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From the Editor

'Vote, vote, vote, 'cos your votes count' was a catchphrase of Hughie Green, the host of *Opportunity Knocks*, an early forerunner of *Britain's Got Talent* when TV was young and in black and white. Acts were voted on by the public but the programme was recorded a week before broadcast, so votes had to be in by Thursday. To ensure fairness, according to Green, votes had to be in "your own handwriting".

Local Government Elections are on Thursday 1 May for Wiltshire Council, and town and parish councils. Precautions are in place "to ensure fairness" whether you vote in person, by proxy or by postal ballot. My thanks go to Sue Impey for the cover picture of our Edward VII post box in Purton Road. Other post boxes are available if you are voting by post! The 80th anniversary of VE Day is on Thursday 8 May. The Court Leet has arranged a Beacon Lighting ceremony at Saxon's Rest (flagpoles by



Waylands) for that evening accompanied by the Cricklade Band and Community Choir. See page 27 for details. Somehow I didn't expect VE Day stories to come flooding in. Instead you will have to put up with my family story – page 26.

It's Christian Aid Week this month and on page 18 you will see how you can help. We have many troubled parts of the world to think of just now, including the catastrophe in Myanmar as I write.

Do you fancy taking up a new hobby? St Sampson's is looking to add new bellringers to the team. See page 24. We have a 'good news 'story from the Old Police Station development team on page 40.

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The deadline for the June 2025 issue is Thursday I May 2025

Community contacts all 01793 unless stated or emergency

This section is intended to give quick access to e	<i>y</i> , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
If you spot something missing, please let us know:	$Rick Dix on Chronicle @gmail.com\ or\ 01793\ 759123.$
Churches see centre pages	Boots Chemist (100 High St) 750226
Cricklade Town Council 751394	Dentist (104 High St) 750388
Latton P/Councilclerk@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	Purton Vets (Bath Rd) 751698
Non-Emergency: Police101	Household Recycling Centre 778205
Non-Emergency: NHS 111	Samaritans <i>FREE</i> : 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

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Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings



Monday 12 May Annual Meeting of Council followed by a Full Town Council meeting

Tuesday 13 May Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee

Monday 19 May Community and Leisure 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.

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE on THURSDAY 1 MAY FROM 7am to 10pm at YOUR LOCAL POLLING STATION

You can check where this is by entering your postcode in the following website https://wheredoivote.co.uk

The Council would like to thank all the participants of the Cricklade Litter Pick on 22 March 2025. The town looks so much better for their efforts and this tremendous push has rid the area of 99 bags of litter.



Please can we bring to the attention of all visitors and residents, that there are 60 plus bins in the town, and all of them can be used for general rubbish and dog poop. There has been an increase in the amount of dog poop being reported to the office and to Wiltshire Council. If you are going to use a bag, then please carry it with you to the next available bin, rather than leave it by the footpath or even tied to a tree.

Cricklade in Bloom

The annual Cricklade in Bloom Competition will take place once again in July, so now is the time to start planning your displays. There is no need to apply to the Council as the team will be visiting all streets to find the Best Front Garden, Best Hanging Basket, Best Front Door and Best Commercial Premises.

Cricklade Festival 2025

It is with great disappointment that we heard of the cancellation of this year's Cricklade Festival. If you would like it to return, then perhaps you could be part of the volunteer committee and help it once again to grace our High Street. Without the organising team and volunteers, it cannot continue. For more information contact Chris at info@crickladefestival.co.uk

The Council would like to welcome its new and returning councillors after the election on 1 May 2025. Please see the Council website for the new list of councillors for Cricklade, as this issue of *The Chronicle* will have gone to print before the vote and count is finalised.

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: 5 & 26 May 2025

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk

facebook. Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

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

Find us on:

- 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 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

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Wiltshire Perspective

Three topics this month.

Annual Meetings

This is the season for Annual Town and Parish meetings, where communities can review what's happened and trumpet their successes. In many cases local people give their time and energy to local causes without making a fuss, sometimes really struggling to maintain momentum, so giving recognition in some of those cases is great. In all three parishes the councils are the local authority with the best view of what communities want prioritised. To a certain extent what my views are don't matter as I will have probably contributed to the decision, but whatever the community wants are the causes that I need to try to drive forward.

The annual meetings are a good way for people to come together and contribute towards each Council's future direction and it certainly makes my life clearer about what goes through my inbox that needs prioritising.

Making a difference

We are all in various states of happiness and it's the areas of concern and distress that I try to support. Wiltshire Council has some areas where their support is really good (the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub, MASH), others are lamentable (let's not fall into that pothole!)

It's taken me much longer than I would have thought to get to grips with the Wiltshire machine and how it works. Sometimes I think it's designed to be impenetrable as a means of self-defence.

In any event by the time you read this, your choices will be clear (candidates are not published at the time of writing). It is up to you to make your choice.

Vote

Unless you vote you have no reason to complain about the quality of the people who represent you. Votes are your feedback forms and for that you need to vote.

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
Nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk or 752501

Cricklade Computer Club

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

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

Roger Heafield

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.

Cricklade WI has had a busy month; Darren and Charlotte very kindly allowed us to sell the Meat Raffle tickets on Friday evenings at the Red Lion during February and March. The proceeds help with our events and fundraising. Very many thanks to those who bought



tickets. We hope the winners enjoyed the delicious prizes. Good luck to the next group taking over for the raffle in the next couple of months.

You will also have seen us on the High Street one Saturday in March collecting for the very worthwhile Marie Curie charity. £411 was raised and we looked very fetching in our smart yellow tabards!

Our April speaker was our very own Jenny who introduced us to the technique Indian Block Printing, a traditional printing technique that has been practised in India for thousands of years. It is a process that involves several intricate steps and has many styles from the various regions of India. In this session, we covered a brief history of block printing and the techniques involved before having a practical session where we created our own block printed designs on fabric or paper. It is a fascinating subject and we came away with some lovely prints.

19 June will see a talk by Chris Churchman titled **'Losing England's Landscape**'. Chris will be informing us about raising the value of England's natural assets and creating a more sustainable and viable environment. This should be interesting and we hope some of you will join us.

Don't forget our next event in conjunction with The Garden Club (page 20).

Coffee Morning and Table Top Sale Saturday 31 May in the Town Hall Annexe

9.30am – 12 noon

Refreshments - Jewellery - Dried Flowers - Cards Raffle - Bric-a-brac - Alternative Tombola

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Cricklade Open Door

Hello everyone and welcome to the warmer days, sunshine and maybe holidays too.

April has passed with excellent, fun activities having taken place at Open
Door – a music morning with professional trombonists Richard and Steve,
biscuit making, flower arranging, an Easter cream tea and a visit to Cricklade Manor
Prep School to enjoy cookies and coffee and watch their Spring Drama Production.

I am writing this before our fundraising coffee morning on Saturday 12 April, so I hope you all came along to sample and take home Chris's incredible bakes, win a raffle prize, try the tombola, chat and have a happy Saturday morning and help to raise funds for your Cricklade Community Drop In – Open Door.

In May we will welcome Hannah, 'The Storyteller', to Open Door on Monday 12 May at 11am – something different on a Monday morning. Cricklade Pre School's Jumble Trail will be held on Saturday 17 May and, again this year, Open Door will take part with excellent goods (no tat!), Chris's incredible bakes and you can even have a coffee/tea whilst you browse. We will be at 39 Pittsfield, from 10am to 1pm – come and meet us all on your journey around Cricklade.

A pub lunch for members is being arranged for May. The venue, at this time, hasn't been decided but we will be going somewhere!

Please remember that Open Door will be closed on the two Monday Bank Holidays in May - Monday 5 May and Monday 26 May. Tuesdays and Thursdays open as usual 10.00 - 3.30 and the other two Mondays. Our telephone number: 07599 987 851.

We welcome visitors and potential new members at every session – pop in and meet us all at The Jenner Hall, Bath Road.

Cricklade Foodbank

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

The Cricklade Foodbank team was pleased to welcome our MP, Roz Savage, to one of our recent sessions. Ms Savage spent quite a time with us, learning about the different aspects of the operation, from client-facing to packing the all-important food boxes. She was also told about the 'warehouse run' ... volunteers who go each week to the warehouse at Malmesbury to refill the boxes that have been emptied on a Friday.

We are currently in great need of more donations. The rise in client numbers has put a strain on our resources. The changes in the benefit system have meant that more people are seeking our help. We have collection points in Tesco, Animal Fayre (pet shop), Culverhay Stores, St Sampson's School (during term time) and the local churches.

If you, or anyone you know is struggling to put food on the table, please contact us on 01666 826982. Please leave a message, someone will call you back. Please remember, you are not alone. We are here to help.

Christian Aid Week: 11 - 17 May 2025

PLEASE HELP US! Abounding hope



It is Christian Aid's birthday year - 80 years old. Sadly, as the charity enters its anniversary year, the needs of millions of people around the World has not diminished. Indeed with the withdrawal of the majority of overseas aid by the United States and the UK, the responsibility for providing help – and hope – to the poorest and most vulnerable in the World now has fallen principally on charities like Christian Aid.

Christian Aid's reason for existence is to provide humanitarian relief and long-term development support for poor communities worldwide, while highlighting suffering, tackling injustice and championing people's rights. At present they are working with partners to provide relief support following the earthquake in Myanmar.

This year Christian Aid is highlighting the plight of Aurelia. A woman who lives in Guatemala – here the livelihoods, traditions and very survival of the rural farming communities are threatened by droughts, damaging storms and industrial plantations. The dry and rainy seasons which once arrived with predictability have now intensified and shifted erratically due to climate change.

For Aurelia and her community this means that vital crops are failing, plunging farming families into hunger and poverty. Christian Aid has worked with a local partner, Congcoop, to support her and other local farmers to increase their resilience. While encouraging the use of traditional farming practices they provide training in new sustainable methods. Improvements such as these give hope to whole communities.

Please can you help us to help people like Aurelia? A gift envelope has been enclosed with this issue (May) of *The Chronicle*. Please could you make a donation and post your envelope through the letterbox of one of the following collection points. There should be a collection point within a few minutes' walk of your home.

CRICKLADE

2 Calautt Ctualit

32 Calcutt Street	8 Manor Orchard	2 Frays Garden, Bath Road
"Songbirds" 7B Abingo	on Court Lane	Courtyard Cottage, Horse Fair Lane
21 High Street	83 High Street	3 North Wall
7 Reeds	3 Branders	1 Foxlease
57 Paul's Croft	16 Waylands	19 Byre Close
73 The Fiddle	21 Saxon Close	6 Matilda's Piece
39 Pittsfield	85 Pittsfield	98 Deansfield

LATTON

5 Collett Place Churchfield House, Upcott 6 Limes Place

COLLECTION BUCKETS will be in:

St Sampson's Church The United Church

St John's Church, Latton St Sampson's Primary School

Christian Aid Volunteers will be collecting in the High Street on the morning of **Saturday 17 May**.

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Friday 16 May - Coffee morning at United Church Hall, Calcutt Street, 10-11.30am with Fairtrade stall. All funds raise go to Christian Aid.

Thank you for your generous support over previous years. Any help you can give us this year will be gratefully appreciated

Churches Together & the Christian Aid Team

Thank You

Everyone at St Sampson's Church would like to say a big thank you to St Sampson's School for the use of the school hall for our 10am Sunday services over the last few months. Following our church boiler being condemned, the church became too cold to use for services.

We would also like to thank our local Tesco's Store who kindly lent us a trolley every Sunday to transport the necessary items to and fro between the two buildings. We are all very lucky to live in such a wonderful and supportive community.

Meadow Bridge School strikes the right chord with their sound garden

Early this year, Dogwood class designed and built a sound garden as their whole group project to answer our term's driving question, 'How can we put our school on the map?'

To do this, we learned how to drill into metal and wood, build wooden frames. engrave metal and design a small garden. This term, we are planning to answer the question, 'How can we grow and innovate without harming the world?' by adding natural features to our garden to support wildlife and create a range of sensory experiences.



Prospect Hospice Support

A local support group for Prospect Hospice are holding a Coffee Morning on Saturday 24 May starting at 10am in Cricklade United Church Hall, Calcutt Street. There will be Refreshments, Cakes, Raffle and Tombola.



All proceeds go to Prospect Hospice.

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.

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 at 7.30.



The next meeting is on **Tuesday 13 May** when our speaker is Marion Stainton. Her talk is entitled:

Good Companions: Extending Interest in a Small Garden

Marion is a horticulturist whose projects include domestic, commercial and community gardens and open spaces. She is enthusiastic about sustainable, environmentally friendly gardening, including pest management, vegetable growing, plant and garden history and the science behind plants and their uses.

Date for your diary: **Saturday, 31 May, our Plant Fair**. Come and join us in the Town Hall where there will be an amazing collection of plants for sale, with refreshments provided by the WI in the Annexe.

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

Membership is £20 p.a., we are affiliated to the Gloucestershire Federation of Gardening Societies (www.qfqs.orq.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!

CRICKLADE GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS

their annual

PLANT FAIR

9:00 to 12:00

CRICKLADE TOWN HALL

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

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cricklade Bloom

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Firstly, thank you to everyone who supported Bloomers on the weekend of the Fritillary Tea Rooms at The Thames Hall. We are now looking for some more physical support rather than drinking tea and eating cake.

May is our busy month, planting up all the summer baskets and planters. We are looking for additional help:

- on Saturday, 10 May at 10am behind the Council Offices when we plant up the Town Council lamp post baskets and
- any Wednesday in May between 9.30am and 12 midday at the Walled Garden behind Tesco's.

Just turn up on the day or for further details contact anita@crickladein bloom.co.uk

Additionally, the apple and pear orchard planted alongside the Queen Elizabeth Path on Fair View Fields last March is in need of protection from muntjac deer. Last year they ate all the new growth and are putting the trees at risk. The Tree Council will fund materials and hopefully (at time of writing) the Wayland Estates Charity will fund the labour to put in the support posts. However, volunteers are needed to staple on the wire mesh around the posts. If you would like to help out with this essential task and/or would like to join The Friends of Cricklade Orchard please contact crickladeorchardfriends@amail.com

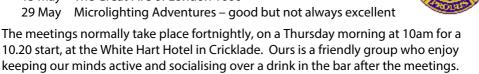
Finally, the Mikron Theatre Company returns to Cricklade, on Saturday 12 July at 7pm at Riverside, with their latest production Operation Beach Hut – their musical adventure to the great British seaside. Tickets will be available from the Town Council Office from mid May – £16 each, cash only.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

15 May The Great Fire of London 1666

members to the Club.



For further information about our local club please contact the Honorary Secretary, Richard Roberts on 01793 751063. If you contact Richard and advise you would like to attend, which is free for the first few visits, you will be allocated a dedicated host who will introduce you to our members. Alternatively, just turn up on the day and you will be made welcome.

We are actively seeking to expand our numbers and look forward to welcoming new



Churches Togethe

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

4 May 3rd Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion at St Sampson's 10am Holy Communion at Holy Cross

10am Morning Worship at St Sampson's with music group &

children's activities in church

10am Morning Worship at St John the Baptist, Latton

6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

11 May 4th Sunday of Easter

8am Holy Communion at St Sampson's

10.30 am Christian Aid Service at Cricklade United Church

18 May 5th Sunday of Easter

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

10am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Latton

10am Morning Worship at St Sampson's with children's activities

in the Jenner Hall

10am Informal Morning Worship at Holy Cross

6pm Evensong at Holy Cross
6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

25 May 6th Sunday of Easter

8.30am Communion BCP at Holy Cross 10am Communion at St Sampson's

10am Morning Worship at St John the Baptist, Latton

29 May Ascension Day (Thursday)

8.45am Ascension Day Holy Communion at St Sampson's followed by breakfast

Thursday morning prayers in St Sampson's:

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

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches Weddings

15 March Rebecca Louise Grinham & Louis Charles Kempton at St Sampson's

Funerals

1 March Peter Sims at North Wiltshire Crematorium

3 March Stella Joyce Gwinnett *at Holy Cross & North Wiltshire Crematorium*4 March Susan Patricia Fletcher *at Holy Cross & North Wiltshire Crematorium*. 6

March, Burial of ashes at Holy Cross churchyard

6 March Flora Esther Fletcher: Burial of ashes at Holy Cross churchyard

Marion Alice Jean Salter at Kingsdown Crematorium
 March Beryl Lisk at St Sampson's & North Wiltshire Crematorium

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?Y in Cricklade & Latton

The Upper Thames Benefice

Cricklade St Sampson's, Latton St John the Baptist, Ashton Keynes Holy Cross and the Leigh All Saints

Contact details:

Vicar: Revd Canon Debbie Dewes - email: vicar@upperthames.org.uk tel: 01793 752718

Associate Vicar: Revd Shirley Danby - email: shirleydanby21@gmail.com; tel. 07980 548844

Parishes Administrator: Jane Eyles - email: admin@upperthames.org.uk tel: 01793 979304

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Weekly Mass times

9.30am on Sundays 10.00am on Fridays

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

Parish website www.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.crickladestmary.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 May - all at 10.30am

4 May	Katy Bell	18 May	Rev Sarah Simpson - service
11 May	Christian Aid service at CUC		includes communion
•	United ecumenical service	25 May	Rev Mike Dilly from Blunsdon

Bounce and Rhyme

Calling all Parents, Carers and Grandparents – we are a group for all those who are caring for babies and/or young children. We meet twice a month usually on the first and third Tuesday but this month it is slightly different due to the Easter school holidays. Venue as always is the United church Hall in Calcutt Street. Time 1.45pm to 3pm for nursery rhymes, a story book, tea/coffee refreshments and a chat.

Next meetings - 22 April, 6 May, 20 May

There is no charge we are delighted to welcome you.

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

Our March concert by Kim Richey was a fantastic evening! It has helped raise much needed funds towards making our chilly church a much warmer venue in the future. Many thanks to The Old Stables and to all who supported this wonderful event.



St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the March 2025 draw was Adina Grace who won £33.50.

St Sampson's Church benefited by £33.50.

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



Bellringing at St Sampson's

Have you ever thought that you might like to have a go at bellringing? Well, now is your chance.

On Saturday 10 May we have several ringers visiting us to ring the bells between 9.40 and 10.40am. Anyone from 12 to 80 years of age is welcome to come and see how it is done and then afterwards have a go.

Some of our local ringers will be on hand until 12 o'clock to help teach you how to do it. It is not that easy to start with and takes time to become proficient but is good exercise and fun. If you enjoy the experience and decide to take up this worthwhile hobby, you will be helping to keep a centuries-old tradition alive.

Refreshments will be available.

For further information contact Brian Danby 07896 122 657.

Parkinson's UK

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

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!

CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

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Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities

PURTON SURGERY Patient Participation Group

200 Club

The April draw was done by Advance Care Practitioner Steve Tanner. 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.

Forms for joining the 200 Club, Standing Order of £15pa taken on 1 September each year, 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 in either Purton or Green Gable Surgery. 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

The Wessex in Concert at St Sampson's

An award winning male choir, singing from a wide repertoire drawn from pop, folk, musicals and sacred songs.

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 or on the door.

VE-Day and After: Ken Dixon RNVR (1924-1999)

I told you about the experiences of my father at D-Day (August 2024 issue). Following the successful Normandy invasion, the Royal Naval forces followed the army up the Channel and North Sea coasts. By late 1944 to early 1945, Dad's motor gun boat (MGB 571) with its flotilla was stationed in the Netherlands, at a place called Terneuzen on the south bank of the Scheldt Estuary. He met a lifetime friend there. After the war, both joined their respective national railway companies and that was why I began learning Dutch in my teens and why I followed with a work placement in Utrecht in 1970.

By spring 1945, German forces had retreated from Denmark and the Royal Navy secured the coastlines. By May 1945, it was obvious to all that the war was almost over, despite a fight to the death in Berlin between the Russian Red Army and the remnants of the German Wehrmacht. The MGB flotilla, mainly officered by Canadians, was sent to Copenhagen to take the surrender of the German e-boat fleet in the Baltic.

On the way to Copenhagen the flotilla was diverted to Kristiansand, to take the surrender of "various troops" in Norway. This in fact turned out to be a full German Division, under the command of a General. By comparison, his MGB had a total crew of 21. The General said he was prepared to surrender, but they needed to work out how to do it. They decided that the Germans would march through Kristiansand and pile up all their guns in the middle of town. That was accomplished with all allowable pomp and ceremony. But that left a large stockpile of arms and ammunition in the town, which was a tempting target for the Norwegian Resistance and which the British didn't want them to have. They decided to mount a guard consisting of two ratings and one Petty Officer from the RN plus a full, but unarmed, German Company to guard the arms.

Next day the flotilla sailed off to Copenhagen. The Canadian officers were recalled from the flotilla to a meeting in London and the rest of the crews stepped up a grade or two. Sub Lieutenant Ken Dixon became Acting First Lieutenant.

On 8 May 1945, Germany fell and Dad, as senior British Officer present, personally accepted the surrender of the entire German Baltic e-boat fleet at Copenhagen. He acquired the swastika naval ensign from one of the e-boats as a souvenir. He was three months short of his 21st birthday. I still have the Naval Ensign prize in a box at home today.

Dad took the photo of the ship's crew with the ensign, so he's not in the picture. He is in the second picture taken the same day, 3rd left, front row. He was in Denmark from



May 1945 for approximately four months after which he was posted back to England on indefinite leave. He was then told to purchase full tropical kit expecting to be posted out to the continuing war in the Far East. By the time he had bought it, the Atom Bomb had been dropped and the Japanese surrendered. Instead he was despatched via

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Cairo and Malta to the 42nd ML flotilla, which again consisted mainly of Canadians. MLs were a sort of elongated motor gunboat with depth charge launchers.

The flotilla initially operated in the Aegean, especially around Skiathos and Lesbos, policing the Greek Civil War. There were only seven boats covering the whole of Greece, so his boat was ordered to Patras, to be responsible for the west of Greece including the Gulf of Patras and islands as

far north as Corfu and as far south as the Bay of Navarino (south west Peloponnese). His was the only naval ship on the entire west coast of Greece.

In Patras, they found a population that had depended for its livelihood on fishing from the sea. Half of their boats had been requisitioned by the Nazis and the rest had been taken by the Communists in the civil war, so the people were starving. He was now a full Lieutenant but acting Lieutenant Commander of a 'flotilla of one'. He consulted his book of regulations and confirmed that a depth charge test was due. They motored out into the bay and dropped a charge. There were plenty of fish for all ...

They were in Greece for six months. The entire flotilla, including those in the Aegean, were recalled to Malta, where he was made Flotilla Leader as so many Canadians had been demobbed.

He was appointed as 1st Lieutenant of fleet destroyer HMS Carron. The ship never left Sheerness harbour during that time, but the posting was prestigious. The Commander was on leave for most of the time, so Dad was actually in charge for that two months.

His demob papers came through in 1947 and he was sent to collect a suit, shirts and tie and then went back home to Glossop, Derbyshire, aged 22.

Rick Dixon

I made most of these notes in conversation with Dad in 1997. He died in January 1999. I very much wish I had thought to ask my parents and grandparents more about their lives when I could. I encourage you to do so while you can.

VE Day Anniversary Celebrations – 8 May 2025

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day. Cricklade Court Leet has planned a Beacon Lighting celebration to commemorate this significant milestone at the usual location of Saxons Rest in the High Street.

We are putting together a celebration that will include Royal British Legion, Cricklade Band and the Sing Four Four Community Choir that highlights the historical importance of VE Day. Our aim is to honour the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought for freedom, as well as to celebrate the peace and prosperity that followed.

We would love you to join us in these celebrations and be part of this occasion. The Event will commence at 8.45pm with the Beacon Lighting at 9.30pm.

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

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

First Prize: Amlyn Ramage £36.30 Second Prize: Russell & Jenny Osman £24.20

£60.50

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.

Latton 100 Club

Jenner Hall Funds:

The March 2025 draw has taken place and the winners are:

1st prize of £100: Harpreet Snowden

2nd prize of £27: Al Grizzell 3rd prize of £16: Sue Keen

4th prize of £10: Karl Humphreys

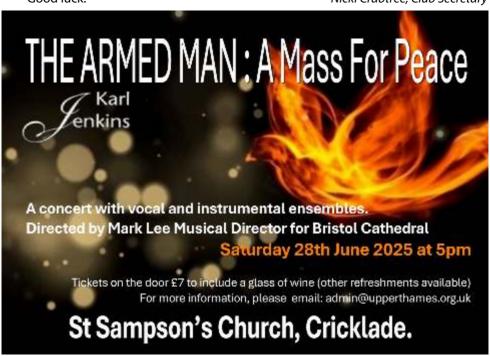
Congratulations!

I wanted to thank you all for your support for the club which goes towards the upkeep of the fabric of St John the Baptist Church, Latton.

If you wish to join or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by email: *Latton100club@gmail.com*.

Good luck!

Nicki Crabtree, Club Secretary



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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 £6.00. 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 6 May**, at 7.30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall annexe, is Round 3 of the club competition. Members have submitted 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.

Friday 9 May is the closing date for entries for the Annual Exhibition.

Tuesday 20 May, at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Committee Room, will be a Workshop – subject to be advised.

Sing Four Four Community Choir

The choir has two performances booked for this summer. Firstly, on Saturday 21 June, we will be joining other choirs at Immanuel Church, Swindon, to sing in the Brighter Futures event. Each choir sings for 30 minutes. Our time slot will be published in the next issue of *The Chronicle*.

Then, on Sunday 6 July we will be performing our Summer Concert in St Sampson's Church at 3pm. Following our usual format, we will be serving tea and cakes after the concert. Please mark the date in your diary.

We are always happy to welcome new singers. Rehearsals take place in Cricklade United Church every Thursday during term time, 7.30 to 9.30pm.

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 <code>jenloubamford@googlemail.com</code>

Cricklade Museum

Interwar and war years photos of Cricklade.

The museum is planning a display of the interwar (1918-1939) and war years (1939-1945) in the museum in summer 2025.

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

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 and 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.

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 would not 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, which you may have already seen on Facebook, the Foundation (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. It is a huge boost for the project, and we are incredibly grateful to Crapper and Sons and Community First for their generosity.

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 started a few weeks ago and it is hoped that many of the materials salvaged from the police station redevelopment will be recycled and included in the design.

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

There is always more to do, so if you wish to join us, please consider becoming a member (from £50). Contact Terri on 07902 421 756 or email: contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk for more details. For the latest news, please check out our Facebook page and website: www.crickladefoundation.org.uk.

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Cricklade Bowls Club

We are grateful to Cricklade Fire Station for hosting a defibrillator training session for some 25 of our club members one evening in March. This training will be potentially useful in the future and will allay worries about how and when to use these machines. Members gave voluntary donations to Jan Furze in support of The Heartbeat Trust.



We have bought some new wooden benches for the area in front of the club house. Our thanks go the White Hart Hotel and individual club members for sponsoring them.

The Club will be open for the Bowls England Big Bowls Weekend on 24 May. If you wish to see what the game is all about, come and join us between 10am and 4pm at the Bath Road green, next door to the Fire Station.

We have a Coach, fully qualified with Bowls England, 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.

For more information please contact:

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

We hope to see you this coming season.

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 Pétanque Club

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

Pétanque is a game for all ages including young people. 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 30 May.

With the lighter evenings we are now playing on Tuesday evenings at 7pm.

Our playing days are: Mon 2 - 4.30pm Tue 7 - 9.30pm

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

Saxons Pétangue 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 with coaching sessions advertised on our notice board just inside the Leisure Centre.

You're welcome to come along, borrow some boules, and give pétangue 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.



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 guiz and raffle, as they raise funds for their campaign for the RS Venture Connect disabled sailing World Championship.



Tickets are £25 per head, for food, guiz 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: [QR Code right]

https://www.gofundme.com/f/rs-venture-2025-campaign

The Chronicle is published by Churches Together in Cricklade and Latton. It is prepared and distributed on a voluntary basis, printed by Webster Printing, Cricklade, 01793 752898and funded entirely by local advertisements.

Contributions to The Chronicle are welcome for consideration on the understanding that the contributor's name and address are known or supplied (but may be withheld from publication on request) and that all related copyright issues have been cleared for publication in this Magazine - especially with those recognisable in any photographs. Opinions expressed are solely those of the respective contributors.

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

Moon Phases

May 2025

4th

12th ()

20th (

27th



The Chronicle Diary - May 2025

		17/	0 01/101/100 2141 9 1.149 2020
1	Th	7am	to 10pm: Wiltshire Council and Town/Parish Council Elections
		10.20am	Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
		end of day	Chronicle Copy deadline
5	M		Early May bank holiday
6	Tu	1.45pm	to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
		7.30pm	Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
7		10.30am	to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
8		8.45pm	VE Day celebration at Saxon's Rest. Beacon lit at 9.30pm
10	Sa	9.40am	to 12 noon: Bellringing demo at St Sampson's church
11	Su		Christian Aid Week (to 17 May)
12	M	10am	to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
		7pm	Annual Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
		7pm	Kavali Curry Evening (Disabled Sailing) – see page 42
13	Tu	7pm	Town Council PCT Committee Meeting, Council Chamber
		7pm	speaker 7.30pm: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
15	Th	10.20am	Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
		7.30pm	Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
16		10am	to 11.30am: Coffee Morning, United Church Hall, Calcutt St
17		10am	to 3pm: Cricklade Pre School Playgroup Jumble Trail
		7pm	Town Council Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber
20	Tu	1.45pm	to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
		7.30pm	Camera Club at Town Hall Committee Room
- 4		7.30pm	Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
21	W	10.30am	to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
		10.30am	to 12 noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa
24	C-	7.15pm 10am	for 7.30pm start: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
24	Зd	10am	Coffee Morning for Prospect at United Church, Calcutt Street to 4pm: Cricklade Bowls Club Open Day, Bath Road, opp. School
26	NΛ	IValli	Spring bank holiday
26			Wiltshire Schools break – restart 1 June (others may differ)
		10.20am	- 1 141
31		9am	to 12 noon: Garden Club Plant Fair at Town Hall
٠,	Ju	Juin	Every Week
Мο	nda	v. Tuesdav. ⁻	Thursday: 10am-3.30pm: Open Door at Jenner Hall
			n), Saturday (10am-noon) Cricklade Museum open, Calcutt Street
		0pm	Cricklade Walking Group - from Cricklade Leisure Centre
		pm	Mixed tag rugby at Fairview Fields
W		5 for 2pm	Bingo4U at Jenner Hall
Th		-11.30am	Acorn Community Bank: in Tourist Information Office
	1.3	0-4.30pm	The Paint Palette: Ladies' Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
	7-1	0pm	The Cricklade Band rehearsal night, at Town Hall, visitors welcome
		.30pm	Cricklade Rugby Club training at Fairview Fields
	7.3	0-9.30pm	Sing Four Four choir rehearsal at United Church, Calcutt Street
F	9.3	0am	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

St Sampson's church choir rehearsal

7pm

The Final Word ...

Christian Aid Week - 11 - 17 May 2025

As we approach Christian Aid Week 2025 - and this is written in March when at last the cold of winter is receding and the spring sun is appearing - many of us will have witnessed the joy of new growth this springtime. But this is not the case for many of our global neighbours for whom the seasons are dramatically and dangerously shifting. People who are living with brutal reality of the climate crisis Families whose children do not have enough food to thrive and grow.

Likewise for people whose lives have been upended by war and natural disasters, their environments have been destroyed, their homes lost and they have faced death and lack of food and water. The horrific scenes which have appeared on our TV screens of the war in Gaza have been truly shocking. The bitter war in Ukraine has shattered lives and made us all reflect on the importance of having a safe home. The famine in Yemen and the escalating violence in Sudan – the list goes on and it is easy to become despondent about our inability to make a difference.

But we believe that there is an answer – our hope is founded on God's promise of a world without poverty or war where everyone has life in all its fullness. We therefore believe the world can be restored and transformed, and that God calls us to speak and act with vision to bring change.

And that is what Christian Aid sets out to do – as an international development agency which responds to humanitarian crises, supports long term development projects and campaigns on international issues such as the eradication of poverty, peace-making and climate change. Working across the world amongst the poorest and most disadvantaged, Christian Aid has been able to meet the immediate humanitarian needs of 3.2 million people over the last year and fund 410 development projects.

If you would like to help Christian Aid during this important fund raising week please see details of how you can make a financial donation on page 18.

Everything we do through Christian Aid is rooted in our Christian beliefs. In the story of the Good Samaritan, Jesus explained the importance of being a good neighbour – wherever that neighbour was to be found. Throughout His life, teaching, death and resurrection, He called his followers to love God, love their neighbours and to seek justice for those who are oppressed. This hymn was written especially for Christian Aid on its 20th anniversary.

"When I needed a neighbour, were you there, where you there?"

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?"

The Christian Aid Team

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