

#### Hello and welcome to The Crewkerne Flyer for August 2023.

I hope that you like our new front cover photograph of the original Crewkerne

Grammar School in Abbey Street, whose most famous pupil was Admiral Hardy - Nelson's Flag Captain at the Battle of Trafalgar.

On Page 30 we have a collection of recent photos of the former Bonsoir factory, further along Abbey Street.

Crewkerne in Bloom have their report on the results of annual gardens competition on Page 12.

Then our writer Ana Collingridge brings us a 2-page report on the controversial proposals to extend the quarrying activities on Ham Hill. At the meeting held in Stoke sub Hamdon, guarryman Zak England went to great lengths to explain that the proposals simply involve re-working areas originally quarried by the Victorians. See this on Pages 16 & 17.

Then on Page 18 we bring you some photos of Crewkerne Lions Club Tractor Run.

"Crewkerne Neighbourhood Plan" invites contributions from residents and local businesses on how they would like Crewkerne to look in coming years. More information on Page 24.

CUDOS are bringing "Made in Dagenham" to The Victoria Hall in September. Please find all the details on Pages 38 & 39.

Our regular report from Friends of Crewkerne Station can be found on Page 40.

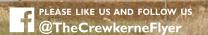
Finally retired baker David Bryant brings us more photos of Old Crewkerne on Page 44.

Best wishes,

Anthony Bucke EDITOR.

Wednesday 19 July 2023.

Email: crewkerne@theantiquestourist.com



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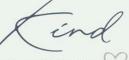
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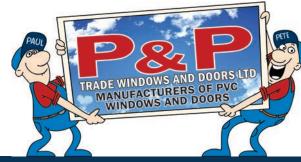


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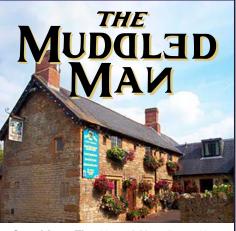
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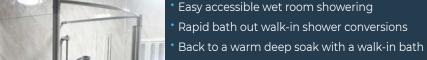
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### Congratulations to the winners of Crewkerne in Bloom's Annual **Garden Competition**

Crewkerne in Bloom sends grateful thanks to David James from Marshall-James Garden Developments for his time and enthusiasm in judging this annual competition.

The criteria were: Impact, originality & design; Variety & use of plants and colour combinations; Condition, care & sustainability

Here are the winning gardens and judge's comments:

Front Garden: Tudor Cottage, 1 Pulmans Lane This informal cottage garden is delightfully designed to suit the type and age of the house. Stone edgings cleverly complement its stone facade and plants of different heights create an impression of greater garden size. There's a good colour mix of traditional flowers and foliage and everything is beautifully tidy and maintained to a high standard.

**Back Garden: Winner** 

- Lower Tithe Barn, Barn Street

A superbly maintained garden, evidently much loved. A good balance of colours from flowers and foliage frames the natural beauty of the surrounding countryside creating harmony and tranquility. The lower borders are full of colour even though their position is challenging to maintain. The impact of how they link together is best seen from the seat at the top of the garden. - Highly Commended - The Retreat, **Pulmans Lane** 

#### **Community Garden:**

Severalls War Memorial Community Gardens The volunteers must be commended for the maintenance and use of donated plants to create the lovely mix of trees and shrubs for this tranquil oasis. It is pleasing that children are involved. Raised beds with aromatic plants are notable and areas to attract wildlife are very interesting. Disability access is good and the whole garden is a safe haven for all ages to enjoy.



For more news, including the announcement of the winners of our annual Business Window Competition, do dig in to www.crewkerneinbloom.org

You can also follow us on facebook and Instagram to keep up to date.

For further information, to volunteer or to offer support in any way, please contact us on 01460 72665 or hello@crewkerneinbloom.org No experience needed, only your enthusiasm for keeping Crewkerne looking colourful and cared for.



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#### Ham Hill Quarry extension plans to rework victorian ground and continue with low level extraction

Poetically described as 'the loveliest building material in England' by author and former national newspaper editor, Sir Simon Jenkins, ham stone is still very much in demand for the restoration of historic buildings, construction of new builds, particularly within Somerset conservation areas, and for repairs to external features of churches and bell towers. It has been used in the construction of countless buildings, including Montacute House, Sherborne Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and currently in the restoration of Parnham House in West Dorset.

The quarrying of ham stone at Ham Hill is also important to the local economy and for all the workers associated with the extraction of the medium to coarse grained limestone, ranging from the stone cutters, truck drivers, stone masons, restoration companies, admin staff and sculptors to others indirectly connected to the quarrying industry. Ham Hill's honey coloured stone and its slightly greyer version is unique to the Somerset



Ham & Doulting Stone celebrate their 50th year of quarrying at Monument Quarry on Ham Hill in 2015. The late Richard England pictured third from right and his son Zak centre. (Photo credit Ham & Doulting Stone)



Revolutionary stone cutting machine which makes cutting the stone easier. (photo credit Ham & Doulting Stone)

area and the current deposits on the north side of the hill fort are expected to be exhausted within the next three to four years - hence the recent planning application to extend the north quarry site by 2.24 hectares over a 24 year period. No proposed increase in the annual output of 2,000 tonnes, nor the number of vehicle trips; no changes to the working hours.

Managing Director Zak England, of Ham & Doulting Stone who operate Monument Quarry (Ham Hill North) gave a presentation to Stoke sub Hamdon Parish Council and members of the public at Hamdon Youth and Family Centre on Wednesday July 5th. Zak said: "The new planning application is not to work virgin ground, but to rework old quarried



Quarryman Zak England splits a large piece of ham stone for British Archaeologist and TV presenter Alex Langlands, watched by Andrew Irish from Fords Croft Farm, Crewkerne.

ground left by the Victorians. They simply removed the upper more easy to remove beds and left the base bed behind. Our method of reworking previously quarried ground is what we've now been doing for the last 20 years on the hill.

"Stone quarried from the northern end of the hill is of great importance for use in historic buildings and to allow new developments to respect the architectural heritage of its surroundings. Unlike the stone from the south end of the hill, the stone from the north is much greyer, harder, found in thicker beds and has been quarried for a much longer period of time, As a result the thicker stone from the north is principally used for historic



Stone circle, created for the Millennium by quarry boss Richard England.

conservation and restoration projects. My late father Richard England reopened

Monument Quarry back in 1965 and it's where I've been working since 1995. In our 58 years, we have rigorously kept to the planning conditions and have always worked closely with the Council and Country Park and I believe that this attention to detail is what helps make the flora and fauna thrive alongside a working quarry as it does today."



The Tithe Barn at Haselbury Mill built using ham stone was Richard England's retirement project.

An extension to the deadline for Parish Council comments on SCC/4058/2023 was agreed until July 10th, the same date that Mr England had invited councillors to visit the quarry to gain a better perspective on the proposals for Extension of the Monument Quarry for extraction of Ham stone. Somerset Council's Countryside Team hope to address concerns raised by Natural England, Somerset Wildlife, Somerset Ecology Services and Historic England, which administers Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) on behalf of the Secretary State. The extraction and restoration would take place in six phases, commencing when the current permitted reserves are exhausted 2026/7.

In mitigation to replace the habitat lost due to quarrying operations, Somerset Council have earmarked an area within the country park but outside of the Scheduled Monument where "scrub and specimen woodland trees can be planted." On the Northern Spur, low calcareous grassland seed can be sown and scrub allowed to develop in line with a five-year management plan.

By Ana Collingridge (c)



# Charity TRACTOR RUN

The Crewkerne Flyer were passing through Clapton on Saturday 8 July, and noticed a collection of vehicles in the caravan site opposite Clapton Farm.

#### **Tractor Run!**

So a swift chat with Lions Club Officers Lesley Chudley and Mark Lockie, then some photos before the 16 tractors trundled off around Seaborough Hill, Cathole Bridge Lane, Hewish, Purtington before lunching at The Windwhistle Inn. Then Cudworth, Dowlish Wake, past Lubborn Cheese, into Thorncombe and then back to Clapton. The route was exactly 20 miles, and raised £256.



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Great excitement at The Squirrel Inn, Laymore, as local chef Lucille Harris joins the team!

Bubbly Lucille is probably the most excited lady in Somerset! Tracey and Gerald have invited Lucille to join "Team Squirrel", giving her the perfect opportunity to make her stamp on an already extremely successful local pub.

Tracey and Gerald bought The Squirrel Inn at auction back in 2016. Since then they have built an enviable reputation for hospitality. They are host to 12 skittle

teams, and offer honest home-cooked food 6 nights a week. Outside is a large carpark with beer garden, and breath-taking views across the Axe Valley making this a perfect venue for parties, functions and weddings. There is even room for camping!

Lucille has over 24 years' experience as a chef, following closely in the steps of her Mum Beverley Quinlan.

Tracey and Gerald have given Lucille "free reign during Thursdays and friday lunchtime openings," to develop her own style.

Thursday lunchtimes will see traditional offerings such as toad in the hole with mash & peas, corned beef hash, and as the weather gets colder, homemade stews.

Friday lunchtimes you have the choice of a pie and a pint for £10 or a pie and a pudding for £10.

Then home-made curry every Friday night.

The highlight of the week is Sunday! Open at 9.30 for "The Squirrel Big Breakfast".

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#### **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

#### WHERE ARE WE?

Hopefully by now Crewkerne residents will have had two different surveys delivered through their door relating to the Neighbourhood Plan. The first was a wider ranging consultation where we sought to gather the initial views of people who live and work in Crewkerne. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, along with our planning consultant, analysed the responses and used them to formulate a series of draft Aims and Objectives. We recently sent out a survey asking residents how strongly they supported the draft Aims and Objectives - the results are still being analysed but early indications show that there was strong support for them - this is good news as it means that we have correctly interpreted what you told us through the first survey!

#### **WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?**

We continue to analyse the information we have gathered through the latest survey and use it to start writing some draft policies which will form the basis of our Neighbourhood Plan for Crewkerne. We have identified that we need to find ways to engage with some groups which we have had a low response rate from - particularly young people and the business community so we will be looking at ways to do this. As the Neighbourhood Plan comes together into a final draft, it will be reviewed by the Local Planning Authority (now Somerset Council) to ensure it complies with all relevant legislation. Somerset Council will then appoint an Independent Examiner to review the Plan in detail. Following all of this a referendum will be held, asking Crewkerne residents to vote either in favour or against formally adopting the plan. Should over half of those casting a vote favour its adoption, the Plan would be officially 'made' and then hold legal weight when future planning decisions are considered.

#### **HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?**

All our meeting documents, surveys, reports etc are kept on the dedicated Neighbourhood Plan website – www.crewkerneneighbourhoodplan.co.uk – please take a look. If you have any thoughts or comments you can email us via the contact form on this website or alternatively via the Town Council on towncouncil@crewkerne-tc.gov.uk.

You might also wish to speak to one of our Steering Group members:

Pat Lunt (local resident and member of Space4Crewkerne)

Gail Coleshill (local resident and member of ABCD – A Better Crewkerne and District)

Diane Butler (local resident and member of ABCD)

Clir Kathy Head (Town Councillor and Deputy Mayor)

**Clir Jan Nathan** (Town Councillor and Vice Chair of the Planning and Highways Committee)

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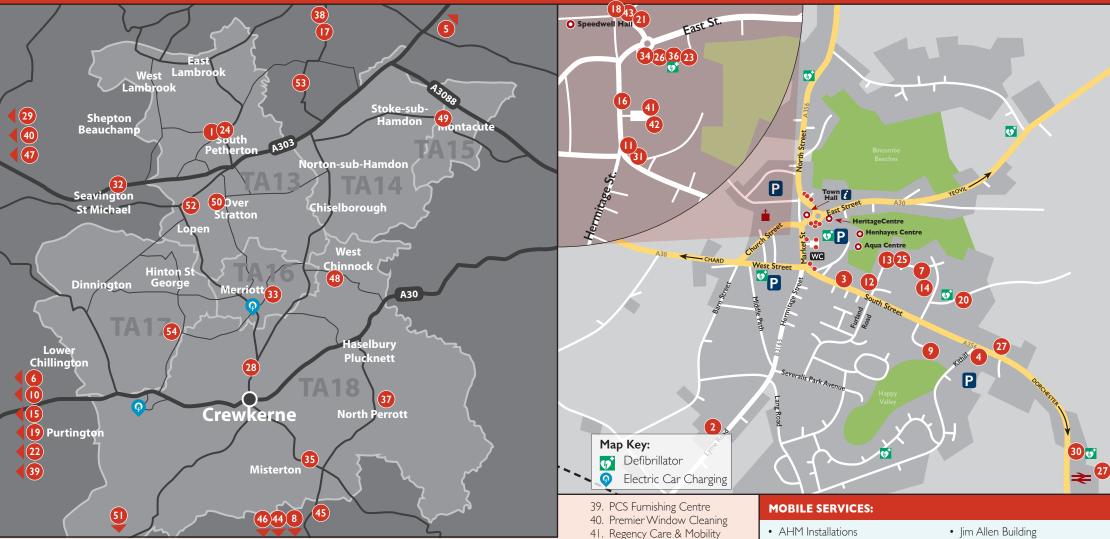
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**LOCAL AREA MAP TOWN MAP** 



- I. Able Alex
- 2. Aistheta Skin Clinic
- Allen Computer Services Ltd
- Antiques Bazaar
- Antony Doveton
- Atkins Auctions
- Auto Refurbs Ltd
- Bridport Auction House
- 9. CThru Cleaning
- 10. Carbin Heating
- 11. Carousel
- 12. Chalmers & Co
- 13. Crewkerne Garage Services

- 14. Crewkerne Small Business Centre
- 15. Cricket St.Thomas
- 16. Daily Z Tech
- 17. Drapes Direct Ltd
- 18. Ear Wax Removal Solutions
- 19. EGF Carpets & Vinyls
- 20. Elswood Cleaning Supplies
- 21. Everys Solicitors
- 22. FMS & Co
- 23. Green Dragon Book Shop
- 24. H.R. Hodge
- 25. Hamstone Vets

- 26. Hollies Unisex Salon
- 27. JF Auto Repairs Ltd / JF Cars
- 28. Kerry's Quality Food
- 29. Kitchen Kind
- 30. L.S.G. Plumbing & Heating
- 31. Lift Fitness
- 32. Loxston Groundcare
- 33. Manor Farm
- 34. Mayfair Estate Agents
- 35. Misterton Garage Ltd
- 36. My Bestie Pet Shop
- 37. North Perrott Farmshop
- 38. P&PTrade Windows & Doors

- 42. Robert Frith Opticians
- 43. Rodfords The Florists
- 44. Seals Cove.
- 45. The Admiral Hood Mosterton
- 46. The Corner Garage
- 47. The Lace Knittery
- 48. The Muddled Man Inn
- 49. The Phelips Arms
- 50. The Pig Pen
- 51. The Squirrel inn
- 52. Trading Post
- 53. Yandles
- 54. Yarcombe Woodland products

- Ashlands Gardens
- Bailey Construction
- Beale Heating & Building Ltd
- Bike Vet
- Burnham Coal Supplies
- Chard Rubbish & Waste Services
- Classic Car Restoration
- Colour Fence
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- George Burgess Painter & Decorator

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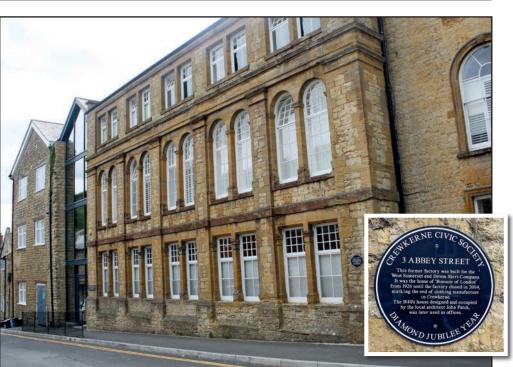


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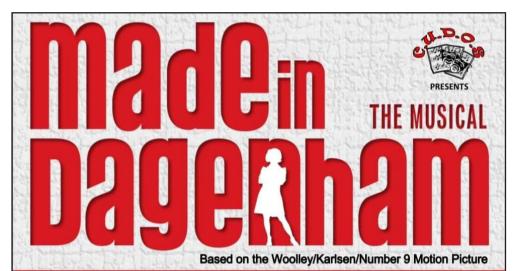
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Music by

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Lyrics by Richard Thomas



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# MADE IN DAGENHAM THE MUSICAL - NOT TO BE MISSED!

Crewkerne United Dramatic Operatic Society (CUDOS) are busy rehearsing their upcoming musical Made in Dagenham for performances at the Victoria Hall, Crewkerne in September. Inspired by the true story of female factory workers in the 60s, at Ford motors, Dagenham, striking for equal pay, this original musical comedy is set to wow audiences. Based on the hit movie, this musical premiered in the West End in 2014. It's an uplifting musical comedy about friendship, love and the importance of fighting for what is right. Funny, touching and timeless, Made in Dagenham shows how ordinary people can do extraordinary things when they stand together.

Musical Director, Lucy Singleton: "There's no hyperbole when I say what a fantastically talented cast we have; they deserve to perform in front of full houses and hopefully they will. I'd recommend booking ahead to see what this group of local people can do, I'd hate for you to miss out! The campaign for equal rights across society is one that sadly continues to be relevant today and means you can't help but be affected by this show."

CUDOS was born in 2001 as a result of the amalgamation of Crewkerne Players and Crewkerne Amateur Operatic Society (CAOS); both societies had been running since the 1960s. When it became obvious that both groups consisted of many of the same people, it made logistical and financial sense to combine the two. CUDOS has since gone from strength to strength, producing musicals, plays, concerts and their extremely well supported annual pantomime. CUDOS were also very much involved in the refurbishment of the Victoria Hall, where they continue to perform and feel at home.

CUDOS is a welcoming and open group for age 7 upwards. New members are encouraged - whether you're interested in being on stage or helping with the many jobs behind the scenes.



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### FRIENDS OF CREWKERNE STATION

South West In Bloom Judge John Davies joined the Friends of the Station on a working Thursday to look at the years efforts. The Friends have again entered the 'Its Your Neighbourhood' class of the South West In Bloom award system. The Friends have been working for 12 years at the station to improve the travel experience of rail travellers and this has resulted in a much improved environment.

Much of their visible contribution includes the brightly planted Cattle Trough planters but looking around the waiting room you will see more evidence of their contributions. From the addition of a comfy seat to book borrowing and colouring opportunities they have helped to make passengers comfortable. Outside there is an additional seat with canopy obtained using grant aid including a contribution from Waitrose community fund.

Meeting the SWIB judge the station volunteers explained this years plan was to plant and preserve for insects and wildlife. Through trial and error the volunteers have discovered the best plants to use for insect attraction and drought resistance. This is very important where planters are used and have to be watered in dry periods. An important role is played by the watering rota volunteers who keep the flowers looking good year round. John Davies was particularly impressed by the bug hotels, one as a feature above the down platform by the Pumphouse, and one built using the ruined wall on the down platform which is not used by train passengers.

If you want to travel locally by train, the Blackmore Vale Community Rail Partnership of Tisbury, Gillingham, Templecombe, Sherborne, Yeovil and Crewkerne have joined together to produce a line guide with all the attractions and advantages of local towns along our line. See link:

www.blackmorevaletrains.com/line-guide









The Friends of the Station are interested in all things railway and transport and welcome additional members and volunteers to work on the platform with plants. www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofcrewkerne or secretary Gail Coleshill on gail.coleshill@gmail.com

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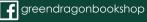


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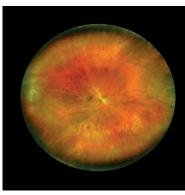
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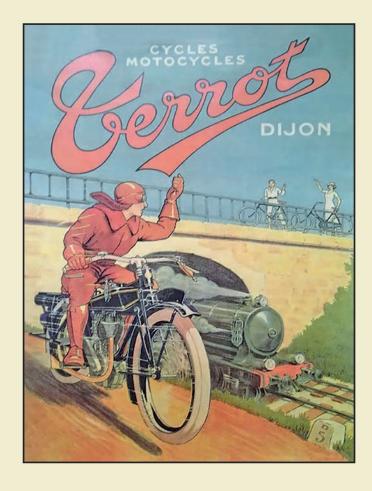
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