



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council
Town Hall
Fore Street
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

www.okehampton.gov.uk

NEWSLETTER - JUNE 2023

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](#)

Coronation of King Charles III, 6th May 2023

A big thank you to all of those who helped with arrangements for the Celebrations, took part in them and who came along to support and join in. Thanks go to a number of people, especially the RAF Air Cadets who helped move the tables and chairs to and from St James Street, and the Inner Wheel who provided and served the refreshments in the Charter Hall.



The raffle in aid of the Charter Hall roof repairs raised £199.

Coronation Pens provided by Everything Okehampton are available from locations including the Town Hall for the primary school children who have received a card, or for purchase.



2023/24 Councillors

Okehampton Town Council welcomes new Councillors; Laura Bird, Richard Colman and Simon Weekes, who joined eight of the previous Councillors in the uncontested elections in May and says farewell and thankyou to three who did not stand for re-election; Caleb Botton, Jan Goffey and Brendan Matravers. Your Town Councillors, whose contact details can be [found on the website](#) or obtained from the office, are now:

| | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Laura Bird | Richard Colman | Allenton Fisher |
| Carole Holt | Michael Ireland | Tony Leech |
| Bob Tolley | Simon Weekes | Ann Wood |
| | | Christine Marsh |
| | | Julie Yelland |



Okehampton Town Mayor

Councillor Allenton Fisher MBE was elected Mayor for the 2023/24 council year and Councillor Christine Marsh Deputy Mayor.

A few words from Cllr Fisher: 'As a very new councillor on Okehampton Town Council I am truly humbled and honoured to have been nominated as Mayor for the coming year.

My wife Jean, and I have been in Okehampton since 2004 and had The Post Office in the town for ten years before retirement. I serve as a trustee on the OUC Charity, am President of The Okehampton RBL and treasurer of Everything Okehampton. As a retired naval officer and an "Okehampton Blow-In" I will endeavour to keep a steady course and continue to drive the best town in Devon forward at a rate of knots.'



Cllr Fisher with his wife, Mayoress Jean Fisher, and Mace Bearers Basil Jones and David Piper.

Cllr Bob Tolley, Outgoing Mayor “I am deeply honoured and humbled to have been your town Mayor for the last two years. Through lockdown to Coronation via a railway; such a busy but unique period to have served Okehampton in that role.

Can I express my love and thanks to Jill, the Mayoress, who’s support, patience and understanding, was so important, to what I think, was a not to shoddy period for the town. I would like to thank my fellow councillors and our first-class staff for their support throughout the term and look forward to continuing to serve the community as an Okehampton town councillor.

I congratulate Cllr Allerton Fisher on his election to Mayor and know Okehampton could not be in better hands as we move forward.”

Co-option of Councillors

The Council decided at a meeting on 22nd May, to delay the co-option of Councillors to fill the three remaining seats until the next Full Council meeting on 26th June so that they could properly review the applications received and allow time for any other interested persons to apply.

The application form can be downloaded from the website or obtained from the office. For more information, please contact the Town Clerk on 01837 53179 or townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk. Applications should be sent to the Clerk in the Town Hall by 12noon on 16th June.

2022/23 Mayors Award Recipients

A short event was held on 17th May immediately prior to the Mayor Choosing and Annual Council Meeting when the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Bob Tolley, presented those nominated with a Mayoral award and a RAF Air Cadet Liv Walker with a certificate of appreciation for service as Mayor’s Cadet:

Costcutter - In recognition of the understanding and assistance given to a member of the community with Alzheimers and their family.

Greta Button - In recognition of your work and assistance provided to the Okehampton Ukrainian Support Group

Jolanta Wilson and the Friends of Okehampton Polish Naval Camp - In recognition of promoting Okehampton on a local, national and international level in a positive light through your work on our Okehampton and Polish heritage.

Linda Harper - In recognition of your work in the community, particularly with the Okehampton Community Garden.



Geoff Penna – In recognition of your continued fundraising for the Alzheimers Society

Simon Chudley – For opening up The London Inn as a warm space with free tea and coffee throughout the day.

Mike and Hilary Wreford - In recognition of your many years of work in the community collating, compiling and writing of Okehampton local history books.

New Simmons Park Information Boards and Pedestrian Signs

New information boards have been provided in the park. They contain a newly designed map of the park showing footpaths and walking routes as well as facilities and amenities. One of the signs is by the carpark near the book swap and the other by the pedestrian entrance. In addition, two smaller maps will be provided at the top footpath entrances into the park from Station Road. The smaller maps show the walking routes between the station and the town centre as well as containing a QR code to download the Everything Okehampton App.

These signs accompany new fingerposts provided by the Council in conjunction with others including GWR who awarded some grant funding towards the project. DCC Highways have kindly helped by putting up the new fingerpost signs which will help visitors navigate around Okehampton as well as to and from the Railway Station where another map has been provided as part of the scheme.



Councillor Surgery Do you have a question for your Councillors or want to raise a concern? Why not come along and have a chat with Cllrs Julie Yelland and Carole Holt between 10am and 12noon on Thursday 15th June in the Town Hall.

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

10th to 18th June

Okehampton Town Council is launching its Park Volunteer Group on 13th June as part of the Great Big Green Week.

Interested in how Simmons Park is managed, have some free time and want to contribute to by helping out our Parks team?

Come along to the Pavilion in the Park at 10am on 13th June to find out more and sign up.

Okehampton Celebrates the 400th Anniversary of the Town Charter – 9th July 2023

Come and join us in Simmons Park for a day of celebration. The Town



**CELEBRATING
400 YEARS OF
OKEHAMPTON'S
ROYAL CHARTER
1623-2023**

Council working in partnership with The Museum of

Dartmoor Life, Okehampton United Charities (OUC) and Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council (OHPC), have commissioned a timeline of some of the events that have happened in Okehampton over the last 400 years.

Come and visit the marquee and see the historical timeline, where there will be free refreshments provided by OCRA and some activities on offer hosted by OUC, OHPC and Town Council. The birthday cakes marking 400 years of the Charter, 150 years of Okehampton United Charities and 125 years of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council will be cut at 2pm.

The marquee and timeline are only a small part of the whole event being arranged by Everything Okehampton so do come and join in some of the other activities planned. Have a go at archery or perhaps try your luck at axe throwing, wander through the 40 plus stalls or relax and listen to one of the many entertainers and musicians.

Devon Wildlife Trust Wildlife Gardening Award

The Parks Team applied for the Devon Wildlife Trust **Wildlife Gardening Award** and are **pleased to say that we meet the criteria, and they will be sending out our award out soon!**

Their email of congratulation included the following comment:

'What a wonderful selection of animals to see in your community garden! What a treat seeing otters and kingfishers!'

Park Volunteer Group

What Can I Do

to help in Simmons Park?

Tuesday 13th June
at 10am in the Pavillion in the Park free tea and cake

Find out more about the management of Simmons Park

Meet the Park Keeper and sign up to the park volunteer group

Livestreaming of Council Meetings

Are you aware that all meetings of the Town Council are now livestreamed and available to watch at any time? The livestreams can be found on the council Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/okehamptontowncouncil>

Town Council Grants

The process for applying for a grant from the Council has now changed, details can be found on the [website](#) along with the new forms and policy or obtained from the office. £29,000 is budget for the award of grants in this new 2023/24 financial year.

The Policy & Resources Committee will be considering the first round of grant applications at a meeting on 19th June.

Coming up in June

- 1st Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- 6th Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 7th Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- 8th Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- 8th-11th Fair (Simmons Park)
- 10th Okehampton PFTA Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 14th Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- 15th Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- Councillor Surgery (Town Hall)
- 17th Big Green Week Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)
- 21st Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- 22nd Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- 26th Footsteps Dance Show (Charter Hall)
- 28th Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- 29th Clubercise (Charter Hall)
- July
- 1st Community Links Coffee Morning (Charter Hall)

Town Council Meeting Dates

June 2023

- 5th Planning Committee
- 19th Policy & Resources Committee
- 26th Full Council

Meeting dates for the 2023/24 can be found on the [website](#). Some Planning Committee Meetings have been scheduled; others will be convened as needed.

Council meetings normally start at 7pm and are held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Fore Street. Occasionally meetings are subject to change, the [website](#) or noticeboard in the Victorian Arcade should be checked for up-to-date information.

Contact Us – 01837 53179

Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO
townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk

Caroline Ellis, Assistant Town Clerk (Accounts)
accounts@okehampton.gov.uk

Abi Horn, Admin Officer and Mayor's Assistant
(Bookings and Invitations for the Mayor)
admin@okehampton.gov.uk

James McGahey, Park-Keeper
parks@okehampton.gov.uk

Your Councillors

Cllr Allenton Fisher (Town Mayor)
Cllr Christine Marsh (Deputy Mayor)

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Cllr Laura Bird | Cllr Bob Tolley |
| Cllr Richard Colman | Cllr Simon Weekes |
| Cllr Carole Holt | Cllr Ann Wood |
| Cllr Dr Michael Ireland | Cllr Julie Yelland |
| Cllr Tony Leech | (3 vacancies) |

Individual Councillors contact details can be obtained from the Office or website.

OKE PADS  **INVITE YOU TO ATTEND**



**FREE CPR & DEFIBRILLATOR
COMMUNITY AWARENESS WORKSHOP**

Okehampton Rugby Club



19 June 2023 6pm – 8pm

Booking essential due to limited spaces

Charity donation buckets available on the night

<https://okepads.wixsite.com/okepads>

okepads@gmail.com

@okepads Follow us on  

Spring Fair and Simmons Park Carpark Closure

Anderton and Rowland Fair are visiting the town in June and will be operating in Simmons Park from 8th to 10th June.

Part of Simmons Park Carpark will be closed for the duration of their visit
5th to 13th June.