

# CRANHAM VILLAGE MAGAZINE

*With Cranham Parish and Benefice News and Information*

## May 2026



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**Any views and opinions expressed in the Cranham Magazine  
are attributable only to the individual contributors.**

**Advertisements in this magazine do not imply recommendation.**

**Church & Benefice**

|                                             |                                                                     |              |
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|              |                                            |              |
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|--------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|

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## *A Letter from The Clergy*

### **Thy Kingdom Come – here, in May**



Following a fabulous Easter across our villages, our benefice church family continues to celebrate Jesus's resurrection and what it means for us with great joy in May. As well as our usual activities and worship services we look forward to gathering together for a celebratory Ascension Day Service at 6.30pm on Thursday 14th May at St James the Great, Cranham.

As many of you will know, Ascension Day is marked by the church to commemorate the bodily ascension of Jesus into heaven. Jesus's parting instruction to his disciples was to wait and pray for God's Holy Spirit to come - which then fell on the believers gathered in Jerusalem at Pentecost after 10 days of prayer, marking the birth of the early church.

In more recent years, Ascension Day also kickstarts the global prayer movement started 10 years ago called 'Thy Kingdom Come', which we will also be joining in with across our benefice this year. When we pray for Thy Kingdom to Come we are praying for Christ to rule our hearts and our world so that earth becomes a place of peace, justice and love. As part of this, churches across the world are challenged to pray daily for 5 people to come to faith in Jesus: will you pray, too?

I hope you will join us during this important season of prayer – perhaps at our 6.30pm evensong at Cranham on Sunday 17th May. Or you might prefer to pop along for a relaxed morning prayer at 9am with cafetiere coffee on Monday 18th May. Whatever you do, don't miss the opportunity to come to Morning Worship at 11am on Sunday 11th to celebrate Pentecost.

And, if reading this is making you realise that you don't actually know all that much about the Christian faith, might I suggest something entirely different? Starting on Monday 11th May at 7.30pm in the Church Rooms at Painswick, there will be a free 8-week course from The Bible Society which, through a series of 30-minute videos and discussion opportunities, offers to give you an overview of the whole of God's story – the Bible. Why not give it a try?

Wishing you God's blessings of peace and joy as I pray 'Thy Kingdom Come' here in May.

**Revd Sarah**

## **Worship in Cranham - May 2026**

**Sunday 3rd 11.00am Benefice Communion at Edge**

**6.30pm Evensong** **Sylvia Ardron**  
Sidesperson Mark Crowther  
Readers Mark Crowther  
Nicky Overs

**Sunday 10th 11.00am Holy Communion** **Fr David**  
Sidesperson Tom Daltry  
Readers Tom Daltry  
Helen Daltry

**Sunday 17th 6.30pm Evensong** **Keith Ardron**  
Sidesperson July Berry  
Readers July Berry  
Rob Garratt

**Monday 18th 9.00am Morning Prayer** **Revd. Sarah**

**Sunday 24th 11.00am Morning Worship** **Mike**  
Sidesperson Mike Wakeman  
Readers Mike Wakeman  
Clive Hayden

**Sunday 31st 11.00am Family Worship** **Vics & Sarah**  
Sidesperson Sarah Taylor  
Readers TBA

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### **Fix my Street**

website to report potholes and fly tipping etc

<https://www.fixmystreet.com>

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**[www.beaconbenefice.org.uk](http://www.beaconbenefice.org.uk)**

## Flowers, Cleaning & Refreshments in May

### Church Flowers

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 3rd & 10th May      | Vics Soutar          |
| 17th & 24th May     | Deb Carrington-Stait |
| 31st May & 7th June | Nicole W             |



### Church Cleaning

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| 2nd May  | Sylvia Ardron |
| 9th May  | Kate Ryan     |
| 16th May | Nicki Clapton |
| 23rd May | Joan Charman  |
| 30th May | Sue Stick     |
| 6th June | Sylvia Ardron |



### Refreshments will be served after the following services:

|                 |         |                 |
|-----------------|---------|-----------------|
| Sunday 10th May | 11.00am | Holy Communion  |
| Monday 18th May | 9.00am  | Morning Prayer  |
| Sunday 24th May | 11.00am | Morning Worship |
| Sunday 31st May | 11.00am | Family Worship  |





## The Bible Course :

grasp God's big story in 8 weeks!



Monday nights from 11<sup>th</sup> May  
7.30pm, The Church Rooms

## Extracts from The Messenger – May 2026

### **Thy Kingdom Come 2026: 'God with us'**

**From 14th to 24th May 2026, Christians around the world will once again unite in prayer as part of Thy Kingdom Come.**



This year's theme, 'God with us', focuses on the presence of God through His spirit. It reminds us that God is not distant but involved in the everyday moments of our lives – in both joy and sorrow and everything in between.

Taking place during the eleven days between Ascension Day and Pentecost, this global movement invites us to pray for more people to come to know Jesus, while also renewing our own faith in the power of prayer.

Throughout these eleven days, Christians are invited to take part in daily reflections, drawing on stories from scripture such as the story of Ruth and the story of Gideon. Each is intended to reveal something of God's transformative presence, faithfulness and power that's at work in ordinary people and situations.

As we reflect and pray, we are invited to recognise that same presence at work in our own lives and communities. At its heart is an invitation to pray each day for five people we know - whether it be friends, family, neighbours or colleagues – that they might encounter the love of Christ.

As churches and individuals across our diocese and beyond join in, this is an opportunity to come together with a shared purpose, trusting that God is at work in the lives of those we hold before Him.

Whether you are new to prayer or have taken part in previous years, Thy Kingdom Come offers a fresh opportunity to join this global wave of prayer. Individuals, households and churches are all encouraged to take part in ways that feel natural and meaningful to them – through personal devotion, small groups, or gathered worship.

To help individuals and churches get involved this year, there are a range of free resources on the Thy Kingdom Come website to help guide you through; this includes daily prayer resources (Novena) written by Archbishop Sarah Mullally, a 2026 prayer journal, and practical ideas for ways your church can take part → visit <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/resources-0>

*Continued on page 7*

## **Faith stories: Barnaby's transformation**

24-year-old Barnaby worships at Trinity Cheltenham, where becoming part of the community has profoundly shaped his life. Through Trinity's SPEAR programme he has gained confidence, employability skills, and a renewed purpose, while also exploring the Christian faith through Alpha – a journey that led to his baptism.

"In March 2023, I met two SPEAR representatives at the job centre. This was when my trajectory changed," Barnaby said. "They were so kind and encouraging, and they suggested I take part in the SPEAR programme."

Through SPEAR, he completed employability training and learnt the importance of confidence and communication, while being surrounded by people who believed in his potential.

"It introduced me to a supportive community. They encouraged me to try the Alpha course, and this was the big turning point for me spiritually. Alpha really ignited my faith, and it was the moment when I decided I wanted to follow this."

Barnaby has been attending Trinity for around two years and was baptised in March.

"The first time I went to church, I had a really strong experience... it's been transformative. It's been so good for my mental health."

He now works at The Armoury gym and continues to stay involved with SPEAR, returning to SPEAR celebrations to share his story.

Read Barnaby's full faith story at <https://gloucester.anglican.org/2026/faith-stories-barnabys-transformation/>

## **Christian Aid Week 2026**

Christian Aid Week takes place from 10 to 16 May. This year, Christian Aid is focusing on supporting mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, as they face urban poverty and the daily challenge of providing food for their children. Churches can take part in Christian Aid Week in a variety of ways, including collections, fundraising events, prayer, and raising awareness. Further information is available at <https://caw.christianaid.org.uk>

## **Events and training**

More details for all these events at [gloucester.anglican.org/events](https://gloucester.anglican.org/events)

**NeoAncients, St Laurence Church, The Shambles, Stroud, GL5 1JL, 1st to 3rd May** A three-day folklore festival with music, art, film, talks, books, dance ritual and lore. [https://stlaurencestroud.uk/event\\_custom/neoancients/](https://stlaurencestroud.uk/event_custom/neoancients/)

*Continued on page 8*

**Wild Worship at Tewkesbury Abbey, Church Street, Tewkesbury GL20 5RZ, 3rd May, 3pm to 4pm** An informal, family-friendly outdoor service giving thanks for the beauty of creation. All ages are welcome. <https://www.tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/eco-church/>

**The music of Coldplay by candlelight, Tewkesbury Abbey, GL20 5RZ, 9th May, 6.15pm and 8.30pm** A concert of Coldplay songs featuring a live band and vocalists, coming from the West End. <https://boxoffice.concertsbycandlelight.com/events/kindadustyltd/2040110>

**Music festival at Chipping Campden, St James Church, Church Street, Chipping Campden, GL55 6JG, 11th to 23rd May** A classical music festival featuring 17 concerts over two weeks, with performances from world-class artists. <https://www.campdenmayfestivals.co.uk/music/events>

#### **Have your say**

Visit Facebook **Diocese.of.Gloucester**, email Katherine at [kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk](mailto:kclamp@glosdioc.org.uk), follow us on Twitter [@glosdioc](https://twitter.com/glosdioc), view videos on YouTube **Diocese of Gloucester** or visit our website [gloucester.anglican.org](http://gloucester.anglican.org)

*These extracts are from The Messenger, a monthly communication produced by diocesan communications office at Church House, College Green, Gloucester, GL1 2LY. The full 'Messenger' is available on [www.gloucester.anglican.org](http://www.gloucester.anglican.org) and can be emailed to all parish and church representatives who request it. The extracts printed here are provided by Church House and published without alteration and therefore do not necessarily reflect the views of the Cranham magazine editorial team.*

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### **Graham Baker - 14th November 1933 - 15th February 2026**

I hope everyone in Cranham who has in anyway helped & supported me or sent cards, since Graham's death, realises that I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

My great thanks too for the large attendance at his Requiem Mass at Prinknash & Internment in Cranham Churchyard, where he is buried in sight of The Batch, where he lived for 72-3yrs, after 2yrs as a Regular in the R.A.F., mainly in Suez.

God Bless you all.

**Meg**



## Christian Aid Week

**May 10 – 16<sup>th</sup> 2026**

We have a long tradition in Cranham of being generous supporters of Christian Aid's work in the most needy areas of the world.



This Christian Aid Week, our support will help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.

Most parents wake every single day knowing that they must go and earn money, otherwise their children won't eat that evening. Fridah knows this reality well. But she's determined to protect her children from hunger.

Through Christian Aid's partner, Beacon of Hope, she's received tools, seeds and training to grow fresh vegetables in a small city space – food she can cook for her family or sell to earn income.

*'Now I can plan. I can hope. I can help my family.'*

.....  
***Please give generously.***

***Envelopes will be delivered around the village, or scan this QR code to give directly to Cranham's own Christian Aid collection.***



**Cranham Common Trust**  
**Notice of Annual General Meeting**  
**Saturday 9th May 2026 at**  
**10.00am Village Hall**



There will be a presentation from Paul Baxter of the Painswick Beacon Conservation Group. The Group undertakes practical conservation work on Painswick Beacon. What can we learn from their work?

Agenda

- Chairman's Report
- Minutes of the 2025 AGM
- Treasurer's Report and approval of the 2024/25 Accounts
- CCMC Report
- Election of Directors
- Presentation by Paul Baxter of PBCG
- Q & A session - to the CCT, the CCMC & Paul Baxter
- AOB

Come along and have your say about the Common

**RICHARD TYSON**

Secretary, CCT

cranhamcommontrust@gmail.com

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**Poppy Collectors**

Are there any kind people who might feel able to help out with  
Cranham 2026 Poppy Collection?

It would be so good to help boost our present collecting stalwarts.

Please get in touch with:

Organiser: Liz Flint

01452 810889

With Thanks





[www.cotsnatsfield.club](http://www.cotsnatsfield.club)

On **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2.30pm at the Painswick Centre, Gareth Williams** will be speaking to us about **'The Good, the Bad and The Ugly: The History of Polio Vaccines'** Most medical professionals working today will never have treated a case of polio, but in the past polio killed or paralysed millions, being among the most feared of contagious diseases. Successful vaccines were developed in the mid-1950's and now polio is virtually extinct. The development of the vaccine isn't just a great medical success; it is also a gripping story that provides a window onto the evolution of medical research during the last century. Gareth Williams is a lifelong academic, Emeritus Professor of Medicine at Bristol University, he has written over 200 scientific papers and authored or edited over 20 books.

This is followed on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 2.30pm in Box Village Hall by David Cramp** coming to talk to us about some wonderful summer visitors: **'Swifts, Swallows and Martins'** The talk initially seeks to help with the identification of the four species seen regularly in the UK, describes their differing life styles, includes literary references to the birds and briefly mentions other family members which occur commonly abroad but which are rare visitors to the UK. David has had a lifelong interest in natural history and birds in particular. He served for 5 years on the Council of the RSPB and was Chairman of the RSPB's Gloucestershire Local Group for 23 years. He has undertaken bird surveys for the RSPB, BTO and Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society. He is a popular and experienced speaker having over 570 talks to local clubs, societies and other organisations under his belt!

Our bi-monthly gatherings are free to Members but **all are welcome** (visitors £5 at the door). No need to book, just drop in. Further information about the Club and its activities (including the full list of lectures and Membership details) can be found on the CNFC website [www.cotsnatsfield.club](http://www.cotsnatsfield.club).

*Sylvia May [cnfcsecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:cnfcsecretary1@gmail.com)*

## **Medieval Medicine: Superstition and Science**

a talk given to the Cranham Local History Society

on 19th March 2026 by Gareth Howell

Gareth gave us a remarkable talk, making it very clear that he came down on the side of science. What we might consider superstition could simply be the best knowledge available at the time. He quoted a physician to Alfred the Great and his belief that white spots appearing in the skin were the results of elf-shots – elves shooting arrows at the skin. But that same physician also had an effective treatment for what we now know as MRSA.

God wills, *deus vult*, was the ultimate recourse in times of illness but that didn't stop in the following centuries several remarkable surgeons pushing back the boundaries. They were based in the great universities of the time, one of which was Paris, another Salerno. Roger of Salerno's *Practicae Chirurgiae*, dating from 1180, was the first book of its kind. It was written by Guido of Arezzo based on Roger's notes. Using wine to clean the wound, before, during and after, Roger was the first man ever to remove a cancer – where the patient survived.

Gareth made his talk more graphic by bringing with him replicas (he'd had them made by a blacksmith friend), taken from medieval manuscripts, of the instruments Roger and others would have used. Roger developed techniques for dealing with cranial fractures, with a new kind of drill. Mallets and chisels were part of the armoury. Gareth also quoted a technique whereby a surgeon would remove a nasal fistula by directing a flame through a tube.

Some hundred years later than Roger, Henri de Monboule was another remarkable figure. He insisted on washing hands, and wearing masks, and boiling water for instruments. Cleanliness was key to progress. The patient was given quantities of wine before surgery, and in the last hour a concoction of beer, cannabis and willow bark. Lettuce was used to encourage sleep, reminding Gareth of Beatrix Potter. Henri re-designed instruments such as pliers, adding teeth. There were women doctors, though as centuries past they were no longer allowed to practise: Hersande of Paris was a famous example from the 1250s.

So much had been lost when the great Library of Alexandria was destroyed by an Islamic army in 643AD. The irony was that Arabic doctors, 600 years later, were considered better than Christian ones. Better, Gareth thought, to argue that they learnt from each other. The Crusades, Arab versus Christian, were a backdrop to the story. Field hospitals appeared as early as the 1090s, later in the 1280s the Crusaders pulled a ship on shore to provide a safe refuge. The Order of the Knights Hospitaller – the Order of St John – precursors of St John's Ambulance, played a big role on the battlefield.

*Continued on page 13*

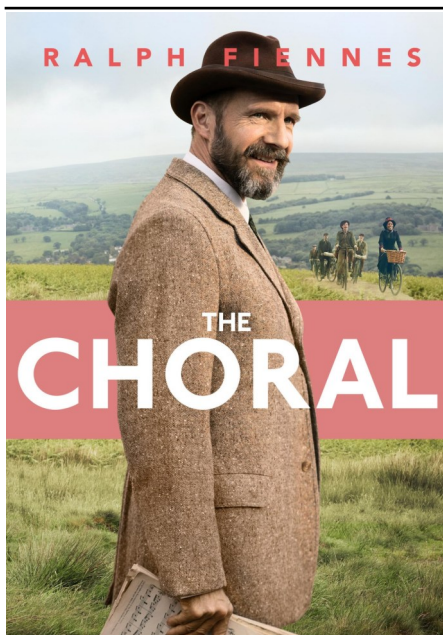
Bone infections, osteomyelitis, were reported as being cured by cutting holes at the top and bottom of the affected bone and pouring wine in through the cavities. Haemorrhoids were cured by searing with hot irons: no-one, as Gareth pointed out, ever needed go a second time, for reasons we can readily understand.

Medical improvements came about over long decades. The first autopsy is recorded a 1250, the first animal dissection 1280. Another doctor of note was a Nottingham man, John of Arderne (circa 1370), who was one of the first to apply red paint (representing blood, white representing bandages) to a pole which in time became the recognised symbol of barber-surgeons, who carried out the operations at local level. Red was also the colour of the bandages in which smallpox patients were wrapped, with a view to reducing scarring.

What were described back then as 'hospitals' didn't have medical staff, they were intended for rest, and for travellers. They were often run by monks. While monks were banned from practising surgery (the church abhorred the shedding of blood) monasteries had a key role to play. Their libraries were the great repositories of knowledge.

Gareth pointed out that in many ways the medical standards of the time were higher (at least as described) than our own times. Not a proposition we could test - but a good note on which to end an enjoyable talk. A big thank you to Gareth.

**Chris Collier**



**The Bisley Flicks in the Sticks  
Presents:**

## **The Choral**

**At Bisley Village Hall**

**8:00pm**

**Tuesday 12th May**

**Doors Open 7:30pm for Tea,  
Coffee and Wine  
(now summer hour timings)**

CRANHAM LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

**William Tyndale and the  
Gloucestershire Landscape**

**Superstition and Science**

an illustrated talk  
by Alan Pilbeam

**Cranham Village Hall**

**on**

**Thursday 21st May 2026**

**at 7.45pm**

**\* \* \***

**Members Free/ Visitors £4.00**

**Refreshments are included**

**All welcome**



## CRANHAM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE FUNDRAISING 2026

**THE**



**CLUB**

Cranham Village Hall is a Charitable Trust and the 100 Club is an important fundraiser.  
It is hassle-free and there are **NUMBERS AVAILABLE!**

**So.... What is the 100 club??**

Each number is £12 per year paid by Standing Order or Direct Debit **Annually on 1st March**  
with **HALF** the total subscriptions paid out in monthly prizes.

### **Prizes**

**£25** for the winner draw for  
**January, March, April, June, July, Sept, October, December**  
With **£100** for the winner draw for  
**February, May, August, November**

Winners are contacted and names shown on the VH noticeboard

Please consider supporting your Village Hall with just £12 a year and you might just win a prize!!

If you would like to support the VH and join the 100 club  
please contact

[100clubcranham@gmail.com](mailto:100clubcranham@gmail.com)

## **Cranham Common News**

Late spring and summer are the best times to enjoy wild flowers on the common. I observed the following during a walk round the common in early April (identification done with the help of Google Lens); cowslips, bluebells, sweet violets, dog violets, lesser Celandines (a type of buttercup) and cuckoo flowers. The blackthorn is also in full bloom across the common. I thought the display of flowers was quite patchy but it is still early so hopefully there's plenty more to come as we move into the summer.

Previous articles have covered the mixed grazing strategy used on the common to reduce scrub and encourage a diverse environment for wildlife. Last year goats were used to great effect over parts of the common. Goats are browsers rather than just grazers which makes them ideal for controlling woody and thorny vegetation, such as brambles and saplings, which sheep and cattle will not eat. Agreement from various interested parties needs to be secured to enable the goats to be returned to the common this summer. The CCMC is hopeful that this can be resolved soon and we also look forward to the return of cattle later in the year. Now that the grass has started to grow again just a polite reminder not to mow the common. If grass is a problem against boundary walls, then a gentle trimming with a strimmer is recommended to manage the grass length.

There have been several postings on Facebook relating to adders on the common which have attracted a considerable number of comments. This is clearly a subject that villagers understandably feel strongly about. The position of the CCMC is made on Facebook in a post by 'Cranham Common Ccmc'. The advice is, as always, is to keep a look out for adders - as they can look like twigs. Give them a wide berth and keep dogs under close control and out of bramble patches.

**Malcolm Chapman  
Member, CCMC**

## **Brimpsfield & Mid-Cotswold Garden Society**

The Society's next event is its annual Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on Saturday 9th May in Brimpsfield Village Hall; this is a bring-and-buy sale in aid of the Society's funds, so if you have any plants, seeds, or other garden-related items, do bring them along for sale! Coffee and home-made cake will be available from 10.30am, with the selling starting at 11am sharp (and no bagging of plants in advance!). There are usually bargains to be had, and some interesting plants often turn up, so do come along and take a look! Entry free, modest charge for coffee and cake, and if you wish to join the Society, membership cards will be available upon payment of the annual fee (£8 individual, £12 couple). We look forward to seeing you there!



This is the month to sow summer beans (runners and French beans), temperatures permitting. If you've started them off in a heated greenhouse or indoors, you may already have them ready to plant outside but check the weather forecast before doing that; they won't tolerate frost. The usual way is to grow them on a framework of supports, normally with the poles tied together at the top, as a wigwam or an A-frame. Some years ago I was given a tip which I've followed ever since, which is to tie the poles together half-way up so that they form an X-shaped frame; as the plants grow up the poles, the pods hang down on the outside of the frame rather than down inside the middle, making them easier to see and reach. If you grow yellow or purple-podded varieties, they are even more visible among the foliage!

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## **VILLAGE email - [cranhammail@gmail.com](mailto:cranhammail@gmail.com)**

Cranhammail is for all village announcements, such as forthcoming social events, society meetings, planned road closures, and general Parish announcements.



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## **Cranham Parish Council website**

lots of info including the minutes of meetings

<https://cranhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/>

## Painswick Gardening Club

On Wednesday, April 8th, we were treated to a double bill! Having come some distance, from East Devon, Bella Given offered two talks. Starting at 6 pm, with “Dazzling Dahlias”, Bella shared her passion for dahlias presenting her favourite colour combinations, how to grow them and present them as exciting, varied displays. After a break for a drink and chat, with homemade scones, Bella progressed to pot combinations, many, of course, including dahlias! But with a range of other plants such as physocarpus, amelanchier, cornus and choisya. She recommended using 45-inch diameter pots since larger pots did not need watering as frequently and could take several plants giving a colour co-ordinated effect. Bulbs could be planted densely in layers to give a continuing spring show.

Next month, we have Helen Picton coming on Wednesday, May 13th to talk ‘Fronzy Friends. Old Court Nurseries & The Picton Garden is a small family run plant nursery and garden. They hold the Plant Heritage National Plant Collection of Michaelmas daisies with more than 430 varieties but also of Polypodiums - a genus of evergreen or wintergreen ferns. So it will be the ferns Helen will be talking to us about, this time!

We meet in the Town Hall at 7.00pm for tea/coffee and perhaps a glass of wine, ready to start the talk at 7.30pm.

Come and join us – Wednesday evening 13th May.

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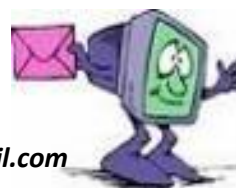
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*All general articles: **cranhammagazine@gmail.com***

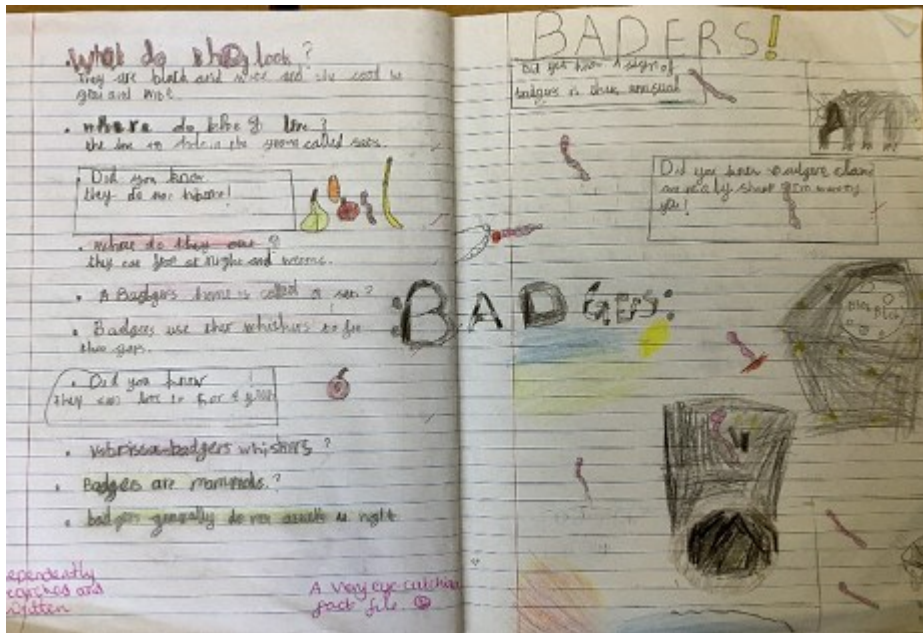
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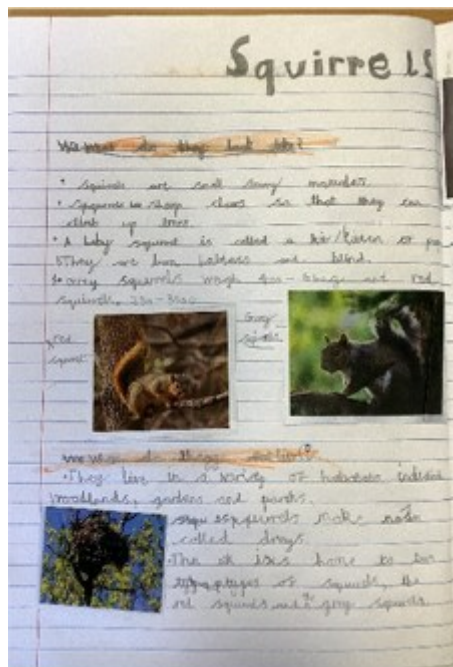
*Distribution enquiries : **distributioncranhammag@gmail.com***



## Cranham School



Olorhe - Year 2



Toby - Year 2



## ***Cranham Tennis Club***



**There's lots going on at our village tennis club over the next few months, and we welcome new members.**

**Social evenings : Tuesdays and Thursdays 6 – 8pm.** for all standards – just ask to join the Whatsapp group.

**Doubles round robin tournament :** Enter as a pair, or singly and we will draw a partner for you. To be played from May – end July. All standards welcome.

**Save the date for Crambledon 2026, July 18th :** our annual one-day fundraising tournament.

### **Junior Coaching. May half term.**

For children aged 5 – 14; members and non-members

#### **Tues 26th – Friday 29th May**

9.30 – 11am Younger group

11 – 12.30am Older group

Please contact Jemma Pockett on 07500 800626 for more information and to book places.

If you are not already a member and would like to join the club  
please email Helen, the secretary at :  
[cranhamtennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:cranhamtennisclub@gmail.com) for an application form.  
(£30 adult; £55 family; £15 junior for the year)



FRIENDS OF CRANHAM SCHOOL PRESENTS



# CRANHAM

## WILDLIFE

TRAIL  
& COUNTRY FAIR





BAKING COMPETITION



SATURDAY 16 MAY 2026



CATEGORIES

| Aged 12 and Under                  | Over 12s / Adults                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| Cutest Creature or Farmyard Friend | A Taste of Cranham                                      |
| A Day in the Countryside           | Countryside Showstopper                                 |
| Judge's Special Mention            | Classic Countryside Bake<br>(e.g loaf cake, scones etc) |
| Free From                          | Free From                                               |

Entries can include big cakes, little cakes, biscuits, traybakes - have a bit of fun and bake for the fair! All bakes to be with the FOCS team/dropped at the school the day before, or by 10am at the Cricket Club on the day. Judging takes place at 10.30am at the Cranham Wildlife Trail & Country Fair

## **Ebworth**

Early spring is a wonderful time of year. Each day brings the possibility of hearing a new summer migrant singing, often for the first time since last summer. It's not only migratory birds that are beginning to reappear after the winter months, but also invertebrates. While some species do migrate, most will have overwintered as eggs, larvae, pupae or adults, emerging as temperatures begin to rise.

One often overlooked group are hoverflies. These can be surprisingly colourful, with many species sporting bold black and yellow markings. This colouring is no accident: many hoverflies are wasp and bee mimics. Although they are fast and agile, hoverflies are defenceless, unlike bees and wasps with their formidable stings, so looking the part offers valuable protection from predators. Some mimics are incredibly convincing, while others are perhaps less so! Like bees, hoverflies are excellent and important pollinators, and the larvae of some species feed on aphids, making them a gardener's friend too.

Spring is also a key time of year for looking after the visitor infrastructure across the site. This includes repairing and replacing gates, fences and stiles, improving footpaths, and checking waymarkers and signage. Carrying out this work now helps ensure the site remains welcoming, accessible and safe for everyone throughout the year ahead, while also protecting sensitive areas from unnecessary wear and tear.

Although it may seem early, we are already preparing for this year's forestry work. Assessing and marking trees is much easier while they are still in bud. This year's work will continue the approach of Continuous Cover Forestry, pioneered here by John Workman. This involves selectively thinning the woodlands by removing the wobbly and squirrel-damaged trees, while retaining both vigorous, straight specimens and trees with high biodiversity value.

For those interested in finding out more, I will be running a guided walk on Thursday 25th June to look at our woodland management and the areas due to be thinned this year. The walk is free, but booking online is essential. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/3ntab5sj> or search for "Ebworth woodland management walk."

*Continued on page 25*

*From page 24*



Syrphus sp



Eupeodes sp



Epistrophe Eligans

### **Photos of Hoverflies**

**Tom Griffin**

Area Ranger

Ebworth and Crickley Hill

National Trust

## **Cranham Village Cinema**

We would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported the Village Cinema over the last six months, you have helped raise £1095.33 for Cranham Village Hall.

We have had great fun with our themed nights and have enjoyed seeing lots of different locals come out on cold winter nights to help support our fundraiser.

The village hall is used by so many of us in the village whether it's for choir, orchestra, weekly exercise classes, Rachel's cafe, table tennis, village lunches or we've simply attended events here. It is a big part of our community, a former chapel and pottery the building has lots of history and is another important village asset in need of maintenance and updating so we are thrilled to have raised such a good total, thank you.

Highlights have been Fran's piano solo warming up the audience for our Christmas showing of love actually whilst everyone enjoyed homemade mince pies and mulled wine, rumour has it that Andrew Lincoln himself attended the crib service at church Christmas Eve after hearing about our fabulous evening honouring the Christmas classic!

A heartfelt thank you from your village cinema team.

**Chloe & Macca  
McCarthy and  
Charlie & Fran  
Overs**



## **Cranham Village Lunch**

The next village lunch will be held on

**Monday 18th May**

**12.15 for 12.30pm**

at the Village Hall



Menu for this day will be:

Fruit juice

Hot, Homemade Sausage Rolls, New Potatoes

Coleslaw and Salad

Fresh Fruit Salad and Cream with Shortbread Biscuits

Tea/Coffee

Please do remember to book if you did not attend the April lunch.

Cost will be £5.00, we are looking forward to seeing you.

Thank you, Nicky

(nickyovers@hotmail.co.uk, 07884 432886 or 812429)

## Citizens Advice: Our Impact 2024-25



**Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts** helped 3,500 people last year with a wide range of issues - from benefit claims, debt, housing or employment problems to relationship breakdowns and more - according to their **Impact Report 2024-25**. The advice charity generated £1.8m in additional income for their clients and saved government services hundreds of thousands of pounds by preventing homelessness, housing evictions and reducing use of mental health services.

**‘Our advice has life-changing effects for the people we help,’** said Chief Executive Elizabeth Hall and the chair of trustees, William Underhill, in a joint introduction. ‘We face the continuing challenge of rising demand for our service,’ they added.

The charity covers the **largely rural areas** of the Cotswold and Stroud districts. The report points out that while the area may be known for its prosperity, there are **pockets of real hardship and exclusion**. Last summer, the charity produced a hard-hitting report on Child Poverty which showed that one in five children are affected in this area. Local MPs Roz Savage, Simon Opher and Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown responded positively and pledged to work on the issue.

The Impact Report highlights how much people appreciate the **support navigating complex benefit systems** to ensure that they and their families can get the help they urgently need. In a survey, 85% of people who had used Citizens Advice’s **impartial, independent and confidential advice** said they would not have been able to resolve their problems without this help. The majority (73%) said they felt less stressed and anxious, and 44% said that their physical health had also improved as a result.

The report included anonymised case studies such as that of **‘Kate’**, a survivor of domestic abuse whose medical conditions left her struggling to afford heating and food. Citizens Advice helped Kate to win her case on appeal after a two-year battle. The case was unusual in severity and length, which was recognised in the settlement of £17,000 in back payments.

Rising costs, low wages and low benefit levels mean that many people today struggle to avoid **unmanageable debt**. Citizens Advice helped to get **£654,723 written off** for desperate households where debt was causing severe hardship.

*Continued on page 29*

Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts is an **independent charity and part of a national network** across the country. Over fifty volunteers help around twenty paid staff, with trained advisers working also in foodbanks and outreach centres.

In 2025, the charity also launched **Advice First Aid** in a countywide collaboration with Citizens Advice North and West Gloucestershire. Advice First Aid offers **free training to frontline staff and volunteers from local organisations**, such as foodbanks, community hubs and libraries, to help them spot advice needs and provide signposting of services; 150 have been trained so far.

For the full report please visit:

**[www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk)**

**Helpline:** Calls are free on **0808 800 0510** (Mon-Tues 10-4pm Wed-Thurs 10-12.30pm).

For details about our **free Advice First Aid training**, please visit our website or email [training@ca-scd.org.uk](mailto:training@ca-scd.org.uk)

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## Attention All Gardeners!



During Christian Aid week, 10th - 16th May, there will be a 'bring and buy' Garden Shop on Sunday 16th May at St. Mary's Church Rooms. If any keen gardener would like to grow plants for the shop it would be greatly appreciated.

---

## Weird English Facts!

### Did you know that;

- \* the word "nothing" didn't originally mean zero; it meant 'not a thing', and English slowly turned it into emptiness itself.
- \* The dot over i and j is called a tittle (yes that's real)
- \* "Almost" is the longest word with letters in alphabetical order.
- \* The word "typewriter" can be typed using only the top row of a keyboard

## Magazine subscription 2026/27

*The cost remains at £10.00 pa for the 10th year!*

*This is largely due to the revenue received from the advertisers.*

*Thank you, Advertisers!*

Payment is due before **25th May**

**Thank you** to the many -

- who have already set up a standing order or who plan to pay by BACS.

Cash payments will be collected by the person  
who delivers your magazine in May or June.

***But - please consider paying by bank transfer if you can.***

I will send a reminder email in May, as well as Facebook reminders!

The wonderful deliverers are:- Joan C, Kate R, Deb & Nita, Len,  
Keith D, Philippa, Gill & Andy, Helen D, John W & me!

*Thank you*

**The Subscription charge for Postal Copies pa is £20.00\***

The cost remains unchanged for the 10th year.

\*(£10.00 for the magazine, £10.00 for postage and envelope)

Sue Stick. [distributioncranhammag@gmail.com](mailto:distributioncranhammag@gmail.com)

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## REGULAR EVENTS

(although all may be subject to cancellation or change, so please check directly with the organisers)

|                           |                                                                                                                                                                               |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Village Lunch             | Monthly on a Monday 12.15 for 12.30pm<br>(Nicky Overs 07884 432886)                                                                                                           |
| Lego Building Club        | Mondays 3.30 - 4.30pm - Painswick Community Library                                                                                                                           |
| Orchestra                 | Mondays 8.00pm - V Hall (Beryl Berry 813200)                                                                                                                                  |
| Rachel's Pop Up Café      | Tuesdays 10.00am - 1.30pm - V Hall                                                                                                                                            |
| Post Office               | Tuesdays 10.30am - 12noon - V Hall                                                                                                                                            |
| Cranham Art Group         | Tuesdays 7.00 - 9.00pm - V Hall (Lyn Barker 813025)                                                                                                                           |
| Choir                     | Tuesdays 7.30pm - V Hall<br>(Virginia Pittman 07989 712263 virginiapittman3@gmail.com)                                                                                        |
| Tennis Social Evening     | Tuesdays 6.00 - 8.00pm - Tennis Courts                                                                                                                                        |
| Beavers, Cubs<br>& Scouts | Wednesdays - Scout Centre - times as follows:<br>Beaver Scouts (6 to 8 yrs) 4.45 to 5.45pm<br>Cub Scouts (8 to 10 yrs) 5.50 to 7.10pm<br>Scouts (10 to 14 yrs) 7.30 to 9.00pm |
| Crock 'n' Roll            | Wednesdays 2.30 - 3.00pm - Painswick Community Library<br>(With Steph - £1 per child)                                                                                         |
| Table Tennis Club         | Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm - V Hall<br>(Clive Hayden 07833 635762 chayden814@gmail.com)                                                                                         |
| Cranham Ramblers          | 1st Thursday of month 9.45am - Car Park (Joan Charman 07717 286848)                                                                                                           |
| Tennis Social Evening     | Thursdays 6.00 - 8.00pm - Tennis Courts                                                                                                                                       |
| Cranham Bell Ringers      | Thursdays 6.30 - 8.00pm - Church (Rob Garratt 07703 503547)                                                                                                                   |
| S'Combe Bridge Club       | 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7.00pm - Sheepscombe V Hall<br>(Contact Hugh Tarran 814081 or h.tarran@tiscali.co.uk)                                                                   |
| Rachel's Pop Up Café      | Fridays 10.00 - 1.30pm - V Hall                                                                                                                                               |
| Parent and Toddler        | Fridays 10:30 - 12noon - V Hall<br>(Contact tbc)                                                                                                                              |
| Garden Club               | Brimpsfield, Phone Francis Ellery 01452 862412 for further info                                                                                                               |

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## WELCOME!

Welcome to Hannah and Harrison who have moved into 12 Church Close We hope you have had a warm welcome to Cranham.





## **MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTIONS**

All articles for the forthcoming month should be forwarded to the editors by email to

**cranhammagazine@gmail.com**

(preferred option).

Articles should be forwarded as either a WORD or WORKS document and preferably in Calibri font size 10 on A5 size paper settings. Articles may also be sent manually typed or hand written.

**Please refrain from using ADOBE EDITOR as all articles have to be edited prior to inserting into the magazine.**

All hard copies should be forward to **Baggend (at the Knoll)**.

All items to be included within next months magazine will need to be in the hands of the editors by the following dates:

**WEDNESDAY 20th MAY 2026**

Magazines will be available for distribution:

on **Sunday 31st May** or thereabouts.

The date will be confirmed to the distributors by email.

**814839**

**cranhammagazine@gmail.com**

# CRANHAM DIARY



## MAY 2026

|         |       |                                                              |                  |                   |
|---------|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 3       | Sun   | Benefice Communion                                           | Edge             | 11.00am           |
|         |       | Evensong                                                     | Church           | 6.30pm            |
| 5       | Tues  | Recycling/Food Waste                                         |                  |                   |
| 6       | Wed   | Cotteswold Naturalist                                        | P'wick Centre    | 2.30pm            |
| 7       | Thurs | Ramble                                                       | Car Park         | 9.45am            |
| 9       | Sat   | C Common Trust AGM                                           | Village Hall     | 10.00am           |
|         |       | Garden Society Plant Sale                                    | B'field V.Hall   | 10.30 for 11.00am |
| 10 - 16 |       | Christian Aid Week - Look out for envelopes through the door |                  |                   |
| 10      | Sun   | Holy Communion                                               | Church           | 11.00am           |
| 12      | Tues  | Rubbish/Food Waste                                           |                  |                   |
|         |       | Flicks in the Sticks                                         | Bisley V.Hall    | 7.30 for 8.00pm   |
| 13      | Wed   | Gardening Club                                               | P'wick Town Hall | 7.00 for 7.30pm   |
| 16      | Sat   | Wildlife Trail                                               | Cricket Club     | 11.00am - 5.00pm  |
| 17      | Sun   | Evensong                                                     | Church           | 6.30pm            |
| 18      | Mon   | Morning Prayer & Coffee                                      | Church           | 9.00am            |
|         |       | Village Lunch                                                | Village Hall     | 12.15 for 12.30pm |
| 19      | Tues  | Recycling/Food Waste                                         |                  |                   |
|         |       | Cotteswold Naturalist                                        | Box V.Hall       | 2.30pm            |
| 20      | Wed   | <b>** Magazine Articles Due **</b>                           |                  |                   |
| 21      | Thurs | CLHS Talk                                                    | Village Hall     | 7.30 for 7.45pm   |
| 24      | Sun   | Morning Worship                                              | Church           | 11.00am           |
| 25      | Mon   | Magazine Subs Due - Please pay via BACS if possible          |                  |                   |
| 26 - 29 |       | Tennis Coaching                                              | Tennis Courts    | Pg 21 for details |
| 26      | Tues  | Rubbish/Food Waste                                           |                  |                   |
| 31      | Sun   | Family Worship                                               | Church           | 11.00am           |

## JUNE 2026

|   |       |        |          |        |
|---|-------|--------|----------|--------|
| 4 | Thurs | Ramble | Car Park | 9.45am |
|---|-------|--------|----------|--------|