

The Chronicle

May 2026

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No. 609

Tree roots at Hatchett's Ford
photo © Mike Crowcraft

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Fuel economy and CO₂ results for the Suzuki 2026 Swift range. Mpg (l/100km) (combined): 57.6 (4.9) to 64.2 (4.4). CO₂ emissions: 110 to 89 g/km.

Credit subject to status, UK residents 16+, Suzuki Financial Services Ltd, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5DU. Figures shown are for comparability purposes; only compare fuel consumption and CO₂ figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. These figures may not reflect real life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the accessories fitted (post registration), variations in weather, driving styles and vehicle load. Model shown is a Swift 1.2 Mild Hybrid Ultra at £21,899 on the road including optional single-tone paint at £600. Offer available until 30th June 2026. Annual warranty renewable on each qualifying service up to 10 years/100,000 miles. Terms: cars.suzuki.co.uk/owners/warranty

From the Editor

Our articles inside this month show that spring is definitely springing. And none more so than our atmospheric cover picture from Mike Crowcroft, binding our River Thames to the sky with impressive roots leading to a green canopy. Mike tells me he had to go back to the site three times to get the right shot ... eventually needing welly boots! The effort was certainly worth it. Thanks, Mike!

Bloomers are going to be getting their lamp post planters done on their Big Planting Day on 16 May. Many hands make light work so, if you feel you could lend a hand, volunteers are welcome that morning – see page 21.

Friends of Dance Common are holding a Dawn Chorus walk early on Sunday 31st, meeting at The Dance. While North Meadow always gets all the acclaim, The Dance is our southern floodplain protecting the town. The Friends are looking for new committee volunteers. See page 4 for information.

Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup are organising their annual Jumble Trail around the town on 9 May. Maps showing participating tables, garages and driveways are available for £1. See your first table to buy one or, if you don't know where to start, try just outside Tesco's! See page 19.



If you need a plant to put in the pot bought at the Jumble Trail, Cricklade Garden Club hold their annual Plant Fair at the Town Hall on 23 May. Refreshments are by the W.I. See page 27.

Being serious for a moment, it's Christian Aid Week from 10-16 May. This year the CA group has decided not to send out envelopes with this magazine. It saves paper and also the time and effort of the magazine distributors. We hope you will be able to give using information on page 20.

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The deadline for the June 2026 issue is Friday 1 May 2026

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Website: Cricklade.org

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
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roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk
Wiltshire Councillor 752501
Wiltshire Council hub 0300 456 0100
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To book your event at Cricklade Town Hall, 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



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Richard Hickman, Chairman, Cricklade Jenner Hall Community Trust

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

In the Monthly Draw held on the 26 March the lucky winners were :-

1st Prize	Josie Armstrong	£32.70
2nd Prize	Caroline Richards	£21.80
	Jenner Hall Funds:	£54.50

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

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

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



Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

- Monday 27 April** Community and Leisure Committee
Tuesday 5 May Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee
Monday 11 May Annual Meeting of the Full Town Council
Monday 18 May Personnel Committee
Monday 1 June Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee



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

Civic Awards

The Civic Awards were presented at the Annual Town Meeting in the Town Hall on 14 April 2026.

Winner of the Young Person of the Year: Thomas Ashbee-Dobbins

Thomas is a member of the Explorers Scouts and a member of the rookie life-saving team. Thomas does his best at all times.

Winner of the Cricklade Community Award: Anita Barratt

Anita was instrumental in the formation of Cricklade Bloomers and was their Chair for over 20 years before stepping down in February. Thank you for the excellent displays over the years – Anita has truly made Cricklade a delightful place 'In Loco Delicioso'.

Winner of the Community Group of the Year: 2nd Cricklade Scout Group

2nd Cricklade Scout Group was formed in 1973 and since that time has encouraged hundreds of young people to learn life skills in a fun and engaging way. The success of the Group is a testament to the hard work put in by the many leaders and volunteers over the last 53 years.

Congratulations to the winners and all the nominees

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 4th and 25th May bank holidays.

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



Follow the Council @ www.facebook.com/CrickladeTownCouncil

Omission from Annual insert in April Chronicle

Please note that the Vice-Chair for the Planning, Conservation and Transport Committee for 2025/2026 was Cathy Limbrick. Cathy stepped up and chaired meetings of the committee from October onwards for which we offer our sincere thanks.

Continues over ...

Cricklade Community Litter Pick 2026

Our annual litter pick was held on Saturday 14 March and the 60 plus volunteers were met with a lovely day. There were 12 teams out and about in the town and they collected over 100 bags of rubbish, mainly from the footpaths and grass verges of our town.

Please can we all 'Love where you Live' – the slogan of the Great British Spring Clean.



This year's team of volunteers!

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	

Notes from Dance Common

In May it's time for our Dawn Chorus early morning bird walk in the company of our wildlife specialist Robin. On fine mornings the volume and intensity of song is truly astonishing as potential mates are shown off to, and territorial opponents are put in their place. If you would like to join us, please meet by Dance Court at **6am on Sunday 31 May**. You may also like to stay afterwards for refreshments and to see what moths have been trapped on the Common overnight.



'The Dance' is a Flood Plain Meadow and is important to the town as a County Wildlife Site. It is home to a number of rare and fascinating species, each with its own way of coping with the special conditions. Volunteers, some of whom may have specialised knowledge and some of whom just want to get stuck in, have a vital part to play in the preservation of this natural environment and it has been our privilege to do so for 12 years now. However the group would benefit from some fresh blood to keep driving efforts forward.

To this end we will be holding our AGM in the **Jenner Hall at 7 o'clock on Thursday 7 May**. We hope very much that many of you will come to the meeting and perhaps come forward to join our Management Committee. Compared to managing some other groups in the town, The Friends of Dance Common require a lot less commitment. If you would like more information before the night please contact Cathy Limbrick on 07815 969 690 or friendsofdancecommon@gmail.com



Wiltshire Perspective

Nick Dye, Councillor for Cricklade, Latton and Marston Meysey

With increasing daylight, some of us are lucky enough to have solar panels. It's not going to help unless the people who installed them tell you how to get the benefit. I understand that for some people with GreenSquareAccord, that information wasn't made clear. With the potential increase in energy bills perhaps later in the year, now is the time to try to get this sorted. Please get in touch with me and I'll try to find out the details for everyone and I'll let you know.

I'm very grateful for the feedback given to me around your thoughts to reduce speed. Support varied from a universal blanket speed reduction, to patches of 20 mph, to no change at all and leaving it for individuals to take responsibility for the conditions and the consequences. Overall, there was strong support for looking at reducing speeds both in Cricklade and Latton. Details of the new easier process for reducing a local speed limit should be published in April.

I'm also hopeful that, by the time this magazine is published, some of our poorer roads will be being brought up to spec. I live in hope. If we reduce the speed of the traffic then the repairs should mean the road surfaces will last longer, meaning the millions of pounds we spend will provide a better return to us taxpayers.

I say I live in hope, but some people blighted by the rumble and vibration of the roads lose sleep regularly and it's easy to become jaded when there's no visible change. Often to make a difference, it can take many conversations with many people. It's been pointed out to me the times when I've been poor at responding to emails when you've asked for action. Please do chase me if I've not responded in a time-frame you were expecting, and apologies for when I fall behind with emails.

Rubbish will be an up-and-coming topic over the next year as we transition away from general waste to a greater proportion being recycled and reduced loads going to landfill. I'll try to keep you posted of the changes well in advance of anything impacting us locally.

On a similar note, the reintroduction of the booking system at the HRC that was in place during the pandemic won't come into place until after the summer holidays. The difference from the previous version is that there will be greater flexibility should you happen to get caught in traffic or delayed due to a clear-out taking longer than expected.

Meanwhile, I'm still being told that the Air Tattoo will go ahead even if the wars in Ukraine and Iran are continuing, we can but pray for peace. There are briefings happening from many directions. Even rumblings of a reshuffle at County Hall. I'll let you know as soon as I have anything solid to share.

Once again, many thanks for all the help and support you give me to fight our corner of Wiltshire, it's really humbling for me. But if you think I could be helping you, please do get in touch and I'll see what I can do.

Nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk or 752501

Purton Surgery Patient Group

Serving patients in Purton, Cricklade & surrounding communities



News about the group:

Following lengthy committee discussions, it has been decided to rename the PPG to the Purton Surgery Patient Group (PSPG). We will continue with our mission of providing extra funds for the surgery equipment and providing health related information for all patients. The aim of the PSPG is to strengthen and improve the surgery practice and we appreciate all the support that is given.

Committee:

We are looking to recruit some new members to the committee and those who were able to attend our 'Healthy Kidneys' talk in April will have heard about what this involves. If you are interested, we have information packs available from reception in both surgeries. We will also be at the **Purton Community Day on 13 June** to discuss face to face what being a member involves! We look forward to meeting you.

Easter Raffle:

The raffle was completed at the end of March. There was a total of 36 prizes and the money raised was £632.60.

200 Club:

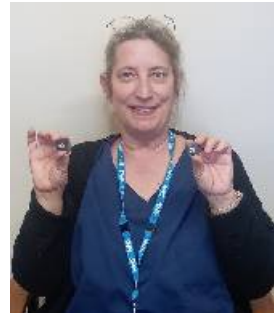
New members to the 200 Club are always very welcome. It costs just £15 a year, paid by standing order. Every month, we award two prizes – one of £100 and another of £15. All proceeds go toward buying for the surgeries equipment that the NHS does not supply. Please enquire at reception if you wish to join.

The April draw was made by Health Care Assistant Maria.

Tabletop /Book donations:

Please hand in any good quality books and items for sale at the surgeries. Again, funds raised through these donations provide all the 'extras' needed. Thank you for your donations to both!

As always, your support is much appreciated.



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.



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Parent feedback May 2024

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Parent feedback May 2024



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Spaces Available

Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup

Our experienced, well-qualified and friendly staff offer play experiences to meet children's individual learning needs. Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup believes that children flourish best when their personal, social and emotional needs are met.

Our Services

- Cricklade Pre-School, Bath Road, Cricklade, SN6 6AT
- Open 9.30am-4pm Every weekday in Term time
- Funded, flexible hours from 2 years - primary school age
- No extra charge for breakfast - all included in funded hours
- Situated behind the Cricklade Fire Station
- Registered Charity Number: 1136706
- Early Years Alliance Number: 17136
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Call 01793 750011 www.crickladeleisure.com [crickladeleisure](https://www.facebook.com/crickladeleisure)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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

Cricklade Open Door

Radio 4's 'Thought for the Day' earlier this year told listeners that one pub a day closed in 2025 and pubs are places where people can 'just be', to chat, play games and have company, thus helping to alleviate isolation and loneliness. Churches and other places of worship also fit into this category and are re-imagining themselves to simply survive. A place to 'just be' for conversation and friendship is surely imperative in this ever complex world of challenges.



OPEN DOOR is open for YOU to 'just be'.
Come along and enjoy chat, games and company
THE JENNER HALL, BATH ROAD, Tel: 07599 987 851

MONDAY mornings - Knitting/Crochet group and Coffee and Chat. **afternoons** - Seated Exercises followed by chat!

TUESDAY mornings - Coffee, conversations and chat. **afternoons** - Mixed bag of quizzes, games, speakers etc.

THURSDAY mornings - Coffee, conversations and chat. **afternoons** - Fun Bingo

Lunches can also be booked on all three days

SATURDAY 9 MAY

10.00 - 1.00

Cricklade Open Door will take part in Cricklade Pre-School's -

JUMBLE TRAIL

With a stall at : 39 Pittsfield

There will be lots of good quality goods for sale and our usual Cake Stall with cakes made by our Star Baker, Chris.

Come and meet us, pick up a bargain and a cake for tea and help to raise funds for Cricklade Open Door.

Cricklade Needs YOU! Please Read On ...

Cricklade Open Door is a social group based at Jenner Hall most Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays for almost anyone who would like to meet others locally. We provide a variety of activities to entertain, to keep you in better shape, to go on outings or to simply enjoy social time together over tea or lunch. We have two opportunities for you to get involved.

Not all our members need help with transport to Jenner Hall, but some do. For those who need it, we have our own modern minibus, driven by volunteer drivers. But there is a need, and this is where you can help, for some more people to assist our passengers getting on and off the minibus.

All we need is a day of your choice once or twice a month, and you need to have the basic fitness to accompany our passengers on and off the minibus.

It sounds simple and it is simple, but what a huge difference it makes to the members you can help. In helping them you are giving to everyone in Cricklade. It is a great feeling.

Come on, don't be shy. Contact me, Jonathan Taylor, by email at jonathan1m@hotmail.com and I will take it from there for you.

Would YOU like to be a Trustee of Cricklade Open Door?

Cricklade Open Door is organised as a charity, managed by trustees. Two of our long-standing trustees are standing down this year and we would like to invite any of you who have skills to help us make Cricklade Open Door even more successful to make contact with our Chair of Trustees, Adina Grace at janda.grace447@outlook.com

A green-themed poster for a 'Cricklade Jumble Trail'. The title 'Cricklade Jumble Trail' is in large, bold black letters. Below it, the date and time 'Sat 9th May 10am - 3pm' are in red. The poster includes text about booking spots for £10 to sell goods, maps available on the day from Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup, and contact information for booking. It also mentions raising funds for Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup with a charity number. At the bottom, it says 'Maps on the day £1' and provides contact info for more information. The poster features illustrations of a tree, a house, and a clock character with a face and arms.

Cricklade Jumble Trail

Sat 9th May 10am - 3pm

Book your spot on our map for only £10 to sell your goods, unwanted items, crafts ect.

Maps available on the day from Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup, outside Tesco and The Oaks, Thames Lane, SN66BH

To book email: fundraising.playgroupcricklade@btinternet.com or call Karen on 07505004555 by the 1st May.

Raising funds for Cricklade Pre-School Playgroup.
Charity No: 1136706

Cricklade

**Maps on the day
£1**

Pre-School Playgroup

If you're interested in a place for your child or more information please email: playgroupcricklade@btinternet.com or call on 01793 750817

Please Help Us!

Christian Aid Week 10 - 16 May 2026

Where hardship means hunger



Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. We are a global movement of people, churches and local organisations who passionately champion dignity, equality, justice and love worldwide. Over the last 80 years Christian Aid is proud that it has been a major charity funder and active participant in supporting humanitarian aid to the poorest areas of the world.

Imagine waking every morning knowing that if you don't earn money today, your family will go hungry tonight. With no formal work opportunities, heartbreakingly low pay, high food prices and no social support, it's impossible to plan ahead. This is urban poverty – the precarious, stressful life most people live in the densely packed, sprawling informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, Kenya.

Fridah Moraa is a mother and grandmother who became the sole provider for her family when her husband died last year: "When my husband was alive we used to share responsibilities – like paying rent, school fees, hospital fees. But now I am responsible for everything." Protecting her children from hunger and malnutrition is a constant battle for her.

Please can you help us to help people like Fridah?

Gift envelopes and collection buckets are available at the following locations if you would like to donate.

CRICKLADE

Collection buckets will be in:

St Sampson's Church, The United Church and St Sampson's Primary School.

LATTON

Collection buckets will be at:

St John's Church and at The May Latton Cafe

EVENTS

Saturday 16 May Christian Aid Volunteers will be collecting in the High Street during the morning

Friday 15 May Coffee Cafe at the United Church Hall, Calcutt Street 10 to 11.30am with Fairtrade stall. All funds raised go to Christian Aid

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

Churches Together and the Christian Aid Team

Coffee Cafe

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

Friday 15 May – Christian Aid Coffee Cafe with Fairtrade stall.

Cricklade Bloomers

As I write this at the end of March the cowslips and fritillaries are looking glorious on my front lawn. Bloomers volunteers are already out and about caring for Cricklade's borders and planters. **Saturday 16 May** is our big planting day for the summer lamp post baskets. Can you give us a helping hand? Just turn up at 10am at the gravel area behind the Town Council offices on the High Street. With lots of help we are normally finished before midday. For more information or to let us know you can help: email crickladebloomers@gmail.com or message 07596 823 797.



When was the last time you had to clean insects from your windscreen?

Kent Wildlife Trust says a Bugs Matter survey, which works by the public counting insect splats on their vehicle number plates after each journey, has already recorded a “staggering” 59% decline in flying insects from data recorded between 2021 and 2025. The Buglife Trust who are carrying out the survey says insects’ role in the ecosystem includes pollinating crops, controlling pests, decompose waste and recycling nutrients. He adds they are important parts of the food chain and support birds, small mammals, fish and other wildlife.

‘Without insects, the planet’s ecological systems would collapse,’ says Buglife Head of Operations.

What can you do to help? Why not commit to taking part in **No Mow May** and give precious wild flowers and insects a helping hand by creating patches and corridors for wildflowers and insects – dandelions are a lifeline for bees on the brink.

Bloomers cart outside The Walled Garden behind Tesco’s may still have reduced price pots of gone over fritillary bulbs to plant directly into your garden now.

Cricklade Memory Café

Our AGM was held on Wednesday 25 March, following a good year with many donations gratefully received from businesses, clubs and private individuals. We continue to thrive and realise that word is getting around that we are here to stay and making a difference in the community.



However it is always lovely to welcome new members, so just pop along to the Town Hall Annexe on the first Wednesday of any month between 10.30 and 12.30, enjoy a hot drink and plenty of homemade cakes and see what we offer.

We have an exciting programme planned for the year, but sometimes it is good to have a quieter morning with plenty of chatter, fun and friendship. But there is always a little music, singing and dancing.

Our Facebook page and posts are always worth a look, giving up to date information and a chance to see the team and members having fun.

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

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

3 May

Easter 5

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

10 May

Easter 6

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

14 May

Ascension Day (Thursday)

- 8.45am Ascension Day Holy Communion at St Sampson's

17 May

Easter 7

- 8am Holy Communion followed by breakfast at St Sampson's
- 10am Holy Communion at St John the Baptist, Latton
- 10am Christian Aid service at St Sampson's with Cricklade United Church
- 10am Informal 'Around the Table' at Holy Cross
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

24 May

Pentecost

- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP at Holy Cross
- 10am Benefice Pentecost Communion with prayers for healing
at St Sampson's

31 May

Trinity Sunday

- 10am Benefice Holy Communion at Leigh All Saints

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

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.crickladestmary.org.uk

er in Cricklade & Latton

The Upper Thames Benefice

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

Contact details:

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

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

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

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

- 2 March Christopher John "John" Osman at *St Sampson's and North Wiltshire Crematorium*
- 9 March Eric New at *Kingsdown Crematorium*
- 14 March Marina Florence Curtis, *Holy Cross service and interment in churchyard*
- 23 March Giorgio Meccariello at *Kingsdown Crematorium*

Cricklade United Church

Calcutt Street, Cricklade

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

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

Sunday morning services during May - all at 10.30am

- | | | | |
|--------|---|--------|---|
| 3 May | Ian Taylor | 17 May | CHRISTIAN AID SUNDAY - United Service at St Sampson's at 10am |
| 10 May | Rev Sarah Simpson service includes Holy Communion | 24 May | Martin Osman |
| | | 31 May | Rev Mike Dilly |

Bounce and Rhyme

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 **5 May and 19 May**

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 and 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 available to talk in confidence.

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



St Sampson's Church Tower Tours: planned for Saturday 23 May and 6 June, 2-4pm. Look out for more details closer to the time at stsampsonschurchappeal.co.uk and on social media and posters around the town.

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winners of the March 2026 draw was Nigel Massey who wins £33.

St Sampson's Church benefited by £66.

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

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.

Thank You

■ CHRISTOPHER JOHN OSMAN "JOHN"

We would like to thank everyone that came to Dad's funeral service – it was fantastic to see the church so full. Many thanks for all kind messages of support and for all the lovely cards.

We would like to say a special thanks to Susi & Tinikka and all the staff at Blackwells for all the support given to us. Also to Shirley Danby and Debbie Dewes for the excellent church service.

Donations raised a total of £700.00 in Dad's memory and will go to Cricklade Memory Café to support the fantastic service they provide to the Cricklade community.

Russell, Jenni, Nick, Jen & Pauline

■ THE LATE MR ERIC NEW

Eileen and family would like to thank all who attended Eric's funeral service on 9 March, and for all the cards she received.

Special thanks to Suzi Tipper for taking the service and Russell Osman at Blackwells Independent Funeral Directors. Donations received will benefit the Salvation Army.

Cricklade Foodbank

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

If you are in particular difficulty, please call the Helpline (01666 826982) and speak to a volunteer.

For those able to get there, please remember to ring ahead of your arrival, so they will be expecting you.

Our donation boxes are in their normal places: Tesco, pet shop, Culverhay Stores, Town Council Office, St Sampson's School (during term times) and the local churches.





What's On?

■ **Friends of St Mary's Summer Garden Party at Mount House, 23 High Street, Cricklade** – Sunday 21 June, 1pm to 5pm. **Tickets** from Council office, St Mary's Church or 07540 328 281.

■ **The Wessex (male choir) Summer Concert at Christ Church, Swindon SN1 3HG** – Saturday 27 June at 7pm (doors open 6.15pm), with guests Great Western Chorus from Bristol. **Tickets** available price £15 (u-16s £7.50) from ticketsource.co.uk/wessex-male-choir

■ **Swindon Choral Society** Concert on **Saturday 11 July** at 7pm in **St Michael's Church, Highworth SN6 7DA**. Programme to include "A Little Jazz Mass" by Bob Chilcott and "Mass in Blue" by Will Todd. Further details on website, www.swindonchoral.org.uk

Latton 100 Club 2026

I'd like to say a big thank you for members continued support of the club as your participation really does make a difference to help with the fabric of our beautiful church of St John the Baptist.

We're excited to kick off another year of quarterly draws with the first one held at the end of March.

The winners were:

1st prize of £100 ... Jane Brown
2nd prize of £35 ... Becky Baker

3rd prize of £18 ... Jeri Emms
4th prize of £7.50 ... Max Winfield

Congratulations! 🎉

If you've renewed your membership(s), thank you for staying with us. And if you're new this year, a very warm welcome – we're glad to have you involved.

Should you have any questions, or if you would like to join, please don't hesitate to contact me by email: latton100club@gmail.com

Wishing you all the very best for the year ahead, and good luck in the draws!

Nicki Crabtree, Latton 100 Club

Cricklade W.I.

Lots of exciting things are happening in the W.I. We had a very interesting talk from the Jubilee Gardens Project – you probably all pass their premises on the Purton road. It was started in 1978 to provide adult students of varying ages with learning difficulties to build confidence, skills and independence through horticulture. Currently they have 30 students from the local area. They sell all kinds of plants, vegetables, special hampers and cut flowers (which are lovely ... I know as I was given a beautiful bouquet). Do drop in if you are passing.



I hope you spotted many of our members in the High Street one Saturday in March decked out in very fetching yellow tabards collecting donations for Marie Curie. Good fun and a good result for the charity.

Ruth Derham provided a fascinating insight into the secrets of the Victorian Divorce Court in April. Life for women was so different then. Upcoming we have a talk from **Saxon Riding for the Disabled on 21 May**. We will hear how horses have been helping children and adults with disabilities for over 40 years.

The new programme for the rest of the year will be published soon. We also have outings and visits to other local WIs to share in their events. Non-members are welcome at our meetings – there is just a small charge of £5 which includes tea/coffee and delicious homemade cake!

Do pop in and see us at our **Coffee Morning in the Town Hall on Saturday 23 May from 9am until noon**. This is being held alongside the Garden Club Plant Fair, page 27. What could be better for a Saturday morning than plants and cake?!

Coffee and Chat mornings are open to everyone on the first Tuesday of every month at 11am in the White Hart. It is an opportunity to meet new people and enjoy an excellent cup of coffee (or tea if you prefer or even something stronger.) The June event will be on 2 June. We have also introduced UFO sessions ... no nothing to do with outer space! You just come along to the White Hart with your Unfinished Objects, be it knitting, sewing, crafting or whatever you like. We have tea and chat and hopefully some unfinished projects that have been lurking at the back of a cupboard for ages can get finished. Just speak to one of our members or secretary Viv (details below) for more information.

If you are interested in discovering more about Cricklade WI please contact our secretary, Viv Tomkins, on 01793 752459 or vivienne.tomkins@btinternet.com or speak to one of our members. Or just turn up at our Coffee and Chat in the White Hart.

Cricklade Historical Society

Wednesday 20 May – Surprising Metal Detecting Finds! Speaker – Darwin Turner. Darwin will talk to us about Metal Detecting and how to do it. He will also cover some interesting finds.

Please note - this talk is a change to the one printed in our Events programme.

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

Cricklade Garden Club

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

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 12 May** when our speaker is Robert Bryant. His talk is entitled:

A year-long walk in Woodchester Park

Woodchester Park in the early 19th century was the epitome of a gentleman's residence: a Georgian House with terraced gardens in a beautiful hidden valley. Then, from 1845 onwards, all changed. The Georgian house was demolished and a grand Gothic mansion was built, but never finished. The workmen left their tools one evening and never returned. Woodchester has been described as "the Marie Celeste of the Cotswolds."

Robert will walk us through this magical place in all seasons and show us how the original landscape is being revealed.

Our annual Plant Fair takes place on 23 May, 9am to 12 noon.

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 GARDEN CLUB

Presents its Annual

PLANT FAIR

SATURDAY 23 MAY

9am to 12noon

CRICKLADE TOWN HALL

With

Refreshments

provided by Cricklade WI



Join us in a morning where there will be an amazing selection of locally grown plants, delicious home made cakes and local Eco Businesses, Charity Stalls and Craft Stalls

Also a display by children about our MP Ros Savage's Climate and Nature Bill and a quiz for children.

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

Garden@91



Tucked behind the Old Police Station, Cricklade Development Foundation has created the newest outdoor community space for everyone to enjoy – Garden@91. And we have some exciting news for community groups who may wish to use it, as you will see below.

A Community Effort

The garden is cared for by local volunteers who have helped transform the space – rebuilding the dry stone wall, recycling house bricks for the hard landscaping, and planting up the beds. Their work has already brought early colour, with a splendid display of daffodils (including the odd fritillary), and we are hoping for more summer colour as the garden matures.

We are also pleased to have entered Garden@91 into the Royal Horticultural Society's *In Your Neighbourhood* initiative this year, recognising the hard work and commitment of everyone involved.

Open Daily

Whether you want a quiet moment, a chat, to rest your feet during a visit to the High Street, or to walk through to and from the High Street, the garden is yours to enjoy. It will be open for most of the day during business hours, with occasional times dedicated to garden events.

While you are there, please also explore the Elizabeth II Walkway heritage displays, which celebrate the life of the late Queen and Cricklade's history within it – including the High Street of yesteryear.

Available for Community Use – Free of Charge

Community groups are welcome to hire the space – from a small corner for a meeting to a larger area for stalls, fundraising events or workshops. A range of activities can be supported, and for simple hires this summer, we are offering the garden free of charge to community groups.

We want this garden to be a sociable, shared space at the heart of Cricklade. If you would like to run an activity, book the space for your group or volunteer to maintain the garden, we would love to hear from you.

Contact Information

Phone: 07902 421 756 or email contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk

Visit our website: www.crickladefoundation.org.uk or Facebook page to learn more about the Cricklade Development Foundation and Garden@91.

Your Society – Supporting Your High Street

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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- **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 and speak to our Pharmacist. They will be there to offer help, advice and possible treatment. There is no need to make an appointment.

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

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Cricklade Pétanque Club

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

We have had another busy month and, despite the weather, some 350 people used the pistes.

The Cotswold League has started up and the four teams we have entered have all played their first matches.

Some members were online at 7am the other Sunday to book their places for the Sherston Boules Festival on 4 July. All places were taken in a matter of hours ... just like Glastonbury!

If you would like to have a go at pétanque, we are having an Open Day on **Sunday 3 May**, from 10am to 4pm. We will have refreshments available and the hotel will also be open as usual. Do come and join us ... we have spare boules available! If you can't make the Open Day, don't forget that you are always welcome to have a go on any of our playing days as below.

Now that the days are getting longer, we have restarted our Tuesday evening sessions.

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



Cricklade Court Leet North Meadow information weekend

The Manorial Court Leet will be hosting an Information Weekend on North Meadow over the weekend of 25 to 26 April.

**Thames Hall (by Thames Bridge)
11am to 4pm on both days.**

Come and learn about the importance of North Meadow as our floodplain, its management and its amazing biodiversity.

Hot and cold drinks and homemade cakes available.

All profits will go to support the conservation of North Meadow National Nature Reserve.

Hosted by Cricklade Court Leet Charity
www.crickldecourtleet.or.uk



Cricklade Bowls Club

We will host an Open Day on **Saturday 23 May from 11 am to 3.30pm**. If you would like to try the game, come along on the day. If you decide it's for you, first year membership is only £20. We will be holding a tombola, teas and cakes, raffle, and a silent auction which has some lovely items and great days out to bid on.



You will find us at the Bath Road green, next door to the Fire Station, and opposite St Sampson's school. We have a Coach, fully qualified with Bowls England, who will show you how to play and we have spare bowls you can use. All we ask is that you wear flat soled shoes on the green itself.

We are now holding our regular Club Nights every Friday from 24 April. Just as on the Open Day, if you would like to join us to see what the game is about, pop along any Friday evening April to September. We have social roll-ups starting from 6pm. It's best if you come around 5.45pm so we can sort out teams and coaching.

The Club wishes to acknowledge and thank all those who work tirelessly to keep the club house, grounds and green in such good shape and our sponsors who help fund our improvement projects.

For more information about the club, please contact:

Roy Phillips (Secretary) roy2308@btinternet.com or 07751 201 793

Paul Coleman (Men's Captain) colemanpaul1@hotmail.com

Margaret Essex (Ladies' Captain) margaret.essex@sky.com

We hope to see you this coming season.



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. To help you improve your photography you will have the option to work with a mentor on a one-to-one basis. To see all our activities take a look at the programme page of our website crickladecameraclub.org/program

On Tuesday 5 May at 7.30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Annexe, we are holding the third round of the club's annual league competition. Members will have entered up to 2 digital images and 2 printed images; they will be scored by an external judge on the night. Even if you haven't entered any images come along, it's a great way to learn what makes a great photograph.

On Tuesday 19 May at 7.30pm in the Cricklade Town Hall Committee room there will be a workshop on portraiture, to improve our skills of lighting, poses and camera settings.

For more information contact: clubsecretary@crickladecameraclub.org

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

14 May speaker *Brian Bertram*: Ostriches and Evolution

28 May Al Bowley - Britain's First Comedian



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. Or just turn up on the day for a warm welcome.

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

Cricklade Computer Club

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

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

Roger Heafield

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Discover Your New Favourite Hobby with Saxons Pétanque Club!

Looking for a fun, social activity? We'd love you to give pétanque a try! It's easy to learn and we have four qualified coaches ready to help sharpen your skills if necessary. No equipment? No problem. We have spare boules for you to borrow while you learn the ropes and, if you find you're hooked, full membership is a bargain at just £25 for the year.

We pride ourselves on being a social club and in May we'll be enjoying a skittles evening at The White Hart. However there is plenty of room for those with a more competitive streak and many of our members regularly represent Saxons in local and regional competitions. So, whether you want a relaxed club afternoon or the thrill of a match-winning shot, you'll find your place here.

Where and When to Find Us

Saxons Pétanque Club play on the gravel pistes right in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre. Just arrive 10 minutes before we start so we can get you settled.

- Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm
- Saturdays at 10am
- Wednesday evenings at 7pm (May to August)

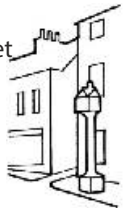
We're a friendly bunch, so please come say hello, check out our notice board inside the Leisure Centre, or visit saxonspetanque.co.uk for more info.

The Chronicle Diary – May 2026

- 1 F *end of day* Chronicle copy deadline
- 3 Su 10am to 4pm: Cricklade Pétanque Club Open Day, Cricklade Hotel – see page 40
- 4 M **Early May bank holiday**
- 5 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
7pm Town Council PC&T Committee, Council Chamber
7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 6 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 7 Th 7pm Dance Common AGM at Jenner Hall. All welcome – see page 4
- 9 Sa 10am to 3pm: Cricklade Jumble Trail – see page 19
- 10 Su 10am to 4pm: Well-Being Event at Leisure Centre
- 11 M 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
7pm Annual Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
speaker 7.30pm: Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 12 Tu 7pm Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 14 Th 10.20am Bloomers Big Planting Day – volunteers needed, details page 21
- 16 Sa 10am Town Council Personnel Committee, Council Chamber
- 18 M 7pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Committee Room
- 20 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
- 21 Th 7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 23 Sa 9.00am to 12 noon: Garden Club Plant Fair & WI refreshments at Town Hall
11am to 3.30pm: Bowls Club Open Day at Bath Road Green – see page 41
2pm to 4pm: St Sampson's church tower tours
- 25 M **Spring bank holiday**
Until 2 June: Wiltshire Schools mid-term break (others may vary)
- 28 Th 10.20am Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel
- 31 Su 6am Dawn Chorus walk at Dance Common. See page 4

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 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

May 2026

1st ○ 9th ● 18th ● 23rd ● 31st ○

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The Final Word ...

Christian Aid Week - 10 - 16 May 2026

What do you say?

What do you say when you see pictures flash across the TV screen or appear in your social media feed of a starving child? What do you say when you see the wanton destruction of homes and communities in Gaza and now the Lebanon as well? What do you say when you hear a bomber plane overhead and know whatever the rights and wrongs of the war with Iran (and I am writing this at the end of March) innocent people caught up in the conflict are going to suffer and be killed?

It is easy to feel powerless when thinking about the sheer scale of these situations. What can we do as one individual against these enormous world wide catastrophes? Well, we can benchmark our reactions against the one who epitomises love, care for others and concern for all situations which deny people full and fruitful lives.

What would Jesus say?

We are given many examples in the bible of what Jesus said and did when faced with situations of great need. He fed people who were hungry in the story of the feeding of the five thousand. He praised the Good Samaritan who helped his injured neighbour and he responded on many occasions to the sick and injured.

But Jesus did not just say, he also took action. Christian Aid is an organisation which takes action. In the poorest, war torn and most desperate areas of the world it works with local partners to bring help and practical support. From community kitchens in Gaza, urban farming initiatives in Kenya and local flood management schemes in Bangladesh, Christian Aid supports their local partners to make a difference. On our own it is easy to feel that it is impossible to influence problems so large but if we join with Christian Aid in their annual fund raising week – together we can make a difference and change the lives of millions of people

“When you do nothing you feel overwhelmed and powerless. But when you get involved you feel the sense of hope and accomplishment that comes from knowing you are working to make things better” *(Maya Angelou)*

If you would like to help Christian Aid during this important fund raising week please see details of how you can make a financial donation on page 20.

The Christian Aid Team

The Chronicle is published by Churches Together in Cricklade and Latton. It is prepared and distributed on a voluntary basis, and funded entirely by local advertisements. Printed on sustainably sourced art paper by United Print, 16 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AH 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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