



WELCOME TO OUR OCTOBER 2022 NEWSLETTER WE TRIUMPH AGAIN AT THE SOUTHWEST IN BLOOM AWARDS

Thanks to our brilliant band of volunteers, kind sponsors and enthusiastic supporters, Crewkerne achieved GOLD and outstanding success in these prestigious awards.



(L) Sallie, John & Catherine (R) John & Peggy are presented with main awards by Kathy Head, Crewkerne Mayor and Chairman of Crewkerne in Bloom at the Haselbury event.

Britain in Bloom - South West
2022 Presentation Event
Thursday 13th October
Haselbury Mill, Haselbury Plucknett
Near Crewkerne, Somerset. TA18 7NY.

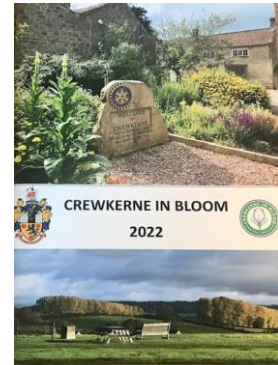
Registration	9.00 am
Welcome	10.00 am
Speakers	10.15 am
Lunch	12.45 pm
SwTB Presentation	2.15 pm

Glendale

Ticket No 117

Ticket £25

Presentation event: October 13th



We didn't have far to travel!
Last year the venue was in Weston super Mare. This time it was Haselbury Mill where around 260 In Bloom enthusiasts attended from all over the South West. Everyone went away with a Crewkerne branded bag packed with a colourful bundle of local information.



Taking a break at The Potager during a Tuesday working party are Rita, Jane, Mary, Sallie, Catherine & Heather, some of our volunteers.

Praise from the Chairman of South West in Bloom

Announcing the results, Jon Wheatley, Chairman of South West in Bloom praised Crewkerne in Bloom for their success in winning a Gold Award in the SWTA Cup. He noted that due to comparable population size, we were up against Kingsbridge - who earlier in the week had been judged at Britain in Bloom as Best Horticultural Group in the UK!

Judging our success

Horticultural achievement, environmental responsibility and community participation were the key judging criteria this year and after the presentation came the opportunity to sit down with judges Rod and Sean to hear comments about their visit to Crewkerne.

They said, "It was our first visit to Crewkerne, and we had a brilliant day with our hosts who made us very welcome and proudly showed us around the town. We met so many of the community who take great pride in their town and whose efforts are so evident. Crewkerne in Bloom are relatively newcomers in the South West in Bloom competition and how glad we are that they are in the competition as they are making great strides very quickly."



Special congratulations go to **Severalls Memorial Gardens** as runner-up in **The Gordon Ford Trophy**. This is a regional award presented each year to a South West in Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood entry. Horticultural, Community and Environmental Responsibility and reaching Level 5 outstanding are the criteria. **Severalls was in a field of around 350 entries**. John & Peggy were presented with the award on behalf of Severalls twice! First at Haselbury and later, as shown here at our own Presentation Evening.

South West in Bloom is one of 18 regional competitions that makes up Britain in Bloom, the biggest horticultural campaign in Europe. Crewkerne's achievement is particularly impressive because the South West area is extensive, taking in Bristol, Cornwall, Devon, West Dorset, Somerset, South Gloucestershire and most of Wiltshire. We were happy to see neighbours Haselbury Plucknett win Gold in the Small Towns & Villages in the Champion of Champions category.

RHS IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Three of our many It's Your Neighbourhood groups could be included in the judges' itinerary and win their own awards. Slotting in best for the restricted timing of the judges' tour were **Ashlands School, Lyewater Community Greenspace** and **Severalls Park War Memorial Garden**. All achieved top rating **Level 5 Outstanding**.

The following day, **RHS Judge Lesley Jelleyman** visited **Crewkerne Station, Pillbox 22, The Speedwell** and **St Bart's School** and was kind enough to present **Crewkerne's IYN Awards** at our own **special presentation evening at Bilby's on October 20th**.

RHS **IT'S YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**ASHLANDS FIRST SCHOOL
LEVEL 5 OUTSTANDING**



The judges said, "This was a marvellous first stop where we were met and shown around by three excited and informed children who have obviously adopted the whole plant/climate/biodiversity message." Ashlands will be presented with their certificate at a later date.

RHS **IT'S YOUR
NEIGHBOURHOOD**

**CREWKERNE ALLOTMENT TEAM &
COMMUNITY GREENSPACE
LEVEL 5 OUTSTANDING**



Jo represents the allotments to receive the award from Lesley

Lewater Community Allotments are in a registered nature reserve with much wildlife. Positioned on a steep slope with a stream at the bottom it is a challenging area to work. The judges commented, "Lewater is very much a work in progress but you can see the great work done led by Julie, now in her 11th year. The signs are unique and eye-catching."



**John & Peggy receive their award
from Lesley**



Judging Day



May Garden Party

The Severalls War Memorial Garden is a wonderful place to spend a reflective moment. It is approached by an impressive avenue of horse chestnut trees planted after the First World War, with one tree for each man from Crewkerne who lost their life. An enthusiastic group of volunteers take care of the Garden which is enjoyed by all ages. Community creativity is actively encouraged in this unique area.



**Gail, Heather and Frankie receive
their award from Lesley**



The station always looks colourful and well cared-for

The Friends of Crewkerne Station have for long been keeping the platforms tidy and colourful throughout the year and this is the latest in their cache of awards. As well as RHS success, the enthusiastic small group have achieved many triumphs in contests run by the Blackmore Vale Line Community Rail Partnership. This group photo may come as a surprise – you'll usually see the volunteers in their working tabard or dressed as festive elves!



Peggy & John receive their certificate from Lesley



A colourful landmark on the eastern edge of town

This Grade 11 listed **Pillbox** on the A30, was probably built in autumn 1940 as part of a defensive line in the Second World War. It was uncovered a few years ago and John and a small group got together, imaginatively planting the sloping site with glorious natural displays and spring bulbs. Now with a seat, it has been transformed into an unexpected haven.



Richard & Veronica receive their certificate from Lesley



A perfect venue for outdoor and indoor events

A newcomer to It's Your Neighbourhood, The Speedwell is a Grade 11 listed property in Abbey Street that was left in trust in 1923 to provide a club for the use and benefit of girls around Crewkerne. Today, it is available to the whole community and the gardens are receiving tender loving care.



Lesley presents the certificate to two very excited pupils accompanied by teacher Alice.

This is the first time St Bart's has entered It's Your Neighbourhood and we'll bring you more news of the children's activity in the coming months.



CREWKERNE GARDEN COMPETITION AWARDS Sponsored by Brimsmore Nurseries, Yeovil

Our summer competition was judged from photographs and the winners invited to our Presentation Evening at Bilby's. Lesley Jelleyman kindly presented the vouchers from Brimsmore Nurseries to those winners who were able to attend.



Andy & Lenka



The Orchards



Jane



Michelle

Class 1 Pot or Hanging Basket

1st place – Alan & Marilyn Garside
2nd place - Mr & Mrs Colvill

Class 2 Front Garden

1st place - The Orchards
2nd place- Alan and Marilyn Garside
3rd place- Lenka & Andy Peacock

Class 3 Back Garden

1st place- Lenka & Andy Peacock
2nd place Jane Clark
3rd place - Michelle Jones

Class 4 Wildlife Area

1st place – Lenka & Andy Peacock
2nd place- Alan & Marilyn Garside

Many thanks to Jeff Hutson for his photos of the presentations at Bilby's

No resting on our laurels

Early in October, our annual **hyacinth potting party** got underway. In blue, pink and white, three single colours to a pot, the bulbs are now resting in the dark before going on sale later in the year. Look out for us at the Christmas Market on November 26th and the monthly Farmers' Market outside the Town Hall. Proceeds will go towards enhancing the attraction and beauty of Crewkerne in 2023



Autumn grass raking in the unmown area at St Bartholomew's Church



Bikes around town still blooming in Autumn



Bikes at Town Hall and The Potager now planted for Winter



Planning, preparing and planting for Spring



DIARY DATE: AGM Thursday 24th November 7pm at Bilby's, Crewkerne

Everyone welcome! A great opportunity for you to hear more about our activities and what goes on behind the scenes. After a review of our successful year, financial position and election of Officers we look forward to hearing your comments and ideas.

Our grateful thanks to the main sponsors of Crewkerne in Bloom



Crewkerne in Bloom is run entirely by volunteers.
Our aims are to encourage a sense of community and pride in Crewkerne,
enhance its attraction and environmental friendliness
and bring more visitors to the town.

Find out more about us on www.crewkerneinbloom.org For information on volunteering, membership or sponsorship, give us a call on 01460 72665 or send an email hello@crewkerneinbloom.org

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