

John Hayward

IPTON TIMES

316
AUGUST AND
SEPTEMBER
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

A historical guide to Tipton ...

Tipton St John

This display provides some historic information about the village. The area is shown on a 1381 map as Tupperton, a farming community. By 1736, records show it as Tipton. In 1841, together with Metcombe and Fluxton, the population had reached nearly 500. St John's Church was built, and the parish separated from Ottery St Mary. Known as Tipton St John's, to distinguish the village from the Staffordshire town on railway timetables, the apostrophe 's' was later dropped.

1. The Golden Lion
Built in 1896 after the previous inn was destroyed by fire.

2. Tipton Stores
Built 1910. Until 2008 also a Post Office. The original Post Office was in a building at right angles to the present building. It was destroyed by a flood in 1909.

3. The Station House
Formerly the station, now a private dwelling.

4. The Old Smithy
Bungalow built on site of former blacksmith's shop.

5. Little Barton
Former home of the blacksmith. Dated 1531 and a listed building.

6. Tipton Barton
Formerly a farmhouse, with a two-storey gabled porch said to date from 1559.

7. Bank, Myrtle, Lavender and Fenn Cottages
Possibly originally a hall or barn dating from the early Tudor Period. In the background, **8. Mallocks House**, a listed building dating from the early 1800's that had a notable orchard and fruit farm, on which Mallocks Close was built.

9. Tipton Lodge
Now divided into three dwellings. Formerly Tipton Hall. Part 17th and 18th Century with Victorian additions.

10. Tipton Garage
The garage has been on this site since the 1930's.

11. The Clock
Provided from funds raised by the village at the Golden Jubilee Celebrations 2002.

12. The Playing Field
Bought by the village in 1966. Developed, improved and maintained by a committee of local volunteers.

13. The Bridge
Rebuilt and opened in 1971 after the previous bridge was washed away by the 1968 flood.

14. Tipton St John Community Hall
Founded in 1914 as 'The Church Institute'. Bought by the Community Hall Trust in 1998. Also showing on the left, **16. Glebe Cottage**, built mid-19th Century as the vicarage coachman's house and, in the background, the original building of **18. Tipton St John Church of England Primary School**, which opened in 1843.

15. Tipton St John Church of England Primary School
Classrooms added in 1969 and 1978.

17. St John's Church
The first church designed by one of Devon's foremost architects, John Hayward. Built in 1840.

19. Sexton's Cottage
Originally probably workers cottages, bought by the Church as housing for the Sexton. Now a private dwelling.

20. Sundial Nursing Home
Built in the 1840's as a vicarage. Has also been a private house and a children's convalescent home. Formerly Angela Court.

21. Tipton Mill
Grade II listed building dating from the 1700's.

22. Bishop's Court
Official residence of the Bishops of Exeter, Lords of the Manor of Fluxton. The present house dates from the 16th century.

23. Elliotts Farm
Built in 1750.

24. Fluxton Farm
Part dates to the 16th century.

25. Hall's Farm (photographed)
Listed, with parts dating to the 16th century.

26. Hayne Barton
Pre-1850.

27. Lancetcombe Farm
Circa 1850.

28. Lower Cotley
Early 18th century.

29. Metcombe Barton
Part 1850.

30. Metcombe Farm
Pre-1850.

31. Mountstephens
Dates to 17th century.

32. Venn Ottery Barton
From 1530.

... new information board on the village green

TIPTON
FETE
COMING
VERY SOON!

TWO NEW
COUNCILLORS
FOR
TIPTON ST JOHN

EXCELLENT
10K
RAIL & RIVER
RUN

'GO WILD'
WITH THE
ANIMALS
IN TIPTON!

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For 317, October and November 2023

Monday, 18th September

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The Tipton Times Fund

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

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Village Information Board

Ann Knight

We welcome letters and contributions but reserve the right to edit and amend such offerings.

Views expressed within each article are the author's own.

Editorial

Welcome to the August/September edition of Tipton Times. First of all, we'd like to congratulate Janice Aherne and Matt Williamson on their co-option to represent Tipton on Ottery Town Council. Their first contributions can be found on pages 22 and 23.

It's great to hear from Executive Headteacher Amanda Fulford that Tipton School has moved up the Government's priority list for rebuilding: let's hope we see some tangible developments in the near future.

We hope you find much to enjoy in the following pages: there are great reports on the many summer activities in the village, including the highly successful Otter Rail and River Run, more fascinating insights into Tipton's history from Ann Knight and Judith Taylor and details of events to come in the autumn.

Our sympathies go to the families of Joan Maynard and Jennifer Pottinger (whose obituaries appear on page 10), Mike Parkyn (see page 33) and Colin Donaldson.

As you all know, Tipton Times depends on the support of its readers and local grants to keep going. Apart from the regular outlay on paper and ink, we have recently had to buy a new printer, so our annual envelope collection is very timely! Please consider using the envelope you will find in this edition to make a donation and pop it in the box in the shop. Alternatively, you can make a transfer via BACS if this is more convenient: our bank details can be found on the page opposite. Thank you very much!

The Editors

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Otter Rail and River Run - fun fundraising at its best!

This was my fourth year of organising the Otter Rail and River Run and, as always, the exhilaration of sending runners on their way (and seeing them come home again) made all the hard work worthwhile. As usual, the village came out in force to support the run. We had a record number of starters and the weather was pretty perfect, apart from in the woods where humidity levels were high. The first man across the line, Tom Merson (35.39) was well ahead of second



and third place Michal Lesniak (38.06) and Tim Landy (38.18). Another runner commented to me that Tom managed this even though he stopped to tie his shoe laces - twice! The women were on form as well with Lucy Cartwright (41.54) arriving 7th overall, with Serane Stone (42.58) and Melanie Brooks (43.41) not too far behind. First local man was Alex Kerr (40.49) and first local woman Catherine Hilton (55.26). The age category winners were Ellen Kent (WS), Tom Merson (MS), Lucy Cartwright (WS35), Milan Goc (MV40), Serane Stone (WV45), Paul Sherwood (MV50), Jenny Reay (WV55), Colin Ryan (MV60), Eleanor Wood (WV65) and Rob Edwards (MV70). Special mention to Marion Johnson celebrating her birthday with us and winning the WV75 category.

The Jackie Box Fun Run was well supported this year with amazing runs from Sophia Lenzie, Ezra Sullivan and Oliver Commander, the first three over the line. We had some really little ones do the fun run this year and I was blown away by their determination. Amazing job, everyone.

The event was sponsored again by [Michelmores](#), [East Devon Law](#) and [Otter Brewery](#). The beautiful trophies were made by [KensdaleCarpentry](#) and Tony Rule. Prizes were donated by [Bowhayes Trees](#), [Pinnacle Icing](#) and [Devon Heaven](#) Food Hampers. We are so grateful for the support from these local businesses. Thanks to everyone's efforts we raised nearly £3500 for the Tipton St John Playing Fields Association and other local charities.

A final, enormous thank you goes to all the volunteers who supported the Otter Rail and River Run 2023. This included the wonderful team who ran the refreshment stand, marshals, prize giving, registration and car parking. The list is long - we are grateful to you all. We could not do it without you and the spirit and enthusiasm you bring to the race makes this event one that everyone enjoys. Thanks, also, to Sidmouth Running Club for supporting us, especially Terry Bewes and Alexa Baker. Special thanks to Mo Mylne who has the unenviable task of pulling together the team of around 50 people. The event would not be possible without you.

Hope to see you again next year!

Jemma Wiltshire

RAIL AND RIVER RUN That Welcome Cuppa!

It's just so nice to be able to pour a lovely cup of tea (or coffee) for so many grateful people. It might seem a small thing but what's the day without it?

And so, many thanks go to the busy team setting up and serving in the Pavilion - Gill, Janet, Chris, Jenny and Maggie. PLUS, the producers of all those beautiful home-made cakes. Gill, Chris, Jenny and Mo brought some really alluring contributions, but there were others ... some bakers left lovely offerings while I wasn't looking - so sincere thanks to each and every one.

"Home-crafted! Wonderful!" commented one runner, raising a butterfly bun to his mouth. Too true, everyone - together we conjured £205 for our Playing Field but, equally, spread not a little happiness as well. Every cake was sold - one runner, hastening through the rain at the end: "Any cakes left?" ... There were just two, and guess where they went!

Barbara Pugh

Tipton Church Fete 12 noon on Bank Holiday Monday, 28th August

Our Village Fete will soon be here, again taking place on Tipton School Field in the centre of the village. As usual, there will be delicious barbecue lunches and teas and a wide range of stalls (including homemade cakes and produce, books, crafts, jewellery, bric-a-brac, jigsaws, games and toys, plants etc.), games and competitions and the lucky winners of the Grand Draw (for which tickets will be sold on the day if you have not got yours yet) will be announced.

Parking is free, admission remains at only £2 per adult, (free for children), our local musicians, Chris and Vanda (a.k.a. Wonky Buzzard), will be back by popular request, and there will be games and activities for children. Fun for all the family, as the saying goes!

We are now collecting good quality books (paperbacks only, please), bric-a-brac, toys, games and jigsaws and bottles for the bottle stall. If possible, please leave bric-a-brac at Pippins (at the top of Barton Orchard), paperback books at 6 Barton Orchard (opposite Pippins), and all other items by the garage at St. Mary's, 5 Hayne Close. We would also welcome donations of plants (please leave outside the church from 21st August onwards) and cakes and home produce (at Tipton School Field on the morning of the Fete).

We expect to hold a short church service on the morning of Sunday 27th August before we spend a few hours getting everything ready for Monday, with stalls etc. to be set up on Monday morning ready for opening at 12 noon.

There are always lots of jobs to be done, both beforehand and on the day, including putting up signs and posters, setting up tents and gazebos, preparing the site, helping with car parking, stalls, games and refreshments, baking cakes etc. etc. There is something for all ages and abilities and it is an enjoyable way to get involved in village activities and make new friends in the area, so I should be very pleased to hear from you if you would like to be involved.

All offers of help will be gratefully received, and if you would like to help on the day, to put on some entertainment or to run a stall of your own (our village fete is an ideal opportunity to promote local clubs and charities), or to participate in any way, or if you have any queries or suggestions, please contact me, Mike Smith, on 01404 812542.

I look forward to seeing you all at what should be another very enjoyable Village Fete.

Mike Smith (Fete Chairman)

Village History Information Board

After the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations had been paid for and all the participating local groups had received donations there was an amount of money left in the committee's account. We wanted to put the money towards something lasting. We already have the magnificent clock at the playing field gate, a sundial on the Community Hall and various trees planted to celebrate previous jubilees. This time Judith Taylor's excellent suggestion of a History Information board in the centre of the village was decided upon - as most people would never realise that several trains used to pass through the centre of the village everyday or that the Golden Lion used to be on the other side of the street.

Judith came up with a map and lots of lovely pictures and Ann thought of some captions. Robert Peckham got us started with power point rather than our version of 'cut and paste' which was just that - pieces of text and photos cut out and stuck on a large piece of paper!

Then we enlisted the help of Ann's daughter, Liz, who has some experience of designing information boards in her work. Finally we came up with something we liked and obtained approval from Ottery St Mary Town Council provided we included their logo. It was then printed on suitable material before enlisting the help of the Ottery Men's Shed who framed it. On a wet July afternoon, John Belton, Tony Pugh and Judith put the sign up for all to see.

We hope you all enjoy taking a look - and that the village is pleased with their memorial tribute to her late Majesty's Platinum Jubilee.

Ann Knight and Judith Taylor





NATURE NOTES

After an extremely hot June, we are now experiencing a rather soggy July. We can only wonder at what August will bring! But that's the British summer for you. Whatever is happening, it is certainly bringing us some good crops from the garden, as well as farther afield.

If you look up into the hedgerows, specifically for hazelnut bushes, you will notice that the branches are loaded with nuts. In fact, you don't even have to look up as the excess crop is also all over the ground. It appears they are having what is known as a 'mast' year. Why do trees produce bumper crops? One of the main theories for this behaviour is 'predator satiation'. Take oak and beech as an example. Animals and birds such as squirrels, jays, mice and badgers feed on the acorns and beech nuts. When the trees produce smaller crops for a few consecutive years, they are in effect keeping the populations of these animals in check. But during a mast year, the trees produce more food than the animals can possibly eat. This abundance causes a boom in populations of small mammals such as mice. More importantly, it guarantees some will be left over to survive and grow into new trees. Mast years have a major evolutionary advantage for the tree. Producing nuts is costly work and slightly stunts the tree's growth, but as it tends to happen every 5-10 years, it's worth the payoff for some of the crop to germinate into new saplings. Mast years are not just one-off events for individual trees. The vast majority of trees in a particular species will have a fantastic crop all across the UK in the same year. How the trees co-ordinate this when they're so far apart is one of nature's many mysteries. Nuts are also being grown more than ever by English farmers as the climate heats, making the products more economically viable, growers have said. Nut trees are also helpful for biodiversity on farms, improving soil health as their roots improve the ability and capacity of soil to absorb water, reducing the risk of wind erosion.



Jay



Mouse feeding on blackberries

It's the breeding season for wood mice, so keep an eye out for little nests in your garden shed! The breeding season is between February and October. Females produce litters of four to eight young up to six times in one year. The young stay with their mothers for around twenty days and reach sexual maturity after two months. Wood mice are short-lived animals, with few individuals surviving longer than one year. Meanwhile, nearer September, dormice will be fattening up on the hedgerow harvest of blackberries and hazelnuts before the first frosts come and they have to go into hibernation for the winter. Hazelnuts are one of the favourite foods of the dormouse, which they eat while they're still green and on the tree. If you find a nut with a perfectly round, smooth edged hole in the side, it's quite possible you're close to a dormouse nest.

Among the many flowering plants that are growing in the hedgerows and pastures at the moment are two from the Aster family that can sometimes be mistaken for each other, but which are, in consequence, very different. I am, of course, referring to ragwort and tansy. Common names for ragwort include stinking willie, benweed, stinking nanny/ninny, staggerwort, dog standard, cankerwort, stammerwort, mare's fart and cushag ... phew! The daisy-like, yellow flower heads of common ragwort may be pretty enough to the casual observer, but they belie the poisonous nature of this plant. Renowned as a weed of paddocks and pastures where it can be harmful to livestock, it is not usually such an issue in gardens or waste grounds. In fact, it is the food plant of the black and red cinnabar moth: sometimes its black and yellow-barred caterpillars cover the plant, totally stripping the leaves. Common ragwort flowers from June to November. Ragwort is only poisonous in its raw state. It is rarely consumed by livestock due to its bitter and unpalatable taste. The problem comes when it is dried and mixed with hay where animals cannot notice a difference. Tansy is more recognisable by its lack of petals. It can also be known as bitter buttons, cow bitter, or golden buttons. Tansy has a long history of use which include the treatment of intestinal worms, rheumatism, digestive problems, fevers and sores. During the Middle Ages and later, high doses were used to induce abortions. Contradictorily, tansy was also used to help women conceive and to prevent miscarriages. In the 15th century, Christians began serving tansy with Lenten meals to commemorate the bitter herbs eaten by the Israelites. Tansy was thought to have the added Lenten benefits of controlling flatulence brought on by days of eating fish and pulses.

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

Geoff Pinn gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk 01404 812878



Cinnabar caterpillar on ragwort

Tipton St John Playing Field

It's been a busy summer at the Playing field, with the cricket and tennis seasons in full swing, along with lots of the visitors that a warm summer brings.

One of the highlights of our year is the Otter Rail and River Run, which seems to go from strength to strength, with a record number of competitors this year and a record £3,500 raised for the Playing Field. Many thanks to all those who took part, volunteered and supported the event, especially to the race organiser Jemma Wiltshire and Mo Mylne for her organisation beforehand and on the day.

As an essential part of our plans to rebuild the pavilion, we have engaged Catalyst, a consultancy service provided by Devon Communities Together, to carry out consultation with Playing Field users and the local community in order to build a strong case for grant funding of the project. The consultation with current users is taking place now and there will be a wider exercise in the autumn, both online and through Tipton Times. This will be followed by consultation events so that the community has an opportunity to help shape the Trustees' plans for the new pavilion.



Photo courtesy
of Paul Taylor

It's great to see the nature area develop: there will shortly be a boardwalk installed which will improve access for everyone. Many thanks to Ed Brougham for overseeing this project and to Eager Beavers for securing the funding to make it possible. Do have a look at Lisette's Eager Beavers article on page 18 to find out more about their activities and the principles of trying to live in a more environmentally conscious way.

You may have noticed, as you pass through the gate into the field, a spectacular display of wild flowers in the children's play area. Many thanks to Will Davey for planting these - yet another contribution to the overall appearance of the field.

David Birch (Chairman) 07929 822940

The Old Railway Line

Since 2012 a group of teachers and students at the Kings School have been helping to raising awareness of the potential of the old railway line between Ottery and Sidmouth. As a walking and cycling route it would offer a safe and very picturesque alternative to increasingly busy local roads. The Otter Trail Group (<https://ottertrail.org/>) has organised cycling events, questionnaires and worked with local media and, last year, students discussed their ideas with Ottery Town Council. They also plan to meet with our local MP, Simon Jupp, next month.

Last year, as part of the Vision for Sidmouth Group, the Sidmouth Cycling Campaign was established. Like the Ottery Group our aims are to encourage cycling in the local area and improve facilities and safety.

On Sunday 23rd July both groups met up in Tipton to discuss our mutual aims and enjoy a picnic together. This was followed by a short cycle ride along the old railway line to the Bowd. It is hoped that we can increase local support for cycling and walking and make progress on both the Sidmouth to Ottery Link and the Sidford to Sidbury link.

Roger White, Sidmouth Cycling Campaign



Tipton Tennis Club

Did you enjoy Wimbledon? There were some fantastic close matches this year, including the men's singles final, and some new young faces coming through, including both singles titles (although, like many, I was disappointed that Ons Jabeur didn't manage to win the ladies' final). Brilliant results for the Brits too, with titles in the men's doubles, mixed doubles, boy's singles and the wheelchair doubles. We don't hit the ball quite so hard on our two lovely courts

in Tipton but there is still lots of exciting and fun tennis to be had here!

Our club teams are having mixed fortunes in the summer league. The men's A team has struggled with player availability and injuries - they have even had to call on the club chairman a couple of times, definitely a sign of desperation - and are firmly at the bottom of Div 2. The B team are faring a bit better in Div 4 with mixed results but some good wins - we are delighted to have Kaspar Henriksen back with us after a prolonged period of paternity leave (about 10 years!). However, the star performance goes to the Ladies who are currently top of Div 5 with a game in hand over their nearest rivals - well done ladies, keep it up!

Some of the A Team non-availability has been when Pete Clarke was on his travels in Europe, but he has not been wasting his time. In his own words:



Tipton ladies tennis team

As part of a holiday to France, I entered the ITF St Raphael tennis tournament in the Men's over 60's singles and doubles. This was on real clay courts which I was not used to. There were only 4 entrants so it was run as a Round Robin event. At first I could not keep the ball in and it felt as though the courts were smaller than ours. However I got used to it and won my matches dropping only 5 games over the 3 matches and winning the event. In the doubles I was drawn with Fred, a French man who was a good player and 5 years younger than me. The 55 & 60 age groups were amalgamated and we won our first match easily. We were then in the final against another French man and a good Italian chap. It was 32 degrees and windy and it was a good close game, which we eventually won 6-4 6-2. Since returning from France, I reached the quarter finals of the grass court tournament in Harpenden. I will be defending the title I won in Chamonix in September but, before that, I have Dartmouth, Gerrards Cross and Wales tournaments this year.

Congratulations Pete, and good luck for the upcoming tournaments.

Ken Mylne (Chairman and A Team desperation sub!)

Tipton Tennis Club - Coach's Diary June and July 2023

It has been a difficult couple of months with a lack of trainees or poor weather impacting the sessions provided. The Rusty Rackets session provided on Thursday mornings only once had two attendees leading to a cancellation of the remainder of the program this year. Junior programs have also been beset with low numbers and, despite the availability of a new LTA level 4 coach in Matt Green to develop the two junior times, a number of sessions were cancelled in the last couple of months. Those sessions that did take place were well received with players enjoying the drill based Sunday offering in particular.

Individuals have favoured one to one or two to one coaching sessions to give a more targeted approach to their development and, as a coach, I would agree that this is the most effective way to improve your tennis game. The impact of Wimbledon has been minimal with the poor weather not enabling the enthusiasm to play being taken onto the courts - one hopes that this enthusiasm will not wane after the championships finish.

A few tips for all players of any level

- Preparation is key - the earlier the better
- Do not forget the *split step*
- Quick recovery is critical
- Remember your Rs - Ready, Read, React, Return, Recover
- Attack high balls - Defend low balls

Happy tennis everyone!

Ray Puttick

Higher-water

55 years ago Tipton St John suffered a great flood. On 11th of July 1968 heavy rain fell all up through the Otter valley. This caused huge volumes of water to pour down river, flooding many of the village houses. The force of the fast-flowing, swollen river literally swept away the road bridge splitting the village in half.

This poem named Higher-water, was written by D M Alderdice, the landlord of the Golden Lion, it explains how the army came and put up a temporary bailey road bridge until the new one was built.

Once they built a bridge in Tipton,
humped and narrow,
built for horses,
little dreaming that the future
held the motor car and tractor,
built it out of stone and iron,
crouched above the river Otter.

Came the flood in all its fury,
sweeping through the Otter Valley,
dashed the little bridge to pieces,
leaving a wide gaping canyon,
splitting Tipton through the centre.
Causing havoc with the traffic
while the river flowed unheeding.

Came the army with the bailey,
linking up the little village,
making safe the river crossing,
for the children and housewife,
for the lorry, car and tractor,
those who go to church on Sunday,
those who like a drink on Tuesday,
have to cross the river Otter.

Above the rattle of the bailey,
came the clanking of the pile drive,
came the crunching of the diggers,
came the cranes and concrete mixers,
little men in yellow helmets,
descending on the banks of the Otter.

Then amongst the noise and turmoil,
grew two pillars tall and graceful,
slender, strong as titan females,
holding up the pre stressed concrete,
of the road which passed above them,
linking up the halves of Tipton,
spanning out across the river.

Gone now are the cranes and workmen,
leaving Tipton as she once was;
nestling in the peaceful beauty,
of the lovely Otter Valley,
and the bridge in all its glory,
shining white in summer sunshine,
stands above the tumbling waters,
proudly spans the river Otter.

D M Alderdice



Jennifer Pottinger (16.8.1943 - 18.6.2023)

Jenn, as her family and friends knew her, was a real Tipton belle. Her life began and ended in Tipton with her beloved family.

I have fond memories of growing up together with my sister Jenn. Our parents, Bern and Phyllis Fowler lived in Fluxton and both Jenn and I were born there. We would often play in the loft of the barn and visit our Auntie Dor who lived in the nearby Fluxton Farm and enjoyed eating the delicious cakes which she made. We later moved to Sexton Cottage when Dad became the Church Sexton, we remember many floods whilst living there, long before the current retaining wall was built and also the great excitement of a glider coming down by the river near screw bridge. Our next move was to Metcombe Vale.

Jenn went to Tipton school along with her brother John and her future husband, Brian. Her family enjoyed taking part in whist drives, bingo and dances at the village hall and it was at these dances she was courted by her husband Brian. They married at Tipton church on New Years Day in 1966 and initially lived at Combe with their first born son Andrew. They went on to live at Tipton Vale in 1970 when son Tony completed their family.

When the boys were at school in Tipton Jenn was on the PTFA supporting fundraising and she also enjoyed being part of Tipton Wives. Jennifer worked at Wintergarden tea rooms in Sidmouth. She supported Tipton's football club where her brother John played regularly. She also helped with the cubs and scouts where Brian was a leader.

Spending time with her family was what Jennifer enjoyed most, especially her grandchildren. Looking after them in the holidays and taking a memorable trip to Disneyland. Jenn and Brian took many happy coach holidays visiting places in the UK and Europe taking photos as lasting memories.

Our thoughts are with her husband Brian, Andrew and Louise, Tony and grandchildren Sarah, Chloe and Charlotte, and her brother John and his family.

A wonderful wife and mum, fondly remembered for being kind and smiley. "Jenn and I always remained close and she was a very kind and loving sister to me".

Rest in Peace Jennifer.

John Fowler, Andrew Pottinger and Judith Taylor



Joan Margaret Maynard (1937-2023)

Joan was born in Leigh-on-Sea, Essex and after completing her teacher training, she married and raised two children whilst teaching part-time in various infant schools in Kent, Cornwall, Cheshire and then in Buckinghamshire, where she returned to teaching full time. She became a headteacher in Buckinghamshire before moving to Surrey, for another headship before taking early retirement at the end of the 1990s.

She moved to Hardor, their bungalow in Venn Ottery, in 2001 with her partner Raymond, a Vicar, where they embarked on a whole new adventure. As many people will know they had a large garden and spent many happy hours nurturing it and the many plants they could grow in the local ericaceous soil. Together, they built a water feature of grand proportions, and had a dog, an energetic collie called Corrie, who Joan would drive each morning in her silver Ford Fusion to walk along the River Otter at Tipton St. John.

Whilst in Devon, Joan took to being an entrepreneur, fulfilling her dream by opening a shop in Ottery St Mary called Celebration Cakes. She was very well known locally for her cake making and decorating with numerous celebratory commissions and even had a double page spread in Cake Icing Monthly. She was also very active in the local community with VOSRA - a key organiser of their summer events - and at St Gregory's Church in Venn Ottery. She also enjoyed her regular visits eating at The Golden Lion. Peter, her grandson has happy memories of his holiday visits to Devon where he would help distribute The Tipton Times.

When Raymond died, after a very long dementia illness, Joan moved to Sidmouth. Her flat in Salcombe Lawns provided a wonderful second chapter to her life in Devon, although she never forgot her times in Venn Ottery nor the friends she had made. Moving to the flat was good for her. Always sunny and bright, the flat gave Joan and all who came to visit a warm welcome. She was a willing volunteer at Sidmouth Parish Church and many other local community groups.



For the last three years, Joan's life became increasingly difficult as she battled melanoma and lymphedema resulting from her initial operation, that severely restricted her mobility for the rest of her life. During her final years, she was lovingly supported by her son and his family, a key carer, her many friends in and around Sidmouth and by the fantastic team at Sidmouth Hospice at Home. Joan died peacefully at home on May 16th 2023.

She is survived by her two children, Trevor and Lynda, and three grandchildren.

Trevor Maynard



Thought for the Times

For many years my regular routine on a Thursday morning has been to come over to Tipton St John Church and lead the school children in a short act of worship. For all the problems and challenges there are with the school site, one of the big pluses is having the church school and the church building so close to one another. Although the little ones have to cross the road, the whole school can come to church every week.

A few weeks ago, back in June, the theme was generosity. We were thinking about Jesus' teaching in the Sermon on the Mount about giving to others without drawing attention to yourself and seeking other people's praise. The particular verse that I focused on was Matthew 6:3, where Jesus says to his followers:

"When you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing..."

I enjoyed playing with Jesus' picture of the hands, imagining my hands as two individuals who knew each other and could talk to one another.

I invited the children to clench fists and make their thumbs into mouths so that Left Hand could have a conversation with Right Hand. But then we imagined Right Hand doing something kind and generous - I used the example of putting something in the collection basket for the foodbank - but doing it secretly so that Left Hand was not aware of it.



We then talked about the way in which Jesus is encouraging us to be generous to other people

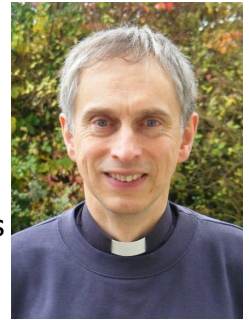
without anyone

knowing about it. And I shared with the children a couple of person examples, one from my childhood and one from my adult life, of my family benefitting from anonymous gifts.

After some of the children had led us in their prayers, we had all sung a song and had a final blessing, the children returned to school and I went home. I opened the front door, and there on the mat was an envelope. On the front, written in hand-writing I did not recognise, it said, "Towards your holiday fortnight, with our love, God bless you both." Inside was a very generous gift. I was amazed, humbled and very grateful. While I had been out, the giver had done for me exactly what Jesus had taught. I do not suppose that I will ever know who that generous giver is, but if it was you, thank you so much.

A gift like this would have bowled me over at any time, but the coincidence with my school worship

was wonderful. Sometimes coincidences are just coincidences, but a former Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, observed that when he prayed coincidences happened more often. Christians today sometimes call these "God-incidences". It is a clunky word, but it describes it well. Of course, you can never prove that something is the result of prayer, but when you pray, coincidences do seem to happen more often.



This link with prayer also points to the spiritual element of generosity. Anyone can be generous, but in Jesus' teaching generosity is not just about blessing the receiver; the giver is also blessed. The anonymous giver is never completely anonymous because God knows. He is the witness to our lives - the good bits and bad. The person who is a follower of Jesus and has their main focus of attention on God is more concerned about what God thinks of their life than seeking praise from people. This person is able to give in secret because it is enough for them to put a quiet smile on the face of God and to imagine the joy of the receiver.

As the receiver in this case, I know that there is also a spiritual lesson to be learned in gracious receiving. Receiving a gift is lovely, of course, but accepting an anonymous gift does take a degree of humility, an acknowledgement that we are dependent on one another and on God.

And having learned to be a gracious receiver, I also need to learn that Jesus wants me to be a generous giver too - one who does not need everyone else to know.

Mark

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

Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st (280) Angie Dewhurst £30

2nd (11) Janet Croud £20

3rd (77) Patrick Walker £15

We are most grateful to all our subscribers for their continued support. Unfortunately, every year, some of our regulars 'drop off the perch' and we look for replacements. If you would like to join in this support for our Churches, with a chance to win a small prize, we would love to hear from you.

You would still be eligible for five of our two monthly draws.

Ann & Terry Knight, 812040



CAFÉ CHURCH IS BACK!

Following the great success of the special Café Church service to celebrate the Coronation in May we are going to run monthly Café Church services in the Community Hall for the next five months. They will be held on the 3rd Sunday of the month in place of the lay led service in Church, so the first one will be on **17th September**. To accommodate the availability of service leaders, who may also have to lead the 10am online service the same day, we will open the doors for coffee and food at 10.30am with

a short informal service - a few hymns, Bible reading, brief message and a prayer or two - lasting around half an hour starting at 11am. You will be free to linger as long as you wish to enjoy more coffee and food.

As with many things in our church it relies on just a few people to plan, prepare and deliver so we will be simplifying things and providing a wider array of pastries instead of bacon baps - but all aspects of the event will be kept under review, so do please let us know what you think of it. We are especially keen to make it attractive to all ages, from the very young to the very old. And of course, if you wanted to come and help us put on the services you will be most welcome - just give me a call or drop me an email.

So please pop the following dates in your diary for Café Church: 17th September, 15th October, 19th November, 17th December, 21st January 2024. The Hall isn't available in February as TIPPS will be clearing away after what we hope will be another successful week of shows, but that will give us a chance to draw breath, review how things are going and assess how often to run these services going forward.

We look forward to seeing you there!

STRIDING OUT FOR OUR HISTORIC CHURCHES

On **Saturday 9th September** volunteers across Devon will be riding their bicycles or striding the length and breadth of the county visiting our ancient church buildings and thereby raising money for both their own local church and the Devon Historic Churches Trust. Here in Tipton I will be setting out from Tipton Church at 9.30am to walk a 16.5 mile (26.5km) circuit of local churches as I go to Venn Ottery, Newton Poppleford, Colaton Raleigh, Harpford, Wiggaton, Ottery St Mary, West Hill and arriving back at Tipton, all being well, before 5pm.



In return for my exertions I am kindly requesting your sponsorship, the proceeds of which will be split equally between the parish here (Tipton St John with Venn Ottery), for its ongoing repair and maintenance, and the Devon Historic Churches Trust, which has provided grants to both Tipton and Venn Ottery churches in the past but exists to help all our Devon churches. Pay a visit to their website at www.devonhistoricchurches.co.uk to find out more about the valuable work they do in helping to preserve our amazing heritage for current and future generations to enjoy.

A sponsor form can be found at the back of Tipton Church and will also be available at the fete on 28th August. Alternatively drop me an email with your name, address including postcode, the amount you'd like to donate and whether or not you wish to Gift Aid it. Follow my progress on the day as I update the Tipton Church facebook page at each of the churches I stop at (<https://www.facebook.com/tiptonstjohnchurch/>).

If you are out and about yourself on 9th September all of Devon's churches should be open and welcoming visitors so do pop in and give any riders and striders you meet some encouragement as they do their bit to help support our beautiful churches. And if you see me on the local footpaths and roads do stop and say hello and maybe even sign the sponsorship form - I'll be carrying a copy just in case!

HOMEGROUP RESTARTING

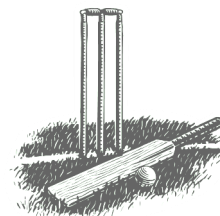
Way back in time, in the years BC - Before Covid - Tipton Church had a thriving weekly homegroup that met at our house, St Mary's in Hayne Close. It is our hope and prayer that starting in September we may finally be able to meet once again after an extended break.

A homegroup is a place where we can come together to explore our faith in a deeper way than is possible in church, or online, on a Sunday. The main element of the evening is taking time to look at one or more passages from the Bible as we seek to apply it to our own lives here and now. We will also pray for each other and the local community as well as share in fellowship together. If you are interested in joining us you don't have to be a member of Tipton Church, all are welcome. We are aiming to start this new era for our homegroup on **Thursday 21st September at 7.30pm**, aiming to finish each week by around 9.15pm. If you are interested in coming to join with us please give me a call or drop me an email. I look forward to hearing from you.

David Williamson (Licensed Lay Minister, Tipton Church)
01404 812493 davidhwililliamson@btinternet.com

Tipton St John Cricket Club

The cricket season is well under way, but not without some hitches and setbacks! In terms of our ratio of wins to matches played, just after the halfway point in the season, we are in credit with 13 wins out of 24. More importantly, we have taken part in a number of highly enjoyable matches, often with close and exciting finishes.



*Tipton in Cornwall:
our team v Mount Ambrose CC*

The hitches and setbacks take the form of injuries: on our annual tour of Cornwall in June there were no fewer than three hamstring injuries, to which can be added strains on Achilles tendons, groins and a number of other muscular/skeletal issues. Perhaps we are collectively getting too old for a game which makes sudden and unexpected demands on ageing limbs? On the positive side, we continue to attract new players, each of whom has brought something different to the club.

Despite the setbacks, there have been some outstanding team performances, including our highest ever total in a 40-over match,

when we amassed 289-5 against Exeter Erratics. In terms of individual successes, John Buckland leads the way with bat, ball and in the field. He

has gathered 657 runs so far and taken 26 wickets and 22 catches. As might be expected, Phil Tolley has also performed well with bat, averaging 103. The leading bowlers are Phil Wright with 22 wickets so far and David Birch and Matt Davies with 19 each.

The remaining fixtures for this season are below:

August	Wednesday	2nd	Broadclyst	Home	6pm
	Sunday	6th	Geriatrics	Away	1pm
	Tuesday	8th	Bakers	Home	6pm
	Sunday	13th	Stokeinteignhead	Home	1pm
	Thursday	17th	Basingstoke & North Hants	Home	1pm
	Sunday	20th	Woodbury & Newton St Cyres	Away	1pm
	Thursday	24th	Incogniti	Home	1pm
	Sunday	27th	Newton Poppleford	Away	1pm
	Tuesday	29th	Ascott-Under-Wychwood	Home	1pm
September	Sunday	3rd	Whimple	Away	1pm
	Sunday	10th	Met Office	Home	1pm
	Sunday	17th	Ottery St Mary	Home	1pm
	Sunday	24th	Heads & Tails	Home	1pm

You can read all our match reports and view photos from every game on our website and keep in touch with our fortunes on Twitter and Facebook:

<https://www.pitchero.com/clubs/tiptonstjohn/>

<https://twitter.com/home>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057807483472>

David Birch (Chairman)

TIPTON ST JOHN COMMUNITY HALL TRUST

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT TO THE AGM 29th June 2023

After the traumas caused by the coronavirus pandemic, life returned to normal for the Community Hall with our regular groups and activities resuming, together with many one-off bookings. Trustee meetings were held every two months as usual throughout the year.

On the social front, our popular Sunday quiz nights took place between October and March and we arranged an enjoyable evening in November with the Nightjars Band, together with dancing and a fish-and-chip supper. After a gap of several years, we held another Film Night in April which was well supported so we will be planning another one in the next few months.

Last August, we received and constructed three smart-looking metal sheds to replace the old timber sheds which had been used for many years and required regular maintenance. As before, one is for Hall use and the other two belong to TIPPS.

With the lack of progress on the proposed move of the school to a new site, our major project to replace the floor in the main hall has been on hold for several years as it can only take place during the school's summer holiday. In view of the continuing delay, the Trustees accepted a quote from a Devon flooring company last December which has promised to complete the work during this August - we also took advantage of having all the materials pre-ordered to avoid subsequent cost increases. We look forward to seeing the end result which has been in the pipeline for so long!

The Community Hall would not run as efficiently as it does without our two support staff so we are very grateful to have Geoff Pinn who continues to keep the building looking clean and tidy, and Pauline Belton who juggles all the bookings and deals with many enquiries from individuals and organisations wanting to hire our facilities.

We were extremely sorry to see Paul Kinson retiring last November after nineteen years as a Trustee as he was a key player in the management and operation of the Hall, including the vital job of Treasurer for a large part of that time. We are always on the lookout for potential new trustees as it's a big joint responsibility requiring dedicated time and effort. This is currently shared between just seven community-minded volunteers.

On that note I would like to thank my Trustee colleagues Brian Rice, Andrew Sadler, Neil Bray, Kyle Hayes and Sue and Geoff Hulley for all their help and commitment in various ways. Our thanks also go to Allen Marks, John Harding and Keith Poultny who continue to assist us with floor polishing and grass cutting which is very much appreciated.

John Belton (Chairman)



TABLE TENNIS IS GOOD FOR YOU!

We are a friendly group of mostly 'average' players and would like to extend a welcome to anyone (over 18) who would like to play for enjoyment even if you haven't picked up a bat for decades.

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month in the Community Hall from **7.30 - 9.30pm** and after a summer break, the first dates of the new season are:

September 11th and 25th

We usually play doubles on the two tables and pay **£2** per session which includes tea or coffee.

If you have any questions, we will be pleased to hear from you.

John & Pauline Belton (01404 813431)



Tipton St John Community Hall

? QUIZ NIGHTS ?

Advance Notice

The first of the new season will be on

Sunday 1st October at 7 pm

£3 per head

BYO food, drinks, and glasses

Please book your table in advance:
John & Pauline Belton: 01404 813431

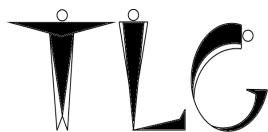
1st Ottery and West Hill Rainbows



Our current Rainbow Leader is Zara Williams but, at Rainbows, she is known as Badger and has been organising the unit for just over a year and a half.

The Rainbow unit is now back up and running successfully following the Covid crisis, which is brilliant. The Rainbows this year have been very busy with the Rainbow programme, which included working towards gaining their various badges, such as Interest badges: Drawing, Storytelling and Animal Lover - and Skills Builder badges: Communication and Lead. Last year, the Rainbow unit took part in the Ottery Church Christmas Festival by making decorations for the Christmas tree. The Rainbows have also celebrated the King's Coronation by making and decorating crowns.

If you have a daughter who would like to join Rainbows please visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk> to find out more.



Following our AGM in May, our June meeting was led by our local environmental leader, Lisette Johnston. Lisette established Eager Beavers here in Tipton during the lockdown. As a nurse, she was one of the heroes of the hour, working hard to help those suffering with Covid 19 prior to the preparation of a vaccine. Due to the nature of the PPE that she was required to wear, she wanted to get out into the countryside

when not at work. However, she was horrified by the amount of litter that she saw on her country walks. Rather than complain about it she thought that she would do something about it, so started to take walks, first with a bin bag and latterly with a litter picker. She found she was collecting a lot of litter, so to bring it to everyone's attention she set up the Eager Beavers facebook page. Further developments have included the community garden behind the playing field pavilion, new bat and owl boxes around the village, wildflower seeding a number of verges, developing the new nature area in the playing field, drumming workshops, a guided walk on hedgerow foraging and a bat walk. Take a look at page 18 for further information about the group.

In July we were spellbound and awestruck to see the magnificent quilted pictures that Brenda Thomas, from Budleigh Salterton, has made over the last ten years. After Brenda retired, she promised to make her daughter a quilt. She bought a sewing machine and friends donated odds and ends of fabric to get her started (little did they know what talent they were helping to emerge). The daughter's quilt was delivered but Brenda thought it rather a lot of effort for a single piece so she turned her skills to experimenting with textile pictures.

From that first experimental picture of yachts and beach huts she got the bug. Much of her material is recycled clothing supplemented with donated bits and pieces and some irresistible bargains from the material shops. We were delighted to see colourful representations of Polperro, Gorran Haven, Exeter Quay, Lympstone, Budleigh Salterton and Mousehole. They were all instantly recognisable (although Brenda said she sometimes takes liberties to add a little more colour - and her dog, who makes an appearance in most scenes. There were also abstract designs, some *scenes through the seasons* and a wonderful hanging with quilted pictures of all the houses in her road. During coffee, we were all (carefully with our cups) peering at the stitching and amazed by the detail and range of textures she has created ... time will tell if any of us have the inspiration or skill to try our hand at this lovely art form.

On **18th September**, our invited speaker is Luc Vandamme on behalf of Mission Aviation Fellowship, who use planes to deliver relief workers, doctors, pastors, medicines and much more to isolated rural communities.

Monica Bell & Mo Mylne

An Invitation from
The Trustees of Tipton St John Community Hall

SATURDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER 2023

12noon – 1.30pm

TIPTON ST JOHN COMMUNITY HALL

Animals2Usouthwest
Animal Experience Party

With the opportunity for a "hands-on" encounter with various species

£4 per child

- Places are strictly limited - 'first come first served'
- All children (*min age 4yrs*) must be accompanied by an adult
- Bookings & Payment in advance (before 31 Aug)

Email : tsjcommunityhall@gmail.com or
Tel : 07402 707075

Light refreshments included












TIPTON ST JOHN PRIMARY SCHOOL



Dear Community,

Following a letter in December, which confirmed that Tipton St John Primary School was provisionally selected for the School Rebuilding Programme, we have now received confirmation that our school has been initially assigned to Group 1. These are urgent cases and schools in this group will be expected to start their projects between April 2023 and April 2025.

Projects have been prioritised according to the condition of their buildings and other relevant criteria and will enter delivery at a rate of approximately 50 projects per year.

It is reassuring to know that the needs of Tipton St John Primary School have been recognised and prioritised and we are a step closer to providing the children and staff with a school building that is fit for purpose and will better accommodate our needs.

A specific start date for this project will be communicated to school at least a month in advance and so we await this contact. In the meantime, Devon County Council, supported by the DfE, will continue their feasibility studies of potential sites for the new building.

We will keep you updated!

Amanda Fulford, Executive Headteacher



As I write, we are breaking up for the Summer holidays! It has been a busy last few weeks or so with Oak Class Drama Performance, Sports Day, Disco and our Summer Fair - all very successful and well-attended!

So as we come to the end of the school year, inevitably there are a few changes afoot.

Firstly, some goodbyes:

Mrs Quincey who has been teaching Willow Class this year. A huge thank you to her for all she has contributed this year to

the class and school - a highlight of which must be the Residential in April! We will be sorry to see her go and I know both staff and children will miss her.

Mrs Ladbrook, who is retiring after a brief 51 year stint as a teacher, Headteacher and many other official and unofficial hats besides. We have greatly benefited from her expertise and unbelievable energy - we all look on in awe and hope we will have half of what she has! She has been transformational in leading on Science in particular, the culmination of which is our Science Week which is amazing. We wish her well for her retirement and thank her for all of her immense contributions at Tipton.

Year 6s - this cohort of Year 6s have been an absolute credit to the school - Civic Awards, their play, great SATS achievements and progress, and many examples of leadership and embodiment of the School values being demonstrated at lunchtimes and in whole school activities. We will miss you all but wish you well for this next step.

Then some hellos for September:

Mrs Claire Martin will be joining us in September to teach Willow Class. We will have a 'Meet the Teacher' session in the first week back for parents of children in Willow in September. She comes with a wealth of experience, and may be familiar to anyone who has been involved with TIPPS or seen one of their performances!

Our New Starters - we have a number of children joining in September, including a full class of Reception children, and a number of others in different classes through school. Everyone has now been in for taster days, transition mornings etc. and we are looking forward to them starting soon!

Finally, I wish you all well for the Summer holidays - let's hope for some fine August weather!

Kind regards

Pete Button

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

1st Tipton St. John Scout Group - GSL Annual report for the AGM

1ST Tipton St. John Scout Group is a thriving scout group with beaver, cub and scout sections which are all currently operating at full capacity.



The Kings Coronation Celebrations at Tipton St. John

In May, Tipton Scout Group was asked to put on a Duck Race, organised by one of our Beaver Leaders, Mark Rigden, at the Tipton Coronation Celebrations. A thousand plastic ducks were released into the river from the bridge above the playing field and captured before the big road bridge. The Duck Race raised around £700 for the scout group. We also held a BBQ at the Coronation Celebration which raised over £400. Thank you to all of you who came to support the group and especially to Ann Knight for inviting us to take part.

Beavers

Our Beaver section has been busy with activities such as apple harvesting last autumn, a nature walk and treasure hunt. The beavers joined the cubs and scouts for a group firework evening held at the plot where, despite the rain, we had a BBQ followed by hot chocolate around the campfire. The beavers have been working on their emergency aid badge, along with collecting food for the reverse advent calendar for the Foodbank in Sidmouth. Earlier this year, the beavers learnt about Burns Night, took part in the National Story Telling week, built spaghetti and marshmallow towers and designed a Creme Egg launcher. This term saw the beavers making 'Dampers' to cook on the open fire at the plot and having a go at putting up tents. The beavers are off to GoApe in the next few weeks for their summer treat - enjoy!

Cubs

Activities for our Cub section have included building rockets, learning about the value of money, chemical reactions and the Diwali festival. In October, the cubs took part in a sleepover at Sid Vale Scout hut along with our scouts. They walked from Manor Road car park, through Sidmouth, up Salcombe Hill to the Sid Vale Scout hut - and all did really well. The cubs enjoyed the fireworks evening with the other sections. They also had a trip out to Exeter Tenpin Bowling, which was enjoyed by all. In Spring, the cubs worked on their navigation skills, took part in an International evening, had a Taskmaster challenge evening, made pancakes, attended Clip and Climb, learnt how to light a fire safely, and had a film night. This term saw the cubs visit the Exeter Fire station. They also learnt how to make a catapult - which resulted in a competition between the Sixes! They took part in our annual Cycle Rodeo where they learnt about bike maintenance and practised some cycling skills. Some of the cubs attended the East Devon District Cub Camp which was held at Huish Woods in Taunton where they took part in various activities such as archery, air rifle shooting, caving and campfire song singing - a good weekend was had by all who attended.

Scouts

Our Scout section has been busy with a range of activities such as an incident hike on Woodbury Common, a night hike and camp, backwoods cooking, attending the firework evening, trying their hand at bouldering, building a bamboo cane bridge, geocaching, making stop motion movies, learning about global issues, having a go at skiing at the dry slope in Exeter, Swedish log cooking, working on their expedition skills and attending the Annual Woodlands Camp in South Devon. This term saw the scouts participate in air rifle shooting at the plot, raft building, and a wide games evening at Salcombe Regis. The scouts are taking part in a District raft race which is being held in September and organised by one of our leaders, Nik McCafferty - well done Nik for taking this on again.

We have a Scout and Cub camp planned for the end of July, so are hoping the weather stays dry!

Finally, a BIG Thank You to all the leaders and helpers - running our three sections wouldn't be possible without the help of our volunteer leaders and those parents who kindly offer their help - it is much appreciated by all.

Alison Clatworthy
GSL for 1st Tipton St. John Scout Group

Executive Committee

Behind every successful group, there is an Executive Committee to support the group. We are currently looking for a person to join our Executive Committee to take on the **fundraising role**. The Executive Committee meets approximately 4 times a year. If you can volunteer to help us, please contact Tipton Scout Group at tiptonstjohnscoutgroup@gmail.com, we would be extremely grateful.



As some of you may be aware, my husband Clinton and I have recently purchased a catering trailer which we hope will be operational in the near future in a number of local sites including the playing field, where we hope to be able to cater for events and activities and perhaps become a regular fixture at weekends. Whilst this is a very exciting venture, it has also made me realise just difficult it is to be environmentally friendly when serving something such as takeaway food and drink.

I was aware that single use plastic is going to be banned for any takeaway food from the autumn but had obviously been looking at alternatives anyway. That having been said, it is certainly interesting to see what so called 'green' options there are currently available on the market!

The term 'green washing' is something I first heard on the 'The Age of Plastic' podcast (which, on a separate note, I would heartily recommend listening to if you have the time). This is a phrase which essentially refers to anything that pretends to be environmentally friendly but can, in fact, be completely the opposite. It is an advertising spin to deceptively persuade the public that the object or policy is good for the planet, either through wording or pictures and, unfortunately, can be very effective.



With this in mind, when considering my own lifestyle, I often try to think of more sustainable alternatives to items I use everyday. This started way before I formed EagerBeaversTSJ and is something that I have tried to continue to reassess on a regular basis. I wanted to reduce my reliance upon single use plastic as much as possible as I realised that whilst it can be recycled, this can only occur a certain number of times before it then ends up in landfill.

You may already be aware of the 5 'R's - rethink, refuse, reduce, reuse and recycle. These are all to make people think about the items that they are buying or using, to consider the waste that they are producing as a result and help towards a more sustainable future. I would hope that we could all look at elements of our everyday life and by making some small changes, you may be very surprised to see a bit more change in your pocket and a lot less waste in your bin!



This may sound sad, but I literally look at everything I do from the moment I wake up, to see if there is a more environmentally alternative that could work. So, for example, when I get up like most people (I imagine) I head off to the bathroom. Here there are SO many easy changes one can make that make a massive difference to the planet. Consider these options: recycled toilet roll (it's cheaper, it's soft and considering what it's for, it's OK), your own home-made air freshener and loo cleaner (yes, really). I have been using an alternative to baby wipes for ages where you spray water, infused with an essential oil, onto your loo roll instead and then it's completely bio-degradable and cheaper, too. Try soap instead of shower gel (or refillable at least), homemade bath cleaning products, bamboo toothbrushes (MILLIONS of plastic toothbrushes end up in landfill every year), shampoo bars, loofahs - anything that is natural is not only better for the planet, but surprisingly is often cheaper and lasts longer than you may think.

I have a plastic free workshop next month where we can look at ways to reduce our carbon footprint, (no green washing either!). In the meantime, just consider things as mentioned above, read the labels on products and question what/why the manufacturer is trying to sell us their product. A big shock for me recently was with a very well known washing up liquid which claimed to be 'plant based, environmentally friendly, recycled and recyclable' but studying the label revealed it is harmful to aquatic life! Please join me in our crusade to make these changes - it's really not difficult and strangely satisfying when you realise the difference it makes to your bin and your purse.

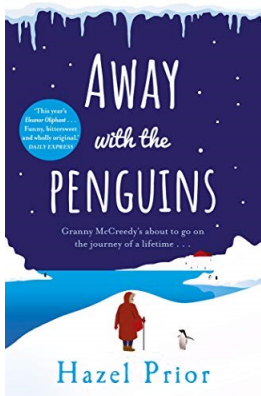
EagerBeaversTSJ have an African drumming class on the 29th July and, as mentioned earlier, a plastic free workshop on the 13th August (see the posters). The catering trailer is a very exciting project, as well, so please come along and say 'Hi'. We're hoping that providing teas, coffees and snacks on the Playing Field will be an excellent addition to the village, but also in a green and sustainable way.

We are EagerBeaversTSJ. You can find us on Facebook, we also now have a website (thank you, Jo Earlam) or, if you prefer, join our email list (EagerBeaversTSJ@hotmail.com) or our WhatsApp group. Thank you.

Lisette Johnston (07870 967 250)

Tipton Readers

Away with the Penguins by Hazel Prior



Well another random choice by me due to a quirky title had Book Club reading *Away with the Penguins* by Hazel Prior. Once again I had somehow chosen a book about an elderly lady having a rare adventure ... hmm I seem to be getting good at that ... but thankfully the group really enjoyed it and found it a heart-warming and cheery read if somewhat slightly improbable (in parts) story line.

Veronica is a wealthy, fairly eccentric lady in her mid-eighties who doesn't particularly like people and hasn't anyone to leave her money to when she dies, and is wondering what to do with it. She discovers a grandson she didn't know about, but after a bit of a disastrous first meeting decides he's not worthy of it.

After seeing a documentary about the plight of a colony of Adelie Penguins on a small island near Antarctica she is considering bequeathing her estate to the project. However, she decides to visit the project first to see the penguins and the project for herself before making her final decision ... so off she goes.

The story is told over dual timelines: Veronica's youth during the Second World War is told via her diary (which she has sent to her grandson) before switching back to her antics in the present day. These different threads were all really well connected and there was no confusion considering the different viewpoints and timelines. The book explores the evolving understanding and relationship between Veronica and her grandson and, with the impact of the penguins and new friendships on the way, Veronica reflects on her life and how she relates to other people.

There is a sequel to this book and I suspect a lot of us from Book Club will be reading it having enjoyed *Away with the Penguins*. An easy and pleasant read which scored 8/10 from our group.

Mo Mylne



Istanbul by JE Hall



Istanbul is the second book in a trilogy by Ottery St Mary author J E Hall. We read the first book *Flashbacks* last year.

Istanbul continues the story of Adam Taylor who was traumatized by events in the first novel and the terrorist Ali Mohammed's life on his return to Mosul. It is in Mosul that Mohammed is tasked with destabilizing Turkey in conjunction with other terrorist groups.

Adam is now studying Islamic Studies at Exeter university and spends time in Turkey along with three fellow students to gain experience and research to support their assignments.

Kaylah Kone, her baby and brother Clive become involved in Ali's plot when an Israeli diplomat asks them to go to Istanbul to try to draw Ali Mohammed out in the open. The story picks up the pace when Adam recognizes Kaylah and Clive in Istanbul.

Without giving away any more of the plot, tense situations arise with consequential outcomes.

The group enjoyed this second book even more than the first and good discussion took place around the story and its themes. The average mark was 6.5.

Anne Bareford



Garden news - A visit to Willow Cottage.

As I walk down to get the paper each morning I always delight in checking out the window boxes at Willow Tree Cottage. It set me thinking that here might be a garden full of delights if they are anything to go by and I was definitely not disappointed! William and Trish moved into Dolphin Cottage, as it was then called, at just about the same time as we moved into Dolberries. They decided to change the name as there is a beautiful willow tree in the back garden and as far as anyone knows there are no dolphins in the River Otter. They kindly agreed to let me come and have a look at what they have done and share it with the readers of the Tipton Times.



Just outside the house is a patio area absolutely packed with pots all filled with a variety of plants - a lot of annuals grouped in complementary colours and some more permanent plants such as acers, peonies and hostas and an amazing tree fern. It really is a spectacle. What a perfect place for a glass of something sparkly on a summer evening. This is Trish's domain, she tells me, and how cleverly she arranges the pots and maintains the quality of the plants throughout the season. She paints all her pots black during the winter so that there is a cohesive look and you could really see this working. There is a lot of love for roses and peonies in this garden! As with all gardeners when they have someone visit, Trish said I had just missed the rambling rose across the fence, and a clematis too. But believe me there was plenty more to see. At the end of the patio you can see glimpses of what else is to come in - so we walk on through the arch, with honeysuckle rambling over it, to the rest of the garden.

The garden is very long and along the left hand side runs the leat from the mill. This, of course, gives lots of scope for planting and indeed there is a large gunnera here enjoying the dampness. There are beds either side of the lawn containing many shrubs in particularly hydrangeas which provide wonderful colour. There are a number of other trees alongside the previously-mention willow tree, including a Lady Lace tree which has been successfully moved from the bottom of the garden and also a twisted hazel which I really like. Beyond this is another screen to entice you through to Will's vegetable patch.



Will has made this screen out of willow which is really attractive. I always love a look at vegetables and this looks a fantastically productive plot and so advanced too. Trish and Will had just enjoyed their first new potatoes of the season at my time of visiting. There are many different crops growing in raised beds and a greenhouse with lots of basil including a lovely purple one which I was very kindly given to bring home.

For me there is no better pleasure than walking round a garden talking about plants and gardening ideas, so thank you to Will And Trish for a lovely visit.

Alison Stevens

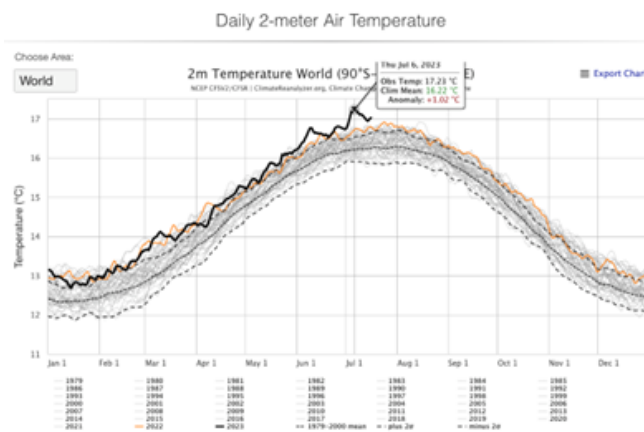


Editors' note: visit www.tiptontimes.org.uk to view the pictures in colour.

Tipton Weather Bureau

No-one who follows the news can have failed to notice that something very dramatic is happening with the world's climate this year. I seem to have written about climate change a lot over the last year or two, but I feel that I must write about this again this month - do tell me if I am getting too repetitive (or depressing), or also if there is anything specific about weather and climate you would like me to cover in a future column!

As I write we are forecasting a second wave of extreme heat in a huge area of southern Europe, with temperatures expected to peak in the mid-40's. Extreme heat waves are also affecting much of China and the southern states in the USA, both of which have recorded over 50C already this summer. At the same time severe floods have been devastating many places across the northern hemisphere, notably in South Korea, India, China and North America. Closer to home, we had near-drought conditions in June followed by a bit of a cold washout in much of July so far, but the real notable event has been the temperature of the seas around the British Isles. The Atlantic Ocean has been record-breakingly warm, with the most extreme around UK waters, 3 to 4 Celsius warmer than normal in June. Most of this is in the northern hemisphere summer but odd things are happening in the southern winter too, including heavy snowfall in South Africa. Winter Antarctic sea ice is at record low levels with 2.6 million square km (17%) less than normal, totally eclipsing the previous record of 1.2 million square km below normal. Like our 40C in the UK last summer, many of these events are breaking records by huge margins, not the tiny ones we normally expect.



It is not hard to imagine what all this adds up to. During June and July, 2023 has been the hottest year recorded ever for the whole planet, and early July has seen several days break the record for the hottest day globally, day after day. The graph shows just how dramatically 2023 in bold black has been hotter than any previous year. You will notice that the world temperature is warmer in our northern summer than in our winter, the southern summer. This is because there is much more continental landmass in the northern hemisphere, which heats up and cools down far more than the oceans in the southern hemisphere.

The colour version of the graph (online version) makes it clear that 2022 and other recent years have also been very warm, but 2023 still stands out much higher. So why?

You have probably heard of El Nino, the periodic changes in ocean temperatures in the tropical Pacific. This cycles every few years between phases of La Nina, when the ocean surface is relatively cool to El Nino when it is several degrees warmer. This has been going on for centuries, but now it is superimposed on top of the warming of the whole planet due to human emissions of greenhouse gases. We have just come out of an unusually long La Nina and transitioned into quite a strong El Nino, which is largely why the 2023 global temperature has jumped so dramatically. Unfortunately, however, La Nina has probably been masking some of the global warming trend and so we may expect to see more very warm years, especially in El Nino years. On top of the El Nino affect, we also have the extreme Atlantic temperatures. Reasons for these are complex but seem to be due to changes in the weather which have meant the Atlantic has been much less stormy than usual. Storms cause waves which lead to mixing of warm surface water with colder water deeper down - the lack of storms has allowed a shallow surface layer to become much warmer than usual. I don't think it is clear yet whether this year's extreme in the Atlantic is related to climate change or not, but we cannot get away from the fact that the world's oceans are generally warming.

So what can we expect over the next few months? El Nino has various global effects so we might expect to see Australia return to a period of heatwaves and drought after a few years of heavy rain and floods during La Nina, for example. El Nino normally has the effect of suppressing Atlantic hurricanes due to changes in atmospheric circulation, but this year this is countered by the high water temperatures which will tend to strengthen hurricanes - so we are watching that one with interest. So far we have had some very early hurricanes. Tipton weather is not significantly affected by El Nino, so I can't give you any extra tips for here - sorry!

Ken Mylne

PS. If you are interested in some dramatic maps of the extreme ocean temperatures in June, have a look at this web-page: <https://climate.copernicus.eu/record-breaking-north-atlantic-ocean-temperatures-contribute-extreme-marine-heatwaves>

Jess Bailey **Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward**

Tipton School

I was really pleased to meet up last week with executive headteacher Amanda Fulford, Richard Power from the Diocese and a senior officer from the Department for Education to talk about Tipton school. A day later I learned that the school has been included as a priority within the Schools Rebuilding Programme which is excellent news and something that I have been campaigning for, along with others from the school and community. As yet there is no confirmation as to where the school is actually going to be sited. I continue to emphasise how vitally important it is that the new school remains in Tipton St John rather than being located elsewhere.



Road repairs

I have been chasing up the DCC highways team about the Metcombe carriageway repairs – as the recent closure was for repairs to the collapsed highway structure by the bridges team at DCC. There is also more jetting that needs to be done in the centre of Tipton St John and I am pressing for this to be done urgently.

Locality budget

I have £5000 available for grants each year from my DCC locality budget. Locality budget funding is available to projects that are beneficial to local communities. I'm funding the paediatric pads for the Tipton defibrillator and have also recently funded new play equipment for the school. Please do get in touch with me if you wish to apply for a grant – full details on the locality budget can be found on DCC's website.

Cuts to Homelessness Grant by Devon County Council

As a member of Devon County Council's Health and Adult Care Scrutiny Committee I have been extremely concerned about proposed cuts to its homelessness grant. The grant of £1.5 million pounds each year by DCC provides vital support hours for people to prevent homelessness across the county. There have been more than 900 objections to the proposed cuts including from many charities. Yet despite this it appears that the Conservative cabinet at DCC is absolutely determined to press ahead. Whilst I fully appreciate the budgetary constraints faced by DCC it does seem to me that it is the wrong time, during a cost of living crisis, to be proceeding with these cuts, and I am seriously concerned that outcomes will be worse for many people who are facing homelessness, including young people. I am also disappointed that I have had to fight really hard to get these proposals discussed fully in the public domain (it had been originally intended that the consultation responses be discussed in private, until I asserted that this was totally unacceptable). The health scrutiny committee will be discussing the cuts at its meeting on 27th July and I anticipate that DCC's cabinet will make its decision on the grant at its meeting on 23rd August. These meetings will be livestreamed on DCC's website.

Cllr Jess Bailey

01404 814056

jessica.bailey@devon.gov.uk

Janice Aherne **Ottery St Mary Town Councillor, Tipton St John Ward**

I would like to introduce myself, as one of your newly co-opted Councillors for Tipton St. John Ward. My name is Janice Aherne. I have lived in the village for 33 years having moved down from Surrey in 1990. My children attended Tipton Primary School and Kings School; my grandchildren Daisy and Poppy are currently following in their footsteps.

Over the years I have been actively involved in organisations and events in the village, including Tipton Youth Club, the village horse show and residents committee, to name a few. For many years I served as an Appropriate Adult and sat on the Restorative Justice Panel, mainly in Exeter, but also other local areas

I am now semi-retired, after a diverse career, starting my working life as a Sales Ledger [before computers] Clerk. BHSAI [horse riding instructor], Service Receptionist & car accident repair estimator and Education/Activities Manager amongst others - and am now ready to represent and maintain the uniqueness of our very thriving and lovely village.

Please feel free to contact me: my details are as follows.

Cllr Janice Aherne

01404 815543

Janice.Aherne@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Matt Williamson Ottery St Mary Town Councillor, Tipton St John Ward



Dear *Tipton Times* readers, I feel privileged to introduce myself as one of your new Councillors on Ottery St Mary Town Council (OTC).

I'd also like to say thank you very much to our previous councillor, Lisette Johnston, thanks to whom I was fortunate enough to join OTC after I learned that the positions for Tipton St John Ward were to be unfilled and that the Council might become at risk of losing its general power of competence.

I'm someone who likes to get things done, and Tipton has been my home for over twenty years, so I wanted to make sure that the Council's ability to do a good job wouldn't be hindered. This sort of thing is new to me though, since taking on the role, I've felt very encouraged so many thanks for the kind comments I've received. The focus of my working life has been as an assistant, serving customers and helping people. I hope to bring the positive values of customer service to public service.

Thankfully the remaining position for Tipton St. John Ward has now been filled by Janice Aherne, with whom I look forward to working. Congratulations, Councillor!

In these first weeks, my attention has been on:

- Learning lots of information, both official training from the Devon Association of Local Councils and attempting to get 'up-to-speed' with various local issues. For this, reading past issues of *Tipton Times* has proved useful, as well as chatting with locals, of course. My ambition is to talk with as many local Parish residents as possible so I that may better represent you on the Council.
- The flood community impact, where I've made attempts to keep things rolling on more post-flood work e.g. blocked drainage, road damage, and long term resilience (beginning by redeveloping the OTC Emergency Plan). So many good deeds have been done by so many, and I'd like all the local heroes to know that their actions are deeply appreciated. As for the latest flood cleanup I believe the lion's share of thanks is owed to the hard workers for East Devon District & Devon County Councils along with our DCC Councillor, Jess Bailey.
- Road maintenance, where some problems that I brought to the attention of DCC's roads and transport team have already been fixed. I know many people are looking forward to more repairs coming soon, and I'll be keeping an eye on the state of the village infrastructure (if you have a tip-off for potholes etc. let me know). If you can, I really recommend that you get familiar with and make use of DCC's "Report a problem" online resource: <https://www.devon.gov.uk/roadsandtransport/report-a-problem/>.
- A 20mph speed limit plan, the pursuit of which I've begun with attending a webinar by the charity '20's Plenty for Us'. Before I decided to join OTC I heard about the desire for a lower speed limit for Tipton, as well as areas of the Parish such as Alfrington. I've learned that there is so much to be gained by a 20mph limit. I strongly advise looking up the 20's Plenty campaign requesting Devon County Council to adopt 20mph as the default speed limit for urban and village roads in the county. I see gathering together supporters within the Parish as an important next step: https://docs.google.com/presentationd/1kEGr_faOz82_AKDoQ9x_7qfzHeZNr5Yn/edit?usp=drive_link&ouid=109550861694681840561&rtpof=true&sd=true
- Progress on the new Tipton St. John primary school would be remiss of me not to mention. Despite this



work falling outside of OTC's remit, this is an issue with implications that will shape Tipton in the years ahead. Positive momentum towards this goal is a challenge I recently talked about with our MP, Simon Jupp. We are all looking forward to the upcoming decisions from the Department for Education on the future of our village.

Like to know more about anything I've mentioned? Do you have a problem I could help with? Get in touch!

Cllr Matt Williamson
07840237161
mattwilliamson@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Report of meeting 3rd July 2023

Louise Cole, co-chair of the Coast & Country project gave a presentation to the Council. A copy of the slides can be found on the Council website.



OTTERY ST MARY
TOWN COUNCIL

Reports were received from the EDDC and DCC Councillors.

Janice Aherne was co-opted as a Tipton St John ward councillor, joining Matthew Williamson, who was co-opted at the Council meeting in June.

Over the past month the Council's Planning, Environment, Local Development and Local Commerce, Finance, Human Resources and Strategy Committees have met. Minutes of the meetings can be found on the Council website.

The Council considered the DCC Road Warden scheme. If any members of the parish are interested in taking part in this please contact the Council offices. Further information on the scheme can be found at www.devon.gov.uk/communities/road-warden-scheme

Information was shared with the Council on the 20's Plenty campaign. The Council will wait for DCC Cllr Bailey to confirm where the 20mph zone will be set up by DCC and will then consider the scheme.

The Events Working Group has met to start discussing plans for this year's Christmas Event on Friday 24th November. The Council will be working with local businesses to support their plans for the evening.

The Council adopted the following policies: Flag Flying, Records and Retention, and Press and Media.

The Mayor, Councillor Grainger, reported that he had signed the long-awaited lease for the Heritage Society, alongside Cllr Stewart (Deputy Mayor). The lease will enable the Heritage Society to access new income streams and attract subsidies which were previously unavailable to them. The Mayor attended various Council meetings as well as Pixie Day. The Mayor also had the honour and pleasure of welcoming the City of Bournemouth Orchestra's Brass Octet to a *Villages in Action* sponsored concert in St Mary's Church which was a successful event attended by over 200 people.

Council voted to change the job title of Chief Executive Officer to Town Clerk with immediate effect.

The Council will be undertaking repairs to the roof on the Council Offices.

Future Full Council meeting dates:

- Monday 7th August 2023 – Council Offices
- Monday 4th September 2023 – Alfington Village Hall
- Monday 2nd October 2023 – Council Offices

Useful dates:

Citizens Advice at Council Offices every Tuesday from 9.30am until 11.30am.

The Town Council Offices are open from 10am until 1pm Monday to Friday. If you do need to contact the Council please call 01404 812252 or email admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk.

You can keep up to date by following our Facebook page or looking at our new website:

<https://www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk/> where you can view agendas and minutes for all Council and Committee meetings, together with news and updates.

Kerry Kennell, Town Clerk

Ottery Help Scheme, Ottery Health Matters and The Otter Valley Dementia Awareness Group are joining forces to organise

Getting Winter Ready! on **Wednesday 4th October** at The Institute Yonder Street from **2.30-6.30pm**.

The focus of the event will be offering advice on keeping warm, support mechanisms available through Exeter Community Energy who offer free energy advice and solutions for those with a total income not exceeding £31,000, looking after your health over the winter months, getting that flu jab, new initiatives on how best to consult medical professionals and what you can do to minimise health issues in the chilly months. The event also includes many local contributors who offer activities, warm spaces, advice on inexpensive meals for a family or if you live alone - these include Ottery Larder, Library, Leisure East Devon and CAB, as well as free fire checks for your home.

There'll be a warm reception with light refreshments. Further details in due course!

Any queries or you would like to contribute please contact: jilldudding16@hotmail.com Tel: 07999487537



Church Bells

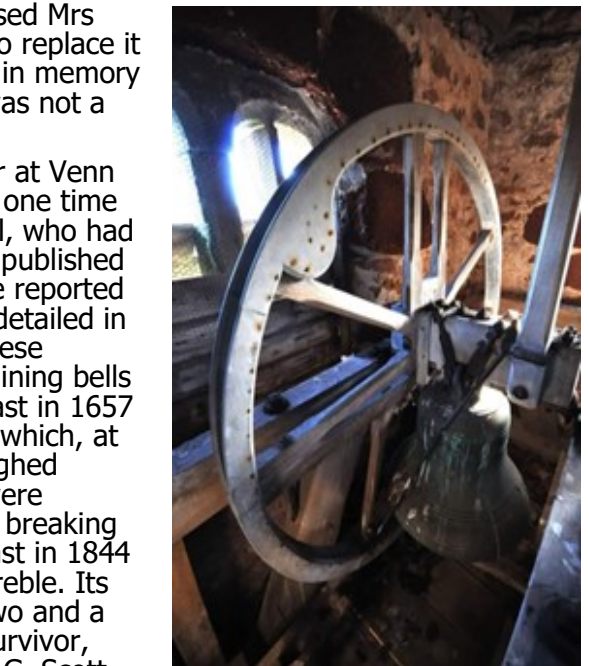
One of my favourite sounds is Harpford Church bells, which can be heard across the valley on a summer's evening when the wind is in the right direction. I also find arriving in Sainsbury's car park to hear the clang of St Mary's bells sounding for a wedding, quite exciting.

Bells are some of the oldest musical instruments in the world, said to date from China in 3500BC. They were authorised for use in Christian churches around 400AD and had become common in European monasteries by 600AD. However, the earliest use in England was in the 11th Century. They can be carefully shaped in thickness and diameter to produce different notes but the attempt to tune them didn't come until the 16th century with the advent of change ringing. Now mainly used to give notice of regular church services, weddings or funerals and, in medieval times, they were also used to give warnings of fires, storms, floods or even war.

In our joint parishes we boast four bells. The one in the bell turret at Tipton St John, which was formally at Beer Cemetery, was purchased for Tipton in 1993. It replaced the recording of Chagford Church bells which in turn had replaced the original bell provided in 1839 when the Church was built. In 1960 this bell, unfortunately, fell from its mounting, embedded itself in the path outside the main door and narrowly missed Mrs Garrett who had just entered church in her wheelchair. To replace it she donated the recording, and the equipment to play, it in memory of her husband. By 1993, due to wear over the years it was not a very pleasant sound!

The other three bells are much older and are in the tower at Venn Ottery. I was recently given papers from Larry Shenfield, one time churchwarden and proprietor of Venn Ottery Barton Hotel, who had made a detailed study of the Venn Ottery bells. This was published in the 200th edition of Tipton Times in February 2004. He reported that there was originally a mediaeval ring of three bells (detailed in an inventory of Church goods of 1553) but only one of these remained. It then sounded a slightly flat E. The two remaining bells had been recast. The second treble bell, F, had been recast in 1657 by John Pennington of Exeter during the Commonwealth which, at that time, would have been done at risk of his life. It weighed nearly three hundredweight, was split and the cannons were cracked off. It should not be rung as there is danger of it breaking apart and crashing to the belfry floor. The other was recast in 1844 by the Whitechapel Foundry in London and is the G flat treble. Its diameter is twenty-one and a half inches and it weighs two and a half hundredweight. The tenor bell, the only mediaeval survivor, was cast in Exeter in 1400-60 or thereabouts. The Rev J. G. Scott, Chairman of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers visited Venn Ottery in 1977 and reported *'that the tenor bell casting is very clean and the cannons are simply moulded. The tone of the bell is very good: in every respect a bell which Venn Ottery can be proud of'*.

In 1864 when the church bells of Devon were surveyed all three bells were hung with half-wheels. In 1900 Harry Stokes, one of the county's finest bell hangers, re-hung them in an oak frame with new gear and in 1977 *'they had not been altered and the frame was as good as when it was installed'*. That year a survey was made and an estimate obtained for restoring the bells including recasting the cracked second treble bell of 1657 with a view to *'chiming them on the swing'*. The estimate from Messrs Arthur Fidler, Bellhanger of Bow, Crediton was £1,384 +VAT. When Larry's article was written in 2004 that was equivalent to £10,000. Regretfully, but unsurprisingly, it was decided not to go ahead with the enterprise!



I can remember a bell being rung for service at Venn Ottery but it was a long time ago. I can't find any further information about the Venn Ottery bells so, presumably, they are still sleeping with the bats and spiders in their home in the ancient tower. Strange to think of them there all those years and the changes which have taken place around them. The tenor bell with its inscription *'Est Virgo Sancta Maria' (It is the Virgin Mary)* must have sounded for Roman Catholic services before the Reformation and all would have sounded when Venn Ottery was a parish of 137 souls in 1841.

Will they ever be heard again, I wonder?

Ann Knight

RSPB Aylesbeare Common



Our news this month comes from the team at Aylesbeare Common RSPB, Fiona our Warden is on Lundy taking part in a Storm Petrel Breeding Bird Survey with Toby our site manager.

I am the newest face amongst staff: I'm Sally and I cover the Devon Reserves as Administrator. I was drawn to the RSPB as I have a long-standing interest in the natural world and species conservation strategies. We live in a time where there are extreme challenges in preserving the balance of how humanity and nature can co-exist successfully. Fiona's reflections in our contribution to the May newsletter sharing her heartfelt concern and assessment of damage caused by the flash flood made me mindful of background science and breadth of considerations that go into land management strategies here in the area: the Pebblebed Heaths undoubtedly provided a very valuable cushion that softened the levels of damage caused by the unprecedented deluge back in early May.

And now here we are in July having just got through a long period without rain and, with record temperatures around the country throughout June, we are sure that the farmers and gardeners amongst you were very glad to see the recent change in weather.

An important member of our team is Gary who is the Assistant Warden: this is a new role to the team and adds much needed extra capacity for managing the workload throughout the year.

Gary joined the RSPB Aylesbeare team in February, but you may have met him out on the reserves at any time over the past 5 years because, before joining the team as a member of staff, he has been involved with the work delivered by the team through contract work, particularly related to land and habitat management. Gary has lived close to the Heaths since moving to the area five years ago and often reflects on how incredibly lucky he feels to live and work in this beautiful and unique landscape.

Prior to moving to the area, Gary worked in various areas for the National Trust including Cornwall, Devon and the Peak District which was where he originally began his career in conservation. Getting stuck into practical work across the reserve and working with our dedicated team of volunteers is a favourite part of the job for Gary who also enjoys being part of a team whose depth of knowledge and experience is invaluable to everyone but especially our Residential Volunteers.

Residential Volunteers join the team for periods of six months to one year to develop their skills, knowledge and experience with the aim of using the experience to facilitate progression to employment within conservation. One of our current Residential Volunteers will be leaving shortly - we are thrilled for Matt, who has secured a position working in the conservation sector - so we asked him to share the highlights of his time with us.

"I became a residential volunteer earlier this year and have loved every minute of it (yes, even when it's pouring with rain!). I've been lucky enough to see so many species that I've never seen before such as nightjars, hobbies, sundew and southern damselflies. Many of these species are unique to this kind of heathland habitat which is why it's so important we preserve it.

Heathland requires human intervention to stop the succession of vegetation taking over and turning it back in to woodland. It has been this way for hundreds of years since people first started domesticating grazing animals, and many species of wildlife have evolved to co-exist in this habitat. What this means for us on the ground is a lot of work.

It's been a great experience being part of a great team of RSPB staff and volunteers to provide me with training, advice, and support so that I can get out there and make a difference for nature.

It's not just the nature that's benefitted though: thanks to the experience and training I've received as a residential volunteer I've managed to secure myself a job as an assistant ranger. I couldn't have done it without the fantastic team of people who I've worked with during the last year and so I'd like to finish my time here by saying thank you to all of them and keep up the amazing work!"

Our newest residential volunteer Michael started early in July and brings with him some wide-ranging experience, with a recent MSc in Land and Ecological Restoration before joining us here at Aylesbeare Common. We are sure that Michael will get a lot from working in the area and, in particular, gain a great deal from seeing the local community join and be involved with the Heath Week events. The whole team here are looking forward meeting lots of the people who make up this community during the events being held throughout the week.

Sally Fransen

Tipton Past - Memories of the end of the summer term at Tipton School.

When the school milk curdled in the small bottles left on the school doorstep before break time, you knew you were into the summer term. As the days got longer and warmer, we children were already beginning to anticipate the lure of the long summer holidays, the excitement building far more for us than our parents. The last few weeks always seemed to be full of more fun than the other terms, with trips, games and summer frivolities.



Sports day on the playing field in the eighties

We had the luxury and fun of the swimming pool and also the build-up to sports day. We would be taken down to the playing fields to run races, some serious and some less so, in front of a crowd of parents, grandparents and siblings. I was definitely not a sportsperson but I still enjoyed the experience of supporting others and screaming encouragement to those who were far more capable. There was also the day of the inter-school sports, held in Exeter, competing against other schools from the area and occasionally coming back triumphant with a trophy.

I remember one year learning country dancing which was for a display that the school was to put on at the summer fair. We learnt to tie dye t-shirts, especially for our outfits for the event. We were paired boys with girls (tie dye colour coordinated) which meant we had, at times, to hold hands whilst we had to *do si do, swing and promenade* our partners. Obviously, this caused much amusement, mixed with

disgust amongst the dance troupe and there were cries of "sir, do I have to?" It was fun though.

End of term meant a church service for the school and the brave leavers who were having to move from the security of primary school onto the daunting prospect of life at the 'big' school. They would all receive a gift of a bible and a tin set of pens, pencil, ruler, compass and protractor to take with them on their journey to secondary school. We would also receive books for attendance, good behaviour or good work. I have a wonderfully illustrated story book given to me for politeness, which I still have. I also have a most beautifully decorated photograph album from 1901 which was a prize given to Eva Wheaton, a young Tipton school girl from Venn Ottery for her punctual attendance, by her headmistress, E J Symes. I was lucky that a friend found it in an antique sale in Somerset and bought it for me. It is a treasured possession from Tipton's past. In 1941 pupils were awarded prizes for needlework, gardening, scripture, progress, conduct and flower collecting - good values to have. Does anyone remember the old school motto - *Hold fast to that which is good.*

Lastly, my most special and treasured memory of the summer term is having an afternoon story read to us whilst sitting outside on the school field, cross-legged, on the tinder dry grass under the shade of the trees, feeling the warm breeze flow over us as we lost ourselves within the story.

Just magical.

Judith Taylor

*Throwing water sponges at teacher Miss Gilbert
- early 2000s*



RECIPE CORNER

GOAT'S CHEESE FRITTATA

This goat's cheese frittata is the ultimate treat to pack for a delicious lunchtime treat in a lunchbox, but also brilliant served warm with a crunchy salad, or cooked green vegetables, as a light meal. Serves 4.

Per serving: Calories 294 , Protein 22g , Fat 20g , Fibre 2g , Carbs 5g.

- 1 tbsp olive oil, plus extra for greasing
- 1 medium red onion, peeled and finely chopped
- 1 red pepper, deseeded and cut into roughly 1.5cm chunks
- 1 medium courgette, trimmed and cut into roughly 1.5cm chunks
- 100g goat's cheese, cut into small chunks
- 8 medium eggs
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat the oven to 200°C/fan 180°C/ gas 6.

Grease and line the base of a 20cm square cake tin (not loose-based) with non-stick baking paper.

Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan and gently fry the onion, pepper and courgette for 5 minutes, or until softened. Tip into the prepared tin and spread to the sides. Scatter the goat's cheese all over the vegetables. Whisk the eggs in a medium bowl with sea salt and lots of ground black pepper until thoroughly combined. Pour over the cheese and vegetables and bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes, or until the frittata has set and is slightly puffy and golden brown. Cut into squares or bars to serve.

Enjoy!

Jenny Pinn



Otter Vale Art Society

Art Exhibition
Kennaway House
Sidmouth
Aug 15 - 21

FREE
10-16.30
daily (incl. Sunday)

New Venue for Otter Vale Art Society

The annual exhibition of Otter Vale Art Society is being held this year at Kennaway House in Sidmouth from 15th - 21st August.

Open every day from 10 am - 4:30 pm (including Sunday) it will feature work from over 30 local artists.

Free entrance.

Ottery St Mary Heritage Society and Museum (registered charity no. 1179598)

Our monthly talks take place at The Institute, Yonder St., Ottery St Mary on the 3rd Tuesday of the month commencing at 7.30pm. Guests are welcome for £3 payable at the door.

August - no meeting

Tuesday 19th September

Our AGM takes place at 7.30pm.

At 8pm we have the following talk given by Leigh Edwards to which visitors are very welcome: **'Bletchley Park and the World War II Codebreakers'**. The work done, by these largely unsung heroes, shortened World War II by at least two years, saving many tens of thousands of lives. This is their story.

The Museum

Located in the Old Town Hall opposite St Mary's Church in Ottery St Mary, the museum continues to be open for the summer season but will shut by end of September, so do come and see us before then. New displays include the Covid Quilt and the Great Ottery Hailstorm.

Please check our website for up-to-date opening hours: www.otteryheritage.org.uk

If you can spare a little time and would like to volunteer to steward for a few hours, we would love to hear from you.

Enquiries to Lynda Murlewski, Hon. Secretary: otteryheritage@gmail.com

Ottery St Mary Library News

It has been an exciting time in the library with lots of changes and events. I will begin with the exciting news that our **Tuesday evening 'Library Extra' sessions** have restarted! Thanks to Friends of Ottery Library, we are now able to open the library every Tuesday 5pm - 7pm, in addition to our existing volunteer sessions on Wednesday mornings 10am - 1pm, meaning our library is now open on 6 days a week! On the volunteer led sessions, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, not all of our normal services are available. However, if you have a library card you can still borrow and return books and use our public PCs/printing services. The Wi-Fi is still available for internet browsing on your own devices, and we now have Wi-Fi printing available too.



**FRIENDS OF OTTERY LIBRARY -
SERIOUS ABOUT OUR LIBRARY**

Sadly, Barclays Bank is no longer able to offer a service at Ottery Library but have started sessions at Honiton Library. IT/Digital support is currently being offered fortnightly by one of our staff members. If you need a little help with IT then please contact the library and we can book you an appointment.

Our Friends group had the first draw of their new 50:50 Club on Saturday 10th June and the winner was subsequently contacted and presented with her winnings. This 50:50 club is an initiative to raise money specifically for Ottery Library, to support us with events, activities and library resources. If you would like to join in ready for the next draw (which will take place on Saturday 9th September), please email otterylibraryfriends@gmail.com and you will be sent details on how to take part.

Finally, we had a fantastic launch to the Summer Reading Challenge on Saturday 8th July with over 60 children joining the challenge on our launch day alone. We have lots of events happening in the library over the summer holidays, and if you haven't already signed up to the challenge, it isn't too late, just pop in and speak to a staff member. For details of summer holiday events and how to book, please either come into the library or contact us: ottery.library@librariesunlimited.org.uk / 01404 813838.

We hope to see you soon,

Kerry, Annette and team

A Letter from Chris Dunn

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear friends,

Almost 40 years ago, Desmond and I came to live on the outskirts of Tipton St John. Despite not knowing very much about the village or the people who lived there then, we plunged ourselves in to enjoying our retirement lives in this beautiful and friendly place. After about 15 years, as the aging process took its toll, we moved into the heart of the village where we were very happy. Desmond was hugely involved with the musical aspects of village life and also in the maintenance of the village hall and other public areas.

We both sang in the church choir and I was on the board of governors for Tipton School for several years. We played tennis, walked our dog, Josie, performed with the Tipton Players and as Singing for Pleasure, and joined in many of the village events so that before long we felt included and accepted as Tipton people. I cannot thank you all enough for making us welcome and included and I count many of you as my close and caring friends.

Sadly, the time has come when I can no longer live by myself and I am very unlikely to return to the village on any sort of permanent basis. My son and daughter live in Cornwall and Peterborough (respectively) and my time is now spent in one place or the other as they take care of me. I am fortunate to have their love and willingness to look after me and I am comfortable in either of my two new homes. However, I will never forget Tipton and the wonderful people who took such good care of me after Desmond died in 2018. I couldn't have asked for better friends and neighbours.

During my time in Tipton, I have been fortunate in having the little shop nearby and all three proprietors, especially Alita, were always so very helpful and kind. Who could ask for more? It would take several pages for me to mention everyone who has blessed me with their friendship and love but those of you who know me best, know who you are and that you have my everlasting love and gratitude.

So, this message is to all of Tipton: THANK YOU for everything you have done, shared and cared about for both me and Desmond. Please do keep in touch if you'd like to and if you should see a car in the driveway, do come and say hello! Know that I think of you all often and fondly and I miss seeing your friendly faces as you walk below my kitchen window.

My love and very best wishes to everyone,

Chris Dunn

PS it is not my intention to sell the house any time soon and I'm grateful to Elly for keeping my garden so beautifully.

Editors' note: if anyone wishes to write to Chris, we have her address!

TIPPS News

We held our AGM on Saturday 22nd July - it was very well attended.

The short meeting was followed by a bring and share supper and while we ate, we were entertained by two rehearsed play readings. Firstly we watched an excerpt from *An Ideal Husband* by Oscar Wilde, which proved to us that nothing much has changed in the world of politics since the 1890's!

The second excerpt was from *Last Tango in Little Grimley*. This is a really funny play and we are planning to perform it as one of our contributions to the One Act Play Festival we are hosting in October. The dates for this are **Thursday 26th and Friday 27th at 7.30pm** and on **Saturday 28th October**. We are hoping to have a matinee performance, as we know quite a few local people are not so keen on going out on dark cold nights, so an afternoon performance might suit them better.

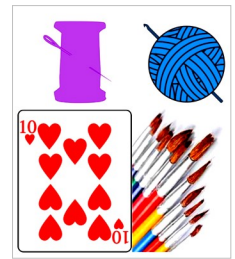
Earlier in October, our junior section will be putting on their very own production of Snow White, there will be an **evening performance on Thursday 12th and on Saturday 14th a matinee**. This will be the show to see - the children are in charge of every aspect and I have it on good authority they have come up with some brilliant ideas. Full details of both the above productions will be in the next issue of the Tipton Times.

Yvonne Kellett

Art, Crafts, Hobbies and Pastimes

An Axminster Visit

I go for the Cribbage ... there are two, even three tables sometimes. Many go for the company and chat whilst knitting, stitching, or sometimes playing a game of something like Scrabble. It's a comfortable and informal Thursday afternoon which Ann and Terry Knight organise and our little £2 goes to the Hall hire and that vital cup of tea and biscuits. But there's more! Over the year the funds trickle in to make a pleasing sum which Ann organises into an outing and this year it was to Axminster to visit the carpet factory there.



Most people think it closed years ago, a victim of foreign competition and man-made fibres. Indeed the major business, over 260 years old, suffered collapse in 2013 and again in 2020. However, the skills, machinery and pride have remained at Axminster, although in a small and distilled operation. They design, copy and manufacture historic and reproduction carpets, also bespoke high-end commercial and hotel carpets.

Ann sorted the twenty of us into car-share groups and when we arrived we were greeted and seated with welcome coffee and biscuits. Gary Bridge, Design and Innovation Director, gave us an absorbing presentation with photographs, artwork and samples to touch. He told us:

"Through the advent of computers and improvements in manufacturing, the world has come to expect perfect goods. In carpet terms, this is perfect artwork all mirrored and balanced - a smooth surface, perfect uniform colour, and clean and fresh in appearance. Prior to this, carpets and rugs were hand drawn, wool dyed with fruits and berries, woven using hand knotted techniques or using basic shuttle looms and finished with scissors to create a pile. In historic houses, when recreating a rug, you should walk into the room and not notice a new carpet."



After the talk we were shown the modest factory floor with fascinating old machines (silent for us at that time) and dedicated artisans. It felt a lovely atmosphere in there - purposeful and quietly proud.

Then it was time for lunch! Ann had chosen the Hunter's Lodge Inn for our meal which was excellent. Everyone seated at a long communal table we were speedily all served at the same time (pre-ordered choices) and the meals were very good, the service smart and obliging.

A lovely day out - thank you, Ann!

Barbara Pugh

VENN OTTERY & SOUTHERTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

APRÉS-FLOODING . . .

The great clear-up in Venn Ottery is more or less done, although those residents whose houses were worst affected are still living in hotels, staying with family, or renting flats, etc. We hope that the repair works will progress smoothly so people can return to their homes within the estimated 3 - 6 months.

Devon County Council, accompanied by EDDC, the parish councils and the Environment Agency, held meetings at Newton Poppleford and Tipton St John to hear from residents about the problems but, apart from clearing the roads, little else has been done. It could be that, at long last, the various authorities are taking the problems more seriously and actually trying to work towards some solutions or, at least, provide some help.

Over the 24 years since VOSRA was founded we have tried, with little success, to get some action to, at least, minimise the likelihood of another flood event. Over that time I have built a record of photographs, letters, emails and discussions about this painful topic which I have now combined into a single dossier which includes a timeline identifying the events, causes, effects, etc. This dossier is a large file (26 Mb) which has been sent to the Councils, the Environment Agency and to Simon Jupp MP. It is available for all residents to download from the VOSRA website (VOSRA.wordpress.com in the *Planning Problems* section) or clicking on this link:

<https://vosra.files.wordpress.com/2023/06/venn-ottery-flooding-dossier-june-2023.pdf>

BRIDGE FROM VENN OTTERY GREEN TO THE CHURCH

There has been no bridge in place since October 2020, and although a replacement was purchased mid 2022 it has been stored awaiting installation. Despite the strenuous efforts of our councillor, Howard Hughes, Newton Poppleford Parish Council has let us down on this but we are told that a contract for construction and installation is imminent so we're hoping that a proper job will finally be done within the next couple of months. To 'encourage' the Council to get the job done, VOSRA has offered £100 towards the build costs.

Shân Merritt - Chairman, VOSRA

CHURCH CALENDAR FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2023

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

AUGUST

SATURDAY	5 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
SUNDAY	6 th	10.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	O.S.M. N.Pop
SUNDAY	13 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	20 th	11.00 am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	27 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion followed by preparation for the Fete	School Field

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAY	3 rd	10.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	O.S.M. N.Pop
SUNDAY	10 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	17 th	10.30 am	Café Church	Community Hall
SUNDAY	24 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.

OCTOBER

SUNDAY	1 st	10.30 am 10.00 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	O.S.M. N.Pop
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ON LINE SERVICES

In addition to the live services and events listed above, an online Service of Worship takes place at 10 a.m. on the following Sundays : 6th & 20th August and 3rd & 17th September.

For details of how to access it please contact our Vicar Mark Ward (revmarkward@btinternet.com) or the PCC Secretary Alison Stevens (tiptonpcc@gmail.com) who will be pleased to provide the link.

CHURCH FETE

BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY 28th AUGUST

SCHOOL FIELD at NOON

Stalls Barbeque Lunches Cream Teas

Grand Draw

Diary Dates - August and September edition

All dates correct at the time of publication.

August

28th August	12 noon	Tipton Church Fete	P5
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September

9th Sept	all day	Cycle ride in aid of the Devon Historic Churches Trust	P12
11th Sept	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14
16th Sept	12-1.30pm	Animal Experience Party, Community Hall	P15
18th Sept	7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Group, Community Hall	P15
21st Sept	7.30pm	Tipton Church Homegroup, St Mary's, Hayne Close	P12
25th Sept	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P14

October

1st October	7pm	Quiz Night, Community Hall	P14
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Michael Parkyn

Sadly, Michael Parkyn (Mike) passed away on 9th June 2023. Mike lived in Venn Ottery for over 47 years and was an active member of Tipton and Venn Ottery churches, using his many practical skills to help in the buildings and grounds. He lectured at Bicton for 34 years and always had a deep interest in the land.

He leaves two daughters, Ruth and Margaret, and five grandchildren.

Summer is a quiet time for the Choral Society, when we take stock. As I write at the beginning of July, we have just had our AGM. Our MD, Malcolm Matthews, announced to the gathered throng of members what we will be preparing for the Christmas Concert, so I can reveal to you it will be the **Vivaldi Gloria**, along with an assortment of carols. This year is the 400th anniversary of the death of William Byrd so we hope to also include something Christmassy by him. For Easter we will prepare **Brahms German Requiem**.



We are saying goodbye to Michael and Vivienne Gascoigne Pees, who will be moving northwards to be nearer to family. They have given a lot of their time to the choral society over the years as Treasurer, and Membership secretary, for which we are very grateful, and we wish them well. Tim Savage has also given long service as secretary and, although giving up the role, he will still be singing with us. We fortunately have people who have volunteered to take over these roles.

However, it is more of a concern that we currently have not got a rehearsal accompanist. Jill Govier gave up last year and we are advertising and following up leads to seek a replacement. This is a paid role that needs unique skills. Hopefully our search (by September) will discover a replacement, otherwise rehearsals will be challenging. If anyone has musical skills in this area, or can direct us to a person who could help, we would be most grateful to hear from you. You can contact us through our usual email osmsc@hotmail.co.uk.

Our Christmas Concert will be on **Saturday 9th December**. If you are coming to one of our concerts, we will be selling tickets through TicketSource (see our website), and the usual channels. If you leave it to the last minute (but better to make sure of your seat), we are hoping that we will be able to take electronic payments on the door (as well as cash).

If you wish to join us to sing, you would be welcome. We do not audition, but it is useful if you know something of reading music. I can thoroughly recommend singing as a pastime with health benefits to body and soul. We had several new members join last year who have enjoyed their involvement. All details on our website <https://otterystmarychoral.org/> or enquiries to our email address: osmcs@hotmail.co.uk Rehearsals begin again on Wednesday September 6th.

David Wade, Chairman

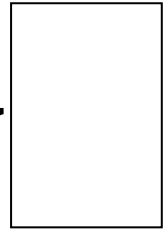
In aid of Tipton and Venn Ottery Churches

TIPTON FETE

in Tipton School Field



MONDAY



28th AUGUST

starting at 12 noon

Admission £2.00, Children free



Barbecue Lunches
& Delicious Teas

Stalls, Games, Music
and Grand Draw