

**Please see page 3 for the Mayor's budget statement...**

## *Lighting Up Night 2023*

Thank you to everyone who attended the Lighting Up 2023. The event was a great success and brought everyone lots of festive cheer. In Falklands Square Phoenix Brass Band played, whilst local community groups/charities were fundraising and promoting their causes. The Fire Brigade, Brownies, Majorettes, and the Lantern Parade all led Father Christmas to the Town Hall for the important light switch on. Meanwhile on the stage the St. Bartholomew's Primary School Choir and CUDOS sang Christmas songs to get everybody into the spirit. Father Christmas retired to his grotto and spent the evening meeting the local children. Upstairs in Victoria Hall was the Christmas Craft Fair where stallholders were selling their beautiful Christmas gifts.



On the following day we held our annual Christmas Market. Almost 30 stallholders attended and were selling a wide selection of handcrafted items and homemade food and drink. The weather was kind (if not a little chilly) it was well attended with lots of Christmas treats purchased!

A huge thank you to everyone involved, so many volunteers bring the magic to Christmas in Crewkerne each year and this event really shows what amazing community spirit we have in the town. We are always looking for more volunteers, if you would like to help either in the lead up to the event (from July!) or on the night, please email [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk).



Photographs by Jeff Hutson





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## BAUBLE WORKSHOP



The Christmas tree was again decorated this year with baubles made by local children. Creative Crewkerne organised a Bauble Making Workshop with a record number of people wanting to attend! Crewkerne In Bloom also attended to finish making their amazing pom pom stars. A big thank you to everyone who volunteered, and to Taylor Wimpey for funding the materials.



## LANTERN WORKSHOP



In November The Henhayes Centre hosted a lantern making workshop on behalf of Crewkerne Town Council. 25 children attended over 2 sessions and made some beautiful paper lanterns. The children then brought these lanterns along to the Lighting Up night and formed part of the procession leading Father Christmas to the Town Hall.

Thank you to everyone who generously donated money to the street collection on the Lighting Up Night. We raised a fantastic £303.51! This will go towards purchasing more lights for the town.



## SEVERALLS PILLARS

The restoration works to the historic pillars at Severalls is now complete. These stone pillars mark the entrance to one of the earliest council estates in the country. The housing and gardens were designed as a memorial to the 131 Crewkerne men killed in the First World War. The works were part-funded by a grant from the War Memorial Trust - find out more about their work at [www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk](http://www.warmemorialsonline.org.uk).





Dear Resident,

Letter from the Mayor

2024/25 Precept announcement

It will come as no surprise that escalating costs and pressures have left Somerset Council facing a financial emergency. We have been aware for many months that Somerset Council are actively looking at ways to save money by passing responsibility for some services down to parish and town councils such as Crewkerne. The details on these services are still uncertain but alongside our neighbouring Somerset towns, Crewkerne Town Council has taken the view that it is better to be prepared by making sure we have the staff, tools and money available to keep our town a clean, safe and enjoyable place to live and work in.

With these extra responsibilities in mind, we've taken the difficult decision to increase our part of your council tax bill (we call this the precept) from April. The amount of the Crewkerne precept will depend on the council tax band of your property. For example, someone living in a Band D property will pay 79p more towards the work of Crewkerne Town Council every week—less than a pint of milk. For nearly nine in every ten properties, it will cost this or even less. Remember, only about 9p in every £1 of your total council tax comes to Crewkerne Town Council; the rest of your money goes to funding Somerset Council, the fire and police services, and other agencies. We know from our recent survey that waste services, library services, bin collections, street cleaning, roadside grass and verge cutting are all important to you. Whilst we never like having to increase our part of your bill, we're hopeful we will be able to improve and maintain the high standards our town deserves in addition to continuing to operate all our open spaces, public buildings, sports facilities, support community groups through our grants scheme and deliver events such as the much-loved Lighting Up evening.

We are always happy to answer any questions you may have – please email [towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk](mailto:towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk), or follow us on Facebook or Instagram for further updates (@crewkernetowncouncil). Remember – some of you will be eligible for the various Somerset Council Rate relief schemes. Visit <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/council-tax/council-tax-discounts-and-exemptions/> or call Somerset Council on 0300 123 2224.

Kind regards, Alice Samuel, Mayor of Crewkerne



# TREE PLANTING



In December the 1st Crewkerne Scouts and Cubs attended a sapling planting day at Bincombe Beeches. It was a very wet and windy day, but they successfully planted 80 saplings of various types that were native to the nature reserve. Thank you to all those that attended, along with the group leaders. This event will go towards the environmental badge for the children.




## VACANCY: TOWN COUNCILLOR

Crewkerne Town Council is seeking an individual with a keen interest in the community to join the Town Council by co-option. Interested? Find out more on the CTC website.


**DEADLINE TO APPLY:**  
5PM 15TH MARCH 2024

More Information  
[HTTPS://WWW.CREWKERNE-TC.GOV.UK/](https://www.crewkerne-tc.gov.uk/)







# CAKE SALE



Before Christmas, the Crewkerne Rainbows and Brownies held a cake sale to raise money for the accessible swing which was recently damaged. The cakes they sold were kindly donated by various members of the community. We are pleased to say they raised an amazing £405.42. Thank you also to everyone in Oscars who helped to support this cause. The swing will be replaced shortly.





### Speak to your Councillor!

Councillor surgeries are held on the third Saturday of each month to coincide with the Farmers' Market.

Surgeries are 10.30-12 noon in the Town Hall:

**Saturday 17th February**  
**Saturday 16th March**  
**Saturday 20th April**

### CHUBBS ALMSHOUSES SEEKS NEW TRUSTEES

Candidates will exchange their unique life experience for satisfaction and personal growth through service to the community.

Contact Sheila Seymour: 07484 739520 or [sheila.seymour@btinternet.com](mailto:sheila.seymour@btinternet.com) before 28 Feb.

### BINCOMBE VOLUNTEER DAYS

From 10am on the following days:

Thursday 15th February  
Thursday 21st March  
Thursday 18th April

Meet at the entrance to Beechwood Drive.  
Please bring your own gloves.

## BINCOMBE BEECHES

The three new wooden sculptures are now in place at Bincombe Beeches. These fabulous creations were sculpted by the chainsaw artist during our activity day last year. They sit alongside the existing six sculptures, bug bench and bug hotel. Can you find all eleven?



## TENNIS COURT OFFICIAL LAUNCH



Save the date for our official Tennis Court launch,  
**Saturday 13th April.**  
More details to be announced soon!

Councillor	Tel. No.	Email
Cllr. Steve Ashton	07850 960605	<a href="mailto:steve.ashton@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">steve.ashton@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Mike Best (Vice Chair, Amenities Committee)	01460 74245	<a href="mailto:mike.best@somerset.gov.uk">mike.best@somerset.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Teresa Bond (Chair, Planning & Highways Committee)	01460 75284	<a href="mailto:teresa.bond@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">teresa.bond@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Nigel Draycott	01460 74001	<a href="mailto:nigel.draycott@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">nigel.draycott@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Kathy Head (Deputy Mayor)	07704 197469	<a href="mailto:kathy.head@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">kathy.head@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. David Livesley	01460 74001	<a href="mailto:david.livesley@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">david.livesley@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Judith Morris (Vice Chair, Policy & Resources Committee)	07809 404377 01460 271545	<a href="mailto:judith.morris@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">judith.morris@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>
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Cllr. Alice Samuel (Mayor)	01460 74001	<a href="mailto:alice.samuel@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">alice.samuel@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Andrea Stuart (Chair, Policy & Resources Committee)	07776 414267	<a href="mailto:andrea.stuart@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">andrea.stuart@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>
Cllr. Simon Woodland	01460 74001	<a href="mailto:simon.woodland@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk">simon.woodland@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk</a>