



WELCOME TO OUR MAY 2022 NEWSLETTER

South West in Bloom Awards 2022

Judging day is Wednesday 13th July

The RHS have set the criteria for entries in this year's awards - and because Crewkerne is out to win gold again we're relishing the challenge!

We are delighted that thanks to the generosity of Brimsmore Garden Centres, Humphries Kirk, Waitrose and Yeo Valley we have **an impressive line-up of main sponsors.**



Further sponsorship (business or private) will be much appreciated. You can be assured donations are carefully considered and used wisely. You might even like to specify something in particular.

Here are the South West in Bloom judging considerations this year. Happily, we're confident that each of our projects cover all three.

1. Horticultural Achievement

The judges are always impressed by the choice and quality of our **planting**, so with new determination, volunteers are working hard.

It wouldn't be Summer in Crewkerne without all the colourful **hanging baskets** and these will be going up soon when they are more established and the risk of frost has passed.

2. Environmental Responsibility

As emphasis in horticulture continues apace on abstaining from damaging natural environments to preserve them for future generations, we are proud that Crewkerne in Bloom has always been committed to this.



We use peat free compost; our baskets and containers have water reservoirs and we ensure we work harmoniously with the areas we tend.

At St Bartholomew's Churchyard we manage the grass, leaving some areas unmown.

Now, it's natural we announce that **CREWKERNE GOES WILD!** Wild with enthusiasm for native beauty; nurturing wild life and careful management and development of natural areas.

The call of the wild

We can't wait to see how the new wild flower area blooms at the Pillbox on the A30. John and his team make a brilliant job of meeting the challenge of the steep slopes. The sunny seat looks very inviting and on the chilly day in early Spring when these photos were taken, a cat was blissfully asleep underneath.



The road to natural beauty



Overgrown verges are often criticized and the natural species they support ignored. But it's well worth taking a few moments to examine the beauty of the wild flowers, leaves and seedheads that we casually dismiss as weeds. This is the A356 northbound on the edge of Crewkerne.



Go Wild in Crewkerne

That's the theme of this year's **Business Window competition**. In our popular **Garden competition** is a class for an environmentally friendly/wildlife area within your garden, and **My Bug House** is a category for children. More details of the competitions will be in our June Newsletter.

3. Community Participation

Here is our new vegetable and fruit bed – or **Potager** as we like to call it!
We did the planting, now you can pinch the leaves and berries for yourself as you pass.



Rows of onion sets, broad beans, lettuce and strawberries are attractively patterned and we'll be adding more as the year progresses. The Potager is between Waitrose and the Library and handy for the herb and fruit hanging baskets the Brownies planted. Why not pick a few leaves or a strawberry for someone who lives alone?

The Brownies lend a hand

We had great fun showing the **2nd Crewkerne Brownies** how to fill hanging baskets with compost and plant them with herbs and fruit. Catherine from **CB Plants** kindly donated mint, oregano, thyme, sage, rosemary and strawberries and she and Mary supervised six enthusiastic groups, suggesting ideas for using the herbs and explaining that anyone can pinch-pick from the baskets which are now hanging between Waitrose and the Library.

The project was also part of the Grow your Own Interest badge where the Brownies are asked to choose and plant something that has a purpose, such as an edible vegetable or fruit, or has flowers that attract bees and butterflies. The girls loved trying on the gardening gloves and we were delighted –and relieved - they enthusiastically swept up at the end!



Pot luck for passers by

Gardeners are renowned for generosity in sharing ideas and cuttings and we were delighted to spot this display outside a doorway near the Church. What a great idea!



Volunteers always welcome

Here is Crewkerne in Bloom's display at the Museum's popular **Queen and Community** exhibition. This was a good opportunity to recruit volunteers.

It's Your Neighbourhood

We are immensely proud of our award-winning IYN groups who work so hard in their areas. Hats off to John Davies, South West in Bloom winner of the Best Community Champion Award in 2021 who arranged a splendid fete at **Severalls Memorial Gardens** early in May.



The **Friends of Crewkerne Station** have been cheering passengers with vibrant displays of flowers in the cattle troughs. The volunteers are particularly delighted with their new tap for watering on the opposite platform.



In addition to Severalls and Crewkerne Station, **It's Your Neighbourhood** groups include **Lewater Allotments** and the **Pillbox** and we welcome back **Ashlands School**.

New neighbours

We are pleased to welcome **The Speedwell** to our thriving Its Your Neighbourhood Groups. This Grade 11 listed property in Abbey Street was left in trust in 1923 to provide a club for the use and benefit of all girls in and around Crewkerne. Today, it is available to the whole community and the gardens are receiving tender loving care.



St Bartholomew's School is another addition – more IYN news next month.

Diary dates:

Thursday 2nd June Open Gardens 2pm – 5.30pm organized by Art@St.Barts

Friday 3rd June Planting marigold seeds with Crewkerne in Bloom at Party in the Park 2pm - 5pm

Wednesday 13th July Visit by RHS Judges for South West in Bloom 2022

Thursday 13th October South West in Bloom awards announced

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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