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SPRING 2025

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WELCOME TO OUR LATEST EDITION for Spring 2025!

For a really uplifting outlook on Crewkerne, I encourage you all to go straight to **Page 40** and read the article from Space 4 Crewkerne!

To help you navigate The Crewkerne Flyer, please check our Index on **Page 4**. The David Hall in South Petherton have their programme of Spring Events on **Page 20**. And on **Pages 24 & 25** we have our helpful map of Crewkerne and The Hamstone Villages.

Crewkerne Museum & Heritage Centre are celebrating their 25th anniversary. See their article on **Pages 28 & 29**. And on **Page 30** we have early information on the Crewkerne Banking Hub, plus an event brought to you by The Royal British Legion.

Pages 31 & 32 are from St Peter & St Paul's Church in South Petherton. On **Page 37** we have information of a Table Top Sale at West & Middle Chinnock.

Regular contributors Crewkerne in Bloom have news for 2025, including their Open Gardens in May. Please find this on **Pages 38 & 39**.

"Old Crewkerne" never fails to fascinate, and on **Page 42** David Bryant has 4 more photos for us.

Finally on **Page 46** we have more news from the Friends of Crewkerne Station.

A big "thank you" to all our contributors who plan and write these articles for us!

Our service providers are many and varied. From self-storage and taxis; plumbing, heating and carpet services; garden maintenance to retail; pubs to chimney sweeps: we cover it all!

Please contact our advertisers if you need any of their services, I am sure you will be very well treated!

With best wishes for the spring,

Anthony Bucke

EDITOR.

Email: crewkerne@theantiquetourist.com
Friday 7 February 2025



The Old School House, Hinton St George.



Crewkerne Farmers Market January 2025.



St Peter & St Paul's Church, South Petherton.



St Mary's Church, Norton sub Hamdon.

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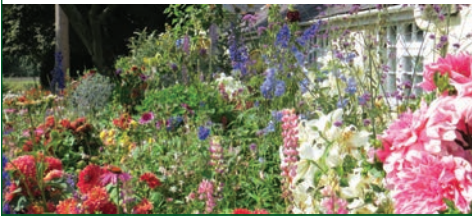
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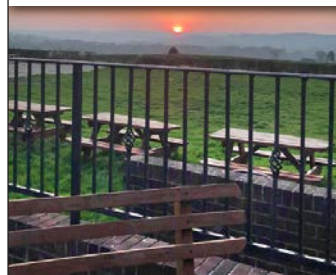
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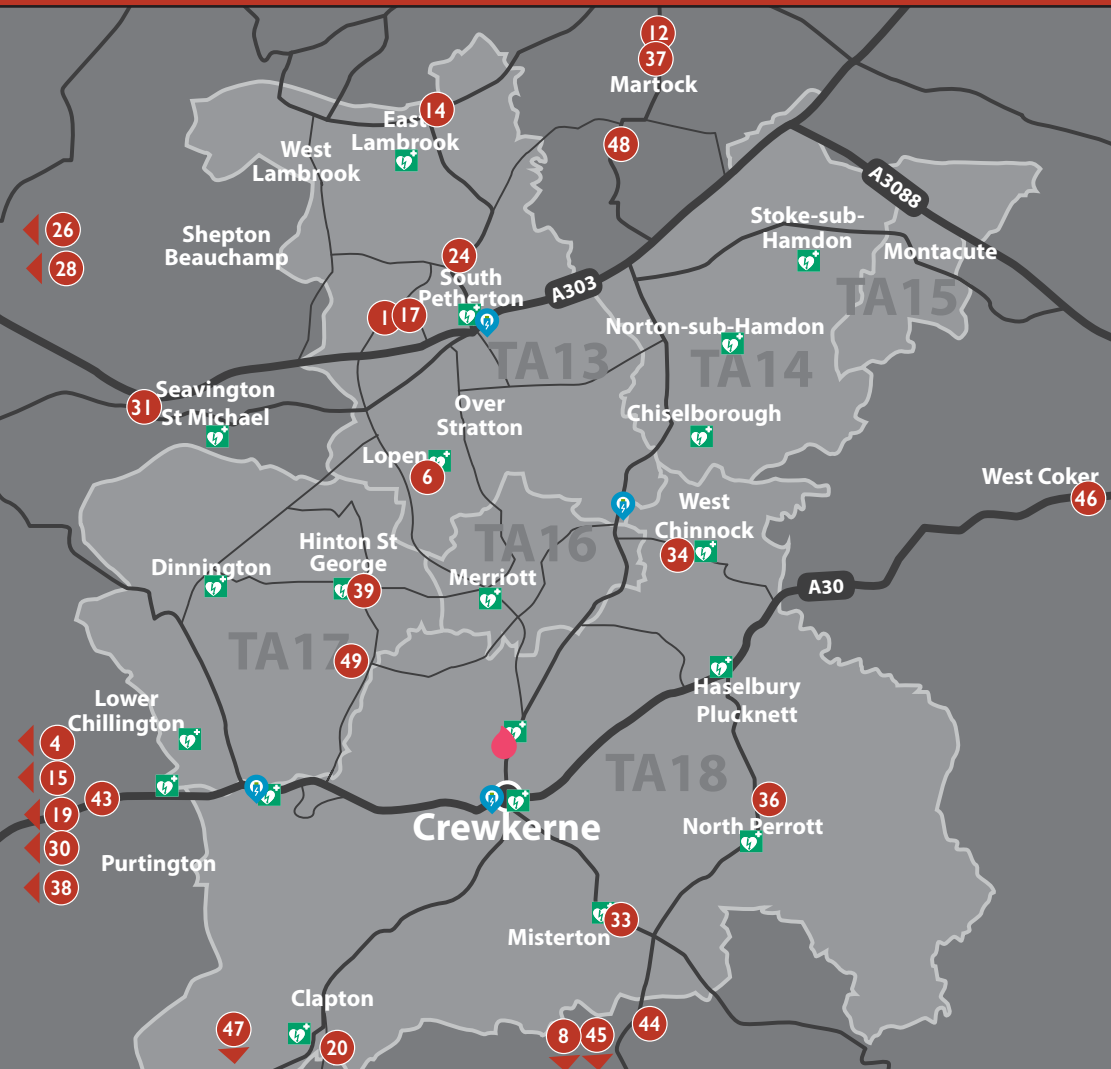
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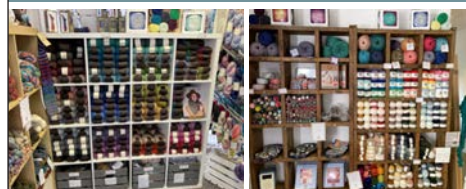
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CREWKERNE MUSEUM & HERITAGE CENTRE

2025 is an exciting year for the Heritage Centre as we are celebrating our 25th anniversary in our building in Market Square.

Closing the museum to the public during the winter is giving us the opportunity to decorate rooms, reorganise our Collection storage and refresh the museum galleries. We are also busy planning new special exhibitions and events to mark the celebrations.

Gallery 1 Shop has a completely new look, it is now a Haberdashery selling items that every household needed in the past. There are advertisements for Crewkerne stores, comments on various crafts and hopefully reminders for you of how people lived.



The Collection boxes in Gallery 4 awaiting reorganisation

The first special exhibition will celebrate the Museum and Heritage Centre. You can find out how we came to occupy what used to be No.2 East Street and some of the landmarks that have contributed to our Collection and how we present the stories of Crewkerne and district to visitors. Over the years we have worked with youth groups, other organisations in the town and carried out research for people from all over the world. Essentially, we are there to preserve and share the social and industrial history of the area and we can only do this by working with the public who bring their stories and objects for us to care for.

Crewkerne and area has a rich industrial past and during June we will be holding special events for the public to engage with. An exhibition of "Industry Past and Present", workshops to



A donation of booklets on Crewkerne Memories now for sale.

experience skills relating to those industries and demonstrations of skills from the past will be in the diary and available to book once the museum is open. We will be welcoming members from other museums and organisations to help with these activities giving the public the best opportunity to join in.

Although the museum is currently closed, we are open for Coffee mornings every first Saturday in the month, bookings for research by our Local History Team and the regular events such as Art classes and U3A Discussion group. Our meeting room is available for events if you need a venue. Visit www.crewkernemuseum.co.uk for details.

If you wish to become a Friend of the Museum all you need to do is email us on crewkernemuseum@hotmail.co.uk with your details and we will include you on our mailing list. We appreciate the continuing support of local people who encourage us to work as volunteers to look after the history of the area.



Gallery 1 Haberdashery shop

The museum will reopen on Saturdays in March 11am-2pm and the 2025 season will begin on 5th April with opening times as before:- Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am-4pm.

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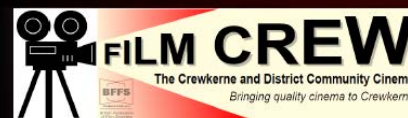
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A 70-year-old widow in Tehran shakes up her predictable existence when she pursues a relationship with a lonely taxi driver in Maryam Moghaddam and Behtash Sanaeeha's defiant late-in-life romance. (Subtitled)

28 Feb

28 Mar

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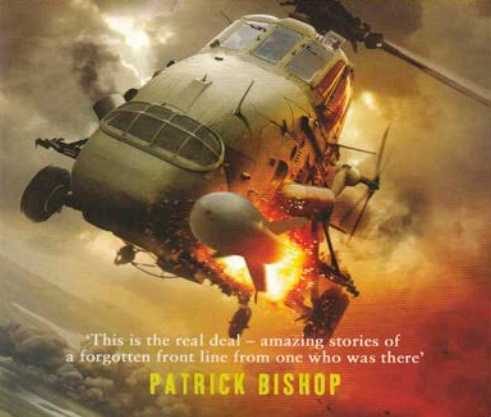
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GREEN FINGERS FOR A GREENER PLANET

by Daphne Woodhouse

I'm sure many of you will agree that we live in a very special part of the country. We have good fertile soil, moderate climate (still) and a great sense of community. We are frequently reminded how important our gardens are in supporting diversity of insects and the population of bird life and small mammals. So it isn't surprising that so many villages have gardening clubs and plant sales to share plants at lower prices and widen our knowledge and range of growing scope.

St Peter and St Paul's Church are no exception amongst the surrounding towns and villages! We have an annual event and rejoice that so many local people participate by growing extra plants for us to sell. Last year we tried something new and developed this into a **Plant Fair!** 'What's the difference?' you ask. Well, there are other groups which welcomed the opportunity to showcase what they do towards nature conservation, sustainability and wellbeing in our community. So, we invited them to join us. Care of the environment is the 5th mark of mission for our church so we naturally want to share with others working for this.

We have a **Greener Futures group** who support our church towards Net Zero and, having **achieved a bronze award 2 years ago, we are now aiming for the silver award.** They came and shared their work and demonstrated ways to garden more sustainably. The community group **TWiG (Tree and Wildlife Group)** who work to develop local hedgerows and verges for wildlife, joined us with lots of information and inspiration. Some local artists brought their work featuring nature with greetings cards proving popular to buy. **The South Petherton Community Shed**, a great place to learn new practical skills while getting to know other people, also brought a huge range of their work to sell, much of which relates to our outdoor spaces, using repurposed timbers and other materials.

All the usual range of plants will be there, of course, thanks to so many avid, green-



fingered folk, who generously donate plants to raise funds for church. **We hope to provide something similar this year on Saturday, May 17th 2-4pm at St Peter & St Paul's Church, South Petherton.** Coffee, tea and biscuits, maybe even cakes too, will be available. Hope you can join us.

ALL SPRING EVENTS AT ST PETER & ST PAUL'S CHURCH, SOUTH PETHERTON:

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on Wednesday 26 March at 7.30-9.30pm
Returning to present professional classical musicians with local sponsorship.
Programme & tickets details pending (see www.breathe-music.co.uk)

YEOVIL CONCERT BAND

on Saturday 3 May at 7.30-9.30 pm
Tickets £12, under 16s £3, from South Petherton Stores, Bloom Wines or reserve at www.yeovilconcertband.com

PLANT FAIR

on Saturday 17 May at 2-4pm
Free entry - Donations of plants welcomed from 2pm Friday

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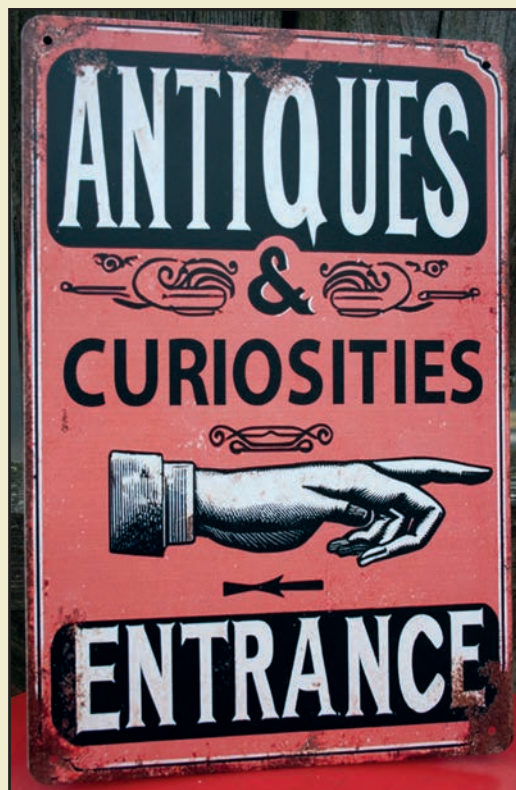
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Crewkerne in Bloom

HYACINTH BULBS

We hope you were delighted with the pots of hyacinth bulbs we sold pre-Christmas.

Consensus is that pink flowered first followed by white then blue. As always, proceeds are going towards our programme of further cheerful planting around town – which is already underway.

NOW SPRING IS IN THE AIR

We are busy re-siting, removing, replacing and re-imagining. We took our usual New Year walk around town early in January and identified all sorts of opportunities. We'll keep you updated and also on the very welcome arrival of the water tanks

we were able to purchase thanks to a grant from the Wessex Water Foundation Environment Fund.

Looking ahead to our May Garden Competition

This year you have the chance to show off your garden in May. We'll be scheduling judging

during the week of May 26th to coincide with Crewkerne's Open Gardens.



THERE ARE THREE COMPETITION CATEGORIES:

- Front
- Back/Courtyard
- Community

Business Window Competition takes a Break

We always enjoy everything about our annual Business Window competition, but because there are plenty of other plans for themed windows, we'll be giving it a miss this year to avoid overload for the window dressers.

BT CABINETS

Our project to decorate selected, numbered BT cabinets around town is ongoing. Do get in touch with us if you have such a cabinet in your vicinity or if you would like to take on decoration. Our permission is essential!

You can keep up to date with our activities on facebook and Instagram and via our website where you can also sign up for newsletters.



For further information, to volunteer or to offer support in any way, please contact us on **07902 200212** or **hello@crewkerneinbloom.org**

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SPACE 4 CREWKERNE

As we start 2025 it seems Crewkerne has reason to be optimistic that some of our long-held hopes and dreams are about to be realised, and we are entering a new and exciting phase of growth for our town.

The long awaited "Eastham's Park" (the Key Site) is now well underway with housing at the Southern end occupied, consent for the first 110 houses on the Northern site agreed, the planning application for a Care Home under consideration along with the delivery of the main road expected around Summer 2027.

At the same time, we are seeing an increasing level of business and community activities in our Town Centre, with new traders, changes to established businesses, a new Business Group, a Banking Hub (see Page 30), plans for a refresh of the Waitrose Store and a new Community Centre if suitable premises can be found.

Local groups and facilities are offering an extremely comprehensive range of activities, from play sessions for babies and toddlers, to well-being groups, cooking activities, health walks, art sessions, dance classes, IT support, Family History, short mat bowls and multiple opportunities to meet new people and become part of a vibrant community.

And of course, as a Market Town we now have two Markets, the weekly Wednesday Market and the repositioned monthly Somerset Farmers Market in Falkland Square.

So, there is clearly a very determined effort from a wide range of people to breathe new life into our Town Centre and to make 2025 the year of change and growth.

And for residents - the next question is, how will the Green Travel Corridor from the Taylor Wimpey site to the Town Centre finally be delivered ?

It is clear local authorities felt it was a vital part of the development as the Adopted Local Plan clearly states the Key site development will provide " footway/cycle link to Town Centre", and it features in the consultations on the Neighbourhood Plan, receiving positive responses from many people, and is included in the Town Council's 4 Year Action Plan.

So how will this long-awaited route be achieved? Will the footpaths be separate from the cycle links? How will it be funded? Are other Towns, such as Ilminster and Chard, who have already delivered popular, well used cycle paths, being approached for advice? Will it connect to existing footpaths and crucially, when will the entire green travel corridor be delivered ?



We believe safe, well-designed walking and cycling links to the town centre, from all new developments will be a key factor in the future prosperity of our Town Centre and existing and new residents to the area must be given every opportunity to access our businesses and community activities on foot or by bicycle, and to enjoy leisurely walks from one key area to another in a similar way to Ninesprings in Yeovil, where multiple paths lead onto a central route, offering families safe, easy access across the town and into the wider Park and Leisure Facilities.

Both Happy Valley and Bincombe Nature Reserve have multiple access points, and offer pleasant walking routes, but neither area connects directly to the Town Centre, without the need to cross busy roads.

We now have a once in a lifetime opportunity to deliver the long-promised dream to design and create a safe, green, family-friendly active travel route directly to Henhayes Recreation Ground and the Town Centre from the Eastern edge of town.

SO, THE QUESTIONS TO ASK NOW ARE HOW WILL THIS BE DELIVERED AND WHEN ?



Photo credits Space 4 Crewkerne & Pat Lunt

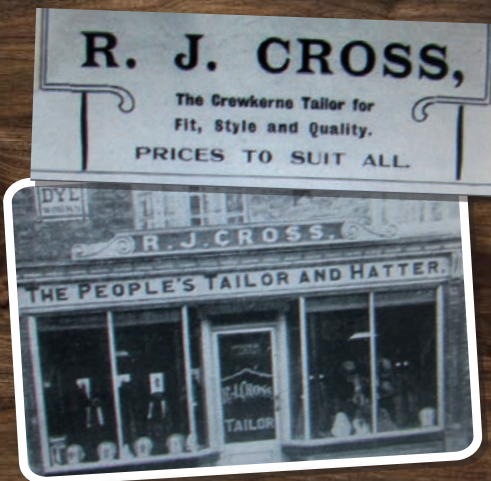
Space4Crewkerne. Email: space4crewkerne@hotmail.com

"OLD" CREWKERNE

Photos kindly supplied
by David Bryant.



Looking along East Street towards
Market Square 1950's



R. J. Cross tailor. Now site
Crewkerne post office.



Clarke's harness makers 1920, top of
South Street. Now The Window Man.



Co-Op cake and bread shop. Mrs Gale used
to work there in the 1950's. Now Carousel.
RIGHT. Jack Cornelius' Toy shop. Now James'
Hardware. Gas showrooms to the right. Now
empty most recently Gresham Books.

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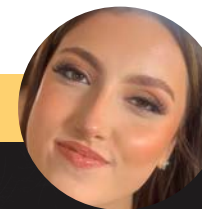
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SUDOKU 1

1	2			6				5
		8			4	9		
9		5					3	6
2							1	4
	6	3						
	5			1				
	3			5	7	8	9	
		4	6					1

Level: **Easy**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____

SUDOKU 2

	6				4		3	
						7		
4			1		3		8	
						4		1
		9		1			6	
		2	9			5		
1		5						8
6				3	9			
						3		

Level: **Hard**

Date: _____

Start time: _____

Time to solve: _____



ROBERT FRITH

OPTOMETRISTS

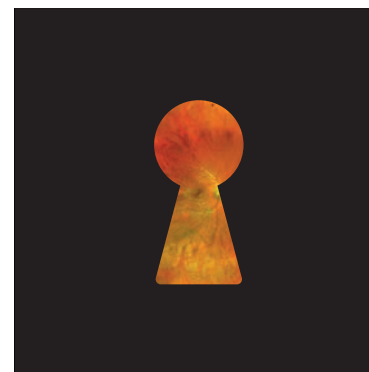
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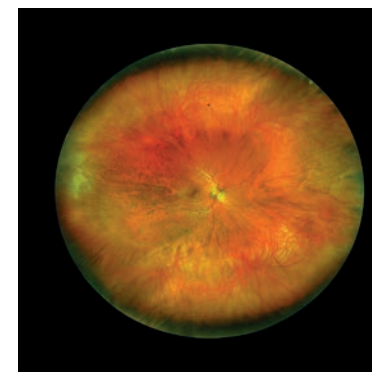
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SUDOKU ANSWERS:

9	2	3	5	8	1	7	9	4
7	9	4	5	8	1	6	2	3
6	2	8	4	3	5	7	1	9
8	4	6	2	7	9	1	3	5
8	1	2	9	4	6	5	7	3
3	7	1	2	3	6	8	9	4
2	8	7	1	2	3	6	8	9
9	6	1	8	7	4	2	3	5
5	3	4	6	7	9	1	2	8
1	2	3	5	8	1	7	9	4

SUDOKU 2

WE WANT YOUR BUSINESS TO SUCCEED

The Friends of **CREWKERNE** Station

Crewkerne Station: More on the Pumphouse and other things

The Friends of the Station are gearing up for making progress on the Pumphouse as an interesting historic building, an artwork and a meeting place. Underneath the wooden shuttering at the side of the building and the scruffy boarding on the platform side are still the old multi panelled window frames which the Friends have learned are decent enough quality to be restored. Apart from bringing back this old historic building the added light would make the inside suitable for a small meeting room. A mural to cover the unsightly breezeblock would complete the scheme. The Friends are seeking funding for this historic renovation and would be pleased to receive any contributions.

Working on the down platform in the early morning mist provided an opportunity for some eerie photos. The succulent plants in the Staddlestone planters have proved to be quite hardy over the winter and Stone Illusions have gifted some more which were gratefully received. Although watering is not much required at this time of year more

volunteers to join the watering rota would be much appreciated for the summer.

The mist gave an opportunity to take a photo of the redundant signal box – and a train – and although it is not a very historic building as it only dates from the sixties it is apparently in quite good condition inside. Network Rail would be very interested in anyone who might be able to turn it into a club or meeting place for a community organisation. Get in touch if you have any good well costed ideas.

If you want to use your car less then consider getting a railcard which would enable a third off normal fares. As well as that there are the cheap evening out day trips starting at 12 midday and lots of interesting places to visit along the line locally.

Interesting trips to be made along the Salisbury to Exeter line can be seen in the Line Guide which also has a copy of the rail timetable. Get a hard copy from the waiting room at the station or download it here.
www.blackmorevaletrains.com/line-guide/



The Friends of the Station are interested in all things railway and transport and welcome additional members and volunteers.

Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofcrewkerne or contact secretary Gail Coleshill on gail.coleshill@gmail.com



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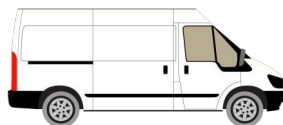
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