

Crewkerne and West Crewkerne Joint Burial Committee Annual Report May 2025-May 2026

At the meeting held in the Townsend Chapel in 3rd June 2025 West Crewkerne Councillor Julia Borland was elected as Chair and Crewkerne Councillor Mike Best as Vice Chair of the Joint Committee.

Plot purchases have greatly increased from £7150 in 2024-25 to £11480 in 2025-26. We can already see burials in newest section within the cemetery.

Some issues which have required attention have been sinking graves throughout both the old and new sections, where this has occurred, they are back filled with soil as and when available. A possible cause for this sinking may be the rate at which coffins decay. In previous times coffins were usually oak, whereas now they may be willow.

Grave diggers have been reminded that there is a specific area for spoils rather than being left in inappropriate places.

The Queen Elizabeth II memorial tree at the centre of the turning circle has been relocated to the Cemetery Lodge and its replacement tree is now flourishing.

Some trees have required to be felled due to excessive internal decay. Many of the Victorian planted trees will require replacing as they come to the end of their life. Currently there are a large number of box bushes which have been decimated by caterpillars these will require attention.

The mowing of the grass to a consistent standard has been a challenge, which has been impacted by our ever-changing climate. Following a tendering process there has been a change of contractor for the ground maintenance. This contract commenced in March and as yet initial issues have not yet been resolved, especially with the lack of weed removal and consistency of mowing and strimming. Ongoing discussions are urgently taking place to ensure that acceptable standards are achieved quickly and just as importantly maintained.

The white post box installed in a visible position near the chapel was well used over the Christmas and New year period. All letters and cards placed in there have been removed and taken to Yeovil Crematorium, unread to be burnt.

Julia Borland,
Chair, Joint Burial Committee
28th May 2026