

THE CHRONICLE



July 2025

✦ **Serving Cricklade & Latton**
No. 600

Early morning in mown meadow
picture © Caroline Townsend

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From the Editor

"Everything changes except change itself." Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher from Ephesus, is supposed to have written that, in Greek, in around 500BC. Over the years, *The Chronicle's* format has evolved. But what has not changed in the twenty-five centuries between Heraclitus's days and our own ... is a belief that small acts by a few can help the lives of many. Read inside to prove it. The much shorter period over the past 600 issues of *The Chronicle* owes an enormous gratitude to all those who proposed, nurtured and contributed to this publication's progress since 1976.

If you see any errors or omissions in the article that starts on page 26, do please let me know and we will be able to update our archive.

So what of July 2025? Lots of flowers for starters! The Cricklade Open Gardens event

will be held over the weekend of 12-13 July. Please find a source of "passports" for the gardens. Details are on page 19.

Also in July, the Town Council will be judging for *Cricklade in Bloom*. There is no need to register as they will be on a walk-about. But try to be neat and tidy in visible gardens and hanging baskets (etc) if you want a mention!

St Sampson's is hosting a book talk and signing event on 18 July about the Athelstan Pilgrim Way, which has connections with Cricklade. See page 17.

And, in keeping with the Heraclitus theme, volunteers are needed (again) at both the Historical Society (page 18) and the Leisure Centre (page 40). As Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr wrote in 1849, "The more things change, the more they stay the same!" Though he wrote it in French ...



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The deadline for the August 2025 issue is Tuesday 1 July 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 30 June Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee

Monday 21 July Community and Leisure Committee

Tuesday 22 July Personnel Committee

Monday 28 July 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.

Cricklade Council 2025 – 2026

At the annual meeting of the Council held on 12 May, the following Council and Committee roles were voted:

Cricklade Town Council

Chairman Cllr Mark Clarke

Vice Chair Cllr Stuart Pryde

Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee

Chairman Cllr Chris Bull

Vice Chair Cllr Cathy Limbrick

Community and Leisure Committee

Chairman Cllr Russell Osman

Vice Chair Cllr Barrie Beasley

Premises and Finance Committee:

Chairman Cllr Mark Clarke

Vice Chair Cllr Chris Bull

We wish them all the best in their roles for the coming year.

Cricklade Open Gardens

Cricklade Open Gardens is on the weekend of 12 and 13 July. Tickets can be purchased in advance from the Town Council Tourist Information Point or on the day at participating gardens at a cost of £7.50 each. Please note that you cannot purchase from the Tourist Information Point on the actual days as the office is closed at weekends.

VE Day 80th Commemoration in Cricklade

On 8 May, Cricklade Court Leet organised the Community Beacon Lighting at Saxon's Rest to commemorate VE day 80. There was a great turnout and thanks were sent to the Court Leet, Cricklade RBL and the Cricklade Band who provided excellent musical accompaniment.



Cricklade in Bloom

The judges will be out and about around the Town in late July judging the Cricklade in Bloom – there is no need to register.

Barbecues/litter and dog faeces

The Council asks that you do not use barbecues on its grounds: Hallsfield Meadow, Fairview Fields, Long Close, Hall Close, Millennium Woods and Jubilee Woods. Remember to pick up your litter and dog faeces and deposit it in any of the bins provided. This will ensure that these areas can be used and enjoyed by all the residents and visitors of Cricklade. Let's all keep Cricklade a place to be proud of.

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 Art Group

Cricklade Art Group welcomes you to its Summer Exhibition. There will be a wide range of art on display, including paintings, cards and ceramics from a range of artists. For a preview of the work being exhibited, check www.facebook.com/CrickladeArtGroup during the week before the exhibition.



We will also have our popular raffle. Refreshments – including tea, coffee and homemade cake. Come along and enjoy the art work.

Summer Exhibition 2025

Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 June 2025

10am to 4pm

Cricklade Town Hall

Free entry! All are welcome!

If you wish to learn more about the Cricklade Art Group, visit our website www.crickladeart.co.uk

The group meets monthly on the third Tuesday of the month at the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe from 7.30-9.30pm. If you have any questions or are interested in becoming a member, please drop us a line to our email address crickladeartgroup@gmail.com.

Prospect Hospice Support

On 24 May a local Prospect Hospice support group held a Coffee Morning and raised £340. Many thanks to the following businesses who gave raffle prizes - The White Hart, Michael Hart butchers, Tesco's and James Butchers. Thanks also to Cricklade United Church for allowing us to use their Hall. It is appreciated the many people who came or gave generous contributions. Well done Cricklade.



Hazel Rowland and Yvonne Keeble



Wiltshire Perspective

Three topics this month

- Change of Control in Wiltshire
- My new roles
- Connect

After the election I thought everything would calm down. I was wrong. The result of no overall control meant a lot of negotiation (in which I played no part) but the outcome of which was that those who previously ran things and had built up a close relationship with officers, were going to change as a result of a number of knife edge votes. The benefit to my mind is that it enforces a collaborative approach and ensures we have to reach out to colleagues and support has to be not just earned, but also maintained.

The implications took time to analyse and there were many appointments to fill and dozens of roles that had to be finalised.

My primary focus in all this is always the residents of our Division. Having said that, one issue that has been brought to my attention is flooding and water quality. So I guess that being offered that position as the portfolio holder for the whole of Wiltshire means I can represent residents for whom that is an issue a stronger voice than previously.

As I can engage directly with senior officers about problems and seek out what support is available to us, for example assistance in pulling together our flood plans, and resources to our corner of Wiltshire, I can ensure we get our fair share of attention.

Also, last month I mentioned that Latton Parish Council were having problems. I am really impressed with how well they have organised themselves and a new Parish Council is due to be in place by the time of publication. I know that it's not easy to make an appointment in Trowbridge and to physically go there to have the forms vetted. It's something I hope will be simplified in future.

Another new role, but this is temporary, is that I will be chairing the Area Board for the first year, as well as the LHFIG (small improvements to roads, cycleways and footpaths). We have set the priorities with the available budget, trying to be fair to everyone and to maximise that impact for the limited budget that was left to us to work with.

Lastly, if you fancy a lift in a large chauffeur-driven limo for the princely sum of £2, I might point you towards our new Connect service. So long as it doesn't follow a bus route, and is between 6am to 8pm weekdays (8-7.30 weekends) you can book a ride and travel within a reasonable area. So if you want to go to Royal Wootton Bassett or Malmesbury for lunch or tea, this sounds ideal. You can book it through the Wiltshire Connect App or call 01225 712900.

Many thanks again. It's a privilege helping 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

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



PPG purchase

The PPG recently purchased two air conditioning units for the nurse treatment rooms – one for Purton and one for Green Gable Surgeries. They are very efficient and have made a big difference to the comfort of patients and staff as these rooms can get very hot. *See the picture right.*



200 Club

The June draw was done by Phlebotomist Mary Buckland. £100 winner was Paulene Cuss. 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, 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

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!

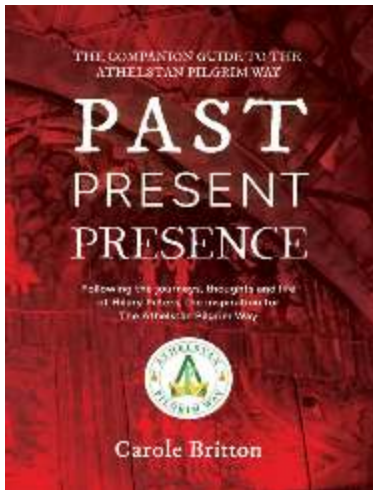
Contact: parkinsonscafecricklade@gmail.com or call 07951 944 760.

The volunteers team looks forward to seeing you there!

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



Latton Parish Community Trust (LPCT) is a local charity focused on progressing plans for a new village facility for the Parish of Latton and Eysey and our wider community. We are pleased to share details of our LPCT AGM for anyone interested in our plans to attend. The meeting will be held on **Tuesday 8 July** at 6.30pm in the Latton Village Hall. If you would like any more details in the meantime, please follow our Facebook page or email lattonvillage@gmail.com



Talk by Local Author Carole Britton

St Sampson's Church, Cricklade SN6 6AX

Friday 18 July at 6pm

All welcome. Refreshments. Signed books on sale.

"Past, Present, Presence" - a journey through the life, legacy and words of "part-time hermit" and former Didmarton resident Hilary Peters.

The book is also the Companion Guide to the Athelstan Pilgrim Way, which includes Cricklade, Ashton Keynes, The



Leigh and Latton plus 32 other villages and churches in North Wiltshire.

For further information call 01249 758205.

Waylands Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past & Present



At their last meeting, the Trustees to the Wayland Estates Charity considered grant applications from organisations towards projects for the general benefit of the inhabitants of the Parish of Cricklade and the neighbourhood thereof. A total of £12,863.59 was awarded to the following:

Bloomers	Bobby Van Trust	Cinema Club
Development Foundation	Latton Basin Restoration	
Preschool Playgroup	Prospect Hospice	St Sampson's Church Appeal

Join the Cricklade Historical Society!

Volunteers Wanted!

Are you interested in the history of Cricklade, its houses, places and people? Do you want to help understand, record, celebrate Cricklade's rich heritage? The Cricklade Historical Society is looking for volunteers to join our Committee in order to help with the running of the Society, support organisation of events and to generally contribute to our work.

Whether you enjoy helping to plan events in support of the Society, museum work or sharing local history with our community, there's an opportunity for you. No prior experience is needed – just an interest in the history of your town and willingness to contribute to our work.

By volunteering, you'll have the chance to:-

- Help organise events to raise funds for the Society.
- Be part of the historical projects and exhibitions about Cricklade.
- Connect with like-minded individuals who share your interest.
- Make a real impact in helping to preserve Cricklade's past for future generations.

If you are interested, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Stuart on 07764 742 527 or on spryde2@gmail.com

Help us keep history alive – volunteer with the Cricklade Historical Society.

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 11 July** when our speaker is Michelle Green of Page Green Flowers. Her talk is entitled **Growing Cut Flowers**

Anyone who has walked up Stones Lane towards Hailstone Hill will have seen Michelle's nursery tucked away on the left hand side. But without Michelle coming to tell us, you would have no idea what wonderful flowers she grows and what beautiful arrangements she creates for all occasions in that small productive space. How does she do it? Come and listen to Michelle and you will be convinced of the importance and the rewards of supporting local nurseries.

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

Membership is £25 p.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 Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden



Bloomers invites you to the annual Mikron Theatre Company production at Riverside – opposite The Thames Hall on the evening of Saturday 12 July at 7pm. Gates open at 6.30pm for those picnicking prior to the performance.

Tickets for the production of “Operation Beach Hut” are available from the Town Council Offices – £16, cash only.

Operation Beach Hut is a musical trip to the beach at Fiddling on Sea where the beach huts are at risk of being sold to developers due to council cuts.

At the time of writing, we are in the final stages of organising the deer protection for the community orchard that will hopefully be in place by the time of publication of this edition of *The Chronicle*. Thank you to all who volunteered support with the erecting of the fencing but it is no longer needed. We have accepted a generous quote from local fencing contractor Brian Francis who will do the work.

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.

Wiltshire Sight

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

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

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

Cricklade W.I.

A big thank-you to everyone who supported us on the last day of May at our yearly coffee morning alongside the Gardening Club's Plant Sale. We ran a very successful raffle, enjoyed some guest exhibitors, found bargains on the bric a brac stall and of course as always there was plenty of delicious cake. Many thanks to everyone involved.



The summer continues to bring plenty of sunny weather although I think the gardeners would welcome some cooling rain! We continue to host a variety of interesting speakers for the rest of the year. Last month we had a fascinating talk from Chris Churchman entitled 'Losing England's Landscape'. Chris shared his views on the opportunities and threats the landscape faces from all sorts of external forces – gave us all food for thought!

17 July sees Jenny Etheredge give us a demonstration of henna tattoos so we shall all be looking very glamorous.

21 August talk on the History of Ice Cream – should be tasty, I hope there are some samples.

18 September we will hear about the history of the Quaker Movement.

So do join us. The cost of attending a meeting for non-members is £5 to include cake and refreshments which has to be a bargain.

We also host a coffee morning and chat in the White Hart on the first Tuesday of each month from 11am to which everyone is welcome. The July session will be on 1 July.

If you are interested in joining us as a member please contact our secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459 or email at vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com.

We look forward to seeing you.

Cricklade Foodbank

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



Roz Savage, our MP, is presenting an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons which starts by saying that:

"This house recognises Malmesbury and District Foodbank for its outstanding contribution to the community."

Roz visited the Malmesbury Distribution Centre before she was elected, and since her election has visited the Cricklade Distribution Centre and appreciates our work within the local community. This is quite an honour for the Foodbank and everyone involved!

The work goes on. Your donations are always welcome. You can find our donation points at Tesco, Culverhay Stores, Animal Fayre (pet shop), 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 get in touch by phone on 01666 826982. You can leave a message, someone will return your call.

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.

Starting in September we meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe and 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

During the summer there is a series of photo outings, for example in June we visited Cherhill to shoot the White Horse and Monument at sunset from the ridge; Morgans Hill and Furze Knoll to shoot the beech clump and butterflies, then staying on for sunset; Abingdon airshow; Avoncliff and Dundas Aqueducts near Bradford on Avon to shoot bridge and river scenes; and the *Comic Con* event at STEAM.

The July and August outings will be published on the website (crickladecameraclub.org)

All are welcome, free of charge, just share car travel costs, and pay for entrance tickets where relevant. All outings are weather forecast dependant! If you would like to come along simply email competitions@crickladecameraclub.org

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

In the Monthly Draw held on 29 May the lucky winners were:-

First Prize:	Karon McDonald	£36.00
Second Prize:	Sam Foxton	£24.00
Jenner Hall Funds:		£60.00



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

The Subscription for the "Save It Club" is only £12 per year.

Subscribers are encouraged to pay a year's subscription of £12 by Standing Order.

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.

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

6 July

3rd Sunday after Trinity

- 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*

13 July

4th Sunday after Trinity

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

20 July

5th Sunday after Trinity

- 8am Holy Communion + breakfast *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 11.30am Morning Worship for St Sampson's Day *at St Sampson's*
with S club for children in the Jenner Hall
- 12.30pm BBQ *at St Sampson's* (contact us if you're coming so we know numbers)
- 10am Informal Morning Worship *at Holy Cross*
- 6pm Evensong *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

27 July

6th Sunday after Trinity

*Both services this Sunday are outdoors around the Old Chancel
at Waterhay, Leigh. If wet, in Leigh All Saints Church, Swan Lane.*

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion, *Waterhay Old Chancel*
- 6.30pm Upper Thames Worship Together Evening Service, *Waterhay Old Chancel*

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.

Zoom Monday morning prayers – contact David Tarr

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

Weddings

24 May Sophie Allanna Mitchell & George Scot West *at All Saints*

Funerals

2 May Helen Mary Hopkins *at All Saints and interment in churchyard*
8 May Elizabeth Brenda Marley *at Kingsdown Crematorium*
10 May Elizabeth Hartland *at North Wilts Crematorium followed by a service of
Thanksgiving at Holy Cross*
19 May Mary Ena Booth *at St Sampson's & Kingsdown Crematorium*

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

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Weekly Mass times 9.30am on Sundays
 10.00am on Fridays

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

Parish website www.stthomasparishfairford.org.uk.

Father Michael Robertson can be contacted on 01285 712586 or by email michael.Robertson@cliftondiocese.com

Gerry Dudley, our Church Secretary, is on 01793 750107.

The Friends of St Mary's website with more details of the history of the church is at www.cricklade.stmary.org.uk

Cricklade United Church

Calcutt Street, Cricklade

Minister: Revd Sarah Simpson, tel. 01666 826866, Email: sarahsimpson14@btinternet.com

As a United Reformed / Methodist Church, we are part of the URC North West Wiltshire Pastorate and the Upper Thames Methodist Circuit. Please have a look at our website for all the current information regarding our services, dates, times and other events. crickladeunitedchurch.co.uk

Sunday morning services during July - all at 10.30am, except 13 July

- 6 Jul Rev Roger Scoones
- 13 Jul at 4.30pm - Rev Sarah Simpson followed by church family tea
- 20 Jul Moderator of the URC South West Synod - Rev David Downing.
 We will be joined by the other Pastorate Churches - Malmesbury and
 Royal Wootton Bassett for this service.
- 27 Jul Rev David Newman

Bounce and Rhyme

We are a group for Parents, Carers and Grandparents who are looking after babies and/or young children. We meet twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays of the month. The venue is the United Church Hall in Calcutt Street. Time 1.45 - 3pm for nursery rhymes, a story book, tea/coffee refreshments and a chat.

Next meetings - 1 July & 15 July There is no charge we are delighted to welcome you

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future

During the first week of June 2025 work will have been done to bring an extra electricity supply into the church. This is needed prior to implementation of the new heating system installation.



Coming Events

Friday 18 July 6pm at St Sampson's Church

Talk by author Carole Britton about the inspiration for the Athelstan Pilgrim Way.

Monday 11 August – Kavali Curry Evening – details next month!

Saturday 13 September

Concert in St Sampson's Church - organised by The Old Stables.

With Robert Vincent.

St Sampson's Church Fete will unfortunately not take place in September this year. An Autumn Fayre is being planned for October 2025.

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the May 2025 draw was

Val Atfield 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.



The Armed Man

There is still time to book tickets for
The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace by Karl Jenkins

St Sampson's Church
Saturday 28 June at 5pm

Tickets on the door £7 to include a glass of wine or other refreshment.

more information: admin@upperthames.org.uk



Tickets: www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/select/loqoazvqmykr
or QR Code right

Christian Aid

The annual Christian Aid collection in Cricklade and Latton which took place in May raised £2,437.99. Grateful thanks to everyone who donated and to those who assisted in the collection. It was an amazing result and the monies raised will be well used to support those living in poverty in many areas of the world.

At present Christian Aid is working in both Gaza and the Ukraine offering food, medical and humanitarian support to those living in war zones.

Thank you again for your generosity.



The Christian Aid team

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

Sing Four Four Community Choir

With our performance at Immanuel Church now behind us, the choir is working hard to perfect its repertoire for the **summer**

concert. This takes place on **Sunday 6 July at 3pm** in St Sampson's Church.

Tickets, £7 for adults, the under 12s are free. Tickets are available at the Council Offices – cash only please. We are also holding a raffle, so, please bring some change with you.

As is our custom, there will be tea and cake available after the performance. Please put the date in your diary. We will be delighted to see you. Doors open at 2.30pm.



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

600th Issue

A milestone ... and we celebrate it. And all those who made it possible.

I was told that the names of the people involved were lost in the mists of time, but for a few memories. However I was pointed by Pam Debenham in the direction of the Museum in Calcutt Street. There, Paul Marley and Mary Coole directed me into the Vestry, the room used for archive books and similar items.

I spent an interesting two hours there looking through a long shelf of copies of *The Chronicle* going back to Issue 1 of February 1975 (cover pictured right). I discovered that the original title was Cricklade Chronicle – at some much later stage the town name was dropped, though it remains in people's memory. It was to be a united journal by St Augustine's Catholic Church, Cricklade United Church, St Sampson's and St John the Baptist, Latton, known as Cricklade Churches Together. The United Church ceased their "Message" magazine and St Sampson's and Latton stopped the "Parish Magazine."

The first issue didn't actually list any "credits" but it was apparent that Rev Ken Withington was the instigator if not named as editor. It was printed on a desktop lithographic machine and hand stapled. Looking at it in the flesh, so to speak, it was originally printed on quarto paper – an old Imperial size slightly larger in width and height than A5 – and stapled on the left hand edge. The print run was 1,250 copies and it was only eight pages. There was a Minister's Letter, by a different incumbent each month: no.1 by Paul Spilsby; issue 2 by Stella Beard; 3 by Ken Withington; 4 by Paul again. And so on. (The Minister's Letter was renamed "The Final Word" in issue 301 in January 2000 marking a new era.)

Issue no.1 also featured a *Cricklade Personality* column, in that case being Reg Coole, then Chairman of Cricklade Town Council. This was only an irregular piece as the next one wasn't until May 1975, with George Yeates, who had just retired as churchwarden from St Sampson's.

Issue no.2 started with the Editorial question “Why a Town Plan for Cricklade?” We’re still trying to get our heads around that some 50 years later! (It’s called the Neighbourhood Plan now though.) May 1975 introduced a Christian Aid campaign feature. That is a recurrent theme in our pages, too. And sadly still a recurrent problem around the world.

In July 1975, the magazine started printing publication details: this addition made my scroll through the next 50 years so much easier! Items for publication went either to Ken Withington (tel: Cricklade 300), or Geoff Haslam (tel: Cricklade 785). The format of those phone numbers show how much else has changed in that 50 years! The



publisher was named as The Cricklade and Latton Churches. The printer was Stads of 7 London Street, Swindon. In around 1978, Stads moved to 9 East Street in Swindon then later to Faringdon Road. Their trading name changed eventually to Quill Press, still at East Street, and run by Trevor Cockbill and Margaret Sanders. They ran the print business behind their shop where they sold stationery and associated items.

Before February 1985, the former Roman Catholic Church of St Augustine's had moved its congregation to St Mary's in the High Street. The vacated building, itself formerly a Baptist Chapel (built 1852), was bought by Cricklade Town Council for the new museum. That explains why I was reading that issue (no.121) in the Vestry! The former museum had been in the old town weighbridge, the building close to the road by the Town Hall but those premises were too small for the collection.

In that same issue I learnt that the Parish Hall (Jenner Hall) Save It Club was around then but the monthly prize was a £50 Petrol Voucher!

In November 1986 (issue 144) we have the first mention of a separate Advertising Manager, John Williams.

I've always loved colour and issue 179 in December 1989 introduced it in a limited way. It was only for that Christmas issue, and a couple of occasions later, but titling on the front and back page was in RED. As a printer myself in a former existence, I know that the process involved in those days for that sort of print run was to put each page through the printer twice: first with an image for the black without the red present; then change the ink drum to red and run them all through again with only the colour text present. And repeat for the reverse side. Very time consuming and very prone to spoil sheets!

January 1990 (issue 180): Cricklade had grown in those fifteen years and so had *The Chronicle*, both in size and number. While no.1 had 8 pages and a run of 1,400, by 1990 the issues had some 18 pages and a print run of 1,775. It became more economical to print *The Chronicle* on single sheets which were then stapled together.

In June 1994, the magazine format changed to A4 size. The old Imperial quarto paper size was difficult to get hold of and metric sizes had become the norm and therefore cheaper.

From issue 240 in December 1994, Allan Webster was named as printer, operating from Cricklade. Michael Lucas took over as Advertising Manager in 1998. That role passed to Roy Phillips in 2000 and then John Coole from January 2008.

No 301 ushered in the new millennium with the introduction of the A5 booklet size that we have today.

The editorship changed several times between the 1990s and the 2020s:

July 1992 (issue 211) – Sally Mason

October 2003 (no.346) – Becky Curtis

August 1999 (no.296) – Clare Flanagan

August 2005 (no.368) – Fenella Dernie

May 2001 (no.317) – Susan Rands

November 2012 (no.455) – (anonymous)

During the Covid years, the viability of the magazine was maintained by Covid Recovery Grant funding from Wiltshire Community Foundation. The distributors did a fantastic job continuing deliveries under difficult circumstances.

Continues over ...

It had become obvious by the end of 2021 that the January issue was unsustainable – all the Christmas information was in the December issue and no one wanted to write much in the run-up needed for a January issue. It was also a lot to ask of our distributors to deliver in the cold and the dark of late December. Issue 561 became a joint December/January issue.

I became editor with the February 2022 issue (no.562). The major changes at this point were the photo on the front cover (still in black and white) and the introduction of the Chronicle Diary summarising events in the month into one place. A kind sponsorship by the late Tony Jepps allowed us to introduce a colour cover from February 2023 (issue 573). We have continued to be able to produce a colour cover, funded by a grant from Wayland Estates Charity during 2024 and income from a premium rate for colour advertising on the other 3 faces of the cover.

Through much of the history of *The Chronicle*, distribution was organised by Peter and Margaret Rickards, collecting magazines from the printers and bagging or boxing them up for individual distributor routes. This task was taken over by Allan and Nicky at Webster Printing some years ago. Nicky is also our current Advertising Manager.

Allan tells me that, in its hey day, *The Chronicle* consisted of up to 60 pages A5. For the technically minded, the black and white inside is now printed on a Hamada 500 CDA press and collated, stitched and folded on a Horizon AC 1200 booklet maker. The number of copies printed is currently some 2,250 per month, eleven months a year. The cover is out-sourced to Trade Print Ltd. That artwork is sent electronically to them on about the first of the month, and received in time to combine it together with the inside pages!

The magazine is still published by Cricklade Churches Together but the editor has a fairly free rein on the content, so long as it is appropriate and space is allowed for church based organisations. I am indebted to our proof reader, Phillipa Knight, who casts her eyes over the final “copy” often picking up errors that become invisible when I’ve read and re-read half a dozen times!

Once upon a time, profits from the magazine were split three ways between the churches at the annual Churches Together AGM. These days, production costs have soared, both in terms of paper prices and the number of copies increasing. We still deliver free to all homes in Cricklade and Latton. Most if not all the funding comes from our advertisers. We cover our costs but without profit.

Of course nothing would be possible if we didn’t have our wonderful team of pre-press, printing, advertising and distribution. Without all of them there is no magazine!

Rick Dixon, Editor

Front Cover

My thanks this month to Caroline Townsend for this month’s sunrise photo taken in a local new mown meadow in July last year. As I have said before, if you want to submit a photo to be used as a cover, we like to keep it seasonal. We can always hold on to it for a year to make it relevant to the month in question.

Please send any contributions to RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com

Cricklade Memory Café

We have been so blessed with wonderful spring weather this year and despite a change at the end of May we continued to enjoy the warmth if not the winds. We have welcomed several new members and continued to enjoy music, fun, laughter and friendship and, of course, cakes.



In May we were joined by our little friends from Thames Pre School who bring so much joy every time they visit. Trish and Lucy from *Pets as Therapy* also visit regularly and of course we always enjoy having our little mascot Tigger Case, who kindly brings his dad Rod with him.

In June we enjoyed our regular café and were joined by Doug from the Bobby Van Team giving us very useful information. We also had a wonderful afternoon tea at Jennies Kitchen on 18 June thanks to funding from Wiltshire Council (WC) Area Board.

We regularly have visitors who are able to offer more specialised support and signposting to the relevant areas of help available. Our friend Louise from WC Wellbeing Team is a regular visitor as is Cat Attewell from *Home Instead*. We have been so happy to welcome Sue Cann our new Dementia Adviser for our area who works with Alzheimer's support. She has been able to chat individually to our members and it is good to have her input.

If you are a carer or family member of someone with memory impairment, or have memory issues yourself why not come along and see what a friendly, fun group we have and how much support our members gain from being part of CMC. There is only one Café in July, so pop along and see what we are all about on Wednesday 2 July at the Town Hall Annexe from 10.30 to 12.30 for coffee, cakes, friendship and fun in a safe, non-judgemental welcoming environment. We look forward to meeting you.

Don't forget to catch us on our regular Facebook page and see the fun videos each month.

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

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

- | | |
|----------------|-------------------------|
| 10 July | RAF Bomber Command |
| 24 July | Cyprus and Peacekeeping |



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.

Leisure Centre needs New Chairman & Trustees

C&DCA (the team of volunteers who guide the management, development, strategy and evolution of Cricklade Leisure Centre) are sad to announce that John Simmons has decided to resign as a Trustee and from the position of Chair of C&DCA. He will be leaving the role to pursue other interests and will step down on a date yet to be determined.



John has held the position of Chair for a number of years and has been a Trustee for many additional years. We would like to thank John for the huge contribution he has made to the Leisure Centre during that time, all on a voluntary basis. He has played a major role in many initiatives, perhaps the most notable and visible being the recent installation of triple glazing for the swimming pool and the installation of solar panels on the roof, both of which should have a major impact on reducing future energy and operating costs for the Centre.

We wish John the best of fortunes in his new endeavours.

Jo Moran, a previous Trustee, has kindly agreed to return and take on the role of Chair for an interim period of six months whilst a permanent successor is recruited.

C&DCA are now looking for a new person to act as a trustee and Chair. We are also looking for additional trustees to join the current team, both to spread the workload and to bring new ideas, opinions and experience to the team. Could this be you?

Cricklade Leisure Centre is a fantastic local resource, used by thousands of people from many miles around. It provides the opportunity for children from 35(!) local schools to learn to swim. It is YOUR Leisure Centre. But it only operates successfully due to the guidance, support and oversight provided by the Trustees to back up the efforts of the day-to-day management and staff.

We are very aware that the current team of Trustees has been in place for a number of years and we would like to see younger generations represented, if possible. But, anyone is welcome who can provide some time and commitment! If you have any experience that you think might be relevant and are keen to give back to your local community, please get in touch with us via secretary@crickladeleisure.co.uk providing your phone number, and we will call you back.

CRICKLADE CINEMA!

We will be holding our AGM on Monday 14 July at 7pm in the Town Hall Committee Room.

In addition to a review of the past 12 months, you will have the opportunity to ask questions and help shape the future of Cricklade Cinema.

For the very latest information on Cricklade Cinema please check out our website (www.cricklادecinema.org.uk) or Facebook page Cricklade Cinema.

Feel free to email us at: cricklادecinema@gmail.com.

Lester Buck tel: 750782 or email: cricklادecinema@gmail.com

Cricklade Bowls Club

At our Big Bowls Day in May, we were delighted to receive a lunchtime gift from Kavali restaurant ... catering trays of meat and vegetable samosas and a chicken biryani together with mint sauce dips! We thank them very much for their generosity.



See what you missed if you weren't there on the day!

But you can still come along, and see what the game is all about, any Friday evening during the summer 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.

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 summer season.

Cricklade Pétanque Club

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

CPC is pleased to be hosting and supporting Pétanque England junior training and coaching.

If there are any youth groups, schools or individual young people who would like to have a go please contact Helen Dixon on 07976 546 825 or email: helendixonmail@gmail.com

All our coaches are qualified and DBS checked through Pétanque England.

Our next social is on Friday 25 July.

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



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.

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. Our Wednesday Summer Club evenings have resumed – 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, we play three games during each session, with a break after the second. If you decide to join our club our annual membership fee is only £25.

We organise 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.



It is close season at the moment for the CRFC. Full training will begin again in August.

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 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	



In Our Broader Area

The Wessex (male choir) All Points Concert
Saturday 28 June at 7.30pm.

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

The Wessex Côr Tadau Trisant Jubilate Vox in Frox

Tickets £20 per person from www.ticketsource.co.uk/wessex-male-choir

All profits to Prostate Cancer UK



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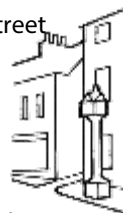


The Chronicle Diary – July 2025

- 1 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
end of day Chronicle Copy deadline
- 2 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 6 Su 3pm Sing Four Four annual concert at St Sampson's church
- 7 M 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
- 8 Tu 6.30pm Latton Parish Community Trust AGM in Latton Village Hall
7pm speaker 7.30pm: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 10 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 12 Sa Cricklade Open Gardens
7pm Mikron Theatre at Riverside, tickets from Council Office (see page 19)
- 13 Su Cricklade Open Gardens
- 14 M 7pm Cricklade Cinema AGM, Town Hall Committee Room
- 15 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 16 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
- 17 Th 7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 18 F 6pm Book Talk at St Sampson's: Past, Present, Presence (see page 17)
- 19 Sa 5pm Cricklade Twinning BBQ at 45 High Street (see page 33)
- 21 M 7pm Kavali Curry Evening for Open Door (see page 33)
7pm Town Council Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber
- 22 Tu 7pm Town Council Personnel Committee, Council Chamber
- 24 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 25 F to 1 Sep: Wiltshire Schools summer break (others may differ)
- 28 M 7pm Town Council PC & 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

July 2025

2nd 🌑

10th 🌒

18th 🌓

24th 🌔

The Final Word ...

What a lovely milestone to celebrate – 600 issues of The Chronicle. Many congratulations to everyone who has been involved over the years! And our thanks to Rick and the team for all they do now.

I wonder how you feel about anniversaries? Some we love – it is my birthday in July, so that is a moment which is celebrated. We remembered the 80th anniversary of VE day together in May which is a poignant remembrance: grateful for the end, but remembering all that had been lost. May is also the anniversary of my father's death, an anniversary of gratitude and something like wistfulness (ten years on). Sometimes anniversaries are a moment to look back, and sometimes they are a springboard for all that is to come.

I suspect that we are often in a mixed state of looking back and looking forward. But we don't want to live in the past – we'd miss the present – nor live in the future and ignore the past.

When I think about God, he is from everlasting to everlasting, so that is looking both ways! And he is the author of all, and lovingly sustains all, so he is definitely present. And so I wonder what the future is with God? Our future is often a question of trust, and sometimes the questions of trust are the hardest.

So as we thank God for 600 editions of The Chronicle and all that has involved and, as we look ahead to what is to come, let us (in the words used at VE80 and quoted by George VI): "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

Revd Canon Debbie Dewes, Vicar, Upper Thames Group

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 752898 and 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 guarantee that they will be published. The Editor's decision is final.

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01793 790210



Email: ian@heritage-treecare.co.uk
www.heritage-treecare.co.uk