



Okehampton Town Council



Okehampton Town Council  
Town Hall  
Fore Street  
Okehampton EX20 1AA

01837 53179

[www.okehampton.gov.uk](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)

## NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2023

Sign up to receive the newsletters electronically by visiting the Council's [website](http://www.okehampton.gov.uk)

### Okehampton Celebrates the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Town Charter – 9<sup>th</sup> July

A massive thank you to everyone involved in arranging this event. There are too many to name individually, but particular thanks go to Everything Okehampton who arranged the overall event and OCRA who provided lots of sporting entertainment and served over 400 free cream teas from the Marquee.



The Anniversary cakes celebrating 400 years of the Town Charter, 150 years of Okehampton United Charity and 125 years of Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council were cut at 2pm by the Town Mayor, Clerk to Trustees and Chairman of the Hamlets Parish Council. Most importantly, a big thank you to all of you who came along to

support this event. It was lovely to see so many people enjoying themselves in the sun, which shone most of the time, taking part in the activities, supporting the businesses and organisations, and watching the live performances.



The 400-year timeline, an extract of which can be seen below, that was displayed in the Marquee was put together by a number of organisations including The Museum of Dartmoor Life, Okehampton United Charity, Okehampton Hamlets Parish Council and Okehampton Town Council. This 24-metre-long piece of history, commissioned by the Town Council, will eventually be on display in the Charter Hall for all to see. Limited edition pull-out versions, an extract of which can be seen below, can be purchased for £5 from the Town Hall or Everything Okehampton who have them available for sale and to whom the proceeds from will go.



## Gravestone Inspections, Okehampton Cemetery

Annual safety memorial stone inspections in the Cemetery area adjacent to All Saints Church, the area that is the responsibility of the Town Council, will take place during August and will be conducted by trained Okehampton Town Council Staff. The proposed date is 15th August 2023, but is weather dependant.



## Councillor Surgeries – Your Views?



Councillors are keen to hear your views about the continuation of monthly Councillor Surgeries – should they be held at a different time of day to the usual 10am on the third Thursday of the month, or perhaps in a location other than the Town Hall?

Please complete this short [online survey](#) or pop into the Town Hall for a paper copy, also accessible through the QR code.

## Simmons Park Bandstand Refurbishment Project



The old bandstand base adjacent to Chalet Treloar in Simmons Park has been reinstated with a 'top' as the main part of an enhancement project. It is envisaged this could form the backdrop for exhibitions, wedding photographs or other events in the park. To the left is a photo of the original bandstand in this location taken in 1912.



A bequest to the Town Council from the late Mr John Pestrige has partly funded the project and will be acknowledged by the addition of a plaque in the next few weeks.

Also to be added are plaques

commemorating Queen Elizabeth II 1952-2022, the Coronation of King Charles III 2023 and Simmons Park benefactor Sydney Simmons. Planting around the base is due to be refurbished with bulbs, flowers and shrubs fitting to the memory of the late Queen Elizabeth II and favourites of the Royal Family courtesy of Lottery funding received towards the Coronation celebrations earlier in the year and for associated planting.

## Young Persons Council – What do you think?



I am investigating the feasibility of the creation of a Young Persons Council in Okehampton as part of a Community Governance Foundation Degree and for consideration by Okehampton Town Council.

Could I please ask that you take a few minutes to [complete the short survey](#) which will help to provide information that will be considered by Okehampton Town Council later in the year and used as part of my degree. The survey is designed to be completed by individuals, or on behalf of a class or group.

Further information can be found on the

website. Paper copies are available for collection from the Town Hall and should be returned to that location once completed. The survey closes on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023.

Thank you, Emma James, Town Clerk

## Success for Town Crier, Ros Chard

Photo, right, of Ros receiving the Best Themed Cry trophy at the Guild Championship in Calne on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> July.



## Okehampton Show

Emma the Town Clerk, Caroline the Assistant Clerk and James the Park-Keeper will be joining West Devon Borough Council at Okehampton Show on 10<sup>th</sup> August.

Copies of the 400<sup>th</sup> Charter Anniversary Timeline will be available to purchase at £5, if there are any remaining, alongside Coronation pens for £1 and Hedgehog highway surrounds for £3.

James, will be happy to chat to anyone about Simmons Park and other outdoor spaces within the town boundary, including the newly launched Volunteer Group.

## Dream-A-Way Cheque Presentation

Cllr Bob Tolley, Mayor for 2021/22 and 2022/23, recently presented a final cheque of £1,860 to Dream-A-Way his chosen charity. This was the result of fundraising activity throughout the year.

The total raised for Dream-A-Way by Cllr Tolley during his two years as Town Mayor was £3,401.82.



## Annual Civic Service – 17<sup>th</sup> September

The Civic Service is taking place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September with the procession leaving Fore Street at approximately 10.20am and making its way to Fairplace Church via East Street and Mill Road.



Following the Service, the procession will march back to Fore Street via George Street when the parade will be dismissed following inspection.

There will be rolling road closures in place for each part of the procession.

The Council would be pleased to hear from anyone willing to assist with marshalling the road closure for this event and others, for example the Remembrance Parade on 12<sup>th</sup> November.

## Hedgehog Highway Project

**Did you know that hedgehogs travel up to 2 miles each night to forage for food and meet mates?**

So, what can we do to help them make their way safely through our communities avoiding roads where possible? We can make small gaps in our hedges and fences, linking areas together so that they can move around more easily.

Okehampton Town Council is supportive of the Hedgehog Highway Project which aims to highlight their importance and declining numbers and has a few 'highway surrounds' available to purchase from the Town Hall at the cost price of £3.



## Grant Cheque Presentations

The Mayor, Cllr Fisher, in July presented grant cheques to groups and organisations including a £5,000 grant cheque to the Museum of Dartmoor Life and the Tourist Information Facility (photograph below) and £500 to Okey Music Day (left).



## Decking Behind Lidl

The rotten wooden decking area behind Lidl has been replaced in composite materials so that it is longer lasting, and Simmons Park car park has been relined.



## Town Council Grants

The Policy & Resources Committee considered the first round of applications at a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> June. The next round of applications will be considered on 13<sup>th</sup> November. Details of how to apply can be found on the website or obtained from the office.

## Charter Hall Coffee Morning Availability

There are a few Saturday mornings available for Coffee Mornings during August and early September as follows: 5<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> August and 2<sup>nd</sup> September. Availability for the Charter Hall and other facilities can be found and booked through the Council Website or by contacting the office.

<https://www.okehampton.gov.uk/facilitiesforhire.php>

## Coming up in August

- 1<sup>st</sup> Friendly Circle (Charter Hall, 2pm)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wren Music, Junk Music Session (Simmons Park, 2pm)  
Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> NHS Blood Donor Session (Charter Hall, 11am)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 12<sup>th</sup> Trek 26 Coffee Morning (Charter Hall, 9am)  
Wren Music, Junk Music Session (Simmons Park, 2pm)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 17<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 24<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 26<sup>th</sup> Wren Music, Junk Music Session (Simmons Park, 2pm)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Rotary Summer Fair (Simmons Park)
- 30<sup>th</sup> Wren Music, Junk Music Session (Skatepark, 10am)  
Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 31<sup>st</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- September
- 5<sup>th</sup> Friendly Circle (Charter Hall)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Clubbercise (Charter Hall, 7pm)

## Town Council Meeting Dates - August

- 21<sup>st</sup> Full Council
- September
- 4<sup>th</sup> Parks Committee
- 11<sup>th</sup> Policy & Resources Committee
- 18<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Simmons Park Volunteer Group

The volunteer group formed to help with some tasks in the park has now got 9 volunteers and are next meeting on August 8<sup>th</sup> from 11am to 12.30pm.

If you would like to join and help forms are available from the Town Hall, everyone welcome!!

Fingers crossed for a dry couple of hours!!



## 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>

## Contact Us – 01837 53179

Emma James, Town Clerk & RFO  
[townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:townclerk@okehampton.gov.uk)

Caroline Ellis, Assistant Town Clerk (Accounts)  
[accounts@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:accounts@okehampton.gov.uk)

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

James McGahey, Park-Keeper  
[parks@okehampton.gov.uk](mailto:parks@okehampton.gov.uk)

## Your Councillors

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

Cllr Laura Bird	Cllr Tony Leech
Cllr Richard Colman	Cllr Lynne Rogers
Cllr Terry Cummings	Cllr Bob Tolley
Cllr Mike Harding	Cllr Julie Yelland
Cllr Carole Holt	Cllr Simon Weekes
Cllr Dr Michael Ireland	Cllr Ann Wood

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