



Megs Rimmer

IPTON TIMES

312
December
2022
January
2023

Tipton Times was started in 1969 and is produced and distributed to local households every two months by volunteers. Costs are met from voluntary contributions
TT advertising is free and limited to local non-profit organisations and charities, with a once per year opportunity for businesses in our delivery area



VENN OTTERY
CHURCH
- ITS FUTURE?

EDDC
LOCAL PLAN
- HAVE YOUR SAY

FAREWELL
TO
MR BUTLER

TIPTON PAST
'A CASTLE IN
THE AIR'

COPY DEADLINE

For 313, February and March 2023
Friday, 20th January (unless by arrangement)

CONTRIBUTIONS VIA YOUR BANK TO:

The Tipton Times Fund

Sort Code: 30-94-36 A/c No: 01720384

Email: tiptontimes2020@gmail.com

Follow us:

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/TiptonTimes>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/TiptonStJohnVillageNews>

Contact details for village organisations and societies are available at

<https://www.tiptontimes.org.uk/>

Editors:

*David Birch (01404 815402) 3 Tipton Lodge, Tipton St John, EX10 0AW
Anne Sadler; Judith Taylor*

Treasurer:

Andrew Sadler

Proofreader/Printers:

Barbara Pugh; Janet Croud; Pauline Belton

Distribution and General Production:

*Jenny Arthur; Anne Bareford; John & Pauline Belton; Janet Croud; Jenny Dorrington;
Jem & Wendy Gillham; Michelle Grover; John Harding; Alan Hayslep; Kyle Hayes;
Martin & Janet Jenkins; Nicky Knight; Katherine Lilley; Gill & Allen Marks;
Shân Merritt; Ann Moore; Nigel Morgan; Jan Passmore; Barbara & Tony Pugh;
Anne Reid; Vanda Reynolds; Sarah & Stephen Rosser; Maggie Rule; Nikki Sanford;
Chris & Janet Schofield; Alison & David Stevens; Megan Watton; Denise Wightman*

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Venn Ottery Church

taken by Paul Taylor

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

You will have seen that our cover features Venn Ottery Church and, if you read the article by Mark Ward, Keith Poultney and Lizzi Steel on page 10, you will understand why they paint a picture of an uncertain future for the church which, of course, predates the church building in Tipton.

A combination of declining numbers, problems with the structure of the building and the impact of Covid has led to questions over its future viability. If it is to survive and flourish in the future, much will depend, as the article says, on funding for its restoration, "but more importantly, it will depend on whether the people of Venn Ottery want a living church. And that will mean people coming onto the PCC and having active participation in the life and worship of the church as well as its ancient stones". We very much hope that a productive and happy future for the church can be secured.

Back to the present when our minds are beginning to turn towards Christmas. Full details of all Christmas services can be found on page 30, including carol services at Bowhayes Farm on **15th December** and in Tipton Church on **18th December**. The school Christmas Fair is on **Wednesday 14th December** and carol singing around the village takes place on **Monday 19th December**.

This issue highlights many recent local successes, including TIPPS' production of 'Suddenly at Home' and the coffee morning for the Devon Air Ambulance which raised the impressive sum of £2,222.12. Many congratulations to Alison Stevens and all who supported her in organising this event.

We were so sorry to hear of the recent death of Malcolm Keeley, who contributed so much to our community. We extend our deepest sympathy to Pat and all his family.

As editors we depend hugely on our team for printing, delivering and collating each edition. Thanks to all of you for your efforts this year and especially to Nick and Gillian Howe, our departing Harpford deliverers, and to Jem and Wendy Gillham for stepping in to replace them. We'd also like to express our thanks to Ottery Town Council for a grant which has enabled us to buy a new laptop, which will help us considerably on the editorial side.

We wish you all a very happy Christmas!

The Editors

Contents			
Church Diary	30	Readers	24
Church Draw	11	Recipe Corner	27
Cllr Geoff Pratt	22	RSPB	26
Cllr Jessica Bailey	22	School	16
Cllr John Green	21	Scouts	17
Community Hall Report	14	Table Tennis	14
Cricket	13	Tennis	12
Eager Beavers	18	Thought for the Times	11
Garden News	20	TIPPS	5
Nature Notes	6	Tipton Past	28
OSM Choral Society	17	Tipton Residents Association	12
OSM Council	21	Village Diary	31
OSM Library	9	VOSRA	8
Playing Field	7	Weather	15



THANK YOU



Tennis Club presentation

We would like to thank all those who contributed in any way to the coffee morning in support of the Devon Air Ambulance. In particular those who worked so hard on the day baking and helping on the stalls plus all who came and had a cup of coffee and bought something. There were so many raffle prizes (again kindly donated) - the raffle team worked nonstop! Above all people seemed to be having a jolly time and that's really what it was about as well as raising much needed funds for the Devon Air Ambulance Trust.



The total raised from the morning itself is £1478. This was helped considerably by a donation from the Tennis club which is where all this began. In addition the bucket was put out on The Nightingales music night which has totalled £89.12. So, together with the online donations of £655, the grand total is £2,222.12. We are delighted and overwhelmed with the support Tipton has given us.

Thank you again.

David and Alison



The youngest supporter of the day



Review of TIPPS Production of *Suddenly at Home*

I had heard we were going to be in for an evening of twists and turns but hadn't read the script or seen the play before so was looking forward to seeing this thriller unfold. I wasn't disappointed! As the lights dimmed we heard some suitably pensive music to set the atmosphere. The curtains opened and lights came up to a round of applause for the fantastic set. As soon as we saw the suitably bold pattern on the curtains and well appointed décor we were transported to the 1970s - a really great set which maximised the limited stage space. I particularly like the speakers set at the back: such a realistic touch I was unsure whether they were wired in or not when the LP was played!



The plot unfolded nicely. Emilie Poultny played the unfortunate Maggie well with really great characterisation. Helen, the concerned sister, was played convincingly by Claire Martin. Mo Mylne, cast as the actress friend Sheila, executed the role admirably with nerves realistically intensifying as the plot thickened. There was a great scene where Remick the 'detective' shows up and questions Glen, while Sheila nervously wanders around the room - this was acted really well. Not an easy thing to do for very long when you are not part of the main action on stage at that time. Well done to Mo.

Glen, played by Ken Mylne, turned suitably nasty when called for. A role with A LOT of lines, so well done to him for learning them! Credit also goes to him for pulling off believable telephone calls with realistic pauses for response, again not an easy thing to do, especially with first night nerves! Great cameo appearances from Mark Reader as Sam, Brian Rice as Appleton, Denise Wightman as Remick and Sue Hulley as Ruth - all well played with drama and pace with a special mention to Sue whose natural acting should be commended.

All the cast worked well together, I can see a lot of hard work had gone in to their performances - characters had been directed well with cast positioned nicely for ease of interaction and they moved about naturally in amongst the set.

Scene changes were swift and props were good. I particularly liked the vintage Marlborough cigarette packet! Lighting was just right for each scene and the many sound effects were very capably delivered - right on time! Costumes, hair and make up were excellent for this production - very suitable for the period and well styled to each character.

Well done to all involved in this production, a huge amount of hard work was clearly pumped in to bring everything together. The audience was engaged the whole way through and we left thoroughly entertained.



Natalie Anning



T.I.P.P.S. presents...



Beauty & The Beast



Tipton St John Community Hall
Tuesday 14th Feb - Saturday 18th Feb 2023
 7:30 pm, Saturday Matinee 2:30pm

Tickets available soon! Look out for posters and follow us on Facebook!

TIPPS News

There's no rest for the wicked here at TIPPS! After putting on a successful full length play at the end of October we went straight into rehearsals for February half term's *Beauty & the Beast*. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of next year as usual via Ticketsource and in the village shop on Saturday mornings.

By the time you read this we will have had our usual Christmas skittles outing and we will be having another get together in the new year. TIPPS juniors weekly club nights have now ceased and rehearsals for the juniors for the pantomime have taken their place. Exciting times!

Thank you to everyone who came along to see the play and to all who support us throughout the year, it is very much appreciated. Merry Christmas from us all at TIPPS and sending you our best wishes for a happy, healthy new year.

Natalie

Nature Notes



The hot, dry days of summer seem so far away and, when the rain came, it really did arrive with a vengeance. Yet it has still been mild. A boon to us all, not having to turn our heating up too soon! Only as we enter the last full week of November, the temperatures have decided to drop.

Robins pair up from late December until early March. Although the males sing to attract a female, it's the female robin who does all the chasing. She spots a good looking male and then follows him around until he accepts her.

She knows she has struck lucky when the male gives her an offering of food. The bright red breast of the robin is a familiar sight to everyone, but how can you tell a male robin from a female robin? The answer is - with great difficulty. Even robins seem to have a hard time working it out. Male and female robins are the same colour. The only way to tell them apart is by their behaviour. An unmated male, singing in his territory, will be aggressive to any intruding robin. If the intruder is another male, it will either retreat or try to see off the occupier. If it is a female seeking a mate, she will persist in approaching the male until she is accepted. This can take several hours.



This all takes place in the daytime, of course. But when it gets dark, listen out for the hooting of tawny owls. It's the time of year when they start calling to attract a partner. When a male tawny finds an attractive female he presents her with a dead mouse as a sign of his affection.

Few insects remain active at this time of year, but one which you might encounter is the woodlouse. Some gardeners view woodlice as pests, but in reality they are a vital part of the ecosystem. Even in January they are busy feeding on rotting plant material, industriously breaking it down and recycling it back into valuable soil.

Another insect that you are most likely to see are winter moths. Unlike most other moths in Britain which fly during the warmer summer months, the mottled grey winter moths are on the wing from late October through to the end of January. It is only the males which are able to fly since the females are wingless. The females walk up the trunks of trees to mate with the males and lay their eggs. When the

caterpillars hatch they are able to distribute themselves to other trees by 'ballooning'. The caterpillars lower themselves from a high branch on a thread of silk and then wait for a breeze to float them to the next tree.

Lichens are commonly seen and yet often overlooked. They are amazing living entities, because they are the result of two or more separate organisms growing together as one. At this time of year their bright yellow, red, green and orange colours are particularly noticeable. Spot them growing on rocks, walls, tree trunks, and especially gravestones. If the weather does turn cold, and you happen to be out for a brisk winter walk, you might come across some fungi known affectionately as King Alfred's cakes. Looking like little burnt cakes, these fungi can appear at any time of the year, but they are more obvious now that the leaves have fallen from the trees. You can find them growing on dead and fallen branches and if you cut one in half you'll see the insides are made up of layer upon layer of dry fibrous material. Although not recommended for obvious reasons, if you ignite this material, you can cup it in your palms and use it to keep your hands warm on a cold day. If you decide to try it, make sure it's properly extinguished before discarding it.

Nectar, pollen and berries of ivy are an essential food source for insects and birds during autumn and winter when food is scarce. Ivy also provides shelter for insects, birds, bats and other small mammals. The high fat content of the berries is a nutritious food resource for birds and they are eaten by a range of species including thrushes, blackcaps, woodpigeons and blackbirds.

So there we have it! Mistletoe, the Holly and the Ivy.

All that remains is for me to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year!

... 'til next year!

Geoff Pinn

gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk

01404 812878

Tipton St John Playing Field

Our AGM was held on the 7th November to review the Playing Field year and elect new officers. I'd particularly like to thank David Boyle and James Scrimshaw, who are stepping down as Treasurer and Trustee respectively, for all their hard work and support. David has played an enormous role in managing our finances and contributed hugely to the development of our facilities, not least the renewal of the play area in 2022. We are very pleased to welcome Rob Peckham to the committee and the role of Treasurer.

The elected officers for the next year are:

Chair: David Birch

Vice Chair: Judith Taylor

Treasurer: Robert Peckham

Secretary: Mo Mylne.

Confirmed as Trustees: John Belton, Will Davey, Lisette Johnston, Lauren Taylor, Roger Hunt and Tim Davies. Club Representatives continuing: Kevin Sexton (football), Nick Moorhouse/Ken Mylne (Tennis), Jem Gillham (Cricket).

I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to our annual envelope collection and to all our collectors: so far we have received £1,329, so we are hopeful of exceeding last year's total of £1,541. We really do depend on this income-source in order to support our programme of maintenance and development, so every donation is very much appreciated. If for any reason you have not yet made a donation and wish to do so, it is not too late: just drop your envelope into the village shop and we will collect it from there. Alternatively, you can donate by bank transfer (Lloyds Bank: Sort code 30-94 -36 - Account no. 00866342).

With this in mind, readers may find it interesting that at the AGM, our Treasurer David Boyle reported that:

"Regular sources of income are approximately distributed as follows: 35% from rental charges, 40% from donations and 25% from the Otter Rail & River Run event. Rental charges were increased by 4% following a three-year period at constant prices. Proceeds from the annual envelope collection, donation boxes and bank transfers returned to pre-pandemic levels. The proportion of donors who pay by bank transfer remains below 10% and, somewhat surprisingly, many donors switched back to envelopes after making bank transfers when house-to-house collections were temporarily suspended due to the pandemic."

There are of course always new challenges ahead, the most significant of which is the need to replace the pavilion. Having taken advice, our preferred option is a complete rebuild, which will of course require substantial grants. Fund raising is ongoing to raise an initial sum of £40,000 to enable the pavilion improvement project to progress to planning permission stage together with a robust estimate of construction cost to support a second phase of fund raising for construction work. The services of an architect and other professionals will be engaged to assist us to identify a preferred option for improvements by means of consulting user groups and the wider community, and then to prepare architect drawings, reports and environmental studies to gain planning permission.

We are also looking forward to implementing the initial recommendations of our new wildlife Sub-committee, which has been established to investigate how best to spend the legacy received from the estate of Pat Cox. Initial ideas for a potential 'wildlife trail' include the improvement of paths and access, interpretation boards, a seating area, limited coppicing to improve diversity of vegetation.

David Birch (Chairman) 01404 815402



TIPTON LADIES GROUP A Day in the Life of a TV reporter

At our October meeting we invited Hamish Marshall, a presenter and reporter on BBC Spotlight for 27 years, to give us an insight into his life in front of the camera, covering events in the South West. Whilst the majority of his career involved driving around the lanes of Devon and Cornwall to garner his stories, he did once have a rather bizarre one day trip to Antigua to cover a transatlantic rowing event!



A typical day however, with Spotlight going live on air at 1.30pm and 6.30pm, would start with a 9am meeting. These days this would be a conference call with the producers, who would have already trawled through the latest news stories for any specific local connections and also anything in the national news which could impact on people living here. Sometimes, BBC London might have requested a story from the Spotlight team too. The journalists would also have an input if they had heard of anything of interest as well. Only fifteen minutes is allowed for everyone to present their ideas and for the producers to plan that evening's broadcast. Each item usually is allocated one minute of airtime. The next stage is down to the journalists to research and write their specific story and be ready to pitch them to the producers.

By 10am the stories need to be getting set up, which usually involves taking a cameraman along to the location. It is then up to Hamish to edit the story. For a two-minute article, assuming there are 3 clips of 15 seconds each, only 1 minute 15 seconds remain for the reporter to speak direct to camera. This means that every word must count. A typical delivery would be 160 - 180 words per minute. If a story is to run at lunchtime and also in the evening, then a slightly different slant is required for the later broadcast.

Spotlight actually airs for 26 minutes 30 seconds per night so the script has to be accurately timed. If the timing does go askew on the night, the presenters, particularly the weather ones, and David Braine is particularly adept at this, are asked to elaborate to fill up the time if needed.

Interestingly, Spotlight at 6.30pm is the most watched programme across the UK in relation to the available audience in the South West, of whom 40% regularly tune in. The figure for Bristol is 37%, whereas for BBC London, the equivalent figure is only 10%.

Underpinning everything is the need for the BBC to produce a balanced view of the world when dealing with issues which are often controversial. Hamish drew an amusing and entertaining picture of everything that goes on behind the scenes to make sure this objective is met.

Ann Moore

VENN OTTERY & SOUTHERTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The year has flown by! Autumn has brought us more rain than we might like but at least it hasn't been too cold (so far . . .).

Annual General Meeting + Bring and Share Supper + Wine Quiz

Coming up is the VOSRA AGM on **Wednesday 7th December**, starting **7.30pm** in Tipton Community Hall. The meeting will be quite short with brief updates about local matters.

The annual elections to the committee must be held and we need your help on this. There are four officers and, at present, two additional members. These are Chairman - Shân Merritt, Vice Chairman - Chris Cole, Treasurer - Martin Jenkins, Secretary - Denise Wightman. The additional committee members are Andy Finch and Jan Alden.

None of the committee jobs are onerous but they do have to be done in order to comply with the constitution and for insurance purposes. Martin is standing down after many years as Treasurer so a replacement is needed. We'd love some extra people to take a more active part as a member of the committee! You can be nominated or nominate someone else, either in advance or at the AGM, and join us safeguarding our lovely area.



After the formalities we'll have a **Bring & Share supper**, so please bring a contribution (e.g. a few sausage rolls, mince pies etc.). Paul Kinson is arranging a **fun Wine Quiz** - taste some samples and try to answer Paul's questions! Just a bit of festive fun, so do come along to the Hall on 7th December.



Shân Merritt - *Chairman, VOSRA*

Longing for Light

At Tipton Church we will be holding our final prayer meeting of 2022 during the first week of Advent, on **Thursday 1st December** starting at **7.30pm**.

The season of Advent is a time of expectation as we look forward to celebrating once again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ as a baby just over 2,000 years ago, but it is also a time of hope as we look forward to his return as king at a time unknown. At this time of year especially, as the dark nights close in, it is reassuring to know that Jesus is recognised by his followers as the Light of the World. And so we come to meet to pray in his name that his light might shine not just in our lives but in all the dark places in our world today.



As a focus for our prayer, we will be using the Bernadette Farrell song 'Longing for Light'. It's a song that states quite simply some of the big problems in our world today. 'Longing for peace, our world is troubled', 'Longing for food, many are hungry', 'Longing for warmth, many are cold' and so on. But it is a great hymn of hope as in the refrain we invite Jesus himself to live and work through us. 'Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.'

All who want to see God's kingdom come here on earth can expect a very warm welcome - but do please dress prepared for a slightly cool building as, like everyone else, we are trying hard to keep our energy bills down.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the village community who kindly donated items in October for St Petrock's, the homeless centre in Exeter, either through the school, the church or by dropping them at our house (St Mary's). They will be very much appreciated and will go towards feeding people in desperate need through the winter and on into next year. We will be praying for the work of St Petrock's in our prayer meeting as we reflect on this line in the song, 'Longing for shelter, many are homeless'. With God's help may we see a time when our prayers are answered and that is no longer true.

David Williamson, Licensed Lay Minister, Tipton Church davidhwilliamson@btinternet.com

Ottery Library - Helping our Community this winter

We know it's going to be a tough few months ahead with the cost-of-living crisis and heating bills rising. So, Ottery St Mary library is launching a 'Libraries for Life' campaign to remind everyone that we're not just about books! You can sit in the warmth and use our free Wi-Fi or book a computer. And there are groups ranging from Bounce and Rhyme for babies and toddlers to Lego Club for children and Craft a Cuppa for grown-ups (we will be running this weekly throughout the winter). There are free IT support sessions on offer - just ask at the library desk. And don't forget if you're housebound or struggle to get to the library, our Home Library Service can deliver not just books but a friendly chat too!



FRIENDS OF OTTERY LIBRARY
SERIOUS ABOUT OUR LIBRARY

Ottery St Mary Library are delighted to be taking part in the annual Christmas Tree Festival at Ottery St Mary Parish Church. We decided to theme our library tree on 'The Snowman' as a tribute to the author Raymond Briggs who sadly passed away earlier this year. We would like to thank members of our 'Craft and A Cuppa' group for helping with the decorations, and the Friends Of Ottery Library. Looking ahead to Christmas, we will be welcoming Father Christmas to the library on **Friday 9th December** when he will be reading a story to our young visitors. If you would like to attend, please contact the library to book your space. Thank you to the Rotary Club of Otter Valley for their support with this. The Friends of Ottery Library are raising money with a fun Christmas Quiz - a great activity to complete with friends and family. It is just £1 per copy of the quiz and the answers will be published in January's edition of the Gazette. If you would like to take part, please drop into the library to purchase your copy.

Ottery Library is **closed** between **Saturday 24th - Tuesday 27th December** and **on Sunday 1st and Monday 2nd January**.

On behalf of the team at Ottery Library, we would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas!

Kerry Carr

Venn Ottery Church

A few people have been asking recently what is happening with Venn Ottery Church. You may know that our ecclesiastical (i.e. church) parish is 'Tipton St John with Venn Ottery'. Although the Venn Ottery building is the older, by a long time, Tipton has been the main parish church. In practical terms, the vicar, churchwardens and Parochial Church Council (PCC) are one group of people with responsibility for two church buildings.



Before Covid turned all our lives upside down nearly three years ago, we were holding two services of worship each month at Venn Ottery: Holy Communion at 9.30am on the first Sunday and an 8am Communion on the second. But we were already facing two big challenges. The first was that the building was deteriorating. We had a problem with bats, and the floor at the east end was dropping, and cracks were starting to show.



The second, which from a church point of view is more serious, was a lack of people. The 9.30am Communion worked because there was no service at Tipton that day and the Tipton congregation came to Venn Ottery instead. But there were very, very few regular worshippers from Venn Ottery. The 8am service was in addition to a service at Tipton and was so small that it was probably coming to an end. During the lockdowns all the church buildings were closed and, sadly, our building at Venn Ottery deteriorated further. Frighteningly large cracks appeared in the east wall, and it was clear that something major was going on. And so, as we came out of lockdown and churches cautiously began to have some services in church buildings again, in this parish we used the building at Tipton.

It is important to remember, though, that the word 'church' is first and foremost a body of people rather than a building. It is nice to have a special building in which the church meets for worship, but the church can meet anywhere. In the

last year, our good friends at Bowhayes Farm have welcomed us to worship there, which we did with special services last Christmas and at harvest time. Once again this Christmas we have been invited to **Bowhayes** for a service of worship to celebrate the birth of Jesus. We hope that many people - but especially those who live in Venn Ottery and want to worship - will come to this service. It is at **7pm** on the evening of **Thursday 15th December**.

And what about the future of the Venn Ottery church building? The PCC commissioned a professional structural engineer to examine the building. However, assessing the necessary repairs has been slowed down by the retirement of our church architect and the process of appointing a new one. We have now made that appointment and will be working with her to plan a way forward. The viability of the church will partly depend on whether the money can be raised. But more importantly, it will depend on whether the people of Venn Ottery want a living church. That will mean people coming onto the PCC and having active participation in the life and worship of the church as well as its ancient stones.



Mark, Keith and Lizzi,
Vicar and Churchwardens

Thought for the Times

Years ago, I knew an elderly gentleman who had been a junior officer in the Royal Navy during the war. He rarely spoke of his wartime experiences, but he had seen things that most of us never will, and he might easily have been lost at sea. In later life he had outlived his wife and carried the sadness of being a widower. And yet, he used to say, "Whatever happens during the year, we will still sit down for Christmas dinner." Of course it is not always literally true, but for Ivor Christmas Day represented something steady and constant in his life.

Many of us love Christmas traditions, even if - perhaps especially if - they are our own family's traditions. Old decorations, special foods and Christmassy smells make us feel warm and nostalgic. We love to sing again the same carols we sang as children. There is something comfortingly constant about Christmas.



The irony is that Christmas recalls an event that was completely novel. Centuries earlier, God had spoken through his prophet Isaiah and said:

Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

Isaiah 43:19a ESV

The birth of Jesus was a new thing. Never before had the Lord

God almighty, the creator of heaven and earth, become a human being. On several occasions in the past God had sent angels, but this was new, a novelty, an innovation. There was continuity with the past inasmuch as the Bible (the parts that had already been written by then) looked forward to a coming Messiah, but the human boy who was also God Incarnate (God in flesh) was something no one had yet seen.

It was so new that in the Bible the birth of Jesus marks the point at which the *New Testament* begins. It was so radically new that our whole calendar revolves around that event in history. They might not have got the year exactly right, but the reason why we are about to enter 2023, rather than some other number, is because of the significance of Jesus' birth. Whether you believe the Christian creeds or not, there is no denying the significance of Jesus in human history.

So by all means enjoy the nostalgia and continuity of Christmas - we all need some constants in our lives. But I want to encourage you to be open to the possibility that God might want to give you something new for Christmas. If you know the Christmas story but have never had a personal faith in Jesus, God definitely wants to give you new life. I was in that position in the run-up to Christmas 1983. I seemed to have known the Nativity story my whole life, but that year I saw it in a new light. If that is you, you will find, as I did, that you have to be willing to receive it. And if you have had a faith in Jesus for many years, as I now have, it may be that God will give you a new insight into Jesus' Birth - not a new faith, but a renewed faith.

I hope that you and yours have a very happy Christmas.

Mark

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

Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st (80) Chris Schofield £30

2nd (62) Pauline Belton £20

3rd (46) June Humphries £15

Update on Platinum Jubilee Fund

Framed copies of the Diamond and Platinum Jubilee Village photos to match that of the Golden one are shortly being hung in the small hall at the Community Hall.

Other money is being spent on the provision of a Village History Information Board to be positioned in the centre of the village. Work is proceeding on this but is taking a little longer than we thought - hopefully it will be in place before the Coronation!





Tennis Club

As we move from autumn into winter the main tennis season has, of course, come to an end but, as always, tennis continues in Tipton. We have always played all year round, but our new upgraded floodlights that we installed last year now provide much improved playing conditions in the long winter evenings and, with Devon's mild climate, there is no excuse not to get out and play! If you have walked past the courts recently, or particularly if you have played on them, you may also have noticed that the courts are looking like new after a good clean-up. Over the summer we had quite a build-up of moss on the courts, probably not helped by silt getting into the pores during last winter's flood. Not only does the moss look unsightly, it starts to make the courts more slippery as soon as we get any rain, so it is important to remove it. During October we first treated them with moss killer and then a couple of weeks later we pressure-washed both courts to remove all the moss and algae. Until you start doing a job like that, it is easy to forget just how big a tennis court is! Many thanks to the small (yes, small) group of volunteers who spent many hours pressure washing and brushing. Special thanks to Pete Clarke, Lev Konar, Anne and Andrew Sadler and Mo and Ken Mylne who all put in long shifts. It is only with this sort of dedicated volunteers that a small club like ours is able to function and to provide very low cost sports facilities to the community.

No doubt there will be other reports in this Tipton Times about Alison Stevens's great fund-raising event for the Devon Air Ambulance following her own rescue by them but, as the accident happened on our courts, I must mention it here, too. As I said to club members, we think of tennis as a nice safe game with only occasional minor injuries, but Alison's experience just reminds us that you never know when something truly unexpected and traumatic can happen out of the blue. It is therefore fantastic to know that the Air Ambulance is on hand to come to our rescue when we most need it. I was honoured to present a cheque to Alison for the Air Ambulance at her coffee morning on behalf of the club. We are delighted that she is making such a good recovery and hope to see her back on court as and when she feels ready!

As I said, tennis in Tipton does not stop for winter so if you fancy giving us a try, why not come along to club night on a Wednesday evening from 6pm. You will be sure of a warm welcome under the floodlights. For ladies, there is also a session on Tuesday mornings from 10am. The first three sessions are free of charge and, if new members join at this time of year, we offer half-price membership taking you through until the start of the new season in April. See <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TiptonStJohnTennisClub> for details or contact us at tiptontenniscub@gmail.com for the half-price offer.

Ken Mylne - Chairman

Tipton St John Parish Residents Association - Flower beds and bridge baskets

We began this year using the Queen's Platinum Jubilee colour scheme. Purple and white proved challenging, both in trying to coincide flowering with the early June celebrations and thereafter with a long, very hot and dry summer. Our white Antirrhynums (Snapdragons) succumbed to rust and the purple Osteospermums did too well in the bridge, crowding out many of the other flowers. Fortunately, we had some Pelargoniums and Heucheras saved from last year, so they added pink to the colour scheme of the beds on the green.



Many thanks to Alison & David, Anne R, Barbara & Tony, Gill & Allen, Janet & Chris, Jenny & Mick, Kay & Ian, Kyle, Linda & Ray, Mo & Ken, Penny & Trevor, Rosemary & James and, newcomers, Sarah & Steve who all helped water the bridge and hanging baskets. Also to Will, in particular, and Cathy for helping keep the flower beds going, and to John, Geoff, Lev and Ed, who helped with moving the bridge baskets, especially when we had a crisis with a vine weevil infestation.



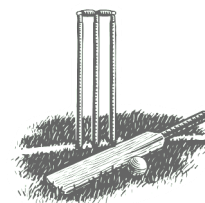
Thanks again to the garage for supplying water and mending a basket knocked off by a passing tractor, and to Franky for cutting the grass on the green.

We had enough funds available to plant the baskets with some winter colour this time - and hope you like them.

Anne, Alison, Janet, Judith, Mo and Paula

Cricket Club

The club AGM was held on 9th November and served as a useful medium for reviewing the season past, acknowledging the efforts of those who work hard for the club behind the scenes and identifying some areas for development.



The chairman congratulated the captain and vice captains on the way they had led the team throughout a very successful season and thanked all those on the committee, particularly Jem Gillham and Phil Wright, who had devoted long hours preparing wickets, servicing and repairing machinery, keeping our finances in order, producing match reports and statistics and managing the club's online presence. He also noted Dave Thayre's contribution as fixtures secretary, particularly in finding replacement matches when 13 opposition teams dropped out with days to spare.

He referred to a number of the season's highlights, notably the annual tour to Cornwall and the home match against Woodbury & Newton St Cyres which was played in memory of Dave O'Higgins. He ended with a word of caution that, despite the club's current success and strength of numbers *"we should not be complacent ... fortunes and circumstances can change quickly, and we need to work hard to maintain our commitment to growing the club and ensuring that all members feel thoroughly involved."*

The election of officers for the coming year was straightforward - all current post holders were re-elected unanimously to their positions:

Chairman	David Birch
Captain	Dave Thayre
Vice-Captain	Dave Alford
Vice-Captain	Phil Tolley
Secretary	Jem Gillham
Fixtures Secretary	Dave Thayre
Treasurer	Phil Wright
PFA Rep	Jem Gillham

The annual club awards evening was held on 19th November at the Cannon in Newton Poppleford. Apart from recognising the season's on-field achievements, the evening was definitely enhanced by the excellent curry provided and a skittles competition, in which the victors were Matt Davies and Dave Thayre.



Phil Tolley, Matt Davies, David Birch and John Buckland with their awards

The principal award winners were:

- Fielder of the year: with 29 catches and 2 run outs - John Buckland
- Bowler of the year: for 36 wickets costing 4.03 runs per over Matt Davies
- Batsman of the year: Scoring 1016 runs at an average of 63.5 and in a year he reached 20,000 Tipton runs, for the 16th year in a row - Phil Tolley
- Most improved player: For taking his all-round game to an even higher level - John Buckland
- Champagne moment: for a memorable leaping catch v Incogniti CC - Tom Birch
- The Kevin Jones 'Clubman of the Year' award: for his sterling work in getting the teams together and the great amount of work undertaken on the pitch, David Birch

Jem Gillham received the President's Award for his outstanding contribution to machinery and grounds maintenance. Individual batting awards to players contributing scores of 50 and above went to Nick Wright, Joe Birch, Ben Kidson, John Buckland, Matt Davies and Phil Tolley and individual bowling awards for taking 5 wickets in a match went to John Buckland and David Birch.

For more details and photos of the evening visit: www.pitchero.com/clubs/tiptonstjohn/news

David Birch, Chairman 01404 815402

Community Hall

Two enjoyable Quiz Nights took place in October and November and our thanks go to Paul Kinson and David Birch for setting a very interesting and wide range of questions on both occasions. Our next two dates are **Sundays 11th December** and **15th January** starting at 7pm.

Just recently, we had an excellent social evening in an attractively-decorated hall with The Nightjars band (which included Tipton's talented



keyboard player, Vanda Reynolds, playing 60s/70s/80s music accompanied by a tasty fish and chip supper. The colourful outfits and a variety of wigs added to the occasion and in some cases were dusted off from the back of wardrobes - the dancing was an unusual mix of styles, never seen on 'Strictly', ranging from all arms and legs to an occasional slow-moving 'smoochie'. A big thank-you to Brian Rice for organising the event so well with the support of the other Trustees.

November was marked by the retirement of Paul Kinson as a Trustee who has been a key player in the management and operation of the Hall for the last 19 years, including the vital role of Treasurer for a large part of that time. To say that he will be missed is an understatement in his case but fortunately for the rest of us he will still be around as I'm sure we will need to call on his help and advice on many occasions in the future.

Thank you, Paul for all the time and effort you have willingly given in various ways over the years (not forgetting your catering skills) which have all been for the benefit of the local community and the other users of the Hall.



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

Tipton St John Community Hall

? QUIZ NIGHTS ?

Teams of up to 6

Sunday 11th December at 7pm

Sunday 15th January at 7pm

£3 per head

BYO food, drinks, and glasses

Please book your table in
advance.

John & Pauline Belton:813431

Table Tennis

from 7.30pm

in the Community Hall

on

Monday, 12th December

and

Monday, 9th January

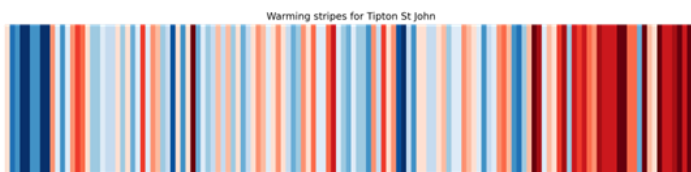
Monday, 23rd January



Tipton Weather Bureau - The Climate Challenge

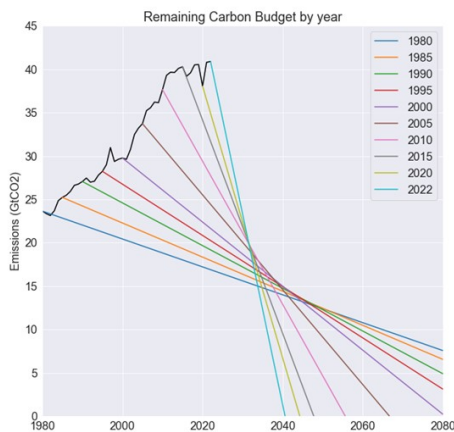
I'm writing this on the final day of the COP27 climate meeting in Egypt. Media coverage over the past couple of weeks has seen headlines describing this as the *last chance* to avoid dangerous climate change by setting us on a pathway to limit warming to 1.5°C. But why is this our last chance, what is the urgency and what is the backup plan?

Where are we now? The climate is warming due to anthropogenic (man-made) emissions of greenhouse gases. To date we have seen around 1.1-1.2°C of warming globally since the industrial revolution. In the UK, there has been 1.0°C of warming in our lifetimes (2012-2021 compared to 1961-1990), and the UK is warming at a faster rate than the global average. The 'warming stripe' opposite (best viewed in colour online) shows temperatures in Tipton St John have steadily been increasing with recent years consistently amongst the highest on record. All in all, we are close to reaching 1.5°C of man-made warming.



The annual mean Tipton St John temperature record from 1884 up until 2021 with each stripe representing an individual year. The record is derived from the Met Office observation network.

Why 1.5°C? In many ways, 1.5°C of anthropogenic warming since the pre-industrial is an arbitrary target. However, this is the target enshrined in the 'Paris Climate Agreement,' and is thought to be the temperature which, if exceeded, will lead to 'Dangerous Climate Change.' Scary as this sounds, the best climate science tells us this is not a threshold in the earth system, but rather with every tenth of a degree warming beyond 1.5°C the risks increase. These risks include increased heat related deaths and wildfires as we've seen in the UK recently, sea-level rise that will make small island states in the Pacific uninhabitable and Amazon rainforest may collapse from drying. Minimising global warming is our best way of reducing these risks and the impact on our everyday lives.



What is needed to achieve the 1.5°C target? Quite simply, dramatic and urgent emission reductions. The graph shows the rate of emission reductions needed every 5 years since 1980 to achieve the warming target. From the online colour version, you can see that global inaction means we now stand at a cliff edge of emission reductions. Hence the urgency amongst policy makers and the press headlines around 'last chances'. Looking at more realistic pathways which account for technological, economic and physical limitations we see that current annual emissions exceeding 50 billion tonnes need to drop to 30 billion tonnes by 2030 if we are to have a reasonable chance of meeting the 1.5°C target. This is part of what COP27 is trying to achieve, a set of country pledges to reduce emissions that in total meet 30 billion tonnes by 2030. However, at the time of writing these pledges only total 45-49 billion tonnes.

Can we still make the 1.5°C target? Research suggests there is still a small chance - however, it depends on whether any last-minute agreements can be made. As already shown, delay just makes it more difficult. It all comes down to the level of political will internationally. This is further compounded by the fact that many countries do not yet have sufficient policy to meet their already inadequate pledges.

Is there a plan b? There's no plan b as such, only to get as close to 1.5°C as possible to reduce the climate risk. Many of the future emission pathways to 1.5°C already rely on 'negative emissions,' a technological solution in which carbon dioxide is sucked out of the atmosphere. One option could be to go 'net negative,' which means we remove more out of the atmosphere than we put in. Possible technologies like these create options where 1.5°C is exceeded for decades but can decrease again to 1.5°C by 2100. However, current and emerging technologies are expensive, and un-tested at the scale required - we're talking about sucking billions of tonnes of CO₂

What is the priority? The priority has to be to act immediately to reduce emissions. Ongoing delay puts all the risks and costs onto future generations with no guaranteed solutions. Personally, I suspect we will all come to regret not acting sooner to reduce emissions. We are already seeing the effects of previous delays on extreme weather and future generations will not understand why we did not act earlier.

Andy Wiltshire

Voice of the next generation

I feel like the older generation have kind of let us down, but I have hope for the future. I think that people are doing their best to provide children with education so that we are fully aware of the consequences of climate inaction and the impacts of climate change. I am inspired to do what I can to turn this around. I believe that my generation can make a change, using the science and understanding around climate change to develop the solutions. Together we can put the train back on the tracks and from there nothing can stop us.

Elsie, age 12

TIPTON ST JOHN PRIMARY SCHOOL

As we prepare for our Christmas activities this year, I can't believe I have now been here over a year - it has flown by.

We are preparing to say goodbye to our Executive Head, Colin Butler - see the interview below. Being part of a Primary School is never dull, and so often incredibly rewarding. With all the gloomy headlines at the moment across our nation and the world, the simple joys of seeing a child take their first steps in learning to read, or another delighting in our Forest School, are a welcome distraction. We are still on the lookout for recruiting new governors for the small Federation we are a part of - see below for more details.

Finally, I wish everyone in the Tipton St John community a very Merry Christmas and a hope-filled and joyous New Year!

Pete Button, Head of School

The Otter Valley Federation* is recruiting new Governors

Ever thought about being a school Governor? Do you have skills that you think could contribute to the strategic leadership of the Federation? Well now is your opportunity!

If you have an interest in education and would like to support your local schools please feel free to contact Sarah Walls, Chair of the Governing Board at sarah.walls@ottervalleyfederation.org or Jemma Bargery, Vice Chair, at jemma.bargery@ottervalleyfederation.org both of whom can give you more information about the vacancies and the roles available.

*The Otter Valley Federation comprises Tipton St John Church of England Primary School and Feniton Church of England Primary School.

After just over 13 years, Colin Butler is retiring. Colin has been executive Head Teacher for the Otter Valley Federation (Feniton C of E and Tipton St John C of E Primary Schools) for the past 8 years. Below is a transcript of his interview with some Oak Class children at Tipton.

Q1: What were some of your favourite experiences at this school? The residentials were really fun, art and clay, sports, summer fetes including soaking Year 6, and church are always memorable for a variety of reasons.

Q2: What were you before you became a teacher? Outdoor Pursuits instructor - I worked in Scotland, The Lake District and on Dartmoor for eight years, before I started teaching at a school with only 36 students and 2 classes!

Q3: What is the difference between Feniton and Tipton? Apart from size and the colour of the jumpers(!) - not much, I think they have more in common than differences: great ethos, people and atmosphere – and they both can have trouble when it rains!

Q4: How long have you worked as a teacher? 33 years.

Q5: What are your funniest moments at Tipton?

During one of our dress-up days for charity, I came dressed as a superhero, but an important person came (a local MP), and I looked like a superhero in the photo, big, strong and tall. The MP made a donation to the charity!

Q6: What, in your opinion, is the best thing that has ever happened to this school? The teachers, headteachers, children and TAs. Great people plus great team = great school!

Q7: What, in your opinion, are the three most important values? They are all important but the ones that spring to mind are Achievement, Hope and Empathy.

Q8: What is your favourite subject? Art/pottery/claywork. Being colour blind, I did not enjoy it at school, but love it now as it's a chance to be creative and making choices.

Q9: What memories will you take with you?

Smiles, happiness, joy and seeing the children play games. Also when our school flooded I found it hard to be on TV because there were loads of reporters and camera crews and I was worried how my hair would look!



Pete Button, Head of School Tel: 812943 admin@tipton-stjohn.devon.sch.uk

Update from Tipton Scout Group - Electricity to the Scout Hut

One of our leaders has recently met with Western Power to discuss getting electricity to the plot. The most convenient way is to come across the river from the field opposite the scout plot. However, this has been met with some opposition from the farmer who farms those fields, due to having to have a five metre support cable for the pole in his field. We have looked at having the electricity cable laid under the river, but this is far too expensive at around £40,000.

We are now investigating the cost of having solar panels at the scout plot and will keep you posted. We would like to thank all of you who have supported this project over the last couple of years, it is much appreciated.

Alison Clatworthy - Group Scout Leader

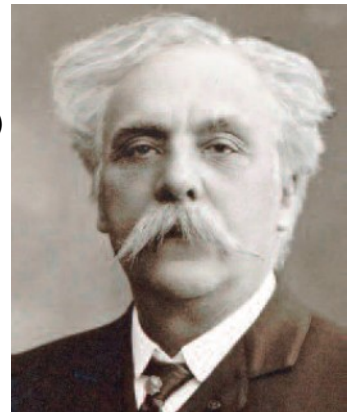


Our Autumn season has not been without difficulties. Our accompanist broke her leg, and our replacement got Covid. However, we were fortunate have the services of young man in his gap year before university. As I write (in November) preparations are in full flow to join the concert in Exeter Great Hall for Classics Galore, before returning to work on our Christmas concert.

The **Christmas concert is on Saturday 10th December at 7.30 pm**

and, as always, is in Ottery St Mary Parish Church. We return to our normal offering of a glass of wine and a mince pie at the end of the concert, which is included in the price of a programme. The programme is also your ticket to the concert and will cost £15. They are on sale through a member of the society, from the Curious Otter Bookshop or online through Ticketsource. Go to our website <https://otterystmarychoral.org/> for the link.

The main offering of music this year is the *Fauré Requiem*, which is unlike other requiems in its format. It is a popular piece which includes the final section *In Paradisum* with its soaring soprano melody. Fauré (pictured here) composed it in 1888 when he was in his 40s. In addition, we have an orchestral piece - Mozart's Jupiter Symphony (no 41). In celebration of the 70 years reign of her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we will also sing *Handel's Zodok the Priest* which was performed at her Coronation in 1953. Add to the mix the ever-popular Christmas Carols, some sung by the chorus, some for the audience to join in, and also one composed by Louis Bennyworth, who joined us this year as a tenor.



So please come and join us and get the Christmas Season off to a cheerful and positive start. Any enquiries to our email address:

osmcs@hotmail.co.uk

David Wade, Chairman

Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes
Group

For our **Christmas Meeting** on
Thursday December 8th



from **2.30 - 4.30 pm**
in the Community Hall

we will be holding a

Beetle Drive

with Christmas Refreshments and Small
Draw
in aid of BBC Children-in-Need

Bring Your Friends

All Welcome

£2.00 a head

Sunday December 18th

Pierre's Café

Coffee morning & lunch

from 10am until 4pm

The pop-up café is somewhere to go with friends and family, keep warm and have a reasonably priced, delicious plate of food. Pierre has a similar set up in his village of Gittisham which has proved to be very popular and we wanted to see if it could work in Tipton.



**Book lunches on
811671 or 07534 750814.**

Lisette



Eager Beavers have been very busy this year and I am pleased to say have achieved most of the things we set out to do when we applied for our funding.

With this in mind, I recently put out a poll on Facebook, to ask everyone what workshops or events they would like us to organise, as I am very much aware that what I think people want to do, may not actually be the case!

The results came through thick and fast and top of the list was foraging with 32% of the vote. I was lucky enough to have met a lady called Tess Stone at the Ottery Food Festival in September and recalled that her presentation involved foraged items, which she then cooked into a delicious meal. I contacted her at the 'Food and Forage Garden Project' at Stoney Orchard and she agreed to come along and run a workshop for us.

On 12th November we all met up at Harpford, keen to head off into the woods to see what we could find, however this was not as straight forward as I had first thought. Tess took time to explain that before we started, it was important to recognise the balance that we have with the plants, soil and wildlife. She said that there needs to be respect and a wish to create a relationship with the environment, so that we are then more aware of our place in nature and can appreciate and be grateful for our foraged 'bounty'.

I realise that this isn't something that many of us would do in our every day life and it truly resonated with me; especially as one of the fundamental principles with EagerBeaversTSJ is to try and connect with nature and encourage more environmental ways of living to benefit wildlife. Therefore, by heading off into the woods and pulling up plants/collecting seeds did seem to be rather contradictory, but it was clear from the outset that this would not be the case.



Tess Stone

Tess explained that as far as foraging goes, it is often best to stick with what you know and keep it simple. This was a relief I have to admit, for as an ITU nurse we have had several patients who have been admitted having been foraging and then picked and eaten something that they shouldn't have. So that's where we started, heading from the village hall and literally a few hundred yards up the road considering the grass verge with interest. What was immediately apparent was that we didn't need to go very far at all to find plants that we can use for food or medicinally. Tess showed us yarrow, such a beautiful 'feathery' plant and one that I was pleased to say we have planted alongside the bridge in Tipton St John. Its peppery foliage can be used in salads, it can be added to soups/sauces or simply simmered and served with butter. Interestingly, it was also known as 'soldier's woundwort' as it can stem bleeding and was used to treat scratches and cuts as far back as Roman times.

Next, the very common dandelion, (something we will all recognise I am sure) and extremely underrated as all parts of this plant can be used. The leaves are very nutritious and can be used in salads, they are full of vitamins and minerals and the flowers can be placed into omelettes, baked into cakes or even made into wine.



Sticky weed (such a fun plant to throw at others when I was young!), is also known as cleavers or goose grass. Place it in water, leave for a while and who knew that it would reveal a mild cucumber-like flavour? Good for the lymphatic system, it will help to both cleanse and detox.

The good old stinging nettle maybe the star of the show as it is abundant and has so many uses it's truly astounding. The leaves are rich in vitamins A and C with high levels of potassium, calcium, copper, magnesium and iron. It can be made into a pesto or tea and is surprisingly tasty. It's stems are robust and have been used to make clothing, rope and paper through the ages, with the leaves being used to make a dye.



This workshop made me realise just how easy it is to not see the wealth of produce literally beneath our feet. I would hope that I will see so-called 'weeds' differently from now on and appreciate that all plants have benefits both to us and obviously to the wildlife. It confirms to me the need not to use pesticides or chemicals in the garden or in the countryside whenever possible.

We are EagerBeaversTSJ, find us on Facebook, or email EagerBeaversTSJ@hotmail.com. we also have a WhatsApp group which you join if you prefer. We have the community garden on the Playing Field and regular events/workshops, so please look for posters around the village and/or posts on Facebook.

Lisette Johnson

Christmas

There is no doubt that Christmas can be a lovely, joyous time. For some, it is about remembering and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ, for others it might be about getting together and enjoying time with family and friends.

Rituals and events such as Christmas are important because they bring a sense of tradition, routine and rhythm to our lives. They can unify us, bring back memories of the past and build memories for the future.

Christmas can be a really difficult time although, despite any financial pressure we might all experience, retailers will still try to tempt us to buy presents and all the paraphernalia that goes with Christmas. It is easy to feel under pressure and think that in order to enjoy Christmas we have to buy mountains of presents, food, decorations and such like. The media promote the idea of perfection with emotive adverts of happy families eating, drinking and being merry whilst giving and receiving expensive presents. These adverts can be hard to avoid and put across an unrealistic view of what Christmas is really like. It is worth remembering that the sole aim of these adverts is just to squeeze as much money out of us as they can so they can increase sales and profit.

There's a lot of pressure at this time of year to feel happy because everyone else seems to be. Christmas can bring with it a sense of forced enjoyment and a fear of missing out. Apparently around a quarter of the population find Christmas more challenging than the rest of the year. Over two in five people have felt stressed during the festive season, and about one in four has struggled with anxiety or depression during the Christmas period. There are lots of reasons why we might not enjoy Christmas. Bereavement, loneliness, break ups, divorce or health problems can all have an impact. Difficult relationships, dealing with other people's expectations and demands on time to socialise or see people can also put enormous pressure on us too.

If you find Christmas difficult, consider what helps you to feel relaxed and calm and try incorporate this into your day. If you can, be honest with people about how you feel. Allow yourself the time and space you need. It doesn't have to be all or nothing. You might want to join friends and family for a meal or just a drink but not spend all day there.

If you find buying presents stressful, think about alternatives such as a gift exchange where you pick a name of a family member out of a hat and buy a present for only that person. It takes off a lot of pressure for the whole family and is better for the environment too. How many unwanted presents have you received over the years that have probably ended up in landfill somewhere?

Whatever you think about Christmas, just remember, it is only one day and it won't be long before the retailers start putting out the Easter eggs!

Chris Brougham



Garden News – some more summer memories from Sexton's Cottage



I'm sure many of you have walked along from the school towards Metcombe and will have paused at the entrance to Sexton's cottage where you will be taken in by the glorious shapes and colours of the beautiful border just inside the gates. At the height of summer, it is packed full of Echinacea, Astrantia, Verbena Bonariensis, Eryngium, Cosmos, Geums and later on Dahlias against a background of well-established shrubs and trees. It is simply magnificent. Even now as we head into Winter there is autumn colour, interesting seed heads and the last of the Dahlias before the frosts start.



Jenny and Mick moved into Sexton's about seven years ago. It is a large garden with a variety of habitats. There are many trees and hedges and, of course, the riverbank. They inherited the most beautiful Lavender bed planted by the previous resident and it provides a wonderful haze of purple at the front door and is a buzz with many types of bees. Nearby is a newly laid patio area built by Jenny's son and the scent as you brush past the lavender to get to the patio is perfect. This new seating area gives space for the growing family to gather together with a fine view of the garden before them.

The advantage of a larger piece of land is that you can create deep borders which means you can create large splashes of colour and repeat plants along the border. This may sound as though it is a costly activity but Jenny is very clever at searching out a bargain for plants and propagating her own from seed and indeed using our own village plant swap and donations from friends. She is also very generous when she has a glut of plants. Some plants catch my eye as we walk round the garden - Agapanthus (a favourite of mine) brightly coloured Flocks, Rudbeckia, Ammi, Grey Poppies and a very pretty Verbena being used as an edging.



Towards the bottom of the garden is a break in the hedge and through here we can see the productive bit of the garden. They say you need five trees to make an orchard, so this is definitely an orchard as Jenny and Mick have planted a variety of fruit trees here - plum, apple, pears and cherry in particular. There is also a



polytunnel filled with tomatoes, cucumbers, and a very interesting Tahini Melon (a kind of squash) which have been prolific and huge!! They have an irrigation system set up which is why they grow so well. Outside the polytunnel are yet more vegetables and I feel they must be self-sufficient. I like the idea that they grow unusual varieties that you couldn't find in your local greengrocers. Further on from the vegetable plot is the riverbank where they have planted trees but also allow a natural habitat for the wild life.

In the early morning Mick can be seen taking a walk around the land to see what's happening and, I suspect, deciding whether the grass needs a cut that day. Although some of it is rough grass much of it needs cutting regularly which takes him about two and half hours - thank goodness he has a ride on mower!!

Jenny and Mick have worked so hard on the garden and you can see how it has paid off. I've so enjoyed walking round it and seeing how it has evolved so far. Thank you to them for letting me share it with you and also for the tea and cake.

Alison Stevens



Ottery St Mary Town Council

The Planning Committee has met to discuss various applications.

The Station Hub Committee has met to discuss issues relating to the Station. Youth sessions are being run by SPACE on a Monday and Thursday evening and the numbers attending the sessions are increasing weekly. A gaming event is being held during half term. The building is available for daytime and weekend hire. Further information can be found on the Council website or by contacting the Council offices.

It is hoped that the planning application for the MUGA at Strawberry Lane will be submitted later this month.

A Regeneration and Climate Action Committee meeting is being held on 15th November where the committee will be reviewing various projects for completion early next year. West Hill Parish Council will confirm whether they want to be part of a Neighbourhood Plan review at their December meeting.

The Property and Land Committee has met to discuss issues affecting the Council's property portfolio.

The Finance Committee has met and recommended grants were awarded to Ottery St Mary Football Club, Additional Needs Sports Group and the Tipton Times. Further information on Community Grants can be found on the Council website. The Quarter 2 accounts were approved.

Mike Brown, the Neighbourhood Highways Officer for the Eastern Neighbourhood Highways Team at Devon Council, will be resuming his Highways Surgery from Thursday 24th November 2022 between 10.15 and 12.00 noon at the Council Offices. These surgeries will be run every other month. Details of the surgery can be found on our website and via social media.

The Christmas Working Group has been busy planning the light switch-on and late night opening on Friday 25th November from 4pm.

The Council agreed to create a King's Coronation Working Group and a Strategic Plan Working Group.

The Council will be writing to residents to highlight proposed development sites that have been put forward within Ottery in the EDDC Local Plan. EDDC will be hosting a drop-in session from 3pm to 7pm at The Institute on **Wednesday 30th November** and residents are encouraged to go along and make their views known. This is your opportunity to influence and change the emerging plan before it becomes official policy.

Future Full Council meeting dates:

- Monday 5th December 2022 – Council Offices
- Monday 9th January 2023 – Council Offices
- Monday 6th February 2023
- Monday 6th March 2023

The Town Council Offices are open by appointment 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. Finally, the Mayor, Councillors, Kerry Kennell, Christine McIntyre and Jane Bushby wish you all a very safe Christmas and a peaceful New Year. Kerry

Councillor John Green Ottery St Mary Town Councillor, Tipton St John Ward



The year seems to have flown by, it's hard to believe that Christmas is fast approaching. In this edition Cllr Geoff Pratt has mentioned a really important matter that is currently out for public consultation. East Devon District Council published the emerging Local Plan that outlines the strategy for many things including housing for the parish of Ottery St Mary. EDDC have been working on the proposed Local Plan for a year and the Council have been very robust in its objection regarding any further large-scale proposed development in the parish. The local infrastructure is already under huge pressure - schools, medical centre and road network.

One of the most contentious sites would see a new enlarged Tipton Primary school and housing built behind Colin Tooze Leisure Centre, the site previously rejected by EDDC planning committee in 2021.

Can I encourage you to take the chance to comment on the proposed Local Plan. On the separate article about the Local Plan on page 23 the website address and a QR code are included in order for you to add your comments.

Cllr John Green
Office number: 01404 812252
john.green@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Geoff Pratt

Independent East Devon District Councillor, Ottery St Mary Ward



A ten week public consultation seeking residents views inter alia on specific sites for development was launched on the 7th November by EDDC. The Local Plan is the key document used in making planning decisions in East Devon so it is vital that residents have their say on proposals now. The consultation will last until 15th January 2023.

The draft Local Plan and the comments made by the public will finally be subject to an examination by a Government appointed planning inspector. **The consultation can be viewed online at <https://eastdevonlocalplan.commonplace.is/>** and there are more details on page 23 of this edition.

The Plan outlines how EDDC will need to meet Government housing targets (at present 940 dwellings per annum), the climate change emergency, employment developments, the future of town centres and the protection of heritage sites and the natural environment.

We have had very difficult times during the last 3 years and following the recent budget it would appear there are difficult times ahead.

However I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year.

District Councillor Geoff Pratt
Sandiacre, Wiggaton EX11 1PU
gpratt@eastdevon.gov.uk
Tel : 01404 814106

Jess Bailey

Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward



Tipton St John Primary School

As reported in my blog and facebook page in June the Department for Education had assessed various sites for a new school in Tipton St John and Ottery St Mary. The DfE considered that the site at Thorne Farm Way, Ottery St Mary was the only site reviewed 'that provides a deliverable and affordable solution'.

I requested that a copy of DfE's report be made available to Ottery Town Council and residents. Unfortunately this request has been refused. This would be unfortunate at any time, but particularly now because EDDC is progressing its local plan and currently consulting on the draft. Residents and the Town Council can put forward their views not only on housing sites but also their views on any possible sites for a new school until 15 January 2023. It seems to me that the priority in any local plan should be about identifying infrastructure (in Tipton's case a new school) before focusing on houses www.eastdevon.gov.uk/local-plan.

Goodbye to Colin Butler

I will really miss Colin, executive head teacher of Tipton St John primary school. I take my hat off to him for remaining unceasingly positive, despite the huge challenges operating from a split site with a serious flood problem. I first met him about ten years ago when I was parish councillor working on the West Hill and Ottery St Mary neighbourhood plan. Since I became the County Councillor, Colin has been hugely supportive and helpful. I wish him very well for his well-deserved retirement. He will be much missed.

By-Election News

I am very pleased that Cllr Chris Burhop (Ind) was elected as the new district councillor for Newton Poppleford and Harpford following the sad death of Cllr Val Ranger. I already work closely with Chris who is a very energetic chair of Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council and am sure that he will make an excellent independent district councillor. Chris secured 560 votes, Caleb Early (Lab) 162 votes and Paul Carter (Con) 113.

South West Water

One of the things that really annoys me is the outrageous level of executive pay at South West Water. Paying a CEO £1.7 million per year seems excessive to me in any circumstances, but to pay this amount when the sewage is being discharged into Devon's rivers on an industrial scale is outrageous. I put forward a notice of motion at Devon County Council on 6th October requesting that Susan Davey, CEO of SWW, considers not drawing her full remuneration until the sewage situation has been significantly improved. Unfortunately the Conservative-led Council did not agree and voted this suggestion down. This was very disappointing.

On top of the sewage discharges it is hugely frustrating that SWW have blocked my FIO request for details of discharges into the River Otter in 2022. At the end of 2021 they willingly released the data to me but now claim they are exempt from releasing this information because of the investigation by the Environment Agency and Ofwat into sewage discharges which was announced in June.

I do not believe this is a legitimate reason for withholding the information, so I have submitted a request for an internal review and, if necessary, will pursue the matter with the Information Commissioner.

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



EAST DEVON LOCAL PLAN

HOW WILL THE LOCAL PLAN IMPACT OTTERY?

The emerging Local Plan proposes building a minimum of 248 homes in Ottery on five 'first preference' sites. The sites identified are all greenfield land including some good quality agricultural land.

HOW TO MAKE YOUR VIEWS KNOWN

EDDC have launched an online consultation process regarding the emerging Local Plan. You can view the full consultation document online and submit your comments by scanning the QR code or following the web link <https://eastdevonlocalplan.commonplace.is/>

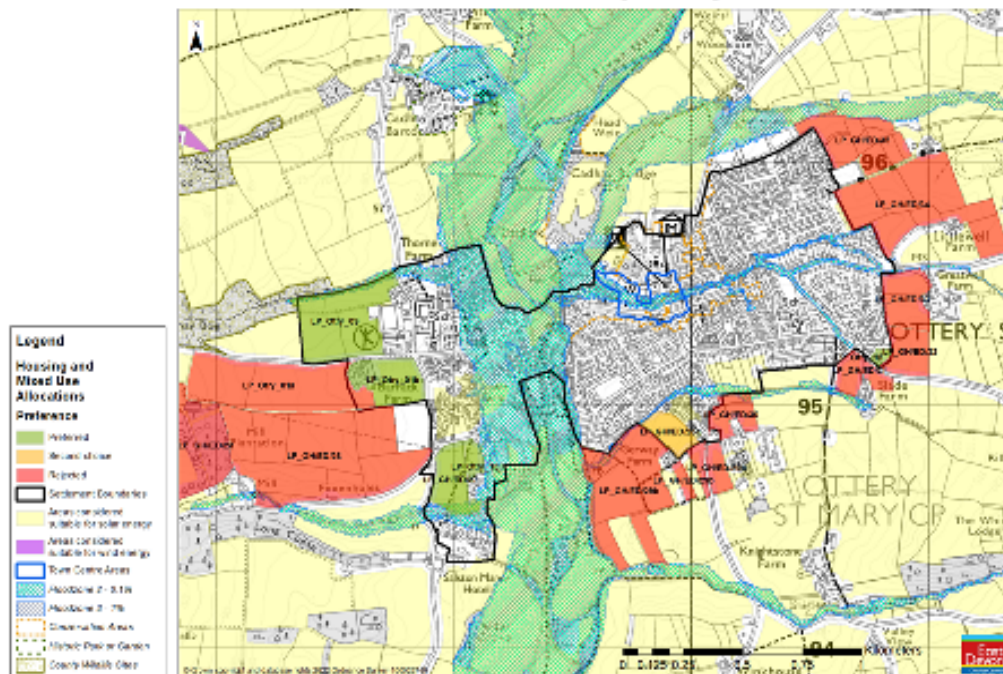


HOW CAN I MAKE MY VIEWS KNOWN FACE TO FACE?

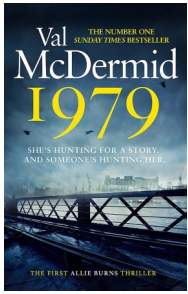
EDDC are organising a 'drop in' to allow members of the public to view the proposals. This will take place at The Institute, Yonder Street on Wednesday 30 November (3pm to 7pm). Your Town Council have already objected to the level of housing proposed in the emerging Local Plan, however, EDDC did not listen.

The Town Council strongly urges you to attend the 'drop in' meeting, and to make EDDC aware of your views of the Local Plan. This is your opportunity to influence and change the emerging plan before it becomes official policy.

East Devon Local Plan 2020-2040 - Ottery St Mary



SINCE 2016 OTTERY HAS SEEN A 25% INCREASE IN HOUSING, THE LARGEST PERCENTAGE HOUSING GROWTH OF ANY TOWN IN EAST DEVON. THE KEY INFRASTRUCTURE HAS NOT EXPANDED TO SUPPORT THE GROWTH



Tipton Readers

1979 by Val McDermid

Val McDermid has sold over 17 million books worldwide which have been translated into more than forty languages. She is a prolific crime writer, having many of her books serialised on TV and radio and won many awards.



1979 is the first book in a series about Allie Burns, a cub reporter on Glasgow's Daily Clarion and reflects the themes of the era: the winter of discontent, strikes, snow, smoking, the place of women in the workforce and the fate of gay relationships.

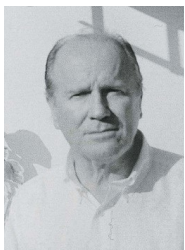
The story begins when Allie is caught on a snow bound train. She and a fellow male journalist witness a birth on the stuck train. It is suggested that it is a story for Allie to report on as she is a woman.

A fellow journalist enlists Allie's help to expose and write up a story about illegal tax evasion scheme which involves Danny's brother.

In turn she asks Danny to help her to infiltrate a small band of Scottish nationalists. Their aim is to bring terrorism to the Scottish referendum - they have a tenuous link to the IRA to support this aim. The story follows the group's attempt to bring this about and the Daily Clarion's involvement.

1979 gave us the opportunity to reminisce but no-one in the group particularly enjoyed the story. We found the plot disappointing, with too many holes for us - not the cracking read we were expecting. It scored an average of 5 out of 10. We did wonder if the book was introducing us to the characters and roles within the newspaper and maybe the follow up books in the series would be better

Anne Bareford



Sweet Caress by William Boyd

Three days before the meeting I realised with a jolt that I was leading the discussion and hadn't yet read the book. It was easy to read fortunately. Also, taking a speedy gallop through the internet for background, I took a look at interviews to understand how he collected the ideas and assembled Sweet Caress. For *assembled* is how I found it. William Boyd said he "cannot publish a book unless I'm happy with the title" but we did not find the title 'Sweet Caress' appropriate or informative.

I'd been busy for a time juicing a really good crop of apples - this is a long process but the juice is worth it - a remarkable explosion of concentrated flavour. The group were therefore treated to (suffered?) a small glass each to start off our session, with or without a little straightening tot if desired!

This novel (from the man who wrote Good Man in Africa and Any Human Heart) centres on fictional Amory Clay, whose single-minded pursuit of the art of the camera puts her among the first women photographers in the 1900s. From childhood to the beginnings of her career as a society photographer, through assignments in World War II and finally to Vietnam, the book's scope is very wide. Though mostly chronological, there are some chapters popped in here and there featuring an elderly Amory looking back from her retirement on a remote Scottish island. There were two or three fairly graphic love-interest aspects as well.

In the lead-up to writing *Sweet Caress*, William Boyd amassed a collection of retro images from the early and mid-twentieth century, finding them at junk shops and other random places. He then shaped Amory's story around them, illustrating the novel with these pictures of strangers from the past. I wasn't convinced by this strategy. I felt it was, in a strange way, stealing from those strangers in the pictures. In addition, the quality was pretty poor which belied Amory's skill and the excellent quality of professional photographs from those days.

I was pleased, though, that the novel also deals with euthanasia and doctor-assisted suicide, and handled with great respect and care by the author. Although he published the book in 2015 the subject is still little discussed in this country, still inching towards a better solution.

With a couple of exceptions, (one being me!) everyone really enjoyed the book and found it a compelling read which touched on many historical periods throughout the 20th Century. (An echo of Forrest Gump I wondered?) So it got an 8 - the firm approval of our group.

Barbara Pugh



Coleridge Medical Centre

Canaan Way
Ottery St Mary
Devon
EX11 1EQ
01404 814447

www.coleridgemedicalcentre.co.uk



Booking Appointments and Ordering Medication

We have been running our flu clinics since October, and in that time our wonderful team of nurses and GPs have administered more than 2,300 vaccinations to eligible patients! We have plenty of flu vaccination clinics set up, so please do contact us to book your appointment.

Due to the volume of patients who need to book their vaccinations we would like to thank everyone for using the automated telephone system and text message booking service to book, cancel and check their flu vaccinations and other appointments. Using these services helps to reduce the queues that build in our phone system.

Patients can also access appointment booking options, their medical records and repeat prescriptions through the NHS App and SystmOnline.

We kindly ask our patients to order any repeat prescriptions when they are due, not too early and to not leave this too late either. For quality and safety reasons our Medical Administrators are not permitted to interrupt other patient consultations to organise an urgent prescription. Repeat prescriptions can be ordered via the NHS App, by completing a request slip in practice, at your chosen pharmacy, or by speaking to a Medical Administrator on the front desk. The surgery will accept a prescription request up to 10 days prior to the due date. Once the practice has received your repeat request, please allow 2 working days for the practice to process it and send it to your chosen pharmacy. Your pharmacy will require time to make up your prescription, and this time can vary between pharmacies so please be aware of this.

Our staff have many talents and, if you haven't already seen it, we would encourage those with access to watch our 'Day in the Life of a Medical Administrator' video on our Facebook page.

Sonnet: To the River Otter

Dear native brook! wild streamlet of the West!
How many various-fated years have passed,
What happy and what mournful hours, since last
I skimmed the smooth thin stone along thy breast,
Numbering its light leaps! Yet so deep impressed
Sink the sweet scenes of childhood, that mine eyes
I never shut amid the sunny ray,
But straight with all their tints thy waters rise,
Thy crossing plank, thy marge with willows grey,

And bedded sand that, veined with various dyes,
Gleamed through thy bright transparency! On my way,
Visions of childhood! oft have ye beguiled
Lone manhood's cares, yet waking fondest sighs:
Ah! that once more I were a careless child!

Samuel Taylor Coleridge



RSPB Aylesbeare Common

This month on Aylesbeare common, scrub clearances

have started, with an emphasis so far on stemming woodland encroachment onto the lowland heath habitat that's so valuable. We've been at Fire Beacon Hill and cleared quite a bit near Hunger Hill on Harpford common. There is always the issue of how to process the cuttings and this winter we are picking



through the birch to find stuff that's too good to waste: much of the long leggy brash can be repurposed. There is demand for it in making horse hurdles and we have been putting together birch bundles for local makers. As usual, we process as much as possible into logs, transported offsite to be stored to dry out, ready for firewood for the coming winters. We are often able to create habitat piles with the brash in nearby woodland to support wildlife and fungi, as refugia and dead wood. To preserve the abundant archaeology on Aylesbeare common, we also cleared scrub off one of the tumuli (ancient burial mounds) - which is a scheduled monument. Led by Devon County archaeologist, Cressida Whitton,

a group of RSPB and archaeology volunteers worked together.

On Fire Beacon Hill, we returned to the new pond, tamping down the puddling clay with a group of volunteers to smooth over any cracks thus allowing the pond to slowly fill as rain gets more frequent during winter. This habitat will eventually support all sorts of wildlife and also provide a water source on the hill. We are considering ingenious means to fill it because rain might not be enough.

Over the course of four long days, we helped install a new gate for the National Trust at East Cliff at Branscombe. It's used to partition livestock and is also a very busy part of the south west coast path. A Douglas fir gate was installed along with oak and chestnut posts. The flinty and stony ground made digging the holes for the posts a very challenging task.

Our residential volunteers travelled to RSPB Farnham Heath for an 'Introduction to Heathland' course, aimed at new staff and volunteers from many other RSPB heathland reserves. Discussions included the various methods of heath management and the importance of heathland for specific species like Dartford warbler and Nightjar, invertebrates and reptiles. They also attended a pony health and management course run by the Dartmoor Pony Heritage Trust.

We held a bit of a thank you day for our dedicated midweek volunteers, starting with a morning apple pressing. Everyone brought in their apples from home and we borrowed an apple press from East Devon District Council, making 50 litres of juice! The majority has been left to ferment for scrumpy cider, while the pulp hasn't been wasted, and some of the ponies got a bit. Afterwards we all went over to Blackbury Honey farm for an excellent cream tea, and we were very well looked after in lovely surroundings.



The hen harrier roost watching has begun for the winter, part of the BTO national survey. Historically hen harriers have used the heaths here in the winter, Aylesbeare common being one of the spots. We don't see them every year any more, although we do keep up the monitoring.

More of our Exmoor and Dartmoor ponies have been moved back from Stockland in the Blackdown Hills, and a small group that had escaped (a fallen branch had knocked out some of the fence) proved quite a challenge to retrieve but they're now home on Aylesbeare common. They joined our other ponies that are being collected from the Blackdowns and elsewhere, so that by the end of November there will be up to twenty-two ponies grazing across both Aylesbeare and Harpford commons. We sometimes receive emails or phone calls from regular walkers who have noticed issues with fences and gates - thank you, this is always helpful. Sometimes we may already know but often it's the case that the first people to notice are those who use gates and paths all the time, so we value feedback, especially to do with the livestock, because their welfare relies on this infrastructure.

RECIPE CORNER

We love Dahl! ... there, I've said it! It's tasty, it's healthy, it's filling and best of all it's inexpensive and quick to make! We have been making many different versions of Dahl, but this really is a firm favourite in our house. Also perfect after all that festive indulgence!!

INGREDIENTS

- 1 teaspoon olive oil or coconut oil
- 2 onions diced
- 3 garlic cloves finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon fresh ginger peeled and grated
- ½ teaspoon finely chopped red chilli (or dried chilli flakes)
- ½ teaspoon cumin seeds
- ½ teaspoon coriander seeds
- ½ teaspoon mustard seeds
- 2 teaspoons ground turmeric
- 1 teaspoon garam masala

TIP: If you don't have all the whole spices, just use 3 teaspoons of garam masala instead.

- 1 cup (200g) dried red lentils, uncooked (rinsed and drained)
- 1 can (14oz/400ml) chopped tomatoes
- 1 can (14oz/400ml) coconut milk
- 2 cups (500ml) vegetable broth/stock
- Salt and pepper
- Juice of half a lemon
- two good handfuls of fresh spinach, washed

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat the oil in a large pan over a medium heat. Add the onion and cook gently for 5 minutes. Add the garlic, ginger and red chilli and cook for a few minutes.
2. Grind the cumin, coriander and mustard seeds lightly in a pestle and mortar, then add to the pan, along with the turmeric and garam masala and cook for 1 minute.
3. Add the lentils, tomatoes with their juice, coconut milk and broth/stock, then stir to combine. Season with salt and pepper and cook on a medium/low heat for 15-20 minutes until reduced and thick. If you have time, you can leave it a little longer on a very low heat for even more flavour (just stir often and check it doesn't scorch on the bottom of the pan). Taste and add more chilli if desired.
4. Stir in the lemon juice and spinach until it wilts.
5. Serve warm with rice, naan bread or poppadoms.

TIPS

This Dahl is vegan and gluten-free.

The squeeze of lemon really freshens the Dahl so try not to omit it.

Freezable - just let it cool completely and then freeze. Defrost and reheat. I freeze this often and it's a staple in my freezer for quick, hearty nourishing meals.

No need to cook the red lentils first. Just rinse the dried red lentils before adding to the pan.

Enjoy! And I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!



Jenny Pinn

Tipton Past

Angela's wish: "A castle in the air"

On top of the hill behind the Church is a house that started life as the vicarage. It was built in the 1840s, around the same time as the church. In the 1920s the then vicar Rev'd Every decided that the house was too big and moved to Glebe Cottage and the empty vicarage was sold to the Anderson Morsheads, an army Captain and his wife, moving back to Devon from India after the First World War.

In 1922, Raymond and Angela Anderson Morshead moved into the house known as Metcombe End. The couple became very active within the village and often held fundraising events at their house and in the extensive gardens, but Angela's health began to fail and sadly in 1932 she died of bowel cancer. Angela was a very popular lady and when she was buried in the churchyard at Tipton her grave was lined with fresh flowers picked and brought to be laid down by the children of the village. In her Will she wished for the house to be used for the care of ill children. On her death her husband immediately relinquished his interest in the property to the favour of the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital.

The building was adapted and equipped as a convalescent home for twenty children from five to twelve years old. Children were to receive initial treatment in the Exeter hospital and then be brought out to Tipton to recuperate before returning to their own homes. The house became known as The Angela's Convalescent Nursing Home. This was of course in the days before the NHS so the home was created and supported mainly through donations and funding from the public.

The children were managed by a trained sister with nursing staff, with visits from surgeons, physiotherapists (known then as massage sisters) and a qualified teacher. The warden was Capt. Fred Williams, himself disabled from the war, and Dame Georgina Buller (daughter of General Redvers Buller) was the Chairman. Dame Georgina cared for soldiers during WW1 and then, with her visions of 'castles-in-the-air' to help the ill, she created the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital and later St Loye's college in Exeter. The Angela home was brought about through Dame Buller's determination to create more 'castles' for the care of children and the generosity and the wish to help the children of Angela Anderson Morshead.

"A host of ways the association is making its contribution to happier and more useful lives. Shadows of disability which overhang children are being removed and not only are the younger patients being given stronger and healthier bodies, but they are educated at schools at the Princess Elizabeth hospital and the Tipton St John home".

The home gave employment to local families, with help being needed on the wards, in the kitchens, laundry, school and the gardens. There was a lot of support for the home from the people of the local area. Funds were constantly being raised at dances, fetes, carnivals held in the village, Sidmouth, and Ottery. At Christmas, parties were put on for the children by the Church and the WI.

The village school at Tipton also encouraged support for the Angela children, especially during the war, by



growing produce in the school garden and asking families to take in surplus eggs, fruit, and vegetables to share with the home. In the autumn, school children would go out and pick blackberries which were then given to the cook. Shows were put on for entertainment by both the Church School and the Angela Homes School. Not all the children were bedridden and some went on outings to the beach at Sidmouth for nature study.



Joy Witheridge was a child patient from 1934 to 1940, she suffered disability due to polio contracted when she was a baby. She remembers...

"My favourite places in the village when we were taken for a walk were the post office with its exciting window and the signal box where Frank could be seen turning the wheel to open the crossing gates. Frank married Joan in Tipton Church where we were often taken on Sundays"

In 1933 HRH the Duke of Connaught, who often visited Sidmouth himself to recuperate, and whom Connaught Gardens is named after, paid a private visit to the home. His Royal Highness inspected the grounds, conversed with some of the children and signed the visitors' book. He was shown the children's light and airy school room, the dining hall and the four dormitories which had colourful lockers and quilts decorated with nursery rhymes and flowers. A photograph was taken of the Duke with his entourage, the staff and children outside of the house.

In 1939 a campaign began to raise funds to build additional rooms and beds. A large donation came from Lord Nuffield, which was matched by the Sidmouth Rotary Club and in the New Year of 1941 the new annexe was opened. The home kept strong during the war time with support from the community, and some extra evacuee patients were taken in.

In 1948 the Angela Home, along with the PEOH, was taken over by the NHS and remained busy into the 1950s. Patient numbers became less as new drug treatments became effective and, by the 1960s, the register dipped down to around ten children and it was soon decided that the convalescent home was to close and the building and grounds to be sold.

In 1967 the new owners, Mr and Mrs Searle, opened a the house as a retirement and care home. This was then known as the Angela Court - and today you may be more familiar with the name Sundial House.

For 30 years the house was what Angela wished for - a haven of care and support for ill children, where the youngsters could hopefully enjoy a more homely approach to hospital care during their convalescing. What a difference Angela's wish must have made to those young children's lives - an opportunity to live up on that hill with a view of the valley and the sights, sounds of the country and fresh Tipton air. Hopefully it helped with their healing and made them feel safe when they were away from their homes and families.

Their own 'castle-in-the-sky'.

Judith Taylor

With thanks to Ann Knight, The Newspaper Archives, Joy Witheridge and Ron Whelan.

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023

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.

DECEMBER 2022

THURSDAY	1 st	7.30 pm	Advent Prayer Meeting	T.S.J.
SATURDAY	3 rd	10.00 am	Christmas Coffee Morning, cakes & produce stall	Community Hall
SUNDAY	4 th	10.30 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Morning Worship	O.S.M. N.Pop
SUNDAY	11 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
THURSDAY	15 th	7.00 pm	Carol Service	Bowhayes Farm V.O.
SUNDAY	18 th	6.30 pm	Carol Service	T.S.J.
CHRISTMAS EVE	24 th	4.00 pm <u>11.00 pm</u> <u>11.30 pm</u>	Crib Service Holy Communion Holy Communion	T.S.J. N.Pop W. Hill
CHRISTMAS DAY	25 th	10.00 am	<i>Christmas Communion</i>	T.S.J.

JANUARY 2023

SUNDAY	1 st	10.30 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Morning Worship	O.S.M. N.Pop
SUNDAY	8 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	15 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	22 nd	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	29 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.

FEBRUARY 2023

SATURDAY	4 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
SUNDAY	5 th	10.30 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion Morning Worship	O.S.M. N.Pop

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

December 15th - 7 pm Carol Service at Bowhayes Farm Venn Ottery

December 18th - 6.30 pm Carol Service at Tipton St John

Christmas Eve - 4.00 pm Crib Service at Tipton St John

Christmas Day - 10.00 am Holy Communion at Tipton St John

Diary Dates - December 2022 & January 2023

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

December

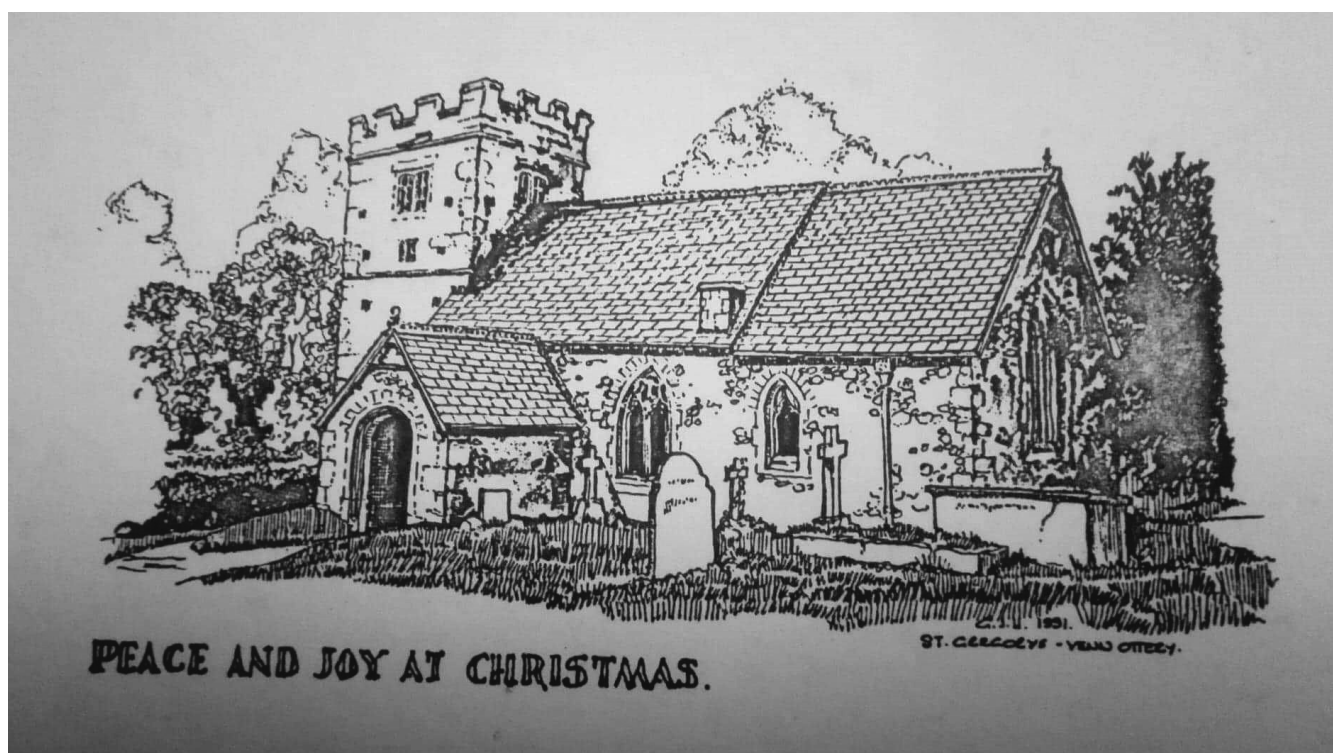
1st Dec	7.30pm	Advent Prayer Meeting, Tipton Church	P9
5th Dec	7.30pm	Playing Fields Committee, Community Hall	
7th Dec	7.30pm	VOSRA AGM, Supper & Quiz, Community Hall	P8
8th Dec	2.30-4.30pm	Beetle Drive, Community Hall	P17
10 Dec	7.30pm	Christmas concert, Ottery Choral Society, OSM Church	P17
11th Dec	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14
12th Dec	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
14th Dec	3.30-5pm	School Christmas Fair, Community Hall	back cover
15th Dec	7pm	Carol Service, Bowhayes Farm	P10
16th Dec		End of term, Tipton School	
18th Dec	10am-4pm	Pierre's Pop-up Café, Community Hall	P17
18th Dec	6.30pm	Carol Service, Tipton Church	P30
19th Dec	6.30pm	Carol Singing around the village	back cover

January 23

4th Jan		Start of term, Tipton School	
9th Jan	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
15th Jan	7pm	Village Quiz, Community Hall	P14
23 Jan	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14

February

14-18 Feb	7.30/2.30pm	TIPPS Beauty and the Beast	P5
-----------	-------------	----------------------------	----



Venn Ottery Church by Graham Hembury
courtesy of Judith Taylor



Tipton St. John Primary School

Christmas Fair

- 
- Stalls
 - Games
 - Raffle
 - Refreshments

Wednesday 14th December 3.30 – 5pm

Tipton Village Hall – All Welcome!



CAROL SINGING
AROUND THE VILLAGE

**Monday 19th December at
6.30pm**

(or join us when you can)

Meet on the corner of
Barton Orchard
All ages welcome!

We will be collecting on behalf
of the world relief agency
Tearfund

John & Pauline Belton (813431)

