

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 597



April 2025

Thames Hall at Fritillary Teas 2024
picture © Rick Dixon

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From the Editor

So the big question ... will there be fritillaries in North Meadow this year? Flooding late to clear last year meant that they didn't make an appearance, but Bloomers held their Fritillary Teas at Thames Hall all the same. Our front cover is proof!

The teas event is a major source of funds for Bloomers who will be at the Thames Hall on the weekend of 26-27 April. We hope that you will join them ... and that North Meadow flowers properly for visits.

Thames Hall was built as a Wesleyan Chapel and its congregation is now amalgamated in the United Church. Thames Hall is now run by the Town Council and available for hire.

Cricklade Girlguiding uses the Hall for some of its groups. They would like to open a Guide unit in Cricklade but need adult volunteers to make it happen. See

page 20 for information.

Cricklade Museum would like to borrow residents' photos to help with an exhibition in June which will cover the periods between WW1 and WW2 plus the WW2 period itself. If you have any, see page 28.



I have a personal plea for your families' memories of VE Day which is remembered on its 80th Anniversary in May. Have you a memory you could send me by the 1st April copy date? See page 28.

And a request from our distribution team. We need 2 new distributors! See page 33.

Wayland Estates Charity has supported many local groups over the years. See page 4 for their next grant awards details. But can you help them in return? The Charity is looking for someone to join them as a Trustee. See page 27 if that might be you.

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The deadline for the May 2025 issue is Tuesday 1 April 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	Boots Chemist (100 High St)	750226
Cricklade Town Council	751394	Dentist (104 High St)	750388
Latton P/Council ...	clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk	Gas leak reporting	0800 111 999
MP (South Cotswolds)	01285 300555	Library (113 High St)	750694
	roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk	Link Scheme transport	07421 018 499
Wiltshire Councillor	752501	Open Door	07599 987 851
Wiltshire Council hub	0300 456 0100	Optician (82 High St)	750415
Emergency Services	999	Purton Vets (Bath Rd)	751698
Non-Emergency: Police	101	Household Recycling Centre	778205
Non-Emergency: NHS	111	Samaritans	FREE: 116 123
Doctors: Purton Surgery	770207	Schools: St Sampson's Primary	750452
Green Gables Surgery	752633	Cricklade Manor Prep	750275
Cricklade (De Silva)	750645	Bradon Forest	770570

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 'stone's 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 annexe 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 Town Council

Town Council Meetings



Monday 7 April

Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee

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

Please also note that on **Thursday 1 May 2025** there will be an election for our Wiltshire Councillor and possibly, if there are more than 15 candidates, an election for your Cricklade Town Council councillors for the next four-year term. Voting will be in the Town Hall from 7am to 10pm. **The deadline to register to vote** in both elections, with Wiltshire Council is midnight on **11 April 2025**. Please visit www.wiltshire.gov.uk for more details.

CRICKLADE CIVIC AWARDS

The Cricklade Civic Awards were announced at the Annual Town Meeting on 18 March 2025.

This year and going forward to acknowledge the community involvement of the late Councillor Bob Jones MBE, the winner of the young person of the year award will receive a shield to be kept for a year, and a glass trophy to keep forever along with their certificate. The shield is named the Bob Jones MBE Memorial Award.

Many congratulations to this year's winners who are:

Young Person of the Year awarded to Sean Hirst.

For his work as a volunteer with the youth sessions run on a Tuesday evening.

The Cricklade Community Award awarded to Kim Toomer.

For her work as a Rainbow and Brownie leader.

The Cricklade Community Award went to Cricklade Cinema.

For successfully running our community cinema since 2012.

Well done to all those who were nominated. Please remember you can nominate residents using the website forms any time. Any nominations received now will be held on to until spring 2026.

PARKING

Please can we remind everyone that there is ample parking on the High Street for those lucky enough to be able bodied. Please allow the members of the public who are not so fortunate the five designated disabled spaces on the High Street. For those needing the disabled spaces, may we remind you of the necessity of putting your blue badge and clock in the window. This will help to prevent anger from other disabled badge users who may not be able to get into the spaces provided.

We would like to remind everyone, that parking on Double Yellows is not permitted unless continuously unloading, up to 40 minutes, allowing a passenger to alight or if you are Disabled, and showing your badge and clock, briefly. The lines are there for a reason, usually for the safety of others.

Continues over ...

Parking on pavements is not permitted; it is often easier to protect your car by being on the path, as in Calcutt Street, however in other parts of the town, i.e. the estates, the path is for pedestrians and the car should not take precedence over pedestrians. Please bear this in mind when you park your vehicle.

High Street and Other Improvements

Painting of Cricklade High Street ironmongery including the bases of the lamp post and bollards is now completed ready for the summer season and, along with the annual



spring clean in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy campaign, we are in a good position for the tourist season. Thank you to all those who moved vehicles and bikes to accommodate our grounds team, whilst painting was in operation, and to all the volunteers who helped to clear the green areas of debris.

There has been a programme of improvements to the town centre street furniture. The scheme includes repainting the heritage lamp posts, bollards, bins and cycle racks. Signage has been improved, including renewing the brown 'tourist' signs on the A419. We have been able to use funding made available under

the Wiltshire Council 'Towns Programme' which has made a valuable contribution.

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: 18 & 20 April 2025

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Wayland Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present



At their next meeting on 4 June 2025, the Trustees to Wayland Estates Charity will consider grant applications from organisations and groups towards any project or activity which has commenced or is about to commence. Any project seeking a grant must be for the general benefit of the people of Cricklade and the local area.

Application forms are available from the Clerk: John Harman

Tel: 07962 116 526 email: jharman@btoopenworld.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE 1 MAY 2025

Wayland Estates Charity is regulated by a Scheme of the Charity Commissioners dated 31 March 1976 as amended by resolutions dated 8 July 2009 and 5 February 2020.

Copies of the Charity's annual report and investment policy can be obtained from the Clerk.

Wiltshire Perspective

Flood Summit

The first of March saw Cricklade hosting a flood summit, the purpose being to allow all interested parties:

- to voice their concerns and, more specifically,
- to articulate what needs to be done to improve the Wiltshire side of the South Cotswolds constituency.

The meeting was well attended as it's an issue that's close to many of the hearts of this division as well as further afield. There were some common themes that stood out that we can focus on as a community and as a pressure group. The intention is now to take those actions and get all interested parties to:

- try to work together rather than blame one another
- to see what can be done to mitigate the increasing flooding and flood risks that we suffer from.

While Roz Savage, our MP must take the credit for this, I can take a little credit for hosting it here, allowing Cricklade, Latton & Marston Meysey's voice to be heard loud and clear. Thanks to all the residents who attended.

Democracy

April is the month of the new Financial Year and the last of this Council. After the Election on 1 May, a new Council is constituted and new appointments are made to the committees based on the Councillors that have been elected.

This may mean a range of things, from no change at all to a complete rethink based on a new set of priorities. The three Annual Meetings that I got invited to last year (Cricklade, Latton & Marston Meysey) were all non-political, and Royal Wootton Bassett is currently looking to follow suit. The benefit of this is that on the ground, political parties make very little difference in my opinion, as everyone wants to live healthy, safe and happy lives, and what needs doing is largely agreed on – the debate being more along the lines of in which order of priority things are tackled. At the county level, this prioritisation significantly influences many functional areas, and political values tend to have a more substantial impact.

On the subject of local democracy, I've been told there are some vacancies on Latton Parish Council. There are many benefits to standing on a local council, from playing a part in setting the local agenda to spreading the workload more thinly across people in your local community. And, if not you, then who else will be setting the agenda? To apply you might want to drop an email in the first instance to clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk.

Budget Vote

The finance debate in County Hall had few resolutions that were put to the vote. However the 820 page agenda was perhaps one of the most impenetrable reads I've had. I suspect few others in the chamber had fully understood the details of what they were voting on and it eventually got through unchanged.

Once again, 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
Nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk or 752501

Roz Savage MP

Roz Savage, MP for the South Cotswolds, is holding regular constituency surgeries to support residents with their concerns. Following parliamentary advice, these surgeries are now by appointment only.

Where possible, appointments will be held virtually. However, Roz is also hosting less frequent in-person surgeries at various locations across the constituency to ensure accessibility for all residents.

To book an appointment, please email roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk or call her office on 01285 300555. If you have specific accessibility needs, please let the team know when booking.



Cricklade W.I.

We would like to thank Darren and Charlotte for letting the WI sell the meat raffle tickets in the Red Lion during February and March. The proceeds raised by the meat raffle will go towards our speakers, outings and events. We would also like to thank our members who sold the tickets every Friday evening during those two months and to all the generous people who bought tickets.



The WI started in 1915 and is the largest women's organisation in the UK and provides members with the opportunity to meet women in their local area.

We had a very interesting talk last month when Geoff Brown from the Severn Freewheelers 'Blood Bike' service spoke about the group of bikers who are all volunteers and carry out a life saving service throughout our area and beyond.

We now look forward to our April meeting when one of our members, Jenny, will be showing us how to do Indian Block Printing. This will be a hands-on evening which is always fun and we get to take home something we've made!

A date for your diary: Saturday 31 May is our yearly coffee morning in the Town Hall Annexe. If anyone would like to have a table to sell their products, for a nominal cost of £5, please contact Viv Tomkins, details below. At the same time the Garden Club will be selling plants in the Town Hall and the combined event proved very popular last year.

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 and speakers or activities. We're a friendly group so come and find out more about us. 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.

If you can't make our monthly meeting, 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 1 April at 11am. We look forward to seeing you!

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



Talk – an Update on Dementia Care,

Wednesday 9 April, 7.30pm

We are fortunate to have Dr Simon Manchip, Old Age Psychiatrist at Swindon Memory Service to talk on Wednesday 9 April in Purton Surgery. Also speaking will be Tara Slater, Manager of the Dementia Adviser Service at Alzheimer's Support Wiltshire.

The talk will be held at 7.30pm in Purton Surgery where space is limited so tickets (free) are needed. Tickets will be available from reception in both Purton Surgery and Green Gable Surgery from March. There will be a collection afterwards for Alzheimer's Support Wiltshire.

Easter Raffle

The receptionists will be holding an Easter Raffle to raise funds for the PPG again. Tickets will be on sale from receptionists in both Purton and Green Gable Surgeries from Monday 10 March and will be drawn Friday 11 April.

200 Club

The March draw was done by Phlebotomist Maria Collins. The lucky winners were: £100 Katy Bell, £15 Susan Burgon. All members of the 200 Club are allocated a number to be used in the draw, if you wish to know your number then please email our Treasurer: treasurer.psppg@gmail.com to request it.

If you would like to join the 200 Club then the best way is to set up a Standing Order for £15 to be taken annually on 1 September each year. Forms for this are available at both Purton and Green Gable surgeries. There are two prizes each month of £100 and £15.



Table Top in Purton Surgery

Thank you to all who support the Table Top in Purton Surgery waiting room, to those who contribute items and those who buy. We do need more donations now! – so if you have anything please hand your items to the reception staff. If you would like to purchase any items then please hand your money in to Reception.

Please remember that there are also books for sale at 50p each, 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.psppg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Coffee Café

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



Lent Talks

Churches Together in Cricklade, Latton, Ashton Keynes and The Leigh

We finish our series of 6 talks by prominent people this month. All have a different and challenging story as they talk openly and honestly about their life, work and faith and how that faith impacts their lives.

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

Each of the talks will be held at St Sampson's School, Bath Road

... and they will start promptly at 7.30pm. Please arrive in plenty of time to be seated. Some will have merchandise for sale, so please come prepared if you want to purchase. There will be drinks following the talks and a chance to speak with the guest speaker. There is no charge for these events but there will be an opportunity to contribute towards the cost if you so wish.

Each evening is ticketed (free of charge) and these can be obtained from Graham Light by calling 07733 305 519 or by email grahamdlight77@gmail.com.

If you want tickets posted you will be asked to provide a stamped addressed envelope.

Thursday 10 April (7.30pm at St Sampson's School, Bath Road SN6 6AX)

Rt Hon John Glen MP has been the Member of Parliament for Salisbury since 2010 and was elected to serve on the House of Commons Treasury Select Committee in October 2024 having been the Shadow Paymaster General for 4 months since the July 2024 General Election. John served in the cabinet of Rishi Sunak's administration as both Chief Secretary to the Treasury and Paymaster General in the Cabinet Office, during which time he delivered the compensation scheme for the Infected Blood Scandal.



Prior to these cabinet roles he spent a record tenure of four and a half years as Economic Secretary (City Minister) in HMT and was briefly Arts Minister and a Parliamentary Private Secretary to three cabinet Ministers including Lord Hammond when he was Chancellor. John was a strategy consultant at Accenture from 1997-2010. He was also a JP in Westminster for 6 years. John grew up in North Wiltshire and attended King Edward's School, Bath before reading Modern History at Mansfield College, Oxford (1993-1996) where he was JCR President. John studied for an MBA at Fitzwilliam College Cambridge in 2002-3. .



Friday 11 April (7.30pm at St Sampson's School, Bath Road SN6 6AX)

Lisa Potts first came to prominence when, as a nursery nurse in Wolverhampton, she protected her pupils from a machete-wielding attacker. Through her bravery she has won 19 awards including the highest civilian award the George Medal. Lisa, talks about how God carried her through her difficult and terrifying experience, the subsequent rehabilitation through her terrible injuries and how she came to terms with her new found fame.

NOTE: This talk is not suitable for those under the age of 13.

Cricklade Memory Café

Hopefully spring will be here at last when this is published.

However we at Cricklade Memory Café have enjoyed the start of the year despite the dull weather. We started on 8 January with games provided by Cat Attewell from *Home Instead*, lots of chatter, fun and dancing as usual.



On 5 February we celebrated our first birthday in style with a lovely in house buffet and cakes and were joined by some of our White Lodge friends who joined in the celebrations with much laughter, fun and of course dancing. Have you seen our Facebook posts? 'Strictly' eat your heart out!

We held our first AGM on 12 February and whilst our funds are reasonably healthy, costs of everything have risen. We are so grateful for the financial support the residents of Cricklade and local businesses have given us and we hope they will continue to do so this year. We raised an amazing £733 on our Christmas raffle. Thanks to everyone who supported us and to our wonderful volunteers for selling the tickets. But we have no intention of resting on our laurels, so have more fund raising events planned including a fishing competition on 21 June,

Our members bring us so much joy and friendship each month so, if you are a carer or family member of someone with memory issues, come and see what a friendly, fun group we have and how much support our members gain from being part of the Café. We regularly have visitors who are able to offer more specialised support. We can also help to put you in touch with the relevant areas of help available. We aim to support carers as well as the cared-for and understand how isolating this can sometimes feel.

So pop along and see what the Café is about on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Town Hall Annexe from 10.30 to 12.30 for coffee, cakes, friendship and fun in a safe welcoming environment. You will be most welcome. 2 April is the next meeting.

For more information, please contact Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.

Sing Four Four Community Choir

Last month the choir had a privilege of singing in concert with the Swindon Male Voice Choir. It was a very enjoyable evening. Some of the profits were donated to promote music education at St Sampson's School Cricklade, as a tribute to the late Mary New who taught there for many years.



The choir is now rehearsing for its own Concert on 6 July in St Sampson's church. The concert will start at 3pm, and will be followed by tea and cake.

If you think you'd like to join this merry band of singers, it's not too late. Newcomers are always welcome. We rehearse in Cricklade United Church on Thursdays between 7.30 and 9.30pm. We look forward to seeing you.

For more information, please go to the website (www.singfourfour.org.uk). If you'd like to join us, please use the contact form on the website. Alternatively, you can email the musical director, Jen Bamford, at jenloubamford@googlemail.com

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

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

First Prize:	Betty Petrie	£36.00
Second Prize:	Julie Norman	£24.00
Jenner Hall Funds:		£60.00



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.

Girlguiding in Cricklade

You may know that Cricklade has active Rainbow and Brownie units.

Both units are very popular, full and with waiting lists which is all credit to the dedicated team of volunteers who run them.



Sadly, there is no Guide unit in Cricklade. Neighbouring Guide units in Purton and South Cerney are full, meaning that Cricklade girls need to travel further afield to continue their guiding adventures after Brownies. And there are enough girls on the Rainbow waiting list to open another unit. Some on the waiting list are unlikely to get a Rainbow place.

We would love to open a Guide unit in Cricklade and we'd also love to open a second Rainbow unit, but we need **new adult volunteers** to make those wishes a reality.

Why volunteer?

- Hearing a Rainbow say to a new girl who doesn't know anyone, "I didn't know anybody when I started, but now everyone is my friend."
- Seeing the look of pride on a Brownie's face after she has conquered her fears to go on a climbing wall.
- Hearing a Guide tell others all about the fantastic experience she has had on an international camp.
- Hearing a teenage young leader say she wants to lead her own Brownie unit when she's older.

Besides these examples, as volunteers we enjoy working as part of unit leadership teams and as part of a district team. We make friendships along the way and there's a lot of laughter involved. Volunteering with guiding is a great way of getting involved in a community, safe in the knowledge that there will be a warm welcome.

No previous experience is needed, and you don't need to have been a member as a child either. All volunteer roles are subject to references and DBS. Full training and support are provided.

Information about volunteering roles is on the Girlguiding website (www.girlguiding.org.uk) as well as a link to register. Or please contact me for a no obligation chat.

Jo Sully, District Commissioner
07913 725 390 / jo.sully2@gmail.com

Cricklade Open Door

Hello from Open Door and our very best wishes to everyone for a happy and enjoyable Easter break.



A couple of highlights in March were our Pancake Afternoon on Shrove Tuesday and Thames Pre School visiting us on Thursday 13 March bringing their games and songs which we absolutely loved. If you can call an AGM a highlight, then that also took place!

In April we will enjoy our usual activities – come along and find out if something, or perhaps everything, could be enjoyable for you. Being part of our community helps us all to keep bright and positive. There will also be several extra activities, starting with a visit to Cricklade Manor Prep School to watch their spring drama production on Wednesday 2 April.

Our **Coffee Morning** will be held at the Jenner Hall on **Saturday 12 April** 10am to 12 noon with raffle, tombola and *exceptional* cakes and scones made by Chris.

This will be followed by Easter Flower Arranging on Tuesday afternoon 15 April and a Cream Tea on Tuesday afternoon 22 April.

We will be closed on Easter Monday 21 April.

As I am writing this article, the period of Lent is due to begin in a few days time. Instead of giving up something for Lent, which is traditional - why not take up something worthwhile? - come along to Open Door and enjoy new friendships, company, fun and support which you can both give and receive.

*Cricklade Open Door, The Jenner Hall, Bath Road,
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 10.00 - 3.30. Telephone 07599 987 851*

Cricklade Historical Society

Wednesday 16 April – Aircraft production at South Marston. Speaker – Bill King. The history of the South Marston aircraft factory from its opening in 1940 until its closure and demolition in 1985.

All meetings are held at the Town Hall Annexe, doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Refreshments available from 7.15pm.

NB – As from 2 April the Museum will also be open on Wednesday afternoons from 2pm to 4pm - please come and visit us and see the new displays we have put on.

Atlantic Rocketman – World's Toughest Row

We promised you an update about Cricklade-born Andrew Major and his solo row challenge across the Atlantic. He finished on 12 February after 63 days, 12 hours and 23 minutes, rowing solo from San Sebastián de La Gomera in the Canaries to English Harbour, Antigua. In his solo rowing class he finished 4th.

You can still donate to his cause by scanning the QR code (right) which will take you directly to the GoFundMe page. Or visit the www.atlanticrocketman.com website.



Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

6 April

Lent 5

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

13 April

Palm Sunday

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

18 April

Good Friday

- 2pm Final Hour service *at St Sampson's*

20 April

Easter Day

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Easter Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Easter Celebration with Communion + Egg Hunt *at Holy Cross*
- 11.15am Easter Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 11.30am Easter Communion + Egg Hunt *at All Saints, Leigh*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

27 April

Easter 2

- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's* + children's activities in Jenner Hall
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 3.30pm Messy Church *at Holy Cross Ashton Keynes*

Thursday morning prayers in St Sampson's:

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

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

- 3 February Nick Kroner *at Kingsdown Crematorium with Thanksgiving at St Sampson's*
- 6 February Joan Orchard *at St Sampson's followed by interment in Cricklade Cemetery*
- 15 February Clive Read *at Holy Cross followed by interment in the church yard*

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

er 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.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 during April - all at 10.30am

6 Apr	Rev Sarah Simpson	20 Apr	Rev Sarah Simpson (Easter Day)
13 Apr	Rev Andrew Francis (Palm Sunday)	27 Apr	Pam Mullins

Bounce and Rhyme

We are a group for parents, carers and grandparents with babies and/or young children. It is the Easter holidays this month so we are meeting only once. Venue as always The United Church hall in Calcutt Street. Time: 1.45pm - 3pm for nursery rhymes, a story book, tea/coffee refreshments and a chat.

Next meeting - 1 April

There is no charge - we are delighted to welcome you

USPG Elephants

Thank you again for your generosity to the Primary Health Care Scheme in southern Malawi. October's collection raised £507.00 towards this scheme and helps facilitate and enhance the Primary Health Care given to the peoples of this poor part of the world.

I would like to "round up" the elephants on Sunday 6 April. If you can please bring your elephants to St Sampson's on this day I'd appreciate it or I'll arrange to collect them from your house at your convenience.

Thank you

Paul Fray 750740

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

We look forward to all these exciting events this spring, helping to raise funds for our church appeal project. Proceeds from these events will help us to continue with the project to make St Sampson's Church a warm, light and flexible space for the community of Cricklade.



St Sampson's Church Quiz

Saturday 29 March 2025 at St Sampson's School
Teams of 6 Tickets £10 per person, to include hot supper
Drinks by donation

Tickets from

Adina Grace 01793 380583 Helen Dixon 07976 546 825 Sharon Smith 01793 751375

The Wessex in Concert at St Sampson's



Saturday 26 April 2025 at 7.30pm

Admission by ticket only

Tickets £15.00 (u-16 £7.50) from
TheWessex.org.uk/tickets or QR Code



or Helen Dixon on 01793 759123 helendixonmail@gmail.com
or Adina Grace on 01793 380583 janda.grace447@outlook.com

Donations to the Refurbishment Appeal

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 February 2025 draw was Audrey Alfree who won £33.50

St Sampson's Church benefited by £33.50.

To join the 100 Club, contact Sharon Smith tel. 751375 or email
sharonsmith54@hotmail.com

Parkinson's UK

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

Join us 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!

Cricklade Foodbank

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



Unfortunately, at the Foodbank, we have continued to see a rise in our client numbers. Some are new clients, but we also have seen a number of returners. Everyone is welcomed and offered a cup tea or coffee. Returning clients are encouraged to apply for a voucher before coming to the session. This shortens the admin process for everyone. However, you will not be turned away if you don't have one.

The volunteers are always willing to listen to any concerns you have and we may be able to direct you to the appropriate agency.

The number to call for a voucher is: 01666 826982. Please leave a message. Someone will call you back.

Or you can email info@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

Again, many thanks to our loyal donors. Your contributions are vital. At the moment our top needs are; tinned veg, tinned spaghetti and cleaning products.

Our collection points are; Tesco, Culverhay Stores, Animal Fayre and all three churches.

North Wiltshire Royal Aeronautical Society

The North Wiltshire branch RAeS meets at the Deanery C of E Academy, Peglers Way, Swindon SN1 7DA on the first Wednesday of the month at 1930hrs.



Are you interested in the history, current and future of aviation? If science, engineering, exploration or history interests you then come along. We welcome all ages from 14 up.

We are proud to have many world leading experts talk to our branch and this coming season is no exception. Annual membership cost £20 (Free under 18). Why not come along to a lecture and see what we have to offer? Free of charge for that first lecture. A member of the committee would be pleased to tell you more about the branch.

Our lecture programme for the next few months is:

- 2 April: Ms Amy Labrum, Director of Operations Apian. Drones and the NHS.
- 7 May: Mr Mark Jabbal, Principle Investigator, WingPulse. Advancing active flow technologies for more efficient aircraft.
- 4 June: Mr Grant Lewis, Project Manager, Lockheed Martin. Space in the UK.
- 2 July: Mr Gianluca Maestri, Senior Master Planner, Heathrow. Future Heathrow Infrastructure.
- 3 September: Dr Johnathan Ayling. First Waltz – Building Blue Danube, Britain's first Atomic Bomb.
- 1 October: Mr Russel Porter, Head of Future Flight Engagement, NATS. The Future of Flight over the UK.

Interested in coming along? Contact our membership secretary Mr Howard Chandler at Howard.chandler@raes-volunteer.org.

Letters to the Editor

■ NICHOLAS W KRONER - 1937-2024

The family of Nick thank all the kind and warm-hearted neighbours and people of Cricklade following Nick's death on Christmas day. Your love and support has been overwhelming, especially as we are comparatively new to Cricklade. Thanks must especially go to the Revd Dr Shirley Danby for her help and support, Celia and Sarah for the flowers, and the White Hart for their delicious spread. Thank you all.

Cricklade Garden Club

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



The next meeting is on **Tuesday 8 April**, when our speaker is Fred Gillam whose talk is called:

Forager's Tales

We are delighted that Fred is coming to talk to us about discovering food for free. He is an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker and he will reveal what riches nature has to offer us when we know how and where to look for them.

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

Membership is £25p.a. We are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies (www.gfgs.org.uk)

Visitors are welcome at £5 a session – come and give us a try.

Enquiries to Bizzie on 07876 347 973 or Janet on 07765 276 534.

We look forward to seeing you!

Cricklade Open Gardens 2025

I am once again organising an Open Gardens scheme in Cricklade for the weekend of 12-13 July.

Over the years, this have proved to be a very popular event with visitors coming from far and wide. The proceeds from ticket sales and teas will again go to two local causes – St Sampson's refurbishment works and Cricklade Open Door, a charity that offers friendship, fun and support and a safe, friendly place to meet.

I am looking for residents who are willing to open their gardens to the public during this weekend. The size of your garden does not matter as I am looking for both small and larger gardens to make this a success. If you have not opened your garden before or never considered it, why not give it a go this year? It is great fun and you meet a lot of people who share your love of gardening.

In 2023 we raised £2,820 – let's see if we can reach that again this year ... or more! With your help I am sure it is possible.

If you are able to help or want to discuss it further before making a commitment, then please give me a call as soon as you can on 01793 759181 or send me an email: gloriaellen44@gmail.com

Gloria Light

Wayland Estates Charity – Trustee Vacancy

There is an opportunity for an enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer to make a meaningful difference in our community as a Trustee of Wayland Estates Charity – an organisation that is dedicated to supporting charitable purposes for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Cricklade and its surrounding areas. Established in 1551, the charity has a history of contributing to the upkeep of local infrastructure and collaborating with community groups to create lasting change.



Applications are invited from anyone who through residence, occupation or employment, or otherwise has special knowledge of the Parish of Cricklade and the neighbourhood thereof.

Applicants must meet the Charity Commission eligibility criteria and be prepared to:

- Attend biannual meetings
- Ensure the Charity fulfils its mission and complies with legal and regulatory requirements.
- Contribute to financial, governance, and operational decisions.
- Champion the charity's values and vision.

For more information about the Charity, please visit our Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/waylandestates

If you are interested in this rewarding opportunity, please contact:
John Harman (Clerk) Tel: 07962 116 526 jharman@btopenworld.com.

The closing date for applications is 31 May 2025.

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Fritillary Tea Rooms

26 and 27 April

Thames Hall 10.30am to 4.30pm

Freshly made sandwiches, cream teas and delicious home made cakes.

Plant sales and pots of fritillaries



Bloomers Volunteers once again welcome the residents of Cricklade and visitors alike for our Annual Spring Fund Raiser. After the previous two wet winters, with less flooding this year and perhaps a drier spring we hope for a display of fritillaries on North Meadow too! Please support us so that we can continue to maintain the visual environment of the town.

After our first Saturday in March at Saxons Rest where children planted bluebells, we will be running another workshop on Saturday 5 April from 10am -11am. Families and individuals are all welcome; come and find out about the work of Bloomers and pick up gardening tips from our horticultural expert Anita and our other keen gardening volunteers.

Cricklade Museum

Interwar and war years photos of Cricklade.

The museum is planning to do a display of the interwar (1918-1939) and war years (1939-1945) in the museum for the 2025 Cricklade Festival Day, 8 June, when we are open all day.

Please would readers let the museum borrow any photographs of Cricklade from this era so they can be used in the display and, with permission, be copied and retained in the archive for future generations.

Many thanks,

Pam Debenham, Curator, 07453 766 744

VE Day Memories

8 May marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. Although the Second World War didn't end until VJ Day (15 August) VE Day marked the end of hostilities closer to home and was a cause of much celebration.

The Chronicle would like to remember the day in the May 2025 issue. We would love to hear your own families' memories of the time for publication in the magazine.

We marked D-Day in the same way in the June 2024 issue, but I sincerely hope that my own father's time at D-Day will be joined for VE Day by at least one other!

The actions of young men and women, often only in their teens or twenties, and the impacts on their families back home deserve to be remembered.

Rick Dixon, Editor: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com

Royal British Legion – Cricklade & District Branch

I hesitate to say that the Branch is thriving, but we are in a better place than we were 12 months ago. Membership is up, and the Branch was represented at several Remembrance events throughout 2024. Two in particular stand out: the parade and associated events on Remembrance Sunday were, again, incredibly well supported by the town; and the Branch celebrated its 100th anniversary later that month. Former-MP James Gray handed over the 1924-2024 pennant which is now attached to the Branch Standard.



But we still need new blood. There are two key positions that need to be filled in 2025.

The position of **Secretary** will become vacant in the summer and the Branch will lose its independent status if we cannot fill that position.

And we also need a volunteer to take on the role of **Poppy Appeal Deputy**. This is not an onerous position, but it does require a few hours in October/November to support Nick who is our accredited Poppy Appeal Organiser. The role involves the distribution of about 25 poppy collection tins to local shops and businesses in mid-October and collecting them in mid-November. Volunteers are always very welcome to be involved in the collecting itself in Cricklade as well as the West Swindon shopping centre, but this is not a necessity.

If you would like to consider joining the Branch, and/or taking on either of these roles, please do give me (07583 313 837) or Nick (07920 018 747) a call.

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A Significant Milestone for The Old Police Station

Welcoming The Wild Fig Deli and Mather & Murray Financial

The Cricklade Development Foundation (CDF) is delighted to announce that The Wild Fig Deli has moved into the front units of the Old Police Station, joining Mather & Murray Financial to complete the full occupation of the building's ground floor.



With both residential flats on the first floor let, the property is officially fully occupied – a major milestone in our community-led redevelopment journey.

The Wild Fig Deli is currently preparing for its official opening.

We are thrilled that all our tenants – both residential and commercial – have very strong ties to Cricklade, an outcome we had truly hoped for.

This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the generosity of our members, who provided the vital funding to purchase and redevelop the property, our dedicated volunteers, who put in countless hours of hard work, and the wider community, whose support has been invaluable. A huge thank-you also goes to the grant funders who have helped bring different elements of the project to life.

£25,000 Grant Secured for the Community Garden

In more fantastic news, CDF has been awarded a £25,000 grant from Crapper and Sons Ltd to support the transformation of the Old Police Station's rear garden into a vibrant community space. The money has been made available through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) which is administered for Crappers by Community First, the Rural Community Council for Wiltshire. This represents a huge boost for the project.

With additional contributions from Cricklade Town Council, the Royal Wootton Bassett Area Board and our members, this grant ensures that the vision for the garden will become a reality. Work is expected to start in April or May, subject to weather conditions. We are incredibly grateful to Crapper and Sons and Community First for their generosity.

A Community Success Story

The redevelopment of the Old Police Station is far more than a property project – it's a true community achievement. What was once an under-utilised building has been transformed into new homes, thriving businesses, and job opportunities. It also now features the Queen Elizabeth II Walkway display, with the community garden soon to follow.

We are immensely proud of what has been accomplished and deeply grateful to everyone who has played a part in this journey. Thank you for making this possible!

Join us

If you wish to join us and become a member, or want to buy membership for someone else (from £50), please contact Terri on 07902 421 756 or email: contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk for more details. For more information and the latest news, please check out our Facebook page and website: www.crickladefoundation.org.uk.

CRICKLADE CINEMA!

We end our Spring Season on Tuesday 22 April at 8pm in the Town Hall.

The Critic (Cert 15, 95mins)

Ian McKellen plays a veteran theatre critic in 1930s London. His job is under threat at a national newspaper and he will do almost anything necessary to ensure survival in uncertain times. (*contains: strong 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.



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

Email us at: crickladedecinema@gmail.com Check us out at Facebook Cricklade Cinema

Cricklade Camera Club

Are you interested in photography, or do you just want to take better photographs?



If so, why not come along to Cricklade Camera Club. Visitors and new members will receive a warm welcome – you don't even need a camera. Everyone is welcome. You can try us out for an evening for a guest fee of £6. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe and in addition there is a range of workshops and Zoom presentations throughout the year. To see all our activities take a look at the programme page of our website crickladecameraclub.org/program

On Tuesday 1 April, in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe, Suzie Kirkby will give a talk about the challenges as a local newspaper photographer in East Hampshire, West Surrey and West Sussex. Whatever the genre, all jobs have to be tackled with minimal equipment and always to a tight deadline.

On Tuesday 15 April there will be a presentation on Zoom.

18 April is the closing date for entries to Round 3 of the club competition. If you join the club or are already a member you can submit up to three digital images and three prints; they will be assessed and marked by an independent visiting judge – nerve wracking, but a great way to improve your photography. Even if you haven't submitted any images this is a fantastic way to learn what makes a great photograph. The judging evening will take place on 6 May.

Bingo4U

Come along on Wednesday afternoons at the Jenner Hall – anyone welcome.

£2 entry. Eyes down at 2pm.

Contacts: Chris 07500 871 680 or Liz 07780 473 024



Cricklade Rugby Club is keen to recruit new players. Come and join us and have some fun; Adults, Juniors and Minis. RUGBY – the

sport that builds strength, teamwork and resilience.

Adult 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.

In February we won all our matches: 1st vs Swindon College Old Boys II (54-10) and then on 8th (72-0). 15th vs Swindon II (46-12). Currently there are no matches scheduled for April.

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

Our Minis section continues to grow and is open to all boys and girls of all abilities. We aim to provide a safe environment where every player can enjoy rugby and develop their personal and social skills as well as a wide array of transferable multi-sports skills.

Minis 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 11s: Fridays 5.30–6.45pm.

Under 12s: Fridays 6–7.15pm.

Under 16s (MC Quins joint with Minety) Fridays 7-8.15pm at Cricklade / Tues at Minety.

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.

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Saxons Pétanque Club plays on the gravel just in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons and 10am on Saturday mornings and we will be starting coaching sessions soon.

You're welcome to come along, borrow some boules, and give pétanque a go with no obligation to join the club. Pétanque is fun, it's sociable and it's very easy to pick up. Should you decide to join, annual membership is only £25.

Our social events include skittles, tenpin bowling and the occasional meal out and we organise a few friendly club competitions throughout the year, including a charity day. Some of our more competitive members play in the Cotswold Pétanque League and in various competitions in the Great Western Region.

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.

Cricklade Bowls Club



Our 2025 Season will kick off (so to speak) in April. Everything is weather dependent as always, but we hope to have done the top dressing of the green during March and plan our start of season for members on Easter Saturday 19 April. That's the day when we gather for our first roll-ups and to pay our annual membership subs. Thanks to all those who have paid during the earlier months of the year; that really helps with some rather hefty bills that hit us as this time of year.

We will be holding our Open Day for the public the same day. If you wish to come and see what the game is all about, come and join us on 19 April between 10am and 4pm at the Bath Road green, next door to the Fire Station. We have members who will show you how to play and we have spare bowls you can use. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes on the green itself.

We will also be open for the Bowls England *Big Bowls Weekend* on 24 May. We'll remind you next month!

For more information please contact:

Roy Phillips (Secretary) roy2308@btinternet.com or 07751 201 793
Rick Dixon (Treasurer) rickdixonbowls@gmail.com or 01793 759123
Paul Coleman (Men's Captain) colemanpaul1@hotmail.com
Margaret Essex (Ladies' Captain) margaret.essex@sky.com

We hope to see you this coming season.

Cricklade & District Probus Club



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

3 April To Mars via Kazakhstan Beagle 2. Lost on Mars, but found 11 years later

17 April The Fall of Singapore - a very British cock-up

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.

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 Pétanque Club

Our pistes are at Cricklade House Hotel and Spa, SN6 6HA

We are looking forward to hosting The National Junior Doubles on Saturday 17 May.

Pétanque is a game for all ages including young people as can be seen from the above competition. If there are any youth groups, schools or individual young people who would like to have a go, please get in touch with Helen on 07976 546 825 or email: helendixonmail@gmail.com

We have regular monthly socials and the next one is on Friday 25 April.

Our playing days are: Mon 2 - 4.30pm Wed 2 - 4.30pm Sat 10am - 12.30pm

Coaching Sessions are: Wed 10 - 11.30am (ladies) Fri 10 - 11.30am (mixed)

Please arrive 10 minutes before start to avoid delays in play!

www.crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk Facebook Cricklade Petanque Club
email: info@crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk



Disabled Sailing - Curry Evening

Kavali Curry Evening **12 May at 7pm**, in aid of Disabled Sailing World Championship contenders, Antony Williams and Toby Owen.

Join Antony and Toby for an evening of food quiz and raffle, as they raise funds for their campaign for the RS Venture Connect disabled sailing World Championship.



Last year, local sailors, Antony (48) and Toby (15), came fifth in their class in the World Championship, in their first season sailing together. This year they will travel to Oman, sailing for Great Britain, fighting their way to the front of the fleet.

Antony and Toby are freshly returned from speaking at the annual RYA Dinghy Show, where they spoke about their breakout year entering international competition. They shared the stage with Olympic Gold Medal winner Elidih McIntyre, World Sailing Coach Becky Ellis and Lucy Hodges MBE, gold medal winning blind sailor.

Tickets are £25 per head, for food, quiz and a raffle entry. Tickets available from Sue Williams tel/txt 07776 075 327.

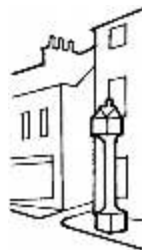
You can also support Antony and Toby via their GoFundMe page:

www.gofundme.com/f/rs-venture-2025-campaign
[QR Code right]



The Chronicle Diary – April 2025

- 1 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
end of day Chronicle Copy deadline
- 2 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 3 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 7 M
10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
7pm Town Council Planning, etc Committee Meeting, Council Chamber
- 8 Tu 7pm *speaker* 7.30pm: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 9 W 7.30pm “Dementia Talk” at Purton Surgery. Tickets - see page 17.
- 10 Th 7.30pm Lent Talk at St Sampson’s School (John Glen MP)
- 11 F 7.30pm Lent Talk at St Sampson’s School (Lisa Potts)
- 15 Tu 7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
7.30pm Camera Club Zoom meeting
- 16 W 10.30am to 12 noon: Parkinson’s Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa
W 7.15pm *for 7.30pm start:* Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
- 17 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe:
- 18 F **Good Friday bank holiday**
- 19 Sa 10am to 4pm: Cricklade Bowls Club Open Day, Bath Road, opposite School
- 20 Su **Easter Sunday**
- 21 M **Easter Monday bank holiday**
- 22 Tu Wiltshire Schools resume (*others may differ*)
- 23 W **St George’s Day**
- 26 Sa 10.30am to 4.30pm: Fritillary Tea Rooms at Thames Hall
7.30pm *doors 6.45pm:* The Wessex in Concert at St Sampson’s
- 27 Su 10.30am to 4.30pm: Fritillary Tea Rooms at Thames Hall



Every Week

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10am-3.30pm: Open Door at Jenner Hall

Wednesday (2-4pm), Saturday (10am-noon) Cricklade Museum open, Calcutt Street

- Tu 6.30pm Cricklade Walking Group - from Cricklade Leisure Centre
7-8pm Mixed tag rugby at Fairview Fields
- W 1.45 for 2pm Bingo4U at Jenner Hall
- Th 10-11.30am Acorn Community Bank: in Tourist Information Office
1.30-4.30pm The Paint Palette: Ladies’ Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
7-10pm The Cricklade Band rehearsal night, at Town Hall, visitors welcome
7-8.30pm Cricklade Rugby Club training at Fairview Fields
7.30-9.30pm Sing Four Four choir rehearsal at United Church, Calcutt Street
- F 9.30am Cricklade Walking Group - from Waylands/Saxons Rest
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

Moon Phases

April 2025

5th

13th

21st

27th

The Final Word ...

One film that had been expected to do well in the Oscars (Academy Awards), was *Conclave*. It won awards and plaudits all round, Best Adaptation but not Best Picture! In its simplest form we can say the film is the adaptation of the book by Robert Harris which tells a story based on the election of a new Pope. Delving deeper we see inevitable arguments and alliances made, conservative/liberal; uneasy alliances, hidden back stories and manoeuvrings that would make an army proud.

It is an excellent film and one I recommend watching if you haven't already done so.

The overriding sense I got from the film was one of hope, hope in a process that has been unchanged for centuries, hope that differing beliefs and opinions can be held together for a greater good, hope that the will of God will be revealed at the right time.

We are approaching Easter. Christians do so having lived through Lent and that will mean different things to different people, a time of giving up or taking up, a time of going without or increased Bible study; a time of reflection before Holy Week and Easter Day itself.

One of the benefits of Lent is that it can include the component that we all wish for more of – time. If Lent is about reflection, then that can only happen when we stop and make the time and space to do just that. And that broad idea of reflection can be individual, all-inclusive, country-wide or global. We can use it to consider our relationship with God, what God may be saying to us, to the church, to those in the world who hold power.

We see many powerplays in Holy Week, it bounces back and forth, one moment it is with the people, then Rome and its army. Different religious factions get their say and at the centre of it is a man, in his thirties, a man called Jesus who was both the Son of God and the Son of Man. A man whose only 'crime' was to tell the people about the love of God, to give them hope and to tell those who held the power that it had to be used for the good of all, not the select few.

A message too far, so he was condemned to death.

But God's love overcame death, good overcame evil, hope triumphed over despair; so on Easter Day we can shout ***"Christ is Risen, Alleluia."***

I wish you all a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Rev'd Sarah Simpson, Minister, Cricklade United Church

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.

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



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