

THE CHRONICLE

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton

No. 599



June 2025

Quai de Cricklade, Suce-sur-Erde
picture © Debbie Dawson

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From the Editor

Our cover picture this month is of the Quai de Cricklade (Cricklade Quay) on the river Erde at our twin town of Sucé-sur-Erde near Nantes in France. Thanks to the Twinning Association for the image. Items for the front page are always welcome as it means I don't appear to be *The Chronicle's* official photographer!

I have covers sorted for the next few months up to and including September. If you want to send a photo or a scan of a painting, please send them to RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com. We try to keep the cover appropriate for the season, but any pictures with snow (for example) can be held over until a suitable time.

We also have to work to a longer timescale for the cover as it is preprinted before the rest of the pages.

Gardens are a major theme in this issue: the Garden Club has a Plant Fair on 31 May

and the W.I. and Bloomers will be there too. You should receive this issue in time to be reminded! See pages 20-21. And remember your neighbours if you plan a smoky bonfire or barbecue - page 6.

There are lots of concerts advertised too. Sing Four Four are at Immanuel Church in Swindon late morning on 21 June, while Ashton Keynes Village Choir have a concert in the evening of the same day. See page 39 for both.

The Wessex male choir are hosting a major concert at Steam on 28 June. Guests are three excellent male and female choirs and profits will go to Prostate Cancer UK.

Prostate cancer is the main cause of cancer death among men in the UK. See page 40.

Royal British Legion are holding a Curry Evening at Kavali on 23 June. See page 17 for tickets.



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The deadline for the July 2025 issue is Sunday 1 June 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 2 June Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee

Monday 9 June Premises and Finance Committee

Monday 16 June Personnel Committee

Monday 23 June Full Town Council

Monday 30 June Planning, Conservation and 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.

ELECTION RESULTS

Cricklade Town Council would like to give many thanks to Rod Case, Tony Clements and Sue Holbrook who all stood down in the May elections. Together they gave over 56 years valuable service to the residents of Cricklade.

With 14 nominations for the 15 Town Council seats there was no election necessary on 1 May. We have some returning and new members at the council table and we wish them all well over the coming months: Barrie Beasley, Chris Bull, Mark Clarke, John Coole, Nick Dye, John Harmer, Mike Hatton, Angela Jensen, Cathy Limbrick, Russell Osman, Alan Poole, Laura Parker, Stuart Pryde and Polly Whinfrey.

The process of co-opting the final member has now commenced – please let us know if you are interested in putting your name forward. The deadline for applications is Friday 13 June 2025.

Cricklade in Bloom

Once again councillors will be out and about judging the Cricklade in Bloom competition July 2025

Categories to be judged are:

Best Garden

Best Hanging Basket or Container

Best Front Door

Best Commercial Property on the High Street

As always there are plenty of beautifully landscaped properties to view, and judge. Please don't be disappointed if you are not chosen.

Cricklade Open Gardens

These people very graciously volunteer their gardens for charity and for others to view. The dates to remember are Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 July. Garden Passports can be purchased on the day at the participating gardens or in advance from the Town Council Tourist Point Office - £5 each.

Cricklade Leisure Centre

Please remember the Leisure Centre will be hosting the Swindon Wheelers Road Race Sunday 29 June. There will be some disruption to the roads, which will be kept to a minimum by marshals.



Wiltshire Connect Bus

It has been announced that the Wiltshire Connect Bus will now encompass Cricklade in its network, using an App on your phone (Android or Apple) or by ringing 01225 7129002 to book a trip within the bounds of the 12-mile radius network which will enable access to the hospital in Malmesbury for example.

For those with concessionary bus passes, they work in the same way as the 51 or 53. For everyone else it is payable.

The bus is intended for reaching places our normal bus services cannot reach, or that those with disabilities cannot use.

For those less able to get to a bus stop, you can sign up to the app and see if they can collect from your doorstep. This will be appraised.

If you are interested in the service why not look online at www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/getting-around/bus/wiltshire-connect [QR Code right] or pop into the Tourist Information Point Office and collect a leaflet.



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

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

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	

STOP PRESS ...

Election Results

Cricklade & Latton

Nick Dye (Lib-Dem) elected	923 votes
Jack Davies (Conservative)	231 votes
Nigel Darvill (Reform)	305 votes
Turn out	35.9%

Wiltshire Council - No overall control

Conservative	37 seats
Independent	7 seat
Labour	1 seat
Liberal Democrat	43 seats
Reform	10 seats
Turn out	35.0%

Wiltshire Perspective

Firstly and most importantly, I owe a big thanks to you for all the support and feedback for returning me to be your representative in County Hall in Trowbridge. Thanks also go to everyone who helped and supported me to facilitate that outcome; you are all amazing.

At the time of writing, the full detailed picture is unclear as to how Wiltshire Council will be run going forward. Some planning and thoughts took place before the election on the various possible outcomes. With no overall control, Council decisions will rely far more on a collaborative approach, which I think will be good for the county.

One main priority is to try to devolve the decision-making process down nearer to the people who are impacted, and to ensure the Council listens more now and for the future. That transition process will be the focus over the next few weeks.

Getting on with the main business, there are three issues that I would like to bring to our collective attention:

- Latton Parish Council
- Garden time and bonfires
- Off-road bikes used on the road.

Latton Parish Council: nobody has come forward to stand for the Parish Council. We all care about where we live and we're happy to point out things we're unhappy about, so being on a Parish Council is a chance for each of us to influence how our communities develop. If not you, then who will be making those decisions on your behalf? Please get in touch if you would like to influence how Latton develops and becomes an even better place for you and your fellow residents.

Now summer has properly started (hopefully) with respect to spending time in the garden. This often includes bonfires and barbeques. Please be mindful and considerate to your neighbours. It only takes a few unthinking moments to ruin a neighbour's social event or time outside, but you'll be living next to each other for very much longer. So it pays to be thoughtful and be a good neighbour. It will make your own life easier in the long run. Please let them know your intentions in advance and I would urge you bring the subject up courteously before things go too far off the rails. Wiltshire Council doesn't proscribe or endorse any time periods for or against activities, because we all have different life patterns and times when we can enjoy the company of those we love outdoors.

Also, Wiltshire Police have been in touch with me with regards to ongoing investigations. Specifically with people using unregistered off-road motorbikes on our streets. They're asking for reports of sightings, including the place, the date and the time of each occasion you spot the person. Please report this to the police on 101 or report online at www.wiltshire.police.uk, using the Crime tab. It all helps bring together a picture and pattern of behaviour that can be used in conducting targeted patrols to capture the offenders in the act.

Many thanks again, it's a privilege to try to help people, and if you think I can help 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 hope you are all enjoying the early summer sunshine and planning some holidays. With the lighter evenings why not pop along to the Town Hall Annexe and join us for one of our speaker evenings.



In May we were treated to a talk on Saxon Riding for the Disabled where we learnt about the valuable work done by this organisation and the benefits of the physical and emotional benefits of riding and being around horses. For someone confined to a wheelchair riding can provide a feeling of freedom not experienced at any other time.

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

This June issue of *The Chronicle* should land on doormats during the last week of May so a quick reminder of our event on 31 May in Conjunction with the Garden Club.

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

9.30am – 12 noon

with

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

17 July sees Jenny Etheredge demonstrating Henna Tattoos,

21 August is The History of Ice Cream – hopefully a warm evening although of course it will be an English summer!

18 September tells us about the History of the Quakers.

The cost is £5 for non-members to cover speaker costs and of course delicious cake.

We also meet for coffee (or tea if you prefer) at the White Hart on the first Tuesday of each month – the next date is 2 June at 11am.

Royal British Legion

The Royal British Legion Cricklade Branch is in a good place. Membership is up (59 at the last count), and the Branch was represented at several Remembrance events throughout 2024/25. Three 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. The Branch was also represented at the VE Day celebrations on 8 May at Saxon's Rest.



There remains one key position that needs to be filled in 2025.

The position of Secretary becomes vacant in the autumn. The duties are: minuting one-hour long RBL meetings held in February, April, June, September and November each year and emailing the approved minutes to Members. Occasional correspondence from HQ will also need to be forwarded to members, approx. 2/3 items per month.

If you would like to consider taking on this role and/or joining the Branch, please do give me a call: Jon (07583 313 837).



Royal British Legion Curry Evening at Kavali

On Monday 23 June at 7pm

Please do come along and support your local British Legion Branch.

You don't need to be a member or even have any connection to the military. Just come along and bring your friends for a good social evening.

Tickets are £25 and that will include the 2-course meal, raffle tickets and a quiz.

Tickets are available from Di and Cherryl on 01793 751683.

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 Headfield

Cricklade Twinning Association

How often when driving into Cricklade have you driven past the signs saying Cricklade “Twinned with Sucé sur Erdre” and wondered about our twin town? Sucé sur Erdre is a most beautiful location not far from Nantes on the west coast of France. If you are thinking of travelling to France this summer (perhaps to the Loire Valley), why not make a detour and visit our twin town? You can relax with a cool drink on the Quai de Cricklade and watch the boats and water sports on the river (which is very wide in Sucé) ... or take part in the many water-based activities. For more information, check out the Cricklade Twinning Association’s website where you can see a lovely video about Sucé.

See the summery view from the Quai de Cricklade on this month’s issue’s front cover, and another view here (*below right*).

If you decide to visit or would like any more information, we would love to hear from you!

Unfortunately the twinning association in Sucé sur Erdre can’t visit Cricklade this year. But they are very keen to keep their links with Cricklade and are working to arrange a football tournament for young footballers in Sucé next year.

Closer to home, in March more than eighty were in the audience to enjoy our Murder Mystery Evening performed by Purton Amateur Dramatic Society. This is always a popular event ... and where else can you get a good evening’s entertainment plus supper for just £10? (Prices held this year!)

Our next event will be the Annual BBQ on **Saturday 19 July**. See posters nearer the time for details.

For further information contact:
committee@crickladetwinning.org.uk



Cricklade Foodbank

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



We're here to help.

If you, or someone you know, is struggling to put food on the table, then we can help.

Please contact us on 01666 826982. Please leave a message - someone will call you back.

No one should go hungry.

The foodbank can provide you not only with food but also with household items like washing powder, shower gel and loo rolls.

Our ability to serve our clients depends on our donors. Please donate whatever you can and drop it into one of our collection points. These are in Tesco, Culverhay Stores, Animal Fayre (pet shop), St Sampson’s School and all the local churches.

With grateful thanks from the Foodbank Team.

Cricklade Historical Society

Friday 6 June – Re-tracing the Route of the Saxon Walls

This is a repeat of the walk held last August. We will start from the Museum at 7pm and end at the Museum where refreshments will be on offer. NB – The walk will be partly over uneven ground/terrain, so suitable footwear will be required.

We will also be running **a shorter version of this walk**, which will start at Saxons Rest (by Waylands) at 7pm and will also finish at the Museum for refreshments. This walk will be along tarmac footpaths, but will include steps as we go from Portwell into Parsonage Farm Close.

Wednesday 18 June – The North Wessex Way

Speaker – David Mitchell.

When David was given an almost 400-year-old map showing a route running between Oxford and Bristol via Wiltshire, a ten-year journey of discovery began. Romans, kings and armies have all marched along a road that has been forgotten by time.

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

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 crickldecameraclub.org/program

On **Tuesday 3 June**, at 7pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe will be our brief AGM followed by the Annual Exhibition Competition where members have submitted up to 10 images each. These will be judged by two independent judges. Even if you haven't submitted any images this is a fantastic way to learn what makes a great photograph.

Over the summer there will be a series of outings photographing events, local landmarks and scenes. We generally meet up at the Cricklade Town Hall car park and head off together. If you would like to join us, email one of the addresses on the website.

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.



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 10 June** when our speaker is Charlotte Hitchmour. Her talk is entitled:

Action for the River Kennet and the Rain Gardens Project

Charlotte is a director of Action for the River Kennet (ARK) which has worked with the community in Great Bedwyn to find ways to manage rainfall better in order to reduce flooding and pollution. Come and hear more about this inspirational project and how our community could learn from it.

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

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

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

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

We look forward to seeing you!

CRICKLADE GARDEN CLUB PRESENTS

their annual

PLANT FAIR

SATURDAY 31st May
9:00 to 12:00

CRICKLADE TOWN HALL

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

Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden



Thank you to everyone for supporting the Fritillary Tea Room at The Thames Hall on the weekend of 26/27 April. We were very, very busy, raising slightly more funding in the two days than we did in four days last year, thanks to the good weather and North Meadow being open.

We hope you are now enjoying our summer flower displays.

We are still looking for more volunteers to help stapling wire mesh to posts at the community orchard. To express an interest contact The Friends of Cricklade Orchard at crickladeorchardfriends@gmail.com

A reminder of our next two fund raising events:

We will have plants at the Cricklade Garden Club plant sale in the Town Hall from 9am to midday on **Saturday 31 May**.

Tickets for the Mikron Theatre Company production of 'Operation Beach Hut' at Riverside on **Saturday 12 July** at 7pm. Tickets available now from the Town Council Office - £16 cash only.

As always, a wide range of perennial, annual and vegetable plants are available from the cart outside The Walled Garden along with Gill's famous marmalade.

Cricklade Open Gardens

12 and 13 July 2025

There will be a significant number of gardens open again this year ranging from small compact spaces to extensive grounds all in aid of some local good causes.

Gardens will be open to the public on each afternoon (although a few have opted to open only on one of the days) from 1 to 5pm.

Teas will be available at two of the gardens.

Passports to give you access to all of the gardens will be available in advance from the Town Council offices or from any of the gardens on the day.

There will be a map in the Town Council office widow showing the location of the gardens. The Passports will be £7.50 each allowing access for one person per passport. Children under 16 are admitted free of charge.

All proceeds from the sale of Passports and teas will be divided between Cricklade Open Door and St Sampson's Church refurbishment programme.

Any enquiries can be made to Gloria Light 01793 759181.

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

- 1 June 7th Sunday after Easter**
- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
10am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross*
 with Archdeacon of Malmesbury Ven Christopher Bryan
10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's* with music group
 and children's activities in church
10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*
- 8 June Pentecost**
- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Pentecost Communion *at St Sampson's*
3.30pm AK Messy Church *at Holy Cross Ashton Keynes* "Who is the Holy Spirit?"
- 15 June Trinity Sunday**
- 8am Holy Communion + breakfast *at St Sampson's*
10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's* with S club for children in Jenner Hall
10am Informal Morning Worship *at Holy Cross*
6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*
- 22 June 1st after Trinity**
- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP *at Holy Cross*
10am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 29 June 2nd after Trinity / St Peter & St Paul**
- 10am Worship Together Communion *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.
Everyone is welcome.

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

er 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

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches **Baptisms**

13 April Anya Rose Hull & Hugo John Charles Hull *at St John the Baptist Latton*

In Memoriam

Mary Ena Booth

Passed away peacefully on Tuesday 15 April. Deeply missed by all.

The Funeral Service took place on Monday 19 May at St Sampson's Church at 10.45am, followed by a Committal at Kingsdown Crematorium.

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 June - all at 10.30am

1 June	Rev Sarah Simpson - service includes Holy Communion	15 June	Rev Mark Barratt
8 June	Rev Sarah Simpson	22 June	Rev Roy Fowler
		29 June	Rachel Dowling

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 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 - 3 June, 17 June, 1 July

There is no charge we are delighted to welcome you

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



We all enjoyed a wonderful concert last month by the extremely versatile choir The Wessex. It was great to see how many talented local Cricklade choristers belong to it!

Again this event, as others, will help us get closer to improving our beautiful church building, especially installing a new heating system for the future!

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winners of the April 2025 draw were
Ruth Evans and Jonathan Oliver 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.



Cricklade Open Door

We're nearly half way through the year already – it's just amazing how the months fly by.

Open Door has had very successful results from our coffee morning at the Jenner Hall, the Jumble Trail held in Pittsfield and Davina's fundraising event at Hallsfield. BIG thanks to everyone who supported these events and especially to Chris for all her baking and to Davina for her generous support given to Open Door.

Open Door is open for coffee, chat and friendship every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 10 - 12. Mornings are a good time to come and meet us initially and find out about all the afternoon activities. Lunch can be enjoyed 12 - 1.15 (booked before 10am) and the afternoon activities begin at 1.45 for 2pm.

On Monday afternoons we enjoy Seated Exercises, Tuesday afternoons vary - quizzes, games, discussions etc and on Thursday afternoons we play Bingo. Our Bingo Group could benefit from a few more members. We play for fun and friendship and winnings are not 'big bucks' but it's a good way to spend an afternoon with good company, exercising our cognitive skills and enjoying coffee/tea and cake. Come along at 1.45 on a Thursday afternoon.

Open Door for fun, friendship and support for independent folks of all ages from 18 to 100! – at The Jenner Hall, Bath Road,

Telephone number: 07599 987 851



Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



Talk on Dementia, 9 May 2025

We had no spare seats for our talk on dementia. Simon Manchip gave an excellent, informative talk; he was engaging and easy to listen to. Our second speaker, Tara Slater, as Manager of the Dementia Advisory Service, explained the work of Alzheimer's Support, Wiltshire. She introduced Sue, the new Dementia Adviser for Purton Surgery. The collection for Alzheimer's Support raised over £70 – thank you to all who donated.

Easter Raffle

What a successful raffle – our thanks to the receptionists for running this. With 30 prizes it raised £628.50 for PPG funds.

Donation from One Stop

We are very grateful to the staff at One Stop for raising £250 for the PPG – thank you to all involved.

200 Club

The April draw was done by Receptionist Marie Chapman. £200 winner was Alison Halstead, £15 George and Lesley Hudson. 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 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. Please put money in the tin or hand into Reception.

As always, your support for our work to both inform and support patients is much appreciated. If you know of anyone who would like to be included in our email list (all sent bcc) then please ask them to contact via secretary.psppg@gmail.com

Sheila Fowler, PPG Secretary

Wiltshire Sight

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

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

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

Waylands Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present



Leave a Legacy to Cricklade

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

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

We started in 1551! Wayland Estates Charity was originally set up in 1551 when the income was used to maintain the highways of Cricklade. In the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries the charity funded some street lighting and helped maintain the Jubilee clock. Any surplus monies were given to the local authorities to help reduce rates. From 1976, with the approval of the Charities Commission, the income has been used to help local groups with grants for capital items.

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

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

It is hoped that you may like to donate now or leave a legacy in your will for the benefit of Cricklade and the future of Cricklade. Wayland Estates Charity is the perfect way to do this by adding to the Charity's capital and ensuring a healthy future income with which to help groups supporting everyone in Cricklade.

A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!



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

Tel: 07962 116526 Email: jharman@btopenworld.com

or visit our Facebook page: facebook.com/waylandestates

or donate at: donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/waylandestatescharity (or scan the QR code on the left)

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!

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

The Amethyst Incident

Last month, I didn't have room to finish my father's war story, but there's a space here and you might find it interesting!

While in Malta (1946) Ken Dixon had entered the Civil Service exams for the Foreign Office. He passed the first written exam in Cairo. Back in Malta he was ordered to London to sit more exams, including a language examination, a weekend group session and interviews at a college in southern England for a week. Results would take ages.

He was demobbed in 1946 and returned home to Glossop, Derbyshire. Once home and awaiting results he joined the Ministry of Labour in the Industrial Relations Department. He received a letter from the Civil Service. This advised that there were only six Foreign Office jobs available and twelve candidates had tied. He was invited for another, long interview. While awaiting results, he left the Ministry of Labour and joined British Railways aiming for a Management Trainee position. The Foreign Office wrote, saying he had failed by half a mark. However, he was by then more interested in the railway job.

The job with the Foreign Office would have been a Vice Consulship in Nanking, China, during their civil war. The candidate who got the posting had to be evacuated by HMS Amethyst, which was fired on by Chinese cliff batteries "and the poor chap was very badly injured," Dad added. By not getting the job Dad had a lucky escape!

Rick Dixon



Historical note:

The Nanking (Nanjing) British consulate came under siege by communist forces in April 1949 and the HMS Amethyst flotilla was sent to resupply the staff. On their journey up the Yangtze river, the flotilla came under heavy bombardment by the communist battery. Of the four ships in the Amethyst Incident (also known as the Yangtze Incident, 20 April 1949) Lieutenant Commander Skinner on HMS Amethyst was killed plus another 21 killed and 31 wounded. In the other ships of the flotilla, HMS Consort, HMS London and HMS Black Swan, a further 25 were killed and 43 wounded.

*Pictured, top: camels in Giza, near Cairo -
Dad on middle camel*

Left: tropical whites

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 28 April the lucky winners were:-

First Prize:	Angela Kemble	£36.30
Second Prize:	Pat Nevill	£24.20
Jenner Hall Funds:		£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.

THE ARMED MAN: A Mass For Peace

Karl
Jenkins

A concert with vocal and instrumental ensembles.

Directed by Mark Lee Musical Director for Bristol Cathedral

Saturday 28th June 2025 at 5pm

Tickets on the door £7 to include a glass of wine (other refreshments available)

For more information, please email: admin@upperthames.org.uk

St Sampson's Church, Cricklade

Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/loqoazvqmykr

or QR Code right



Cricklade Memory Café

The café is open on the first Wednesday of each month from 10.30 to 12.30 at the Town Hall Annexe for people with memory impairment and their family or carers.



Thanks to the support of local business we are now able to offer tea/coffee and cake, plenty of fun and a variety of activities without charge. Join us to enjoy all this in a safe and supportive environment

To find out more please contact Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.

Sing Four Four Community Choir

The Choir was proud to be able to take part in the V.E. Service on 8 May. It was lovely to be involved in this Community event.

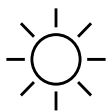


Our next outing is on **Saturday 21 June**, when we will be contributing to the Brighter Futures fundraising event. A large number of choirs take part and we each have a half hour slot. We will be singing at Immanuel Church, Upham Rd between 11.30am and 12 midday. If you would like to come and hear us, and also hear some of the other choirs, you will be very welcome.

Sunday 6 July is the date for our Summer Concert. It will take place in St Sampson's Church at 3pm. Following our normal procedure, we will be serving tea and cake after the performance.

Ticket prices will be published in July's issue of *The Chronicle*. However, do look out for our posters which will contain all the information you need. We look forward to seeing you.

Ashton Keynes Village Choir With special guests 'After8'



presents
Summer Concert

Sunny Days & Starry Nights.

Saturday 21 June at 7pm

Ashton Keynes Primary School Hall

Entry: Doors/bar open 6:30pm



Cash Bar & Raffle

Tickets £10
Available from Village
Shop or choir member

Zac: The story of Zacchaeus from Luke 19

"Sing a Musical in a Day"

4 October 2025 at Cricklade United Church

(Timings to follow/performance early evening)

A date for your diary - At the United Church we are holding another "musical in a day" event on Saturday 4 October.

The musical follows how Zacchaeus, the diminutive Chief Tax Collector, climbs a tree to get a sight of Jesus, but Jesus calls him down! The rest is history!

Open to all ages and abilities, singers, instrumentalists, and those who just come to watch! Led by a team of accomplished musicians - violinist, flutist, pianist, oboe player and guitarists. The musical ZAC is written by Roger Jones, a well-known composer of modern music and worship songs. The style of music is lively and modern, with an appeal to all ages.

Cost is £10 with lunch or £6 without lunch. Timings to be confirmed

Contact: phillipa58@hotmail.com tel 01793 750556

In Our Broader Area



ALL POINTS CONCERT

Four of the UK's finest choirs come together in the iconic Great Hall at Swindon's STEAM Museum.

The Wessex Côr Tadu Trisant Jubilate Vox in Frox

Saturday 28 June 2025

In aid of Prostate Cancer UK

Tickets £20 per person

Available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/wessex-male-choir



**PROSTATE
CANCER UK**



Cricklade Bowls Club



The Club was open for the Bowls England *Big Bowls Weekend* in May. If you missed it, don't despair. You can still come along, and see what the game is all about, any Friday evening during the April to September season. We have social roll-ups starting from 6pm. It's best if you come at that time so we can sort out teams and coaching. If you decide it's for you, first year membership is only £15.

You will find us at the Bath Road green, next door to the Fire Station, and opposite St Sampson's school.

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.

We are grateful to Kavali Restaurant for sponsoring one of the new wooden benches in the area in front of the club house. Their generosity is much appreciated.

The entrance slope into the club from Bath Road has been re-laid. This had crumbled in places and was uneven. It now provides a safer and easier access.

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.

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Our Club plays on the gravel in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at 2pm on Tuesday and Thursday afternoon and at 10am on Saturday morning. We have started a coaching session on Wednesday, 10am to 11.30am. And our Wednesday Summer Club evenings resume on 7 May, 7pm to about 9pm.

Please come along if you are interested and have a go! You can borrow some boules, with no obligation to join the club. Pétanque is fun and sociable, the Piste (gravel court) is against everyone, so don't feel you lack the skill to play against experienced players, you will soon pick up those skills! When I play and lose, a frequent occurrence, I just tell myself I've succeeded in giving pleasure to others. If you decide to join our club our annual membership fee is only £25.

We organize social activities, e.g. skittles evening, ten-pin bowling and the occasional meal out. We have an annual charity day competition too.

Our more competitive members play in the Cotswold Pétanque League and various competitions in the Great Western Region.

To find out more about us please come and say hello, take a look at our notice board inside the Leisure Centre, or visit our website at saxonspetanque.co.uk.

Annamaria

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 27 June.

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



We held our end of season dinner and dance at the end of April when some very deserving trophies were presented – The Captain's Award went to Nick Bond for his support and leadership on and off the pitch. The Coach's Award went to Ben Valpey for his effort, achievement and dedication in play. Top Try Scorer, Dan Bown. Attendance Award, Ben Valpey. Polly Winfrey for amazing success with social media, post-match teas, recruitment and the dinner dance. Zac Wright for organising and running Tag and stepping up to the Committee. The evening was a great success and enjoyed by all at Cricklade Club.

Mixed Tag continues on Tuesday evenings, 7 to 8pm at Fairview Fields, so come along and join in the fun – contact Zac on 07842 666 755. Rugby training will begin again in August – for more details contact our Captain, Mike on 07514 596 910.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

12 June Battle of the Little Big Horn - 1876
26 June Jeanne d'Arc - Myth or Martyr



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, Martin Chambers on 01793 751223. If you contact Martin 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.

The Chronicle Diary – June 2025

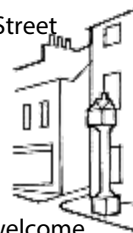
- 1 Su end of day Chronicle Copy deadline
- 2 M Wiltshire schools restart (others may differ)
 - 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
 - 7pm Town Council PCT Committee Meeting, Council Chamber
- 3 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
 - 7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 4 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 6 F 7pm Historical Society walk - see page 19 for 2 alternative routes
- 9 M 7pm Town Council Premises & Finance Committee, Council Chamber
- 10 Tu 7pm *speaker* 7.30pm: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 12 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 13 F Town Council co-option applications deadline
- 16 M 7pm Town Council Personnel Committee Meeting, Council Chamber
- 17 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
 - 7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 18 W 10.30am to 12 noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa
 - 7.15pm for 7.30pm start: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
- 19 Th 7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 20 F **Longest Day (Solstice 3am Sat)**
- 21 Sa 11.30am to 12noon: Sing Four Four at Immanuel Church - see page 39
- 23 M 7pm Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
 - 7pm Kavali Curry Evening for Royal British Legion - see page 17
- 26 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 28 Sa 5pm The Armed Man at St Sampson's - £7 on door, see page 28
- 30 M 7pm Town Council PCT Committee Meeting, Council Chamber

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
 - 7.30-9.30pm 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

June 2025

3rd ☾

11th ○

18th ☀

25th ●

The Final Word ...

As I write, I'm looking out at a garden full of apple blossom and bluebells. The reawakening of nature after the winter never ceases to take me by surprise, despite the fact that it happens every year.

As spring turns to summer, we see this reawakening life fill out and grow, as the flowers burst into bloom and fruits ripen ready for harvest. In June we can really appreciate the energy and vitality of nature, whether walking in the countryside, weeding the garden, or simply sitting outside and watching.

My relationship with God seems to follow the same pattern – desert times are followed by periods of growth. The seeds God plants in us take us by surprise sometimes. Yet we can learn to trust in the cycle of growth and renewal God brings to our spirits, just as he does to the natural world.

May his re-energising love, ever new yet unchanging, help us to grow in faith, to blossom in our lives, and to bear fruit for him. Amen

Pauline Loveday, Licensed Lay Minister

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