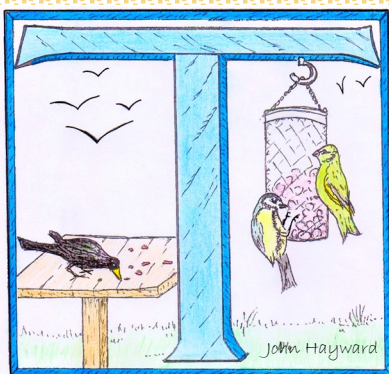




IPTON TIMES

319
February
& March
2024

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



Tipton struck by Tornado!

TIPPS
PRODUCTION
BRINGING BACK
MEMORIES

EAGER BEAVERS
KEEPING
TIPTON TIDY

NEW SCHOOL
FOR TIPTON
- BUT WHERE?

CHRISTMAS ONCE
AGAIN IN
VENN OTTERY
CHURCH

COPY DEADLINE

For 320, April and May 2024

Tuesday, 19th March

(unless by arrangement)

CONTRIBUTIONS VIA YOUR BANK TO:

The Tipton Times Fund

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

tiptontimes2020@gmail.com

Follow us:

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

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

Contact details for village organisations and societies are available at

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

Editors:

David Birch 07929 822940 3 Tipton Lodge, Tipton St John, EX10 0AW

Anne Sadler; Judith Taylor

Treasurer:

Andrew Sadler

Proofreader/Printers:

Barbara Pugh; Janet Croud; Pauline Belton

Distribution and General Production:

Jenny Arthur; Anne Bareford; John & Pauline Belton; Janet Croud; Jenny Dorrington;

Jem & Wendy Gillham; Michelle Grover; John Harding; Alan Hayslep; Kyle Hayes;

Martin & Janet Jenkins; Ann Knight; Nicky Knight; Katherine Lilley; Gill & Allen Marks;

Shân Merritt; Ann Moore; Nigel Morgan; Jan Passmore; Barbara & Tony Pugh;

Anne Reid; Vanda Reynolds; Sarah & Stephen Rosser; Maggie Rule;

Chris & Janet Schofield; Alison & David Stevens; Megan Watton; Denise Wightman;

Andy Wiltshire and family

COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Tornado damage

courtesy Paul Taylor

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

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

Editorial

Welcome to the February/March edition of Tipton Times. We hope there is much to enjoy and arouse your interest in the following pages. The most significant recent development, in terms of its likely impact on the community, is the news that the rebuilding of the primary school has been approved and will go ahead.

It is great news that approval for rebuilding has been granted. However, the location of the new school is unclear and subject to further discussions involving the school governors, the Department of Education, Devon County Council, the Diocese, East Devon District Council and Ottery Town Council. Reading the contributions to this issue, it is clear that from now on such discussions must be held in a transparent way within a full consultation process.

We hope that decisions will be made based on open consideration of alternative sites within the village and the active engagement of all the parties who will be affected by the final decision, in particular families in the village who would be faced with losing the benefits of their local school.

There is no doubt that our community would be much poorer without a village school at its heart. There will be an obvious impact on the community hall and playing field, but there is also a threat to community well-being if families with school-age children are deterred from living here.

We were very sorry to hear of the recent deaths of two village residents: Bill Woodman, who lived in Mallocks Close, and Ian Fraser of Railway Cottages, who died in hospital. We send our condolences to their families and friends and hope to be able to include tributes to both in our next edition.

The Editors

Contents			
Church Diary	28	Playing Field	7
Church Draw	11	Readers	18
Church News	12	Recipe Corner	19
Clinton Devon	25	RSPB	10
Cllr Jessica Bailey	22	School	8
Cllr Matt Williamson	23	Table Tennis	13
Community Hall Report	14	Tennis	15
Cricket	13	Thought for the Times	11
Eager Beavers	21	Tipton Ladies Group	14
Garden News	20	TIPPS	4
Nature Notes	6	Tipton Past	26
OSM Choral Society	16	Village Diary	29
OSM Council	23	VOSRA	15
Ottery Help Scheme	17	Weather	5

Tipton St John Players and Pantomime Society



**Tipton St. John
Community Hall**

Weds 14th - Sat 17th
Feb 2024 7:30pm

Tickets £10.
Available from Tipton
Stores on Saturday
mornings and from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS

Or scan this
QR code to
take you
directly to
the ticket site



Who are the residents of Aldwych
Hall, retirement home for the stars?

How did they all find fame?

And how will a new resident fit in?

**Book your ticket now to
find out!**

noda

production to the stage, primarily for our members who may not have tried lighting, sound, backstage work, etc. but we would welcome any non-members who think this would be of interest to them - no pressure to join but we are always on the lookout!

TIPPS is presenting *National Treasure* during half term week this month. Written by our very own and very talented Natalie Anning, it is set in the present time, in a retirement home for stars of stage and screen, with a very diverse cast of characters. Their stories are told in a series of flashbacks where we go back in time and learn of their careers and past lives.

We are very excited about this production because it encompasses all the age groups within our membership, from the very oldest to the very youngest, particularly as it gives the more mature members a chance to perform again, as parts for older people are not so readily available.

Performance dates are **Wednesday 14th - Saturday 17th February** in Tipton Community Hall. Tickets are priced at £10 and are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS and also at Tipton Village Store.

If you came to see *Detention* in 2020 you will love this!

In May, we are proposing to hold a workshop to learn what is involved within all the different roles that bring a

Yvonne Kellett

Carol Service at St Gregory's

Yes, at last on Thursday December 21st, we were able to use Venn Ottery Church again for a lovely traditional Carol Service. The Church has only been used once since it closed for the Covid epidemic and that was for a wedding, so many of us felt that maybe we would never be able to worship there as a congregation again.

Once given the go-ahead, Judith Taylor needed no urging to get together an army of helpers for a massive clean-up and decorating operation. On the previous Saturday morning more than twenty of us equipped with bushes, dusters, furniture polish and Brasso beavered away before the more artistic ones set to work. Judith added the final touches later and

when we entered the Church for the service through the colourfully-lit porch it looked quite lovely.

There was 'standing-room only' for the service of well-known carols accompanied by Ruth Lass from Newton Poppleford and familiar readings of the Christmas story by local residents. The service was admirably led by one of our lay readers, Caroline Poultney, and when it ended we were served mulled wine and mince pies provided by the Venn Ottery and Southerton Residents Association.

What a great start to Christmas. A huge thank you to all who made it possible.

Dare I hope that this might set a pattern for the reuse of Venn Ottery's beautiful, ancient, little church, if only for festivals?

To plagiarise a saying - A Church is not only for Christmas!

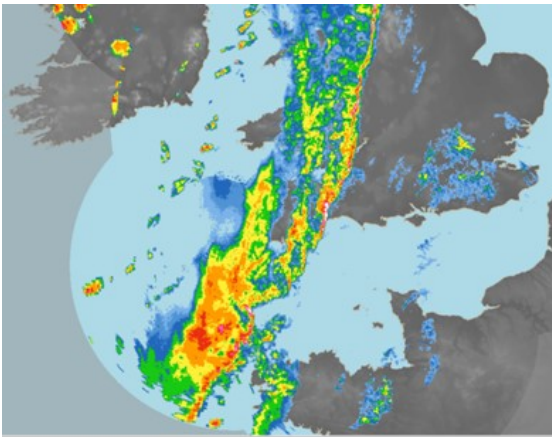
Ann Knight



Tipton Times Weather report

Last time I wrote about my new barograph and the dramatic fall in pressure to 955mb in Storm Ciaran. I have just seen an analysis which shows that this was actually the lowest pressure observed across the south of England since February 1989; given that Tipton was very close to the lowest pressure analysed in the storm, it is likely that this was the lowest pressure right here in Tipton for very much longer than that. This month we have another similarly rare Tipton weather event to talk about, a tornado!

Looking back, I wrote about tornadoes in April 2021, including my own experiences of seeing extreme destruction in Oklahoma and of nearly being hit by one back here in England. Fortunately, in the UK, we don't get the huge destructive tornadoes that they get in the USA which can flatten whole neighbourhoods, but we do get several small tornadoes reported every year. As described in that previous article, tornadoes are associated with severe thunderstorms, and they often occur on what we call "squall lines". These normally occur on active well-marked cold fronts. Many people will remember from school geography that a classic cold front, moving from west to east over the UK, marks the boundary between warm, moist air in a "warm sector" and colder arctic air to the west. As it sweeps across the country the cold air pushes the warm air away and replaces it, forcing the warm air to rise on the frontal boundary, generating cloud and rain. Not all cold fronts are the same though. Squall lines typically occur when the westerly wind driving the front is strong, including higher up, and the temperature contrast between the warm and cold air is also strong. In these conditions the cold air aloft can overrun the warm moist air at the surface. In this situation we get strong convection. Warm moist air is much lighter than the cold air and rises very rapidly, generating very heavy rain and lightning. Most thunderstorms are individual storms but, on a squall line, this is happening along the line of the front so you



get a narrow band of thunderstorms which can be hundreds of miles long. This is exactly what we had on 30th Dec. The image from the Met Office's radar network (best seen in colour in the online version) very clearly shows the marked band of heavy rainfall on the leading edge of the frontal rainband. It's a bit weaker over the Channel, but you can see the squall line well-marked to the west of Brittany in the south and all the way up through England to the top of this image. It is at its most intense right over us in East Devon, and that is what generated the Tipton tornado. Today's weather forecast computer models are very good at simulating squall lines, and this one was well forecast 24 hours or more in advance, but predicting an individual tornado is much harder.

Crown Copyright - Met Office

The strong vertical updraughts and downdraughts of thunderstorms on squall lines frequently bring fast-moving winds from aloft down to the surface - the word squall is associated with strong wind gusts. So, after hearing the roar of the wind that night and hearing about damage to trees and houses, the question in my mind was whether this was actually a tornado or just a strong squall line gust. The next morning I went out and surveyed the damage, as did many others. I was looking for two things: severe damage and that occurring along a well-defined line. Tornadoes form a narrow column of rapidly rotating winds (hence the name Twister) so as they travel across the countryside they create a narrow line of intense damage. And this is exactly what we all found, starting in Venn Ottery with two big conifers down, then trees on the Green and church yard, extensive roof tile damage in the newer houses (sadly including some of those severely flooded back on 9th May), trees around Bowhayes Farm, then on to Green Lane, Metcombe Vale, the Mill and Lancercombe. This was brilliantly illustrated by the map which Judith Taylor plotted and shared on Facebook (thanks Judith!) and provided conclusive proof to me that this was, indeed, a tornado. The expert surveyor from the TORRO research organisation came to the same conclusion. Another dramatic demo of the power of nature right on our doorstep - commiserations to those who suffered damage, but very glad that no-one was injured.





NATURE NOTES

Finally, some clear, crisp and cold weather arrives to bring us relief from the endless mild and wet conditions that produce so much mud ! It has been a joy to experience some winter sunshine but, unfortunately, at the time of writing, it all seems to be going back to the default of rain and wind, and a sharp upswing in the temperatures.

One of the benefits of the cold weather was to bring us a decent sized flock of lapwings to the field behind us. Unfortunately, this much loved farmland bird has suffered significant declines recently and is now a Red List species. Familiar birds of farmlands and wetlands, lapwings can often be seen wheeling through winter skies in large, black and white flocks.

As spring approaches, these flocks get smaller; some birds head back to their continental breeding grounds and others disperse to breed in the UK. Males put on dramatic aerial displays, tumbling through the air, accompanied by their piercing 'peewit' call, which gives them their other, common name - peewit. As well as 'lapwing' and 'peewit', this bird is also known locally as the 'green plover'. Its Latin, *Vanellus*, means 'little fan' and actually refers to its floppy, flapping flight. The name lapwing is thought to derive from an Old English term meaning 'leap with a flicker in it' because the dense winter flocks appear to flicker between white and black when the birds flap their wings. Females can be spotted on their nests, which are simple scrapes in the mud or sand. By late spring, cute, fluffy lapwing chicks can be seen venturing out to forage. If the nest is threatened at all, the parents will attack or 'mob' the potential predators.

Look out for toads In February. They are returning to whence they came for the sole purpose of breeding. If you happen to see a writhing mass of these guys then there is probably a gal somewhere at the bottom of the heap !



The bulbs in the garden are beginning to push through now, which is always a hopeful sign. Common dog violets start to bloom in February. Their bright purple flowers add a splash of colour to the woodland floor, and they can continue blooming until the end of May. According to the 'Oxford Dictionary of Plant-Lore' an infusion of violet leaves is an old gypsy remedy for cancer. In March, wild daffodils will be in flower. Although there are plenty of daffodils growing in the wild, very few of them are the truly wild variety - you can recognise a wild daffodil because the central trumpet of the drooping yellow flowers is as long as the outer ray petals. The outer petals are paler in colour than the trumpet, and the stems only grow to 30cms high.

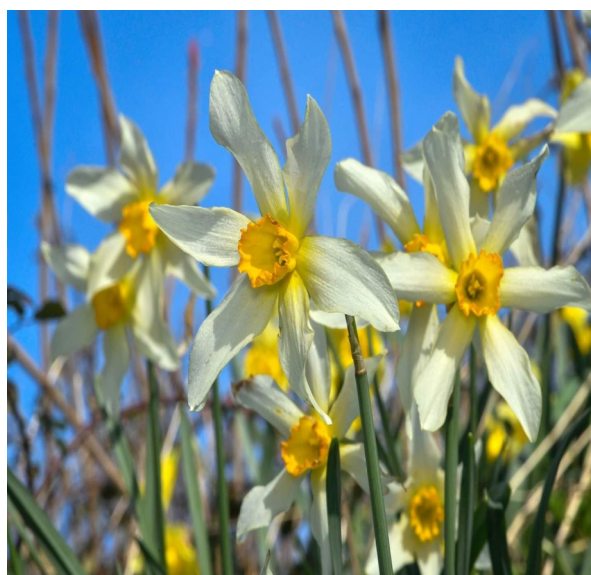


In February, female bumble bees will be on the wing again. On sunny days you can see them buzzing around the few plants which are in bloom now, or hovering around small holes in the ground in search of a nesting site to lay their eggs. Unlike honey bees, bumble bees build a completely new colony every year. They usually make their nest in a disused mouse hole.

The poisonous Sulphur Tuft fungi often sprout out of old tree stumps or fallen branches in February. You can easily recognise this fungi by the sulphur yellow coloured cap which gets more orange towards the centre. The stems are yellow too, as are the gills, although you might notice a purple tinge to the gills



which is produced by the purple coloured spores. Colourful if nothing else.



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

Geoff Pinn gjpinn@tiscali.co.uk

Tipton St John Playing Field

Welcome to my first chairman's report for the Tipton Times. Fingers crossed it goes well.

Firstly, I would like to thank everyone for the support and encouragement that I have received over the last few months. It is traditionally a quiet time for the playing field, but it is lovely to see the sports clubs and walkers making the most of the grounds and using the facilities, even managing to grab a hot drink at the weekends from the Tea Junction (the hot chocolate is definitely worth the walk).



The nature area with its new walkway is looking good and is being used regularly. The bird area has attracted more of our feathered friends. It's nice to go down and see what you can spot. Thank you to Will Davey for making a lovely seating area utilizing the tree that the beaver brought down. It is a great addition to the area, and I think it will be extremely popular come the spring and summer months.

A massive thank you to all the volunteers that regularly empty the dog bin at the top of the playing field. It is extremely helpful and very much appreciated.

We have lots of fun events planned for the coming years to help raise funds for our new pavilion (I am sure David Birch will tell us more). We will be holding a few volunteer days over the next couple of months (dates will be advertised). So come along, help out, have a chat, have a bit of fun. It is great to see the investment from the FA (Football Association) is taking effect. The pitch is looking fantastic.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a happy new year and keep enjoying our village playing field. If anyone has any questions, queries or ideas please don't hesitate to contact me.

Mark Rigden (Chairman) rigden58@btinternet.com

A reminder that you can check on Playing Field fixtures and events in our Google calendar : <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/o/r/>

Newton Poppleford & Harpford Parish Council
PRESENTS
a **'Question Time'** – style debate
Thursday 15th February @ 7pm
Newton Poppleford Pavilion, Back Lane, EX10 0EZ

Honourable
Simon Jupp MP
VS.



Honourable
Richard FOORD MP



Chairperson: Susan P. Tribble
Chair, Newton Poppleford Parish Council

To reserve your place please contact Jacqui Baldwin,
Clerk to the Parish Council: telephone: **07393 572608**
email: clerk@newtonpopplefordandharpford-pc.gov.uk

- Please state your name address and contact telephone number when applying. Places are limited and priority will be given to residents of the parish.
- If you wish to ask a question please submit in advance to the above email.

A general election will almost certainly be held some time in 2024, and there have been changes to the electoral boundary of the constituency previously known as East Devon. The parish of Newton Poppleford and Harpford will in future be in the constituency of Honiton and Sidmouth

East Devon is currently represented by Simon Jupp (Conservative), while Richard Foord (Liberal Democrat) represents Tiverton and Honiton. These two sitting MPs will be hosted by Newton Poppleford and Harpford Parish Council at a "Question Time" style session in **The Pavilion (on the playing field) at Newton Poppleford, on Thursday 15th February from 7pm.**

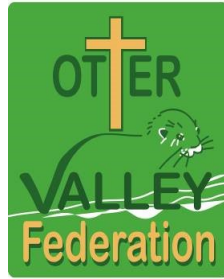
If you would like to attend you must reserve your place by contacting the Parish Clerk (Jacqui Baldwin) 07393 572608, or email clerk@newtonpopplefordandharpford-pc.gov.uk

If you wish to ask a question you must also notify the Clerk in advance.

Priority for places at this meeting will be given to residents of the parish. *There is a possibility that if there are large numbers wishing to reserve places the meeting might be moved to Newton Poppleford School instead of the Pavilion.*

Shân Merritt

Feniton Church of England
(VA) Primary School
Station Road
Feniton
Devon
EX14 3EA
Tel: 01404 850303
Email: admin@feniton.devon.sch.uk



Tipton St. John Church of England
(VA) Primary School
Tipton St. John
Sidmouth
Devon
EX10 0AG
Tel: 01404 812943
Email admin@tipton-stjohn.devon.sch.uk

Dear Tipton St John Residents,

On 2nd January 2024 the Governors of Tipton St John C of E Primary School were advised of the outcome of the Department for Education's (DfE) assessment of suitable sites in the locality for the rebuilding of the school under the planned Government Schools Rebuilding Programme. The school has been identified as a Category 1 project in the first tranche of the programme due to the local flood risk, and so the early identification and securing of a deliverable site is essential.

The DfE site assessment report is not a decision-making document, but it aims to objectively focus on issues of project deliverability rather than to consider any local policy or strategy priorities of each site. The responsibility for providing a suitable site for the school lies with Devon County Council and the DfE's report will contribute to the decision-making process.

Alternative sites in and outside the village formed part of the DfE review; their preferred site is Thorne Farm, off Exeter Road in Ottery St Mary, adjacent to The King's School. This is the same site location as the Devon County Council planning application, submitted in 2019 - but at that time the Council's submission included a large number of residential properties which were needed to fund the school build. Since that time, the school has been included in the Government's School Rebuilding Programme which will provide the necessary funding (negating the need for residential development to support the funding of the school build).

The Governors' priority is to ensure the safety and security of the school and its children and staff (now and for future generations) and will support a scheme that will deliver the relocation off the current site in the shortest possible timeframe as part of the DfE Schools Rebuilding Programme. The Governors are supported by the Diocese of Exeter in this regard. We believe it has taken far too long to arrive at the current position (where we now have the funding and a 'slot' within the Category 1 timeframe of the DfE's programme, and with an assessment of site deliverability now completed), and the recent flood events in the village have reinforced the need to move things forward with some urgency.

The next steps will be for the DfE's assessment to inform the strategic decision-making in Devon County Council securing a new site for the school. Once a site is secured, a detailed feasibility assessment will be progressed by the DfE, and we will keep you advised of progress as that occurs. Assuming that all goes well, then a formal planning application will need to be submitted to East Devon District Council, and it will be at this stage that we should be able to share some early images of the proposed accommodation, new facilities and a provisional timeline for the building project.

Hopefully 2024 will see significant progress, and we would like to thank you for your continuing support for the school.

Yours sincerely,
Sarah Walls, Chair of Governors

A local resident and parent's view

Please don't perpetuate the claim that this is a school 'relocation' based on safety concerns. It's a closure dressed up in a political piece of prose. There are other options in Tipton St John. The children will still be at risk of flooding - both onsite and during their commute.

It's interesting to reflect upon the events of 9th May 2023. The children at TSJ primary lower school were safely moved to the upper school. The grassed area around the lower school ended up under a few inches of water. Whilst this was happening, the children (who live in Tipton and surrounds) now at The King's School were dropped en-mass between West Hill and Metcombe and left to wade through flood waters, thankfully finding safety with Mark Clapp and his bale trailer. This in itself highlights the dangers of a protracted commute. This is very much a case of the 'cost of everything and the value of nothing'.

The politicians amongst us should 'read the room' and not blithely regurgitate the same 'pap' that was fed to the last cohort of parents in an expectation that different results would ensue. Tipton needs a new school in the village, one with good facilities for teachers and children, one that is safe and modern. One that is the heart of the community. We seem to be halfway there with identification of the 'why' and the 'what', but 'who' is a little lost and 'how, when and where' have missed the boat.

Flooding will continue and many homes, roads, families will still be affected even if the school moves. This is what needs to be addressed, this is what has gone on for too long. The environment agency, Devon Highways and local council need to work out how they are going to alleviate flooding and direct the run off.

Our village is going to lose a huge asset. Don't be under the illusion a much bigger (because it will be much bigger) shiny new school is going to be the best for our children. In recent years West Hill has had a new school, built in West hill, Newton Poppleford school was rebuilt in Newton Poppleford and even Sidmouth is getting new improved school ... in Sidmouth.

Come on people, this has all seemed so underhand. We don't really know where the other sites are, so how can we know if or why they are unsuitable? Consultations were made many years ago and we trusted the school, Devon County and local council to protect and keep our school in the village, but we've all been let down with what we are told is a win.

If you have got this far then thank you so much for reading this. I'll leave you with one last thought: "It takes a village to raise a child" is a proverb that means that an entire community of people must provide for and interact positively with children for those children to experience and grow in a safe and healthy environment.

Please don't let our children lose out. Please give your opinion to Ottery St Mary Town Council:

admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Howard Hughes



School News

I can't quite believe we are already three weeks into the new term and the new year as I write. Christmas events were a great success - our PTFA Christmas Fair was really well attended and raised a fantastic amount for the school. We returned to performing a whole school Nativity in the last week of term, the first time since Covid, which was a lovely end to the term.



A particular high point this week has been the visit of M and M Theatre productions who performed the pantomime 'Aladdin' for the whole school. Much excitement, lots of silliness and singing, and a great time! A big thank you to the PTFA for subsidising the cost of this.



We are looking forward to a visit from the Dogs Trust in a few weeks' time, and then soon after half term will be celebrating World Book Day.

Pete Button

Head of School

Tipton St John CE Primary School

Tel: 812943

admin@tipton-stjohn.devon.sch.uk

RSPB Aylesbeare Common



Happy new year from all at RSPB Aylesbeare Common. It's been a wild and wet winter so far, but the last few weeks of dry, crisp and cold weather have been a welcome respite from the recent run of Atlantic storms, with Fergus, Gerrit and Henk trying their best to derail a recent track repair project on Venn Ottery Common. Nonetheless, the digger and dumper crew (led by Gary and Adrian) made it out on top despite inclement weather and saturated ground conditions. The track has been built up and improved with the use of native materials from nearby Blackhill Quarry, with the intention of improving vehicle and walker access to the north of the common as well as to recently acquired wet grassland that lies in between Venn Ottery Common and the neighboring Devon Wildlife Trust site. In the summer this wet meadow displays a profusion of flowers including fleabane, water mint and self heal and is deemed 'species-rich'. This important low-intensity grazed meadow will help interconnectivity between the two sites allowing populations of birds and other wildlife to flow between patches of heath, meadow, scrub and woodland.



Snipe

The wet weather has been good for some. Aylesbeare and Harpford Common's wintering population of snipe and woodcock have now arrived in full force from Finland/Russia, making the most of the wet ground within the various mires on the heath. Snipe possess long, straight beaks that have a flexible tip full of nerve endings which allow them to feel for grubs underground in the soft wet mud and peat. Woodcock (the 'snipe of the woods' to some) feed similarly and are larger than the snipe, generally feeding at night, relying on their cryptic plumage to hide them in woodland and heathland undergrowth during the day. In December, residential volunteer Alice was tasked with organising the first of our winter snipe surveys, pulling together a 7-strong gaggle of data gatherers. The team took on the

mires in strict formation, with the aim of flushing out birds which would then be tallied throughout the day. Close to 150 snipe were seen on the survey, a great reward for a tough day of bog trundling.

Our monthly winter bird transect also adds to data at Aylesbeare HQ, where good numbers of winter thrushes such as redwings and fieldfares are seen in the trees of the woodland edges, often feeding on the berries supplied by holly trees and in some cases hawthorn. Data gathering is an integral part of the RSPB's work, and all these

winter surveys provide estimates which help inform the management plans for the various sites under Aylesbeare stewardship. In other news, winter habitat work has started in earnest, predominantly involving scrub control. Heathland is described as a 'sub-seral' habitat, meaning that intervention is required to prevent the establishment of woodland. Intervention in this case means removing and felling pioneer trees such as birch and willow to allow heathland to re-establish without tree cover in the way. More woodland is needed in the UK to halt the current biodiversity crisis, but lowland heathland still remains a priority habitat that many species of wildlife require to survive. Only 20% of lowland heathland has survived the last two centuries so protecting what remains and increasing heathland coverage through restoration remains a priority!



Fieldfare in the snow

Michael Shrimpling

Thought for the times

I am sure that we all remember Professor Chris Whitty - he of "next slide please" fame. If we had forgotten him, he popped up in the news again during the Covid inquiry. He was there as Chief Medical Officer for England and Chief Medical Adviser to the UK Government. He has served in this role since 2019 - the year gave this particular coronavirus the name Covid-19.

In November last year, Professor Whitty, as Chief Medical Officer, published his annual report for 2023: 'Health in an ageing society'. The report placed a great deal of emphasis on putting quality of life before quantity of life. It recognised that, sometimes, interventions to extend life can have a detrimental effect on quality of life.

This caught my eye because I associate Chris Whitty with the lockdowns. Although I understood the reasons for the lockdowns, personally I hated them, and both at the time and since we have seen the detrimental effect on the lives of individuals and society. Although no one would have said it as starkly as this, it seemed as if older people were being told - in effect - we are going to make the quality of your life a lot worse in order to keep you alive even longer. I was interested, then, to see an official government report including lines such as:

'The aim of this report is to concentrate on issues which are about improving the quality of life in an adult's later years, rather than the quantity.'

For people of all ages we have an increasing awareness that quality of life is closely linked to mental health and wellbeing. And for most people, a key element of this is to have healthy relationships and interactions with other people. Social isolation, on the other hand, is not good for any of us.

The Age UK website has a series called 'Staying Sharp'. In an article headed, 'Social connections and the brain' it says:

'A wealth of evidence shows that positive relationships and shared activities contribute to our wellbeing. Conversely, loneliness and social isolation increase health risks in older people.'

One of the things I love about parish churches is the community. When you become part of a church, you become part of a family.

If you go to a cinema, a theatre or a restaurant, something will be served up for you, but you will not really have any interaction with other people. If you went to the same café every week, you would probably get to know the staff, but you may not get to know any of the other customers. Or you could go to a club but you probably need to share the same interests as the other members. I am not knocking clubs by the way;

they do wonderful work in our village communities.

A church is different though. The people have different interests, different personalities, and different likes and dislikes. But they are a family. People look out for one another and care for one another.

And with a parish church, you can just turn up. There is no charge and there are no entry requirements.

But what about faith?

I was talking to someone in my extended family recently who is not a believer. She is not a militant atheist, but she finds it difficult to believe in the supernatural and does not go to church. Looking in from the outside, though, she sees that the church family is a wonderful thing. She told me that she wished there could be something just like a local church but without all that God-stuff (my phrase, not hers).

I make no secret of the fact that I would like to see everyone (including this person who is very dear to me) coming to faith in Jesus Christ. But this is not a requirement for becoming part of the church family. Anyone can come to church services and other activities run by the church and find a warm welcome. As with a biological family, there will be some people in the church who sometimes drive you crazy - I might well be one of them. But this group of diverse people who make up the local church family just might improve the quality of your life.

Why not give it a try?

Mark



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

Friends of St John and St Gregory Club

1st Peter Farmer (20)	£30
2nd Angela Dewhurst (32)	£20
3rd Gill Marks (3)	£15.

CHURCH NEWS

CAFÉ CHURCH

Our Café Church services continue to thrive - it's wonderful seeing young and old coming together as one big family to find out more about what it means to know Jesus and serve him in the world today. Back in December we had fun making Christingles - the orange being the world and the candle reminding us that Jesus is the Light of the World with the fruits (or sweets!) representing the four seasons being reminders of God's provision for us.

In January we followed the star to find out more about the wise men and how we too can come to Jesus, whoever we are and whatever our background. God can use any one of us to show the world that Jesus is his Son. Just as he called the Wise Men to travel hundreds of miles to come and bring their gifts to Jesus we can come from near or far to bring our offering of ourselves to him.

We'll be taking a break from Café Church in February while the hall hosts the pantomime but we'll be back again on **17th March** at our usual time of **10.30am** for coffee, pastries and chat with a short time of worship starting around 11am. There's something for all ages with fun activities, music, a Bible reading and a short reflection.

THE O6 YOUTHWORX PROJECT

On **18th February** we may not have Café Church but we will still be doing something a little different as our morning service will focus on the work of the O6 Youthwork Project and Graham Harry, our Mission Community Youth Pastor.

Graham supports children in our local primary schools, at The Kings School and in our churches here in the Otter Vale with energy and enthusiasm. Come along and find out more about what this great project does and how we can support it and Graham - all are welcome to come and join us at **11am in Tipton Church**.

Visit theo6.org.uk if you can't wait to find out more!

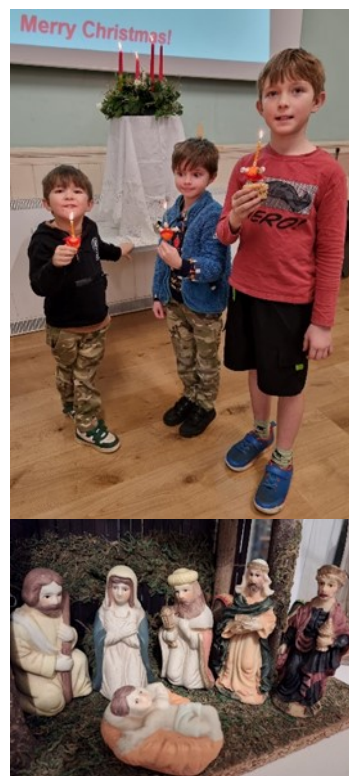
LENT

As spring approaches our thoughts in the church turn towards Lent and using the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter to reflect on our faith and how we put it into action. This year in our homegroup we're going to follow a course looking at Paul's letter to the Galatians in the context of the hidden issue of modern-day slavery. The course is called True Freedom and has been produced by the World Council of Churches in conjunction with the Clewer Initiative, a Church of England charity dedicated to raising awareness of, and bringing freedom to, the victims of modern slavery - did you know that there are over 122,000 men, women and children trapped in modern slavery in the UK today? It will challenge us to think about the freedoms that we enjoy that are denied to millions of people around the world and to consider prayerfully what we can do to help. This 6-week course runs on Thursdays at **7.30pm** at our house, St Mary's, Hayne Close beginning on **15th February**. It is open to all who want to take a Biblical look at one of the lesser-known ills of modern society and how we can respond as Christians. Do get in touch with me if you want to know more.

Tipton and Venn Ottery churches' weekly notice sheet can be found on our Mission Community website at <https://ottervalechurches.org/churches/tipton-st-john-church/tipton-st-john-and-venn-ottery-notice/>

David Williamson (812493) Licensed Lay Minister, Tipton Church

davidhwilliamson@btinternet.com



CAROL SINGING

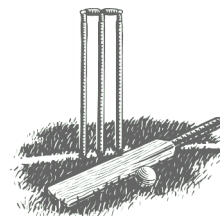
Many thanks to the group of around 20 people who sang or knocked on doors for our annual carol singing around the village on 18th December. Unlike last year when we got wet, we were very relieved that this time the weather conditions were dry and mild. For the second year running, Annie Trimmer had kindly organised a get-together of Barton Orchard neighbours so we were able to enjoy mulled wine and mince pies outside Annie's bungalow and our singing and collection boxes were boosted by the assembled group of friends before we continued on our way.

As in previous years we were collecting for the world relief agency Tearfund and we raised a very rewarding £262 on the night which increased to £282 following a later donation. This will help this leading charity in its mission to tackle the causes and effects of poverty and the money has been gratefully received. Thank you to all who contributed vocally and financially and apologies if we didn't get to your front door this time.

John & Pauline Belton

Tipton St John Cricket Club

Here at the mid-point of the off-season, we seem to be a long way away from our last match in September and our first in the coming April. For some of us, however, cricket goes on throughout the winter in the Sidmouth indoor cricket league, which is made up of eight teams of six players including ourselves.



Indoor cricket is fast and furious: each game lasts 75 minutes, with 12 overs a side. A hard ball, hard floor and hard walls in an enclosed space add a touch of jeopardy. Runs are scored freely: a single for every time a batter hits the wall, with two runs added for a completed run - fours and sixes are more frequent than in the outdoor game. 120 runs in 12 overs is considered a 'par' score.

So how are Tipton doing this season? Whoever tops the league at Christmas goes on to the next stage of a wider competition, in the first instance Devon wide, then the south west then national, culminating in a final at Lord's. Before you get too excited, I have to report that we just missed out on winning the league, but finished a close second to Ottery with wins over Newton Poppleford, Feniton, Upottery and Sidmouth.

The league continues after Christmas, but there is no further competition. Last year we topped the post-Christmas league - our best performance ever. The best thing about the competition is the friendliness and spirit in which it is played, which suits us fine because it fits well with our ethos as a club which only plays friendly matches in the summer.

Our thoughts are now beginning to turn to the 2024 outdoor season, which is the club's 50th anniversary. There will be more details of this in the next issue, particularly our anniversary celebrations which will centre on the August bank holiday.

If you are interested in playing friendly cricket in Tipton, either as a regular or occasional player, do keep an eye out for our pre-season net practices which will begin in March. Our season begins with a practice match on **Sunday April 14th**, followed by our first home game the following Sunday against our close neighbours, Newton Poppleford CC. All our fixtures will soon be published on our website (see below) and on the Playing Field calendar: <https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/o/r?pli=1>.

Alternatively, do feel free to email me if you wish to be added to our contact list and receive full details of all our fixtures and activities. Please also visit our website and follow us on social media (details below).

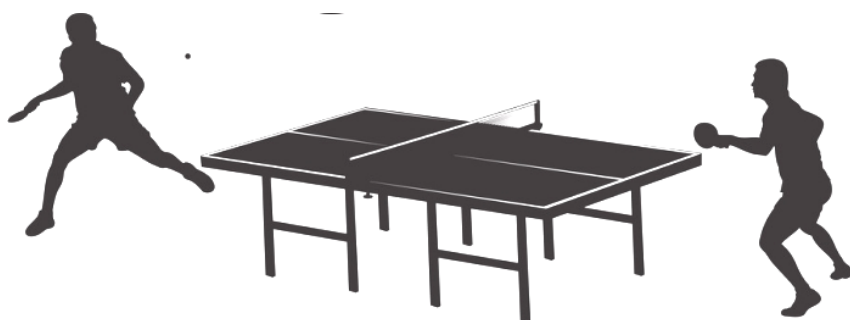
David Birch (Chairman) 07929 822940

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

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TiptonStJohnCC>

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

Table Tennis in the Community Hall on Mondays starting at 7.30pm



February 5th and 26th

March 11th and 25th

COMMUNITY HALL

Two more of our popular quiz nights have taken place since the last TT and our thanks go to David Birch and Paul Kinson for giving us two enjoyable evenings of head-scratching and brain-searching. Our final two quizzes of this season will be on **Sundays 25th February and 24th March at 7pm.**

In November, we arranged another Film Night this time featuring *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* which seemed to be well received by members of the audience.

Last time, I gave advance notice of a Country and Western evening taking place on **Saturday 16th March** and you will find all the details on the back cover of this issue. The Lonesome Saddles band comes highly recommended and I encourage you to book your places soon to avoid disappointment as it should be a great evening which includes a 2-course supper.

Another event being organised by the Hall Trustees is a fun afternoon for children (aged 4 and above) on **Saturday 27th April** and again you will find more information on the back cover of this issue.

As usual there is plenty going on at the hall and we look forward to seeing you at some (or possibly all!) of these events.

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



Tipton Ladies Group

Our November meeting usually gets us in the mood for Christmas and this year was no exception! Arriving at the community hall we were welcomed by an array of beautiful Christmassy fabrics. Grace, assisted by Beryl, demonstrated and helped us make a lovely tree decoration, which even the least experienced of us managed to complete ... well almost! There were several techniques involved in order to make this decoration, some of which were more challenging than others. It was so nice to be able to produce something to take home and proudly display.



Our annual Christmas gathering took place on 11th December and was well attended with twenty-six of us sitting down for lunch. The Victoria Hotel did not disappoint, it was beautifully decorated, the food was delicious and the service was excellent.

For our first meeting of the new year, *From Woman's Own to Prison* (and the top ten of the Sunday Times) was title of the interesting talk given to members by Sidmouth author Jane Corry.

Jane told us how she had always loved writing as a child and has always wanted to be an author. After leaving university, she took up a training place with Draper's Record and went on to work for several other magazines. She loved interviewing people, famous interviewees include Julie Walters, The Emanuels and Pam Ayres.

When she had children, Jane freelanced for the Daily Telegraph (and still does have articles regularly

published by them). She also ran a course at Oxford University entitled *How to Write a Novel*. When her children started school, she started to write her first novel.

In addition to writing novels, Jane told interesting tales about her time working as a creative writing instructor for prisoners, encouraging them to write letters home or draft stories. It was this prison work that encouraged her to turn from writing romantic fiction to crime, focussing on relationships. *My Husband's Wife* entered the Sunday Times best seller list in 2015. Since then, Jane has had other books achieve this accolade.

Our next meeting is on **Monday 19th February at 7:30pm** - Treating Mental Health Issues Through The Ages by Chris Brougham. New members always welcome.

Stephanie Kinson & Anne Bareford

Tipton Tennis Club

Not much news from the Tennis Club this time, although tennis continues through the winter, as usual, including men's and mixed teams playing in the winter leagues.

If you are interested in joining us, do come along to **club night** on a **Wednesday from 6pm** (under floodlights!) or **ladies** are welcome to come to the session on **Tuesday mornings from 10am**.

The club plans to enter one ladies' and two men's teams in the summer league again this year, but we are struggling a little for numbers, so if anyone is interested in playing fun

competitive tennis in the local leagues, please do get in touch with us. Full details of the club can be found at <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/TiptonStJohnTennisClub> or email us on tiptontennisclub@gmail.com



Ken Mylne, Chair

VENN OTTERY & SOUTHERTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

WEATHER AGAIN!

Flooding in May, and then a tornado in December! I am wondering what the weather gods can next throw at our lovely villages ...? In Venn Ottery several houses suffered damage to roof and ridge tiles, and many trees were lost, including 1½ on the village green and several along the road to Tipton.



FLOOD ALLEVIATION

I've received an update from DCC about the possible flood alleviation plans. Summarised, this says that the topographical and ground-penetrating radar surveys have enabled them to identify potential service clashes and hence avoid nasty surprises during construction. Using that information an outline design for the proposed culvert enlargement has been developed. The next steps are to formalise these drawings so that a cost estimate for the works can be calculated. The DCC team has met with Cllr Jess Bailey and Simon Jupp MP, along with the Flood Risk Managers of DCC and the Environment Agency to discuss May's flooding in East Devon, highlighting the progress made on the Venn Ottery scheme so that the business case can be presented for funding in the spring.

QUESTION TIME WITH MPs

Newton Pop Parish Council is hosting a 'Question Time' debate with Simon Jupp and Richard Foord on **Thursday 15th February, 7pm** in The Pavilion. Seats must be requested/booked in advance by contacting the Parish Clerk (Jacqui Baldwin). Priority will be given to residents of NP&H Parish. *See poster for details on page 7.*

AGM AND ELECTION OF VOSRA COMMITTEE

In order to continue operating to serve residents of the area VOSRA needs a committee. Although some current committee members are willing to stand we certainly need some more bodies.

The job is not generally onerous but if there are to be any social events as well as pursuing flood matters and monitoring planning issues some extra help is needed ... Please consider nominating someone (ask them first) or volunteering yourself to join the team.

**VOSRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 13TH MARCH
TIPTON ST JOHN COMMUNITY HALL
STARTS 7.30pm**

Shân Merritt, Chairman, VOSRA
merrittshan@yahoo.co.uk



The Choral Society had a very successful Christmas Concert, both musically and financially, as we had good attendance. If you were one of those attending then I hope you enjoyed it as much as we did. The carol by William Byrd was a challenge, particularly sung unaccompanied and in six parts. The Vivaldi Gloria is a joy to sing. Of course, there is always a lot of work that needs to be done in presenting a concert, and not just musically. One of the challenges is assembling the staging, which we do on the Friday before the concert. It is a bit of a jigsaw and it is important to get each part in the right place. Then immediately after the concert has finished it has to be taken apart and put away so that the church is ready for the Sunday service. Given that it is all made of wood, it is not light and is quite a workout for our not so young members!

We have already started rehearsing for our spring concert, which is at **7.30pm on Saturday 23rd March**. As always it will be performed in Ottery St Mary's Parish Church. This time we are performing **Brahms German Requiem** (in English) and **Mozart's Coronation Mass**. Our orchestra will also be performing **Mendelsohn's Hebrides Overture**. Tickets will be on sale through the usual channels.

You may recall that I reported last time that we were looking for a rehearsal accompanist. Our search has now been successful, and we have two very skilful musicians who are helping us learn the music: Richard Burdett and Kath Sugden, who between them cover each of the Wednesdays on which we rehearse.

The society's membership remains healthy in numbers and we have several new members this term. We like to think that we are a friendly society, so if you wish to join us to sing, you would be welcome. I guess by the time you read this we will be well into our preparations for the concert, so it may be best to consider starting in the autumn term. We do not audition, but it is useful if you know something of reading music. All details on our website <https://otterystmarychoral.org/> or enquiries to our email address: osmcs@hotmail.co.uk

David Wade, Chairman



Ottery Library News

Many of our customers will be aware that with your FREE library membership you can access a range of online resources, for example: Which? Online, and Ancestry Online, which can be accessed within any library and Naxos Music Library with access to over 2 million tracks of classical music.

Also available for FREE is BorrowBox! BorrowBox is your library 24/7!

BorrowBox is an app where customers can enjoy reading and listening to eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers. It can be downloaded from the Apple, Google and Amazon app stores onto a smart phone or tablet. It is easy to set up and customers simply need their library membership number and PIN to register and start borrowing.

BorrowBox is the UK's most popular platform with the widest range of content and the most intuitive interface available. As of 1st February, it will be the sole platform for Libraries Unlimited entire digital offering. If you haven't already started using BorrowBox, and you would like to enjoy all your favourite eBooks, eAudiobooks, eMagazines and eNewspapers in one digital location, download now to enjoy reading your favourite titles and curating your own reading collection. If you need any help in downloading the app or getting set up, then please pop into Ottery Library, where one of our members of staff will be happy to help you.

Happy eReading and eListening!

Kerry Carr, Library Supervisor

01404 813838 www.librariesunlimited.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter: @ottery_library and Facebook: @otterystmarylibrary



Open Gardens 2024

From April until September, gardeners across Devon will open their gates and share their beautiful green spaces to support our local hospice. From quaint cottage gardens to sprawling country estates, there is a huge range of gardens to enjoy and after a record-breaking year in 2023, raising over £51,000, we can't wait to see what our gardeners have lined up for 2024!

If you're interested in opening your garden for Hospiscare in 2024, please contact

fundraising@hospiscare.co.uk or call 01392 688020 to find out more.

“A Very Happy Charity to Help” by Barbara Pugh

Here's something to cheer up dark and gloomy January - a Happy New Year greeting from all these Ottery Help Scheme smiling faces at a Christmas get-



together shortly before the holiday. Speaking

briefly at the party, Chair of Trustees, Jill Dudding, said, “As our range of activities widens and the call to support the community to access medical appointments grows, the demand for drivers is ever increasing. The New Year will see a mission for all to try and recruit one new volunteer, ideally someone who might be interested in driving.” Along with the season's best wishes for all (*raising a glass!*), Jill conveyed "... the message of how much everyone associated with OHS is valued.”



Volunteering for the Help Scheme is a warmly rewarding thing to do - it's no heavy commitment as you can do as little or as much as is right for you. Some lend a hand once a month; some do a regular visit or 'run'; some are sometimes able to do an unexpected request with little notice.

Life today is organised for everybody having their own car. If you do not have this vital resource it really puts you out of action. Drivers so often hear from their passengers, “You don't fully realise what you've got 'till it's gone”. An appointment in Exeter - or indeed just down the hill into Ottery - would be beyond so many. Stop for a minute and think what you've done these last two or three days and how you'd have done it without your car! Without doubt the service from the Help Scheme is vital in the Ottery and district area. Many are disabled or isolated and unable to drive any more. A precious medical appointment is a huge challenge in a world built around the motor car. Similarly, a friendly visit from a Help Scheme Volunteer can mean so much to someone who doesn't have a simple conversation for many days together.

Help Scheme Volunteers will say straight away how satisfying and pleasing this job can be, and here are a few of the 'workers' with their stories - not only drivers but behind-the-scenes organisers, home visitors and so on:

I've been driving for OHS for just over five years. For every person I take, I always think that a reliable and timely service is one less thing for them to worry about when going to appointments. Also, almost everyone enjoys a conversation on their travels (though there are a few occasions when 'keeping quiet' is more appropriate). For some, it can be the only contact they have with other people which makes it even more important.

One of my favourite moments was when I was telling someone about the free Christmas lunch service on a trip to the RD&E. The person concerned didn't show much interest initially but then asked to sign up on our return trip (presumably because they were more relaxed after the appointment was over). So I popped into the OHS office and got their name on the list. A couple of weeks after Christmas, I picked up the same person and asked how it all went. With a beaming smile, they told me that it was the best Christmas present that they could have wished for and it really made their Christmas Day.

I volunteer in the office doing admin and I also help clients with form-filling. I really enjoy my time there, speaking to many clients on the phone who want to arrange transport for an appointment, and to those who call into our office on Silver Street. I also enjoy meeting with clients personally and feel very privileged that they will welcome me to their homes while we fill out forms. I hear some very interesting life histories and often leave in awe of their lives and experiences.

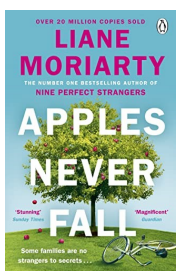
My befriending role, with an eighty-something lady (I think!) involves lots of walking around her large and lovely garden together, some rainy day jigsaw puzzles and even the odd game of ping-pong! We are nattering all the time, can make each other laugh and both come away from our fortnightly hour or so together feeling more upbeat and all the better for it.

I used to work in social care but had to retire early and I really miss it. But my Befriending sessions give me something to feel positive about. (And I do hope to do some Help Scheme driving next year!)

Would you like to do something that makes you smile? Consider joining the volunteers at the Ottery Help Scheme.

Telephone 01404 813041 or email info@otteryhelpscheme.org.uk

Tipton Readers



***Apples never fall* by Liane Moriarty**

Having read some of Lianne Moriarty's previous novels and enjoyed them, I thought it worth giving this one a go. It seemed typical of her writing with lots of complex characters, many with multiple issues!

The story starts with a group of four adults Troy, Logan, Amy and Brooke, in a café, discussing the disappearance of their mother on Valentine's day. They are split as to whether their father who, at times, could be moody and volatile is implicated!

Joy and Stan Delaney married for close to 50 years, are adjusting to retirement. For four decades, they ran one of Australia's most respected tennis academies. Both Joy and Stan had previously been rising tennis stars but injury and marriage put paid to great success. Stan was the coach and Joy the brains behind their tennis academy. All four children were once promising tennis players but have now settled into lives far from sports, finding their own successes (and failures) and handling their own relationships, sometimes stormy sometimes passionate.

Prior to Joy's disappearance an unknown girl, Savannah, appears on their doorstep claiming she is escaping from an abusive partner. Joy immediately invites her to stay the night and she settles happily in Amy's bedroom! Savannah's past is mysterious and research by 'the children' reveals that all is not what it seems. There are links to a very successful tennis player who abandoned the academy just prior to his ultimate success of winning Wimbledon! All "the children" harbour feelings of resentment and failure, Stan has a complex background featuring a violent father and Joy just longs to be a grandmother (and has a significant secret).

The police become involved and increasingly fingers are pointed at Stan. Bystanders like the hairdresser, cleaner, neighbours all add fuel to the fire reporting gossip and things they have witnessed, believing that the marriage was in trouble and Stan has cracked! But, just as Stan is about to be arrested, Joy returns having been on a retreat with Savannah and as such 'off grid'. Everything reported to the police as suspicious is proved to be harmless, Stan and Joy appear to truly love each other and relative harmony is resumed.

But where do the apples come into the story? Well, right at the beginning reference is made to some fallen apples and how they can make an apple pie. Everyone has tried to make an apple pie as delicious as Stan's mother did ... what was the secret ingredient? Or ... maybe it relates to the children being like their parents ... who knows?

And what of Savannah? Well, she is the final twist in this tale and possibly the most disturbing. I guess you'll need to read it to find out why! The book group had mixed feelings about this book and it only received a very average score of 5 to 6.

Jenny Parkin



***Shout at the Devil* by Wilbur Smith**

I read *Shout at the Devil* fifty years ago and, remembering it as a rattling good read, I put my vote in for this suggested Wilbur Smith title. Disappointing. I couldn't get into it, laboured for about half way then gave up. So the poor old Desert God got 3½ out of 10 from me. But some others in the group found it OK - one reader really enjoying it, another stating that it was her first - and last - Wilbur Smith! Doing the research for the meeting though, I saw what a rightly successful writer he was:

Smith was 88 when he died in 2021, with 49 published books which sold over 140 million copies. Born in Ndola, Northern Rhodesia (Zambia now), he wrote African historical fiction blending adventure, fear, death, sex and politics in abounding, got-to-read-more style.

Africa was a challenging place to be born into, for both the times and the place, and Smith's background did not foretell such a huge writing career. "My father was a tough man. He was a boxer, a hunter, very much a man's man. I don't think he ever read a book in his life, including mine".

Smith wanted to be a journalist, writing about social conditions in South Africa, but his father told him to "get a real job" so he became a tax accountant. Nevertheless, whilst working by day in the tax office, he started selling stories to magazines, though his first effort at a novel was turned down by 20 publishers.

His agent had seen the promise though and a nudge about a second novel set him to work again. "I wrote about my own father and my darling mother. I wove into the story chunks of early African history. I wrote about black people and white. I wrote about hunting and gold mining and carousing and women. I wrote about love and loving and hating. In short I wrote about all the things I knew well and loved better. I left out all the immature philosophies and radical politics and rebellious posturing that had been the backbone of the first novel. I even came up with a catchy title, *When the Lion Feeds*."

The book went on to sell well around the world (except in South Africa, where it was banned). Film rights enabled him to quit the day job in 1963. "I hired a caravan, parked it in the mountains, and wrote the second book", he said. "I knew it was sort of a watershed. I was 30 years of age, single again, and I could take the chance." (Note "single again". He had four wives in all and had some stringent things to say about them. His autobiography would be lively, I think!) Interweaving his stories with social and political storms in a turbulent and often brutal continent, Smith's audience read about the Congo Crisis, about the Second Boer War and about Rhodesian independence.

It was in 1993 that he wrote the first of his Ancient Egypt series, River God. Reader Ken said he'd read it and it was pretty good. Desert God, fifth in the series, seemed to me plodding and wordy, the usual ingredients of research, violence and sex worked together, but just an exercise - no spirit. But then, with such a massive production of published works, there are inevitably some better than others.

Marking the book then, and not the author, I reduced my mark by a half at the end (as did one other reader) and we finished with a total count of 61 from twelve members. That's 5. something - a rather indifferent score. But don't be put off Mr Smith's books - 140 million readers can't be wrong!

Barbara Pugh

RECIPE CORNER

RATATOUILLE AND HALLOUMI BAKE

This ratatouille is wonderfully versatile - it's delicious served warm or cold. It can be easily reheated in the microwave, so also makes a handy packed lunch. Serve with a large leafy salad.

Per serving: Cals 321 Protein 16g Fat 22g Fibre 5g Carbs 12g

INGREDIENTS

- 2 peppers (1 red and 1 yellow), deseeded and cut into 2cm chunks
- 1 medium aubergine (around 250g), cut into roughly 2cm chunks
- 1 medium onion, peeled and cut into 12 wedges
- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and crushed
- Large handful fresh basil leaves (about 10g), thinly sliced, plus extra to serve
- 1 x 400g can chopped tomatoes with herbs
- 225g block halloumi, cut into 8 slices



METHOD

Preheat the oven to 220c/fan 200c/gas 7. Place the peppers, aubergine and onion in a bowl, add 2 tablespoons of the olive oil and season with sea salt and ground black pepper.

Toss everything together, then scatter into a shallow baking dish and bake for 25 minutes. Remove the dish from the oven, turn the vegetables, then cook for a further 5 - 10 minutes or until well softened and lightly browned.

Remove the dish from the oven, stir in the garlic, basil and tomatoes, arrange the halloumi on top, drizzle with the remaining oil, season with more ground black pepper and return to the oven for a further 15 minutes, or until the halloumi is hot and lightly browned.

Scatter with more fresh basil to serve.

COOK'S TIP

If you don't have canned tomatoes with added herbs, simply stir ½ teaspoon dried oregano through the tomatoes before adding to the vegetables.

OPTIONAL EXTRA

Add a 400g can of drained and rinsed cannellini beans to the ratatouille at the same time as the tomatoes.

Drizzle the halloumi and vegetables generously with olive oil when you serve.

Enjoy !

Jenny Pinn

Garden News – at The Lodge

Happy New gardening year! I hope it will be a fruitful and colourful one in your gardens. When planning out the next year it helps to look back on the last and remember those thoughts you had as you wandered round friends' gardens or those open under various schemes.

I called on Caroline on a different matter and was invited to look round her garden - well who could turn down an invitation for a gentle wander round? Many of you will have visited as part of the 'open garden' event a while back but, unfortunately, I was away on holiday so missed it.

Now, while I have been saying Caroline's

garden, I should also add Richard as he is the mastermind of the hydroponics system producing lettuce, cucumbers, aubergines, spinach, peppers and tomatoes in great quantity and all looking so healthy. The system uses solar power and, of course, no soil but addition of minerals to enhance the growing. As I understand it, the plants do not have to expend so much energy growing roots as the watering system has the necessary nutrients already, so the result is a higher yield. Of course, as an avid listener of the Archers I knew about this system from Adam's growing antics but to see it up and running is really interesting. If it was good enough for the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, then I reckon it's good enough for our growing today and here is living proof in a garden in Tipton.

Caroline and I then carried on round the rest of the garden which developed since they came to live with her parents. The main addition is the huge middle bed set in the lawn. They began with a turf cutter and planted many shrubs such as Cornus Cherokee Chief, Eddie's White Wonder and Satomi - so good for interest all year round. In addition, Viburnum Plicatum Mariesii, Syringa, Acer, Roseum and Spiraea gave structure to the border before the herbaceous plants were then put in. These give summer colour and, in particular, the Mutabilis which flowers all summer long. (The pictures are better than a description). A long border at the far end has Catananche (a plant I didn't know but a beautiful thing which, although short lived, self-seeds if given the right conditions), Lychnis, Hollyhocks and small Geraniums together with Cistus, Euphorbia, Gaura, Roses and several varieties of Echinacea. The main feature is a Magnolia Merrill planted near the house.

In front of the house is a bed which Caroline's mum first had made which was supported by a wall. There is a selection of dahlias, penstemon, roses, salvias, phlox and agapanthus - a riot of colour in the summer. I spotted the little Greek creeper that Angie from next door has also given me. I love a plant like this which is not invasive but likes doing its own thing especially in paving or over walls.

The other major work last year was the laurel which lines the garden on the roadside. It's always a tricky decision how much work to do on these habitats but the cutting back has meant a huge amount of space for a wild woodland area full of trees planted with roses such as American pillar, Rambling Rector and Paul's Himalayan Musk - with a beautiful scent. There is

ground cover, too, in the form of hellebores together with bulbs which will appear in the spring. There is also room for large crates of leaf mould and compost to be used to invigorate the garden in the coming year.

It is wonderful to have the space to plant so many varieties, but I notice that Caroline is a very good plantswoman and always chooses with a view to creating a haven for wildlife. It has been so lovely to visit the garden - thanks to you both. I have already written too much because I have a lot of photos that really will cheer your winter days if you look at them online. I'll see how many the editors will let me put in! Speaking of editors there is one more garden to do in the trilogy of The Lodge - watch out for the call, Mr Birch!



Alison Stevens

Happy 3rd birthday Eager Beavers TSJ!

Yes, it's hard to believe that three years have passed since Jo Earlam and I joined forces and started the group that today has 170 members and has been instrumental in many environmental improvements for our lovely community. It all started way back in 2021 (during the pandemic) with the wish to clear the increasing amount of litter in the area and since then we have managed to complete many projects, thanks to our amazing team of volunteers.



I am proud of everything that we have achieved as a group so far and now in the depths of winter feel is the time to look ahead to warmer days and new plans. That having been said, as EagerBeaversTSJ are first and foremost an **environmental** group, the weather at this time of year can make life a bit more difficult, especially when it comes to such things as organising a litter pick for example.

With this in mind, we have tried to make events more structured and have decided to litter pick on a monthly basis, choosing the afternoon of the first Sunday of the month as this seems to be a time when most people are available. We haven't been collecting as much rubbish recently (which is fantastic) and interestingly,

evidence has shown that if an area is kept litter free, it tends to discourage people from throwing litter in the first place. We also have a relatively small area to keep clear (which works very much in our favour), so by picking once a month, this will hopefully continue to keep the problem at bay.

What other ways can we continue to be focused on the environment and the challenges that are facing us all at this time? The obvious answer to this is to get outside whenever possible! I have found that by being outdoors; whether just in my own garden, walking around the village or down on the Playing Field, I am much more aware of the changing seasons and also the variable weather! This is particularly true at this time of the year when it is so much easier to remain indoors and switch on the TV, but it's been shown that even just spending a few moments outside each day is so much better for both our physical and mental health.

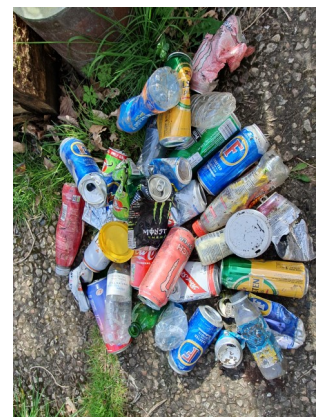
With warmer and wetter weather seemingly the 'new normal', it is easy to think that the seasons are much less defined, however the subtle signs of the changes in nature are still evident, we just need to get out and look for them. The Wheel of the Year is an ancient Celtic calendar based on festivals celebrating connections with nature. By the time this article is published, we will have passed Imbolc (or St Brigid's Day) which is celebrated on or around the 1st February. The word Imbolc is believed to have evolved from the old Irish imbolc meaning 'in the belly', referring to the pregnancy of ewes at this time of the year. It is also linked with spring sowing, the blooming of blackthorn and the opportunity to celebrate the emerging life around us, such as the buds tightening on the trees and first shoots of green emerging from the soil.

For me personally, I like the idea of celebrating nature throughout the year, it is a structured reminder that we are all part of this cycle and as such, need to take responsibility for our own actions and way of life. As for EagerBeaversTSJ our imminent projects will be tidying up the community garden and planting more for the spring and the summer. We will also be more involved in the nature area adjacent to the river and promoting/protecting the wildlife that we have in our community.

Our next litter picks will be on the **4th February, 3rd March, 7th April and 5th May**. We will meet in the playing field car park at 2pm; all pickers, bags and gloves can be provided, or bring your own if you prefer. It's a great opportunity for a walk and a chat whilst doing something constructive for the community (oh and there are tea, coffee and biscuits too).

We are the EagerBeaversTSJ, find us on Facebook or on our new website. You can join our email list (EagerBeavers@hotmail.com) or our WhatsApp group. Thank you.

Lisette Johnston (07870 967250)



Jess Bailey Independent Devon County Councillor, Otter Valley Ward



TIPTON SCHOOL

It came as something of a shock when, on 5th January, Simon Jupp MP announced on social media that he was supporting the relocation of Tipton St John school to a site at Thorne Farm Way in Ottery St Mary. I recognize that the school needs to relocate to a safe flood-free site urgently, but it does feel that Tipton has been abandoned by Simon Jupp.

Simon Jupp is basing his stance on a confidential DfE report that I am pressing to be made public. The fact that the report is not in the public domain fuels mistrust about the process. It should be open and transparent.

Let's also not forget that the planning application for the Thorne Farm Way site was actually thrown out by the EDDC planning committee in 2021 and, although that application at that time also included housing, there is no guarantee that this time around the application would be any more successful.

Simon Jupp is pressing Devon County Council to make a decision as a matter of urgency on the proposed site at Thorne Farm Way, which is rather ironic considering the total lack of progress by the government over the past decade. I am in turn pressing DCC to find a way to keep the school in Tipton, and DCC are yet to respond to Simon Jupp.

FLOOD GRANT

I am supporting an application by the Environment Agency and local partners for grant funding for Natural Flood Management in the Otter Valley. Natural Flood Management involves changes to land management, tree planting, creation of ponds, renaturalisation of rivers etc. As part of my support, I have agreed to be on the steering group, if the bid is successful.

The bid is particularly targeting those areas which were affected by flooding on 9th May 2023 including Tipton St John.

We should hopefully find out early this year if the bid has been successful.

OTTER TRAIL

I am trying to do everything that I can as a Devon County Councillor to promote this proposed multi-use trail from Feniton to Sidmouth. Whilst at present there appears to be no DCC funding available I am arranging to meet with the Otter Trail Group and DCC to explore alternative sources of funding and see how else we can make progress.



20 MPH FOR TIPTON?

I am a big supporter of 20 mph zones to make communities safer and greener. DCC as the highway authority has a scheme whereby town and parish councils can apply for 20mph zones. The scheme is hugely oversubscribed with over 150 communities across Devon having already applied for 20mph zones, and DCC are currently only rolling out at a rate of around 5 per year. Every year at budget time I press for more funding to be put into these schemes to speed up the roll out.

Ottery St Mary town council has successfully made an application for the town of Ottery to be included and a formal public consultation on a 20mph zone is to be launched shortly.

If you think Tipton should also have a 20mph zone then please get in touch with your representatives Cllr Matt Williamson and Cllr Janice Aherne on the town council, as any application needs to be submitted by the Town Council. As your Devon County Councillor, I would be very happy to support any schemes that come forward.

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

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



This time of year is typically thought of as more slow-paced than others, however I feel that I have never been busier. Outside of my Council work I have had setbacks from bereavement & illness. Coming into 2024, I am training for further public service with Citizens Advice East Devon, and I am more involved with voluntary work for the Labour Party, of which I am a member, though this makes no difference to my duty to serve the interests of all residents regardless of political persuasion.

With the Police and Crime Commissioner election on the 2nd of May, and the General Election taking place in the next eleven months, now is a good time to check that you are registered to vote, and to think carefully about how you will use your vote. For details of how to vote, including the necessary photo ID, see the official website: www.gov.uk/register-to-vote.

My Town Council work has progressed to thinking ahead about problems coming our way, chiefly emergencies like flooding, and the future of Tipton's school.

Over the last two months I have been on East Devon Radio and run outreach meetings throughout Ottery Parish, all in service of the Town Council's new Emergency Plan. If you missed any of the meetings, know that it's never too late to get involved with this permanent plan. The work on crafting this plan was assisted by my recent visit to Tipton primary school, invited by Executive Headteacher Amanda Fulford.

The questions surrounding the primary school have been on many of our minds recently, and for good reason. The Council are very aware of the concerns. Both personally and as an Ottery Town Councillor I stand with the already publicised view of my Council, that the school should remain in Tipton St John. Cllr Janice Aherne and I represent Tipton St John Ward on the Town Council and we are extremely sympathetic to the concerns being raised. As soon as more information is made public it will be shared with the community.

I have been very impressed by the diligence and dedication of our local Civil Servants such as our Parish Clerk Kerry Kennell, and especially the Town Council's independent Accountant who went beyond expectations to get our budget set for the coming year.

Finally, thanks to East Devon District Council, Section 106 funding is available for Ottery Town Council to spend on open space, sports and play facilities. We are looking for short-term achievable projects in this area. If you, or a group you are in, have any ideas about this please get in touch.

More information can be found on the EDDC website: <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/community-engagement/participatory-budgeting/guide-for-town-and-parish-councils/what-is-a-section-106-agreement/>

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

Cllr Matt Williamson

Tel: 07840 237161

Email: mattwilliamson@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk



OTTERY ST MARY
TOWN COUNCIL

Report from meeting of Ottery St Mary Town Council on 8th January 2024

Reports were received from EDDC Cllrs Faithfull and Johns, and from DCC Cllr Bailey. DCC Cllr Bailey spoke about the

social media post in relation to the relocation of Tipton St John C of E Primary School. The Clerk will write to the DfE requesting a copy of the report. It has been the Council's stated view that the school should remain in the community. The Council is very disappointed that they cannot comment on the post as they have not had sight of the report into the potential sites, nor have the EDDC Councillors for the parish. The Council feels strongly that it should have been a consultee.

The Planning Committee and Finance Committee met during December.

The Council agreed to support Community Grant Applications from Ottery Primary School PTFA, Ottery St Mary Library and the Joint Scout and Guide Committee. A further meeting to gather more information will be held with other organisations regarding their applications.

(continued on page 24)

The Council agreed that the Precept for 2024/25 will be £282,510. The Council recognises that residents need to fully understand what they are getting from the Town Council proportion of their Council Tax. The Council is working on a Strategic Plan which will drive forward the Council's plans for the next few years. A further meeting with the accountant will be held later this month. The Council intends to publish information to share with the community later this year.

The Council will adopt the LGA Model Code of Conduct as soon as all Councillors have completed the revised Register of Interests form. Councillors who have not already attended the Code of Conduct training were urged to attend the next event which will be taking place late January/early February.

It was agreed that the Section 106 projects need to be reviewed by the Strategy Committee and should form part of the Strategic Plan for the Council.

The Mayor has attended various meetings. The Mayor is concerned about the impact of the recent weather on the footpaths within the parish. The Footpath Wardens will be meeting to discuss this. The Mayor reinforced the need for the repair to the Coleridge Bridge to be treated as urgent.

The Clerk welcomed Cllr Ben Feasey to the Council and was encouraged that there are now no vacancies on the Council. A Cream Tea event was held to thank Council volunteers for their help throughout the year which was well received by those that attended. The roof repairs to the Council office have now been completed.

Cllr Johns has been contacted regarding damage to the fence alongside The Tumbling Weir Hotel and, in her EDDC capacity, regarding Pig Lane being used as a car park. It was AGREED that Cllr Johns, in association with the Clerk, will complete the appropriate paperwork to formally apply to DCC for the path at Slade Road to become a Public Right of Way. The Clerk will escalate the poor quality repair to the footpath in Silver Street to The Neighbourhood Highways Officer. This is not acceptable in a conservation area.

Cllr Williamson and Cllr Aherne are meeting with the Executive Head at Tipton St John C of E Primary School. A written report of this meeting will be provided to the Council.

The Clerk will write to DCC asking them to repaint the white lines in the town. The clerk will also request that an arrow is painted on the Exeter bound carriageway (by Coleridge Medical Centre) as 100m of the stretch is not one-way. It was agreed that the one-way signage needs to be improved. The yellow chevrons also need to be repainted as they have faded.

Cllr Faithfull feels that there should be a bigger event to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Council. He feels that this is a historical event and should be open to the whole community. To date Cllr Faithfull has found details for approximately 40 previous councillors.

Cllr Faithfull suggested that the Council should consider employing their own lengthsman to carry out maintenance work.

The Town Council Offices are open from 10am until 1pm Monday to Friday. If you need to contact the Council please telephone or email. Details of agendas and minutes for all Council and Committee Meetings, together with news and updates, can be viewed on our website (see contact details below).

Useful information:

- Citizens Advice is at Council Offices every Tuesday from 9.30am until 11.30am (subject to volunteer availability) or telephone 01395 265070
- DCC Highways Surgery on Thursday 25th January from 10.15am - 12 noon

Future Full Council meeting dates:

- Monday 5th February 2024 - Council Offices
- Monday 4th March 2024 - Council Offices
- Monday 8th April 2024 - Council Offices

Kerry Kennell
Town Clerk

OSMTC Contact details:

Tel: 01404 812252

Email: admin@otterystmary-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.otterystmary-tc.gov.uk



CLINTON DEVON ESTATES

World Wetlands Day falls on the 2nd of February, celebrating the beauty and biodiversity of wetlands along with the vital role they play in supporting life across the planet. Globally, human wellbeing is tied to the health of the world's wetlands as they provide much of our freshwater needs.

Closer to home, in the Otter Valley, the problem is rarely too little freshwater but too much! Storm Ciarán tested the restored landscape for the first time in October when seasonal rainfall caused the river to over-top its usual channel and spread across the floodplain. With natural processes returned, as part of the Lower Otter



Restoration Project, flood water is now able to disperse quickly over the lowered sections of the embankment and out through the new breach, on the falling tide.

The reintroduction of tidal flows is allowing the habitat to adjust and develop, with the machine-cut channels through the low-lying fields transitioning to mudflat and saltmarsh. A range of visiting bird species make use of the increased area to feed. The

appearance of each new species, or familiar birds in larger numbers, delight wildlife watchers and many visitors are making use of the routes through the reserve, including those who may have found access challenging before.

February brings important news for this newest of wetlands. Look out for the notice from *Natural England*, which will announce that the Otter Estuary has been declared a National Nature Reserve (NNR), becoming an extension of the Pebblebed Heath NNR. The existing Pebblebed Heaths NNR was declared in 2020 and is managed on behalf of *Clinton Devon Estates* by their conservation charity the *Pebblebed Heaths Conservation Trust* in partnership with the *RSPB* and *Devon Wildlife Trust*.

National Nature Reserves are the crown jewels of England's natural heritage. The 'King's Series of National Nature Reserves' will see five major National Nature Reserves named every year for the next five years - 25 in total. The Otter Estuary is the latest in the 'King's Series' celebrating the Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III and leaving a lasting public legacy for people and nature.

The *Pebblebed Heath Conservation Trust* is excited and proud that the Otter Estuary has been awarded this honour now. It joins the most important sites nationally and we are trusted to manage these sites and uphold the national nature reserve vision to see England's nature restored, enriched and reconnected to people.

Likewise, World Wetlands Day calls each of us to recognise the value of wetlands and to ensure that they are stewarded responsibly so their benefits are retained for today's needs and those of the future.

At the Otter Estuary Reserve this month, we'll be celebrating both the NNR extension and mark World Wetlands Day on site. We'll launch a self-led trail, in time for half-term, but suitable for anyone who'd like to know the reserve better and understand the benefits wetlands deliver. If you are on site this month, let us know what you are enjoying and if the wetland supports your wellbeing.

**World
Wetlands Day**
2 February 2024
Wetlands and Human Wellbeing



Kate Ponting

Community Engagement and Countryside Learning,
Clinton Devon Estates

kate.ponting@clintondevon.com

www.clintondevon.com

01395 442881

Tipton Past

Halls Farm

Recently the Metcombe road has stopped the traffic with road works and potholes, but a few years ago it would have been Clapps milking cows that stopped the traffic, twice a day, crossing the road from their fields to the milking parlour.

In the not-so-distant past this would have also been happening on a lane near you. It's shocking to know that there were over 25 milking herds in Tipton, Metcombe, Fluxton, Venn Ottery, Combe and Hayne alone; The Halls Farm's herd was the last milking herd.



straw - they were content and happy cows. The herd was bred and built up over the years to create our pedigree Holstein Friesian milk herd.

I was born in 1946 followed by my brothers Alan, Robin and Mervyn. My Dad went to school at Tipton, followed by me and my brothers, our son Mark, Mervyn's children, David and Laura, and our granddaughter Jessica. So four generations attended the village school. Miss West was my teacher and also Dad's. Dad enjoyed working with the machines on the farm, unfortunately his brother Alan drowned in the River Otter in a tragic swimming accident, so Dad stayed on and took on the running of the farm.



When the farm was busy, people from the village would come to help. They would turn the hay by hand, bring in the crops, build hay ricks. They never wanted money, they just enjoyed the friendships and helping out. Their wages were paid with respect, a jolly good supper and a drop of cider to wash it down. Our house was always busy. As a young boy I was always out with my granny, she was wonderful and at school holidays there were always children staying over. We did not have electricity until I was 16, everything was done by Tilly lamps. We had an outside loo at the top of the garden

We built a parlour so eight cows could be milked together. They had a collecting yard and they would then come to the milking parlour, go to their standing, then when they had been milked, they would move forward and out to the feeding yard. The milk was taken to our dairy by pipeline into the bulk tank and cooled. The cows all slept together in the cubicle shed - they had matting in their cubicles we called cow carpet, real luxury in those days!



As the years have progressed rules and regulations have taken over, but the ones in charge have never usually done the practical work. Every cow has to be registered and has its own number and passport, the ministry are in charge and all farmers have to abide by the rules or they are in big trouble. We hate the ear tags as you have to put them in tiny calves as soon as you can after birth.

Sadly, like many, a journey has ended for us with the farm being sold, but we have kept and moved about 100 animals of differing ages across the road to our fields. We have mums awaiting birth and a mother and toddler group. It's a joy to watch them skipping free in the fields. Life goes on and we will continue doing what we love and hope for the future the world will see animals roaming free in beautiful green pastures. No concrete jungles for us!



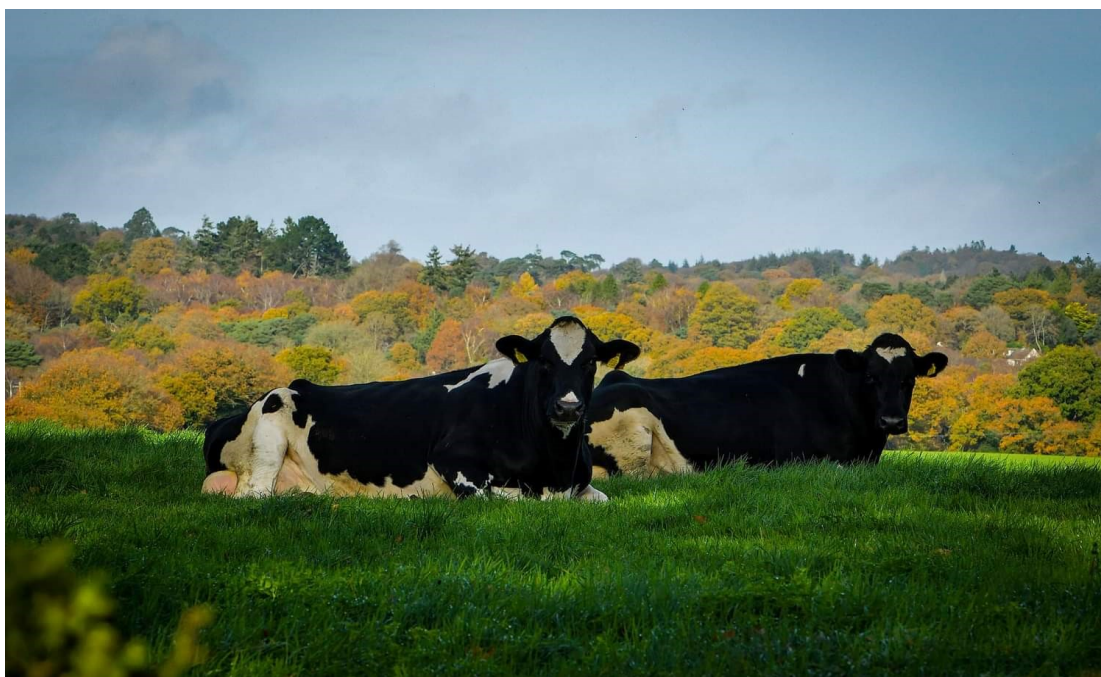
Many years ago, we counted how many dairy farms there were on both sides of the Otter valley; there were 34, not now, very sad.

Lynne told me how she had grown up in Ottery and how she had suffered with polio caught from the river when she was on a school trip. Being a strong person and with sheer determination she kept going by learning to ride on a friend's bike and her love of dancing. This helped her to gain strength and she went on to work at Miller and Lilleys. They told me how they met through their church, married in 1968 and then lived first in a leaky caravan for six years next to Metcombe Green, opposite Halls Farm. Colin's grandparents used to live in the cottage after they retired from the farm. Their grampy died in 1967 and later gran suffered a stroke so they cared for her whilst they lived beside in the caravan. When their son Mark was born, he grew up helping his dad and he has now taken on the working of the farm. When Colin's mum became ill with cancer they moved all together into the farmhouse for a while so that they could support and care for their granny and mum under one roof, later moving back across the road to the cottage. This is where they live today, with Mark and his family. Their love of each other and the countryside where they live is obvious as they talk of the fields, trees, hedgerows and animals that have been part of their lives.

It was a joy to listen to their stories of their time on the farm and we wish them, Mark, Carrie and Jessica good luck as they adapt and continue their journey on the farm.

I suggested it was now time for Colin and Lynne to take a holiday, they answered that *living here is such a luxury, why would we need to be anywhere else; go up the hill and look across the valley, we are so lucky. God's beauty is all around us.*

Judith Taylor



CHURCH CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024

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

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY	3 rd	10.00 am	Coffee Morning and produce stall.	Community Hall
SUNDAY	4 th	10.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	N. Pop O.S.M.
SUNDAY	11 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
ASH WEDNESDAY	14 th	10.00 am	Holy Communion	N. Pop
SUNDAY	18 th	11.00am	Morning Worship	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	25 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.

MARCH

SATURDAY	2 nd	10.00 am	Easter Coffee Morning and produce stall	Community Hall
SUNDAY	3 rd	10.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	N. Pop O.S.M.
MOTHERING SUNDAY	10 th	11.00 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
SUNDAY	17 th	10.30 am	Café Church	Village Hall
SUNDAY	24 th	9.30 am	Holy Communion	T.S.J.
MAUNDY THURSDAY	28 th	7.30 pm	Holy Communion	N. Pop
GOOD FRIDAY	29 th	2.00 pm	Good Friday Reflection	T.S.J.
EASTER SUNDAY	31 st	TBA* 11.00 am	Easter Dawn Service Easter Communion (+ Baptism)	T.S.J. T.S.J

APRIL

SATURDAY	6 th	10.00 am	Coffee Morning & produce stall	Community Hall
SUNDAY	7 th	10.00 am 10.30 am	Holy Communion Holy Communion	N. Pop O.S.M.

* See Church Notice Board for time of Dawn Service

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 : 4th & 18th February and 3rd, 17th & 31st March.
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.

Diary Dates - February and March 2024

All dates correct at the time of publication

February

4th Feb	2pm	Litter pick, meeting in Playing Field car park	P21
5th Feb	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P13
14-17th Feb	7.30pm	TIPPS <i>National Treasure</i> , Community Hall	P4
19th Feb	7.30pm	Tipton Ladies Group, Community Hall	P14
25th Feb	7pm	Quiz Night, Community Hall	P14
26th Feb	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P13

March

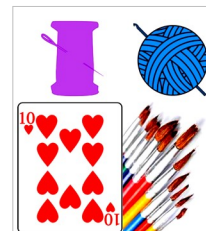
3rd Mar	2pm	Litter pick, meeting in Playing Field car park	P21
11th Mar	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P13
13th Mar	7.30pm	VOSRA AGM, Tipton Community Hall	P15
16th Mar	7.30pm	Country and Western Evening, Community Hall	back cover
23rd Mar	7.30pm	OSM Spring Concert, OSM Parish Church	P16
24th Mar	7pm	Quiz Night, Community Hall	P14
25th Mar	7.30pm	Table Tennis, Community Hall	P13

April

7th April	2pm	Litter pick, meeting in Playing Field car park	P21
27th April	2.30-4.30pm	Childrens' Entertainment, Community Hall	back cover

Art, Craft, Hobbies and Pastimes

We resumed our normal weekly meeting, 2.30-4.30pm on Thursday January 4th and are busy again with knitting, tapestry, embroidery, painting, drawing, colouring, playing cards or just enjoying a chat, a cuppa and a biscuit. Don't feel lonely on a Thursday afternoon - you are sure of a welcome at the Community Hall.



A big thank you to all who supported our Christmas Beetle Drive which enabled us to send £100 to *Crisis at Christmas*.

Want to know more? Phone Ann and Terry on 01404 812040

Ottery St Mary Heritage Society and Museum Registered charity CIO no. 1179598

Our monthly members' talks take place at The Institute, Yonder St., Ottery St Mary on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Guests are welcome for £3 payable at the door. An up-to-date list of speakers for the year ahead is listed on the Society's website at: www.otteryheritage.org.uk

Tuesday 20th February - 7.30pm at The Institute

'Chesil Beach WW2 Fighter Plane Crash'

Selwyn Williams describes the role of Aircraftman Shaw (Lawrence of Arabia) in the story of the fighter crash.

Tuesday 19th March - 7.30pm at The Institute

'The Channel Dash, February 1942'

John Smith tells how the German navy sent 3 large warships through the Channel, past Plymouth Devonport and all the Devon airfields. The story of what happened and lessons learnt are linked to what can be seen today.

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

NATIONAL TREASURE

An original play by Natalie Anning



Who are the residents of Aldwych Hall, retirement home for the stars?

How did they all find fame?

And how will a new resident fit in?

Book your ticket now to find out!

noda
Be inspired by amateur theatre



Tipton St. John Community Hall

Weds 14th - Sat 17th
Feb 2024 7:30pm

Tickets £10.
Available from Tipton Stores on Saturday mornings and from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk/TIPPS

Or scan this QR code to take you directly to the ticket site



Tipton St John Community Hall

? QUIZ NIGHTS ? (teams of up to 6)

Sunday 25th February at 7pm

Sunday 24th March at 7pm

£3 per head

BYO food, drinks and glasses

Please book your table in advance by contacting John & Pauline Belton
01404 813431 or email:
thebeltons@talk21.com

COUNTRY & WESTERN EVENING



TIPTON ST JOHN COMMUNITY HALL

SATURDAY 16TH MARCH
7.30pm

Tickets £20 includes 2-course supper (sausage, mash & beans, vegan option available, followed by dessert)

Phone Brian Rice 01404 811396 or email: rice196@btinternet.com

Bring your own drinks & glasses.

Themed dress code welcome!

Dancing encouraged but not compulsory!



An Invitation from The Trustees of
Tipton St John Community Hall

Gee Gee
PUPPETS
Children's Entertainment

String
puppet show



Face painting



Mini disco



MAGIC



GAMES

SATURDAY 27th April 2024

2.30pm - 4.30pm

£7 per child (inc refreshments)

All children (min age 4yrs) must be accompanied by an adult

Bookings & Payment in advance (no later than 13th April)

Email : tsjcommunityhall@gmail.com or

Sue Hulley - Tel : 07402 707075