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The CREWKERNE Flyer

WINTER 2026

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Well, Flagship Crewkerne got off to a great start on Friday 25th September!

The Crewkerne Flyer

This *"celebration of local heritage, creativity and community spirit"* has been brought together by Open Doors Somerset and Creative Crewkerne. The basic concept is to decorate buildings in and around Crewkerne, particularly the Town Centre. Each flag depicts an image which has some significance – past or present, to that particular premises. For example, our front cover photo includes flags outside **Boudicca Hair Stylists** and the historic **George Hotel** in Market Square. The flag trail is backed up by exhibitions and workshops until the end of October, reviving ancient skills in the local textile and wool industries, sharing stories and creating art inspired by the heritage of Crewkerne. Full details on **Page 12**.



Our index of advertisers is on **Page 4**, and an article from South Petherton Parish Council on **Page 6**. **Pages 14 & 15** cover more town "decorations", with an update from Crewkerne in Bloom. The Friends of Crewkerne Station have their update on **Pages 20 & 21**. Our useful town and area maps will be found on **Pages 28 & 29.**

Crewkerne Museum and Heritage Centre have their autumn news on **Pages 36 & 37**. There are changes at the churches in and around South Petherton, please read more on **Page 44**.

The Crewkerne Flyer visited Yesterdays Farming in August, please find photos and a report on **Pages 48 & 49**. A lady with many Crewkerne connections - Nikki Copleston has another group of photos of "Old Crewkerne" on **Page 50**.



Hallowe'en and Christmas will soon be here, and I hope that you will all support our local advertisers in this edition of The Crewkerne Flyer. Try our advertisers for your food, entertainment and eating out; for personal care and well-being; for that new carpet, sofa or TV - in time for Christmas. How about log supplies, home and garden maintenance? Time for car & motorhome winter servicing? You will find all these and much more here in The Crewkerne Flyer.

With best wishes for the winter,

Anthony Bucke EDITOR.

Email: crewkerne@theantiquestourist.com
Friday 9 October 2026

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REBUILDING CAR PARK WALL:
A LONGAWAITED INVESTMENT



After many years of patching, propping, and *"make do and mend,"* South Petherton Parish Council has taken decisive action to rebuild the ageing car park wall—an important piece of infrastructure that quietly serves hundreds of residents every week. What had once been a practical but increasingly fragile boundary has now been transformed into a safe, durable, feature that reflects the pride South Petherton takes in its shared spaces.

For a long time, the wall had been maintained through small repairs, each one buying a little more time but never fully resolving the underlying deterioration. Councillors recognised that continuing this cycle was no longer sustainable. The structure had reached a point where temporary fixes were neither costeffective nor sufficiently robust, and the community deserved better than a stopgap solution. After careful assessment, consultation, and budgeting, the Council committed to a full rebuild—an investment that will serve the parish for decades to come.

The project has been carried out with a clear focus on quality, longevity, and visual improvement. The new wall has been constructed using the original outer wall hamstone chosen not only for strength but for the ability to blend sympathetically with the surrounding environment. The result is a structure that enhances the car park's appearance while providing the stability and safety required for everyday use.



This rebuild is part of the Council's wider commitment to maintaining and improving community assets. Whether supporting local groups and organisations, working to resolve highways issues, or investing in public spaces, the Parish Council continues to champion practical improvements that make South Petherton a vibrant and wellsupported place to live. The car park wall project is a clear example of this approach: a longstanding issue addressed properly, with care, foresight, and a determination to deliver lasting value.

Residents can now enjoy a car park that feels safer, looks smarter, and reflects the proactive stewardship of their local council. After years of temporary fixes, the new wall stands as a symbol of the parish's commitment to doing things well—and doing them for the long term.

Councillor Ben Swainson who led the project said: *"For years I have been bringing up the crumbling car park wall so I am delighted that it has now been dealt with by the Council".*

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FLAGSHIP CREWKERNE

A TownWide Celebration of Heritage, Craft, and Community

Crewkerne is preparing to hoist its colours high this summer with *Flagship Crewkerne*, a bold, monthlong outdoor exhibition from 25/9/26 – 28/10/26, transforming the town centre into a vibrant celebration of local heritage, creativity, and community spirit.

Drawing inspiration from Crewkerne's extraordinary history of making, from cloth production to worldrenowned sailcloth, webbing, engineering, and textile innovation, the project invites residents of all ages to rediscover the stories, skills, and industries that shaped the town.

A Town Built by Makers — Reimagined for Today

Crewkerne's heritage is rich with craftsmanship and ingenuity. As recorded in the Domesday Book, the town's market was once the second most valuable in Somerset, and by the 19th century Crewkerne was home to 27 sailcloth firms, employing over 20% of the local workforce and supplier to the Navy and important ships such as 'Sovereign of the Seas'.

Flagship Crewkerne brings this legacy into the present, celebrating the makers, businesses, and community groups who continue to shape the town today and imagining the skills and opportunities that could define its future.

A MonthLong Outdoor Exhibition

From late September to the end of October artistmade and communitycreated flags will be displayed along the high street and across key heritage sites. Each flag will tell a story linked to the past, present or future of that site, from the Clarks shoe factory and Crewkerne Station to the Bakery, Post Office and wooden rocking horses carved in the town.

HandsOn Workshops: Reviving Heritage Skills

A programme of community workshops will run throughout the summer, offering opportunities to:

- **Revive traditional textile techniques** inspired by Crewkerne's sailcloth and wool industries
- **Create personal pennants** using painting, collage, and simple fabric construction
- **Share stories and memories** through informal oralhistory activities
- **Connect across generations** — from schoolchildren to longstanding residents

These stories will feed into interpretation materials, walking routes, and digital content, extending the project's impact beyond the exhibition itself.

A StreetParty Launch Event

The exhibition will launch at the end of September with a joyful streetpartystyle celebration, bringing together residents, local businesses, artists, historians, and visitors. The event will:

- Showcase the flags in situ for the first time
- Share stories gathered during workshops
- Highlight Crewkerne's heritage organisations and historic buildings
- Support highstreet footfall and local businesses
- Build momentum for future heritage and communityengagement projects

Project Partners

Flagship Crewkerne is led by **Open Doors Somerset** and **Creative Crewkerne**, with support from:

- Crewkerne Museum & Heritage Centre
- Boat Building Academy, Lyme Regis
- Crewkerne Business Network
- Dawes Twine Works, West Coker
- Crewkerne Town Council
- Local schools and community organizations.

A Celebration of Past, Present, and Future

Flagship Crewkerne aims to spark renewed pride, connection, and possibility honouring the town's heritage while inspiring creativity, collaboration, and community ownership of Crewkerne's future.

For further information: Open Doors Somerset
Email: jess@opendoorssomerset.org Phone: 07966 213650

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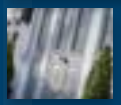



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Crewkerne in Bloom

Looking back over the year, the hanging baskets brought their usual stunning colour to the town and our decision to fill the planters in **Falkland Square** and the three in the **George Precinct** with perennials has been a success.



The Potager



Sallie watering in Falkland Square

As the soil moistens with more rain, we will divide and move plants to our principal flower bed at the **Rotary Stone**. This will continue progress in our goal of sustainable, insect-friendly, colourful planting that keeps Crewkerne looking cheerful. Admiring comments from passers-by have been much appreciated.

After another splendid season at **The Potager**, we'll weed it through before the winter months. It's a great place to stop for a chat! Sallie remembers talking to a young mum with her baby, picking peas. Apparently, the youngster enjoyed the taste of the peas fresh from the pod more than shop bought sweets!

Our fourth rainwater tank aided by a grant from **Wessex Water** is now installed - and even though we are well prepared for another Summer of record high temperatures - like gardeners everywhere - we're hoping for just the right amount of rain in the future!

We were very happy to take off our gardening gloves and participate in **Flagship Crewkerne**, organized by Open Doors Somerset. For this celebration of local heritage displayed along the High Street, we made and decorated a flag with a flax motif to represent the importance of the local sailcloth industry.

Congratulations to the winners in our **Planted Planter Photo challenge**, where we were looking for pictures of plants you had grown in an unusual container. Do let us know if you have an idea for a future competition theme.

Meantime, we look forward to seeing you at our **annual sale of hyacinths** at the Farmer's Market on November 28th

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.



Friends of Crewkerne Station
Winner in Crewkerne in Bloom's Planted Planter Photo Challenge



Colin Hill
3rd Place in Crewkerne in Bloom's Planted Planter Photo Challenge



Andy & Lenka Peacock
2nd Place in Crewkerne in Bloom's Planted Planter Photo Challenge

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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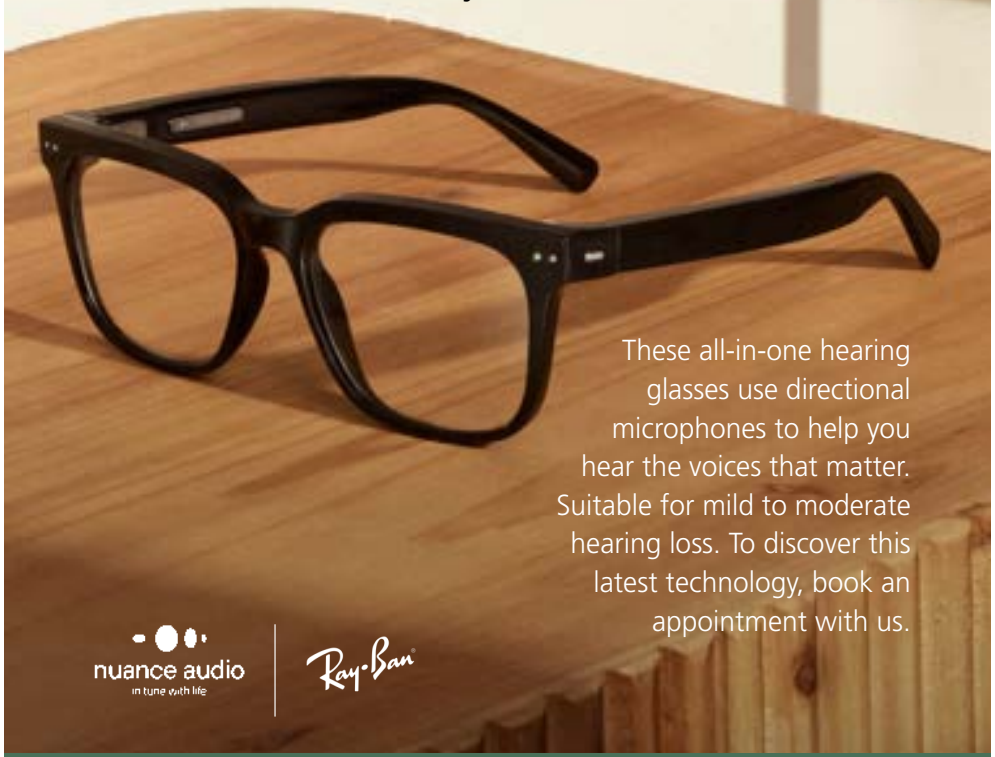

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The Friends of **CREWKERNE** Station

Friends of Crewkerne Station Community Project

The Friends of Crewkerne Station are amazed and grateful for the huge numbers of hand made poppies that have been accumulating for the Remembrance display. People from the Henhayes Centre, village Knit and Natter groups, U3A, British Legion and many, many individuals have contributed to this community project.



The volunteers are busy attaching the poppies to netting which will enable them to be displayed at 2 locations at the station. The Stations Manager has been consulted about the position of the display as train drivers see red for danger which could be a problem. He has agreed the back railings on the up platform and a bigger display in the car park using the fence and the sloping bank. The poppy netting will be draped around a soldier silhouette given by 'ARK' of Egwood with a separate area of white poppies for peace. The Friends are opening the display with a short presentation and playing the last post at 11am on Thursday October 29th. The poppies will be displayed there for the fortnight leading up to Remembrance day. On November 11th there will be a war poem reading and 2 minutes silence on the platform. Even if you cannot come to the presentations do come up and see the handiwork of so many people in Crewkerne and District and remember the sacrifice of so many.



The volunteers making and attaching poppies in the pumphouse workshop

Unfortunately, Soil Moisture Deficit has made the track bed of the railway unstable and the section from Yeovil to Exeter still requires trains to travel more slowly, therefore trains from Crewkerne station are now only once every two hours, although if you drive to Yeovil Junction, which has a large car park there is a train to London every hour.

Thanks to our watering team, the planters have looked magnificent all summer. We do have one water butt but are hoping for more next year to save on water.

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 us at focscrewkerne@gmail.com



The dress rehearsal for a bit of the Poppy display for Remembrance Day

Come up and see us even if you are not train travelling. We meet every Thursday morning for station work.

And don't forget to ask in the station booking office to help you find the best and cheapest train ticket options. Travelling after mid day entitles you to an 'evening out' fare and there are 'Sunday out' tickets and group save discounts.





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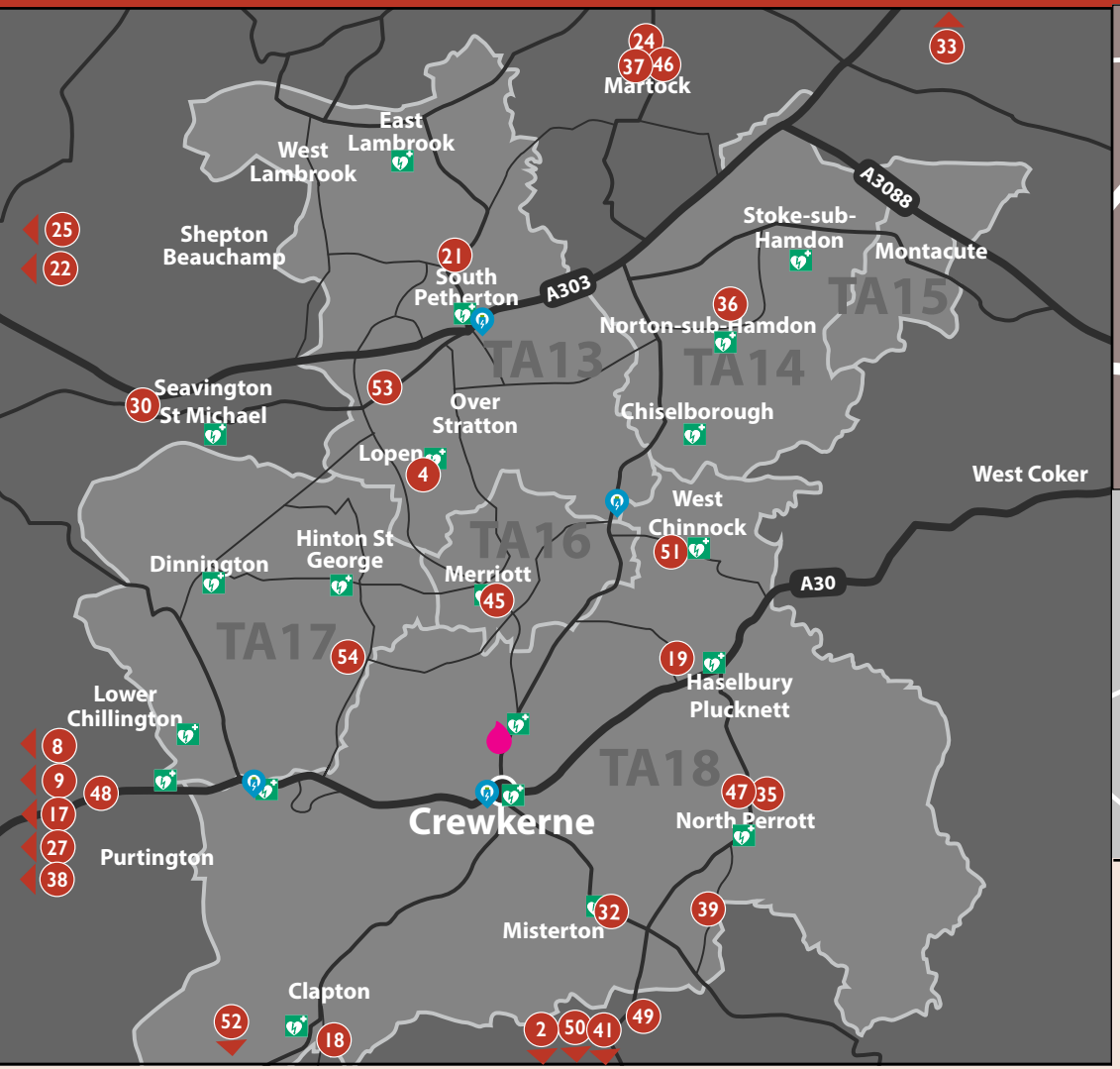

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39. Pipplepen Storage
40. RCP Pest Control
41. Record Vault
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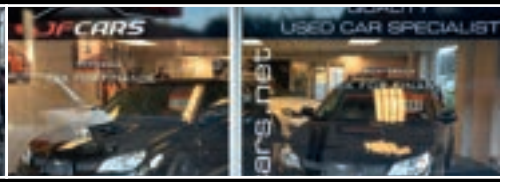

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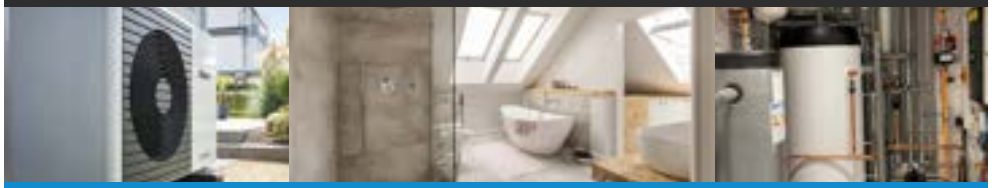

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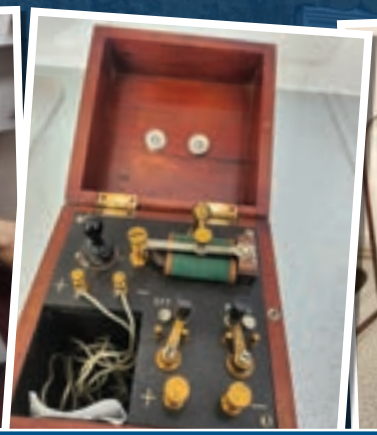
Crewkerne Museum & Heritage Centre

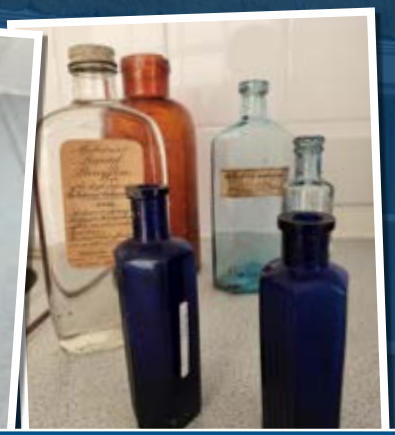
Our 2026 season closes at the end of October and the last special exhibition of the year is well worth a visit if you haven't already done so. **"Medical Matters"** illustrates the comparison of how people were treated in the past with now.

Home made potions and lotions were used widely prior to the National Health Service formation in 1948. Traditional remedies handed down through families soothed the ailing body and a doctor was only visited in extreme circumstances as payment was expected. The opening of a hospital in Crewkerne in the late 1800s, courtesy of Robert Bird, the factory owner who donated the building to the town, would have brought relief to many who suffered injuries in the factories or fell to the diseases that were rife due to poor sanitation. Bird insisted that everyone should be given treatment and only those that were able to should pay. Treatment for injuries, mental illness, recovery and help for those who lost limbs are all referred to in the exhibition. Visit and reflect!

Halloween has traditionally been a time for fun and games to lighten the darker nights. The museum will have a spooky hunt for creepy crawlies in the galleries for children to explore and there will be some of the old fashioned games laid out for you to enjoy some family time together. Whist you are there enjoy the exhibition **"100 Days of Making"** by Victoria Deelchand-Bee. Victoria took part in experimental artwork as part of the 100 day challenge using graphite, ink, clay and watercolour to explore and create work that she is offering free to the public. Visit the Andrew Room at the museum and register your interest with the stewards.







The winter is not a time to sit back and rest whilst the museum is closed. The Collection Team continue to register new objects and take care of storage. The researchers will carry out work as requested to discover family history or the story of your home. Maintenance on the building continues with decorating, cleaning and repairing. Bringing people together during the colder, darker months is important to us and we will always be there on the first Saturday of every month with coffee and cake. So, put those dates on you calendar 10am-12noon when you know that there will be a friendly welcome.

Volunteering can be rewarding. Our Heritage Centre and museum are entirely run by volunteers and we always look forward to meeting new helpers. You do not need to be an expert in local knowledge, we have a variety of ways in which people can involve themselves. Neither do we insist on regular help, volunteers offer the hours that they can and we find something that will suit them. If you want to get involved and meet new people drop an email to **admin@crewkernemuseum.co.uk** and we can arrange a time to have a chat with you.

Our museum depends on your support, whether it be visiting occasionally or offering a helping hand. Without all of this there would be no museum, so, we look forward to seeing you soon!



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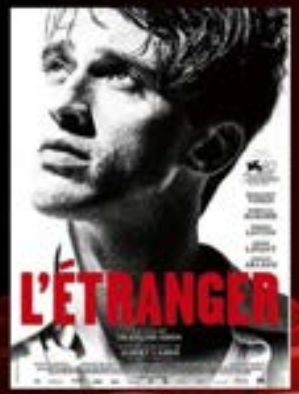



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CHURCH UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT (SAME MESSAGE)

by Daphne Woodhouse

New beginnings and new opportunities! In early Summer this year our Benefice, the group of 3 churches in South Petherton, the Seavingtons and the Lambrooks, was blessed with the appointment of our new Rector, Sister Rachel Pengelly. Having spent her childhood in Somerset and her curacy in Street, she is very familiar and comfortable in our rural villages. We're thrilled that she has a warm pastoral heart and a strong intention to reach out to local families, young people and children, as well as our older residents. We are now welcoming into St Peter & St Paul's church, the children of South Petherton Infants and their families for a weekly service, in place of their assembly. This couldn't be sustained when the rector's post was vacant, so the congregation is delighted to see this resume.

Sister Rachel and her family have brought with them a new enthusiasm for welcoming all comers to our three churches and reaching out beyond the walls of the church to each community in the three villages. In June, the very weekend they arrived, they were out and about meeting people, and also this summer Rachel attended, with a significant number of other locals, the showing of the People's Emergency Briefing in the David Hall, examining every aspect of the potential impact of climate change. Many that evening agreed that it would be useful for this informative programme to be shown on TV, so signed up to put this view to the government.

A busy group of churches, aspiring to reach out with God's love into the community, involves both faith and hard work. We believe in a generous, gracious and great God, who has made his heavenly realm available to all through Jesus, welcoming those whom the prevailing culture frequently dismisses. So, in gratitude, we too want to support one another, and provide that warm welcome and support where we can to those around us. It takes time, effort and willing hearts to work together for God's love to become visible, but that is what Christians are called to do.

Sometimes the structures within which we find ourselves create pressures that seem counterproductive to this aim, especially the level of bureaucracy and, very sadly, some of the headlines exposing the abusive behaviour of a few church leaders, mitigating against the Christian message. It is painful to read about but these things must be brought into the light so that victims are recognised and supported, and to stimulate efforts to prevent further abuse.

Meanwhile, locally, we press on, endeavouring to keep our places of worship standing and open to all, to protect our heritage but also as current day spaces for worship and deeper human interaction, safe places where we can be real and grow more like Jesus, together, by His grace and mercy. As part of our mission to help people recognise their worth in the eyes of our Heavenly Father, we like to offer fun and friendship through various activities like concerts, fairs and quizzes. These are also opportunities for getting together, sharing local talent and raising necessary funds, both for our churches but also for other good causes.

When this arrives through your door we, at St Peter & St Paul's Church, South Petherton, will have had our last quiz of the year, and probably The Kingsbury Episcopy Band concert, 10th October, 3pm and our Autumn Fair, 17th October, 2-4pm, but still to come will be **The Stanchester Quire, Wednesday 2nd December 3pm,** bringing us traditional west country carols and readings, some from within a 15 mile radius of South Petherton, echoing ancient and ongoing traditions. Tickets are available to reserve at £10 from **ticket@southpethertonbenefice.org** and £12 bought on the door, by cash or card. Kick off Christmas with seasonal refreshments in the interval.

If you're in the area over Christmas, check our website for all that's going on. Join us if you can - a warm welcome awaits! **www.southpethertonbenefice.org**

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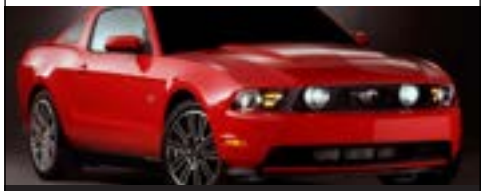

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YESTERDAYS' FARMING 2026

Held this year at Stream Farm, Drayton, "Yesterdays' Farming" was a wonderful, comfortable and sociable local event.



Steam ploughing

The venue was midway between Langport, Ilminster and Martock, and covered a large site of at least 5 large farming enclosures. There was room for a central exhibition arena, craft marquee, food and drink marquee, trade stands, childrens' entertainment, and farming demonstrations.

At the top of the main field three thrashing machines were on show – one working, and nearby was a quiet corner with several "vardos", and draft horses tethered under the trees.

Further away was a ploughing and cultivation ground, with two traction engines ploughing, and further still the harvest field with numerous combined harvesters, a horse-drawn binder and a tractor-drawn binder working at different times.

We visited on Saturday 16th August. The day was typical of Summer 2026 – hot and dry! The soil was probably too dry for ploughing, but numerous dedicated ploughmen, including Vice-President Derek Parsons on his immaculate diesel T20, persevered.



Perfect weather for combining



Sandra May, Museum Co-Ordinator



Paul Phipps, Membership Secretary



Gathering the harvest



Bowtop wagon



Hay/straw elevator



Vice President, Derek Parsons (Photo credit to 4 wheels photography)

Chatting with Derek he was keen to emphasise the importance of the younger generation, who certainly were in evidence – manning the entry gates, proudly showing their tractors, demonstrating in the cultivation and harvesting fields, and making a big contribution to the throng of visitors.

The harvesting field attracted a great crowd of spectators, and the dry crops easily fell to the sweep of the combine and binder reels. Fire risks had been acknowledged with water tankers standing by.

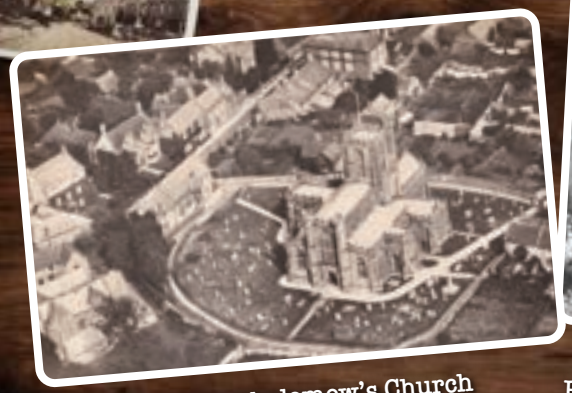
The craft tent was busy with various demonstrations including spinning, weaving and local arts and crafts. Due to the history of "Yesterdays Farming" (founded in 1973) members have created a fascinating collection of rural and farming artefacts, some of which were on show in the craft tent, and included fascinating photos of early events, and a "guess-the object" competition, run by Museum Co-ordinator, Sandra May.

Other sideshows included a display of buskers organs, model farmyards, veteran push-bikes, Martock Woodworking Group, and a collection of picnic baskets.

https://yesterdaysfarming.co.uk/ South Somerset Agricultural Preservation Society

"OLD" CREWKERNE

Photos kindly supplied by Nikki Copleston



St Bartholomew's Church from the air. Postcard by Air Views Ltd 1930s.



The Bent Tree café, Haselbury Plucknett. Postcard by Knight Seymour & Co Ltd, Bristol 1930s.



East Street, looking east, early 1900s. The White Hart Inn was a Crewkerne United Breweries pub.



Market Street from the junction with Church Street. You couldn't have a chat in the middle of the street these days! 1920s or early 1930s. A postcard by J Valentine's.



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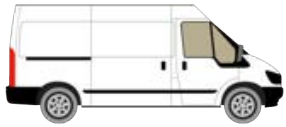

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