

CRANHAM VILLAGE MAGAZINE

With Cranham Parish and Benefice News and Information

AUGUST 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.

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House Groups

Expressions of Interest Now that the Bible Course has finished, people are asking how we can continue to feed our appetite for God's Word, so we're planning to start new house

groups later this summer. These groups will be an opportunity to continue growing in faith through Bible study, prayer, friendship, and fellowship in a relaxed and welcoming home setting.



Whether you've attended Alpha, the Bible Course, or are simply interested in joining a small group, we'd love to hear from you. At this stage, we're simply seeking expressions of interest to help us plan groups. If you'd like to be part of one, please let us know your preferences (Anna - beaconbeneficeoffice@gmail.com):

- Daytime or evening?
- If you prefer a daytime group, would you rather meet in the morning or afternoon?
- Which day(s) of the week suit you best?

Expressing an interest isn't a commitment - it simply helps us organise groups at times that work for as many people as possible.

Cranham Parish Council website

lots of info including the minutes of meetings

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

www.beaconbenefice.org.uk

Worship in Cranham - August 2026

Sunday 2nd 11.00am	Benefice Communion, Cranham	Revd's Helen & Kate
	Sidesperson Sue Williams	
	Readers TBA	
Sunday 9th 11.00am	Holy Communion	Revd. Andrew
	Sidesperson Tom Daltry	
	Readers Tom Daltry	
	Helen Daltry	
Sunday 16th 6.30pm	Evensong	Phil & Chris
	Sidesperson Keith Ardron	
	Readers Sylvia Ardron	
	Nicole W	
Monday 17th 9.00am	Morning Prayer with coffee	Revd. Sarah
Sunday 23rd 11.00am	Morning Worship	Revd. Helen
	Sidesperson Roger Moore	
	Readers Phil Stick	
	Nicki Clapton	
Sunday 30th 9.30am	Family Worship & Communion at Painswick	Revd's Sarah & Kate

Flowers, Cleaning & Refreshments in August

Church Flowers

26th July/2nd Aug	Gill Hopkins & Philippa Crowther
9th & 16th August	Janet Whitton
August 23rd & 30th	Sue Stick



Church Cleaning

1st August	Sylvia Ardron
8th August	Carol Tringham
15th August	Nicki Clapton
22nd August	Joan Charman
29th August	Kate Ryan



Refreshments will be served after the following services:

9th August	11am Holy Communion
23rd August	11am Morning worship





**CAFÉ OPENING AND SERVICE
JULY AND AUGUST 2026**

Thank you very much for supporting the café.

It is with regret that the café will only be open

on **TUESDAYS ONLY** during **JULY** and

CLOSED FULLY FOR AUGUST.

Sorry to disappoint those who have become regular visitors, we have loved serving you.

Best wishes,
Rachel and the pop-up team

Cranham Scout Group: 2026 Mid-Year Review

As we reach the midpoint of 2026, and head into our Summer break from scouting, it seems appropriate to look back on a highly successful and productive first half of the year. We now host 58 children across the 3 sections who between them have received over 200 badges since January. For Cubs and Scouts, the weekly programmes have focused heavily on practical, hands-on skill development and teamwork, giving our young people essential "skills for life." Beavers have worked on communication, digital and household skills and first aid.

These structured activities have enabled our members to earn a wide range of badges. In addition, we have awarded 4 of the top badges - 2 Chief Cub Silver and 2 Chief Scout Gold awards.

Grovesfest VI

On 11th July, we held our annual flagship fundraiser, Grovesfest, down in the Grove. Thanks to the hard work of our volunteers and the fantastic turnout from our local community, the event was an amazing success, as we started to see our principle drivers behind the event come to fruition, with many young people performing throughout the day before our established house band came on in the early evening.

The funds raised through the BBQ, bar, and activities are vital to our group, directly subsidising our equipment, and outdoor activities to ensure our exciting programme of activities remains accessible to all.

Governance Update: The Relaunch of our Trustee Board

Strong governance is the foundation of any successful Scout group. To that end, we are pleased to report the official resurrection of our Trustee Board, following a highly productive recruitment campaign and an inaugural meeting on June 17th.

The Trustee Board is responsible for the administrative, financial, and safety oversight of the Cranham Scout Group. By establishing clear financial priorities and compliance structures, the board will ensure our group is sustainably managed for years to come and free the section leaders up to deliver more exciting programmes for our young people.

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As we look to expand the board, we are actively seeking individuals with professional expertise in finance, legal compliance, administration, or project management. If you would like to support the group in a non-uniformed, governance capacity, please contact us for more information on trustee vacancies.

Celebrating Individual Achievements

Each year our section leaders are supported by a number of young leaders, seeking the continued enjoyment of being part of the scouting family, hoping to develop charitable activities to bolster CVs or to meet Duke of Edinburgh requirements. This year Emily Clapton has achieved the prestigious Young Leader Belt and a BTEC in leadership through her work with the Beavers.

Summer Camps

This year the Scouts took part in their second Strategy event in Cirencester Park with scouts from around the County. Teams work together to maximise points, achieved through successfully completing competitive tasks. Beavers attended Discover as part of the same weekend. For Cubs the preparation is now fully focused on the upcoming adventure weekend camp at Youldbury, taking place over the weekend of 7th - 9th August 2026.

Finally, as our leaders take a few weeks rest before ramping up to plan our autumn and winter term programmes, it just leaves for me to say a massive thank you to all of our leaders, parents, and volunteers whose ongoing dedication makes these opportunities possible. We look forward to an equally successful second half of the year.

Charlie

Fix my Street

website to report potholes and fly tipping etc

<https://www.fixmystreet.com>

Ebworth

A quick note from me this month. After several wonderful years as the National Trust Ranger at Ebworth, it's time for me to move on to a new role with the Wildfowl & Wetlands Trust (WWT), helping to deliver saltmarsh restoration across the river at Awre.

I'll greatly miss this special place and the lovely people of Cranham, but rest assured that Ebworth will be left in safe hands and the fantastic conservation work will continue with my successor.

One of the highlights of the job has been getting to know so many of the regular walkers and visitors on site. Thank you for all the conversations, support and interest over the years. Although I'm moving on, I'm sure you'll still spot me up here from time to time - usually with my binoculars, birdwatching and perhaps quietly checking that everything is as it should be!

Below is a lovely drone photo of The Ebworth Centre looking South over Workmans Wood and Sheepscombe.



All the best

Tom

Tom Griffin

Area Ranger

Ebworth and Crickley
Hill

National Trust

A visit to Burford
Cranham Local History Society,
21st June 2026

We couldn't have chosen a better place to visit, on a day which was sunny but not quite yet a heatwave. The accidents of history have left Burford remarkably unchanged. We gathered under the 16th century arches of the Tolsey, now the town museum. It was a Sunday and a festive day, with the 'annual' dragon parade (staged in fact for the first time since 1972), marking a battle between the Mercians and West Saxons when a dragon is reputed to have appeared. The Mercians lost. Also processing through the village, and maximising decibels, were motor cyclists.

Its halcyon days were medieval as a Cotswold wool town, benefitting from the vast demand for wool, home and overseas, but also for local stone. (Used for rebuilding London after the Great Fire.) With the coming of the railway in the 1840s, Burford missed out and then came the agricultural depression after 1870. But there was also William Morris with his medieval enthusiasms and, with the coming of the motor car, Burford became and remains a popular destination. So, we shouldn't curse the car too much.

The museum took us away from the traffic to a remarkable collection of documents, charters and photos – well worth a visit. Drama came a short walk away, at the parish church celebrated for a revolt by Leveller elements in Cromwell's New Model Army which led to the shooting against the church wall of three recalcitrant soldiers. Lunch was courtesy of Huffkins, where we had a room to ourselves upstairs and they did us proud. A big thank you to Sue Crawford and Marian Broadstock for organising, and to our three excellent local guides.

The next history society meeting is on Thursday 1st October, when Tony Condor will be our speaker, on the subject of 'Gloucestershire Observed, looking at life in the county over 500 years through diaries and journals'.

Chris Collier

Notes from the Chair

August 2026

“For my part I know nothing with any certainty, but the sight of the stars makes me dream.” – Vincent van Gogh

Cranham Parish Council has adopted a Dark Skies Policy which is available on our website: <https://cranhamparishcouncil.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/CPC-Dark-Skies-Policy.pdf>

Over the past few years the PC has become increasingly aware of light spilling beyond the boundary of the property on which a light is located. This is a particular problem when neighbouring properties or the surrounding countryside are illuminated. Every response to a planning application is appended with a note concerning dark skies.

Why should we be concerned about light pollution?

Without a natural night sky humans could not have navigated round the world, learned about our expanding universe or walked on the moon.

Sadly, many children will grow up never seeing the Milky Way, our own galaxy, because of the impact of artificial light. We are fortunate in Cranham that we can still see the Milky Way even though we are affected by sky glow from Stroud, Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Light pollution has been shown to disrupt human circadian rhythm (because of its effect on melatonin levels) and this can increase stress and disturb sleep patterns.

Brightening the night sky adversely affects the balance of nature and can be linked to declining populations of birds, insects and other species of wildlife.

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In particular;

Moths become disorientated, flying in circles so that they can become exhausted. Some predators are able to take advantage of this.

Bat numbers can be reduced because of disruption of their navigation, foraging and roosting. Bats avoid brightly lit areas. When insects are drawn away from bat natural feeding grounds by artificial lighting, bats can find themselves short of food.

Hedgehogs avoid brightly lit areas, and this can alter their foraging and ability to map their territory.

Bright lights reduce **Badgers'** foraging time and can deter them from safe travel routes.

Mice feed less because they avoid illuminated spaces to forage.

Owls rely on darkness to hunt and hide. They will abandon roosting and nesting sites if the night becomes too bright.

Glow worms have been spotted on the Common this summer. Artificial light confuses the males and you will not see the females unless it is dark.

Evidence about the effect of bright lights on crime prevention is mixed. It seems that the best deterrent is having a camera/CCTV.

We hope that Cranham will support our Dark Skies Policy (see article on following page).

Next meeting:

Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 7.00pm
in the Cranham Village Hall.

CRANHAM PARISH COUNCIL DARK SKIES POLICY

PURPOSE

Cranham Parish Council recognises that artificial lighting can provide important benefits for safety, security and accessibility. However, excessive or poorly designed lighting can harm the rural character of the parish, diminish enjoyment of the night sky, adversely affect human wellbeing, and disrupt wildlife, particularly nocturnal species such as bats, owls and insects.

Dark skies are an important feature of the parish's natural environment, contributing to landscape character, tranquillity, biodiversity and residents' quality of life. The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing dark skies and reducing light pollution wherever practicable.



POLICY OBJECTIVES

The Council will:



Consider the impact of artificial lighting in all planning applications on which it is consulted and in projects or activities it undertakes.



Support national and local planning policies that seek to avoid, minimise and reduce light pollution.



Encourage the use of lighting only where necessary and ensure that its intensity, duration and extent are minimised.



Protect sensitive habitats, wildlife corridors and intrinsically dark landscapes from the adverse effects of artificial lighting.



Support opportunities to reduce existing light pollution through improved design, technology and management.



Promote awareness of dark skies within the local community and encourage good lighting practices.



Recognise dark skies and tranquillity as important components of the area's natural beauty, biodiversity, cultural heritage and wellbeing.



Support initiatives that enhance appreciation of the night sky and contribute to wider dark sky projects within the Cotswolds National Landscape.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

When considering planning applications, the Council will assess the impact of proposed lighting on local amenity, landscape character, biodiversity and the night sky.

PARTICULAR CONSIDERATION WILL BE GIVEN TO:



The necessity, location, scale and design of lighting.



Brightness, colour temperature and hours of operation.



Potential for light spill beyond site boundaries.



Cumulative impacts from multiple developments.



Effects on wildlife, particularly bats and other nocturnal species.



Impacts on tranquillity and the rural character of the parish.

THE COUNCIL WILL ENCOURAGE LIGHTING THAT:

- ★ Is the minimum required for safety and operational purposes.
- ★ Is fully shielded and directed downward.
- ★ Avoids upward light emission and excessive light spill.
- ★ Uses warm-coloured lighting with low blue-light content.
- ★ Incorporates timers, dimmers, motion sensors or curfews to minimise unnecessary operation.
- ★ Avoids illumination of hedgerows, woodland edges, watercourses and wildlife corridors.
- ★ External lighting should be restricted to essential purposes, particularly within open countryside, conservation areas, tranquil landscapes and other environmentally sensitive locations.



For developments involving significant external lighting, the Council may request a Lighting Impact Assessment demonstrating the need for lighting, measures to minimise light pollution, impacts on landscape and biodiversity, and compliance with recognised standards and best practice.



COMMUNITY AND COUNCIL ACTION

The Council will encourage residents, businesses, community organisations and sports facilities to adopt good lighting practices by:



Switching off unnecessary lighting when not required.



Using motion sensors instead of permanent security lighting where appropriate.



Replacing older fittings with dark-sky-friendly alternatives.



Supporting activities that promote awareness and appreciation of dark skies.



Working together to protect the tranquillity and natural beauty of our parish for future generations.



Protecting our night Skies. Protecting our wildlife. Enhancing our wellbeing.



Painswick Gardening Club

Painswick Gardening Club ended their season on Wednesday, July 8th, with a group visit to Brockworth Court. We were treated to a tour of the house with passionate owners Tim and Bridget Wiltshire. They explained it was a sixteenth century Tudor manor originally a residence for the Priors of Llanthony Secunda. We saw fifteenth century wall paintings, a secret priest hole and felt the house was still very much a family home. Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn visited in 1535.



Out in the garden we enjoyed the sun setting over the Monet Bridge and marvelled at how Tim and Bridget restored the garden and now maintain the garden between them. We adjourned for prosecco in the impressive tithe barn which dated back to the thirteenth century. Unfortunately, a fire swept through it in the 1990's but owners Tim and Bridget lovingly restored it to its former glory.

Joyce Barrus



Cranham Common News

The weather this spring and early summer has been a mix of rain and hot spells, which has resulted in strong grass growth. The common is looking very much like a SSSI grassland and we have also been treated to a varied and colourful display of wildflowers. The cows are now back on the common, at the time of writing there were 9 cows with one more due to join imminently. As part of the battle against scrub we also have two herds of goats on the common and both seem to have made a good start, Caroline's on Knowle Bank and Liz's on the triangle by the cricket club. The recent hot spell has resulted in the common being extremely dry so caution is needed not to do anything which would cause a fire risk.

The common is a great location for seeing birdlife. It is surrounded by a mix of gardens, woodland and there are streams and lakes on the periphery too. I'm not an experienced birdwatcher so am reliant on the App Merlin for identification – this really is a great App and I recommend it to anyone interested in understanding what bird species there are in their local area.

The common is one of a reducing number of sites suitable for ground nesting birds. Skylarks have been seen on the common this spring but it's not clear if they are nesting and it's more likely that they have chosen well managed local farmland to raise their broods. Meadow pipits are living on the common and this year Merlin has identified tree pipits, which are also ground nesting birds. A key issue with successful breeding of these birds is disturbance, particularly by dogs. So please stick to the regular paths and keep your dog under close control.

Earlier this month I was walking on the common near the trout farm and amongst the background chatter from goldfinches, sparrows and common garden birds Merlin picked up a kingfisher. These are such beautiful birds, but they are incredibly elusive. I did go down to the edge of the lake, but I didn't manage to catch sight of it.

The woodland provides habitat for jays, greater spotted woodpeckers, green woodpeckers, nuthatches and tree creepers – which are difficult to see but Merlin happily picks up their sound.

Swallows are easy to pick out with their remarkable flying ability and they hunt, feed and even drink on the wing. Sadly, numbers are reducing across the country and I have seen fewer swallows than in previous years.

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This decline is thought to be due to use of pesticides in intensive farming reducing insect populations, along with fewer nesting sites as old buildings are refurbished and changes to weather patterns disrupting migration. There have been increases in some species both locally and across the country with blackcaps being a great example. Corvids such as magpies, jackdaws and crows have also increased substantially in recent decades as they thrive on the suburban environment created by increasing human migration into the countryside. These are highly intelligent birds but their success may not be great news for songbird populations.

Birds of prey are usually easy to pick out and no doubt most of us have seen red kites and buzzards soaring high above the common, plus kestrels which can be seen hovering looking for prey. At night we also have barn owls, tawny owls and little owls.

I enjoy hearing a bird sing and trying to identify it before checking on Merlin. Sadly, this turns out to be something else I'm not very good at but one bird I can usually pick out is the song thrush. This bird generally chooses a high perch and the beautiful singing of this aptly named bird has rung out over the common early morning and in the evenings over the spring and early summer. This is done to establish territory and attract mates so as the breeding season comes to an end we are less likely to be treated to this fabulous performance.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive list of all bird species on the common and I apologise if I've missed your favourite one. If you see, or hear, an unusual or exciting bird on or around the common please feel free to let us know, either on Facebook or by email to chair.ccmc@gmail.com.

Malcolm Chapman
Member, CCMC

VILLAGE email - cranhammail@gmail.com

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





FREE ENTRY

Cranham feast 2026

@ THE CRANHAM CRICKET CLUB
September 4th, 5th, & 6th

Friday 4th

- Flower Show opens at 4pm! @St James
- Annual Village Tug-of-War 6pm
- Wings & wedges by Lord of the Wings®
presents
CHICKEN SUPPER
- Live Music from 7:30pm
- Bar open all evening!

Saturday 5th

- Family BBQ from 1pm onwards
- Cranham Skrufz Dog Show! 1:30pm
- Kids Race 2:30 pm
- Annual Boundary Race 3pm
- Games & Bouncy Castle
- Bake off
- Cricket 3pm
- Tombola
- Stalls
- Cake & Tea Tent
- Deer Carving 5pm
- Live Music 6 & 8pm w/ **Too Old For Toys**
- Food by: **Taste of India**

Sunday 6th

- Parade 1pm
- Service at St James the Great Church 3pm

Bar open all day!

Cranham flower show
SEPTEMBER 4th-6th

Join us at St James the Great for our annual flower festival. This years theme celebrates the people, places and moments that have shaped our village story.

Cranham Feast Quiz

Is on Saturday 22nd August

arrive 6.30 for a 7.00pm start

To allow more people to join in we are moving to the village hall.

Benefits include a competitive well-stocked bar and a generous ploughman's lunch included in the cost.

Cost is £12 per person of which £6
goes to support the feast.

Teams of 3, 4, 5 or 6 with payment on the night.

Important to reserve your places ASAP to avoid
disappointment, book by e-mail to
gd-john@hotmail.co.uk you will receive a return e-mail
confirming your booking.

Come on Cranham time to party and get in the mood for what will
be a wonderful feast starting on

Friday 4th September



Collection Point



Helping local people through difficult times

We provide emergency food and practical support for people who don't have enough money to cover the essentials.

Could you donate an item or two from our list, or make a financial donation? Simply scan the QR code below to donate.

Thank you!

Shopping list

Tinned Ham or Corned Beef

Tinned Meat Meals

Tinned Vegetables

Tinned Fruit & Custard

Tinned Rice Pudding

Milk (UHT)

Fruit Juice (long life)

Coffee

Shampoo & Conditioner

Laundry Detergent



01453 367 077

<https://strouddistrict.foodbank.org.uk/>

Registered Charity Number 1176306 | Registered in England and Wales



Reminder:

No Flicks in the Sticks during August.

**We start again on Tuesday 8th September
with “Mr. Burton”**

(Request from Stella - Liz Flint, would appreciate a lift to the flicks occasionally. If anyone attends and could help Liz from time to time please ring her tel. no. 01452 810889)



Cranham Village Lunch

A reminder to all our regulars,
there is NO lunch in August,

but we will be back in September.



*All articles or enquiries with regards to the **Cranham Magazine** only should be emailed to:*

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

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

*Advertising enquiries: **advertisingcranhammag@gmail.com***

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





PAINSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

FOR CHILDREN 2026

LEARN!
CREATE!
BUILD!
READ!
HAVE FUN!



A SUMMER
OF IMAGINATION,
CREATIVITY
& FUN!

LEGO BUILDERS CLUB

5+

EVERY MONDAY

2:30 – 4:30pm

BUILD • CREATE • IMAGINE!

LIBRASAUROS READING CHALLENGE

AGES 3-11

18TH JULY – 7TH SEPTEMBER

READ, DRAW, WRITE,
IMAGINE AND MAYBE
WIN A PRIZE!

STOP MOTION

YOUNG PEOPLE

14TH AUGUST

CREATE YOUR FILM
11:00am – 12:00pm

WATCH YOUR FILM
2:00pm – 3:00pm

BRING YOUR IDEAS TO LIFE
ON SCREEN!

LEGO SPIKE

6+

28TH AUGUST

11:00am – 12:00pm
& 2:00pm – 3:00pm

DISCOVER CODING
AND ROBOTICS WITH LEGO!

BOOKING ESSENTIAL

POP INTO LIBRARY
OR RING
01452 814744

FREE ACTIVITIES –
JUST BRING YOUR IMAGINATION!

MAKE FRIENDS • LEARN NEW SKILLS • HAVE FUN THIS SUMMER!

PAINSWICK COMMUNITY LIBRARY UPSTAIRS IN THE TOWN HALL

PARENTS/CARERS
MUST STAY IN
THE LIBRARY
DURING SESSIONS

Fun, active, and
affordable days
out for the whole
community!

Big Summer Picnics

& Play in the Park

Join us...

Date: 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th August, 10.00am - 4.00pm

Venue: Stratford Park and Active Lifestyles Stroud
(Stratford Road, Stroud GL5 4AF)

Bring your friends, family and a picnic and enjoy a fantastic range of activities for all ages! Activities take place throughout the day, with most offered free of charge and some available at a very low cost. Each day features a slightly varied programme.

- ★ Arts and crafts ★ Multi-sports ★ Yoga
- ★ Bubble football ★ Tennis ★ Face painting
- ★ Badminton and Table Tennis ★ Explorer Trails
- ★ World Jungle ★ Fun Zones
- ★ Museum toy collection and exhibition
- ★ Garden games ...and much more

Don't Forget! Bring your own picnic and enjoy a full day out! Due to limited parking, we encourage walking, cycling or car sharing.



Find out more, email: leisure@stroud.gov.uk
or telephone 01453 766771

Citizens Advice Column:



How to stay cool in the heat

While summer can be enjoyable, heatwaves can make your home uncomfortable and even affect your health. Here are **five simple ways to keep cool**:

Let cool air in: Open windows on opposite sides overnight or early morning to create airflow. If you only have one window, open internal doors. Opening a loft hatch can also release heat.

Keep heat out: Close curtains or blinds where the sun hits. When it's hotter outside (late morning to evening), keep windows shut and use fans instead.

Use a fan: Fans are cheap to run and help air circulate. Place it in front of a bowl of ice (at a safe distance) for extra cooling. When it's cooler outside than inside, use it near an open window to help draw in fresh air.

Take a break from the heat: Spend time in air-conditioned public spaces like libraries or leisure centres.

Improve insulation: Better insulation, shading, ventilation and efficient windows can help all year round. Check the Citizens Advice website for information about schemes and grants that are available



Citizens Advice Column: Worried About Money After Injury?

Q: I've recently had to give up work due to a back injury, and I'm worried about how I'm going to cope with the drop in income. I'm not sure what benefits I can get - where should I start?

A: Lots of people miss out on benefits they're **entitled to**, so it's definitely worth checking what you can get. Claiming benefits can also give you **access** to other financial help like cost-of-living payments and discounts on energy and transport, which can make a real difference when money is tight.

A good place to start is by using an **online benefits calculator**. To get the most accurate answer, you'll need details about your savings, income, pension, childcare payments and any existing benefits for you and your partner, if you have one. You can use the Entitledto benefits calculator or check out the Policy in Practice version for a more detailed overview. The Turn2us online tool can also provide a quick idea of what benefits and other financial help you might be eligible for.

The main benefit for most working-age people is **Universal Credit**. You should check if you can claim if you're over 18 and under State Pension age, and if you have less than £16,000 in savings or investments. If your injury makes it difficult to work, you might get more Universal Credit or not have to look for work. You'll need to inform the Department for Work and Pensions that you have a health condition when you claim, and, if possible, provide a fit note.

You might also be entitled to **other benefits** depending on your situation, such as your age, whether you're disabled, or if you have children. Some people are able to claim more than one benefit – for example, disability benefits such as Personal Independence Payment (if you're under pension age), Attendance Allowance (if you're over pension age), Employment and Support Allowance, or help with council tax. If you're struggling, you may be able to access extra support from your council or charities. If you're unsure, **Citizens Advice** offers **free support** to help you find a way forward.

Citizens Advice helps with a range of issues. For information and self-help guidance, visit **citizensadvice.org.uk**.

To speak to a local adviser in the Stroud and Cotswold Districts, visit **citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk** to complete our **webform** or call us on **0808 800 0510**.



Nine things you might not know about bank holidays

Everyone loves a long weekend. An extra 24 hours to switch off, watch three-part specials on the telly, supervise a slow roast or, if you're lucky, a barbecue whilst hiding under a golf umbrella. But who invented these extra days off? Why are they called bank holidays? And why are there not one, but two, in May? Read on for some surprising facts.

1. The August bank holiday wasn't always late. This August bank holiday was initially introduced as a way to give us all a chance to make the most of the summer. But it didn't always fall on the last Monday of the month. Up until 1971 it always took place on the first Monday of August. It was eventually moved as it clashed with the traditional two week shut down that many companies went through in the summer.

2. We used to have 33 of them. Up until 1834 there were 33 public holidays in the U.K., consisting of saint's days and religious festivals. But some spoil sport considered this to be excessive, so in 1834 the number was reduced to just four.

3. Yes, we have a banker to thank for them. It was liberal politician and banker Sir John Lubbock who authored the Bank Holidays Act of 1871, which made these four public holidays official.

4. They used to be called St Lubbock's Days. For a while some called the first bank holidays "St Lubbock's Days" after the banker Sir John Lubbock. Funnily enough that didn't stick. It was rumoured that Sir John Lubbock was so keen on cricket he chose the bank holiday dates to fall on the days when village matches were played in his home county! True or not, the masses were ecstatic with the holidays.

5. The place in the world with the most public holidays? The country with the highest number of public holidays is India, with a whopping 21 days! In comparison, England and Wales only have eight public holidays in total: New Year, Good Friday, Easter Monday, May Day, late May bank holiday, August bank holiday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day.

6. We almost have the least amount of public holidays in the world. The only country with fewer public holidays than us is Mexico, coming in with just seven days. ¡Ay, caramba!

7. May Day bank holiday was almost moved to October! In 2011 parliament debated replacing the May Day bank holiday with a different holiday in October. This would have spread out the bank holidays a bit more evenly throughout the year. These plans were scrapped.

Continued on page 26

8. There is a second bank holiday in May originally because of Whit Monday. The second bank holiday in the month of May exists because it used to be held on the day-off in the Christian calendar after Whit Sunday or Pentecost. Whit Sunday always falls seven Sundays past Easter Sunday. Since 1971 however, this bank holiday has always been held on the last Monday of the month.

9. The second May bank holiday wasn't officially named. When the second bank holiday in May was moved to the last Monday in May back in 1971, it was never given an official name. Unlike the May Day bank holiday, or the August bank holiday, this holiday tends to either be called the Spring bank holiday or the Late May bank holiday. Whatever you call it, it's a good opportunity to take some time away from your normal routine.

Brimpsfield & Mid-Cotswold Garden Society



Our Annual Show is on Saturday 5th September in Birdlip Village Hall. Members will have received copies of the classes and entry forms, but don't forget that the Junior classes are open to any youngster in the mid-Cotswold area; classes this year include a drawing for the under-fives, and for older juniors there are classes for a photograph, cupcakes or muffins and an animal made from fruit or vegetables. Full details are available from: brimpsfieldgardensociety@gmail.com. The Show is open to everyone from 2.30pm to admire the exhibits and enjoy tea and cake, with prizegiving and a charity auction (in aid of Brockworth Hedgehog Rescue) of some of the produce at 4.00pm. It's always a fun afternoon, so do come along and have a look!

If you're in need of something to keep young hands busy over the holidays, our Junior classes might offer some ideas; or your young gardeners could gather seeds of hardy plants to sow later in the summer. Plenty of annuals will now have ripening seedheads, in gardens or in the wild (collect the latter sparingly); pick these on a dry day and dry them off further on a windowsill before shaking the seeds out and storing them in airtight containers. You could dry some rice in the oven at a low temperature for a couple of hours and use it as a dessicant in the storage containers to protect the seeds from damp. Hardy annual seeds can be sown from late August, just before the end of the holidays, to make young plants before winter, ready to flower next year.

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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 (Nicky Overs 07884 432886) - next lunch in September
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 - having a break for August
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 (Virginia Pittman 07989 712263 virginiapittman3@gmail.com)
Beavers, Cubs & Scouts	Wednesdays - Scout Centre - times as follows: Beaver Scouts (6 to 8 yrs) 4.45 to 5.45pm Cub Scouts (8 to 10 yrs) 5.50 to 7.10pm Scouts (10 to 14 yrs) 7.30 to 9.00pm
Crock 'n' Roll	Wednesdays 2.30 - 3.00pm - Painswick Community Library (With Steph - £1 per child)
Table Tennis Club	Wednesdays 7.30 - 9.30pm - V Hall (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 (Contact Hugh Tarran 814081 or h.tarran@tiscali.co.uk)
Rachel's Pop Up Café	Fridays 10.00 - 1.30pm - V Hall - having a break for August
Parent and Toddler	Fridays 10:30 - 12noon - V Hall (Contact tbc)
Garden Club	Brimpsfield , Phone Francis Ellery 01452 862412 for further info

WELCOME!

No new people in the village this month!

However, If we have missed anyone, please accept our apologies and make yourself known and we will include you next time.





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 19th AUGUST 2026

Magazines will be available for distribution:

on **Sunday 30th August** or thereabouts.

The date will be confirmed to the distributors by email.

814839

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CRANHAM DIARY



AUGUST 2026

2	Sun	Benefice Communion	Cranham	11.00am
4	Tues	Rubbish/Food Waste		
6	Thurs	Ramble	Car Park	9.45am
9	Sun	Holy Communion	Church	11.00am
11	Tues	Recycling/Food Waste		
16	Sun	Evensong	Church	6.30pm
17	Mon	Morning Prayer & Coffee	Church	9.00am
19	Wed	** Magazine Articles Due **		
18	Tues	Rubbish/Food Waste		
22	Sat	Cranham Feast Quiz	Village Hall	6.30 for 7.00pm
23	Sun	Morning Worship	Church	11.00am
25	Tues	Recycling/Food Waste		
30	Sun	Family Worship	Painswick	9.30am

SEPTEMBER 2026

1	Tues	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall	7.00pm
3	Thurs	Ramble	Car Park	9.45am
4	Fri	Feast Celebrations Start		
5	Sat	Garden Society Show	B'field V.Hall	2.30pm onwards
8	Tues	Flicks in the Sticks Returns		

