



The Chronicle



October 2026

✠ Serving Cricklade & Latton
No. 614

*"Timeless" - sundial at St Mary's
photo © Michelle Butcher*

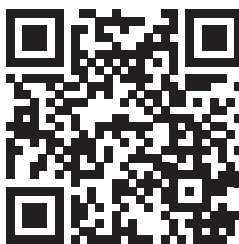
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From the Editor

My thanks to Michelle Butler and the Camera Club for this month's cover picture. This sundial on the wall of St Mary's RC Church harks back to an earlier age when dials like this were used to help parishioners work out the time of the next service.

Of course, by 1822 clocks were in regular use but daylight saving wasn't introduced until 1916. These days we have to put the clocks back an hour on the final Sunday of October ... the 25th. Do remember or you will be one hour ahead of yourself by the Monday!

The Friends of St Mary's are holding their annual Quiz Night on Friday 30 October at the Town Hall. See page 23 for details.

On the 3rd the United Church will be hosting a performance of Angel Voices, a musical that will have been learnt and rehearsed all in one day. Admission is free. See page 27.

Ashton Keynes Choir are holding their 30th

Anniversary Concert at AK Village Hall on the 17th. Details are on page 38.

There will be a Mamma Mia sing-along film showing at St Sampson's School on Saturday 24 October. Please see page 26 for how to get tickets.

Cricklade Cinema are showing an Ian McKellen film at the Town Hall on Tuesday 27th. See page 32 and get your tickets from the Council office.

While we try to remember to check spam, we had an email lost last month. If you are sending an item for publication, we always acknowledge receipt. If you don't receive that, ring 07743 274 977 to check.

The end of the month marks Halloween. If you are celebrating in any way, please be careful of your safety and the privacy of others.



In this issue

Advertisers Index	47
AK Choir 'Now 30' Concert	38
All Souls Services 2026	22
Angel Voices musical	27
Bloomers	17
Bowls Club	44
Camera Club	32
Christmas Lights Switch-On	45
Church Appeal (St Sampson's)	26-27
Churches Together	24-25
Court Leet	4
Cricklade Cinema	32
Cricklade Knitters	31
Cricklade Link Scheme	11
Cricklade Pétanque Club	43
Cricklade Sustainability	12
Cricklade W.I.	37
Dance Common	43
The Final Word	48

Friends of St Mary's Quiz Night	23
Garden Club	39
Historical Society	31
Jenner Hall bookings ... 17	Save-It Club... 22
Memory Café	17
Mural at North Meadow Livery	28
Open Door	11
Parkinson's Café	18
Probus Club	37
Purton & Green Gable Surgery	6
Purton Artists	32
Royal British Legion	18
Roz Savage MP	2
Saxons Pétanque Club	44
Sing Four Four	38
Thank You	22
Town Council 3-4	Wilts Councillor 5
Town Hall Bookings ... 2	AGM 12
USPG Elephants	22
What's On?	38
Wiltshire Sight	39

The deadline for the November 2026 issue is Thursday 1 October 2026

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Distribution Enquiries: Pam & Miles, p.mking@yahoo.com 07724 759151 or 07595 617071

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 07743 274 977

Cricklade Town Council	751394	Boots Chemist (100 High St)	750226
Latton P/Council ... clerk@latton-pc.gov.uk		Churches	see centre pages
MP (South Cotswolds)	01285 300555	Gas leak reporting	0800 111 999
roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk		Household Recycling Centre	778205
Wiltshire Councillor	752501	Library (113 High St)	750694
Surgeries: last Fri of month, Cricklade Club		Link Scheme transport	07421 018 499
Wiltshire Council hub	0300 456 0100	Open Door	07599 987 851
Emergency Services	999	Purton Vets	771869
Non-Emergency: Police	101	Samaritans	FREE just tap: 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

Cricklade Town Hall

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



Roz Savage MP

Roz Savage, MP for the South Cotswolds, is holding regular constituency surgeries to support residents with their concerns. Following parliamentary advice, these surgeries are now by appointment only.

Where possible, appointments will be held virtually. However, Roz is also hosting less frequent in-person surgeries at various locations across the constituency to ensure accessibility for all residents.

To book an appointment, please email roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk or call her office on 01285 300555. If you have specific accessibility needs, please let the team know when booking.



Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Monday 28 September Planning, Conservation & Transport Committee

Monday 5 October Full Town Council

Monday 12 October Premises & Finance Committee

Monday 26 October Planning, Conservation & 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.

Remembrance Services

The Remembrance Sunday Parade on 8 November will muster at Waylands and march down the High Street to the War Memorial where the Act of Remembrance and a short service will take place. The parade will then march back up the High Street to St Sampson's Church via Bath Road. Veterans are welcome to join the parade; please meet at Saxon's Rest at 10.30am.

On Wednesday 11 November 2026 at 11am there will be a short closure of the area around the War Memorial to enable the local schools to attend a brief service of remembrance.

The Council apologises for any inconvenience these events may cause residents, but at no time will emergency services be hindered. The road closures on both days are to protect participants and residents alike.

Halloween and Bonfire Night

Please take care on both nights as there will be open flames and not all costumes are as fire retardant as they should be. For those generous souls who give out treats, please ensure they are in date and properly wrapped, and above all enjoy your Halloween.

Respect residents with doors that are not decorated or say they do not celebrate Halloween and respect people's property. If you are having fireworks at home be sure to have sand for your spent sparklers and ensure your pets are kept safely indoors.

Parking in Cricklade

Can we please remind everyone that the disabled parking spaces are provided for those with blue badges, which should be shown along with the clock to ensure that they are being used correctly. We have had a steady stream of photographs of culprit cars taken by residents which, if persistent, will be reported to the police.

If you have a vehicle in your street, which does not appear to move, please check whether it is taxed or MOT'd with the DVLA online service before reporting it to us, if you can. It is not illegal to park a car on the road if it is taxed, MOT'd and insured, as long as there are no yellow lines or a solid white line and it does not obstruct a driveway.

Phone Box – Book Exchange

Last year the phone box was decommissioned as a working phone box and our grounds team have worked hard refurbishing to make it look as good as new. Since then a community survey agreed that the phone box will now be a book exchange and we are very pleased to see what a success it has been! We have been inundated with lots of fantastic book donations; thank you all to those who have donated and we hope people have been enjoying exchanging and reading a great variety of books.

If you would like to donate a book and there is space available please do slot the book in. If no space, then please bring the books to the Town Council where we will store them and alternate which books are displayed.

Warm and Safe Wiltshire

If you're worried about the cost of heating oil this winter, help may be available through the Government's Crisis and Resilience Fund scheme. Warm and Safe Wiltshire, a free service delivered by Centre for Sustainable Energy, is running a heating oil support scheme for eligible households.

To find out more, visit voucherfund.co.uk/wilts-crf-oil



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)

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Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



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Court Leet of the Hundred & Borough of Cricklade **Notice of Public Court and Appointment of Honorary Freemen.**

Members and Officers have been summoned to attend the next Public Court Leet to be held on Friday 27 November 2026 at 7pm in the Town Hall with the Lord of the Manor Michael Neeld presiding.

This is an opportunity to hear about the work of the Court and learn more about the Court's involvement in the management of grazing on North Meadow.

Refreshments are served after the meeting.

Everyone is welcome to attend.

We will also be inviting everyone to join with us *Lighting the Lantern of Peace* at Cricklade Beacon, Saxons Rest, High Street on 11 November at 6.30pm. A more detailed notice will appear in *The Chronicle* next month.

John Coole - Steward to The Manorial Court for the Hundred and Borough of Cricklade.

Clive Smith - High Bailiff



Wiltshire Perspective

Nick Dye, Councillor for Cricklade, Latton & Marston Meysey



Traffic

The number one issue that people raise with me is traffic, but it breaks down into a number of different problems:

- Too much traffic, especially HGVs, even where they're not allowed to go
- Condition of the roads
- Speed of the traffic

The location of all the traffic problems is generally quite contained to the centre of Cricklade and the Street in Latton.

I've been pushing hard on all fronts and often getting strong pushback from the Council on all three fronts.

I believe so long as you're pushing in the right direction and you're clear about what your objectives are then it's a matter of force or momentum. My perspective is that if you're not succeeding, try asking for help. I'd like to ask if there are people who would like to lend a hand to grow a campaign that's bigger than just me representing Cricklade or Latton, but actually the community itself lobbying. If you think you might be interested, please get in touch with me and hopefully we can join forces in order to get our voice heard more effectively.

I've got some ideas and, with the talent we have here, I'm sure it's just a matter of harnessing ideas and energy, rather than any grand master plan that I could come up with.

Food bank

Every now and again I pop into the Food Bank to see how they're getting on and what help they might want. Last time I popped in, the number of people in need of assistance has largely remained static, which exceeded my expectations. The main problem they have is that they've seen a sharp decline in the amount of assistance they receive from the public. If you can perhaps pop an extra bag of pasta in your basket, and drop it off either in Tesco's, or one of our churches, then that would really help a local family that's currently struggling.

Lastly, I must mention the apocalyptic scenes from Nepal, I can only commend the generosity of our communities, the county and the country for support and standing up to do the right thing, even when we're not having an easy time of it ourselves. Be it remembering Barbara, support for Ukrainian families or helping far off communities, I think we should all be proud of our common values.

As always, if you think I can help with anything or if you'd like to talk about volunteering, resilience planning or simply want to share your favourite local walk, please do get in touch and I'll do my best.

My next surgery dates are 25 September and 30 October at The Club from 10-11.

nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk or 752501

Purton Surgery Patient Group

For the patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding communities



200 Club: It's that time of year when the annual renewal for the 200 Club comes around. The new year begins in September. If you already pay by Standing Order your renewal will have automatically gone through. Thank you! Please contact Mickie Hall (mickiehall2020@gmail.com) if you are unsure.

New members to the 200 Club are always very welcome. It's never too late to join! It costs just £15 a year, paid by standing order. Every month, we award two prizes – one of £100 and another of £15. All surplus goes toward buying equipment for the surgeries that the NHS does not supply. Please enquire at either surgery reception if you wish to join.

Our latest lucky winners, drawn by Healthcare Assistant Myra Hetherington are:

First prize of £100 to Jacqui Lay (number 191)

Second prize of £15 to Miriam Saunders (number 159)

Many congratulations!

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!

Harvest Tombola / Flu Clinic Saturday 3 October: There will be the wonderful chance to win a prize (and donate to the Surgery fundraising) while attending the flu clinic on 3 October. Sylvia will be running the Harvest Tombola from the driveway of her house opposite Purton Surgery. Please drop in and support us! If you have any unopened and in-date food items to donate to the tombola, you can drop them into either surgery receptions or directly to Sylvia. Many thanks.



Full details of those who are eligible for the flu vaccine can be found on the NHS website.

Autumn Information Evening: Our lovely Dr Wallis will be leading an evening on Wednesday 21 October at 7.30pm. Her topic is Women's Health. Tickets are free but limited to 40. If you would like to join us, these tickets will be available from the receptions from Monday 28 September.

Please bring the ticket with you on the evening.

A quick reminder

- Patients can view their blood test results on their NHS app.
- Appointments for blood tests and nurse appointments for things such as injections, vaccinations, suture removal etc can be booked up to 6 weeks in advance.
- Only GP appointments are available to book from Thursdays for the following week.
- Repeat prescription slips may still be requested from the pharmacy when collecting your prescriptions. These may not automatically be given so please ask if you would rather continue to do this. Alternatively, you can order your repeats online. Again, full information is available on the NHS website.

Thank you. As always, your support is much appreciated.

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Bristol	£110	Southampton	£125
Gatwick	£165	Stansted	£185
Luton	£155	Manchester	£260

Cricklade Open Door

September is slipping by, the days are shorter and chillier and the shops are reminding us that Christmas is just around the corner!

September was a great month for Open Door with a techie coffee morning when anyone – Open Door members and Cricklade residents – in need of help or advice with their various electronic devices got it from experts. A busy morning!

We enjoyed a pub lunch in Kemble, good food, good service and a nice bus run – we like an outing! A cream tea with Pimm's was a huge success, thank you, Chris, for all your baking. The Monday Knitting Group excelled themselves by making 33 comfort cushions for Ridgeway and GWH Breast Cancer Support Group. Well done, ladies.

[See page 31. Ed.]

October promises all the usual, enjoyable activities, plus one more pub lunch before the really cold weather sets in and another music and dancing morning and buffet lunch.

Open Door is for all ages over 18 years and for anyone who would like some friendship, fun or support. Just come along when we are open and find out more, or telephone for a chat and go from there. You will have a warm welcome and coffee 'on the house'!

The Jenner Hall, Bath Road, Cricklade

Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 10.00 - 3.30 Tel: 07599 987 851

MONDAY	Mornings:	Coffee, conversations and chat and there is also a knitting/crochet group
	Afternoons:	Seated exercises followed by refreshments and social time
TUESDAY	Mornings:	Coffee, conversations and chat
	Afternoons:	Mixed bag of quizzes, games, speakers and lighthearted discussions
THURSDAY	Mornings:	Coffee, conversations and chat
	Afternoons:	Fun Bingo

We look forward to meeting you, remember – we are a Drop In Group, so you can drop in for a quick coffee or stay longer for activities.

A Thought for the Month: Friendship improves happiness

Cricklade Link Needs Your Support!

Do you have management and organisational skills, and a little spare time on your hands? We have vacancies for two new trustees to join us in running Cricklade Link Scheme. The time commitment is four trustee meetings a year, plus the charity's AGM. There are also management tasks split between trustees which may take a further three or so days a year to complete. Please bring your skills to Cricklade Link as a trustee. Contact us via our telephone number 07421 018 499 and discuss the role in more detail.

Cricklade Link Scheme is here to support the community. If you need us, telephone us on 07421 018 499 and we will get back to you. Please note the phone is manned between 8.30am and 5.30pm – please leave a clear message and if no one picks up and we will get back to you as soon as possible.



Cricklade Sustainability Group (CriSP)

"The weather we are living in today is the least extreme we will experience in our lifetimes."

By the time this goes to print, we will have had two showings of the People's Emergency Briefing Film in Cricklade. In the film, UK experts in the People's Emergency Briefing Film unpack the implications for our food, health, security, nature, and economy. Opening with the quote above, they explain the science behind it, highlighting the risks and the possibilities to adapt.

In Cricklade there are a number of things we could do individually, and as a community, to meet these changes. We can adapt our homes, our diets, and our gardens, for wetter winters and hotter, drier summers. We can save money by acting sooner and acting together. In the Cricklade Sustainability Group (CriSP), we believe we must create the energy, food, water and nature infrastructure needed for safe and healthy living.

CriSP has been formed to help find ways to adapt. While each person must do what is right for them, acting together, we can have greater impact and greater savings. A group of houses installing solar panels at the same time can lower their costs. Neighbours can create wildlife corridors across their adjoining gardens. We can share tasty recipes for plant rich meals. Grants and low-cost loans are becoming available to support the changes.

We don't claim to have all the answers but seek to empower those who wish to do a little more. We will be keeping track of grants, providing ideas, and gathering people for opportunities to create greater impact by acting together. One idea for this month is to have a look at the Wiltshire Council 'Switch Together' scheme which uses the Council's bulk buying position to provide lower cost, reliable, home energy solutions. This can be accessed from our initial website e-voice.org.uk/crisp on the Energy/Home-efficiency page.

For more information, or to join us in our work, please contact William Lambert on 07818 568 810 or at info@crispaction.org.

Cricklade Town Hall Committee

Notice of Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our AGM at the Town Hall (Main Hall) on Tuesday 10 November 2026. Doors open at 7pm with a 7.30pm start. All are welcome.

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

Editor's Note: If you are contributing to the Magazine, please be aware that we will ALWAYS acknowledge receipt of articles. We also try to search spam folders regularly. If you do not receive an acknowledgement, please ring me on 07743 274 977.

Thank you. *Rick (Editor)*



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you do

Parent feedback May 2024

You recognise that not all
children are the same and
you make adjustments for
children's differences

Parent feedback May 2024



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22nd November 2026

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Bloomers invite you to our annual

Christmas Wreath Workshops

10-inch wreath £22

Saturday 28 November 9.30am to 12 midday

Saturday 28 November 1pm to 3.30pm

Wednesday 2 December 9.30am to 12 midday

Saturday 5 December 9.30am to 12 midday



Christmas Table Decorations

£18

Saturday 5 December 1pm to 3.30pm

Wreath Kits £20

Available for collection Saturday 5 December at 11am or 2pm

Book on line from 1 October using the link or QR code (right)

e-voice.org.uk/crickladebloomers

Email: crickladebloomers@gmail.com Message: 07596 823 797



Cricklade Memory Café

We welcome anyone with any type of memory changes to our café which always runs on the first Wednesday of each month. Family and carers are also made very welcome, and we have great support and links with specialist services so we can signpost if needed.

We enjoy light refreshments, home made cakes, a raffle, music, dancing and most importantly friendships. We have a variety of visitors and entertainment planned for the autumn and winter months.

Our next Café is on Wednesday 7 October, if you would like to join us, come along to the Town Hall Annexe 10.30 – 12.30. We have a super friendly group of members and volunteers, so a warm welcome awaits. We greet everyone at the door and support them to find somewhere to sit and make introductions.

For further information please contact Vona 07896 723 794.



Cricklade Jenner Hall ...

... At The Heart of Cricklade for over 350 years.

The Jenner Hall is a lovely 17th century Cotswold stone building, and is only a 'stone's throw' away from St Sampson's Church.

To book the Hall, please contact jennerhall.bookings@gmail.com or call on: 07823 324 821.

Richard Hickman, Chairman, Cricklade Jenner Hall Community Trust

Poppy Appeal Volunteers

The Royal British Legion is looking for friendly volunteers to help with this year's Poppy Appeal at Asda West Swindon.



The rota comprises various 3-hour slots available across the Poppy Appeal period 22 October to 7 November (Saturday to Tuesday each week). The role involves manning our Poppy Appeal stand and collecting donations securely for the poppies and merchandise. The merchandise will be pre-provided and no counting required as this will be done separately.

By giving up just three hours of your time, you will help raise vital funds to support veterans, service personnel, and their families. You do not need to be an RBL Member.

If you think you would like to help, please contact Nick Jeffrey on 07920 018 747.

RBL Cricklade Branch

I am pleased to report that the local branch of the Royal British Legion is thriving with a slight increase in the number of new members and I would like to thank all members for their support. On the other hand, we are short of some committee positions, so if you think you might be interested, please get in touch. None of these roles are particularly strenuous, but they play an important role in keeping the branch going.

Remembrance is fast approaching and is a busy time for the branch, and the Poppy Appeal volunteers. We will be working closely with the Town Council and other bodies to make sure that everything runs smoothly.

I look forward to another strong turn-out on 8 November, and also at St Sampson's church and the Blakehill memorial cairns at Chelworth. The town's schoolchildren will also be joining us for a short service on Wednesday 11th. Traditionally, we meet up on Sunday when the formalities are over for a carvery lunch at the White Hart hotel. This is open to everyone, and all are welcome. The cost is around £20. Contact us on the email below if you are interested.

And remember – to be a member of the Legion, you don't need to be a veteran, or still serving, just someone who understands the importance of Remembrance.

Thank you. *Jonathan Hill (Branch Chair), 07583 313837, rblcricklade@gmail.com*

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!

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The volunteers team looks forward to seeing you there!

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	



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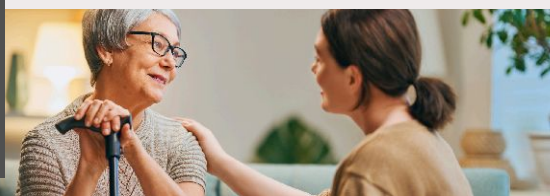
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www.crickladeaestheticsclinic.co.uk



admin@crickladeaestheticsclinic.co.uk

All Souls Services 2026 Cricklade and Latton

Our annual All Souls Bereavement Service for Cricklade and Latton, remembering those we love and see no longer, will take place on Sunday 1 November in St Sampson's Church starting at 6.30pm. A quiet and reflective service, we will include the names of those associated with Cricklade and Latton who have died in the last year and whose services we have taken. Anyone who would like to come is very welcome and families involved will receive a letter of invitation from our ministers.

We know that many people from the community like to come and remember family members who have died: everyone is welcome as we seek God's comfort and hear the message of hope we have in Jesus.

There will be a time during the service when you can light a candle as we remember those who have died. If you are coming to the service and would like us to include the name of your loved one, please email or ring (leave a message) our administrator Jane Eyles at admin@upperthames.org.uk or phone 01793 979304 (please leave a message on the answerphone) with the name(s) to include.

For Ashton Keynes and Leigh there will be a similar service at 4pm on 1 November in Holy Cross Church, Ashton Keynes.

Thank You

■ MICHAEL CHAPLIN

On behalf of the Alzheimer's Society, Elizabeth Chaplin and family would like to thank everyone who made a donation at Michael's funeral.

USPG Elephants

Thank you again for your generosity for the April collection. We raised £521 towards the Primary Health Care Scheme in southern Malawi.

Our donations help reduce preventable deaths, strengthen community resilience and also expand access to essential services to this area of the world. So a big THANK YOU for helping make this possible.

I would like to "round up" the elephants on Sunday 4 October. If you are able, please bring your elephant to St Sampson's that day – if not I'll arrange to pop round and collect it.

If you are interested in taking care of an elephant and therefore helping support this project please let me know.

Paul Fray, 750740

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

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

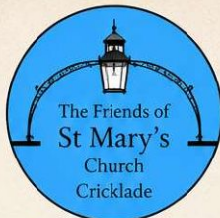
1st Prize	Malcom Brooks	£33.00
2nd Prize	Mave Ells	£22.00
Jenner Hall Funds:		£55.00



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.



warmly invite you to our

ANNUAL QUIZ *Night*



FRIDAY 30th OCTOBER @ 7pm

CRICKLADE TOWN HALL

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:

- ✦ St. Mary's RC Church
- ✦ Cricklade Town Council Office
- ✦ Anita Barrett 01793 750039

ADULTS: £10.00
CHILDREN UNDER 16: £5.00

INCLUDES A LIGHT SUPPER

*Please bring your
own drink*

Gather your friends • Test your knowledge • Support St Mary's Church

– PLUS OUR –

Popular Raffle

FANTASTIC PRIZES TO BE WON!

♥ Food Hamper ♥ Drink Hamper ♥ Pamper Hamper



Churches Together

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.cricklade.stmary.org.uk

Cricklade United Church

Calcutt Street, Cricklade

Minister: Currently awaiting the appointment of a new minister.

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 October - all at 10.30am

- 4 October** Rachel Dowling
- 11 October** Worship Group
- 18 October** HARVEST - Speaker Dr Roz Savage MP - followed by a Harvest lunch.
There will be a collection of food for the local Foodbank at the service.
- 25 October** David Hoar

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 usually on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Dates in October are - **6 October** and **20 October**

Do come along for nursery rhymes, story time, refreshments and a chat. There is no charge we are delighted to welcome you.

Friday 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.

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

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

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

4 October

Trinity 18

- 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 in church
- 10am Morning Worship *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 6.30pm Evensong *at St Sampson's*

11 October

Trinity 19

- 10am Upper Thames Worship Together Communion *at St Sampson's*
- 3.30pm Messy Church *at Holy Cross*

18 October

Trinity 20

- 8am Holy Communion *followed by breakfast at St Sampson's*
- 10am Holy Communion *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 10am Around the Table Morning Worship *at Holy Cross*
- 3.30pm A service of thanksgiving and farewell *at St Sampson's as Debbie retires*

25 October

Trinity 21

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

Zoom Monday morning prayers – contact David Tarr

From the Registers of the Upper Thames Group of Churches

Weddings

- 14 August Chloe Georgia Parrott & Ben Ronald Anthony Hopper *at St John the Baptist, Latton*
- 15 August Abbie May Ellison & Benjamin William James Pring *at Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes*

Interment of Ashes

- 2 August Beryl McKie *at Leigh Old Chancel*
- 22 August Roger and Valerie Threlfall *at Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes*

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



Update on St Sampson's Church Refurbishment

- We hope to have permission for the PV panels and batteries soon. This will help with the running costs of the new electric heating system.
- We still need to raise £80,000 in order to apply to two trusts for repairs to the North Transept and North Aisle roofs so now is a brilliant time to give to the project and help us achieve this target so we can move forwards.



Come along and have a **Singalong Evening to MAMA MIA**

Saturday 24 October at 7pm
St Sampson's School

Tickets £5 per person
or £15 family ticket

Tickets from Sharon Smith 07881 842 651 or Helen Dixon 07976 546 825
In aid of the Church Roof Appeal

St Sampson's Church, Cricklade

CURRY & QUIZ EVENING

in aid of Refurbishment Appeal
Website: stsampsonschurchappeal.co.uk

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TIME
7:00 PM

PRICE
£25 PER PERSON

Includes Quiz & Raffle - drinks extra

**Contact Sharon 01793 751375
or Helen 07976 546825**

Christmas Tree Festival

A date for your diary!

Come along to the St Sampson's Community Christmas Tree Festival from **Friday 27 to Sunday 29 November**, in aid of the ongoing refurbishment of St Sampson's Church. Our theme this year is Christmas Carols and Songs.

Everyone is welcome – we look forward to seeing you there.

St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the August 2026 draw was Pauline Feasey who won £32. St Sampson's Church benefited by £32.

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

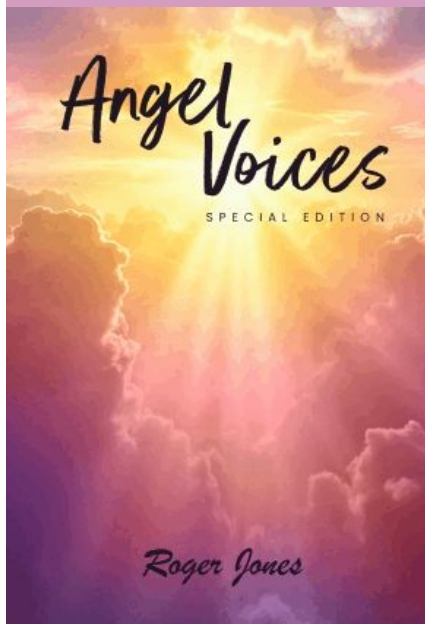
Online donations can be made by scanning the QR code (*right*) or visiting donate.giveasyoulive.com.



ANGEL VOICES

Saturday 3 October 2026 at Cricklade United Church

Doors open at 5.30pm



Come and hear *Angel Voices* at Cricklade United Church, Saturday 3 October. This performance is led by Annie Routley from Christian Music Ministries, together with a team of accomplished musicians - violinist, flautist, pianist, oboist and guitarists. The musical *Angel Voices* draws inspiration from the book of Revelation, exploring themes of divine love, redemption, and worship and is written by Roger Jones, who is a prominent figure in Christian music, having written 25 musicals performed in churches and schools across the UK and internationally. The style of music is lively and modern, with an appeal to all ages.

Doors will open to the public at approximately 5.30pm – please do come and enjoy the performance. No entrance fee, but donations welcomed.



Photo: © Stuart Harrison Photography

MURAL AT NORTH MEADOW LIVERY

You may have seen the wonderful new mural at the north end of Cricklade as you are approaching from Cirencester on the A419. *The artist, Sarah Harris writes:*

"I was delighted to win the commission to paint a new wildlife and countryside themed mural on the large barn at North Meadow Livery just outside Cricklade, as it is such a local landmark being clearly visible from the A419 on the approach to Swindon. I often drive along that stretch of road myself so I know the barn well.

"I have been painting murals professionally as Murals By Sarah for six years now, but this is by far my largest project to date at 150 feet long, and reaching 20 feet into the air.

"There were a number of logistical difficulties along the way, including immovable obstacles, and a record breaking heat wave! So it did take 19 days to complete, but now that it is finished, it seems very popular with both locals to the area, and passing motorists.

"I also had a steady stream of local visitors who came to visit me as I was working on the mural, which I really appreciated, it can be lonely work otherwise. Some even brought home baked cake, which was delicious 😊"

Town Crier Eric Cripps came to give support

Photo: © Sarah Harris





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Cricklade knitters to the rescue!

Did you know that between ten and fifteen people a week are diagnosed with breast cancer at The Great Western Hospital? The Ridgeway Breast Care Support Group, a local self-funded charity, supplies a comfort bag to be given to anyone with a diagnosis of breast cancer. The women in the group know what this is like, having been through it themselves. One key item in the bag is a very soft cushion. Most people who have breast surgery have a lymph node removed from under their arm. This means that as soon as your arm drops to your side, you are in pain. The cushion makes all the difference – especially to sleep.



I was approached by a friend and former colleague, Jo Garton, who asked if I knew of anyone in Cricklade who might be able to assist with knitting some comfort bags as keeping up with the demand is challenging. I suggested Cricklade WI and the knitting group at Open Door and Jo, who is from the Breast Care Support Group, contacted them. Between them they knitted seventy cushions in a couple of weeks!

Jo has said: 'Sadly there has been a sharp increase in the number of diagnoses which has meant it has been difficult to keep up with demand. I would like to thank all those in Cricklade who have worked so hard in recent weeks – especially Jan Aylward, of Open Door, and Amanda Heard secretary of Cricklade Women's Institute who have co-ordinated the knitting and stuffing.'

Both groups have offered to knit more cushions in the future, meaning those in a time of crisis will know someone is thinking of them at their most difficult moment and also that they can get a good night's sleep.

Ridgeway Breast Care Support Group can be reached on:

www.ridgewaybreastcaresupportgroup.org.uk

Angela Jensen

Cricklade Historical Society

Friday 2 October Quiz Night.

Our annual fund raising Quiz Night will be held at the Town Hall.

Doors open at 7pm for 7.30pm start. Ticket price £10 per person, which will include one free glass of wine/soft drink along with snacks/nibbles. Teams of six players. A pay bar with wine, beer & soft drinks will be available.

Tickets can be purchased from the Town Council Offices or via our website (www.cricklademuseum.co.uk).

Wednesday 14 October Some new light on Cricklade's Past. Speaker – Mark Clarke. Mark will speak about Cricklade in the mid 1800s, a time of great change.

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

This will be our last talk for this year, however we have other talks planned for 2027

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 6 October at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Annexe, Suzie Kirkby is coming to give her talk "Out and About," a mixture of images and some audio visuals.

On Tuesday 20 October at 7.30pm in the Town Hall Committee room is a workshop entitled "Camera to Print". Everything you need to know to create high quality prints of your images.

Purton Artists

Purton Artists' Annual Exhibition is on this year at Purton Village Hall on 30 and 31 October and 1 November, from 10-4.30, with a launch evening on 30 October from 6-8pm when there will be music and refreshments. The exhibition continues over the weekend with a wide variety of art styles, crafts and cards available to buy.

A great opportunity to choose a gift or two for yourself or a loved one, just in time for Christmas!



CRICKLADE CINEMA!

Our Autumn Season continues on **Tuesday 27 October** at 8pm in the Town Hall.

The Christophers (15, 100mins)

Eccentric London painter Julian Sklar (Ian McKellen) faces fading fame as his scheming son and daughter hire struggling artist Lori Butler (Michaela Coel) to secretly finish his long-abandoned "Christophers" series. But artist and forger develop an unlikely bond as they unravel the family's plot. (Contains: very strong language)

And still to come...

24 November: H is for Hawk (12A, 119 mins)

15 December: Power Ballad (15, 99 mins)

All films start at 8pm in the Town Hall.

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.crickladecinema.org.uk) so why not take a look?

Email us at: crickladecinema@gmail.com Check us out at Facebook Cricklade Cinema

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Cricklade W.I.

As I write this in late August we have just had a deluge of rain. My rain dance worked at last! What a summer ... it was the sun we always hoped for; well rather too much. I hope by the time you read this the gardens are beginning to recover.



We had a very sunny time too, at Cricklade WI. July saw a very happy evening run by "one of our own" designing and painting greetings cards for ourselves. August saw a fascinating talk by Gillian Cane about the Mitford Sisters, an amazing group of ladies, my favourite was Debo who in her twilight years sold copies of her books in the pub she owned. If you can't catch Gillian's talk anywhere, she lives near Witney, do read their life stories. September saw a tasty talk from Wiltshire Farm Foods.

Coming up we have a talk on Arts And Crafts Stained Glass in Cotswold Churches, plenty of examples of those, should be interesting. November sees a Christmas themed Craft Evening. So do pop along to the Town Hall Annexe on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.15 for a 7.30 start. We ask for £5 from guests which includes the talk and refreshments (always delicious homemade cake).

Upcoming dates in October:

Coffee & chat at the White Hart **Tuesday 6 October** at 11am - Everyone welcome

Craft Session **14 October** at 2pm in the White Hart

15 October: Arts and Crafts Stained Glass in Cotswold Churches 7.15 for 7.30 in the Town Hall Annexe

If you are interested in finding out more please speak to one of our members or contact Amanda Heard, crickladesecretary@wiltshirewi.org.uk tel: 07748 525 861.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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



1 Oct *Chris Scott:* The Jacobite Rebellions

15 Oct *John Clark:* The Engineering of the Pyramids

29 Oct *Gillian White:* John Churchill – 1st Duke of Marlborough

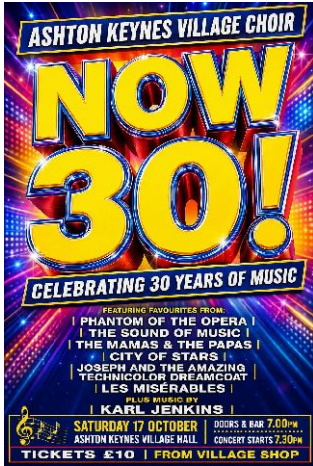
Meetings normally take place fortnightly on a Thursday meeting at 10.00 am for a 10.20 start at the White Hart Hotel in Cricklade. Ours is a friendly group who enjoy keeping our minds active and socialising over a drink in the bar after the meetings. We are actively seeking to expand our numbers and 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

Now 30!

Ashton Keynes Village Choir is 30 years young this year.



To celebrate, there will be a special “Now 30” concert in the Village Hall on 17 October featuring some of the choir’s greatest hits.

Music will include numbers from Phantom of the Opera, The Sound of Music, LaLaLand, Joseph, Les Mis, Karl Jenkins’ Agnus Dei, Rhythm of Life, Cross the Wide Missouri, Cantar and Panis Angelicus.

Plus we’ll have a special contribution from popular local male voice group, *After Eight*.

Bar opens at 7pm and the concert begins at 7.30. Tickets are £10 from the village shop or from Georgie Paris at 65 High Street, Cricklade.

Be there for a great and historic night out!

Sing Four Four Community Choir

Do you love singing? Would you like to try a new hobby? Singing and being part of a group has many health benefits.



Come and join our friendly, sociable choir. You can be sure of a warm welcome. You don’t have to be able to read music and there are no auditions. Come and try us out.

please see our website for further details: singfourfour.org.uk

What’s On? - Broader Area

■ Music at the Abbey, 10 October, at Malmesbury Abbey

Includes classics from Goff Richards, The Beatles, Leonard Cohen, Neil Diamond and Boston, with a Last Night of the Proms finale. Also featuring Cantanti, a mixed voice choir based in Royal Wootton Bassett. Raising money for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust and the Wiltshire Concert Band.

Tickets £35, including drinks and canapés, from wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events

■ Swindon Recital Series:

Wednesday 28 October at 1.05pm at the Wyvern Theatre, Swindon SN1 1QN.

Swindon’s own South Asian Performing Arts Centre (SAPAC) will introduce us to Kathak, a dance form that involves intricate footwork, precise rhythmic patterns and ankle bells. Standard tickets £9.50; student (aged 15-18) £3.50; accompanied children aged 14 and under are admitted free. Box Office: 0343 310 0040.

Saturday 31 October at 7.30pm at Christ Church, Swindon SN1 3HG. To celebrate Halloween, organist David Bednall will be improvising the accompaniment to the landmark silent horror film, Phantom of the Opera, from 1925, starring Lon Chaney. A ‘must see’ (if you dare...)

Standard tickets £18, Seniors £15, students (aged 15-18) £3.50 and accompanied children aged 14 and under admitted free. Tickets on the door (cash, card or cheques)



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Infected Insect Bites

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Impetigo

(Adults & Children aged 1 year and over)



Shingles

(Adults 18 years and over)



Urinary Tract Infections

(Women aged 16 to 64 years)



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Opening Times:

Monday - Friday: 9am till 6.30pm

Saturday: 9am till 2pm

Sunday: CLOSED

Cricklade Garden Club

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

The next meeting is on **Tuesday 13 October** when our speaker is Derry Watkins. Her talk is entitled **Low Maintenance, Drought Tolerant Plants**

After our visit to Derry's lovely garden and nursery in July on a very hot, sunny day, we are delighted that she will now give us ideas on how and what to plant so our gardens can flourish like hers in our new, challenging climate.

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 Christine 07527 397 021, Bizzie 07876 347 973 or Janet 07765 276 534

We look forward to seeing you!



Wiltshire Sight

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

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Notes from Dance Common

At this time of the year many birds fly here from Scandinavia, taking refuge from the bitter Nordic winters. Most of these are familiar to us, also being British residents, but two notable species, fieldfares and redwings, are solely winter visitors very rarely sighted in other seasons.

Field fare is a Saxon name, meaning 'wanderer in the field' and this is a good tip because you are most likely to see them in small, chattering flocks searching for food in open country. Identify them by their brown back, medium long black tail and pale undersides that appear white in flight. Incidentally, they love apples.



Redwing

Redwings are smaller birds, often joining flocks of mixed species. Recognise them by their white eye stripes, red-brown underwings and their heavily barred, rather than spotted, chest markings. To do justice to these little birds, their song is very beautiful though not often heard until the very last of winter when they are preparing for their return flights. It has a poetic name, "The Latvian Lovesong".



Fieldfare

Our next work party will take place on Saturday 17 October.

All welcome, meet at 10am by Dance Court.

Cricklade Pétanque Club

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

By the time you read this our summer season will be drawing to a close with the last of our Cotswold league matches being played and the final games of our club competition taking place, not to mention the singles ladder that Pete has been running.

We enjoyed an excellent 3-ender competition organised by Sue with some 30 people taking part. Congratulations to Bev and Doug who were the winners, to Gerry and Nigel in second place, and Alan and Lawrence in third.

Unlike many sports pétanque is played all the year round so we continue to look forward to our monthly socials, our coaching sessions and games. The only change is by the end of October we will not be playing on Tuesday evenings.

Our playing days are: Mon 2 - 4.30pm Tue 7 - 9.30pm (to end October)
Wed 2 - 4.30pm Sat 10am - 12.30pm

Coaching Sessions are: Wed 10 - 11.30am (ladies) Fri 10 - 11.30am (mixed)
Fri (except last Fri of the month) 2-3pm (shooting)

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 Bowls Club

The Club is most grateful to the Red Lion for allowing us to operate the Meat Raffle in August and September, and to benefit from the profits. This represents a wonderful charitable resource for the town and we thank Darren, Charlotte, family and staff for the opportunity.



We will have finished our 2026 season by the time you read this, although the "End of Term" Captain v Chairman team match might still be yet to run as it's on 26 September. We thank all our members for their commitment to keeping the club running, whether cutting grass, painting woodwork, organising funding, spending that funding, organising and manning the bar, chivvying team sign-ups, etc ... This is teamwork at it's best.

It has however been a good season all round and three of our teams have received league promotions; the most we've ever had. Well done all.

It's now our close season and we pass over the major use of our clubhouse facilities to the skittles league teams. We wish them luck over the autumn and winter until we resume with our 2027 season in April. Speak to you then!

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Looking for a fun way to stay active, get outdoors, and meet new friends? Whether you're a seasoned player or have never held a boule in your life, you'll find a warm, welcoming community waiting for you at Saxons Pétanque Club.

Pétanque is easy to pick up, wonderfully social, and open to all skill levels. If you're completely new to the game, don't worry about kit or experience – we have four qualified coaches ready to show you the ropes and plenty of spare boules you can borrow for free. Just drop in and give it a try! If you enjoy yourself and want to stick around, full annual membership is just £25.

We will be holding our annual 3-ender competition on 27 September where you play several short matches of just 3 ends and there is money to be won!

We play year-round on the gravel pistes directly in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre at the following times:

- Tuesdays and Thursdays: 2.00pm
- Saturdays: 10.00am
- Wednesday evenings: will re-start in May
- Coaching sessions: most weeks on an ad hoc basis

Please arrive 10 minutes early so we can welcome you and get you ready to play.

To find out more, stop by for a friendly chat, check out our notice board inside Cricklade Leisure Centre, or visit saxonspetanque.co.uk.

We look forward to welcoming you to Saxons Pétanque Club!

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 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

SATURDAY 28TH NOVEMBER · 4-7.30PM

- ★ **4.15pm** — Children's parade from St Sampson's Primary School
- ★ Santa's grotto at the White Hart
- ★ Live entertainment from Chloe Marie and the Cricklade Band
- ★ A wide range of stalls providing refreshments and helping with your Christmas shopping
- ★ Plus a few extra surprises for this year throughout the night...

Put it in your diary and make sure you don't miss it!

Volunteers needed! If you're happy to help for part of the evening, please contact Claire @ clairecummings1977@live.co.uk

Cricklade Community Lights Team

Photo: Cricklade Camera Club

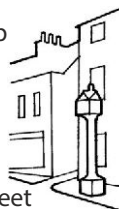
The Chronicle Diary – October 2026

- | | | | |
|----|----|-------------------|---|
| 1 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| | | <i>end of day</i> | Chronicle Copy Deadline for November issue |
| 2 | F | 7pm | <i>7.30pm start:</i> Historical Society Quiz Night at Town Hall – see page 31 |
| 3 | Sa | 5.30pm | Angel Voices musical at United Church – page 27 |
| 5 | M | 10am | <i>to 12 noon:</i> Computer Club at Leisure Centre |
| 6 | Tu | 1.45pm | <i>to 2.45pm:</i> Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe |
| 7 | W | 10.30am | <i>to 12.30pm:</i> Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe |
| 13 | Tu | 7pm | <i>speaker 7.30pm:</i> Garden Club at Town Hall Annexe |
| 14 | W | 7.15pm | <i>for 7.30pm start:</i> Historical Society at Town Hall Annexe |
| 15 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| | | 7.30pm | Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe |
| 17 | Sa | 10am | Dance Court work party, meet by Dance Court |
| | | 7.30pm | AK Choir 30th Anniversary Concert, AK Village Hall – page 38 |
| 20 | Tu | 1.45pm | <i>to 2.45pm:</i> Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street |
| | | 7.30pm | Art Group at Town Hall Annexe |
| | | 7.30pm | Camera Club workshop in Town Hall Committee Room |
| 21 | W | 10.30am | <i>to 12 noon:</i> Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa |
| | | 7.30pm | Talk on Women's Health at Purton Surgery. Free but ticketed. Page 6 |
| 22 | Th | | Wiltshire schools mid-term break (others may differ) |
| 24 | Sa | 7pm | Mamma Mia Sing-Along at St Sampson's School, Bath Road – page 26 |
| 25 | Su | 2am | End of British Summer Time – clocks go back one hour |
| 27 | Tu | 8pm | Cricklade Cinema at Town Hall. Tickets from Council office. |
| 29 | Th | 10.20am | Probus Club at the White Hart Hotel |
| 30 | F | 10am | <i>to 11am:</i> Nick Dye (Wilts Councillor) surgery at Cricklade Club |
| | | 7pm | Friends of St Mary's Quiz Night at Town Hall – page 23 |
| 31 | Sa | | Halloween |

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 |
| 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

October 2026

3rd ●

10th ●

18th ●

26th ○

Advertiser Index

Advertising Rates - page 21

CLEANING

Drain Developments (24 hr call-out)	36
Gary Curtis (carpet etc cleaning)	7
ISIS Chimney Care	7
Samson Sweep	13

EDUCATION

Cricklade Manor Prep. School & Nursery	29
Cricklade Pre School Playgroup	10
Maria Walker - Maths Tuition	42
Thames Pre-School	16

ELECTRICAL & TECHNOLOGY

AK Electrical	13
Domestic Service Care	34
Graham Broughton (computer repairs)	7
Kelvin Gwilt New Technology	8
PC Doctor Dan	13
Screen Link sound & vision	30

FINANCIAL

Acorn Community Bank	41
County Wills	42
Hillis & Porter financial planning	41
Khan Adamson Chartered Accountant	15
Neil Parker Financial Adviser	7
TM Business Support	41

FUNERAL SERVICES

Blackwells Funeral Directors	35
------------------------------------	----

GARDENING SERVICES, PESTS & TREES

Chelworth Nurseries	10
Heritage Tree Care	obc
Jubilee Gardens Project	42
Steve Floyd Pest Control	21

HARDWARE, CONSTRUCTION, INTERIORS

Cricklade Glass	8
Francis Fencing	34
M.S. Glazing	8
MW Decorating Services	14
Prestige Carpentry & Joinery	8
Solo Home Improvements	ibc
The Handyman	15
Tony Hayter carpentry/home maintenance ..	21

TSG Services	40
Wiltshire Decorating Company	34

LEISURE & MISCELLANEOUS

Cricklade Hotel& Spa	33
Cricklade Leisure Centre	16
Cricklade Museum	14
Egyptian Belly Dance Classes	14
Tim Baynes - Art Mentor	14

MEDICAL & BEAUTY

Bayfields Opticians & Audiologists	40
Boots Pharmacy	39
Cricklade Aesthetics Clinic	21
Cricklade Dental Practice	15
Cricklade Footcare	13
Cricklade Osteopaths	21
Elly Steyn physiotherapy	7
Hands-On Foot Care	14
Mobility Store	9
Scissors hairdressing	34
The Help Group (care services)	20
Vision Visit (optician)	42

PETS & VETS

Purton Vets	8
Walkie Time dog walking	14

PLUMBING & HEATING & FUELS

AJ Williams Plumbing & Heating	15
DW Plumbing	8
Lydiard Heating Ltd	41
Restrop Logs	42

TAXIS, VEHICLES & GARAGE SERVICES

Bath Road Vehicle Services	19
Chelworth Garage	15
Cricklade School of Motoring	7
E-Motion electric bikes	34
Hometyre - mobile tyre services	9
Laurence Autorepairs	20
Leo Cars - taxi	10
Platinum Hyundai & Suzuki	ifc
Trevetts Conversions	30

The Final Word ...

It feels rather strange to be writing for Last Word for the last time as Vicar. At the end of October, I retire from 34 years of ordained ministry, and leave here after five very happy years.

The church scene has changed since I began – when I was first ordained women couldn't be priests, and now we have a female Archbishop of Canterbury! I have had the privilege of being the first woman to do a lot of things, but have also had to take the flak sometimes when people weren't used to some of the changes in the church.

As this chapter of my life draws to a close and I move on to pastures new, I wanted just to thank you all for your welcome and inclusion in your life. I have loved living and being among you. I think the communities I serve are remarkable in their kindness, community care for one another and outgoing spirit. I have seen time and time again neighbours caring for neighbours, people concerned for others over and above what might be expected, and a sense of the community pulling together. In a world where kindness is often just under the surface, I have seen it made real in the kindness expressed in many, many ways.

So thank you for being my last post! I cherish memories of time among you. And may God bless you now and into the future with his abundant love and light.

My retirement/leaving service is in St Sampson's Church, 18 October at 3.30pm.

Revd Canon Debbie Dewes, Vicar, Upper Thames Group



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