Tu | 8pm | Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall, tickets from Council Offices |
| 31 | F | tbc | Cricklade Rugby Club Quiz Night at Bowls Club, Bath Road |

For Diary Events held Every Week, see your November issue!

but note: Computer Club is now every Monday 10am to noon at the Leisure Centre.

The Final Word ...

There's something wonderfully atmospheric about Christmas lights, isn't there? Carols by candlelight, an open fire, lights on the Christmas tree or decorating our homes – the lights that twinkle and glow and shine show us something about the season. The whole theme of light and dark is very prevalent at Christmas, and as we look at our world we can see how light and darkness battle it out in so many places and in multiple ways.

It is wonderful to have a festival of light – Christmas – in the depths of winter. Christmas comes when the days are at their shortest and the weather at its bleakest, the natural world seems to be asleep, and hibernation looks good!

Into the depths of our winter comes the light, warmth and glory of Jesus. Not with fanfares and lights and the welcome of the world, but in obscurity, tucked out of the way, known only to a few. Remarkable that 'the light of the world' (one of the names of Jesus) enters the world with his glory hidden and identity mostly a mystery. And yet here we are more than 2000 years on, still celebrating his light, Jesus coming to us as a baby who grew to be the light rescuing us all from our darkness.

Looking around our world there are still places in need of light, we know that to be true, sadly, horrifically true. But the ultimate light will never go out. The gospel of John says 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it'.

This Christmas as we enjoy the lights, the food, the gifts, the generosity and joy, let us be those who hold onto hope that the light will continue to shine in us and through us, so that Christ's light will shine more brightly in the world and the darkness will not overcome it.

Revd Canon Debbie Dewes, Vicar, Upper Thames Group

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CRICKLADE CHRONICLE CONTACTS

Items for publication to the Editor: Rick Dixon, RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com, 01793 759123 or by post to 19 North Wall, Cricklade SN6 6DU.

Advertising: crickladechronicleadds@gmail.com, tel: 01793 752898 (office hours)

Distribution: Allan & Nicky, Webster Printing, tel: 01793 752898 (office hours), crickladechronicleadds@gmail.com,



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