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Flyer

WINTER 2020/21

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!



After a very challenging year for everyone, I hope this new edition of The Crewkerne Flyer brings some cheer into your lives. We love success stories, and bring you some in this edition. Rebecca of **Krew Barbers** is celebrating 2 year's successful trading in Crewkerne. See Rebecca on **Page 8**.

A new health and wellbeing shop has opened in South Petherton – **Bloom Lifestyle**. Find them on **Page 13**.

The George Shopping Centre have all their units fully let – see some of their businesses on **Pages 14-15**.

David James of Marshall-James Garden Developments reviews his firm's recent successes competing at Chelsea Flower Show on **Page 29**.

We look back on the success of saving **The Lucombe Oak** – 12 years ago - due to community commitment. See this on **Pages 10 & 11**. And the Community is still active! **Space4Crewkerne** on **Page 8** give their latest update on improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, and just how they hope our bus services may soon be better.

During December the **Business Community** made a number of generous donations to local causes. Find out more on **Page 38**.

So many of our local businesses have stayed open to support their customers, providing vital services on your doorstep when it was not safe or possible to travel far. So PLEASE continue to support them – oh! And please mention if you saw them here in **The Crewkerne Flyer!**

Anthony Bucke, Editor, Wednesday 30th December 2020
E. crewkerne@theantiquetourist.com
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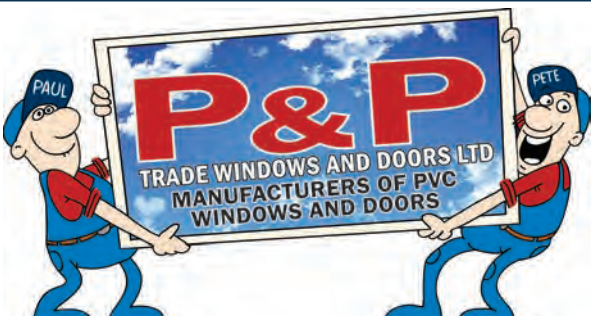
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SPACE4Crewkerne - Safe Pedestrian And Cycling Environments

SPACE for Crewkerne has been busy working towards a safer environment for pedestrians and cyclists around Crewkerne.

Crewkerne Town Council agreed to apply for environment grants towards provision of a **Car Club** and an **Air Quality Monitor**. Our SPACE members prepared these applications. We await decisions on this by early 2021.

We encouraged the town council to acquire a **Speed Indicator Device** which they have now done and this will be used on various sites around Crewkerne. We are also pleased to see improved visibility at the South Street pedestrian crossing.

Planning applications raise the question of safety for all as we move around the area. SPACE is commenting on possible provision for cyclists and pedestrians on all applications and the public can do the same on planning@southsomerset.gov.uk. Some applications are already approved, but others are in the pipeline eg. Goldwell Farm.

The local **bus service** continues to fall short on provision for all areas of the town and the surrounding villages. SPACE has commented to Somerset County Council that they have additional funding through the **Supported Bus Services Fund** available for local public transport for the coming 2 years, and we encourage you to join us in reminding them of the need in the Crewkerne area. SPACE continues to identify and map safer walking and cycling routes throughout Crewkerne.

If you have any comments or queries contact us on space4crewkerne@hotmail.com



The "good old days" when crossing the road was safer!



The Crewkerne Flyer chatted with Rebeca, owner of Krew Barbers in Market Square, Crewkerne.

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LUCOMBE OAK TREE STILL FLOURISHING 11 YEARS AFTER BEING SAVED FROM THE AXE

The Lucombe oak tree, in front of the George Reynolds Centre, is still flourishing 11 years after being saved from the axe. In 2008, a routine inspection carried out by a specialist arborist on behalf of the Crewkerne Town Council, discovered signs of fungal fruiting bodies around the base of the tree.

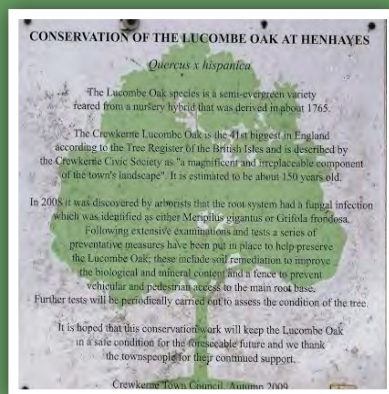
The council was advised that the basal decay was likely to worsen and that the tree was in a precarious condition and could fall on pedestrians or the nearby Aqua Centre. Although there was no sign of die-back or large deadwood disease, the council decided to fell it.

This decision led to a campaign by Crewkerne resident and member of South Somerset Green Party, Ben Hartshorn, who sought a second opinion on the arborist's findings. At the time the tree was not covered by a Tree Preservation Order but it was identified as a semi-deciduous and semi-evergreen species of oak known as Spanish Oak or its Latin name, *Quercus x hispanica* Lucombeana. The natural hybrid, a cross between a Turkey Oak, *Quercus Cerris* and a Cork Oak - *Quercus Suber* was discovered by horticulturist William Lucombe at his nursery in St Thomas, Exeter in 1762.

Local residents and environmentalists joined the campaign to save the tree, and to save Henhayes from over development. Over 2,000 signatures were collected in a petition. The report condemning the 187 year old tree was viewed by many as justification to fell the ancient oak, in order to make way for The George Reynolds Centre. On Tuesday April 14th, 2009, protesters gathered at the site from 5 am to prevent the contractors chopping down the tree. They managed to delay the tree from being cut down, despite the roots being exposed which showed the basal decay. Specialist scientific equipment was brought in from Germany and "pull" tests carried out, showing that the Lucombe oak had a potential to thrive for another 50 -100 years.



In the Tree Register of the British Isles, May 2009, the Lucombe oak at Henhayes was listed as the 8th largest in Somerset, 41st in England and 47th on the list of Britain and Ireland champion trees.



By Ana Collingridge(c) photo 2 – Local residents celebrating a successful campaign to save the tree.

Photo provided by Ben Hartshorn photo 1 – Lucombe Oak at Henhayes in October 2020

Crewkerne Civic Society regarded the ancient oak as, "a magnificent and irreplaceable component of the town's landscape."

Finally on July 6th, 2009, Crewkerne Town Council voted to save the tree and invest in its long-term future and Heras-type fencing was installed to prevent pedestrian access. Today, the majestic oak tree stands proud, its verdant canopy a sight to behold. As the well known saying goes, 'Mighty Oaks From Little Acorns Grow.'



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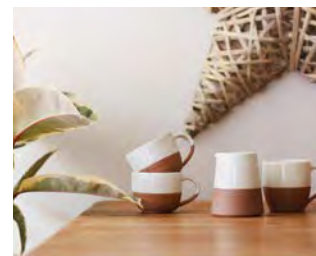
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• The Speedwell •

A New Look Speedwell Hall

The Speedwell Hall in Abbey Street in Crewkerne has been completely renovated and refurbished over this last summer.

This well-loved Grade 2 listed building in the heart of Crewkerne has been the venue for Rainbows, Brownies and Girl Guides over many years and is still their meeting place each week. The Hall also hosts regular music events such as afternoon dances and cream tea get-togethers, as well as a Stitchers Group and a Toy Library.

The Hall has been sadly in need of renovation for sometime. The Committee has held events to raise funds but has also applied for and been awarded generous grants from the SSDC, Crewkerne Town Council, as well as various Charitable organisations. In addition, generous personal donations have very kindly been made by individuals who wished to support the Hall.

In 2019 a new floor was laid by Richard Chant and his brother John, who are both valued members of the Friends of Speedwell Hall. This summer they refurbished the main hall, installing a new

sound-proofed ceiling and totally renewing all the wall coverings. New lighting and new heating was also installed and the finished result is superb.

The Speedwell has a stunning walled garden at the rear of the building and that is the location for the annual summer concert with a range of performers. The next Concert is being planned for 2021.

The Speedwell is a perfect venue for summer parties, children's parties, family anniversaries as well as other local groups looking for a conveniently sited location. The Hall has a well equipped and modern kitchen to support events.

We are also planning to increase interest from local businesses who could hire the Hall for seminars and off-site meetings. WiFi has recently been installed and projection facilities are in place. The Speedwell has been made COVID-secure, so when conditions allow, please be sure to consider using the Hall.

Liz Dennis



For more details please telephone Liz Dennis: 01460 271767 or email: thespeedwell160@gmail.com.

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Crewkerne & District Museum & Heritage Centre

This year has certainly made history!

Volunteers at the museum have continued to work in the background when they could, researching and conserving the collection. Our windows have become the contact with the public providing images and displays to show people some of the treasures that we hold. The 20th anniversary events were cancelled but we are grateful to the artists who helped us to stage pop-up exhibitions through the summer reminding the public that we are still there!

Although the future is uncertain, we are planning for 2021 in the hope that eventually normality will return. The first special exhibition of the season will look at the future of Crewkerne and District – the environment, businesses and leisure activities. We invite local organisations to let us know if they would be interested in being involved.



For those who missed the Fair this year can you recognise anyone?

Gallery 4 is undergoing a revamp to exhibit the development of Crewkerne's architecture through the years. This will be illustrated with well researched information and examples of age-appropriate objects as well as the ever-popular photographs.

In spite of a year with limited income the centre is financially secure, chiefly due to our wonderful volunteers through their hard work to maintain the building, contributions to collection and research work and fund-raising events. Grant funding from the government enables us to plan for the future.

If you have enquiries, contributions or ideas contact us on crewkernemuseum@hotmail.co.uk



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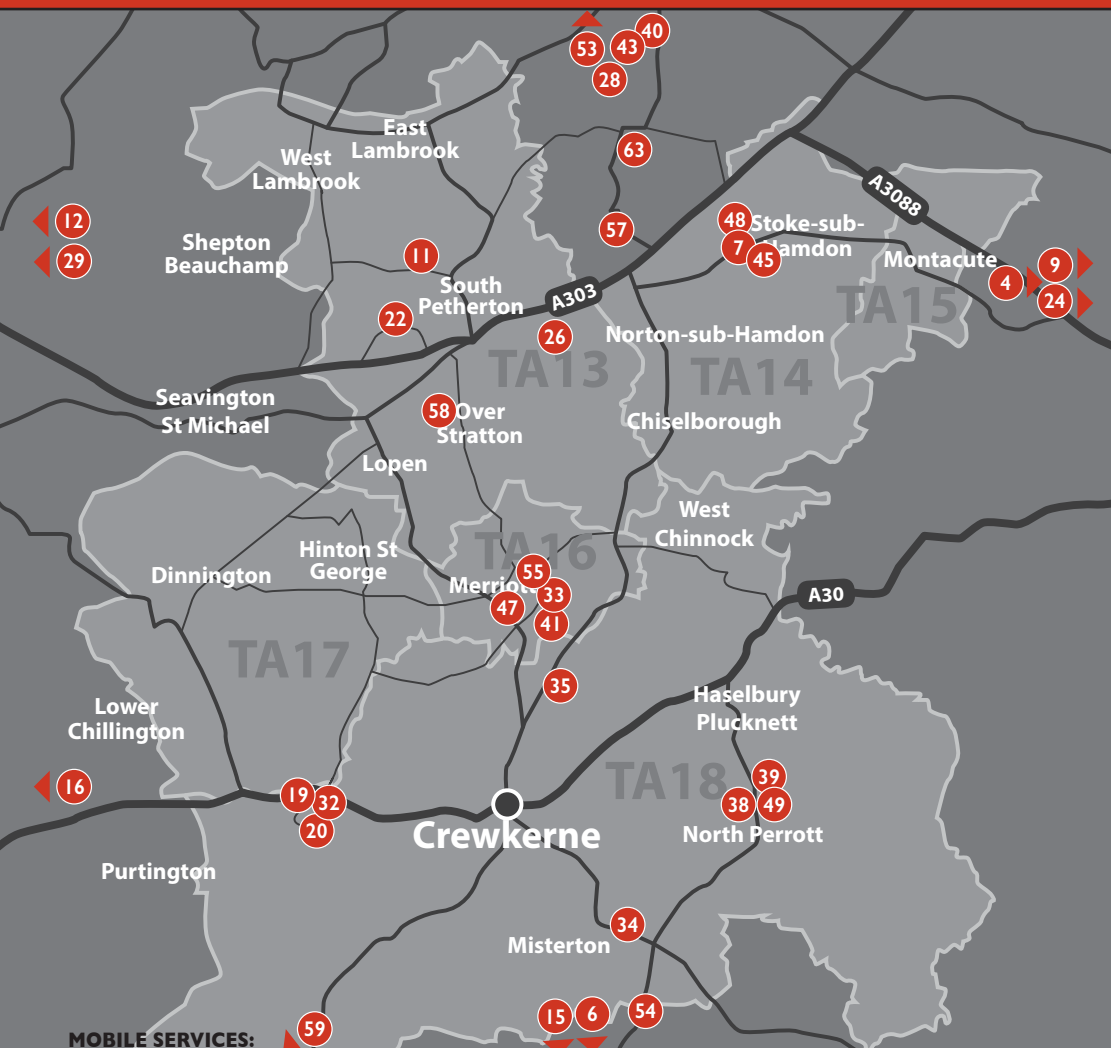
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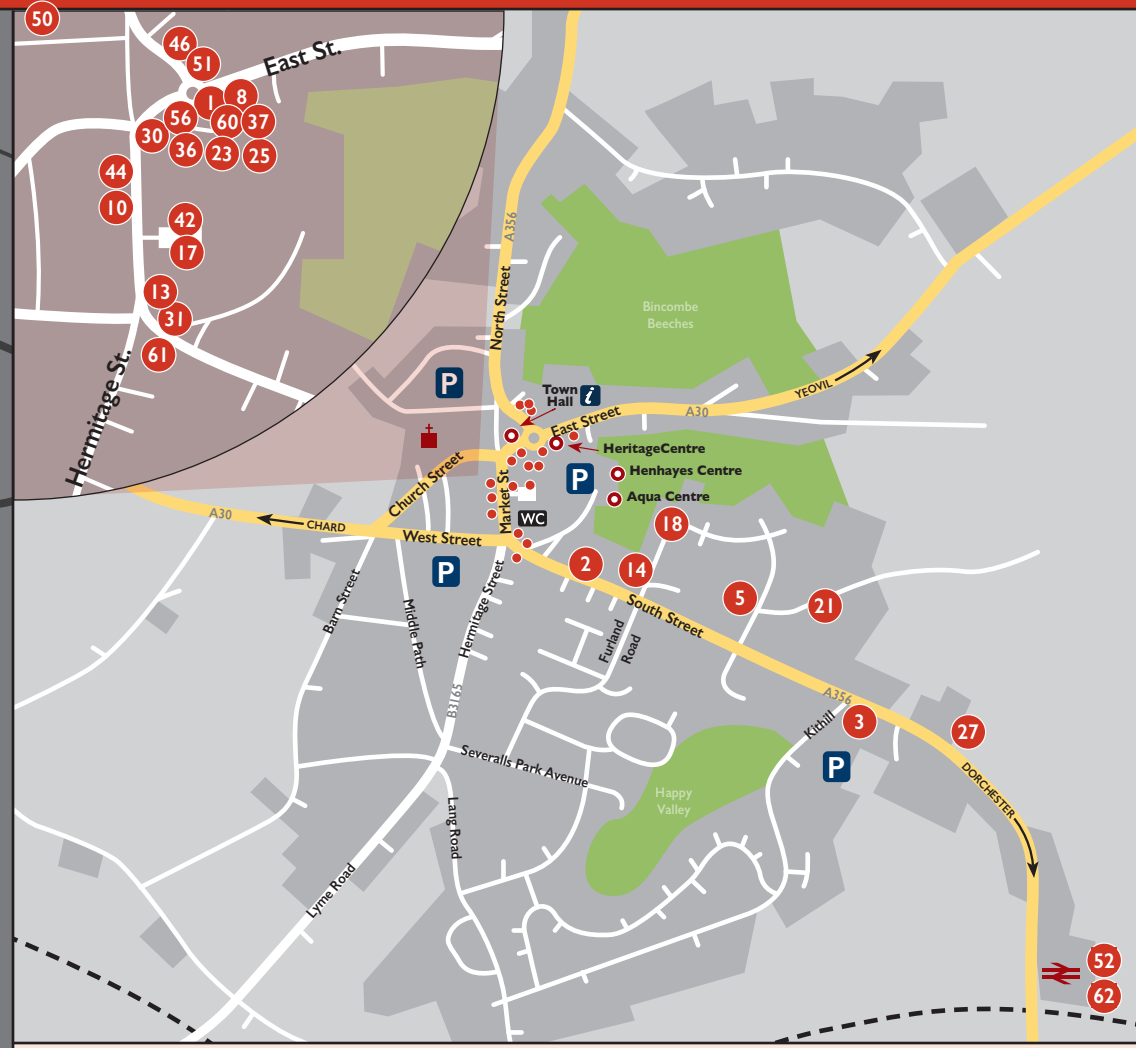
LOCAL AREA MAP



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| 15. Clocktower Music | 26. iOme Fitness | 40. P&P trade windows | 54. The Admiral Hood |
| 16. CPL Distribution | 27. JF Cars | 41. RA Wicks Heating | 55. The Feed Station |
| 17. Crewkerne Cards | 28. Kingfisher Carpets | 42. Regency Mobility | 56. The George Shopping Centre |
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| | 37. My Bestie Petshop | 51. Stokes Partners | |
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| | 39. North Perrott Farm Shop | 53. SW Hearing Aid Centre | |

"OLD" CREWKERNE

Photos kindly supplied
by David Bryant.



Crewkerne Rotarians, about to distribute Christmas cakes baked by Bryant and Son. From the left -; Norman Powell, John Wyatt, Roger Fowler, Peter Hardwill (President) Donald Bryant, Peter Singleton, & David Bryant.

Birds Alms Houses being demolished in South Street, 1960's. The 3 storey building to the right is old Crewkerne Hospital which was demolished about the same time, to form the entrance into South Street carpark.



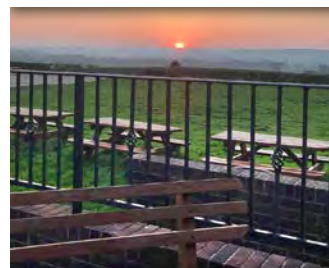
Crewkerne fair, outside RW Hodges bakers shop, in Market Square. Note the wedding cake in the window!

Crewkerne Grammar School from the air. Note the swimming pool behind the school. Probably from the 1930's because the school canteen had not yet been built to the right of the school.

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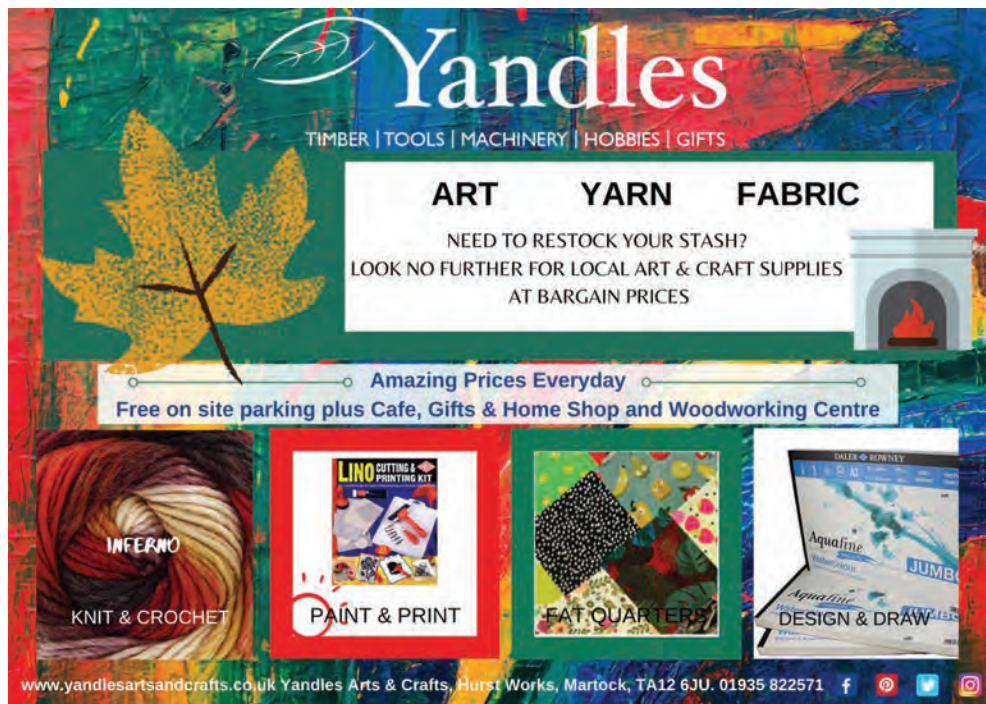
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The last Farmers' Market of 2020 took place in Market Square and the carpark of Stokes Partners on Saturday 19th December.

This temporary move from The Henhayes Centre was due to Covid-19 vaccines being administered at The Henhayes Centre. A showery morning did not deter shoppers, and there was a great "buzz" in the town.

The first Farmer's Market of 2021 will be on Saturday 16th January.

N.B. The Crewkerne Farmers Markets are held on the 3rd Saturday of every month.

For more information call 01373 813812 or visit their website www.somersetfarmersmarkets.co.uk.



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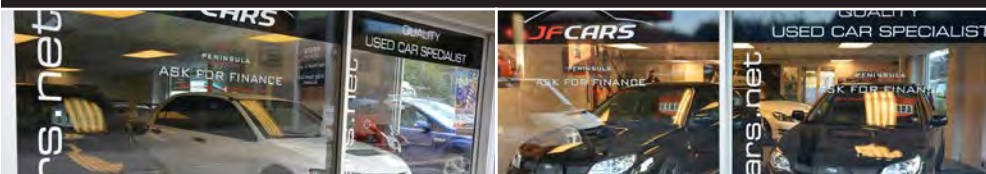
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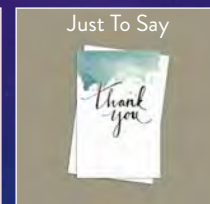
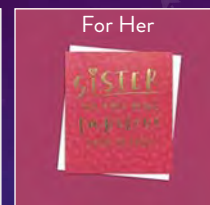
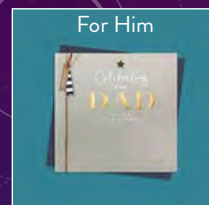
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- **Squash!** Plastic bottles (with the lid off, then put the lid back on)
- **Crush!** Tins and can if it is safe for you to do so
- **Flatten!** Cardboard boxes if you can



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Green Box

Paper - Any colour, including newspapers, magazines, catalogues and mail.
Glass bottles and jars - Any colour (*rinse, leave lids on*).

No thanks! - Window glass, broken glass or drinking glasses. Padded envelopes, Jiffy bags, books or plastic film packaging.



Black Box

Metal packaging - Tins and cans (*rinse and, if safe, crush*), empty aerosols, foil.
Plastic Bottles - Any colour (*rinse, squash, lids on*).
Cardboard - Any colour, including brown envelopes (*flatten boxes, cut up large pieces*).

No thanks! - Plastic pots, tubs and trays. Flexible plastics such as film coverings, plastic bags, crisp packets and pet food sachets. Plant pots, thick plastics or polystyrene.



Food Waste Bin

Food waste - Cooked or raw (*line caddies with compostable liners or newspaper*).
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Generous Community Donations in December

The businesses and wider community in Crewkerne have been busy collecting donations, and then distributing them for best advantage to the community.

- Reverend Stephen Gray (Crewkerne Community Church) is promoting the "Be a Good Neighbour Scheme" – helping local families throughout the Pandemic and especially at Christmas time. Helping provide Christmas hampers and food packages to families in and around Crewkerne – those who need help and support.
- Members of the Crewkerne Business Group have collectively donated £508.70 to the "Be a Good Neighbour" initiative.
- In addition, Bilbys Coffee Shop have separately donated £450 to the "Be a Good Neighbour Scheme", from the money they raised from the Free School Meals initiative earlier in the year. This money will go to help local Crewkerne children who need school dinners, school uniforms and school shoes.
- Discussions amongst Town Council Members have resulted in Crewkerne Town Council agreeing to give £2,000 to the "Be a Good Neighbour Scheme".

"N.B. Crewkerne Business Group may be contacted through Ballantine Wealth Management.
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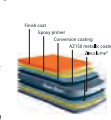
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Crewkerne in Bloom

Thanks to our magnificent volunteers, we've kept up with work around town, our pots of hyacinths and Christmas cards flew out, bringing in a much-appreciated boost to our planting fund, and to top it all, we've bagged some awards.

Recognizing our activities, we have been awarded RHS & South West in Bloom certificates. And so too have Its Your Neighbourhood Groups - The Friends of Crewkerne Station, Severalls Memorial Garden and The Pillbox.

Then, in a happy co-incidence, on the very same day as our final enterprise of the year - decorating a tree for the Christmas Festival at the Church, we learnt that Crewkerne in Bloom has won yet another RHS & South West in Bloom certificate, for Continuing to Excel!

Now, we're ready to welcome Spring, with our focus on sustainable and wildlife friendly planting.

From February onwards, do look out for the bulbs we have put in around town and in the churchyard. They promise a wonderful, cheerful display of colour.

Then there are the perennial plants at the entrance to the South Street Car Park and in the pots in the George Precinct. All were carefully selected for their drought tolerance and attraction to bees, butterflies and other insects.



From left,
Pippa Smith churchwarden
Mary Cooper. Crewkerne in Bloom
Catherine Bacon. Crewkerne in Bloom
Planting crocus bulbs in St Bartholmew's Churchyard.

The more we do the more we find to do! So, if you fancy joining one of our working parties or can offer just an hour of your time now and again, please let us know. You'll be helping to keep our lovely old town blooming.

And if you have any ideas for future projects or neighbourhood activities, do get in touch. What are your thoughts on tree planting, for example? This is something we are keen to explore.



For further information, to Volunteer or become a Friend, contact 01460 72665 or hello@crewkerneinbloom.org

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Level: Medium

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

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