



The Chronicle

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No. 607

March 2026

Cricklade Sunset
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From the Editor

At the time of going to press our Editor, Rick, is in hospital. Thank you for your patience while we've put

this issue together in a bit of a hurry without the benefit of Rick's expert guidance.

Please accept our sincere apologies for any errors, omissions and formatting issues.

March brings us longer days and everything from World Book Day to British Pie Week. There's also St David's Day, Mother's Day and St Patrick's Day to look forward to.

In Cricklade we have another great film choice from Cricklade Cinema as well as a revised community litter picking date for your diary.

Whatever you're doing, have a great month and we'll see you again in April.

Please send your items for publication to the usual address:

rickdixonchronicle@gmail.com

For advertising contact
crickladeadverts@gmail.com

Please be aware that there may be a delay in responding to your emails as Rick will not be taking up the reins again just yet.

Full contact details for the Chronicle can be found on page 44. The deadline is Sunday 1st March 2026.

We wish Rick all the very best for a speedy recovery.

The Chronicle team

P.S. Don't forget: clocks 'spring forward' on Sunday 29th March.

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The deadline for the April 2026 issue is Sunday 1 March 2026

Community contacts

All 01793 unless stated or emergency. This section is intended to give quick access to emergency and community help phone numbers. If you spot something missing, please let us know: RickDixonChronicle@gmail.com or 01793 759123.

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

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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

Distributors

The Chronicle has just one remaining request for distributors for your favourite local magazine: a small round of 7 houses at Calcutt.

Please let Pam and Miles know if you could help. 07724 759151, 07595 617071 or email p.mking@yahoo.com

Thank you from The Chronicle team!

Cricklade Town Council



Town Council Meetings

Monday 2nd March 2026

Community and Leisure Committee

Monday 9th March 2026

Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee

Monday 16th March 2026

Full Town Council

Tuesday 14th April 2026

Annual Town Meeting (Town Hall)

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

Annual Town Litter Pick - DATE CHANGE

Saturday 14th March 2026. This runs in conjunction with Keep Britain Tidy's campaign. We meet at Bath Road play area at 9.30am and finish at Town Council offices around 11.30am. Please contact us in advance to register. Community groups and individuals are welcome to participate in this rewarding activity, and all equipment is provided. We all care about where we live and this is how we can demonstrate how much we love our environment.

Speedwatch

Speeds have once again been creeping up in the town, especially along Calcutt Street, Malmesbury Road and Purton Road. The Speedwatch Team who do a great service to our community, will be out checking speeds and taking notes. Please do not ill-treat them, if you are doing the speed limit you have nothing to fear! If you would like to join the speedwatch team please contact the Town Council and your information will be forwarded to the team.

Annual Town Meeting – Tuesday 14th April 2026

This year the Annual Town Meeting is on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 7pm in the Town Hall with refreshments served from 6.30pm. It is an opportunity for you to hear from Councillors, who will give presentations on the Council's activities and to let you know a bit about what is planned for the next 12 months. It is not a formal council meeting but an opportunity for you to ask questions on matters that are of local importance. The annual Community Awards will be presented to the Community Group of the year, the Young Person of the year and the Cricklade Community Award.

Purton Household recycling centre (HRC)

Please see the Cricklade Town Council website for the latest updates – as on 3rd February Wiltshire Council announced an extension to the contract and Purton HRC will remain open to at least 31st July 2029. Full details were not available at the time of The Chronicle going to print.

Cricklade Town Council continued

Cricklade Community Resilience Plan

This Plan relies on Community Resilience Volunteers to work within the team to help enhance community preparedness and response to emergencies. The plan can be found online and in the Town Council front office.

The link is <https://www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/115/2025/12/Cricklade-Community-Resilience-Plan-Public-Version.pdf>

We have a dozen existing volunteers and are looking for up to 8 more to help support this initiative. Input by individuals will amount to a few hours each month (outside the meetings) in order to familiarise themselves with their area of responsibility within Cricklade. No prior experience necessary, just an interest in your town and a willingness to contribute to its ongoing resilience to emergencies. Contact the Town Council for more information if you are interested in joining.

Dog Fouling

Dog fouling has been a constant problem over the winter months, now that the spring is with us can we remind everyone it is their responsibility to clear up after their dog has fouled and place the waste in one of the many councils bins.

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)

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

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.





Wiltshire Perspective

Nick Dye, Councillor for Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey

Two big stories this month

- The Household recycling centre in Purton will probably not be closing until the new site is available
- The Wiltshire Community Link Transport Schemes were pencilled for cuts but will now be continued, albeit under a different funding model.

This is not certain as all votes in full Council are very close and the opposition have repeatedly blocked initiatives for ways that the Council might raise funds.

It does demonstrate that working through a problem diligently and by looking into the details does have a much bigger impact than grandstanding and whipping up social media anger. However, there is a very significant risk that the budget will fall so we can't be sure about anything at the moment.

Why is the Council in such a financial mess? It would be easy to point fingers in County Hall, but I think that would be wrong. The funding formula from central government has changed to favour both deprived and urban populations. These criteria have hit us very hard (which is not much comfort to users of the Cricklade food bank). The scale of the changes and the speed with which officers have had to adapt and climb such a huge mountain is staggering.

The County was only told just before Christmas that the funding settlement would leave us with a £29m gap (or about 5%). Bearing in mind that most expenditure goes on items that are mandatory, such as adult social care and educational needs, both of which are currently ballooning, leaving little wriggle room.

About two thirds of the Council's income comes from Council Tax and about a sixth comes from both Business Rates and the Government grant. The Government slice is made up of a multitude of complex assumptions and decades of tweaking that makes it very difficult to understand. What's easier to understand is that the Council loses out.

Doubling the Council Tax on holiday homes (however that is defined) has been implemented in just over 50% of other councils in England, but as I say not here. Similarly with empty homes, which I know causes problems for the neighbours, which I have also been working to sort out for nearby residents.

Business rates have been in the headlines a lot recently, but only 22% of business rates collected in Wiltshire goes to the Council.

So if we're in such a hole, and we're continuing to spend the money on HRCs, where's the money coming from?

Well again, looking at the details, there were a number of line items that had been there for a long time, such as vacancies that have not been filled for years, that counts as expenditure, even pension & NI contributions, even if there's nobody sat at the desk. Small beer but one example of the dozens and dozens of line items that have been rationalised, together with a reduction in the proposed HRC costs have made it possible to keep our centre open.

Fingers crossed it goes through though. If you think I might be able to help you, please contact me on 752501 or at nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Purton & Green Gable Surgery PPG

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During the often-busy winter 'flu season, if we have no appointments available at the surgeries, please remember that you can also access support by ringing 111 or at our local pharmacies. They can advise on many non-emergency conditions. The NHS website also provides information regarding self-help if you think you might have 'flu.

200 Club

All profits from our 200 Club go to help purchase items for both surgeries.

Our latest lucky winners are:

First prize £100 Janet Newman (number 6)

Second prize £15 Peter Godwin (number 184)

The numbers were drawn by one of our medical secretaries, Caren Dywer. Many congratulations!! New members are always welcome. The cost is just £15 for a year's subscription. and you could win one of our monthly prizes of £100 and £15. Forms to join and instructions for setting up a standing order are available at both surgeries. If you wish to know your number, please contact our treasurer: treasurer.pspg@gmail.com to request it. Come and join us!

Can you spare a few hours per month? If so, we are looking for some new committee members. The group organises the 200 Club fundraiser alongside the tabletop and book donations which also raise funds. We also organise regular professional talks on relevant topics – recent ones about dementia, sepsis and prostate cancer were very well attended.

The committee meets once a month on a Thursday morning at Purton surgery. We meet with the Practice Manager to discuss issues that have arisen and are kept up to date on new initiatives that may affect the surgeries and patients. We then keep in touch with patients via the local town and parish magazines, and notice boards.

It is a very worthwhile group to belong to if you are interested in helping to further improve our local surgery services. You need to be a registered patient with Purton or Green Gable surgery, but if you are interested, watch out for more information or ask at one of the receptions. We would love to meet you!

Next Community Talk

On 16 April at 7pm our talk is entitled: "Healthy kidneys and how to care for them" and will be given by Melanie Philips who is the Acute Kidney Lead at the GWH. Further details re tickets to follow.

Donations of good quality books and items for the tabletop sales are always welcome at both surgeries. Please hand your items in at reception. Items from the tables may be purchased – again please hand your money into reception. Thank you.

As always, your support for our work to inform and support patients in the local community is much appreciated. We look forward to meeting you.

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Parent feedback May 2024



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Cricklade Development Foundation (CDF)

Backing a high street success story with a once under-used public building brought back to life.

- From zero jobs to 35+ local jobs created and two new businesses
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- The Queen Elizabeth Walkway reconnecting the High Street to Horse Fair Lane
- Garden@91 — the only green space in the town centre
- Heritage displays celebrating Cricklade and the life of Queen Elizabeth II

For further information please contact Terri on 07902 421 756 or email: contact@crickladedevelopment.org.uk.

Stay up to date via Facebook or www.crickladedevelopment.org.uk.

Tuning in to the Land

In 2024, a major initiative began at the Great Chalfield Estate (Melksham). Wiltshire Wildlife Trust secured a 49-year lease in partnership with the National Trust and Great Western Community Forest, committing to manage the land for farming and nature. This working farm will demonstrate different land management methods and funding options alongside making space for nature to recover and thrive.

Only a few months after the lease was signed, over 11,000 trees were planted. These rapid habitat changes are being tracked in tandem with essential baseline surveys, where bioacoustics is playing a key part.

We anticipate seeing a shift in bird populations, such as the presence of more hedgerow-dependent species like warblers or seasonal turn of waders in wet features (when fields flood in winter) and through our acoustic monitoring we are able to track the changes in species.

Dr Aurora Gonzalo spoke to us about the initial findings. “The data is fascinating,” explains Dr Gonzalo. “We can see clear seasonal changes in bird behaviour, especially around the breeding season and when the young are present.”

It’s still early days, but the data already shows which bird species are most prominent in different parts of the landscape.

The bioacoustics data is cross-checked by humans performing ‘point counts’. You can contribute by recording bird calls and uploading them to xeno-canto. To do this is pretty straightforward - first, record the bird calls using a smartphone, being sure to note the species (you can identify the species using the Merlin app), make a note of the location, date, and file type, then upload the audio file to the xeno-canto website to share your data with a global community including our partners WSBRC. The acoustic monitoring devices were purchased thanks to an award from the North Wessex Downs National Landscape Partnership (www.northwessexdowns.org.uk).

The analysis and work of the team is funded thanks to an award from the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Community First Responders

SW Ambulance Service wants to recruit volunteer Community First Responders (CFRs) for Cricklade as we have none here in the town at the moment.

CFRs attend particular types of emergencies where it is essential for the patient to receive immediate life-saving care. This includes conditions such as: cardiac arrest; chest pain; breathing difficulties; unconscious patients; fitting patients; patients suffering from a stroke.

You do not need any previous medical training to become a CFR. SWASFT currently has a whole host of people available to save lives in their local community, including nurses, engineers, postal workers and teachers. You do need: a full driving licence with less than 6 penalty points; good interpersonal and communication skills; the ability to observe and accurately record details; the ability to take the lead and remain calm in pressured situations; level of fitness to deliver cardiopulmonary resuscitation as a sole responder; ability to complete theoretical training to the required national academic level (level 3).

To become a CFR, you complete: an online application form via NHS Jobs (www.jobs.nhs.uk); an Occupational Health Screening check, including undergoing a vaccination programme for any mandatory vaccinations not already held (HepatitisB); an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service check. You will then be invited for interview. If successful you will be invited to an initial training course, which is a level 3 FutureQuals qualification. You will be required to achieve some organisational induction training.

It is important to remember that attending people in critical, life-threatening situations can be upsetting. However, the SWASFT Volunteering and Community Services department makes sure there is someone to help 24 hours a day with additional support from the Trust's Staying Well service. If you would like to know more about becoming a Community First Responder at work or from home please visit our volunteer recruitment page (www.swast.nhs.uk/volunteer-recruitment)

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

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

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

Cricklade W.I.

We will make you very welcome.

By the time you read this winter will be in decline and we will all be looking forward to Spring - longer days, daffodils and holiday plans!



We enjoyed a fascinating workshop on Iris Folding, which is a papercraft technique layering folded strips of paper in a spiral pattern, creating colourful, textured designs resembling a camera iris. A fascinating skill and we were all very pleased with our finished masterpieces.

March will see us enjoy a talk by Cricklade local, Mike Fawcett entitled Guards Behind the Scenes. Lots of handsome men in uniform we hope!

Upcoming Events

Coffee & Chat at The White Hart - 11am on **Tuesday 3rd March** and **Tuesday 7th April**

Thursday 19th March 7.30pm -Guards Behind the Scenes Speaker: Mike Fawcett

Thursday 16th April 7.30pm - A Day in the Life of the Victorian Divorce Court Speaker: Ruth Derham

If you are interested in finding out more about Cricklade WI and our activities please contact our Secretary Viv Tomkins on 01793 752459.

So ladies from Cricklade and surrounding areas do give some thought giving the WI a try there is always tea and cake (and sometimes wine!) and also friendship and laughter.

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Cricklade Open Door

It is good to see signs of Spring around us - primroses, daffodils, snowdrops and lovely bouts of sunshine but, oh dear, such a lot of rain and chilly temperatures. Maybe we should dream of Summer breaks and holidays or even Spring cleaning (um...'no' to that second suggestion!)



February was a good month for Open Door with a party for all volunteers hosted by the Trustees to say 'thank you' for all the many jobs volunteers undertake week by week to ensure that Open Door is a fun and supportive group for Cricklade residents.

A fabulous **Valentine Tea** was held on **10th February**, with platefuls of sandwiches, sausage rolls, Viennese whirls and various cakes, all the baking done by our star baker Chris and sandwiches and waitress service done by a team of our dedicated volunteers.

We enjoyed an afternoon playing '**Higher or Lower**' on **Tuesday 3rd February** and welcomed guests from White Lodge Care Home, who joined in the fun and refreshments with us all. Young friends from Thames Pre School joined us on a Thursday morning and their young, exuberant personalities were a joy to us all.

Looking ahead to March, we have a 'Techie Coffee Time' on **Monday morning 2nd March**, when 'techie' experts will be with us to help anyone with their mobile devices - Jan is first in the queue!

On **Friday 13th March** we will be having lunch with Yutt and Sassi at our local Thai restaurant, 'Jicsaw', where we always have a lovely welcome, supportive help and great food.

Saturday 14th March is the Community Litter Pick and a team of volunteers will be offering their help again this year.

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be held on **Thursday 26th March**, 11.00 am, at the Jenner Hall. Do come along if Open Door interests you or you feel you could contribute in some way - Trustees,volunteers and members are always needed and welcomed.

So, folks, why not pop into Open Door for a coffee (not barista style but the cheapest in Cricklade!) and a chat and find out what's on offer? We are not just an elderly persons' group, we are here for anyone over 18 years of age who might like a bit of company, friendship, conversation, support and fun.

The Jenner Hall
Bath Road
Telephone: 07599 987851
Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 10.00 - 3.30
except Monday 6th April - Easter Bank Holiday

Wayland Estates Charity

Supporting Cricklade, Past and Present



At their next meeting on **3 June 2026**, the Trustees to Wayland Estates Charity will consider grant applications from organisations and groups towards any project or activity which has commenced or is about to commence. Any project seeking a grant must be for the general benefit of the people of Cricklade and the local area.

Application forms are available from the Clerk: John Harman

Tel: 07962 116 526 Email: jharman@btopenworld.com

APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED ON OR BEFORE 1 MAY 2026

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

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



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

CRICKLADE LEISURE CENTRE Registered Office:Stones Lane, Cricklade Wiltshire SN6 6JW. Reg Charity No:1125605

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

1 March

Lent 2

- 8am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at Holy Cross Ashton Keynes (followed by APCM)*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's (in school with music group and children's activities)*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

8 March

Lent 3

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion *at St Sampson's (school)*

15 March

Mothering Sunday / Lent 4

- 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton (followed by APCM)*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St Sampson's (in school)*
- 10am "Around the table" informal Worship *at Holy Cross*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

22 March

Lent 5

- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP *at Holy Cross*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St Sampson's (in school & followed by Annual Parochial Church Meeting)*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 3.30pm Messy Church *in Ashton Keynes School, Gosditch*

29 March

Palm Sunday

- 10am Worship Together Holy Communion *at Holy Cross Ashton Keynes*
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*

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.*

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: revdshirleyd@gmail.com tel. 07980 548844

Curate: Revd Sharon Glead - email: curate@upperthames.org.uk tel: 07305 006693

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

er in Cricklade & Latton

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Weekly Mass times 9.30am on Sundays
 10.00am on Fridays

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

Parish website www.stthomasparishfairford.org.uk.

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

The Friends of St Mary's website with more details of the history of the church is at www.crickladedestmary.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 March - all at 10.30am

1 March	Rev Ian Mead	22 March	Rev Mike Dilly
8 March	Rev Sarah Simpson - service includes Holy Communion	29 March	Rev Dr Marcus Torchon - Chairman of the Methodist District
15 March	Rev Sarah Simpson		

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

Funerals

3 January *Joan Elizabeth Ashcroft, Holy Cross service & interment*

16 January *John Frederick Bishop, St Sampson's*

28 January *Nigel Baldwin, Holy Cross service & interment*

In Memorium

Les Osborn

Margaret Osborn, wife of the late Les Osborn, would like to thank everyone for their kind wishes, cards and support. Thank you also for those who came to pay their respects for the life of Les; it was appreciated.

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



Wine Tasting 20 March 2026 Look out for posters!

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winners of the latest draw were Rob and Kate Crow who won £33.

St Sampson's Church benefited by £33.00.

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

Social on 1st Saturday of month

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

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- Volunteers






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Bounce and Rhyme

A group for babies and toddlers plus their parents, grandparents and carers takes place every fortnight at the United Church Hall in Calcutt Street from 1.45pm - 3pm on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

The dates this month are **3 March** and **17 March**. Do come along for nursery rhymes, story time, refreshments and a chat. There is no charge we are delighted to welcome you.

Cricklade Breastfeeding Friends

We run at the same time as Bounce & Rhyme alongside the free music group, to offer friendly supportive infant feeding and parenting advice. We're non judgemental and offer a safe space to talk about anything on your mind and signpost to other services and resources to help. A private space is also available to talk in confidence.

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.
27 March Good Friday - a special! Coffee/tea and a hot cross bun.

Bingo4U

Come along on Wednesday afternoons at the Jenner Hall – anyone welcome.
£2 entry. Eyes down at 2pm.

Contacts: Chris 07500 871 680 or Liz 07780 473 024

Cricklade Foodbank

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



During 2025 the foodbanks operating in Cricklade and Malmesbury helped support 824 families in our local community. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered or donated to support the foodbank – the help is greatly appreciated.

If you're good with people and like being part of a team you may be a great volunteer – we're always looking for more people to help with a range of activities from packing, collecting, or meeting clients. If you'd like to know more, we'd love to hear from you.

Email: crickladecm@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk

If you, or someone you know is struggling we're here. Please get in touch by calling 01666 826982.

Rock2Recovery Curry Quiz

Fundraising Evening: Monday 9 March @ 7pm

At Kavali Indian Restaurant, High Street, Cricklade

£25 per person including Quiz and Raffle.
Drinks extra.

Purchase tickets via: race-nation.co.uk/register/rock2recovery/fundraisingcurry-evening

Enquiries contact Nick on: 07920 018 747

Please do not book directly with Kavali.
Numbers are limited.

Rock2Recovery was set up and incorporated as a not for profit, Community Interest Company (CIC) in February 2015.

Founded by former Royal Marines Jamie Sanderson and Jason 'Foxy' Fox to provide rapid mental health support to veterans and some emergency services personnel and their families facing issues like PTSD, helping them find their "rock" to refocus and save lives with critical intervention.

They believe no one should struggle alone, and are committed to reaching out and offering the guidance needed to move forward. They are reliant on fund raising to continue this much needed work.

IN SUPPORT OF
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CURRY QUIZ NIGHT
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Monday 9th March @ 7pm
£25 per person
Includes Quiz and Raffle. Drinks extra.

Please book using this link:
race-nation.co.uk/register/rock2recovery/fundraisingcurry-evening

Please do not book directly with Kavali. Numbers are limited.
If you have any questions please contact Nick on 07920 018747.

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!

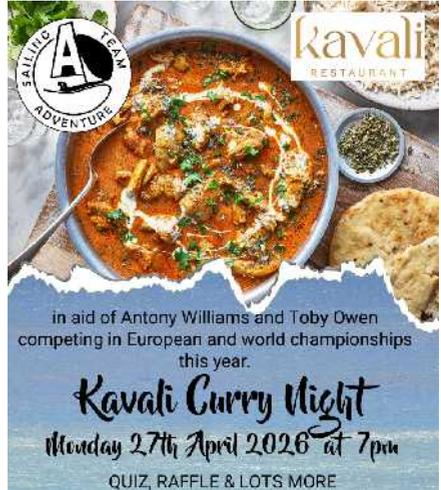
Contact: parkinsonscafecricklade@gmail.com or call 07951 944 760.

The volunteers team looks forward to seeing you there!

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Sailability Curry Night

Kavali night on **Monday 27th April** to raise funds for Antony and Toby competing in European and world championships this year.



Wiltshire Sight

Wiltshire Sight has a hub 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 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. Come and try us out – your first evening is FREE. We meet in person on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe and there is a range of talks, workshops and Zoom presentations throughout the year. To see all our activities take a look at the programme page of our website crickladecameraclub.org/program

On **Tuesday 3rd March**, 7:30pm in Cricklade Town Hall Annexe, is our Annual Battle with Royal Wootton Bassett Camera Club. Each club selects a range of images taken by members and an independent visiting judge scores them out of ten. You'll see some really inspiring images, and listening to the judge's comments is a great way to understand what makes a great photograph.

On **Wednesday 17th March** at 7:30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Committee Room there will be a workshop on macro photography, with plenty of hints and tips.

For more information contact: clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org



Cricklade Memory Café



We started 2026 with a full, very lively Café despite the cold wintery January weather. It was good to see so many of our members in good health and spirits.

Our second birthday party in February was a great success. Glyn and Steve entertained us with many great numbers and we loved joining in with the singing and of course there had to be some dancing. As usual we enjoyed a lovely buffet prepared by our volunteers, who always do so much to make our Café a success.

Our AGM is being held on **Wednesday 25 March** at 5pm in the committee room at the Town Hall.

We are planning an exciting varied programme for the rest of the year starting with a visit in March from our friend Cat Attewell from Home Instead who always comes with games and music and great enthusiasm.

As ever we are always happy to welcome new members just pop along on the **first Wednesday of any month between 10.30 and 12.30** and see what we do, or for more information, please contact Vona 07896 723 794 or Margaret 07976 620 089.



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Cricklade Garden Club

AGM Tuesday, 10 March

Our meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month in the Town Hall Annexe. Tea and cakes are served at 7pm and the speaker starts at 7.30pm.

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

Membership is £25.00 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 on 07876 347973 and Janet on 07765 276 534.



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

In the recent Monthly Draws, the lucky winners were:-

29 January 2026

1st Prize	Dave Ells	£33.00
2nd Prize	Peggy Coles	£22.00
Jenner Hall Funds:		£55.00



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.



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Your local Boots Pharmacy in Cricklade are always here to help.

Our Pharmacy team can now help with the following 7 common symptoms:

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- **Earache (Children & young Adults aged 1 year to 17 years)**
- **Infected Insect Bites (Adults & Children aged 1 and over)**
- **Impetigo (Adults & Children aged 1 year and over)**
- **Shingles (Adults 18 years and over)**
- **Urinary Tract Infections (Women aged 16 to 64 years)**

So, if you or a family member have any of the above symptoms. Please come in a speak to our Pharmacist, who will be there to offer help, advice and possible treatment. There is no need to make an appointment.

Our Pharmacy team can also offer NHS services for the following:



NHS Blood Pressure Check : For anyone over the age of 40 years, and with no previous high blood pressure history or diagnosis.



NHS Pharmacy Contraception Service: You can get your oral contraception medication without the need to visit the GP.

Boots in Cricklade is more than just a place to pick up medications. We are a community resource, committed to supporting your health and well being. Whether you need a quick consultation or just friendly advice, we are always here to help.

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Opening Times:
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Friday 3rd April

Friday 1st May

Friday 5th June

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Cricklade Pétanque Club

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

2026 has got off to flying start with the club hosting the GWR winter doubles where 56 players took part. The club has three teams that compete in the Cotswold League and we will start playing soon. It is good to meet players from other clubs, and whilst it is great if we win a match, ultimately it is the shared enthusiasm of the game with others that makes it all worthwhile. Our monthly social will be on Friday, March 7th.

If you would like to come along and have a go you would always be welcome on any of our playing days as below. There will be someone around to show you the ropes and there are Pétanque England qualified coaches at our coaching sessions. These sessions are a combination of training and then playing a couple of games. Nothing too serious.

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

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

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

www.crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk Facebook Cricklade Petanque Club

email: info@crickladepetanqueclub.co.uk

Sing Four Four Community Choir

We are actively recruiting, especially men!

Soprano, alto, tenor, bass or unsure of your range, if you are interested in joining this friendly choir, please go to our website: singfourfour.org.uk. Alternatively you can contact our musical director, Jen Bamford, on jenloubamford@googlemail.com



Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

5th March - "The Peace that Never Was - Versailles 1919"

19th March - "Edward Lear"

Meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday meeting at 10.00 am 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.

For further details about Cricklade and District Probus Club and our scheduled talks for the year visit our new website at <https://probus.org.uk/cricklade/>



Cricklade Cinema

Our Spring season continues **Tuesday 24 March** at 8pm in the Town Hall.

ISWEAR (15, 120mins)

Powerful, moving and often funny true story about John Davidson, a young Scottish man with Tourette's who stood up to ignorance and adversity to help others, something which eventually earned him an MBE. The film features stunning performances from Scott Ellis Watson and Robert Aramayo portraying respectively the teenage and adult John. (contains very strong language, brief violence, sex references)

And still to come ...

28 April – The Choral (15, 113 mins)

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

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

Email us at: cricklodecinema@gmail.com

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Come and have a throw!

I'm crossing my fingers that by the time you're reading this the sun has finally decided to make an appearance. Whilst we play pétanque all year round, regardless of the British weather, I'll be the first to admit that it's a lot more fun when you're not wearing three layers of thermals and waterproofs!

We'd love you to come and give pétanque a try. There's no pressure to join the club, just come and have fun. We even have spare boules you can borrow to get started.

When and where to find Saxons Pétanque Club:

We play on the gravel pistes right in front of **Cricklade Leisure Centre**.

- **Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm**
- **Saturdays at 10am**
- **Summer Wednesday evenings** (starting in May)

Just pop by 10 minutes before we start so we can get you settled. If you find you're hooked, membership is a bargain at just £25, and we have four qualified coaches ready to help you sharpen your aim.

We're a friendly bunch, so come and say hello, check out our notice board inside Cricklade Leisure Centre, or visit us at **saxonspetanque.co.uk**.



Come and join us and have some fun while getting fit; Adults, Juniors and Minis. RUGBY – the sport that builds strength, teamwork and resilience.

Senior men's training is on Thursdays 19:00 to 20.30 at Fairview Fields, no experience necessary; contact Captain, Nick 07542 021 692, or Coach, Pixie 07728 399 759, all are welcome.

We are a friendly club and welcome new players and supporters. We are short of Senior men players, so we look forward to hearing from all you rugby supporters! In December we lost against Swindon College Old Boys 7-47, in January it was very close against Royal Wootton Bassett IV 28-29, then lost to Corsham II 14-43. On 28th February we are away to Swindon II, **March 7th** at Home to Colerne, and on **April 11th** at Home to Swindon College Old Boys.

Are you a grandparent? Would you like to support your grandchildren's generation at your local rugby club? Then get in touch; we are looking for volunteers to help with our Minis, Juniors and Committee. We are a friendly crowd and welcome new volunteers who want to join in at our local club. We have a pressing need for new blood to serve on our Committee. Coincidentally a few Officers are retiring at the same time, after many years of hard work supporting Cricklade's Rugby Club to thrive and grow. If you are at all interested and would like come along and support your local club, please do contact Danny Lloyd, our Chairman, on 07979 864279, or any other members of the Committee.

Our Minis section is open to boys and girls of all abilities. We aim to provide a safe environment where every player can enjoy rugby and develop their personal and social skills as well as a wide array of transferable multi-sports skills. Training is held at our Fairview Fields ground and new players from age 6 are always welcome (no experience necessary and 1st 4 sessions are free). Please contact Chris Lennon on 07595 764878, email chris.lennon@hotmail.co.uk.

We would also welcome any parents or grandparents who want to get involved and support the Juniors and Minis, so if you are interested please contact Chris.

Cricklade Historical Society

Weds 18th March

Wilton Windmill and the life of a miller

Speaker – Charles Baxter.

Charles takes us back in time. He is a Committee member of the Wilton Windmill Society and has a variety of experience as a miller. Along with the Windmill at Wilton, he is also involved with the Coleshill Watermill.

All meetings are held at the Town Hall Annexe, doors open at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

The Chronicle Diary – March 2026

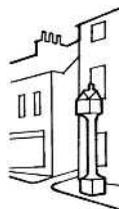
- 1 Su **end of day** Chronicle copy deadline, please
- 2 M 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
- 2 M 7pm Town Council Community & Leisure Committee, Council Chamber
- 3 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
- 3 Tu 7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 4 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 5 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 9 M **Commonwealth Day**
- 9 M 7pm Kavali Curry Night for Rock2Recovery – see p26
- 9 M 7pm Town Council PC&T Committee, Council Chamber
- 10 Tu 7pm *speaker 7.30pm*: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 16 M 7pm Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
- 17 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
- 17 Tu 7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 18 W 10.30am to 12 noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa
- 18 W 7.15pm for 7.30pm start: Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe
- 19 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 19 Th 7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 20 F 2.46pm **Spring Equinox**
- 24 Tu 8pm Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall. Tickets from Council Office
- 25 W 5pm Memory Café AGM, Town Hall Committee Room
- 29 Su 1am **Start of British Summer Time:** Clocks go forward one hour
- 30 M Wiltshire Schools Easter break (*restart 13 Apr*) others may differ

Every Week

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

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

- M 7.45-9pm St Sampson's Bellringers
- Tu 6.30pm Cricklade Walking Group - from Cricklade Leisure Centre
- 7-8pm Rugby Mixed Tag 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
- 7-8.30pm Senior men's rugby training at Fairview Fields
- 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

March 2026

3rd



11th



19th



25th



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The Final Word ...

One of our local supermarkets operates a clever scheme to help local charities (and also, the cynic might suggest, to boost the firm's image among shoppers!). At the checkout you're handed a blue plastic token which you place in one of three bins at the exit. Each of the three bins is labelled with the details of a local charity. The supermarket then donates to these charities in proportion to the tokens which each one attracts. It's an excellent way of publicising the voluntary work which is done in our neighbourhood, and of encouraging as many people as possible to support it. I've marvelled at the range of good work being done: support for the isolated elderly, care for prisoners' families, a help group for sufferers of prostate cancer — the inventiveness and generosity shown is truly inspiring.

While none of the charities I've seen highlighted in that supermarket have specifically mentioned any religious motivation I do believe that they owe their existence to the work of the Holy Spirit. Bringing people together to support those in need is very much part of the mission of the Church. So much of Jesus' teaching is directed towards building up communities of people who love one another — a love that is shown in mutual service. That is why, whenever we see people using their talents and energy to help those in any kind of need, we can say that the Church is present and God is being truly worshipped.

The Bible gives us the vision of a new community in which everyone is valued as a loved daughter or son of God. This community of the People of God is held together by ties of mutual support. Its members respond to God's love for them by seeking to be faithful to his commandments. During this season of Lent we are preparing for Easter. That great festival is when we celebrate how, through Christ's resurrection, the Bible's vision has become a reality. Wherever there is love, service and reconciliation, there the Church is present. *Rev. Michael Robertson, St Mary's Catholic Church.*

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