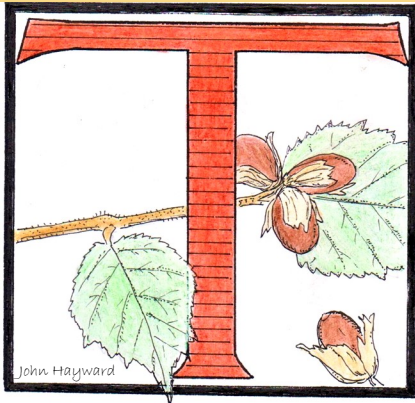




TIPTON TIMES

311
October
& November
2022

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FUNDRAISING
COFFEE
MORNING

MURDER??
IN TIPTON??

QUIZ
NIGHTS
RESUME

BACK TO THE
60's,70's
AND 80's

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*Devon Air Ambulance off to Derriford
courtesy of Phil Wright*

We welcome letters and contributions but reserve the right to edit and amend such offerings.
Views expressed within each article are the author's own.

Editorial

Welcome to the October/November edition of Tipton Times.

The summer we have just had will be memorable in so many ways. We may be talking in years to come about the hot dry summer of '22, as some of us recall 1976. Or perhaps not, as Ken Mylne suggests in his weather report on page 25 that such extreme climate events may not be so rare in future.

Tipton Times exists to capture and record our observations and impressions of the world around us and we are grateful to all those who record and submit their observations, whether they're local and familiar, such as Nature Notes or they provide an insight into the wider world, as does Elizabeth Cozens' account of the Queen's funeral.

We also find ourselves looking back into our recent past with Judith Taylor's account of the purchase and development of the Playing Field 55 years ago - a far-sighted initiative from which we all benefit so many years later.

Once again we find ourselves recording the loss of village friends who have been so much part of our community. We extend our condolences to the families of Barbara Burgess, Martin Dace and Marie Fraser as well as Val Ranger, from Harpford, who was so active locally as a councillor and who has recently died following a long illness.

The autumn is always active in Tipton and there is much in these pages about what lies ahead, including a new TIPPS production and the return of the monthly quiz nights.

Finally a quick word about our cover - the arrival of the air ambulance is always dramatic but also a reminder that it offers a priceless service. Do come along to the coffee morning on 12th November if you'd like to offer practical support to a great cause.

The Editors

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Elizabeth's experience of the State funeral

I was six years old when my mother took me to London to see the last state funeral, that of Winston Churchill. She told me, "He was a very great man I want you to see this so that you will never forget him". I can still remember that some of the guardsmen lining the route (in those days facing the procession and not the crowd) were crying. Also, I clearly remember being rather disappointed that there were no horses pulling the gun carriage, only lots of sailors!

Therefore, I really wanted to be in London for the state funeral of our beloved Queen Elizabeth. I stayed with our daughter Alice in

Cambridge and, up early, we took the 5am train into central London. Several tube stations were closed and you could only enter the designated viewing points at specific entry points. We emerged from Green Park tube station about 6.15am with many others to be met by many marshalls who herded us politely to Constitution Way where there was already one row of people lining the railings. We settled on a spot in front of a large plane tree since we had folding stools to stand on so we would not be blocking the view of anyone behind us. We had a pleasant few hours chatting to those around us and we all started clapping whenever the police or military marched past us towards the Wellington Arch. We could see the corner of Buckingham Palace on our left with the Victoria monument glinting in the sun. The palace garden wall was opposite us and the only people on that side of the road were cameramen and some of the palace staff. The lady standing on our left worked for the royal parks. To our surprise she told us that the red geraniums around the Victoria monument were inspected by the Queen every year before they were planted out. The colour had to be the exact red of the tunics of the guardsmen and this year they were rejected so the parks department had to grow a different batch. Then, because of the Platinum Jubilee staging around the monument, they needed to flower much later than usual so the buds were pulled off to slow them down ensuring flowering at the right time after the staging was removed!

As the time of the service approached, we could see the cars leaving the palace in the distance and hear the cheers coming from the Mall. People tried to follow proceedings on their mobile phones but reception was poor so we were all very surprised and pleased when the service came over the loudspeakers really clearly. We were able to join in with the hymns and prayers and everyone sang the national anthem. The most moving part of the service was the two minutes silence. By then the crowd was up to twenty people deep and yet you could have heard a pin drop for those two minutes - it was absolutely silent and respectful.

There was then quite a bit of manoeuvring as we tried to get children and shorter people to the front of the crowd so that they could see. I kept thinking that someone must have done that for me aged six because I was right at the front then. In the end we had four children in front of us with their parents making thumbs up signs to us from further back in the crowd.

When the funeral procession eventually reached us with the mournful, steady drum beat, the crowd were silent again as we watched the sailors pull Her Majesty's coffin on the gun carriage with the surprisingly colourful wreath of flowers and the imperial crown, orb and sceptre shining and sparkling. The royal family were so composed and dignified and little Princess Charlotte waved from her car. The perfectly drilled marchers all walked to the same mournful drum beat with brass instruments and drums shrouded in black cloth. Even the horses were perfectly behaved, walking slowly and calmly.

Once the last of the marchers had past us people began to disperse but we did not want to be jostled in a crowded tube station, so we sat down to enjoy the cream tea which Alice had brought. We noticed an older lady leaning against our tree looking very tired and invited her to join us, explaining that we were from Devon and had a tradition of scones, clotted cream and jam! It turned out that she was from Australia and had booked a plane ticket a week ago to come on her own to the funeral procession! Unfortunately, due to the station closures she did not arrive in time and so had been stuck at the back unable to see anything. She was so stoic, saying she was glad just to be here. We felt so bad for her but then we heard marching bands again, a slightly more upbeat tune this time and were delighted to see that the whole procession, except for the royal family, was returning along the road and at last Ruth was able to see clearly and photograph the whole thing - except, of course, the gun carriage was then empty. She hugged us afterwards and said she would always remember that cream tea!

So it was well worth the effort and the early start to be able to pay our respects to our late Queen Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Cozens

Tipton Fete

Following the sad loss and State Funeral of our dear Queen, the accession of King Charles III, the appointment of Liz Truss as our new Prime Minister and the onset of autumn, it seems an age since we were enjoying our village fete on the school field on a sunny August Bank Holiday Monday.

In its way, however, I am pleased to report that our 2022 fete was also a memorable event as we again set new records, both for the numbers attending (over 550 paying adults and a good number of children) and for the amount raised for our Church, for its work in the parish and the charities it supports (just over £4,700). I am extremely grateful to all who contributed, attended and worked so hard to make this possible.

Music was again kindly provided by local Tipton group Wonky Buzzard, comprising Vanda (vocals and keyboard), Chris (vocals, guitar and harmonica) and Martha (percussion), whose well chosen selection of popular music was enjoyed by all and added hugely to the happy and relaxed atmosphere of the day.

As well as all the usual stalls, including cakes and produce (completely sold out), books, bric-a-brac, the bottle stall (super prizes and also sold out), jigsaws, games and toys, plants, crafts, jewellery and a great display of handmade goods from the Men's Shed, newcomers this year were local environmental group Eager Beavers, who put on a very interesting display and gave me a strict talking-to on the need to pull up Himalayan Balsam when walking my dog by the river, which I have dutifully followed. Indeed, it would have taken a braver man than me to argue with their mascot, a 6 foot 5 inch beaver, whose presence delighted many of our younger visitors but may sadly have left others in need of long term therapy ... !

Brisk work was done by our usual stalwarts - June and Sue on the gate, Janet and her team on teas and Paul and the boys on the barbecue. Delicious cakes and cream teas, burgers, veggie burgers and sausages were in great demand, and it was great that, once again, people new to the Fete stepped (or were encouraged) forward to lend their help where needed. I was particularly grateful to those who took over the running of stalls - Chiara and her girls on games and toys, Rodney and Barbara (dragged from their relatively peaceful parking duties to the mayhem of the bookstall), Claire, who improvised brilliantly on children's games and, perhaps most of all, Brian and Lyn, who stepped in at the last moment to run bric-a-brac, Mark and Tina having done most of the hard work sorting and pricing. The fete sails on like a serene swan, with the public blissfully unaware of the frantic paddling going on below the waterline ... !

A big thank you is again due to Sundial Care Home for their kind support, including the prize for the Terry's gin raffle and the invaluable use of their grounds for parking, and to all who contributed prizes, including Baters Removals, The Golden Lion, Tipton Garage, Joshuas, Cold Harbour Farm, Otter Garden Centre, Sargent & Sons, Ottery Office & Computers, Four Elms Fruit Farm and many others.

Although we again cut back on children's games this year out of 'Covid caution', I hope to include more games next year, although our younger visitors did enjoy playing Claire's games, guessing the number of sweets in a jar (and then eating them!) and guessing the name of the teddy (who turned out to be called Andy and is now happily settled in his new home in Fluxton).

We are always pleased to welcome local charities, clubs and organisations to the Fete, and if you would like to get involved or have any good ideas for new games, stalls or attractions for next year, do get in touch.

Thanks again to everyone who came, as well as to all those who donated goods, baked cakes, made jam, grew plants, fruit and vegetables, served teas, cooked burgers, worked on stalls, parked cars, put up and took down signs and tents, fetched, carried and did all the other things which together make for a successful village fete. I trust you all enjoyed yourselves and hope to see you here again next year.

Mike Smith, Fete Chairman.



Mark Ward opening the 2022 Tipton Fete



Nature Notes

Well, that was a glorious summer, and now it appears to all be over. The rain has set in, followed by some cooler weather heralding the start of autumn. We can now stop complaining about the heat and start complaining about the cold and the wet instead. It's the British thing to do! Seriously, though, we are very fortunate to have the seasons that we have. It allows us to have an ever-changing environment, with always something new to look out for. This time of year definitely ranks highly with me!

With all the dry weather, it's been an odd one for garden and hedgerow produce. While the runner beans have suffered in the dry weather by producing shorter pods than usual, the blackberries have been large, juicy and numerous. My penchant for blackberry and apple crumble, as well as getting torn to shreds collecting them, has been more than satiated. Good for the soul, if not the waistline!



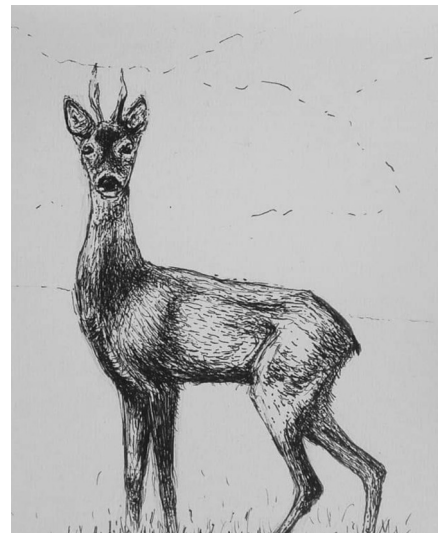
There have been a fair few wasps around this year ... don't I know it, I've been stung twice! Talking of wasps, October will be the time when our common or German wasps start to get drowsy and disappear. Hooray, I hear you cry, but it always seems to me that these creatures have a bad reputation and get a bit of a raw deal. In reality they are great pollinators and also prey on a lot of insects that might be detrimental to our gardening endeavours. Not so long ago, I was knocking the caterpillars off the leaves of our kohlrabi. As soon as I knocked a couple off, I had a wasp descend and attack it, followed by another and another. It was a fair old tussle, but a rather one-sided one as the wasps had arrived pre-armed! The insects that they catch are taken back to the nest to feed the larvae. I have since had a temporary truce with them.



The last of the swallows will have left by the time you read this, making their journeys back to the African continent once more. It will then be time to watch out for winter migrants making their way to our shores. Also the more familiar species of birds, large and small, will be making their way back to our gardens in search of sustenance for the months ahead. House sparrows have started to make an appearance here, arriving in their bustling little groups. Robins are also making their presence known, showing off their brand new red waistcoats and strutting their stuff!

If you've spotted any deer on your travels, it's more than likely to be roe deer. The summer coat of the roe deer is smooth and red-brown in colour; the winter coat is longer and greyish in colour. The roe deer rutting season usually runs from mid-July to mid-August. The males chase the females for a long time before mating occurs. Mating usually occurs in August but the fertilised egg does not start to develop until late December or early January because of delayed implantation. Roe deer are the only hoofed animals to have this ability.

The beautiful colour change of the leaves on the trees always brings a special touch to this time of year. While horse chestnut leaves have long since taken on their seasonal hues and quickly look shabby, but also create a wonderful bronze spectacle in the bright autumn sunshine, the oak waits until November to put on its best autumn show of colour, having only made a tentative start in October. The acorns rain down this month, often relying on jays and grey squirrels to disperse them. There are two main types of British oak - the sessile and the pedunculate oak. In the former, the acorns are borne in cups, with almost no stalk attaching them to the stem. In the latter, however, the acorn cups are attached with shared long stalks. The sessile oak is the more likely of the two to be found in the uplands of the west and the north. Other species, such as the holm oak (also known as the evergreen oak), are foreign imports, but are quite widespread.



That's it ... 'til next time !

Tipton St John Playing Field

The summer months have, as usual, seen a great deal of activity on the playing field. Apart from the programmed cricket and tennis fixtures the notable events have been:

The annual 10K Rail and River Run, which again was a huge success, raising over £3000 for the playing field. Apart from attracting over 200 adult participants, it was great to see the return of the Jackie Box fun run. May thanks to everyone who gave their time to support, sponsor and organise the event, in particular Gemma Wiltshire and Mo Mylne.

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, which involved so much co-ordination and liaison across the village, resulted in a memorable series of community events. The planting of a flowering cherry tree at the entrance to the field and the siting of the beacon will be fitting permanent memorials to the Jubilee and, of course, to the late Queen.

The Community Garden has gone from strength to strength, attracting a lot of support from volunteers, and beginning to form a social focus in what has been a neglected area of the field.

The grounds maintenance contract with ARCCS has continued to be successful. We have appreciated the company's flexibility in not visiting while the grass has not been growing. The 'missed' visits will be transferred to the autumn, when the grass is still growing. Thanks to Will for his liaison with ARCCS. A quotation to **reline the car park** has been obtained, and the work should be carried out during the autumn. It is disappointing that our initial bid to the National Lottery Communities Fund for the **pavilion renewal** has not been successful. We will continue to explore all possible funding avenues, beginning with the National Lottery Awards for All fund which should help us towards our first goal of producing a feasibility study. We are currently in the process of consulting potential architects for the project.

Annual Envelope Collection

In this edition of Tipton Times you will find a donation envelope to support the maintenance and development of the playing field. The financial support of our community has been vital. Donations and rent from the sports clubs are our main source of income so we would be very grateful for anything you are able to give. We raised nearly £2000 through the collection last year and would love to at least match that figure. We are aware that fewer people carry cash around these days, so it is possible to donate via BACS. Collectors will have our bank details but if you wish to get your donation in promptly here they are: **Lloyds Bank - Tipton St John Playing Field Association, sort code 30-94-36, account no. 00866342.** Many thanks in advance for your support.

And finally ...

The **PFA AGM** will take place on **Monday November 7th** in the Community Hall at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome and we would encourage anyone interested in supporting the playing field to consider supporting us as a member of the committee. Do let me know if you are interested.

David Birch (Chairman) 01404 815402



We have received a report from the Primary School that a pupil was recently scratched by a dog during a PE lesson on the field. If you are a dog owner please keep your dogs under control when lessons or other activities are taking place.



Cricket on the field



Barbara Burgess (1924 - 2022) from her family

Barbara died on 23rd August 2022 aged 98. Born Barbara Jackson, she grew up in Manchester, where her father ran a printing business, though her mother's family lived in the Isle of Man. On the premature death of her mother, Barbara, then only 17, started keeping house for her father and brother. She recollected just recently that she had been keeping house ever since - for over 80 years!

After the war Barbara took on a job as a Medical Receptionist, a job she enjoyed and was pleased to resume after having a family. She commented that having missed

the opportunity to go into nursing this was, for her, the next best thing.

In 1942 she holidayed with two school friends in a remote Lake District cottage, Low Hollin, in Seathwaite in the Duddon Valley. This was quite a journey by rail from Manchester, concluding with a 7 mile walk over the fells to reach the cottage. Barbara and her friends often returned to the cottage, and were joined by Roy Burgess in 1949 for his first visit.

Roy and Barbara married in 1952 and moved to County Durham, so it was in the North-East that Stephen, Andrew and Christopher were born.

In 1965 Roy's work brought the family south to Shepperton, Middlesex, a particularly challenging transition for Barbara and the family. As the boys grew up Barbara introduced them to Crusaders, a Christian young people's group, and also encouraged them to have music lessons. Barbara was a very proficient pianist herself and in 1971 she obtained her LRAM diploma as a piano teacher. Her love of music endured, and both her grandchildren Libby and Jonny appreciated her support and encouragement of their musical activities over the years. Very recently Stephen was amazed when his mum sat at the piano and played Bach and Beethoven from memory.

In 1988 Roy and Barbara moved to Tipton, an area they knew as Barbara's Aunt and Uncle had lived in Sidmouth for many years. Little did they know though that in 1990 Chris and Andrew would move up to Cumbria, to run the Newfield Inn in Seathwaite. Despite having just moved to Devon, Barbara was very supportive of this new venture. Almost 50 years after her first visit to the Duddon valley, two of her sons had made it their permanent base. The Newfield hosted many a family party including a Ruby Wedding celebration in July 1992. It was all her sons could do to keep Mum out of the kitchen that day!

After moving to Devon, Barbara and Roy were at the heart of Tipton village life for many years. They worshipped together at St John's for as long as Roy's health allowed, and latterly Barbara hosted the midweek Communion service for those unable to venture up to the church. Her many roles at St John's included being a Churchwarden and a member of the choir, as well as supporting Mark and his predecessors Wenda and Avril. She was a keen advocate for Traidcraft Fair Trade products and started the monthly coffee mornings.

Barbara was of the generation who display their love through provision of food and enjoyed welcoming people to Dalegarth with home-baked cakes or for Lent lunches. Many family memories centre around hospitality and generous amounts of food, and she kept the freezer well stocked to the end, ready for visits from her sons. Barbara was so proud of her boys - and 'the boys' they always were, though they're now mostly in their 60s.

In Roy's later years his life became increasingly restricted by his deafness and increasing mobility problems, but Barbara faced the demands of looking after him with fortitude and determination. His death and her broken hip occurred just before Covid struck in early 2020, so Barbara spent some weeks in Hillside care home. However, she was impatient to get back to living independently, despite her age and growing health issues.

With confidence unusual for someone of her age, Barbara used the internet regularly, though family did need to provide remote backup on several occasions when her toolbars disappeared or her emails were upside down! Her online activities ranged from Waitrose orders to watching Libby's live-streamed Bach performances and the latest video clips of her great grandchildren. Barbara 'zoomed in' regularly to online church services which enabled her to stay in touch with the community.

Libby mentioned that she was impressed chatting to her grandma recently by the way she talked about the importance of looking after mental health. This was another marker of how Barbara had moved with the times.

The summer Tipton Times recorded the Platinum Jubilee day when, as the oldest resident in Tipton, Barbara was asked to plant the Jubilee memorial tree. For that brief moment she enjoyed the title of 'Queen of Tipton'.

Barbara really enjoyed visits from her great grandchildren and she and Stephen spent her last evening looking at photographs of Great Grandma with Clemmie and Sophia, taken when they visited just a few weeks earlier.

In recent years Barbara accepted help in the garden and at home, but she and Roy had been adamant they would avoid being dependent on their children. For this reason Barbara was determined to manage, and reluctant to admit to her family when she was struggling.

This summer would have been their 70th wedding anniversary and Roy's 100th birthday, and it seems that was enough. Mentally still as sharp as ever but in her 99th year, Barbara's body was weakening and she died after two falls during August. To all those wonderfully supportive friends and neighbours in Hayne Close and beyond, who were 'on the spot' and enabled Mum to carry on and live out her final days in the home she loved, the family offer special thanks.

Marie Fraser (1929- 2022)

We were sorry to hear of Marie's death on 21st August and are grateful to her husband, Ian, for the following.

Marie Fraser was born in Liverpool. After a mix-up registering her birth, she was given the name Mary but was always known as Marie. She, like her family, was a fervent supporter of Liverpool Football Club, with her father, brother and uncle.

She was a keen ballroom dancer and went to the Rialto every week. She met Ian when she was 26 and they were married in Swiss Cottage, London. They moved into their first house in St Albans where their son, Andrew, was born. They only had four years there when her husband was moved to Exeter, where they lived in Pinhoe, living very happily until Ian was made redundant. A friend suggested that computers might be worth considering, so once again they were on the move, this time to the well-known furniture company, G Plan, in High Wycombe - where they had fifteen happy years before moving again, this time to Tipton St John. During these moves, Marie was an assistant in her father's grocery shop, a manageress for the well-known café chain, Kardomah, an off-licence manageress for Fuller, Smith and Turner, a barmaid in the Golden Lion, an assistant in All Things Bright and Beautiful in Sidmouth - and a wife and mother.

She was a great walker. With Ian and a few friends she walked locally, down the river, on the coast path and on Dartmoor. She also enjoyed walking on holidays in the Lake District and in Cornwall.

8th September 2022

Today, I am transported
to a small hall
which smells of firewood
and floor polish.
For it was here we all
assembled, and learned to sing
'Morning has Broken',
'All Things Bright and Beautiful',
and 'God Save the King'.

At first, it seemed to this child
strange when those words changed.
But then for 70 years, we prayed
God Save our Queen.

Now the wheel has turned.
It's with a leaden heart
and, perhaps,
some trepidation
I will sing again the words
which few remember
but which once I learned:
'God save the King'.

Gill Dunstan



Harvest Donations 2022

The long hot days of summer are fast becoming a distant memory as the nights draw in. This year all of us will be thinking twice before turning the heating on. Even if we decide not to we'll probably be able to go to our wardrobe and find an extra layer of clothing to put on. But for some even that is a luxury that is beyond them. As we have for many years the church in Tipton and Venn Ottery, as part of its Harvest celebrations, is seeking to support those less fortunate by collecting food and other items on behalf of St Petrock's, the homeless centre in Exeter. Every year I seem to say that the need for their services is as great as ever; this year it may be even more so.

For those that don't know, St Petrock's is based in Cathedral Green and provides homelessness and housing services, which are the first port of call for those who are rough-sleeping or vulnerably housed, in and around Exeter. As well as providing good food, the survival and specialist services they provide include showers, clothing, laundry, phone/computer access, specialist housing referrals, help with benefits, mental health and wellbeing support, access to medical services and education support. They also have a mobile rough-sleeper team who go out into the city twice each week-day delivering hot meals and checking on the welfare of those they serve. Last year they helped over 1,000 individuals and in October 2021 they opened their own charity shop and hub in Paris Street.

To help us give what is needed most they have provided us with a Harvest Wishlist for 2022:

Packaged goods

Sugar – granulated/caster
Instant coffee
Hot chocolate
UHT/long-life milk
Fruit squash
Branston pickle
Individually wrapped biscuits (Kitkats eg)
Long-life packaged bakery items (croissants eg)
Cereal bars
Biscuits (sweet)

***We regret that we are unable to accept fresh produce or windfall apples**

Tinned items

Tinned vegetables
Tinned fruits
Rice pudding
Tinned custard
Tinned meats
Tinned fish
Tinned curries
Pasta sauce
Sweet and sour sauce
500ml bottled water

Misc

Takeaway trays and lids (no plastic or polystyrene)
Wooden cutlery

Cleaning items

Anti-bac hand soap (liquid)
Biological washing powder
Anti-bac cleaning spray
Washing up liquid
Washing up sponge/cloth
Rubber gloves
Bleach/toilet cleaner
Large wet wipes
Clothing conditioner

Toiletries

Disposable razors
Shaving foam
Mouthwash (small)

***We always need rucksacks and sleeping bags**

Other items they would appreciate for those who are sleeping rough are:

Rucksacks/backpacks	Sleeping bags	Trainers - Men's/women's, all sizes
Boxer shorts & ladies briefs (new items only please)		Men's and women's jogging bottoms (small)
Men's jeans (28"-34" waist)	Men's and women's hoodies	Men's t-shirts (small-medium)

If you would like to make a donation of goods or other items to St Petrock's you can do so as follows:

- items can be left in the donation box outside our front door at St Mary's, Hayne Close, Tipton
- items can be brought to any of our October services in Tipton Church or the Venn Ottery Harvest Service on 2nd October, or left in the box in Tipton Church which is open daily.

For more details of the Harvest Services at Tipton Church and Venn Ottery please see the Church Calendar elsewhere in this edition of Tipton Times.

Finally, if you aren't able to provide a physical donation there is an alternative way of helping via the St Petrock's [Amazon wishlist](#) where you can buy items that they have pre-selected as appropriate for their clients - for example back packs and sleeping bags for under £30 each or under-wear multi-packs for under £10. Or you can make a monetary donation at <https://stpetrocks.org.uk/give/>.

Thank you in advance for your generosity in supporting this worthy cause and helping us meet a very real need. I'll update you in the next edition of Tipton Times and on our church facebook page (facebook.com/tiptonstjohnchurch/).

Thought for the Times

As I write this in September, the ground is looking damp, and the grass is green. Back in August it was a very different scene. Any patch of bare soil was light grey in colour, and the grass was brown. You will remember that the news then was full of warnings of drought and hosepipe bans. On one of those dry days I was listening to the news on Radio 4. A reporter had been sent out to interview a farmer to hear how it was affecting him. The reporter had gone to a farm near Cirencester and heard about the lack of rain throughout the summer. The farmer's fields were dusty, and the crops were not growing. It was a serious situation and a reminder that this year has been tough for our farmers. But I was even more saddened by the way the reporter ended his piece. It struck me at the time and I wrote it down:



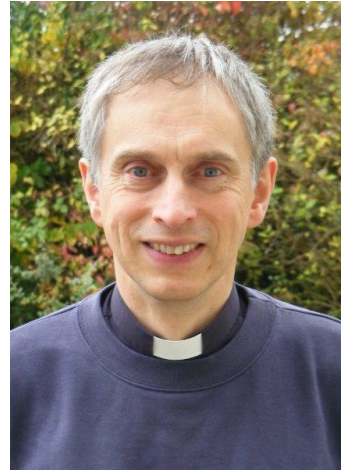
"There's only one thing farmers like David can do: hope for the best. It's all they've got left."

What a contrast, I thought, to earlier generations, whose response to a drought would have been to pray.

The Book of Common Prayer is now several centuries old, and its language feels very dated. But it is still the official liturgy of the Church of England because its theology is sound, and the prayers express the things that many of us would want to say to God. And there is a lot of common sense as well. The prayers are written for real life. One section is headed, 'Prayers and Thanksgivings, Upon Several Occasions,' and the very first one is 'For Rain'. It makes me smile that the second one is 'For fair Weather' when there has been too much rain! I guess if you've prayed the first prayer too much, you might need to pray the second in order to get the harvest in.

Our forebears knew, perhaps better than we do, that we are dependent on the crops that grow out of the ground. But whereas our reaction to a lack of rain is 'hope for the best', theirs was to pray. They did not

always get the weather they asked for - why some prayers are answered, sometimes remarkably so, and others seem not to be is a mystery - but there is something about prayer that goes beyond our personal requests. Prayer is a reminder that we are dependent. Those of us who do not work the land are dependent on those who do. But those who work the land, even those who are very good at it and have all the latest kit, are still dependent on God's creation. When we turn to God in prayer about the weather, it is a reminder that,



"We [the farmers] plough the fields and scatter the good seed on the land," yes, we can do our bit, but, "it is fed and watered by God's almighty hand."

At this time of year many churches celebrate a harvest festival. A harvest service is full of hope, but it is not a vague hope for the best, it is a confident hope in the God who is good.

It also gives us an opportunity to say 'thank you' to those who produce our food, and to pray for them and their work.

Mark

Rev Mark Ward 01404 814282
revmarkward@btinternet.com
www.facebook.com/revmarkward

Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st (92) Anne Sadler £30

2nd (28) Angie Dewhurst £20

3rd (31) Janet Schofield £15



Tennis Update

In the last edition we left readers on tenterhooks, not knowing the fate of both our men's teams, battling against relegation.

We're pleased to say that the B team managed to retain their berth in Division 5, finishing mid table and seven points clear of the drop zone, thanks to a battling end to the season and two crucial points secured at Dawlish on the last day of the season.

The A team however weren't so fortunate and will play next season in Division 3 after failing to stay up by just one solitary point.

Onwards and upwards as always and the Club are now preparing to play in various winter leagues, so anyone who fancies getting involved is encouraged to get in touch.

Steve Upsher, B Team captain

Many in Tipton will have been aware of the Air Ambulance landing on the playing field on a Tuesday evening in early August. One of our Ladies' team, Alison Stevens, had suffered a nasty fall on court during a match resulting in a serious head injury. Very fortunately there was a doctor playing in the opposition and another turned up shortly afterwards hoping to use the courts, so she was incredibly well cared for until the air ambulance arrived. We are also indebted to the cricket club who were forced to abandon their match to allow the helicopter to land.



I am delighted to say that Alison is making a fantastic recovery following wonderful treatment at Derriford Hospital, but we don't dare to think what could have happened if the Air Ambulance hadn't been on hand to get her there so quickly. Alison and her husband David are holding a coffee morning in the village hall on **Saturday 12th November** to raise funds for the Air Ambulance, and we hope that as many people as possible from the club and the village will go along and support this service. Alison's freak accident just shows how none of us know when we might unexpectedly need this fantastic service.

Ken Mylne

Coaching at Tipton

This has been my first season as acting part time lead coach at Tipton Tennis Club and I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. With the amazing weather over the summer, I have provided over 75 hours of group coaching benefitting 35 trainees of all ages, and over 69 hours of individual coaching with 12 trainees of all ages. I hope that they have enjoyed and benefitted from the experience and will return for more next year.

The autumn/winter programme starts at the beginning of November given my absence until then. This will be limited to three group sessions per week, primary school age children on Mondays, secondary age children on Wednesdays and adults on Sundays - details are in the court information box for those interested. In addition I will try to provide the one to one coaching as requested, all subject to the autumn and winter weather!

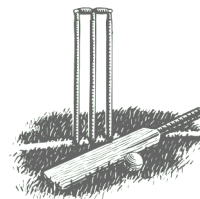
I am away from these shores for the period 18th September to 30th October on a Mark Warner coaching contract and hope that everyone continues their tennis play whilst I am absent.

Many thanks to everyone I have worked with or partnered in matches for the support and encouragement provided during 2022.

Ray Puttick
Level 3 LTA Coach

Cricket Club

In terms of results, this season has been one of our most successful ever. We won 26 and lost 10 out of our scheduled 47 fixtures, of which 9 were cancelled. Six of these were because the opposition was unable to raise a team and only two (in this extraordinarily dry summer) because of rain. Two matches were abandoned mid-game. Sadly, the problem of unfulfilled fixtures is a growing one, with a number of teams struggling to raise friendly sides and occasionally having to fold altogether.



On a more positive note, we have had some very memorable matches. Touring sides are always a delight to host and they are invariably appreciative of the surroundings we play in. So it was a pleasure to welcome back our friends The Full Monty, Kingswood, Vancouver Islanders and Ascott-under-Wychwood and to play notable nomadic club Incogniti for the first time. It's always great to renew our rivalry with local clubs, as well, and we enjoyed some closely fought battles with familiar sides.

Perhaps the most memorable occasion was our home match against Woodbury and Newton Cyres CC which was held (and will be annually) in memory of Dave O'Higgins, who was very much at the heart of the club as captain and then chairman.



The teams for the Dave O'Higgins memorial match

There were some outstanding performances with bat and ball and in the field this season and friendly competition to come out top in each area. As usual Phil Tolley led the batting performances with 1016 runs at an average of 63.5 per innings. He had more competition this season with John Buckland not far behind with 863 runs at 45.4. Phil Wright led the wicket takers with 50, closely followed by John Buckland (45) and David Birch (43). To cap an extraordinary all-round season,

John Buckland took 29 catches, with Matt Davies in close pursuit on 26.

There were some notable individual landmarks passed during the season. During August, Phil Tolley passed 20,000 runs and Phil Wright 1,000 wickets for Tipton, both records which are unlikely to be surpassed. There will be an awards evening, on Saturday November 19th, when these and other achievements during the season will be recognised. It will also be an opportunity to acknowledge the huge efforts from many behind the scenes to ensure a successful season.

Dave Thayre, in his first season as club captain, ably supported by Dave Alford and Phil Tolley, has led the side with distinction and ensured that everyone who plays is fully involved. Jem Gillham has worked wonders to keep our ancient machinery working and has devoted many hours alongside David Birch to prepare wickets. Phil Wright has kept us on the straight and narrow financially, produced entertaining match reports and detailed statistics. Thanks are also due to Liz Thayre for providing excellent teas for touring sides and to Jem Gillham and Malcolm Buckland for umpiring. We also very much appreciate the encouragement we receive from our regular and occasional supporters on the boundary.



Leaving the field at the close of the Vancouver Islanders innings

For a fuller account of our season, do visit <https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/tiptonstjohn/> for photos, match reports and statistics.

David Birch (Chairman) 01404 815402

Community Hall

Since the last Tipton Times was issued, the Hall trustees and other volunteers have been busy replacing the three old timber sheds with shiny new containers - the first two are owned by TIPPS and the third one belongs to the Hall. We are very grateful to all those helped with this major project which involved clearing the contents and taking down the old sheds, preparing and pouring new concrete bases, erecting the new containers, and installing new lighting and power (a time-consuming job in itself). By the time you read this, it is hoped that the contents of the old sheds, which have been dispersed in various places, will be back but now in much better accommodation.



The approach of autumn means it's time to re-start our popular Quiz Nights and the first one will take place on **Sunday 9th October** starting at 7pm.

The trustees usually arrange several social events each year and, to help us in our planning for next year, we have included a flyer in this issue for you to let us know your preferences and any other ideas. We look forward to your replies.

Still on the subject of social events, we would like to invite you to an evening of music (and dancing assuming there is enough space!) together with a fish and chip supper on **Saturday 19th November** at 7.30pm. As with the quizzes, you are encouraged to make up a table of friends (those of you who were lucky enough to attend the TIPPS pantomime in February will have enjoyed the musical accompaniment from *The Nightjars*).

Places will be limited so you are advised to book your tickets as soon as possible.

We hope to see you there.

John Belton (tel. 01404-813431) or email: thebeltons@talk21.com

Tipton St John Community Hall

? QUIZ NIGHTS ?

Teams of up to 6

**Sunday 9th October and
Sunday 6th November
at 7pm**

(please note earlier time)

£3 per head

BYO food, drinks, and glasses

Please book your table in advance:



Tickets £15

Available from
Brian Rice on
01404 811396

or via email:

rice196@
btinternet.com

T.S.J. Community Hall bring
you an evening with . . .



An evening of live 60s, 70s & 80s hits
to get you up and dancing !

**Saturday 19th November 2022
7:30pm**



Tickets
include a fish and
chip supper from
The Codfather
(Vegetarian option
available)

B.Y.O.B.
(bring your
own booze!)
and glasses
please

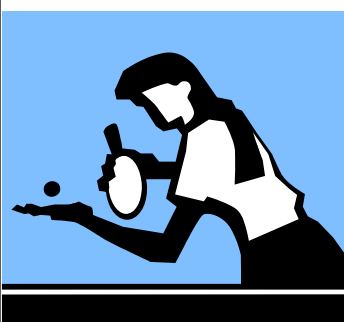


Table Tennis in the Community Hall

Monday evenings from 7.30pm - 9.30pm

October 10th and 24th

November 14th and 28th

Contact John or Pauline Belton if you have any queries (01404 813431)

TIPPS

Many of you will have noticed we now have some wonderful new sheds in place behind the Community Hall. Weather permitting, by the time you read this we will have the scenery, props and costumes safely stored away in their new home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their help, as well as TIPPS members who worked so hard. Special thanks must go to John Harding, John Turnball, Brian Owen, Matt and Eleanor Newby, Jon Hall, Jon Devereaux and Jet-Set Concrete.



Rehearsals are in full swing for our autumn production *Suddenly at Home* on the 27th, 28th and 29th October. Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS or at the Village Stores courtesy of Alita. Tickets are priced at £10 to include refreshments and a programme.

TIPPS Juniors are back to their Thursday evening club nights after the summer break, the sessions are full at the moment, however we do have a waiting list, if you would like to add your child's name please contact: ClaireDevin
clairedevin89@gmail.com or Natalie Anning
nataliekellett@hotmail.com

Our chosen pantomime for February 2023 is *Beauty and the Beast*. We will have held a read through of the script before this issue of the TT went to print. If you missed the poster advertising the meeting or couldn't make the date but you are interested in any capacity, on or off stage, please contact either Stephanie Kinson on 01395 568577 or myself on the number below and we will give you the details.

Yvonne Kellett
Chairman 01404 813836



Coffee morning in support of DEVON AIR AMBULANCE

Saturday 12th November 10am-12noon

As some of you know I took a bad tumble at a match on the tennis court on the 9th August but thankfully due to the care of our amazing team, the opposition (who had a doctor playing) and the fantastic response of the Devon Air Ambulance, I was taken to Derriford to receive treatment. I came home a few days later and am recovering well, though no tennis just yet!

I have tried to thank everyone who sent messages or brought cards or flowers or thoughtful gifts, but could I say a big THANK YOU here in case I missed anyone. Everyone has been so kind. Most importantly Dave and I would like to show our thanks to the Devon Air Ambulance who we both support monthly but feel we would like to do something extra in view of their help. With that in mind we have booked the Community Hall for a coffee morning where everyone is invited to pop in, have a coffee and a cake and hopefully help with a donation towards this fantastic charity who rely solely on donations from the public.

The tennis club and local friends have offered help but if anyone else would like to help please let us know. It is such a worthy charity and who knows when that helicopter might need to land on the playing fields again - I have already apologised to the cricket team.

Contact Alison or Dave Stevens

01404 814874 or 07743325380

Look out for further details on posters and Facebook nearer the time. There will be a *Just giving* page too (when I learn how to do it!).

Venn Ottery & Southerton Residents Association

VENN OTTERY & SOUTHERTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION
presents:

TO THE SOUTH POLE AND BACK BY MOTORCYCLE

A talk about an heroic adventure

Come and join us to hear a light-hearted talk from Martin Jenkins about one of his adventures on a motorbike . . .



TIPTON COMMUNITY HALL
MONDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2022
7.30pm

£3 per person, including wine and nibbles after the talk.

*Raising funds towards purchase of a bench on Venn Ottery Green,
commemorating the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II.*

I think that we are all very saddened at the demise of the Queen and look back fondly to the happy occasion in June when we celebrated her Platinum Jubilee. To commemorate that occasion, and her passing, we are planning to purchase a bench to go on Venn Ottery Green, near the Jubilee tree. We have some funds already but need to boost these, so we've organised an open fund-raising event to take place in Tipton Community Hall on **Monday, 3rd October 2022** at 7.30pm.

Fly-Tipping

There have been several incidents of fly-tipping recently mainly around Southerton, where garden waste, children's play equipment, etc. has been dumped in the lanes and on private land. If you see this happening **please take photos** and notes, especially vehicle registration numbers, and notify EDDC Environmental Health so that action can be taken.

Annual General Meeting

Coming up is the AGM, to be held on **Wednesday 7th December**, 7.30pm in Tipton Community Hall. This will be followed by a bring and share supper. More details to follow.

Shân Merritt - *Chairman, VOSRA*

Happy Birthday Samuel Taylor Coleridge!

It's Coleridge's 250th birthday on Friday 21st October ...



... and Ottery is celebrating with a Literary Festival. Four days of lively and interesting events from Thursday 20th to Sunday 23rd with, in particular, the unveiling of the Coleridge statue on his birthday morning of **Friday 21st** in St Mary's Churchyard.

Ottery Library will be firmly in on the act, opening the events on Thursday 20th with a Short Story Writing Workshop from 10am-12noon, followed by an Introduction to Writing Poetry from 2-4pm.

Joining with the Coleridge Memorial Trust, local schools and Ottery Town Council, **Ottery Writers** are promoting the events. There is much information on <https://otterywriters.wordpress.com>

As you read this, entries will have closed (30th September) for the Flash Fiction 'Trapped' and Photography 'We Love Ottery' Competitions. Winners will be announced and prizes awarded by Mayor Vicki Johns at a celebration evening at Knightstone Manor on Friday 21st October.

At the Festival there will be Poetry and Creative Writing workshops and literary speakers will deliver talks at St Mary's Church. Fun events have also been organised - a Bingo Quiz, a Guided Walk of places Coleridge would have known well, and a large book for all to write in outside the library and, best of all, a statue of Coleridge to be unveiled. Hoping to see you there!

Barbara Pugh



The Coleridge Medical Centre

The Medical Centre Summer Newsletter is far too long to be reproduced in full in this edition of Tipton Times. It can be found on the medical centre website by following this link: <file:///C:/Users/David/Downloads/Summer%20Newsletter%20-%20August%202022.pdf>. Some of the key messages are included below.

Access to Coleridge Medical Centre

As many of our patients would have undoubtedly seen in the press recently, Primary Care is under more pressure and dealing with a higher demand than ever before and we are so sorry to hear of the difficulty many of our patients have been experiencing in gaining access to Coleridge Medical Centre.

Nationally, the whole NHS is experiencing more demand for care than we have ever seen and here, locally, it's no different. We are managing to keep up with urgent and essential demand but we are challenged by long waiting lists for other services and similar workforce issues; such as increased staff sickness and absence due to continuing COVID-19 infection, staff recruitment and retention issues, workload, morale and media/public criticism and a significantly diminished pool of stand-by locum workforce to fall back on.

However, as a practice we continue to work exceptionally hard to address some of these issues and to influence the systems we work in.

Please visit page 2 of our online newsletter to read about all of the improvements we have made in recent months to ensure that our patients receive equal and accessible healthcare.

Improving Access to Coleridge Medical Centre

Some of the changes we have made over the last few months include:

- More core GP sessions per week than we have ever had before.
- More core Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) sessions each week.
- We have engaged retired Nurse Practitioners back into the practice as locums and we have bought additional GP sessions as both digital (remote GPs) and in-practice GPs to cover maternity leave and sickness absence.
- We have installed an automated telephone booking system which is operational 24/7.
- We have installed a new, state-of-the-art phone system with more telephone lines than ever before.
- We are recruiting for more Medical Administrators, Call Handlers, GPs and nurses.
- We have created further booking opportunities for patients to access appointments within 2-3 weeks for routine appointments.
- Every day we provide patients with the option for urgent on-the-day telephone and video calls, online consultations, routine telephone, video and face-to-face appointments.
- 2 members of our staff have trained to become GP Assistants. These accredited positions enable them to offer additional blood test, ECG, and BP appointments two days per week.
- One of our ANPs is undergoing further training in order to be able to offer minor ops, and another is leading further education and training in our nursing team.
- We will be working with our neighboring practices to see how we can improve access, particularly for patients who are digitally excluded.

We continue to evolve in how we improve access to the surgery, so please stay tuned for further updates.

COVID-19 Autumn Booster Vaccination Programme

People aged 75 and over, and those who self-declare as health and social care workers, will be able to book their COVID-19 vaccination through the National Booking Service from the week commencing the 5th September 2022, for appointments starting from the 12th of September 2022.

This will be extended to those over the age of 65 shortly afterwards.

Patients who are immuno-suppressed will be able to self-declare through the National Booking Service or attend walk-in vaccination sites for their vaccination following existing guidance.

The Devon Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) will be administering the COVID-19 vaccinations to any housebound patients. Coleridge Medical Centre has already provided the CCG with the details for these patients. The CCG will contact the patients directly to provide further information.

Please note that Coleridge Medical Centre will not be providing COVID-19 vaccination services in the practice. We encourage all our patients to attend the mass vaccination sites (such as Greendale) when invited to do so.

Should any patients have any COVID-19 vaccination queries, please contact 119.

Sue Stokes
Practice Manager



It has certainly been a strange few months with the ever-increasing costs of fuel, gas, electricity and food, together with record temperatures and drought throughout the summer. I feel it is so easy to be overwhelmed by everything that is happening at the moment and maybe feel powerless as a result, however we can all make small changes which, when combined, can have a dramatic effect.



One of the things that I have recently done myself is I to buy a second-hand electric bike. I must admit that I have never really been a fan as I have always loved my 'normal' bike. However my husband has borrowed an e-bike from a friend and has been cycling everywhere since. He has hardly used his car as a result and was adamant that despite my reservations, I should give it a try. New electric bikes are very much out of my price range and as I have previously mentioned I am very much a charity shop/buy second hand type of girl, so it was long searches through Gumtree, Facebook Marketplace and eBay. In the meantime, I borrowed Mo Mylne's electric bike (thank you, Mo) and found myself whizzing around the lanes having a fantastic time. I then tried many bikes before settling on one from Sidmouth - a beautiful Pendleton step-through bike, which has subsequently been adorned with a basket, flowers and even tassles!

What is the relevance of this I can hear you ask? Well, I have joined my husband in many a cycle around our beautiful countryside lanes and am using the bike for shopping which has enabled me to not use my van and also shop more locally. One of the unexpected surprises is that I feel already fitter, I imagined that the bike would be doing all of the work but 'no', I have to put in more effort than expected, which is a good thing.

However, it hasn't been all plain sailing - the battery isn't as good as I would have hoped and the bike has stopped a couple of times, normally when I am miles from home! The other downside is that cycling further afield has brought back the reality of the terrible amount of litter that is the scourge of our countryside. Eager Beavers have managed to keep Tipton in an almost pristine condition, so it's been quite a shock to witness the appalling amount of rubbish that adorns our verges and hedges. It's easy to not see it when you're in a car and, presumably, even easier to throw it out of the window as you drive along!



I have been trying to not focus on this as I cycle. However it's impossible not to wonder who thinks it's acceptable to litter and why this continues to be an issue.

Unfortunately, I have noticed it even more recently as the hedges are being cut and this has revealed the true magnitude of the problem. One particular point from this is the beer cans that are thrown into/over hedges become ripped into shards of metal, which are an absolute threat to people, pets and wildlife. Only this week I walked from Tipton to Salston and collected so much rubbish that I had to leave it in bags to be picked up later. The reality of this litter collection was not pleasant; one

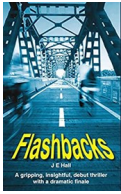
can had something dead and rotting inside, another pot of pasta was fetid as it had food in, which had subsequently filled with rain water and rotted. There were broken bottles, shards of aluminium cans, masks, bottles of brown liquid and of course the dreaded full dog poo bags. I don't wish to apologise for my ranting, it was truly shocking to see the amount of waste I collected and some was dated 2010 so it just goes to show how long things take to break down.

I cannot even begin to comprehend how this is deemed to be acceptable. It's easy to ignore when driving, but it is there and if there is one thing we can all do is, please, don't litter. Take your litter home with you and let's all cherish this beautiful part of the world we call home.

We are EagerBeaversTSJ, find us on Facebook, or email EagerBeaversTSJ@hotmail.com. We also have a WhatsApp group which you can join if you prefer. We have the community garden on the playing field and regular events (like litter picks!) so please look for posters around the village and/or posts on Facebook. Alternatively, if you see me cycling around, tassles blowing in the wind, give me a wave and say 'Hi!'

Thank you.

Lisette Johnston



Tipton Readers

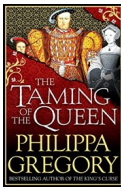
The July read was *Flashbacks* by John E Hall, who lives locally and is now a Church of England priest. He and his wife Rosie are widely travelled and have lived in various parts of England. Prior to taking up the ministry John had been a probation officer where he gained a great understanding of people's characters and motivations, which is very evident in his writings. *Flashbacks* is his debut novel and is the first part of a trilogy. In this first book we are introduced to the characters who feature in the other books. There are three main players in this book - Adam Taylor, Ali Muhammed and Kaylah Kone.



The story begins with a young man's need for adventure away from the home environment. Adam decides to take a gap year before starting university and cycle across Europe to the middle east and then fly home from Tehran. He documents his journey on Facebook for his friends and family to follow, but they are not the only followers! Ali Muhammed witnesses his father being shot by an Iraqi soldier which renders him a very angry young man who is encouraged to seek revenge by the Islamic State. Kaylah is a young girl in London who is innocently drawn into the plot that unfolds.

This book is well worth a read - it created a great deal of discussion within the Readers Group. John Hall came to talk to the Tipton Ladies Group about his books which, again, was a lively evening. The average score for *Flashbacks* was 7 out of 10.

Gilly Startup



Our August read was *The Taming of the Queen* by Philippa Gregory who has a reputation for writing historical novels, mainly from the point of view of the women involved, particularly the queens of the time. The majority of those novels are set in the 15th and 16th centuries, centring on the Wars of the Roses and the early Tudor court.

The novel we read is the fifth book in her Tudor Court series and deals with the marriage of Kateryn Parr to Henry VIII. The action starts with Kateryn, twice widowed, having a passionate, secret love affair with Thomas Seymour, the brother of the third wife Jane Seymour, but when Henry homes in on Kateryn proposing to her that she should be his sixth wife, they have to tread carefully to keep their desires hidden. Kateryn is repulsed by the king but has to acquiesce to all he wants and Philippa Gregory seems to revel in all the details of their sex life and into the details of the torture of the preacher Anne Askew.

Essentially the novel is a chronological history, accurately given, of the last four years of the reign of Henry VIII with everything seen from the perspective of Kateryn Parr and her attempts not to fall foul of either of the two religious factions in the Privy Council, the return to the church of Rome group and the reformists - which could end up with her losing her head and not being the wife to survive. The group thought that the book was well written but was, essentially, a history book with a twist, telling a story that one knew from the start what the outcome would be. That said, no one in the group had known that an arrest warrant had been made out for her arrest on a charge of heresy, which would have ended in her execution if found guilty, and that she had managed to talk Henry round to dismiss it. The group gave the book an average score of 5.5 out of 10.

Chris Startup

Book Launch at the Curious Otter

Two local writers will be launching books on **Saturday 8th October** in Ottery's 'Curious Otter'. The books are very different: one a collection of poems derived from life in the West Country, the other a contemporary thriller principally based in the Caribbean. The authors met through the Ottery Writers' Group.



Gill Dunstan was born in Somerset, brought up in Dorset and constantly visited Devon and Cornwall, her father's birthplace. For many years, she taught English in secondary schools before moving permanently to Devon on her retirement. 'Seeds of Time' is Gill's first collection. These poems explore how memory has the power to transform past events which may then take on a brighter and richer resonance. The natural beauty of the West Country is often a vehicle for this theme.

Cynthea Gregory moved to Devon four years ago after living in France for over twenty years. While there, she had three illustrated cookbooks published in French. 'Mango Bay' is Cynthea's second contemporary thriller. 'A Little Slice of Paradise' was published in 2019. Based on true events, 'Mango Bay' follows Jeffrey Taylor, outwardly a charmer, but in truth a selfish schemer and an inveterate liar. When he learns of the extent of Miranda's wealth, he deceives her into becoming his wife. Little does she realise, when agreeing to the marriage, her new husband will destroy her life.



Gill and Cynthea will be signing their books from ten o'clock to noon. They look forward to seeing you then.

Garden News: St Georges, Venn Ottery

So here I sit at home at the start of autumn when the poor gardens have suffered a massive drought and may well not be looking as we had wished at this time. I hope I'm not the only one whose Cosmos look pathetic or only managing one small Zinnia, having taken the idea from Angie's last year and imagined pots full of glorious blooms. I think I definitely have some casualties and these often appear to be the plants I've spent most money on.



However, just before you switch off and think this a doom and gloom article I'll tell you I got prepared early in the season and had a super visit up to Ann and Terry at St Georges. Now many villagers will have been to their garden but I had not been round the back and what a treat there was in store. Near the house is a wonderful structure of walls and pond with a waterfall and fish and a relaxing seating area. Beautiful herbs grow here in the sun and drape down the walls and, of course, provide fresh flavour for the chef in the house. Above this are beds with fruit and vegetables

looking like Mr McGregor's garden - wonderful rows of lettuces, beetroot and carrots to name a few. It raises the question of Mr McGregor's adversaries i.e. the Flopsy Bunnies. I know from talking to people up in Venn Ottery that the rabbits cause a lot of damage. However Ann and Terry have carefully built rabbit-proof fences and guards and it works really well by the look of the thriving vegetables. Ann said that it was interesting how a few years ago they seemed to disappear (possibly due to some intervention) and now they have come back with vengeance. I asked Ann and Terry about the plans they drew up for the garden but actually the garden has evolved naturally and each addition has enhanced the whole. The whole garden slopes a long way back and so these produce areas had to be built up to make them level. There is an asparagus bed that is 30 years old and I could see the remnants of a wonderful crop which appears each year. Ann and Terry divide up the jobs in the garden and they obviously make a wonderful team and everything looks fantastic - and not a weed in sight!

Beyond the vegetable area is an orchard giving plenty of fruit. Many trees have links with events or gifts from people as do some of the plants. Terry was given some chickens for his 70th birthday but gradually they have gone and only the run remains but it makes a great patch for growing potatoes. There is also a stable that was transferred from Ann's old garden many years ago together with the swallows who come back every year. No horses now but Ann did love her horse riding for many years. Somehow these outbuildings and structures make such attractive back drops to the garden even though there isn't any livestock. The orchard is full of daffodils in the spring time but I visited in June and the roses were looking stunning. The climbing roses (my favourite) were especially wonderful. Beyond the orchard is a field owned by them but with a farmers' sheep gently grazing - and just a few weeks before a surprise arrival of black twin lambs appeared, which have been rather fun to watch.



We continue wandering through the garden each bed full of wonderful plants creating a harmonious look. I was very impressed with another seating area built by Terry's own fair hand, a circular brick terrace with a wall at the back all complemented by lovely planting in pots and a bench to sit on and enjoy the garden.



At the front of the garden there is more terracing with geraniums and such like falling over the edge and a wonderful specimen Salix in a lollipop shape. There are more roses here, too. Over coffee Ann showed me the photos of the beginnings of St Georges house and gardens and just what a project it has been. It wasn't an easy site with more of a slope than at first seems apparent but it is a beautiful natural garden. Something that makes me so impressed is that Ann and Terry are busy with all sorts of village activities and societies and yet still have an exceptionally well kept garden ... I take my gardening hat off to them and thank them for letting me visit.

Alison Stevens

By the way, just in case you think I have had complete disaster in my own garden I do have a wonderful crop of passion fruit ... bright orange and pretty sweet and I've been able to use rocket in my salads all summer just by giving it a big hair cut every so often to prevent the flowers and seeds forming. Not all bad news!

Tea and Coffee at the Pavilion?

Could the pavilion on the Playing Field be used as a 'pop-up cafe', and would there be a demand for this?

Having noticed that many people walk round the Playing Fields regularly, both with and without dogs, I and my friends at Tipton Church (and others) are considering the possible use of the pavilion as a community cafe for the village at times when it is not required for sports purposes. It would be run by volunteers as a place for mums with young children, dog walkers and others to call in for a sit-down, a chat and a cuppa and would be on a not-for-profit basis with donations invited from those using it.

We might start by opening only in mornings on weekdays, perhaps between 10.00am and 11.30am, serving coffee, tea, cold drinks, biscuits and cake (if we have kind bakers to provide it) and then, if successful, we could consider afternoon opening as well. Two volunteers would run it and would need to arrive a little earlier and leave a little later in order to set up and clear away, so each 'shift' might be about 2 ½ hours and, of course, the more volunteers we have on the rota, the less often each would be on duty.

I think this could be a very worthwhile facility for the village, but will only work if we can find sufficient volunteers to arrange a rota and run it.

I am sure that some volunteers will be forthcoming from our church congregation, Tipton Ladies, Eager Beavers and other community groups, but please contact me if you would be prepared to help (the more the merrier!) or, indeed, if you have any thoughts about our project or would like to offer any funding or equipment to help us get it under way.

My email is m.moransmith@btinternet.com and telephone number is 01404-812542.

Mike Smith, Tipton Church PCC.



The Revitalisation of Men's Shed Ottery.

It was recognised that within a few weeks of opening, back in November 2016 that our portacabin in the car park of the old Station was far too small for our needs. In our search for a new site we had many disappointments but eventually our pleas were answered when unexpectedly we were offered a new home in Hind Street. A number of our volunteers set about adapting the new premises to our required needs and we formally opened again, with certain Covid restrictions in place in May last year.



With much improved facilities our membership increased dramatically to the point when we realised we would have to open for a third day. Much discussion followed and we decided to allow the fairer sex to join our merry band on a third day which would be a Saturday. This also would allow potential new members, those who normally would be working during the week, to join us.

Guess what, we now have three lovely lady members! One turned out to be a very competent wood turner.

With the passing of Queen Elizabeth, we have been able to mark our condolences by making a memorial plaque which will join the flowers at the memorial cross in St Mary's Churchyard. We were able to put our new toy, a computer controlled router to work. The plaque is made from a piece of an oak tree that was felled here in Ottery St Mary. some forty years ago.



Tony Pugh

Geoff Pratt

Independent East Devon District Councillor, Ottery St Mary Ward

The East Devon Strategic Planning Committee will be holding three further meetings to be concluded by the 5th October to finalize the draft of the new Local Plan to go out for Public Consultation in the autumn. An interesting part of the draft Local Plan will consider site locations for future housing development. Planning officers have chosen their preferred sites and those considered second best choice allocations. It must be remembered, however, that at this stage these are not planning applications but planning officer recommendations. In Ottery St. Mary there are five preferred sites and one second best choice allocation .



The one site that will interest Tipton readers, however, will be the land located south of Otter Close which has been recommended as a second best choice allocation. The recommendation, following discounted areas on site, is for 45 dwellings. This site can be accessed via the Sidmouth road, with the 30mph speed limit in the village extended and the 'sunken lane' closed to vehicular traffic. Due to concerns as to the current Tipton St. John primary school buildings being located in the floodplain, DCC are trying to find a site to relocate the school. Any significant development within the village should therefore consider the requirement for a new primary school site.

The site is large and relatively level, although there is a slight fall from north to south and a further fall towards the east corner. The site is a single field, previously grazed now scrubby with mature hedgerow boundaries providing roadside screening. There is some intervisibility with the AONB which would increase if the site were developed, however this would be seen in the context of existing properties, as the rear gardens of houses in Otter Close abut the northern boundary and the gardens of Mallocks Close abut the south and wrap around the south west corner. The site is not in close proximity to any designated heritage assets. There is no significant habitat or species identified on site but existing trees should be retained and further assessment undertaken as part of any application.

The site has been the subject of previous planning applications being refused and on a previous appeal the Inspector (13/1431/FUL) refused a scheme for 19 houses on the basis that the village was not sustainable. The village is a tier 4 settlement, but it does not have a frequent bus service and the primary school is proposed to be relocated elsewhere. DCC education officers and the Trustees of the school wish to close the primary school and relocate to Ottery St Mary. but this may be an opportunity to relocate the school within the village. Should this site be allocated? Is this site suitable for the primary school ?

District Councillor Geoff Pratt
Sandiacre, Wiggaton EX11 1PU
gpratt@eastdevon.gov.uk

Councillor Lisette Johnson

Ottery St Mary Town Councillor, Tipton St John Ward

Having only recently been co-opted onto the Ottery Town Council, I have been made so much more aware of the matters that affect our community on a daily basis. We are privileged to have such a dedicated team within the council incorporating several committees covering areas from planning to finance, property and land, to regeneration. From a personal perspective, I am keen to be involved in anything that will enhance and protect our environment and am delighted that the full council has agreed to support the Straitgate Action Group and its stand against the Aggregate Industries' appeal to allow mineral extraction at Straitgate Farm.



The government has placed Devon (along with Cornwall and some parts of Somerset) under avian flu restrictions, as unfortunately there have been a number of avian flu cases in the region. There are legal requirements for all bird keepers now in place and these can be accessed on the government's website, which also lists advice for the public as well as how to report sick, injured or dying birds that maybe found. EDDC have a link on their website to report sick or dead birds, the current advice is to not touch dead or visibly sick birds (or allow dogs near them). Teams from EDDC are fully trained to deal with all suspected cases and should deal with the birds, often on the day they are reported.

Finally, I am also aware that more and more of us are experiencing financial difficulties at this time and would mention that there is a link on EDDC website where there is lots of information, support and advice to support us all. On the link you will find help with household bills, energy costs, illegal money lending, home improvement grants, and assistance for the homeless.

Cllr Lisette Johnston lisette.johnston@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Jess Bailey Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward



In a world which is so transient and fast paced Queen Elizabeth was remarkable in her steadfast duty over such an immensely long reign. On her twenty first birthday speech she declared "my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service" and for the remainder of her long life she was so true to her word.

Due to the sad death of Queen Elizabeth many council meetings have been postponed during the period of national mourning. I have, however, attended two 'proclamation' events for the accession of King Charles, one at Devon County Council and one at East Devon District Council. This was the public announcement of the new monarch which followed on from the national Proclamation at the Accession Council which took place at St James' Palace in London.

One of the meetings which was due to take place but which has been postponed was the cabinet meeting of Devon County Council. Of particular concern is the budget monitoring report which shows that at month 4 the financial position of Devon County Council has worsened and without urgent action being taken would be set for an overspend of more than £35 million this year. Councils are required to present a balanced budget each financial year and DCC is taking immediate action to resolve this, and has identified savings of £18million. However, what this shows is the cumulative impact of ten years of Conservative government Austerity, combined with inflationary pressures, is putting our council and its services under severe and unprecedented pressure.

I am very conscious that many residents may be facing serious financial pressures due to the cost of living crisis and much of Devon County Council's advice is available online through its website. Many people do not have access to the internet and so will not be able to access this advice. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need support from Devon County Council and do not have internet access.

You may have read in the news that beavers are to receive legal protection from 1st October meaning that it will be an offence to harm or kill them. Whilst this is good news, I am disappointed that the guidance includes provisions which enables farmers/landowners to apply for licences to kill beavers. Surely there are so few beavers across the entirety of the country that there is never any justification in granting a licence to kill beavers - when there must be ample opportunities for them to be relocated, if absolutely necessary. I have written to our MP Simon Jupp asking him to do all that he can to amend the provisions enabling licences to kill beavers.

Cllr Jess Bailey 01404 814056
jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk



CLASSICS GALORE! will be back on **Saturday 12 November 2022** **7.30pm at The University of Exeter Great Hall.**

Join us for an evening of popular classical music in aid of FORCE Cancer Charity featuring familiar and uplifting tunes. The Classics Galore! Orchestra will perform alongside the award-winning SW Comms Band from Lypstone and singers from Exeter's St David's Players, **Ottery St**

Mary Choral Society and friends. The musical programme this year features a Sound of Music medley, Zadok the Priest, the Radetzky March and Raiders of the Lost Ark. The concert concludes with a rousing Last Night of the Proms style finale that is guaranteed to get the audience singing along and waving their flags.

We are delighted this year to be joined by former BBC Spotlight presenter Justin Leigh as our compère and British Soprano Cheryl Enever as our soloist. We have so far raised in excess of £110,000 for FORCE and hope to raise at least another £15,000 with our event this year.

The Terrace Bar of the Great Hall will be open from 5.15pm for those who would like to have a meal before the concert and free shuttle buses will run between the Great Hall and car parks A & B for concert patrons.

Please visit www.classicsgalore.co.uk for more details.

Tickets are available online at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/classics-galore-exeter> prices range from £12 - £28.00.



Ottery St Mary Town Council

The Town Council Offices are open from 10am until 1pm Monday to Friday. If you do need to contact the Council please call 01404 812252 or email admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk. You can keep up to date by following our Facebook page or looking at our website www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk where you can view agendas and minutes for all Council and Committee Meetings, together with news and updates.

September Full Council Meeting

The Council was horrified to learn that the government's guidance on Beaver management allows farmers to apply for a licence for 'lethal control' and will be writing to Simon Jupp, MP to put pressure on the government to change the guidance. The Council thanked DCC Cllr Bailey for her efforts to request the guidance is changed.

The Property and Land Committee has met and discussed various issues regarding the Council's property portfolio.

The Finance Committee has met. The Council will be making a £5,000 donation to the Straitgate Action Group towards the Straitgate and Hill Head Quarry Public Inquiry. The Council gave its thanks to the members of the group for their hard work and tireless efforts.

An informal meeting has been held with representatives of West Hill to discuss whether their parish wish to be part of a review of the Ottery St Mary and West Hill Neighbourhood Plan as part of the Regeneration work within the parish. A decision is anticipated once guidance is received from EDDC.

The Council now has responsibility for the skatepark and on instruction from their insurers is awaiting a ROSPA safety inspection before the skatepark can be reopened to the public. It is hoped this will happen later this month.

The Council is committed to providing a warm space for members of the parish who struggle to heat their home this winter due to increasing energy prices. The Council feels strongly that their assets should be used to benefit the parish.

The Christmas Working Group will be holding their first meeting shortly. Any members of the parish or local businesses who wish to be involved should contact the Council Offices.

The Tourism project is now underway and the Council is working with the project team on the information for Ottery St Mary. There will be an opportunity for local businesses to input into this project as it progresses further.

The Council expressed its thanks to Sandra and Dave Moss for their dedication and commitment to the parish and are sad to see they are leaving Alfington. The Alfington Parish Pump has been an excellent method of communication and the Council hopes someone will come forward to take it on. The Council would like to wish Sandra and Dave a very well deserved happy and healthy retirement.

Future Full Council meeting dates for your diaries are:

Monday 3 October 2022 – Council Offices

Monday 7 November 2022 – Council Offices

Ottery St Mary Town Council would like to express its sadness on hearing the announcement of the death of Her Majesty The Queen and offer sincere condolences to The Royal Family at this difficult time.

Kerry Kennell Deputy CEO



National Trust outing to the Tiverton Canal and Knightshayes Court *by Jack Richmond*

On 9th August, forty-six members of the National Trust Sidmouth Centre travelled to the Grand Western Canal at Tiverton to ride on the horse-drawn barge, driven by our splendid driver Barrie.

Once on board, our handsome horse Brindley towed us along the canal at a slow peaceful pace.

When we stopped halfway through, to rest the horse and for us to leave the barge for a short stroll and to take photos, Brindley was given a much needed shower of buckets of water to cool him down. Brindley is six years old and still learning the job but did brilliantly.

We had a very informative and entertaining talk by the owner Phil on the history of horse-drawn barges and about the horses who tow them now. On the way back, he suggested that for a short while we keep completely silent and listen for the clip clop of the horses hooves, the birdsong and the lapping of the water. This was most refreshing and calming.

Afterwards we travelled a short distance to the National Trust property of Knightshayes Court. Members enjoyed lunch refreshments, visited the house and grounds and tried hard to cope with the heat. Altogether, a great day out.



Tipton Weather Bureau

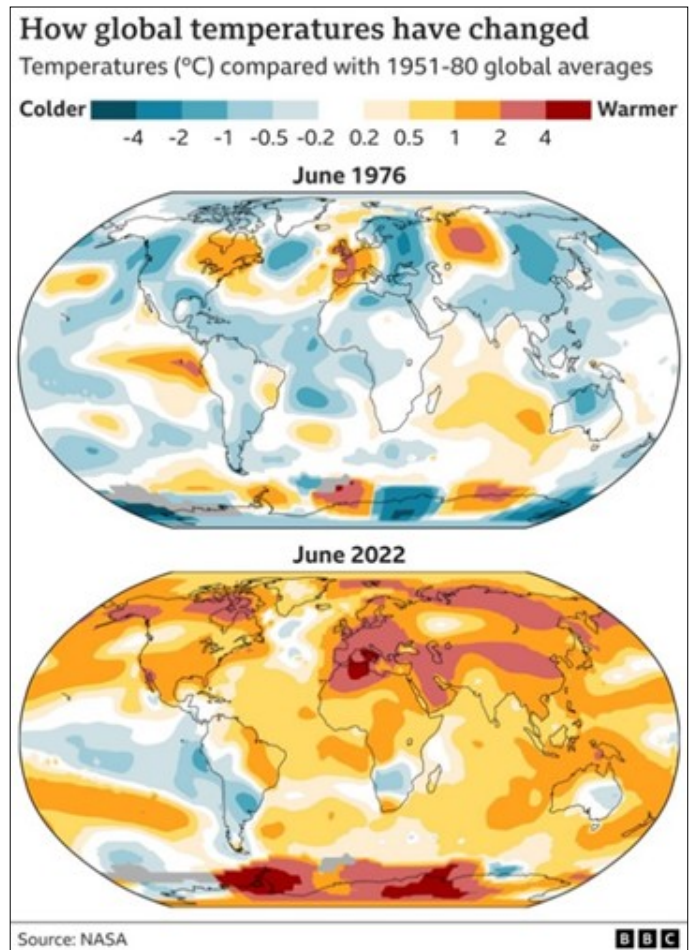
Last edition I wrote about the summer heatwave which was in the forecast, but I didn't know whether the UK record would be broken, or whether we would exceed the magic figure of 40°C. You will now, of course, know that the record was broken and indeed we did exceed 40°C. In fact, the new record set was 40.3°C, and new records were also set in Scotland and Wales. New weather records are not unusual. We record weather in many locations, so it is not unusual for a small number of sites, in any year, to record their heaviest ever rainfall or highest or lowest temperature. But records are normally exceeded by tiny margins, for typically 0.1 or 0.2 degrees Celsius. What made the 19th July records unheard of was the margin. The UK record was previously 38.7°C so it jumped in one day by 1.6°C, and not just at one location - a huge swathe of the country saw local records broken by large margins. Here in Tipton it was hot, around 32°C, but we were fortunate to escape the extremes further east.

What is even more striking is that this was only one of many truly exceptional events right across the northern hemisphere. During our heatwave, a lot of people commented that they remembered the 1976 heatwave, so such things are nothing new. The picture I show may be difficult to appreciate in black and white so if possible have a look at the colour version online. It is one of the most striking illustrations I have seen of why this was not the case. It compares temperatures in June 2022 with those in June 1976, with orange colours being warmer than the 1951-1980 average, and blue colours cooler. The colour version shows a small patch of strong orange over the British Isles in 1976, with weaker warmth over NW Europe, from Denmark to Spain and Portugal. Much of the northern hemisphere is blue. By contrast the picture for June 2022 is orange over virtually all of the northern hemisphere; even in black and white you will be able to see that large areas are very dark orange. So, whereas 1976 was a small localised heatwave in the UK, 2022 circled the globe.

Since then, so much more has happened around the world. Here in the UK it has also been exceptionally dry, following on a dry winter in the east, leading to drought conditions. This pattern has been repeated across most of Europe and large parts of North America and China. The River Rhine fell so low that the Rhine barges, so crucial to trade, had to operate with half loads to avoid running aground, and the mighty Yangtze River in China almost ran dry. Between these dry regions, other areas suffered extreme rainfall, including South Korea and, of course, Pakistan where news reports have described one third of the country as being flooded, with over a thousand deaths and horrific suffering.

I keep coming back to climate change in these articles. A recent report concluded that the Pakistan floods were 'likely' caused by climate change. There can be little doubt that the complete picture, of all these extremes around the globe, is strongly driven by man-made climate change. It is unlikely that every year will be as bad as 2022, but the overall pattern is set to continue unless we take drastic action very soon. Last year the UK hosted the COP26 summit in Glasgow which made some useful progress in plans to cut emissions; let us hope that COP27 coming up soon in Egypt makes another big step in the right direction. Whatever the politicians decide, every little helps and we can all do our bit.

Ken Mylne



RSPB Aylesbeare Common

As it's now the end of the summer season, we wanted to



look back and give a bit of an overview of the activities and work that have been going on at the reserve over the last few months. There were record temperatures and an extended dry spell but we've been fortunate here in that by and large our work was unaffected and we were spared any uncontrolled fires. We were always on the alert, especially by mid August, because heathland is a tinder box when the ground and vegetation is so dry. But it's been fantastic weather in many ways - we had a very successful Heathweek and some fantastic nightjar viewings.

We deployed a new implement to make sure our main fire breaks were all clear. It's a Ryetec flail mower - unusually it has its own hopper-collector. This was thanks to funding through the Farming in Protected Landscapes scheme which was administered via the East Devon AONB. Being able to cut and collect the material at once is something that has many benefits in application in heathland management but this was especially good for the fire breaks because we could remove all the arisings, without leaving the dry flammable material behind.

The existing fire breaks and paths are largely kept open and free from encroaching vegetation, thanks to the almost year-round grazing by ponies and cows. We've been able to graze Aylesbeare and Harpford Commons extensively ever since the permanent perimeter fence was put up in 2014. They like to graze at the sides and because they eat it, they're also taking away the material for us.

Thirty cows have spent the summer grazing on Aylesbeare, wearing the NoFence collars. The Dartmoor and Exmoor ponies which we look after all year were taken to other sites that we manage, including some very special and tucked away sites in the Blackdown Hills, the Stockland turbaries. They will all be brought back to Aylesbeare Common to overwinter.

These grazing animals are one of our main habitat management tools as they do an excellent job in some pretty hard locations in all weathers. In July, we cut our hay fields and baled them to provide supplementary food for the ponies during the winter. In the late summer we did something slightly different - green hay. We mowed and collected from some local donor sites with a good mix of perennial flowering plants. This was immediately spread onto some of our fields, including an orchard, with the help of volunteers so that the seed might be transported and will hopefully germinate from next year.

Bracken management, as ever, has taken up a significant part of our work in the late summer. We control it by cutting (mowing or cut by hand in places), rolling (which crushes the stems and causes them to die) and spraying. We have also had to spend much time in repairing livestock fencing on some of our sites which, in some cases, is sadly coming of age all at once! The fence posts do eventually rot at the base but we keep up the momentum in replacing them - you may have seen the main pedestrian gate in to Aylesbeare, closest to Joney's Cross car park, had to be replaced not long ago.



Fire Beacon Hill

The RSPB team in East Devon is based at Aylesbeare but we manage sites in and around the Pebblebed Heaths and further afield such as Fire Beacon Hill in Sidmouth. We are currently in the process of putting seven of our sites into a large new Countryside Stewardship application and our hope is that this extra funding will help to support our work for the next 10 years. It's ambitious - we've committed to do a lot of work! But it's the first time we'll have had so many sites under stewardship.

If anyone has any creative ideas or inventive uses for heathland litter, once we've cut and collected it (this could be gorse scrub, and bracken in the summer) then do get in touch! It's one thing cutting and removing a lot of material, but another to work out what to do with it all. Thank you,

Fiona & Toby RSPB Aylesbeare Common 01395 233655 aylesbeare.common@rspb.org.uk

Tipton Ladies Group

After a solid start following Covid, we are looking forward to Hamish Marshall from BBC Spotlight coming to give a talk about being a BBC news reporter for our meeting on **17th October**. Christmas Crafts are featured on **21st November**, giving the less crafty of us (like me) time to finish our annual decorations. The Tipton Ladies Christmas lunch is on the **12th December** at the Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth. Put a note in your diaries, ladies. I'm really looking forward to that one! If you want to attend the Christmas lunch, please choose your menu options and pay on 17th October - contact either Jenny P. or Anne B. if you can't make the meeting.

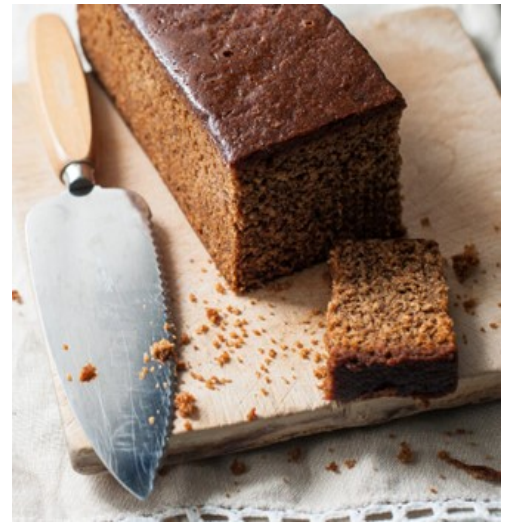
Monica Bell

Recipe Corner

Barbara's Lancashire Parkin

This recipe was given to me by my dear friend, Barbara. Maybe you would like to make it in her memory.

1lb. medium Oatmeal or 3/4lb. oatmeal & 1/4lb. plain flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. ground ginger. 1/2 teas. salt
1/2lb. soft brown sugar
4oz. butter
1 egg.
Milk to mix
4oz. golden syrup
5 oz. black treacle



Mix dry ingredients - oatmeal, baking powder, ginger and salt - then rub in butter.
Beat egg and mix in treacle, syrup and sugar. Add to oatmeal and add milk to make soft mixture
Bake in small roasting tin, half full, in top half of oven 350° C for 30 - 40 mins.

Apparently it keeps for a long time (a couple of months in a tin) but you may have other ideas!!

This recipe is courtesy, and in memory of, Mrs Barbara Burgess.

Jenny Pinn



Mindfulness

Mindfulness has become very popular over the last few years. During Covid -19 pandemic there was a recognition that it had a negative psychological effect on us all. The Guardian reported in 2020 that stress, anxiety and depression levels soared in the UK during the restrictions.

The media encouraged us all to carry out mindfulness to relieve our stress and lift our mood. The Independent even told us about the 15 best mindfulness apps to keep us calm during the crisis. What is mindfulness though and where has it come from?

It's not a new concept, mindfulness has long, rich historical roots in Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and has links with meditation. The purpose of mindfulness is to reduce stress, anxiety, or lift our mood. It's not about solving all our problems but about being able to put our worries onto one side by paying more attention to the present moment, to our own thoughts, feelings, and to the world around us. It is a type of meditation where we focus on being intensely aware of what we are sensing and feeling in the moment, without any interpretation or judgement.

It's already well established that spending time outside, gardening or doing activities can improve our mood and reduce feelings of stress. Undertaking a mindfulness walk builds on this concept. Rather than just going onto autopilot and taking the environment for granted, the idea is that we tune into the sensations of our body such as our breathing and the way we walk. We might walk a bit slower and if our mind drifts from walking and breathing, we would gently guide our thoughts back. We would have an awareness of everything around us too, such as the sounds, smells, and our surroundings to help us to focus on the present moment rather than on any anxieties, doubts or self-criticisms we have. Rather than thinking 'I'm not good enough' or 'I'm a failure', we might be feeling and appreciating the cool breeze against our skin and thinking how nice it feels. If you struggle with walking, sitting outside or even inside and focusing on your inner self and surroundings will have the same beneficial results. If you practice Tai Chi, Yoga, or meditate, you will be already carrying out a mindful activity and probably appreciate the benefits.

Mindfulness is an evidence based approach and is recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence as a way of preventing depression. It can be incorporated into any task or activity such as eating a meal or even washing up. You don't need an app, it can be practised by yourself or as part of a group. If you want to try mindfulness, don't put too much pressure on yourself about getting it right first time, accept that you will probably need to practise for awhile before you start to feel the benefits.

Mindfulness is a great way of keeping us on an even keel.

Chris Brougham

Note: Read more about mental health on www.nhs.uk or www.mind.org.uk
Anyone really worried about their mental health should contact their GP.



Tipton Past - Cows loose on the playing field?

It seems we have had a few bovine visitors on the playing fields over the summer months. The grass is obviously greener on the football pitch. But, to be fair, just over 55 years ago that is exactly what you would have found on the playing fields - cows grazing. It was just a field with rough grasslands, brambles, and uneven, muddy terrain.

Dick Eggins, from Tipton Barton, was the farmer who owned the field and in 1965 he announced that he was to be selling up and leaving the village. He had already been a supporter of the then football team and offered up one of his fields for sale at an agricultural price of £1,700. Luckily for us there was a group of villagers with a vision. They could see the end results of owning an area in the centre of the village that would be of benefit to all, where football and maybe a spot of cricket could be played. Around this time football was being played in fields behind the garage but a permanent space was needed. So a group of villagers held a public meeting and agreed to take up Mr Eggins on his offer. They set about raising money and arranged to purchase what we now know as the Playing Fields.



Tipton St John Football Club, c.1950. Back row, left to right: T. May, J. Sargent, J. Crockford, T. Parsons, T. Andrews, T. Horne, E. Sargent. Front: R. Manley, C. Ralls, J. Fowler, T. Ralls, E. Pike.

A letter appealing to villagers for donations was put through all the letterboxes. Remarkably within 10 days, with the donations received and interest-free loans from the trustees, Major General Denning, Mr Robert Fernehaugh and Miss Marriott, the field could be purchased. A charitable trust was formed so that grants could be applied for, and the field could then be developed. Following this a committee was set up and the Tipton St John Playing Fields Association was born.

Before the field could be safely used, they had to level the area from years of the river changing course and leaving behind its many different furrows. Sam Pottinger, Jim Rist, Bill Court, and members of the football team took part in this heavy work. Topsoil from the building of Mallocks Close was brought down to level the site, with help from Mr Chown in his digger and Maurice Skinner with his tractor. The field had to be drained, raked, seeded, and rolled. Once the grass was established a mower then had to be purchased but until one could be afforded sheep were grazed to keep the grass down. Could this be a cost effective, and environmentally friendly plan for the future?

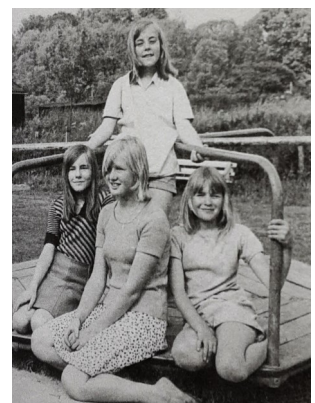


The Football team supporters arranged a dinner to raise money for a changing shed, which was sited just inside the entrance in the now car park, but this was tragically washed away during the flood of 1968 along with the road bridge. Not long after, Prince Philip made an impromptu landing on the playing field in his helicopter when he visited the village to see the aftermath of the floodings impact on the valley. Not surprisingly this caused great excitement with everyone coming out to watch.

In the 1970s Graham Hembury drew up plans for a new pavilion. This was then erected by himself, Richard Manley, Ron Whelan, and other volunteers, working evenings and weekends to get it completed. Once eventually

finished this then provided changing rooms for the sports teams, a meeting room, and a kitchen for refreshments. The sunroom was added later in 1973 and the outside areas were then paved. The football club provided a grandstand in 1972 to offer shelter for the supporters. This was much larger than the reduced one we see today and as children we used to crawl under to the back of the stands and hang out where, (so we thought,) no adults knew where we were! In the 1970s Tipton even had a ladies' football team: how progressive we were.

The children's play area was added after ladies on the committee raised £400 to equip the area near the entrance with slides, a roundabout, and swings. If you are of a certain age, you may remember the sheer height of the big slide; it took some bravery to climb to the top of this slide I can tell you, health and safety would have a fit with it nowadays. The play area was renewed in 1994 and again in 2020.



In 1976 planning permission was received for the building of a tennis court. And in 1988 after fundraising, including a 24-hour tennis marathon, another court was added.

Personally, I have numerous memories of many happy hours spent playing on the field, particularly of learning to ride my bike up and down the then gravel and mud driveway and ending up with multiple grazed knees from my endeavours. I even first met my husband here when he used to cycle over from Sidmouth on his BMX to use the bike track that was set up on the rough area during the 80s. When I was growing up, we were on the field practically every weekend either involved with various sports, fetes, horse shows or with some of the many other fundraising village events that have been held on the field.



I have enjoyed the facilities with my own children and now my granddaughter. So many varied events have been held on the field over the past 55 years - village celebrations, fundraising and entertainment events, school sports, women's marathons and a few private occasions, such as weddings.



Today we have the legacy left to us by those wonderful villagers who had the foresight to provide us all with a recreational area to call our own, with great sports facilities, a play area and a wildlife haven, a place to walk and contemplate, even a community garden, all on the banks of the beautiful river Otter. We have survived numerous floods, riverbank erosion, vandalism, Covid and cow invasions, so here's to another 55 years, standing strong at the heart of the village.

Many thanks to all those original PF founders and trustees, to Ann Knight

**Happy 55th Anniversary
Tipton St John Playing
Fields.**

And it's all ours

and Len Baker for some of the historical information, to everyone who supports the PF and to the committee of volunteers who keep the field and pavilion so well maintained to this day, all independent of the local authorities.

Judith Taylor

Tribute to HM Queen Elizabeth II

The recent death of the Queen has touched the nation perhaps even more than expected.

There are still a few of us who remember the death of King George VI in 1952. In my case I was at school when we were called to the hall for a special assembly to hear the sad news and we were all quite shocked. Then the next year I watched the Coronation of the late Queen on black and white television at a neighbour's house as we had no set of our own. My first experience of Coronation Chicken!



A few days after the Coronation we were marshalled on the pavement outside school to see the Queen and the Duke drive past when they undertook a nationwide tour of the country. As we were teenage girls, we were more interested in seeing the handsome young Prince but, 70 years later, I still remember the brief glimpse of Her Majesty. What a wonderful Queen she proved to be with the great example of dedicated service to all her people all her life.

At the time of her Coronation the attendant celebrations were an uplift for the nation after the privations of the war and I can't help feeling that the recent Jubilee celebrations provided a similar function after the restrictions of Covid, an opportunity to get together in our communities and be joyful. How we have enjoyed celebrating the milestones of the Queen's life with her. What an inspiration she has been.

Rest in Peace Your Majesty after your life of duty and service to us all, so well lived.

Ann Knight

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER 2022

Everyone is welcome to join us at any of our services or events

In addition to the live services and events listed below, an online Service of Worship takes place at 10 a.m. every Sunday morning. For details of how to access the Service please contact either our Vicar Mark Ward (revmarkward@btinternet.com) or the PCC Secretary Alison Stevens (tiptonpcc@gmail.com) who will be pleased to provide the link.

OCTOBER

SATURDAY	1 st	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Village Hall
SUNDAY	2 nd	11.00 am	Harvest Festival (followed by BYO Harvest lunch)	Bowhayes Farm V.O.
SUNDAY	9 th	10.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion Morning Worship	West Hill O.S.M.
SUNDAY	16 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	23 rd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	30 th	11.00 am 3.00 pm	Holy Communion <i>All Souls Remembering our Loved Ones</i> - followed by tea	T.S.J. T.S.J.

NOVEMBER

SATURDAY	5 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Village Hall
SUNDAY	6 th	10.30 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Morning Worship	O.S.M. N.Pop
REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY	13 th	10.55 am	Remembrance Day Service	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	20 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	27 th	9.30 am 6.30 pm	Holy Communion Team Advent Carol Service	T.S.J. O.S.M.

DECEMBER

SATURDAY	3 rd	10.00 am	Christmas Coffee Morning, cakes & produce stall	Village Hall
SUNDAY	4 th	10.30 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Morning Worship	O.S.M. N.Pop

REMEMBERING AT TIPTON

SUNDAY 30th OCTOBER AT 3 pm ALL SOULS
Remembering our Loved Ones

SUNDAY 13th NOVEMBER at 10.55 am
Remembrance Sunday Service

Diary Dates - October & November 2022

All dates correct at the time of publication and are subject to the Covid situation

October

3rd Oct	7.30pm	VOSRA To the South Pole and back, Community Hall	P16
9th Oct	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14
10th Oct	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
17th Oct	7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Group, Community Hall	P29
24th Oct	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
27-29th Oct	7.30pm	TIPPS Suddenly at Home, Community Hall	P15

November

6th Nov	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14
7th Nov	7.30pm	Playing Fields Association AGM, Community Hall	P7
9th Nov	7.30pm	Cricket Club AGM, Pavilion	P13
12th Nov	10am-noon	Air Ambulance Coffee Morning, Community Hall	P15
14th Nov	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
19th Nov	7.30pm	Nightjars music evening, Community Hall	P14
19th Nov	7.30pm	Cricket Club Awards Evening, The Cannon	P13
21st Nov	7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Group, Community Hall	P29
28th Nov	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14

Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes

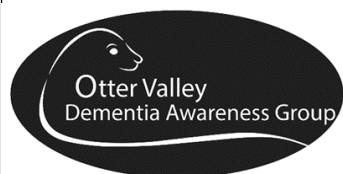
This group has now resumed after the long summer break. We meet on **Thursday afternoons from 2.30-4.30pm** in the Community Hall.

It is not only ladies knitting but also some painting, drawing, embroidery and occasionally a board game. And there is a very keen group of cribbage players who always welcome new faces.

So don't sit alone on an autumn/winter afternoon but come and have a chat and a cup of tea, even if you don't feel like art and craft. All welcome.

£2.00 a session when you come and no joining fee.

Ann Knight 812040



Otter Valley Dementia Awareness Group

Our next big event on **Saturday 12th November**. The title of the day is **Live Well, Age Well**.

We want to raise the profile of looking after yourself in order to live a healthier, more fulfilled life whether it be through mental stimulation, socialisation, physical exercise, consideration of mental wellbeing, etc.

The day, based at **The Institute in Ottery St Mary**, will offer a host of opportunities for local people to participate in, for example: volunteering, engagement in a formal group such as a cultural group, sport, creativity ... or other opportunities which could be appealing to you or a loved one. We also will have contributors in an advisory capacity regarding consideration of sorting your finances and will writing, as well as helping with lasting power of attorney documentation.

In addition to displays and stands we will be inviting key contributors to run a number of workshops - the details of these will follow in due course.

So for now put the date in your diary!

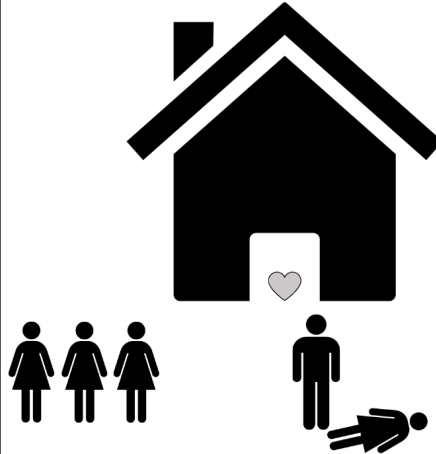
If you are involved in a group and would like to contribute to this event please make contact with Jill Dudding.

Email: jilldudding16@hotmail.com or telephone: 07999487537

T.I.P.P.S. Presents . . .

Suddenly at Home

A Play by Francis Durbridge



7:30pm

Thurs 27th Oct -

Sat 29th Oct 2022

**Tipton St John
Community Hall**

tickets via:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS

or: **tipton village
stores**

£10 to include
refreshment and
programme



T.S.J. Community Hall bring
you an evening with . . .



An evening of live 60s, 70s & 80s hits
to get you up and dancing !

Saturday 19th November 2022

7:30pm

Tickets £15

Available from
Brian Rice on
01404 811396

or via email:

[rice196@
btinternet.com](mailto:rice196@btinternet.com)



Tickets
include a fish and
chip supper from
The Codfather
(Vegetarian option
available)

B.Y.O.B.
(bring your
own booze!)
and glasses
please

