

Crewkerne Town Council

NEWSLETTER

May 2021 – Issue 67



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Newly Elected Town Councillors

The Town Council welcomes Teresa Bond and Alice Samuel, who were elected to the Council at the bi-election held on 6 May. We asked both Councillors to give a short introduction to themselves, which you will find below.

Teresa Bond



"I have lived in Crewkerne for 25 years. I was a Town Councillor some years ago and got very involved with the new playground on Henhayes. I am a member of the League of Friends of Crewkerne Hospital and a member of Crewkerne & District U3A.

I am retired so have time available and I hope to play a full and active role as a member of the Town Council."

Alice Samuel



"I have lived in Crewkerne all my life, in fact I was born and educated in Crewkerne and that is why this town means a lot to me.

In my spare time, I am Secretary for the Crewkerne Branch of the Royal British Legion. However, I currently work at St. Bartholomew's First School and have been there for 22 years. One of the groups I support there is an Eco-Council, which I feel strong about being environmentally friendly.

As a Councillor, I would like to support Crewkerne with environmental issues and to hear how the community would like Crewkerne to be more eco-friendly."

Appointment of Mayor & Deputy Mayor

At the Annual Town Council Meeting held on 4 May, Cllr. Kathy Head was appointed as Mayor and Cllr. Robin Pailthorpe as Deputy Mayor. Kathy had this to say about her appointment:

"I am honoured to be selected by my peers to serve the residents of Crewkerne for a third year as Mayor. It has been a privilege to observe how the community has supported each other during the last year.

I look forward to seeing the town and businesses open up again and continue to thrive."



NOW OPEN**Town Council & Local Information Centre**

The Council is pleased to advise that the Town Hall is once again open to the public, with the Local Information Centre (LIC) open from 9.30am to 12.30pm Monday to Friday. Town Council staff are also working at the Town Hall once again.

If you would like to talk face-to-face with a Council staff member, please use the Town Hall LIC entrance. The Victoria Hall and the Council Chamber are once again available for bookings, but of course this will be subject to ongoing covid restrictions. Please contact the Town Council office if you would like to book these venues.

**Refurbishment of the
Falkland Square Toilets: Project Update**

As residents will know, the well-used public toilets at Falkland Square are in need of a major refurbishment. As reported in earlier newsletters, the refurbishment is now fully accounted for in this year's Council budget.

A contractor has been chosen and a planning application has been submitted to the SSDC planning department. As soon as we have the approval from SSDC, then we will be able to give the contractor the green light to proceed with the work. The refurbishment will consist of replacing the traditional ladies and gents toilets with two unisex cubicles. In addition, the dedicated disabled toilet, which is generally in a good condition, will be given a minor refurbishment.

The work itself is expected to take approximately 4 weeks to complete and the Council anticipates that the new toilets will be opened to the public in the autumn.

**Town Council Meetings**

Because of the covid pandemic, Council meetings are being held remotely using zoom and streamed via YouTube. Streaming has proved extremely popular because it has enabled many more people to have access to the ongoing business of the Council. Meetings will continue to be held remotely for the time being, but the Council is looking forward to the time when face-to-face meetings will be possible once again. The Council is also investigating combining face-to-face meetings with YouTube live streaming.

**Crewkerne in Bloom News Update**

The Crewkerne in Bloom (CiB) team of enthusiastic volunteers continue to do sterling work in and around the town.



Catherine Bacon, of CiB, had this to say on their work and plans for this year: *"As summer approaches, this means the return of CiB's popular hanging baskets in the town centre, made possible by grant funding from the Council, gratefully received. The beds at the Rotary Stone, Church Street and West Street are regularly spruced up and the cheerful planters in Falkland Square and The George Precinct always look good. A new band of CiB volunteers has started to start work on flower beds at the Townsend Cemetery, which is already looking better for their efforts.*

At St Bartholomew's Churchyard, where the no-mow campaign is well underway in special areas, volunteers keep a watchful eye, recording native wildflower species and boosting the existing types with further planting. This means CiB is already well underway in supporting Wilder Churches, a new joint initiative between the Diocese of Bath & Wells and the Somerset Wildlife Trust working to protect biodiversity and increase the value of churchyards for wildlife.

Crewkerne in Bloom is run entirely by volunteers. To find out about volunteering, membership or sponsorship, give us a call on 01460 72665, email us at hello@crewkerneinbloom.org or check us out on www.crewkerneinbloom.org, and Facebook and Instagram."

Financial Report

The accounts for the current year, which ends 31 March 2021, will not be audited until later in the year. The final accounts will be approved at the June meeting of the Town Council.

Income and expenditure for the year ending 31 March 2021 is as follows:

	Income
	£
Precept	421,080
Town Hall	518
Victoria Hall	559
General Admin	110
Aqua Centre	374
George Reynolds Centre	5,945
Henhayes Car Park	6,495
Grounds Maintenance	23
Cemetery Income	22,466
Salaries	24,058
War Memorial Grounds Contribution	50
Events	690
Insurance Claim	2,899
Miscellaneous	65
TOTAL	485,332
	Expenditure
	£
Salaries	199,717
Town Hall	25,099
Victoria Hall	9,850
Grounds Maintenance	39,544
Cemetery Expenditure	23,579
General Admin	38,116
Joint Burial Committee Precept	42,122
Youth Service Provision	13,665
Public Toilets	15,869
George Reynolds Centre	41,313
Aqua Centre	493
Grants	13,956
Projects	3,485
War Memorial Grounds	3,204
Events and Market	215
TOTAL	470,227

Statement of Accounts for year ending 31 March 2020

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£	£
Balances b/fwd	288,745	298,743
Annual Precept	404,888	409,391
Total other Receipts	80,447	58,524
Staff Costs	195,604	197,875
Loan Interest/Capital Repay't.	4,930	4,913
Total other Payments	274,804	304,212
Balances c/fwd	298,742	259,658
Total Cash and Investments	276,674	252,474
Total Fixed Assets	6,896,393	6,882,809
Total Borrowings	4,782	0

George Reynolds Centre: Update

As reported in previous editions of the newsletter, since the demise of CSYAL, the Council has been spending a great deal of effort to bring the George Reynolds Centre (GRC) building back up to a standard fully fit to be used once again by community groups and sports clubs and for events. Good progress has been made and we now have the youth service operating on the upper floor, with the Jigsaw play group operating on the ground floor.



With covid restrictions easing, the upstairs rooms will soon be available for hire, as will the changing rooms on the ground floor. If you are interested in using the GRC as a venue, please contact the Town Council office.

****SAVE THE DATE****

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
OF ELECTORS**

**This year's meeting will take place on
Monday 6 September 2021, at 7.30 pm
Victoria Hall, Market Square**

Annual Open Day at Townsend Cemetery Sunday 12 September: 1 - 4 pm

The historic burial registers will be available in the cemetery chapel for visitors who wish to undertake family history research. There will also be a talk from Tracey Warren, a local funeral director, who will also give a guided tour of some of the notable graves in the cemetery.



Town Council Website

The development of the new Crewkerne Town website is currently underway and we are excited to be introducing a number of new features such as a local business directory, events calendar and FAQ page.

We would also love to hear from residents about what they would like to see and do on the new website! Please email your ideas and suggestions to jenna.roberts@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk

Bincombe Beeches Volunteer Dates



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

Thursday 24 June & Thursday 22 July

**Unfortunately, refreshments cannot be provided.
Please bring your own gloves.**

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

To raise awareness of the issue of people not picking up after their dogs, the Town Council has commissioned a "shocking" new poster.



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

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