



# Friends of Crewkerne Museum NEWSLETTER

Summer 2026

## Welcome to the Summer newsletter of 2026...

There have been changes at the museum recently, we like to offer something new for our visitors so that the galleries stay fresh.



Gallery 4 now introduces people to the Sibley family who, for generations were the plumbers in Crewkerne. Evidence of their work on the lead roof of the church exists and the museum Collection contains examples of “scribblings” on lead tiles that were discovered on the church roof many years ago.



## New...

### ‘Archaeology’

Gallery 4 also celebrates the ancient past in Crewkerne. Following the archaeological dig on the Taylor Wimpey site a local artist spent time exploring the site and “gleaning” objects that had been left behind prior to the diggers moving in.

With permission from Somerset Heritage (who hold all of the dug objects), we now have many of those pieces on display for you to see. Pieces of pottery and glass are accompanied by photographs of the dig courtesy of Jeff Hutson who recorded the activity on the site.



## New Exhibition...

**‘Medicine Matters’** - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October

Many of us have reached the age when we need to make use of the Health Service at some point. We complain if we can’t get an appointment but, maybe, a reminder of medical services in the past and how brutal the treatment was, may make us more content with what we have! Our Team will be exhibiting examples of medical practise from the Collection, many of which look like instruments of torture rather than healing! The exhibition runs from this Saturday of the Bank Holiday weekend until the end of the season - Saturday 31st October.



Crewkerne Museum & Heritage Centre is your local Award Winning Museum. The King's Award for Voluntary Service was bestowed on the Museum in 2024. The award is equivalent to an MBE, and is the highest award given to local voluntary groups in the UK. It is awarded for life.



## As the School Holidays near the end...



There is still time to bring children to the museum where they can play with objects in the galleries, enjoy some old games and toys and, if they are old enough, enjoy listening to the stories of Crewkerne on the Discovery pens. With free entry it's an ideal venue for families to enjoy some time together.

### Ongoing...

#### Maintenance

Our Grade II listed building is a lovely place to work in and we try to keep it in a good state of repair. Sometimes we are given a problem to tackle that stops us in our tracks, and this year it is the lift. As some of you will know our lift has been temperamental over recent months, stopping mid downward travel occasionally. This has meant that we have put it out of action, certain that nobody would want to be stuck between floors!

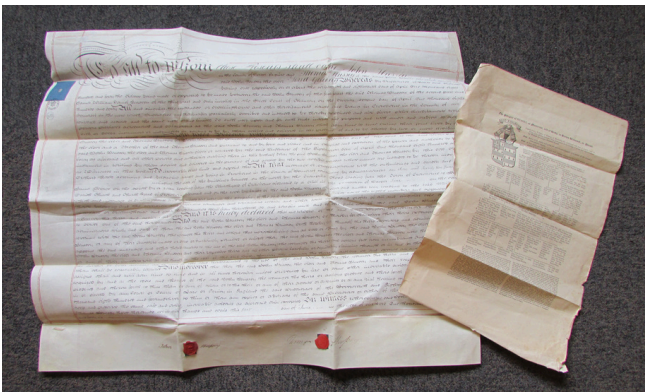
We are currently exploring all possibilities with engineers investigating the reasons for the problem. As a quote for a new lift was in excess of £45,000 we will continue to try to resolve the issue, with a repair, before the 2027 season. Apologies to all who have struggled to use the staircase, we appreciate your support.

During the Autumn our Maintenance Team will be decorating the window frames and arranging for a new replacement window for the downstairs toilet. The latter will be another inevitable costly replacement, decorating will be done by volunteers.



### New Additions to the Collection

Most items are donated to the museum, with some coming from purchases of relevant material. The enamelled Crewkerne Station sign has come to the museum on an initial 5 year loan. It will go on display soon. Another 'new' item for the museum is a hand-



written will for John Hussey, dating from 1<sup>st</sup> June 1846, and a printed family tree. The will measures about 72 cms by 60 cms - a large document!

The museum's extensive collection of documents, photographs and artefacts number more than 4,000 items. The very first item was accessioned, or catalogued, in 1988 when the museum was located in Church Street. This first item was the Crewkerne Parish Magazine and binder dating from 1896.

We appreciate the continuing support of the **Friends of Crewkerne Museum**, either by your visits or donations. We are always pleased to see visitors to the galleries or events and donations help us to pay for the upkeep of the building and general running costs.

Card payments can now be made in Reception.

Museum open until Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> October - Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays, & Saturdays, 10am to 4.00pm



**Crewkerne  
& District**

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