

Okehampton Historical Notes Vol.1 EHY 1931

Original Book typed by EHY in 1931 . EHY is Dr Edward Herbert Young (1862-1932), who compiled those notes. He lived at Darley House, and was one of the town's two GPs for many years, also the Borough Medical Officer, and a notable local historian. He wrote the Okehampton volume for the Devonshire Association's short-lived parish histories series, and some useful papers in the Transactions.

Digitised by Jan Goffey, a Museum trustee in 2020



Dr Edward Herbert Young from a photograph in the Town Hall Archive.

Contents

Please note certain year numbers have been changed to fit with the modern calendar so the year begins January not 25th March, Lady Day. Also dating from year of the reign of the Monarch. EHY commented that some of the dates were irregular. Historical notes in italic by me. JG to elucidate events here noted.

chap	title
1.	Shebbear's Journal no.1
2.	Shebbear's Journal no.2
3.	Early Vicars of Okehampton
4.	Extracts from Burial Register
5.	Symonds Description of old Church
6.	Extract from Symond's Diary on Famine
7.	Memorials in Old Church
8.	Manumissions from Leofric
9.	The Story of Brightley
10.	The Town Hall (Northmore House)
11.	Oaths of Mayors and Officials
11.	Old Accounts of the Town
12.	a) William of Worcester AD 1478
	b) Cosmo Grand Duke of Tuscany AD 1669
	c) Daniel Defoe AD 1724
	d) Dr. Richard Pococke AD 1750
	e) Rev Sweete
	f) Macon
13.	Parliamentary Elections
14.	Town Troubles C 1610
15.	Charities
16.	Robert Courtenay's Charter AD 1220
17.	Hugh Courtenay's Agreement AD 1292
18.	Customs and Services of Tenants of Okehampton Manor
19.	Okehampton Worthies -Bremelcombe: Shebbear: Cuningham: Lethbridge
20	Weights and Measures Appendix 1.

Shebbeare's Journal

Original in Town Chest Richard Shebbeare his Booke And Writing 1677

(See Devon County Records Office)

Okehampton Villa and Burg. *NB. Years in historic calendar date form, to save confusion.*

Noia Major (New Mayor)

Memorandum. That on the 20th day of September in the XX1111 yeare of the reigne of King Charles the second, Anno Dom. 1672, I began to copy out this booke by the towne booke of record made and mostly written by Mr. John Rattenbury and Mr. Thomas Austyn, Towne Clerkes of this Town and Borough, all of the most remarkable things to hand as exact as my abillities would permit me truly and indifferently copyed out for the diversion and satisfaction of myself and my posterity or ffriends which should come after me.

Richard Shebbeare *(Town Clerk)*

1623

John Growden gent & Modernus Major.
In this yeare the towne prison was built.

1st Sept. 1624

Mr. John Bremelcombe, my grandfather chosen to be one of the principle Burgesses, by Mr. Alford giving over the place.

Mr. Leonard Bray chosen Assistant in Mr. Bremelcombe's place.

18th Sept. 1624

William Kennacott disenfranchised by consent of the Comon Counsell from being a ffreeman, for sundry abuses and misdemeanours against his oath and duty.

Anno 1624 Anno .R.R. Jacobi 22.

22nd year of the reign of King James 1st

Petrus (*Peter*) Rattenbury chosen Mayor 4th Oct. 1624

2 April 1625

King Charles was here proclaimed King by proclamation.

11 May 1625

Mr. Robert Can chosen and sworne one of the principall Burgesses.

20 July 1625

It is graunted, agreed and ordered by the Mayor and common Counsell that John Rattenbury Gent. Shall from henceforth, during his life, have, exercise and enjoie all such offices and imployments for the affares of this Towne and Borough as Mr. John Alford lately deceased, formerly had and enjoyed, that is to say, the keeping of the Borough Courts here for the ffeoffees parte, (*feoffee a vassal granted a fief by his lord*) the auditing and makeing up all the yearly accompts (*accounts*) and the making of all the leases and other writings, with such ffees and duties as have heretofore beene usually payd and are thereunto belonging.

Peter Rattenbury Mayor

John Growden Justice

William Jordan

with the rest of the Comon Counsell

5 Sept 1625

King Charles came to Plimouth and stayed 8 dayes, att which time John Glanvill Esq. Recorder of this towne was commanded by the King to goe on a voyage in warfare as secretary to the counsel of warre, viz. to Cales (Calais)

Ano.1 Car. Rex. 3.Oct.1625

William Jordan Gent. Chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve of Okehampton Towne and Borough.

14 Dec. 1625

Mr. Henry Bowden chosen and sworne one of the principall Burgesses, upon the death of Mr. Wm. Webbery.

This yeare there was a very great sickness and visitation of the pestilence in this towne, whereof dyed about 300 people, most of them the younger sort, and from Easter even 1626 until after Michaelmas following noe market att all kept here save only some small quantity of victualls brought in weekly on the market day by 2 or 3 butchers of this towne and parish; during all of which time most of the inhabitants (nott being permitted to travel abroad except only to the Citty of Exon upon Mr Mayor's certificate of being ffree to etc.) made their abode and continued here and noe Taxe or Rates for Releife being had from other places (ass most of other townes now visited had) by the procurement and letters of the Mayor, Justice and some of the principall Burgesses there was some voluntary benevolence from divers parishes and persons brought in, amounting to £55 odd money, and some provision of corne and victualls sent alsoe & the same from tyme to tyme by the Mayor and his appointment distributed and bestowed for the reliefe of the poore here inhabiting, as by the booke of particulars thereof written out since by the Towne Clerk may appeare.

During all which tyme, by the providence of Almighty God and the great paine and especiall care of the Mayor and Justice, the sick people were from tyme to tyme relieved with necessaries, the often intended disorders and outrages quietly repressed and appeased and noe hurt, losse or violent damage of any value done to any person whatsoever. God bee thanked for it.

Anno sec. R.R. Caroli primo
Second year of King Charles

An. 1626-27

John Rattenbury, gent. Elected Mayor 2 die Octobris 1626 (2nd day of October)

This yeare the Mayor and principall Burgesses seate and the Assistant's seate in the Church were sett up there. And new seates made & sett up in the Chaple att the cost of the Corporation.

This yeare the loft for the organe in the Church and for the seates there , with the new windowe in the rough were finished and the organe repayed.

1626

This yeare Captain John Bickle gave forty pounds to such charitable use here as the now Mayor and Warden should think fittest.

A license of Alienation & a ffine had & past by Sir Nicholas Hals, Knight to the ffeoffees of the 4th part of the Borough of Okehampton, the cost whereof came to above Xxty (20) marks.

Anno tertio R.R. Caroli primo 1627
3rd year of the reign of King Charles 1

John Brimelcombe , gent. Eltus Major 1 die Octobris. (*Elected Mayor first day of October*)

This yeare from the XX November until the XV111 of January the Mayor, Officers and inhabitants were much troubled and charged by souldiers billited here , and the charge of many sick souldiers left unpaid.

This yeare the 4 bells att the Church were new cast and a new fifth bell added.

3 August 1628 being Sabbath day

About 4 of the clocke in the afternoon ymediately after evening prayer ended att the Church of Okehampton, there being now rayn perceived to fall within or neare the towne and the streets then very drye, the water here called Lede or the East water was suddenly risen about some V (five) foote at the East Bridge, running at a more violent manner than had beene usually knowne , & twas conceived the water did savour and smell of some brimstone.

In Hilary Terme 1627

(*Hilary term runs from January to March and is so named because the feast day of St Hilary of Poitiers, 14 January, falls during this term*)

Sir Robert Heath, Knight, the King's Attorney Generall graunted out a Quo Warrant against the Corporation: whereupon there was a non suite entered in the Crowne office.

Beare Bridge repayed in the middle pillar at the towne charges.

Anno 4 Carrolus 1 Oct. 6 1628 Mr. Henry Bowden chosen and sworne Mayor.

This yeare the moytie (share) of the Borough of Okehampton was purchased of (from) the Right Hon.ble John, Lord Mohun, Baron of Okehampton, for which was payd £CC (£200) and an annual Rent charge of £X11 (£12) in ffee.

It was ordered and agreed this yeare that with the profit to bee yearely raysed of the forty pounds given by Captain Bickle, two of the poorest men and two of the poorest women here should each have a cloth gowne yearly at Christmas.

Anno 5 Carrolus 1. The 5th October 1629

4 Nov. Mr. Peter Rattenbury chosen and sworne Mayor of Okehampton and Portreeve.

The first payment of the purchase of the moiety of the Borough of £C paid to the Lord Mohun.

6 Aprill The Mayor arrested by the Sherriff's Bayliffs as he was coming from the Sessions at the Towne Hall, in an Action of Battery brought against him and George Crocker, one of the Constables att the suit of John Wood, gent.

See the letters of the Judges for the Assize touching this.

Anno 6 R.R.Car. 1 the 4th Oct. 1630 1Nov. The fifty pound legacy given to the Parish of Okehampton by George Cottle, gent. was payd to the Mayor and Burgesses and they

granted an Annuity out of these lands of fower pounds yearly to the Churchwardens for it, as by the same may appeare.

1Nov. The fifty pound legacy given to the Parish of Okehampton by George Cottle, gent. was payd to the Mayor and Burgesses and they graunted an Annuity out of these lands of fower pounds yearly to the Churchwardens for it, as by the same may appeare.

4th Nov. Payd the Right Honble Lord Mohun £C in full payment of the purchase of the moitie of the Borough.

Aprill 1631 John Glanville Esq. Recorder, resigned and yelded up his place and John Dodg Esq. chosen Recorder during the will and pleasure of the Mayor and Burgesses.
16 July

John Vaghan, gent. Elected and sworne a principal Burgesse upon the death of Mr. Robert Can.

Anno 7 R R Car. 1 the 3rd October 1631

16 Jan 1631 Itt is ordered by the generall consent of the Mayor and Common Counsell that always from henceforth the generall Receaver for this towne and Borough of Okehampton shalbe yearely chosen of the second eight, whoe are to doe it one after another, beginning with the aunciente. And if any refuse, being thereunto elected, then every such person for refusing, to paye a ffine of £X to the use of this towne to bee levied by distresse or recovered by action of debt to be brought in the precedent Receaver's name.

Anno 8 RR Carol 1 The first day of Oct. 1632

John Rattenbury gent. chosen and sworne Mayor.

The legacy of £50 given by George Cottle , gent, imployd by £4 payd unto the churchwardens and bestowed by them in bread weekly brought to the Parish Church of Okehampton: viz. X111 pennyworth and then after morning prayer ended , distributed to the poorest people , and for a sermon on St . George's Day Xs residue spent at a dinner on such as were present att that sermon, as by his will. (13d. spent on bread and 10 shillings on dinner)

December

The lecture att the Chaple appointed and begun upon the Towne Court Dayes by Mr Michael Porter

Sept. 18 1633 Lewes Parker, gent., chosen and sworne as an Assistant.

Anno 9 R.R. Carol. 1 the 30th September 1633

John Vaghan, gent., chosen and sworne Mayor.

The measures of the Towne and weights, tried and some reformed.

Sundry misdemeanors, viz, of Drunkards, Swearers and gamsters etc. questioned, presented and punished this yeare; of the penalties of which the some of three pounds and fifteen shillings etc. distributed and given to the poore by William Drew and Robert Brook, Constables here this yeare questioned.

Ano R R Car 1 10 years Mr John Bremelecombe chosen and sworne Mayor the 5 Oct.

March 4 1634 Upon Complaint made by Mr John Hussey, Vicar here, and others, that Mr Christopher Williams, Schoolmaster here, hath neglected the teaching schoole here and endeavoured to teach at Jacobstowe or elsewhere; and upon notice taken of some other his miscarriages, etc. its now by a general consent of all present agreed on that the said Mr Williams depart hence at the Lady day next and to be payd then for the time past. And the paie to be withheld from henceforth unless he do crave some reasonable small time longer and doe that time behave himself in the said place as becometh him.

Aprill 20 1635 Mr. Wm. Newbery came and made suit to teach schoole here and to have the place which Mr. Williams had, and is admitted upon tryall until Midsomer next, and if he continue here is to subscribe to indifferent articles and to give security to perform them.

July 8 1635 Mr. Wm Gayer, Hugh Vinecombe and Thomas Bidwell chosen Assistants and Hugh Vinecombe refused the place to be an Assistant. It was therefore ordered he should never be named in suchlike election againe.

Wm. Bawden was then chosen in the stead of Hugh Vinecombe & sworne with the rest.

August 26. Thomas Reddaway committed to prison for abusing Mr. Mayor until & after bound to the good behaviour and entered into recognizance not to play at unlawful games nor to haunt any such place.

Divers Misdemenors of Drunkards, Swearers, gamsters and others punished this yeare and the penalties levied distributed to the poore.

Md. That £XXX was levied (by virtue of a special writ directed to the Mayor and Burgesses) for shipping money; as by the writ and rate thereof in the Towne Chest.

Mr. Oliver Tapper of Exon (Exeter) merchant, borne here, gave £111 (Three Pounds) which was distributed to the poore etc.

Ano X1 R R Carolus 1 the 5 October 1635

Mr Henry Bowden Chosen and sworne Mayor.

March 31 1636 Roger Oake sent to the gaol at Exeter for stabbing and killing William Slade, and afterwards executed.

Edmund Cann fined for his misdemeanour at X111s 1111d (13 shillings and 4 pence) and that certified afterwards into the exchequer. And upon his public submission discharged of the good behaviour.

Oct. 9 Ordered by the Mayor and Comon Counsell here That if any inhabitant of this towne being elected to doe the Office of a Churchwarden & shall refuse to accept and doe the same accordingly, shall forfeit and pay for every such refusal V1s V111d to be levied as other forfeiture. (6 shillings and 8 pence)

Ano X11 R R Car. 1. The 3 October 1636

Mr Peter Rattenbury chosen and sworne Mayor

Octo. 4 An order made by the Mayor and Comon Counsell for the waying of wooll washed and yarne att the common beem & nott in any other place , upon payn of Xs. (Ten shillings)

Dec. 27 Fflower several witnesses testified upon their oath the several misdemeanors of Edmund Can the Elder against the inhabitants of this Towne. For which a special warrant is awarded to arrerst him. And the order made by the Justices of the Assizes for sending him to the house of correction to be procured . A copy wherof is entered in the old booke of setting the standing, Anno 1618.

Mr Lancelot Calmady hath the order under the Clerk of the Assize hand.

Oct. 11 1637 Mr Michael Drew (Brother law to my grandfather Mr John Brimelcombe) elected and sworne one of the principall Burgesses.

Nov. 1636 £30 collected for ship money pd to the Sherriffe (Dennis Bole Esq.) for Devon.

Pages torn out here

Ano XX1 R.R. Car 1. The 6 Octo. 1645 Mr Thomas Hitt chosen and sworne Mayor This yeare in October & November , Sir Richard Grenvile did cause barrakadoes and other works to be made and made the towne a garrison towne for some time : which putt the towne to costs thereabouts : and ffree quarter continued till ffebruary.

Sir Thomas ffarefax, Generall of the Parliament army was here two days and marched hence upon Easter Day 1646.

Mr Hitt dyed Mayor this yeare.

4 July 1646

The election being between Mr Peter Rattenbury and Mr Richard Hayne fell upon an even choyce and there upon by a general consent it was agreed that Mr. Parker, deputy Mayor, should have the double or casting vote and had soe, whereby he sayd Mr. Peter Rattenbury , who was then chosen and sworne Mayor before X1 (eleven) of the Comon Counsell present by virtue of the commission in the Charter.

Ano. XX111 R R Car. 1 the 5 Octob 1646 Mr John Shebbear chosen and sworne Mayor. Richard Bowyer, being sent unto to take on him the place of an assistant by Mr. Mayor's order told the sergent that hee would nott come to bee one of the company nor to bee a constable, by the oath of Cyrus Ebsworthy, one of the Sargants, whereupon for his soe refusing to be an assistant a ffine of £X is by the Mayor and common Counsellor imposed on him, to bee levied as by the Charter and constitutions.

22 Sept. 1647 Mr Christopher Drew was chosen and sworne a principall Burgess, upon the death of Mr Peter Rattenbury, lately deceased.

Lancelot Calmady, gent. elected and sworne one of ye principall Burgesses.

Ano. XX111 Car. 1 the 30th Sept. 1647 Mr. John Rattenbury chosen and sworne Mayor. Officers and souldiers quartered here part of this yeare.

Mr. James Perkins, for teaching schools here and attending Chaple £X11: X:0 (£12 : 10 shillings)

The schoole house, Towne hall, Shambles, bridges – especially Beer Bridge and streets beyond repayred this yeare.

30 August 1648 Mr. William Drew chosen and sworne a principalle Burgess, upon the death of Mr William Gayer, lately deceased.

Ano. XX1111 R.E. Car.1. the 2nd Octob. 1648 Mr Christopher Drew chosen and sworne Mayor.

New ffeoffees chosen for the Borough lands viz. Mr. William Drew, Edmond Johnson, Amos Vougler, Richard Horrell, William Macey, Christopher Yendall and Oliver Rattenbury.

Sept. 1649 Richard Horrell chosen and sworne Assistant.

The first day of October 1649. Mr John Brimelcombe chosen and sworne Mayor.

25 July 1650 Richard Rooke, one of the Constables , for misdemening himself in his office and forbidding the Watchmen to obey Mr. Mayor's orders, and using peremptory language , etc. was putt out of his office.

3 August 1654 Richard Wallen was then chosen and sworne Constable by the said Mr. Mayor for the residue of the yeare.

The 30 day of September 1650 Mr William Drew chosen and sworne Mayor.

15 Jan. 1650 Itt is ordered by the Mayor and Burgesses that such as bring wheete to be sold here on Markett days doe from henceforth sett and sell the same in the streete , next adjoining to the crosse, on the west side thereof, and forbear from henceforth to sett the same under the penthouses of any of the inhabitants here without their consent and likeing first had.

Signed by:- Wm Drew, Mayor; John Brimelcombe, Justice; John Rattenbury; Christo Drewe; Rich. Hayne; Rich Horrell; Rich. Rooke; Edmond Johnson.

The 6 Octo. 1651. Mr. Richard Hayne chosen and sworne Mayor, and in Aprill following removed at Buckland etc.

There was a suit in Chancery commenced by Mr. Turpin, the two churchwardens and the Overseers of the poore of Okehampton against the said Mr. William Drew, Mr John Bremelcombe, Mr. John Rattenbury, Mr. John Shebbeare and Mr. Christopher Drewe. It was shortly after putt in Reference unto Mr. Richard Mervin, Clarke, Mr. Thomas Finney, Clartke, and fower other gentlemen. The suit was commenced upon some pretences of miscarriages touching the Towne and poore etc. Suit stayed.

The Arbitrators did make an Award concluded in these words: - Whereas wee doe finde Mr. John Rattenbury to be much suspected and questioned by the plaintiffs and others concerning some miscarriage in the premises; Wee doe therefore think itt fit to certify all whom it may conserne, that it doth appear to us he hath been one of the best instruments to procure and preserve many (if not most) of the indowments belonging to the poore of Okehampton; and at present one of the greatest helpers for the discovery of most of the particulars relating to the present Arbitration. This wee doe affixe to our present Award under our hands
Richard Mervin, Thomas Finney etc.

Sept. 5 1652 Mr. John Brimelcombe dyed and Mr. John Newcombe and Mr. Thomas Carter chosen principall Burgesses.

The 4 Octo. 1652 Mr. John Shebbeare chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve
Devon

Ad genalem sessionem pacis tent apud parochiam Sci Thom. Appl. In com. Pd. ultimo die Octobris Anno Regni Caroli nunc Regis Anglia vicessimo 1664.

At the general session, of peace.... ? with the parish of St Thomas ???? last day of October in the 20th year of the reign of King Charles , King of England.... 1664

It is ordered that the Treasurer for the Hospitalls shall pay unto the constables or Churchwardens of Okehampton, to the use of the Hospitall there, three pounds for one year's arrearages ended at Michaelmas last, and in complaint is made that there is two years arrearages now due to them in the time of Mr Vaghan, Treasurer. The Court will hereafter take consideration concerning the payment of these arrearages.

Thomas Shapcote

The 8 Nov. 1644. A true copy of Mr. Parker's receipt.

Devon Recd. Then of Mr. John Rattenbury the some of Three Pounds, which he procured by order made att the last Sessions from the Treasurer for Hospitalls, for one years pay ended at Michaelmas last part, for the poore people in the Almshouse in the Towne of Okehampton.

Received by me,

Lewes Parker

Place this order and rec. in Mr Parker's yeare of Mayoraltie 1643 and 1644

The 3 Octob 1653

Mr. Christopher Drewe chosen and sworne as Mayor and Portreeve.

Mr. William Drew, late Mayor presented at the Sessions the 4 October 1653 for suffering Samuel Landick, the reputed ffather of a basterd child being in custody , to escape away, whereby a charge is laid on the Towne.

Oct 23. 1653 Mr. Christopher Drew, Mayor, upon viewe & searching what condition such poore people were in as had weekly pay and gathered almes daily here, found in the coffer of Joanne Kelly, widow, being one of that number, Thirty pounds , twelve shillings and nine pence; whose two former husbands, John Kelly and William Blachford

had for a long time weekly pay as in and by the Overseers Accompts (accounts) doth and may appear.

1653 The names of the Mayors of Corporations are to bee certified att every Assizes and they are to attend there if occasion doe require.

The 2 day of October 1654 Mr John Newcombe chosen and sworne Mayor of Okehampton and Portreeve.

Oct 3. Mr John Rattenbury, Towne Clarke, presented to Mr Mayor a little silver seale, having Okehampton Towne Arms ingraven thereon, tyed with a blue ribbon (as his legacy) to remayne to him and his successors yearly while it lasteth.

The 2 and 5 bells here were new casted att a very costly rate.

Josias Calmady Esq. gave a fatt bullock to the poore of Okehampton at the time of his marriage with Mrs. Elizabeth Gay, whose contract was published in Okehampton Markett.

The 1 Day of October 1655 Mr Thomas Carter chosen and sworne Mayor.
No records taken this yeare and some following, by reason of the Chaung of Towne Clarke upon Mr Rattenbury's death as I conceive, who dyed this yeare , and one Mr Wells (as I conceive) was chosen Towne Clarke in Mr Rattenbury's roome: which said Mr Wells continued Towne Clarke butt with very little space of time.

The 6 October 1656 Mr Andrew Treween chosen and sworne Mayor.

15 Aprill 1657 Thomas Wells, gent. and Towne Clarke, for his neglect putt out of his office by generall consent and Mr Thomas Austyn elected and sworne Towne Clarke in his roome.

19 August 1657 Mr John Northmore, the younger, admitted and sworne a ffreeman and an Attorney etc. and hath payd 11s:V1d
(2 shillings and 6 pence)

The 5th October 1657 Mr John Shebbeare chosen and sworne Mayor.

12th Jan. Mr Andrew Trewene, Justice of the Peace, dyed here.

4th October 1658 Mr Richard Rooke chosen and sworne Mayor.

27th December John Blackmore Knt. Sheriffe of Devon, sent his warrant to the Mayor and Burgesses of Okehampton for the election of two Burgesses to serve in Parliament for this towne.

3 Jan. 1659 Edward Wyse of Sydenham in the County of Devon, Esq. and Robert Everard of Great Waltham in the County of Essex Esq. were by generall consent elected Burgesses.

2 Sept 1659 Mr John Gayer chosen and sworne principall Burgesse in the roome of Mr William Drew who was dismissed upon his own request.

The 3 Octob. 1659 Mr Christopher Drew chosen and sworne Mayor.

30 March 1660 Matthew Hole Esq. Sherriffe of Devon sent his warrant to the Mayor and burgesses for the election of Burgesses to serve in Parliament.

4 Aprill 1660 The Mayor and Comonaltie proceeded to election of Burgesses and, notwithstanding the Lord Mohun's endeavours for Robert Reynold Esq.; Edward Wise Esq. and Josias Calmady Esq. were elected and had their Indentures forthwith signed. The Lord Mohun endeavoured to have brought in the Tenants of the Manor of Okehampton to have had voyces in the said election butt was withstood and the said Tenants adjudged nott capable of giving in election of Burgesses for this Town and Borough. Etc.

11 Aprill 1660 The Lord Mohun's agent gott another indenture for Mr. Reynold under the hands and seales of some of the inhabitants here and divers of the Tenants of the Manor; which afterwards came to nothing and Mr Wise and Mr Calmady continued to sitt as Burgesses etc.

9 May 1660 This yeare King Charles the Seconde proclaimed King of England, Scotland etc. and came to Whitehall on the 29.

The 2 day of October 1660 Mr Thomas Austyn chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve.

The 1 day of October 1661 Mr Richard Horrell chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve

The 5 day of October 1662 Mr Francis Hutchins chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve

The 4 day of Octo. 1663 Mr Henry Palfrey chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve

The 3 day of October 1664 Mr Thomas Carter chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve

The 2 Oct 1665 Mr John Gayer chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve.

29 May 1666 Mr Richard Shebbeare chosen and sworne Assistant.
In this yeare were most of the materials provided for building of the Chamber over the Wester shambles.

29 Sept. 1666 Ambrose Cuninghame chosen and sworne Assistant

Ano XV111 R R Carolus 11 the first Oct.1666 Mr Robert Rattenbury chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve.

This yeare the Wester shambles were pulled downe and new built with a chamber over the shambles, which was intended for a place to sell wheate in, upon some small toole: the said chamber cost the Corporation a considerable sume.

X1X Ano R R Caro 2 the 30 Sept. 1667 Mr John Shebbeare chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve

26 Nov 1667 Itt was published at the Towne Crosse by order of the Mayor and Burgesses that all persons that did bring any wheate to the Markett were to bring it into the new built Chamber over the Wester shambles , paying for ye same out of every Bushell of about 14 gallons to ye Bushell , one pint of wheate; butt the country loved their money soe well they would not part with a dish of corne to stand dry.

Oct. first 1668 Mr Richard Shebbeare chosen and sworne one of the principall Burgesses in the room of Mr Maunder, dismissed.

Aprill 18 1668 Mr Benjamin Gayer chosen and sworne Assistant.

Taken in our River below Bare Bridge in a nett, a Trowte containing in length twenty seaven inches and upward.

Ano XX R R Car 11 the 5 Oct. 1668 Mr. Richard Horrell chosen and sworne Mayor.

17 August 1669 John Short Esq. of Ashwater admitted and sworne a ffreeman of this towne and Borough. Mr Henry Palfrey, one of the principall Burgesses dyed here.

28 Sept 1669 Mr Christopher Yendall chosen and sworne a principall Burgess in Mr Palfrey's room etc. Mr Richard Underdown chosen and sworne a principall Burgess and Towne Clarke in the roome of Mr Thomas Austyn.

Ano XX1 R R Car 11 Oct 4 1669 Mr Richard Shebbeare chosen and sworne Mayor

28 Ffeb 1669 Mr Digory Treweene, Schoolmaster here, for his refusing to read Publick Prayers in the Chaple, was dismissed from teaching schools here any longer.

29 March 1670 Mr John Randall chosen schoolmaster here to teach 8 poore children ffreely and also to read prayers att the Chaple, mornings and evenings constantly, for the which he is to have £XX p. yeare as the gift of the Mayor and Burgesses and Comon Counsell upon any misbehaviour or any cause that they shall thinke ffitt; and the said Mr Randall is to preach 4 session sermons and election sermon yearly.

Oct 3 1670 By virtue of a new Act of Parliament, there was a new brassen bushell of eight gallons to the Bushell set up in the Markett house and the old Bushell, being

about some 14 gallons or upwards, removed, and noe other bushell to be used; and soe likewise for the lesser measures, they were all altered.

Aug 1670 Lord Mohun gave fforty shillings to ye poore: which was distributed to the poorest people of this towne by me, Richard Shebbeare.

Ano XX11 R R Caro Sec. Oct 3 1670 Mr Richard Underdown chosen and sworne Mayor.

29 Oct 1670 Being Saturday. There happened a ffire in the schoole house chimney which occasioned the burning downe of all the thatch of the schoole house to a very small matter, but the greatest part of the timber was preserved.

Nov 1670 Sir Thomas Hele Knight, one of the Burgesses in Parliament for this Towne and Borough dyed this yeare and Aurthur Harris Esquire chosen Burgess in his roome.

Nov 1670 Collected by Mr Hussey and Cosen Benj. Gayer for and towards the releife of protestants taken in Turkey, the Charity of the inhabitants of this towne which amounted to Ten Pounds odd money.

Aprill 1671 This Spring the schoole was new built, with a chamber over it.

July 1671 Aurthur Harris Esq. one of the Burgesses in Parliament, was by ffree consent chosen and sworne Recorder of this Towne and Borough, in the roome of Mr Thomas Poyntingdon the former Recorder.

Aug 1671 Thomas Bird chosen and sworne an Assistant.

Ano XX111 R R Caro sec Oct 2 1671 Mr Thomas Carter and sworne Mayor.

This day the fferncloses, otherwise called ffernspark was by Mr Mayor, upon the earnest suit of the Comonaltie, entered upon and the gapps broken downe, which was neglected for several yeare before.

Nov. 16. 1671 This day Richard the son of Hilary Renolds was arrested att the suit of Mr John Gayer for that he was one that sett his hand to the breaking open of the fferncloses above sayd.

Dec 16 Another beeme set up for the waying of wooll etc.

Jan 15 1672 Mr Richard Underdown Justice of the Peace dyed here.

Jan 17 Mr Richard Shebbeare chosen and sworne Justice in his roome.

Mr John Northmore chosen and sworne Towne Clarke during the pleasure of the Mayor and Comon Counsell, or major part of them.

Jan 19 1672 Mr Benjamin Gayer chosen and sworne one of the principall Burgesses etc.

Mr Robert Rattenbury junior, chosen and sworne an Assistant.

May 13 1672 This day Mr Mayor and Burgesses, together with Mr Hussey and Mr Randall, schoolmaster, and a great company of the inhabitants, bothe young and old,

viewed the bonds (Bounds) of Dartmore Comons belonging to the Towne and Borough of Okehampton.

The 30th Sept. 1672 Ano R R Caro sec. XX1111 Mr Christopher Yendall chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve.

Oct 9 Mr John Northmore appointed to be Steward for the keeping of the Borough Courts during ye will and pleasure of the Mayor and Burgesses.

9 Aprill 1672 New ffeoffees chosen for the Borough lands by Mr Yendall then Mayor, viz. Mr Richard Shebbear, Mr Benjamin Gayer, Robert Rattenbury, junior, Ffrancis Squire, John Yendall, Ambrose Cuningham, William Seamor, James Yendall, John Shebbeare junior. Put in possession the 14th May 1673.

Oct. 1673 Ano R R XXV Car sec. Mr Benjamin Gayer chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve.

October 1674 Ano XXV1 R R Caro sec. Mr John Gayer chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve. This yeare the Town Hall was new plaunched and new playstered.

The 4 Oct. 1675 Ano XXV11 R R Caro sec Mr Robert Rattenbury chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve.

7 Sept. 1675 Mr John Northmore chosen and sworne an Assistant in the roome of William Pingstone, deceased.

4 Oct 1675 Mr Benjamin Gayer sworne Deputy Recorder.

17 Nov 1675 Sir Edward Wise, one of the Burgesses in Parliament dyed at Exon. (Exeter)

17 Jan 1676 William Seymour chosen and sworne as Assistant in the roome of Thomas Bird deceased.

2 May 1676 Sir William Courtenay admitted and sworne a ffreeman.

18 May 1676 Sir Ffrancis Drake, Sqr. Cobbery; Sqr. Giles Risdon; Sqr. Kellie; admitted and sworne ffreemen. Sqr. Basterd here the same time and recommended by my Lord Mohun; Sir Authur Harris; Sir William Courtney and those other gents. to be a ffit member to sit in Parliament as a Burgess for the Towne of Okehampton.

18 July 1676 Mr Symon Rattenbury admitted schoole master here upon the same termes Mr John Randall was, who left the schoole at Midsomer last 1676.

August 1676 The Chaple Tower all new pointed: which cost seaven pounds. The Church Tower likewise done.

29 Sept. 1676 Noe water to be seene at Ffitze well. (*Klondyke Corner*)

The 2 Octob. 1676 Ano XXV111 R R Caro Sec. Mr Richard Horrell chosen and sworne Mayor and Portreeve.

Oct 2 1676 Christopher Monke, Duke of Albemerle, with Sir Coplestone Bampfeild, Sir Thomas Putt, Sir Symon Leach, Colonel Samuell Rooles, Colonel Macknachtan, Colonel John Basset, John Poole Esq., Dennis Roole Esq. , John Tanner Esq., Jonathan Prideaux Esq. , Thomas Walker Esq., William Norcot Esq. Barrester at Lawe, James Walker Esq., Thomas Jansen Esq., Joseph Haws Esq., Benjamin Bampfeild with 8 gents more admitted and sworne ffreemen of this Towne and Borough.

Oct 5 1676 This day was fifty pounds sent to London for the Writ Quod damnum in reference to the ffayres and to keep out straungers etc. *Ad quod damnum is a writ which ought to be sued before the king grants certain liberties, as a fair, market, or such like, which may be prejudicial to others, and thereby it should be inquired whether it will be a prejudice to grant them, and to whom It will be prejudicial, and what prejudice will come thereby.*

Oct 9 1676 Christopher Monke, Duke of Albemerle sent from Exon, as his gift to the sufferers oOf the late fire, five pounds, which was accordingly distributed; and the Justices sent here ten pounds out of the County Stocke, which was distributed likewise. Peter Rice had £X, (£10) William Macey and others £V. (£5)

Nov 24 Henry Norleigh Esq. Bartholomew Gidley Esq., Gilbert Yard Esq. Robert Norleigh, gent. and 14 others sworne ffreemen.

Dec 14 1676 It was agreed and ordered with consent that ffifty pounds more be sent to London in reference to the new ffayres and to keep out straungers etc.

Feb 20th 1677 We had our new Charter brought home for the two ffayres and on March 9. 1677 being the second Tuesday in March was held and kept the first new ffayer etc. Mr Josias Calmady of Leward admitted a ffreeman.

Ffeb 21 1677 Henry Walter Esq., John Clatworthy Esq., Humphrey Bury Esq., admitted and sworne ffreemen ; there were several other gents, 20 or more, that were desirous to be ffreemen but were not admitted.

Thomas Norleigh Esq. elected Burgess in Parliament for this towne .

13 March 1677 Mr Robert Rattenbury , Justice of the Peace dyed here and Mr John Gayer chosen and sworne Justice in his roome.

14 June 1777 Mr John Northmore was payd his hundred pounds which was borrowed for to purchase the two new ffayres, and the deed was taken up and put in the Towne chest.

16 July 1677 Mr John Shebbeare, one of the principall Burgesses dyed here, which had been the fifth time Mayor had he been nominated, as was his right, this last election.

The First Octo.1677 Ano XXV111 R.R. Car sec Mr Richard Sherbbear chosen and sworne Mayor and the 3 Octo sworne Portreeve according to the auncient usage and custom.

1 Octo 1677 Mr Robert Rattenbury chosen and sworne a principall burgesse in the room of his father. Mr John Shebbeare chosen and sworne as Assistant.

Mr Ambrose Cuningham chosen and sworne a principall Burgesse in the roome of Mr Johnh Shebbeare , deceased.

Mr Sampson Newbury chosen and sworne an Assistant.

July 5 1678 Mr Richard Horrell, Justice of the Peace dyed here and Mr John Gayer chosen and sworne Justice in his roome at the Sessions July 9 1678.

July 20 1678 Mr John Shebbeare chosen and sworne a principall Burgesse in the roome of Mr Richard Horrell deceased.

Mr. John Newcombe chosen and sworne Assistant.

Sept. 5 1678 Mr John Northmore chosen Town Clarke during his abode here.

Mr Joseph Newbury chosen and sworne (21 Sept) as Assistant in the roome of William Seamour, lately deceased.

Six hundred yarde of carse paved this yeare £11:13:10 ½ d.

Seaven chosen in to the first and second company this yeare: which the like was never done since it was a Corporation.

The 30 Sept. Ano XXX R R Caro Sec. Mr Benjamin Gayer chosen and sworne Mayor. Mr Robert Rattenbury chosen and sworne deputy Recorder.

It was ever the custome, time out of minde, whenever the Mayor was chosen , that very day in the afternoon to viewe the Comons, etc. according to the by lawes and the auncient usage. But at this time it was omitted until the day following, occasioned by Mr Christopher Yendall, who affirmed that it was the opinion of the able Counsell that these words “ from the morrow of St Michael” did exclude all right to the Barton commons until the third day which was on the first October 1678, being the Tuesday and on that day in the morning before Sessions Mr Mayor with myself and the Company viewed the commons, being cast soe to be done the day before by most voyces. Although I was overborne I gave my vote myself for to keep up the old laudable custome which was always the Monday in the afternoon.

Richard Shebbeare

14 Ffeb 1678 Mr Richard Horrell chosen and sworne as Assistant in the roome of Samuel Jope, lately deceased.

18 Ffeb 1678 Richard Duke Esq. Sheriffe of Devon sent his warrant to the Mayor, Burgesses etc. for the electing two Burgesses to serve in Parliament.

24 Ffeb 1678 Sir Authur Harris of Heane Knt. And Josias Calmady, junior Esq. of Leward were by generall consent elected Burgesses and had their Indentures signed.

Sir Arthur Harris gave five pounds to Mr Mayor for the poore.

The 6 day of October 1679 . Ano. XXX1 Car sec. Mr John Shebbeare chosen and sworne Mayor.

7 Oct.1679 Mr Ambrose Cuningham being fined 5s. for his being absent at the election of the Mayor, refusing to pay it, was committed to prison and there continued untill Saturday following; and upon payment of the five shillings was discharged.

22 Aprill 1680 Mr Ambrose Cuningham, new elected Burgess, Cosen Sampson Newbery and John Newcombe new elected Assistants and Joseph Newbery turned out of the second company, because these 4 persons had not received the Sacrament before their admission election etc.

Thomas Uglow chosen and sworne an Assistant in the roome of Ffrancis Squire, deceased, and William Jordan chosen and sworne an Assistant in the roome of Joseph Newbery, outed etc.

The 4 Octo 1680. Ano XXX11 R R Caro sec. Mr Robert Rattenbury chosen and sworne Mayor. Mr Benj. Gayer chosen and sworne Deputy Recorder.

25 Ffeb 1680 By virtue of a warrant from Henry Northley of pamouth (In 1682 he was created Earl of Plymouth) High Sherriff for this County of Devon, Sir Aurthur Harris, Baronet and Sir George Cary, Knight were by most voyces this day elected Burgesses to serve in the next parliament for this Towne and Borough of Okehampton.

8 June 1681 Sir George Cary sworne Recorder in the roome of Sir Aurthur Harris, lately displaced by most voyces of the 1 and 2 Company. And an Adresse subscribed by 230 townesmen sent to his Majesty by Sir George Cary in returne of thanks to his Majesty for his gracious Declaration.

The 3 of October 1681 Ano XXX111 R R Caro sec Mr Christopher Yendall chosen and sworne Mayor.

Sept 11 1682 Richard Perriman sworne an Assistant in the roome of his father, lately deceased.

Sept. 1682 An Abhorrence of the Association proved to be found in the Lord Shaftesbury's closet was subscribed by nigh two hundred persons, inhabitants of this Towne and Borough and delivered to his Majesty.

2.12. 1682 Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1st Earl of Shaftesbury fled to Amsterdam following the failure of his plots to prevent a Catholic succession should King Charles 11 die.

2nd October 1682 Ano XXX1111 Caro. Rex sec. Mr Ambrose Cuningham chosen and sworne Mayor.

31 Oct 1682 It was ordered that the Charter be surrendered into the hands of his Majesty.

May 22 1683 Mr Mayor delivered a deed under the Common Seale of the resignation of the Charter unto Sir George Cary. Knt. To be conveyed to his Majesty.

The first day of October 1683. Ano XXXV Car. Sec. R. Mr Richard Shebbear chosen Mayor.

3 Dec 1683 Mr Thomas Squire chosen as Assistant in the roome of John Newcombe, dismissed for his absence to London etc.

3.Sept. 1684 Our new Charter was brought home accompanied with Sir George Cary, our Recorder, Sir Amos Pollard, Justice Gidley, Squire Burgoine and divers other gentlemen with the Magistrates and townsmen to the number of nigh 200 horse, 4 drummers, two trumpeters and three weight players, bells ringing etc. The Charter was met beyond Zeale by the gents and Magistrates etc. And as soon as wee came into the Towne the company immediately went to the Towne Hall where I was now sworne Mayor of the Towne, Borough and Parish of Okehampton by Justice Gidley, Squire Burgoine and John Northley.

The 3rd Day of September 1684 Ano. XXXVI Caro Sec. R. Richard Shebbear sworne Mayor of the Towne, Borough and Parish by of Okehampton as by the new Charter. Sir George Cary Knt. Sir Amos Pollard. Bartholomew Gidley Esq.

John Cutcliffe Esq. Roger Deane Esq.. Henry Shepherd, John Northley, junior, Philip Butler, Thomas Riden, John Kelly, Edward Tucker, John Atkins, John Nicholas, John Munjoy, Thomas Cleverdon, William Way, Benjamin Cocker, Richard Dunning, Nicholas Kelly, and Walter Joller sworne freemen.

The 6 Octo. 1684. Ano XXXVI Caro Sec Rex. Mr. Benjamin Gayer chosen and sworne Mayor.
Oct. 10 Mr Richard Shebbeare sworne a freeman and one of the principal burgesses

Jan 13 1685 Leonard Crossman and John Cadding, in open Sessions, sworne Constables of the parish.

Jan 19 William Cary Esq. Brother and heir to Sir George Cary, was by 10 votes, chosen Recorder of this Corporation. 6 of the 2 company ungrateful dissented.

King Charles dyed on Friday Ffeb 6 1685 about 11 of the clock.

Ffeb 6 News was brought of his Majesties recovery out of his Apoplectic fit. Death of King later confirmed. Mr. Thomas Carter, one of the principally burgesses was buried the same day.

Ffeb 10 Wm. Cary was sworne a freeman and Recorder of this Towne, Borough and Parish. Richard Shebbeare sworne deputy Recorder the same day.

Ffeb 11 1684 Mr. Sampson Newbury chosen a principal Burgess in the roome of Mr Thomas Carter deceased. John Ellacott chosen an Assistant.

Ffeb 18 1685 Mr. Sampson Newbury sworne a principall Burgess in the roome of Mr Thomas Carter deceased. John Ellacott sworne a freeman and Assistant in the roome of Mr Sampson Newbury. John Woolacombe sworne a Freeman.

Ffeb 21 1685. King James the second proclaimed King of England. Etc.

March 18 Sir Simon Leach and William Cary Esq. elected Burgesses for Parliament.
The 5 day of Octo. 1685. Ano 1 Rex Jacob secundus.
Mr. John Gayer chosen and sworne Mayor of Okehampton Towne and Borough and Parish.

Dec. 1685 Mr John Hussey ffelled an Ash tree growing in the church yard of nine foot round the stock and of 30 foot in length, all of excellent sound and good board stocke: adjoyneing stands an Oke of nine foote round the body of the eade, being of like bigness to the ashe. And planted 50 young elme trees in the Church yard.

This winter, wheat was sold for 2s:6d (2 shillings 6 pence, 12.5p) good rye for 17d (17 pennies or 1s 5d, or 14p) for the bushel, Barley for 18d (18 pennies, 1s 6d or 7 1/2p) and oates for 6d (2 1/2p)for the bushel.

The fowerth day of October 1686 Ano 2 James 11. Mr Robert Rattenbury chosen and sworne Mayor.

28 Sept. 1687 Mr Thomas Squire chosen and sworne a Principall Burgess in the roome of Cosen Sampson Newbury, dismissed. Joseph Jope chosen and sworne a ffreeman and Assistant the same day

The 3 Octob. 1687 Ano 3 Jacobus Rex2. Mr John Shebbear chosen and sworne Mayor.

Jan 6 1688 Mr George Burgoine and Mr William Nosse, Roman Catholicks, came here to know whether the Magistrates of this Corporation were willing to have the penal laws and tests taken off : who all answered except one, they were not willing.

The 1 October 1688 Ano 4 Jacobus secundus. Mr Christopher Yendall chosen and sworne Mayor.

30 Oct. 1688 The King's Proclamation for confirmation of the old Charter was published; that is for putting this Corporation the same condition we were in at the surrender of the old Charter.

11 Jan 1689 By virtue of a circular letter directed to the Mayor from His Highness, the Prince of Orange, William Cary of Clovelly Esq. and Henry Northleigh of Pamouth (Plymouth) Esq. were this day elected to sitt in the Convention held 22 January next, for the Towne and Borough. (*The English Convention (1689) was an assembly of the Parliament of England which transferred the crowns of England, Scotland and Ireland from James II to William III and Mary II.*)

13 Ffeby 1689 King William proclaimed King.
Oct 1689 first Guli Rex (*First year of the reign of King William 3rd*)
Mr Thomas Squire chosen and sworne Mayor

King William crowned 11 April 1689

1690 Ano sec Guli Rex Mr John Gayer chosen and sworne Mayor

1691 Ano tertio Guli Rex Mr Nicholas Pope chosen and sworne Mayor

1692 Ano 4 KW3 Mr Thomas Uglow chosen and sworne Mayor

Ano 5 KW3 1693 Mr John Ellacott chosen and sworne Mayor

Ffeby John Burrington Esq. elected a Burgesse on Parliament in the roome of Henry Norleigh Esq. deceased.

The first Oct. 1694 Ano 6 KW3 Mr Benjamin Gayer chosen and sworne Mayor. Mr John Shebbear deputy Recorder.

28 Dec 1694 Queen Mary died at Kensington

26 Sep. 1695 William Newbery chosen an Assistant in the roome of Aurthur Crossman, deceased.

28 Sep 1695 Mr Thomas Cuningham chosen a principall Burgesse in the roome of John Yendall deceased. James Yendall junior chosen an Assistant.

Nov 1 1695 John Burrington Esq. and Thomas Northmore Gent. chosen and sworne Burgesses in Parliament for this Towne and Borough. Mr Cary, by occasion that some went from their worde, put by etc. (Despite promising, some electors failed to vote for Mr Cary) This was done in the Mayoraltie of Mr John Shebbeare and should have been inserted there.

The 30 Sept. 1695 Ano 7 of KW3 Mr John Shebbeare chosen and sworne Mayor. Mr Nicholas Pope chosen deputy Recorder.

The Comons viewed this day according to the auncient usage and custome.

Ffeb 1695 Mr Carter came and admitted to teach schoole and to read prayers , and the schoole new plaunched, (plastered) new decks made and a new starecase put.

March 13 and 14 1695 Mr Carter, upon request of the Corporation and Townspeople had the Bishop's Lycense to preach here at the chaple, a lecture sermon every Wednesday and about £20 a yeare colected from the inhabitants for his paines.

May 1 1696 Mr John Gayer, one of the principall Burgesses departed this life
Mr William Newbery chosen a principall Burgesse in the roome of Mr John Gayer deceased.
Richard Edwards chosen as Assistant

3 Octo. 1696 Ano 8 of KW3 Mr William Newbery chosen and sworne Mayor.

13 Sept. 1697 Here was a rejoyceing day kept, upon the coming of the Good News that the King had concluded a peace with Fraunce etc.

The 4 Octo 1697 Ano 9 of KW3 Mr Christopher Yendall chosen and sworne Mayor.

July 28 1698 By vertue of a warrant from Sir William Davey, High Sheriffe of the County of Devon directed to Mr. Mayor, Mr Harris of Hayne and Thomas Northmore were this day, by most voyces, elected Burgesses to serve in parliament for this Towne and Borough. Mr Burrington being putt by, as Mr Cary was, by unworthy men that went from there worde and promises, even under there hands.

The 3 Day of Oct 1698 . Ano 10 KW3 Mr Thomas Cuningham chosen and sworne Mayor.
Mr James Yendall chosen principall Burgesse in the roome of Mr Wm. Newbery deceased the 23 Sept. 1699

Mr Hy (Henry) Seamore, Sept 23 1699 chosen an Assistant in the roome of Mr James Yendall.
Mr Nicholas Pope, in the 10 yeare of KW3 chosen and sworne Mayor.
Mr John Shebbeare deputy Recorder.

Here ends this diary of Richard Shebbeare. In 1691 he had been 'called elsewhere to live'. He died in in 1699.