

Please see page 2 for the Mayor's budget statement



Christmas Light Switch On



The Christmas Light Switch On in November was a lovely community event. There was a vibrant procession featuring the fire brigade, Brownies, Merriott Majorettes, and a charming lantern parade, culminating in Father Christmas' arrival and the switch on of the lights. Performances by St. Bartholomew's Choir, CUDOS, and Phoenix Voices on the main stage, along with the Phoenix Brass Band in Falkland Square, provided entertainment for all. Families and friends gathered to mark the start of the festive season as the lights illuminated the town. Thank you to all the volunteers and community groups who helped make the event a success.



The Christmas Market was a highlight, drawing in people with its variety of offerings. Over 45 stalls attended in the Victoria Hall and outside the Town Hall. The stalls were brimming with handcrafted items, delicious food, and unique Christmas gifts. From artisan crafts to seasonal treats, there was something for everyone to enjoy. Visitors enjoyed the chance to find one-of-a-kind treasures while soaking in the Christmas atmosphere.

If you would like to volunteer or trade at either event in 2025, please contact towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk.



Photos by
Jeff Hutson

Crewkerne Town Council's 2025/26 Budget: Community Improvements & Increased Grant Support

Crewkerne Town Council has agreed a 1.8% increase in the 2025/26 precept, adding £4.46 per year to a Band D property (£0.37 per month). This small adjustment will fund key projects and services:

- **Community Spaces:** Upgrading Happy Valley floodlights to energy-efficient LEDs ensuring our parks and recreational areas are well-lit and safe for all.
- **Local Initiatives:** Increased community grants to support local groups.
- **Youth Services:** Funding for Youth Services and a 2025 Skate Jam event. These initiatives aim to engage and support our younger residents.
- **Waste Management:** With changes to Somerset Council's waste removal arrangements, the Town Council will now cover the cost of disposing of waste collected from our open spaces.
- **Health and Safety Upgrades:** Various health and safety inspections are due, and the budget includes funds for necessary rectifications.
- **Public Amenities:** The proposal to increase the cleaning frequency of Falkland Square toilets to twice daily reflects the Council's dedication to maintaining high standards of hygiene.
- **Safety Upgrades:** The addition of a new Speed Indicator Device is part of the Council's ongoing efforts to improve road safety and promote awareness of speeding within the town.

Mayor of Crewkerne, Alice Samuel, commented:

"As we look ahead to the new financial year, this modest increase in the precept will enable Crewkerne Town Council to continue delivering essential services, support local initiatives, and invest in the future of our town. Together, we can build a brighter, more vibrant community for all".



Speak to your Councillor!

The next Council Surgeries are 10.30 -12 noon in the Local Information Centre on
Saturday 22nd February
Saturday 22nd March

VOLUNTEER DAYS

Cemetery: 10am: Thurs 20th February

Happy Valley: 10am: Thurs 20th March

Please bring your own gloves

In November, The Henhayes Centre hosted a free lantern-making workshop on behalf of Crewkerne Town Council. This event provided children with the opportunity to create their own paper lanterns, which added a special touch to the Christmas Light Switch On procession. The workshop was a wonderful way to involve young people in the festivities and bring creativity into the community celebrations.

Thank you to The Henhayes Centre for organising and hosting this event.



Christmas Lantern Workshop



STREET COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who generously donated to the Christmas lighting up fund. The street collection raised £308.48 and the online Crowdfunder £569. This money will be used to towards the increasing costs of the Crewkerne Christmas light switch on, and to replace the aging installations.



www.facebook.com/crewkernetowncouncil



[@crewkernetowncouncil](https://www.instagram.com/crewkernetowncouncil)



Defibrillators & Bleed Kits



We are pleased to announce the launch of a new resource for our community: a comprehensive map showing the locations of all thirteen defibrillators across the town. These vital devices can save lives in the critical moments following a cardiac arrest. The full map is on the Discover Crewkerne website or a hard copy is available from the Local Information Centre. In addition to this, we're proud to share that three new bleed kits have recently been installed at the Crewkerne Dental Centre, George Reynolds Centre and Central Convenience Stores. These kits are equipped with essential supplies to help manage severe bleeding injuries until professional medical help arrives. They are designed to be easy to use, with clear instructions, and can make a crucial difference in saving lives in emergencies involving heavy blood loss.

We encourage all residents to familiarise themselves with the locations of these lifesaving tools and to share this information with friends and neighbours. In an emergency, every second counts – together, we can be better prepared to respond and potentially save lives.



EXTENDED

Local Information Centre:

Telephone: 01460 75928
Monday to Thursday
9.30am-3pm
Friday 9.30am-3pm

OPENING

HOURS

Crewkerne Town Council:

Telephone: 01460 74001
Monday to Friday
9am-3pm

POLICE DROP IN SESSIONS

This is an opportunity to come along and meet a member of your Local Neighbourhood Policing Team. You will be able to raise any concerns you may have within your community.

Crewkerne Local Information Centre:
Wednesday 19th February 10.30am
Wednesday 26th February 10.30am
Wednesday 5th March 10.30am



MINI MAKERS MIDWEEK MARKET

**10AM-2PM
OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL**

Looking for a FREE half term activity?
On Wednesday 19th February alongside the weekly market there will be stilt walking and balloon twisting from 11am-1pm.

Why not come along with the family?
Relax with a coffee and a cake whilst the children are entertained.

Spitfire Crash



Crewkerne Town Council is appealing for information regarding the Spitfire crash that happened in Townsend Cemetery on 12th March 1942. If anyone has memories, photographs, or records related to this incident, we would be grateful to hear from you. This appeal is part of an effort to preserve and honour the history surrounding this event. Any information, no matter how small, could be invaluable in piecing together the story. Please do get in touch if you can help on towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk



TREE PLANTING



Crewkerne Town Council have successfully secured a grant from Somerset Council's Urban Tree Challenge Fund and will see 15 mature trees being planted at Barn Street. The grant will also cover the costs of the maintenance and care of the trees for the next three years. The planned plantings are designed to complement and enhance the existing and future use of green spaces, ensuring they provide shade and urban cooling for future generations. These trees fulfil part of the long term plan for Barn Street which was developed through consultation in 2022.





CREWKERNE YOUTH COUNCIL

SKATE JAM

**FREE
EVENT!**

Food and drink available to purchase

Saturday 2nd August

HAPPY VALLEY

11am-4pm

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×



★ C A M P





RUBICON

★



Chilli

BINCOMBE BEECHES

You may have noticed that recently the Bincombe Information Boards have had a refresh by local illustrator Rachel Akerman. You can now pick up an accompanying leaflet from the Local Information Centre. The leaflet shows the location of the ten wooden sculptures across the reserve.

Why not go for a welly walk and see if you can find them all? The Information Centre is open Monday - Thursday 9.30am-3pm and Fridays 9.30am-3pm.



Got a question? Come along to the Drop In Session Wednesday 26th March 10am-1pm in the Local Information Centre.

CREWKERNE BANKING HUB



Crewkerne's new banking hub is opening in April. Banking hubs are delivered by Cash Access UK, a not-for-profit company funded by major banks. They provide shared services in communities where they are needed most. On 26th March Debbie Crow from Cash Access UK will be there to talk about the services available in the hub. She'll answer any questions you may have and explain how the new service will bring access to cash and basic banking back to Crewkerne's town centre.

Customers of all major banks can visit the hub to carry out regular cash transactions at the counter, Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm. The counter is operated by the Post Office. Whoever you bank with, this offers face-to-face services such as paying in cash and cheques, making withdrawals, balance enquiries, paying utility bills, and topping up gas and electricity accounts. A community banker will also be available in the hub one day a week on a rota and you won't need to make an appointment to speak to them.

HAVE YOUR SAY!

The Council is seeking your input on an important decision regarding the sandpit at Happy Valley. While it has been a popular feature for children over the years, we've received concerns about its cleanliness due to fouling by dogs and other animals.

To address the issue, the Council is considering two potential solutions:

- 1** Fencing off the sandpit: This would protect the area and ensure it remains safe for play. However, the cost of installing a fence would be significant.
- 2** This option would remove the sand entirely, replacing it with a safety surface to create a cleaner, more flexible space for the community to enjoy, with the possible addition of another piece of play equipment.



We want to hear from you! Which option do you think is best for the playground and its visitors?

✉ Share your thoughts by emailing towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk by February 21st 2025.

Let's work together to create a safe and enjoyable space for all. Thank you!



Crewkerne
Town Council

COUNCILLOR VACANCY

ARE YOU PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR LOCAL AREA?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE YOUR SAY?
WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE PART OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

CONTACT THE TOWN CLERK

01460 74001 ☎
www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk 🌐
towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk 📧



PUBLIC TOILETS

Unfortunately the public toilets are frequently being vandalised.

Occasionally we may have to close them for the safety of the public. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

If you spot any anti-social behaviour please report it to 101.

To report a problem:
☎ 01460 74001
🌐 towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

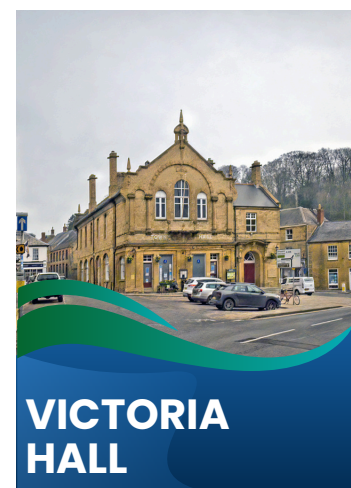
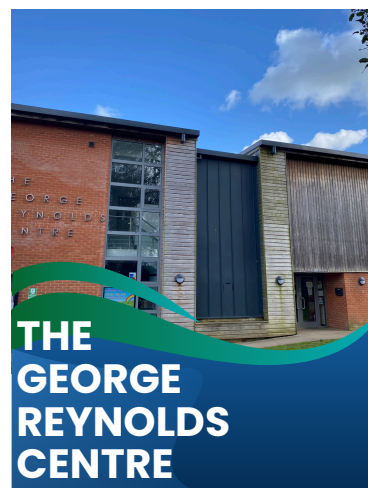


ROOM HIRE

We have two available venues for booking, The George Reynolds Centre and the Victoria Hall.

They offer a variety of meeting/function rooms and kitchen hire and both offer a lift. Both venues are conveniently located and ideal for hosting events of all sizes.

To make a booking, or for more details and availability, please phone 01460 74001, or email: towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk



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