July 2018

This year is 100 years since the suffragettes won votes for woman. Then it was votes for woman over thirty, thanks to them starting the movement woman today can take part in all areas of democracy. At Devon County Council we again have a female Chairman Cllr Caroline Chugg and we have councillors in the Cabinet in both DCC and MDDC that are ladies. Nationally we have a lady Prime Minister and it is great that woman are now recognised on an equal basis.

Locally MDDC are having a tree planting ceremony in Peoples' Park in Tiverton on 6th July in celebration. There are other events all over the County and the Country.

From a Devon History Society map it has been possible to identify at least 4 women who were active in the Mid Devon area in the fight for women to gain the vote.

They were:

- Olive Hepburn from Bradninch
- Bertha Lake from Tiverton
- Ada Jefford also from Tiverton: and
- Amy Montague from Crediton.

Information only exists about Amy Montague. She was born in 1864 was the daughter of a retired army officer, was married to an army officer and sadly both of her sons were killed in action in the first world war. Their names can be seen on the Crediton War Memorial today. She lived at Penton House, in Old Tiverton Road, Crediton. Amy was secretary to the Exeter branch of the Women's Social and Political Union from its foundation in 1907.

Fairer funding

Cllr James McInnes Cabinet Member for Children's services at DCC had a meeting in London with Damien Hinds MP, Secretary of state for Education.

DCC is part of the F40's group of Authorities who are arguing for fairer funding for our schools, there is a real concern about the national funding formula. For the **Schools Block** that is passed direct to schools, we want to see one National Funding Formula (NFF).

For the **high needs block** which includes Special Educational Needs and Disabilities(SEND) it needs to take into account the increasing demands of the higher needs as medical improvements take place.

We need a review of the **early years** national formula to make it fit for future use with fair funding for early years providers to take account of the pressures of the living wage and the impact of the 30 hours provision.