

# Crewkerne Town Council

## NEWSLETTER

February 2018 – Issue 55



Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LN  
Tel: 01460 74001 Email: [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk) Website: [www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](http://www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

### Mayor's Annual Budget Report



This is the time of year when the Town Council must set the budget for the forthcoming year, taking into account all of the necessary expenditure to maintain the services that it provides to the town and balancing this against anticipated income. This is always a difficult task for Councillors, not helped by the ever shrinking level of central government grant funding available to the Town Council. The Council works hard every year to ensure that its budget is carefully considered and that all spending is appropriate.

You will recall that in last year's budget, a major focus for the Council was on kick-starting the project to renovate and repair the exterior of the Town Hall.



I am very pleased to see that the first phase of this project is now essentially complete and that this work has come in significantly under-budget which has allowed the Council to move forward with the next phase of the project, with work commencing on the south face of the building in the coming spring.

The Council has to spread the available budget across many different areas, from facilities maintenance to provision of public toilets and maintenance of the Townsend Cemetery to name just a few examples.

This balancing act has now been completed for this year, with the final budget for 2018/19 agreed by the Council. The budget has been set at £408,248 which I am very pleased to say represents a 7% reduction in comparison with last year's precept, although as a result of the reduction in central government grant paid to the Council this will translate to a 6.3% reduction in the equivalent "Band D" charge.

Clr. Ben Hodgson

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS

This year's meeting will  
take place on  
**Monday 16 April 2018**  
at 7.30 pm  
**Victoria Hall, Market Square**  
*Everyone welcome to attend*

## A BUSY LIGHTING UP NIGHT



Once again Crewkerne came together at the end of November, to celebrate Lighting Up night. The Christmas Committee worked hard to ensure the evening was a resounding success and Market Square was packed with people and children waiting for Santa.

The Christmas hat competition was fun as always and this year the Committee re-instated the Christmas window competition which town retailers took part in with gusto. The winner being Crewkerne Antiques Centre who laid their window like a Victorian dining room.

The Christmas Committee would like to say thank you to everyone who was involved in making the

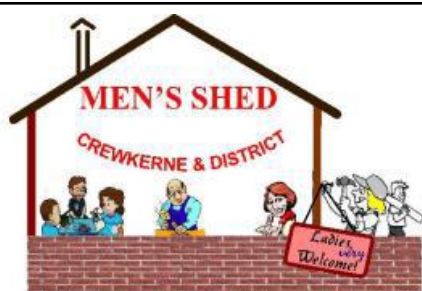


event such a success and thanks should also go to the elves who ensured that Christmas trees went up around the town.

Christmas continued with the Christmas market in December, which was well attended despite the cold icy weather. Lovely stalls ensured that some last minute local Christmas shopping was possible.

The Christmas Committee will hibernate now, until July, when planning will start again. If you would like to be part of the Christmas Committee, please contact Laura Gowers on tel: 01460 74001 or email: [deputyclerk@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:deputyclerk@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk).

Photos taken by Jeff Hutson.



### The Crewkerne & District Men's Shed needs your help!

Although only formed recently, the Men's Shed has proven to be a great success but they urgently need to find suitable premises as a place to meet and to house their equipment.

If you can help, please contact Peter Boothby-Smith on 01460 73764.

### Bincombe Beeches Volunteer Dates



Regular monthly volunteer days are run on Bincombe Beeches by the Council's Grounds and Amenities Supervisor. Forthcoming volunteer days:-

**Thursday 22 March & Thursday 19 April**

*Everyone welcome, just turn up from 10 am onwards, please meet at the entrance by Beechwood Drive*

### SPEAK TO YOUR COUNCILLOR

Forthcoming Town Council Surgeries in the Community Office at the Town Hall, Market Square from 10.30 am to 12 noon.

- **Saturday 17 March**
- **Saturday 21 April**
- **Saturday 19 May**

Opportunity for informal conversations with District and Town Councillors



## Henhayes Fete & Town Crier Competition

**Saturday 9 June**

The Henhayes Fete and the Town Crier Competition is back again this year. Sunshine and warm temperatures have been ordered! Planning is still in the early stages, but if you would like to have a stall, please contact Laura Gowers on tel: 01460 74001 or email: deputyclerk@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk.

We are hoping that the tug of war competition will make an appearance again this year, along with other activities to make this a fun family day out.



2016 Town Crier Competition (photo taken by Jeff Hutson)

### VICTORIA HALL HIRE

Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne TA18 7LN

The hall is available to hire for:-

- Parties and wedding receptions
- Music events and gigs
- Fitness classes etc.

Please contact the Town Council office for details.



### Crewkerne Local Information Centre

Town Hall, Market Square TA18 7LN  
Tel: 01460 75928 Email: lic@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk  
www.aboutcrewkerne.co.uk

#### **Attention all Voluntary Groups and Organisations!**

Crewkerne Local Information Centre would like to ensure that they have the correct information for local clubs and groups.

Please provide as much of the following information as possible: contact name, phone number, email, Facebook and website address. This will help to make sure the aboutcrewkerne.co.uk website is kept up-to-date.

*Thank you!*

### HONOURED CITIZEN OF CREWKERNE AWARD 2018

The Town Council is once again seeking to recognise those who have contributed most towards the benefit of the town and its citizens.

If you would like to nominate someone for this award please visit the Community Office at the Town Hall to collect a form or download from the website: [www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](http://www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

**Nominations must be received by  
Monday 12 March 2018**

For further information please call  
01460 74001 between 9.00 am and  
1.00 pm any weekday.

Those chosen to receive an award will be presented with a framed certificate at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors on Monday 16 April 2018.



### Crewkerne in Bloom



Crewkerne Inner Wheel Club is hoping that with community involvement from residents, clubs, groups,



schools and businesses, they will be able to make Crewkerne more colourful this year. With everyone's help and support they would like to get Crewkerne Blooming by forming a 'Crewkerne in Bloom' group with a view to a possible entry in the 'South West in Bloom' competition this year.

What is needed? Floral displays of all types, front garden, shop front, hanging basket, planter, or craft, maybe individuals or groups would like to adopt and maintain an area or come forward and volunteer to help out where needed.

With your help, Crewkerne Inner Wheel Club would like to make our attractive town an even more pleasant place to live, work or visit.

For more information, please contact Catherine on tel: 01460 72665 or email: [crewkerneiw2017@gmail.com](mailto:crewkerneiw2017@gmail.com).

## New Playground Equipment



Members of the Henhayes Playground Project Working Group celebrate the opening of the new play equipment at Henhayes, alongside children from Jigsaw Preschool.

## DIARY OF FORTHCOMING TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS

**Annual Town Meeting of Electors**

**Monday 16 April**

**Henhayes Fete & Town Crier Competition**

**Saturday 9 June**

**Lighting Up**

**Friday 30 November**

**Christmas Market**

**Saturday 8 December**



## The Royal British Legion

**Sponsored Walk  
Saturday 24 March**

The Crewkerne Branch of the Royal British Legion will be holding a 6 mile sponsored walk on Saturday 24 March. Coinciding with this event, the branch will be hosting a coffee morning at 11 am, at the George Reynolds Centre, where there will be delicious homemade cakes and the branch members from the sponsored walk will return for refreshments.

If anyone would like to walk with them and would like to know more, please contact the Branch Secretary, Alice Samuel on 01460 279865 or pop in for a hot drink, a cake and a chat. All proceeds go towards this great cause.

## Badger Awareness

In the September 2017 issue of this newsletter we highlighted the damage that had been caused by badger activity to the upper pathway at Happy Valley. Since then, the Town Council has had the upper pathway repaired and stabilised. Nevertheless, the badgers are still present and continue to cause damage to areas within Happy Valley.



Of course we all know that badgers are a protected species but the Council would kindly request that food is not left out for the badgers and ensure that dustbin bags are kept out of reach or secured in a wheelie bin.

If you have any comments or concerns about issues which affect Crewkerne, please contact:

Crewkerne Town Council, Town Hall, Market Square, Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7LN

Tel: 01460 74001 Email: [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk)

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