



ON February 9, between 11am and 5.30pm, three concrete garden ornaments were stolen from an address near Berryball Close, Okehampton.

These ornaments are very distinguishable — two of the ornaments are described as Imps with pointed ears. The other ornament is described as a dog with hands. These weigh approx 10kg each. Police are asking anyone with information relating to this incident call 101 quoting crime number JO/14/113.

● There have been a few

incidents recently around Okehampton in relation to garden ornaments and tools being stolen from sheds and close by to properties so police would like to remind residents to keep their sheds and outbuildings secured, make sure outside lights are working and any CCTV is in working order. If you wish to report any suspicious activity please call 101 giving as much detail as possible.

● Due to the recent weather conditions Okehampton Police are urging drivers to give

themselves extra travelling time as some of the roads have had minor flooding, trees and power cables down. Drive according to the weather conditions and reduce your speed, especially when towing trailers, horseboxes or travelling on roads that are more open such as on the A30 where high winds can catch the sides of vehicles.

● Currently Devon and Cornwall Police are working on an enforcement theme for policing the roads during February, which is 'Driving Standards'. Officers are

encouraged to engage in enforcement activity around this particular theme throughout February to actively make a contribution to reducing harm in our communities.

Officers will be looking at drivers whose driving is not up to the standard expected of a competent full licence holder. This could include impatience, undertaking, tailgating and any other situation where a driver, rider or pedestrian may be inconvenienced or placed at

risk by the behaviour of another road user.

Drivers who commit more serious offences will be prosecuted for bad driving offences but the majority are more likely to be dealt with by means of verbal warning or other diversion as appropriate when other offences are disclosed.

Please call 101 if you witness driving which you consider fits this criteria as police want to educate drivers and reduce the amount of potential accidents on the

roads.
● In emergencies, when life is threatened or when a criminal is still in the area, call the police by dialling 999 or 112.

● Crimes and incidents of a less urgent nature should be reported through the central enquiry desk on 101.

● Crimestoppers Freephone 0800 555111. People passing information are guaranteed complete confidentiality.

● West Devon Victim Support Scheme can be contacted on 01626 357586.

Farming appeal gathers momentum

by Tom French
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A COMMUNITY farm in Chagford has already raised more than a quarter of its fundraising total in just over a week, to help expand the enterprise.

Sylvan and Davon Friend of Chagfarm have launched an eight week crowdfunding campaign seeking to raise £15,000 for more farming equipment and facilities to expand the goats' milk dairy and ensure the continued resilience of the food supply.

In little over a week, the campaign has already raised over £3,600. If they successfully raise £15,000, they will be able to build a milking parlour for the goats, construct a

cheese cave to enable production of Chagfarm's own uniquely flavoured cheese, carry out essential repair work on the farm roofs, and invest in solar panels which will provide electricity to the farm, which is currently without mains electricity.

Sylvan Friend, founder of Chagfarm, said: 'We're really excited about our Crowdfunder campaign and hope that our exclusive foodie-based rewards and farming experiences will tempt people beyond our local community to support a low-impact, high-welfare food production.'

'We've got a tough second year ahead of us and the £15,000, if reached, will certainly help us to expand and

continue to demonstrate that fantastic local food for local people is both affordable and sustainable.

'We believe that the way we produce and consume food needs to drastically change for the better and if we can reach out to other like-minded people via Crowdfunder, then we're one step closer to self-sufficiency.'

'We've already had lots of amazing support in the first week and a half but really need your help to get on target.'

'It doesn't achieve our target of £15,000 by March 28 we won't be getting a penny of the money pledged so far.'

Chagfarm aims to make the local community's food supply more resilient by working closely with

Chagfood, another local food enterprise, and complementing their existing vegetable subscription offer.

Chagfarm does this by offering local goat dairy products and honey, as well as high-welfare goat meat, pork, woodland poultry, lamb, beef, venison and game.

After successfully achieving its first year targets of turning over £12,000, the team are now on a mission to show their business model is financially viable by recruiting an additional 25 members by April.

To find out more about the scheme, visit www.chagfarm.org



● Christine Phillips of Helpful Holidays is pictured presenting a cheque to Isabel Brooks, leader of 1st Drewsteignton and Chagford Cubs.

Spotlight on legal highs

THE leader of Torridge District Council has written to the Prime Minister urging him to consider new legislation giving local authorities powers to ban 'legal highs'.

The letter by Cllr Phillip Collins has the support of all Torridge District Council members after it was discussed at the last full council

meeting.

Cllr Collins said: 'In the interests of public safety, as well as the growing concerns locally and nationally, it is our public duty and corporate desire to do something about the unacceptable sale of so called legal highs.'

Letters have also been sent to health secretary John Hunt MP, and Tony Hogg, police and crime commissioner for Devon and Cornwall.

Cllr Collins said: 'We call for legislation to be urgently issued to allow local councils to enforce the banning of such products which we believe have contributed to a number of deaths, cause mental and physical side effects, and hold risks inherent in taking any unregulated or properly tested substance.'

'Council officers will actively promote public awareness of the dangers

related to these products and we urge the Government to act now on this important issue.'

Cllr Michael Footitt has also been calling for action since highlighting similar issues last year.

He said: 'Drugs intended for human consumption must be regulated by the Medicines Act, and therefore undergo rigorous testing to determine how they can be used safely.'

'Legal highs fall outside of such regulations and so no one can be really sure if they could cause harm when consumed.'

Allowing sellers to hide behind loose disclaimers should be no defence when a substance is clearly sold for its psychoactive properties. People as young as 13 can buy these in shops or off the internet, and I am very concerned for local youngsters.'

Coffee for mayor's charities

THE mayor of West Devon's charities for his year in office are to be supported at a coffee morning in Okehampton this weekend.

The event is being held to support the charities chosen by Cllr Bill Cann as his mayoral charities, the Okehampton group of Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research, and Hospiscare North Dartmoor Group.

There will be stalls of cakes, jewellery, bric-a-brac, Forever Living aloe products, and a tombola. Cllr Cann and mayoress Christine Cann will be informally attending the coffee morning, and look forward to seeing as many visitors as possible.

The coffee morning runs on Saturday, February 22 from 9.30am to noon in All Saints Church Hall, with free admission.

A helpful boost to the cub pack

A £250 donation from a Chagford holiday firm has provided the 1st Drewsteignton and Chagford Cubs with equipment to help them impress at the next Mid Devon District Cub Camp.

Following the donation, the Cubs have invested in ground sheets which will help them display their kit for

inspection.

Presenting the cheque, Christine Phillips of Helpful Holidays said: 'The Cubs are an important part of our community and we're delighted to be able to help them out.'

Isabel Brook, the Cubs' 'Akela', said: 'These ground sheets are a great asset for us.'

'It was a challenge for the

Cubs to present their kit to a high standard at the last camp when the ground was wet and we're grateful to Helpful Holidays for their support.'

1st Drewsteignton and Chagford Cubs meet on a Thursday evening in Chagford and welcome boys and girls aged eight to ten.

Contact Isabel Brook on 01363 82711 for more information.

Spring flower show and competition

RHS ROSEMOOR near Torrington will be bursting with blooms this March when it hosts its first Royal Horticultural Society Spring Flower Show and competition.

The inaugural show on March 15 and 16 focuses on camellias, including the RHS early camellia competition, early magnolias and rhododendrons as well as classes for ornamental shrubs and the RHS Rosemoor daffodil competition.

Visitors can view the exquisite displays of top quality blooms from

competitors from all over the South West.

Trade and advice stands in the show plus a range of early spring shrubs and flowering plants are available to buy in the plant centre. The competitions in the show are entirely free to enter

and open to anyone who wishes to exhibit. Entry forms are available from georginabarber@rhs.org.uk

There will be plenty of opportunities to enjoy the spring colour in the garden with displays of early rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and magnolias, as well as swathes of daffodils and other spring plants.

To visit the show and competition, normal garden admission rates to RHS Garden Rosemoor apply. Entry is free for RHS members and show exhibitors.

Entry to the RHS Rosemoor shop, plant centre and the Garden Kitchen restaurant is free all year.

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