



WELCOME TO OUR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

Bulbs, Garden Competition Winners, Station Awards, BT Cabinets, AGM

Potted hyacinth bulbs



We enjoyed a happy morning early in October planting pots of hyacinth bulbs for our popular annual sale. Three to a pot, they come in pink, blue or white.

Here we are (left) making the ribbons to pop in the relevant pots while the potting party gets underway.



The pots will be on sale at our stall in the Farmers' Market on November 23rd; the Christmas Market on November 30th; in the LIC at the Town Hall during opening hours – and any other shop or business that might be kind enough to sell them for us.

Proceeds will go towards our programme of further cheerful planting around town.

Bulb planting at Henhayes



We've already got down to ensuring Crewkerne will have a colourful start next year. Here are Sue, Heather and Mary planting a selection of bulbs at Henhayes during a Tuesday morning working party.

New volunteers are always welcome!

Find us on a Tuesday morning or call

07902 200212

Congratulations to our 2024 Garden competition winners:

Front Garden - 8 Victoria Square

Back Garden – The Old Volunteer, North Street

Courtyard Garden – 6 Victoria Square

Community Space – The Almshouses, West Street



Here are two of the winners:

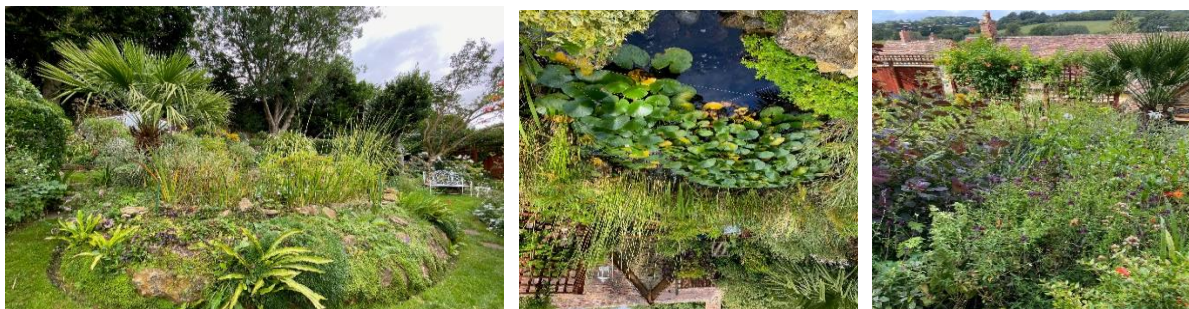
L: 1st Courtyard Garden - 6 Victoria Square

R: 1st Front Garden - 8 Victoria Square

Front Garden 1st Prize - 8 Victoria Square, Popleswell



Back Garden 1st Prize – The Old Volunteer



Categories were judged in September by:

Mary Cooper – Crewkerne in Bloom

Catherine Bond - CB Plants

John Davies – RHS Judge

Criteria were:

Impact, Originality and Design;

Variety and use of plants and colour combinations;

Condition, Care and Sustainability.

Winners were invited to a coffee morning at

The Crooked Swan early in October

to collect their awards.

Judge's Comments:

"Simple design appropriate for area; fits well with neighbouring gardens. Good choice of plants and colour maintained at this late time of year; well-tended and insect friendly."

Judge's Comments: *"This garden in North Street has a WOW factor. Well terraced steep garden makes good use of space from an attractive courtyard at the bottom to the summerhouse /greenhouse at the top. The front garden makes a colourful welcome to a raised narrow area against a busy main road. Very good use of plants and colour grown by themselves over the years from cuttings and young plants from family and friends. Very environmentally friendly and well maintained including a pond with newts and dragonflies. Rainwater is used for watering pots in the courtyard. Many seats around the garden are made from recycled materials."*

Courtyard Garden 1st Prize – 6 Victoria Square



Courtyard Garden Judge's Comments:

"WOW, a totally unexpected and different courtyard garden in a difficult shady plot. Excellent use of plants and ornaments creates an enjoyable and relaxing area. Good, interesting choice of largely foliage plants and ferns appropriate to the space available. Well-maintained and obviously loved and enjoyed, and also with an area for wildlife."

All Community Spaces were of an exceptionally high standard so each was awarded Gold

Gold & Best in Community Space: The Almshouses, West Street



Judges' Comments: *"There is an attractive cottage feel with individual gardens that blend together with a good communal lawn area for residents to meet. Plants spill out over the walls for passers-by to enjoy. There is great variety of plants and colour combinations including vegetables (beautiful tomatoes!), fruit and flowers and lots of colour for the time of year. They know their plants! Everything is well cared for and in good shape, lots of perennials and a compost bin. We met several members of the community and we loved how keen they all were both on their own patch and their interest in the community garden as a whole."*

Community Space Gold – 6 Victoria Square



Judges' Comments:

"Each cottage is individual yet there is a cohesive feel. Good use of existing trees and stumps and we loved the archway entrance. There are fun animal sculptures in the shrubbery for children to find. Shade areas are good and it was great to see native plants included. Much thought has been given to providing for wildlife with bird feeders, nest boxes and standing deadwood. We love the Oasis area where everyone can share the space to meet, relax and chat. Participates in Open Gardens Day."

Gold - Community Space: Crewkerne Station



Judges' Comments: *"The work by the volunteers at Crewkerne Station is enjoyed by the community of Crewkerne and beyond. The Friends have made an amazing difference and it's now a great space to wait for a train to arrive or to pass through. Well done! Everything is healthy and well maintained. We loved the trough planters and the link to the farming industry; the choice of plants for various aspects; the use of scented plants and herbs; combinations of textures; sustainability and wildlife habitats. All are commended."*

Gold - Community Space: The Orchards



Judges' Comments: *"Such a fun, colourful garden with residents' artwork and plenty of personal touches. Sensory plants are used to good effect and there's a bee garden. Thought has been given to plants for bees, butterflies and seed saving. There's great pride in the garden, family and friends enjoy it and the space can be appreciated from indoors too."*

Friends of Crewkerne Station News



The Friends of Crewkerne Station were unable to collect their **Community Space Award** at the Crooked Swan event - because they were already booked to collect another award! This presentation took place at the **RHS South West in Bloom Awards** held in the Pavilion in Bath. FOCs' long-running success in the **RHS Its Your Neighbourhood** awards continued this year with another **Outstanding** rating - the highest possible. As well as picking up their award and enjoying the tales from the guest speakers, they came away with a selection of saplings (oak, silver birch, hornbeam & blackthorn). Offered to everyone present, these had been grown from seeds collected from local woodlands and nurtured into seedlings by volunteers in Bath's More Trees project. The idea is that through community action the local environment can be improved with climate-resistant trees.



The Friends of Crewkerne Station chose Okehampton Station for their annual local fact-finding trip. Served by a Heritage Line from Exeter, the Friends enjoyed lunch at the excellent café and were given an enthusiastic welcome and platform tour plus a visit to the newly opened model railway layout.

Calling Crewkerne artists



Have you turned off South Street by the Rotary Stone and spotted the hand-painted birds nested on BT Box 13?

The artist, **Sue Tyler**, Crewkerne in Bloom long-time volunteer tells us below more about her artwork.

“The design came about from my love of owls, flowers and nature and I also wanted it to appeal to young children. I attend an arts and crafts course at Halsway Manor and it was there the design developed. I had been fascinated by a piece of Victorian “night and day” jewellery one of the participants on the course was wearing. Hence the wide-awake owl, the sleepy owl and the fast asleep owl. Obviously, its cheeky artistic license because owls aren’t usually wide awake in daytime!

My love of graphic design means the flowers are clearly stylised, as are the bugs – again in an effort to make them recognisable to children.

I know the design won’t be everyone’s cuppa tea, but hopefully it will be a cheerful corner and make people smile.”

PLEASE NOTE

Crewkerne in Bloom gained permission from BT and the relevant planning authorities for decoration of specific numbered cabinets around town. We welcome all submissions of proposed artwork and selection will be at our discretion.

Cabinets must not be decorated without our permission.

**Contact us for a preliminary briefing at:
hello@crewkernein bloom.org
or 07902 200212**



Plans are currently underway for artwork at
No 16 – a near neighbour for the owls and to
No 3 – entrance to Severalls Memorial Garden.

A reminder of our AGM

This will be held in the afternoon on **Wednesday 20th November, 2.30pm.** at Oscar's. Everyone is welcome.



Our floral displays at the top of Church Street welcome people into town.

If you have ever thought of joining our small band of volunteers who work to keep our lovely old town looking beautiful, this occasion would be a great opportunity to learn more, make suggestions and ask us questions.

We meet every Tuesday morning for working parties around town and get together afterwards for coffee and a chat. We can find niches for everyone!



Newsletter No 32

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 07902 200212 or send an email to hello@crewkerneinbloom.org

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