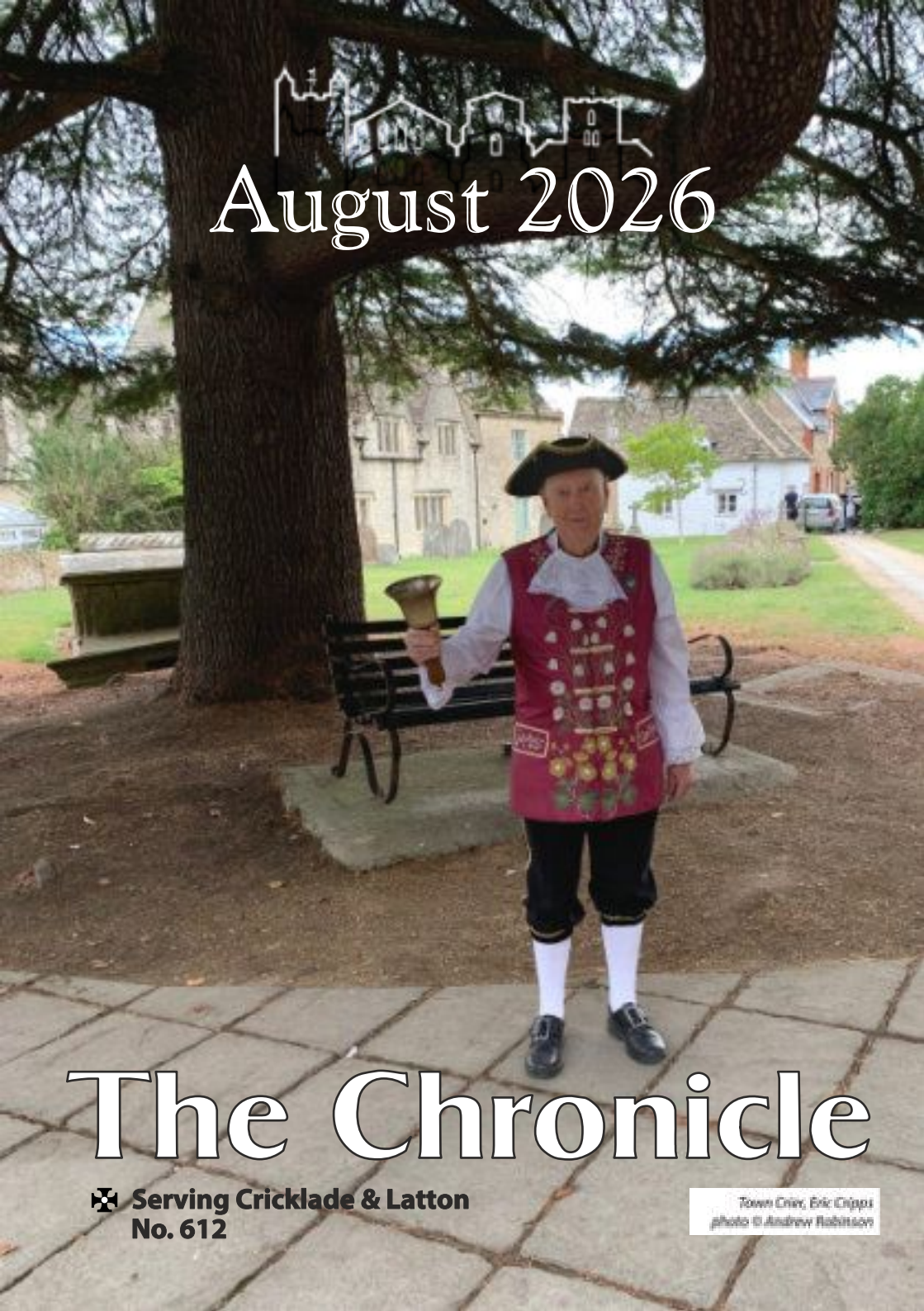


A man in a historical costume, including a black tricorn hat, a white shirt, a red vest with gold embroidery, black breeches, white socks, and black shoes, stands in a park. He holds a brass horn in his right hand. Behind him is a large tree, a black park bench, and a path leading to a village with stone houses. The scene is outdoors on a paved area.

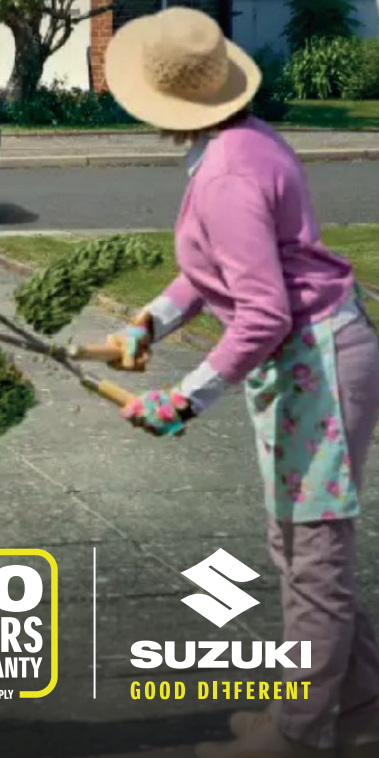
August 2026

The Chronicle

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No. 612

Town Crier, Eric Chipp
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Model shown: e Vitara 61kWh Ultra at £32,999 including dual-tone paint and £3,750 saving. Fuel economy and CO₂ results for the Suzuki e Vitara range. Mpg (l/100km) (combined): Not applicable. CO₂ emissions: 0g/km. Electric range: 213 to 264 miles. Electricity consumption combined (kWh/100km) from 14.9 to 16.6. The e Vitara is a battery electric vehicle requires mains electricity for charging. These figures were obtained after the battery had been fully charged to 100%. The electric range shown was achieved using the WLTP test procedure. Figures shown are for comparability purposes. Only compare figures with other cars tested to the same technical procedures. Figures do not reflect real-life driving results, which will depend upon a number of factors including the starting charge of the battery, accessories fitted (post registration), weather conditions, driving styles and vehicle load.

From the Editor

The Chronicle is shocked and saddened by the tragic death, in June, of Barbara Mullaney who ran Animal Fayre pet shop in Cricklade. All the conversations we have heard show how much loved she was and what a loss she will be to our community.

We send her family our sincere condolences at this time.

Friends of Dance Common are looking for volunteers to help with a work party on 15 August. You may even have a chance to meet one of the water voles that live in the water margins there. See page 19.

Oyez! Oyez! ... and thanks to Andrew Robinson for this month's cover picture. And to Eric Cripps for his ever-willing service.

Wiltshire Libraries are holding their Reading Challenge for 4 to 11-year-olds over the summer until 5 September. Contact Cricklade Library (01793 750694) and page 45 for details.

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The Historical Society are out and about this month too. Their Annual Walk starts from Saxon's Rest (by Waylands). Details are on page 43.

August is typically a lean month for events for the magazine. Some clubs and organisations take a break in this holiday month. Please read your club's article or the *Chronicle* Diary to check the regular events are happening.

There are however a lot of announcements of events in September, including the St Sampson's Church Fete and Tower Open Day. See page 26.

As a singer myself, I would like to congratulate the village choir of our neighbouring Ashton Keynes on their milestone Pearl Anniversary. See page 28 for a short history of the choir.



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The deadline for the September 2026 issue is Saturday 1 August 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 01793 759123

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



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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 25 June the lucky winners were :-

1st Prize	Mr & Mrs A. Mills	£33.00
2nd Prize	Jean McNally	£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.

Cricklade Town Council

Town Council Meetings

Monday 3 August Community & Leisure Committee

Monday 24 August 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.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION

1 August to 30 September 2026

Our current Neighbourhood Plan was passed at referendum in 2018 and is now due for review. Drawing on the residents' input to the preliminary consultation that took place in the Summer of 2024 in the Town Hall, we have now prepared a Draft Plan Review for a formal round of consultation.

The Draft Plan and a suite of evidence documents will be published on our website on 1 August with hard copies available for inspection in our front office during our normal opening hours. There will also be an Executive Summary published bringing the various policies together in an easy to read document.

We will be encouraging respondents to complete an online questionnaire to capture their thoughts on the Plan Review but we will have paper copies available for those that prefer.

There will be a number of 'drop-in' sessions here at the council offices during the consultation period to give the opportunity for residents to ask questions of the members of the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. Look out for the dates and times which will be published on our noticeboards, website and Facebook page.

Whilst there are limitations to what the Neighbourhood Plan Review can contain, for example it must be consistent with national planning policy and the Wiltshire Council Local Plan (in the course of preparation), there is no doubt that the current Plan has been of benefit to us regarding planning matters. There is also the benefit of the Plan bringing additional infrastructure spending in the town by way of the Community Infrastructure Levy.

We encourage all residents to read the documents and participate in the consultation. We have extended the consultation period beyond the six-week minimum so that it runs to 30 September giving plenty of time for residents to engage in the process.



Free Skateboard Activity Session!

We are again funding a free Skatepark Session for children of all ages to be hosted by ATB Shop on Friday **31 July 2026** from 10am to 1pm at Cricklade Leisure Centre.

Skateboards and scooters will be provided but bring your own if you prefer.

Floral Displays

We would like to thank Bloomers and Cricklade Grounds Team for all their hard work in keeping Cricklade's floral displays in tip top condition, especially over the recent heatwave! There are many lovely floral displays also provided by the Businesses and Residents of Cricklade all of whom will be considered through July and judged by 2 August 2026 for the Cricklade in Bloom Competition. We would like to thank you also for your community spirit. More information on this in September's Chronicle.

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 Bank Holiday Monday 31 August

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

Website: www.crickladetowncouncil.gov.uk



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Court Leet of the Hundred & Borough of Cricklade

The next public Court Leet is scheduled to take place on 27 November 2026 in the Town Hall with the Lord of the Manor Michael Neeld presiding.



Officers will give reports and members of the jury will have been duly summoned to attend.

Part of the function of The Court is to award Honorary Freeman status to persons 'who in the sole opinion of the Court have given outstanding or exceptional service for the benefit of Cricklade'.

The award carries with it no rights or privileges simply the recognition of work undertaken, generally over many years, in our community for the benefit of us all. The number of recipients is limited by our rules, so it remains a special award to those who have received it in the past.

If you feel you know someone who may be suitable for such an award please provide a written comprehensive report giving full reasons why you consider them suitable for nomination to any member of the Court by 27 September who can, if they wish, take the nomination forward for you. A list of names and contact details is held at the Town Council Offices. The proposer's identity will be made known, and the nominee must agree to the nomination.

Clive Smith, High Bailiff

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	

Wiltshire Perspective *Nick Dye, Councillor for Cricklade, Latton & Marston Meysey*



Mayor of Wessex

Cricklade and Latton's corner of Wiltshire is nestled in between Cirencester and Swindon, both of which are in different unitary authorities, but with which we engage for our mutual benefit. Although with a parliamentary constituency straddling Wilts and Glos, I have easier channels to engage in that direction.

The Government passed the English Devolution Act earlier this year. Its intention is that all of England will have a regional Mayor, to preside over a Combined Mayoral Authority. The impact on us is not currently clear, but the plan is that four local authorities will start to work more closely together. The four authorities are:

Council	Population	Size (km2)
<i>Wiltshire Council</i>	<i>524,000</i>	<i>3,255</i>
<i>Somerset Council</i>	<i>588,000</i>	<i>3,450</i>
<i>Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council</i>	<i>409,000</i>	<i>162</i>
<i>Dorset Council</i>	<i>399,000</i>	<i>2,491</i>

My main concern is that we will still be in exactly the same position, with both Cirencester and Swindon being in different Strategic Authorities, but we'll have to communicate with areas that have a more distant centre of gravity.

Wiltshire will remain our Unitary Authority, but the Strategic Authority will have a view on the Spatial Development Plan (again, not sure what that means yet) as well as areas such as Transport, Nature Recovery, Adult Education and Economic Growth.

I'm fearful that this is another layer of administration that will cost money, and make doing things more difficult. The plan as it currently stands gives the four councils a significant amount of money (over £400m a year) from general taxation, so benefiting us at the cost of the national population (the four councils represent less than 3% of the UK population).

When further details become available I will pass them on. I may have my reservations, but I'm open minded to look at the details before coming to a conclusion one way or another.

Planning

The regulations will be changing this autumn around how planning applications are dealt with. By default, all current applications are determined by the Wiltshire Council Planning Officer. I have been able to call for the Northern Area Planning Committee to make the decision where we believe the officer is inclined to give permission in a way that we (the Town or Parish Council) believe is incorrect. I 'call in' probably almost as many applications as the rest of the Councillors around us combined. This will no longer be available; however new arrangements will be made to accommodate local views. I'm not aware of the details just yet, but I'll pass them on once I'm briefed.

As always the last Friday of the month I'm in the Club in Cricklade to chat (from 10 to 11) if you want to raise something informally, otherwise I'm always available on 752501 or at nick.dye@wiltshire.gov.uk

Purton Surgery Patient Group

For the patients in Purton, Cricklade and surrounding communities



News about the Patient Group

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and chatted on our two community days in June. It was lovely to meet you all.

The Purton Community Day was a great success, and we were able to talk to so many people about the work of the PSPG, share some of the equipment that the group has bought for the surgery, and hand out information and gifts!

We also thank Sylvia and Colin Freemantle for the use of their garden at Purton Open Gardens. During the day we raised £185 for PSPG funds. Thanks to everyone who provided cakes and plants and to those who popped in and bought them.

Following these 'away' days we have received several expressions of interest in joining the PSPG committee and look forward to welcoming our new team members.

200 Club

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 proceeds go toward buying equipment for the surgeries that the NHS does not supply. Please enquire at reception if you wish to join.

Our latest lucky winners are:

First prize of £100 to Marliyn Kilford (number 188)

Second prize of £15 to Mrs V Lawrence (number 57)

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!

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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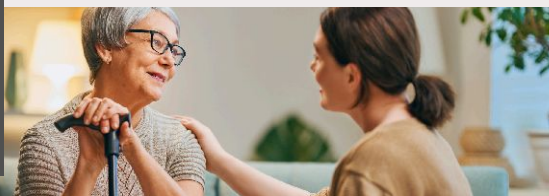
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Booking charge applies



Notes from Dance Common

There is a small population of water voles living on the Dance. Though these defenceless animals are justifiably wary, they can be spotted from time to time. Recognise them by their chestnut brown coats, their flattened, stubby faces and fur covered legs and tails.

Water voles are herbivorous, grazing on waterside vegetation, never straying far from their home stretch so that they can quickly "plop" into the water and find refuge in

the burrows they have excavated in the bankside. You may see them swimming and they seem to make hard work of this, keeping their head and upper bodies out of the water. The national population of water voles is only slowly recovering from the period when they were heavily predated by feral mink. Sadly their lives are very short - their average life span is only five months and very few water voles survive to see a second winter.

We are planning a work party on Saturday 15 August if anyone would like to join us. Meet at 10am by Dance Court – come for the chat and cake and whatever else you can manage.

Pictured: a water vole by Dance Common, photo ©Mark Clarke, 2026

Wayland Estates Charity Grants June 2026

The Trustees of the Wayland Estates Charity met in June to consider grant applications submitted by eligible organisations for projects that benefit the residents of the Parish of Cricklade and the surrounding area.



The Trustees are delighted to announce that grants totalling **£12,831.76** have been awarded to the following organisations:

- Bobby Van Trust
- Cricklade Leisure Centre
- St Sampson's Church
- Cricklade Bowls Club
- Cricklade Town Hall
- United Church
- Latton Basin Restoration

The Trustees would like to thank all applicants for their submissions and for their continued contribution to the local community.

Cotswold Writers Circle

CWC is a small friendly group who meet on a Tuesday morning at 10.30 in Down Ampney Village Hall (GL7 5QR), have a laugh together and enjoy writing a short story which we read in turn.

We pay £2 for our coffee, and come when we can – we would welcome new members.

Just arrive or contact Derek for more info. 01793 750598 / derekhskinner37@gmail.com



Jubilee Gardens Project

Church Bush Hall, Purton Stoke
Tel: 01793 771539

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with learning disabilities

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Registered Charity No. 275608



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Cricklade Bloomers

Whispers from the Walled Garden

Thank you to all who supported Bloomers by coming to see The Mikron Theatre in July.



Two other July activities supported by the Scouts were to lay a cardboard barrier and bark mulch on the rectangular flower beds at St Sampson's Church in preparation for autumn planting. Then, on the same evening, they cleared the shrub border in front of Smart Zone Children's After School Club at St Sampson's Primary School so that a vegetable garden can be made for, and be enjoyed by, the children.

Well done to the residents' mowing group on the Reeds Estate who have left a percentage of their communal grass areas unmown this summer. Currently (end of June) there is a feast of clover flowers for bees and other insects. Are there any other estates in Cricklade who could do the same?

Cricklade Bloomers can be contacted by email on crickladebloomers@gmail.com or messaged by phone on 07596 823 797.

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.

Do you need the support of Cricklade Link Scheme?

Cricklade Link Scheme is here to support you if you are unable to drive for any reason and need our help to get to hospital or do some shopping, or visit the dentist or hairdresser etc. Your Link driver is a friendly local who will wait until you are ready to go home. It is door-to-door transport. There is no cost for this service, but if you are able to help by way of a donation, this will assist with our running costs. Telephone us on 0742 101 84 99 and we will get back to you. Please note the phone is manned between 8.30am and 5.30pm – please leave a clear message if no one picks up and we will get back to you as soon as possible. We ask you ring no more than eight days before the date you require assistance.



Can you drive and can you spare some time? Link needs your help.

Cricklade Link has a pool of drivers, but due to a number having to stand down we are in urgent need of more volunteers. You are paid a mileage allowance for your vehicle costs. To join us contact Sue Dyson, our lead coordinator, on 07597 445 291 or email her at suedyson19@icloud.com

If you have management and organisational skills, 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 our Chairman, Jonathan Taylor on the email address jonathan1m@hotmail.com

Cricklade Open Door

On ITV's 'This Morning' show on Friday 26 June, Giles Brandreth was asked for his secret for his longevity and he answered – 'Keeping busy, a positive outlook and people'. Yes – yet again, the theme – 'People need People'. So, if YOU sometimes feel in need of company, fun, support, do come along and meet everyone at Open Door.



We have great sociable sessions in the Jenner Hall with regular weekly activities and also guest speakers, entertainers and plenty of fun and chat and also outings using our mini bus. There is a fabulous programme planned for the autumn – COME AND JOIN IN.

The Jenner Hall, Bath Road, Cricklade

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

We will be closed on Summer Bank Holiday, Monday 31 August

- Mondays** Mornings: Knitting/Crochet group and Coffee and Chat
Afternoons: Seated Exercises followed by refreshments and social time
- Tuesdays** Mornings: Coffee, conversations and chat
Afternoons: Mixed bag of quizzes, games, speakers, flower arranging etc
- Thursdays** Mornings: Coffee, conversations and chat
Afternoons: Fun Bingo

Don't forget ... we are a 'drop in' type cafe in the mornings – pop in for a quick cuppa and chat or stay a while longer and all our afternoon activities are open to everyone and we don't charge a membership fee, just a small amount for some activities.

We look forward to meeting you soon!

What's On? - Broader Area

■ **Order of St John Care Trust - Community Open Day & Garden Party**

Saturday 8 August, 11.30am to 4pm at The Lakes Care Centre, Spine Road East, South Cerney GL7 5TL.

All welcome – Free entry. Farm animals, refreshments, barbecue, live music, bouncy castle, stalls, garden tours, meet the team. Friendly faces and Community Spirit!

■ **Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust**

The Bag A Bargain, at Deverill Storage at Manor Farm, Longbridge Deverill, near Warminster. Selling nearly new designer clothes, accessories and jewellery. The two-day sale begins at 10am on Friday 4 September (10am to 6pm) with tickets at just £7. Tickets from wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events. The sale continues on Saturday 5 September (9.30am to 2pm) and entry is free.

The Paws Charity Dog Show

Fun, entertainment and displays for dog lovers and families raising funds for the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust at Rainscombe Park, Oare, on Sunday, 13 September. Tickets £8 in advance (£10 on the day). Carers' tickets half price and under 12s go free. Tickets from wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk/future-events.

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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Hills supports new Bobby Van

A brand new Wiltshire Bobby Van will be working across the county to keep older and vulnerable people safe in their homes thanks to The Hills Group.



The company has sponsored a van being driven by the newest of the Devides charity's three operators, former Grenadier Guard Scott Roughley. The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust works in partnership with Wiltshire Police to offer and fit home security measures such as door and window locks, key safes and door chains for people over 60, those at risk of domestic abuse or over 18 with a registered disability. The service, which operates all across Wiltshire and Swindon, is completely free.

Hills, a 126-year-old company based in Swindon, manages and recycles waste, produces essential construction materials and builds award-winning homes.

Find out more about the work of the charity at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk and about Hills at hills-group.co.uk.

*Pictured: Communications and PR Officer Darren Goddard,
Bobby Van PA to the Director Susanna Thorpe and Operator Scott Roughley*



The Athelstan Way

There is a new 15 mile walk round Cricklade

The Athelstan Pilgrim Way – named after the first king to unite England (927-939 AD), who is buried in Malmesbury Abbey – is a new 100-mile walking and cycling route, linking all 36 historic churches in the North Wiltshire deanery. There are six circular walks and the Upper Thames section loops from Cricklade taking in Latton, Ashton Keynes and The Leigh. It can be also walked in shorter sections.

The paths are now waymarked and we are trying to keep them clear. More walkers will help this! It's a great option for a longer weekend dog walk. There is also a 55-mile cycle route covering the east side of the deanery.



The route and further details can be found in booklets sold in St Sampson's church, or you can download routes and more information from the website www.athelstanpilgrimway.org or using the QR Code.



Latton 100 Club

The results for the second draw of the year are as follows:

1st Prize: £100	Harriet Dearsley	3rd Prize £18.50	Peter Rawsthorne
2nd Prize £29	Jean Richardson	4th Prize £10	George Dearsley

Congratulations to you all. 🎉

Cricklade Memory Café

In July, we welcomed Angela and Paul from Cricklade Historical Society. They brought along lots of interesting artefacts for us to look at, which opened lovely conversations and memories for us all.



We enjoyed a raffle and then some music and dancing, which is always popular.

Our August Café is on Wednesday 5th, when our visitors will be two members from the NHS Talking Therapies Team. They are promoting the awareness that older adults can access support for their mental health. To have this link and know that the service is available is so important.

We are looking forward to an outing to Studley Grange later in the month.

We welcome anyone with any memory change, their family/carers and we can 'signpost' to professional services.

If you would like to join us at any of the Cafés, come along to the Town Hall Annexe on the first Wednesday of the month, 10.30 to 12.30. We meet new people at the door to ensure they feel welcome and supported while finding somewhere to sit and make introductions.

For further information please contact Vona 07896 723 794.

Churches Together

Services for the Upper Thames Churches

26 July

Trinity 8

- 8.30am Holy Communion BCP at Holy Cross
- 10am Worship Together Communion at Waterhay Old Chancel*
- 6.30pm Worship Together Evening Service at Waterhay Old Chancel*

* Both Waterhay services on this Sunday are Worship Together Outdoors around the Old Chancel at Waterhay, Leigh
If wet, services will be in Leigh All Saints Church, Swan Lane.

Services during August in the Upper Thames Group of Churches

We have a different pattern of services during August. At 10am, we will be holding one service in one of our churches. The early communion services follow their usual pattern.

2 August

Trinity 9

- 8am Holy Communion at St Sampson's
- 10am Worship Together Communion at Holy Cross, Ashton Keynes
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

9 August

Trinity 10

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

16 August

Trinity 11

- 8am Holy Communion followed by breakfast at St Sampson's
- 10am Worship Together Communion at St John the Baptist, Latton
- 6.30pm Evensong at St Sampson's

23 August

Trinity 12

- 8.30am Holy Communion at Holy Cross
- 10am Worship Together Communion at St John the Baptist, Latton

30 August

Trinity 13

- 10am Worship Together Communion 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

- 7 June Hannah Elizabeth O'Neill & Jak Piers Doggett *at Holy Cross*
- 20 June Emma Jane Bell & Luke Jack Todd *at St Sampson's*
- 20 June Danielle Anita Natasha Dunn & Bradley Mark Thomas *at All Saints*

Funerals

- 4 June Steven Lait *at North Wilts Crematorium*
- 5 June Kady Louise Cooper *at St Sampson's and NW Crematorium*
- 20 June Graham Alexander, Interment of ashes *in Holy Cross churchyard*
- 22 June George Hesketh *at St Sampson's & NW Crematorium*

er in Cricklade & Latton

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Weekly Mass times 9.30am on Sundays
 10.00am on Fridays

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

Parish website www.stthomasparishfairford.org.uk.

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

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

2 August	Pam Mullin	16 August	Trevor Stinton
9 August	Catherine Price	23 August	Rev Mike Dilly
		30 August	Worship Group

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.

During August we will be taking a break but we will have one get together on

TUESDAY 18 AUGUST

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.

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

St Sampson's Church Refurbishment Appeal

Creating a Community Space for the Future



Why are we refurbishing St Sampson's Church?

St Sampson's Church has been refurbished throughout its history – changes included pews out, pews in, steps and galleries installed and removed, extensions added. Churches constantly change and adapt to the needs of the time. In 1864, the Victorians changed the church to what you see today. The refurbishment we are planning now, is a continuation of these changes to ensure St Sampson's Church continues to be at the heart of Cricklade, as a place of worship, a building of historical significance and a community space for everyone to enjoy.

- The roofs are in a bad state of repair and it's vital that we make them water-tight before refurbishing the inside. South Transept and Nave repaired so far; North Aisle and North Transept are the next priority.
- Over many years there has been a gradual deterioration in the fabric of the building (walls etc) because of damp and high humidity levels. This will continue without improvements to the heating – the electric boiler is the first step.
- The dry rot and death watch beetle in the pews and plinths will worsen.
- Without the refurbishment, the use of the church will continue to be limited because we cannot afford to heat it to a comfortable temperature and the space is inflexible. That is a sad waste of a beautiful building, which could be a resource for the whole community.
- It would also become increasingly difficult to maintain and protect the church for future generations if it is poorly maintained.

And that's why we are so grateful for your support for the appeal. Step by step we are moving towards our vision becoming a reality!

Visit stsampsonschurchappeal.co.uk for latest updates on the project and fundraising.



St Sampson's Church 100 Club

The lucky winner of the June 2026 draw was
Adina Grace who won £32.50.
St Sampson's Church benefited by £32.50.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Church Fete and Tower Tours
on Saturday 5 September, 2-4pm

KAVALI NIGHT

2 November - details next month

Date tbc soon for: **WINE TASTING**

How to give: Cash or cheques (made payable to St Sampson's PCC No. 2 Account) in the donations box in church or send to Adina Grace (Church Warden and Treasurer), 24 North Wall, Cricklade, SN6 6DU. For further details please contact Adina on 01793 380583 or email janda.grace447@outlook.com

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



The Friends of St Mary's Church

The Friends would like to thank everyone who bought tickets and attended our Summer Garden Party on 21 June. Our special thanks go to Anthony and Yself for letting us use their beautiful garden at Mount House. Thanks also go to the local businesses who provided lots for our auction and everyone who helped organise, set up and man the stalls.

The day was a huge success, the weather playing its part perfectly with everyone relaxing and enjoying the live music, barbecue and cream teas. The money raised will go to the continued upkeep of our beautiful old church.

Alan Styler

Chairman, The Friends of St Mary's Church

Malmesbury & District Foodbank

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

The foodbank is open in Cricklade on a Friday morning from 10am-11.30am and anyone in need of help is welcome. As well as providing emergency food items we have a Citizen's Advice advisor at the session who can offer face-to-face confidential support with benefit queries, debt advice, energy costs, budgeting and more.



We're pleased to be able to provide the services we offer as a result of the kind donations and support from the community. There are drop off points for food donations located around Cricklade – in the Churches, the Town Council office, St Sampson's School, Animal Fayre, Tesco and Culverhay Stores.

Donations received are used to support families in the Cricklade parish.

If you are in need of support, or know someone that would benefit from talking to someone you can contact us, in confidence, at info@malmesburydistrict.foodbank.org.uk or on tel: 01666 826982

Village Choir celebrating 30 years!

One cold winter's night in February 1996, two men - Graham Loveday and Peter Hallam - sat in the pub and hatched a plan to start a village choir. The rest, as they say, is history.

The first meeting was in the School Hall and 12 people turned up. Within a few weeks, 53 people had joined. Within a year, the choir were off to perform in our twinning town, Grandchamp des Fontaines, in France.

Over the years we've had a wide variety of talented Musical Directors and delivered some amazing performances. These have included a complete *Phantom of the Opera*, extracts from Gilbert & Sullivan operettas and a *Last night of the Proms*.

In the latter years, performing in the village hall, church, school and even under Ellisons' canopy during Covid, the Village Choir has raised money for lots of causes. These include our local hospice, the school's new atrium, the church, the village hall's solar panels, Parkinsons UK, a children's cancer charity in Swindon and the Wiltshire Air Ambulance.

Today we are 45-strong, still with a smattering of original members, and going from strength to strength under the leadership of Nicky Akeroyd.

On Saturday 17 October we're celebrating 30 years of singing with a glamorous gala night showcasing the very best of our repertoire. Add the date to your diary!

Please come along and join us at 7.30pm in Ashton Keynes Village Hall.

Tickets £10.00. Bar and Raffle.

Georgie Paris, Chair, Ashton Kenes Village Choir

Pictured: The choir in June 2025



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

Swindon Open Studios 2026

Artists in Cricklade will once again be taking part in Swindon Open Studios on the weekends of 19/20 and 26/27 September.

Welcoming you in Cricklade will be:

Cricklade Art Group, Thames Hall, High Street, SN6 6DG

Open 19th & 20th – 10am until 4pm

Cricklade Glass, 2 The Priory, SN6 6DG

Open 19th & 20th and 26th & 27th – 10am until 4pm

Great Western Embroiderers, Jenner Hall, Bath Road, SN6 6AX

Open 19th & 20th - 11am until 4pm

Marit Taylor, 109 High Street, SN6 6AE

Open 19th & 20th and 26th & 27th – 10am until 5pm

Old Post Office Gallery, 29A High Street, SN6 6AB

Open 19th & 26th – 10am until 4pm

Tim Baynes, 5 Giles Avenue, SN6 6HS

Open 19th & 20th – 11am until 5pm

You will find more details about the artists from the Swindon Open Studios brochure which you will find in many venues around Cricklade (and wider afield) or you can check out the Swindon Open Studios website at

www.swindonopenstudios.org/search?q=Cricklade [or QR Code above]



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Garden@91



Garden@91 has only been open a short time, but it's already attracting a steady stream of compliments. People walking through often pause to admire the planting, the peaceful feel, and the care that volunteers have put into creating this new green space for Cricklade.

If you haven't visited yet, you're warmly invited to drop in. We have now installed some seating for everyone to use – perfect for a breather, a chat, or a picnic. The award winning Wild Fig Deli Café uses part of the space for its customers, but the wider garden is open to all.

Garden@91 – Open Daily

Tucked behind the Old Police Station, Garden@91 is Cricklade's newest outdoor community space. Whether you want a quiet moment, a chat, or a shortcut to and from the High Street, the garden is open for most of the day during business hours, with occasional closures for events.

While visiting, you can also explore the Elizabeth II Walkway heritage displays, celebrating the life of the late Queen and Cricklade's High Street of years gone by.

Free Community Use

Community groups are welcome to use the garden – from a small corner for a meeting to a larger area for stalls, workshops or fundraising. For simple hires this summer, the space is free of charge for community groups. We want Garden@91 to be a sociable, shared space at the heart of Cricklade.

Join CDF

New members are always welcome.

- A £50 community share gives you membership and a vote at our Annual General Meeting.
- Larger investments of £2,500+ can earn 3.5% interest per year (still one vote), suitable for those in a position to make an altruistic investment that supports and enhances community life while receiving a fair return. There may also be inheritance tax advantages too.

Contact Information

If you would like to use the garden, volunteer, or become a member:

Phone: 07902 421 756 Email: contact@crickladefoundation.org.uk

Website: www.crickladefoundation.org.uk

Find us on Facebook for updates. We would love to hear from you!

Your Society – Supporting Your High Street

Prospect Hospice



On 27 June a local Prospect Hospice support group had a Coffee Morning and raised £1,383.70. Many thanks to the following local businesses who gave raffle prizes - The White Hart Hotel, Michael Hart Butchers, James Butchers and Tesco's. Thanks also to Cricklade United Church for allowing us to use their Hall.

It is appreciated the many people who came or gave generous contributions. Well done Cricklade.

Hazel Rowland and Yvonne Keeble

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Contact reception@fritillaryspa.co.uk

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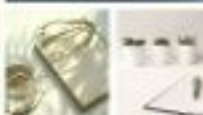


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Your local Boots Pharmacy team are always here to help.

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

- **Sinusitis (Adults & Children aged 12 years and over)**
- **Sore Throat (Adults & Children aged 5 years and over)**
- **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.

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



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



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

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

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Cricklade W.I.

As I write this we are just emerging from a heatwave however, by the time the August Chronicle hits the doormats, we may be in the midst of another one!



Whatever the weather, there is always a warm welcome at our meetings on the third Thursday of the month in the Town Hall Annexe at 7.15 at one of our meetings. Recently we have seen the arrival of several new members so please do come and give us a try.

July saw one of our very talented members treat us to a craft workshop and we all went home with something lovely.

August sees a talk by Gillian Cane about the Mitford Sisters, six sisters who certainly lived the life! Scandal, political intrigue and one of course was an acclaimed novelist. I have read several fascinating books about them so I am really looking forward to this.

September sees a talk from Wiltshire Farm Foods – hope there are some samples.

Recent outings have included a special evening at Woolovers in Marlborough, a fascinating day all about Wiltshire at another local WI and a trip to Highgrove Gardens – there is always something interesting to look forward to. You may also have seen us sell tickets for the Meat Raffle in the Red Lion on a Friday Night for our charities.

The Coffee and Chat still proves popular on the first Tuesday of every month at the White Hart starting at 11am. Everyone welcome. The next two Tuesdays are 4 August and 8 September. We would love to see you there.

So ladies of Cricklade and surrounding villages, if you are interested in giving the WI a try please speak to one of our members or contact our secretary Amanda Heard, cricklade@wiltshirewi.org.uk or tel:07748 526 861.

Cricklade & District Probus Club

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

6 Aug *Brian Bertram: Ostriches and Evolution*

20 Aug *Anthony Coverdale: The Art of Submarine Control*



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 Garden Club

No meeting in August – We meet again on 8 September 2026

A review of the first half of our year:

In March, after our AGM, we listened to Milly Carmichael who, in her talk called “Permaculture”, explained the development of sustainable agricultural and horticultural ecosystems.

This was followed in April by Sally Morgan on “The Climate Change Garden”. Our way of gardening is being challenged as never before and Sally guided us in how to face up to our new gardening world.

In May we went with Robert Bryant on “A Year Long Walk in Woodchester Park.” His photographs of the landscape and the flora and fauna were outstanding. The National Trust is gradually restoring the valley to its former diversity.

Our Plant Fair on 23 May was again a great success and we’ve already booked the Hall for the 29 May 2027 – so save the date!

In June we welcomed back Nicola Hope on “No Dig and Polyculture”. She enthusiastically showed us that growing vegetables didn’t need to be hard, backbreaking work in regimented rows. Why not grow cabbages and lettuces in a flower border? And the reward of having your own produce is there for you to pick.

I’ll report on our July visit to Derry Watkins’ garden in the September issue.

We have concentrated this year on how our world is changing and how we in our own small ways can help ourselves and the threatened environment. The June heatwave, which made sleep difficult, if not impossible, was a wake up call!

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 in September!



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. Check out the website at crickladecameraclub.org/program

Over the summer there will be a series of outings – feel free to come along. We usually meet at Cricklade Town Hall and share lifts. Keep an eye on the website for details.

Why not take part in the Cricklade Photo Competition? It’s open to everyone. There are three categories: 10 and under, under 16, and adults. You don’t need any special equipment or knowledge, just have a go.

All the details are on the website crickladecameraclub.org



Cricklade Historical Society

Sunday 30 August – Annual Walk – 2pm.

Join us in discovering more of Cricklade's past.

The walk will start at Saxon's Rest, Waylands and finish at the Museum, where refreshments will be available.

Wednesday 16 September. – England's Ten Worst Monarchs.

Speaker – Rev. Dr Nicholas Henderson.

Nicholas will give us a personal assessment covering the last ten centuries.

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

Refreshments available from 7.15pm.

Advance Notice

Our **Annual Quiz Night** will take place on Friday 2 October.

Join us for a fun evening.

Sing Four Four Community Choir

New members will receive a warm welcome, if you'd like to join our friendly and fun, community choir: Sing Four Four. You don't need to be able to read music, no auditions required. Fun and fulfilment guaranteed.

We meet at the United Church on Thursday evenings, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm during term time. Please see our website for further details: singfourfour.org.uk We start our new term in September.



Cricklade Pétanque Club

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

We welcomed 441 players onto the pistes in May.

In August we have our 3-Enders Competition and some members will be playing in the City of Bath Triples.

Off the piste, maintenance is ongoing and our thanks to those who make it a safe and attractive area to play in. We are also indebted to our gardeners who make it look so pretty with beautiful planted pots. The members are under strict instruction to keep them watered on the days our gardeners aren't playing!



If you would like to have a go at pétanque, do come and join us ... we have spare boules available! You will be welcome on any of our playing days as below.

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 Bowls Club

First of all let us thank Wayland Estates Charity for a grant towards installing a new pavilion for visiting teams. Our members have already constructed the concrete base pad for it, and now we can progress to the next stage.



Wiltshire Council Area Board have also given us a grant towards rebuilding the steep vehicle access slope from the roadway. This has developed cracks over the years and an improved design scheme can now proceed. We thank the Board for this.

Some years we have to postpone matches because of heavy rain, but this year we have had to put some off till later as we ensure the health of our playing members due to the heat waves. By August we should have caught up with those matches.

In late June, we welcomed students from St Sampson's C of E Primary School to try out bowls, accompanied by school staff. This was part of their Sports Week activities. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and we thank all those club members who helped with coaching and organisation.

If you would like to try out the game, just come along to one of our regular Club Nights every Friday during the summer season. Come and join us to see what the game is about. 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.

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.

First year membership costs £20. Full membership thereafter is £85 p.a.

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.

Saxons Pétanque Club, Cricklade Leisure Centre

Whether you're after a relaxed social afternoon or a competitive match, Saxons Pétanque Club has a place for you. We welcome everyone from seasoned pros to complete beginners, with four qualified coaches available to show you the ropes and spare boules to borrow if necessary. If you enjoy the game, full membership is a bargain at just £25 for the year.

You'll find us playing on the gravel pistes directly in front of Cricklade Leisure Centre on:

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm

Saturdays at 10am

Wednesday evenings at 7pm (May to August)

Please arrive 10 minutes early so we can get you settled.

Just pop over to say hello, check our notice board inside the Leisure Centre, or visit saxonspetanque.co.uk for more information.



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The Chronicle Diary – August 2026

- 1 Sa Draft Neighbourhood Plan available on Town Council Website – page 3
end of day Copy deadline for The Chronicle September issue
- 3 M 10am to 12 noon: Computer Club at Leisure Centre
- 3 M 7pm Full Town Council Meeting, Council Chamber
- 4 Tu 7.30pm Camera Club at Town Hall Annexe
- 5 W 10.30am to 12.30pm: Memory Café at Town Hall Annexe
- 15 Sa 10am Dance Common work party – from Dance Court. See page 19
- 18 Tu 1.45pm to 2.45pm: Bounce & Rhyme, United Church, Calcutt Street
- 18 Tu 7.30pm Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 19 W 10.30am to 12 noon: Parkinson's Café at Cricklade Hotel & Spa
- 20 Th 7.30pm Cricklade W.I. at Town Hall Annexe
- 24 M 7pm Town Council PC&T Committee, Council Chamber
- 28 F 10am Nick Dye (Wilts Councillor) surgery at Cricklade Club
- 30 Su 2pm Historical Society annual walk, starts Saxon's Rest – see page 43
- 31 M **Summer Bank Holiday**

September

- 1 Tu Wiltshire schools resume - others may vary

Every Week

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

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

- M 7.45-9pm St Sampson's Bellringers
- Tu 6.30pm Cricklade Walking Group - from Cricklade Leisure Centre
- 7-8pm Rugby Mixed Tag at Fairview Fields
- W 1.45 for 2pm Bingo4U at Jenner Hall
- Th 10 - 11.30am Acorn Community Bank: in Tourist Information Office
- 1.30-4.30pm The Paint Palette: Ladies' Art Group at Town Hall Annexe
- 7-8.30pm Senior men's rugby training at Fairview Fields
- 7-10pm The Cricklade Band rehearsal night, at Town Hall, visitors welcome
- 7.30-9.30pm Sing Four Four choir rehearsal at United Church, Calcutt Street
- F 9.30am Cricklade Walking Group - from Waylands/Saxons Rest
- 10-11.30am Cricklade Foodbank at Jenner Hall
- 10-11.30am Coffee Cafe at Cricklade United Church Hall
- 7pm St Sampson's church choir rehearsal



Moon Phases

August 2026

6th ●

12th ●

20th ●

28th ○

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The Final Word ...

I'm writing this as the weather turns from overwhelming heat to something a little more bearable. Even my most sun-loving friend said to me "the heat is fine on holiday but not so great in normal life I've decided!"

The heatwaves are bringing home the reality of the climate crisis as something of the present not just the future. Yet so often we seem strangely passive in our responses to it, with arguments such as "there's not much point in me doing anything when the big players or other countries won't change."

Many of the images Jesus speaks of in the Gospels are about the importance of small actions. "You are the salt of the earth" he tells his disciples, and in another he talks of the kingdom of God as being like adding a tiny amount of yeast that changes the whole loaf.

While we certainly need action on a global scale, that doesn't lessen the importance of the things each of us can do. The final words of St David, the patron saint of my home country, are believed to be "do the small things". While visiting Bangor University for some training last year, it made me smile to see that phrase stuck to the wall next to the light switches as a reminder to switch off the lights at the end of the day!

Switch off the lights; plant a pot of wildflowers; take a shorter shower. Like a few grains of salt or a measure of yeast, each person doing the small things makes a difference.

Revd Liz Griffiths

*Cricklade resident and Director of Bridge Builders
(a small Christian charity, focused on reconciliation)*



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